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Ministry of Economy and Development
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First evaluation of the implementation and impacts of the Cooperation
Programme INTERREG V-A “GREECE-ITALY” (EL-IT) 2014-2020

D.3 Final Evaluation Report

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DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS



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Introduction

This report was prepared in the framework of the contract of 23/01/2019 between the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and "WIN MEPE" for the "First evaluation of the implementation and impacts of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A "GREECE-ITALY" (EL-IT) 2014-2020".

The purpose of the contract is to provide services to the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, with regard to the first evaluation of the implementation process of the Cooperation Programme "Interreg V-A Greece-Italy 2014-2020" of the European Territorial Cooperation objective of the period 2014-2020.

The scope of the evaluation is the assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme, the achievement of its objectives and on whether or not to update the intervention logic and to allocate new or redistribute the resources in the Programme.

In addition, this evaluation will assess the readiness for the later impact evaluation of the implementation of the Programme on the various areas of intervention in its geographic (cross-border) area and, where appropriate, beyond.

The evaluation will feed the 2019 Annual Implementation Report with data on the achievement of the milestones and targets defined in the Programme's Performance Framework.

Specifically, the evaluation questions comprise of six sections:

A. Effectiveness of the programme

B. Programme performance framework

C. Programme Efficiency

D. Timeliness of the intervention logic in the framework of the Programme strategy

E. Revision of the CP

F. Preparation for impact assessments

The Consultant will deliver three (3) deliverables to the contracting authority.

- 1st Deliverable: Methodology
- 2nd Deliverable: Evaluation report
- 3rd Deliverable: Updated Final evaluation report

This report is the 3rd Deliverable, Updated Final evaluation report, which includes answers to sections A-F and the evaluation questions and the dissemination plan of the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment.

The GR-IT Cooperation Programme

Greece and Italy, two neighboring countries with a rich and common past, have more than 25 years of cooperation experience, starting from 1990 until now. Interreg Greece-Italy Programme is a bilateral and cross-border Cooperation Programme, which links eleven (11) NUTS III level prefectures and six (6) provinces from two EU member states.



The Programme has a total budget of 123,176,899 € and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) at a rate of 85% with an amount of 104,700,362 € and by the 2 member states through a national co-financing at the rate of 15%, for the 2014-2020 period.

The Programme is designed in the framework of the European strategy 2020 for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth as a way to overcome the structural economic weakness and improve the productivity and a social market economy. Strategically, the programme will enhance innovation in a number of fields such as blue growth, tourism and culture, agrifood and cultural and creative industries.

The overall objective of the Interreg Greece-Italy 2014-2020 Programme is to support strategic GR-IT cross-border co-operation in order to develop 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. It aims to enable regional and local stakeholders from eligible areas to exchange knowledge and experiences, to develop and implement pilot actions, to test

the feasibility of new policies, products and services, and support investment in the areas of interest.

The GR-IT 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme comprises of 3 Priority Axes structured in 7 Specific Objectives as follows.

Priority axis 1: Innovation and competitiveness

Innovation & Competitiveness aim to increase the capacity of Small and Medium Enterprises to engage in Research & Development activities that will lead to innovative products, processes and services with the final goal to contribute to the building of a strong export based economy and to strengthen specific growth sectors such as the blue growth, all activities having links with the sea and creative, cultural and agro-food industries.

Specific Objectives

1.1 Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness

1.2 Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area

Priority Axis 2 Integrated Environmental Management

The second Priority Axis aims to facilitate the development and implementation of common approaches to the management of the environment, supporting the valorization of cultural and natural heritage and fostering shared potentials and responsibilities in the field of environmental protection and risk prevention.

Specific Objectives

2.1 Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area

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

2.3 Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution

Priority Axis 3 Multimodal Sustainable Transport System

The third Priority Axis aims to develop a sustainable transport system for regional and cross-border connections in the Programme Area, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure.

Specific Objectives

3.1 Boosting maritime transport, shortsea shipping capacity and crossborder ferry connectivity

3.2 Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentallyfriendly solutions

The Programme is aligned with the macro-regional EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), that helps Adriatic-Ionian Region countries and stakeholders, to address common challenges together and to achieve growth by building on the 4 EUSAIR thematic pillars: "Blue Growth", "Connecting the Region", "Environmental Quality", "Sustainable Tourism".

1. Timeliness of the intervention logic

1.1 Update of the needs' analysis

The Cooperation Programme was designed during the period 2014-2015 based on the socioeconomic analysis of the programme area with data available at that time. Most datasets and quantified indicators used for the analysis had a time reference between 2012-2013 due to the usual lag of surveys and publicity of data. Hence the Evaluation Consultant proceeds to a brief update of the background analysis regarding the broader economic, social and environmental context, based on EU2020 strategy indicators, in order to assess the timeliness and current suitability of the identified needs and intervention logic of the Programme.

Table 1: Change of key factors of the area

Indicators	Year	Epirus	Ionian Islands	W. Greece	Puglia	EU 27 (28*)
Population	2013	343.128	208.241	682.583	**4.050.803	500.900.868
	2018	334.337	204.562	659.470	**4.029.053	508.273.732
	Change	-3%	-2%	-3%	1%	1%
GDP (million €)	2011	4.611,25	3.479,28	9.610,56	**70.109,40	11.322.561,00
	2017	4.001,38	3.158,92	8.164,38	**72.985,50	13.045.095,00
	Change	-13%	-9%	-15%	4%	15%
GDP per capita, EUR	2011	13.300	16.600	13.900	**17.090	25.600
	2017	12.000	15.400	12.300	**17.994	29.200
	Change	-10%	-7%	-12%	5%	14%
R & D expenditure (% of GDP)	2011	0,83	0,18	0,84	0,7	1,97*
	2015(16*)	1,22	0,5	1,32	0,84*	2,04*
	Change	47%	178%	57%	20%	4%
Private R & D investment - Business enterprise sector (% of GDP)	2011	0,03	0,01	0,13	0,18	1,24*
	2015(16*)	0,09	0,03	0,18	0,28*	1,33*
	Change	200%	200%	38%	56%	7%
Total R&D personnel and researchers (% of total employment- numerator in head count)	2011	1,9224	0,246	1,3771	0,4747	1,193*
	2015	2,1738	1,2452	2,1387	0,5416	1,331*
	Change	13%	406%	55%	14%	12%
Employment in high-technology and medium high-technology manufacturing (%of total employment)	2011	n/a	n/a	0,9	2,5	5,6*
	2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,4	5,8*
	Change				-4%	4%
Population 30-34 with tertiary education (levels 5 and 8) (% of population)	2013	33,5	18,9	28,1	20,8	37,2
	2017	42,1	23	39,2	22,2	40
	Change	26%	22%	40%	7%	8%
Regional Innovation Index (relative to EU)	2011	79,1	62,4	63,1	79,4	
	2017	79,5	61,6	62,2	80,5	

Indicators	Year	Epirus	Ionian Islands	W. Greece	Puglia	EU 27 (28*)
	Change	1%	-1%	-1%	1%	
Early leavers from education and training (% of population of 18-24 year olds)	2013	10,4	14,7	9,6	19,9	12
	2017			12,1	18,6	10,6
	Change	-100%	-100%	26%	-7%	-12%
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (% of population)	2012	n/a	n/a	n/a	49	
	2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	38,2	
	Change				-22%	
Economically active population (15-74) (1.000)	2013	142,9	91,7	282,9	1.441,7	
	2018	136,3	92,7	287,2	1.449,4	
	Change	-5%	1%	2%	1%	
Employed (1.000)	2013	102,0	74,1	200,0	**1.158,0	
	2018	106,8	75,2	212,8	1.194,5	
	Change	5%	1%	6%	5%	
Unemployed (1.000)	2013	39,1	16,6	80,2	284,8	
	2018	27,4	14,8	69,2	232,7	
	Change	-30%	-11%	-14%	-18%	
% Employment 15 - 64 yrs	2013	48,1	57,1	46,1	42,3	64*
	2017 (18*)	50	55,3	49,4	**45,5	67,6*
	Change	4%	-3%	7%	8%	6%
% unemployment 15-74 yrs	2013	27,4	18,2	28,4	**19,8	10,9*
	2017(18*)	24,8	19,7	26,3	**16,1	7,6*
	Change	-9%	8%	-7%	-19%	-30%
% Long-term unemployed (% of unemployment)	2013	62,8	46,8	72,8	58	47,3*
	2017	74,6	51,4	74,7	62,1	44,9*
	Change	19%	10%	3%	7%	-5%
% Unemployed 15 -24 yrs and over	2013	67,4	51,5	59	49,7	23,8*
	2017	58	42,7	46,7	51,4	16,8*
	Change	-14%	-17%	-21%	3%	-29%
% Unemployed 15 yrs and over (women)	2013	31,5	24,7	34,7	23,2	10,9*
	2017(18*)	29,4	21,4	35,4	**18,8*	7,9*
	Change	-7%	-13%	2%	-19%	-28%
Arrivals	2012	497.503	1.456.512	621.590	3.225.974	855.830.681*
	2017	689.409	2.318.210	684.745	3.911.688	1.048.366.709*
	Change	39%	59%	10%	21%	22%
Nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments by residents/non-residents, total nights	2012	1.336.119	9.553.714	1.571.623	13.291.863	1.585.808.714*
	2017	2.109.064	13.731.722	2.077.697	15.890.865	3.184.056.269*
	Change	58%	44%	32%	20%	101%
Nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments by residents/non-residents, non residents	2012	474.207	8.289.418	856.885	2.286.595	1.133.558.823*
	2017	1.209.470	11.835.299	1.051.029	3.262.689	1.562.098.719*
	Change	155%	43%	23%	43%	38%

Indicators	Year	Epirus	Ionian Islands	W. Greece	Puglia	EU 27 (28*)
Maritime transport of passengers [1000 Passengers]- passengers embarked	2012	1,12	1,77	3,10	930	
	2016	1,22	1,99	2,38	584	
	Change	9%	13%	-23%	-37%	
Total goods loaded and unloaded Maritime [Thousands of tonnes]	2010	2.819	680	6.515	49.918	
	2016	3.113	n/a	5.790	35.002	
	Change	10%		-11%	-30%	
Air transport of passengers [1000 Passengers]- passengers carried	2012	71	3.202	441	5.860	
	2017	96	5.184	717	6.984	
	Change	35%	62%	63%	19%	

Source: Eurostat, (**Istat)

The population of the programme region is stagnating, with reduction trends for the cross-border are of 1%-3% between 2013 and 2018.

The economic development of the Greek regions has also deteriorated in absolute and per capita GDP terms by around 10% between 2011 and 2017. On the contrary Puglia's economy have grown by 4%, still lagging behind for the EU27 growth of around 15%.

A different picture is emerging for RTDI. Greek regions have made some forward leaps in R&D expenditure as GDP percentage, in comparison to EU28 between 2011-2015. Puglia has also moved forward remarkably. The highlight is the increase of the R&D personnel and researches, as percentage of total employment, especially in Ionian Islands by 5-fold. Greek regions have also improved their human capital with an increase of the population 30-24 with tertiary education of around 20%-40% between 2013-2017, more than 3 times the increase in EU27. Puglia observed the increase rate of EU27. However, in the overall EU framework the programme area's regions are characterized as moderate or moderate(-) performers that is in the 8th and 9th position of the 12-place scale of the EC¹.

Overall employment levels in the programme area remain low and have a lower or similar growth rate to EU28 between 2013-2017/18. Unemployment remains high in the programme area despite the mediocre reduction of 5%-10% in Greek regions the said years. In the Ionian Islands there was even an increase. The latest data for Puglia (2018) show a better performance and a decrease of 19%, but still double the unemployment level of EU-28. Overall, the gap vis-à-vis EU28 is widening as unemployment in the EU-28 area fell by 30%. Also, an alarming finding is the increase of the long-term, structural, unemployment in the programme area, especially in Epirus, and taking into account its overall reduction in EU28.

However, in number of people, there is an increase of employed persons in all the programme area between 2013-2017 of 5%-6%, except Ionian Islands where the

¹ EC, 7th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, 2017

increase is marginal (1%). Expectedly, the number of unemployed fell in all the programme area by 11%-18%, whereas in Epirus the reduction was impressive at 30%. The economically active population remained rather stable (1%-2%), except in Epirus where it was reduced by 5%.

Youth unemployment has a similar picture to the total unemployment: very high levels, even though a substantial reduction is recorded between 2013-2017 in the Greek regions. On the contrary youth unemployment increased in Puglia region. Women unemployment remains also high in the programme area, with mixed results for each region during 2013-2017: Ionian Islands had the highest reduction, but smaller than EU28, whereas a slight increase is recorded in Western Greece.

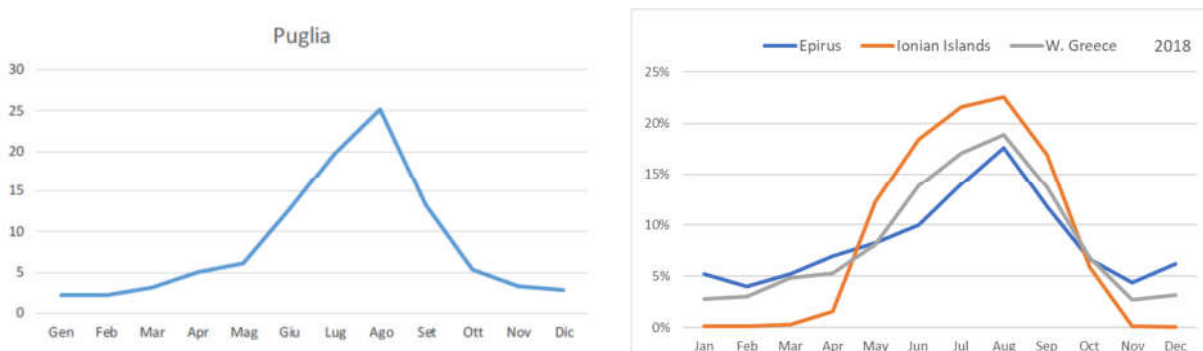
Regarding poverty, data are available only for Puglia, where people at risk of poverty or social exclusion have decreased by 22% from 2012 to 2017.

According to the 7th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, the regions of the programme area are exposed to 3 (Ionian Islands, Western Greece) or 4 (Ipeiros, Puglia) out of the 4 risk factors linked to globalization and technological change: 1) a large share of employment in low-tech manufacturing, (2) rapidly increasing unit labour costs in manufacturing over the past decade which may compromise competitiveness and reduce market share, (3) a large share of working-age population with low educational attainment, and (4) a decline in employment in industry between 2000 and 2014.

The Regional Competitive Index of the programme area's regions has remained stable during 2013-2016, in the lowest values range for the Greek regions and the second lowest value range for Puglia².

Regarding the tourism sector, the key metrics of arrivals and nights spent in total and by non residents are improving significantly during 2012-2017, with the exception of Western Greece region where the growth is slower and even lower than the EU28 rate. The seasonality problem persists in all the programme area.

Monthly distribution of nights spent in hotels



² EC, 7th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, 2017

Source: <http://www.federalberghi.it/>, ELSTAT

Regarding the transportation infrastructure, maritime freight and passenger movements have been reduced in the programme area (a trend already manifested during the programme design) , mainly due to the substantial decrease in Puglia region and Western Greece where the busiest ports are located. On the contrary Epirus has seen an increase of 10% but with a low overall share in the programme area. Air transport of passenger in the programme area has altogether increased, mostly due to the Ionian Islands airports and to Puglia region.

Intermodal transport hubs and platforms are present in Puglia region but not in the Greek ones as the railway axis of Greece doesn't provide connections to the ports of Igoumenitsa and Patras. The intermodal hubs in Puglia are: Bari Lamasinata (intermodal and combined rail transport for medium-long distance regional flows), Brindisi intermodal centre (international maritime flows (Ro-Ro) and support for port logistics activities), Taranto (terrestrial intermodality of the great flows of goods of the Mediterranean and oceanic transshipment of the port), Cerignola (Foggia) integrated logistic centre (medium and long distance flows of local production systems).

Regarding the energy sector, Greek regions of the programme area seem to generate more than 80% of the energy from renewable sources in 2015³ according to the JRC, whereas Puglia only 29,5% (2016)⁴.

The ecological status of rivers and lakes in the programme area is less than good only in less than 10% in Epirus, 10%-30% in Ionian Islands and Western Greece and 30%-50% in Puglia, according to EEA⁵. Greece is a top performer in the ecological status of transitional and coastal water, whereas Italy's performance is average⁶.

Overall performance in the resource efficiency (composite of Eco-Innovation Index) for Greece and Italy in 2015 are quite different. Italy is 16% above the EU average and Greece 22% below. In comparison to 2011 the picture remains more or less the same⁷.

According to the "Study on Macroregional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy⁸" the potential climate change vulnerability of the programme area regions is above the EU-median and Western Greece is the most affected region in the area. However, the Ionian Islands region belongs to the least vulnerable ones in the EU.

³ EC, 7th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, 2017

⁴ <http://www.comunirinnovabili.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ComuniRinnovabili-Puglia.pdf>

⁵ EC, 7th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, 2017

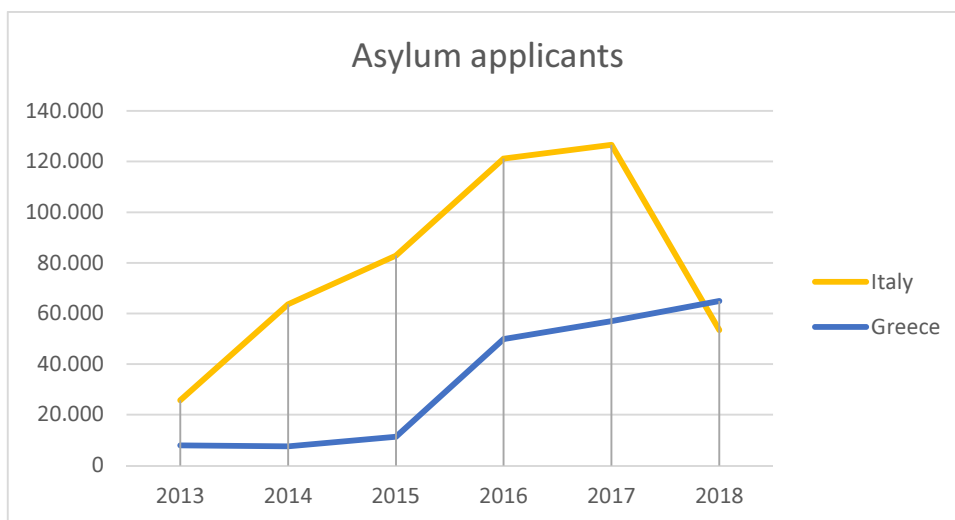
⁶ COWI, Study on Macroregional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy, 2017

⁷ COWI, Study on Macroregional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy, 2017

⁸ COWI, Study on Macroregional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy, 2017

Overall, regarding the achievement of the Europe2020 targets, the Greek regions are in the 20%-40% achievement and Puglia in the 0-20%⁹ in 2015. However, between 2010-2015 Greek regions had a negative change, whereas Puglia showed a 5-10% change in the Europe 2020 achievement index.

Other changes in the macro-environment are the significant increase in migration/refugee flows towards Europe since 2014/15, with Greece and Italy as main entry points. According to Eurostat data on first-time asylum applicants, Greece and Italy accounted for the 28% of the total EU-28 number in 2017 and for the 20% in 2018.



Source: Eurostat

The Evaluation Consultant highlights also the completion and implementation of RIS3 strategies in the programme area, as a new factor that should be taken into account. Specifically, the sectors identified for support concertation in each programme's region are as follows.

Epirus	Ionio	Western Greece
Primary sector and its processing	Primary sector, agri-food, gastronomy	Agro-food
Creative Industry	Maritime economy (fisheries, aquaculture, marine tourism)	Tourism - Culture
ICT and youth entrepreneurship	Experience industry: (tourism, culture and creative economy)	Microelectronics – advanced materials
Health and wellness	Emerging sector: bio-medicine: medical services	ICT
		Energy applications

⁹ EC, 7th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, 2017

Puglia

Sustainable manufacturing: intelligent factory, aerospace, mechatronics

Human health and the environment: Welfare of the person, green and blue economy, agri-food, tourism

Digital, creative and inclusive communities: cultural and creative industry, services, social innovation, design, non-R&D innovation

Based on the above update of the broader socioeconomic environment and the trends in key metrics used during the design of the programme the Evaluation Consultant assesses the needs analysis of the programme in the following table, per investment priority, in terms of timeliness and relevance.

Needs	Assessment
<p>Priority 1b</p> <p>strengthen growth sectors representing important jobs potential by forging R&D specializations in agribusiness, blue growth, tourism, cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries</p> <p>reinforce the knowledge economy to generate growth and jobs especially in SMEs</p> <p>reinforce clustering of SMEs</p> <p>increase investments in R&D</p> <p>increase the number of patent applications</p> <p>increase networks and clusters and the level of cooperation among actors of the quadruple helix,</p> <p>support social innovations in the context of the economic crisis and tight public budgets</p> <p>ensure that the Programme Area actively develops their innovation potential on the basis of their strengths</p>	<p>The analysis in the research and innovation sector and the identified needs still holds and is coherent with the RIS3 priority sectors of the area. The regions of the area are still lagging greatly in R&D investments and are exposed to most or all the risk factors linked to globalization and technological change.</p>

Needs	Assessment
<p>Priority 3a</p> <p>strengthen innovation capacities, competitiveness and internationalization of Programme Area SMEs and collaborations between firms and research & innovation centres</p> <p>improve the commercial take-up of research results</p> <p>reinforce the culture of entrepreneurship</p> <p>strengthen cultural industries in order to promote local development design tools to facilitate the recruitment and retention of talent</p> <p>tackle the seasonality of tourism demand</p> <p>enhance capacities across the region by strengthening sectors of special interest to Programme Area,</p> <p>provide Programme Area SMEs with innovation management advice, IP advice, tech transfer, prototyping, market replication/market penetration, demonstrator projects etc</p> <p>strengthen market intelligence, analysis of emerging market opportunities</p>	<p>The analysis of the programme document is still valid. The regions are in the lower ranks of innovative regions according to the Innovation Scoreboard index and their distance from EU has been slightly changed (increase for Greek regions and slight decrease for Puglia). Also, the Regional Competitiveness Index is in the lowest negative range for the Greek regions and the second lower negative range for Puglia.</p>
<p>Priority 6c</p> <p>ensure cross border coordination and cooperation for optimising the results of sustainable tourism exploitation of the natural and cultural heritage</p> <p>strengthen the promotion of local economic development, exchanges and good practices, for example building upon collaboration in community led environmental measures</p> <p>tackle seasonal tourism demand</p>	<p>Tourism remains a strong sector of the programme area with significant increase in arrivals and nights spent. However, flows are concentrated mainly in the summer months.</p>
<p>Priority 6d</p> <p>protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems</p> <p>fill the gap of services and infrastructure, in periods of maximum touristic pressure</p> <p>tackle sea pollution due to waste discharge and accumulation</p> <p>strengthen the environmental protection measures (protected areas...)</p>	<p>The analysis of the programme document is mostly based on broader policy frameworks and EU environmental protection directives. The continuous increase of tourism flows creates pressure in the area's environment. However, Greek coastal and transitional water ecological status is the best in Europe, whereas Italy's around the EU median. Also, the percentage of good ecological status of</p>

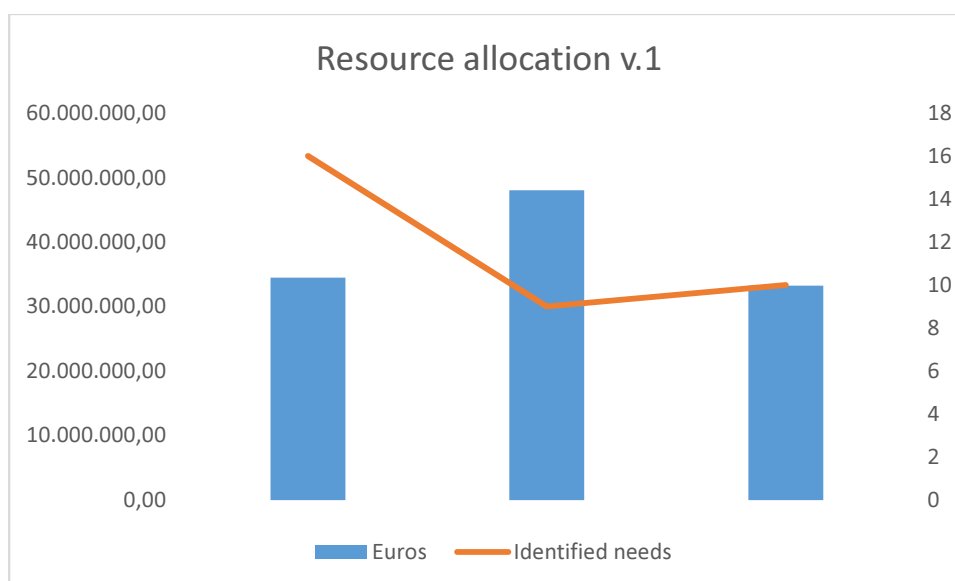
Needs	Assessment
	<p>rivers and lakes in Greek regions is among the best in Europe but average in Puglia.</p> <p>It should be noted that there are no transboundary ecosystems among the programme area's regions.</p> <p>Climate change risks are not addressed in the needs' analysis. However there are approved projects that address climate change.</p>
<p>Priority 6f</p> <p>shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods</p> <p>take advantage of the unexploited potential for the use of renewable marine energies</p>	<p>The identified needs remain current, especially for Greek regions, as Greece under-performs significantly in the Resource Efficiency Index. On the other hand Puglia region has a high percentage of energy consumption from RES (49,7%)</p>
<p>Priority 7b</p> <p>strengthen regional and cross border connections</p> <p>improve accessibility to transport infrastructures</p> <p>foster integration with Regional, National and cross border Transport Plans</p> <p>optimize integration and interconnection of transport modes</p> <p>establish homogeneity in transport networks and related cross-border planning</p>	<p>Greek regions and ports still haven't developed intermodal and/or combined logistics and freight centres. Cooperation and links with the Italian hubs is a desirable result.</p> <p>Also, air transport of passengers has increased significantly in the programme area, and so the need to provide multimodal accessibility to transport infrastructures and nodes.</p>

Needs	Assessment
<p>7c</p> <p>promote innovations for sustainable and non-polluting transportation</p> <p>enhance coordination of cross border transport system and procedures</p> <p>take advantage of the unexploited potential of renewable energies for public services</p> <p>promote effective freight and logistics systems including actions on shipping, fuels, technologies, harbours, hubs and IT solutions</p> <p>encourage concrete actions that move freight off the roads to more environmentally friendly solutions</p>	<p>Maritime freight and passenger movements kept declining in the programme area already since 2011. The cause of this trend should be further analyzed if port improvement continuous to be prioritized.</p>

1.2 Allocation of resources

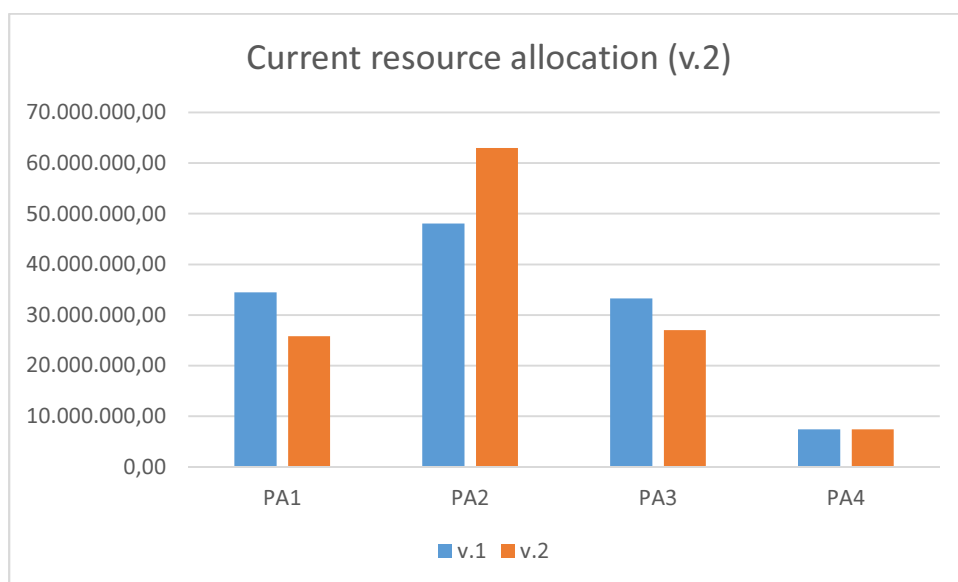
The programmatic allocation of resources has been updated in the first modification of the Programme, decided in the 5th Monitoring Committee in 27.9.2018 and approved by the Commission in 10.4.2019.

The allocation of resources in the initially submitted and approved programme document was more or less equally distributed among the three Priority Axes, with a small boost in the second Priority Axis for Integrated Environmental Management. The majority of the resources (39%) were targeted to cover the identified needs of PA2, which represented the 26% of the total identified needs.

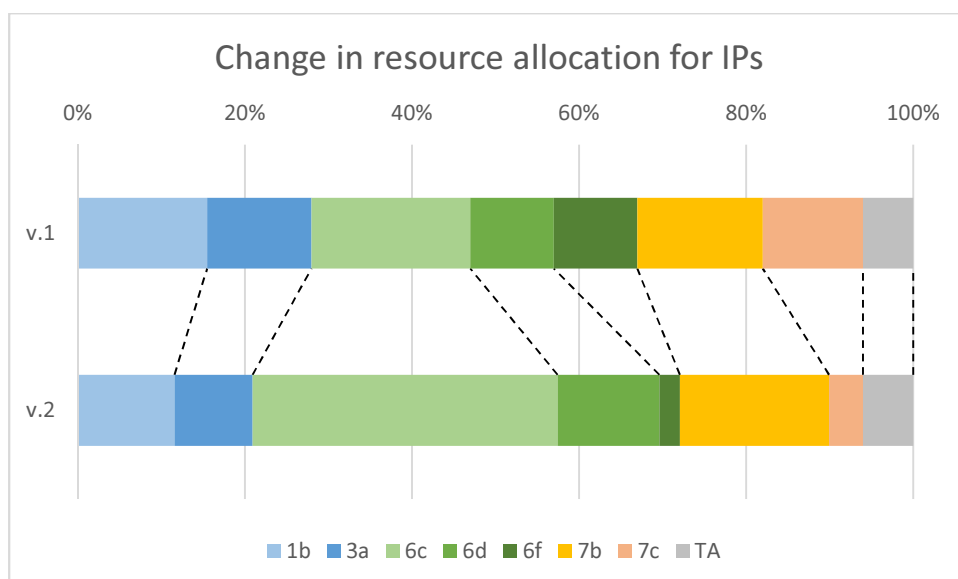


However, the qualitative assessment of the programme area analysis, the SWOT analysis and strategy description of the programme document, reveal an increased importance of the economic and developmental challenges of the area in relation to the environmental ones. In addition, since the programme area has only land borders there are no transboundary ecosystems and/or other protected areas for common management. Furthermore, important environmental challenges of climate change risks and adaptation are not addressed by PA2 and the selected Investment Priorities. On the other hand, PA1 addresses two Thematic Objectives (1 and 2) of the total four Thematic Objectives of the programme's core strategy.

Nevertheless, the allocation of resources in the first revision of the Programme, further enhance the support of PA2, which currently accounts for the 51% of the programme budget.

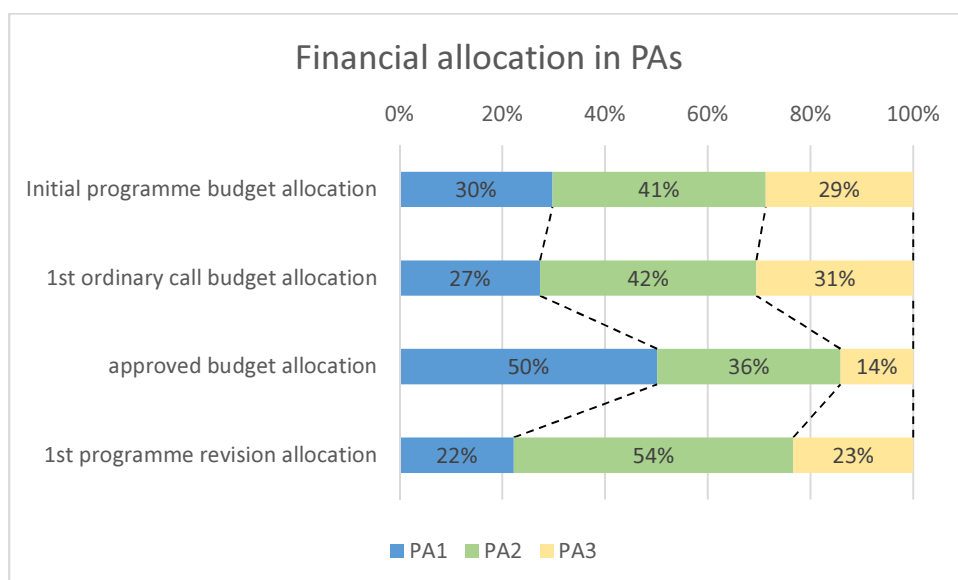


This great increase of 31% in the budget for PA2 comes from a significant decrease of 25% in the budget for PA1 and an important decrease of 19% in the budget for PA3.

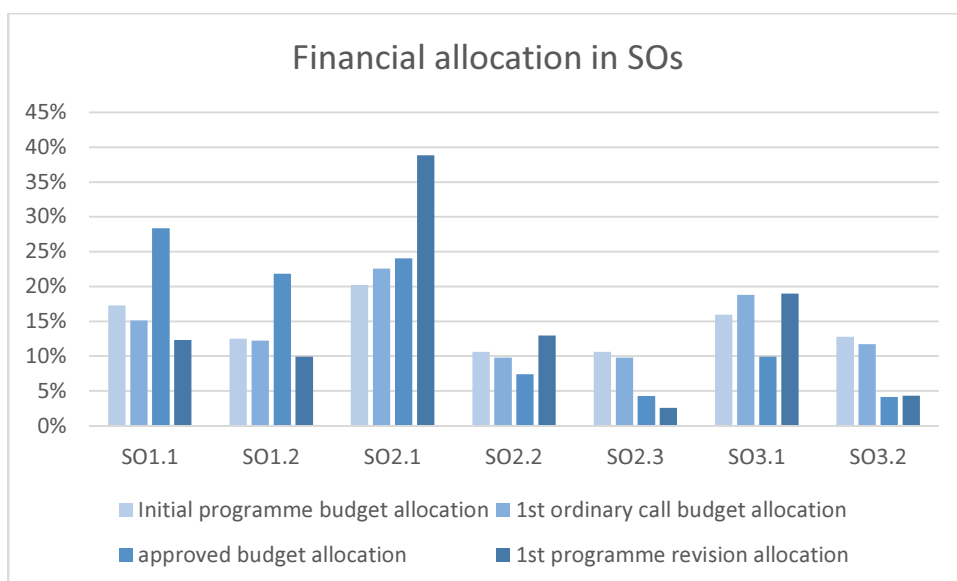


The biggest change in resource allocation refers to an almost doubling of the Investment Priority 6c budget, whereas budgets of IPs 6f and 7c were reduced to the ¼ and the 1/3 of the initial programming.

Regarding the financial allocation of the budget of the approved projects there has been a differentiation from the initial programming budget allocation to Specific Objectives and Priority Axes. In relation to the initial programme budget allocation, there were only minor differentiations to the budget allocation of the 1st ordinary call for proposals. However, in the budget of approved projects there has been a significant increase of 10% to the budget allocated to PA2 with an almost analogous decrease of 9% to the budget allocated to PA3, whereas PA1 kept its initial programming allocation (decrease of 1%). Those differentiations passed to the programming document in its 1st revision, where PA2 budget allocation increased further to 54% and PA1 decreased to 22%, in view of the activation of the strategic calls for proposals.



Regarding the Specific Objectives, financial allocation of the approved projects budget is depicted in the following diagram. SO1.1 maintained its programming allocation (17%), SO1.2 had a minor decrease of 2%, SO2.1 budget allocation almost doubled to 39%, SO2.2 had a minor decrease of 3%, SO2.3 budget allocation was more than halved to 4%, SO3.1 had a minor decrease of 3% and SO3.2 budget allocation was almost halved to 7%. Again the 1st programme revision accommodated the budget allocation to the above trends.



The following table presents the exact amounts of the changes to the new resource allocation in PAs and IPs.

PA/IP	v.1	%	v.2	%	v.2-v.1	v.2/v.1
1b	19.092.418,63	15,5%	14.276.202,83	11,6%	-4.816.215,80	-25%
3a	15.397.112,38	12,5%	11.510.081,17	9,3%	-3.887.031,20	-25%
PA1	34.489.531,00	28,0%	25.786.284,00	20,9%	-8.703.247,00	-25%
6c	23.403.610,70	19,0%	45.000.001,00	36,5%	21.596.390,30	92%
6d	12.317.689,65	10,0%	15.000.000,00	12,2%	2.682.310,35	22%
6f	12.317.689,65	10,0%	3.000.000,00	2,4%	-9.317.689,65	-76%
PA2	48.038.990,00	39,0%	63.000.001,00	51,2%	14.961.011,00	31%
7b	18.476.534,47	15,0%	22.000.001,00	17,9%	3.523.466,53	19%
7c	14.781.229,53	12,0%	5.000.000,00	4,1%	-9.781.229,53	-66%
PA3	33.257.764,00	27,0%	27.000.001,00	21,2%	-6.257.763,00	-19%
TA	7.390.614,00	6,0%	7.390.615,00	6,0%		0%
TOTAL	123.176.899,00	100,0%	123.176.901,00	100,0%		0%

1.3 Assessment of the programme logic

The overall objective of the Programme is to support strategic GR-IT cross-border cooperation for a more prosperous and sustainable region across the maritime border. To achieve this 7 Specific Objectives are specialized, one for each of the 7 IPs that are selected to formulate the programme document.

Overall, the programme logic has sufficiently defined Specific Objectives, and coherence in linking needs to objectives and outputs to results. Only a few identified needs seem not adequately addressed, and in a few cases, expected results are not directly linked to outputs or defined according to the E.C. Guidelines (i.e. some results in SO2.1 and SO3.1). However, given the multitude of needs and results described in the programme document, the Evaluation Consultant considers there is no adverse effect in the

realization of the strategy's main objectives. Furthermore, the programme logic and the delivery of the expected results are supported by the approved projects and their quality. Even some minor shortcomings of the strategy description in the programme document, i.e. the lack of reference to climate change needs, are covered by the approval of relevant projects.

The following paragraphs assess the intervention logic of each Specific Objective based on the references in the programme document, from a programme design viewpoint and links it to the delivery and implementation of specific interventions (projects).

Specific Objective 1.1 of the Programme's strategy is well articulated to the programme area needs regarding the support for increasing R&D in the area. However, the financial inputs seem rather low to address the needs to increase investments in R&D, patents and jobs. There are many indicative activities for implementation in the programme document covering interventions such as: identifying marketable ideas, innovation services and support structures, living labs, voucher schemes, clusters' creation support. The thirteen (13) approved projects so far cover the identified needs adequately and contribute directly to the outputs of the S.O.

- Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions (940)
- Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks (36)
- Number of innovation support tools/ approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation (38)

The successful implementation of the approved projects can lead to the achievement of the expected results.

Specific Objective 1.2 is well defined and targeted, however the Evaluation Consultant considers its narrow scope challenging to address the multitude of needs identified in Investment Priority 3a. Moreover, there is some lack of clarity in relation to the needs covered by IP 1b. The financial inputs seem adequate to support the limited and concrete indicative activities of the programme document: linking existing and supporting new incubators and start-ups.

The eight (8) approved projects cover the identified needs adequately and contribute directly to the outputs of the S.O.

- Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs (42)
- Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.) (24)

The successful implementation of the approved projects can lead to the achievement of the expected results.

Specific Objective 2.1 is clear and relevant to the identified needs in IP 6c regarding the protection and utilization of natural and cultural resources of the area as a lever for sustainable local development. The financial inputs seem adequate to support a set of diverse but complementary indicative activities: ICT applications for tourism, new cultural tourism products-routes, accessibility to tourism resources, energy efficiency in tourism buildings and SMEs, management plans.

The seventeen (17) approved projects so far, cover the identified needs adequately and contribute directly to the outputs of the S.O.

- Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage (150)

The successful implementation of the approved projects can lead to the achievement of the expected results. However, the expected results in the programme document appear to be more focused to the protection of natural and cultural assets rather than the benefits from the valorization of those assets which are at the core of most of the projects.

Specific Objective 2.2 even if rather broadly defined, is addressing the identified needs of environmental protection of coastal ecosystems and protected areas and pollution prevention and reduction. The financial inputs seem adequate for the type of indicative activities foreseen in the programme document: joint plans and protocols for ecosystem management and risk prevention, data, mapping and new knowledge on biodiversity, infrastructure and services for waste management, maritime spatial plans, awareness raising.

The four (4) approved projects so far, cover the identified needs adequately and contribute directly to the outputs of the S.O.

- Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions (110.000)
- Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection (7)

The successful implementation of the approved projects can lead to the achievement of the stated expected results except for jointly elaborated MSPs. However, this specific result should rather be regarded as an output, as it doesn't depict a desired change in the policy, the environment or the behaviors. Thus, the achievement of the fundamental results of the S.O. is not affected.

A minor observation from the Evaluator is that the output of increased visits to supported sites of cultural and natural attraction is not directly deriving from the implemented projects and is not directly contributing to the stated expected results of the programme. However, the S.O. logic remains solid as the second output indicator is adequately linked to the results.

Specific Objective 2.3 is well defined and concrete. It addresses one of the identified needs for a shift in waste processing, but not the need to exploit marine RES. The financial inputs seem somehow limited in relation to the many and diverse indicative activities of the programme document: introduction of new technologies in waste and wastewater management systems, training schemes, testing linkages between MSP and MSFD, prevention and emergency plans.

The three (3) approved projects cover the need for "a shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods" adequately and contribute directly to the outputs of the S.O.

- Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies (11)

The need for "potential for the use of renewable marine energies" is not directly addressed by the approved projects, but this specific need is not connected to the rest of the S.O. logic, its outputs and results. Thus, the Evaluator regards it as irrelevant and not affecting the achievement of the S.O.s expected results.

Specific Objective 3.1 satisfactorily specializes IP 7b, even if its wording doesn't articulate the needs of improved accessibility to infrastructures and integration of transport modes and Plans. The financial inputs seem adequate in the frame of the programme budget, and the type of foreseen activities of mostly improvement of equipment and installations rather than infrastructure works.

The three (3) approved projects so far, cover the identified needs adequately and contribute directly to the outputs of the S.O.

- Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport (10)
- Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport (9)

The successful implementation of the approved projects can lead to the achievement of the stated expected results.

Specific Objective 3.2 captures most of the identified needs in IP 7c in promoting environmentally-friendly systems. The financial inputs are rather low for the foreseen activities: seaplanes infrastructure, RES for transport hubs, bike-sharing, electric vehicles, transport cooperation platforms, mobility services.

The three (3) approved projects, cover most of the identified needs adequately and contribute directly to the outputs of the S.O.

- Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport (7)

The need for "potential of renewable energies for public services" is not addressed by the approved projects and thus nor the expected result of "Enhanced use of renewable energies for public services". Apart from the above, the successful implementation of the approved projects can lead to the achievement of the rest of the stated expected results.

The following table summarizes the programme logic, as how to address the identified needs by achieving tangible results through financing the implementation of relevant projects.

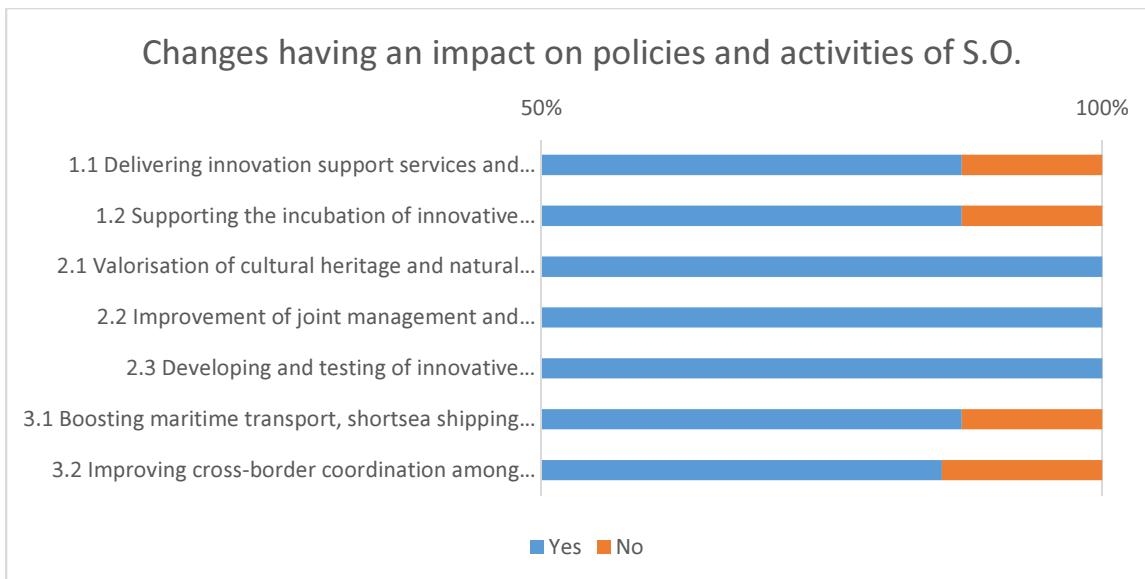
Needs	Objectives	Inputs	Outputs	Results
<p>strengthen growth sectors representing important jobs potential by forging R&D specializations in agribusiness, blue growth, tourism,cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries reinforce the knowledge economy to generate growth and jobs especially in SMEs reinforce clustering of SMEs increase investments in R&D increase the number of patent applications increase networks and clusters and the level of cooperation among actors of the quadruple helix, support social innovations in the context of the economic crisis and tight public budgets ensure that the Programme Area actively develops their innovation potential on the basis of their strengths</p>	<p>SO1.1 - Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness</p>	<p>14.276.203</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions • Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks • Number of innovation support tools/ approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation <p>Projects approved contributing in the programme outputs</p> <p>CI-NOVATEC, ILONET, INNONETS, ICON WOMEN, TeleICCE, IN-MEDTOUR, MOBI LAB, EGOV-INNO, CIRCLE-IN, TAGs, AUTHENTIC, INNOT.TRITON, APOLLO LANDS,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access for SMEs and innovation brokers to applied research results and technology transfer mechanisms • Strengthened cross border innovation clusters and networks in key sectors of the Programme Area economy • Strengthened linkages among businesses, vocational training providers, universities, research centres, policy departments, regulators, suppliers and customers in the Programme Area
<p>strengthen innovation capacities, competitiveness and internationalization of Programme Area SMEs and collaborations between firms and research & innovation centres improve the commercial take-up of research results reinforce the culture of entrepreneurship strengthen cultural industries in</p>	<p>SO1.2 - Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area</p>	<p>11.455.452</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs • Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.) <p>Projects approved contributing in the programme outputs</p> <p>MEDINNO, CRAFT LAB, TRACES, PIT STOP, YESS, INCUBA, CREATIVE CAMPS, AGRIFARM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access for SMEs to new support services fostering innovation and internationalization. • Transferred innovative techniques and integration of knowledge relating to processes (governance and synergy of productive sectors) • Increased cooperation between research, public and private sectors to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. reduction of

Needs	Objectives	Inputs	Outputs	Results
<p>order to promote local development design tools to facilitate the recruitment and retention of talent tackle the seasonality of tourism demand enhance capacities across the region by strengthening sectors of special interest to Programme Area, provide Programme Area SMEs with innovation management advice, IP advice, tech transfer, prototyping, market replication/market penetration, demonstrator projects etc strengthen market intelligence, analysis of emerging market opportunities</p>				<p>administrative barriers, public procurement of innovative products and services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced cooperation practices stimulating innovative start ups
<p>ensure cross border coordination and cooperation for optimising the results of sustainable tourism exploitation of the natural and cultural heritage strengthen the promotion of local economic development, exchanges and good practices, for example building upon collaboration in community led environmental measures tackle seasonal tourism demand</p>	<p>SO2.1 - Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area</p>	<p>45.000.000</p>	<p>Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage</p> <p>Projects approved contributing in the programme outputs CIAK, P.A.T.H, PALIMPSEST, SUNWATER, SPARC, CROSS THE GAP, NETT, POLYSEMI, E-PARKS, FISH & C.H.I.P.S, MUSE, OCTANE, SILVER WELLBEING, JUMP, PORTOLANES, FAME ROAD, HERMES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed and tested innovative CBC management plans and measures Better protected natural and historical sites Enhanced promotion and marketing of sustainable tourist destinations of high natural or cultural value in the Programme Area; Increased measures for protecting cultural heritage and natural resources
<p>protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems fill the gap of services and infrastructure, in periods of maximum touristic pressure</p>	<p>SO2.2 - Improvement of joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems, paying</p>	<p>15.000.000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted joint protocols for risk prevention Integrated and updated data on biodiversity of Programme Area natural sites

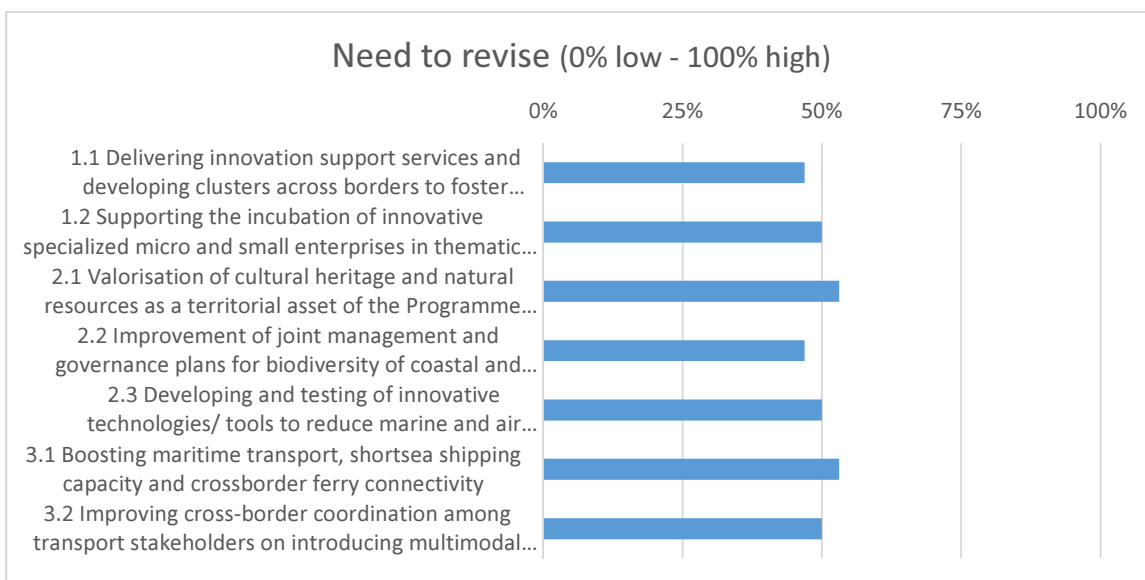
Needs	Objectives	Inputs	Outputs	Results
tackle sea pollution due to waste discharge and accumulation strengthen the environmental protection measures (protected areas...)	attention on natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures		and environmental protection Projects approved contributing in the programme outputs OFIDIA 2, ERMIS, TRITON, SUSWATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner coast and seabed • Environmental education of the new generations • 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 • Jointly elaborated maritime spatial plans (MSP)
shift from traditional waste processing towards cleaner methods take advantage of the unexploited potential for the use of renewable marine energies	SO2.3 - Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution	3.000.000	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies Projects approved contributing in the programme outputs RECORD, IR2MA, REWATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased measures to reduce pollution resulting from industrial discharges by adopting pollution prevention technologies • Pilot and demonstration projects in the field of marine pollution • Introduced friendly environment management and technologies • Adopted certificates on EU standards of clean production methods and processes • Enhanced knowledge and awareness of the population in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste management
strengthen regional and cross border connections improve accessibility to transport infrastructures foster integration with Regional, National and cross border Transport Plans	SO3.1 - Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity	22.000.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport • Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimized port and other transport infrastructures interfaces, procedures /operations • Improved internal and external accessibility to transport infrastructure areas • Enhanced maritime traffic

Needs	Objectives	Inputs	Outputs	Results
<p>optimize integration and interconnection of transport modes establish homogeneity in transport networks and related cross-border planning</p>			<p>Projects approved contributing in the programme outputs THEMIS, SWAN, DOCK-BI</p>	<p>information exchange between CBC systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced innovative security concepts on ports' operations • Enhanced cross-border cohesion in planning and coordinating maritime links • Developed cross-border partnerships and networks (MoS, SSS) among local/regional authorities, transport
<p>promote innovations for sustainable and non-polluting transportation enhance coordination of cross border transport system and procedures take advantage of the unexploited potential of renewable energies for public services promote effective freight and logistics systems including actions on shipping, fuels, technologies, harbours, hubs and IT solutions encourage concrete actions that move freight off the roads to more environmentally friendly solutions</p>	<p>SO3.2 - Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally friendly solutions</p>	<p>5.000.000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport <p>Projects approved contributing in the programme outputs FRESH WAYS, TRUST, INVESTMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced use of renewable energies for public services • Introduced innovative eco-sustainable transport systems with low impact on environment (e.g. seaplanes, electrical vehicles, non-polluting transport on the sea, cycling) • Developed cross-border cooperation mechanisms for compatible green transport planning between governance levels • Reduced dependency on road transport for freight

According to the views of the members of the MA and JS who took part in the evaluation survey, most of them consider that there have been changes that impact the policies and activities of Specific Objectives. All of them agree on this view for S.O.s 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 while 88-86% agree for S.O.s 1.1, 1.2, 3.1 and 3.2.



However, according to the views of the respondents, the need to revise the programme strategy and interventions in order to address new needs is medium. For all the S.O.s the opinions whether to revise or not the strategy is around 50%. The lower need for revision is recorded for S.O.s 1.1 and 2.2, while somewhat higher for S.O.s 2.1 and 3.1.



2. Indicator system

2.1 Contribution to intervention logic

The indicator system of the programme comprises of 12 output indicators and 7 result indicators, one for each Specific Objective. In detail SO1.1 comprises 3 output indicators, of which one is a Common Indicator (CO26), SO1.2 entails 2 output indicators, SO2.1 has 1 indicator, SO.2.2 comprises 2 output indicators of which one is a Common Indicator (CO09), SO2.3 has 1 output indicator, SO3.1 comprises 2 output indicators and SO3.2 has 1 output indicator.

In the 1st call for ordinary proposals all the output and result indicators were targeted. Moreover, in the following five targeted calls for proposals the targeted indicators were:

1st and 2nd targeted calls for proposals

- Output indicator: O0519 - Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage
- Result indicator: 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

3rd targeted call for proposals

- Output indicator: C009 - Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions
- Output indicator: C009 - Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions
- Result indicator: R0504 - Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions

4th targeted calls for proposals

- Output indicator: O0522 - Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport
- Output indicator: O0523 - Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport
- Result indicator: R0506 - Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports

5th targeted calls for proposals

- Output indicator: CO026 - Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions

- Output indicator: O0515 - Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks
- Output indicator: O0515 - Number of innovation support tools/ approaches / techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation
- Result indicator: R0501 - Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters

The following table summarizes the incorporation of the indicators to the logical framework of the Programme, with according assessment comments by the Evaluator. Overall, the indicator system is suitable for monitoring the outputs and main expected results of the programme. The Evaluation Consultant considers there is some room for improvement for result indicators in SO2.2 and SO.3.2.

The Evaluation Consultant recommends accompanying the result indicators of SO.2.2 and SO.3.2 with a qualitative survey measuring, respectively:

- protected areas with improved plans/strategies.
- the level of capacity of transport competent authorities to reduce CO₂ emissions

This approach can provide better documentation for the positive effects of the programme. Given the current implementation phase of the projects and the scope of the first evaluation those surveys could be more suitably implemented during the impact evaluations

Objectives / results	Output indicator	Result indicator	Assessment
<p>SO1.1 - Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness</p> <p>R/ Improved access for SMEs and innovation brokers to applied research results and technology transfer mechanisms Strengthened cross border innovation clusters and networks in key sectors of the Programme Area economy Strengthened linkages among businesses, vocational training providers, universities, research centres, policy departments, regulators, , suppliers and customers in the Programme Area</p>	<p>Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions</p>	<p>Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters</p>	<p>SO1.1 rationale is to address the lack of R&D investment and innovation capacity by delivering new support services and networks. A more suitable result indicator would be Innovative SMEs collaborating as published in the Regional Innovation Scoreboard.</p>
	<p>Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks</p>		
	<p>Number of innovation support tools/ approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation</p>		
<p>SO1.2 - Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area</p> <p>R/ Improved access for SMEs to new support services fostering innovation and internationalization. Transferred innovative techniques and integration of knowledge relating to processes (governance and synergy of productive sectors) 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) Enhanced cooperation practices stimulating innovative start ups</p>	<p>Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs</p>	<p>Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M</p>	<p>SO1.2 rationale is to support SMEs innovation and new businesses in the thematic sectors of interest in the Programme area. Sections J and M of NACE represent only the ICT sector and the creative industries leaving outside main RIS3 sectors such as agro-food, tourism, mechatronics etc. Furthermore, the financial weight of the programme and the SO1.2 is low in relation to other resources in the area in order to substantially affect the number of enterprises.</p>
	<p>Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)</p>		

Objectives / results	Output indicator	Result indicator	Assessment
<p>SO2.1 - Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area</p> <p>R/ Developed and tested innovative CBC management plans and measures Better protected natural and historical sites Enhanced promotion and marketing of sustainable tourist destinations of high natural or cultural value in the Programme Area; Increased measures for protecting cultural heritage and natural resources</p>	<p>Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>The result indicator is adequately linked to the programme logic. SO2.1 rationale is to address the lack of cross-border coordination in protecting and utilizing in a sustainable way natural and cultural assets. However, the result indicator doesn't capture directly the desired results of increased and better protection measures and enhanced promotion and marketing of tourist destinations.</p>
<p>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</p> <p>R/ Adopted joint protocols for risk prevention Integrated and updated data on biodiversity of Programme Area natural sites Cleaner coast and seabed Environmental education of the new generations 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 Jointly elaborated maritime spatial plans (MSP)</p>	<p>Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions</p> <p>Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection</p>	<p>Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions</p>	<p>The result indicator is not directly linked to the programme logic. SO2.2 rationale is strengthening the environmental protection measures through improved (joint) plans and to tackle sea pollution, but the enlargement of the areas can have effects on that. A more suitable indicator would be the % of protected areas with improved plans/strategies. Also, the output indicator for sustainable tourism is not explicitly relevant to the SO but is contributing indirectly to the S.O. logic.</p>

Objectives / results	Output indicator	Result indicator	Assessment
<p>SO2.3 - Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution</p> <p>R/ Increased measures to reduce pollution resulting from industrial discharges by adopting pollution prevention technologies</p> <p>Pilot and demonstration projects in the field of marine pollution</p> <p>Introduced friendly environment management and technologies</p> <p>Adopted certificates on EU standards of clean production methods and processes</p> <p>Enhanced knowledge and awareness of the population in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste management</p>	<p>Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>The result indicator is somewhat linked to the programme logic. SO2.3 rationale is to shift to cleaner methods of waste processing and use of RES. The level of capacity of authorities to use environmentally-friendly technologies in their operations is not directly supported by the interventions, but capture the desired results. It is important to underline there are capacity building and training activities foreseen.</p>
<p>SO3.1 - Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity</p> <p>R/ Optimized port and other transport infrastructures interfaces, procedures /operations</p> <p>Improved internal and external accessibility to transport infrastructure areas</p> <p>Enhanced maritime traffic information exchange between CBC systems</p> <p>Introduced innovative security concepts on ports' operations</p> <p>Enhanced cross-border cohesion in planning and coordinating maritime links</p> <p>Developed cross-border partnerships and networks (MoS, SSS) among local/regional authorities, transport</p>	<p>Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport</p> <p>Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport</p>	<p>Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)</p>	<p>The result indicator is well linked to the programme logic. It captures the rationale of the SO 3.1 to improve maritime transport facilities and is consistent with the expected results of the improvements.</p>
<p>SO3.2 - Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions</p>	<p>Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly</p>	<p>Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)</p>	<p>The rationale of SO3.2 is to reduce the environmental impact of transportation in the area with more sustainable systems and technologies also via the better</p>

Objectives / results	Output indicator	Result indicator	Assessment
<p>R/ Enhanced use of renewable energies for public services Introduced innovative eco-sustainable transport systems with low impact on environment (e.g. seaplanes, electrical vehicles, non-polluting transport on the sea, cycling) Developed cross-border cooperation mechanisms for compatible green transport planning between governance levels Reduced dependency on road transport for freight</p>	<p>mobility and transport</p>		<p>coordination and cross-border cooperation. The indicator seems linked to the result of reducing dependency on road transport for freight, however almost all of the foreseen interventions refer either to passenger alternative transport means and/or the upgrade of energy efficiency of infrastructures and facilities. Moreover, the SO budget is extremely low to affect the modal split of road freight in the programme area. A more suitable indicator would be the level of capacity of transport competent authorities to reduce CO2 emissions.</p>

2.2 Compliance with guidelines

Regarding the use of common indicators, the following guidelines of the EC¹⁰ should be taken into account for their definition and proper measurement.

CO26 - Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions: At least one enterprise and one research institution participates in the project. One or more of the cooperating parties (research institution or enterprise) may receive the support but it must be conditional to the cooperation.

CO09 - Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions: Valid for site improvements that aim to attract and accept visitors for sustainable tourism. Includes sites with or without previous tourism activity (e.g. nature parks or buildings converted to museum).

¹⁰ EC, Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation, 2014

3. Programme effectiveness

3.1 Implementation of calls for proposals

The programme has been almost fully activated until 31/12/2018, at 98% of the first 3 Priority Axes budget (apart from Technical Assistance), through six call for proposals: one call for ordinary projects and 5 targeted calls. The timeline and the budget of the calls is presented in the following table.

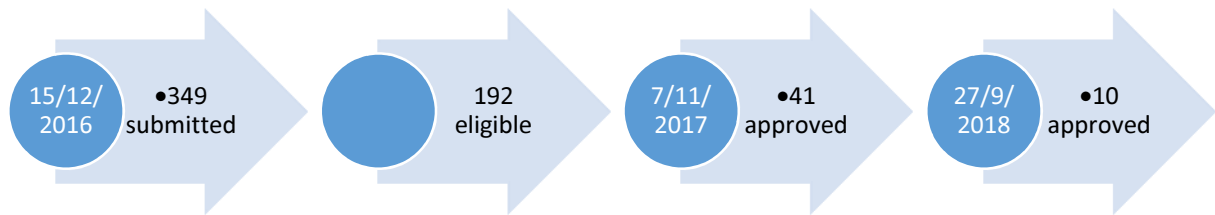
Call	Published	Deadline	Budget	% total CP budget	Beneficiaries
1st ordinary	22/7/2016	15/12/2016 <i>(initial 15/10/2016)</i>	53.148.184	47%	all eligible
1st targeted	7/11/2018	21/12/2018	21.115.000	19%	Regions of Epirus, Western Greece, Ionian Islands, Puglia, Hellenic Ministry of Culture - Ephorates of Antiquities
2nd targeted	7/11/2018	21/12/2018	6.420.600	6%	Hellenic Ministry of Culture - Ephorates of Antiquities (Aitoloakarnanias&Lefkadas, Ileias, Thesprotias, Kerkyras), Region of Puglia
3rd targeted	7/11/2018	21/12/2018	5.380.000	5%	Regions of Epirus, Western Greece, Ionian Islands, Puglia
4th targeted	7/11/2018	21/12/2018	17.250.000	15%	Regions of Epirus, Western Greece, Ionian Islands, Puglia
5th targeted	23/11/2018	9/1/2019	10.000.000	9%	Regions of Epirus, Western Greece, Ionian Islands, Puglia
Total			113.313.784		

The first ordinary call for proposals was published 7,3 months after the CP "Greece-Italy 2014-2020" officially adopted by the European Commission on 15/12/2015. The call had a budget of 53,15 mil.€ that accounted for the 46% of the overall programme budget (except TA).

All the following calls for proposals were targeted and published 28 months after the first ordinary call. Those five targeted calls covered almost the remaining budget of the programme, accounting for the 52%. It should be highlighted that more than half of the programme is allocated to five beneficiaries through the strategic calls: the four Regional Authorities of the programme area and the Hellenic Ministry of Culture with the local Ephorates of Antiquities.

Until the cut-off date of the Final Evaluation Report (31/12/2018) only projects from the 1st ordinary call for proposals have been approved and contracted. In total 349 project proposals were submitted, 192 (55%) of them passed successfully the admissibility and eligibility evaluation and 51 (15% of the submitted) were approved by the Monitoring

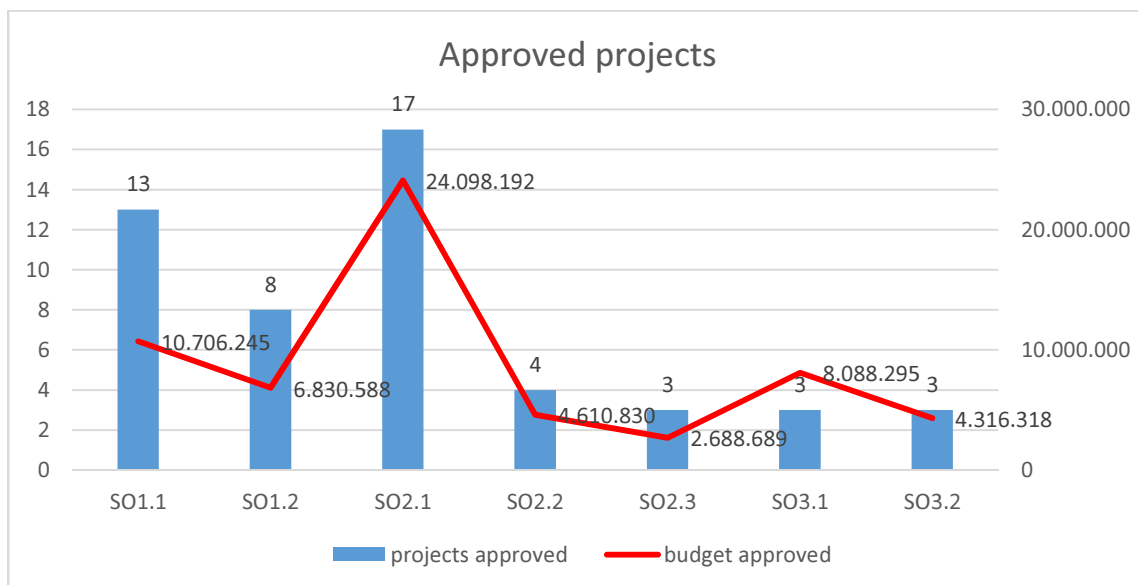
Committee. The first pack of 41 projects were approved on 7/11/2017 and another 10 projects were approved almost one year later on 27/9/2018.



However, according to the views of the members of the MA and JS surveyed, the quality of the project proposals has improved in relation to the 2007-2013 period for the 88%. As for the extent of the improvement the views are divided between a little (50%) and a lot (50%) of improvement.

Regarding the quality of the projects, the surveyed members of the Monitoring Committee consider them satisfactory at a rate of 75%.

The high number of proposals submitted that reached 349 clearly support the need of and awareness about the programme in the cross-border area. This was the highest number among the calls of Cooperation Programmes managed by the MA. In the framework of the 1st Call for proposals a total of 51 projects have been contracted and are under implementation for a total budget of 61,339,156€. Specifically, 21 projects are being implemented under PA1 (SO1.1: 13; SO1.2:8), 24 projects under PA2 (SO2.1: 17; SO2.2: 4; SO2.3: 3) and 6 projects under PA3 (SO3.1: 3; SO3.2: 3).



The following table lists all approved projects and their contracted budget

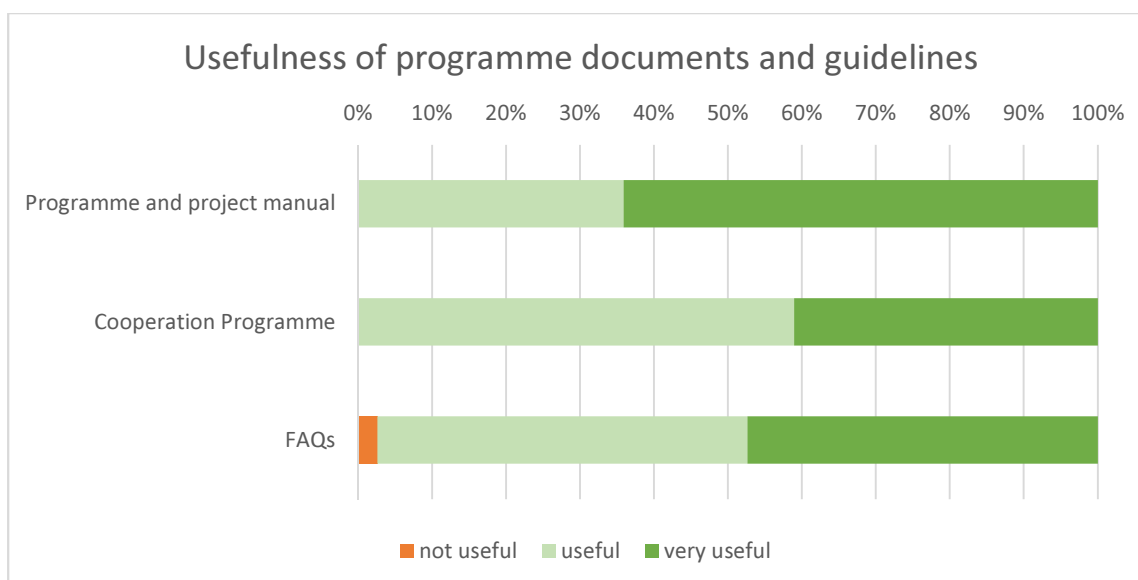
Table: list of approved projects

SO	Acronym	Total Project Budget
S.O.1.1	egov_INNO	722.208,14 €
	ICON WOM-EN	812.900,10 €
	TAGs	885.385,77 €
	ILONET	775.057,00 €
	INNONETS	899.473,35 €
	TeleICCE	877.707,50 €
	CIRCLE-IN	780.000,00 €
	MobiLab	818.067,00 €
	CI-NOVATEC	866.913,00 €
	In-MedTour	897.703,80 €
	AUTHENTIC	875.000,00 €
	INNO.TRITION	602.725,25 €
	APOLLO LANDS	893.104,00 €
SO1.2	INCUBA	900.000,00 €
	YESS	897.336,79 €
	PIT STOP	900.952,00 €
	CRAFT LAB	889.606,00 €
	TRACES	896.793,64 €
	MeDInno	841.517,40 €
	CREATIVE CAMPS	854.919,43 €
	AgriFarm	649.462,50 €
SO2.1	NETT	900.500,00 €
	SPARC	2.416.335,00 €
	PALIMPSEST	899.924,02 €
	E-PARKS	898.098,56 €
	CROSS THE GAP	2.128.463,90 €
	Silver Wellbeing	891.999,12 €
	OCTaNe	676.005,00 €
	FISH & C.H.I.P.S.	904.639,47 €
	SUNWATER	873.000,00 €
	CIAK	888.796,70 €
	POLYSEMI	899.650,20 €
	MUSE	2.541.489,40 €
	P.A.T.H	863.947,63 €
	JUMP	1.937.707,39 €
	PORTOLANES	877.915,00 €
	FAME ROAD	2.501.940,28 €
	HERMES	2.997.780,00 €
SO2.2	TRITON	858.489,59 €
	ERMIS	900.340,00 €
	OFIDIA 2	1.854.000,00 €
	SUSWATER	998.000,00 €
SO2.3	RE.CO.RD	887.187,45 €
	RE-WATER	900.023,92 €
	IR2MA	901.477,98 €
SO3.1	DOCK-BI	2.785.810,00 €

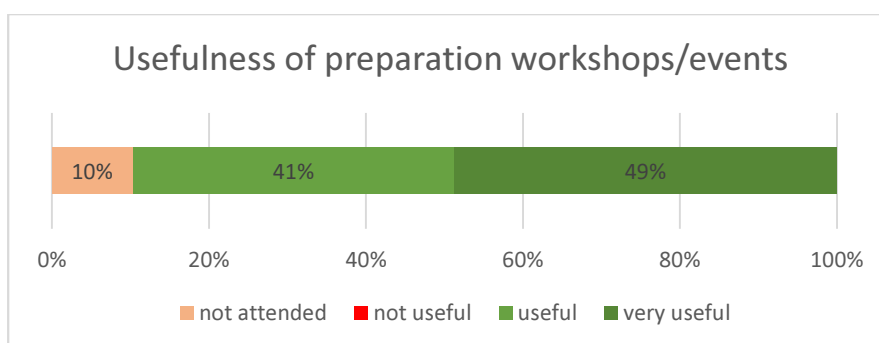
SO	Acronym	Total Project Budget
	THEMIS	2.669.590,00 €
	SWAN	2.632.895,00 €
SO3.2	FRESH WAYS	2.621.935,00 €
	TRUST	837.330,00 €
	INVESTMENT	857.053,07 €

The 51 projects involve 155 unique partners whereas 53% have LBs from Italy and 47% LBs from Greece. Likewise, the approved budget is distributed at 53,5% to beneficiaries from Italy and 46,5% to beneficiaries from Greece

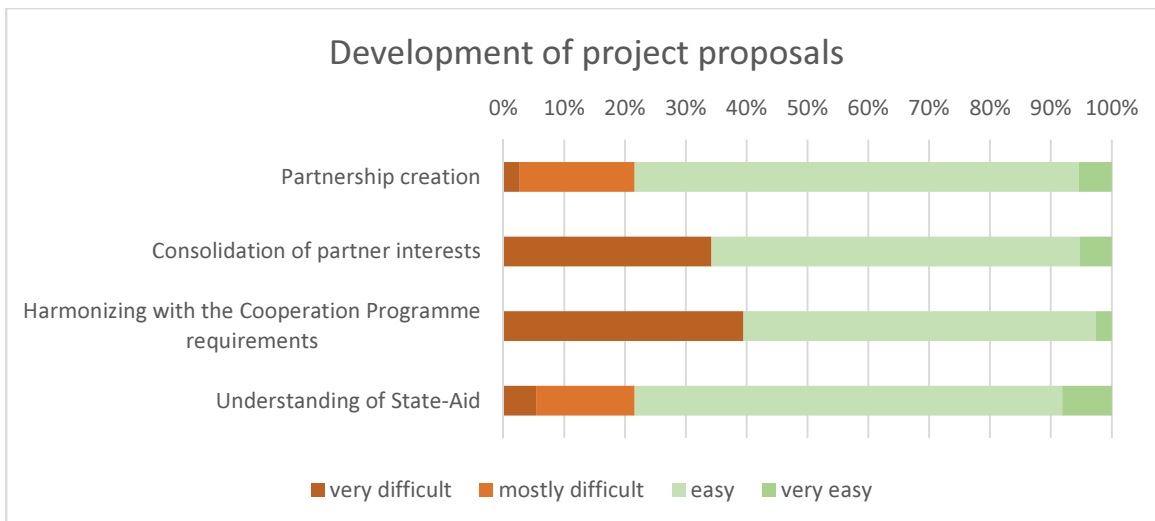
Regarding the preparation of the beneficiaries for the development of project proposals, almost all the beneficiaries found the relevant programme documents and guidelines useful. Specifically, 64% of the beneficiaries consider the programme and project manual as very useful and another 36% as useful. Accordingly, 41% found the CP as very useful and another 59% as useful. Only a 3% found the FAQs as not useful while the other beneficiaries found them very useful (47%) and half of them useful.



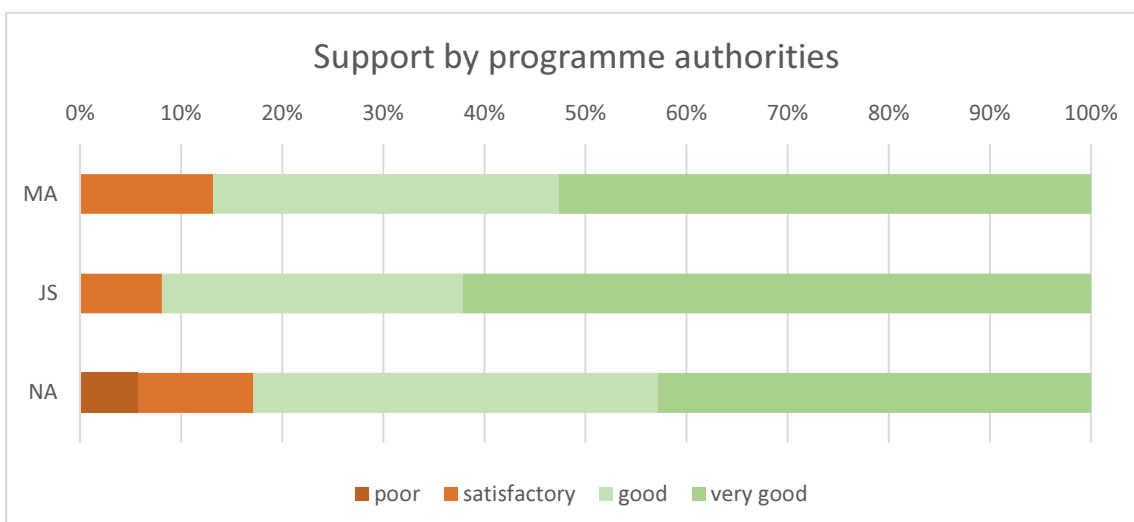
Regarding the preparation workshops and events organized by the MA/JS all the beneficiaries that attended them found them useful and almost half of them (49%) very useful.



Regarding the development of the project proposals, beneficiaries found mostly difficult to harmonize their projects with the CP requirements (39%) and to consolidate the partners' interests (34%). State-aid rules and partnership creation posed difficulties only in one fifth of the beneficiaries.



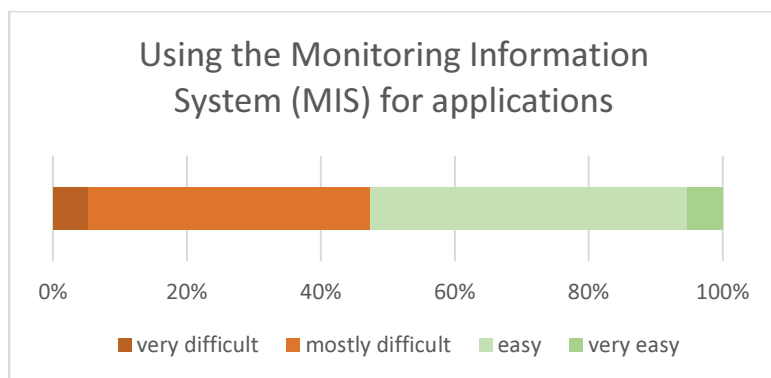
Most of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the support they received from the Programme Bodies. The support provided by the Joint Secretariat was considered mostly as very good, by the 62% of the beneficiaries, and good by another 30%, having a sum of 92% of good opinions. The support from the Managing Authority was also considered mostly as very good, by the 53% of the beneficiaries, and good by another 34%, having a sum of 88% of good opinions. National Authorities were the only ones receiving some poor opinions (6%) and accordingly somewhat fewer good and very good opinions (83%).



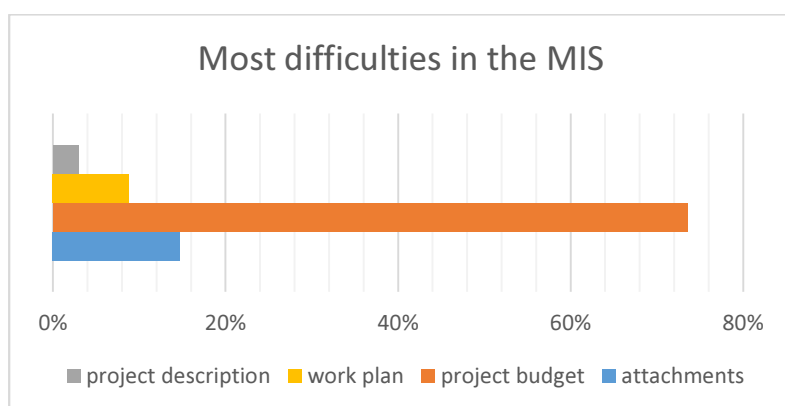
From the side of the MA the respondent members cited they were contacted often by potential applicants for support, mainly for the use of the MIS for electronic submission and clarifications regarding the call for proposals and terms of reference. The requests

were mainly addressed by the issuance of FAQs and guidelines as well as direct answers by mail and phone.

The use of the MIS for application submission has mixed reviews from the beneficiaries. Almost half of them (47%) consider it difficult to use whereas a little more than them (52%) consider its use easy. Some beneficiaries commented that a proved information system should be adopted, i.e. like the one used in H2020.

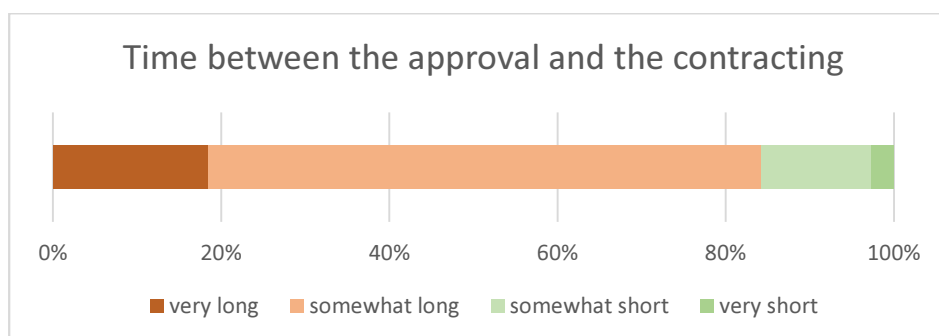


The most difficulties using the MIS by far were encountered by beneficiaries in completing the project budget (74%). The upload of attachment was a difficulty in 15% of the cases, followed by completing the work plan (9%) and filling the project description (3%).

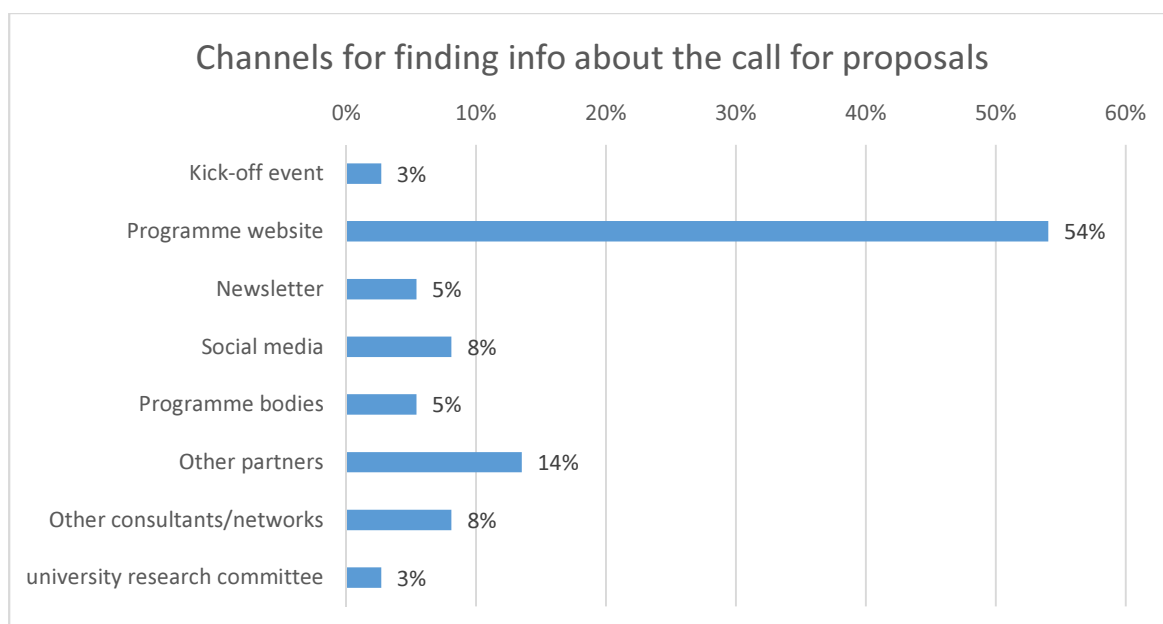


Regarding the project assessment criteria, virtually all of the respondent beneficiaries had fully checked and understood the selection criteria.

The beneficiaries taken part in the evaluation questionnaire survey considered the time between the approval of the project and the actual subsidy contract date as somewhat long by 66%, and very long by 18%, summing up 84%. Only 16% of the respondents found the needed time short.



Regarding the channels for finding the call for proposal, it seems that the most effective one was the programme website, used by the 54% of the beneficiaries. The second most effective channel, with a great difference from the first, was other partners (14%). The remaining 32% is split among other channels comprise of social media, consultants, newsletter, programme bodies, kick off event.



Regarding proposals for improvement for the planning of calls beneficiaries commented they would like to know the planning of all the calls from the beginning, more resources should be allocated to ordinary calls than in strategic ones, more support in finding partners is needed, better enforcement of the CP priorities in the evaluation of proposals.

Regarding proposals about the Programme Strategy beneficiaries highlighted the following proposals:

- Support for the capitalization of important results of projects
- Focus on less projects and better-quality partnerships
- Include more infrastructure works
- Allow for more flexibility in the customization to the needs of the eligible regions.

3.2 Implementation of financial object

The programme budget of the three main PAs is 115,79 mil.€ of which 113,31 mil.€, or 98%, were activated up to 31/12/2018 through the 1st ordinary call for project proposals and the five (5) targeted calls. The activation rate is higher for PA3, at 124%, and PA1 at 95%, and lower for PA2 at 88%. The contracted budget of the approved projects is 61,35 mil.€ amounting to 53% of the programme budget. Regarding the financial object per Priority Axis, PA1 records the higher percentage of contracted budget, 68%, followed by PA2 at 50% and PA3 at 46%. At the Specific Objectives level, the higher rate of contracted budget is recorded for SO2.3 at 90%, SO3.2 at 86% and SO1.1 at 75%. Moderate rates of contracted budget are evident for SO1.2 at 59% and SO2.1 at 54%, whereas low contract rates are recorder for SO3.1 and SO2.2 at 37% and 31% respectively.

Until 31/12/2018 the certified expenditures of the projects were 1,35mil.€ corresponding to 1,2% of the programme budget for PAs 1-3, or to the 2,2% of the contracted budget of the projects.

The low financial implementation rate is due to the late start of projects' implementation, as discussed in the following section.

Table: Financial implementation of the programme until 31.12.2018

	Programmed	Activated		Contracted		Certified expenditures	
	1	2	=2/1	3	=3/1	5	=5/1
PA1	25.786.284	14.535.819	56%	17.536.833	68%	529.729	2,1%
SO1.1	14.276.203	8.046.614	56%	10.706.245	75%	199.685	1,4%
SO1.2	11.510.081	6.489.205	56%	6.830.588	59%	330.044	2,9%
PA2	63.000.000	22.382.728	36%	31.397.711	50%	647.360	1,0%
SO2.1	45.000.001	12.000.000	27%	24.098.192	54%	425.028	0,9%
SO2.2	15.000.000	5.191.364	35%	4.610.830	31%	164.078	1,1%
SO2.3	3.000.000	5.191.364	173%	2.688.689	90%	58.254	1,9%
PA3	27.000.000	16.229.637	60%	12.404.613	46%	175.021	0,6%
SO3.1	22.000.001	10.000.000	45%	8.088.295	37%	30.454	0,1%
SO3.2	5.000.000	6.229.637	125%	4.316.318	86%	144.566	2,9%
SUB-TOTAL	115.786.286	53.148.184	46%	61.339.156	53%	1.352.110	1,2%
PA4	7.390.615					1.548.623	21%
TOTAL	123.176.899					2.900.793	2%

3.3 Targets achievement

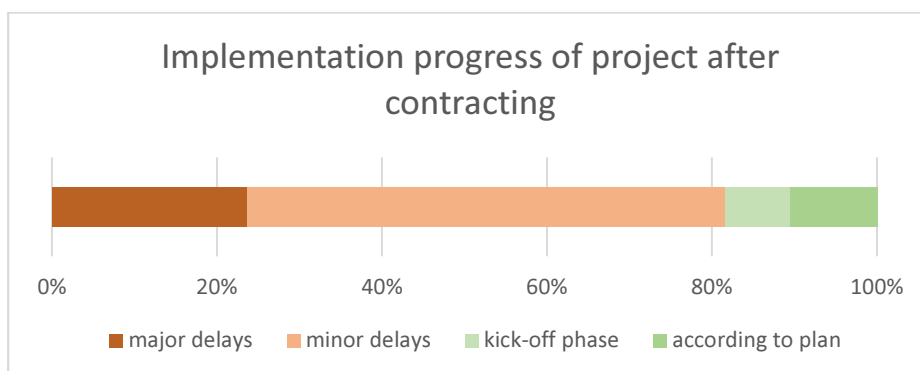
Regarding target achievement from projects' implementation it is noted that 90% percent of the projects had started implementation in 2018 and only 10% of the

beneficiaries state that the project is running according to plan. The delays in the Programme approval and the subsequent delays in the 1st call for proposals, connected also to the time-consuming change of the structure of the JS, are the main reasons for low target achievement until 31.12.2018.

Specifically, according to the information from the projects' application forms:

- 11 projects have starting date after 30.6.2018
- 25 projects had a starting date between April-June 2018
- 11 projects had a starting date between January-March 2018
- 4 projects had a starting date in December 2017

Moreover, according to the survey to beneficiaries, most of the projects are experiencing minor delays in their implementation (58%), whereas only 10% are running according to plan. Major delays are reported by ¼ of the beneficiaries for their projects, and only a few of are in the kick-off phase (8%).



Accordingly, the values for the achievement of the targets of the programme's output indicators until 31/12/2018 are presented in the following table

S.O.	Indicator	Type	unit	Target (2023)	Achievement 31.12.18	Achievement %	Projects contributing
1.1	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Output	enterprises	500	85	17%	13
1.1	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Output	number	20	4	20%	13
1.1	Number of innovation support tools/ approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Output	number	5	1	20%	13

S.O.	Indicator	Type	unit	Target (2023)	Achievement 31.12.18	Achievement %	Projects contributing
1.2	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Output	number	15	3	20%	8
1.2	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Output	number	5		0%	3
2.1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Output	tool	38	4	11%	17
2.2	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Output	visits/year	20	4	20%	4
2.2	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Output	number	12	2	17%	4
2.3	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Output	number	12	3	25%	3
3.1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Output	number	12	3	25%	3
3.1	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Output	number	10	2	20%	2
3.2	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally - friendly mobility and transport	Output	number	5	1	20%	3

Regarding the result indicators the Evaluation consultant carried out a survey for the qualitative indicators measuring levels of capacity, following the methodology set out during the drafting of the Programme¹¹.

Moreover, the Consultant updated the values of the quantitative results indicators from the latest available Eurostat data not only for the current achievement values but the baselines as well.

Table: Target achievement of programme indicators 31.12.2018

S.O.	Indicator	Type	unit	Baseline	Target (2023)	Achievement	Achievement %
1.1	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	Result	%	56	increase	65	116%
1.2	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	Result	number	52.360	55.000	58.484 (2016)	112%
2.1	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	Result	%	65	increase	67	103%
2.2	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	Result	km2	42.401	46.000	42.401	92%
2.3	Level of capacity of regional and local authorities and public utilities operators to integrate environmentally friendly processes and technologies in their operations with special attention to the coastal and maritime zones	Result	%	63	increase	65	103%
3.1	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	Result	Passenger	7.005	7.500,00	(10.596*) see also following table	(141%*) see also following table
3.2	Annual road freight transport loaded in the	Result	tonne	88.532	88.000,00	(67.798*) see also	(77%*) see also

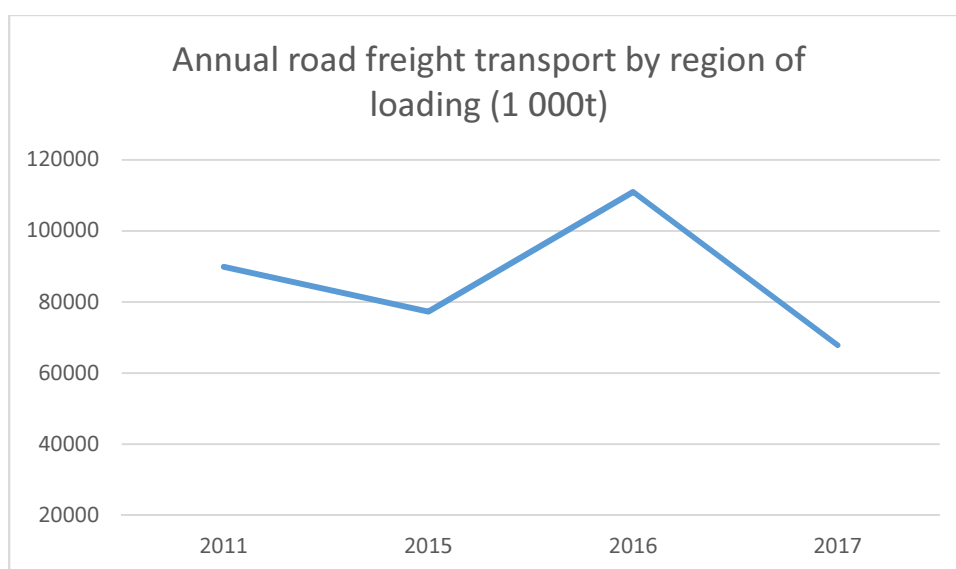
¹¹ Working document "CBC GR-IT, Logic Model and Methodology for Result Indicators" (2015)

S.O.	Indicator	Type	unit	Baseline	Target (2023)	Achievement	Achievement %
	Programme Area (in 1000)					following table	following table

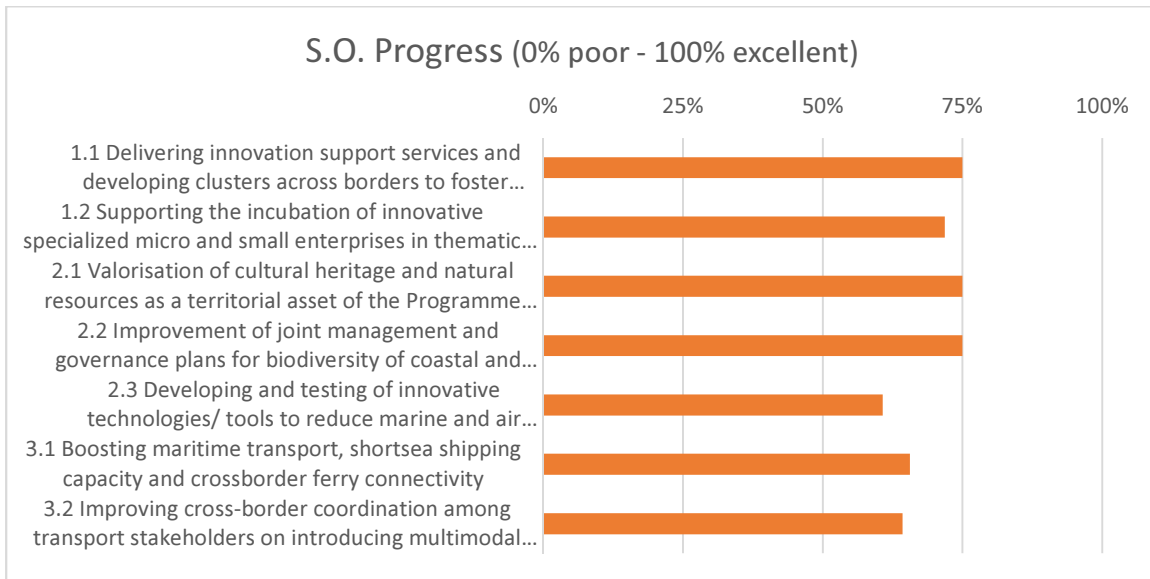
Regarding S.O.3.1 the Programme sets a target of a 7% increase in the number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports. According to the current data of Eurostat for 2012, the baseline value is different than the one recorded in the Programme document. Considering the baseline value as it currently recorded in Eurostat, the current achievement shows a decrease of 7% in the maritime transport of passengers.

S.O.	Indicator	Programme Baseline	Evaluator's Baseline	Achievement	(*) Achievement (%)
3.1	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	7.005 (2012)	11.386 (2012)	10.596 (2016)	-7%
3.2	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	88.532 (2011)	89.902 (2011)	67.798 (2017)	-25%

Likewise, in S.O.3.2 there is a minor difference between the baseline value recorded in the Programme document and the currently available data for 2011 in Eurostat. Considering the updated baseline value, the current achievement shows a significant decrease of 25%, instead of the targeted decrease of 1%. However, as it is evident from the following graph, the data for road freight transport fluctuate strongly year-to-year.



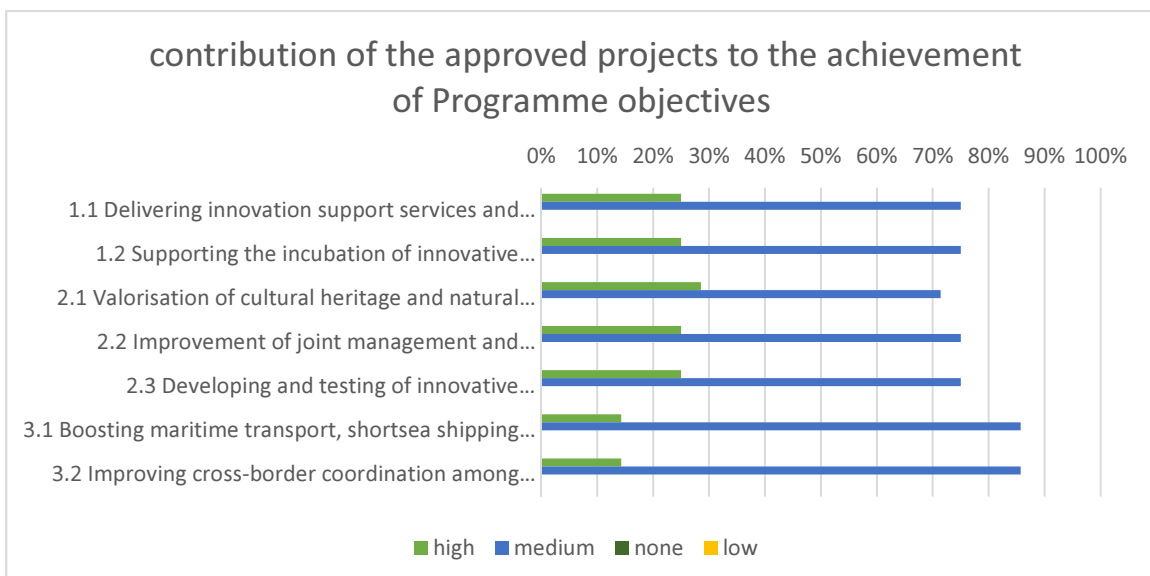
According to the surveyed members of the MA and the JS the progress towards the Specific Objectives of the Programme is above average for all of them. In detail, S.O.s 1.1, 2.1 and 2.2 have the higher ratings towards excellent performance, while S.O.s 3.2 and 2.3 have the lower ratings, but above average performance.



Regarding the assumptions and the risks in achieving the Specific Objectives, the indicative answers from some of the respondents refer to the following:

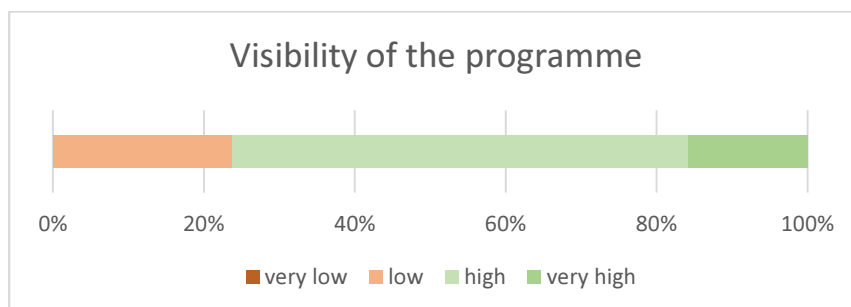
- The slow implementation rate is a risk for all the S.O.s
- The differences between the cross-border areas, i.e. the lack of a truly integrated cross-border cultural offer, the different ecosystems, and different strategies for train and airport transportation infrastructures.

The contribution of the approved projects to the achievement of Programme objectives is mostly considered as medium by the MA and JS members surveyed. However, it should be noted that there weren't any reported cases of low and/or none contribution. Specifically, most views of medium contribution (85%) are gathered in S.O.s 3.1 and 3.2, while most views of high contribution (29%) are gathered in S.O.2.1.



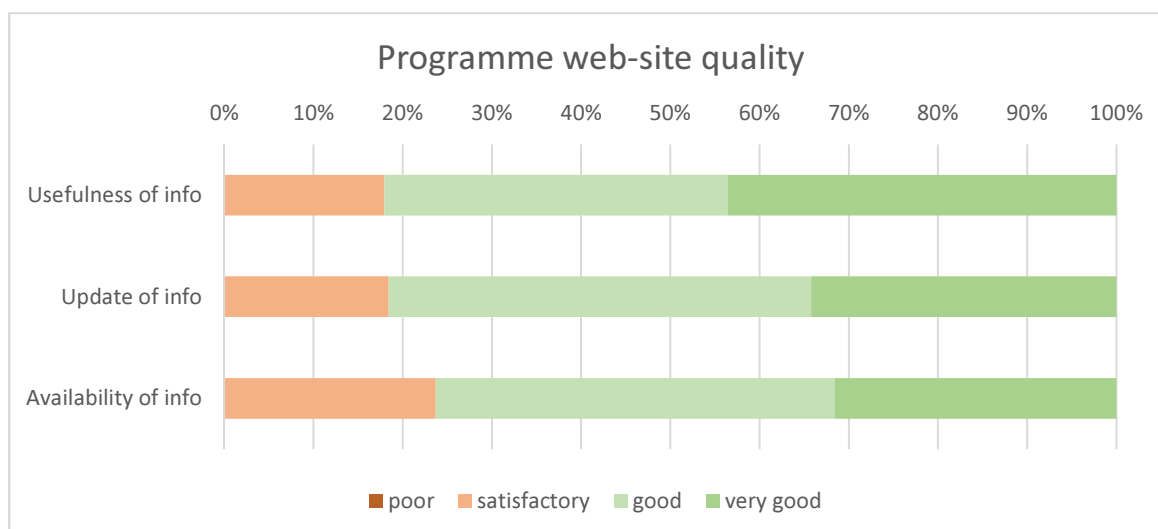
3.4 Communication strategy effectiveness

Regarding the communication strategy effectiveness of the Programme the beneficiaries were asked about the visibility of the CP in their respective area. The majority considered that the visibility is high or very high (76%) whereas ¼ of them considered it as low.



The members of the Monitoring Committee consider the visibility of the programme in the area more evident, as all the respondents consider it towards satisfactory.

The programme website constitutes the most important part of the communication strategy of the programme, at least for the target group of potential beneficiaries. Regarding the quality of the web-site the surveyed beneficiaries consider it mostly good and very good. In detail, the usefulness of the info and the update of the info gather each one 82% of good and very good opinions, whereas the availability of info gather 72% of good and very good opinions. Another positive finding is the lack of poor ratings for the web-site quality.

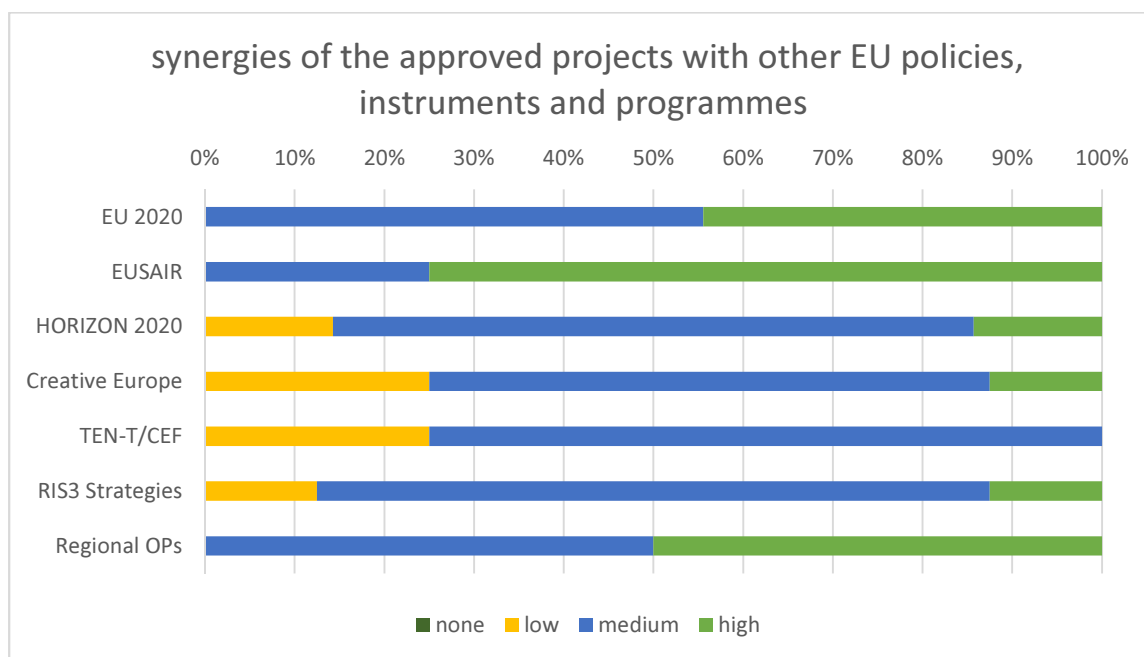


3.4 Horizontal principles

Regarding the horizontal priorities, according to the surveyed members of the MA and JS the Programme foresees measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women, no discrimination and sustainable development. Specifically,

- The above priorities are incorporated in the selection criteria of project proposals at the assessment phase,
- Balanced participation of men and women is provisioned in the management and monitoring structures,
- Access to information is ensured for all users in the promotional materials
- Approved projects, especially in Priority Axis 2, have as an explicit objective the promotion of sustainable development.

Regarding the synergies of the approved projects with other EU policies, instruments and programmes, the surveyed members of the MA and JS considered that there are synergies with all the mentioned items. Overall, synergies with the EUSAIR were considered as high by the most respondents (75%), followed with significant difference by the Regional OPs (50%). On the other hand, most views for low synergies are held for the Creative Europe and TEN-T/CEF (25%). Also, HORIZON2020 and RIS3 Strategies are among the items that have views for low synergies (14% and 13%). There are no views for high synergies with TEN-T/CEF.



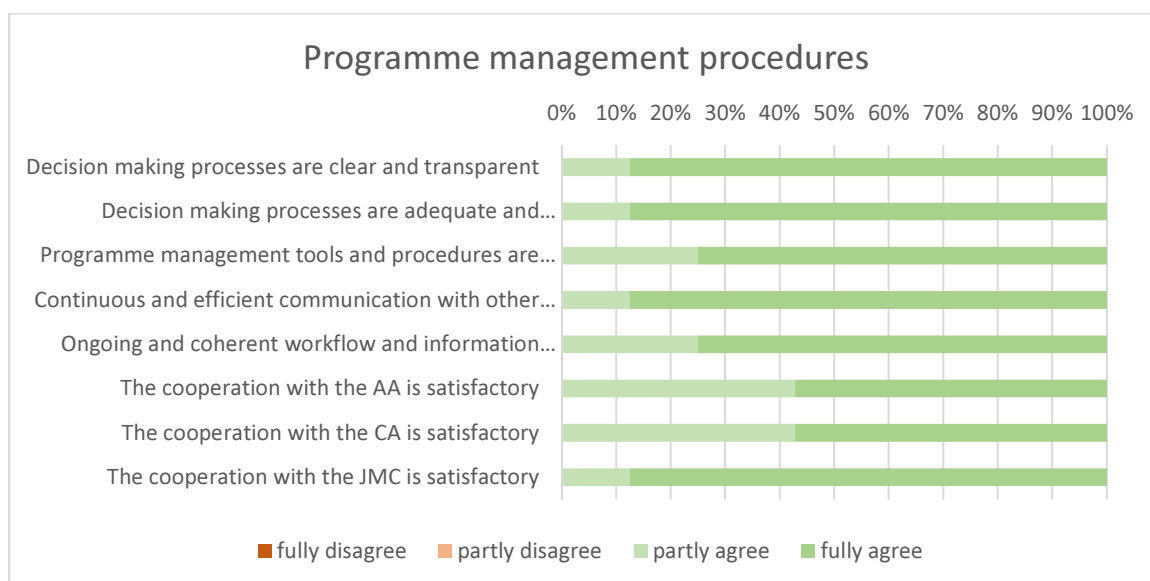
4. Programme efficiency

Given the low financial implementation rate of the programme's projects, at 1,2% until 31.12.2018 and the usual lag between expenditures and physical implementation of the projects the programme efficiency in financial terms per output of Specific Objectives is rather overestimated. The overall efficiency rate of the programme is 15,3. It is positive that all S.O.s have efficiency rates above the unit. PA3 and specifically SO3.1 seem to have the highest efficiency rate at the moment, followed by PA2. On the other hand SO1.2 seems to have the lower efficiency rate, that is better synchronized physical progress and expenditures.

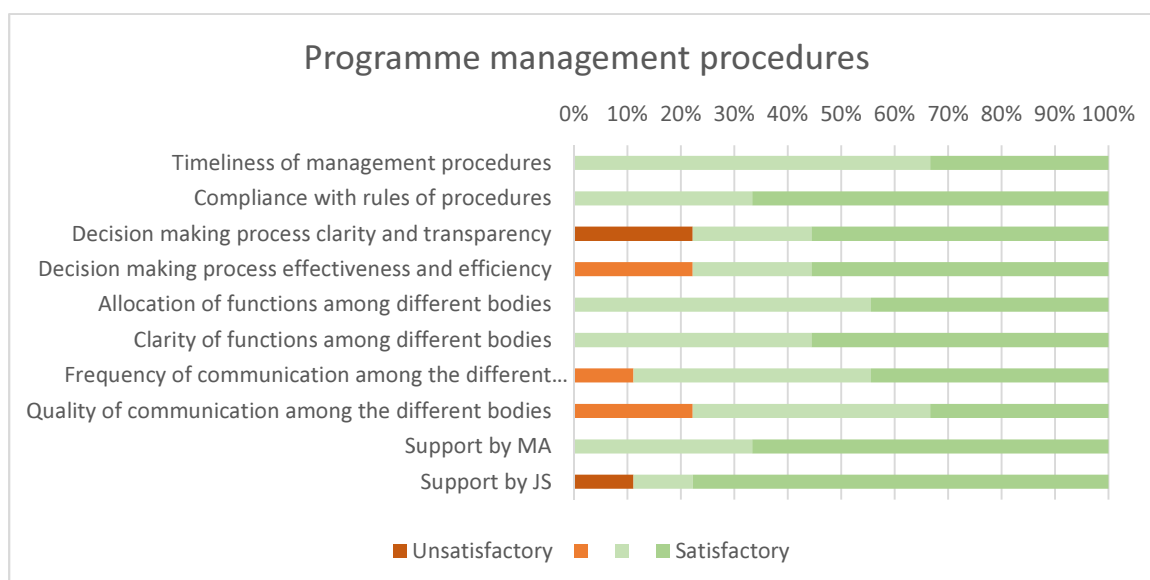
	mean output target achievement	financial implementation rate	efficiency rate
	1	2	=1/2
PA1	15%	2,1%	7,5
SO1.1	19%	1,4%	13,6
SO1.2	10%	2,9%	3,5
PA2	18%	1,0%	17,6
SO2.1	11%	0,9%	11,1
SO2.2	18%	1,1%	16,8
SO2.3	25%	1,9%	12,9
PA3	22%	0,6%	33,4
SO3.1	23%	0,1%	162,5
SO3.2	20%	2,9%	6,9
TOTAL	18%	1,2%	15,3

4.1 Procedures efficiency

Regarding the statements for the efficiency of the programme management procedures, all the surveyed members of the MA and JS agree or partly agree with them. The higher rates of full approval have the decision-making processes and the cooperation with the Monitoring Committee. The higher rates of partly agreement have the satisfactory cooperation with the Audit and Certifying Authorities.

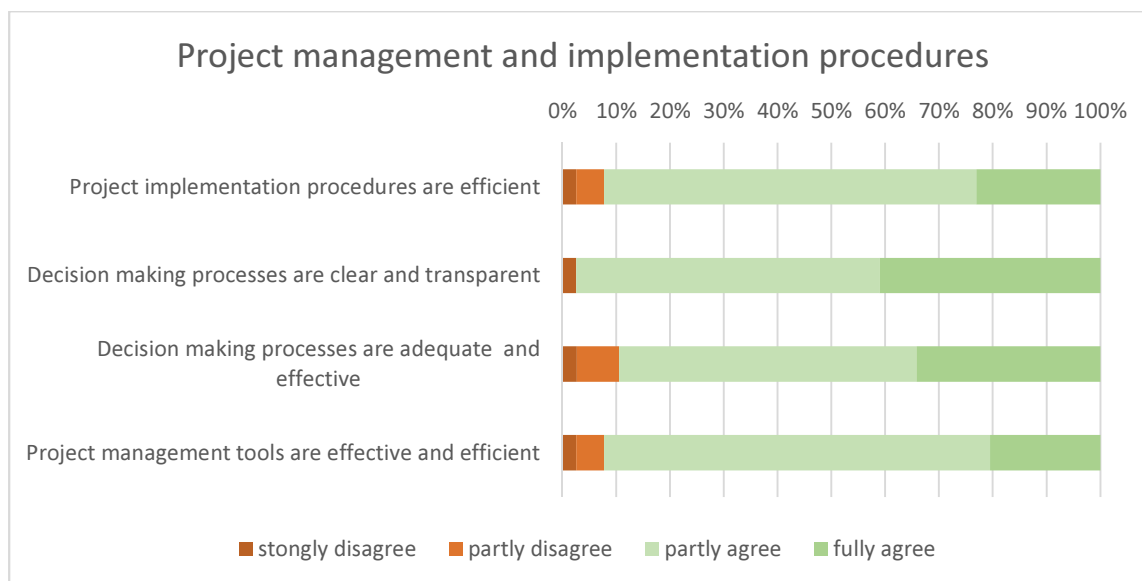


According to the surveyed members of the Monitoring Committee the programme management and implementation procedures are overall mostly satisfactory. The members of the MC record higher levels (78%) of satisfactory performance for the Support by the JS, followed by the support by the MA (67%) and compliance with rules of procedures (67%). Some views towards unsatisfactory performance are recorded regarding the decision-making process and the quality of communication among the different bodies. Some of the remarks of the respondents refer to delays in the transmission of documents before the meetings and a better involvement of the national level especially in the strategic calls definition.



Regarding the project management and implementation procedures the surveyed beneficiaries doesn't express significant negative opinions. In detail, virtually all of them (97%) agree that the decision-making processes are clear and transparent, 92% agree that project implementation procedures and tools are efficient and 89% agree that the decision-making processes are adequate and effective. Nevertheless, some beneficiaries

commented that there is a lot of bureaucracy and many different documents which is time consuming.



Almost all the surveyed members of the MA and JS agree that the programme had set adequate measures to reduce the administrative burden for the beneficiaries. One preeminent example is the use of the MIS which reduced the exchange of paper documents. Towards further reduction of the administrative burden one proposal cited is the use of electronic signatures.

Regarding proposals for improvement beneficiaries commented that:

- more clarity in the form for modifications is needed, the modifications request should be less bureaucratic and with a shorter time for changes approval,
- the administrative load in the first steps of the project implementation is too high, and should be reduced, public bodies require more time to familiarize themselves with the implementation guidelines and processes, seminars for partners staff could be used to avoid delays and also a draft of the project milestones and procurement plan in the submission phase,
- MIS interface and user guide should be improved,
- More attention should be given to the monitoring of project results and outputs than the current main attention to financial indicators.

5. Performance framework

5.1 Milestones achievement

The performance framework is assessed for the achievement of milestones until 31/12/2018. Taking into account the starting dates of the approved projects, due to the delays in the Programme approval and the subsequent delays in the 1st call for proposals, connected also to the time-consuming change of the structure of the JS, as analyzed in the previous section, the milestones for 2018 are achieved for the output indicators but cannot be achieved for the financial indicators.

Table: Performance framework milestones achievement

S.O.	Indicator	Type	unit	Target (2023)	Milestone 2018	Achievement 2018	%
1.1	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Output	number	20	4	4	
1.2	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Output	number	15	3	3	
PA1	Expenditure	Financial	EUR	25.786.285,01	7.329.025,25	722.335,66	9,9%
2.1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Output	tool	38	4	4	
2.2	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Output		12	2	2	
2.3	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Output	number	12	3	3	
PA2	Expenditure	Financial	EUR	63.000.000,01	12.009.747,50	948.942,26	7,9%
3.1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Output	number	12	3	3-	
3.2	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Output	number	5	1	1	
PA3	Expenditure	Financial	EUR	27.000.000,03	8.314.440,50	202.683,83	2,4%

The Evaluation Consultant estimates the risk of not achieving the targets for 2023 based on the current information regarding approved projects, contracted budget and on-going strategic calls. The assumptions of the Evaluation Consultant for estimating the target values of output indicators are based on the performance framework methodology, corrected as described in the following chapter.

According to the estimates of the Evaluation Consultant all output indicators are achievable by 2023 but there is a residual risk in achieving the targets for output indicators of SO2.2 and SO2.3, depending on the methodology used for counting the "support tools" and "cooperation structures and networks".

Financial indicators seem achievable, but the estimates should be updated after the contracting process of the strategic projects especially in the case of budget reductions.

S.O.	Indicator	Target (2023)	Risk of under-achievement	Evaluator's Comments
1.1	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	20	Low	13 projects have been approved. Under the evaluator assumption of 2 structures/networks per project the target is achievable. Also, projects from the strategic call are expected.
1.2	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	15	Low	8 projects have been approved. Under the evaluator assumption of 2 structures/networks per project the target is marginally achievable
PA1	Expenditure	25.786.285,01	Low	17.536.833€ have been contracted. Strategic calls have a budget of 10.000.000€.
2.1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	38	Low	17 projects have been approved. Also, another 5 projects are expected from the strategic calls. Under the evaluator assumption of 2 tools per project the target is achievable
2.2	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	12	Medium-Low	4 projects have been approved. Also, another project is expected from the strategic call. Under the performance framework assumption of 2 tools per project the target is marginally achievable
2.3	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	12	Medium-Low	3 projects have been approved. Under the evaluator assumption of 2 structures/networks per project the target is marginally achievable
PA2	Expenditure	63.000.000,01	Low	31.397.711€ have been contracted. Strategic calls have a budget of 32.915.600€.
3.1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in	12	Medium-Low	3 projects have been approved. Also, another 2 projects are expected from the strategic call.

S.O.	Indicator	Target (2023)	Risk of under-achievement	Evaluator's Comments
	the field of maritime mobility and transport			Under the evaluator assumption of 2 structures/networks per project the target is marginally achievable
3.2	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	5	Low	3 projects have been approved. Under the evaluator assumption of 2 structures/networks per project the target is achievable
PA3	Expenditure	27.000.000,03	Low	12.404.613 € have been contracted. Strategic calls have a budget of 17.250.000.

5.2 Timeliness of assumptions

The main assumptions of the performance framework are assessed in the following table. The evaluator considers that the performance framework assumptions are lacking in some cases robustness in calculating target values. Output indicators measure "networks and structures" and "jointly developed tools" but the performance framework assumptions in some cases measure the number of partners forming the said "networks and structures".

Performance framework Assumptions	Evaluator Comments
Two rounds of calls for proposals are estimated prior to 2018: a 1 st call for proposals to be launched in September 2015 and the 2 nd call for proposals a year later, i.e. in September 2016 a minimum of 1-2 projects will be completed under the SOs by the end of 2018	The CP was officially adopted by the European Commission on 15/12/2015 The 1 st ordinary call for proposal was published on 22/7/2016. The deadline for the call was the 15 th of december 2016. The approval from the MC of the permitted / not permitted error was the 20 th of June 2017 and the first pack of projects (41) were approved on 7/11/2017.
the budget size of ordinary projects is calculated on average as 1 m EUR	The average budget of the approved projects is 1.2 mil.€
SO1.1 output indicator: Implementation of 5 co-operation projects (where in each on average 2 clusters or partners form a network = 10 Implementation of 5 co-operation projects involving a minimum of 2 partners each designing/delivering	The partners forming the structure/network are counted instead of the structure/network as an entity. Therefore, the evaluator proposes as achievement assumption on average 2 structures/networks per project $10 * 2 = 20$.

Performance framework Assumptions	Evaluator Comments
innovation support services = 10	
SO1.2 output indicator: Implementation of 5 co-operation projects, where in each on average 3 partners form a structure or network for the transfer of innovative techniques, best practice exchange, integration of knowledge among SMEs located in incubators on both sides of the Programme Area = 15	The partners forming the structure/network are counted instead of the structure/network as an entity. Therefore, the evaluator proposes as achievement assumption on average 2 structures/networks per project $5 * 2 = 10$.
SO2.1 output indicator: Potential interest of 10 different partnerships developing/generating a minimum of 2 management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage= 20	
SO2.2 output indicator: Potential interest of 5 different partnerships developing/generating a minimum of 2 management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection = 10	
SO2.3 output indicator: Implementation of 4 co-operation projects, where in each on average 3 partners form a structure or network for facilitating the introduction of environmentally-friendly sustainable technologies and processes, promoting relevant training schemes, and other similar actions in the field= 12	The partners forming the structure/network are counted instead of the structure/network as an entity. Therefore, the evaluator proposes as achievement assumption on average 2 structures/networks per project $4 * 2 = 8$.
SO3.1 output indicator: Implementation of 8-10 co-operation projects, where in each on average 3 partners form a structure or network for improving accessibility to transport infrastructure areas, enhancing security, and other similar actions in the field= 25	The partners forming the structure/network are counted instead of the structure/network as an entity. Therefore, the evaluator proposes as achievement assumption on average 2 structures/networks per project $9 * 2 = 18$.
SO3.2 output indicator: Implementation of 5 co-operation projects, where in each on average 3 partners form a structure or network in the field of environmentally-friendly solutions in mobility and transport = 15	The partners forming the structure/network are counted instead of the structure/network as an entity. Therefore, the evaluator proposes as achievement assumption on average 2 structures/networks per project $5 * 2 = 10$.

6. Evaluation recommendations

The Greece Italy 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme was designed during a period of economic recession in Greece and Italy and uncertainty for the Eurozone economy. The update of the socioeconomic analysis for the regions of the cross-border area, reveal some positive changes, but given the low starting point of many indicators (i.e. in R&D) the needs analysis mostly holds current. New progresses, impacting the needs analysis, are the finalization of the RIS3 strategies of the programme's region and the migration/refugee flows towards Europe from Middle East and Africa.

The Evaluation Consultant estimates that more concentration of resources in innovation, competitiveness and internationalization would have greater impact in the prospects of the area. Also, the facilitation of tourism flows and the consequent mitigation of the effects to the environment can produce tangible benefits for the regional economies, in tandem with addressing climate change risks. The approved projects budget allocation of the 1st ordinary call for proposals seems to accommodate the above. Overall, the programme strategy is suitable to address the challenges of the cross-border area.

The programme logic has sufficiently defined Specific Objectives, and coherence in linking needs to objectives and outputs to results. Only a few identified needs seem not adequately addressed, and in a few cases results are not directly linked to outputs or defined according to the E.C. Guidelines (i.e. some results in SO2.1 and SO3.1). However, given the multitude of needs and results described in the programme document the Evaluation Consultant considers there is no adverse effect in the realization of the strategy.

The outputs can be achieved by the given resources and act as a catalyst towards the expected results. In the case of SO2.3 and SO3.2, inputs could be marginal to support the multitude of operations and results described in the programme document, especially after they were reduced by around 70% in the reallocation of resources made in the 1st programme modification. However, even if the financial inputs can be seen as limited in relation to the needs of the cross-border area, this is expected by the scope and size of the programme.

Output indicators are well articulated in the programme logic. Only in one case, indicator CO09 doesn't seem properly linked to SO2.2 definition and expected results as it measures tourist visits, whilst the operations refer to environmental protection and improvement. However, SO2.2 outputs are captured by the second indicator O0520. Result indicators are also mostly linked to the respective Specific Objectives rationale, albeit with various degrees of coherence. The Evaluator Consultant considers there is some room for improvement for result indicators in SO2.2 and SO3.2, with a more qualitative approach, however given the constraints of setting baseline values retrospectively, this exercise could be implemented in the impact evaluations, as to further document the positive effects of the programme.

The above were also acknowledged in the ex-ante evaluation of the programme and were taken into account in its design and approval. Thus, the programme strategy and programme logic are well suited to achieve the expected results in the cross-border area, given the implementation progress until 31/12/2018. The approved projects and their outputs are appropriate to the programme logic and are serving the programme strategy. The overall realization of the programme strategy is expected to be further enhanced by the strategic projects approved in 2019 under the targeted calls for proposals.

Regarding programme effectiveness and efficiency until 31.12.2018 the activation rate of the programme was at 98% (excluding PA4 – technical assistance) with the launch of one Ordinary Call for Proposals and five (5) Targeted Calls. 51 projects, from the 1st Call, have been contracted, with a budget of 61.339.156€ or the 53% of the programme.

According to the estimates of the Evaluation Consultant all output indicators are achievable by 2023, by applying the methodology of the MA/JS. However, by applying the assumptions of the performance framework the Evaluation Consultant considers there is a residual risk in achieving the targets for output indicators of SO2.2 and SO2.3. It is recommended to examine the methodologies for defining "tools" and "structures and networks" in the 2nd Evaluation of the implementation, under the light of the actual outputs of the projects by a field survey/ case studies, in order to make any needed adjustments.

The results indicators targets have been already achieved for all SOs except for 2.2 which is expected to be achieved after the completion of the projects. Regarding result indicator for SO3.1 the updated baseline and current values, derived from Eurostat, show a decline in maritime transport of passengers in the programme area. If this trend continues until the closure of the Programme, then it is advisable to distinguish the effects of the programme's projects in SO3.1 from other external factors (i.e. estimate their impact in reducing the decline trend).

Financial performance of the projects is very low at 1,6% or expenditures of 1.873.961,75€ until the cut-off date of 31.12.2018 as most of the projects had started their implementation in 2018, and at 2,8% or 3.422.584,75€ adding the technical assistance expenditures. However, expenditure targets seem achievable for 2023 for all PAs when taking into account the estimates for the contracting of the strategic projects. The delays in the Programme approval and the subsequent delays in the 1st call for proposals, connected also to the time-consuming change of the structure of the JS, are the main reasons for non-achievement of the performance framework milestones for 2018.

Regarding the implementation of the 1st ordinary call for proposals a significant sign of the need of and awareness about the programme in the cross-border area is the high number of proposals submitted that reached 349. This was the highest number among

the calls of Cooperation Programmes managed by the MA. The MA/JS sees improvement in the projects proposals in relation to the previous programming period and the MoC members are satisfied with the quality of the projects. Contracting procedures after projects approval may also have an impact in the achievement of the performance framework milestones for 2018; more than 80% of the beneficiaries deemed the elapsed time as long.

Project management and implementation procedures seem satisfactory and efficient for the MA/JS members, the MoC members and the beneficiaries. The new MIS electronic submission reduced the administrative burdens in some degree, however almost half of the beneficiaries consider it difficult to use. The Evaluation Consultant estimates that there is significant potential to further reduce the administrative burden to the beneficiaries by the targeted upgrade of the MIS.

The communication strategy also seems to have satisfactory results for the programme visibility in the area, according to the views of beneficiaries and MoC members. The programme website arises as the most important part of the communication strategy and the quality of its content and info gathers mostly positive opinions from the beneficiaries. The Evaluation Consultant recommends the further improvement in the update and availability of info and data in the web-site.

7. Preparation for impact assessments

According to the approved Evaluation Plan of the Programme, impact evaluations are foreseen in the framework of the 2nd Evaluation during implementation in 2021 and the 3rd Evaluation during implementation in 2023. Specifically, the requested impact evaluation is of thematic character and should properly reflect the results of interventions and to assess accurately the benefits of the Programme area from actions concerning Environmental Protection and Risk Prevention.

The relevant Priority Axes and Specific Objectives to be analyzed for the aforementioned impact assessments are:

PA2: Integrated Environmental Management

- SO2.1: Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area
- 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
- SO2.3: Developing and testing of innovative technologies/tools to reduce marine and air pollution

PA3: Multimodal Sustainable Transport System

- SO3.2: Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions

Impact assessment data inputs should be secured mainly through:

- Monitoring of the progress of the result indicators at different stages of Programme implementation and the comparison with the baseline values. This will enable a clear and impartial perception on progress made and on results achieved by the Programme compared to the initial situation.
- Reported indicators by the projects' beneficiaries in the MIS. This will enable to assess the critical mass required to facilitate changes.
- Deliverables and outputs from the project implementation uploaded in the MIS can constitute a very comprehensive information source.
- Case study analyses of targeted projects, to enable the identification of crucial underlying factors enabling the observed changes.

- Quantitative and qualitative assessment of the broader socioeconomic environment of the cross-border area through data from Eurostat and other verified statistical data providers and specific studies. This will enable to differ the impacts of the programme interventions from the broader trends in the cross-border area.

Specifically, for each of the SOs to be included in the impact assessment the Evaluation Consultant recognizes the key evaluation question and data required to answer them.

- SO2.1 Evaluation Question 1: To what extent has the Programme contributed to improve valorization of cultural heritage and natural resources?

Main source of documentation is the result indicator R0502 "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". The indicator has a baseline value of 56%. It was measured by the Evaluation Consultant in 2019 with a reported value of 67%. Measurements are foreseen for 2020 and 2023 by means of questionnaire survey, according to the established methodology (Working document "CBC GR-IT, Logic Model and Methodology for Result Indicators" (2015)).

- SO2.1 Evaluation Question 2: What change can be observed in the field of tourism?

Main source of documentation is the Eurostat data on arrivals and nights spent in total and by non residents in the programme area. The current values reported by the Evaluation Consultant are:

Arrivals	2012	855.830.681
	2017	1.048.366.709
	Change	22%
Nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments by residents/non-residents, total nights	2012	1.585.808.714
	2017	3.184.056.269
	Change	101%

- SO2.1 Evaluation Question 3: What are the factors facilitating that contribution? Are there any unintended effects of the Programme in this field?

Main source of documentation should be surveys to key stakeholders: beneficiaries of SO2.1 projects, other stakeholders of the tourism industry (regional/local tourism organizations, policy makers, tourism associations and chambers).

Additional case studies and good practices of projects in SO2.1 should be examined and highlighted.

- SO2.2 Evaluation Question 1: To what extent has the Programme contributed to improve joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems?

Main source of documentation is the output indicator O0520 "Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection".

Additional case studies and good practices of projects in SO2.2 should be examined and highlighted.

- SO2.2 Evaluation Question 2: To what extent has the Programme contributed to improve management of natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures

Main source of documentation is the result indicator R0504 "Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions". The indicator has a baseline value of 42.201. According to the Evaluation Consultant estimate there was no change until in 2019. Measurements are foreseen for 2020 and 2023 by means of data provided by European Environmental Agency and/or National Authorities with the responsibility to designate Protected Areas.

Additional case studies and good practices of projects in SO2.2 should be examined and highlighted.

- SO2.2 Evaluation Question 3: What change can be observed in the field of environmental management
and

- SO2.2 Evaluation Question 4: What are the factors facilitating that contribution? Are there any unintended effects of the Programme in this field?

Main source of documentation should be surveys to key stakeholders: beneficiaries of SO2.2 projects, other stakeholders in environmental management and protection (management bodies of protected areas, academic institutes, regional authorities).

Additional case studies and good practices of projects in SO2.2 should be examined and highlighted.

- SO2.3 Evaluation Question 1: To what extent has the Programme contributed to improve innovative technologies/tools to reduce marine and air pollution?

Main source of documentation is the result indicator 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". The indicator has a baseline

value of 63%. It was measured by the Evaluation Consultant in 2019 with a reported value of 65%. Measurements are foreseen for 2020 and 2023 by means of questionnaire survey, according to the established methodology (Working document "CBC GR-IT, Logic Model and Methodology for Result Indicators" (2015)).

- SO2.3 Evaluation Question 2: What change can be observed in the field of marine and air pollution?

Main source of documentation is the ecological status of transitional and coastal water. As an anchor point to assess the changes, the "Study on Macroregional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy, 2017" by COWI, can be used.

- SO2.3 Evaluation Question 3: What are the factors facilitating that contribution? Are there any unintended effects of the Programme in this field?

Main source of documentation should be surveys to key stakeholders: beneficiaries of SO2.3 projects, other stakeholders in environmental technologies (academic and research institutes, regional authorities, chambers).

Additional case studies and good practices of projects in SO2.3 should be examined and highlighted.

- SO3.2 Evaluation Question 1: To what extent has the Programme contributed to improve cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions?

Main source of documentation is the output indicator O0524 "Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport".

Additional case studies and good practices of projects in SO3.2 should be examined and highlighted.

- SO3.2 Evaluation Question 2: What change can be observed in the field of multimodal environmentally friendly solutions?

Main source of documentation is the Eurostat data on maritime, goods and air transport in the programme area. The current values reported by the Evaluation Consultant are:

	Epirus	Ionian Islands	W. Greece	Puglia	Epirus
Maritime transport of passengers [1000 Passengers]- passengers embarked	2012	1,12	1,77	3,10	930
	2016	1,22	1,99	2,38	584
	Change	9%	13%	-23%	-37%
Total goods loaded and unloaded Maritime [Thousands of tonnes]	2010	2.819	680	6.515	49.918
	2016	3.113	n/a	5.790	35.002

	Change	10%		-11%	-30%
Air transport of passengers [1000 Passengers]- passengers carried	2012	71	3.202	441	5.860
	2017	96	5.184	717	6.984
	Change	35%	62%	63%	19%

- SO3.2 Evaluation Question 3: What are the factors facilitating that contribution?
Are there any unintended effects of the Programme in this field?

Main source of documentation should be surveys to key stakeholders: beneficiaries of SO3.2 projects, other stakeholders in transportation (port authorities, regional authorities).

Additional case studies and good practices of projects in SO3.2 should be examined and highlighted.

8. Evaluation dissemination plan

The evaluation dissemination plan aims to make evaluation results accessible to a wide range of the different internal and external stakeholders to maximize their use. Effective dissemination of evaluation results will not only contribute to greater accountability for the programme, but also enables the stakeholders and partners to learn more about MA/JS work and its contributions to broader knowledge generation on programming for cross-border cooperation and regional development.

Audience	Goal	Tool/ Medium	Forum	Responsible Party
MA	Key learning and inputs to improve the programme and for the design of new interventions	Evaluation Report	Distributed to officers of Units B2, A and D Discussion in internal meetings according to Management and Control System	MA - Unit A' (drafts the necessary training plan)
JS	Key learning and inputs to improve programme	Evaluation Report	Distributed to JS Head Internal discussion with project officers	MA/JS
Beneficiaries	Contribute to management aspects and improving effectiveness of the intervention	Simplified version of evaluation	Upload to Programme website Publish newsletter Informed in workshops organized by MA	MA
Monitoring Committee members	Accountability, efficient use of resources and results	Evaluation Report	Include for discussion in meetings agenda/material	MA/JS
National Authorities	Results achieved	Evaluation Report	Sent by mail	MA/JS
European Commission	Accountability, efficient use of resources and results	Evaluation Report	Report uploaded to SFC Synthesis of results in AIR 2019	MA/JS
Broader public	Transparency of public resources, info on achieved results and main activities carried outs	Simplified version of evaluation	Upload to Programme website Publish newsletter	Communication officer

8.1 Simplified version (EN)

Greece and Italy, two neighboring countries with a rich and common past, have more than 25 years of cooperation experience, starting from 1990 until now. Interreg Greece-Italy Programme is a bilateral and cross-border Cooperation Programme, which links eleven (11) NUTS III level prefectures and six (6) provinces from two EU member states.

The Programme has a total budget of 123,176,896 € and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) at a rate of 85% with an amount of 104,700,362 € and by the 2 member states through a national co-financing at the rate of 15%, for the 2014-2020 period.

The overall objective of the Interreg Greece-Italy 2014-2020 Programme is to support strategic GR-IT cross-border co-operation in order to develop 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. It aims to enable regional and local stakeholders from eligible areas to exchange knowledge and experiences, to develop and implement pilot actions, to test the feasibility of new policies, products and services, and support investment in the areas of interest.

Methodology of the first evaluation

The scope of the first evaluation is the assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme, the achievement of its objectives and on whether or not to update the intervention logic and to allocate new or redistribute the resources in the Programme.

The evaluation objective is to improve performance in the interim implementation of the Programme and the specialization or the potential redesign of interventions.

Evaluation questions are clustered in six sections:

A. Effectiveness of the programme

B. Programme performance framework

C. Programme Efficiency

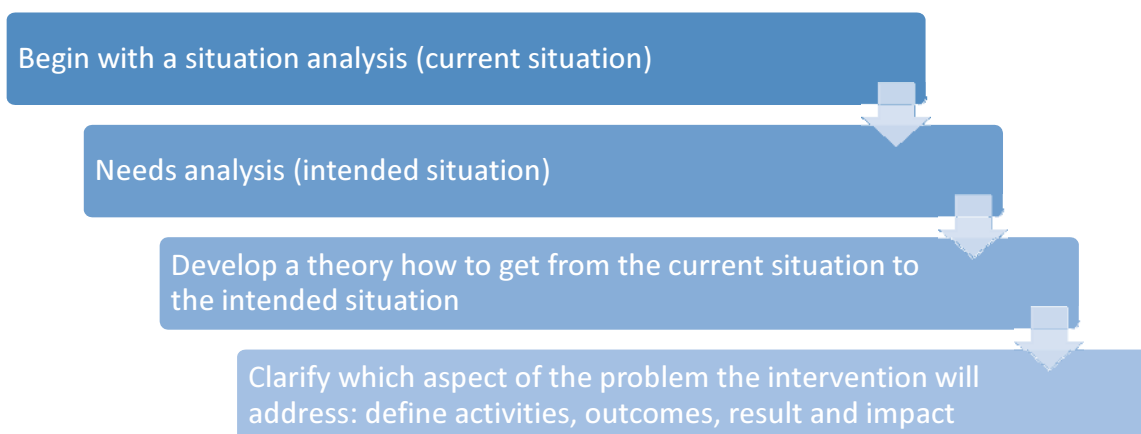
D. Timeliness of the intervention logic in the framework of the Programme strategy

E. Revision of the CP

F. Preparation for impact assessments

The methodological approach is based on the Theory of Change. The approach is concerned with going beyond input- output descriptions and seeking to understand the

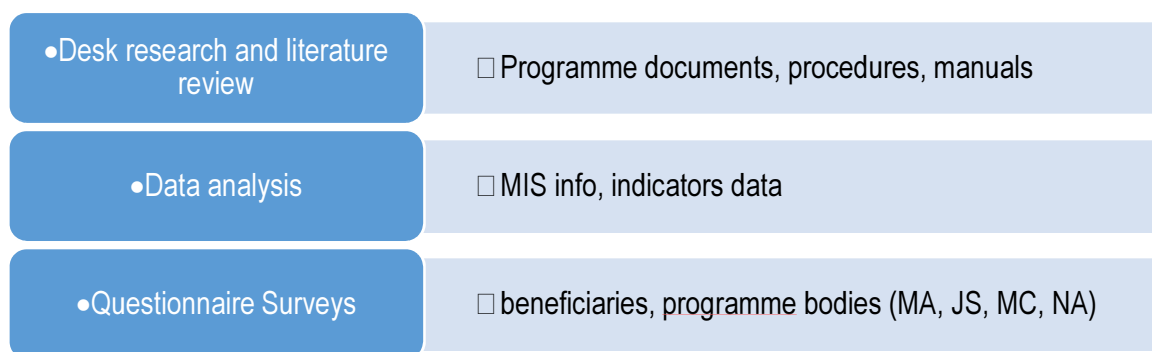
theories of actors with regard to programme interventions and why they should work. As a planning tool the Theory of Change helps to come up with the logic of the programme (to reconstruct the chain that links objectives of the programme, the interventions funded, the outputs achieved and the contribution of the interventions to these results):



The data utilized for the needs of the first evaluation included:

- Programming document, communication strategy, calls for proposals, annual reports, management and control system
- Primary data of implementation of the physical and economic object (approvals, contracts, expenses) from the management information system.
- Secondary data from sectoral policy bodies (ministries, institutes, etc.) and statistical services in terms of the values of the result indicators.
- Stakeholders views, opinions and experience.
- Europe 2020 strategy indicators.
- Regulatory framework

The methods used to analyze the data and derive evaluation findings are as follows:



Findings, conclusions and recommendations

The Greece Italy 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme was designed during a period of economic recession in Greece and Italy and uncertainty for the Eurozone economy. The update of the socioeconomic analysis for the regions of the cross-border area, reveal some positive changes, but given the low starting point of many indicators (i.e. in R&D) the needs analysis mostly holds current. The approved projects budget allocation of the 1st ordinary call for proposals seems to accommodate the above..

New progresses, impacting the needs analysis, are the finalization of the RIS3 strategies of the programme's region and the migration/refugee flows towards Europe from Middle East and Africa.

The programme logic has sufficiently defined Specific Objectives, and coherence in linking needs to objectives and outputs to results. Only a few identified needs seem not adequately addressed, and in a few cases results are not directly linked to outputs or defined according to the E.C. Guidelines (i.e. some results in SO2.1 and SO3.1). Even if the financial inputs can be seen as limited, in some cases, in relation to the needs of the cross-border area, this is expected by the scope and size of the programme.

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Output indicators are well articulated in the programme logic. Only in one case, indicator CO09 doesn't seem properly linked to SO2.2 definition and expected results as it measures tourist visits, whilst the operations refer to environmental protection and improvement. However, SO2.2 outputs are captured by the second indicator Result indicators are also mostly linked to the respective Specific Objectives rationale, albeit with various degrees of coherence..

Overall, the programme strategy and programme logic are well suited to achieve the expected results in the cross-border area, given the implementation progress until 31/12/2018. The approved projects and their outputs are appropriate to the programme logic and are serving the programme strategy. The overall realization of the programme strategy is expected to be further enhanced by the strategic projects approved in 2019 under the targeted calls for proposals.Regarding programme effectiveness and efficiency

until 31.12.2018 the activation rate of the programme was at 98% (excluding PA4 – technical assistance) or 113,31 mil.€ with the launch of one Ordinary Call for Proposals and five (5) Targeted Calls. A total of 51 projects have been contracted, in the framework of the 1st Call for proposals, and are under implementation for a total budget of 61,34 mil.€. Beneficiaries from Italy account for the 53,5% of the budget and beneficiaries from Greece for 46,5%.

Specifically, 21 projects are being implemented under PA1 (SO1.1: 13; SO1.2:8) with an average budget per project of 0,84 mil.€, 24 projects under PA2 (SO2.1: 17; SO2.2: 4; SO2.3: 3) with an average budget per project of 1,3 mil.€, and 6 projects under PA3 (SO3.1: 3; SO3.2: 3) with an average budget per project of 2,1 mil.€.

The 51 projects involve 155 unique partners whereas 53% have LBs from Italy and 47% LBs from Greece. All regions, provinces and prefectures of the Programme area are involved in the 51 contracted projects, except for the prefecture of Kefalonia.

Financial performance of the projects is very low at 1,6% or expenditures of 1.873.961,75€ until the cut-off date of 31.12.2018 as most of the projects had started their implementation in 2018, and at 2,8% or 3.422.584,75€.

The results indicators targets have been already achieved for all SOs except for SO2.2 which is expected to be achieved after the completion of the projects.

S.O.	Indicator	unit	Achievement	% of 2023 target
1.1	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	%	65	116%
1.2	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	number	58.484 (2016)	112%
2.1	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	%	67	103%
2.2	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	km2	42.401	92%
2.3	Level of capacity of regional and local authorities and public utilities operators to integrate environmentally friendly processes and technologies in their operations with special attention to the coastal and maritime zones	%	65	103%
3.1	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	Passenger	10.596 (2016)	141%
3.2	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	tonne	67.798 (2017)	77%

According to the estimates of the Evaluation Consultant all output indicators are achievable by 2023 but there is a residual risk in achieving the targets for output indicators of SO2.2 and SO2.3, depending on the methodology used. Expenditure targets seem achievable for 2023 for all PAs when taking into account the estimates for the contracting of the strategic projects.

Project management and implementation procedures seem satisfactory and efficient for the MA/JA members, the MoC members and the beneficiaries. The new MIS electronic submission reduced the administrative burdens in some degree, however almost half of the beneficiaries consider it difficult to use.

Regarding the implementation of the 1st ordinary call for proposals a critical sign of the need of and awareness about the programme in the cross-border area is the high number of proposals submitted that reached 349. This was the highest number among the calls of Cooperation Programmes managed by the MA..The MA/JS sees improvement in the projects proposals in relation to the previous programming period and the MoC members are satisfied with the quality of the projects. Contracting procedures after projects approval are related to delays in the achievement of the performance framework milestones for 2018; more than 80% of the beneficiaries deemed the elapsed time as long.

The communication strategy also seems to have satisfactory results for the programme visibility in the area, according to the views of beneficiaries and MoC members. The programme website arises as the most important part of the communication strategy and the quality of its content and info gathers mostly positive opinions from the beneficiaries.

The Evaluation Consultant estimates that more concentration of resources in innovation, competitiveness and internationalization would have greater impact in the prospects of the area. Also, the facilitation of tourism flows and the consequent mitigation of the effects to the environment can produce tangible benefits for the regional economies, in tandem with addressing climate change risks. The Evaluator Consultant considers there is some room for improvement for result indicators, with a more qualitative approach, however given the constraints of setting baseline values retrospectively, this exercise could be implemented in the impact evaluations, as to further document the positive effects of the programme. Overall, the programme strategy is suitable to address the challenges of the cross-border area.

An update of the budget allocation should be made right after the contracting of the strategic projects to check against the potential achievement of financial targets and the need for the launch of additional call for proposals or approval of additional projects from reserve lists.

The Evaluation Consultant estimates that there is significant potential to further reduce the administrative burden to the beneficiaries by the targeted upgrade of the MIS.

Finally, the further improvement in the update and availability of info and data in the web-site is recommended.

8.2 Simplified version (IT)

Grecia e Italia, due paesi limitrofi con un passato ricco e comune, hanno più di 25 anni di esperienza di cooperazione, a partire da 1990 fino ad ora. Il programma INTERREG Grecia-Italia è un programma di cooperazione bilaterale e transfrontaliero, che collega undici (11) regioni di livello NUTS III e sei (6) Province di due Stati membri dell'UE.

Il programma ha un bilancio totale di €123.176.896 ed è cofinanziato dal Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale (FESR) ad un tasso del 85% con un importo di €104.700.362 e dai 2 Stati membri attraverso un cofinanziamento nazionale al tasso del 15%, per il periodo 2014-2020.

L'obiettivo generale del programma INTERREG Grecia-Italia 2014-2020 è quello di sostenere la cooperazione transfrontaliera strategica al fine di sviluppare un'economia dinamica che favorisca una crescita intelligente, sostenibile e inclusiva con l'obiettivo di migliorare la qualità della vita per quelli che vivono nella regione transfrontaliera, soprattutto in tempi di crisi economica come questi. Esso mira a consentire alle parti interessate regionali e locali di aree ammissibili di scambiare conoscenze ed esperienze, di sviluppare e attuare azioni pilota, di testare la fattibilità di nuove politiche, prodotti e servizi e di sostenere gli investimenti nei settori di interesse.

Metodologia della prima valutazione

Il campo di applicazione della prima valutazione è la valutazione dell'efficienza e dell'efficacia del Programma, del conseguimento dei suoi obiettivi e della possibilità di aggiornare o meno la logica di intervento e per allocare nuove o ridistribuire le risorse nel programma.

L'obiettivo della valutazione è migliorare le prestazioni nell'attuazione intermedia del programma e la specializzazione o la potenziale riprogettazione degli interventi.

Le domande di valutazione sono raggruppate in sei sezioni:

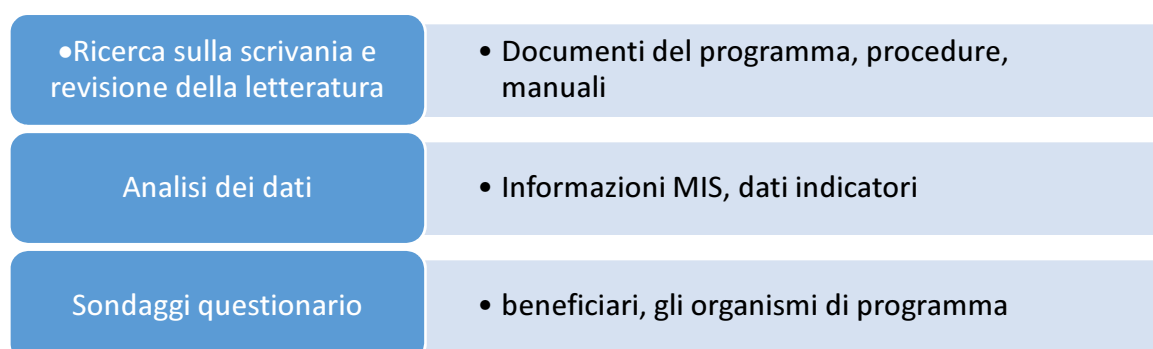
- A. efficacia del programma
- B. quadro delle prestazioni del programma
- C. efficienza del programma
- D. tempestività della logica di intervento nel quadro della strategia del programma
- E. Revisione del programma
- F. preparazione delle valutazioni d'impatto

L'approccio metodologico si basa sulla teoria del cambiamento. L'approccio si occupa di andare oltre le descrizioni di input-output e di cercare di comprendere le teorie degli attori per quanto riguarda gli interventi dei programmi e perché dovrebbero funzionare. Come strumento di pianificazione la teoria del cambiamento aiuta a venire con la logica del programma (per ricostruire la catena che collega gli obiettivi del programma, gli interventi finanziati, le realizzazioni raggiunte e il contributo degli interventi a questi risultati).

I dati utilizzati per le esigenze della prima valutazione includevano:

- Documento di programmazione, strategia di comunicazione, inviti a presentare proposte, relazioni annuali, sistema di gestione e di controllo
- Dati primari di implementazione dell'oggetto fisico ed economico (approvazioni, contratti, spese) dal sistema informativo gestionale.
- Dati secondari provenienti da organismi di politica settoriale (ministeri, istituti, ecc.) e servizi statistici in termini di valori degli indicatori di risultato.
- Opinioni ed esperienze delle parti interessate.
- Indicatori strategici dell'Europa 2020.
- Quadro normativo

I metodi utilizzati per analizzare i dati e ricavare i risultati della valutazione sono i seguenti:



Risultati, conclusioni e raccomandazioni

Il programma di cooperazione Grecia Italia 2014-2020 è stato concepito durante un periodo di recessione economica in Grecia ed in Italia ed incertezza per l'economia dell'eurozona. L'aggiornamento dell'analisi socioeconomica per le regioni della zona transfrontaliera, rivela alcuni cambiamenti positivi, ma dato il basso punto di partenza di molti indicatori (vale a dire in R & D) l'analisi dei bisogni è prevalentemente attuale.

L'assegnazione di bilancio dei progetti approvati del primo invito a presentare proposte ordinarie sembra accogliere quanto sopra.

Nuovi progressi, che influiscono sull'analisi dei bisogni, sono la finalizzazione delle strategie RIS3 della regione del programma e i flussi migratori/rifugiati verso l'Europa dal Medio Oriente e dall'Africa.

La logica del programma ha sufficientemente definito gli obiettivi specifici e la coerenza nel collegamento delle esigenze territoriali agli obiettivi e ai risultati. Solo pochi bisogni identificati non sembrano adeguatamente affrontati, e in alcuni casi i risultati non sono direttamente collegati agli output o definiti secondo le linee guida E.C. (cioè alcuni risultati in SO2.1 e SO3.1). Anche se i fattori finanziari possono essere considerati limitati, ciò è previsto dall'ambito e dalle dimensioni del programma (cooperazione territoriale europea).

Gli indicatori di output sono ben articolati nella logica del programma. Solo in un caso, l'indicatore CO09 non sembra completamente legato alla definizione di SO2.2 e ai risultati attesi in quanto misura le visite turistiche, mentre le operazioni si riferiscono alla protezione e al miglioramento dell'ambiente. Tuttavia, gli output SO2.2 vengono acquisiti dal secondo indicatore. Gli indicatori di risultato sono inoltre per lo più collegati alla logica degli obiettivi specifici, anche se con vari gradi di coerenza.

Nel complesso, la strategia e la logica del programma sono idonee ad ottenere i risultati attesi nell'area transfrontaliera, visti i progressi di attuazione fino al 31/12/2018. I progetti approvati e i loro risultati sono appropriati per la logica del programma e utili alla strategia del Programma. La realizzazione complessiva della strategia del programma dovrebbe essere ulteriormente rafforzata dai progetti strategici approvati nel 2019 nell'ambito degli inviti mirati a presentare proposte.

Per quanto riguarda l'efficacia e l'efficienza dei programmi fino 31.12.2018 il tasso di attivazione del programma era pari al 98% (escluso PA4 – assistenza tecnica) o a 113,31 mil.€ con il lancio di un invito ordinario a presentare proposte e cinque (5) inviti mirati. A totale di 51 progetti sono stati contrattualizzati, nell'ambito del primo invito a presentare proposte, e sono in esecuzione per un bilancio complessivo di 61,34 mil.€. I beneficiari italiani hanno a loro disposizione il 53,5% del bilancio, mentre i beneficiari greci il 46,5%.

In particolare, 21 progetti sono in corso di attuazione sotto PA1 (SO 1.1: 13; SO1.2: 8) con un budget medio per progetto di 0,84 mil.€, 24 progetti nell'ambito di PA2 (SO2.1: 17; SO2.2: 4; SO2.3: 3) con un budget medio per progetto di 1,3 mil.€, e 6 progetti sotto PA3 (SO3.1: 3; SO3.2: 3) con un budget medio per progetto di 2,1 mil.€.

I progetti 51 coinvolgono 155 partner unici, mentre il 53% ha beneficiari principali dall'Italia e il 47% dalla Grecia. Tutte le regioni, le province e le prefetture dell'area del

programma sono coinvolte nei progetti 51 contratti, ad eccezione della Prefettura di Cefalonia.

La performance finanziaria dei progetti è molto bassa all' 1,6% o le spese di 1.873.961,75€ € fino a 31.12.2018 a causa della tardiva approvazione del programma e i successivi ritardi nel primo invito a presentare proposte. Unfisse dell'assistenza tecnica il totale le spese del programma ammontano a 2,8% o 3.422.584,75€. Gli obiettivi degli indicatori dei risultati sono già stati raggiunti per tutte le SO ad eccezione di SO2.2 che dovrebbe essere raggiunto dopo il completamento dei progetti.

S.O.	Indicatori	unità	successo	% di 2023 target
1.1	Livello di capacità delle imprese e degli stakeholder per l'innovazione di utilizzare i servizi e i cluster di sostegno all'innovazione disponibili	%	65	116%
1.2	Numero di imprese nelle sezioni NACE J e M	number	58.484 (2016)	112%
2.1	Livello di capacità per le parti interessate nei settori della protezione del patrimonio naturale e culturale e del turismo per valorizzare in modo sostenibile il patrimonio naturale e culturale come risorsa di crescita	%	67	103%
2.2	Aree del sito protette totali nelle regioni del programma ammissibili	km2	42.401	92%
2.3	Livello di capacità delle autorità regionali e locali e degli operatori di servizi pubblici di integrare processi e tecnologie rispettosi dell'ambiente nelle loro operazioni con particolare attenzione alle zone costiere e marittime	%	65	103%
3.1	Trasporto marittimo di passeggeri: numero di passeggeri imbarcati e sbarcato nei porti della zona di programmazione (in 1000)	Passeggero	10.596 (2016)	141%
3.2	Trasporto annuale di merci su strada caricato nell'area del programma (in 1000)	tonne	67.798 (2017)	77%

Secondo le stime del consulente di valutazione, tutti gli indicatori output sono raggiungibili entro il 2023, ma esiste un rischio residuo nel raggiungimento degli obiettivi per gli indicatori output di SO2.2 e SO2.3, a seconda della metodologia utilizzata. Gli obiettivi di spesa sembrano raggiungibili per il 2023 per tutte le PA tenendo conto delle stime per l'appalto dei progetti strategici.

Le procedure di gestione e attuazione del progetto sembrano soddisfacenti ed efficienti per l'autorità di gestione/i membri del segretariato congiunto, i membri del Comitato di monitoraggio e i beneficiari. La nuova trasmissione elettronica MIS ha ridotto in qualche misura gli oneri amministrativi, tuttavia quasi la metà dei beneficiari lo considera difficile da utilizzare.

Per quanto riguarda l'attuazione del primo invito ordinario a presentare proposte, un segno critico della necessità e della consapevolezza del programma nell'area transfrontaliera è l'elevato numero di proposte presentate che hanno raggiunto le 349. Questo è stato il numero più alto tra i richiami dei programmi di cooperazione gestiti dal MA. L'MA/JS vede miglioramenti nelle proposte di progetti in relazione al precedente periodo di programmazione e i membri del CoM sono soddisfatti della qualità dei progetti. Le procedure di contrattazione dopo l'approvazione dei progetti sono correlate a ritardi nel raggiungimento delle tappe del quadro di performance per il 2018; più del 80% dei beneficiari considerato il tempo trascorso a lungo.

La strategia di comunicazione sembra inoltre avere risultati soddisfacenti per la visibilità del programma nel settore, secondo le opinioni dei beneficiari e dei membri del CoM. Il sito Web del programma si pone come la parte più importante della strategia di comunicazione e la qualità dei suoi contenuti e informazioni raccoglie principalmente pareri positivi da parte dei beneficiari.

Il consulente di valutazione stima che una maggiore concentrazione di risorse nell'innovazione, nella competitività e nell'internazionalizzazione avrebbe un maggior impatto sulle prospettive dell'area. Inoltre, la facilitazione dei flussi turistici e la conseguente attenuazione degli effetti sull'ambiente possono produrre benefici tangibili per le economie regionali, in parallelo con l'affrontare i rischi legati al cambiamento climatico. Il consulente del valutatore ritiene che vi siano alcuni margini di miglioramento per gli indicatori di risultato, con un approccio più qualitativo, tuttavia, tenuto conto dei vincoli di impostazione retrospettiva dei valori di base, questo esercizio potrebbe essere attuato nell'impatto valutazione, al dettaglio degli effetti positivi del programma.. Nel complesso, la strategia del programma è adatta ad affrontare le sfide del settore transfrontaliero.

L'aggiornamento dell'allocazione del budget dovrebbe essere effettuato subito dopo l'aggiudicazione dei progetti strategici al fine di verificare il potenziale conseguimento degli obiettivi finanziari e la necessità di lanciare ulteriore invito a presentare proposte o approvazione di progetti supplementari da liste di riserva.

Il consulente di valutazione stima che vi sia un notevole potenziale per ridurre ulteriormente l'onere amministrativo per i beneficiari mediante l'aggiornamento mirato del MIS.

Infine, si consiglia di migliorare ulteriormente l'aggiornamento e la disponibilità di informazioni e dati nel sito web.

8.3 Simplified version (GR)

Η Ελλάδα και η Ιταλία, δύο γειτονικές χώρες με πλούσιο και κοινό παρελθόν, έχουν περισσότερα από 25 χρόνια εμπειρίας συνεργασίας, ξεκινώντας από 1990 έως τώρα. Το πρόγραμμα INTERREG Ελλάδα-Ιταλία είναι ένα διμερές και διασυνοριακό πρόγραμμα συνεργασίας, το οποίο συνδέει έντεκα (11) περιφέρειες NUTS III και έξι (6) νομαρχίες από δύο κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ.

Το πρόγραμμα έχει συνολικό προϋπολογισμό €123.176.896 και συγχρηματοδοτείται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης (ΕΤΠΑ) σε ποσοστό 85% με ποσό €104.700.362 και από τα 2 κράτη μέλη μέσω εθνικής συγχρηματοδότησης με ποσοστό 15%, για την περίοδο 2014-2020.

Ο γενικός στόχος του προγράμματος INTERREG Ελλάδα-Ιταλία 2014-2020 είναι να στηρίξει τη στρατηγική διασυνοριακή συνεργασία, προκειμένου να αναπτυχθεί μια δυναμική οικονομία η οποία θα προάγει την έξυπνη, διατηρήσιμη και χωρίς αποκλεισμούς ανάπτυξη με στόχο τη βελτίωση της ποιότητας ζωής για όσους ζουν στη διασυνοριακή περιοχή, ιδίως σε καιρούς οικονομικής κρίσης όπως αυτές. Στοχεύει να δώσει τη δυνατότητα στους περιφερειακούς και τοπικούς ενδιαφερόμενους φορείς από τις επιλέξιμες περιοχές να ανταλλάξουν γνώσεις και εμπειρίες, να αναπτύξουν και να εφαρμόσουν πιλοτικές δράσεις, να δοκιμάσουν τη σκοπιμότητα νέων πολιτικών, προϊόντων και υπηρεσιών και να στηρίξουν τις επενδύσεις στους τομείς ενδιαφέροντος.

Μεθοδολογία πρώτης αξιολόγησης

Το πεδίο εφαρμογής της πρώτης αξιολόγησης είναι η αξιολόγηση της αποδοτικότητας και της αποτελεσματικότητας του προγράμματος, της επίτευξη των στόχων και του αν θα απαιτηθεί ή όχι επικαιροποίηση της λογικής της παρέμβασης και ανακατανομή των πόρων του Προγράμματος.

Στόχος της αξιολόγησης είναι η βελτίωση της επίδοσης κατά την ενδιάμεση εφαρμογή του προγράμματος και η εξειδίκευση ή ο ενδεχόμενος επανασχεδιασμός των παρεμβάσεων.

Οι ερωτήσεις αξιολόγησης συγκεντρώνονται σε έξι ενότητες:

- Α. αποτελεσματικότητα του προγράμματος
- Β. πλαίσιο επιδόσεων του προγράμματος
- Γ. αποδοτικότητα προγράμματος
- Δ. επικαιρότητα της λογικής της παρέμβασης στο πλαίσιο της στρατηγικής του προγράμματος
- Ε. αναθεώρηση του προγράμματος

- Στ. προετοιμασία για τις εκτιμήσεις αντικτύπου

Η μεθοδολογική προσέγγιση είναι βασισμένη στη θεωρία της αλλαγής. Η προσέγγιση υπερβαίνει την περιγραφή εισροών-εκροών και αφορά την κατανόηση των θεωριών των παραγόντων όσον αφορά τις παρεμβάσεις του προγράμματος και πως αυτές δουλεύουν. Ως εργαλείο σχεδιασμού, η θεωρία της αλλαγής συμβάλλει στην ανάδειξη της λογικής του προγράμματος: αναδομεί την αλυσίδα που συνδέει τους στόχους του προγράμματος, τις χρηματοδοτούμενες παρεμβάσεις, τις εκροές που επιτεύχθηκαν και τη συμβολή των παρεμβάσεων στα αποτελέσματα.

Τα δεδομένα που χρησιμοποιήθηκαν για τις ανάγκες της πρώτης αξιολόγησης περιλάμβαναν:

- Έγγραφο προγραμματισμού, επικοινωνιακή στρατηγική, προσκλήσεις υποβολής προτάσεων, ετήσιες εκθέσεις, σύστημα διαχείρισης και ελέγχου
- Πρωτογενή στοιχεία φυσικού και οικονομικού αντικείμενου (εγκρίσεις, συμβάσεις, δαπάνες) από το πληροφοριακό σύστημα διαχείρισης.
- Δευτερεύοντα δεδομένα από τομιακά όργανα πολιτικής (υπουργεία, ινστιτούτα κ.λπ.) και στατιστικές υπηρεσίες όσον αφορά τις τιμές των δεικτών αποτελεσμάτων.
- Οι απόψεις, εμπειρία και γνώση των εμπλεκόμενων.
- Δείκτες στρατηγικής Ευρώπη 2020.
- Κανονιστικό πλαίσιο.

Οι μέθοδοι που χρησιμοποιούνται για την ανάλυση των δεδομένων και την άντληση ευρημάτων αξιολόγησης είναι οι εξής:

• Έρευνα γραφείου και βιβλιογραφική ανασκόπηση

• Έγγραφα προγράμματος, διαδικασίες, εγχειρίδια

Ανάλυση δεδομένων

• Πληροφορίες MIS, στοιχεία δεικτών

Έρευνες ερωτηματολογίων

• δικαιούχοι, φορείς προγράμματος (ΔΑ, ΚΓ, Επ.Πα., Εθνικές Αρχές)

Ευρήματα, συμπεράσματα, συστάσεις

Το πρόγραμμα συνεργασίας της Ελλάδα - Ιταλία 2014-2020 σχεδιάστηκε κατά τη διάρκεια περιόδου οικονομικής ύφεσης στην Ελλάδα και την Ιταλία και αβεβαιότητας για την οικονομία της ευρωζώνης. Η επικαιροποίηση της κοινωνικοοικονομικής ανάλυσης για τις περιφέρειες της διασυνοριακής περιοχής, αποκαλύπτει ορισμένες

θετικές αλλαγές, αλλά δεδομένου του χαμηλού σημείου εκκίνησης πολλών δεικτών (π.χ. E&A), η ανάλυση των αναγκών παραμένει επίκαιρη. Η κατανομή του προϋπολογισμού στα εγκεκριμένα έργα της 1^{ης} πρόσκλησης υποβολής προτάσεων φαίνεται συναφής ως προς τα προαναφερθέντα πορίσματα.

Νέες εξελίξεις, που επηρεάζουν την ανάλυση των αναγκών, είναι η οριστικοποίηση των στρατηγικών RIS3 της περιοχής του προγράμματος και οι ροές μετανάστευσης/προσφύγων προς την Ευρώπη από τη Μέση Ανατολή και την Αφρική.

Η λογική του προγράμματος έχει καθορίσει επαρκώς συγκεκριμένους στόχους, και εμφανίζει συνοχή στη σύνδεση αναγκών με στόχους και εκροών με αποτελέσματα. Μόνο ορισμένες ανάγκες φαίνεται να μην αντιμετωπίζονται επαρκώς και σε ορισμένες περιπτώσεις τα αποτελέσματα δεν συνδέονται άμεσα με τις εκροές ή δεν καθορίζονται σύμφωνα με τις κατευθυντήριες γραμμές της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής, (κυρίως κάποια αποτελέσματα των Ειδικών Στόχων 2.1 και 3.1). Οι χρηματοδοτικές εισροές μπορεί να εμφανίζονται ως περιορισμένες, σε ορισμένες περιπτώσεις, αλλά αυτό είναι αναμενόμενο λόγω του μεγέθους και της εμβέλειας του προγράμματος.

Οι δείκτες εκροών είναι καλά αρθρωμένοι στη λογική του προγράμματος. Μόνο σε μια περίπτωση, ο δείκτης CO09 δεν φαίνεται κατάλληλα συνδεδεμένος με τον ορισμό και τα αναμενόμενα αποτελέσματα του Ε.Σ.2.2, καθώς μετρά επισκέπτες, ενώ οι πράξεις τους Ε.Σ. αναφέρονται στην προστασία και αναβάθμιση του περιβάλλοντος. Ωστόσο, οι εκροές του Ε.Σ.2.2 αντικατοπτρίζονται στον δεύτερο δείκτη εκροών του. Οι δείκτες αποτελέσματος γενικά συνδέονται επαρκώς με τη λογική των αντίστοιχων ειδικών στόχων, αν και με διάφορους βαθμούς συνοχής.

Συνολικά, η στρατηγική και λογική του προγράμματος είναι κατάλληλες για την επίτευξη των αναμενόμενων αποτελεσμάτων στην διασυνοριακή περιοχή, δεδομένης και της προόδου υλοποίησης μέχρι 31.12.2018. Τα εγκεκριμένα έργα και οι εκροές τους είναι συναφή με την λογική του προγράμματος και εξυπηρετούν την στρατηγική. Η συνολική υλοποίηση της στρατηγικής του προγράμματος θα ενισχυθεί από τα στρατηγικά έργα που εγκρίθηκαν το 2019 στο πλαίσιο των στοχευμένων προκλήσεων υποβολής προτάσεων.

Όσον αφορά την αποτελεσματικότητα και την αποδοτικότητα του προγράμματος μέχρι 31.12.2018 το ποσοστό ενεργοποίησης του προγράμματος ήταν στο 98% (εξαιρουμένων του ΑΠ4 – τεχνικής βοήθειας) ή 113,31 εκατ.€, με την δημοσίευση μιας συνηθισμένης πρόσκλησης υποβολής προτάσεων και πέντε (5) στοχευόμενων προσκλήσεων. Συνολικά 51 έργα έχουν συμβασιοποιηθεί, στο πλαίσιο της 1^{ης} πρόσκλησης υποβολής προτάσεων, και βρίσκονται σε εφαρμογή, με συνολικό προϋπολογισμό 61,34 εκατ.€. Οι δικαιούχοι από την Ιταλία αναλογούν στο 53,5% του προϋπολογισμού και οι δικαιούχοι από την Ελλάδα στο 46,5%.

Συγκεκριμένα, 21 έργα υλοποιούνται στο πλαίσιο του ΑΠ1 (Ε.Σ.1.1: 13, Ε.Σ.1.2:8) με μέσο προϋπολογισμό ανά έργο 0,84 εκατ.€, 24 έργα στο πλαίσιο του ΑΠ2 (Ε.Σ.2.1: 17,

Ε.Σ.2.2: 4; Ε.Σ.2.3: 3) με μέσο προϋπολογισμό ανά έργο 1,3 εκατ.€, και 6 έργα στο πλαίσιο του ΑΠ3 (Ε.Σ.3.1: 3, Ε.Σ.3.2: 3) με μέσο προϋπολογισμό ανά έργο 2,1 εκατ.€.

Τα 51 έργα περιλαμβάνουν 155 μοναδικούς εταίρους, ενώ το 53% των Επικεφαλής Δικαιούχων είναι από την Ιταλία και το 47% από την Ελλάδα. Όλες οι περιφέρειες, οι επαρχίες και οι νομαρχίες της περιοχής του προγράμματος συμμετέχουν στα 51 εγκεκριμένα έργα, εκτός από τον νομό Κεφαλονιάς.

Οι οικονομικές επιδόσεις των έργων είναι πολύ χαμηλές, στο 1,6% ή δαπάνες 1.873.961,75€ μέχρι 31.12.2018, λόγω της καθυστέρησης στην έγκριση του προγράμματος και τις επακόλουθες καθυστερήσεις στην 1^η πρόσκληση υποβολής προτάσεων. Συνυπολογίζοντας την τεχνική βοήθεια, οι συνολικές δαπάνες του προγράμματος ανέρχονται στο 2,8% ή ποσό 3.422.584,75€.

Οι στόχοι των δεικτών αποτελεσμάτων έχουν ήδη επιτευχθεί για όλους τους Ε.Σ., εκτός του 2.2, ο οποίος αναμένεται να επιτευχθεί με την ολοκλήρωση των έργων.

Ε.Σ.	Δείκτης	μονάδα	Επίτευξη	% στόχου 2023
1.1	Επίπεδο ικανότητας των επιχειρήσεων και των ενδιαφερόμενων φορέων καινοτομίας για την αξιοποίηση των διαθέσιμων υπηρεσιών υποστήριξης της καινοτομίας και των συνεργατικών σχηματισμών	%	65	116%
1.2	Επιχειρήσεις στους τομείς NACE J και M	αριθμός	58.484 (2016)	112%
2.1	Επίπεδο ικανότητας για τα εμπλεκόμενα μέρη στους τομείς της προστασίας της φυσικής και πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς και του τουρισμού για τη βιώσιμη αξιοποίηση της φυσικής και πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς ως στοιχείου ανάπτυξης	%	67	103%
2.2	Σύνολο προστατευόμενων περιοχών στην επιλέξιμη περιοχή του Προγράμματος	km ²	42.401	92%
2.3	Επίπεδο ικανότητας των περιφερειακών και τοπικών αρχών και των φορέων κοινής ωφέλειας για την ενσωμάτωση φιλικών προς το περιβάλλον διεργασιών και τεχνολογιών στις δραστηριότητές τους με ιδιαίτερη προσοχή στις παράκτιες και θαλάσσιες ζώνες	%	65	103%
3.1	Θαλάσσιες μεταφορές επιβατών: αριθμός επιβατών που επιβιβάζονται και αποβιβάζτηκαν σε λιμένες της περιοχής του προγράμματος (σε 1000)	επιβάτες	10.596 (2016)	141%
3.2	Ετήσιες οδικές εμπορευματικές μεταφορές που φορτώθηκαν στην περιοχή του Προγράμματος (σε 1000)	τόνοι	67.798 (2017)	77%

Σύμφωνα με τις εκτιμήσεις του συμβούλου αξιολόγησης, για όλους τους δείκτες είναι εφικτή η επίτευξη των στόχων για το 2023, αλλά παραμένει ένας κίνδυνος στην επίτευξη των στόχων των δεικτών εκρρών των Ε.Σ.2.2, και Ε.Σ.2.3, ανάλογα με την

μεθοδολογία υπολογισμού που χρησιμοποιείται. Οι στόχοι δαπανών φαίνονται εφικτοί για το 2023 για όλους τους ΑΠ, όταν ληφθούν υπόψη και οι εκτιμήσεις για την συμβασιολογία των στρατηγικών έργων.

Οι διαδικασίες διαχείρισης και υλοποίησης του έργου φαίνονται ικανοποιητικές και αποτελεσματικές για τα μέλη της ΔΑ/ΚΓ, τα μέλη της ΕπΠα και τους δικαιούχους. Η νέα ηλεκτρονική υποβολή των προτάσεων μείωσε τον διοικητικό φόρτο σε κάποιο βαθμό, ωστόσο σχεδόν οι μισοί από τους δικαιούχους θεωρούν ότι είναι δύσκολη η χρήση της πλατφόρμας.

Όσον αφορά την υλοποίηση της 1^{ης} πρόσκλησης υποβολής προτάσεων, ένα κρίσιμο σημείο για την αναγκαιότητα και αναγνωρισιμότητα του προγράμματος στην διασυνοριακή περιοχή είναι ο μεγάλος αριθμός υποβληθεισών προτάσεων, οι οποίες έφτασαν τις 349. Αυτή ήταν και η καλύτερη επίδοση μεταξύ των προσκλήσεων όλων των Προγραμμάτων Συνεργασίας που διαχειρίζεται η ΔΑ. Η ΔΑ/ΚΓ θεωρεί ότι υπάρχει βελτίωση των προτάσεων σε σχέση με την προηγούμενη προγραμματική περίοδο και τα μέλη της Επ.Πα είναι ικανοποιημένα από την ποιότητα των έργων. Οι διαδικασίες σύναψης συμβάσεων μετά την έγκριση των έργων συνδέονται με τις καθυστερήσεις στην επίτευξη των ορόσημων του πλαισίου επίδοσης για το 2018: περισσότερο από το 80% των δικαιούχων θεωρεί ότι ο χρόνος που απαιτείται για την σύναψη της σύμβασης είναι μακρύς.

Η επικοινωνιακή στρατηγική φαίνεται να έχει ικανοποιητικά αποτελέσματα για την ορατότητα του προγράμματος στην περιοχή, σύμφωνα με τις απόψεις των δικαιούχων και των μελών της Επ.Πα. Η ιστοσελίδα του προγράμματος προκύπτει ως το σημαντικότερο μέρος της επικοινωνιακής στρατηγικής και η ποιότητα του περιεχομένου της και οι πληροφορίες της συγκεντρώνουν κυρίως θετικές γνώμες από τους δικαιούχους.

Ο σύμβουλος αξιολόγησης εκτιμά ότι η μεγαλύτερη συγκέντρωση πόρων στην καινοτομία, την ανταγωνιστικότητα και τη διεθνοποίηση θα έχει μεγαλύτερο αντίκτυπο στις προοπτικές της περιοχής. Επίσης, η διευκόλυνση των τουριστικών ροών και η συνακόλουθη άμβλυνση των επιπτώσεων στο περιβάλλον μπορεί να αποφέρει απτά οφέλη για τις περιφερειακές οικονομίες, παράλληλα με την αντιμετώπιση των κινδύνων για την κλιματική αλλαγή. Ο σύμβουλος αξιολόγησης θεωρεί ότι υπάρχουν περιθώρια βελτίωσης των δεικτών αποτελέσματος, με περισσότερο ποιοτικές προσεγγίσεις, όμως δεδομένων των περιορισμών στην συλλογή δεδομένων αναδρομικά, η άσκηση αυτή προτείνεται να υλοποιηθεί κατά την αξιολόγηση των επιπτώσεων, ώστε να τεκμηριωθούν περαιτέρω οι θετικές επιδράσεις του προγράμματος. Συνολικά, η στρατηγική του προγράμματος είναι κατάλληλη για να αντιμετωπιστούν οι ανάγκες της διασυνοριακής περιοχής.

Η επικαιροποίηση των εκτιμήσεων για την κατανομή του προϋπολογισμού θα πρέπει να γίνει αμέσως μετά τη σύναψη των συμβάσεων των στρατηγικών έργων για τον

έλεγχο της επίτευξης των οικονομικών στόχων και την πιθανή ανάγκη συμπληρωματικής πρόσκληση υποβολής προτάσεων ή έγκριση συμπληρωματικών έργων από λίστες επιλαχόντων.

Ο σύμβουλος αξιολόγησης εκτιμά ότι υπάρχει σημαντική δυνατότητα περαιτέρω μείωσης του διοικητικού φόρτου για τους δικαιούχους μέσω της στοχοθετημένης αναβάθμισης του πληροφοριακού συστήματος (MIS).

Τέλος, συνιστάται η περαιτέρω βελτίωση της ενημέρωσης και της διαθεσιμότητας των πληροφοριών και των δεδομένων στον δικτυακό τόπο του προγράμματος.