



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS

Interreg
Greece-Italy
European Regional Development Fund



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SPECIAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE EUROPEAN
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COHESION FUND
PROGRAMMES

ΑΔΑ :
Code : I9

MANAGING AUTHORITY OF EUROPEAN
TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

Address: Leof. Georgikis Scholis 65,
57001, Thessaloniki, Greece
Contact person: Katia Sagona, Yiorgos Simos,
Matoula Syropoulou
Tel.: +30 2310 469659, +30 2310 469655, +30 2310
469619,
Fax: +30 2310 469602
Email: ksagona@mou.gr
gsimos@mou.gr
msiropoulou@mou.gr

8th TARGETED CALL FOR EMERGENCY PROJECT PROPOSAL
Cooperation Programme Interreg V/A Greece-Italy (EL-IT) 2014-2020
Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

1. Context

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

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

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected the Italy and the Greece in a sudden and dramatic manner.

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected Member States in a sudden and dramatic manner and will have implications on the implementation of EU programmes. The Commission has proposed a Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII Plus) to flexibly respond to the rapidly emerging needs. Furthermore, the Commission is open to discuss with Member States the best possible ways to use the European Structural and Investment Funds to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus crisis and intends to assign top priority to adopting all decisions needed for the fast deployment of funds.

The INTERREG V-A Greece Italy Programme, in the framework of the approved Programme, intends to support the Regions of the eligible area in this period of great difficulty. All

Regions (Epirus Region, Ionian Islands Region, Western Greece Region and Puglia Region) have tackled the emergency with their health and civil protection system.

The Covid-19 pandemic is undoubtedly an obvious threat to public health that requires a commitment to the Italian and Greek scientific community aimed at a deeper knowledge of both the molecular mechanisms that cause the pathological condition and the evolutionary characteristics of the virus genome pathogen SARS-CoV-2. In this way it is also opportune to increase the cooperation in the health sector in the eligible area, in order to have a strong cooperation dimension.

2. Documents of reference

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

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

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

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

Table 1 : Programme Priorities, Investment Priority, Specific Objectives and Indicative Actions				
Priority Axis	Investment Priority	Specific Objectives		Indicative Actions
PA 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	1b. Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation	1.1	Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness and COVID-19 emergency	Supporting the eligible territories during the COVID-19 emergency also with purchase of PPE and disinfectant equipment for the healthcare sector, common activities on the eligible area in order to share relevant data about COVID-19, (e.g scientific mobile apps & platforms where health professionals, may exchange best practices, on issues related to step-by-step procedures for

	through smart specialization, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies			infection control at point of care, Peer learning - Scientific support regarding document approval, Statistics, Podcasts, Translated texts, small training activities for the operators of the health sector
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The topics of targeted project will contribute to the main challenges of the cooperation area to face COVID 19 impacts. It will take into account the opportunities and strengths which characterize the Area and respond to the needs and the emergency of the eligible territories.

Under this call, the program aims to address specific needs of the eligible cross-border area and more specifically to respond to the necessity to the civil protection during the COVID-19 emergency.

The Programme Area has been heavily affected by the COVID-19. In order to support the Regions, the project activities may be focused on the following needs:

- Support in stoke up some health equipment;
- Building a permanent cooperation framework between Italy and Greece on health related issues Share data about COVID-19 and promote joint e-health services; Treatment protocols testing; the conclusion of ad hoc MoU between competent authorities);
- Fostering capacity building by realizing specific training courses (even through e-learning), promoting mobility actions and special awards for the health system operators;
- Strengthen health services assessment.

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

Specific indicators related to the direct ERDF response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Code	Indicator name	Unit
CV01	Value of personal protective equipment purchased (total public cost)	Eur
CV1a	<i>Value of PPE for medical professionals</i>	<i>Eur</i>
CV1b	<i>Value of PPE for care</i>	<i>Eur</i>

	<i>homes</i>	
CV1c	<i>Value of PPE for first responders</i>	<i>Eur</i>
CV02	Value of medical equipment purchased (ventilators, beds, monitors, etc.) (total public cost)	Eur
CV03	Value of medicines purchased linked to the testing and treatment of COVID-19 (total public cost) (Including cost of testing kits, anti-virals and other consumables)	Eur
CV04	Value of IT equipment and software/licences financed in COVID-19 response (total public cost)	Eur
CV4a	<i>Value of COVID-19 related IT for SMEs</i>	<i>Eur</i>
CV4b	<i>Value of COVID-19 related IT for health</i>	<i>Eur</i>
CV4c	<i>Value of COVID-19 related IT for education</i>	<i>Eur</i>
CV05	Value of grants for R&D into COVID-19 treatments (medicines) and vaccines (total public cost)	Eur
CV06	Personal protective equipment (PPE) (Including disposable masks, eye protection, coveralls, etc.)	Number of items
CV07	Ventilators to support treatment of COVID-19 (Including CPAP (positive air pressure) devices)	Number of medical devices
CV08	Additional bed space created for COVID-19 patients (Including acute and ICU beds, also in field hospitals)	Bed spaces
CV09	Number of laboratories newly built, newly equipped or with expanded capacity to test	Laboratories

	for COVID-19	
CV10	Testing capacity supported to diagnose and test for COVID-19 (Including antibody testing)	Number of tests possible
CV11	Ambulances and vehicles purchased for emergency response	Vehicles

4. Programme Area

The eligible programme area is indicated in the table below:

Table 4: Eligible area	
Country	NUTS regions covered by the cooperation programme
Greece	EL211 - Άρτα (Arta)
	EL212 - Θεσπρωτία (Thesprotia)
	EL213 - Ιωάννινα (Ioannina)
	EL214 - Πρέβεζα (Preveza)
	EL221 - Ζάκυνθος (Zakynthos)
	EL222 - Κέρκυρα (Kerkyra)
	EL223 - Κεφαλληνία (Kefallinia)
	EL224 - Λευκάδα (Lefkada)
	EL231 - Αιτωλοακαρνανία (Aitoloakarnania)
	EL232 - Αχαΐα (Achaia)
	EL233 - Ηλεία (Ileia)
Italy	ITF43 - Taranto
	ITF44 - Brindisi
	ITF45 - Lecce
	ITF46 - Foggia
	ITF47 - Bari
	ITF48 - Barletta-Andria-Trani

5. Budget available

The total available budget for the 8th Emergency Call for project proposals is 12.000.000€ (including Union Support and National Counterpart) and is **indicatively** allocated per Specific Objective, as follows:

Table 5 : Budget available			
Priority Axis	Thematic Objective	Specific Objective	Indicative Budget
PA 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	1 strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1.1 Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness and COVID-19 emergency	12.000.000,00€
Total			12.000.000,00€

6. Eligible Partnership

The Greek Ministry of Health realized an assessment of the needs of the hospitals, in the eligible area, also investigating their availability in order to be involved in the cooperation actions. After that reconnaissance the Ministry of Health identified some hospitals in the eligible area to be included in the partnership.

In Italy the Regions have several institutional competences in the health sector (planning and organization of the services, purchase the health equipment, etc.). In Puglia Region there is also the Health Regional Agency (AreSS) with the mission to support Puglia Region in the definition and in the management of health policies.

Taking into account these preliminary activities, the project partnership should be composed as follows.

1. Lead Beneficiary: Puglia Region
2. Beneficiary 2: University General Hospital of Ioannina
3. Beneficiary 3: University General Hospital of Patras "PANAGIA I VOITHIA"
4. Beneficiary 4: Patras General Hospital "Agios Andreas"
5. Beneficiary 5: General Hospital of Ilia
6. Beneficiary 6: Aitoloakarnania General Hospital
7. Beneficiary 7: Corfu General Hospital
8. Beneficiary 8: General Hospital of Zakynthos
9. Beneficiary 9: General Hospital of Kefallinia
10. Beneficiary 10: Lefkada General Hospital
11. Beneficiary 11: ARESS Puglia
12. Beneficiary 12: Ioannina Hospital G. Chatzikosta
13. Beneficiary 13: Fillates General Hospital;
14. Beneficiary 14: Arta General Hospital;

15. Beneficiary 15: Preveza General Hospital;

16. Beneficiary 16: Greek Ministry of Health

Additionally the Region of Epirus as well as the Region of western Greece and the Region of Ionian islands will participate to the partnership as observers beneficiaries.

During the implementation of the project, the partnership may ask to add and/or substitute partners. The relevant steps as described in the article 6 of the PPM will be applied.

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

7. How to apply - deadline

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

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

- A. Electronic submission of the project proposal into the M.I.S¹ of the programme including the "Project Detailed Description" that should be uploaded as a separate (excel and signed pdf) file.
- B. The digital version of the following documents that have to be uploaded into the MIS of the programme:
 1. The '*Partnership Declaration*' (standard form provided), **stamped** and **signed** by all the participating beneficiaries.
 2. The '*Co-Financing Statement - Non double financing*' (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** by each beneficiary separately.
 3. The '*Declaration of not generating revenues*' (standard form provided) **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary. In case of revenue generating projects, a cost - benefit analysis should be attached (using the "Guide to Cost-benefit Analysis of Investment Projects - Economic appraisal tool for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020" at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba_guide.pdf)
 4. The '*Justification of Budget Costs*' (standard form provided), (excel and PDF) **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary for the total project budget.

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

5. 'The State aid declaration' (standard form provided) completed, stamped and signed by each beneficiary separately
6. *Decision of the designated body* of each Project Beneficiary stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, according to the internal rules/statute of each Beneficiary or the national legislation. **This document can be submitted before the approval of the Monitoring Committee. For the Italian beneficiaries the Italian legal framework shall apply.**

The non-submission of the above mentioned documentation, stamped and signed (also in electronic signature) will lead to the project proposal rejection.

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

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

Regarding the Project Detailed Description the applicant should describe, also, actions that could be implemented to mitigate effects of COVID emergency in the case a new emerging acute phase of the crisis will happen

The Application Package must be compiled in English language (apart from the supporting documents such as the decision of the designated body stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal and the eligibility of project beneficiaries.

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

To be recognised as admissible submission, the project proposal must be electronically submitted into the MIS within 15 calendar days after the launching of the call. More specifically the project proposal must be electronically submitted into the MIS by **Friday 15/10/2021** until the **24:00 Italian time at the latest**. The Proposal submitted after the above date will not be considered as eligible.

8. Project size

The total available budget for the 8th emergency call is **12.000.000,00€** (of which **10.200.000€ Union Support and 1.800.000,00€ National Counterpart**).

9. Eligibility of expenditure

Eligibility of expenditure for beneficiaries commences on the 1st of March 2020. The final date of eligibility of expenditure under no circumstances may exceed the 31st of December 2023.

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

At least the 70% of the total budget should be in the budget line of the equipment.

10. Duration

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

The project duration must be planned, in the project application form, within twelve (12) months, otherwise, the project proposal will be rejected.

The project should be concluded within a maximum period of twelve (12) months after the signing of the Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Beneficiary. The Project that started its implementation before the signing of the contract, and in any case after 1/1/2014, should not have been concluded before the official launch of the respective call for proposal.

11. State Aid

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

12. Evaluation of proposal

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

The MA ensures that the evaluation procedure is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 8th Emergency Call for project proposal and the approved selection criteria.

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

13. Additional information

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

1. Managing Authority

Ministry of Economy and Development
 Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes –Unit B2
 Address: 65, Georgikis Sholis Avenue, Pilea
 570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece
 Tel: +30 2310 469600, Fax : +30 2310 469602
 Website : <http://www.interreg.gr>

2. Joint Secretariat

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

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

THE SPECIAL SECRETARY FOR ERDF & CF PROGRAMMES

Georgios Zervos

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

Κ.Α.Α.
ΜΠΙΛΗ ΕΥΣΤΑΘΙΑ

Annexes:

1. Supporting documents

1. *Programme and Project Manual*
2. *Project Selection Criteria*

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

2. Applicant package documents

A. *Project Detailed Description*

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