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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 123,176,896 € and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a total amount of 104,700,362 € for the 2014-2020 period. 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 (16 June 2014) setting up the list of regions and areas eligible for funding from the ERDF under the cross-border and transnational components of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) goal for the period 2014-2020, the GR-IT Programme covers the following NUTS III 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 the 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 Thematic Objectives (TOs) described in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR). The ETC Regulation and the CSF outline that the Cross-border cooperation should aim to a) **tackle common challenges**, and b) **exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas**.

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 identifying the real needs of beneficiaries and end-users. This also requires the efficient implementation of both the capitalisation process and external communication in order to effectively reach the final target groups and end users who shall utilise projects outputs in the most appropriate way.
- Taking into account the territorial dimension of development (urban development, coastal zones, 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 ETC interventions in favour of national and regional programmes.

For the beneficiaries, one of the most visible aspects of 2014-2020 period is the concentration of funds on a limited number of TOs and Investment Priorities (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.

### **Lessons from the Past**

The GR-IT 2007-2013 Programme was complementary to national and regional programmes. Despite its modest budget (118,606,893 € including ERDF and national contributions) and, hence its limited capacity to influence the development process of the Cross-Border Area, the Programme, achieved a significant convergence of objectives and strong synergies among its interventions, as noted in the 3rd on-going evaluation report.

The 2007-2013 Programme was structured into three (3) Priority Axes (PA) and seven (7) Specific Objectives (SO):

PA1 “Strengthening competitiveness and innovation” (receiving 30% of the programme budget)

- SO 1.1: Strengthening of interaction between research, innovation and SMEs
- SO 1.2: Promoting new advanced technologies

PA 2 “Improve accessibility to sustainable networks and services” (receiving 27% of the programme budget)

- SO 2.1: Promotion of cross-border integrated and sustainable linkage
- SO 2.2: Improvement of transport, information and communication networks and services

PA 3 “Improving the quality of life, protection of the environment and enhancement of social and cultural cohesion” (receiving 44% of the programme budget)

- SO 3.1: Promotion of social and cultural heritage
- SO 3.2: Encouragement of protection & management of natural resources, prevention of risks
- SO 3.3: Protection of health and promotion of social integration

Under seven rounds of calls for proposals, 76 projects (excluding Technical Assistance) were funded. Approved projects amounted to 180 m€, a sum that corresponds to a commitment rate of 153% of the total Programme budget. According to the 3rd on-going evaluation report, the project selection process was well organized, ensuring the cross-border character of the operations and the objectivity of the evaluation, while the roles of management bodies were judged sufficiently distinct and clear.

A Call for Strategic Project Proposals was also launched in the framework of the 2007-2013 Programme following a territorial consultation with key actors from 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 designation of key characteristics of a 'strategic project' in the framework of the Programme. The total approved budget was 22.944.480,00 € (ERDF and national contribution) of which 39 percent was allocated to PA 1, 43 percent to PA 2 and 17 percent to PA 3. A total of five (5) projects were selected (two of which under PA 1, two under PA 2 and one under PA 3).

The Evaluation Report pinpoints the fact that the basic aspects of the 2007-2013 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 were cornerstones of the 2007-2013 GR-IT Programme, having established a process of important teamwork among Greek and Italian regions, which could only be realized at the cross-border level. As a result, the Programme has contributed to greater cohesion and effectively reduced national, economic and cultural barriers.

At programme level, the 2007-13 GR-IT Programme recorded important achievements, such as the adoption of common methodologies and guidelines in various priority fields ranging from environmental monitoring to transport networks and cross-border cultural activities, the establishment of active networks in terms of actors, institutional structures, geographical areas, etc. across all PAs, as well as the enhancement of institutional capacity.

At project level, the highest achievement rates were detected in relation to the following indicators on numbers of : a) joint events and cooperation in the fields of tourism, culture and natural heritage promotion, b) systemic innovation actions which contribute to increase the competitiveness of the cross border economic systems, c) bilateral or international research projects on innovation and competitiveness of the cross border economic systems carried out by Universities and research institutes, and d) actions

concerning SMEs cooperation and/or SMEs joint actions for internationalisation in the maritime border region.

Furthermore, the Programme strategy, as well as its interventions, complied with horizontal issues of strategic importance. Competitiveness constituted a core objective, while sustainability was covered by two SOs and was implemented by way of several interventions. Numerous projects approved under PA 1 promoted gender equality, access to employment and women's and youth entrepreneurship. Projects under PA 2 addressed the topics of equality and accessibility, while projects under PA 3 supported interventions of social inclusion and health infrastructure. Moreover, maintenance of biodiversity was the main aspiration for projects approved under the SO 3.2.

It is also important to note that the 2007-13 Programme has been sufficiently visible and close to citizens of the Cross-Border Area, securing the commitment of 405 partners (with an average partnership size of 5.3), and involving a) public bodies (national -state agencies-, regional and local territorial authorities, decentralized regional administrations, regional development agencies, municipalities, municipal operational agencies, port authorities), b) higher education and research institutions (Universities, R&D centers etc.), c) organisations representing civil society interests (Chambers of Commerce, community-based associations, NGOs, associations of municipalities) and many other target groups, such as women, youth, unemployed, disabled.

Taking into account the experiences of programme authorities, the thematic areas and interventions, which have been particularly successful under the previous programming period, the 2007-2013 Cooperation Programme (CP) has provided a sound basis for sharing best practice in addressing the common economic, environmental and social challenges faced by the eligible Programme Area.

### **Description of the Cooperation Programme's Strategy**

A comprehensive joint planning process was carried out in order to build a solid foundation for the identification of priorities of the new "INTERREG V-A 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 which is presented below:

#### *Territory and Demography*

The GR-IT Programme Area is a relatively small area located in the southern end of the European Union and covers a territory of 42 401 km<sup>2</sup>. Its principal feature is the Ionian Sea which sits between both parts of the region. The ports on the two sides of the borders bear witness to a major movement of goods, services and people on an annual basis.

The three Greek participating regions (Epirus, Ionian Islands and Western Greece) cover approximately 54% of the total cross-border area and are situated on the west coast of Greece, bordering on the Ionian Sea, including the chain of islands stretching along the coast. Puglia, situated in south-east Italy, is the largest region in terms of size (19 541 km<sup>2</sup>) and covers the remaining 46% of the Cross-border Area. Its landscape is partly flat and partly hilly. It has the longest coastline of any Italian region, and borders on the

Adriatic Sea to the east, the Ionian Sea to the south, and the neighbouring regions of Molise to the north, Basilicata and Campania to the west.

The Programme Area has a total population of 5 286 million and a population density of 124,68 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. The Greek and Italian regions are quite heterogeneous as regards both a) the spatial distribution of their population (approximately 4 million inhabitants in Puglia as opposed to 1,2 million inhabitants in all three Greek regions together), and b) the population density (ranging from 207 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> on the Italian side, with Puglia being one of the most densely populated regions of Italy, to only 38 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> in the Greek region of Epirus).

Most of the Programme Area is characterised as thinly-populated (rural area) by EUROSTAT, with more than 50 % of the population living in rural grid cells.

### *Territorial Characteristics*

Programme Area regions record together GDP per capita levels in 2011 below 64% of the EU-28 average. In 2011, GDP per capita, expressed in terms of purchasing power standards (PPS) in the cross-border area ranged from 55% of the EU-28 average in the region of Epirus to 75% of the average in the region of Ionian Islands.

The main territorial features surrounding the cross- border Programme Area by component of the Europe 2020 strategy are presented below by way of a SWOT Analysis:

### **Smart Growth**

#### Strengths

- Sufficient number of universities and research centres
- Adequate employment in knowledge- intensive services (small gap with EU average)
- Presence of a number of high skill productive sectors and innovative and high-tech business clusters on the Italian side (agribusiness, aerospace industry, RES etc.)
- Increased use of ICT by individuals and enterprises
- Powerful tertiary sector (62%) in the Programme Area economy, in terms of absolute value, Gross Value Added and employment (the tourism industries a major element)
- Greek regions in the process of diversifying their production model (“Smart and creative diversification areas”)
- Puglia’s regional strategy fostering the creativity chain yields results and can be replicated on the Greek side of the borders (Puglia is a strong supporter of the creative Europe framework)

#### Weaknesses

- GDP per capita significantly lower than the EU-27 average and substantial wealth disparities across the Programme Area
- Low investment in R&I: less than half of EU27 average total Intramural R&D expenditure (GERD); similarly business share in GERD less than EU average in all regions

- Low proportion of research personnel and researchers in three of the four regions (only Epirus is above the EU-27 average)
- Unsatisfactory patent performance (below EU standards)
- Low level of cooperation among actors of the quadruple helix, especially between research and businesses
- Frail link between education and the labour market
- Lack of breakthrough innovation
- Employment in high- technology and medium high- technology sectors below EU average level
- Insufficient ICT penetration and connectivity in the Programme Area compared to the EU-28 (less than 50% of the population having access to broadband internet)
- Limited use of online public services
- Strong influence of traditional businesses (low and medium technology sectors) and low productivity patterns
- Participating regions characterized as “low tech”; “with no specialization in knowledge activities” and “Non- interactive” (Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2014)
- Lagging behind in SME competitiveness performance
- Investments in Greece below EU average; Italy performs better
- Weak national policy support (financial and tax stability, business environment, etc.)

### Opportunities

- Rising investments in R&D
- Slight increase of patent applications over the last years
- R&D specialisations in agribusiness, tourism and blue growth: boosting blue technologies and cooperation
- Increased clustering of SMEs
- Commitment for investments in ICT by both sides of the border
- Interest for commercialisation of research (innovation) and internationalization of business activities
- Increased tourism flows in the region, as a result of political instability in competitive tourism destinations
- Presence of regional strategies encouraging a culture of entrepreneurship and facilitating the development of innovative businesses
- “Blue Economy”, Culture and Creativity can provide the key to the Programme Area’s identity

### Threats

- Continuation of the recession
- Stagnant economic growth
- Rising unemployment
- Competition from other Mediterranean areas offering innovative and high-tech tourism and business services
- Severe cuts in public expenditure
- Programme Area lagging behind the rest of the EU with less than 50% of the population having access to broadband internet

- Continuation of reduced access to finance by the private sector, restricting growth
- Strong reduction in public investments on culture and creativity in the Programme Area

## **Sustainable Growth**

### Strengths

- Favourable conditions for the production of renewable energy (climate, natural resources)
- Lead position of Puglia in producing RES
- Existence of a European framework and national policies for the reduction of CO2 emissions
- Extremely rich environmental heritage (sea, mountains, forests, wetlands)
- Numerous protected areas
- Good level of road infrastructures: connection of the Programme Area with significant Trans-European axes that cross the South-East Mediterranean and the Balkan region
- Completion of the Egnatia highway and implementation of the Ionia Odos
- Upgrade of port infrastructures
- Italy and Greece leaders in maritime passenger transport in Europe
- Large volume of maritime passenger transport despite reductions in past 3 years (7% share of the Programme Area in national maritime transport of passengers)

### Weaknesses

- Relatively high degree of energy dependence
- Low energy efficiency compared to the EU average
- Insufficient development of renewable energy in Greek regions
- Low wind potential compared with Europe and the respective national context
- Low capacity of adaptability to climate change in the Programme Area and insufficient measures to tackle this challenge
- Degradation of fragile areas
- Exploitation of natural resources and assets leading to unsustainable development
- Environmental pressures resulting from development in urban, rural and coastal areas
- Lack of harmonised tourism management (rules, standards, certification) and use of common statistics and indicators
- High concentration of ozone in urban centres
- Illegal and uncontrolled construction: widespread phenomenon
- Lack of information on small-scale fisheries
- Low multimodal accessibility
- Interregional differences in terms of satisfactory accessibility: geographical fragmentation and isolation of some territories (islands, remote areas)
- Outdated traffic monitoring and management tools
- Poor level of railway infrastructure especially in Greek participating areas

### Opportunities

- Development potential for renewable energy not fully exploited in Greece; exchange of experience with Puglia a necessity in this field
- Potential use of marine energy
- Joint management of the natural environment and marine assets which are a key feature of the Programme Area
- Collaboration on raising awareness of the impact of climate change
- Development of joint environmental protection measures (related to protected areas...)
- Shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods
- Promotion of exchanges and good practices, for example building upon collaboration in community led renewable energy and environmental measures
- Promoting water savings
- Great potential in communication and exchanges between Europe Asia and Africa (ports located in strategic positions)
- A gateway transport character which provides opportunity to certain industries
- Joint infrastructure development forms an important part of cross-border cooperation
- Networking of transport institutional players (port, rail and airport authorities, local public transport services, etc) to improve efficiency and competitiveness
- Better and more efficient use of new technologies in the field of transport

### Threats

- Significant increase in the cost of low carbon energy
- Programme Area vulnerable to climate change and thus to increased risks
- High costs involved in repairing damages caused by natural disasters
- Heritage under pressure from human activities
- Sustainable and responsible tourism model not well understood
- Loss of valuable biodiversity
- Increasingly poorer air quality
- Increasing scarcity of water resources
- Pollution of the seabed due to numerous aquaculture farms and fish nurseries along the coast with impact on the protected species and habitats of the sites
- Illegal fishing gear a common practice; Inadequate monitoring
- The transport gateway character: a major source of pollution in the Programme Area
- Low competitiveness of transport operation (ports, airports, railways)
- Decrease in the number of passengers passing through Programme Area ports
- Absence of integration and interconnection of transport modes

### **Inclusive Growth**

#### Strengths

- A dominant tertiary sector in the Programme Area providing continuous employment opportunities
- Presence of a number of high skill productive sectors
- Tourism-related services a prominent factor in securing employment and one of the main sources of income for the local population

- Cultural and Creative Industries a key contributor to competitiveness across all economic and social sectors and a source of employment
- Adequate employment in knowledge intensive services (small gap with EU average)
- Intergenerational solidarity acting as a social buffer in the area
- Sufficient number of universities and research centres

### Weaknesses

- Small share of Programme Area population active in the labour market (38%)
- Low employment levels (38% to 49%), below the EU average
- High unemployment levels (24%) of the active population
- High youth and women's unemployment
- Long-term structural unemployment at the range of 60%
- Periodic seasonal labour
- A large percentage of the population at risk of poverty and social exclusion (49,6% of the population in the Region of Puglia is at risk of poverty or social exclusion, equally high rates in Greece)
- Low participation in tertiary education (Programme Area lower than the EU-28 average) with the regions of Ionian Islands and Puglia recording the lowest rates
- High number of young people leaving school prematurely especially in the regions with the highest tourism growth (Ionian Islands and Puglia)

### Opportunities

- Labour mobility within the participating regions
- Building on joint measures linking education and the workplace
- Potential for social innovation
- Services sector may provide a strong impetus for economic development (tourism, cultural and creative industries, agro food, etc.)
- Improving the skills profile of the workforce to respond to the challenges of the economic crisis

### Threats

- Alarming financial and social effects of the crisis on individuals and households
- No optimistic forecasts for the future
- Seasonal employment
- Increase in unemployment rates
- Long-term unemployment a persistent problem
- Social cohesion at stake
- Low connection between education and labour market
- Drain of human resources, notably young people towards other EU countries

## **Selected Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities**

As noted earlier, the Programme strategy was prepared in line with the three growth objectives laid down by the EU in its Europe 2020 Strategy, taking into account the

distinctive regional features of the GR-IT CBC Area. Challenges have been translated into TOs and IPs with a strategic focus and a results-oriented approach. 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, while building on past achievements, 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 broader EU regional and national strategies and initiatives (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 - ETC GR-IT

It is clear that the overall objective 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 the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (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
- Contribute to the development of strategic growth measures in selected sectors of the Programme Area economy

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 (4) Thematic Objectives (TO):
  1. TO 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
  2. TO 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium- sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)
  3. TO 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

4. TO 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

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:

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 (*see also Section 2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations*) as a cross-cutting element and shall reinforce the impact of the four primarily selected TOs, by 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).

### ***Promoting education, skills and lifelong learning***

The need to invest in skills and lifelong learning by jointly developing and implementing vocational education and training schemes is evident. SME competitiveness in the Programme Area is hurt by the lack of qualified and skilled labour and calls 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.

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. 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. Cross-border cooperation can support the nurturing of new skills in the benefit of entrepreneurship, 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.

As a result, the new Programme puts a strong focus on the promotion of education skills and lifelong learning in almost all the TOs and in particular in sectors where there is potential for significant job creation with the appropriate support measures ( Tourism and Culture, Cultural and Creative Industries, Food-Industry, Blue Growth, etc.).

### ***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 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 Cross-Border Area, by mobilizing additional resources, ensuring synergies with parallel programmes and broader context policies and by promoting innovative tools and schemes.

The "capacity building" actions will increase the competence of the public sector in the Programme Area with regard to management, surveillance, monitoring and skills and promotion of 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 have been widely explored and used. The Joint Programming Committee (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 IPs has 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*). Given the maritime nature of the border between Greece and Italy, the sea and the benefits which can be derived from this important resource will be a central focus for the Programme and will cut across the Priority Axes.

Furthermore, as noted earlier, coherence with EUSAIR has been taken into account for the design of the new INTERREG GR-IT Programme, in order to ensure that its interventions represent concrete solutions to address common and shared cross-border concerns. The Programme coherence with the EUSAIR pillars envisaged to play a crucial role in creating jobs and boosting economic growth is noted below.

The **first Priority Axis (PA) “Innovation & Competitiveness,”** which links innovation & research and SME competitiveness aims 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. In view of supporting the socio-economic development of the Programme Area at this time of economic crisis, this PA 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",

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 is selected in order to tackle the low innovation capacities, lack of competitiveness and internationalization of Programme Area SMEs. 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.

Climate action (both mitigation and adaptation) is also taken into account in this Priority Axis, as the coastal zones of the Programme Area are particularly vulnerable to altered climate conditions.

Both IPs are expected to contribute to the implementation of EUSAIR, and more specifically to Pillar 1 “Blue Growth” (Topics 1.1 Blue Technologies and 1.2 Fisheries & Aquaculture) and Pillar 4 “Sustainable Tourism” (Topics 4.1 Diversified tourism offer - products and services- and 4.2 Sustainable and responsible tourism management - innovation & quality).

The **second Priority Axis**, 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. TO 6 "Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resources efficiency" forms the basis of this Axis and is structured into three IPs.

More specifically, IP 6c responds to problems connected with seasonal tourism, the isolation of the Ionian insular 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.

All three IPs of this Axis shall contribute to the implementation of EUSAIR and more specifically to Pillar 3 “Environmental Quality” (Topics 3.1 The marine environment, 3.2 Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity) and Pillar 4 “Sustainable Tourism” (Topic 4.2 Sustainable and responsible tourism management - innovation & quality).

The **third Priority Axis "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, multi-modal accessibility to transport infrastructures, coordination of maritime cross-border transport systems and procedures, their integration with regional, national and cross border transport plans, and the promotion of innovations for sustainable and non- polluting transportation.

Coherence of TO 7, IP 7b, 7c with EUSAIR can be found in Pillars 2 “Connecting the Region” (Topics 2.1 Maritime Transport and 2.2 Intermodal connections to the hinterland) and 4 “Sustainable Tourism” (Topics 4.1 Diversified tourism offer - products and services- and 4.2 Sustainable and responsible tourism management).

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	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between	The Programme Area contains a number of Higher Education Institutes producing high quality research. However, research potential is not trickling down to the SMEs

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
innovation	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>which form a vital part of the Programme Area's economy. There is a recognised need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthen growth sectors representing important jobs potential by forging R&amp;D specializations in agribusiness, blue growth, tourism, cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries</li> <li>• reinforce the knowledge economy to generate growth and jobs especially in SMEs</li> <li>• reinforce clustering of SMEs</li> <li>• increase investments in R&amp;D</li> <li>• increase the number of patent applications</li> <li>• increase networks and clusters and the level of cooperation among actors of the quadruple helix,</li> <li>• support social innovations in the context of the economic crisis and tight public budgets</li> <li>• ensure that the Programme Area actively develops their innovation potential on the basis of their strengths</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• The Programme Area lacks a innovation ecosystem and needs to strengthen its smart specialisation strategies and provide opportunities to develop the competitiveness of SMEs. More, specifically, there is need to:</li> <li>• strengthen innovation capacities, competitiveness and internationalization of Programme Area SMEs and collaborations between firms and research &amp; innovation centres</li> <li>• improve the commercial take-up of research results</li> <li>• reinforce the culture of entrepreneurship</li> <li>• strengthen cultural industries in</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>order to promote local development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• design tools to facilitate the recruitment and retention of talent</li> <li>• tackle the seasonality of tourism demand</li> <li>• enhance capacities across the region by strengthening sectors of special interest to Programme Area,</li> <li>• provide Programme Area SMEs with innovation management advice, IP advice, tech transfer, prototyping, market replication/market penetration, demonstrator projects etc</li> <li>• strengthen market intelligence, analysis of emerging market opportunities</li> </ul>
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	<p>The Programme Area has huge potential in terms of the cultural and natural heritage and assets at its disposal, particularly its insular character. However, it needs to recognise both negative and positive impacts and adapt to them. There is need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure cross border coordination and cooperation for optimising the results of sustainable tourism exploitation of the natural and cultural heritage</li> <li>• strengthen the promotion of local economic development, exchanges and good practices, for example building upon collaboration in community led environmental measures</li> <li>• tackle seasonal tourism demand</li> </ul>
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	<p>The Programme Area environment has been heavily affected by human activity. Habitat and biodiversity loss are continuing. There is a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems</li> <li>• fill the gap of services and</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>infrastructure, in periods of maximum touristic pressure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tackle sea pollution due to waste discharge and accumulation</li> <li>• strengthen the environmental protection measures (protected areas...)</li> </ul>
<p>06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</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>There is need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods</li> <li>• take advantage of the unexploited potential for the use of renewable marine energies</li> </ul>
<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>There is need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthen regional and cross border connections</li> <li>• improve accessibility to transport infrastructures</li> <li>• foster integration with Regional, National and cross border Transport Plans</li> <li>• optimize integration and interconnection of transport modes</li> <li>• establish homogeneity in transport networks and related cross-border planning</li> </ul>
<p>07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures</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>There is need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote innovations for sustainable and non-polluting transportation</li> <li>• enhance coordination of cross border transport system and procedures</li> <li>• take advantage of the unexploited potential of renewable energies for public services</li> <li>• promote effective freight and logistics systems including actions on shipping, fuels, technologies, harbours, hubs and IT solutions</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage concrete actions that move freight off the roads to more environmentally friendly solutions</li> </ul>

## 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 €, with an ERDF contribution of 104 700 362 € (85%), detailed in section 3.

The proposed financial allocation (i.e. the Union support) to each TO was approved by the JPC during its 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 (see Annexes). In addition, the performance and experience from the previous programming period has been taken into account (see Lessons from the Past in Section 1.1.1).

- 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 “Innovation and Competitiveness”

Priority Axis 1 receives 28% of the total Programme budget, i.e. 34,489,531 €, of which the ERDF allocation is 29,316,101 €. It is structured into two IPs (1b and 3a) stemming from the TOs 1 and TO 3, 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 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, more than double of the EU-28 average (10.8%), high youth unemployment rates 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 with SO 1.1, 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 receives Union support of approximately 16.2 M€.

12.5% 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 1.2, receives 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 “Integrated Environmental Management”**

Priority Axis 2 receives 39% of the total Programme budget, i.e. 48,038,990 €, of which the ERDF allocation is 40,833,141 €. 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' 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 normal 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 and 6f 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 “Multimodal Sustainable Transport System”**

Priority Axis 3 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 €), 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 communicating with the rest of 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 and their corresponding SOs 3.1 and 3.2 receive Programme support of 18.5 and 14.8 m€ respectively.

#### **Priority Axis 4**

PA 4 "Technical Assistance" receives 6% of the total budget, which will be used to ensure timely and effective delivery of the Programme.

#### **Financial Allocation to Climate Change**

In terms of the thematic concentration, ERDF programmes must allocate a certain share of their available funds for three specific TOs. These are: (TO1), s(TO3) (TO4). At least 80 % of the ERDF funds must be con-centrated on these three objectives, and at least 20 % must be for the purpose of climate mitigation.

Acknowledging the mounting threats posed by climate change and its impacts to coastal zones and the numerous environmental challenges faced by marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as the increasing urbanisation and heavy traffic in the Programme Area, cross-border actions in this field will be supported across all three Priority Axes. Important environmental concerns are shared throughout the Area and can create the driving force to link and enhance climate change reaction capacities. Examples of cross-border actions range from stimulating savings/reductions of energy consumption in cross-border transport, developing adaptation strategies and action plans, disaster management systems etc.

As a result, the Programme contributes approximately 20% of ERDF funds or almost 21 M€ to climate change.

**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"> <li>▼ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1b - Promoting business investment in R&amp;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                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ SO1.1 - Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 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)                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 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"> <li>▼ SO1.2 - Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[R0501, R0502]
2	40,833,141.00	39.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ SO2.1 - Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 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</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 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"> <li>▼ SO2.3 - Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[R0503, 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)		
					pollution	
3	28,269,099.00	27.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ SO3.1 - Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ SO3.2 - Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[R0506, R0507]
4	6,282,021.00	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	SO4.1 - To implement efficiently the GR-IT Cross Border Programme	[]

## 2. PRIORITY AXES

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

#### 2.A.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	1
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	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)

Recognising the need to support the socio-economic development of the Programme Area at this time of economic crisis, the Programme combines TO 1 and TO 3 into a single Axis, entitled "Innovation and Competitiveness.". Proposed measures aim at an interconnection between the two themes, i.e. at linking innovation, technological development and research with the specific Programme Area business needs and capabilities.

At a regional level, the Territorial Analysis undertaken highlighted the low level of expenditure on GERD in the Programme Area relative to the EU-27 average, with the region of Ionian Islands recording the lowest. Patent performance (high-tech patents; patent applications; ICT and biotechnology patent applications) is characteristically low. Puglia, even though it performs better, it still stands below EU standards. 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. The Territorial Analysis identified that the R&D partnerships between higher education institutes and businesses in the region are reported as being low and difficult to put in place. It also noted a relatively small rate of conversion of R&D to commercial applications.

The regions are categorised as "Regions with no specialization in knowledge activities" and "Non- interactive regions". The Analysis established that micro-enterprises, which are the most relevant in the Programme Area, do not invest enough in innovation. They are currently hit hard by the economic

crisis and are facing numerous challenges that require adapting to new ways of doing business, accessing new markets and funding. Being at the core of the Programme Area, they are forced to respond increasingly to a strong competition in the internal market and globally. It is imperative that they increase their knowledge base, keep abreast of the latest developments affecting their sector and strengthen their research efforts or their investments in innovations.

It is clear that strengthening the interaction between research/innovation actors and SMEs and promoting new technologies through networking, cooperation, and exchange of experience among stakeholders is vital. To bring the Programme Area on par with higher performing regions within the EU, it is important to provide stimulus for strengthening the links between academia and businesses and for increasing the level of innovation (including eco-innovation).

In this framework, 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, where a critical mass can be created and where significant complementarities with EUSAIR can be identified, and, of course, in line with the Regional Smart Specialisations Strategies (RIS3) that have been developed by all the participating regions. For this reason, the Priority Axis 1 shall grant specific attention to blue growth and all activities having 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 products and their promotion and commercialization) that represent the competitive advantage of the Area.

### 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

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	1b
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	SO1.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access for SMEs and innovation brokers to applied research results and technology transfer mechanisms</li> <li>• Strengthened cross border innovation clusters and networks in key sectors of the Programme Area economy</li> <li>• Strengthened linkages among businesses, vocational training providers, universities, research centres, policy departments, regulators, , suppliers and customers in the Programme Area</li> </ul> <p>The baseline for the result indicator presented below was established through a mini survey among key institutions and stakeholders in the Programme Area (See Annex: Logic Model and Methodology for Result Indicators).</p>

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

Specific objective		SO1.1 - Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0501	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to	%	56	2015	Increase	Survey	2018, 2020, 2023

Specific objective		SO1.1 - Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
	utilise the available innovation support services and clusters						

## 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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>The Territorial Analysis has demonstrated the need for an increase in the capacity of SMEs to engage in R&amp;D activities that will lead to innovative products, processes and services, especially in the sectors in which the Programme Area has a competitive advantage. This stimulus by the Programme will lead to an increased number of SMEs that are research and innovation aware. It will increase the number of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activities and will build their capacity for cross-border collaboration in R&amp;D. The investment in this activity will also increase the number of SMEs that are cooperating actively with research institutions, universities, science and technology parks, and other actors of the innovation enabling environment of the Programme Area.</p> <p>In addition, the Programme shall focus on improving the innovation framework conditions by strengthening and empowering clusters and networks, in particular in their cross-border dimension. SMEs need to access external sources of information, know-how and technology in order to build their own innovative capabilities and to reach the appropriate markets. They can only partly secure such access through markets for goods, services, human resources and intellectual property rights. They must also participate in networks, particularly those that nurture knowledge and other competences that are critical for pursuing innovative and competitive strategies.</p> <p>Special emphasis also needs to be given to regional policies in support of clusters in sectors where the Programme Area has a greater potential for</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
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development (such as Blue Growth, Creative Industries -with specific reference to the sectors of audio-visual production, theatre, dance, contemporary art and music and design-, Agro-food, Tourism and Culture, etc.) and strengthening /capitalising on projects funded in the framework of the 2013 Strategic Call, increasing their connectivity and synergies. Furthermore, interventions related to ICT connectivity and ICT penetration, two critical issues for the CBC Area, as identified in the Territorial Analysis, shall be especially encouraged.

With regard to Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the actions could concern studies, preparatory actions, capacity-building, networking, cooperation and exchange of good practices between competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners and relevant bodies representing civil society. Investments in research infrastructures can be combined with education and other measures to attract researchers in the framework of the new 2014/2020 EU Programmes with a specific attention to those addressed to young people. Actions relating to the diffusion of public service applications based on innovative technological aspects, such as telemedicine, in particular in peripheral areas and small islands are welcomed.

### **Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives**

This is only an indicative non-exhaustive list:

1. Identifying joint cross-border marketable research project ideas and boosting cross-border synergies among enterprises, R&D centres and higher education institutions
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. Identifying joint research project ideas and boosting synergies among enterprises, R&D centres and higher education institutions
4. Promoting/building platforms for joint cross-border initiatives (by supporting living labs and hubs, mobilising end users, developing voucher schemes, enhancing market intelligence and internationalisation, procurement, brokerage, etc.)
5. Supporting networking and exchange of good practices on ICT training and digital literacy in line with the EU initiative Grand Coalition for digital jobs (<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/grand-coalition-digital-jobs>), also with a view to stimulate the take-up of the European e-Competence Framework (<http://www.ecompetences.eu/>)
6. Supporting the implementation of innovation voucher schemes to help Programme Area SMEs acquire professional skills they cannot afford, i.e. ICT innovation vouchers (<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict-innovation-vouchers-scheme-regions>) following the blueprint developed by the

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>EC (<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/digitalagenda/node/67716">http://ec.europa.eu/digitalagenda/node/67716</a>)</p> <p>7. Supporting the development of cross-border innovation clusters in sectors where the Programme Area has a greater potential for development (such as Blue Growth, Creative Industries, Agro-food, Tourism and Culture, etc.) and strengthening /capitalising on projects funded in the framework of the 2013 Strategic Call, increasing their connectivity and synergies</p> <p>8. Fostering capacity building and skills for cluster members with a view to concentrating resources on activities of high added value and competitive advantage</p> <p><b>Identification of the main target groups</b> (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stakeholders involved in the economic districts and clusters of the cross border area: industry, research community, academia and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Actors of the innovation system (universities, laboratories, policy departments, regulators, research institutions, etc.)</li> <li>• Single researchers and entrepreneurs</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific territories targeted</b></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><b>Types of beneficiaries</b> (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and knowledge institutions</li> <li>• R&amp;I system (Research institutes and innovation centres, universities, laboratories, technology intermediaries and technology/ knowledge transfer institutions, clusters, science and technology parks, business incubators, business support centres, networks and associations, chambers of commerce/industry, and other similar stakeholders)</li> <li>• Third sector organisations</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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><i>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.</i></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. The following guiding principles will apply to the selection of operations for the 2014-2020 GR-IT Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>External coherence:</b> projects building on the results generated by other European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, COSME or LIFE, and/or seeking complementarity with EUSAIR and synergies with broader national, regional policies and measures shall be especially encouraged</li><li>• <b>Incorporation of applicable horizontal principles and cross-cutting themes</b> into the selection criteria (e.g., <b>sustainable development</b> including <b>consideration of climate change impacts and risk prevention, equality, accessibility for people with disabilities</b>).</li><li>• <b>Transparency:</b> all potential beneficiaries must be aware of the selection process and criteria to be used</li><li>• <b>Strong cooperation dimension,</b> ensuring synergies and competencies of partners in line with project objectives and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, end users ) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)</li><li>• <b>Result-oriented approach:</b> 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</li><li>• <b>Operational quality:</b> incorporation of IP objectives and contribution to defined outputs in coherence with the budget and the financing plan. Furthermore, 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 or the duplication of funding</li></ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cross-border added value:</b> achievement of synergies across borders, joint research and innovation, cross-border networks and initiatives, exchange of good practices and know-how, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation:</b> 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</li> </ul> <p>When relevant, additional requirements may be included in the terms of reference of the calls for proposals, especially regarding environmental issues. Furthermore, tackling themes from Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 within projects may be considered as a preference criterion in relation to the characteristics of each call.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of operations will be drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee. The Managing Authority and the Joint 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 their monitoring and control. The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals is carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, in line with the operations' selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>The potential use of financial instruments will be kept under review during the implementation of the Programme.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
No major projects are planned under this investment priority	

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

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	500.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually
O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	20.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually
O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Number	5.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	3a
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	SO1.2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access for SMEs to new support services fostering innovation and internationalization.</li> <li>• Transferred innovative techniques and integration of knowledge relating to processes (governance and synergy of productive sectors)</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Enhanced cooperation practices stimulating innovative start ups</li> </ul>

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

Specific objective		SO1.2 - Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0502	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	Number	52,360.00	2012	55,000.00	Eurostat	2018, 2020, 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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 Territorial Analysis has identified that Programme Area SMEs lack a favourable innovation ecosystem (affordable infrastructure, access to financing, business mentors, training opportunities, connections with marketing channels). Business incubators are important tools in addressing this problem as they can accelerate the successful development of companies through an array of business support resources and services. In essence, they constitute micro-environments that provide counselling, information, training, access to finance and professional services, as well as work-space and shared office facilities. Even though they do not themselves create entrepreneurs or innovators, they nurture them, so that some may grow in a supportive environment and create employment.</p> <p>In this framework, existing and/or new incubators shall be supported by this Programme, fostering at the same time cross-border synergies among academia and businesses. The rehabilitation of disused public building and infrastructures shall be encouraged, while priority shall be given to sectors of special interest for the cross-border area, such as blue growth, creative industries, agrofood, etc., in line with the priorities of Smart Growth and EUSAIR. 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 Chambers of Commerce, SME associations, etc.</p> <p><b>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</b></p> <p>This is only an indicative non-exhaustive list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 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</li><li>2. Supporting the establishment of new incubators in sectors of interest to the Programme Area</li><li>3. Promoting innovative start ups, mostly in disadvantaged areas</li></ol>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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><b>Identification of the main target groups</b> (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMEs in particular start-ups (priority in the sectors where the Programme Area has a greater potential for development)</li> <li>• Incubator stakeholders: regional, local, and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and third sector organisations</li> <li>• Actors related to the management of innovative financing tools: business angels networks, crowd funding, etc.</li> <li>• Research and innovation actors</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific territories targeted</b></p> <p>To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields. The whole Programme Area</p> <p><b>Types of beneficiaries</b> (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational institutions</li> <li>• Business support centres and agencies, technology intermediaries and technology/knowledge transfer institutions, clusters, incubators, science/technology parks</li> <li>• Intermediate bodies, such as Chambers of Commerce/Industry, development agencies, local authorities, business associations</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure. The following guiding principles will apply to the selection of operations for the 2014-2020 GR-IT Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>External coherence:</b> projects building on the results generated by other European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, COSME or LIFE, and/or</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>seeking complementarity with EUSAIR and synergies with broader national, regional policies and measures shall be especially encouraged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Incorporation of applicable horizontal principles and cross-cutting themes</b> into the selection criteria (e.g., <b>sustainable development</b> including <b>consideration of climate change impacts and risk prevention, equality, accessibility for people with disabilities</b>).</li> <li>• <b>Transparency:</b> all potential beneficiaries must be aware of the selection process and criteria to be used</li> <li>• <b>Strong cooperation dimension</b>, ensuring synergies and competencies of partners in line with project objectives and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, end users ) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)</li> <li>• <b>Result-oriented approach:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Operational quality:</b> incorporation of IP objectives and contribution to defined outputs in coherence with the budget and the financing plan. Furthermore, 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 or the duplication of funding</li> <li>• <b>Cross-border added value:</b> achievement of synergies across borders, joint research and innovation, cross-border networks and initiatives, exchange of good practices and know-how, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation:</b> 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</li> </ul> <p>When relevant, additional requirements may be included in the terms of reference of the calls for proposals, especially regarding environmental issues. Furthermore, tackling themes from Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 within projects may be considered as a preference criterion in relation to the characteristics of each call.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 detailed assessment criteria for the selection of 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 their monitoring and control. The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals is carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, in line with the operations' selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 potential use of financial instruments will be kept under review during the implementation of the Programme.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>No major projects are planned under this investment priority.</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
O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	15.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually
O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number	5.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually

## 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
F0501	F	Expenditure	EUR	7329025,25	29,316,101.00	Monitoring	
O0515	O	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	4	20.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	
O0517	O	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	3	15.00	Progress/Reporting, 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**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Innovation and Competitiveness</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	4,027,139.03
	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	2,674,759.35
	064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)	4,027,139.03
	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	2,674,759.35
	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	3,241,886.31
	069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	3,511,886.31

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Innovation and Competitiveness</b>	
072. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)		3,241,886.31
077. Development and promotion of cultural and creative services in or for SMEs		2,674,759.00
089. Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land		3,241,886.31

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

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

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Innovation and Competitiveness</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
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	
<p>The technical assistance aims to support the cooperation Programme in terms of tools, procedures, human resources and capacity building of applicants and beneficiaries and its impact shall be reflected in the successful implementation of the Programme.</p>		

### 2.A.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	2
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	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

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</b>
ERDF	Public

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	SO2.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed and tested innovative CBC management plans and measures</li> <li>• Better protected natural and historical sites</li> <li>• Enhanced promotion and marketing of sustainable tourist destinations of high natural or cultural value in the Programme Area;</li> <li>• Increased measures for protecting cultural heritage and natural resources</li> </ul> <p>The baseline for the result indicator presented below was established through a mini survey among key institutions and stakeholders in the Programme Area (See Annex: Logic Model and Methodology for Result Indicators).</p>

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

Specific objective		SO2.1 - Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
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	Survey	2018, 2020, 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

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>The Programme Area has an extremely rich environmental heritage (sea, mountains, forests, wetlands), many protected areas, excellent quality natural environment making it attractive to individuals and investors. It includes several NATURA 2000 sites as well as national and regional parks, some of which have been designated as Special Areas for Conservation (SAC), Special Community Interest (SCI) and Special Protected Areas (SPA).</p> <p>This SO will focus on the valorisation of natural and heritage sites and the development of sustainable activities and services. Tourism will represent the principal resource where result-oriented actions and measures will be supported. Valorisation may include activities related to protection from pollution in the sectors of transport, water supply and food, disposal of waste water and waste facilities, leisure facilities, etc. creation of thematic and cultural routes or ecosystems (e.g. the island system, thematic routes such as via Egnatia, the underwater heritage). The development of sustainable strategies and tools (such as rehabilitation of disused areas, alternative mobility systems, etc.) to manage natural and cultural resources, will be prioritised.</p> <p>In addition, this SO will contribute to improving the accessibility of natural and cultural resources from a physical point of view, paying special attention to people with disabilities and promoting the use of internet and modern technologies.</p> <p><b>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</b></p> <p><b>This is only an indicative non-exhaustive list:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Generating new products, services and policy tools in local authorities for promoting accessible online content on areas recognized for their natural and cultural value in tourism (e.g. ICT applications, App, customized information services for tourists with virtual navigation possibilities)</li><li>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)</li><li>3. Improving accessibility to natural/historical resources (beaches, archaeological areas, historical centres)</li><li>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, renewable energies, using recycling materials, km 0 products, introduction of LCA - Life Cycle Analysis, etc)</li></ol>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>5. 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</p> <p><b>Identification of the main target groups (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental organizations</li> <li>• Public sector</li>   <li>• Research and innovation actors</li> <li>• Inhabitants of the Programme Area</li> <li>• Local and international tourist operators</li> <li>• Civil society</li> <li>• Telecommunication actors</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific territories targeted</b></p> <p>The whole Programme Area. To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields.</p> <p><b>Types of beneficiaries (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National, regional and local public authorities and organisations concerned with the management of the natural and historical areas</li> <li>• Public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations</li> <li>• Civil society stakeholders (NGOs/ NPOs)</li> <li>• Education and knowledge institutions</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
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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. The following guiding principles will apply to the selection of operations for the 2014-2020 GR-IT Programme:

- **External coherence:** projects building on the results generated by other European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, COSME or LIFE, and/or seeking complementarity with EUSAIR and synergies with broader national, regional policies and measures shall be especially encouraged
- **Incorporation of applicable horizontal principles and cross-cutting themes** into the selection criteria (e.g., **sustainable development** including **consideration of climate change impacts and risk prevention, equality, accessibility for people with disabilities**).
- **Transparency:** all potential beneficiaries must be aware of the selection process and criteria to be used
- **Strong cooperation dimension,** ensuring synergies and competencies of partners in line with project objectives and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, end users ) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)
- **Result-oriented 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
- **Operational quality:** incorporation of IP objectives and contribution to defined outputs in coherence with the budget and the financing plan. Furthermore, 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 or the duplication of funding
- **Cross-border added value:** achievement of synergies across borders, joint research and innovation, cross-border networks and initiatives, exchange of good practices and know-how, etc.
- **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

When relevant, additional requirements may be included in the terms of reference of the calls for proposals, especially regarding environmental issues. Furthermore, tackling themes from Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 within projects may be considered as a preference criterion in relation to the

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>characteristics of each call.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of 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 their monitoring and control. The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals is carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, in line with the operations' selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>The potential use of financial instruments will be kept under review during the implementation of the Programme.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>No major projects are planned under this investment priority.</p>	

### 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
O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	20.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	6d
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	SO2.2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	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
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted joint protocols for risk prevention</li> <li>• Integrated and updated data on biodiversity of Programme Area natural sites</li> <li>• Cleaner coast and seabed</li> <li>• Environmental education of the new generations</li> <li>• New strategies for the reduction of sea and coastal pollution related to the adaptation/improvement of infrastructures, technologies and services for the management of waste under pressure</li> <li>• Jointly elaborated maritime spatial plans (MSP)</li> </ul>

**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
R0504	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	km2	42,401.00	2013	46,000.00	Desk Research for baseline, survey for reporting	2018, 2020, 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>A key challenge for the region is to address common environmental issues and to meet the EU Biodiversity Strategy’s overall aim to “halt biodiversity loss by 2020”.</p> <p>Climate change should not be overlooked in this respect, as it may have a substantial effect on biodiversity in the Programme Area. The investment by the Programme in this field will promote an integrated approach by the relevant stakeholders to environmental management across the entire Programme region. This will result in the development of collaborative cross-border approaches in governance plans, data collection, maritime spatial plans, environmental awareness-raising, etc. that will increase the achievement in meeting key themes of the EU 2020 Strategy. Moreover, special attention shall be paid on the coordinated elaboration of maritime spatial plans (MSP) under Priority axis 2. MSP is by nature cross-sectorial and cross-border and needs to be implemented by bordering countries to be fully effective and avoid contradictory planning at sea borders. Support may be derived from the ADRIPLAN project (see EUSAIR Action Plan pillar 1, topic 3, 1st action, and pillar3, topic 1, 4th action), in order to identify meaningful joint follow-up activities in the field.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<b>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</b>	
This is only an indicative non-exhaustive list:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopting joint management and governance plans of coastal ecosystems, marine protected areas and their shared biological resources and elaborating joint protocols for natural and technological risk prevention</li> <li>2. Promoting the effective integration, standardization, and public accessibility of data and knowledge on biodiversity of the Programme Area, including knowledge on overwhelmed natural assets (e.g. bioconstructions coralligene, meadows of Posidonia, white coral Fund)[1]</li> <li>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</li> <li>4. Jointly elaborating maritime spatial plans (MSP) in areas of common interest (i.e. coastal protection, conflicts of aquaculture with maritime and coastal tourism, etc.) capitalizing from previous projects and in complementarity with the EUSAIR Action Plan</li> <li>5. Developing education and awareness-raising tools related to protection of biodiversity</li> <li>6. Jointly mapping natural species habitats and the seabed</li> </ol>	
<b>Identification of the main target groups (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental organizations</li> <li>• Public sector</li> <li>• Civil society</li> <li>• Inhabitants of the Programme Area</li> </ul>	
<b>Specific territories targeted</b>	
The whole Programme Area. To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields.	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<b>Types of beneficiaries (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National, regional and local public authorities</li> <li>• Public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations</li> <li>• Civil society stakeholders (NGOs , NPOs)</li> <li>• Education and knowledge institutions</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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. The following guiding principles will apply to the selection of operations for the 2014-2020 GR-IT Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>External coherence:</b> projects building on the results generated by other European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, COSME or LIFE, and/or seeking complementarity with EUSAIR and synergies with broader national, regional policies and measures shall be especially encouraged</li> <li>• <b>Incorporation of applicable horizontal principles and cross-cutting themes</b> into the selection criteria (e.g., <b>sustainable development</b> including <b>consideration of climate change impacts and risk prevention, equality, accessibility for people with disabilities</b>).</li> <li>• <b>Transparency:</b> all potential beneficiaries must be aware of the selection process and criteria to be used</li> <li>• <b>Strong cooperation dimension,</b> ensuring synergies and competencies of partners in line with project objectives and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, end users ) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)</li> <li>• <b>Result-oriented approach:</b> projects must have visible specific results or a measurable effect and demonstrate how they contribute to the</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>achievement of the result indicators under each IP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operational quality:</b> incorporation of IP objectives and contribution to defined outputs in coherence with the budget and the financing plan. Furthermore, 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 or the duplication of funding</li> <li>• <b>Cross-border added value:</b> achievement of synergies across borders, joint research and innovation, cross-border networks and initiatives, exchange of good practices and know-how, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation:</b> 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</li> </ul> <p>When relevant, additional requirements may be included in the terms of reference of the calls for proposals, especially regarding environmental issues. Furthermore, tackling themes from Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 within projects may be considered as a preference criterion in relation to the characteristics of each call.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of 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 their monitoring and control. The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals is carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, in line with the operations' selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
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<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
The potential use of financial instruments will be kept under review during the implementation of the Programme.	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
No major projects are planned under this investment priority.	

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

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	20.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually
O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	10.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	6f
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	SO2.3
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>The Europe 2020 Strategy requests Member States and regions with its initiative on "A Resource Efficient Europe" to remove barriers that hold back resource efficiency and so create the right set of incentives. The Member States also have to implement the Directive on waste: in order to better protect the environment, they should take measures for the treatment of their waste in line with the hierarchy which is listed in order of priority: prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling, other recovery, notably energy recovery; disposal.</p> <p>The increased resource efficiency and environmental innovations achieved by interventions supported by this Programme should be manifested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased measures to reduce pollution resulting from industrial discharges by adopting pollution prevention technologies</li> <li>• Pilot and demonstration projects in the field of marine pollution</li> <li>• Introduced friendly environment management and technologies</li> <li>• Adopted certificates on EU standards of clean production methods and processes</li> <li>• Enhanced knowledge and awareness of the population in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste management</li> </ul> <p>The baseline for the result indicator presented below was established through a mini survey among key institutions and stakeholders in the Programme Area (See Annex: Logic Model and Methodology for Result Indicators).</p>

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

Specific objective		SO2.3 - Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
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	Survey	2018, 2020, 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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>Under the SO 2.3, technologically innovative measures in a cross-border context will be supported for linking research and strategic actions as well as for implementing pilot and demonstration projects in the field of resource efficiency. Innovative approaches should be developed in the Programme Area in an effort to jointly tackle environmental issues with the promotion, development and utilisation of new technologies and the support of know how-transfer in the areas of marine waste management and air pollution.</p> <p><b>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objective</b></p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
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This is only an indicative non-exhaustive list:

1. Facilitating the introduction of environmentally-friendly sustainable technologies and processes to manage wastewater disposal systems (adoption and use of pollution prevention technologies, integration of environmental clean technologies, etc.)
2. Promoting training schemes for the introduction of an environment oriented management, good practices exchanges on cleaner production and the creation of green skills
3. Promoting technologies suitable for the treatment of waste in remote areas, leading to possible recycling, reducing the entry of potential waste and optimally managing the waste cycle
4. Promoting operational protocols related to litter monitoring, envisaging the localization of litter on the beaches, in the water column and on the seabed, identifying critical areas
5. Developing and testing new approaches to strengthen links between MSP (Marine Spatial Plans) and MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), in particular using the first as a measure to reach MSFD objectives
6. Addressing oil spills problems with coordinated Prevention Plans and Emergency Plans shared at the macro-regional scale

**Identification of the main target groups (*non-exhaustive list*)**

- Stakeholders related to marine and air pollution management: regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and civil society organizations
- Research and innovation actors
- Inhabitants of the Programme Area

**Specific territories targeted**

The whole Programme Area. To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields.

**Types of beneficiaries (*non-exhaustive list*)**

- National, regional and local public authorities and organisations concerned with the management of marine and air pollution
- Public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations

<b>Investment priority</b>	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"> <li>• Civil society stakeholders (NGOs , NPOs and environmental associations)</li> <li>• Education and knowledge institutions</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 selection of project proposals will be carried out according to the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, following a standardized assessment procedure. The following guiding principles will apply to the selection of operations for the 2014-2020 GR-IT Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>External coherence:</b> projects building on the results generated by other European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, COSME or LIFE, and/or seeking complementarity with EUSAIR and synergies with broader national, regional policies and measures shall be especially encouraged</li> <li>• <b>Incorporation of applicable horizontal principles and cross-cutting themes</b> into the selection criteria (e.g., <b>sustainable development</b> including <b>consideration of climate change impacts and risk prevention, equality, accessibility for people with disabilities</b>).</li> <li>• <b>Transparency:</b> all potential beneficiaries must be aware of the selection process and criteria to be used</li> <li>• <b>Strong cooperation dimension,</b> ensuring synergies and competencies of partners in line with project objectives and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, end users ) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)</li> <li>• <b>Result-oriented approach:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Operational quality:</b> incorporation of IP objectives and contribution to defined outputs in coherence with the budget and the financing plan. Furthermore, the effects of the projects must be sustainable in order not to be limited to the period of provision of the European funding, avoiding</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 multiplication of isolated initiatives or the duplication of funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cross-border added value:</b> achievement of synergies across borders, joint research and innovation, cross-border networks and initiatives, exchange of good practices and know-how, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation:</b> 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</li> </ul> <p>When relevant, additional requirements may be included in the terms of reference of the calls for proposals, especially regarding environmental issues. Furthermore, tackling themes from Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 within projects may be considered as a preference criterion in relation to the characteristics of each call.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of 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 their monitoring and control. The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals is carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, in line with the operations' selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 potential use of financial instruments will be kept under review during the implementation of the Programme.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
No major projects are planned under this investment priority.	

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

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	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				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	12.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually

#### 2.A.7 Performance framework

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

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

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
F0502	F	Financial	EUR	12009747.50	48,038,990.00	Monitoring	
O0519	O	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	4	20.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	
O0520	O	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	2	10.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	
O0521	O	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	3	12.00	Progress/Reporting, 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	2 - Integrated Environmental Management	
	Code	Amount (€)
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
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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Integrated Environmental Management</b>	
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**

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

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Integrated Environmental Management</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
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**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Integrated Environmental Management</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
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)**

<b>Priority axis:</b>	<b>2 - Integrated Environmental Management</b>	
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

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	3
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	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

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</b>
ERDF	Public

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	7b
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	SO3.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimized port and other transport infrastructures interfaces, procedures /operations</li> <li>• Improved internal and external accessibility to transport infrastructure areas</li> <li>• Enhanced maritime traffic information exchange between CBC systems</li> <li>• Introduced innovative security concepts on ports' operations</li> <li>• Enhanced cross-border cohesion in planning and coordinating maritime links</li> <li>• Developed cross-border partnerships and networks (MoS, SSS) among local/regional authorities, transport service suppliers, port industries and transport users</li> </ul>

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

Specific objective		SO3.1 - Boosting 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
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	Eurostat	2018, 2020, 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**

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p>Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity in order to reduce road congestion and also improve access to peripheral territories and islands of the Programme Area are crucial issues in the Programme Area and are in need of a coordinated approach. Even though the Programme Area ports are not included within the list of the first 10 EU ports in terms of volume of containers loaded/unloaded and in terms of numbers of passengers embarked/disembarked, maritime transport plays a key role in the local economies. The Programme Area records an important number of total goods loaded and unloaded from its main ports, despite a recent fall (years 2010-2012) of almost 11.34%, with the Italian side noting a reduction of 6.27% and the Greek side a reduction of 21.61% Furthermore, the region has a high share of cruise traffic, while maritime passenger transport is extremely important, despite the fact that recent data show that the number of seaborne passengers transported to or from the main ports of the Italian Programme Area fell by 3.4% in 2012 and the volume of seaborne passenger transport from Greek Programme Area ports decreased by 24.4 % to about 4,297 passengers. Strong established connections between ports of the Programme Area exist, being more intensive during the summer period because of the high tourist demand. Nevertheless, many lines remain also active during the winter period.</p> <p>A number of challenges characterize the Programme Area. The actual traffic monitoring tools and, as a result, the transport information that regulate the ship routing and transport is outdated. A full operational ship routing capability still needs to be developed for a safer and optimized transport in the area. Exchanging reliable data on shipping lines and vessels operating between sea ports and harbours in order to achieve coordination and to reduce transaction costs and operation turnaround time is necessary. Integrated and safe maritime transport is a topic of high interest for the CBC Area. Securing frequent exchange of information between coastal zones improving safety and security of maritime traffic in the regions are also concerns of EUSAIR. In addition, the SWOT Analysis of the Programme Area highlights the low competitiveness of transport operation (ports, airports, railways) due to the absence of integration and interconnection of transport modes.</p> <p>New technological developments are needed in the field of marine monitoring and forecasting in order to provide better services to a variety of users. For example, information technologies and infrastructures should be developed and tested for the efficient provision of services. In particular, new devices and technologies able to provide relevant information (meteo-ocean forecasting info) to the users at sea should be promoted.</p> <p>Networking of maritime transport institutional players also represents an issue to be looked upon, in order to improve efficiency and competitiveness of transport services. In this context, clusters and incubators are tools to be considered. Furthermore, synergies and coordination with Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa shall be ensured during the implementation of project operations.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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**

This is only an indicative non-exhaustive list:

1. Improving internal and external accessibility to transport infrastructures areas, paying particular attention to people with disabilities, (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, refueling vehicles also with ecological methods, washing, banks, post office, rental bikes and vehicles, ticket offices, tourism agencies, 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
4. Supporting the introduction of public WIFI hotspots and placing information points, kiosks and computer internet stations in the main airports, ports and railway stations with information on regional and transnational links, traffic, weather, tourist facilities, mobility, points of interest
5. Promoting the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) concept and Short Sea Shipping (SSS) by creating cross-border partnerships and networks among local/regional authorities, transport service suppliers, port industries and transport users

### **Identification of the main target groups (*non-exhaustive list*)**

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

### **Specific territories targeted**

To be determined according to the needs of the key intervention fields. The whole Programme Area

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<b>Types of beneficiaries (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National, regional and local public authorities and organisations concerned with the management of transport infrastructures and services</li> <li>• Port and other transport infrastructures authorities and organisations</li> <li>• Civil society stakeholders (NGOs, NPOs)</li> <li>• Education and knowledge institutions</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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. The following guiding principles will apply to the selection of operations for the 2014-2020 GR-IT Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>External coherence:</b> projects building on the results generated by other European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, COSME or LIFE, and/or seeking complementarity with EUSAIR and synergies with broader national, regional policies and measures shall be especially encouraged</li> <li>• <b>Incorporation of applicable horizontal principles</b> and cross-cutting themes into the selection criteria (e.g., sustainable development including consideration of climate change impacts and risk prevention, equality, accessibility for people with disabilities).</li> <li>• <b>Transparency:</b> all potential beneficiaries must be aware of the selection process and criteria to be used</li> <li>• <b>Strong cooperation dimension,</b> ensuring synergies and competencies of partners in line with project objectives and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, end users ) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)</li> <li>• <b>Result-oriented approach:</b> 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</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operational quality:</b> incorporation of IP objectives and contribution to defined outputs in coherence with the budget and the financing plan. Furthermore, 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 or the duplication of funding</li> <li>• <b>Cross-border added value:</b> achievement of synergies across borders, joint research and innovation, cross-border networks and initiatives, exchange of good practices and know-how, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation:</b> 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</li> </ul> <p>When relevant, additional requirements may be included in the terms of reference of the calls for proposals, especially regarding environmental issues. Furthermore, tackling themes from Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 within projects may be considered as a preference criterion in relation to the characteristics of each call.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of 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 their monitoring and control. The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals is carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, in line with the operations' selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
The potential use of financial instruments will be kept under review during the implementation of the Programme.	

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
No major projects are planned under the investment priority.	

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

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually
O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually

#### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	7c
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	SO3.2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Efforts are needed to improve the speed, reliability, ease of use and cost of shipping and rail in order to cut CO2 emissions and other negative impacts of oil-based road transport including air pollution, noise and congestion in the Programme Area. Cross-border cooperation can be effective in tackling organisational barriers (lack of cooperation and coordination, unclear responsibilities, complex administrative handling procedures etc); technical barriers (missing information technologies, delays at transfer points, lack of standardization, etc); operational and service-related barriers (problems related to interoperability between different ports, inflexibility in schedules etc); and governance barriers (lack of harmonized framework conditions, etc.).</p> <p>In such a framework, the Member States seek to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced use of renewable energies for public services</li> <li>• Introduced innovative eco-sustainable transport systems with low impact on environment (e.g. seaplanes, electrical vehicles, non-polluting transport on the sea, cycling)</li> <li>• Developed cross-border cooperation mechanisms for compatible green transport planning between governance levels</li> <li>• Reduced dependency on road transport for freight</li> </ul>

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

Specific objective		SO3.2 - Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0507	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area	tonne	88,532.00	2011	88,000.00	Eurostat	2018,2020, 2023

Specific objective		SO3.2 - Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
	(in 1000)						

## 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	<p>The intensive maritime transport activity observed in the Programme Area implies ships and port emissions, risks of accidents, acute pollution events and the introduction of invasive alien species through ballast water discharges (EC, 2012).</p> <p>The investment by the Programme in this field, reflecting the concerns of the Strategic Project Call 2013 and the EUSAIR Action Plan, will contribute to a more environmentally friendly, multi-modal and integrated transport infrastructure that will encourage the use of low carbon means of transport. The interventions will aim to promote the use of public transport, environmentally friendly forms of transport, including the use of electric vehicles, encouraging the use of bike-sharing and ride-sharing. Supported operations will also look at seaplane infrastructures and non-polluting transport on the sea. Investments related to airports and ports, respectively, will not involve hard infrastructures with negative impact for the environment but rather measures to promote sustainable transport solutions. Cross-border cooperation may also support inter-operability and cost-effective solutions for spreading innovative technologies for green mobility services.</p> <p><b>Types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning and implementing seaplanes infrastructures and transport</li> <li>2. Using alternative energy to power ports / airports/ railway stations</li> <li>3. Introducing public infrastructure and diffusing eco-services for road transportation in the Programme Area (e.g. eco-car / bike sharing, points for</li> </ol>

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>electric supply for vehicles, ecological distributors, etc.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> <li>5. Promoting cooperation platforms between public administration, research centres and the business sector to identify potentials and pave the way for future eco-sustainable transport investments</li> <li>6. Developing joint concepts, standards and tools for green mobility services in the public interest</li> </ol> <p><b>Identification of the main target groups (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport stakeholders: regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and civil society organisations</li> <li>• Research and innovation actors</li> <li>• Inhabitants of the Programme Area and passengers/tourists</li> <li>• Transport, tourist and telecommunication operators</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific territories targeted</b></p> <p>The whole Programme Area</p> <p><b>Types of beneficiaries (<i>non-exhaustive list</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National, regional and local public authorities and organisations concerned with the management of transport infrastructure and transport services</li> <li>• Port and other transport infrastructures authorities and organisations</li> <li>• Civil society stakeholders (NGOs, NPOs)</li> <li>• Education and knowledge institutions</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>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. The following guiding principles will apply to the selection of operations for the 2014-2020 GR-IT Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>External coherence:</b> projects building on the results generated by other European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, COSME or LIFE, and/or seeking complementarity with EUSAIR and synergies with broader national, regional policies and measures shall be especially encouraged</li>   <li>• <b>Incorporation of applicable horizontal principles and cross-cutting themes</b> into the selection criteria (e.g., <b>sustainable development</b> including <b>consideration of climate change impacts and risk prevention, equality, accessibility for people with disabilities</b>).</li>   <li>• <b>Transparency:</b> all potential beneficiaries must be aware of the selection process and criteria to be used</li>   <li>• <b>Strong cooperation dimension,</b> ensuring synergies and competencies of partners in line with project objectives and involving a diversified mix of innovative stakeholders (researchers, education institutions, training organisations, policy-makers, end users ) and partnership from different territories and levels of authorities (local, regional, national, transnational)</li>   <li>• <b>Result-oriented approach:</b> 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</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operational quality:</b> incorporation of IP objectives and contribution to defined outputs in coherence with the budget and the financing plan. Furthermore, 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 or the duplication of funding</li>   <li>• <b>Cross-border added value:</b> achievement of synergies across borders, joint research and innovation, cross-border networks and initiatives, exchange of good practices and know-how, etc.</li>   <li>• <b>Innovation:</b> 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</li> </ul> <p>When relevant, additional requirements may be included in the terms of reference of the calls for proposals, especially regarding environmental issues. Furthermore, tackling themes from Thematic Objectives 10 and 11 within projects may be considered as a preference criterion in relation to the characteristics of each call.</p> <p>The detailed assessment criteria for the selection of 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 their monitoring and control. The Managing Authority will ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals is carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, in line with the operations' selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and that the operations respond to the adopted criteria.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
The potential use of financial instruments will be kept under review during the implementation of the Programme.	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
No major projects are planned under this investment priority.	

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

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	5.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	Annually

## 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
F0503	F	Financial	EUR	8314440.50	33,257,762.00	Monitoring	
O0522	O	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	3	10.00	Progress/Reporting, Monitoring	
O0524	O	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	1	5.00	Progress/Reporting, 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	
	Code	Amount (€)
	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)	4,926,264.58

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	
	Code	Amount (€)
	01. Non-repayable grant	28,269,099.00

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	20,269,099.00
	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	8,000,000.00

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
	07. Not applicable	28,269,099.00

**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)**

<b>Priority axis:</b>	<b>3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System</b>	
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.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### 2.B.1 Priority axis

<b>ID</b>	4
<b>Title</b>	Technical Assistance

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

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</b>
ERDF	Public

### 2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

<b>ID</b>	<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>
SO4.1	To implement efficiently the GR-IT Cross Border Programme	<p>The sound management of the cooperation programme is the pre-condition for its effective implementation. The result expected 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 for proposals, contracting, monitoring of operations and programme achievements, reimbursement of expenditure, etc.) are timely executed.</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, which are effectively integrated in mainstream policies and</p>

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		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" and the provision of targeted support to applicants and beneficiaries (mobilisation of the Joint Secretariat and its decentralized structures, organization of targeted capacity building training sessions, practical and structured support from the Info-Contact Points).

## 2.B.4 Result indicators

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

Priority axis	SO4.1 - To implement efficiently the GR-IT Cross Border Programme						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

## 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 target the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information, communication, control and audit tasks of the programme. They also address the reduction of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and the reinforcement of their capacity to be involved in the programme.</p> <p>Indicative actions supported under SO 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"><li>• 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;</li><li>• Preparing and implementing calls for proposals, including the development of guidance documents setting out the conditions for the support of operations;</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• Drafting and implementing the Programme Communication Plan , including the set up and implementation of information and communication measures and tools;</li><li>• Drafting and implementing the Programme evaluation plan;</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• Organising audits on the programme management and control system and on operations;</li></ul>	

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Conducting 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Elaborating information and exchange tools (e.g. analytical documents, bilateral meetings, targeted events, etc.) and organising 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);</li> <li>• Setting-up and managing a network of Info-Contact Points, supporting the Joint Secretariat in implementing tasks related to the implementation of the Programme at national level.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <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

Priority axis		4 - Technical Assistance		
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data
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
O0514	Number of GR-IT Cross Border Programme Staff	Number	12.00	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	
	Code	Amount (€)
	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	2,094,006.52
	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	
	Code	Amount (€)
	01.Non-repayable grant	6,282,021.00

**Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>4 - Technical Assistance</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
07.Not applicable		6,282,021.00

### 3. FINANCING PLAN

#### 3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in €)

**Table 15**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
ERDF	0.00	12,776,022.00	10,828,722.00	19,675,724.00	20,069,238.00	20,470,622.00	20,880,034.00	104,700,362.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,776,022.00</b>	<b>10,828,722.00</b>	<b>19,675,724.00</b>	<b>20,069,238.00</b>	<b>20,470,622.00</b>	<b>20,880,034.00</b>	<b>104,700,362.00</b>

### 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	7,205,849.00	7,205,849.00	0.00	48,038,990.00	84.9999989592%		
3	ERDF	Public	28,269,099.00	4,988,665.00	4,988,665.00	0.00	33,257,764.00	84.9999987973%		
4	ERDF	Public	6,282,021.00	1,108,593.00	1,108,593.00	0.00	7,390,614.00	84.9999878224%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>104,700,362.00</b>	<b>18,476,537.00</b>	<b>18,476,537.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>123,176,899.00</b>	<b>84.9999982545%</b>		
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>104,700,362.00</b>	<b>18,476,537.00</b>	<b>18,476,537.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>123,176,899.00</b>	<b>84.9999982545%</b>		

(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	7,205,849.00	48,038,990.00
3	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	28,269,099.00	4,988,665.00	33,257,764.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>98,418,341.00</b>	<b>17,367,944.00</b>	<b>115,786,285.00</b>

**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	1,404,754.52	1.34%
2	5,109,941.75	4.88%
3	14,420,448.29	13.77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,935,144.56</b>	<b>20.00%</b>

## 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 operations 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

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 eligible regions can participate in projects following the recommendations provided in the 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

It is not intended that the GR-IT Programme 2014-2020 will target particular actions for specific geographic areas.

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

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### 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)**

The macroregional approach is an innovative way of territorial cooperation among regions and nations, with balanced and sustainable development as a shared goal, recognising that common challenges can be effectively addressed through multilevel and more focused cooperation.

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is an important example of an integrated framework affecting approximately 70 million residents in four EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia) and four non-members (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia). It paves the way for closer cooperation among the noted countries in four key areas: 1. Blue Growth (encompassing the sectors of Fisheries and aquaculture, Blue technologies, Maritime and marine governance and services), 2: Connecting the Regions (Maritime transports, Intermodal connections to the hinterland, Energy networks), 3: Environmental Quality (Marine biodiversity, Pollution of the seas, Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity), 4: Sustainable Tourism (Diversification of tourism products and services, Quality of tourism services and products (through common standards and certification), Sustainable tourism management (through harmonised statistics and indicators)

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

Through its Action Plan, the EUSAIR constitutes a significant policy for the Programme Area. 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 the strategy has been taken into account for the design of the new INTERREG GR-IT 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). Furthermore, the GR-IT Programme shall encourage interventions related to natural and man-made hazards and risks entailed by climate change in an effort to contribute effectively to EUSAIR objectives (*see Coherence with EUSAIR in Section 1.1.1*).

Having in mind the potential contribution of the GR-IT 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.)
- Incorporation of EUSAIR overarching priorities as an applicable horizontal principle of the Programme. Selection criteria will assess as to whether and how 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
- Introduction a EUSAIR specific category in the Programme electronic monitoring system in order to identify the projects/actions contributing to the EUSAIR objectives
- Special reporting on the contribution of the GR-IT Programme toward the achievement of EUSAIR milestones

## 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 Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism	Head of the Managing Authority
Certifying authority	Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes», Units A, B and C, Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism	Head of the Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes»
Audit authority	Financial Control Committee (EDEL) Ministry of Finance – General Accounting Office of the State, Greece	Executive Director of EDEL

**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	Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism	Head of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programme
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Puglia Region	Director of Mediterranean Department – Puglia Region
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Financial Control Committee (EDEL) Ministry of Finance – General Accounting Office of the State, Greece	General Director of Management and Control of EU Co-financed Programmes
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Puglia Region – Control and European Policies Audit Office	Director of Control and European Policies Audit Office – Puglia Region

## 5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

Puglia Region, in agreement with the MA, shall set up a JS under the responsibility of PR and the MA.

The JS shall be hosted by Puglia Region and will be located in Bari.

The JS shall undertake the day-to-day implementation of the Programme and shall assist the MA and the MC in carrying out their duties. The functions and role of the JS shall be determined, in its RoPs

The JS shall be composed of a core body in Puglia and 2 decentralised structures. An indicative number of ten staff members will support its operation in various capacities related to project monitoring, and communication activities. The JS recruitment will be activated by a joint recruitment committee. The principles of transparency, equal opportunity and non-discrimination between males and females shall be taken into consideration

PR, where the core JS shall be hosted, in agreement with the MA, will recruit the core JS staff in line with EU and Italian public procurement procedures, taking into consideration the agreed ToRs laying down individual job descriptions suitable for the implementation of the JS tasks. Contracting procedures will be in compliance with the legal procedures provided by Italian law for the recruitment and contracting of experts/staff

The JS decentralised structures to be set up in Greece shall include:

- One (1) branch in Thessaloniki within the MA
- One (1) antenna in Kerkyra

The JS branch shall bridge the gap between the core JS and MA, at least by ensuring:

- daily representation of JS to the MA
- daily the provision of information and support to the MA
- project national co-financing, and
- Solving issues regarding the MIS, financing, participating in relation to the CA

All responsibilities of the core JS are applicable to the branch as requested by the MA

The Antenna in Kerkyra shall have a continuous overview of the Programme implementation and represent the JS in the Greek regions

The staff of the decentralised structures will be selected and recruited by the MA according to the European and Greek public procurement rules

The daily function of all JS structures shall be set up in agreement with and under the supervision and guidance of the MA. The entire JS system is expected to support the MA and report to it.

*Info Contact Points*

The ICPs will be located in **Ioannina** and in **Patras**. Their tasks are to ensure that the goals of the CP are communicated to potential beneficiaries and other stakeholders in Greece and to serve as national information points for the projects' preparation, submission and implementation steps. They are synergic with the activities of the JS. In particular, they shall:

- support the applicants and partners at local level;
- assist the project generation, application and implementation process;
- contribute to information and publicity actions in Greece.

The staff of the ICPs will be selected and recruited by the MA according to the European and Greek public procurement rules.

The expenditure deriving from the functioning of the JS, its decentralized structures and of the ICPs will be paid from TA's budget.

The whole system of MA, JS and ICPs shall operate in cooperation and coordination in order to ensure efficient implementation,

According to the needs during the programme implementation, ad hoc experts and/or support staff may be recruited for national authorities and for specific tasks, including additional administrative staff within the Branch office in Thessaloniki.

The JS structure operability will be monitored along with programme implementation.

### **5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements**

This section describes the implementation structure of the GR-IT Cross-Border Programme 2014-2020. It also defines the tasks of the Managing Authority (MA), Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) and 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 functions of the MC are specified in the Article 49 and Article 110 of Regulation (EU) N.1303/2013. It shall review the implementation of the Programme and progress made towards achieving its objectives. In doing so, the MC shall have regard to the financial data, common and Programme-specific indicators, including changes in the value of result indicators and progress toward 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.

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

The MC draws up its own rules of procedure within the institutional, legal and financial framework of the participating Member States and adopts them in agreement with the MA. The rules of procedures contain a detailed description of the composition, the functioning and tasks, as well as the decision-making process of the MC.

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

The MC is chaired alternatively by Greece and Italy. The rotatory principle is applied on an annual basis.

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

The MA attends the MC meetings in an advisory capacity. Moreover, specialists or experts on economic, technical, social, scientific issues, sustainable development and especially climate action (both mitigation and adaptation) and other matters, depending on the agenda items, may be invited to attend the MC meetings in an advisory capacity.

The Audit Authority and the Certifying Authority can participate as an independent observer.

The JS undertakes the secretarial support to the MC, mainly by organising the meetings, preparing the agenda and keeping the minutes.

The decisions of the MC are taken by consensus. Decisions may also be taken through written procedure according to the conditions defined by the rules of procedure.

The official language of the MC is English which applies to meetings as well as to all documents and communications in general. Additionally to the English language, Greek and Italian as the national languages of the participating countries are the other working languages.

#### Managing Authority (MA)

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, of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism, will be assisted by the JS and shall be responsible for managing and implementing the Programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

The MA 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 MA, in line with Article 125 of the CPR, performs on-the-spot verifications of operations. The frequency and coverage of the on-the-spot verifications are proportionate to the amount of public support to the project's proposal and the level of the risk identified by these verifications for the management and control system as a whole.

Within this framework, the MA, with the assistance of the JS, may also 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.

In addition, the MA will ensure that a complaints procedure is in place and is available on its website. It will also provide regular training to Programme authorities and beneficiaries to ensure that their capacity meets procurement requirements.

Moreover, the MA/JS will promote the cooperation and the partnership of bodies from both sides of the borders through the organisation of various events that will increase programme visibility. In this respect it may cooperate with the Info Contact Points and the Antenna in Greece for the organisation of seminars and other promotional activities in Greece. Furthermore, it will provide technical support to beneficiaries throughout the implementation period of the operations.

#### Certifying Authority (CA)

The Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes», Units A, B and C, Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism, which is 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 are based on verifiable supporting documents and have been subject to verifications by the Managing Authority before being sent to the Commission.

The CA 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 (AA)

The AA 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 AA of this 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 AA ensures that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of management and control system of the 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 AA shall within eight months from the adoption of the 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 AA of the OP 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. 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 Programme. The Group shall draw up its own rules of procedure and shall be chaired by the AA of the 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 latter 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 AA. 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 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 State shall be responsible for the audits carried out on its territory.

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

#### 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 below (*see financial flow of public expenditure*).

#### **Development and Selection of Operations**

The Joint Secretariat (JS) prepares the material for the call for proposals and submits it to the Managing Authority (MA). The MA examines the material and submits it to the Monitoring Committee (MC) for approval. At this point, the MA shall launch the call for proposals via relevant information channels such as the Programme website as well as national and local channels, 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. The MC may set up a steering committee that acts under its responsibility for the selection of operations.

The JS checks the eligibility criteria of applications. Proposals that are not eligible are rejected by the decision of the MC. 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 Project Implementation Manual will further specify the selection procedure and the relevant eligibility criteria.

The JS proceeds to the quality assessment of proposals, based on the operations' selection criteria as approved by the MC. In evaluating proposals, the JS may be assisted by external experts carrying out a technical/scientific evaluation.

The evaluation criteria will be defined with the aim to maximise the result-oriented approach to be applied by the GR-IT 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. As a general principle, the GR-IT Programme is committed, across all priorities, to sustainable development (taking especially into account the importance of climate change impacts and risk prevention), promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination.

The MA ensures that the evaluation procedure is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the call for proposals and the approved selection criteria.

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

- Cross-border relevance;
- Partnership relevance;
- Relevance to the topic theme;
- Compliance with horizontal principles and cross-cutting priorities;
- Concrete, sustainable and measurable outputs and results;
- Project sustainability according to its most important dimension (e.g. institutional, economic, environmental);
- Sound project communication strategy, tools and actions;
- Effective management methodology, with reference to technical capabilities and its innovative aspects;
- Sound budget in terms of distribution among partners, budget lines, spending periodical provisions, etc.);
- Criteria for eligibility of expenditure according to Article 18 Reg. 1299/2013.

### Resolution of complaints

Project lead applicants will have the possibility to submit to MA complaints related to decisions of project assessment and selection, to MA/JS decisions and to financial controls.

The procedures set in place for the resolution of complaints are differentiated in relation to the matter concerned.

A procedure will be set up in the relevant programme documents and will be communicated to applicants and beneficiaries. All complaints are submitted to MA.

#### *1. Complaints regarding the selection of operations:*

The two Member States shall set up a joint, separate an independent from the Joint Monitoring Committee, committee for the review of any complaint addressed to the Managing Authority regarding the selection of operations made by the Joint Monitoring Committee under a given call for proposals. The obligation to provide administrative/judicial review for unsuccessful applicants is not necessarily covered by the complaints system. This Joint Complaint Committee will be formed by two participants of the Managing Authority and two representatives of the JS. It will evaluate the relevant complaints and give an opinion to the Joint Monitoring Committee that will take the final decision. The Managing Authority will send this decision to the interested parties and inform the applicants about their judicial rights under Greek law. All relevant procedures will be covered by Greek law since Greece hosts the Managing Authority of the Programme and any case will fall under the jurisdiction of the Greek Courts. Greece as the country hosting the Managing Authority of the Programme shall, upon request by the Commission, examine any complaints submitted to the Commission falling within the scope of its arrangements. The Managing Authority shall inform the Commission, upon request, of the results of those examinations.

#### *2. Complaints related to decision made by the MA/JS:*

During project implementation shall be submitted by the project lead beneficiary to the MA/JS that will examine and provide in due time an answer (in collaboration with the Programme bodies and the MC if necessary).

### *3. Complaints related to the national control system:*

Project lead beneficiaries or partners that have complaints related to the national control system set up in accordance with Article 23(4) of the Regulation (EU) n. 1299/2013 (ETC), can submit a complaint to the relevant control authority of the respective MS following national procedures set in place in accordance with Article 74 (3) of Regulation (EU) n. 1393/2013 (CPR), keeping always in copy the MA/JS.

### *4. All other types of complaints:*

eg regarding the impact of the project, etc. could be submitted by the NGO's, citizens and the general public of the affected people in the implementation area directly to the MA of the Programme

## Contracting

Following the decision of the MC to approve applications recommended for funding, the MA and the Lead beneficiary 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 beneficiary, appointed by the partnership, in accordance with Article 13 of the Regulation (EU) N.1299/2013, and is signed by the legal representative of the Lead beneficiary institution and by the MA.

## Responsibilities of the Lead Beneficiary and of other Beneficiaries

In accordance with Article 13 of the regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013, the Lead beneficiary shall assume overall responsibility for the application and implementation of the entire project, including the handling of ERDF funds. More specifically, the Lead beneficiary assumes the following responsibilities:

1. laying 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;
2. assuming responsibility for ensuring implementation of the entire operation;
3. ensuring 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;
4. ensuring that the expenditure presented by other beneficiaries has been verified by a controller or controllers

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.

In order to simplify administrative procedure and improve the management of the programme, the MA will promote harmonisation and coordination activities through the adoption of common standard levels and the control systems by establishing, through the support of the JS, a network of bodies/authorities in charge of the first level control.

The certification of expenditure for the Greek partners will be conducted under the responsibility of Unit C of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, according to article 43 par.3 of Law 4314/2014.

As far as the Italian beneficiaries are concerned,

a) individual public or private partners, in line with Community and National legal framework, demand verification activities 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 for at least three years with either the “Albo dei Dottori Commercialisti e degli Esperti Contabili” (Register of Chartered Accountants and Accounting Experts) or the “Registro dei Revisori Contabili” (Register of Auditors)c, as referred to in the Legislative Decree 27 January 1992, N. 88.

b) public partners can, alternatively, demand verification activities of operations or part of operations to internal qualified structures of Bodies/Departments, provided that functional and hierarchic separation of management and control activities, as well as the functional independence of involved structures in the implementation of the project activities, are assured.

The Puglia Region - Mediterranean Department - will validate the choice made by Italian 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.

### Financial flow of Public Expenditure

All projects have to be pre-financed by the project partners. Although Article 132(1) CPR is linked to payment claims by the beneficiary, programme authorities are encouraged to pay advances to beneficiaries to get their operations started.

As regards the flow of verified expenditure, according to predefined deadlines, the Lead Partner collects the certificates of all project partners issued by their respective FLC, and includes them in the respectively progress reports. In these documents, the Lead Partner reports on progress achieved by the project partnership and on related eligible and validated expenditures and forwards them to the JS including a payment claim.

The JS, after conducting a preliminary check (completeness of data and eligibility of declared expenditure) in order to ensure the compliance of the project with the approved application form according to the requirements set forth in the Subsidy contract, 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. The MA then transmits it to the Certifying Authority in order to prepare and submit to the European Commission certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment. The Certifying Authority validates the payment claim and adopts all the necessary measures in case of irregularities or frauds.

The Managing Authority/Certifying Authority transmits to the Regione Puglia - Mediterranean Department - , the copy of payment claims.

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.

In parallel with the ERDF derogation to the Lead beneficiary, 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 (85% of the Programme total amount). The national co-financing to be added (15% of the Programme total amount) equals to € 18 476 534).

### National co-financing

The Greek national contribution is transferred from the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism 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 - Mediterranean 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 cannot benefit from national co-financing (15%) and to finance their participation to projects' implementation use their own resources upon decision taken by Italy and the Programme.

#### Contribution of the Member States to the financing of technical assistance

At Programme level, the Technical Assistance (TA) is jointly financed by Greece and Italy.

In accordance with 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 JS

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

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 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.

As for Italy, the funds are allocated on a non-interest bearing checking account opened at the Bank of Italy.

#### **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 Info Contact Points play 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 Member 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 its 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 will utilize the Greek MIS service, which will comply with the following aspects:

- data integrity and confidentiality;
- authentication of the sender within the meaning of Directive 1999/93/EC4;
- storage in compliance with retention rules defined in Article 140 of the CPR;
- secure transfer of data;
- availability during and outside standard office hours (except for technical maintenance activities);
- accessibility by the MS and the beneficiaries either directly or via an interface for automatic synchronisation and recording of data with national, regional and local computer management systems;
- protection of privacy of personal data for individuals and commercial confidentiality for legal entities with respect to the information processed (according to Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector and Directive 1995/46/EC on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data).

In order to transfer data to the EC, the administration system of the MIS shall facilitate interoperability with the Union frameworks as required by Article 122(3) of the CPR.

## **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). Anti-fraud checks will be performed for all operations likely to be proposed for funding. The results will be communicated to the Monitoring Committee.

The Managing Authority shall ensure that any amount paid out as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the project via the Lead beneficiary.

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

The Managing Authority shall also recover funds from the Lead beneficiary (and the Lead beneficiary 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 beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from another project partner or if the Managing Authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, 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 beneficiaries 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 beneficiary 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 beneficiaries 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 State territory. Where the systemic irregularity or financial correction cannot 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 CPR, each EU Member State is responsible for reporting irregularities committed by beneficiaries located on its territory to the Commission and at the same time to the Managing Authority. Each EU Member State shall keep the Commission as well as the Managing Authority informed of any progress of related administrative and legal proceedings. The Managing Authority shall ensure the transmission of information to the audit authority.

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 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

N/A

## 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

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 GR-IT 2014-2020 Programme 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 of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism;
- 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 of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism, 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 WG 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, public education institutions, 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 the participating regions.

The list of 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 bottlenecks) 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 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 were not proposed, but rather trivial and limited to networking activities among Universities and Research organizations. Under TO6, 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 TO7, 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

Coordination and use of synergies with other 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 Programme, the choice of TOs, IPs and SOs took into account the priorities highlighted in the PA of the two participating MSs, as well as the main challenges raised in regional and national programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal.

Programmes have 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. Complementarity with other ESI funds is key especially in terms of investment planning and preparation, which can be accomplished at regional and local levels and be supported by the GR-IT Programme.

Accordingly, the MA will seek synergies with the interventions of other sectoral or regional operational programmes within the eligible CBC Area. In order to ensure that there is no overlap and that the programmes do not function on a competitive basis, the MA will collaborate with:

- the MAs and the MCs of the ROPs of Ionian Islands, Western Greece and Epirus and the respective Greek sectoral programmes
- the MAs and the MCs for the relevant national programmes in Italy co-financed by ERDF and/or ESF, the regional multi-fund programme of Puglia and rural development programmes
- the MAs of the transnational cooperation programmes

Also, as per the Greek PA 2014-2020, and in order to achieve better coordination of all ETC programmes, the Joint Coordination Committee between the Ministries of Development and Foreign Affairs will expand to include appropriate stakeholders and the National Info Point for the Adr-Ion Programme.

As per the Italian PA 2014-2020, particular attention shall be given to improving the administrative capacity of bodies involved in the management of ESI funds. As regards Italy's rural areas, the EAFRD will contribute to increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural and agro-industry sector, the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and climate action, as well as to the balanced territorial development of rural communities and economies. Furthermore, for Italy the greatest challenge for the EMFF is to boost the country's Blue Growth potential taking advantage of its long experience in the marine and maritime sectors. The Fund will focus in development measures to the achievement of objectives under TO 3, 4, 6 and 8 aiming at increasing the competitiveness of Italian fisheries and aquaculture sectors, preserving and protecting the marine environment and promoting the efficient use of its natural resources, promoting sustainable employment in fisheries /aquaculture dependent coastal areas and labour mobility, supporting the transition towards low carbon economy through investments increasing energy efficiency in the fisheries.

Given the harmonisation of these objectives with the new Programme (supported within the priority axes under Thematic Objectives 1, 3 and 6), the MA in collaboration with the JS will envisage, where appropriate, support from the GR-IT MC, which will be the focal body to guarantee coordination with other programmes. Complementarity with the Greek and Italian mainstream and other cooperation programmes (which present synergies with the GR-IT CP) will be ensured through the participation of economic, technical, social, scientific experts and the representatives of other programmes in the MC meetings.

Coordination mechanisms and arrangements at different stages of the Programme implementation process include:

- Applicants proposing actions with a focus on investment preparation will have to explain the 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 and EMFF programmes.
- The MA, the JS in cooperation with the two (2) ICPs will communicate outputs and results of GR-IT operations through relevant tools and measures implemented both at the cross-border level as they will be defined in the programme communication plan.
- The MA and the JS shall ensure synergies and coordination with the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa for project operations under SO 3.1. The Fund, composed of two instruments, ISF Borders and Visa and ISF Police, promotes the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders. Its main objective is to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union while facilitating legitimate travel. Programme bodies will liaise with Fund authorities, in order to seek advice, exchange good practices and jointly spread relevant information.

Special attention will be given to the coordination with other programmes of the ETC objective. In this regard, the Programme will seek exchanges with the Managing Authorities of other, geographically overlapping ETC programmes. Efficient coordination with neighbouring CBC or transnational programmes shall be sought through exchange of information during:

- the assessment of applications, in order to detect and to avoid to the greatest possible extent potential overlapping and duplications, as well as to activate synergies between complementary operations being implemented in different cooperation areas;
- the monitoring of the implementation of approved projects, in order to set up cross-fertilisation actions (including events and trainings for beneficiaries) that will allow unfolding synergies between operations that tackle the same challenges and address areas of shared interest among stakeholders located in different cooperation areas.

### **Coordination with Other Union Instruments**

Coordination between ETC programmes and other Union instruments has the potential to raise the impact of EU 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:

- Research, innovation and entrepreneurship, where CBC operations can 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. 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 CBC operations can build capacity and improve the readiness of regions to develop and apply innovative solutions for environmental management, resource efficiency and climate change mitigation and adaptation, thus complementing actions of LIFE and especially LIFE Integrated Projects as well as HORIZON 2020.
- Valorisation of cultural heritage and creative industries, where CBC 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 CBC 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

Accordingly, Programme will:

- Request applicants, when submitting proposals, 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 and especially LIFE Integrated Projects, the Connecting Europe Facility, Creative Europe and Erasmus for all. Multi-annual and annual work programmes as well as guidelines developed within these instruments need to be considered by applicants
- Put into practice the implementation of the common eligibility rules, the simplified cost options and the harmonised tools, getting familiar with the types of eligible costs and project formats under the different EU programmes

- Establish a “Horizon 2020 watch” and a “Creative Europe Watch”, i.e. consult regularly Horizon 2020 and Creative Europe Work Programmes to identify forthcoming calls and initiatives. The same should go for the COSME, and other relevant programmes with a view to designing calls that allow for the exploitation of potential synergies.
- Install a tracking system for synergies with Horizon 2020 and other EU programmes, e.g. by asking in applications and progress reports for previous funding from Horizon 2020 or other EU support received or parallel actions under another EU instrument that lead to cross-fertilisations with ETC support
- Liaise (MA and JS) with Commission services and other European and national institutions involved in the management of Union instruments, in order to seek advice exchange good practices and jointly spread information. 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
- Establish communication tools (by the MA and the JS) in cooperation with the network of NCPs to allow awareness raising, communicating outputs and results achieved by GR-IT operations in order to make them available to thematic stakeholders addressed by Union instruments. Where applicable, NCPs of EU programmes, which apply to the same area (e.g. LIFE and especially LIFE Integrated Projects, HORIZON 2020, etc.) will be directly involved in national and cross- border information events organised by the GR-IT Programme.
- Benefit from the activities of the EUSAIR Facility Points to be set up under the Adriatic Ionian Programme in terms of collecting data, sharing knowledge and networking

### **Coordination with CEF, ENI, IPA and EDF**

In order to strengthen its cross-border dimension and improve the cooperation with other programmes such as 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, the GR-IT Programme will take into account the objectives and results of these programmes when implementing its capitalisation activities, strategic projects and in self-evaluation.

The Programme will seek coordination through the following measures:

- The Info Contact 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 Programme in order to improve information exchanges on applications and approved projects, and 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 Programme have the potential to improve the implementation of national, regional and local policies and of the related funding instruments. In this framework, the following measures will be set up:

- 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 greatest possible extent, engage 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.
- According to Italian Partnership, national Italian authorities, should be involved, to the extent possible, in the work of of the Italian Environment and Cohesion Network (Rete), aiming at the definition of sustainable development objectives, criteria and indicators
- MA will cooperate with involved Environmental Authorities in order to ensure the right application of EU, national and regional environmental legislation and an appropriate assessment according art. 6.3 of Directive 92/43/EEC will be carried out. Information on this issue will be provided to the EC as soon as possible as well as the article 9(1) statement concluding the SEA process in Italian.

### **Coordination with the European Investment Bank (EIB)**

CB Cooperation can contribute to making results of operations ready for benefitting of instruments of the EIB, both in terms of technical preparation and execution of large-scale investment (i.e. "bankable" projects). Synergies can be activated especially in the following thematic areas:

- Infrastructure, where the EIB instrument "Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions" can support the implementation of large scale investments prepared by cooperation projects especially in the transport and environment sectors
- Energy, where the EIB instrument "European Local ENergy Assistance" 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 CBC operations can ease the access to the EIB instrument "Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises" 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 beneficiaries
- 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 will be achieved by:

- Learning from the experiences of other ETC programmes made during the previous programming period
- Making use to the greatest possible extent of simplified cost options available for the 2014-2020 period (if accepted and applied by national controllers) in line with Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and the Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014.
- Utilising the Harmonised Implementation Tools (HIT) developed by INTERACT

Actions planned to reduce the 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, rendered a relevant share (about 20%) of applications submitted during the 2007-2013 period as ineligible.

Simplification of the submission procedure could considerably reduce the number of ineligible applications due to formal/administrative reasons and therefore increase the efficiency of the process. This can be achieved by integrating within the application form the guidance information, which was previously provided in separate documents. In addition, the submission of applications and accompanying documents may only be requested in electronic version with signed hardcopies to be provided only when an application is proposed for funding. The application form will follow the HIT template,

thus making its use easier for applicants who will find similar application forms in other ETC programmes.

*Timeframe*: measures relating to the simplification of the submission procedure shall be in place for the first call for proposals. They will be evaluated and if necessary modified on an on-going basis.

#### 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 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. The GR-IT Programme intends to encourage the take-up of simplified cost reimbursement options (and test their compliance with national audit requirements).

Furthermore, it will issue detailed guidance for applicants and run training workshops.

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.

*Timeframe*: measures relating to the harmonization of eligibility rules and budget lines shall be in place and be published prior to the first call for proposals.

#### Improved monitoring of project implementation

A number of shortcomings were identified in the monitoring and reporting system of the 2007-2013 Programme, such as:

- The lack of a pre-defined reporting system from project partners to their lead beneficiaries, which sometimes (especially for less experienced lead beneficiaries) 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 were often difficult to understand and to be interpreted.

On the basis of 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, the programme intends to build a system for monitoring progress of operations by:

:Making use to the greatest possible extent of the harmonised progress report template with a web based access, which allows for multiple users

- Focusing on the analysis of major outputs of operations, shifting the review of outputs of minor importance (e.g. meeting agendas) to national controllers
- Limiting to the greatest possible extent the number and complexity of indicators used for reporting on the progress of operations
- Organising ad-hoc training for beneficiaries on reporting of operations, control and audit
- *Timeframe*: Actions for streamlining the monitoring process will be introduced from the very beginning of the new Programme implementation and will be agreed upon prior to the launching of 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 principle of sustainable development requires that the needs of the present be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. 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 by:

- 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 GR-IT 2014-2020 Programme identifies sustainable development as a central element to the Cross-Border Area's economic recovery. It supports measures that can guide the work needed to progress the sustainable development agenda and more fully exploit opportunities in the green economy. The Programme Area has an abundance of natural resources, important cultural heritage sites and NATURA 2000 zones. As a result, a key goal is to preserve and enhance the marine and coastal environment for the enjoyment of future generations in the face of the increasing impacts of climate change, to which the Programme Area is sensitive as reported in the Territorial Analysis. There is considerable added value in co-operating on a cross-border basis on this issue particularly around building knowledge about the specific impacts of climate change across the Ionian Sea.

Environmental protection is at the core of the new Programme, which allocates the largest portion of funds to the 2nd Priority Axis "Integrated Environmental Management" 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 the selected IPs (6.c, 6.d and 6.f) and corresponding SOs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

In addition, sustainable development is considered as a horizontal principle underpinning all operations to be carried out under all Priority Axes. Sustainable mobility and transport systems are fostered by SOs 3.1 and 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 Strategic Environmental assessment (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 three Priority Axes, beneficiaries shall be 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. Specific criteria will be adopted for the selection of operations to be financed under the GR-IT umbrella, for example in the form of guiding questions for the operations to be funded, e.g. integration of climate change adaptation and risk management provisions, contribution to energy efficiency, renewable energy use and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, etc.. 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 and implementation of the projects. Especially, as it concerns disability, the principle of non-discrimination and accessibility for persons with disabilities will be included among the guiding horizontal principles for the selection of 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 people with disabilities. 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. In summary:

*Contribution to the promotion of equality between men and women:* Even though gender equality does not constitute an explicit priority among the TOs and IPs of the Programme, it is taken into account as a transversal priority in the conception, selection and evaluation of projects.

*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 with reference to the specific challenges in the priority investment areas chosen, where relevant. The terms of reference of calls for proposals shall provide more precise instructions on this subject.

*Monitoring and evaluation measures:* Evaluators shall assess the inclusion of the gender perspective within the projects in project appraisal, implementation and monitoring. Examples to assess and measure the potential contribution of the Programme to gender equality include:

- monitoring the number of women benefiting from funding
- highlighting the amount of support and the type of measures for which women and men receive funding

*Specific actions to be taken to promote gender equality with reference to a specific IP:* As noted earlier, there is no IP or SO specifically dedicated to gender equality in the GR-IT Programme. However, appropriate selection criteria related to gender equality will be included in the Guidelines of each Call for Proposals.

## 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	F0501	Expenditure	EUR	7329025,25	29,316,101.00
1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	4	20.00
1 - Innovation and Competitiveness	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	3	15.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	F0502	Financial	EUR	12009747.50	48,038,990.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	4	20.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	2	10.00
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	3	12.00
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	F0503	Financial	EUR	8314440.50	33,257,762.00
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	3	10.00
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	1	5.00

### **9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme**

- National, regional, local public authorities
- Local and regional development agencies / Public development bodies / public operators
- Land and maritime planning authorities
- Transport authorities
- Universities / Research centres / Technology centres / Science parks /Incubators
- SMEs / Economic operators / representatives of economic operators / networks and clusters
- Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture
- Civil Society Organisations
- Training centres

### **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
2014 09 17 Partner State Agreement GR	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	07-Dec-2015		Ares(2015)5657076	2014 09 17 Partner State Agreement GR	08-Dec-2015	niakdimi
2014 09 27 Partner State Agreement IT	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	07-Dec-2015		Ares(2015)5657076	2014 09 27 Partner State Agreement IT	08-Dec-2015	niakdimi

## Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens Summary_GR_IT_v2	Citizens' summary	1.2	18-Nov-2015		Ares(2015)5291508	Citizens Summary_GR_IT_v2	23-Nov-2015	niakdimi
2015 06_Final Ex ante GR-IT 2014-2020_it	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.2	18-Nov-2015		Ares(2015)5291508	2015 06_Final Ex ante GR-IT 2014-2020_it	23-Nov-2015	niakdimi
Programme Snapshot 2014TC16RFCB020 1.3	Snapshot of data before send	1.3	08-Dec-2015		Ares(2015)5657076	Programme Snapshot 2014TC16RFCB020 1.3 el	08-Dec-2015	niakdimi
2014 09 17 Partner State Agreement GR	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	1.3	07-Dec-2015		Ares(2015)5657076	2014 09 17 Partner State Agreement GR	08-Dec-2015	niakdimi
A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	1.2	18-Nov-2015		Ares(2015)5291508	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	23-Nov-2015	niakdimi

