

Cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The Cross-Border Co-operation (CBC) Programme Greece-Italy (GR-IT) links eleven (11) NUTS III level prefectures and six (6) provinces from two different EU member states, Greece and Italy.

The Programme has a total budget of EUR 123 176 896,47 and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a total amount of EUR 104 700 362 for the 2014-2020 period.[1] The overall objective is to support strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region across the Ionian Sea. Emphasis will be placed upon developing the foundations for a dynamic economy which fosters smart, sustainable and inclusive growth with the goal to improve the quality of life for those living in the region.

This Programme builds on the achievements of the previous 2007-2013 programming period, taking into consideration the results of the on-going evaluation and the current economic, environmental and social challenges across the Ionian maritime border between Greece and Italy.

Geographic Coverage

According to the Commission Implementing Decision setting up the list of regions and areas eligible for funding from the ERDF under the cross-border, transnational and interregional components of the European territorial cooperation goal for the 2014-2020 programming period, the GR IT Programme covers the following areas: (Reference Annex 1, table 1)

Framework and Guidelines for the Implementation of the "INTERREG GR-IT 2014-2020" Programme

The regulatory framework for the GR IT Programme is provided by the regulations for cohesion policy 2014-2020. These are accompanied by a Common Strategic Framework (CSF) setting out key actions to address EU priorities and giving guidance to ensure coordination between funds.

The Europe 2020 strategy, together with the Territorial Agenda 2020, which connects smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to territorial cohesion, provides the overall strategic framework for EU cohesion policy 2014-2020 and as such for the GR-IT programme.

The potential thematic scope of the Programme is provided by the 11 TOs described in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR). The European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) regulation and the CSF outline that the Cross-border cooperation should aim to:

- **tackle common challenges** identified jointly in the border regions, such as: poor accessibility, especially in relation to information and communication technologies (ICT) connectivity and transport infrastructure, declining local industries, an inappropriate business environment, lack of networks among local and regional administrations, low levels of research and innovation and take-up of ICT, environ-mental pollution, risk prevention, negative attitudes towards neighbouring country citizens, and
- **exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas** (development of cross-border research and innovation facilities and clusters, cross-border labour market inte-gration, cooperation among education providers, including universities or between health centres)

For the 2014-2020 programming period, the European Commission proposed a number of important changes to the way cohesion policy should be designed and implemented. Among the major hallmarks of the proposals, the following can be mentioned:

- Concentrating funding on a smaller number of priorities better linked to the Europe 2020 Strategy (smart, sustainable and inclusive growth).
- Focusing on results (result oriented, fewer and higher quality projects). This requires putting more emphasis on the demand side to clearly identify the real needs of beneficiaries and end-users. This requires also ensuring that the capitalisation process and the external communication effectively reach the final target groups and end users and that these end users effectively use projects outputs.
- Taking into account the territorial dimension of development (urban development, coastal areas, islands, remote and low density areas).
- Monitoring progress towards agreed objectives (definition of targeted and measurable objectives).
- Simplifying the procedures (application process, selection, implementation, monitoring).

One must also mention the need to better coordinate co-operation programmes with mainstream programmes and especially the possibility to use the results of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) projects in favour of national and regional programmes and projects.

For the beneficiaries, one of the most visible aspects of 2014-2020 Programmes is the concentration of financing on a selection of TOs and IPs. The focus on result oriented activities and the emphasis on needs will allow a targeted selection of interventions and a reduction of the administrative burden for the beneficiaries.

Lessons from the Past

The CBC Programme “Greece - Italy 2007-2013” was complementary to national and regional programmes. It had a modest budget (118 606 893 EUR including ERDF and national contributions) and thus a small capacity to influence the development process of

the Programme Area. However, as noted in the 3rd Evaluation Report,[1] the Programme, with three Priority Axes (PA) and seven Specific Objectives (SO), shown in the table below, has achieved a significant convergence of objectives and strong synergies among its interventions. (Reference Annex 1. table 2)

Furthermore, the Programme's strategy, as well as its interventions, complied with horizontal issues of strategic importance, such as: Competitiveness, which constitutes a main objective of strategy, sustainability, which is sufficiently covered by two SOs with an abundance of interventions, PA 2 which deals with equality and accessibility, maintenance of biodiversity as the main goal for SO 3.2. The PA 1 includes interventions that support gender equality, access to employment and women's and youth's entrepreneurship, while the PA 3 promotes equal opportunities through projects for social inclusion and health infrastructures.

76 projects (excluding Technical Assistance) were funded following the completion of seven rounds of calls for proposals. The total budget of approved projects amounted to 180 m€, a sum that corresponds to a commitment rate of 153% of the total Programme budget. The project selection process was well organized, ensuring the cross-border character of the operation and the objectivity of the evaluation, while the roles of different management bodies of the Programme management were judged sufficiently distinct and clear.

It is also important to note that a Call for Strategic Project Proposals was launched in the framework of the Programme following a territorial consultation with key actors regarding the identification of joint themes of strategic co-operation and involving all participating regions. A methodology for the identification of common priorities of strategic co-operation was introduced on behalf of the Managing Authority (MA) and Puglia Region including the definition and key characteristics of a 'strategic project' in the framework of the Programme. The total available budget was 17 500 000 EUR (ERDF and national contribution) and was allocated to three Priority Axes: 1) Strengthening interaction between research and innovation institutions, SMEs and public authorities (50%), 2) Improve accessibility to sustainable networks and services (30%) 3) Improving the quality of life, protection of the environment and enhancement of social and cultural cohesion (20%). A total of eight projects were selected (four of which on SO 1.1 "Strengthening interaction between research/innovation institutions, SMEs and public authorities," two on SO 3.2 "Valorization and improvement of joint protection, management of natural resources, natural and technological risks' prevention» and two on SO 2.2 "Improvement of transport, information and communication networks and services."

The Evaluation Report pinpoints the fact that the basic aspects of the 2007-13 GR-IT Programme's added value will be sought in supported outputs, testing new activities or approaches with community support, and in the real cross-border character of projects. Improvement of cross-border cooperation and promotion of partnership are cornerstones of the Programme.

Description of the Cooperation Programme's Strategy

As noted earlier, a comprehensive joint planning process was carried out in order to build a solid foundation for the identification of priorities of the new "INTERREG GR-IT 2014-20" Programme. A thorough screening of the Programme Area by means of a Territorial and a SWOT Analysis presenting the distinctive regional features and the

current economic and social dynamics constituted the basis for the selection of the thematic objectives and intervention priorities to be addressed by the new CBC Programme. A summary of the territorial needs and challenges surrounding the cross-border Programme Area by component of the strategy Europe 2020 , i.e. smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is presented below:(Reference Annex 1. table 3)

The performance of the Programme Area is currently depicted as follows:(Reference Annex 1. table 4)

The findings of the Territorial Analysis were coupled with a web-survey questionnaire and a public consultation, in order to receive and integrate the comments and opinions of key stakeholders. In addition, the new Programme builds on past achievements and takes into consideration a number of key policy documents and milestones, such as:

- The Common Strategic Framework (Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- The national Partnership Agreements for Greece and Italy
- The relevant Regional Operational Programmes
- The lessons learnt from the OP 2007-2013 and the results of the On Going Evaluation
- The complementarity with other EU regional and thematic programmes (e.g. EUSAIR, ECIA - European Creative Cluster District)
- The specificities of CBC programmes
- The Call for Strategic Project Proposals launched in March 2013 and the European Creative District Call for Proposals
- Recommendations of the Joint Programming Committee Meetings - ETCP GREECE-ITALY

Selected Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities

The Programme strategy was prepared in line with the three growth objectives laid down by the EU in its Europe 2020 Strategy: smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, taking into account the distinctive regional features of the GR-IT CBC Programme Area. Challenges have been translated into TOs and IPs with a strategic focus and a results-oriented approach.

It is clear that the overall objective of the Programme is to support strategic GR-IT cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region across the maritime border. Emphasis will be placed upon developing the foundations for a dynamic economy which fosters smart, sustainable and inclusive growth with the goal to improve the quality of life for those living in the cross-border region, especially in times of economic crisis such as these.

Accordingly, the specific objectives of the programme are to:

- Exploit in a sustainable way the endogenous potential of the cross-border GR-IT Programme Area
- Promote the cross-border Area's integration and connectivity to fields which are important to its development, in full complementarity with EUSAIR
- Act as a policy driver to tackle common challenges and needs in specific policy fields where cross-border cooperation is expected to deliver practical results

Furthermore, the new programme is expected to increase the efficiency of administrative procedures and reduce the administrative burden for the beneficiaries, while targeting the most relevant interventions, in order to ensure the success of programme implementation.

In line with the above, the GR-IT Programme has been structured as follows:

- a core strategy, which includes:
 - Four Thematic Objectives no 1, no 3, no 6, and no 7
- Two cross-cutting guiding principles from TO 10 and TO 11, by focusing the programme on inclusive growth and thus incorporating interventions, such as:
 1. investing in education, skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure (TO 10)
 2. enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration by strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administration supported by the ESF (TO 11).

The selected TOs correspond clearly to the smart and sustainable growth pillars of the Europe 2020 strategy and are translated into the three programme priority axes: (Reference annex 1, table 5 and table 6)

1. PRIORITY AXIS 1: INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS
2. PRIORITY AXIS 2: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
3. PRIORITY AXIS 3: MULTIMODAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Cross-cutting Themes

The element of inclusive growth will have a significant place in the GR-IT programme as a cross-cutting theme and shall reinforce the impact of the four primarily selected TOs:

Promoting education, skills and lifelong learning

The need to invest in skills and lifelong learning by developing and implementing joint education, vocational training and training schemes is evident. SME competitiveness in the Programme Area is hurt by the lack of qualified and skilled labour, calling for specific training. Entrepreneurship is also in need of strategic information, new learning concepts taking into account new global trends and management procedures. There is a strong need in “brain circulation” (mobility of researchers, also between academia and private sector) and in the establishment of joint research and innovation platforms, vocational education and training programmes to be developed in response to territorial needs.

The area is characterised by high unemployment rates, exacerbated by the crisis in certain regions, while long term and youth unemployment are far above the EU average.

Also the Programme Area suffers from market fragmentation and limited labour force skills. Against the background of the current economic crisis, support for entrepreneurship was identified as crucial in order to maximise the impact and effectiveness of the interventions. Under cross-border cooperation opportunities,

entrepreneurship can nurture new skills, foster innovation and open up new markets through networks, partnerships and training. To reach a maximum territorial impact on competitiveness, training facility schemes have to be considered to fully support internal spillovers and leverage effects on knowledge and technology transfer.

According to the “Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan” of the EU, “investing in entrepreneurship education is one of the highest return investments Europe can make”. Adults and young people, who benefit from entrepreneurial learning, develop business knowledge, new skills and attitudes including creativity, initiative, team work, risk assessment and sense of responsibility.

A sole thematic focus on SME support with no investment in their respective human capital will jeopardize expected Programme results, as monitoring and management are performed by the entrepreneurs. Cross-border cooperation partnerships can provide a powerful platform to address entrepreneurship skills along with the SMEs’ thematic support.

As a result, the necessity to improve management skills has been dealt with in almost all the Objectives and in particular in sectors of special interest to the Programme Area relating to Tourism and Culture, Cultural and Creative Industries, Food-Industry and Blue Growth.

Enhancing Institutional capacity of Public Authorities and Stakeholders and Efficient Public Administration

This approach focuses on strengthening the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions and by developing and/or coordinating macro-regional and sea-basin strategies. This is very important for the Programme Area as coordination of planning regional activities is needed for better governance and services. A common vision in programming bilateral interventions should help in creating a wider favourable economic and / or social environment for the whole Programme Area, by mobilizing additional resources, ensuring synergies with parallel programmes and context policies and by promoting innovative tools and managing schemes adapted to new EU framework and procedures.

The “capacity building” actions will increase the competence of the public sector in the Programme Area with regard to management, surveillance, monitoring and skills of EU Programme, promoting territorial integration.

1.1.1 Justification for the Selection of Thematic Objectives, Investment Priorities

The selection of Thematic Objectives (TO) and Investment Priorities (IP) as set out in Section 2 has been carried out using the following criteria:

- the **relevance** of the TOs to the key challenges and cross-border development needs identified under each of the overarching objectives of the EU2020 and EUSAIR Strategy (territorial and statistical evidence) within the Programme Area

- the **context** , namely the regulatory framework and the added value of adopting a cross-border and results-oriented approach for the implementation of actions under each TO
- the **lessons** drawn from the previous programming period and country-specific recommendations adopted in the respective Partnership Agreements and Regional Operational Programmes

Additionally, to maintain a strong focus on thematic concentration and limit the number of IPs, complementarity and potential synergies between IPs have been widely explored and used. The JPC has recommended during the Corfu meeting of July 2014 to retain resources for the launching of specific Strategic Calls and to avoid the financing of heavy infrastructures under TO7. Furthermore, the participating regions agreed that the new Programme will not provide direct funding to SMEs, but support will become available to intermediary bodies, such as Chambers of Commerce, SME associations, etc.

The four (4) selected TOs are a tangible demonstration of the responsiveness of the GR-IT Programme as a tool to assist sustainable development at this time of economic crisis and thus refer to the emerging challenges of the Programme Area, which relate to Innovation and research, SME Competitiveness, Environment and Transport. Accordingly, a number of Investment Priorities (IPs) have been elaborated in order to target the appropriate interventions required in the Programme Area (see Section 2 for a detailed presentation of IPs and corresponding SOs)

The first Priority Axis, which links innovation & research and SME competitiveness, was selected to contribute to the building of a strong export based economy through increased awareness of, and engagement in innovation among the Programme Area's SME-dominated business base. Investment Priority (IP) 1b addresses the need to strengthen specific growth sectors representing important jobs potential for the Programme Area, responding to the need for R&D specializations in agribusiness, blue growth, tourism, cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, among others. It aims to tackle the absence of cross border networked innovation community clusters, the low level of cooperation between actors of the quadruple helix, especially between research and businesses, and the need to support social innovations in this era of economic crisis and tight public budgets. IP 3a was selected in order to tackle the low innovation capacities, lack of competitiveness and internationalization of Programme Area SMEs, the inadequate networking & collaborations between firms and research & innovation centres. Enterprises are in need of innovation management advice, IP advice, tech transfer, prototyping, market replication/market penetration, demonstrator projects, large scale demonstrators, proof-of concept and are keen to strengthen their market intelligence, while they need support for analysing emerging market opportunities.

The second PA, entitled "Integrated environmental management" aims to facilitate the development and implementation of common approaches to the management of the environment. Cross-border collaboration is essential in order to adequately tackle common concerns. More specifically, IP 6c responds to problems connected with seasonal tourism, the Isolation of the Ionian insular system to the wider territorial system, the absence of efficient cross border coordination in optimising the results of tourism exploitation of the natural and cultural heritage and finally the need for strengthened promotion of local economic development, exchanges and good practices. IP 6d seeks to respond to the necessity to protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems, fill the gap of services and infrastructure, in periods of maximum tourism pressure, and address

problems of sea pollution due to waste discharge and accumulation. IP 6f in turn responds to the need to shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods and seeks to tackle the unexploited potential for the use of renewable marine energies.

The third PA “Multimodal Sustainable Transport System” which is structured into two IPs 7b and 7c, responds on needs related to regional and cross-border connections in the Programme Area, accessibility to transport infrastructures, coordination of cross-border transport systems and procedures, the integration with Regional, National and cross border Transport Plans, and the promotion of innovations for sustainable and non-polluting transportation.(Reference annex 1, table 7)

1.1.2 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forge R&D specializations in agribusiness, blue growth, tourism and cultural heritage (archaeology) • Promote a diverse and networked innovation community clusters in excellent area • Improve cooperation between actors of the quadruple helix, especially between research and businesses • Strengthen growth sectors representing important jobs potential • Support social innovations in the context of the economic crisis and tight public budgets • Raise investments in R&D • Increase patent applications

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
	technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies	
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve innovation capacities, competitiveness and internationalization of Programme Area SMEs • Increase clustering of SMEs • Promote commercialization of new products and services and the optimal use of the innovation potential of regional enterprises • Encourage networking & collaborations between firms and research & innovation centres • Enhance capacities across the region by strengthening sectors of special interest to Programme Area, such as “Blue Economy”, agrofood, and tourism • Encourage a culture of entrepreneurship and facilitate the development of innovative businesses • Offer innovation management advice, IP advice, tech transfer, prototyping, market replication/market penetration, demonstrator projects, large scale demonstrators, proof-of concept. • Strengthen market intelligence, analysis of emerging market opportunities • Facilitate the recruitment and retention of talent • Tackle seasonality of tourism demand • Strengthen cultural industries to promote local development
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen environmental protection measures (protected areas...) • Re-connect the Ionian insular system to the wider territorial system • Maximise the results of sustainable tourism exploitation of the natural

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>and cultural heritage by strengthening transnational coordination and cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the potential for the use of renewable marine energies • Promote local economic development, exchanges and good practices, for example building upon collaboration in community led environmental measures • Shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods • Protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems • Fill the gap of services and infrastructure, in periods of maximum touristic pressure • Reduce sea pollution adopting measures against waste discharge and accumulation
<p>06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</p>	<p>6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen environmental protection measures (protected areas...) • Re-connect the Ionian insular system to the wider territorial system • Maximise the results of sustainable tourism exploitation of the natural and cultural heritage by strengthening transnational coordination and cooperation • Encourage the potential for the use of renewable marine energies • Promote local economic development, exchanges and good practices, for example building upon collaboration in community led environmental measures • Shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods • Protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems • Fill the gap of services and infrastructure, in periods of maximum touristic pressure • Reduce sea pollution adopting measures against waste discharge

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		and accumulation
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen environmental protection measures (protected areas...) • Re-connect the Ionian insular system to the wider territorial system • Maximise the results of sustainable tourism exploitation of the natural and cultural heritage by strengthening transnational coordination and cooperation • Encourage the potential for the use of renewable marine energies • Promote local economic development, exchanges and good practices, for example building upon collaboration in community led environmental measures • Shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods • Protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems • Fill the gap of services and infrastructure, in periods of maximum touristic pressure • Reduce sea pollution adopting measures against waste discharge and accumulation
07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve regional and transnational connections • Improve accessibility to transport infrastructures • Foster integration with Regional, National and cross border Transport Plans • Promote innovations for sustainable and non-polluting transportation • Optimize integration and interconnection of transport modes • Coordinate transnational transport system and procedures
07 - Promoting	7c - Developing and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve regional and transnational

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	<p>connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accessibility to transport infrastructures • Foster integration with Regional, National and cross border Transport Plans • Promote innovations for sustainable and non-polluting transportation • Optimize integration and interconnection of transport modes • Coordinate transnational transport system and procedures

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (i.e. Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

The main objective behind the financial allocation to programme Thematic Objectives (TOs) is to effectively achieve the programme results with the resources available. The overall programme budget is 123 176 896,47 EUR, with an ERDF contribution of 104 700 362 EUR (85%), detailed in section 3.

The proposed financial allocation (i.e. the Union support) to each TO was approved by the JPC during its Committee meetings, in accordance with the thematic concentration and the ex-ante evaluation requirements. The financial allocation respects the relevance that each TO and Investment Priority (IP) represents for the Programme Area, as highlighted in the Territorial/SWOT Analyses and public consultations. This prioritisation is based on the analysis of the expected results to be achieved, the planned types of actions under each priority, as well as the types of investments to be made. In addition, the performance and experience from the previous programming period has been taken into account. (Reference Annex 1 table 7)

- **Priority Axis 1:** Innovation and Competitiveness - 28% of the total budget
- **Priority Axis 2:** Integrated Environmental Management - 39% of the total budget
- **Priority Axis 3:** Multimodal Sustainable Transport System - 27% of the total budget

Priority Axis 1

Priority Axis 1, receives 28% of the total programme budget, i.e. 34.489.531,01 €, of which the ERDF allocation is 29.316.101,36 €. It is structured into two IPs (1b and 3a) stemming from the TOs 1 “Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation” and 3 “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises”, which have been joined together.

Innovation and competitiveness is highlighted in the strategy 2020 as a major challenge for regions facing international competition. The importance of Innovation and Competitiveness in enhancing companies' competitiveness and boosting the creation of new jobs in the Programme Area, which is suffering particularly high unemployment levels and labour skills shortcomings, is highlighted in the Territorial Analysis. With an unemployment rate on average almost 24% of the active population, far above the EU-28 average (10.8%), high youth unemployment rates (only 12% of the 15-24 age group working, as opposed to 32% in the EU-28 area) and long-term unemployment at the range of 60%, the GR-IT Programme seeks to tackle these structural problems and make an impact in employment and growth.

IP 1.b, counting on 16% of the total programme budget, focuses on spreading innovation and excellence within SMEs and developing cross-border clusters and networks in common sectors of excellence of the Programme Area. It grants specific attention to sectors that represent the Area's comparative advantage and allocates equal resources to SO 1.1 and SO 1.2

12,5% of the total programme budget has been allocated for IP 3.a to support the development of sustainable and dynamic incubation initiatives, thus providing access for SMEs to a wide spectrum of specialized business development services. The corresponding objective of this IP, SO 1.3, receives higher support than the other two SOs of PA 1 (Union Support at the range of 13 M€) in an effort to respond to the pressing needs of SMEs for affordable infrastructure within incubators, business mentoring, training opportunities, access to financing, connections with marketing channels, and a favourable innovation system.

Priority Axis 2

Priority Axis 2, receives 39% of the total programme budget, i.e. 48.038.989,62 €, of which the ERDF allocation is 40.833.141,18 €. It is based on TO 6 "Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resources efficiency" and is structured into three IPs envisaging the achievement of three inter-linked SOs. Protection of the environment represents a joint challenge for the GR-IT CBC Area as a result of depicted environment degradation related to urban development, economic activities and climate change phenomena.

Selected IP 6c relates to the protection of natural and cultural heritage in coherence with the development of sustainable tourism activities and corresponds to SO 2.1. It concentrates almost half of this Axis' programme funds (23,4 M€), as protected areas, national parks and marine reserves comprise some of the most valuable natural assets of the Programme Area. It is natural therefore that the Programme prioritises the support of a wide range of interventions to enhance the long-term value of these assets.

The other two selected IPs under PA2, 6d "Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure" and 6f "Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution" have an allocation of almost 12,3 M€ each. SO 2.2 stems from the need for protection of the natural ecosystem and biodiversity, also considering risk prevention, common monitoring, environmental techniques management, meanwhile SO 2.3 focuses on introduction of environmental friendly technologies to fight increasing pollution in the cross-border area.

Priority Axis 3

Priority Axis 3 “*Multimodal Sustainable Transport System*” aims at the development of sustainable transport and is represented by TO 7 “Promoting transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.”

The domain concerned by this Axis is no less important than the precedent two, but its budget, 27% of the overall Programme (33.257.762,05 €), reckons with the limited financial resources. The financial contribution of the Programme and the type of actions that will be supported are integrated with those of regional and national programmes.

The envisaged allocation for PA 3 has been made on the basis of the experience stemming from the 2013 Call for Strategic Project Proposals and the Territorial Analysis, which emphasized the potential of the Programme Area in communication between Europe Asia and Africa given the strategic positions of its ports, the opportunities arising from the its gateway transport character and the need for networking of transport institutional players to improve efficiency and competitiveness.

The two IPs of this PA (7.b “Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure” and 7c “Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility” and their corresponding SOs 3.1 and 3.2 receive programme support of 18,4 and 14,7 € respectively.

Priority Axis 4

PA 4 “Technical Assistance” receives 6% of the total programme budget.

In the following table, the Union, National and Total support are highlighted and a detailed budget breakdown per IP and SO is presented.

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific indicator
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
1	29,316,101.00	28.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation ▼ 1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies ▼ SO1.1 - Improving existing and developing new innovation support services with a focus on the sectors of special interest to the Programme Area ▼ SO1.2 - Facilitating the development of innovation clusters among regions in the sectors of Blue growth, Creative industry, Tourism and Culture, and Agribusiness and other sectors of interest to the Area ▼ 03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF) ▼ 3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators ▼ SO1.3 - Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area 	[R0501, R0502, R0503]
2	40,833,141.00	39.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency ▼ 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage ▼ SO2.1 - Valorisation of cultural heritage natural resources, improving strategies and management for their sustainable use and utilization ▼ 6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure ▼ SO2.2 - Improvement of joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems, paying attention on natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures ▼ 6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource 	[R0506, R0504, R0505]

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific indicator
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
3	28,269,098.00	27.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<p>efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution</p> <p>▼ SO2.3 - Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution</p> <p>▼ 07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures</p> <p>▼ 7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p> <p>▼ SO3.1 - Optimizing port and other transport infrastructures interfaces, procedures /operations in order to boost maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity</p> <p>▼ 7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility</p> <p>▼ SO3.2 - Improving the environmental impact of transport</p>	[R0508, R0507]
4	6,282,022.00	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<p>SO4.1 - To implement efficiently the cross border programme</p> <p>SO4.2 - To improve the support to applicants and beneficiaries and to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the programme implementation</p>	□

2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Innovation and Competitiveness

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

The Programme shall combine TO 1 and TO 3 into a single Axis, entitled ‘Innovation and Competitiveness’ due to the strong interconnections between the two. Accordingly, PA 1 aims to promote the creation and growth of dynamic firms in the Programme Area with the capacities and tools to innovate and compete in international markets. Innovation supported by public and private investments is key to Europe’s 2020 strategy. It can greatly enhance companies’ competitiveness and boost the creation of new jobs. This process is supported by National and Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies, which identify key competitive advantages and match them with research and innovation, in order to enhance competitiveness and grasp market opportunities.

The Territorial Analysis pointed out that Programme Area regions are characterised as “low tech” and with no specialisation in knowledge activities. The Area has less than half of EU27 average Total Intramural R&D expenditure (GERD); the region of Ionian Islands in particular has insignificant allocation. Similarly business share in GERD is much less than EU average in all 4 regions. With the exception of Epirus, which is above the EU27 average in terms of total R&D personnel and researchers, the other three regions are below the former EU27 average. In addition, the Programme Area is below EU average levels with regard to the employment in high- technology and medium high- technology sectors. It presents lower than EU average indices relevant to employment in knowledge- intensive services, even though the gap is not very wide. Moreover, patent performance (high- tech patents; patent applications; ICT and biotechnology patent applications) is very low; Puglia performs better but is still much below EU standards. Micro

enterprises, which are the most relevant in the Programme Area, do not invest enough in innovation. It is therefore clear that strengthening the interaction between research and innovation actors and SMEs, promoting new technologies through networking, cooperation, and exchange of experience among stakeholders is vital.

The GR-IT PROGRAMME will neither support heavy investments, development of large infrastructures nor scientific and technology research as such. Investments in small scales facilities or infrastructures might be supported in the case of pilot projects and territorial experiences. The programme shall support in particular intangible or “soft” actions which could potentially have a long term impact and which will provide visibility to the programme (studies and research, networking, dissemination of knowledge and data, etc.). Against the background of the current economic crisis, training support for entrepreneurship is also identified as crucial in order to maximise the impact and effectiveness of the investment.

The Programme shall aim to harness innovation and expand the capacity for entrepreneurship by seizing the unique growth initiatives and advantages of the Programme Area. For this reason, this Axis shall grant specific attention to blue growth and all the activities having strong links with the sea (such as marine and environmental industries -food, health, cosmetics- and aquaculture), creative/cultural industries and agro food (including all activities related to the transformation of agricultural typical products and their promotion and commercialization) that represent the competitive advantage of the participating regions.

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
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ID of the investment priority	Ib
Title of the investment priority	Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO1.1
Title of the specific objective	Improving existing and developing new innovation support services with a focus on the sectors of special interest to the Programme Area
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to research results and technology transfer for enterprises, notably SMEs, also establishing efficient links between business and vocational training and building the necessary skills • Joint research projects involving partnerships of Greek and Italian researchers and entrepreneurs and cooperation projects for enhancing researchers' mobility and internships • Improved technological and managerial competences for entrepreneurs, managers and public authorities' officials
ID of the specific objective	SO1.2
Title of the specific objective	Facilitating the development of innovation clusters among regions in the sectors of Blue growth, Creative industry, Tourism and Culture, and Agribusiness and other sectors of interest to the Area
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported emergence and maintenance of clusters for acqualculture, agrofood, cultural and creative industries and other sectors of interest to the Programme area • Concrete technological transfer from Greek and Italian SMEs for the management and development in common economic sectors • Established linkages in the innovation system (i.e. partnerships of companies with universities, laboratories, policy departments, regulators, competitors, suppliers and customers, etc) • Improved SMEs' access to information about networking opportunities • Increased participation of SMEs in research networks and technology markets • Identified and promoted good practice policies which support company innovation through cluster development

ID of the specific objective	SO1.1
Title of the specific objective	Improving existing and developing new innovation support services with a focus on the sectors of special interest to the Programme Area

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

SO1.1 - Improving existing and developing new innovation support services with a focus on the sectors of special interest to the Programme Area							
Specific objective	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0501	Number of improved innovation support services	Number	0.00	2014	5.00	Desk Research for baseline, survey for reporting	2018,2023

SO1.2 - Facilitating the development of innovation clusters among regions in the sectors of Blue growth, Creative industry, Tourism and Culture, and Agribusiness and other sectors of interest to the Area							
Specific objective	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0502	Number of clusters in the Programme Area, operating or expected to operate in the next 3 years	Number	0.00	2014	2.00	Desk Research for baseline, survey for reporting	2018,2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies</p>
<p>According to the two SOs of the Investment Priority 1b, two sets of cross-border interventions will be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Actions to improve existing and developing new innovation support services with a focus on the sectors of special interest to the Programme Area (referring to Specific Objective 1.1)</u> • <u>Actions to facilitate the development of innovation clusters among regions in the sectors of Blue growth, Creative industry, Tourism and Culture, and Agribusiness and other sectors of interest to the Area (referring to Specific Objective 1.2)</u> <p><u>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</u></p> <p>The following list of actions is only indicative and can be completed with other relevant actions contributing to the specific objective's goals</p> <p><u>Specific objective 1.1:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying joint research project ideas and boosting the synergies among enterprises, R&D centres and higher education to apply jointly to EU Cooperation Regulation (Horizon2020, "ERA chairs, Marie-Curie fellowships, Creative Europe, Cosme, Life, ENI...) 2. Fostering investment in pilot lines and innovative services for early product validation, adoption of the European standards, property rights and patent applications, investment readiness, agreements 3. Supporting living labs and hubs, mobilising end users (businesses or consumers) <p><u>Specific objective 1.2:</u></p>	

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies</p>
<p>1. Supporting the development of cross-border innovation clusters in agro-food, blue growth (aquaculture) and creative industry and strengthening /capitalising on projects funded in the framework of the 2013 Strategic Call, increasing their connectivity and synergies</p> <p>2. Fostering capacity building and skills for cluster members with a view to promoting the adoption of research and innovation results</p> <p>3. Promoting sustainable networks of excellence with organisation of seminars, workshops, conferences implemented on both sides of the Programme Area</p> <p><u>Identification of the main target groups (non-exhaustive list)</u></p> <p>The main target groups for this specific objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders involved in the economic districts and clusters of the cross border area: industry, research community, academia and other stakeholders • Actors of the Innovation system (universities, laboratories, policy departments, regulators, competitors, suppliers and customers) • Research institutions and centres • Single researchers and entrepreneurs <p><u>Specific territories targeted</u></p> <p>To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields; all GR-IT territories are concerned by this investment priority</p> <p><u>Types of beneficiaries (non-exhaustive list)</u></p> <p>The main beneficiaries directly involved in the interventions under this specific objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations <p>R&I system (Research institutions and centres, universities, laboratories, policy departments, academia, science parks, and other similar stakeholders)</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies</p>
<p>This section includes a brief description of the principles applied to ensure the selection of quality operations contributing to the delivery of the specific objectives and achievement of the result. This description is required for each investment priority, but where it is the same for several investment priorities, a cross-reference may be used to avoid repetition.</p>	
<p>The selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure.</p>	
<p>General guiding principles will be observed when selecting project applications, according to the objectives and results set of each call.</p>	
<p>Eligible applications of each operation will be submitted to a quality check, ensuring that it fulfils of the following essential requirements and coherence and contribution to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External coherence : other European programmes such as EUSAIR, the EU’s Research Framework Programme, national and regional policies and measures implemented to create synergies and avoid overlapping or duplication of existing or previous projects carried out under other European programmes or national funding • the Programme’s horizontal principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination, transparency and sustainable development 	

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the demonstration of their integration and advancement within the project proposal intervention logic • the programme’s strategy , the content of the TO, the investment priorities and specific objectives they refer to • Result-based approach: Projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the result indicators under each IP • the cross-border added value of the operation in terms of implementation of joint cross-border actions • the cooperation dimension, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners according to the objectives of the project and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (enterprises, researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, private investors, end users) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational) • coherence with the budget and the financing plan • the sustainable territorial dimension of projects, their concrete direct and indirect impact on socioeconomic mid and long-term development of the area. The effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding avoiding the multiplication of isolated initiatives • Innovation: projects should be geared towards a specific innovative product, service, process or tool in the socio economic sector, on public policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods • Operational quality: Each project applications to be designed in clarity and coherence with the operational objectives, activities and means, feasibility, efficiency, communication and its specific results, potential for uptake and embedment into operative procedures of the partners involved will be envisaged. The operational quality will be optimized by the presence of the output and result-oriented approach that places much emphasis on the development of concrete, relevant and visible outputs and results. <p>On decision of the Corfu Meeting in July 2014, the main guiding principles to be observed when selecting project applications will concern above all the general principles of Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING and ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. Consequently, the contribution of each project application to these objectives will represent a selection priority</p>	

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues.	
The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of the operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee.	
The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall prepare appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules and will disseminate them, ensuring their availability to potential applicants in the calls for proposals' documentation, launched upon subsequent decision of the Monitoring Committee. In each call, special requirements will be specified on the consideration of the cross-cutting issues as well as the monitoring and control of these criteria.	
The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations will respond to the adopted criteria.	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
Not applicable	/ The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will be debated during the implementation of the

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
	programme

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
	Not applicable

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O0501	Number of organizations/entities/SMEs participating in innovation related collaboration activities	Number	20.00	Monitoring system	yearly

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O0502	Number of studies, working documents for the development of innovation clusters	Number	30.00	Monitoring system	Yearly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3a
Title of the investment priority	Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO1.3
Title of the specific objective	Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated access for the targeted SMEs to new support services fostering innovation and internationalization. • Transferred innovative techniques and integration of knowledge relating to processes (governance and synergy of productive sectors) • Increased cooperation between research, public and private sectors to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. reduction of administrative barriers, public procurement of innovative products and services) • Rehabilitation of disused buildings and infrastructures

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective	SO1.3 - Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area
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ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0503	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M in the Programme Area	Number	111.95	2010	112,000.00	Eurostat	2018,2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>Creating a business environment conducive to entrepreneurship and enterprise creation requires a broad range of mutually supporting policies. In addition, education and training plays an important role in the establishment of entrepreneurial culture. Business incubators are important tools in this respect given that they are designed to accelerate the successful development of companies through an array of business support resources and services.</p> <p>Accordingly, the selected actions shall aim to draft public approaches and strategies at cross-border level to encourage sustainable economic models and public/private partnerships innovation systems, promote synergies and avoid isolated initiatives. They shall aim to improve coordination among government agencies in the process of designing and implementing initiatives, and will have visible results or a measurable effect on the socioeconomic sector, on public policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods. This will Increase cooperation between research, SMEs and the public sector to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. improvement of products, processes, strategies, reduction of administrative barriers of innovation, improvement of public services efficiency, etc.)</p> <p>It is important to note that the Programme will not provide direct funding to SMEs, but support will become available to intermediary bodies, such as</p>	

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>Chambers of Commerce, SME associations, etc.</p> <p><u>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</u></p> <p>The following list of actions is only indicative and can be completed with other relevant actions contributing to the specific objective's goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the transfer of innovative techniques, best practice exchange, integration of knowledge relating to processes (governance and synergy of productive sectors) among SMEs located in incubators on both sides of the Programme Area Supporting the establishment of new incubators in sectors of interest to the Programme Area <p><u>Identification of the main target groups (non-exhaustive list)</u></p> <p>The main target groups for this specific objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMEs in particular start-ups (priority in the Sectors of interest to the Programme Area) Incubator stakeholders: regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society All actors related to the management of innovative financing tools: business angels networks, crowd funding, etc. Research and innovation actors <p><u>Specific territories targeted</u></p> <p>To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields.</p> <p>The whole Programme area</p>	

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p data-bbox="284 1344 327 2112"><u>Types of beneficiaries</u>(non-exhaustive list)</p> <p data-bbox="351 896 391 2112">The main beneficiaries directly involved in the interventions under this specific objective are:</p> <ul data-bbox="422 168 534 2038" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="422 784 462 2038">• Education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations. <li data-bbox="462 571 502 2038">• Business support centres and agencies, technology intermediary and technology/knowledge transfer institutions <li data-bbox="502 168 542 2038">• Intermediate bodies, such as chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices, local authorities <p data-bbox="566 1086 606 2112">Chambers of Commerce, business associations, platforms, economic operators</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p data-bbox="865 201 941 2112">The selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure.</p> <p data-bbox="973 369 1013 2112">General guiding principles will be observed when selecting project applications, according to the objectives and results set of each call.</p> <p data-bbox="1045 145 1117 2112">Eligible applications of each operation will be submitted to a quality check, ensuring that it fulfils of the following essential requirements and coherence and contribution to:</p> <ul data-bbox="1149 123 1329 2038" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1149 123 1260 2038">• External coherence : other European programmes such as EUSAIR, the EU’s Research Framework Programme, national and regional policies and measures implemented to create synergies and avoid overlapping or duplication of existing or previous projects carried out under other European programmes or national funding <li data-bbox="1260 145 1329 2038">• the Programme’s horizontal principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination, transparency and sustainable development 	

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the demonstration of their integration and advancement within the project proposal intervention logic • the programme’s strategy , the content of the TO, the investment priorities and specific objectives they refer to • Result-based approach: Projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the result indicators under each IP • the cross-border added value of the operation in terms of implementation of joint cross-border actions • the cooperation dimension, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners according to the objectives of the project and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (enterprises, researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, private investors, end users) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational) • coherence with the budget and the financing plan concrete direct and indirect impact on socioeconomic mid and long-term development of the area. The effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding avoiding the multiplication of isolated initiatives • Innovation: projects should be geared towards a specific innovative product, service, process or tool in the socio economic sector, on public policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods • Operational quality: Each project applications to be designed in clarity and coherence with the operational objectives, activities and means, feasibility, efficiency, communication and its specific results, potential for uptake and embedment into operative procedures of the partners involved will be envisaged. The operational quality will be optimized by the presence of the output and result-oriented approach that places much emphasis on the development of concrete, relevant and visible outputs and results. <p>On decision of the Corfu Meeting in July 2014, the main guiding principles to be observed when selecting project applications will concern above all the general principles of Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING and ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.</p> <p>Consequently, the contribution of each project application to these objectives will represent a selection priority</p> <p>When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of the operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee.</p>	

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall prepare appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules and will disseminate them, ensuring their availability to potential applicants in the calls for proposals' documentation, launched upon subsequent decision of the Monitoring Committee. In each call, special requirements will be specified on the consideration of the cross-cutting issues as well as the monitoring and control of these criteria.</p> <p>The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations will respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>Not applicable / The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will debated during the implementation of the programme</p>	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>Not applicable</p>	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting	
O0503	Number of projects with the involvement of SMEs in the region	Number	15.00	Monitoring system	Yearly	

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		1 - Innovation and Competitiveness					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
O0501	O	Number of organizations/entities/SMEs participating in innovation related collaboration activities	Number	6	20.00	Monitoring	
PF501	F	Financial	EUR	25	95.00	Monitoring	
O0502	O	Number of studies, working documents for the development of innovation clusters	Number	12	30.00	Monitoring	

Priority axis		1 - Innovation and Competitiveness					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
O0503	O	Number of projects with the involvement of SMEs in the region	Number	6	15.00	Monitoring	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	Amount (€)
	Code	
062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs		4,057,139.02
063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs		2,704,759.00
064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)		4,057,139.03

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	
066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)		2,704,759.36
067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)		3,271,886.31
069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs		3,271,886.31
072. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)		3,271,886.31
077. Development and promotion of cultural and creative services in or for SMEs		2,704,759.35
089. Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land		3,271,886.31

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant		29,316,101.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	Amount (€)
	Code	

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)		20,316,101.00
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)		9,000,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		29,316,101.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness
The technical assistance is aimed to implement the cooperation programme in an efficient way, to support applicants and beneficiaries and to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the programme implementation.	

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	Integrated Environmental Management

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6c
Title of the investment priority	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO2.1
Title of the specific objective	Valorisation of cultural heritage natural resources, improving strategies and management for their sustainable use and utilization
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully diffused information on natural and touristic destinations through innovative tools and new common technologies (App, web portal etc) • Accessible natural and historical sites in particular for disabled people, enhancing specific infrastructures and services • Extension of the tourist season • Developed and tested innovative CBC management plans and measures • Better protected natural and historical sites and urban centres from pollution • Actively involved stakeholders (i.e. farmers, land managers) in networking actions for the management of natural resources

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO2.1 - Valorisation of cultural heritage natural resources, improving strategies and management for their sustainable use and utilization					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0504	Level of capacity of the involved organisation to operate across border related to cultural and natural heritage management	% of theoretical maximum achievable if ALL respondents were	10.00	2014	15.00	Survey or Focus Group	2018,2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<u>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</u>	
<p>The following list of actions is only indicative and can be completed with other relevant actions contributing to the specific objective's goals:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing and testing innovative tools in local authorities for spreading information and use of cultural heritage and resources, historic monuments and tourist locations (e.g. ICT applications, App, customized information services for tourists with virtual navigation possibilities) 2. Developing attractive and integrated cultural tourism products based on natural ecosystems (e.g. insular system, underwater cultural heritage) or thematic cross border sites or routes, involving community actors (i.e. farmers and land managers) 3. Improving accessibility to natural/historical resources, (beaches, archaeological areas, historical centre) paying particular attention to disabled people 4. Developing and piloting energy efficiency solutions in tourism related buildings and facilitating introduction of friendly environment services and green energy within tourist SMEs (RES, EE, Eco-innovation, etc. renewable energies, using recycling materials, km 0 products, introduction of LCA - Life Cycle Analysis on the main products arriving in touristic areas, etc) Developing and testing innovative CBC management plans and measures, such as traffic calming interventions in public areas (e.g. Historical centres) and ecological measures within SMEs
<u>Identification of the main target groups(non-exhaustive list)</u>	
<p>The main target groups for this specific objective are:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and innovation actors • Enterprises • Inhabitants of the Programme area • Local and international tourist operators

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society • Telecommunication actors <p><u>Specific territories targeted</u></p> <p>The whole Programme area</p> <p>To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields.</p> <p><u>Types of beneficiaries (non-exhaustive list)</u></p> <p>The main beneficiaries directly involved in the interventions under this specific objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local, regional and national governmental authorities and organisations concerned with the management of the natural and historical areas • Public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations; • Civil society stakeholders (NGOs/ NPOs) <p>Education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>The selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure.</p>	

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>General guiding principles will be observed when selecting project applications, according to the objectives and results set of each call.</p> <p>Eligible applications of each operation will be submitted to a quality check, ensuring that it fulfils of the following essential requirements and coherence and contribution to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External coherence : other European programmes such as EUSAIR, the EU’s Research Framework Programme, national and regional policies and measures implemented to create synergies and avoid overlapping or duplication of existing or previous projects carried out under other European programmes or national funding • the Programme’s horizontal principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination, transparency and sustainable development • the demonstration of their integration and advancement within the project proposal intervention logic • the programme’s strategy , the content of the TO, the investment priorities and specific objectives they refer to • Result-based approach: Projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the result indicators under each IP • the cross-border added value of the operation in terms of implementation of joint cross-border actions • the cooperation dimension, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners according to the objectives of the project and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (enterprises, researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, private investors, end users) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational) • coherence with the budget and the financing plan • the sustainable territorial dimension of projects, their concrete direct and indirect impact on socioeconomic mid and long-term development of the area. The effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding avoiding the multiplication of isolated initiatives • Innovation: projects should be geared towards a specific innovative product, service, process or tool in the socio economic sector, on public policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods • Operational quality: Each project applications to be designed in clarity and coherence with the operational objectives, activities and means, feasibility, efficiency, communication and its specific results, potential for uptake and embedment into operative procedures of the partners involved will be envisaged. The operational quality will be optimized by the presence of the output and result-oriented approach that places much 	

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</p>
<p>emphasis on the development of concrete, relevant and visible outputs and results.</p> <p>On decision of the Corfu Meeting in July 2014, the main guiding principles to be observed when selecting project applications will concern above all the general principles of Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING and ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. Consequently, the contribution of each project application to these objectives will represent a selection priority</p> <p>When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of the operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall prepare appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules and will disseminate them, ensuring their availability to potential applicants in the calls for proposals' documentation, launched upon subsequent decision of the Monitoring Committee. In each call, special requirements will be specified on the consideration of the cross-cutting issues as well as the monitoring and control of these criteria.</p> <p>The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations will respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Not applicable	/ The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will be debated during the implementation of the programme

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Not applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O0504	Number of jointly developed strategies, studies, plans, analysis and concepts related to cross border capacity improvement	Number	20.00	Monitoring system	Yearly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6d
Title of the investment priority	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO2.2
Title of the specific objective	Improvement of joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems, paying attention on natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted joint protocols for risk prevention • Integrated and updated data on biodiversity of the natural sites of the Programme area • Cleaner coast and seabed • Improved environmental education of the new generations • Reduced sea and coastal pollution by adapting and improving infrastructures, technologies and services for the management of waste under pressure

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO2.2 - Improvement of joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems, paying attention on natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0505	Area (ha) of area under shared management and-or coordination for a) risk prevention b) data coverage c) waste and water management	ha	0.00	2014	5.00	Desk Research for baseline, survey for reporting	2018,2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>The IP aims to improve the level of capacity of the involved organisations to operate related to environmental protection related to the waste sector in the regions.</p>	
<p><u>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</u></p>	
<p>The following list of actions is only indicative and can be completed with other relevant actions contributing to the specific objective's goals</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopting joint management and governance plans of coastal ecosystems, marine protected areas and their shared biological resources and of joint protocols for natural and technological risk prevention2. Promoting the effective integration, standardization, and public accessibility of data and knowledge on biodiversity of Programme Area, including knowledge on overwhelmed natural assets (e.g. bioconstructions coralligene, meadows of Posidonia, white coral Fund)[1]3. Supporting the public sector for improving infrastructures, processes and services for the disposal of waste water and waste facilities under pressure, such as the seasonal cleaning of the coast and the seabed, also involving environmental associations and improving controls and communication
<p><u>Identification of the main target groups(non-exhaustive list)</u></p>	
<p>The main target groups for this specific objective are:</p>	

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and innovation actors • Enterprises • Civil society • Inhabitants of the Programme area • Local and international tourist operators • Telecommunication actors <p><u>Specific territories targeted</u></p> <p>The whole Programme Area</p> <p>To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields.</p> <p><u>Types of beneficiaries (non-exhaustive list)</u></p> <p>The main beneficiaries directly involved in the interventions under this specific objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local, regional and national governmental authorities and organisations concerned with the management of the natural and historical areas • Public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations • Civil society stakeholders (NGOs, NPOs) <p>Education and knowledge institutions-, including private or semi-public research organisations</p> <p>[1] Suggestion from Public consultation</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>The selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure.</p>	
<p>General guiding principles will be observed when selecting project applications, according to the objectives and results set of each call.</p>	
<p>Eligible applications of each operation will be submitted to a quality check, ensuring that it fulfils of the following essential requirements and coherence and contribution to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External coherence : other European programmes such as EUSAIR, the EU’s Research Framework Programme, national and regional policies and measures implemented to create synergies and avoid overlapping or duplication of existing or previous projects carried out under other European programmes or national funding • the Programme’s horizontal principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination, transparency and sustainable development • the demonstration of their integration and advancement within the project proposal intervention logic • the programme’s strategy , the content of the TO, the investment priorities and specific objectives they refer to • Result-based approach: Projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the result indicators under each IP • the cross-border added value of the operation in terms of implementation of joint cross-border actions • the cooperation dimension, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners according to the objectives of the project and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (enterprises, researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, private investors, end users) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational) • coherence with the budget and the financing plan • the sustainable territorial dimension of projects, their concrete direct and indirect impact on socioeconomic mid and long-term development of the area. The effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding avoiding the multiplication of isolated initiatives • Innovation: projects should be geared towards a specific innovative product, service, process or tool in the socio economic sector, on public 	

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational quality: Each project applications to be designed in clarity and coherence with the operational objectives, activities and means, feasibility, efficiency, communication and its specific results, potential for uptake and embedment into operative procedures of the partners involved will be envisaged. The operational quality will be optimized by the presence of the output and result-oriented approach that places much emphasis on the development of concrete, relevant and visible outputs and results. <p>On decision of the Corfu Meeting in July 2014, the main guiding principles to be observed when selecting project applications will concern above all the general principles of Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING and ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. Consequently, the contribution of each project application to these objectives will represent a selection priority</p> <p>When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of the operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall prepare appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules and will disseminate them, ensuring their availability to potential applicants in the calls for proposals' documentation, launched upon subsequent decision of the Monitoring Committee. In each call, special requirements will be specified on the consideration of the cross-cutting issues as well as the monitoring and control of these criteria.</p>	

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations will respond to the adopted criteria.	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Not applicable	/ The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will be debated during the implementation of the programme

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Not applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O0505	Number of jointly developed and improved implementation systems and activities	Number	10,00	Monitoring system	Yearly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6f
Title of the investment priority	Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO2.3
Title of the specific objective	Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced pollution resulting from industrial discharges by adopting pollution prevention technologies • Introduced friendly environment management and technologies in all industrial sectors • Adopted certificate EU standards of clean production's methods and process

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

SO2.3 - Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution							
Specific objective	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0506	Energy Intensity of the programme area	EUR per capita/kgoe	151.40	2014	145.00	Eurostat	2018,2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
This IP aims to introduce environmental friendly technologies and processes in the industrial sector to fight against pollution.	
<u>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</u>	
The following list of actions contributing to the specific objective's goals:	is only indicative and can be completed with other relevant actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drafting facilities for SMEs (with regard to aquaculture, transport and touristic enterprises) for the introduction of environmentally-friendly sustainable technologies and process to manage wastewater disposal systems also under pressure, (adoption and use of pollution prevention technologies, integration of environmental clean technologies into firm production, etc.) 2. Promoting training schemes for the introduction of an environment oriented management and good practices exchanges on cleaner production and creating green skills and jobs to improve environmental protection (e.g. adoption of environmental international standards for SMEs) and resource efficiency in the waste sector with regard to reduce water and sea pollution 3. Developing technologies suitable for the treatment of waste on small islands, leading to possible recycling, reducing the entry on the islands of potential waste and optimally managing the waste cycle 	
<u>Identification of the main target groups(non-exhaustive list)</u> The main target groups for this specific objective are:	

Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
<p>• Stakeholders related to incubation initiatives: regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and innovation actors • Enterprises • Inhabitants of the Programme area • Local and international tourist operators • Telecommunication actors <p><u>Specific territories targeted</u></p> <p>The whole Programme area</p> <p>To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields.</p> <p><u>Types of beneficiaries (non-exhaustive list)</u></p> <p>The main beneficiaries directly involved in the interventions under this specific objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities, local, regional and national governmental authorities and organisations concerned with the management of the natural and historical areas • Public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations; • Civil society stakeholders (NGOs, NPOs and environmental associations); <p>Education and knowledge institutions-, including private or semi-public research organisations.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution</p>
<p>The selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure.</p> <p>General guiding principles will be observed when selecting project applications, according to the objectives and results set of each call.</p> <p>Eligible applications of each operation will be submitted to a quality check, ensuring that it fulfils of the following essential requirements and coherence and contribution to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External coherence : other European programmes such as EUSAIR, the EU’s Research Framework Programme, national and regional policies and measures implemented to create synergies and avoid overlapping or duplication of existing or previous projects carried out under other European programmes or national funding • the Programme’s horizontal principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination, transparency and sustainable development • the demonstration of their integration and advancement within the project proposal intervention logic • the programme’s strategy , the content of the TO, the investment priorities and specific objectives they refer to • Result-based approach: Projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the result indicators under each IP • the cross-border added value of the operation in terms of implementation of joint cross-border actions • the cooperation dimension, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners according to the objectives of the project and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (enterprises, researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, private investors, end users) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational) • coherence with the budget and the financing plan • the sustainable territorial dimension of projects, their concrete direct and indirect impact on socioeconomic mid and long-term development of the area. The effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding avoiding the multiplication of isolated initiatives 	

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation: projects should be geared towards a specific innovative product, service, process or tool in the socio economic sector, on public policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods • Operational quality: Each project applications to be designed in clarity and coherence with the operational objectives, activities and means, feasibility, efficiency, communication and its specific results, potential for uptake and embedment into operative procedures of the partners involved will be envisaged. The operational quality will be optimized by the presence of the output and result-oriented approach that places much emphasis on the development of concrete, relevant and visible outputs and results. <p>On decision of the Corfu Meeting in July 2014, the main guiding principles to be observed when selecting project applications will concern above all the general principles of Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING and ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. Consequently, the contribution of each project application to these objectives will represent a selection priority</p> <p>When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of the operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall prepare appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules and will disseminate them, ensuring their availability to potential applicants in the calls for proposals' documentation, launched upon subsequent decision of the Monitoring Committee. In each call, special requirements will be specified on the consideration of the cross-cutting issues as well as the monitoring and control of these criteria.</p>	

Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
<p>The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations will respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
<p>Not applicable / The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will be debated during the implementation of the programme</p>	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
<p>Not applicable</p>	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting	
O0506	Number of jointly developed products and services	Number	2.00	Monitoring system	yearly	

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		2 - Integrated Environmental Management					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PF502	F	Financial	EUR	25	95.00	Monitoring	
O0504	O	Number of jointly developed strategies, studies, plans, analysis and concepts related to cross border capacity improvement	Number	4	20.00	Monitoring	
O0505	O	Number of jointly developed and improved implementation systems and activities	Number	3	10.00	Monitoring	
O0506	O	Number of jointly developed products and	Number	1	2.00	Monitoring	

Priority axis		2 - Integrated Environmental Management					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		services					

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management	Amount (€)
	Code	
019. Commercial, industrial or hazardous waste management		3,990,012.00
047. ICT: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 100 Mbps)		2,617,509.00
068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures		3,490,012.01
079. Access to public sector information (including open data, e-Culture, digital libraries, e-Content and e-Tourism)		3,490,012.07

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management	
085. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure		4,049,824.35
088. Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures		3,490,012.07
091. Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas		4,978,613.76
093. Development and promotion of public tourism services		3,117,509.05
094. Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets		4,978,613.76
096. Institutional capacity of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the ERDF or actions supporting ESF institutional capacity initiatives		3,490,012.07
118. Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes		3,141,010.86

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant		40,833,141.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)		20,833,141.00
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)		15,000,000.00
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)		5,000,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		40,833,141.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
The technical assistance is aimed to implement the cooperation programme in an efficient way, to support applicants and beneficiaries and to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the programme implementation.	

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	7b
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO3.1
Title of the specific objective	Optimizing port and other transport infrastructures interfaces, procedures /operations in order to boost maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved internal and external accessibility to transport infrastructures areas and to transport with a particular attention to disabled passengers • Improved services in the transport infrastructures areas • Improved maritime traffic information exchange between CBC systems • Improved security in ports' operations • Improved information and dissemination on transport connections through internet

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO3.1 - Optimizing port and other transport infrastructures interfaces, procedures /operations in order to boost maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0507	Total passengers embarked and disembarked in 1000 passengers	Number	7,005,000.00	2012	7,250,000.00	Eurostat	2018,2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
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Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives

The following list of actions is only indicative and can be completed with other relevant actions contributing to the specific objective's goals

1. Improving internal and external accessibility to transport infrastructures areas, paying particular attention to disabled people, (i.e. establishment of check-in procedures for departures within ports, provision of suitable shuttles for transport of disabled people for embarking and disembarking in coordination with arrivals and departures, improvement of information signs, etc.)
2. Providing services for ports / airport stations: for vehicles and passengers (parking spaces, refuelling vehicles also with ecological methods, washing, banks, post office, rental bikes and vehicles, ticket offices, tourism agencies computer internet stations, personal cleaning services, telecommunication services, mechanical services, secure storage, showers and changing rooms),
3. Harmonising the procedures, data exchange and establishing mechanisms to enable maritime traffic information exchange between CBC systems, to improve maritime security and to respect the scheduled timing of arrivals and departures of ships
1. Supporting the provision of transport infrastructure of public WIFI areas and placing information points and kiosks and computer internet stations in the main airports, ports and railways stations providing information on regional and transnational links, traffic, weather, tourist facilities, mobility, points of interest

The identification of the main target groups

The main target groups for this specific objective are:

- Transport stakeholders : regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, NGOs/NPOs
- Research and innovation actors
- Enterprises
- Inhabitants of the Programme area and passengers
- Local and international tourists
- Transport, tourist and telecommunication, operators

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p><i>Specific territories targeted</i></p> <p>The whole Programme Area</p> <p><i>Types of beneficiaries</i></p> <p>The main beneficiaries directly involved in the interventions under this specific objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local, regional and national governmental authorities and organisations concerned with the management of the transport infrastructures and transport services • Port and other transport infrastructures authorities and organisations • Civil society stakeholders (NGOs, NPOs) <p>Education and knowledge institutions-, including private or semi-public research organisations</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p>The selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure.</p>	

General guiding principles will be observed when selecting project applications, according to the objectives and results set of each call.

Eligible applications of each operation will be submitted to a quality check, ensuring that it fulfils of the following essential requirements and coherence and contribution to:

- External coherence : other European programmes such as EUSAIR, the EU’s Research Framework Programme, national and regional policies and measures implemented to create synergies and avoid overlapping or duplication of existing or previous projects carried out under other European programmes or national funding
- the Programme’s horizontal principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination, transparency and sustainable development
- the demonstration of their integration and advancement within the project proposal intervention logic
- the programme’s strategy , the content of the TO, the investment priorities and specific objectives they refer to
- Result-based approach: Projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the result indicators under each IP
- the cross-border added value of the operation in terms of implementation of joint cross-border actions
- the cooperation dimension, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners according to the objectives of the project and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (enterprises, researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, private investors, end users) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)
- coherence with the budget and the financing plan
- the sustainable territorial dimension of projects, their concrete direct and indirect impact on socioeconomic mid and long-term development of the area. The effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding avoiding the multiplication of isolated initiatives
- Innovation: projects should be geared towards a specific innovative product, service, process or tool in the socio economic sector, on public policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods
- Operational quality: Each project applications to be designed in clarity and coherence with the operational objectives, activities and means, feasibility, efficiency, communication and its specific results, potential for uptake and embedment into operative procedures of the partners involved will be envisaged. The operational quality will be optimized by the presence of the output and result-oriented approach that places much

Investment priority

7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

emphasis on the development of concrete, relevant and visible outputs and results.

On decision of the Corfu Meeting in July 2014, the main guiding principles to be observed when selecting project applications will concern above all the general principles of Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 **INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING** and **ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**. Consequently, the contribution of each project application to these objectives will represent a selection priority

When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues.

The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of the operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee.

The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall prepare appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules and will disseminate them, ensuring their availability to potential applicants in the calls for proposals' documentation, launched upon subsequent decision of the Monitoring Committee. In each call, special requirements will be specified on the consideration of the cross-cutting issues as well as the monitoring and control of these criteria.

The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations will respond to the adopted criteria.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Not applicable	/ The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will be debated during the implementation of the programme

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Not applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O0507	Number of cross border projects related to cross border transport tools and applications	Number	10.00	Monitoring system	yearly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	7c
Title of the investment priority	Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO3.2
Title of the specific objective	Improving the environmental impact of transport
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced use of renewable energies for public services • Introduced innovative eco-sustainable transport systems with low impact on environment (e.g. seaplanes, electrical vehicles, non-polluting transport on the sea, cycling)

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO3.2 - Improving the environmental impact of transport					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0508	Annual road freight transport loaded in the programme area in thousands of tonnes	Thousands of tonnes	88,532,000.00	2011	88,000,000.00	Eurostat	2018,2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<u>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</u>	
The following list of actions contributing to the specific objective's goals:	<p>is only indicative and can be completed with other relevant actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning and implementing seaplanes infrastructures and transport 2. Using alternative energy to power ports / airports/ railway stations 3. Introducing public infrastructure and diffusing eco-services for road transportation in the Programme Area (e.g. eco-car / bike sharing, points for electric supply for vehicles, ecological distributors, etc.) 4. Fostering the introduction of eco-innovative technologies in traditional transport with lower impact on environment (e.g. electrical vehicles, non-polluting transport on the sea)
<i>The identification of the main target groups</i>	
The main target groups for this specific objective are:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport stakeholders : regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society • Research and innovation actors • Enterprises • Inhabitants of the Programme area and passengers • Local and international tourists • Transport, tourist and telecommunication, operators 	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p data-bbox="360 1731 392 2089"><i>Specific territories targeted</i></p> <p data-bbox="427 1727 459 2089">The whole Programme Area</p> <p data-bbox="564 1800 596 2089"><i>Types of beneficiaries</i></p> <p data-bbox="635 891 667 2089">The main beneficiaries directly involved in the interventions under this specific objective are:</p> <ul data-bbox="705 210 849 2033" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="705 1767 769 2033">• Local, regional and national governmental authorities and organisations concerned with the management of the transport infrastructures and transport services <li data-bbox="778 1124 810 2033">• Port and other transport infrastructures authorities and organisations <li data-bbox="820 1464 849 2033">• Civil society stakeholders (NGOs, NPOs) <p data-bbox="884 882 916 2089">Education and knowledge institutions-, including private or semi-public research organisations</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p data-bbox="1187 210 1251 2089">The selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure.</p>	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>General guiding principles will be observed when selecting project applications, according to the objectives and results set of each call.</p> <p>Eligible applications of each operation will be submitted to a quality check, ensuring that it fulfils of the following essential requirements and coherence and contribution to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External coherence : other European programmes such as EUSAIR, the EU’s Research Framework Programme, national and regional policies and measures implemented to create synergies and avoid overlapping or duplication of existing or previous projects carried out under other European programmes or national funding • the Programme’s horizontal principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination, transparency and sustainable development • the demonstration of their integration and advancement within the project proposal intervention logic • the programme’s strategy , the content of the TO, the investment priorities and specific objectives they refer to • Result-based approach: Projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the result indicators under each IP • the cross-border added value of the operation in terms of implementation of joint cross-border actions • the cooperation dimension, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners according to the objectives of the project and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (enterprises, researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, private investors, end users) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational) • coherence with the budget and the financing plan • the sustainable territorial dimension of projects, their concrete direct and indirect impact on socioeconomic mid and long-term development of the area. The effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding avoiding the multiplication of isolated initiatives • Innovation: projects should be geared towards a specific innovative product, service, process or tool in the socio economic sector, on public policies, in certain activities, institutions and management or cooperating methods • Operational quality: Each project applications to be designed in clarity and coherence with the operational objectives, activities and means, feasibility, efficiency, communication and its specific results, potential for uptake and embedment into operative procedures of the partners involved will be envisaged. The operational quality will be optimized by the presence of the output and result-oriented approach that places much 	

<p>Investment priority</p>	<p>7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility</p>
<p>emphasis on the development of concrete, relevant and visible outputs and results.</p> <p>On decision of the Corfu Meeting in July 2014, the main guiding principles to be observed when selecting project applications will concern above all the general principles of Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 INVESTING IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING and ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. Consequently, the contribution of each project application to these objectives will represent a selection priority</p> <p>When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of the operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall prepare appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules and will disseminate them, ensuring their availability to potential applicants in the calls for proposals' documentation, launched upon subsequent decision of the Monitoring Committee. In each call, special requirements will be specified on the consideration of the cross-cutting issues as well as the monitoring and control of these criteria.</p> <p>The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations will respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Not applicable	/ The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will be debated during the implementation of the programme

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Not applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O0508	Number of jointly developed implementing systems and projects for sustainable transport	Number	5.00	Monitoring system	Yearly

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PF503	F	Financial	EUR	25	95.00	Monitoring	
O0507	O	Number of cross border projects related to cross border transport tools and applications	Number	3	10.00	Monitoring	
O0508	O	Number of jointly developed implementing systems and projects for sustainable transport	Number	1	5.00	Monitoring	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	Amount (€)
	Code	
010. Renewable energy: solar		4,141,010.86
013. Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures		3,141,010.86
038. Other airports		3,141,010.86
039. Seaports (TEN-T)		8,778,790.98
043. Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)		4,141,010.86
044. Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring control and information systems)		4,926,263.58

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
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	Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant		28,269,098.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)		20,269,098.00
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)		8,000,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		28,269,098.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
The technical assistance is aimed to implement the cooperation programme in an efficient way, to support applicants and beneficiaries and to strengthen	

Priority axis:	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
the involvement of relevant partners in the programme implementation.	

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID	4
Title	Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO4.1	To implement efficiently the cross border programme	<p>A sound management of the cooperation programme is the pre-condition for its effective implementation. The result expected within this specific objective is thus directly linked to the need of guaranteeing the adequate management and control environment of the programme, as described in Section 5.3, ensuring that all programme implementation steps (including the launch of calls, contracting, monitoring of operations and programme achievements, reimbursement of expenditure, etc.) are timely executed.</p> <p><u>Main change sought</u></p>

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		<p>The evaluation of the GR-IT Programme 2007-2013 shows that the implementation of the Programme could be improved and the administrative burden reduced. Accordingly, the change driven by the Programme mainly refers to further improving and streamlining administrative procedures for a faster and more efficient implementation, and an improvement of the support to beneficiaries so that they can apply in better conditions and submit more targeted and better quality projects.</p>

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis	SO4.1 - To implement efficiently the cross border programme						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO4.2	To improve the support to applicants and beneficiaries and to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the programme implementation	<p>In addition to a sound programme management, the capacity of applicants and beneficiaries to participate in the Programme is a key aspect of its successful implementation. The analysis of the 2007-2013 Programme shows a very high number of project applications confirming the high interest of the local stakeholders for cross-border cooperation and the relevance of the Programme to their needs. The ongoing evaluation report verified that the project selection process was well organized ensuring the cross-border character of the operations.</p> <p><u>Main change sought</u></p> <p>The main change sought is an improvement in the quality of project proposals in terms of more results-oriented and more sustainable actions as well as better integrated in mainstream policies and regional/national plans. This change will require an improvement in the application forms (the support from INTERACT with the Harmonized Implementation Tools will prove useful for the Programme Bodies), simplified procedures (as described in the Section “Reduction of administrative burdens”, while more targeted support shall be provided to the applicants and beneficiaries (mobilisation of the Joint Secretariat, organization of targeted capacity building training sessions, practical and structured support from the Contact Points ...).</p>

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis	SO4.2 - To improve the support to applicants and beneficiaries and to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the programme implementation
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ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
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2.B.5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.5.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
	<p>Actions within specific objective 4.1 target the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information, communication, control and audit tasks of the programme. Actions referring to this specific objective also address the reduction of the administrative burden for beneficiaries.</p> <p>Indicative actions supported under specific objective 4.1 are listed below and they refer to principles and tasks described in Sections 5.3 and 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting up and managing of a Joint Secretariat supporting the Managing Authority and assisting the Monitoring Committee in the implementation and day-to-day management of the programme;• Preparing and implementing calls for proposals, including the development of guidance documents setting out the conditions for the support of operations;• Setting-up and implementing procedures for the quality assessment, monitoring and control of operations implemented under the cooperation programme, also making use of external experts where necessary, and contributing to the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries;• Collecting data concerning the progress of the programme in achieving its objectives, as well as financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones, and reporting to the Monitoring Committee and the European Commission;• Drafting and implementing the programme communication strategy, including the setting up and implementation of information and communication measures and tools;• Drafting and implementing the programme evaluation plan;• Setting-up, running and maintenance of a computerised system to record and store data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit in compliance with the applicable electronic data exchange requirements and contributing to the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries;• Setting-up a network of national financial controllers, coordinated by the Joint Secretariat, with the purpose of exchanging information and best practices at cross-border level;

<p>Priority axis</p>	<p>4 - Technical Assistance</p>
<p>• Setting up and execution of audits on the programme management and control system and on operations.</p> <p>Actions within the specific objective 4.2 target the reinforcement of the capacity of applicants and beneficiaries to apply for and use funds, to get involved in the programme and to exchange good practices among partners.</p> <p>Indicative actions supported within specific objective 4.2 are listed below and they refer to principles and tasks described in Sections 5.3 and 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of information documents for applicants and beneficiaries to guide them in the preparation of applications and the implementation, evaluation, control and communication of approved operations; • Organising consultation, information, training and exchange events to strengthen the capacity of applicants to develop applications directly contributing to the programme specific objectives and expected results; • Organising trainings on specific implementation issues such as project and financial management, reporting, control, audit, communication and networking to strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries to implement approved operations; • Developing information and exchange tools (e.g. analytical documents, bilateral meetings, targeted events, etc.) and organisation of cross-border and national events to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the implementation of the programme (also including authorities involved in the development or implementation of macro-regional strategies, joint legal bodies operating in the area and umbrella organisations at EU/cross border level); • Setting-up and management of a network of national Contact Points, supporting the Joint Secretariat in implementing at national level tasks related to the implementation of the programme. • Executing studies, reports and surveys on strategic matters concerning the programme that can contribute to the sustainability and take up of results and achievements into policies, strategies, investments or that are of public interest, making use of experts when necessary. <p>Technical Assistance actions shall be implemented by all authorities involved in the management of the Programme, listed in Section 5.3.</p>	

2.B.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

Table 11: Output indicators

Priority axis		4 - Technical Assistance				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data		
O0509	Number of calls	Number	4.00	Monitoring		
O0510	Number of projects approved	Number	100.00	Monitoring		
O0511	Number of events and workshops	Number	1.00	Monitoring		
O0512	Number of seminars and trainings for applicants and beneficiaries	Number	4.00	Monitoring		
O0513	Studies, reports and surveys on strategic relevance for the Programme	Number	4.00	Monitoring		

2.B.6 Categories of intervention

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 12-14: Categories of intervention

Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance	Amount (€)
	Code	
121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection		2,094,007.52
122. Evaluation and studies		2,094,007.24
123. Information and communication		2,094,007.24

Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance	Amount (€)
	Code	
01.Non-repayable grant		6,282,022.00

Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance	Code	Amount (€)
07.Not applicable			6,282,022.00

3. FINANCING PLAN**3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in €)****Table 15**

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF	5,193,219.00	7,582,803.00	10,828,722.00	19,675,724.00	20,069,238.00	20,470,622.00	20,880,034.00	104,700,362.00
Total	5,193,219.00	7,582,803.00	10,828,722.00	19,675,724.00	20,069,238.00	20,470,622.00	20,880,034.00	104,700,362.00

3.2.A Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in €)

Table 16: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
1	ERDF	Public	29,316,101.00	5,173,430.00	5,173,430.00	0.00	34,489,531.00	84.9999989852%		
2	ERDF	Public	40,833,141.00	7,205,848.00	7,205,848.00	0.00	48,038,989.00	85.0000007286%		
3	ERDF	Public	28,269,098.00	4,988,664.00	4,988,664.00	0.00	33,257,762.00	85.0000009020%		
4	ERDF	Public	6,282,022.00	1,108,592.00	1,108,592.00	0.00	7,390,614.00	85.0000013531%		
Total	ERDF		104,700,362.00	18,476,534.00	18,476,534.00	0.00	123,176,896.00	85.0000003247%		
Grand total			104,700,362.00	18,476,534.00	18,476,534.00	0.00	123,176,896.00	85.0000003247%		

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

3.2.B Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

Table 17

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
1	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	16,228,556.00	2,863,863.00	19,092,419.00
1	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	13,087,545.00	2,309,567.00	15,397,112.00
2	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	40,833,141.00	7,205,848.00	48,038,989.00
3	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	28,269,098.00	4,988,664.00	33,257,762.00
Total		98,418,340.00	17,367,942.00	115,786,282.00

Table 18: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
1	1,308,754.52	1.25%
2	5,109,941.75	4.88%
3	14,420,447.89	13.77%
4	0.00	0.00%
Total	20,839,144.16	19.90%

4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

Not applicable, but the proposed actions contribute significantly to the general framework of introducing and evaluating the potential application of relevant actions in the future. It is considered that proposed actions contribute positively to the development of effective CLLD interventions that will promote the extroversion and competitiveness of the Programme Area.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the ERDF support for these actions

No specific urban areas have been identified to implement sustainable urban development. Partners of all urban areas located in regions eligible to the programme can participate in projects following the recommendations provided in the different priority axes and in the calls for proposals.

Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF support

Indicative amount of ERDF support (€)
0.00

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

ITI would necessitate the identification of specific intervention areas, covering only part of eligible regions. This is not fully appropriate for the GR-IT Programme 2014-2020. No specific intervention areas have been identified. However, Integrated territorial development is considered as a horizontal principle in the implementation of each Priority Axis.

Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
	0.00

4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)

(Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional and sea basin strategies)

A macro-regional strategy is an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council, with no funds, which may be supported by the European Structural and National and Investment Funds to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

EUSAIR in the form of a Communication and an Action Plan constitutes a significant policy affecting the Programme Area. It proposes compatible actions with the GR-IT CBC Programme for closer cooperation in areas like promoting the maritime economy, preserving the marine environment, completing transport and energy links and boosting sustainable tourism.

A pair of countries – one EU Member State and one non-EU country- coordinated the development of each element of the EUSAIR Action Plan:

- Greece and Montenegro on "Blue Growth",
- Italy and Serbia on "Connecting the Region" (transport and energy networks),
- Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on "Environmental Quality",
- Croatia and Albania on "Sustainable Tourism".

It is important to note that this is the first EU 'macro-regional strategy' with such a large proportion of non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) cooperating with EU members (Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia). The four pillars envisaged by the Strategy to play a crucial role in creating jobs and boosting economic growth include:(Reference annex 2, table 1).

In addition, capacity building as well as research, innovation and small and medium size business are cross-cutting aspects. Climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as disaster risk management are horizontal principles relevant to all four pillars of EUSAIR.

During the programming phase of their respective Partnership Agreements (PA), Italy and Greece have identified the EUSAIR as one of the main frameworks for potential synergies.

Coherence with EUSAIR has been taken into account for the design of the INTERREG GR-IT strategy, Specific Objectives and Actions that would represent concrete solutions to address the common and shared cross-border concerns. The Programme coherence with all the main EUSAIR topics is shown in (Reference table1, ANNEX3)

5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 21: Programme authorities

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Development and Competitiveness	George Emmanuel
Certifying authority	The Paying Authority for the CSF, the Community Initiatives and the Cohesion Fund, Ministry of Development and Competitiveness	SOUSOUNIS DIMITRIOS
Audit authority	Financial Control Committee (EDEL)	KATRIVESIS VASILEIOS

The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:

- the Managing authority
 the Certifying authority

Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	General Secretariat for Public Investments	GEORGE GIANNOUSIS
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Financial Control Committee (EDEL)	KATRIVESIS VASILEIOS

5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

Joint Secretariat

The Puglia Region, in agreement with the Managing Authority, after consultation with the participating member states shall set up a Joint Secretariat under the responsibility of the Puglia Region and the Managing Authority (Article 23 par.2, Regulation 1299/2014).

The Joint Secretariat shall be hosted by Puglia Region, and will be located in Bari.

The Joint Secretariat (JS) undertakes the day-to-day implementation of the programme and shall assist the Managing Authority, the Monitoring Committee and the Project

Selection Committee in carrying out their respective duties. Moreover, it may assist the Audit Authority and the group of auditors to organise the cross-border meeting and to carry out their respective duties.

The Puglia Region, in agreement with the Managing Authority, will recruit the Joint Secretariat staff in line with EU and National (Italian) public procurement procedures, taking into consideration agreed Terms of Reference laying down individual job descriptions suitable for the implementation of the Joint Secretariat tasks.

Contracting procedures with the selected candidates will be in compliance with the legal procedures provided by Italian law for the recruitment and contracting of experts/staff.

The JS recruitment will be activated in the start-up phase of the Programme, by a joint recruitment committee.

The principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination between males and females shall be taken into consideration in the recruitment of the Joint Secretariat staff.

The Joint Secretariat staff will be composed by of different job positions in charge of financial monitoring, project monitoring and communication/capitalisation activities.

Decentralised structures of the Joint Secretariat

Two decentralised structures of the JS will be set up in Greece, one in Kerkyra, in the Region of Ionian Islands and one in Thessaloniki, within the Managing Authority of the Programme.

The staff of the two decentralised structures will be selected and recruited by the Managing Authority according to the European and National (Greek) public procurement rules.

The decentralised structures shall contribute to the fulfilment of the JS tasks, as described before.

Moreover, according to the needs emerged during the programme management, ad hoc experts shall be recruited for specific and temporary tasks (Cross border experts' groups).

The expenditure deriving from the functioning of the Joint Secretariat and its decentralised structures will be paid from the Programme's Technical Assistance budget.

The functions and role of the JS shall be determined, in agreement with the Managing Authority, the Puglia Region and the Member States participating in the programme, in its rule of procedures.

5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

This following section describes the implementation structure of the Greece-Italy cross-border Programme 2014-2020 and, specifically, bodies acting as Managing Authority

(MA), Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) and Joint Secretariat (JS). It also defines the tasks of each of the involved body, including the Monitoring Committee (MC) and describes the relations between the different bodies in the various processes necessary for the Programme implementation.

The programme language is English. During the MC as well as in other meetings the members may use also the Greek and Italian languages.

Joint implementation structure and division of tasks between the different bodies

Monitoring Committee (MC)

The main function of the MC are specified in the Article 49 and Article 110 of Regulation (EU) N.1303/2013

The Monitoring Committee of the OP is set up within three months from the date of the notification to the Commission of the decision adopting the OP.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme is decided by the participating Member States, taking into account that Member States shall be equally represented and complying with the partnership principle in managing, monitoring and evaluating the operations in all stages of programme implementation. The representatives of Member States shall come from national, regional and local authorities, as well as from economic and social partners.

On its own initiative or at the request of the Monitoring Committee, the European Commission's representative shall participate in an advisory capacity in the meetings of the Monitoring Committee.

The Managing Authority attends the Monitoring Committee meetings in an advisory capacity. Moreover, specialists or experts on economic, technical, social, scientific and other matters, depending on the agenda items, may be invited to attend the Monitoring Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

The Joint Secretariat undertakes the secretarial support to the Monitoring Committee, mainly by organising the meetings, preparing the agenda and keeping the minutes.

The decisions of the Monitoring Committee are taken by consensus. Both Greek and Italian languages can be used at the meetings of the Monitoring Committee.

The Monitoring Committee shall be responsible for the functions set out in article 49 of Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013, and it shall review implementation of the programme and progress made towards achieving its objectives. In doing so, it shall have regard to the financial data, common and programme-specific indicators, including changes in the value of result indicators and progress towards quantified target values, and the milestones defined in the performance framework referred to in Article 21(1), and, where relevant, the results of qualitative analyses.

Managing Authority

General principles for management and control arrangements are specified in the article 72 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR).

The Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Development and Competitiveness of Greece which designated as the Managing Authority of the Programme will be assisted by the Joint Secretariat and shall be responsible for managing and implementing the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. It carries out the functions described in Article 125 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR) and Article 23 of Regulation (EU) N.1299/2013 (ETC).

The Managing Authority shall be responsible for managing the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

Within this framework, the Managing Authority, with the assistance of the JS, may perform additional checks specifically addressed at the verification of the quality standards of the control system set up by each Member State through:

- Verification of controller documents
- Quality review of centralised systems

Certifying Authority

The Paying Authority for the CSF, the Community Initiatives and the Cohesion Fund,

Ministry of Development and Competitiveness of Greece which designated as the Certifying Authority, according to the Article 24 of Regulation (EU) N.1299/2014 (ETC), shall carry out the functions envisaged in Article 126 of Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2014 (CPR).

In particular, the CA is responsible for drawing up and submitting to the Commission payment applications and certifying that these result from reliable accounting systems are based on verifiable supporting documents and have been subject to verifications by the Managing Authority before being sent to the Commission.

Name of the Authority (as specified above, pag. 78)

The Certifying Authority is also responsible for drawing up the annual accounts, certifying the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the annual accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable EU and national rules and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding, in accordance with the criteria applicable to the operational programme and complying with EU and national rules.

Audit Authority

The Audit Authority will carry out its functions in accordance with Articles 123, 124, 127 and 128 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR) and Articles 21 and 25 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1299/2013 (ETC). The Audit Authority of this Operational Programme is the Financial Control Committee (EDEL), set up following the decision of the Minister for Economy and Finance, at the Ministry of Finance – General Accounting Office of the State. The Financial Audit Committee consists of seven members and is independent of the Managing and Certifying Authorities.

The Audit Authority ensures that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of management and control system of the operational programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure. It draws up an audit opinion on the annual accounts for the preceding accounting year and an annual control report setting out findings of the audits carried out during the preceding accounting year.

The Audit Authority shall within eight months of adoption of the operational programme, prepare an audit strategy of performance and audits. The audit strategy shall set out the audit methodology, the sampling method for audits on projects and the planning of audits in relation to the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years.

Group of Auditors

The Audit Authority of the operational programme shall be assisted by a group of auditors comprising of a representative appointed by the Greek State and a representative appointed by the Italian State (Ministry of Economy and Finance) , carrying out the duties provided for in article 127 of Regulation (EU) N.1303/2013. The group of auditors shall be set up within three months of the decision approving the operational programme. The group shall draw up its own rules of procedure. The group of auditors shall be chaired by the Audit Authority of the operational programme in accordance with article 25(2) of Regulation 1299/2014.

The auditors shall be functionally independent of controllers who carry out verifications under Article 23 of Regulation 1299/2014.

Audits carried out under the responsibility of the Audit Authority

Where audits and controls are carried out by a body other than the AA, the AA shall ensure that such bodies have the necessary functional independence. The decision on the body carrying out the system audits and the checks on expenditure will be taken by the AA and the group of auditors during the process of designing the audit strategy of the programme.

In the framework of an audit strategy, audits shall be carried out on the basis of an annual plan approved by the Audit Authority. Special audits not coming under a plan shall also be carried out, where appropriate.

When identified problems relate to the functioning of the management and control system, entailing therefore a risk for other operations under the operational programme, the Financial Control Committee shall ensure that a further investigation is carried out, including additional audits where appropriate in order to determine the gravity of the problems.

Each EU Member States shall be responsible for the audits carried out on its territory.

The Audit Authority shall in the implementation of its tasks, act in full accordance with Greek institutional, legal and financial provisions.

Joint Secretariat and its decentralised structures

According to article 23 of ETC Regulation, the Joint Secretariat and its decentralised structures assists the Managing Authority in carrying out its functions. The Joint Secretariat provides information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the Greece-Italy Cross-border programme and assists beneficiaries in the implementation of operations. It sets up and maintains contacts with Lead Partners and their partnerships.

More specifically, the Joint Secretariat ensures at cross-border level coordination, follow-up and promotion activities and provides technical support for the preparation of meetings and events at the programme and projects level (Monitoring Committees, Conferences and cross-border working groups, lead partners seminar, other specific thematic meetings).

The Joint Secretariat facilitates, assesses and ensures that project selection is equitable and transparent. It collects financial, physical and statistical data that is needed for programme monitoring as well as for the interim and final appraisals. It verifies payment claims in sight of payment to Lead partners.

The Joint Secretariat is also in charge of implementing the information system that is open and available to operators and to the public for the implementation of the programme: schedule, progress, contacts, phone details, website.

The annual work plans and reports of the JS have to be approved by the MC. The set-up and functioning of JS, including its activities, shall be funded from the TA budget in line with MA/JS work plans and reports to be approved by the MC annually.

Info Contact Points

Two Cross Border Contact Points shall be established in Greece: one in Ioannina and one in Patras. The staff of the Contact Points will be selected and recruited by the Managing Authority, according to the EU and national (Greek) public procurement rules.

The Contact Points will assure logistic support to the implementation of the Programme activities and will contribute to implement the planned activities of the Communication Plan, carrying out their duties in coordination and cooperation with the JS (Period 01/07/2015 – 31/12/2023 and estimated costs € 340.000,00)

In particular, the Contact Points will:

- support the project applicants and partners at national/local level;

- assist the project generation, application and implementation process;
- contribute to information and publicity actions within the respective country;
- support the National Committees or corresponding national procedures in fulfilling their cross-border tasks.

National Committees

Each participating State can freely organise its national body and has the possibility to set up support bodies such as National Committees as consultative bodies.

National Committees will involve national, regional and local authorities as well as the relevant sectoral authorities and institutions, non-governmental organisations and any other socio-economic and institutional partner considered relevant by the concerned partner state.

The National Committees can play an advisory role as regarding the pre-selection of project applications. The main role is, as a consequence, to provide information and consultation on the compliance and/or complementarity and/or synergies of project applications and the large number of ERDF, ESF, EARDF Operational Programmes, as well as other relevant activities implemented at national level in the programme area. The final aim is to ensure complementarity and strengthen synergies in order to maximise the efficaciousness and impact of the projects, in a broader framework able to assure consistency of interventions with the most relevant policies and programmes of the involved area.

Close links will be established between the JS and the Greece-Italy Contact Points that will transfer information or documents to the National Committees or corresponding national procedures and vice versa.

Body responsible for the report and opinion on the designation of the MA and CA

The Audit Authority shall draw up a report and an opinion on the designation of the Managing and Certifying Authorities of the Programme after assessing the fulfilment by the authorities of the criteria relating to the internal control environment, risk management, management and control activities, and monitoring set out in Annex XIII of Regulation (EU) N.1303/2013.

Body responsible for making payments to beneficiaries

The body responsible for making payments to beneficiaries shall be the Certifying Authority for the Programme. No amount shall be deducted or withheld from payments made to beneficiaries and no subsequent charges shall be levied that would reduce these amounts.

The procedure for making payments to beneficiaries is described in Section 3.2 (financial flow of public expenditure).

Development and Selection of Operations

The Joint Secretariat prepares the material for the call for proposals and submits it to the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority examines the material and when accepted submits it to the Project Selection Committee. If the Project Selection Committee agrees upon the material, the Managing Authority submits it to the Monitoring Committee for approval.

Then, the Managing Authority shall launch the call for proposals, informing potential beneficiaries about financing, the particular conditions and requirements applicable to their eligibility under the call, the criteria and the procedure for selecting operations, the main obligations to be undertaken by beneficiaries in case that an operation is selected for funding under the OP etc.

Potential beneficiaries prepare a proposal in cooperation with the lead beneficiary, who submits it to the Managing Authority, in order to receive a reference number. Then, the Managing Authority is forwarding all proposals submitted to the Joint Secretariat.

The Joint Secretariat checks the eligibility criteria of application. Proposals that are not eligible are rejected by the decision of the Monitoring Committee.

The JS while performing the eligibility checks of application makes certain that:

1. proposals are submitted within the deadline;
2. all standard documents required are completed;
3. potential beneficiaries participating in the proposals are eligible.

The JS proceeds to the quality check of proposals, based on the operations selection criteria as approved by the Monitoring Committee and submit all the material to the Project Selection Committee. In evaluating proposals, the Joint Secretariat may be assisted by external experts.

The evaluation criteria will be defined with the aim to maximise the result-oriented approach to be applied by the Greece-Italian programme for projects able to deliver concrete and visible outputs and results, in response to well identified challenges affecting the programme area and addressing development needs in an integrated manner.

All projects receiving funds have to meet the following quality requirements:

- Cross-border relevance;
- Partnership relevance;
- Concrete outputs and measurable results;
- Sustainable outputs and results;
- Coherent approach;
- Sound project communication strategy and tools;

- Effective management;
- Sound budget.

Different types of calls are expected to be launched: thematic calls, targeted calls, ordinary calls, calls for strategic projects, etc.

As a general principle, the Greece-Italy Programme is committed, across all priorities, to sustainable development and promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, which will also be reflected in the evaluation criteria.

Project Selection Committee

The Monitoring Committee may decide to set up a Project Selection Committee.

Resolution of complaints

Any queries related to the assessment of applications will be dealt with by the MA/JS. If needed, remaining complaints will be examined and answered jointly by the chair of the MC when the decision was taken and the MA/JS.

Contracting

Following the decision of the MC to approve applications recommended for funding, the MA and the Lead partner sign a Subsidy contract for each project.

The MA will use a standard template for the subsidy contract approved by the MC which is developed in compliance with the applicable law of the Greek Republic and the principles of the institution hosting the MA.

The subsidy contract is addressed to the Lead partner, appointed by the partnership, in accordance to Article 13 of the Regulation (EU) N.1299/2013, and is signed by the legal representative of the Lead partner institution and by the MA.

Responsibilities of the Lead Beneficiary and of other Beneficiaries

The Lead Beneficiary shall assume the following responsibilities:

a) lay down the arrangements with other beneficiaries in an agreement comprising provisions that, inter alia, guarantee the sound financial management of the funds allocated to the operation, including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid;

(b) assume responsibility for ensuring implementation of the entire operation;

(c) ensure that expenditure presented by all beneficiaries has been incurred in implementing the operation and corresponds to the activities agreed between all the beneficiaries, and is in accordance with the document provided by the managing authority pursuant to Article 12(5) of Regulation (EU) N. 1299/2013;

(d) ensure that the expenditure presented by other beneficiaries has been verified by a controller or controllers where this verification is not carried out by the managing authority pursuant to Article 23(3) of Regulation (EU) N. 1299/2013.

If so agreed by the two participating Member States the lead beneficiary shall ensure that the other beneficiaries receive the total amount of the contribution from the funds as quickly as possible and in full. No amount shall be deducted or withheld and no specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied that would reduce that amount for the other beneficiaries.

Each beneficiary participating in the operation shall assume responsibility in the event of any irregularity in the expenditure which it has declared.

Arrangement for management verification and related quality controls

Verification of expenditure

In order to validate the expenditure, each Member State will set up a control system making it possible to verify the delivery of the products and services co-financed, the soundness of the expenditure declared for operations or parts of operations implemented on its territory, and the compliance of such expenditure and of related operations or parts of those operations with Community rules and its national rules.

For this purpose, each Member State shall designate the controllers responsible for verifying the legality and regularity of the expenditure declared by each beneficiary participating in the operation. The expenditures deriving will be covered by the Technical Assistance budget.

The certification of expenditure for the Greek partners will be conducted under the responsibility of the competent Special Service of the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness.

As far as the Italian beneficiaries are concerned,

a) private partners, in line with Community and National legal framework, demand activity checks/VERIFICATIONS of operations or part of operations, ex art. 23 of Regulation (EU) N. 1299/2013, to qualified experts. The latter have to meet requirements of professionalism, onorability and independence and should be enrolled to least from three years /to a certified list of accountants and accounting experts OR, alternatively, to the registers of auditors, as referred to in ,the Legislative Decree 27 January 1992, N. 88.

The Puglia Region – Mediterranean Department - will validate the choice MADE BY private beneficiaries in order to assure that all required elements are /complied on. The

Mediterranean Department will communicate the validation to the Managing Authority of the Programme.

With regards to b) public partners, the latter, in line with Community and National legal framework, i) demand activity checks/verifications of operations or part of operations, ex art. 23 of Regulation (EU) N. 1299/2013, to qualified experts. The latter have to meet requirements of professionalism, honorability and independence and should be enrolled at least from three years to a certified list of accountants and accounting experts or, alternatively, to the registers of auditors, as referred to in the Legislative Decree 27 January 1992, n. 88.

Beneficiaries of selected projects will INCLUDE/ IN THE PROJECT BUDGET an adequate amount of money for expenses relating to the validation process (approximately 2% of activities).

b) public partners can, alternatively, demand activity checks/Verifications of operations or part of operations to internal qualified structure of Bodies/Departments, provided that functional and hierarchic separation from involved structures in the implementation of operations are assured.

Controllers designated by the two Member States shall apply standard control criteria, jointly prepared by the participating member states, agreed by the Managing Authority and approved by the Monitoring Committee.

As regards the flow of verified expenditure (Diagram 2), the lead beneficiary shall forward all verified expenditure for an operation to the Joint Secretariat which, after conducting a preliminary check (completeness of data and eligibility of declared expenditure) transmits them, together with comments, to the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority shall ensure that all the necessary information is available on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification. It then transmits it to the Certifying Authority in order to prepare and submit to the Commission certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment.

Financial flow of Public Expenditure

The contribution payments to projects' partners relies on the "lead partner" principle.

As illustrated in Diagram 2, the Certifying Authority receives ERDF contribution payments from the Commission and transmits the entire ERDF amount to the lead beneficiaries of operations. The lead beneficiaries are responsible for distributing, within 10 days, the ERDF contribution to the beneficiaries of the respective operation.

The Managing Authority/Certifying Authority transmits to the Regione Puglia – Mediterraneo Department - , the copy of certified expenditures.

In parallel with the ERDF erogation to the Lead Partner, the Managing Authority/Certifying Authority gives details to the Regione Puglia – Mediterraneo Department - on the reimbursements due to Italian projects' partners.

Financial plan

The financial appropriation from EU resources (ERDF) for the Greece-Italy cross-border cooperation Programme 2014-2020 is € 104.700.362,00 (85% of the Programme total amount). The national co financing to be added (15% of the Programme total amount) equals to € 18.476.534,47).

National co-financing

The Greek national contribution is transferred from the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness to the beneficiaries..

As far as the Italian co-financing is concerned, the latter is granted according to the Italian Law and in compliance with the national mechanisms and procedures. The Regione Puglia – Mediterraneo Department transfers to the Italian public partners only the due amount of national co-financing (15% of the total project's expenditure)

Italian private partners can not benefit from national co-financing (15%) and to finance their participation to projects' implementation use their own resources.

Contribution of the Member States to the financing of technical assistance

On Programme level, the TA is jointly financed by Greece and Italy.

In accordance with the Article 17 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1299/2013, the TA is financed by a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the Programme and co-financed by the Member States participating in the programme.

The total amount of resources for technical assistance equals to € 7.390.615,80 and will be jointly managed by the Managing Authority and by the Puglia Region, which host the JSJS.

An adequate amount of TA resources should be planned for recruiting the JS staff.

Details on the TA budget are laid out in Section 3.

The Certifying Authority, according to the Article 134 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013, receives the annual quota for pre-financing and, within 10 working days, transfers to Regione Puglia (to a specific account) the 50% of the amount of the annual pre-financing in order to finance expenditures incurred by the JS or other expenditures for technical assistance approved by the Monitoring Committee. In order to facilitate the Certifying Authority to meet the deadlines the European Commission should inform the Certifying Authority for the exact date of crediting the programme accounts.

A report on the payment situation shall be given by the MA to the MC on a regular basis. Use of interest raised by ERDF (after deduction of charges for transnational transactions) and ex-ante national contributions bank accounts, will be subject to a MC decision.

Information and communication

In line with Articles 115 and 116 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR), a communication strategy will be drafted and submitted to the MC no later than 6 months after the adoption of the programme to ensure transparency towards and information of relevant partners and stakeholders.

The strategy will define specific communication objectives, target audiences, messages as well as strategies and tools to support the achievement of wider programme goals. It will take into account detailed rules concerning information and communication measures as laid down in Article 115 and Annex XII of the CPR. The strategy will be valid for the whole programming period, complemented by annual work plans.

The overall responsibility for communications rests with the MA together with the JS. However, at national and regional levels, the NCPs plays a crucial role in complementing cross-border and European activities. Approved operations play in addition a key role in communicating project achievements on all levels.

The participating states shall support the MA to ensure effective application of the information and publicity requirements by taking appropriate steps to disseminate information and provide publicity within their territory.

Programme evaluation

The programme has been subject to an ex-ante evaluation of independent evaluators with the aim to improve programme quality and to optimise the allocation of budget resources. The recommendations of this evaluation have been taken into account during the drafting of this programme.

In accordance with Article 56 of the Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR), the MA will draw up an evaluation plan which will be approved by the MC in line with provisions as laid down in Article 110(2)(c) of the CPR.

In accordance with Article 56 of the CPR, evaluations will be carried out to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme. During the programming period, evaluation will assess how support from the funds has contributed to the objectives for each Priority Axis and also the territorial coverage of the programme area. All evaluations, recommendations and follow-up actions will be examined and approved by the MC.

In compliance with Article 57 of the CPR, the ex-post evaluation lies in the responsibility of the European Commission together with the Member States.

Management and monitoring system

The Managing Authority as requested by member states is in contact with INTERACT in order to examine the new “e- MS” management and information system which is currently under development by INTERACT. In any case, the Managing Authority is cooperating with the Greek MIS service in order to prepare possible adjustments of “e- MS” and/or its current information system to new programme needs.

5.4 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

Recovery of payments from beneficiaries

The recommendations and corrective measures might result from any type of control implemented (checks by the Managing Authority and by the Member States, by the Certifying Authority, system and operation audits, audits by the European Commission and by the European Court of Auditors).

Without prejudice to the Member States’ responsibility for detecting and correcting irregularities and for recovering amounts unduly paid according to Article 122 (2) of Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR), the Managing Authority shall ensure that any amount paid out as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the project via the Lead partner.

According to Article 27 of Regulation (EU) N.1299/2013 (ETC), the project partners shall repay the Lead partner any amounts unduly paid.

The Managing Authority shall also recover funds from the Lead partner (and the Lead partner from the project partners) following a termination of the subsidy contract in full or in part based on the conditions defined in the subsidy contract.

If the Lead partner does not succeed in securing repayment from another project partner or if the Managing Authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead partner, the Participating State on whose territory the project partner concerned is located shall reimburse the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid to that beneficiary, according to the Article 27 (3) of Regulation (EU) N.1299/2013 (ETC).

The Managing Authority is responsible for reimbursing the amounts recovered to the general budget of the Union, in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the Member States (please, see below). The Managing Authority will reimburse the funds to the Union once the amounts are recovered from the Lead partners and Member States.

Details on the procedure will be included in the description of the management and control system to be established in accordance with Article 72 of Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR).

In parallel to/after reimbursement of the irrecoverable amount by the Member State to the Managing Authority, the Member State holds the right to secure repayment from the project partner located on its territory, if necessary through legal action.

For this purpose the Managing Authority and the Lead partner shall assign their rights arising from the Subsidy Contract and the Partnership Agreement to the Member State concerned.

In the case of irregularities discovered by the Court of Auditors or by the European Commission, which result in certain expenditures being considered ineligible and in a financial correction being the subject of a EC decision on the basis of Articles 144 to 147 of Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR), the financial consequences for the Member States are laid down in the section “liabilities and irregularities” below.

Any related exchange of correspondence between the EC and the Member State will be copied to the Managing Authority /Joint Secretariat. The latter will inform the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority and the Group of Auditors.

Apportionment of liabilities among the participating States

The Member State will bear liability in connection with the use of the programme ERDF as follows:

- Each Member State bears liability for possible financial consequences of irregularities caused by the Lead partners and project partners located on its territory;
- For a systemic irregularity or financial correction on programme level (the latter decided by the European Commission), the Member States will bear the financial consequences in proportion to the relevant irregularity detected on the respective p State territory. Where the systemic irregularity or financial correction can not be linked to a specific State territory, the Member States will be responsible in proportion to the ERDF contribution paid to the respective national project partners involved.
- For technical assistance expenditure incurred by the Managing Authority, the liability related to administrative irregularities shall be borne by the Managing Authority.
- For the technical assistance expenditure incurred by the Member States the liability shall be borne by the Member State concerned.

If the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat, the Certifying Authority, any Member State becomes aware of irregularities, it shall without any delay inform the liable Member States or Managing Authority. The latter will ensure the transmission of information to the Certifying Authority and Audit Authority/Group of Auditors, where relevant.

In compliance with Article 122 of Regulation (EU) N. 1303/2013 (CPR), Greece and Italy shall prevent, detect and correct irregularities and shall recover amounts unduly paid, together with any interest on late payments.

If the Member State does not comply with its duties arising from these provisions, the Managing Authority is entitled to suspend payments to all project partners located on the territory of this Member State.

When amounts unduly paid to a beneficiary cannot be recovered and this is as a result of fault or negligence on the part of a Member State, the Member State shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the budget of the Union.

Member States may decide not to recover an amount unduly paid if the amount to be recovered from the beneficiary, not including interest, does not exceed EUR 250 in contribution from the Funds.

5.5 Use of the Euro (where appropriate)

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

Expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro shall be converted into Euro by the beneficiaries using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission in the month during which that expenditure was either:

- (a) incurred;
- (b) submitted for verification to the Managing Authority or the controller in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation 1299/2014; or
- (c) reported to the Lead partner

The method chosen shall be set out in the cooperation programme and be applicable to all beneficiaries.

The conversion shall be verified by the Managing Authority or by the controller in the Member State or third country in which the beneficiary is located.

5.6 Involvement of partners

Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the monitoring committee

The programming process has been coordinated by the ETC MA and the JTS (MA/JTS) in compliance with the partnership approach of Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 24 No 1302/2013. The Greek and Italian Authorities constituted a Joint Programming Committee (JPC) of the ETCP GREECE-ITALY 2014-2020 with the mission to prepare and submit the OP to the EC for approval.

The members of the JPC include representatives of the:

- Greek Ministry for Development, Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks;
- Italian Department for Development and Economic Cohesion;
- Greek and Italian eligible regions;

- MA and JTS of OP “Greece-Italy” 2007-2013;
- European Commission, DG Regional Policy - Territorial Cooperation Unit (Regio E/2).

The JPC assembled for its 1st meeting on 30/05/2013 in Parga, Greece. It approved as amended the Rules of Procedure (RoPs), discussed the new management structure, and agreed on the two calls for tender to support the drafting of the new programme. The 2nd meeting of the JPC was held in Monopoli, Italy on 16 July 2013. The approved agenda of the meeting included issues such as “Management Structure of the next OP “Greece-Italy” 2014-2020”, “Call for External Expertise study of Programming period 2014-2020”, “Call for External Expertise study of SEA & Ex-Ante Evaluation”. The subsequent 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Meetings of the JPC were organized in Corfu (Greece) on 27 March 2014, in Lecce (Italy), on 19 June 2014, in Corfu (Greece) on 14 July 2014 and in Otranto (Italy) on 11 September 2014.

The JPC meetings were attended by representatives of the Greek Ministry for Development and Competitiveness, the Italian Department for Development and Economic Cohesion, Greek and Italian eligible Regions, the MA and JTS of ETCP “Greece-Italy” and the European Commission - DG Regional Policy.

In addition, a GR-IT Working Group (WG) was established, the aim of which was to plan and prepare the new Programme. This Group met on four occasions to date and has been actively involved in preparing and setting the priorities of the GR-IT Co-operation Programme. The four meetings of the WG took place in: 1) Thessaloniki on 29 April 2014, 2) Lecce on 19 June 2014, 3) Athens on 4 July, 2014, and 4) Corfu on 14 July, 2014.

According to the agreed methodology, two distinct stakeholder consultation phases were implemented during the period of May – August 2014.

The first consultation was conducted by the Working Group from May 9 to May 19, 2014 by way of a web-based questionnaire survey, with the aim to:

- draw conclusions about the ability of the beneficiaries to deal with the requirements of the Programme
- contribute to the preparation of the implementing provisions of the future Programme.

A specific questionnaire was circulated among potential beneficiaries in the Programme Area, including national, regional, local authorities, Universities, Institutions of the public education system, R&D institutions, Associations of Entrepreneurs, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Unions, NGOs, other bodies governed by private law, etc. The questionnaire was sent to 720 email accounts, exactly as indicated by the lists sent by Regions.

The list of potential beneficiaries included:

- Partners of approved projects of the CBC GR-IT 2007-2013
- Programme applicants (under all the calls of the programming period 2007-2013)
- Other organizations (ministries, regions etc.) as indicated by the WG members.

The majority of respondents (41%) came from Universities/other institutions of the public education system, a percentage which is broadly not in line with the number of potential beneficiaries (initial survey sample is 8.75%). The participation of Regional and local authorities was quite satisfactory (25%). Noteworthy was the participation rate of Other bodies governed by private law with 14%, while R&D Institutions and Associations of Entrepreneurs had a response rate of 12%.

The division of respondents by nationality shows that the Italian side had a larger return rate of 55% as opposed to 45% of the Greek side. Taking into account the synthesis of population of the eligible area, the results of the survey are deemed to be quite balanced with fairly representative groups of respondents. Accordingly, the JPC (meeting of Lecce on June 19th, 2014) agreed on taking into account the conclusions of the consultation in combination with the updated territorial analysis of the Programme Area, the conclusions of the Call for Strategic Project Proposals 2012, the on-going evaluation of the 2007-2013 period, the priorities of the 2014-20 national Partnership Agreements and of the respective Regional Operational Programmes, as well as the relevant pillars of the EUSAIR action plan of 17 June 2014.

The second public consultation took place during the period 25 July - 20 August 2014. The main aim of this open public consultation was to gather remarks/recommendations on the draft OP and gain insight on aspects regarding the implementation of the current programme (good practices vs problems) and suggestions for the future one about results and types of calls. Feedback was received from 12 stakeholders and potential beneficiaries (three private organisations, eight public bodies and one NGO). The collected recommendations and suggestions referred to the selection of the Investment Priorities and the corresponding Specific Objectives. 83% of the respondents considered the selected policy themes, the specific objectives and types of interventions/projects appropriate to meet the needs of the cross-border region. 75% judged the financial allocation suitable, while 8,33% asked the allocation of more funds to environmental friendly procedures (TO 6). It has to be noted that stakeholders also asked the inclusion of private beneficiaries under the State Aid regime. Under TOs 1&3, visibly innovative interventions have not been proposed, but rather trivial and limited to networking activities among Universities and Research organizations. Under T.O.6, a number of ideas were proposed: Biodiversity and agriculture; Development of underwater tourism; Increased awareness of natural assets (e.g. bioconstructions coralligene, meadows of Posidonia, white coral Fund) and underwater cultural heritage; Development of strategies for managing marine protected areas and their shared biological resources; Climate change adaptation and risk management; Coastal ecosystems management, etc. Under T.O.7, themes which were projected included sustainable mobility; intermodality and secure and convenient accessibility of ports and airports by bicycle; reduction of energy consumption in the transport sector. All proposed actions have been evaluated and taken in consideration during the programming process.

6. COORDINATION

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the EIB, taking into account the provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF appropriations for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination in the use of these resources

Coordination with other Funds

In compliance with Article 10 and Annex I of the CPR, coordination and use of synergies with other European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds as well as with other relevant Union policies, strategies and instruments, including those in the framework of the Union's External Action Member States, have to be pursued.

For the elaboration of the GREECE-ITALY programme, the choice of Thematic Objectives, Investment Priorities and Specific Objectives took into account the priorities highlighted in the Partnership Agreements of the 2 Member States involved in the programme and the main challenges raised in regional and national programmes of Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal.

ETC programmes have great potential for facilitating the implementation of national and regional programmes supported by the ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD and EMFF by allowing stakeholders to tackle common challenges and needs beyond administrative borders. Coordination and complementarity with other ESI funds is key, especially in terms of investment planning and preparation, which can be accomplished at regional and local levels based on operations supported by the GR-IT Programme.

The GREECE-ITALY Programme will seek coordination through the following measures:

- Applicants proposing actions with a focus on investment preparation will have to explain how to link to other national and regional programmes of the Investments for Growth and Jobs goal supported by the ERDF and ESF as well as with the Cohesion Fund, EAFRD (in particular with reference to the Leader initiative) and EMFF programmes
- The MA, the JS and in cooperation with the two (2) CBC Info-Points will communicate outputs and results of GREECE-ITALY operations through relevant tools and measures implemented both at the cross-border levels as defined in the programme communication strategy.

Regarding coordination with other ESI funds, special attention will be given to the possibility of coordination with other programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective. In this regard, GREECE-ITALY Programme will seek exchanges with the managing authorities of other, geographically overlapping ETC programmes. Particular potential for efficient coordination is expected with these neighbouring CBC or transnational programmes through realising the:

- Exchange of information during the assessment of applications in order to detect and to avoid to the possible extent potential overlapping and duplications as well as to activate synergies between complementary operations being implemented in different cooperation areas.
- Exchange of information during the monitoring of the implementation of approved operations, in order to set up cross-fertilisation actions (including events and trainings for beneficiaries) that allow unfolding synergies between operations that tackle the same challenge and address shared needs of stakeholders located in different cooperation areas.
- Use of the geographical flexibility, as provided for in Article 20(2) of the ETC Regulation, that allows to develop cross-border operations with a geographical scope going beyond the programme area, thus establishing links, creating opportunities and promoting sustainable development within and across areas sharing common features (e.g. corridors and macro regions)

Coordination with Other Union Instruments

Coordination between ETC programmes and other Union instruments has the potential to raise the impact of Union policies at national and regional level supporting local, regional and national investments that effectively contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy. This potential is particularly visible in the following thematic areas addressed by the GREECE-ITALY Programme:

- Research, innovation and entrepreneurship, where Cross-border cooperation operations can prepare and increase capacity of regional innovation systems, paving the way to excellence in research and innovation and thereby preparing a fertile seedbed for Horizon 2020 and COSME. At the same time this will also contribute to the effective implementation of the national and/or regional strategic policy frameworks for research and innovation in the context of smart specialisation
- Environment protection, where Cross-border cooperation operations can build capacity and improve the readiness of regions to develop and apply innovative solutions for environment protection and management, resource efficiency and climate change mitigation and adaptation, thus complementing actions of LIFE+ and HORIZON 2020
- Valorisation of Cultural heritage and creative industries where Cross-border cooperation operations can develop innovative products and service delivering also news jobs opportunities and improving the tourist offer of the involved regions, thus complementing actions of Creative Europe or Cosme 2020
- Transport, where cross-border cooperation operations can stimulate investment in regional connectivity mainly in terms of sea and air transport, closing gaps that are affecting remote regions when accessing the TEN-T corridors and therefore complementing the actions of the Connecting Europe Facility

The GREECE-ITALY Programme will seek coordination through the following measures:

- When submitting proposals, applicants will have to describe the coherence and complementarity with other Union instruments of relevance for the topics addressed by the proposals, within the application form. Evidence of the added value brought by cross-border cooperation has to be demonstrated in particular

with regard to Horizon 2020, COSME, LIFE+, the Connecting Europe Facility, Creative Europe and Erasmus for all. Multi-annual and annual work programmes as well as guidelines developed within these instruments shall be considered by applicants when submitting proposals.

- Exchanges with and advice from the Commission services and other European and national institutions involved in the management of Union instruments will be sought by the MA and JS in order to exchange good practices and to jointly spread information targeting common relevant stakeholders. A particular potential to activate synergies is seen with the Commission's thematic DGs (especially in the fields of R&D, SME development and entrepreneurship, Tourism, Environment, Energy, Transport) and with European agencies
- Communication tools and measures will be set in place by the MA and the JS in cooperation with the network of national contact points to allow for communicating outputs and results achieved by GREECE-ITALY operations in order to make them available to thematic stakeholders addressed by Union instruments. Where applicable, national points of contact of EU programmes (e.g. LIFE+, HORIZON 2020, etc.) will be directly involved in national and cross-border information events organised by the Programme.
- The Greece Italy Programme will also benefit of the collecting data, sharing knowledge and networking actions that will be delivered by EUSAIR Facility Points to be set up under the Adriatic Ionian Programme.

Coordination with CEF, ENI, IPA and EDF

In order to strengthen its cross-border dimension and improve the cooperation with other programmes like Italia Croatia or Italy Albania Montenegro but also with transnational ones such as Balkan Med, Med, ENI CBC MED Adriatic-Ionian involving IPA and ENI countries will take into account the objectives and results of these programmes when implementing its capitalisation activities, strategic projects and in self-evaluation.

The GREECE-ITALY Programme will seek coordination through the following measures:

- The CBC Info Points will make available outputs and results achieved by the funded projects to national and local stakeholders involved in IPA and ENI initiatives
- Managing authorities and joint secretariats of IPA and ENI CBC programmes will be addressed by the GREECE-ITALY Programme improving exchanges of information on applications and approved operations, in order to activate synergies between complementary operations being implemented at the EU external borders

Coordination with Relevant National Funding Instruments

Cross-border operations supported by the GREECE-ITALY Programme have the potential to improve the implementation of national, regional and local policies and of the related funding instruments.

The GREECE-ITALY Programme will seek coordination with relevant national funding instruments by setting up the following measures:

- When submitting proposals, applicants will have to describe the coherence and complementarity with national policies and funding instruments, within the application form, giving evidence of the added value brought by cross-border cooperation.
- National coordination committees (or other mechanisms/bodies as provided by national rules) will, to the possible extent, involve representatives of institutions involved in setting-up and/or implementing national, regional and local funding instruments to guarantee mutual information especially about outputs and results of cross-border operations that could support the effective implementation of national, regional and local policies and funding instruments.

Coordination with EIB

Cross-border cooperation can contribute to making results of operations ready for benefitting of instruments of the European Investment Bank (EIB), both in terms of technical preparation and execution of large-scale investment (i.e. make them “bankable”). Synergies can be activated especially in the following thematic areas addressed by the GREECE-ITALY Programme:

- Infrastructure, where the EIB instrument “Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions” (JASPERS) can support the realisation of large scale investments prepared by cooperation projects especially in the transport and environment sectors
- Energy, where the EIB instrument “European Local ENergy Assistance” (ELENA) can bring forward the achievements of cooperation projects preparing large energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at local and regional level

In addition to investment preparation, synergies can be activated in the field of entrepreneurship, where cross-border cooperation operations can ease the access to the EIB instrument “Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises” (JEREMIE) through knowledge and capacity building of entrepreneurs and public institutions.

7. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce the administrative burden.

Assessment of the Administrative Burden

Programme implementation, at project level, encountered a number of difficulties during the 2007-13 period, the basic elements of which can be summarised as follows:

- Weak management capacity of Lead Partners
- Shortcomings and legal disputes related with the public procurement procedures
- Unstable partnerships and replacement of partners
- Unbalanced absorption capacity within projects
- Fragmentation: small projects involving large number of partners
- Problems of liquidity

Taking into account the 2007-13 experience, the new Programme shall establish a light set of rules and simple administration procedures. Management and control requirements applicable to Structural Funds call for a careful handling of the public spending processes and, therefore, a good balance between simplification and control has to be achieved by:

- Learning from experiences made in previous programming period from all the other ETC programmes
- Making use to the possible extent of simplified cost options available for the 2014-2020 period (if accepted and applied by national controllers)
- Making use of the Harmonised Implementation Tools (HIT) developed by the INTERACT
- Programme in cooperation with ETC programmes in order to simplify and streamline programme implementation among them
- Actions planned to reduce administrative burden will primarily build on the implementation of a system for data exchange fully in line with e-cohesion requirements described in Section 5.

Main actions Planned to Achieve a Reduction in Administrative Burden

Formal eligibility of applications

The formal/administrative eligibility requirements for applications, rendered a relevant share (about 20%) of applications submitted to the other ETC Programme 2007-2013 as ineligible.

Simplification of the submission procedure could considerably reduce the percentage of ineligible applications out of formal/administrative reasons, therefore increasing the efficiency of the process. This could be reached through integrating in the application form guiding information that was previously provided in separate documents. In addition, the submission of applications and accompanying documents could only be requested in electronic version with signed hardcopies to be provided only when an application is proposed for funding. The application form template will build on the HIT template, thus making its use easier for applicants that find similar application forms in different ETC programmes.

Harmonised eligibility rules and budget lines

In the 2007-2013 programming period, one of the main causes of high administrative burden on the beneficiaries was the lack of harmonised eligibility rules and non-harmonised budget line definitions.

In the 2014-2020 programme period, a pre-defined set of budget lines will be introduced for all ETC programmes in line with the regulatory package (cf. Article 18(1) of the ETC Regulation).

1. Staff costs
2. Office and administrative expenditure (indirect costs)
3. Travel and accommodation costs
4. External expertise and services costs
5. Equipment expenditure (including investments)

Moreover, Article 18(3) of the ETC Regulation determines a new hierarchy of eligibility rules, with programme rules specifying what is not defined at EU level and national rules specifying only what is not covered by EU or programme rules.

In defining programme rules, special attention will be paid to “staff costs” as well as “office and administrative expenditure”, for which several simplification options are available.

Taking into account the experience of the 2007-2013 period, sound financial management requires that all the national First Level Control systems use the common implementation templates and the simplified elements in the calculation of costs.

The bodies responsible for the First Level Control in the different Member States hold regular coordination meetings regarding the implementation of the common eligibility rules, the simplified cost options and the harmonised tools. These meetings are held to improve the quality of the checks and to reduce the possible discrepancies in the application of the shared rules.

Improved monitoring of project implementation

According to the other ETC programme 2007-2013 analyses, in the monitoring and reporting system there were some shortcomings:

- The lack of a pre-defined reporting system from project partners to their lead partners, which sometimes (especially for less experienced lead partners) resulted in extended timeframes needed for drafting reports
- The analysis of all outputs (including minor ones) of operations performed by the MA resulted in a high burden for beneficiaries, prolonging the time needed for analysing reports and the subsequent reimbursement
- The indicators used for monitoring progresses of operations, which were difficult to understand and to be interpreted.

Based on experiences made, and in light of the fact that the “result-oriented” approach characterising the 2014-2020 programmes calls for an even closer attention to monitoring thematic achievements of operations, the programme intends to build a system for monitoring progress of operations based on the principles applied in the GREECE-

ITALY Programme -however, with possible improvements through the following actions:

- To make use to the possible extent of the harmonised progress report (i.e. HIT) template on a Web-based system, in order to allow multiple users
- To focus the analysis of outputs on main outputs of operations, with the analysis of minor outputs (e.g. meeting agendas) to be shifted mainly to national controllers
- To limit to the possible extent the number and complexity of indicators used for reporting on the progress of operations
- To organise ad-hoc training for beneficiaries on reporting of operations, control and audit

Actions for streamlining the monitoring of progress of operations will be introduced from the very beginning of the programme implementation, possibly at the time of approving operations submitted within the first call for proposals.

8. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

8.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) state: “Member States and the Commission shall ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management are promoted in the preparation and implementation of Partnership Agreements and programmes.” (art.8).

Programme authorities are expected to undertake actions to avoid or reduce environmentally harmful effects of interventions throughout the programme lifecycle, and to ensure results in net social, environmental and climate benefits through:

- directing investments towards the most resource-efficient and sustainable options
- avoiding investments that may have a significant negative environmental or climate impact, and supporting actions to mitigate any remaining impacts
- asking a long-term perspective when ‘life-cycle’ costs of alternative options for investment are compared and increasing the use of green public procurement.

The Strategic Environmental assessment (SEA) and the Ex-ante evaluation provided inputs to ensure that the GR-IT programme respects the principle of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a significant objective of the CBC GR-IT 2014-2020 Programme. The Programme Area has an abundance of natural resources, important cultural heritage sites and NATURA 2000 zones. The coastal area is extended and, of course, the sea is the principal resource with all its benefits and risks. The Territorial

Analysis shows that the Programme Area is sensitive to the effects of pollution and there is need for improved management of the environmental systems under risk. As a result, the main Thematic Objective is related to environment, to which the Programme dedicates the most important percentage of its financial allocation, touching a wide range of Specific Objectives, all strictly based on the concrete needs of the area, such as the management of natural sites, the pollution of the sea also related with summer tourism pressures, the introduction of a friendly environmental education and approaches in lifestyle and attitude. Environmental threats, such as marine pollution, the preservation of a highly diverse marine environment and the adverse effects of climate change (in the form of rising sea levels, flooding, drought, soil erosion and forest fires), the reduction of the impact of human activities on the environment and the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity are supported by all Investment Priorities selected under the second Priority Axis, 6.c end 6.d and 6.f.a.

In addition, the objective to integrate environmental and sustainable development has been spread all over the Programme in a cross-cutting way, contributing to the other Thematic Objectives (Research and Innovation, Transport). Sustainable mobility and transport systems are fostered by 6.c, 7.c and SO 3.2. Energy efficiency is promoted with concrete actions under Priority Axes 2 and 3 (e.g. empowering the transport infrastructures with alternative energy).

The SEA underlines high cohesion of the Programme with funding priorities of infrastructure and efficient management of resources, where there are connections to modernize maritime infrastructure and complete the environmental infrastructure in less developed areas, and environmental protection, to adapt to climate change and promote the economy of low carbon emissions.

In a transversal way, in the different Priority Axes, beneficiaries shall be asked to promote eco-innovations aiming to make a more sustainable use of natural resources. Specific environmental sustainability criteria will be adopted for the selection of the operations to be financed under the GR-IT umbrella. More detailed guidelines on how to interpret the main principles may be provided in the Terms of Reference of each Call for Proposals.

8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) state: “Member States and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation and implementation of programmes, concerning monitoring, reporting and evaluation” (art. 7).

The GR-IT Programme shall promote interventions for equal treatment irrespective of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. As

a result, specific actions in the mainstreaming of the gender perspective shall be encouraged while discriminations must be prevented during the preparation as well as implementation of the projects.

In addition, the Programme will contribute to the objective of non-discrimination through the support of concrete projects aiming to improve the physical connections to/from the smaller and internal territorial destinations and the accessibility to transport infrastructures, paying particular attention to disabled people. For residents and/or entrepreneurs of internal areas or little islands, accessibility and mobility are crucial matters in the era of globalization. Examples of projects can include the spreading of Internet and Wi-Fi public networks as a means to win the distance and the isolation from the centre of Europe, as well as to attract or facilitate business or tourist presence. New services and distance learning or home working opportunities for the so-called ‘silver economy’ could be tested and carried out to address phenomena of youth out-migration and aging populations, which are very accentuated in the Programme Area.

Bearing also in mind that the economic crisis has increased the number of poor and disadvantaged groups, the Programme shall place emphasis on solutions leading to their economic growth and the active involvement of communities for the protection of their cultural heritage and traditions and the promotion of their local identities.

8.3 Equality between men and women

Description of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

Equality between women and men is one of the fundamental principles of Community law. The European Union’s (EU) objectives on gender equality are to ensure equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women and to combat any form of discrimination on the grounds of gender. The issue also has a strong international dimension with regard to the fight against poverty, access to education and health services, taking part in the economy and in the decision-making process, women's rights and human rights. The equality between women and men is included in the consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (art.8)[1] and in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR): “Member States and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective is promoted in the preparation and implementation of programmes.”[2]

The GR-IT Programme will contribute to the promotion of equality between men and women and make the necessary arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective within the projects it will support. Appropriate selection criteria for operations will be included in the Guidelines of each Call for Proposals.

1. Contribution of the programme to the promotion of equality between men and women

Gender equality does not constitute an explicit priority among the Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities of the GR-IT Programme. The issue is taken into account as a transversal priority in the conception, selection and evaluation of projects.

1. Actions planned to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational level

Project promoters must take into account the principle of equality between men and women in the conception and implementation of their project and creating job opportunities for both sexes. The terms of reference of calls for proposals shall provide more precise instructions on this subject.

1. Monitoring and evaluation measures

Evaluators shall assess the inclusion of the gender perspective within the projects and the determination of specific targets both in project appraisal and followed-up within project monitoring. Examples to assess and measure the contribution of projects to the promotion of equality between men and women can include:

- counting the number of men and women participating to projects and activities
- counting the number of women benefiting from funding
- highlighting how much support and for which measures women and men are receiving funding

In any case, applicants shall explain how and to what extent gender equality is relevant to their project or why it is not considered as an applicable issue.

1. Specific actions to be taken to promote gender equality with reference to the specific Investment Priority

As noted earlier, in the GR-IT programme, there is no Investment Priority or objective specifically dedicated to gender equality. However, the promotion of gender equality will be ensured with the inclusion of specific criteria for project selection.

[1]Article 8, Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, Official Journal of the European Union C 83/49 of 30.3.2010.

[2] Article 7, CPR, COM(2011) 615 final/2, Brussels, 14.3.2012, p. 34

9. SEPERATE ELEMENTS

9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

Table 23: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification / submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axes / Investment priorities
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9.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme

Table 24: Performance framework (summary table)

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	O0501	Number of organizations/entities/SMEs participating in innovation related collaboration activities	Number	6	20.00
1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	PF501	Financial	EUR	25	95.00
1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	O0502	Number of studies, working documents for the development of innovation clusters	Number	12	30.00
1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	O0503	Number of projects with the involvement of SMEs in the region	Number	6	15.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	PF502	Financial	EUR	25	95.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0504	Number of jointly developed strategies, studies, plans, analysis and concepts related to cross border capacity improvement	Number	4	20.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0505	Number of jointly developed and improved implementation systems and activities	Number	3	10.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0506	Number of jointly developed products and services	Number	1	2.00
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	PF503	Financial	EUR	25	95.00
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0507	Number of cross border projects related to cross border transport tools and applications	Number	3	10.00
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0508	Number of jointly developed implementing systems and projects for sustainable transport	Number	1	5.00

9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

- Regional authorities
- Regional authorities
- Local authorities / Metropolises / cities
- Local and regional development agencies / Public development bodies / public operators
- Land and maritime planning authorities
- Universities / Research centres / Technological centres / Science parks
- SMEs / Economic operators / representatives of economic operators / networks and clusters
- Chambers of Commerce, of Industry, of Agriculture
- Non-governmental Organisations
- Training bodies
- Port authorities / Maritime authorities
- Transport authorities

9.4 Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	22-Sep-2014		Ares(2014)32476 80	Citizens' summary	02-Oct-2014	niakdimi
Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	29-Sep-2014		Ares(2014)32476 80	Greece-Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme Italy-Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	02-Oct-2014	niakdimi
EX ANTE EVALUATION	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	22-Sep-2014		Ares(2014)32476 80	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY EX ANTE EX ANTE EVALUATION	02-Oct-2014	niakdimi
TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS	Programme annexes	22-Sep-2014		Ares(2014)32476 80	TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS	02-Oct-2014	niakdimi
MAP	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	22-Sep-2014		Ares(2014)32476 80	MAP	02-Oct-2014	niakdimi
Programme annexes	Programme annexes	29-Sep-2014		Ares(2014)32476 80	Programme annexes	02-Oct-2014	niakdimi