

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

This is the second AIR Programme. It reports on the programming process and the implementation of the programme during the calendar year 2016. It was prepared by the Programme MA with the support of the JS

The Programme had been approved on 15.12.2015

2016 was a very important year, as the foundations were laid in order to activate the programme. Despite the fact that a number of problems and issues had to be addressed it was a significant year for preparing and ensuring successful implementation of the Programme in the years to come. More specifically, significant challenges which had to be responded to and/or monitored included:

- Coordination with the Service which is responsible for adapting the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme and the competent authorities of the two countries.
- The description of the MCS in relation to the designation process of the MA and the CA of the Programme, The whole procedure included necessarily, among other issues:
- Consultations with competent authorities of the two countries, including extensive cooperation on the FLC level
- Taking on board some re-structuring and/or set up of services in both countries, including FLC
- Development of strategies such as risk management and anti-fraud
- Launching of call for project proposals
- 4 info days for the dissemination of the ToRs of 1st call for proposals

The **MC** met two times. The 1st MC was held in Athens on 5/4 and the following issues were discussed and approved:

- the internal RoPs of the MC
- the allocation of the Technical Assistance multi-annual budget plan
- an allocation of 120.000 € for funding the extension of the 2007-2013 JTS staff's contracts until August 2016
- the allocation of 45% of the total budget for the call for strategic projects

A technical meeting was held in Athens on 27/4 among the MA and the Greek and Italian National Authorities.

The 2nd MC was held in Corfu on 10 June where the following documents approved:

1. Programme and Project manual,
2. Evaluation Methodology and Project Selection Criteria,
3. Application form,
4. Partnership Declaration,

5. Co-financing statement – Non double Financing,
6. Declaration of not generating Revenues,
7. Declaration of non-distribution of profits,
8. JoB costs, the Project Readiness Sheet
9. Internal rules of procedures and terms of reference of the Joint Secretariat
10. Set up a joint recruitment committee for the selection procedure of the candidates

Last but not least, the MC members gave the mandate to the MA to begin the preparation of all relevant material and actions in order to launch the call for strategic proposals. However, given the time pressure to activate and complete the first call for ordinary project proposals and the lack of staff, there was no time for the corresponding process to trigger the call for strategic projects in the year 2016.

The **1st call** was launched on 22/7. Applicants were invited to submit their proposals from 1/9 to 15/10. The Call was opened to all 3 PAs, all 4 Thematic Priorities and all 7 Specific Objectives of the Programme. The total available budget was € 53.148.184. The deadline for submitting the proposals was initially the 15/10. Due to the great interest on the submission of project proposals, the MC, on 11 October, decided to postpone the deadline to 30 November. Later, it was taken the decision to postpone the deadline to 15/12.

Applicants submitted questions in writing to the MA. A total of 114 questions were answered and published on the Programme's website. A partner search facility was active in the Programme's website where potential beneficiaries could submit their project ideas in order to find potential partners. MA also organized 4 **Info-days**, at Patras 6/9, at Kefallinia, 7/9, at Ioannina 9/9 and at Bari 27/9. The events were attended by almost 1000 people.

In the framework of the first Call **349 project proposals were submitted**. The PA2 attracted the biggest number of project proposals (189 proposals). 131 proposals were submitted under PA1 and 29 under PA3. Regarding the number of proposals per specific objective, the most popular specific objective was 2.1 with 100 proposals. SO 1.1 comes second with a total of 83 submitted proposals. The third in place SO with a total of 56 submitted project proposals was the 2.2. Finally, the SO 3.1 attracted the smallest number of proposals (12).

The project proposals were submitted electronically via the MIS which was operatively available from the 1/9. The MIS is part of the Hellenic MIS which was developed to support all the ESI Programmes where Greece hosts the MA, ensuring full electronic management of data and procedures on both Programme and project level. The MA worked in close cooperation with the Special Service of MIS, in order to finalize the electronic system that is going to fulfill the requirements concerning "E-Cohesion" in relation to all ETC programmes and to cover the specific requirements as set out in EU 1011/2014 and EU 821/2014 focusing particularly:

1. on the electronic exchange of information between beneficiaries and management and control bodies
2. on the interoperability between National and Union legal frameworks

By 2016 the System was able to support multiple submissions of proposals in real time. The MIS is currently undergoing some necessary adaption to ensure coverage of the specific features of INTERREG Programmes and for the purpose of the operational and effective projects monitoring. Full adaptation of the MIS is estimated in 2017. The goal

is to have multiple access levels that will correspond to multiple system users (beneficiaries, programme bodies etc).

According to the Ministerial Decision 300539/MA 1605, the MOU launched an Internal call for expression of interest for the staffing of the JS branch of the Programme. Specifically, the JS branch is composed of the 2 staff members and located at the Programme MA premises. The two staff positions cover one Representative Officer and one Local General Assistant. The JS branch has being operative since 1/9.

With the Decision No. 18 of 27 September 2016 the Head of Section Territorial Cooperation of Puglia Region launched the open call for the vacancy positions of 7 experts composing of the core JS, hosted by Puglia Region, more specifically: 1 coordinator, 2 project officers, 2 project officers with legal profile (Italian and Greek), 1 communicator officer, 1 administrative assistant. The Call was opened for 20 days and published on the Programme web site, Puglia region website and Puglia Gazette (B.U.R.P. No. 111 of 29/09/2016). Six resources were selected and contracted on 22 December 2016, while the project officer with Greek legal profile was missed even if the call was re-opened on 18 November 2016. The core JS has being operative since 27/12.

MA and Puglia Region supported and promoted the “**European Cooperation Day**” on 25/9 in Mola di Bari, Italy and on 30/9 in Arta, Greece by attending the event “Blood Donation Day – A cooperation for life”.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Innovation and Competitiveness	<p>As the implementation of this priority axes started with the publication of the first call for standard projects in July 2016, no operations were selected and no activities were financed until the end of the year.</p> <p>The total funding allocation for Priority Axis 1 is € 34.489.531,00 (with ERDF contribution €29.316.101,00) out of which the indicative budget of € 14.535.819,00 has been allocated to the first call for ordinary project proposals.</p> <p>Within the first call 131 project proposals were submitted out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SO 1.1: 89 - SO 1.2: 48 <p>69 proposals were submitted by lead beneficiaries located in Greece and 62 by lead beneficiaries located in Italy.</p> <p>The budget requested was € 120.203.036,43 (+ 226,17%) with an average budget per proposal of € 917.580,43.</p>
2	Integrated Environmental Management	<p>As the implementation of this priority axis started with the publication of the first call for standard projects in July 2016, no operations were selected and no activities were financed until the end of the year.</p> <p>The total funding allocation for Priority Axis 2, is €48.038.990,00 (with ERDF contribution € 40.833.141,00) out of which the indicative budget of € 22.382.728,00 was allocated to the first call for ordinary project proposals.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>The results of the first call were:</p> <p>Within the first call, 189 project proposals were submitted out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SO 2.1: 100 - SO 2.2: 56 - SO 2.3: 33 <p>94 proposals were submitted by lead beneficiaries located in Greece and 95 by lead beneficiaries located in Italy.</p> <p>The budget requested was € 212.593.819,00 (+ 949,81%) with an average budget per proposal of € 1.124.832,95.</p>
3	Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	<p>As the implementation of this priority axis started with the publication of the first call for standard projects in July 2016, no operations were selected and no activities were financed until the end of the year.</p> <p>The total funding allocation for Priority Axis 3, is € 33.257.764,00 (with ERDF contribution € 28.269.099,00) out of which the indicative budget per € 16.229.637,00 has been assigned to the first call for ordinary project proposals.</p> <p>Within the first call, 29 project proposals were submitted out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SO 3.1: 12 - SO 3.2: 17 <p>19 proposals were submitted by lead beneficiaries located in Greece and No. 10 proposals by lead beneficiaries located in Italy;</p> <p>The budget requested was € 51.662.180,30 (+ 182,75%.) with an average budget of € 1.781.454,49 per proposal.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
4	Technical Assistance	<p>During the year 2016, Puglia region incurred expenditures of technical assistance related to the participation at the MCs and technical meetings (€ 6.666,66), the organization of the Info-day concerning the launch of the Call for ordinary projects which was held in Bari on 29 September (€ 7.942,2).</p> <p>During 2016, the total amount of technical assistance expenditures incurred by the Managing Authority is € 206.645 and concerned the remunerations of the 2007-2013 JTS (January-August 2016) and of the 2014-2020 JS branch (operative since 1 September 2016), the organizations of two Monitoring Committees meetings in Athens and in Corfu, a technical meeting in Athens and four info days for the launch of the first Call for ordinary projects.</p> <p>Puglia region incurred technical assistance expenditures for an amount of € 20.279,82 which related the 2007-2013 Info-point expert remuneration (July-August 2016), the participation at the MCs and technical meetings in Greece, the organization of an Info day for the launch of the first Call for ordinary projects. Finally, it was incurred a financial commitment of € 808.180 concerning the 2017-2018 years remuneration of the core JS which was operative since 27th December.</p>

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness
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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	500.00	0.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	500.00	0.00	
F	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	20.00	0.00	
S	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	20.00	0.00	
F	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Number	5.00	0.00	
S	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Number	5.00	0.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00
F	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		border cooperation structures and networks		
S	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	0.00	0.00
F	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	0.00	0.00
S	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness
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
Specific objective	SO1.1 - Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0501	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	%	56	2015	Increase		56	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0501	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters		56		56

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness
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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	15.00	0.00	
S	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	15.00	0.00	
F	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number	5.00	0.00	
S	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number	5.00	0.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	0.00	0.00
S	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	0.00	0.00
F	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	0.00	0.00
S	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness
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
Specific objective	SO1.2 - Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0502	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	Number	52,360.00	2012	55,000.00	52,360.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0502	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	52,360.00		52,360.00	

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	20.00	0.00	
S	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	20.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	0.00	0.00
S	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	SO2.1 - Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0503	Level of capacity for the stakeholders in the fields of natural and cultural heritage protection and tourism to sustainably valorise natural and cultural heritage as a growth asset	%	65	2015	Increase		65	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0503	Level of capacity for the stakeholders in the fields of natural and cultural heritage protection and tourism to sustainably valorise natural and cultural heritage as a growth asset		65		65

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	20.00	0.00	
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	20.00	0.00	
F	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	10.00	0.00	
S	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	10.00	0.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00
F	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	0.00	0.00
S	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
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

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0504	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	km2	42,401.00	2013	46,000.00	42,401.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0504	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	42,401.00		42,401.00	

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	12.00	0.00	
S	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	12.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	0.00	0.00
S	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
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
Specific objective	SO2.3 - Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0505	Level of capacity of regional and local authorities and public utilities operators to integrate environmental friendly processes and technologies in their operations with special attention to the coastal and maritime zones	%	63	2015	Increase		63	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0505	Level of capacity of regional and local authorities and public utilities operators to integrate environmental friendly processes and technologies in their operations with special attention to the coastal and		63		63

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
	maritime zones				

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10.00	0.00	
S	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10.00	0.00	
F	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10.00	0.00	
S	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	0.00	0.00
S	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	0.00	0.00
F	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	0.00	0.00
S	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Specific objective	SO3.1 - Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0506	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	Passenger	7,005.00	2012	7,500.00	7,005.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0506	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	7,005.00		7,005.00	

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	5.00	0.00	
S	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	5.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	0.00	0.00
S	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
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
Specific objective	SO3.2 - Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0507	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	tonne	88,532.00	2011	88,000.00	88,532.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0507	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	88,532.00		88,532.00	

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0509	Number of calls	Number	4.00	1.00	
S	O0509	Number of calls	Number	4.00	1.00	
F	O0510	Number of projects approved	Number	100.00	0.00	
S	O0510	Number of projects approved	Number	100.00	0.00	
F	O0511	Number of events and workshops	Number	1.00	0.00	
S	O0511	Number of events and workshops	Number	1.00	0.00	
F	O0512	Number of seminars and trainings for applicants and beneficiaries	Number	4.00	3.00	
S	O0512	Number of seminars and trainings for applicants and beneficiaries	Number	4.00	3.00	
F	O0513	Studies, reports and surveys on strategic relevance for the Programme	Number	4.00	0.00	
S	O0513	Studies, reports and surveys on strategic relevance for the Programme	Number	4.00	0.00	
F	O0514	Number of GR-IT Cross Border Programme Staff	Number	12.00	8.00	
S	O0514	Number of GR-IT Cross Border Programme Staff	Number	12.00	8.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0509	Number of calls	0.00	0.00
S	O0509	Number of calls	0.00	0.00
F	O0510	Number of projects approved	0.00	0.00
S	O0510	Number of projects approved	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0511	Number of events and workshops	0.00	0.00
S	O0511	Number of events and workshops	0.00	0.00
F	O0512	Number of seminars and trainings for applicants and beneficiaries	0.00	0.00
S	O0512	Number of seminars and trainings for applicants and beneficiaries	0.00	0.00
F	O0513	Studies, reports and surveys on strategic relevance for the Programme	0.00	0.00
S	O0513	Studies, reports and surveys on strategic relevance for the Programme	0.00	0.00
F	O0514	Number of GR-IT Cross Border Programme Staff	0.00	0.00
S	O0514	Number of GR-IT Cross Border Programme Staff	0.00	0.00

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	2016 Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
1	F	F0501	Expenditure	EUR	7329025,25	29,316,101.00		
1	O	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	4	20.00		
1	O	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	3	15.00		
2	F	F0502	Financial	EUR	12009747.50	48,038,990.00		
2	O	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	4	20.00		
2	O	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	2	10.00		
2	O	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	3	12.00		
3	F	F0503	Financial	EUR	8314440.50	33,257,762.00		
3	O	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	3	10.00		
3	O	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	1	5.00		

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1	F	F0501	Expenditure	EUR		
1	O	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number		
1	O	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number		
2	F	F0502	Financial	EUR		
2	O	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool		
2	O	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number		
2	O	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number		
3	F	F0503	Financial	EUR		
3	O	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number		
3	O	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number		

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

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Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Public	34,489,531.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
2	ERDF	Public	48,038,990.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
3	ERDF	Public	33,257,764.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
4	ERDF	Public	7,390,614.00	85.00	7,390,614.00	100.00%	7,390,614.00	0.00	0.00%	2
Total	ERDF		123,176,899.00	85.00	7,390,614.00	6.00%	7,390,614.00	0.00	0.00%	2
Grand total			123,176,899.00	85.00	7,390,614.00	6.00%	7,390,614.00	0.00	0.00%	2

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF												
2	ERDF												
3	ERDF												
4	ERDF	121	01	07						7,390,614.00	7,390,614.00		2

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
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(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

No evaluations have been carried out in the period of this Report as the Programme was adopted on December, 15th, 2015.

In accordance with Articles 56 and 114 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the Managing Authority has drafted the Evaluation Plan in compliance with the relevant regulatory framework and guidance documents.

The draft Evaluation Plan was submitted to the Monitoring Committee (MC) for consultation on 15 December 2016 for feedback until 20 January 2017. Following the reception of a number of comments, the plan was then adopted in May 2017 under written procedure following the several comments received. The Evaluation Plan as well as the outcomes of the evaluations will be published on the Programme website.

More specifically, the Plan aims at capturing the effects of the intervention and, on the other hand it looks at how the programme is being implemented and managed. The overall objectives of this Plan are:

- to provide a framework to plan impact and implementation evaluations;
- to improve through proper planning the quality of evaluations carried out during the programming period;
- to facilitate informed programme management and policy decisions on the basis of evaluation findings;
- to ensure that evaluations provide inputs for relevant annual implementation reports and other reports and for the 2020+ programming process.

The specific objectives as far as the impact evaluation is concerned are to evaluate:

- whether the programme succeeded in achieving the objectives of each priority,
- whether the programme contributed to the target of the EU2020 objectives.

Progress in the implementation of the Evaluation Plan as well as the outcomes of the evaluation activities (when available) will be reported in the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the years 2017, 2019 and the Final Implementation Report. By 31 December 2022, the MA will submit to the EC a report summarising the findings of evaluations carried out during the programme period.

The Evaluation Plan will regularly be reviewed and it might be adapted according to the programme needs.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

During the first meeting held in April 2016, the MC failed to agree on the multi-annual technical assistance plan and the Rules of Procedures of the JS and the JS' staff profiles , which was finally adopted in June 2016 at the 2nd meeting of the Committee. This fact has affected both the publication of the first call and the publication for the staffing of the JS.

In order to avoid such disagreements between the parts of the programme in the future, the Managing Authority has ensured that all the Programme authorities have been able to communicate smoothly. A series of communications means such as technical meetings, skype telecommunications, daily exchange of messages for resolving issues etc., have been adopted and will continue to operate throughout the programming period.

The approval of the Management and Control System (MCS) was not made in 2016 as the regulatory requirements for programme management remain quite heavy. The whole procedure included necessarily, among other issues, consultations with competent authorities of the two cooperating countries, including extensive cooperation on the FLC level and taking on board some re-structuring and/or set up of services in both countries.

Therefore no verifications of expenditure under the Technical Assistance PA and the PA3 project took place in 2016. However, this fact did not affect the implementation of the planned activities. Submission of the MCS description to the Audit Authority is going to be officially completed in 2017 and the approval is expected before the signature of the majority of the 1st Call projects.

Regarding the electronic submission of the project proposals under the 1st Call due to the fact that the launching of the Calls was done 22 of July there was a delay in the operation of the MIS system. More specifically its availability to the general public was delayed for about a month due to the fact that in August many services were understaffed because of summer leaves.

The design of the website of the Programme was also delayed and it didn't start within the 2016 due to some administrative problems. However it will be fully operational by 2017 due to the complexity of requirements to comply to. The website is intended to be accessible and usable by a wider range of users, including those ones with disabilities. It will be mobile-friendly with a new, user-friendly and innovative design thus being a valuable tool in the communication strategy of the MA and of the JS.

Finally, in the year 2017, the Programme will face several challenges that may affect its performance and which shall be closely monitored.

The most important challenge is related to the implementation of the approved ordinary projects and the launch of the call for strategic project proposals.

The following measures will be adopted to foster the implementation process:

- learning from previous experiences, especially focusing on simplification and

standardization of the selection procedures;

- applying E-Cohesion principles to the overall Programme procedures;
- simplification of the monitoring system, application procedure and reporting;
- using of the Harmonized Implementation Tools (HIT) and other projects developed by the INTERACT Programme in cooperation with ETC Programmes in order to simplify and streamline Programme implementation.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

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6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

**7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
(ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Ma
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Innovation and Competitiveness
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During 2016 one (1) call for proposals has been launched. Given that none of the projects have approved and started their implementation, no specific values for indicators are available.

Priority axis	2 - Integrated Environmental Management
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During 2016 one (1) call for proposals has been launched. Given that none of the projects have approved and started their implementation, no specific values for indicators are available.

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System
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During 2016 one (1) call for proposals has been launched. Given that none of the projects have approved and started their implementation, no specific values for indicators are available.

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
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9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

At Programme level, the foreseen measures for promoting gender equality and non-discrimination in the various implementing stages of the cross-border cooperation Greece-Italy include:

1. a balanced participation of men and women in all the required management and monitoring structures along with representatives of state authorities responsible for equality issues.
2. taking steps to publicise the programme and the specific actions involved, in order to ensure the greatest possible access to community co-funding, such as: sending the calls to all the MC members and to all potentially interested parties, considering the possibility of including initiatives / information activities dedicated to various categories of vulnerable groups when preparing the information materials (brochures, promotional videos, web sites etc.); making materials which are easily read by elderly persons and persons with visual or reading impairments; making sure the locations chosen for the launching conference, info days, seminars, etc., are equipped with the necessary facilities in order to ensure the accessibility of persons with disabilities (ramps, lifts, toilets etc.).
3. monitoring and updating the MC and the European Commission on the measures undertaken for the provision of equal opportunities, their effectiveness and the corrective interventions required in order to ensure non-discrimination in the framework of the Programme.

Cooperation projects focusing on, or at least incorporating the equal opportunities principle (e.g. encouraging diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, religion and age) are expected to emerge. Diversity in this respect may also increase the possibilities of reaching new markets, improve market positions, broaden the recruitment base and increase creativity and indicating a positive correlation between gender equality and factors promoting economic growth (e.g. promoting female entrepreneurship). Project applicants were invited during the publication of the first Call to explain in their application how their project complies with, and possibly even strengthens, equal opportunities between men and women and non-discrimination

At the end of the project, the partners will be asked to report on how their project activities and outputs actually contributed to these horizontal principles. However, the Programme has not foreseen any specific selection criteria in the project quality assessment (Phase B) as it considered the promotion of the development of projects

dealing with this issue as an eligibility criteria to be checked in the administrative compliance (Phase A).

Moreover, during the project implementation, the Programme bodies will pay particular attention to avoid any risk of discrimination, and possibly, to have a positive approach to groups at risk of discrimination.

A first set of recommendations will be made to the persons that will be involved in implementing the project such as paying attention to select project team members which shall include no direct or indirect discriminatory conditioning; to keep a balanced gender approach in building the team; taking into account the inclusion of persons belonging to vulnerable groups.

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

The GR-IT 2014-2020 Programme identifies sustainable development as a horizontal principle underpinning all operations to be carried out under all Priority Axes. It supports measures that can guide the work needed to progress the sustainable development agenda and more fully exploit opportunities in the green economy.

In a transversal way, in the three Priority Axes, beneficiaries were asked to undertake actions aiming to make a more sustainable use of natural resources and to respond to challenges due to the effects of climate change.

Moreover, in the Project detailed description, the partnership has to state if the project contributes to the promotion of the sustainable development as a Programme horizontal principles and its consistency (consistent, neutral, inconsistent) as it considered the promotion of the development of projects dealing with this issue as an eligibility criteria to be checked in the administrative compliance (Phase A).

Besides, whether projects are directly concerned by sustainable development issues or not, they will be strongly encouraged during project implementation seminars and workshops to implement actions/take specific measures to reduce the environmental impact. This can include:

- use of video conferencing to reduce travelling;
- publications;
- use of “green public procurement” procedures and innovative public procurement where appropriate;
- use of short supply chains in the implementation of projects activities;
- raising awareness of partners, beneficiaries and target groups on sustainability issues;
- promotion of activities with limited use of energy and natural resources.

Similar techniques will also be taken into account at Programme level for managing and monitoring activities to avoid or reduce environmentally harmful effects of interventions throughout the Programme lifecycle, and to ensure results in net social, environmental and climate benefits. Furthermore, measures related to simplification and reduction of administrative constraints are likely to lessen the environmental impact of the Programme through the use of electronic communication and the reduction of paper consumption.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	0.00	0.00%

At the time the present AIR has been drawn, the evaluation procedure of the project proposals submitted within the First Call related only the 1st phase: Administrative and eligibility requirements. As this evaluation procedure concerns only the check of the documents submitted, it was not possible to provide a qualitative evaluation to let provide an estimation of the support used for climate change.

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

The composition of the Monitoring Committee has been coordinated by the Greek and Italian National Authorities in compliance with the partnership approach of Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and of the principles of the European Code of conduct on Partnership. The involvement of relevant partners has been foreseen:

1. to enhance ownership of the Programme among the partners, in order to make use of the knowledge and expertise of these partners and to increase transparency in decision-making processes;
2. to improve the coordination with other European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds as well as with relevant funding instruments under the umbrella of the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) and macro-regional strategies.

With regard to the political level, the participating countries put great importance to an appropriate awareness raising and involvement of political representatives in the Programme implementation.

All members, both voting and non-voting members, were selected taking into account the different institutional and legal frameworks of the Member States, the principles of equal opportunities and are with voting rights, without voting rights and with an advisory capacity.

Members without voting rights from the Italian side will be confirmed during the 3rd Monitoring Committee which will be held in June 2017.

The participation of relevant partners in the execution of MC tasks includes the preparation of calls for proposals and Programme progress reports as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme. Additionally, representatives of the economic and social partners and bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and nondiscrimination likely to be affected by the selected programme priorities, beyond their involvement as members of the MC, shall be involved in the following key programme activities, e.g.: support in the launch of the calls for proposals and dissemination of information to relevant potential beneficiaries, contribution to the outcomes monitoring, provision of data for the measurement of programme indicators, involvement in the programme evaluation.

The Decisions of the Monitoring Committee are taken in a spirit of consensus among the members with a voting right. In exceptional and duly justified cases (in any case the financial issues and selection of operations are excluded) that a consensus cannot be reached, the Decision is taken on the basis of the absolute majority of the present members with a voting right (50%+1) per each country and always along with the agreement of the two co-Chairpersons.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

No relevant information are available as the evaluation plan was adopted in 2017 only.

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The Programme's Communication Strategy clearly provides that the evaluation of the information and publicity actions "takes place based on the contribution of the actions to the achievement of the goals of the Communication Strategy and in accordance with qualitative and quantitative objectives according to the nature of the actions". In particular, indicators for evaluation are broken down into **Output Indicators**, which record publicity actions.

Indicator

Indicative target value

Value achieved by 31/12/2016

Comments/ explanations

Number of events (info-days, conferences, seminars, fairs, Programme annual events etc.)

Target 20

Achieved 6

Comments

- 1 Launching Event
- 4 Info-days on 1st Call for Project Proposals
- 1 EC Day Events (2016 - collection and donation of drugs and medical supplies to support refugees & 2016)

Number of participants per event for potential beneficiaries and Project Partners

Target 100

Target surpassed in all events

Number of news articles published on the internet

100

Target surpassed

More than 150 articles on the Greece-italy Programme, and its 1st Call for Project Proposals were found on the internet.

Website statistics

Target 50,000 hits

Achieved 95,809

The number refers to the total number (not individual) of hits on the Programme's website (www.greece-italy.eu), as well as on the news item Greece-italy Programme in

the Managing Authority's website (www.interreg.gr)

Types of communication material produced

Target 7

Achieved 6

Comments

Folders, pens, notepads, brochure, ecological bags,

According to the Communication Strategy, the first stage (General information about the Cooperation Programme and its actions, inaugural event) concerns the development "vision" for the countries participating in the Programme. During this first stage, the objective is to inform the target audiences about the Programme and the basic content (general objectives, axes, strategic projects, expected results). During this stage, which begins at the approval of the Programme by the European Commission, the Managing Authority has taken care to spread the information in a simple and understandable way.

Almost all activities envisaged in the first stage of the Communication Strategy have been undertaken and fully implemented. The goal of this first stage has been achieved both through the Launching Event, the Info-days and the widespread of information dissemination online. The great participation and expression of interest in the events and in the 1st Call for Project Proposals (349 Proposals submitted), shown both before and after their organisation (more than 1.000 participants), as well as the publications about the Programme in the media proves that all directly interested parties and –to a good extent- the wider public have been informed on the Programme.

The second stage of communication concerns the **Creation of an opinion about the Programme and its actions among the various target audiences, easy access to particular actions and to the opportunities that it offers, creation of a disposition to participate in the financing opportunities**. During this stage the objective is to motivate the target audiences, either in order for them to participate in the Programme or in order to function as multipliers of information. This stage is characterized by the provision of more specialized knowledge about the content and the evolution of the Programme, the criteria and the procedures for the implementation management and monitoring of the Programme actions with the goal of preparing and activating the potential beneficiaries, in order for them to have access to the financing opportunities of the Programme. In addition, a goal of the present stage is to inform the general public in a simple and understandable way about the evolution of the Programme's interventions as well.

In 2016 the MA adequately implemented this phase of communication activities. Implementation is considered satisfactory, as the goal of the second stage of communication has been achieved both through the training Info-days and the publicity given to the 1st Call for Project Proposals. **Additionally, the production and distribution of information material on the Programme**, as well as the interest of the media in the Programme shows that the general public is being at least constantly informed on the Programme's activities and its goals. However, it has to be pointed out that this stage of communication is still on-going and a series of communication activities have been planned for the year 2017 as the Programme's resources have not been fully activated yet.

The Projects are not being implemented yet, but the MA has already taken the necessary steps in order to activate and incorporate them in its communication activities.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

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11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

During 2016 four (4) Info days for the preparation of proposals under the 1st Call for ordinary project proposals were performed. About 1000 potential beneficiaries attended the seminars and obtained knowledge on the preparation of the Application Form and all supporting documents and more than 100 responses were given to corresponding questions submitted through the project website (FAQs).

In the same time, Puglia region organized a two sessions informative seminars for first level controllers (7 April 2016) about the following issues:

- Correct implementation of public procurement rules: formal and substantial aspects which have to be respected in all types of contract (services, equipment, infrastructures, etc.);
- Staff cost validation: what documents are needed and how to check the correctness of staff expenditure reporting?;
- The importance of record keeping: modalities of archiving and traceability of documents;
- How to draft a Project audit trail;

Introduction on the main aspects of the Quality Control Methodology for Italian First Level Controllers.

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The Programme is covered by EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) where it can potentially play an important role in exploiting synergies and has the opportunity to draw from lessons learnt, actively contributing to territorial integration.

Coherence with the strategy has been taken into account for the design of the Programme to address the common and shared cross-border concerns (compatible initiatives in maritime economy, preserving the marine environment, completing transport and energy links, boosting sustainable tourism).

Having in mind the potential contribution of the Programme to implement the strategy, a number of coordination mechanisms is envisaged to link the GR-IT Programme implementation to the EUSAIR, including:

- governance arrangements for ongoing mutual information exchange, coordination and joint planning in areas of common interest (regular meetings, participation of programme authorities in specific events, data collection with EUSAIR Facility Points to be set up under the Adriatic Ionian Programme etc.);
- selection criteria in the project quality assessment (Phase B) in order to assess how the project proposals can contribute to the priorities put forward by EUSAIR;
- elaboration of monitoring indicators to assess projects' contributions to the priorities identified by the EUSAIR;
- special reporting on the contribution of the GR-IT Programme toward the achievement of EUSAIR milestones;
- involvement of stakeholders to ensure subsidiarity to the Strategy with the aim to serve as a collector of the civil society needs and put them to the attention of the decision makers;
- communication actions to increase the level of involvement of all stakeholders, but also to duly promote the Strategy as a useful cooperation tool.

Moreover, Puglia Region, through the Coordination of International Policies Department, has been an active part of the consultation process leading to the definition of the EUSAIR Action Plan. Actually, the Region coordinates the Italian Regions for Pillar 4 "Sustainable Tourism" at national level, it is a member of the Thematic Steering Group of Pillar 4, and participates in the Steering committee at national level at the premises of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for the European Policies and the "Adriatic-Ionian Interregional Group" established in Brussels.

Finally, from a general perspective and outside the scope of the EUSAIR governance, coordination between all strategies (e.g. macro-regional and Europe 2020) should be envisaged.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

EUSAIR

Pillar(s), topic(s) and/or cross cutting issue(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Pillar	Topic / Cross cutting issue
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.1 - Blue technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.2 - Fisheries and aquaculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.3 - Maritime and marine governance and services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.1 - Maritime transport
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.2 - Intermodal connections to the hinterland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.3 - Energy networks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.1 - The marine environment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.2 - Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.1 - Diversified tourism offer (products and services)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.2 - Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.3 - Capacity building

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSAIR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Pillar Coordinators, or Thematic Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

Name and function

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSAIR?

Yes No

a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSAIR

Yes No

b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)

c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSAIR?

Yes No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSAIR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSAIR (n.a. for 2016)

E. Does the programme contribute to the objectives and/or targets which are attached to each topic under the Pillars, as stated in the Action Plan? (please specify the objective(s) and target(s))

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

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13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

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Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens' summary of the 2015-2016 Annual Implementation Report of CP Interreg V-A Greece-Italy 2014-2020	Citizens' summary	16-May-2017		Ares(2017)3295784	Citizens' summary of the 2015-2016 Annual Implementation Report of CP Interreg V-A Greece-Italy 2014-2020	30-Jun-2017	nlogotge

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated
Warning	2.39	In Section 'Macro-regional and sea basin strategies' when the answer to question A is Yes, the name and function field should not be empty for strategy EUSAIR
Warning	2.40	In Section 'Macro-regional and sea basin strategies' when the answer to question B is Yes, questions a) and b) should not be empty for strategy EUSAIR
Warning	2.43	In Section 'Macro-regional and sea basin strategies' when the answer to question C is No, the field 'Does your programme plan to invest...' should not be empty for strategy EUSAIR