

Interreg



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**1st Call for Project Proposals – STAGE B: Common Projects
Call presentation, assessment procedures, selection criteria**

Info days on 1st Call for Project Proposals of Common Projects

STAGE B

Bari, October 4th, 2024 – Fierra del levante

Nikoletta TATARI | Programme Officer

Managing Authority INTERREG 2021-2027
Unit A – “Programming and Evaluation”
E-mail: ntatari@mou.gr

Cross-Border-Cooperation Programme Interreg VI-A ‘Greece-Italy 2021-2027’

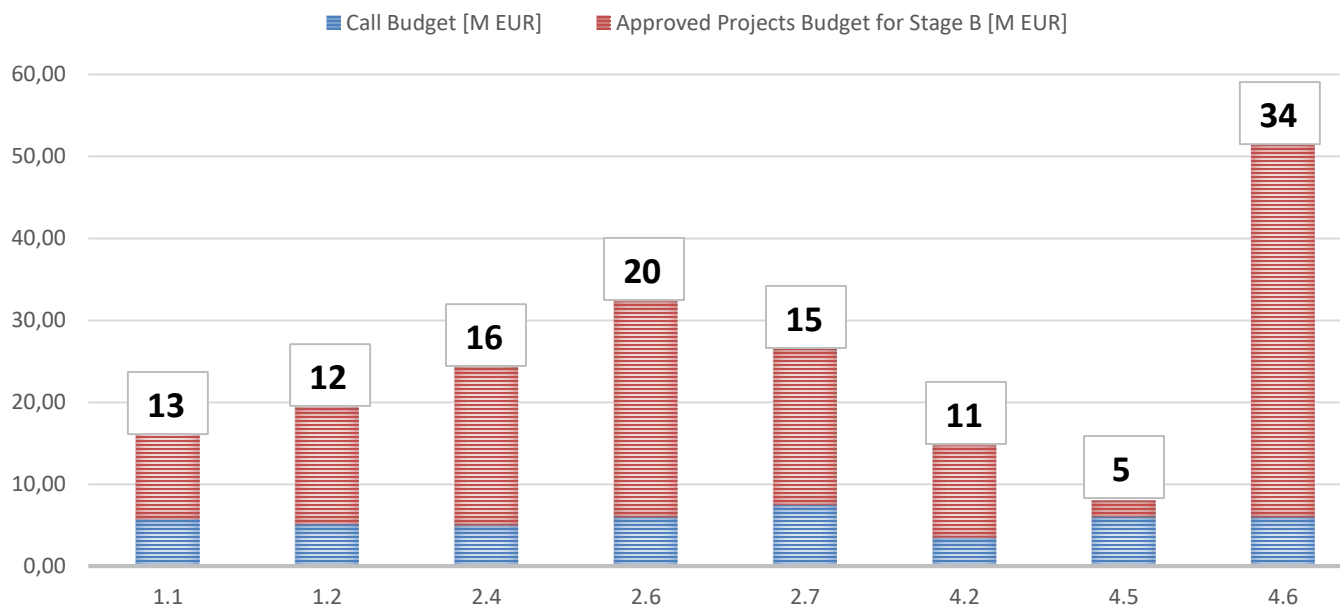
**CCI 2021TC16RFCB019
C(2022)6578/08.09.2022**

>>> Evaluation of STAGE A

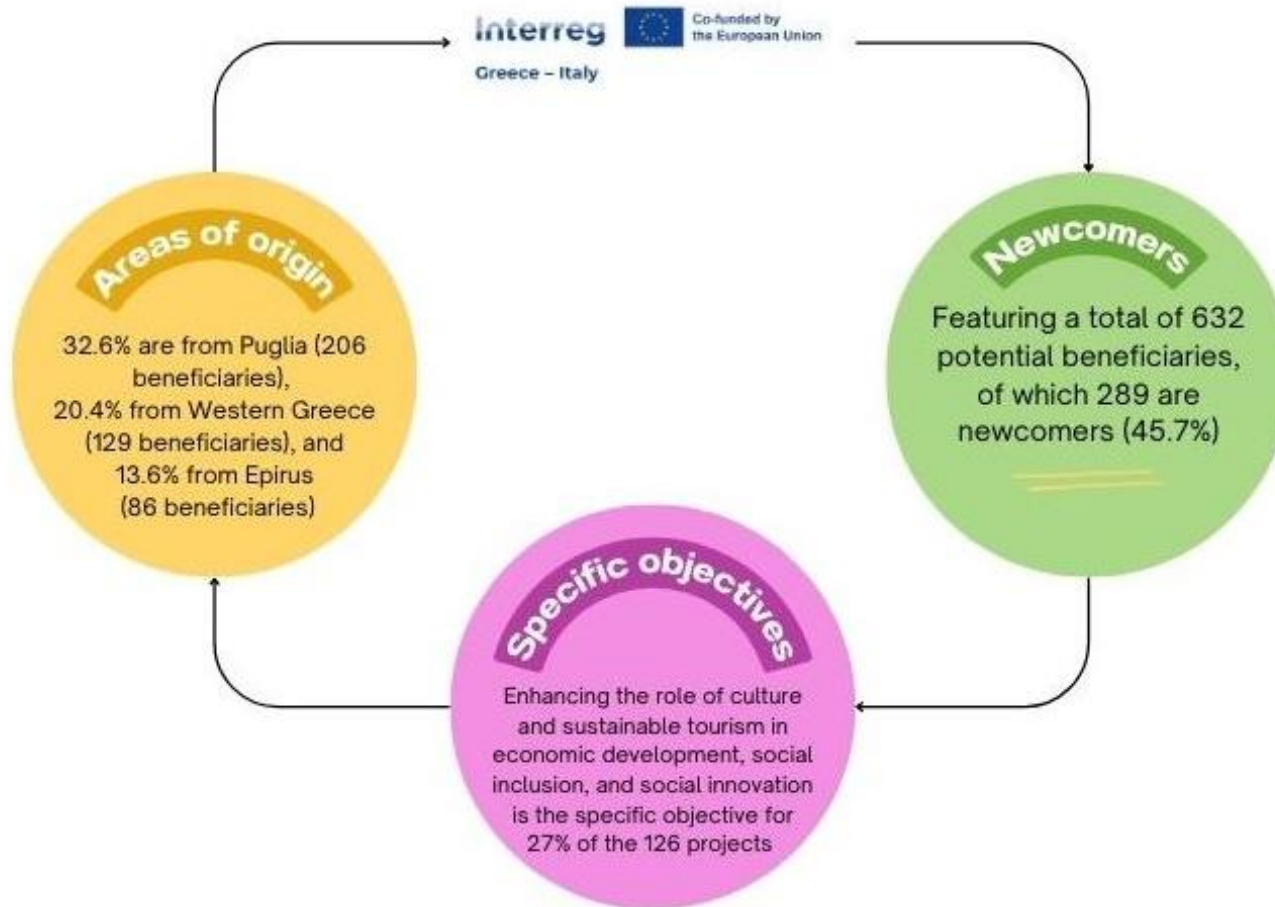
Background information

- ✓ **264 project proposals** submitted in Stage A
- ✓ **126 project proposals** are eligible to apply in Stage B

CALL BUDGET VS PROJECTS' BUDGET ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR 1ST CALL-STAGE B



>>> Evaluation of STAGE A



>>> 1st Call for Project Proposals - Overview

Type of Call for Proposal: **Common**

Priority: **P1, P2, P3**

Specific Objectives: **P1: RSO1.1, RSO1.2 (not RSO1.3)**

P2: RSO2.4, RSO2.6, RSO2.7

P3: RSO4.2, RSO4.5, RSO4.6



P1 Budget:

Two step procedure:

P2 Budget:
44.982.682,33 EUR

STAGE A & STAGE B

P3

P4

Enhanced governance for cooperation in the GR-IT area

Launch date – STAGE B:

Close date – STAGE B:

September 10th, 2024

November 11th, 2024 – 14:00 Greek local time

13:00 Italian local time

Application Package available at:

www.greece-italy.eu


>>> Available budget for 1st Call

P1
Enhanced cooperation for a more competitive and smarter GR-IT area



10,9M EUR

P2
Enhanced cooperation for a greener and low carbon GR-IT area



18,5M EUR

P3
Enhanced cooperation for a more social and inclusive GR-IT area



15,58M EUR

RSO1.1.
Developing and enhancing **research and innovation capacities** and the uptake of **advanced technologies**

5,74M. EUR

RSO1.2.
Reaping the benefits of **digitalisation** for citizens, companies and governments

5,16M. EUR

RSO2.4.
Promoting **climate change adaptation** and **disaster risk prevention and resilience**, taking into account **eco-system-based approaches**

5M. EUR

RSO2.6.
Promoting the transition to a **circular and resource efficient economy**

6M. EUR

RSO2.7.
Enhancing **protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure**

7,5M. EUR

RSO4.2.
Improving **equal access to inclusive and quality services** in education, training and lifelong learning

3,52M. EUR

RSO4.5.
Ensuring **equal access to health care** and fostering **resilience of health systems**

6,06M. EUR

RSO4.6.
Enhancing the role of **culture and sustainable tourism**

6M. EUR

EU co-financing rate: 75%

≈ 45% of GR-IT budget (w/o TA)

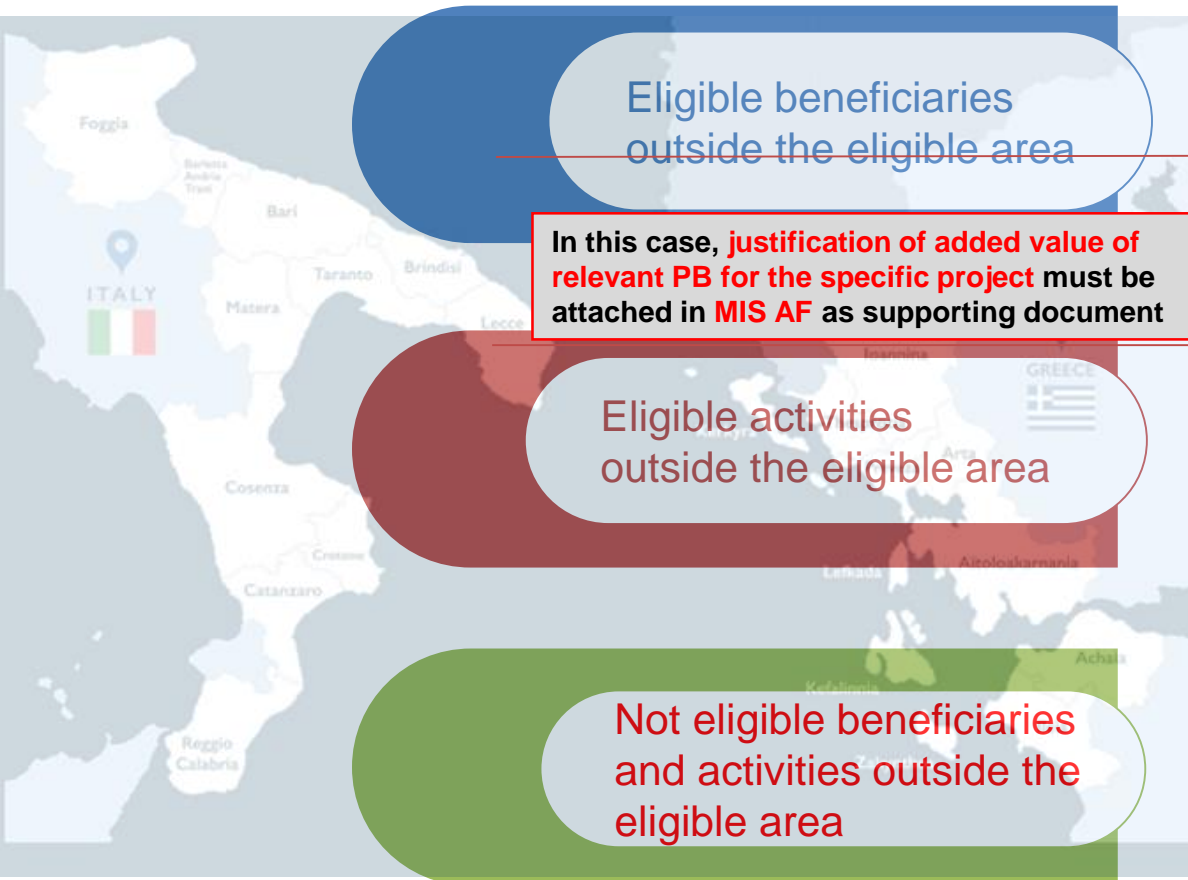
>>> New Programme > New eligible area - ENLARGEMENT



REGION	GR REGIONAL UNIT/ IT PROVINCE
Western Greece	Aitoloakarnania
	Achaia
	Ileia
Ionian Islands	Zakynthos
	Kerkyra
	Kefalonia
	Lefkada
Epirus	Arta
	Thesprotia
	Ioannina
	Preveza
Puglia	Foggia
	Bari
	Brindisi
	Lecce
	Barletta-Andria-Trani (BAT)
	Taranto
Basilicata	Matera
	Calabria
	Catanzaro
	Cosenza
	Crotona
	Reggio Calabria

NEW

>>> Eligibility of beneficiaries & activities outside GR-IT area



Eligible beneficiaries outside the eligible area

In this case, **justification of added value of relevant PB for the specific project** must be attached in **MIS AF** as supporting document

Eligible activities outside the eligible area

Not eligible beneficiaries and activities outside the eligible area

- ✓ Central Government Bodies (ie. Ministries etc.);
- ✓ Local/ regional subsidiary/ branch office established in the Programme area;
- ★ Organisations located in Programme MSs bringing added value, expertise and benefit for the Programme area.

- ✓ for the *benefit* of the Programme area;
- ✓ *essential* for the project implementation;
- ✓ *approved* by the Programme beforehand.

- ✓ Organisations located outside Programme area, not registered in one of the Programme MSs.
- ✓ **Infrastructure located outside the Programme area**, even if it is directly related to the project, either for development or for implementation.

As a basic principle,

- ➔ the Interreg GR-IT Programme supports beneficiaries coming from the Programme area
- ➔ the Interreg GR-IT Programme supports project activities that are implemented in the programme area

>>> 1st Call for Project Proposals in brief

Eligible Beneficiaries

All eligible organisations can act as LB

- Public bodies - National, regional or local public authorities
- Bodies governed by public law
- Bodies governed by private law - Non-profit
- International organisations registered under the national law of GR & IT
- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) registered under the national law of GR & IT

Operational at least 12 months



IN STAGE B >> NO Modification of Partnership Scheme



Size of Partnership Scheme

- minimum two (2) beneficiaries at least one (1) from each Member State
- maximum six (6) beneficiaries
- up to five (5) Project Proposals per beneficiary at Call level under both roles (LB, PB)

All partners shall co-operate in:

- Joint development
- Joint implementation

and in *at least*:

- Joint staffing, and/or
- Joint financing



Size of Project budget

- MIN 900.000,00 EUR < PROJECT BUDGET < MAX 2.500.000,00 EUR
- **MIN 150.000 EUR per project beneficiary**

IN STAGE B >> NO Modification of Total Project Budget, unless is requested in Notification Letter / Budget changes among WPs/BLs is possible



Project budget ceilings

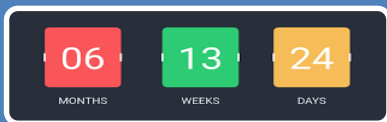
- Preparation costs: up to 30.000,00EUR (for BL 'Staff Costs', 'T&A Costs' & 'EE&S Costs')
- Management costs: LB: 15% / PB: 10% of each beneficiary total budget
- Communication costs: up to 15% of the total project budget, without limits at Beneficiary level



Project Duration

- MAX 24 months

IN STAGE B >> NO Modification of Physical Content (main activities) described in Concept Note



>>> Project reimbursement requirements

Reimbursement options		Detailed eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are described in PPIM	
Expenditure category	Real Costs	Flat rate	
DIREST COSTS OTHER THAN STAFF COSTS = BL“EES” + BL“Equip” + BL“I&W” BL ‘O&A’ and “T&A” are NOT included.			✓
Staff costs	Amounts based on real staff costs.	up to 20% of the direct costs other than the direct staff costs of the operation (Art.39(3c) of Interreg Regulation)	
Office & Administration costs	✓ Up to 4% of total beneficiary budget	up to 15% of eligible direct staff costs (Art.54(b) of CPR Regulation), <u>but not more than 4% of total beneficiary budget</u>	✓
Travel & Accommodation costs	Amounts based on real market prices.	up to 15% of the direct staff costs of the operation (Art.41(5) of Interreg Regulation)	✓
External Expertise & Services costs	Amounts based on real market prices.	✓ SCOs applied to the projects shall not be modified either during its implementation or upon completion. ✓ By using SCOs, beneficiaries shall not provide any documentation maintained in their accounting system.	
Equipment costs	Amounts based on real market prices.		
Infrastructure costs	Amounts based on real market prices.		



Submission of a Project Proposal

Consultation of Cooperation Programme documents

The original Application Package is provided only in electronic format on the Programme website

www.greece-italy.eu

Partners are suggested to consult 1st Call Application Package – STAGE B and all supporting Programme documents and guides

- ★ **STAGE B SUBMISSION & SELECTION** procedure of project applications
- ★ **SUBMISSION EXCLUSIVELY VIA MIS**
- ★ **PREREQUISITE -> MIS BODY CODE**
FOR ALL BENEFICIARIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT

>>> Stage B – Submission of Application Form

Deadline – 11 NOVEMBER 2024

Documents for submission attached in MIS Application Form

A1> Partnership Declaration*

A3>> Justification of Budget Form (JoB)* - submitted in PDF & XLS

A5> State Aid Declaration *

A6> Project Maturity Sheet for all activities above 30.000€ (equipment, investment, external expertise & services) * with supporting documents – see FAQ 1.21

A7>> Project Feasibility Study for all projects

A8> Climate Endurance Validation Report for infrastructure projects * – see FAQ 1.22

A9>> Compatibility with SEA* for all projects

>> Project Communication Strategy

> Justification of added value of relevant PB for the specific project for bodies outside eligible area

• * see standard form/ template

Project Proposal
STAGE B – APPLICATION FORM



Manuals/ Guides/ Info notes

- > Programme & Project Implementation Manual
- > A2: Project Detailed Description
- > A4: Justification of Budget Costs Guide
- > A7: Info on Project Feasibility study
- > A13: Project Selection Methodology & Criteria
- > A15: Project Selection Criteria - Stage B
- > A10: Programme Output & Result Indicators Guide
- > A16, A17, A19: MIS Guides
- > A20: Subsidy Contract
- > A21: Partnership Agreement
- > A25: Communication Guide for PBs

Other Supporting Documents

- > M.D. 3281/B/17.05.23 (for GR beneficiaries)
- > COFOG Classification
- > Fundamental Rights Charter

✓ **Application Form & all supporting documents are submitted exclusively electronically via MIS by LB**



Submission of Application Form

Signing application documents by LB/PBs

All documents for submission must be:

- ✓ duly signed and stamped by Legal Representatives of LB/PBs (physically scanned), or
- ✓ duly signed electronically by Legal Representatives of LB/PBs, and
- ✓ uploaded to MIS Application Form



Note: In case the necessary documents are **not signed by the legal representatives** of the Partners, **an authorization document from the legal representative of each Partner is required – original or notary certified copy**

>> to be attached in MIS AF/ Attachments/ specific attachment category

>>> Evaluation Methodology of Project Proposals

Two stages SUBMISSION & ASSESSMENT procedure of project applications

▶ Stage A – Submission of Project Proposals' Concept Note

- ☐ Check of Concept Note (CN) – Project Proposal brief idea & CN Project Selection Criteria



▶ Stage B – Submission of Project Proposals' detailed Application Form

- ☐ Check of Application Form (AF) – Detailed Project Proposal & AF Project Selection Criteria
 - Phase B1: Administrative & Project Eligibility Assessment
 - Phase B2: Quality Assessment
 - Phase B3: Beneficiaries Eligibility Assessment & State Aid Compliance

Quality assessment by External Assessors

- Registry of Assessors
- Supervision and finalization of assessment results by MA-Unit A

>>> Evaluation Procedure – Selection Criteria: Phase B1



SELECTION CRITERIA

Phase B1: Administrative & Project Eligibility Assessment

- ⑩ A. Administrative compliance
- ⑩ B. Project eligibility compliance
- ⑩ C. Horizontal policies compliance

On electronic submission of proposals in Stage B:

Automatic MIS check → ALLOW OR NOT ALLOW the submission of the proposal !!!

ASSESSMENT

- ⑩ Document-related check is an ON-OFF procedure;
- ⑩ Phase B1 check is carried out by JS in collaboration with Unit A' of MA;

NEXT STEPS

- ⑩ Upon successful completion of the Evaluation procedure of Phase B1,
- ⑩ Proposals are qualified for Phase B2 - Quality Assessment

❖ **Content-related check is examined based on criteria of Phase B2;**

>>> Administrative & Project Eligibility Check - Tips

For the submission of the e-Application Form you should:

- ✓ Issue **MIS Body Code [LB/PBs]. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**
- ✓ Devote a dedicated staff in your team to check and collect requested documents (declarations). **DON'T WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE!**
- ✓ Read carefully the **Programme Document and Guidelines** and share constraints with your potential partners.
- ✓ All requested documents **duly filled in, signed, dated** and **on headed paper** of concerned organisations if needed.

ATTN: Missing documents – under penalty of disqualification in the Call- will not be requested and will lead to the rejection of the proposal

A -> Administrative compliance				
Nr	Criteria	Compliance		
A.0 - MIS	The Application Package is compiled in English language (apart from the supporting documents (a) for the eligibility of project partners and (b) the maturity of project activities which shall be in the national language);	Yes O	No O	
A.1	The Application Package (the 'Application Form' and all obligatory Application Documents) (a) is signed by the authorised signatory, (b) is submitted in full, (c) is correctly filled in (no automatic errors or missing/ wrong information) and (d) administrative and formal data is consistent (e.g. co-financing amounts, partner names, etc.);			
	• The Partnership Declaration - 'PD' (standard form provided), duly signed and stamped by the legal representatives of the Lead Beneficiary and Project Beneficiaries;	Yes O	No O	
	• The Justification of Budget Form - 'JOB' (standard excel form provided) completed, expressed in euro, officially signed and stamped by the legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary (in pdf format) and an editable copy in excel format;	Yes O	No O	
	• The State Aid Declaration - 'SAD' (standard form provided) duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of each partner separately;	Yes O	No O	
	• The Climate Endurance Validation Report - 'CEVR' (standard form provided) for LB/B that implement investments on infrastructure with expected lifecycle at least 5 years, duly signed and stamped by the legal representatives of the partners with relevant activities, if applicable;	Yes O	No O	NA O
	• The SEA Compliance Form - 'SEACF' (standard form provided) duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary;	Yes O	No O	
	• The Project Feasibility study - 'PFS' (guidelines provided) duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary;	Yes O	No O	
	• The Project Maturity Sheet - 'PMS' (for equipment, investment, external expertise & services) (standard form provided) completed, duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of each partner separately;	Yes O	No O	
	• The Project Communication Strategy - 'PCS' duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary;	Yes O	No O	
	• In case the Application Form and the attached declarations are not signed by the legal representative of the Lead Partner, the 'Legal Document' which transfers the specific authority to sign and submit the Application Form – original or notary certified copy (if required)	Yes O	No O	NA O
• The 'Documentation' (studies, licences etc.) as stated in Project Maturity Sheet (if applicable)	Yes O	No O	NA O	

B -> Project Eligibility Compliance				
Nr	Criteria	Compliance		
B.1-2a	The project partnership is in line with the limits set according to article 23 of ETC Regulation and the call:			
	i) Project beneficiaries from both participating countries are involved;	Yes O	No O	
	ii) All partners shall co-operate in:			
	- Joint development	Yes O	No O	
	- Joint implementation	Yes O	No O	
	iii) In addition, they shall cooperate in at least one of the following ways:			
	- Joint staffing	Yes O	No O	NA O
	- Joint financing	Yes O	No O	NA O
	iv) The partnership comply with the limits set by the call: At least two (2) project partners with a maximum of six (6);	Yes O	No O	
	B.1-2b	Lead Beneficiary and Project Beneficiaries have the authorisation/competency to carry out the operation, according to their statute and/or the 'Documentation' for the authorisation to carry out the operation' (if applicable);	Yes O	No O
B.1-2c	The time limits (start and end dates, project duration) are in line with the time frame set by the call;	Yes O	No O	
B.1-2d	The project budget, size and costs are in line with the limits set by the call:			
	- Project budget requirements (incl. co-financing rate and EU & National funds);	Yes O	No O	
	- Partners' budget requirements (incl. EU & National funds) - Limitation on EU contribution;	Yes O	No O	
	Requirements on eligibility of expenditure (article 7.9-7.14 of the Call)	Yes O	No O	

Prerequisite for a positive assessment:
For all the aforementioned eligibility criteria the answer needs to be positive "YES" or "NA". In any other case, the proposal is rejected and the Lead Beneficiary will be informed accordingly.

C -> Horizontal Principles Compliance				
Nr	Criteria	Compliance		
C.1	Compliance with national and EU regulation regarding public procurement procedures and public contracts for the procurement of works, studies, supplies and services. The relevant regulations have been respected/ followed.	Yes O	No O	NA O
C.2	Sustainable development and EU environmental policy. The operation is in accordance with the principles of sustainability (incl. de-norm principle).	Yes O	No O	NA O
C.3	Promotion of equality between men and women and of the non-discrimination because of someone's gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or political beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation. Contributes to equal opportunities and non-discrimination.	Yes O	No O	NA O
C.4	Provision of accessibility for persons with disabilities. The relevant regulations have been followed.	Yes O	No O	NA O
C.5	Compliance of the project with the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Programme. The beneficiaries have submitted a SEA compliance form proving compliance of project activities.	Yes O	No O	NA O

Prerequisite for a positive assessment:
For all the aforementioned eligibility criteria the answer needs to be positive "YES", except for the operations that are not expected to include some of the horizontal policies due to the nature of the suggested deliverables. In that case the assessor will tick the box "NA" (not applicable), while the Lead Beneficiary must mention in PDO/8.8 the reasons that the named horizontal policies are stated as 'Neutral'. In any other case, the proposal is rejected and the Lead Beneficiary will be informed accordingly.

>>> Evaluation Procedure – Selection Criteria: Phase B2



SELECTION CRITERIA Phase B2: Quality Assessment

- ⑩ **A. Quality of the Content**
 - ⑩1. Relevance
 - ⑩2. Quality of expected outcomes and results
 - ⑩3. Cross Border cooperation
- ⑩ **B. Quality of the Implementation potential**
 - ⑩1. Quality of the partnership
 - ⑩2. Quality of the methodological approach
 - ⑩3. Maturity of the Project
 - ⑩4. Budget and finance
- ⑩ **C. Special Criteria (not applicable)**
- ⑩ **D. Assessment of the Climate Endurance Validation Report** [for investments on infrastructure with expected lifecycle at least 5 years (Article 22(4j) of 2021/1059 of ETC Regulation)]

ASSESSMENT

- ⑩ The evaluation procedure is under the control and responsibility of Unit A of the MA based on a Scoring System of Selection Criteria
- ⑩ **Evaluation** of proposals to be performed by **two (2) Evaluators from the Registry of Evaluators**
- ⑩ **Final Evaluation Results** - checked and finalized by **Unit A'** of MA;
- ⑩ A **shortlist ranking** the proposals – in **descending order** - prepared by MA and submitted for approval to MC.
- ⑩ Project proposals that **do not meet** the quality assessment criteria are **sorted out**.
- ⑩ The **results** of the assessment will be **validated by MC**, and
- ⑩ The **results** will be **communicated** to the **Lead Beneficiaries** of each partnership by MA.
- ⑩ **Complaint procedure** applies in Stage B: Phase B1 & Phase B2.

NEXT STEPS

- ⑩ Upon **successful completion of the Evaluation procedure of Phase B2 & Complaint procedure**,
- ⑩ Proposals are qualified for Phase B3 assessment

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

EVALUATION CRITERIA	MAX SCORE
Relevance	20
Quality of expected outcomes & results	20 (if sustainability for infrastructure is '0', it is rejected)
Cross-border cooperation	10 (if '0', it is rejected)
Total Quality of Content	50 (min threshold: 30/50)
Quality of partnership	15
Quality of Methodological Approach	10
Maturity of project	15
Budget & Finance	10
Total Quality of Implementation Potential	50 (min threshold: 30/50)
TOTAL SCORE	100

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

A1.a – Relevance - B.1.1, B.1.2

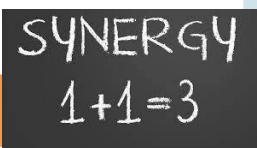
a) To what extent are the actions of the project related and directly connected to the **Specific Objective** in terms of **common challenges** and/or **joint impact** addressed for the Programme area?



Key principles

- ✓ **Relevance** in the context with **Interreg Greece-Italy Programme/** focus on the need of **c-b approach**.
- ✓ Clearly define the **Project Overall Objective and expected results** and relate with **Programme Priority/ Specific Objective & expected results** and lead to expected change for the Programme area.
- ✓ Clearly define **needs and constraints** and the **joint impact** of the project to the affected population/ area.
- ✓ Clearly **identify & quantify** target groups being consistent with project strategy.

A1.b – Relevance - B.8.2, B.7.3, B.7.4



b) Synergy/complementarity of the proposed activities with:
 - already implemented or approved projects/ activities as well as with relevant **European and national/ regional policies/ strategies** of the particular Policy Objective **other than EUSAIR**.
 Is the project clearly and consistently described how synergies and complementarities - with other programmes and funding are ensured, especially transnational, cross-border, national-regional programmes and EU Commission programmes?



Key principles

- ✓ **Demonstrate synergies and complementarities with major policies/ strategies and/or initiatives.**
- ✓ **Demonstrate synergies and complementarities** with previous projects of Interreg Greece-Italy, as well as other Interreg Programmes and EU financing instruments;
- ✓ Explain **how you are going to use them.**

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

A1.c – Relevance - B.1.1

c) Does the project proposal contain **innovative features** (new ideas, more effective devices or processes, new solutions, new technologies, and new products) that goes beyond the existing practice in the sector/ programme area/ participating countries?

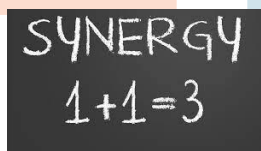


Key principles

- ✓ Propose **new ideas, more effective devices or processes, new solutions, new technologies, and new products**, and/or
- ✓ Adapt and implement already **adopted solutions** and not reinventing the wheel with standard or widely implemented proposals and activities already considered as common practices.

A1.d – Relevance - B.8.2, B.7.4

d) The project clearly and consistently **contributes** to specified **EUSAIR Macroregional Strategy** objectives and actions.



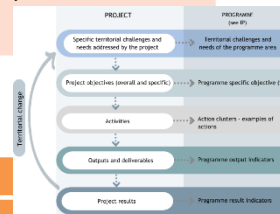
Key principles

- ✓ Demonstrate **synergies and complementarities** with **EUSAIR Macroregional Strategy**.
- ✓ Explain the **level of contribution** of the project to **EUSAIR flagships** by promoting actions and interventions that will enhance the level of integration and connectivity of the cross-border area with key fields of the EUSAIR. (ref. § Complementarity & Synergies of the Cooperation Programme).
- ✓ Explain **how you are going to contribute** to EUSAIR.

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

A2.a - Expected outcomes & results - B.1.2, B.1.3, B.2.1

a) Are the **outputs and results** of the action precise, measurable and achievable?



Key principles

- ✓ Clearly describe foreseen **outputs and results**.
- ✓ Demonstrate that are **realistic**, correctly **quantified**, and **achievable** regarding project resources and consistent with the identified **needs of the target groups**.

A2.b - Expected outcomes & results – B.1.2, B.1.3, B.2.1, AF F: INDICATORS

b) To what extent do the **outputs and results** of the project **contribute** to the **fulfilment** of the **Specific Objective** and the **output and result indicators** of the Programme?

- To what extent do the **project outputs** clearly **link** to **Programme output indicators** and their contribution to **Programme targets**?
- To what extent do **project's contribution** to **Programme result indicators** is realistic and sufficient?



Key principles

- ✓ **Project Intervention Logic: Links** between **project overall objective** and **Programme specific objective**, between **project results** and **Programme result indicators**, between **project outputs** and **Programme output indicators**.
- ✓ Robustness of the **logical link** between **project thematic work packages/activities/deliverables/outputs/results**.
- ✓ Be realistic in quantifying the **indicators** (both at **expected results and outputs** level) to be in line with the planned resources (time, partners and budget) and coherent with the Programme indicators target values.
- ✓ Use ANNEX 10: PROGRAMME OUTPUT & RESULT INDICATORS GUIDE for the **definition** and how to set the **target values**.

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

A2.c - Expected outcomes & results – B.6.1, B.6.2, B.6.3, B.6.4, B.9.1, Bodies Account Details: Operation & Maintenance Body

c) **Strategy** for ensurance of the **sustainability** of the **expected results**.



Key principles

- ✓ **Ownership/ Operationality:** Explain the actions needed by the competent bodies to make the project operational after the project life and maintain the results/ effects of the project (time required, administrative structure and staffing).
- ✓ **Financially:** explain financial sustainability after the end of the project.
- ✓ **Durability:** Describe the **long-term impact** of the project results to the targeted challenges in a realistic approach;
- ✓ **Usability/ Applicability/ Replicability:** **Identify** in advance **who can reuse your outputs/ results:** other projects, thematic clusters, communities, other funding schemes or institutional organisations (Public administration, NGOs...);

In case assessment question A2.c is scored '0' and the project includes investments in infrastructure or productive investments, the proposal will be rejected

A2.d - Expected outcomes & results - B7.3, B7.4

d) The project makes use of available knowledge and builds and **capitalizes** on existing **results** and practices.



Key principles

- ✓ Describe **outcomes and outputs already achieved** and highlighted that the proposal is based on.
- ✓ Research and consider **existing outputs and results** developed by previous projects of Interreg Greece-Italy, as well as other Interreg Programmes and EU financing instruments;
- ✓ **Link capitalization with communication activities**



Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

A3.a – Cross-border cooperation - B.7.1

a) The importance of **cooperation beyond borders** for the topic addressed is clearly demonstrated. The results cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without cooperation. Additionally, there is a **clear benefit** from cooperation for the **project partners/ target groups/ project area/ Programme area**.



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Key principles

- ✓ **Cross-border approach** is clear and **demonstrated**, highlighting its difference in scope with national/ regional/ local level projects.
- ✓ Explain the **impact/ interest** for **both countries** due to cross-border dimension and the **potential** to develop mutual trust/ cross-border cooperation.
- ✓ Demonstrate the **actual degree of cooperation** between partners during project lifecycle.
- ✓ Describe **capacity building** and **transfer of know how** in relevance to the nature of the Programme area and Programme goals.
- ✓ Describe the **location of activities** and the **benefit for the Programme area**.
- ✓ **No mirror/ parallel activities** in the territories of the partners involved, but a joint contribution.
- ✓ Explain how the project topic, outputs and main activities and expected results, are **relevant**, for the **benefit** of the **single territories/project area/ Programme area** and **consistent** with the **needs** of **project partners/ target groups/ final beneficiaries** involved.

In case assessment question A3.a is scored '0', the proposal will be rejected.

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

B1.a – Partnership - B.3.1, B3.2, B.3.3

a) To what extent is the composition of the **partnership** competent for the project?
(competences and experiences, compatibility of specific roles with the project, precise and appropriate allocation of tasks)



B1.b – Partnership - B.3.1, B3.2, B.3.3

b) To what extent does the **Lead Beneficiary** demonstrate the capacity (managerial, steering, administrative, etc) to coordinate, manage, control and monitor the overall project implementation (previous experience completed projects)?



B1.c – Partnership - B.3.1, B3.2, B.3.3

c) Is the managerial and operational capacity of the **partners** (beneficiaries) adequate for the successful implementation of the assigned project activities?



Key principles

- ✓ Show that the **Lead Beneficiary** and **Project Beneficiaries** are **competent** from their institutional role, **complementary** to each other and have the **adequate experience, expertise, capacity** to coordinate, manage, control and monitor the project, according to their roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ Demonstrate **sector experience** and **experience** in international **cooperation projects** and **adequate staff** to implement activities in terms of **quantity** and **quality**.
- ✓ Demonstrate **financial capacity** to maintain consistent cash flow throughout the project.
- ✓ Express **balanced distribution of tasks** among project partners, each playing a crucial role in project activities, management reporting and monitoring.
- ✓ Clearly describe **each partner's role** and **contribution** each one plays for the **achievement** of the defined roles and their **responsibilities** (either as coordinator/ responsible/ provide information of/for a WP/ activity/ deliverable gaining relevant benefits through their exchange of information/ participation/ coordination etc.)
- ✓ Express the **benefit for each partner** deriving from its involvement in the project and its implementation.
- ✓ Demonstrate that **each single partner** has an **actual added-value, differentiated from the others**.



Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

B2.a – Methodological Approach - B.4.1, Project Communication Strategy

a) Is the communication strategy of the project efficient and well-structured to reach the relevant target groups and stakeholders?



Key principles

- ✓ Draft a **clear communication strategy** with **at least**:
 - i) communication audiences of the project;
 - ii) communication targets;
 - iii) communication message (per audience and/or target);
 - iv) indicative communication tools to be used; and
 - v) indicators for monitoring and evaluating the strategy.

- ✓ Choose clear **communication purpose**: raise awareness, disseminate knowledge, change behaviour or mindset, showcase impact and benefits, engage with people etc.
- ✓ Define **target groups** precisely (e.g. municipal water management officials, environmental journalists, NGOs).
- ✓ Bringing **positive, impactful and transformative, human-focused stories** connected to the most pressing challenges of our time: create emotional connectors.
- ✓ Employ a **mix of online and offline tools** for maximum visibility: website, social media, use of influencers, media relations, public relations (events) and production of materials (printed, digital, audio-visual), thematic campaigns.
- ✓ Consider **paid advertisements and AI tools** for enhanced reach and content creation.
- ✓ Consider any **mechanism for gathering feedbacks** by the relevant target groups for evaluating effectiveness of and for fine-tuning communication activities.

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

B2.b - Methodological Approach - AF D, B.6.1, Justification of Budget Form

b) the project outputs going to be further used and the sustainability ensured once the project has been finalised (added value). If applicable, the project envisages durability of relevant project outputs



Key principles

- ✓ Express the **added value** of the proposal in terms of tangible physical content after the finalisation of the project

$$\text{Tangible physical content} = \frac{[\text{BL Equipment budget} + \text{BL Infrastructure budget}]}{\text{Total budget}}$$

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

B3.a – Maturity - B.5.1, B8.3, Project Maturity Sheet & its attachments

a) Extent of **project maturity** from the perspective of the **state of play** of the **necessary preliminary actions** (studies, surveys, approvals, procurement calls etc.) at the **starting date** of its implementation.

B3.b – Maturity - B.5.1, Project Maturity Sheet & its attachments, Project Feasibility Study

b) **State of progress** of **licensing** and **administrative** procedures



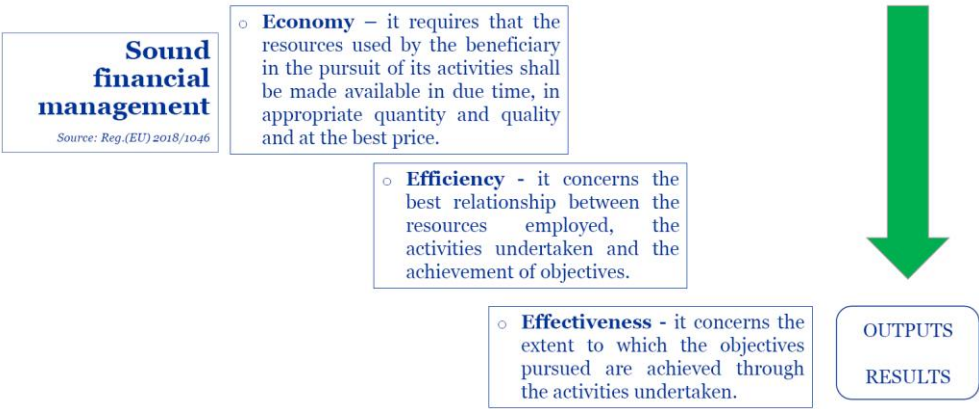
Key principles

- ✓ Describe **all** kind of **activities above 30.000€** (infrastructure, purchase of equipment, services) / the **level of maturity**.
- ✓ Respect **rules on public procurement - No artificial split of contracts!**
- ✓ **Submit** studies, permits and licenses, bill of quantities and costs for infrastructure/works and equipment etc..
- ✓ **Provide information** on tenders in progress or contracts already signed, approved procurement procedures for each deliverable and/or per kind of deliverable, approved technical studies, approved technical specifications etc., studies/technical specifications at the stage of authoring or without studies/technical specifications.
- ✓ **Provide information** on (part of) licenses issued and (partial) administrative procedures completed, precise timetable for the administrative procedures' completion, lack of licenses and administrative procedures.
- ✓ **Provide information** in cases physical content does not require the aforementioned.

>>> Quality Assessment: Evaluation criteria

B4.a – Budget & Finance - AF D, Justification of Budget Form

a) To what extent is the **project budget balanced**?



B4.b – Budget & Finance - AF D, Justification of Budget Form, Project Maturity Sheet & its attachments

b) Is the **project budget realistic**?

In case of any discrepancy between the two (2) documents:

- the Application Form (AF), and**
- the Justification of Budget Costs (JoB),**

the budget of the AF will be considered the one proposed by the project.

Key principles

- Overall project budget should follow sound financial management principles:
- ✓ Indicate whether the **project budget** is **proportionate** and **reasonable** to the **proposed project design (time plan, main outputs and results)** with a focus on its value for money (principle of efficiency, economy and effectiveness).
 - ✓ Indicate whether the **planned resources** are **coherently distributed** among **partners**, reflecting partner's **responsibility**.
 - ✓ **Clear correlation** of proposed **activities** and proposed **budget** (i.e. not proposed activities, but budgeted, and/or proposed activities, but not budgeted).
 - ✓ Avoid **unjustified**, and/or **overestimated**, **artificial costs** that do not seem to be justified by the activities and outputs.
 - ✓ Specific budget lines (Staff, O&A, External Expertise & Services, Equipment, Infrastructure) shall be **supported by relevant justification** (i.e. **JoB**: pricelists from possible providers, offers, salary sheets, etc. / **Maturity Sheet**: bill of quantities and other costs for infrastructure/works and equipment etc.).
 - ✓ Costs shall be related to **real prices** in the country of reference.

>>> Evaluation Procedure – Selection Criteria: Phase B3



SELECTION CRITERIA

Phase B3: Beneficiaries Eligibility Assessment & State Aid Compliance

- ⑩ 1a - Beneficiaries Eligibility Assessment
- ⑩ 1b - State Aid Compliance



ASSESSMENT

- ⑩ Phase B3 check is carried out by JS in collaboration with Unit A' of MA;
- ⑩ Project proposals that do not meet the eligibility criteria are sorted out;
- ⑩ The results of the assessment will be validated by MC;
- ⑩ Complaint procedure applies in Stage B:



NEXT STEPS

- ⑩ Upon successful completion of the Evaluation procedure & Complaint Procedure,
- ⑩ A Technical Meeting is held in order to finalise issues related to the financial scope of the project, state aid etc., if required;
- ⑩ Upon completion of Technical Meetings and finalization of project aspects, the Subsidy Contract is signed.

>>> Eligibility check - Tips

Only for short-listed project proposals

- ✓ Issue **MIS Body Code [LB/PBs]. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**
- ✓ Devote a dedicated staff in your team to check and collect requested documents supporting your eligibility. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE!**

If the Lead Beneficiary or a Project Beneficiary proves to be ineligible, the whole proposal will be rejected on this sole basis.

B3.1a	The Lead Beneficiary and Project Beneficiaries fall under the eligible categories of beneficiaries according to the call for proposals.
	• The 'Documentation for the eligibility of Project Partners' for:
	- Bodies governed by public law (if applicable);
	- Non profit Bodies governed by private law (if applicable);
	- International organisations (if applicable);
	- EGTC (if applicable);
B3.1b	The Lead Beneficiary and Project Beneficiaries OUTSIDE THE ELIGIBLE AREA fall under the eligible categories of beneficiaries according to the call for proposals.
	• The 'Documentation for the eligibility of Project Partners outside the Programme area' for:
	- Organisations located outside the Programme area but having local/regional subsidiary/branch office established in the Programme area (if applicable);
	- Bodies of the central government located outside the Programme area (e.g. Ministries or other governmental authorities with specific competencies on national level) (if applicable);
	- Organisations - other than local/regional subsidiary/branch office or central government bodies - located outside the Programme area but inside the Member states participating in the cross-border Programme if their participation in the project brings added value and expertise to its implementation and benefits the Programme cooperation area (if applicable);

>>> Submission of a Project Proposal: MIS BODY CODE

Administrative capacity/ Organizational structure & procedures / evidence for the Beneficiary's competence

- ✓ Statute including all modifications (for the past 1 year)
- ✓ Official document indicating the composition of the administrative/managerial or supervisory board
- ✓ Official document indicating the supervision by national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law (if applicable)
- ✓ Declaration for the non-distribution of profits
- ✓ Official organigramme
- ✓ Official document certified by a public administration authority, providing that the organisation operates for at least one year before the launch of the specific call for proposals

Financial capacity

- ★ ✓ **ANNEX16 >>MENU "Utilities" section/8.1. Project Bodies Information of the MIS**
- ✓ Official document indicating the sources of the body's revenues and the body's financial state during the last three years preceding the submission of the project proposal

Regulatory framework for the designation of the body responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project

- ✓ Supporting documents for the relevant responsibility of PB based on legislative framework, regulatory decisions, statutes etc.
- ✓ In case the responsible body is different from the PB, along with the above documents, there must be attached on MIS PBs Body Account the relevant decision of the responsible body or declaration of the Legal representative that is in their knowledge and agree to undertake the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the specific project.
It applies only in cases of productive investments and infrastructure.

Documents providing evidence for the existence/operation of branch

8.1. Project Bodies Information of the MIS

- ✓ (FOR BRANCH ONLY) Official document for the establishment/registration of a branch issued by the competent Public Authority (e.g. Tax Service of the respective country)
- ✓ (FOR BRANCH ONLY) Copy of the rental contract, submitted to and validated by the respective Public Authority (e.g. Tax Service of the respective country)
- ✓ (FOR BRANCH ONLY) Payroll sheet, validated by the competent Public Authority (e.g. Ministry of Labour)
- ✓ (FOR BRANCH ONLY) Operational costs bills (e.g. electricity, telephone etc.)
- ✓ (FOR BRANCH ONLY) Operating regulation, approved by the competent administrative body of the organisation

★ **Read carefully the 1st Call ToR and according your type of beneficiary submit your papers to get your MIS Body Code ONLY THEN YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL**

>>> **Support to applicants**

SUPPORT TO APPLICANTS



NATIONAL INFORMATION DAYS
in Greece (1) & in Italy (1)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
info@greece-italy.eu



HELPDESK FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT
ikalaitzoglou@mou.gr



PROGRAMME WEBSITE
www.greece-italy.eu



JS / ANTENNA OFFICE / INFO CONTACT POINTS



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Thank you!

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MANAGING AUTHORITY "INTERREG 2021-2027"



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