



Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

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

Contact person: Katia Sagona, Yiorgos Simos, Matoula Syropoulou, Vassilis Gavriilidis

Tel.: +30 2310 469659, +30 2310 469655, +30 2310 469619, +30 2310 469633

Fax: +30 2310 469602

Email: ksagona@mou.gr
gsimos@mou.gr
msiropoulou@mou.gr
vqavrieldes@mou.gr

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5th 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.

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 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;
- ➔ To promote the cross-border Area's integration and connectivity to fields which are important to its development, in full complementarity with EUSAIR;
- ➔ To 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.

"Creative Industries (CI)" are among the most dynamic sectors in the world economy providing new opportunities for developing countries to leapfrog into emerging high-growth areas of the world economy. The creative industries – which include advertising,

architecture, arts and crafts, design, fashion, film, video, photography, music, performing arts, publishing, research & development, software, computer games, electronic publishing, and TV/radio – are the lifeblood of the creative economy. They are also considered an important source of commercial and cultural value.

Therefore "Creative Industries" which encompasses all enterprises that have as their core business the "ability to create", will be deployed by this project as the intellectual and social process for the production of new ideas, concepts, plans, links, processes and clusters.

New ideas are meant to be original, meaningful and useful and capable of leading to a comparative economic advantage for all the involved territories. Key areas of the Creative Industries will be Theaters, Cinema, Street Art, Aromatic plants, Carnival, New Technologies, Handicrafts, Music and Agriculture and food production.

Creative industries contribute to industrial innovation in two ways:

- They possess strong innovation potentials themselves
- They operate as an important catalyst for innovations and knowledge-based growth in numerous other economic fields. They act as a cross-cutting sector, affecting value added chains both horizontally and vertically as suppliers and customers.

Clusters, incubators and networking enterprises, can provide new opportunities for involved territories to advance into emerging high-growth areas of the world economy. The clusters, incubators and networking enterprises (i.e. creative industries, new technologies, handicrafts, agriculture and food production, and others) which encompass all enterprises that have as their core business the concept of innovation, will be deployed by this targeted call as the intellectual and social process for the production of new ideas, concepts, plans, links, processes and clusters.

New ideas are meant to be original, meaningful, useful and capable of leading to a comparative economic advantage for all the involved territories.

Clusters and incubators and networking enterprises contribute to industrial innovation in two ways:

- They possess strong innovation potential themselves
- They operate as an important catalyst for innovation and knowledge-based growth in numerous other economic fields. They act as a cross-cutting sector, affecting value added chains both horizontally and vertically as suppliers and customers.

The main objective of this call is to establish an increased synergy between the clusters and / or incubators and new networking enterprises and Public authorities in order to contribute to the capability of regions to create new knowledge and to generate innovation. Within the proposed project Incubation and Networking supported by innovative e-tools will act as catalysts and accelerators of entrepreneurship in the eligible area.

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 Objective, and Indicative Actions

In the context of this call for proposal and according to the procedure described into the Cooperation Programme, the 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	Investement Priority	Specific Objectives		Indicative Actions
PA 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	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	1.1	Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness	Supporting the development of cross-border innovation clusters in sectors where the Programme Area has a greater potential for development

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 projects contributing to the definition of policies and promotion of pilot initiatives to support the development of the **Clusters and incubation of innovative and creative SMEs** Within this Call, three (3) output and one (1) 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 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	SO1.1-1	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number
	SO1.1-2	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Number
	COI_1	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number

Table 3 : Result Indicators (by priority axis)			
Priority Axis	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit
PA 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	RI1.1	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilize the available innovation support services and clusters	%

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 5th Targeted Call for project proposal is **10.000.000,00€** (including Union Support and National Counterpart) and is **indicatively** allocated per Specific Objective, as follows:

Priority Axis	Thematic Objective	Specific Objective	Budget
PA 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	1 strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1.1 Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness	10.000.000,00€
Total			10.000.000,00€

7. Eligible Partnerships

Lead Beneficiary: Region of Western Greece

Beneficiary 2: Region of Epirus

Beneficiary 3: Region of Ionian Islands

Beneficiary 4: Puglia 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, Applicants 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.

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).

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 within 45 calendar days after the launching of the call. More specifically the project proposal must be electronically submitted into the MIS **by Wednesday 9th of January 2019, until the 24:00 Italian time at the latest.** Proposals submitted after the above date will not be considered as eligible.

9. Project size

The total available budget for the 5th Targeted call is **10.000.000,00€**, (of which **8.500.000,00€** Union Support and **1.500.000,00€** 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. Projects that have started their 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).

More particularly, for investment costs, the aid may be granted as compatible under E.U Regulation 651/2014. For operating costs, the aid may be granted as compatible under E.U Regulation 1407/2013.

If the beneficiaries' actions include supporting services to companies, this aid should be compatible with EU Regulation 1407/2013. In this case the beneficiary should:

1. Develop a methodology for determining the amount of aid by type of service (eg a € 50 hours advisory fee or a number of hours)
2. To obtain from the assisted enterprises a declaration on the amount of de minimis aid received during the last three financial years (current year + two previous years) before granting them the service provided and to check that the indirect aid granted there is no overrun of € 200,000 in de minimis aid over the three years,
3. Check that the companies meet all the requirements of EU Regulation 1407/2013
4. After providing the service, notify each undertaking (company) in writing of the amount of (indirect) aid it has received by noting that it is de minimis aid, in order for the company to know it

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 5th 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 Economy and Development
 Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes –Unit B2
 Address: 65, Georgikis Sholis 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.

Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs

Evgenia Fotoniata

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 3004881/YΔ1244 for the programming period 2014-20 (YPASID).
5. Guidance on Management Verifications 2014 – 2020
6. Guidelines for the eligibility of expenditures for Greek Beneficiaries
7. User Guide of electronic submission
8. Subsidy Contract
9. Partnership Agreement

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*