



Thessaloniki, 07-07-2020

Ref.no: 70513 - 07-07-2020

ΑΔΑ:

Code: I7

**SPECIAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND, COHESION FUND AND EUROPEAN SOCIAL
FUND PROGRAMMES**

**MANAGING AUTHORITY OF EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION PROGRAMMES**

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**6th TARGETED CALL FOR STRATEGIC PROJECT PROPOSAL
Cooperation Programme Interreg V/A Greece-Italy (EL-IT) 2014-2020
Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

1. Context

The *Co-operation Programme Interreg V/A Greece-Italy (EL-IT) 2014-2020* links eleven (11) NUTS III level prefectures and six (6) provinces from two different EU member states, Greece and Italy.

The Programme has a total budget of EUR 123.176.899 and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a total amount of EUR 104.700.362 for the 2014-2020 period.

Under this call, the program aims to address specific needs of the eligible cross-border area and more specifically to respond to the necessity to protect on marine, coastal and maritime issues and the biodiversity.

The Programme Area environment has been heavily affected by human activity. Habitat and biodiversity loss are continuing. There is a need to:

- protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems
- fill the gap of services and infrastructure, in periods of maximum touristic pressure
- tackle sea pollution due to waste discharge and accumulation
- strengthen the environmental protection measures (protected areas...)

Deterioration of the environment as well as inefficient use and fruitful exploitation of natural and cultural resources are emerging as major common threats in the Greece-Italy area.

For this reason, it is necessary to develop an integrated and common approach between Greek and Italian regions.

Increasing the resilience of EU infrastructure, ecosystems and societies is an essential element for the prevention of pollution, disasters and calamities. Prevention is linked to preparedness and response activities.

Monitoring, prevention and alerting actions aim to reduce the impacts and make societies stronger for future pollution events, disasters, calamity or epidemiological issues.

There is a clear link between risk reduction, poverty, and development. Disasters restrict development and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Conversely, disasters also result from failures of development that increase communities' vulnerability to hazards. Hence, reducing disaster risks means addressing both sides of the same coin.

These goals are also in full complementarity with EUSAIR and with Europe 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

2. Strategic Project's scope and definition

Successful implementation and attainment of planned goals, objectives and targets in most cases of multi-sectored programmes, depend on careful definition, thorough planning and efficient implementation of a set of projects with a strategic character; these projects could be defined as Strategic Projects. Conversely, fragmentation of a programme in a variety of small-scale projects customized to specific sectors or local needs, may reduce the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the programme, as that often implies disproportionate management consumption, control and monitoring resources and denial of effort concentration.

Subject to the constraints imposed by the Programme, as well as those imposed by the Strategic Call for proposals, the common interventions to be proposed, should be oriented towards the confrontation of strategically common, complex and innovative regional developmental issues. These should absorb the majority of the available territorial cooperation funds allocated to this call for proposals, create anticipated territorial economic dynamics, provide new innovative employment activities and expected tangible results. Also, transfer of knowhow should be enabled, as well as, setting the groundwork upon which common territorial structures for sustainable development will be created.

It is also worth mentioning that Strategic projects focus on the potential impacts in special development sectors of common territorial cooperation importance, as identified by the Joint Monitoring Committee. In order to strengthen the competitiveness and territorial cohesion in the eligible areas, towards the achievement of sustainable development, linkage of the strategic potential of both sides of the cross-border territories is a prerequisite. These projects should be fully compliant with the main political initiatives of the involved territories and should strategically contribute towards the achievement of the long-term political goals set in the framework of each

Programme. In this respect, in order to assess whether a project is strategic, firstly it is needed for the following three dimensions to be recognized:

1. Policy/Programme dimension
2. Geographical dimension
3. Action dimension

With respect to these dimensions, strategic project proposals of this call, should demonstrate tangible contribution in achieving ETCP's specific qualitative goals and concrete quantitative targets. Therefore they need to:

- Produce long-term positive results and impacts;
- Intervene in selected established priorities of the development policies;
- Ensure synergies with parallel programmes and context policies;
- Promote innovative tools and managing schemes;
- Mobilize additional resources and have leverage effects;
- Help to create a wider favourable economic and / or social environment for the programme area;
- Promote cooperation and capacity building.

3. Documents of reference

For preparation and implementation of the strategic project, the Applicant is invited to consult the following documents: the Cooperation Programme approved by the European Commission on 15-12-2015 under Commission Decision C(2015)9347 final, Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 as in force, Regulation (EU) 1301/2013 as in force, Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 as in force. These documents are available on the Programme website at <http://www.greece-italy.eu>, on Managing Authority's website at <http://www.interreg.gr>, and on Region Puglia's website <http://www.europuglia.it>.

The Applicant is also invited to study carefully the *Programme and Project Manual (it is published and could be downloaded from <http://greece-italy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Programme-and-Project-Manual.pdf>)*.

4. Priority Axes, Investment Priority, Specific Objectives and Indicative Actions

In the context of this call for proposals and according to the procedure described into the Joint Operational Programme, the Joint Monitoring Committee has decided to open this call only for one SO as follows:

Table 1 : Programme Priorities, Investment Priority, Specific Objectives and Indicative Actions				
Priority Axis	Investment Priority	Specific Objectives		Indicative Actions
PA 2: Integrated Environmental Management	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000 and green infrastructure	2.2	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	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

Indicative actions' types and expected results are analytically described in the Programming Document. The topics of strategic project will contribute to the main challenges of the cooperation area. It will take into account the opportunities and strengths which characterize the Area and respond to the needs of the eligible territories. Strategic projects can be considered as project contributing to the definition of policies and promotion of pilot initiatives to support the development environmental protection actions and the sustainable use of marine, coastal and mainland resources as well as the development of joint protocols for the prevention of natural and technological risks.

Within this call, one specific output and one result indicators of the Programme are expected to be achieved. More particular:

Table 2 : Output Indicators (by priority axis)			
Priority Axis	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit
PA 2: Integrated Environmental Management	CO_2	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year
	SO.2.2-1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number

Table 3 : Result Indicators (by priority axis)			
Priority Axis	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit
PA 2: Integrated Environmental Management	RI2.2	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	km2

5. Programme Area

The eligible programme area is indicated in the table below:

Table 4: Eligible area	
Country	NUTS regions covered by the cooperation programme
Greece	EL211 - Άρτα (Arta)
	EL212 - Θεσπρωτία (Thesprotia)
	EL213 - Ιωάννινα (Ioannina)
	EL214 - Πρέβεζα (Preveza)
	EL221 - Ζάκυνθος (Zakynthos)
	EL222 - Κέρκυρα (Kerkyra)
	EL223 - Κεφαλληνία (Kefallinia)
	EL224 - Λευκάδα (Lefkada)
	EL231 - Αιτωλοακαρνανία (Aitoloakarnania)
	EL232 - Αχαΐα (Achaia)
	EL233 - Ηλεία (Ileia)
Italy	ITF43 - Taranto
	ITF44 - Brindisi
	ITF45 - Lecce

	ITF46 - Foggia
	ITF47 - Bari
	ITF48 - Barletta-Andria-Trani

6. Budget available

The total available budget for the 6rd Targeted Call for project proposals is 4.500.000,00€ (including Union Support and National Counterpart) and is **indicatively** allocated per Specific Objective, as follows:

Priority Axis	Thematic Objective	Specific Objective	Indicative Budget
PA 2: Integrated Environmental Management	6 preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	2.2 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	4.500.000,00€
Total			4.500.000,00€

7. Eligible Partnerships

Lead Beneficiary: Agency for Eco sustainable Development Territory of the Puglia Region (ASSET)

Beneficiary 2: Puglia Region – Civil Protection Section

Beneficiary 3: Western Greece Region

Beneficiary 4: Epirus Region

Beneficiary 5: Ionian Islands Region

According to Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal, Article 12, paragraph 4: "Beneficiaries shall cooperate in the development and implementation of operations. In addition, they shall cooperate in the staffing or the financing of operations, or in both."

8. How to apply - deadline

In order to submit a project proposal, Applicant must refer to the Applicant's Package and to all relevant documents for this call for proposal. The project proposal should be submitted according to the guidelines given below:

A Project Proposal consists **of the followings**:

- A. Electronic submission of the project proposal into the M.I.S¹ of the programme including the "Project Detailed Description" that should be uploaded as a separate (excel and signed pdf) file.
- B. The digital version of the following documents that have to be uploaded into the MIS of the programme:
1. The '*Partnership Declaration*' (standard form provided), **stamped** and **signed** by all the participating beneficiaries.
 2. The '*Co-Financing Statement - Non double financing*' (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** by each beneficiary separately.
 3. The '*Declaration of not generating revenues*' (standard form provided) **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary. In case of revenue generating projects, a cost - benefit analysis should be attached (using the "Guide to Cost-benefit Analysis of Investment Projects - Economic appraisal tool for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020" at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba_guide.pdf)
 4. The '*Justification of Budget Costs*' (standard form provided), (excel and PDF) **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary for the total project budget.
 5. The '*project readiness sheet*' by the Lead Beneficiary (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by the Lead beneficiary.
 6. '*The State aid declaration*' (standard form provided) completed, stamped and signed by each beneficiary separately
 7. *Decision of the designated body* of each Project Beneficiary (e.g. Municipal Council, Board of Directors, etc) stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, according to the internal rules/statute of each Beneficiary or the national legislation. **This document can be submitted before the approval of the Monitoring Committee. For the Italian beneficiaries the Italian legal framework shall apply.**

Infrastructure Projects (where infrastructure activities are foreseen in the AF) must include the relevant accompanying documents (licenses, approval of feasibility study or any other required approvals, construction permits, preliminary designs/studies, priced bill of quantities signed by the respective body, technical specifications, technical designs, a document certifying the land/building ownership or documentation of transferring the operation rights for the period of 5 years after the end of the project environmental impact assessment etc., where applicable), any other required approvals according to the National Legislation.

For the bodies governed by public law (Lead Beneficiary) should submit also the official documents providing evidence at least one of the following conditions:

¹ The Monitoring Information System (M.I.S.) is an information and management system for projects co financed under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and the Community Support Framework (CSF).

- i. be financed, for the most part, by the national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law, or;
- ii. be subject to management supervision by those bodies, or;
- iii. have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the national, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;

In case that the nature of a public body is not clearly delivered from the submitted documents, the JS or MA may request additional documentation for clarification.

The non-submission of the above mentioned documentation, stamped and signed (where applicable) will lead to the project proposal rejection.

Regarding the "Partnership Declaration" (point 2), the JS shall accept the signature of each beneficiary on a separate page.

Inconsistencies (such as wrong name of beneficiaries, wrong project title or budget, wrong name of undersigning person if not entitled to sign) among the information provided in the documents under points B.1-7 will lead to the project proposal rejection (deviations of decimals – amounts lower than 1€ in budget reference can be accepted).

The Application Package must be compiled in English language (apart from the supporting documents such as the decision of the designated body stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, the eligibility of project beneficiaries and the relevant documents for the infrastructure projects such as (feasibility studies, compatibilities, building permissions etc), which may be in the national language.

The Project Proposal must be submitted to the Programme's Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat (JS) in electronic version, via MIS.

To be recognised as admissible submission, the project proposal must be electronically submitted into the MIS, by the date of the **Registration of the Call document** (Reference Number-start date) and for 30 calendar days, until the **24:00 Italian time at the latest**. The Proposal submitted after the above date will not be considered as eligible.

9. Project size

The total available budget for the 6th targeted call is **4.500.000,00€** (of which **3.825.000€ Union Support and 675.000,00€ National Counterpart**).

10. Eligibility of expenditure

Eligibility of expenditure for beneficiaries commences on the 1st of January 2014. The final date of eligibility of expenditure under no circumstances may exceed the 31st of December 2023.

Eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are described at the *Programme & Project Manual*.

11.Duration

The project activities shall not be physically completed or fully implemented before the application for funding is submitted.

The project duration must be planned, in the project application form, within thirty-six (36) months, otherwise, the project proposal will be rejected.

The project should be concluded within a maximum period of thirty six (36) months after the signing of the Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Beneficiary. The Project that started its implementation before the signing of the contract, and in any case after 1/1/2014, should not have been concluded before the official launch of the respective call for proposal.

12.State Aid

In cases where, during the proposal submission and/or evaluation, it derives from the compatibility check that there are indications of State Aid, then the clauses of the Regulations of 1407/2013 (De Minimis) or 651/20141 (GBER) are applied. Announcement of EC concerning the State Aid as it is referred in the article 107 par. 1, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2016/C 262/01).

13.Evaluation of proposal

After submission, each project proposal will be evaluated based on specific selection criteria and will be subject to a two-phase selection procedure, carried out by the Joint Secretariat (JS) and, if necessary (i.e need for very specific scientific expertise arises by the JS coordinator), external experts with advisory capacity, as referred in the Cooperation Programme V-A "Greece-Italy 2014-2020" (Section: **Guiding principles for the selection of operations**).

The MA ensures that the evaluation procedure is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 6th Targeted Call for project proposal and the approved selection criteria.

The evaluation procedure is described in Annex, "Project Selection Criteria".

14.Additional information

To obtain additional information on the project application procedure and project development, please contact:

1. Managing Authority

Ministry of Development and Investments

Special Secretariat for the European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund and European Social Fund Programmes

Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes –Unit B2

Address: 65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, Pilea, 570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel: +30 2310 469600, Fax : +30 2310 469602

Website : <http://www.interreg.gr>

2. Joint Secretariat

Regione Puglia
Coordinamento delle Politiche Internazionali
Sezione Cooperazione Territoriale
Address: Lungomare Nazario Sauro, 33
70121, Bari, Italy
Tel: 0039 080 5406578 – Fax 0039 080 5406554
email: info@greece-italy.eu
website: www.greece-italy.eu www.europuglia.it,

All relevant information and documents shall be available on the Cooperation Programme website, which is a key communication tool between the programme management bodies (MA, JTS) and the potential beneficiaries.

ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ
Ο προϊστάμενος της Διεύθυνσης Οργάνωσης,
Διοικητικής & Τεχνικής Υποστήριξης

Κ.Α.Α.
ΜΠΙΛΗ ΕΥΣΤΑΘΙΑ

**SPECIAL SECRETARY FOR ERDF, CF & ESF
PROGRAMMES SPECIAL SECRETARY FOR
ERDF, CF & ESF PROGRAMMES**

NIKI DANDOLOU

Annexes:

1. Supporting documents

1. *Programme and Project Manual*
2. *Project Selection Criteria*
3. *Summary Budget Limits for the Call*
4. *Common Ministerial Decision Number 300488/ΥΔ1244 for the programming period 2014-20 (ΥΠΑΣΙΔ).*
5. *Guidance on Management Verifications 2014 – 2020*
6. *Guidelines for Greek Beneficiaries on Project Implementation*

2. Applicant package documents

A. *Project Detailed Description*

- B1. *Partnership Declaration*
- B2. *Co-Financing Statement –Non double Financing*
- B3. *Declaration of not generating revenues*
- B4. *Justification of Budget Cost*
- B5. *Project readiness sheet*
- B6. *State aid declaration*