

Programme: Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020

Contract: Update of the first assessment of the implementation progress, assessment of the communication and thematic assessment of impact of the interventions which are implemented within the framework of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020

Contracting Authority:

Managing Authority of
the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Sub-Contractor: **MYCOMPANY** Projects O.E.

DELIVERABLE: D4 - Part A

**A1 - Update of the 1st Assessment
of the Programme Implementation**

**A2 - Assessment
of the Communication Strategy**

**A3 - Assessment
of the Impact of the Programme**

April 2022

(This page is intentionally empty)

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Authors:

Ioannis Tsoukalidis,	Physicist, MBA TQM
Konstantinos Karamitsios,	Computers Engineer, Bsc, Msc
Harikleia Kaika,	Business Administration, BSc, MSc
Konstantina Sgouridou,	Economist, BSc
Stergios Polychronis,	Economist, BSc

History of the Document

8 April 2022	Version 0.1 (Draft)
14 April 2022	Version 0.2 (Draft)
21 April 2022	Version 0.3 (Draft)
29 April 2022	Version 1.0 (Final)
2 May 2022	Version 1.1 (update)
5 May 2022	Version 1.2 (update)
9 May 2022	Version 1.3 (update)
26 May 2022	Version 1.4 (update)
30 June 2022	Version 1.5 (update)
30 September 2022	Version 1.8 (update)

(This page is intentionally empty)

Contents

Preamble	12
1. About the final report	12
Introduction to the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020	14
2. Programme Authorities and bodies carrying out control and audit tasks	15
A1 - Update of the 1st Assessment of the Programme Implementation	20
A. Effectiveness of the Programme	20
Programme Priorities	20
1. Financial Effectiveness	24
Changes in the budget allocation per Priority Axis	25
Budget allocation per PA, TO, SO	27
Budget allocation per PA, including Technical Assistance	32
Paid and Verified Expenditure	35
Conclusions	42
2. Effectiveness of the Physical Object	44
Programme Performance Indicators	44
List of Project Calls	46
Financial performance of the Calls	49

List of approved projects, sorted per Call	51
Output indicators CVx	57
Other output indicators	58
Result Indications	64
Result Indications (Baseline value)	69
Conclusions	71
3. Lessons Learnt	71
B. Performance Framework of the Programme	72
Output indicators	72
Result Indicators	76
Conclusions	80
1. Lessons Learnt	80
C. Efficiency of the Programme	81
1. Time Efficiency	81
Call Duration	81
Conclusions	89
2. Financial Efficiency	89
Conclusions	92
3. Views of the beneficiaries	93
4. Lessons Learnt	96
D. Update of the Intervention Logic of the Programme	97

1. Characteristics of the intervention area.....	97
Territory and Demography.....	97
Economy	101
Primary Sector of Economy / Agriculture.....	102
Secondary Sector of Economy	105
Blue Economy.....	107
Tourism and Travel.....	109
Unemployment.....	114
Employment per sector.....	115
Entrepreneurship	117
Competitiveness	117
Innovation.....	122
Environment, Protected Areas and Natural Disasters	133
2. Findings of the Analysis	138
Question1: Are the Specific Objects timely?.....	139
Question2: Output indicators: Are they timely?.....	140
Question3: Result indicators: Are they timely?	142
Summarised presentation of the achievement of the result indicators	142
Question4: Do the output indicators and the result indicators contribute to the intervention logic of the Programme?	144
SWOT Analysis.....	145

3. Lessons Learnt	147
E. Update of the Programme	148
1. The need for update of the Programme.....	150
Specific Objectives	150
Output Indicators	151
Result Indicators.....	151
Funds' Allocation	151
2. Required changes in the intervention logic	151
3. Conclusions	153
A2 – Assessment of the Communication Strategy	154
Key points of the Communication Strategy of the Programme	154
A. Findings of the research on the communication strategy.....	156
Programme information for potential beneficiaries, final beneficiaries and general public.....	156
Website metrics from 2017 to 2020	157
Graphs of the social media pages for the year 2020	163
Effectiveness of the communication actions.....	165
Communication Performance of the approved projects	166
Indicative Communication Performance Highlights.....	167
Budget allocated for Communication Services 2021 – 2023	171
Conclusions	171

1. Lessons Learned	171
A3 – Assessment of the Impact of the Programme	173
A. Approach to the assessment of the selected Specific Objectives	175
1. Not selected Specific Objectives.....	177
2. Selected Specific Objectives	177
Specific Object 2.1 “Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area”	178
Specific Object 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”	185
Specific Object 2.3 “Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution”	191
Specific Object 3.2 “Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions”	198
B. The views of the beneficiaries	202
Conclusions based on the findings.....	203
A. Lessons Learnt	204
B. Lessons Learnt per Specific Objective	205
Lessons learned and specific recommendations	221
Annex I – Output Indicators	229
Annex II – Result Indicators	233
Annex III – List of projects’ events and meeting.....	234

Annex IV – Questionnaire to Lead Beneficiaries and Beneficiaries of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020235

Annex V – Questionnaires to stakeholders, regarding the baseline value of the result indicators RI 1.1 (R0501); RI 2.1 (R0503); and RI 2.3 (R0505).....244

Abbreviations

CP:	Cooperation Programme
FLC:	First Level Control
CVE:	Certified Verified Expenditure
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
ICT:	Information and Communications Technologies
IP:	Investment Priority
JS:	Joint Secretariat
NEETS:	(Young) Not in Employment, not in Education, not in Training
MIS:	Management information system
MA:	Managing Authority
PA:	Priority Axis
RI:	Result Indicator
SO:	Specific Objective
TO:	Thematic Objective
OI:	Output Indicator

Preamble

This document is produced within the framework of the contract *Update of the first assessment of the implementation progress, assessment of the communication and thematic assessment of impact of the interventions which are implemented within the framework of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020*, by the sub-contractor My Company Projects O.E.

The prime goal of this assignment, is the assessment of the implementation of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 and the achievement of the objectives and programme indicators, along with the actual impact in the intervention area. The findings and conclusions would be a tool to assist the preparation and finalization of priorities, objectives and expected impact in the eligible area, the new programme (programming period 2021-2027).

1. About the final report

The final report of the assessment of the implementation progress, the assessment of the communication strategy and the assessment of the impact of the interventions of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020, includes two (2) main Parts and the Executive Summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Assessment.

Part A includes:

- A1 - Update of the 1st Assessment of the Programme Implementation;
- A2 – Assessment of the Communication Strategy;
- A3 – Assessment of the Impact of the Programme.

Part B includes:

The Dissemination Plan of the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment, which includes:

- B1 - The identification of the users of the evaluation results; and
- B2 - The simplified version of the executive summary of the assessment in plain language, in English, in Greek and in Italian.

Part C includes:

- C1 - The Executive Summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Assessment in English;
- C2 - The Executive Summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Assessment in Greek; and
- C3 - The Executive Summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Assessment in Italian.

The document was prepared based on the previously analyzed methodology and with consideration of the revisions of the Programme, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as latest versions of the Application Forms of the approved projects and their latest Project Progress Reports, covering the period from the Beginning of the Programme and until the 31st of December 2021, the draft reports, the feedback of the beneficiaries of the programme and review of different sources referring to the programme and its achievements.

During the preparation of the deliverable, the project team of the sub-contractor cooperated with the Managing Authority of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.

Introduction to the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020

The Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 links eleven (11) NUTS III level prefectures and six (6) provinces from two different EU Member States, Greece and Italy.

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 (Aitolioakarnania); EL232 - Αχαΐα (Achaia); EL233 - Ηλεία (Ileia);

ITF43 – Taranto; ITF44 – Brindisi; ITF45 – Lecce; ITF46 – Foggia; ITF47 – Bari; ITF48 - Barletta-Andria-Trani.

The Programme has a total budget of 123.176.901 € after its 2nd update¹ and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a total amount of 104,700,362 € (85%) for the 2014-2020 period. The remaining amount of 18,476,539² € (15%) is covered by National contribution of the participating countries.

The overall objective of the Programme, is to **support strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region across the Ionian Sea**. Emphasis is placed upon developing the foundations for a dynamic economy which would foster smart, sustainable and inclusive growth with the goal to improve the quality of life for those living in the region.

The overall strategic framework for EU cohesion policy 2014-2020 and as such for the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy

¹ Before the 2nd update of the programme, the budget was 123.176.896 €.

² Before the 2nd update of the programme, the budget of the National Contribution of the participating countries, was 18.476.534 €.

2014-2020, is provided by the Europe 2020 strategy, together with the Territorial Agenda 2020, which connects smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to territorial cohesion.

The programme carries the code CCI: **2014TC16RFCB020** and the title **(Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy**. It's latest version is 3.0 with the EC decision **C(2020)7973** of the **12th of November 2020**.



2. Programme Authorities and bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

The Programme is coordinated by the Joint Secretariat, which is based in Bari, Puglia (IT); and the Managing Authority, which is based in Thessaloniki (GR).

The structure, according to the official programming document is as follows:

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Programme authorities

Authority / body	Name of the authority / body and department or unit	Responsible for the authority / body	Address	Email
Managing authority	Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Development and Investments	Head of the Managing Authority	65 Georgikis Scholis Ave, PC 57001 – Thessaloniki, Greece	Interreg @ mou.gr
Certifying authority	Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes», Units A, B and C, Ministry of Development and Investments	Head of the Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Cofunded Programmes»	Navarhou Nikodimou 11 & Voulis 10557, Athens ,Greece	Sdoudounis @ mnec.gr
Audit authority	Financial Control Committee (EDEL) Ministry of Finance – General Accounting Office of the State, Greece	Executive Director of EDEL	Panepistimiou 57, 10564 Athens, Greece	gddde @ mof-gl.k.gr

--	--	--	--	--

Bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority / body	Name of the authority / body and department or unit	Responsible for the authority / body	Address	Email
Body designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Financial Control Committee (EDEL) Ministry of Finance – General Accounting Office of the State, Greece	General Director of Management and Control of EU Co-financed Programmes	Panepistimiou 57, 10564 Athens, Greece	gddde @ mof-glk.gr
Body designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Puglia Region – Control and European Policies Audit Office	Policies Audit Office – Puglia Region	Lungomare N. Sauro, 33	Autoritaaudit @regione.puglia.it
Body designated to carry out control	Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation	Head of the Managing Authority of European Territorial	65 Georgikis Scholis Ave., GR57001 Thessaloniki	Interreg @ mou.gr

tasks	Programmes, Ministry of Development and Investments	Cooperation Programme	Greece	
Body designated to carry out control tasks	Puglia Region	Puglia Region - Economic Development Department – Manager of the Territorial Cooperation Special Structure	Lungomare Nazario Sauro, 30-31 – 70121 Bari, Italy	politiche.internazionali@regione.puglia.it

Joint Secretariat, Info points and Antenna of the Programme

Authority / body	Name of the authority / body and department or unit	Responsible for the authority / body	Address	Email
Joint Secretariat	Puglia Region Coordination of International Policies – Territorial Cooperation Section	Coordinator of the Joint Secretariat	Lungomare Nazario Sauro, 30-31 – 70121 Bari	info@greece-italy.eu

Branch of the Joint Secretariat in Thessaloniki	Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Development and Investments	Representative Officer	65 Georgikis Scholis Ave, PC 57001 – Thessaloniki, Greece	Egiannopoulou@mou.gr
Info Point of the Joint Secretariat in Patras	Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Development and Investments	Info Point	University of Patras, Building A, GR26504, Rio, Patras	kkapota@mou.gr
Info Point of the Joint Secretariat in Ioannina	Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Development and Investments	Info Point	University of Ioannina, Research Committee, University Campus, GR45110 Ioannina	xnikou@mou.gr
Antenna of the Joint Secretariat in Corfu	Managing Authority of European Territorial	Antenna	Ionian Academy, Rectorship of Ionian	pmitsi@mou.gr

	Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Development and Investments		University, 1 Kapodistrias str., GR49131 Corfu	

A1 - Update of the 1st Assessment of the Programme Implementation

In this chapter we present the update of the assessment of the programme implementation, based on the findings of the research and analysis.

A. Effectiveness of the Programme

Programme Priorities

The implementation programme priorities are three (3)³.

- Priority Axis 1 “Innovation and Competitiveness”,
- Priority Axis 2 “Integrated Environmental Management”,
- Priority Axis 3 “Multimodal Sustainable Transport System”.

Their contribution is summarised as follows⁴:

³ Plus the fourth Axis which covers the “Technical Assistance” of the Programme, with 5,60% of its budget..

				% of the Programme budget			
PA	Summary	Budget	ERDF contribution ⁵	PA	IP _{i=1}	IP _{i=2}	IP _{i=3}
				%	SO _{i=1}	SO _{i=2}	SO _{i=3}
					%	%	%
1	Innovation and competitiveness is highlighted in the strategy 2020 as a major challenge for regions facing international competition. the GR-IT Programme seeks to tackle these structural problems and make an impact in employment and growth.	26,686,285.00€	22,683,342.00€	21.67%	IP 1b ⁶ SO 1.1 ⁷ 12.99%	IP 3a ⁸ SO 1.2 ⁹ 8.68%	

⁴ PA = Priority Axis; IP = Investment Priority; SO = Specific Objective; TO = Thematic Objective.

⁵ ERDF Contribution is 85%. The National Contribution of the Participating Countries is 15%.

⁶ IP 1b = Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centers and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

2	Protection of the environment represents a joint challenge for the GR-IT CBC Area as a	62,713,534.12€	53,306,502.00€	50.91%	IP 6c ¹⁰ SO 2.1 ¹¹	IP 6d ¹² SO 2.2 ¹³	IP 6f ¹⁴ SO 2.3 ¹⁵
---	--	----------------	----------------	--------	---	---	---

general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services.

It corresponds to TO 01 “Strengthening research, technological development and innovation”

⁷ SO 1.1 = Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness

⁸ IP 3a = Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators.

It corresponds to TO 03 “Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)”

⁹ SO 1.2 = Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area

¹⁰ IP 6c = Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.

It corresponds to TO 06 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”

¹¹ SO 2.1 = Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area

¹² IP 6d = Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure.

It corresponds to TO 06 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”

¹³ SO 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

	result of depicted environment degradation related to urban development, economic activities and climate change phenomena.				71,43%	23.81%	4.76%
3	The PA deals with the strategic needs of the eligible area and the opportunities	26,880,001.00€	22,848,000.85€	21.82%	IP 7b ¹⁶ SO 3.1 ¹⁷	IP 7c ¹⁸ SO 3.2 ¹⁹	

¹⁴ IP 6f = Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution.

It corresponds to TO 06 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”

¹⁵ SO 2.3 = Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution

¹⁶ IP 7b = Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes.

It corresponds to TO 07 “Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures”.

¹⁷ SO 3.1 = Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity.

¹⁸ IP 7c = Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility.

	arising from the its gateway transport character and the need for networking of transport institutional players to improve efficiency and competitiveness				81.48%	18.52%	
--	---	--	--	--	--------	--------	--

The Programme, especially for the mitigation of the Climate Change, allocated 20% of the budget (approximately 21 million EUR).

1. Financial Effectiveness

The programme budget distribution per priority axis, is as follows:

PA	Ver 3.0	ERDF Contribution
PA1	26.686.285,00€	22,683,342.00€
PA2	62.713.534,00€	53,306,502.00€
PA3	26.880.001,00€	22,848,000.85€

It corresponds to TO 07 “Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures”.

¹⁹ SO 3.2 = Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

PA4	6.897.081,00€	5.862.518,00€
TOTAL	123.176.901,00€	104.700.362,85€

Changes in the budget allocation per Priority Axis

During the programme implementation there were significant budget reallocations between different Priority Axes. In comparison to the initial version of the Programme, there were some changes between the different priority axes (PA1, PA2, PA3)²⁰, as follows:

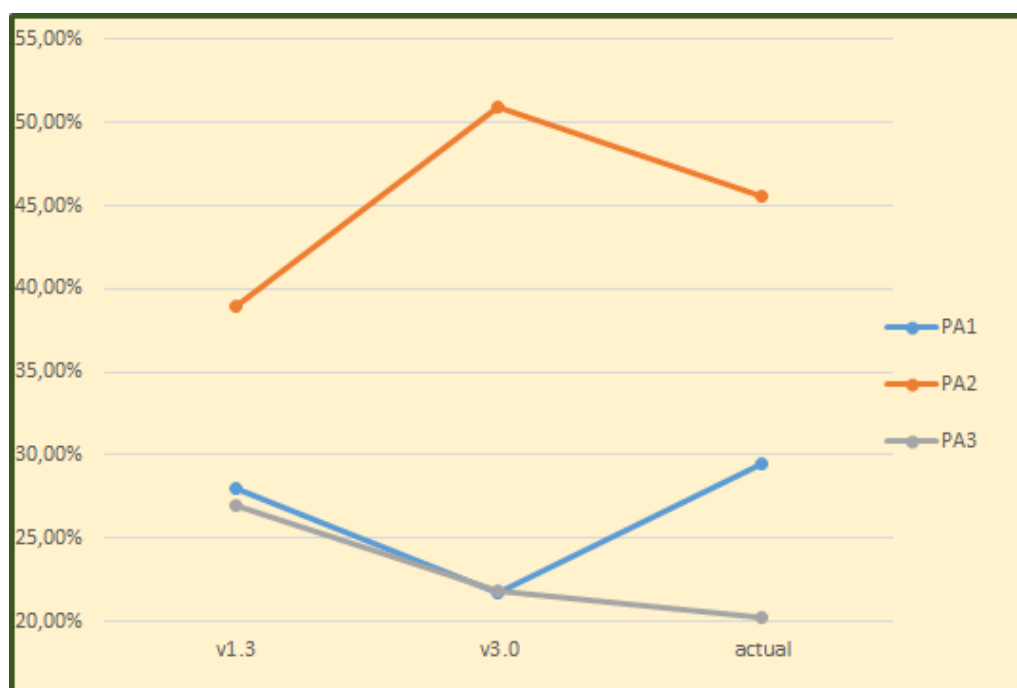
PA	Ver 1.3	Ver 3.0	Difference (Ver 3.0 – Ver 1.3)
1	28.00%	21.67%	= - 6.33%
2	39.00%	50.91%	= + 11.91%
3	27.00%	21.82%	= - 5.18%

The changes between ver 1.3, ver 3.0 of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 and the allocated funds in the approved projects, is as follows:

²⁰ In next chapter a more detailed description is provided, including PA4 “Technical Assistance”

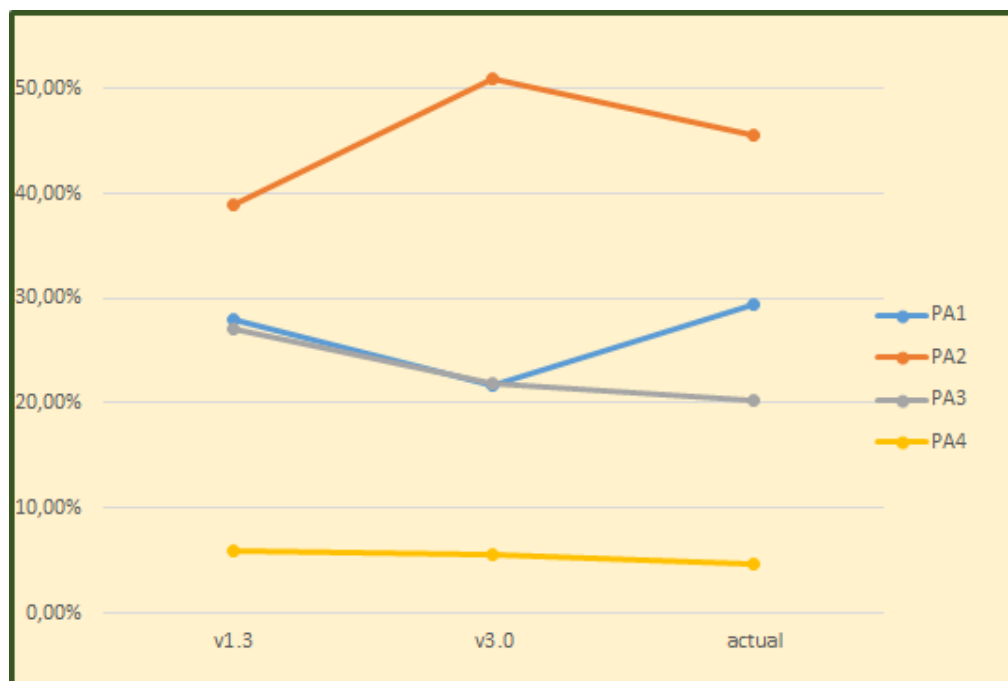
PA	Ver 1.3	Ver 3.0	Funds allocated in projects (31/12/2021) ²¹
PA1	28,00%	21,67%	29,14%
PA2	39,00%	50,91%	46,23%
PA3	27,00%	21,82%	19,95%
PA4	6,00%	5,60%	4,68%
TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%

Below is the graph of the evolution of the funds allocation in the approved projects per priority axis.



²¹ We measure PA1, PA2, PA3 as percentage of the total programme budget (including PA4 “Technical Assistance”).

and the same including PA4



Budget allocation per PA, TO, SO

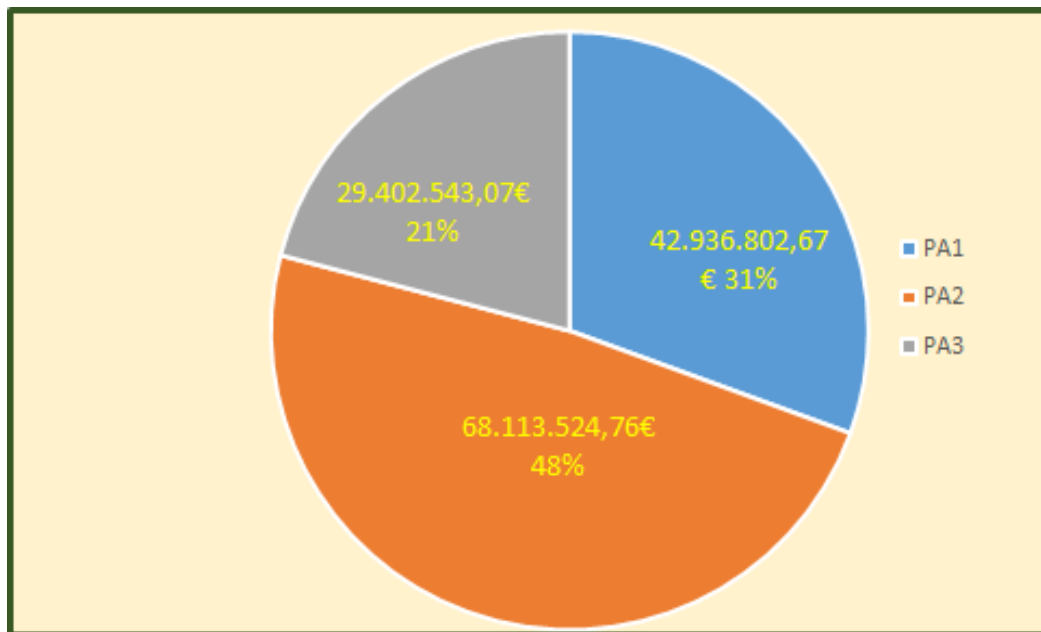
The approved budget of all projects, per priority axis, is as follows²²:

PA	Approved Budget	% of PA1 + PA2 + PA3
1	42.936.802,67€	30,57%
2	68.113.524,76€	48,50%

²² In a table below the total programme funds allocation, including Priority Axis 4 (Technical Assistance) is provided.

3	29.402.543,07€	20,93%
Total PA (1, 2, 3)	140.452.870,50€	100,00€

Below, is provided the chart of the budget per priority axis.



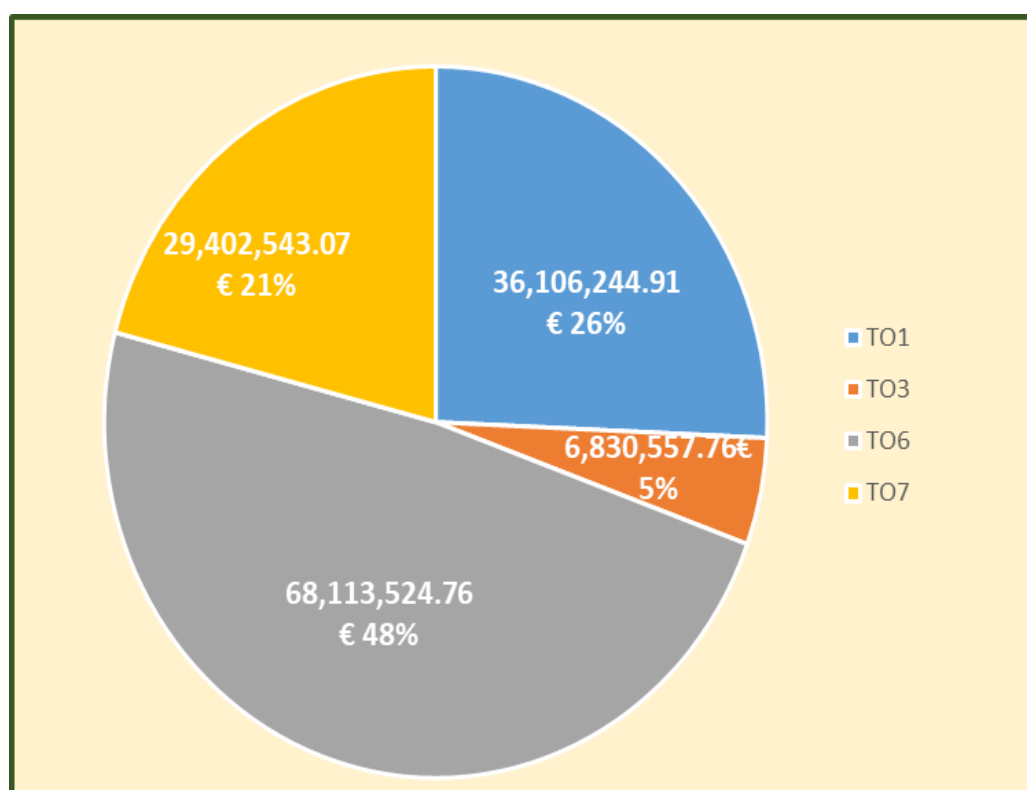
The above graphs show a considerable fluctuation in the evolution of the funds allocation per priority axis.

The approved budget of all projects, per Thematic Objective, is as follows:

TO	Approved Budget	% of TO1 + TO3 + TO6 + TO7
1	36.106.244,91€	25,71%
3	6.830.557,76€	4,86%

6	68.113.524,76€	48,50%
7	29.402.543,07€	20,93%

Below is provided the chart of the budget per thematic objective.



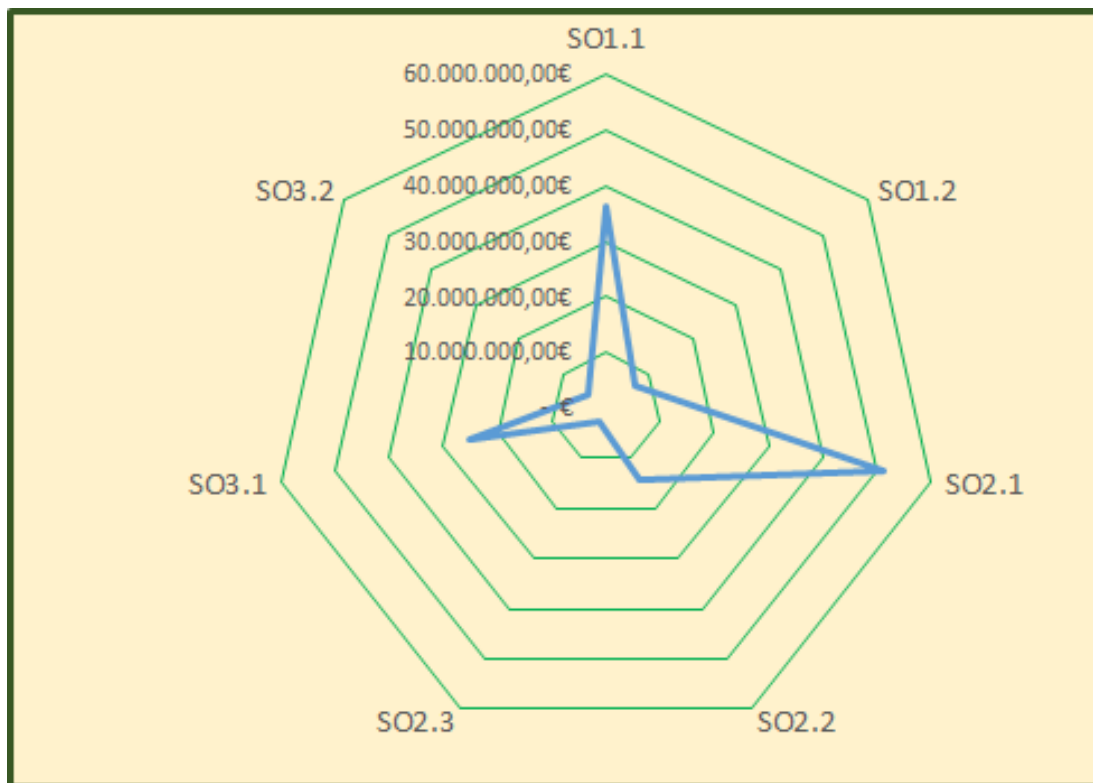
The approved budget of all projects, per Specific Objective, is as follows:

SO	Approved Budget	% of SO1.1 + SO1.2 + SO2.1 + SO2.2 + SO2.3 + SO3.1 + SO3.2
1.1	36.106.244,91€	25,71%

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

1.2	6.830.557,76€	4,86%
2.1	51.055.616,02€	36,35%
2.2	14.369.219,39€	10,23%
2.3	2.688.689,35€	1,91%
3.1	25.238.295,00€	17,97%
3.2	4.164.248,07€	2,96%

Below is provided the radar chart of the budget per specific objective.

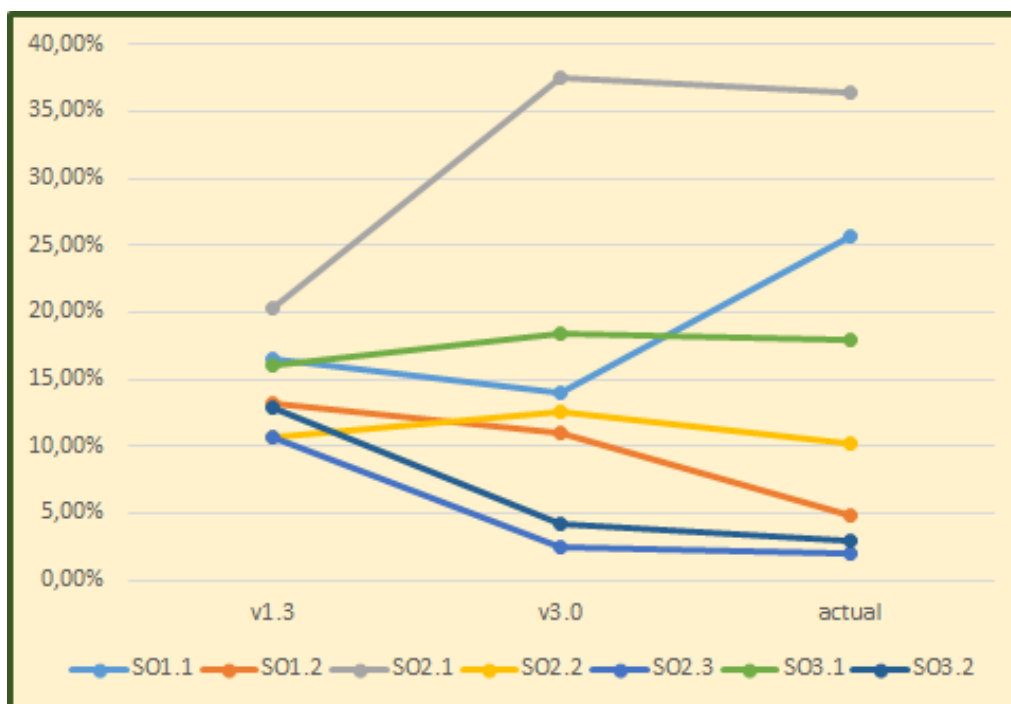


There were significant revisions of the funds allocation per specific objective. In the table below, is presented the contribution of each specific objective,

based on total programme budget and how it was evolved from ver1.3 to ver3.0 and as it actually is.

	v1.3	v3.0	actual
SO1.1	16,48%	13,94%	25,71%
SO1.2	13,22%	10,99%	4,86%
SO2.1	20,23%	37,54%	36,35%
SO2.2	10,64%	12,51%	10,23%
SO2.3	10,64%	2,50%	1,91%
SO3.1	16,00%	18,35%	17,97%
SO3.2	12,80%	4,17%	2,96%

In the following histogram, the evolution of the budget allocation per specific objective is presented.



From the graph it is viewed clearly that the budget allocation for most of the specific objectives had considerable fluctuations.

Budget allocation per PA, including Technical Assistance

The approved budget of all projects, per priority axis, is as follows²³:

PA	Approved Budget	% of PA1 + PA2 + PA3 + PA4
1	42.936.802,67€	29,14%
2	68.113.524,76€	46,23%
3	29.402.543,07€	19,95%
4	6.897.080,88€	4,68%
Total PA (1, 2, 3, 4)	147.349.951,38€	100,00%

The changes between ver 1.3, ver 3.0 of the Cooperation programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 and the allocated funds in the approved projects, are as follows:

²³ The total amount is higher than the Programme amount of 123.176.901,00€, due to overbooking.

PA	Ver 1.3	Ver 3.0	Funds allocated in projects (31/12/2021) ²⁴
PA1	34.489.531,00€	26.686.285,00€	42.936.802,67€
PA2	48.038.990,00€	62.713.534,00€	68.113.524,76€
PA3	33.257.764,00€	26.880.001,00€	29.402.543,07€
PA4	7.390.614,00€	6.897.081,00€	6.897.080,88€
TOTAL	123.176.899,00€	123.176.901,00€	147.349.951,38€

The total amount of the approved projects and the PA4 is higher than the Programme budget in force, due to overbooking of approved projects (19,62% of the approved Programme amount).

The overbooking per PA of the programme is provided below:

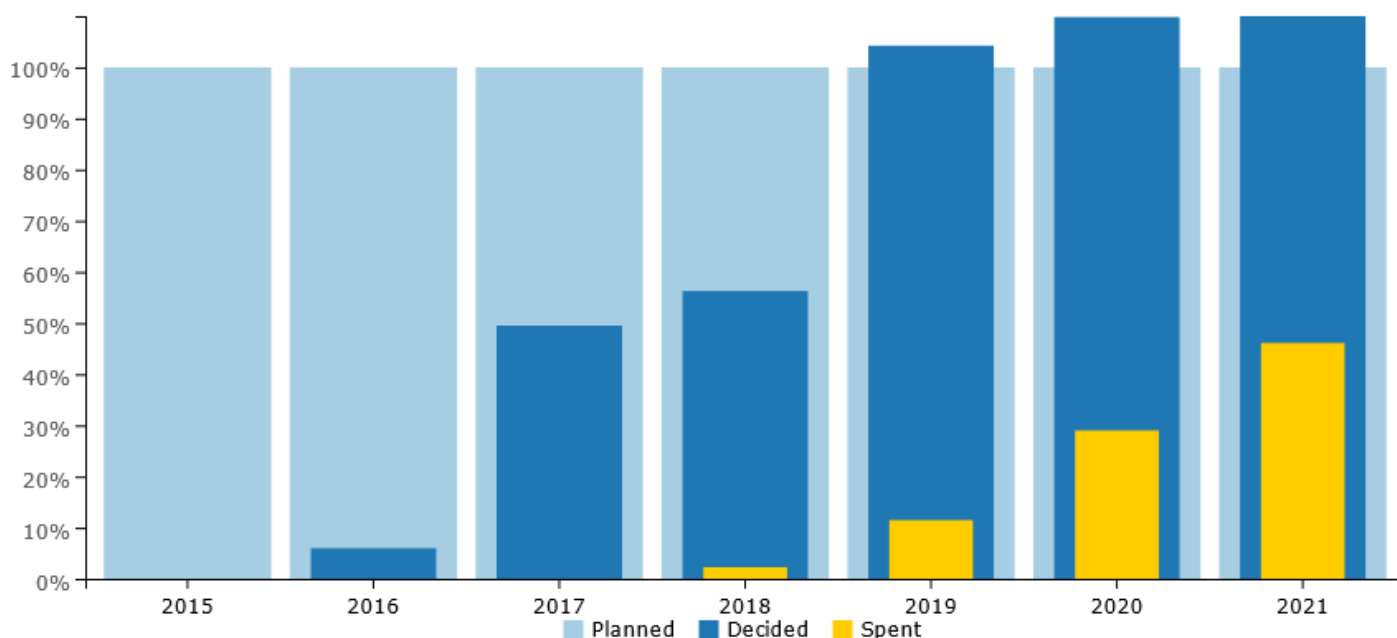
	v3.0	Engaged budget	% of actual approved budget to allocated (available) budget
PA1	26.686.285,00€	42.936.802,67€	160,89%
PA2	62.713.534,00€	68.113.524,76€	108,61%
PA3	26.880.001,00€	29.402.543,07€	109,38%
PA4	6.897.081,00€	6.897.080,88€	100,00%

²⁴ We measure PA1, PA2, PA3 as percentage of the total programme budget (including PA4 “Technical Assistance”).

Total	123.176.901,00€	147.349.951,38€	119,62%
--------------	------------------------	------------------------	----------------

In the following histogram the financial implementation is presented as described in Cohesion data of the European Union²⁵.

ESIF 2014-2020: Finances: Implemented (Total Cost): Interreg V-A - Greece-Italy

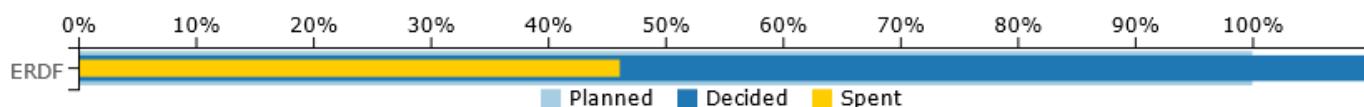


Period Covered: up to 31/12/2021

The histogram shows in that on the 31st of December 2021, 120% of the planned budget was decided (approved in projects and technical assistance) and 46% was paid. That is also clearly shown in the following graph from the same source.

²⁵ <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu> (accessed 11 March 2022).

ESIF 2014-2020: Implementation by Fund, (Total Cost) % of Planned: Interreg V-A - Greece-Italy



Period Covered: ERDF: 31/12/2021

Paid and Verified Expenditure

The following information does not include the information about the projects COOFHEA2; SUSWATER; OCTANE, as it was not available during drafting of the report.

The total payments made until the 31st of December 2021, are 44.397.006,50€, while the sum of the verified expenses is 41.923.291,23€.

Below the payments and verified expenditures per priority axis, per thematic objective and per specific objective, are presented (as in the Progress Reports on 31.12.2021).

(A) Financial Performance per Priority Axis²⁶

PA	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
1	17.321.325,54€	15.901.557,24€

²⁶ According to the update of JS, the figures are:

PA	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
1	18.944.044,34	18.867.421,36
2	24.866.097,80	24.592.941,61
3	9.482.134,56	9.324.376,39
TOTAL	53.292.276,70	52.784.739,36

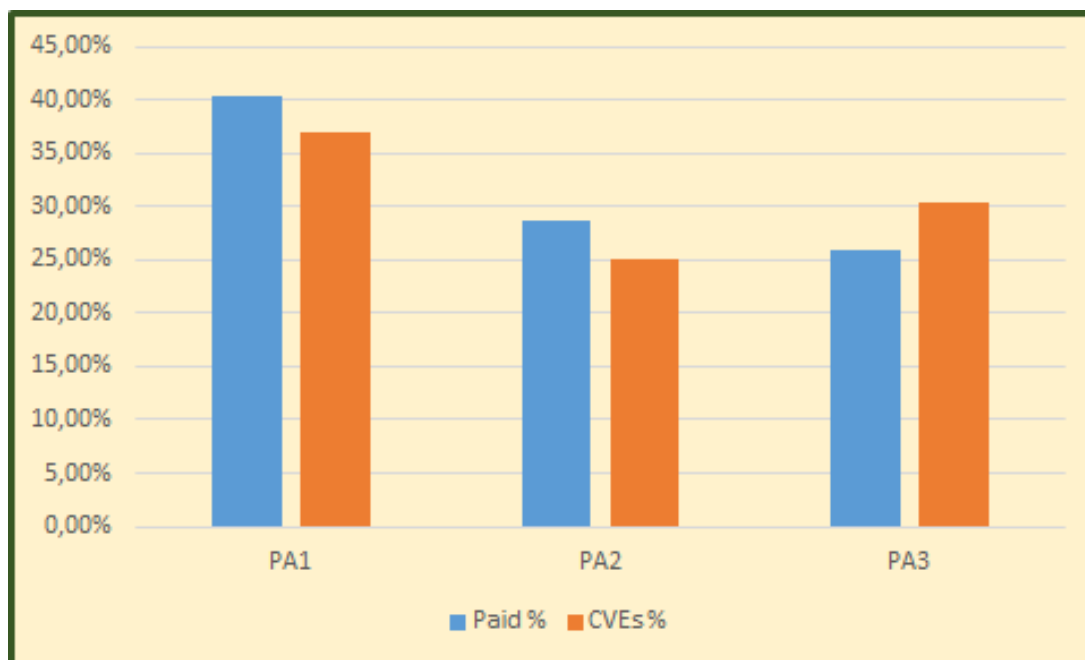
2	19.470.607,23€	17.070.231,77€
3	7.605.073,73€	8.951.502,22€
TOTAL	44.397.006,50€	41.923.291,23€

(as in the Progress Reports on 31.12.2021).

Note:

Some beneficiaries faced delays in reporting in the PPR (2021b) all latest expenditures and verified expenditures. The actual figure of verified expenditure on the 31st of December 2021, according to the Coordinator of the Joint Secretariat, was 56.283.807,82€.

In the following histogram it is presented that PA1 has a better performance in terms of paid and verified expenditures, as per the respected approved budget.



(B) Financial Performance per Thematic Objective²⁷

TO	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
TO1	12.329.481,79€	11.737.941,63€

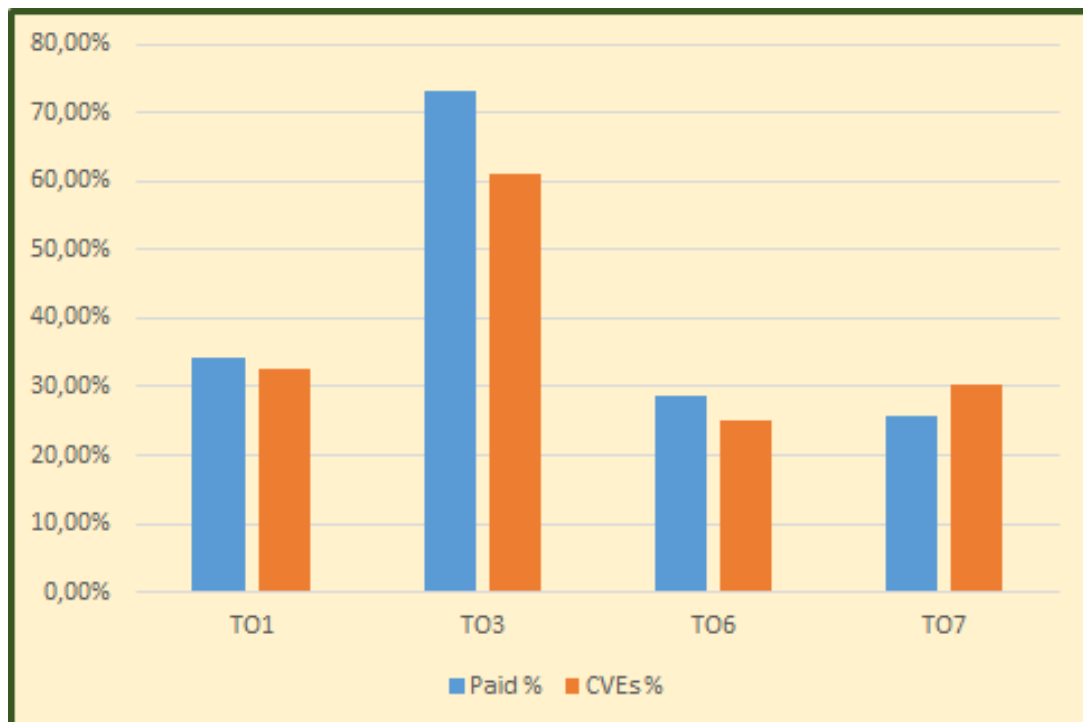
²⁷ According to the update of JS, the figures are:

TO	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
TO1	13.528.759,85	13.476.808,07
TO3	5.415.284,49	5.390.613,29
TO6	24.866.097,80	24.592.941,61
TO7	9.482.134,56	9.324.376,39
TOTAL	53.292.276,70	52.784.739,36

TO3	4.991.843,75€	4.163.615,61€
TO6	19.470.607,23€	17.070.231,77€
TO7	7.605.073,73€	8.951.502,22€
TOTAL	44.397.006,50€	41.923.291,23€

(as in the Progress Reports on 31.12.2021).

In the following histogram it is presented that TO3 has a better performance in terms of paid and verified expenditures, as per the respected approved budget.



(C) Financial Performance per Specific Objective²⁸

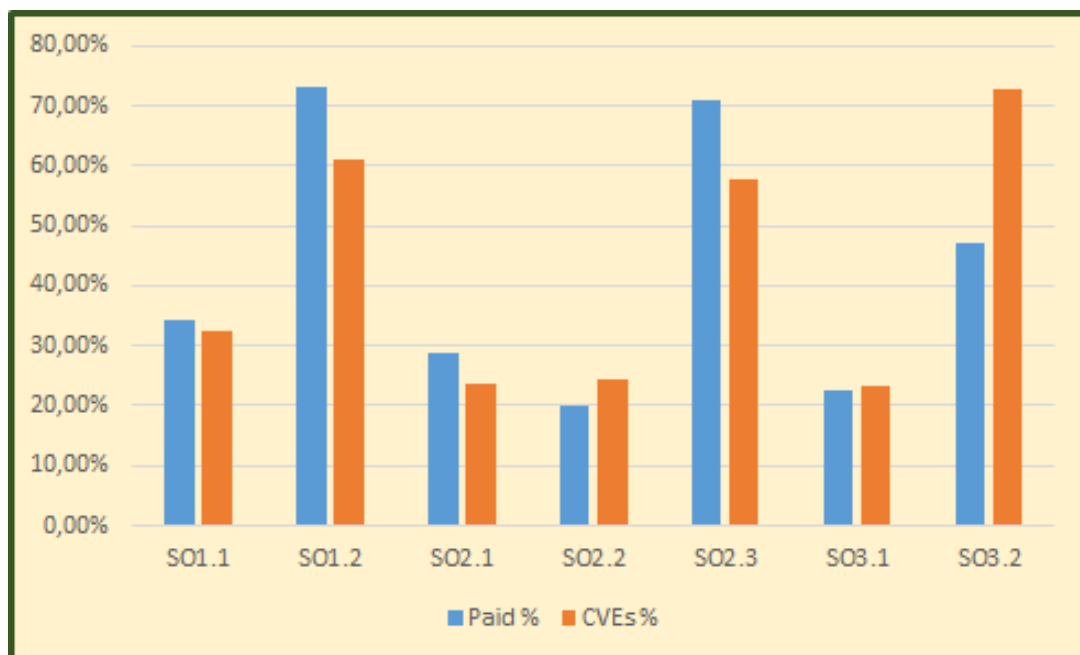
SO	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
1.1	12.329.481,79€	11.737.941,63€
1.2	4.991.843,75€	4.163.615,61€
2.1	14.694.840,21€	12.008.619,12€
2.2	2.873.290,69€	3.509.091,34€
2.3	1.902.476,33€	1.552.521,31€
3.1	5.650.574,02€	5.920.502,55€
3.2	1.954.499,71€	3.030.999,67€
TOTAL	44.397.006,50€	41.923.291,23€

(as in the Progress Reports on 31.12.2021).

²⁸ According to the update of JS, the figures are:

SO	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
1.1	13.528.759,85	13.476.808,07
1.2	5.415.284,49	5.390.613,29
2.1	17.964.180,40	17.728.790,02
2.2	4.428.570,09	4.400.052,72
2.3	2.473.347,31	2.464.098,87
3.1	6.074.271,95	5.920.502,55€
3.2	3.407.862,61	3.403.873,84
TOTAL	53.292.276,70	52.784.739,36

In the following histogram it is presented that SO1.2 and SO2.3 have a better performance in terms of paid and verified expenditures, as per the respected approved budget.



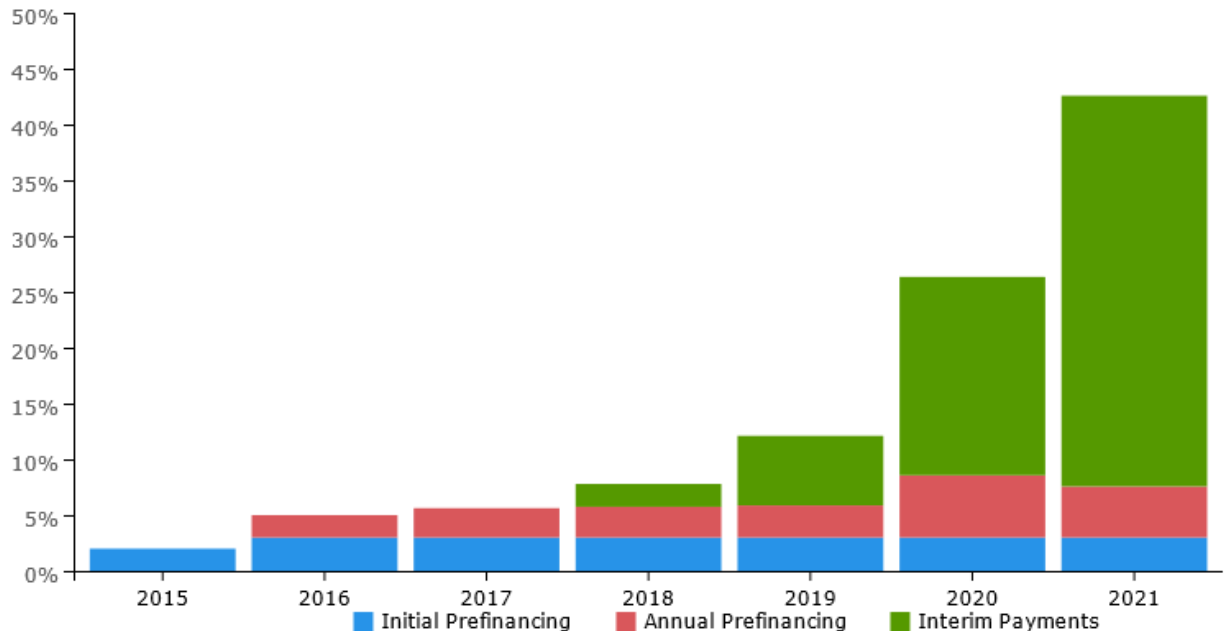
Notice:

In nine (9) out of fifty six (56) projects (15.25%) for which the progress reports were available, there were unjustified discrepancies between total paid expenditures and total verified expenditures. It is recommended to identify the cause of this unexpected error and correct it in order to have more accurate information and make better conclusions.

According to the Cohesion data of the European Union²⁹, the timeline of payments of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 for the years 2015 – 2021 is as follows³⁰:

²⁹ <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu> (accessed 24 March 2022)

ESIF 2014-2020: Total EU payments - time series cumulated to the end of each year (daily update): Interreg V-A - Greece-Italy, EUR million



It is clearly shown that the payments of the approved projects are at 31,23% of the approved budget of the projects of the programme, which cannot be considered as sufficient, 2 years before the final closure of the programme.

The delays in payments are mainly related to management and procurement delays of the beneficiaries of the projects.

The ratio of certified expenditure to the paid expenditure is at 94,45%, which is very good, meaning that practically all payments entered in the MIS, were going to controllers for certification³¹.

³⁰ The original graph included also the updated information for the year 2022, until the 24th of March, as reported. That part was erased by the authors, to avoid confusion, as they do not reflect the assessment period which is until the 31st of December 2021.

³¹ The balance is normally related to late in 2021 payments which were not possible to be verified until 31.12.2021.

Conclusions

1. The programme is in relatively good progress, with nine (9) Calls being announced and fifty (59) projects being approved³². The programme authorities had a relatively quick adjustment to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for certain sectors and the local societies, with specific targeted calls, projects and partnerships.

The total budget of the approved projects is more than the programme budget, due to overbooking.

PA1 has 26.868.285,00€ planned; 42.936.802,67€ approved budget in projects (overbooking); 17.321.325,54€ of paid expenditure; and 15.901.557,24€ of verified expenditure (91,80% of the paid expenditure).

PA2 has 62.713.534,00€ planned; 68.113.524,76€ approved budget in projects (overbooking); 19.470.607,23€ of paid expenditure; and 17.070.231,77€ of verified expenditure (87,36% of the paid expenditure).

PA3 has 26.880.001,00€ planned; 29.402.543,07€ approved budget in projects (overbooking); 7.605.073,73€ of paid expenditure; and 8.951.502,22€ of verified expenditure.

2. While some objectives and indicators reached their target, others are yet to be achieved. Particularly, there's a delay in achieving the target values in some of the monitored indicators. Namely the output indicators are reached by the 31st of December 2022, as follows:

CV1 = 103,16%; CV2 = 6,67%; CV5 = 96,62%; CV6 = 108,02%; CV7 = 0,00%; CV8³³ = 00,00%; O0515 = 280,00%; O0516 = 1.240,00%; O0517 = 200,00%; O0518 = 540,00%; CO26 = 248,00%; O0519 = 465,73%; O0520 =

³² They are presented in the next sub-chapter, per Call.

³³ The values of CV2, CV7 and CV8 are affected by the COOFHEA2 project which was contracted in October 2021, therefore the indicators cannot be met.

33,33%; O0521 = 91,67%; CO09 = 505,00%; O0522 = 41,67%; O0523 = 50,00%; O0524 = 220,00%

It is realized, that some of the indicators are left behind and certain care should be taken by the respective project lead partners and project beneficiaries for timely achievement.

3. Based on the progress of the Cooperation Programme it is estimated that it is in a good pace with specific issues which the project beneficiaries would have to overcome in the remaining 2years period (2022 – 2023) for the closure of the programme and it is expected that all goals and indicators will be achieved, by the end of the programme.

4. There are differences in the progress of the different PAs (PA1 has CVEs of 37,03% of the approved budget; PA2 has CVEs of 25,06% of the approved budget; and PA3 has CVEs of 30,44% of the approved budget, with the average being 29,85%). Those differences in certain occasions reflect the different degree of complexity of the projects and the lapsed time since the beginning of the respective projects.

Based on the findings we have the following:

- The programme is fully activated
(very bad; bad; neutral; good; **excellent**);
- The programme has approved projects with overbooked budget
(very bad; bad; neutral; good; **excellent**);
- The paid expenditures of the programme is relatively low
(very bad; bad; neutral; **good**; excellent);
- The verified expenditures of the programme are relatively low, but very high as per the paid expenditure
(very bad; bad; neutral; **good**; excellent);
- SO1.2 and SO2.3 are the best performing Specific Objectives in terms of payments;

- SO2.2 and SO3.1 are the less performing Specific Objectives in terms of payments;
- TO3 is the best performing Thematic Objective, in terms of payments;
- TO7 and TO6 are the less performing Thematic Objective, in terms of payments;
- PA1 is the best performing Priority Axis, in terms of payments;
- PA3 is the less performing Priority Axis, in terms of payments.

2. Effectiveness of the Physical Object

Programme Performance Indicators

The following table contains the selected performance indicators of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Priority Axis	ID	Description of the Indicator	Measurement Unit	Final Target 2023
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	20
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Number	5

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

1. Innovation and Competitiveness	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	15
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number	5
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	CO26	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number	500
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	20
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	10
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	12
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Number	20

3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	5

A comprehensive list of output indicators and results indicators to be monitored, is provided in Annexes I and II in this document.

The progress of the performance indicators until 31.12.2021, is presented in the tables at the end of this sub-chapter.

List of Project Calls

Below are presented the Calls for Proposals of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A “GREECE - ITALY 2014-2020”.

Calls for Ordinary Projects

1st Call for ordinary projects (22 July 2016 – 15 December 2016)³⁴.

The call was opened under the three Priority Axes of the Programme:

Priority Axis 1: *Innovation and Competitiveness.*

Specific Objective 1.1 “*Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness*”; and

Specific Objective 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.*

Specific Objective 2.1 “*Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area*”;

Specific Objective 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*”; and

Specific Objective 2.3 “*Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution*”.

Priority Axis 3: *Multimodal Sustainable Transport System.*

Specific Objective 3.1 “*Boosting maritime transport, shortsea shipping capacity and crossborder ferry connectivity*”; and

³⁴ The ordinary call received 192 project proposals. 157 proposals were rejected. On November 7th, 2017 the Monitoring Committee approved 41 projects and on September 27th, 2018 another 10 projects.

Specific Objective 3.2 *“Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally friendly solutions”*.

Calls for Strategic Projects

Call	Selected Priority Axis
1 st Targeted Call	Priority Axis 2 <i>Integrated Environmental Management</i> . Specific Objective 2.1 <i>“Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area”</i> .
2 nd Targeted Call	Priority Axis 2 <i>Integrated Environmental Management</i> . Specific Objective 2.1 <i>“Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area”</i> .
3 rd Targeted Call	Priority Axis 2 <i>Integrated Environmental Management</i> . Specific Objective 2.2, <i>“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”</i> .
4 th Targeted Call	Priority Axis 3 <i>Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System</i> . Specific Objective 3.1 <i>“Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity”</i> .
5 th Targeted Call	Priority Axis 1 <i>Innovation and Competitiveness</i> . Specific Objective 1.1 <i>“Delivering innovation support services and</i>

	<i>developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness”.</i>
6 th Targeted Call for strategic project proposal	Priority Axis 2 <i>Integrated Environmental Management</i> . Specific Objective 2.2, <i>“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”.</i>
7 th Targeted Call for Emergency project proposal	Priority Axis 1 <i>Innovation and Competitiveness</i> . Specific Objective 1.1 <i>“Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness and COVID-19 emergency”.</i>
8 th Targeted Call for Emergency project proposal	Priority Axis 1 <i>Innovation and Competitiveness</i> . Specific Objective 1.1 <i>“Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness and COVID-19 emergency”.</i>

Financial performance of the Calls

The Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 launched nine (9) Calls for proposals. The first one was for ordinary projects. The next ones were targeted (strategic), including two (2) emergency calls, related to COVID-19 pandemic.

The contracted amounts of the projects were not tested in the first draft. They will be tested in the following versions of the assessment.

Below is the summary table of the nine (9) calls:

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Call	Period for submission of proposals	PAs / SOs	Budget of the Call in EUR	% of the Programme budget (without PA4)
1 st Ordinary (I1)	22/7/2016 to 15/12/2016	PA1 / SO1.1 & SO1.2 PA2 / SO2.1 & SO2.2 & SO2.3 PA3 / SO3.1 & SO3.2	60.387.270,50	42,99%
1 st targeted (I2)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA2 / SO2.1	21.115.000	15,03%
2 nd targeted (I3)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA2 / SO2.1	6.420.600	4,57%
3 rd targeted (I4)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA2 / SO2.2	5.380.000	3,83%
4 th targeted (I5)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA3 / SO3.1	17.250.000	12,28%
5 th targeted (I6)	23/11/2018 to 09/1/2019	PA1 / SO1.1	10.000.000	7,12%
6 th targeted (I7)	07/7/2020 to 06/8/2020	PA2 / SO2.2	4.500.000	3,20%

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

7 th targeted (18)	08/7/2020 to 07/8/2020	PA1 / SO1.1	3.400.000	2,42%
8 th targeted (19)	30/9/2021 to 15/10/2021	PA1 / SO1.1	12.000.000	8,54%

With an average overbooking of 24,2m€ (20,79%% of the available budget – PA1/PA2/PA3 and 19,62% of the available budget - PA1/PA2/PA3/PA4).

List of approved projects, sorted per Call

Below are presented the approved projects of the Cooperation programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020, with their Acronyms, Call, Priority Axis, Thematic Objective, Specific Objective, Approved Budget, listed per Call and Priority Axis.

ACRONYM	CALL	PA	TO	SO	APPROVED BUDGET
AGRIFARM	11	1	3	1.2	649.462,50€
APOLLO LANDS	11	1	1	1.1	893.104,00€
AUTHENTIC OLIVE NET	11	1	1	1.1	875.000,00€
CI-NOVATEC	11	1	1	1.1	866.913,00€
CIRCLE-IN	11	1	1	1.1	780.000,00€
CRAFT LAB	11	1	3	1.2	889.606,00€
CREATIVE CAMPS	11	1	3	1.2	854.919,43€
EGOV-INNO	11	1	1	1.1	722.208,14€
ICON WOM-EN	11	1	1	1.1	

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

					812.900,10€
ILONET	11	1	1	1.1	775.057,00€
IN MED TOUR	11	1	1	1.1	897.703,80€
INCUBA	11	1	3	1.2	900.000,00€
INNO.TRITION	11	1	1	1.1	602.725,25€
INNONETS	11	1	1	1.1	899.473,35€
MEDINNO	11	1	3	1.2	841.517,40€
MOBILAB	11	1	1	1.1	818.067,00€
PIT STOP	11	1	3	1.2	900.952,00€
TAGS	11	1	1	1.1	885.385,77€
TELEICCE	11	1	1	1.1	877.707,50€
TRACES	11	1	3	1.2	896.763,64€
YESS	11	1	3	1.2	897.336,79€
CIAK	11	2	6	2.1	888.796,70€
CROSS THE GAP	11	2	6	2.1	2.064.775,47€
E-PARKS	11	2	6	2.1	898.098,56€
ERMIS	11	2	6	2.2	900.340,00€
FAME ROAD	11	2	6	2.1	2.501.940,28€
FISH&CHIPS	11	2	6	2.1	904.639,47€
HERMES	11	2	6	2.1	2.624.107,23€
IR2MA	11	2	6	2.3	901.477,98€

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

JUMP	11	2	6	2.1	1.937.707,39€
MUSE	11	2	6	2.1	2.400.674,95€
NETT	11	2	6	2.1	900.500,00€
OCTANE	11	2	6	2.1	676.005,00€
OFIDIA2	11	2	6	2.2	1.854.000,00€
PALIMPSEST	11	2	6	2.1	899.924,02€
PATH	11	2	6	2.1	863.947,63€
POLYSEMI	11	2	6	2.1	899.650,20€
PORTOLANES	11	2	6	2.1	877.915,00€
RECORD	11	2	6	2.3	887.187,45€
RE-WATER	11	2	6	2.3	900.023,92€
SILVER WELLBEING	11	2	6	2.1	891.999,12€
SPARC	11	2	6	2.1	2.416.335,00€
SUNWATER	11	2	6	2.1	873.000,00€
SUSWATER	11	2	6	2.2	876.389,80€
TRITON	11	2	6	2.2	858.489,59€
DOCK-BI	11	3	7	3.1	2.785.810,00€
FRESH WAYS	11	3	7	3.2	2.601.935,00€
INVESTMENT	11	3	7	3.2	857.053,07€
SWAN	11	3	7	3.1	2.632.895,00€

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

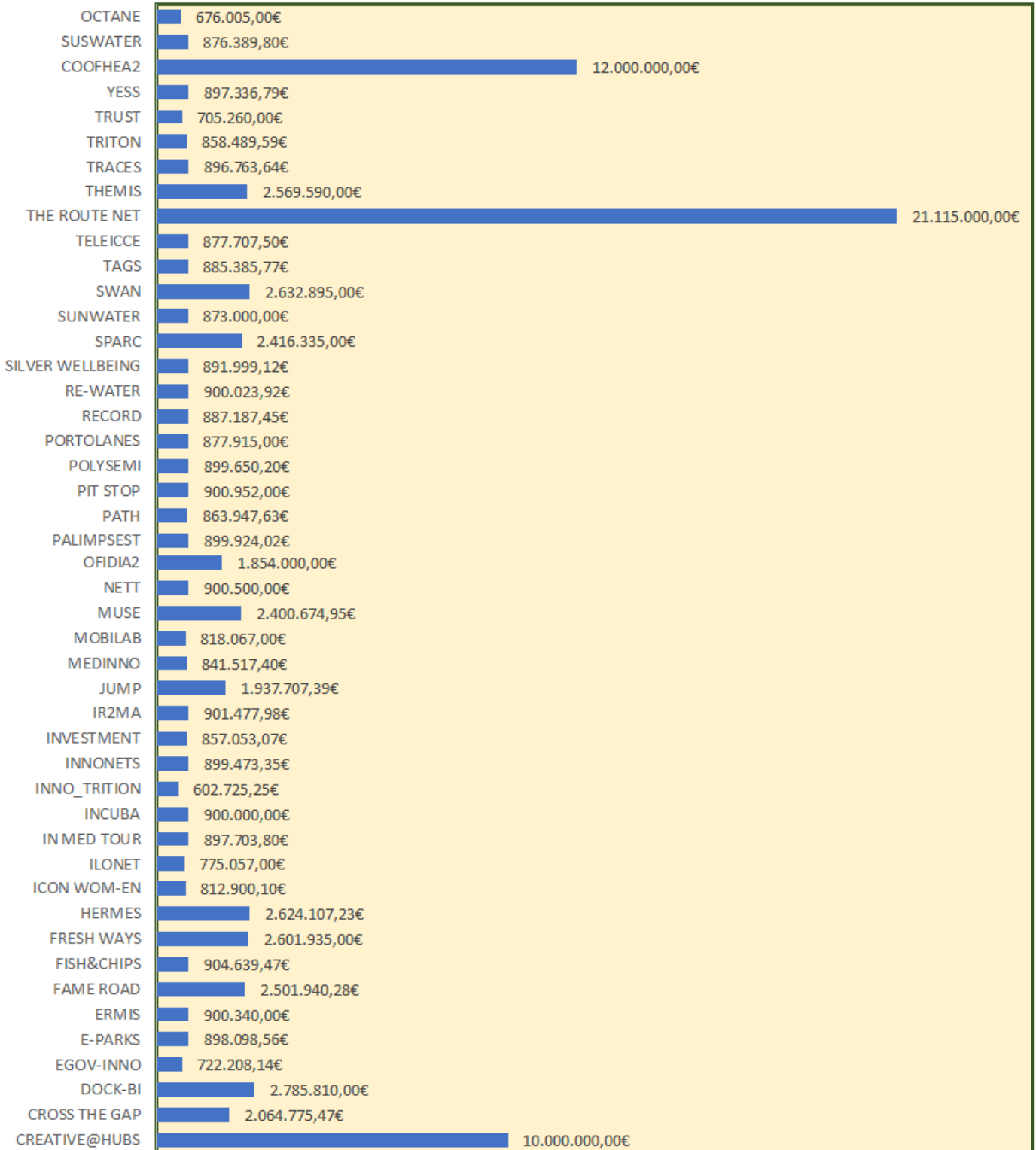
THEMIS	I1	3	7	3.1	2.569.590,00€
TRUST	I1	3	7	3.2	705.260,00€
THE ROUTE NET	I2	2	6	2.1	21.115.000,00€
COHEN	I3	2	6	2.1	6.420.600,00€
BEST	I4	2	6	2.2	5.380.000,00€
AI SMART	I5	3	7	3.1	17.250.000,00€
CREATIVE@HUBS	I6	1	1	1.1	10.000.000,00€
AETHER	I7	2	6	2.2	4.500.000,00€
COOFHEA	I8	1	1	1.1	3.400.000,00€
COOFHEA2	I9	1	1	1.1	12.000.000,00€

Where, the ordinary projects are in Call I1 and the targeted calls (strategic) are I2 to I9 (covering the projects THE ROUTE NET; COHEN; BEST; AI SMART; CREATIVE HUBS; AETHER).

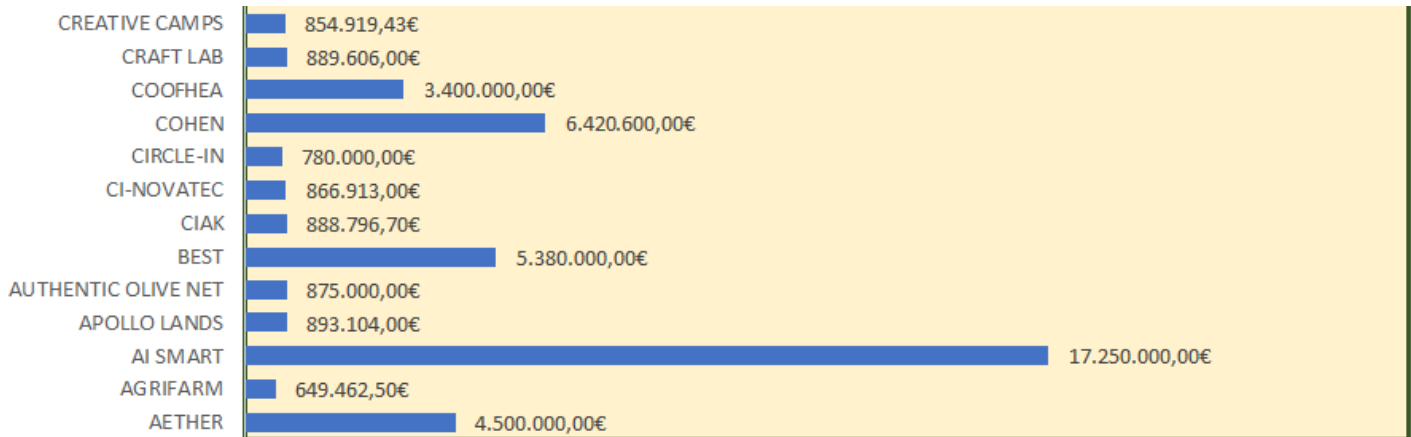
The Calls I8 and I9 (being the 7th and 8th emergency targeted calls) referred to the emergency projects COOFHEA and COOFHEA 2.

The total of the approved budget is 140.452.870,50€, which is 24.173.050,50€ above the available budget for PA1, PA2 and PA3 (20.79% overbooking) and 24.173.050,38€ above the available budget for PA1, PA2, PA3 and PA4 (19,62% overbooking).

Below is presented the histogram of the projects and their respective budget.



The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.



Below we present the indicators of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 which are tested to examine the performance until the 31st of December 2022.

There are fifty nine (59) approved projects (ordinary and strategic ones).

Notice:

The projects COOFHEA2; SUSWATER and OCTANE, will be considered in the 2nd draft of the update of the assessment as the latest PPRs were not available during the test.

The indicators CV1, CV2, CV5, CV6, CV7, CV8 were added at a later stage in the PROGRAMME, after the COVID-19 pandemic and they are related to that (all are contributing to priority axis 1).

Output indicators CVx

ID	Description of the Indicator	Measurement Unit	Final Target 2023	Target Value of the Approved projects	Achieved on 31.12.2021
CV1	Value of personal protective equipment purchased	EUR	1.400.000,00	1.400.000,00	1.444.223,58 (103,16% / 103,16%)
CV2	Value of medical equipment purchased	EUR	1.000.000,00	12.317.914.29	822.049,68 (82,20% / 6,67%) ³⁵
CV5	Value of grants for R&D into COVID-19	EUR	150.000,00	207.000,00	200.000,00 (133,33% / 96,62%) ³⁶
CV6	Items of personal protective equipment (PPE)	Number of items	350.000,00	350.000,00	378.069,00 (108,02% / 108,02%)

³⁵ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 1.267.268,26€ (126,73% / 10,29%).

³⁶ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 462.500,00€ (308,33% / 223,43%).

CV7	Ventilators to support treatment of COVID-19	Number of medical devices	100	100	75 (75,00% / 75,00%) ³⁷
CV8	Additional bed space created for COVID-19 patients	Bed spaces	100	100	50 (75,00% / 50,00%) ³⁸

(as in the Progress Reports on 31.12.2021).

Other output indicators

Priority Axis	ID	Description of the Indicator	Measurement Unit	Final Target 2023	Target Value of the Approved projects	Achieved on 31.12.2021
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	20	46	56 (280,00% / 121,74%)
	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques	Number	5	44	62 (1.240,00%

³⁷ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 158 (158,00% / 158,00%).

³⁸ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 105 (105,00% / 105,00%).

		introduced through cross-border co-operation				/ 140,91%)
	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	15	31	30 (200,00% / 96,77%)
	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number	5	27	27 (540,00% / 100,00%)
	CO26	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number	500	1075	1240 (248,00% / 115,35%) ³⁹
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	20	185	177 ⁴⁰ (885,00% / 95,68%)
	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	10	20	4 ⁴¹ (40,00% / 20,00%)

³⁹ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 1248 (249,00% / 116,09%)

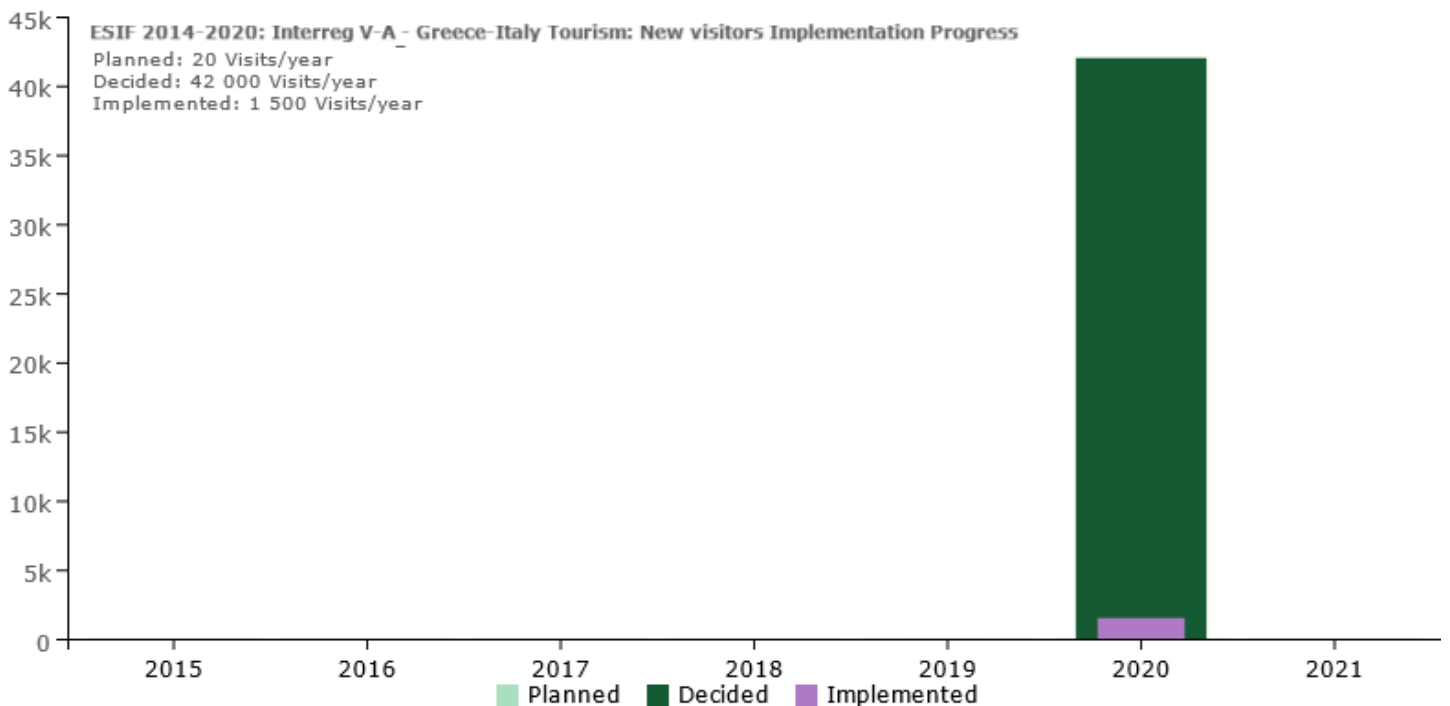
⁴⁰ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 170 (850,00% / 91,89%)

⁴¹ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 8 (80,00% / 40,00%)

	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	12	11	11 (91,67% / 100,00%)
	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Number ('000)	20	100,02	101,00 (505,00% / 100,98%)
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10	16	5 (50,00% / 31,25%)
	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10	12	5 (50,00% / 41,67%)
	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	5	7	11 (220,00% / 157,14%)

(as in the Progress Reports on 31.12.2021).

The CO09 output indicator is presented in the following graph, as presented by the Cohesion data of the European Union⁴².



Refresh Date: 10/01/2022

⁴² <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu> (accessed 22 March 2022). It reflects input data until 2020.

The number of projects that contribute to the different output and result indicators is presented in the following tables.

Below are presented the output indicators and the number of projects that contribute to the indicators and the number and percentage of projects achieving the indicator until 31.12.2021 (achievement by that time above 0).

Priority Axis	ID	Description of the Indicator	Number of Projects contributing to the indicator	Number of Projects achieving the indicator (>0 until 31/12/2021)
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	13	11 (84,62%)
	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	12	10 (83,33%)
	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	7	6 (85,71%)
	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	7	6 (85,71%)

	CO26	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	12	10 (83,33%)
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	19	13 (68,42%)
	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	6	2 (33,33%)
	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	3	3 (100,00%)
	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	3	1 (33,33%)
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	4	2 (50,00%)
	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	4	2 (50,00%)
	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	3	3 (100,00%)

Result Indications

Below the result indicators are presented and the respective achievements are presented:

Priority Axis	ID	Description of the Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline (year)	Final Target 2023	Target Value of the Approved projects	Achieved on 31.12.2021
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	RI1.1 R0501	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	%	56 (2015)	Increase	738	473 ⁴³ (increased)
	RI1.2 R0502	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	Enterprises	52360 (2012)	Increase 55000	420	356 (increased 13.48%)
Environmental	RI2.1	Level of capacity for the	%	65	Increase	1142	871 ⁴⁴

⁴³ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 563.

⁴⁴ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 872.

	R0503	stakeholders in the fields of natural and cultural heritage protection and tourism to sustainably valorise natural and cultural heritage as a growth asset		(2015)			(increased)
	R12.2 R0504	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	Km ²	42401 (2013)	Increase 46000	76232	900 (increased 25.00%) ⁴⁵
	R12.3 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	%	63 (2015)	Increase	210	160 (increased)

⁴⁵ According to the update of JS, the figure is: 9.114 (253,24%)

3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	RI3.1 R0506	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	Passengers	7005 (2012)	Increase 7500	3794	1900 (increased 383,83%)
	RI3.2 R0507	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	Tonnes	88532 (2011)	Decrease 88000	333	10,33 (1.94%)

(as in the Progress Reports on 31.12.2021).

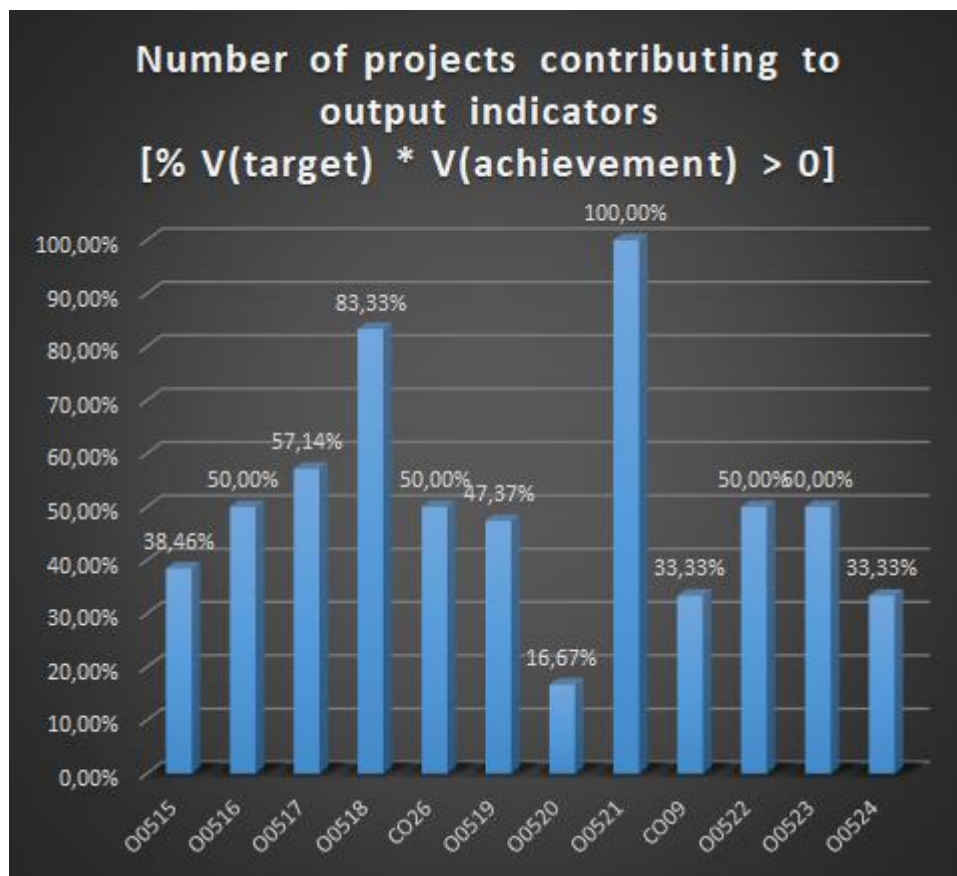
Below are presented the result indicators and the number of projects that contribute to the indicators and the number and percentage of projects achieving the indicator until 31.12.2021 (achievement by that time above 0).

Priority Axis	ID	Description of the Indicator	Number of Projects contributing to the indicator	Number of Projects achieving the indicator (>0 until 31/12/2021)
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	RI1.1 R0501	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	14	9 (64,29%)

	RI1.2 R0502	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	8	6 (75,00%)
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	RI2.1 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	19	14 (73,68%)
	RI2.2 R0504	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	6	1
	RI2.3 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	3	3 (100,00%)
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	RI3.1 R0506	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	4	2 (50,00%)
	RI3.2 R0507	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	1	1 (100,00%)

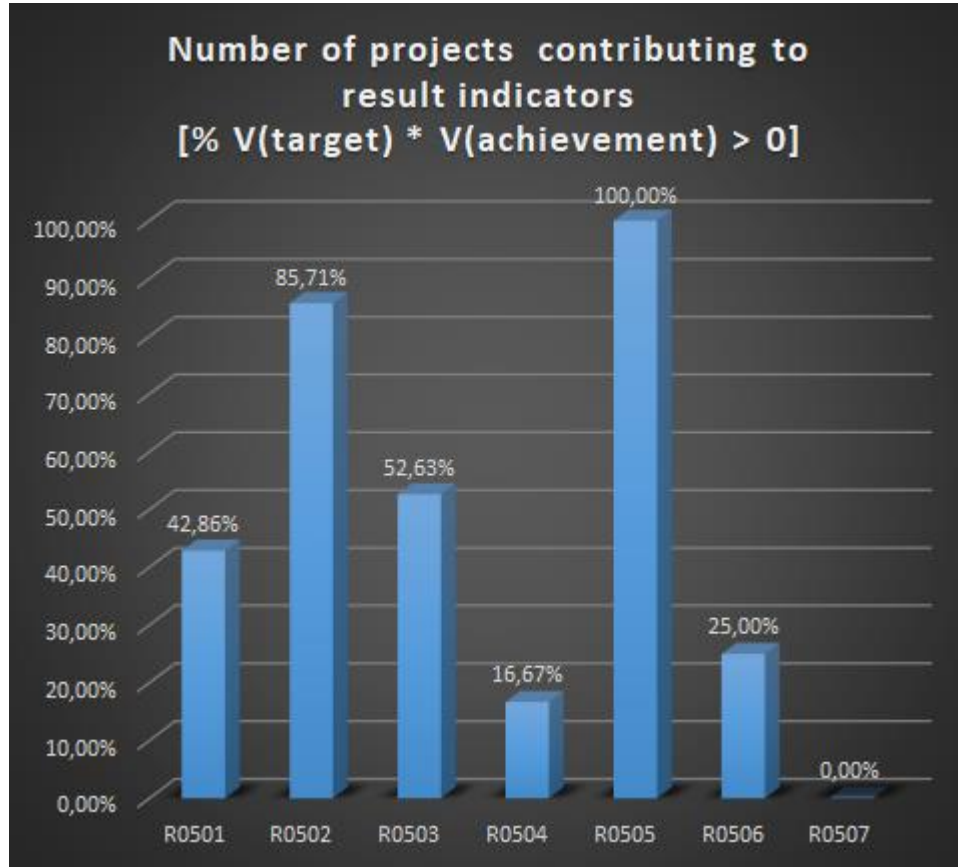
--	--	--	--	--

The percentage of the projects that started to contribute to their targeted values of the respective output indicators is presented in the following graph⁴⁶.



The percentage of the projects that started to contribute to their targeted values of the respective result indicators is presented in the following graph⁴⁷.

⁴⁶ The graph reflects the percentage of the projects that contribute to the specific output indicator and have already achieved part of the target value or all of it: $V(\text{Target}) * V(\text{Achievement}) > 0$.



The first approach to the achievement of the target values of the indicators of the programme, is that some of them are achieved, while other are in good progress and some are yet to start receiving contribution by the respective projects.

Result Indications (Baseline value)

The result indicators RI 1.1 (R0501), RI2.1 (R0503) and RI 2.3 (R0505) were further calculated on the basis of a mini-survey among relevant stakeholders of the implementation area regions (NUTS2), in order to identify their current

⁴⁷ The graph reflects the percentage of the projects that contribute to the specific result indicator and have already achieved part of the target value or all of it: $V(\text{Target}) * V(\text{Achievement}) > 0$.

level of the baseline value. A different questionnaire⁴⁸ was prepared for each result indicator and was distributed among several RI relevant stakeholders in each region⁴⁹.

The cumulative findings for the baseline values in 2022 for the above mentioned result indicators, are as follows:

Result Indicator	Baseline Value 2015	Baseline value 2022 ⁵⁰
RI 1.1 (R0501)	56%	59%
RI 2.1 (R0503)	65%	66%
%RI 2.3 (R0505)	63%	65%

Comments on the new findings of the field research:

- There's a small increase in the value of the RI 1.1 (R0501); RI 2.1 (R0503); and RI 2.3 (R0505);
- There were differentiations among different stakeholders;
- It worth to get into deeper analysis of the findings as the picture for the different questions vary, with some getting higher value than the others;

⁴⁸ The questionnaires are enclosed in Annex V in this document. We assumed equal weight for each question in each of the research result indicator. The research was conducted in late March – April 2022, using online forms in google platform.

⁴⁹ The respondents were from all regions of the eligible area of the Programme and they were in total: 14 for RI 1.1 (R0501) (7 IT / 7 GR); 13 for RI 2.1 (R0503) (6 IT / 7 GR); and 15 for RI 2.3 (R0505) (7 IT / 8 GR).

⁵⁰ More precisely: RI 1.1 (R0501) = 58,62%; RI 2.1 (R0503) = 65,68; and RI 2.3 (R0505) = 64,81%

- The period of severe restrictions measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 – 2021), minimized the further improvement of the subject result indicators.

Conclusions

The performance for certain indicators, such as R0502 / R0504 / R0507 and O0520 / O0522 / O0523 is not sufficient, while others achieve the target and even more, such as R0501 and O0516 / O0517 / O0518 / CO09.

Targeted Calls (Emergency Calls 7 & 8) directly related to the pandemic COVID-19, present relatively good performance, but better would be expected, due to the health crisis for which the programme was adjusted and the specific calls prepared.

The baseline value of the Result Indicators RI 1.1 (R0501); RI 2.1 (R0503); and RI 2.3 (R0505) was increased (from 56% to 59%; from 65% to 66%; and from 63% to 65% respectively).

3. Lessons Learnt

- There's need for closer follow up of the projects, with regards to the progress, payments and verification of expenditures;
- Complicated projects present more and longer delays in performance, due to more bureaucratic procurement procedures. It is suggested the beneficiaries to be guided to prepare the procurement procedures prior to the signing of the subsidy contracts;
- The project activities related to COVID-19 are not in the appropriate progress, especially taking into consideration the emergency of the pandemic, which did lead to the targeted Calls (7th / 8.7.'20 to 7.8.'20 and 8th / 30.9.'21 to 15.10.'21). The calls had a very short preparation period until submission of the proposals, due to the emergency of the health crisis in both countries. It is suggested that in similar occasions

a task force of the JS and MA assist the beneficiaries with their procedures;

- There's a substantial difference between the best performing projects and the less performing projects, within connection to the Specific Objectives and the Respective Indicators. There should be examined further, in the next programming period, if the target values of certain indicators should be further examined for calibrated performance;
- The assessment would be preferred be accompanied with a more extended qualitative research, through surveys to larger number of responders, in order to manage improved conclusions and point out any weaknesses (if the case).

B. Performance Framework of the Programme

The performance framework is presented in the following tables:

Output indicators

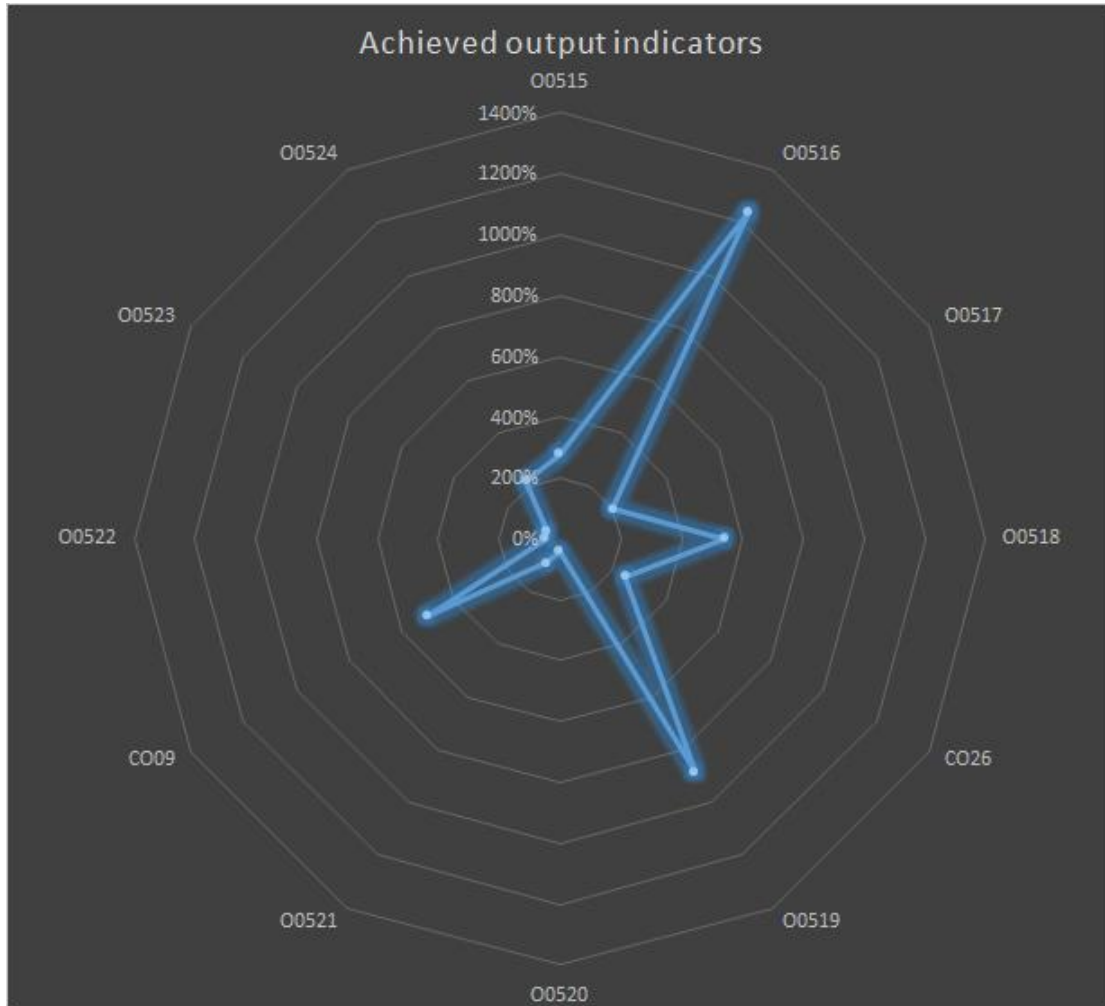
Priority Axis	ID	Description of the Indicator	Measurement Unit	Final Target 2023	Target Value of the Approved projects	Achieved on 31.12.2021
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	O0515	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	20	46	56 (280,00%)
	O0516	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques	Number	5	44	62 (1.240,00%)

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

		introduced through cross-border co-operation				
	O0517	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	15	31	30 (200,00%)
	O0518	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number	5	27	27 (540,00%)
	CO26	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number	500	1075	1240 (248,00%)
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	O0519	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Tool	20	185	177 (885,00%)
	O0520	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	10	20	4 (40,00%)
	O0521	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	12	11	11 (91,67%)
	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and	Number ('000)	20	100,02	101,00 (505,00%)

		attractions				
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	O0522	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10	16	5 (50,00%)
	O0523	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10	12	5 (50,00%)
	O0524	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	5	7	11 (220,00%)

The diagramme of achievement of the output indicators of the programme, is presented below:



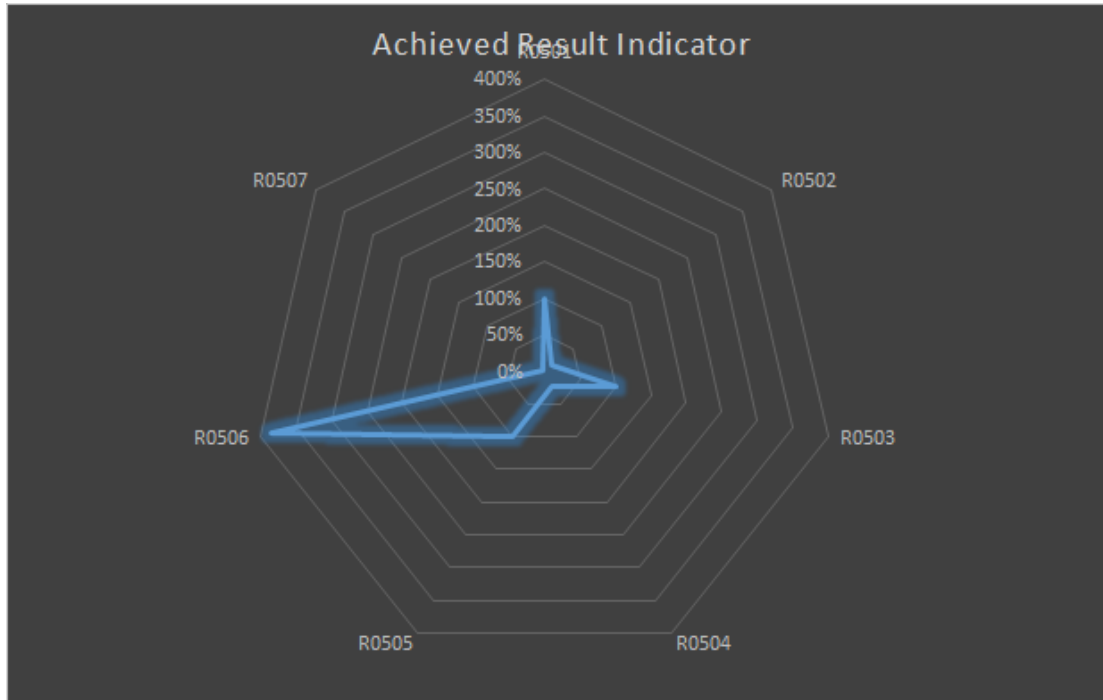
The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Result Indicators

Priority Axis	ID	Description of the Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline (year)	Final Target 2023	Target Value of the Approved projects	Achieved on 31.12.2021
1. Innovation and Competitiveness	RI1.1 R0501	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	%	56 (2015)	Increase	738	473 (increased)
	RI1.2 R0502	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	Enterprises	52360 (2012)	Increase 55000	420	356 (increased 13.48%)
2 - Integrated Environmental Management	RI2.1 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	%	65 (2015)	Increase	1142	871 (increased)

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

	RI2.2 R0504	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	Km ²	42401 (2013)	Increase 46000	76232	900 (increased 25.00%)
	RI2.3 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	%	63 (2015)	Increase	210	160 (increased)
3 - Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	RI3.1 R0506	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	Passengers	7005 (2012)	Increase 7500	3794	1900 (increased 383,83%)
	RI3.2 R0507	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	Tonnes	88532 (2011)	Decrease 88000	333	10,33 (1.94%)



Especially for the Result Indicators R0501, R0503 and R0506 a small field survey was contacted, in order to control the progress through third sources.

Regarding R0501⁵¹, it is assessed that the SMEs and innovation stakeholders are at an average level of cooperation with other stakeholders (3/5), adopting innovations (3/5) and being ready for clustering (4/5).

Regarding R0503⁵², it is assessed that the stakeholders in the fields of natural and cultural heritage protection and tourism are at an average level of

⁵¹ A small survey of 3 questions (degree of cooperation of SMEs with knowledge carriers; Capacity of SMEs to adopt innovations; and readiness of SMEs for clustering) was contacted electronically with requested answers scaling from 1 to 5 (not at all; little; moderate; enough; high level).

⁵² A small survey of 3 questions (effective promotion of tourist destinations; capacity to adopt joint management plans for cultural and natural heritage; degree of capacity to protect cultural and natural heritage from human impact) was contacted electronically with requested answers scaling from 1 to 5 (not at all; little; moderate; enough; high level).

effective promotion of tourist destinations (4/5), adopting joint management plans for cultural and natural heritage (3/5) and protect cultural and natural heritage from human impact (2/5).

Regarding R0506⁵³, it is found that the maritime transportation of passengers was relatively not effected (3/5), excluding the COVID-19 period of restriction measures (1/5)⁵⁴, while the capacity of cooperation of stakeholders of passengers' transportation is low (2/5).

The findings converge to the data collected by research on reliable secondary sources⁵⁵.

The performance of the Programme, is directly linked to the procedures of contracting and implementation of the funded projects in each Specific Objective. As pointed out in this document, the Joint Secretariat (JS) and the Managing Authority (MA) followed up closely the progress of the implementation of the envisaged actions of the approved projects, participated in technical meetings with the beneficiaries of the projects (face to face and online) to follow up the progress of the activities and contribute to speeding of the procedures, including managerial and other technical issues. JS and MA were constantly encouraging the project beneficiaries to contact and discuss all issues raised, in order to identify solutions, avoid significant delays and improve performance, where needed.

⁵³ A small survey of 3 questions (increase / decrease of maritime transport of passengers; COVID-19 effect on maritime transport of passengers; capacity of cooperation among stakeholders of passengers' transportation) was contacted electronically with requested answers scaling from 1 to 5 (for the first two questions: high decrease; little decrease; neutral; increase; high increase, and for the third question: not at all; low; moderate; enough; high level).

⁵⁴ As the surveys were contacted right after suspension of several restriction measures, the responses are assumed as affected by the recent (2020-2021) perception and estimation based on the latest information, and not the information prior to the year 2020.

⁵⁵ Ref: Chapter A3 – Assessment of the Impact of the Programme, in this document.

Conclusions

1. The output indicators of PA1 are in general in good progress, without any critical consideration. There's moderate consideration about the indicators of PA2 and especially O0520. There's higher consideration about the indicators O0522, O0523 of PA3. Delays in better achievements until the reporting date are related to the unforeseen force majeure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which also affected the financial performance. Also, some projects had more complicated procedures than others, for the achievement of certain indicators. However, it is expected that in the next period a better achievement level will be gained.

2. The output indicators in higher risk for 100% achievement, are the following: O0522, O0523, followed by moderate risk for O0520. The 24months period until the final date of the programme (31.12.2023) is sufficient time for achievement of the goals.

3. The achievement of the target values of some indicators is more complicated than others and in several cases occurs near the end of the project implementation period. In those cases a closer follow up would possible assist the beneficiaries to improve achievement time.

1. Lessons Learnt

There's a substantial difference between the achievements of different indicators. It is advised that the new programme design takes into consideration the characteristics of the performance of the selected indicators for an improved approach to the target values.

It is estimated that with many of the goals of the performance framework being achieved, the pending goals, including the ones with the very little progress, can be covered until the end of the programming period (31.12.2023), subject to speeding the actions of the approved projects which are in delay.

The good cooperation and frequent communication of the progress of the activities of the projects, with the Programme Authorities, contributes to the optimization of the performance of the projects and the overall programme.

C. Efficiency of the Programme

The efficiency of the implementation of the programme is considered mainly on the basis of performance in time and performance in financial terms.

1. Time Efficiency

Time efficiency is related to the management procedures of the Programme and the approved projects. The research tests the appropriate and ultimate use of the available time for optimizing results in terms of Calls announcement (if timely), project design by the beneficiaries and time elapsed between the final date of proposals submission to the calls and the subsidy contracts signed, and also the duration of the projects.

Call Duration

Call	Period for submission of proposals	PAs / SOs	Call open duration (days)	Comments
1 st Ordinary (I1)	22/7/2016 to 15/12/2016	PA1 / SO1.1 & SO1.2 PA2 / SO2.1 & SO2.2 & SO2.3 PA3 / SO3.1 & SO3.2	146	Relatively long period of approx. 5 months (it received 3 extensions of 1 month each)

1 st targeted (I2)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA2 / SO2.1	44	Relatively short period, explained as a targeted call
2 nd targeted (I3)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA2 / SO2.1	44	Relatively short period, explained as a targeted call
3 rd targeted (I4)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA2 / SO2.1	44	Relatively short period, explained as a targeted call
4 th targeted (I5)	7/11/2018 to 21/12/2018	PA3 / SO3.1	44	Relatively short period, explained as a targeted call
5 th targeted (I6)	23/11/2018 to 09/1/2019	PA1 / SO1.1	47	Relatively short period, explained as a targeted call
6 th targeted (I7)	07/7/2020 to 06/8/2020	PA2 / SO2.2	30	Relatively short period, explained as a targeted call
7 th targeted (I8)	08/7/2020 to 07/8/2020	PA1 / SO1.1	30	Relatively short period, explained as a targeted call
8 th targeted	30/9/2021	PA1 / SO1.1	15	Very short

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

(I9)	to 15/10/2021			period, explained as a targeted call
------	------------------	--	--	--

The ordinary call lasted long and received 192 applications of which 157 were rejected to approve 41 projects in November 2017 and 10 more projects in September 2018. The targeted calls lasted from 15days to 44 days.

In the following table we present the approved projects per Call, their start/end date and duration and the period in days, between closure of the respective calls and the signing of the subsidy contracts.

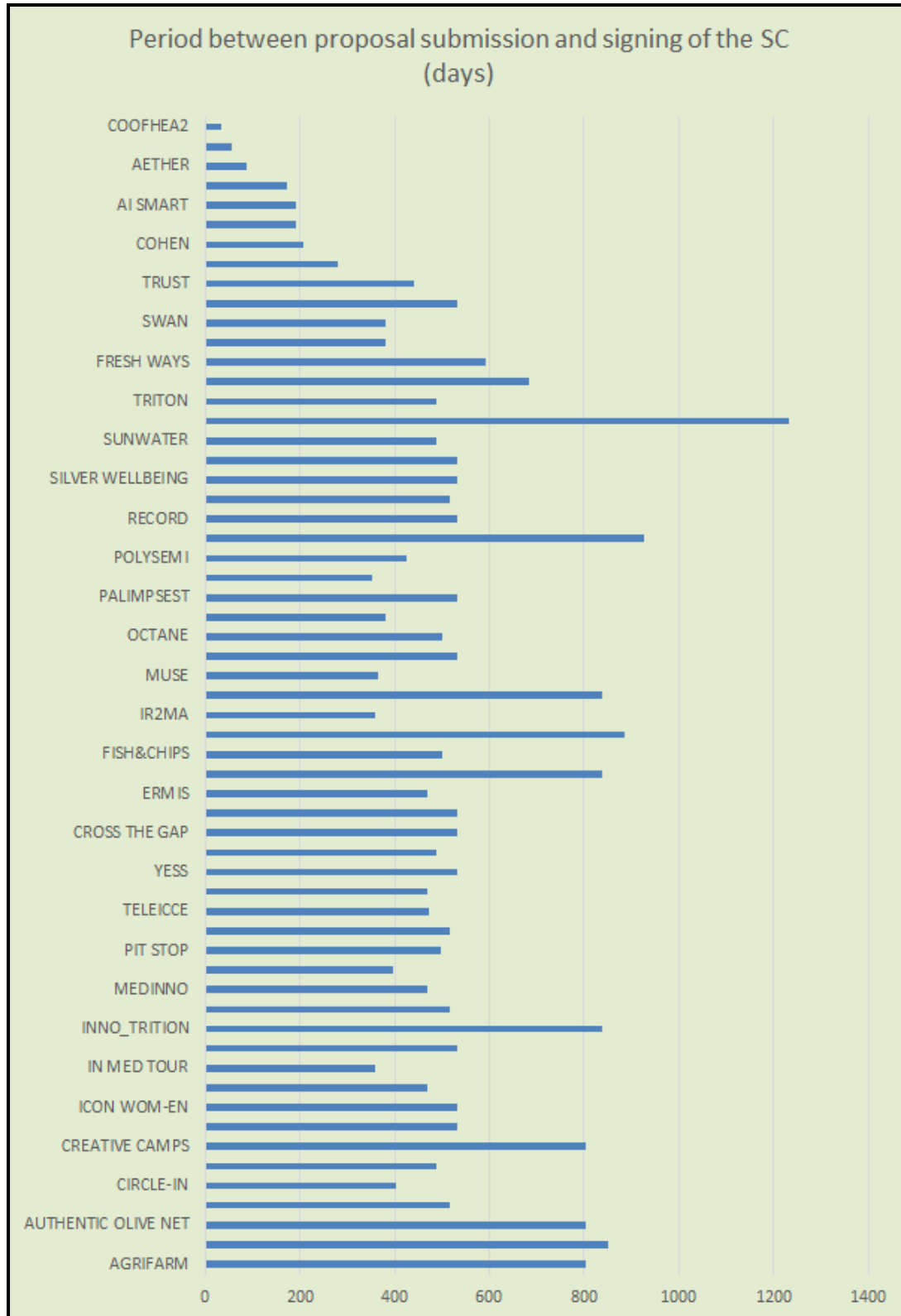
CALL	ACRONYMS	PA	SO	SC signed	End	Call end	Project Duration (months)	Call Deadline - SC (days)
I1.1	AGRIFARM	1	1.2	28/2/2019	28/2/2022	15/12/2016	35,93	805
I1.1	APOLLO LANDS	1	1.1	15/4/2019	14/7/2022	15/12/2016	38,89	851
I1.1	AUTHENTIC OLIVE NET	1	1.1	28/2/2019	31/3/2022	15/12/2016	36,95	805
I1.1	CI-NOVATEC	1	1.1	15/5/2018	30/9/2021	15/12/2016	40,46	516
I1.1	CIRCLE-IN	1	1.1	22/1/2018	28/2/2021	15/12/2016	37,15	403
I1.1	CRAFT LAB	1	1.2	16/4/2018	15/2/2021	15/12/2016	33,97	487
I1.1	CREATIVE CAMPS	1	1.2	28/2/2019	31/1/2022	15/12/2016	35,02	805
I1.1	EGOV-INNO	1	1.1	31/5/2018	31/10/2020	15/12/2016	28,98	532
I1.1	ICON WOM-EN	1	1.1	31/5/2018	31/3/2021	15/12/2016	33,93	532
I1.1	ILONET	1	1.1	30/3/2018	31/3/2021	15/12/2016	35,97	470
I1.1	IN MED TOUR	1	1.1	10/12/2017	30/6/2021	15/12/2016	42,56	360
I1.1	INCUBA	1	1.2	31/5/2018	30/11/2020	15/12/2016	29,97	532
I1.1	INNO_TRITION	1	1.1	1/4/2019	31/3/2022	15/12/2016	35,90	837
I1.1	INNONETS	1	1.1	15/5/2018	28/2/2021	15/12/2016	33,44	516

I1.1	MEDINNO	1	1.2	30/3/2018	30/4/2022	15/12/2016	48,92	470
I1.1	MOBILAB	1	1.1	15/1/2018	31/10/2021	15/12/2016	45,41	396
I1.1	PIT STOP	1	1.2	27/4/2018	26/5/2021	15/12/2016	36,89	498
I1.1	TAGS	1	1.1	15/5/2018	15/11/2020	15/12/2016	30,00	516
I1.1	TELEICCE	1	1.1	1/4/2018	30/11/2020	15/12/2016	31,93	472
I1.1	TRACES	1	1.2	30/3/2018	29/11/2020	15/12/2016	31,97	470
I1.1	YESS	1	1.2	31/5/2018	31/12/2021	15/12/2016	42,95	532
I1.2	CIAK	2	2.1	16/4/2018	28/2/2021	15/12/2016	34,39	487
I1.2	CROSS THE GAP	2	2.1	31/5/2018	30/9/2022	15/12/2016	51,90	532
I1.2	E-PARKS	2	2.1	31/5/2018	15/12/2021	15/12/2016	42,43	532
I1.2	ERMIS	2	2.2	30/3/2018	31/10/2021	15/12/2016	42,98	470
I1.2	FAME ROAD	2	2.1	1/4/2019	30/9/2022	15/12/2016	41,90	837
I1.2	FISH&CHIPS	2	2.1	30/4/2018	31/1/2022	15/12/2016	44,98	501
I1.2	HERMES	2	2.1	20/5/2019	19/5/2022	15/12/2016	35,90	886
I1.2	IR2MA	2	2.3	10/12/2017	30/6/2021	15/12/2016	42,56	360
I1.2	JUMP	2	2.1	1/4/2019	5/9/2022	15/12/2016	41,08	837
I1.2	MUSE	2	2.1	16/12/2017	30/6/2022	15/12/2016	54,33	366
I1.2	NETT	2	2.1	31/5/2018	30/11/2020	15/12/2016	29,97	532
I1.2	OCTANE	2	2.1	1/5/2018	28/2/2022	15/12/2016	45,87	502
I1.2	OFIDIA2	2	2.2	1/1/2018	31/5/2021	15/12/2016	40,85	382
I1.2	PALIMPSEST	2	2.1	1/6/2018	31/3/2022	15/12/2016	45,87	533
I1.2	PATH	2	2.1	1/12/2017	31/3/2021	15/12/2016	39,87	351
I1.2	POLYSEMI	2	2.1	14/2/2018	31/12/2020	15/12/2016	34,46	426

I1.2	PORTOLANES	2	2.1	1/7/2019	16/2/2022	15/12/2016	31,51	928
I1.2	RECORD	2	2.3	31/5/2018	31/5/2021	15/12/2016	35,93	532
I1.2	RE-WATER	2	2.3	15/5/2018	14/11/2020	15/12/2016	29,97	516
I1.2	SILVER WELLBEING	2	2.1	31/5/2018	30/6/2021	15/12/2016	36,92	532
I1.2	SPARC	2	2.1	30/5/2018	28/2/2022	15/12/2016	44,92	531
I1.2	SUNWATER	2	2.1	16/4/2018	30/6/2021	15/12/2016	38,39	487
I1.2	SUSWATER	2	2.2	30/4/2020	29/4/2022	15/12/2016	23,90	1232
I1.2	TRITON	2	2.2	16/4/2018	15/10/2020	15/12/2016	29,93	487
I1.3	DOCK-BI	3	3.1	31/10/2018	31/3/2022	15/12/2016	40,89	685
I1.3	FRESH WAYS	3	3.2	31/7/2018	30/6/2022	15/12/2016	46,89	593
I1.3	INVESTMENT	3	3.2	1/1/2018	31/1/2021	15/12/2016	36,92	382
I1.3	SWAN	3	3.1	1/1/2018	15/9/2022	15/12/2016	56,33	382
I1.3	THEMIS	3	3.1	31/5/2018	31/3/2022	15/12/2016	45,90	532
I1.3	TRUST	3	3.2	1/3/2018	31/12/2020	15/12/2016	33,97	441
I2	THE ROUTE NET	2	2.1	27/9/2019	26/9/2022	21/12/2018	35,90	280
I3	COHEN	2	2.1	15/7/2019	31/12/2022	21/12/2018	41,48	206
I4	BEST	2	2.2	1/7/2019	30/6/2023	21/12/2018	47,87	192
I5	AI SMART	3	3.1	1/7/2019	10/7/2023	21/12/2018	48,20	192
I6	CREATIVE@HUBS	1	1.1	1/7/2019	19/8/2022	9/1/2019	37,54	173
I7	AETHER	2	2.2	1/11/2020	31/10/2023	6/8/2020	35,87	87
I8	COOFHEA	1	1.1	1/10/2020	31/5/2022	7/8/2020	19,90	55
I9	COOFHEA2	1	1.1	18/11/2021	18/11/2022	15/10/2021	11,97	34

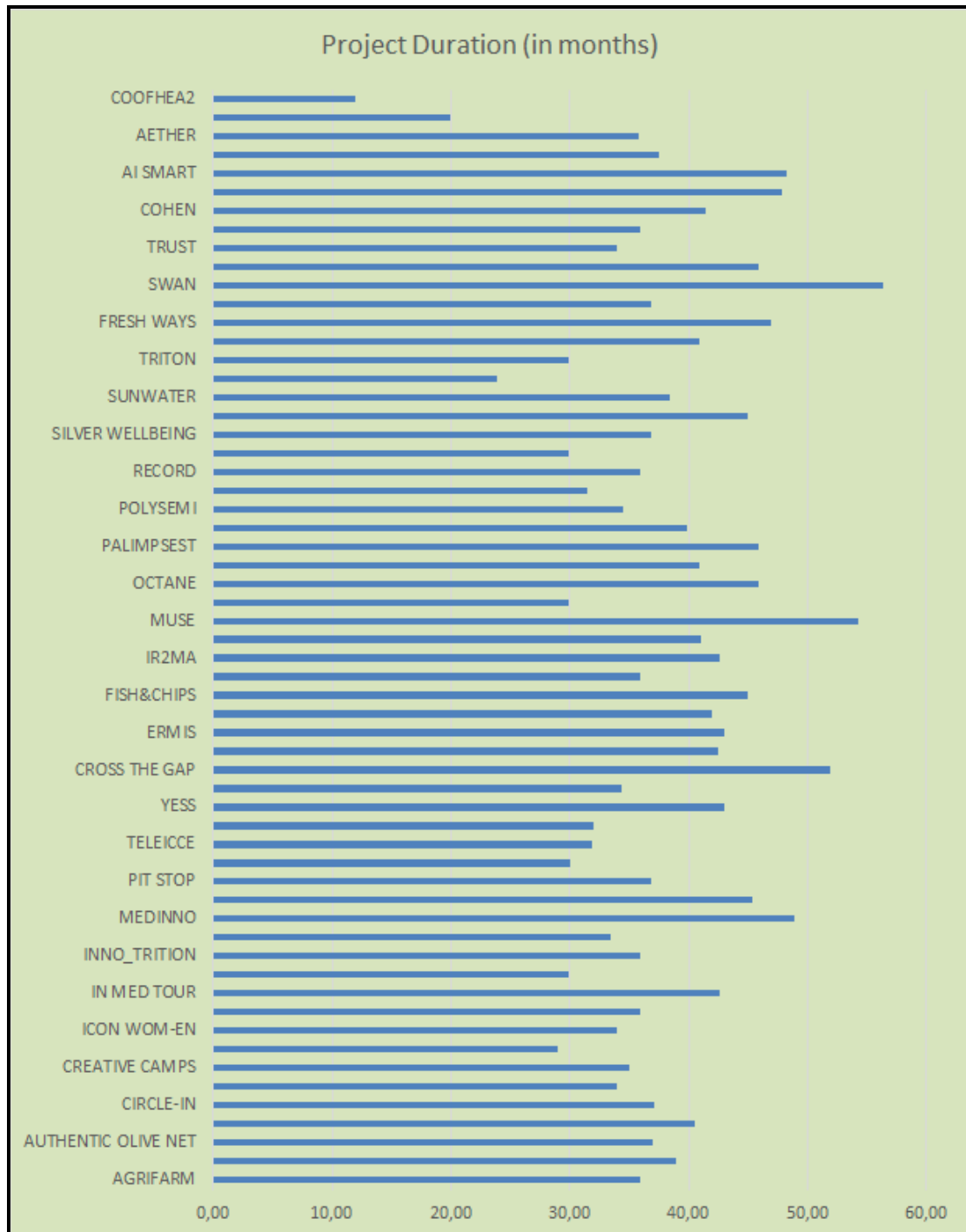
Due to inclusion of reserve list projects, those project present longer duration of the period between the respective call deadline and the signing of the subsidy contract.

In the following histogram, the elapsed period between deadline of project proposal submission and signing of the subsidy contract (SC) is presented (in days).



The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

In the following table the duration of the projects (as in force on 31st of December 2021) is presented (in months).



The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Conclusions

A significant number of projects requested and received extension of the initial duration period of implementation. This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts⁵⁶.

The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects takes long time, especially for the non-targetted calls. The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

2. Financial Efficiency

The financial efficiency refers to the progress of the engaged budget and the performance per PA/TO/SO.

The progress of payments and verification of expenditures is presented in the following tables:

(A) Financial Efficiency per Priority Axis (PA1, 2, 3)

PA	v.3.0 allocated budget	Approved budget (overbooked)	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
-----------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------

⁵⁶ The introduction of the advanced digital signature in the documents, improves significantly the time needed for the procedures and improve the actual implementation time of the projects.

1	26.686.285,00€	42.936.802,67€	17.321.325,54€	15.901.557,24€
2	62.713.534,00€	68.113.524,76€	19.470.607,23€	17.070.231,77€
3	26.880.001,00€	29.402.543,07€	7.605.073,73€	8.951.502,22€
TOTAL	116.279.820,00€	140.452.870,50€	44.397.006,50€	41.923.291,23€

PA1 has a better financial efficiency in terms of paid and verified expenditures, as per the respected approved budget (40,34% of the approved budget, with PA2 being at 28,59% and PA3 at 25,87%).

(B) Financial Efficiency per Thematic Objective

TO	Approved budget (overbooked)	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
TO1	36.106.244,91€	12.329.481,79€	11.737.941,63€
TO3	6.830.557,76€	4.991.843,75€	4.163.615,61€
TO6	68.113.524,76€	19.470.607,23€	17.070.231,77€
TO7	29.402.543,07€	7.605.073,73€	8.951.502,22€
TOTAL	140.452.870,50€	44.397.006,50€	41.923.291,23€

TO3 has a better financial efficiency in terms of paid and verified expenditures, as per the respected approved budget (73,08% of the approved budget, with TO1 at 34,15%, TO6 at 28,59% and TO7 at 25,87%).

(C) Financial Efficiency per Specific Objective

SO	Approved budget (overbooked)	Paid Expenditure	Verified Expenditures
1.1	36.106.244,91€	12.329.481,79€	11.737.941,63€
1.2	6.830.557,76€	4.991.843,75€	4.163.615,61€
2.1	51.055.616,02€	14.694.840,21€	12.008.619,12€
2.2	14.369.219,39€	2.873.290,69€	3.509.091,34€
2.3	2.688.689,35€	1.902.476,33€	1.552.521,31€
3.1	25.238.295,00€	5.650.574,02€	5.920.502,55€
3.2	4.164.248,07€	1.954.499,71€	3.030.999,67€
TOTAL	140.452.870,50€	44.397.006,50€	41.923.291,23€

SO1.2 and SO2.3 have a better financial efficiency in terms of paid and verified expenditures, as per the respected approved budget. The full list of performance is provided in the table below:

SO	Paid expenditures % of the approved budget	CVEs % of the approved budget
----	--	-------------------------------

1.1	34,15%	32,51%
1.2	73,08%	60,96%
2.1	28,78%	23,52%
2.2	20,00%	24,42%
2.3	70,76%	57,74%
3.1	22,39%	23,46%
3.2	46,94%	72,79%
TOTAL	31,61%	29,85%

Conclusions

The payments of expenditures of the approved projects, are not sufficiently good, 2 years before the full completion of the programme, reaching 31,61% of the approved budget of the projects and 37,28% of the programme allocated budget (PA1, PA2, PA3). The payments of expenditures for SO2.2 and SO3.1 lack significantly compared to the other SOs. A key issue was for the projects that had activities which from their nature require long-lasting procedures of gaining permits.

The CVEs are 94,43% of the paid expenditures, which is a very high achievement (there are expenses reported late in 2021, not certified by 31st of December 2021).

Due to the overbooking⁵⁷, it is expected that the financial goals of the programme will be achieved. The overbooking approach was adopted in order to absorb the savings of the projects that are implemented (discounts, non-spend amounts, etc.)

⁵⁷ The overbooking was allocated +60,89% in PA1, +8,61% in PA2, +9,38% in PA3 and in total +19,62%.

3. Views of the beneficiaries

Findings on the views of project beneficiaries, based on the retrieve of answers of the cooperative programme, to a questionnaire circulated twice.

a. The responders:

The responders to the questionnaire were very few, thus no general conclusions could be made. However certain indications worth to be presented.

b. Findings:

Short description of the Question	Findings
Usefulness of programme documents and guidelines: Programme and project manual	very useful
Cooperation Programme	very useful
FAQ	very useful
Usefulness of preparation workshops/events	very useful
Easiness of development of project proposals: Partnership creation	Easy
Consolidation of partner interests	Easy
Harmonizing with the CP requirements	Easy

Understanding of State-Aid	Easy (~80%), Difficult (~20%)
Using of the MIS (ΟΠΣ)	Easy (~80%), Difficult (~20%) ⁵⁸
Most difficulties encountered during the preparation of the project proposal	The attachments (~40%) The Work Plan (~40%)
Support by Programme Authorities (MA; JS; National Authorities)	From Satisfactory (~20%) to very good (~40%). When it is only for the MA/JA, then it goes from Satisfactory (~10%) to very good (~60%).
Project assessment procedure	fully checked and understood the selection criteria
Channels of information	Newsletter (~20), Programme website (~80%)
Information in Programme website (usefulness, updated, available)	From good (~73%) to very good (~17%)
Effectiveness of the Programme Communication during the implementation of the project	Excellent

⁵⁸ There were comments on the instability of MIS, at the beginning of the projects.

Visibility of the programme in their specific project areas	From high (~60%) to very high (~40%)
Satisfaction of their specific project communication and communication achievements	From a lot/moderate (~20) to Very much (~80%)
Effectiveness of the Communication of the specific project to the final beneficiaries and stakeholders	From little (~40%) to A lot (~40%)
Lessons learned from communication of their specific project	Use more the social media and adjust to external factors affecting the communication actions for improved achievements.
Reasons for delays in implementation	Other than the general issues with the COVID-19 pandemic, it was referred that the state-aid issues were taking a lot of time to be resolved.
Project achievements	From partly achieved (~20%) to achieved (~40%).
Impact of their specific project in their area	Impacts so far by specific projects (~40%)
Factors affecting the impact / positive changes in the intervention area	The strong connection between the two territories
Lessons learnt during project implementation	Infrastructure works take long time in both countries and it should be taken into consideration during planning. Long time for procurement procedures by public beneficiaries.

	Close cooperation with JS/MA minimises problems and leads to solutions easier, whenever needed.
Programme Logic: Is it timely?	From little (~40%) to a lot (~20%)
Proposals for improvement	Special consideration for infrastructure and works' activities of the projects, with regards to lifetime of the project.

A general approach to the findings is that on one hand beneficiaries find very useful the projects for their areas, and on the other hand, sometimes the duration of the projects is not sufficient and that should be taken into consideration for longer time period from the beginning, subject to the core actions of each project proposal.

4. Lessons Learnt

The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion.

The available budget is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution per PA, as adjusted during the programming period.

Certain SOs (SO 2.2 (biodiversity) and SO 3.1 (maritime transportation) are facing significant delays and should be carefully considered for this programming period and the design of the next programme (2021 – 2027).

The CVEs of the approved projects are in average at 29,85% of the approved budget, however that is 94,43% of the paid expenditures. The project beneficiaries should put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period.

D. Update of the Intervention Logic of the Programme

The intervention area, is on its way out of the long-lasting fiscal crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, but the general environment is not in favour, with conflicts around and inflation. The signs of recovery of the business sector and the small enterprises are not substantially significant due to many risks for new entrepreneurial initiatives.

Especially the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the whole Europe and the World, and the cross-border area even worse than the financial crisis of the previous decade. The sectors of transportation, tourism, industry, trading, have been hit severely, and the recovery period is expected to last long.

1. Characteristics of the intervention area

Territory and Demography

The intervention area cover a territory of 42.401 Km². Its principal feature is the Ionian Sea which sits between both parts of the area. The ports on the two sides of the borders bear witness to a major movement of goods, services and people on an annual basis.

The participating regions are: (i) Epirus (GR); Ionians Islands (GR); Western Greece (GR); and Puglia (IT). GR regions covers 54% of the eligible area and the rest is covered by the Italian region. Its landscape is partly flat and partly hilly. It has the longest coastline of any Italian region, and borders on the Adriatic Sea to the east, the Ionian Sea to the south, and the neighbouring regions of Molise to the north, Basilicata and Campania to the west.

Region	Regional Units (GR); Provinces (IT)
Epirus	Arta, Thesprotia, Ioannina, Preveza

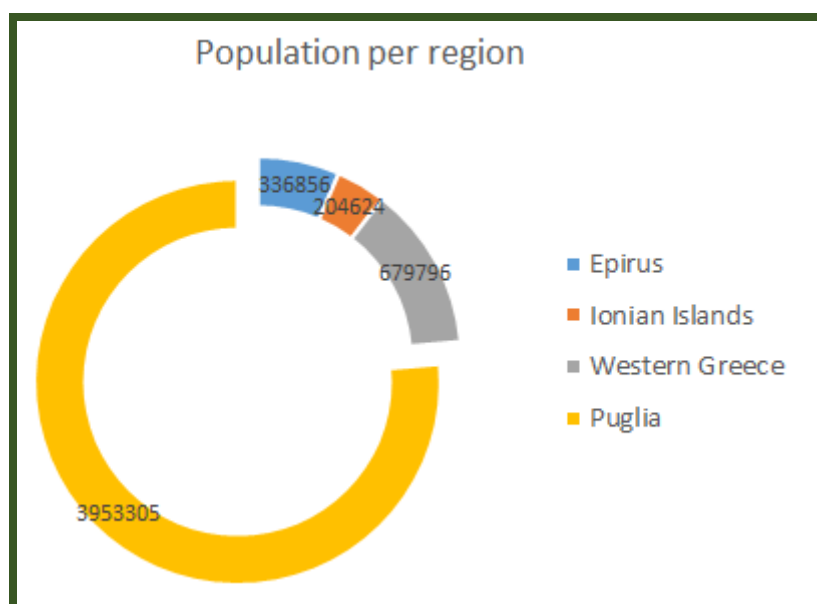
Ionian Islands	Zakynthos, Kerkyra, Kefalonia, Lefkada
Western Greece	Aitoloakarnania, Achaia, Ileia
Puglia	Foggia, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce, Barletta-Andria-Trani (BAT), Taranto

The Programme Area has a total population of 5.2 million and a population density of 124,68 inhabitants per km². The Greek and Italian regions are quite heterogeneous as regards both a) the spatial distribution of their population (approximately 4 million inhabitants in Puglia as opposed to 1,3 million inhabitants in all three Greek regions together); and b) the population density (ranging from 207 inhabitants/km² on the Italian side, with Puglia being one of the most densely populated regions of Italy, to only 38 inhabitants/km² in the Greek region of Epirus).

According to ELSTAT (Census 2011) and ISTAT (Census 2019) the population is distributed as follows:

REGION	REGIONAL UNIT (GR) / PROVINCE (IT)	POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION PER REGION
Western Greece	Aitoloakarnania	210.802	679.796
	Achaia	309.694	
	Ileia	159.300	
Ionian Islands	Zakynthos	40.759	204.624
	Kerkyra	104.371	
	Kefalonia	35.801	
	Lefkada	23.693	
Epirus	Arta	67.877	336.856
	Thesprotia	43.587	
	Ioannina	167.901	

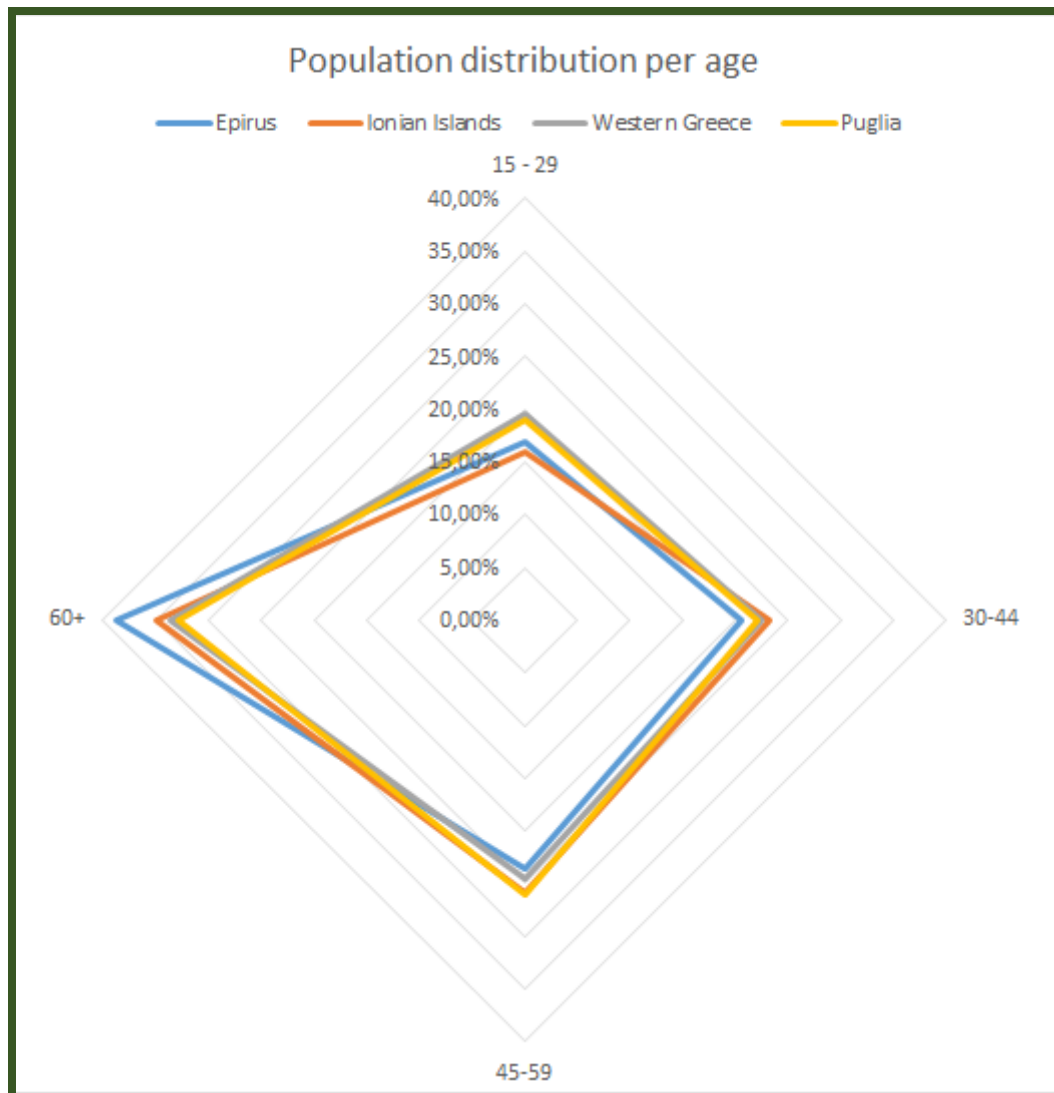
REGION	REGIONAL UNIT (GR) / PROVINCE (IT)	POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION PER REGION
	Preveza	57.491	
Puglia	Foggia	606.904	3.953.305
	Bari	1.230.205	
	Brindisi	385.235	
	Lecce	782.165	
	Barletta-Andria-Trani (BAT)	384.801	
	Taranto	563.995	
TOTAL			5.174.581



Most of the Programme Area is characterised as thinly-populated (rural area) by EUROSTAT, with more than 50% of the population living in rural grid cells.

The distribution of the population per age, according to EUROSTAT data, as analysed, is as follows:

Age	15 - 29	30-44	45-59	60+
Epirus	16,98%	20,65%	23,58%	38,79%
Ionian Islands	15,93%	23,28%	25,91%	34,88%
Western Greece	19,52%	22,48%	24,48%	33,52%
Puglia	19,03%	22,15%	26,08%	32,74%



Where it is clearly viewed that the population in Epirus is older⁵⁹, while the population in Western Greece and Puglia is younger⁶⁰.

Economy

The GDP in the eligible area has evolved as follows⁶¹:

GDP (mil EUR)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Epirus	3985	3929	3892	3870	3935	4032	3716
Ionian	3153	3086	3034	3050	3155	3295	2809
Western Greece	8089	8034	7832	7838	7948	8111	7405
Puglia	70822	72335	73638	74784	76373	77119	71643
TOTAL	86048	87383	88397	89542	91411	92558	85572

and the GDP per capita is:

GDP EUR per capita	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Epirus	11831	11663	11555	11489	11683	11970	11030
Ionian	15407	15079	14828	14904	15417	16102	13727
Western Greece	11899	11818	11522	11530	11691	11932	10892
Puglia	17915	18297	18627	18917	19319	19508	18122

⁵⁹ 60+ is at 38,79% of its population, compared to the other regions which are between 32,74% (Puglia) and 34,88% (Ionian Islands).

⁶⁰ 15-44 y.o. are 42,00% in Western Greece and 41,18% in Puglia

⁶¹ EUROSTAT (2021).

TOTAL	16629	16887	17083	17304	17665	17887	16537
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

From the table above, it is clearly concluded that Puglia and Ionian islands are the richest, with a significant gap to the other 2 regions⁶², which leads to discrepancies and inequalities which could be factors for differentiation in the respective regional strategies.

Among all regions, Ionian Islands show the best dynamics, while Puglia and Western Greece have higher de-industrialisation trends.

Primary Sector of Economy / Agriculture

The agriculture in the four intervention areas, has evolved as follows (land in hectares)⁶³:

	Total cultivated agricultural and fallow land	Crops				Fallow land (1 - 5 years)	Land eligible for the payment of subsidies
		Crops on arable land	Garden area	Vines (grapes & raisins)	Areas under trees (compact plantations)		
Epirus 2014	69318	27167	882	629	31029	9611	7182
Epirus 2015	72366	28713	930	33803	626	8295	5979
Epirus 2016	73141	29045	903	33648	759	8787	6706
Epirus 2017	65745	29061	916	26059	765	8944	6734
Epirus 2018	67802	30815	966	730	25723	9569	7420
Epirus 2019	69924	30362	976	746	28249	9590	7525
Ionian 2014	46153	8172	1207	3914	28542	4317	2513

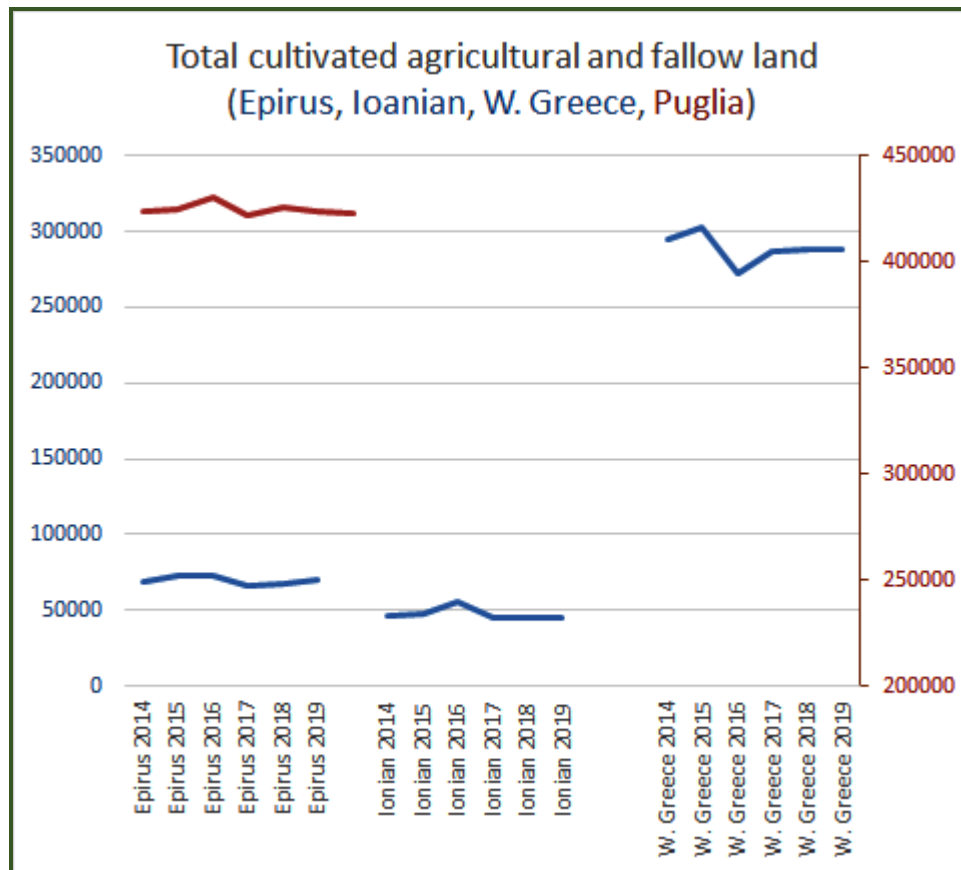
⁶² We counted the population as per the censuses in force (2011 for Greece, 2019 for Italy).

⁶³ ELSTAT 2014 – 2019, Eurostat 2021. We consider only agriculture in this assignment.

Ionian 2015	47989	8387	999	33433	3648	1523	1268
Ionian 2016	55739	6318	659	44099	3323	1340	919
Ionian 2017	44761	5961	512	34022	3108	1158	814
Ionian 2018	45029	6944	402	2944	33817	922	673
Ionian 2019	45157	7044	321	2850	34018	923	684
W.Greece 2014	294989	137015	9736	12813	81688	53738	29856
W.Greece 2015	302596	133507	10476	90756	12480	55378	24218
W.Greece 2016	272590	126126	9411	85711	12266	39076	8700
W.Greece 2017	286565	131185	9134	93346	12986	39914	6670
W.Greece 2018	288008	131036	9426	12783	12783	40195	6981
W. Greece 2019	288719	133152	8745	12487	94099	40236	8469

	TOTAL	Cereals for the production of grain (including seed)	Dry pulses and protein crops for the production of grain (including seed and mixtures of cereals and pulses)
Puglia 2014	424180	413820	10360
Puglia 2015	424920	416820	8100
Puglia 2016	429980	420110	9870
Puglia 2017	421910	411580	10330
Puglia 2018	425610	415320	10290
Puglia 2019	424200	414270	9930
Puglia 2020	423280	413280	10000

The cumulative figures for are shown in the diagram below.

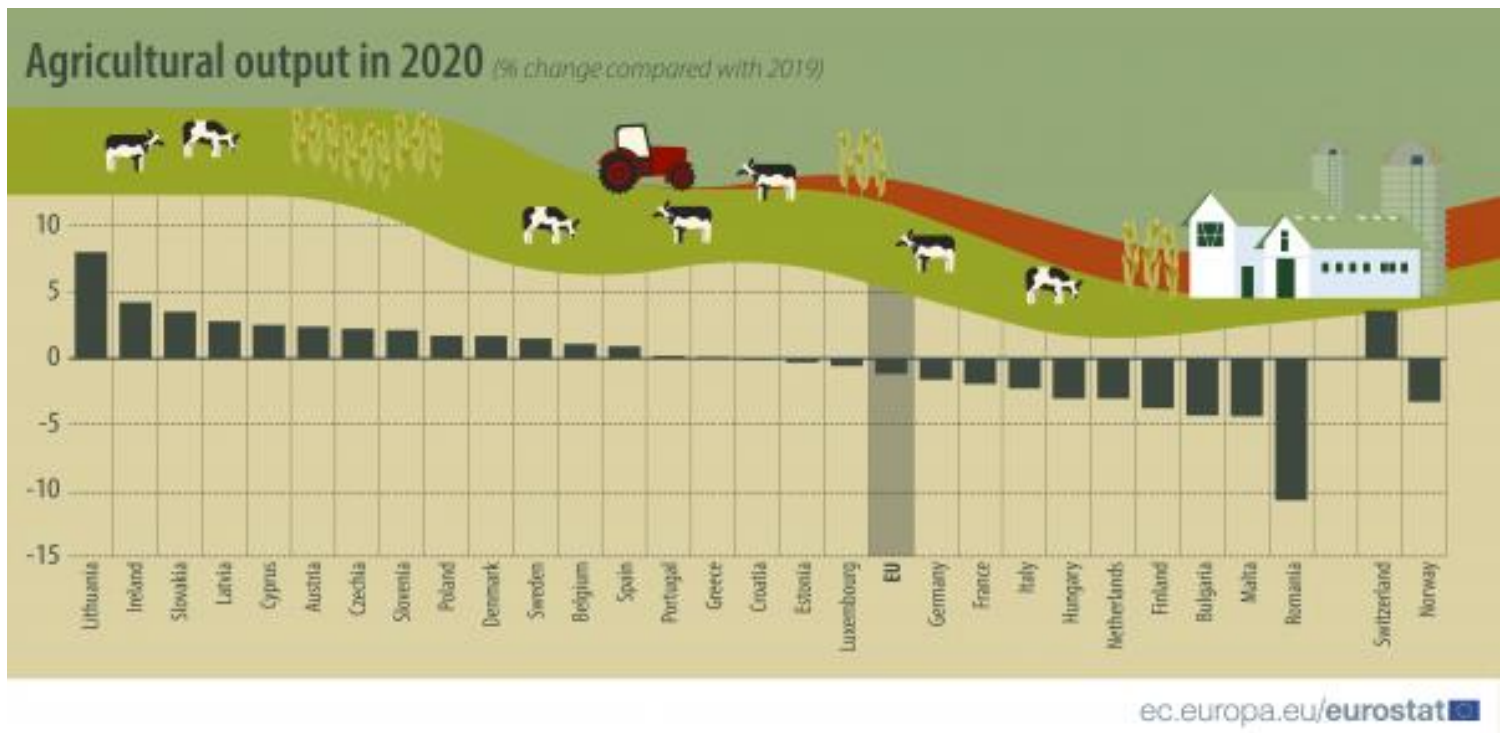


The figures above, presenting the significance of the agriculture in the area, despite the tourism development, having with relatively minor fluctuations, approximately the same land use.

Important note: In the year 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic changing everything, the agriculture sector suffered, particularly in Italy, with a downsize of 3,2% in volume and value added by 6%, following a not so good year (2019). Particularly, in Puglia, the great Olive Oil product had a downsize of 31,7%⁶⁴.

⁶⁴ ISTAT, 2021.

At the same time, the agriculture increased in Greece in 2020, by 0,6%, while in EU it was in average reduced by 1,2%⁶⁵. The following graph presents the situation for the year 2020, for all EU countries.



The value added of the agriculture in Greece is 6,2bilEUR, while in Italy is 59,6bilEUR⁶⁶.

Secondary Sector of Economy

The secondary sector of economy is also important as it follows the primary sector. The B: mining and quarrying; C: manufacturing; D: electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; E: water supply sewerage, waste

⁶⁵ EUROSTAT, 2021.

⁶⁶ ELSTAT, 2021. ISTAT, 2021.

management and remediation activities in Greece and Italy have evolved as follows (in million EUR)⁶⁷:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
G R BC DE	77.324	76.238	72.374	80.408	77.705	77.250	
IT BC DE					312.969	316.488	291.455

Where a small fluctuation can be spotted only in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Otherwise, in Greece the fluctuation is around the same figures and in Italy a little higher.

In the eligible regions the figures are as follows (B+C+D+E):

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Eripus	373		423		397	
Ionian	123		129		123	
W. Greece	844		917		889	
Puglia				9397	9223	8487

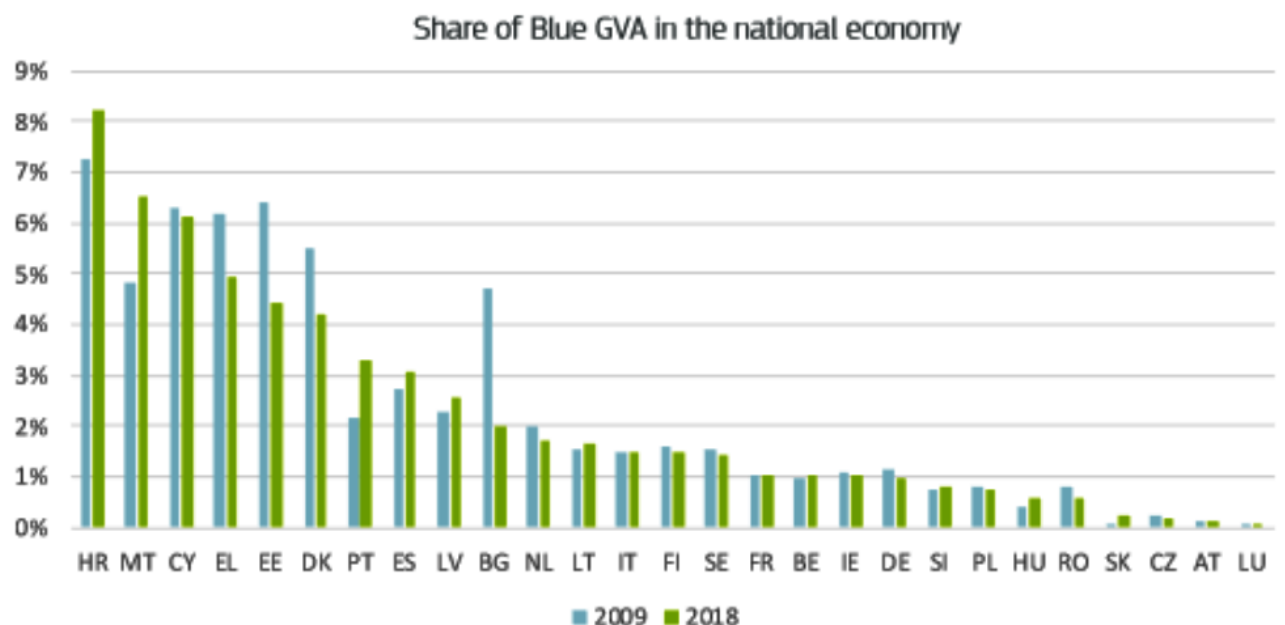
following the same motive as in their respective countries.

⁶⁷ ELSTAT 2021; ISTAT 2021

Blue Economy

Blue economy is described in two different schemes: Activities with basis being the sea; and activities related to the sea.

The intervention area, is mainly a marine investments area⁶⁸, therefore the blue economy should be part of separate discussion. The EU Blue Economy Report 2021⁶⁹, reports that the share of the blue economy GVA (Gross Value Added) of Greece in the national economy, is almost 5% (from 6% in 2009) and the respective figure for Italy is 1,5% (2009 and 2018) as shown below⁷⁰.



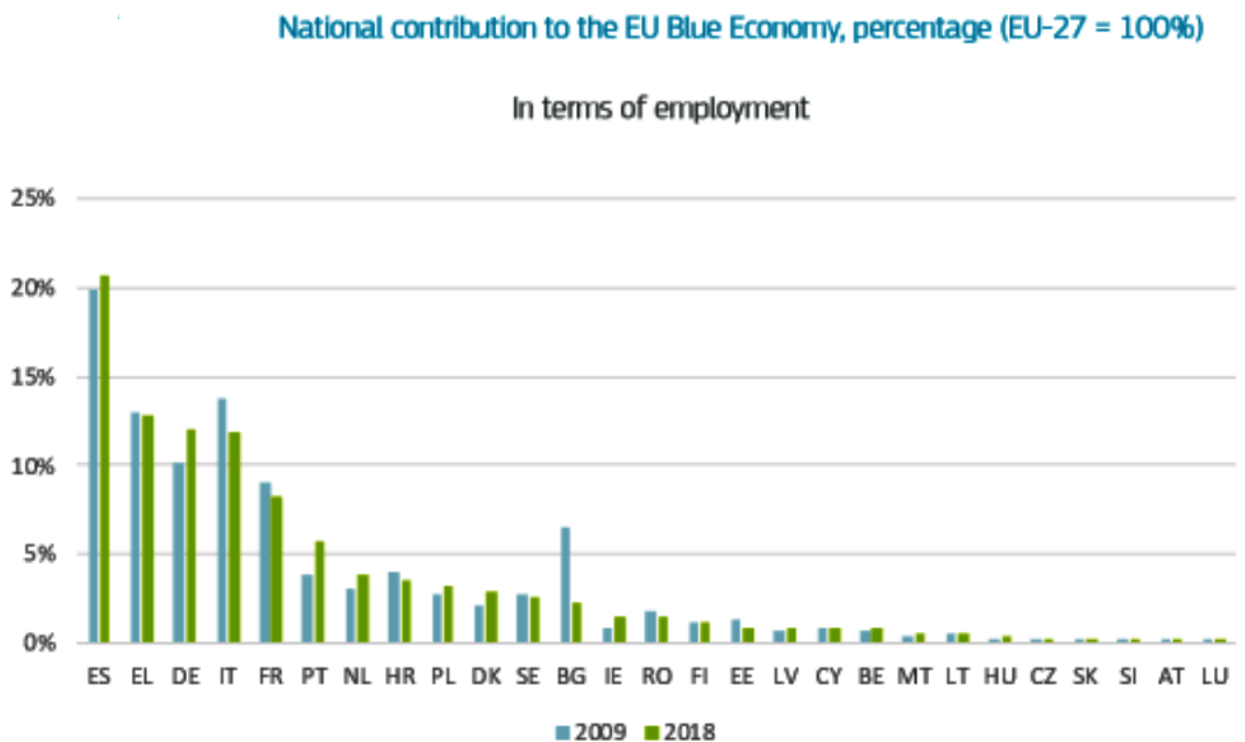
⁶⁸ Not excluding the landscape in the mainland and the mountainous area, however the coastline is enormous.

⁶⁹ European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (2021), Addamo, A., Calvo Santos, A., Carvalho, N., *et al.*, The EU blue economy report 2021, Publications Office.

⁷⁰ EUROSTAT, as cited in European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (2021).

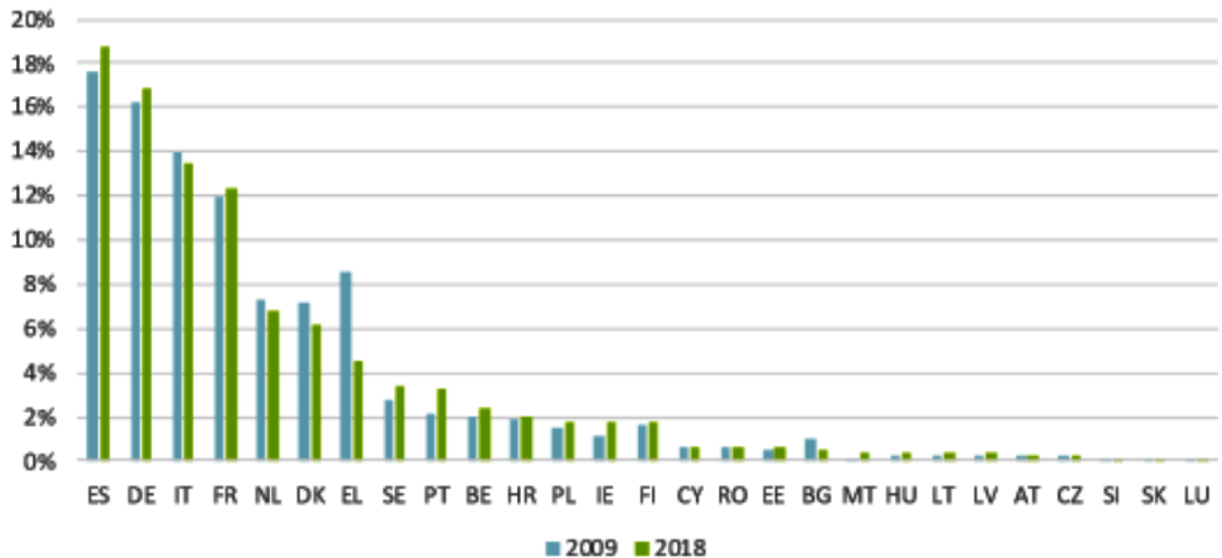
Regarding the jobs of blue economy in national employment, in Greece they are at 15% (2018 from 13% (2009), and in Italy they are at 2,1% (2018) compared to 2,3% (2009)⁷¹.

Both countries contribute significantly at EU level in EU Blue Economy in terms of GVA and in terms of employment, as shown below:



⁷¹ EUROSTAT, as cited in European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (2021).

In terms of GVA



Where it is clearly concluded the importance role of blue economy in the two countries.

In both countries, the largest contribution of blue economy in the GVA, is from the tourism sector, followed by maritime transport.

It is concluded that the blue economy is a significant development pillar for the intervention area, because of the geographical characteristics and the large and continues growing of the costal tourism, with fishing and aquaculture⁷².

Tourism and Travel

According to The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019⁷³, Greece is in position 25 (score 4.5) and Italy in position 8 (score 5.1), out of 140

⁷² It needs to be stated that the open option to exploit oil and gas in the Ionian Sea, should that be performed, would lead to much high part of the blue economy in the national GVA and employment.

⁷³ <https://reports.weforum.org/travel-and-tourism-competitiveness-report-2019/rankings>

countries, both with increase trend. The ranking is significantly higher than the average, for both countries. The report justifies that Europe is the most competitive destination worldwide.

The best performance in Greece is in Public Health (6.5)⁷⁴, Prioritisation of Travel and Tourism (5.6)⁷⁵, Safety and Security (5.6)⁷⁶ and the worst in Cultural Resources and Business Travel (3.3)⁷⁷, Natural Resources (3.5)⁷⁸.

The best performance in Italy is Public Health (6.5)⁷⁹, Safety and Security (5.5)⁸⁰, ICT⁸¹ Readiness (5.5)⁸² and the worst in International Openness (4.1)⁸³, Environmental sustainability (4.3)⁸⁴, Price competitiveness (4.4)⁸⁵.

The above are presented in detail in the following diagrams.

⁷⁴ With lowering from the previous ranking (11 from 13) in this sub-category.

⁷⁵ With improvement from the previous ranking (13 from 15) in this sub-category.

⁷⁶ With lowering from the previous ranking (61 from 53) in this sub-category.

⁷⁷ With improvement from the previous ranking (21 from 27) in this sub-category.

⁷⁸ With lowering from the previous ranking (45 from 32) in this sub-category.

⁷⁹ With improvement from the previous ranking (25 from 30) in this sub-category.

⁸⁰ With improvement from the previous ranking (69 from 70) in this sub-category.

⁸¹ ICT: Information and Communication Technologies.



⁸² With lowering from the previous ranking (41 from 37) in this sub-category.

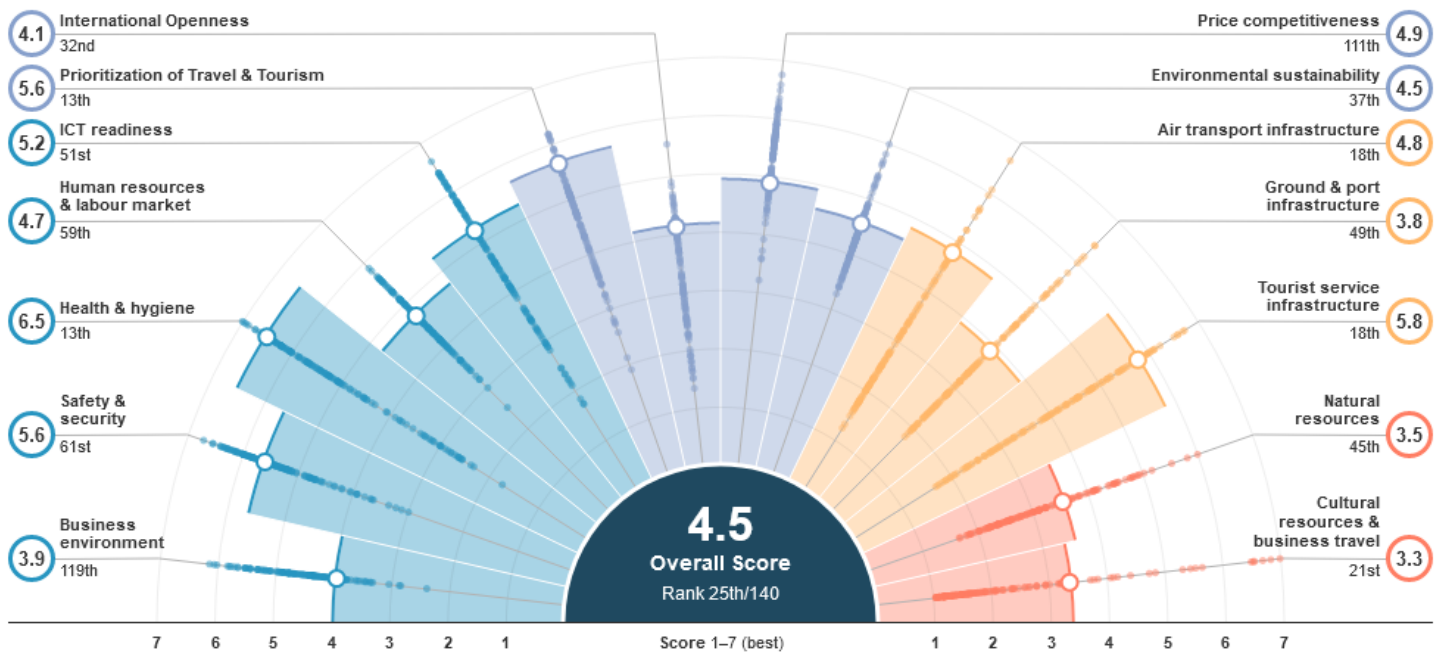
⁸³ Same position with the previous ranking (29) in this sub-category.

⁸⁴ With lowering from the previous ranking (64 from 37) in this sub-category.

⁸⁵ With lowering from the previous ranking (129 from 124) in this sub-category.

Greece Performance Overview

Key  Score Compare with  No comparator





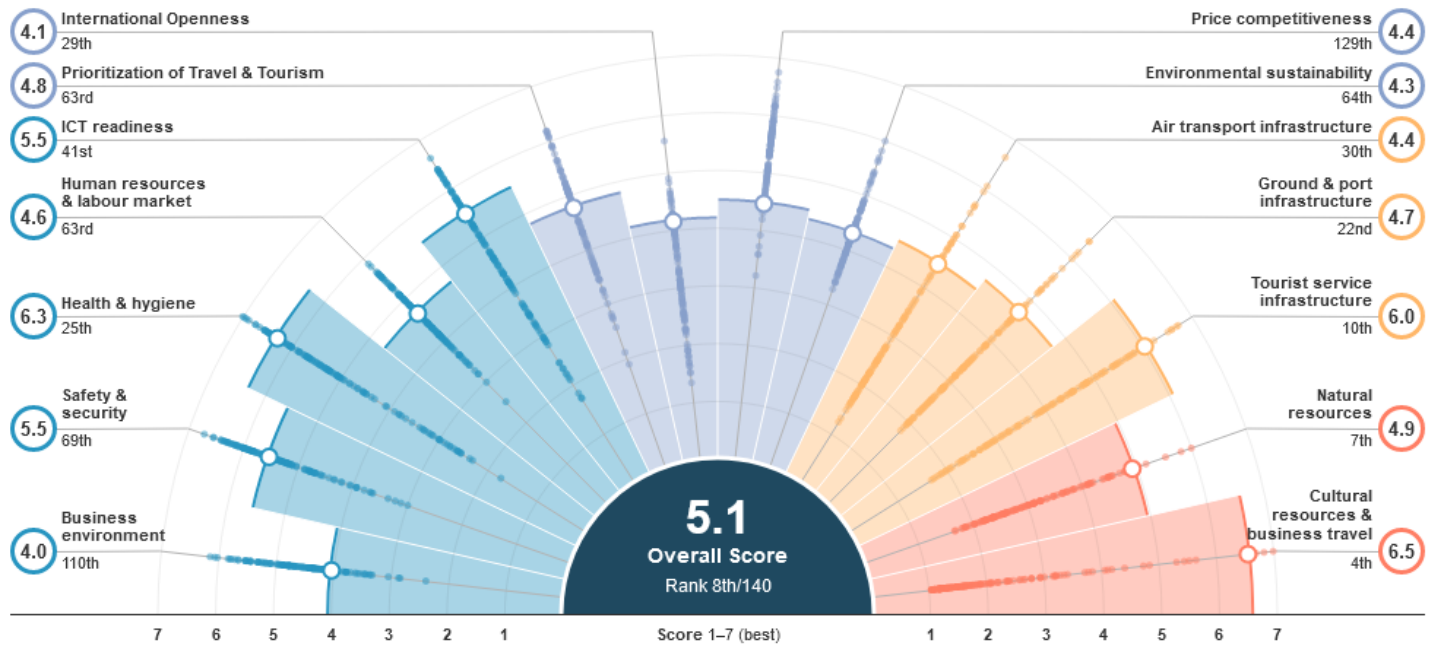
Past performance

Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Edition	2015	2017	2019
Rank	31 / 141	24 / 136	25 / 140
Score	4.4	4.5	4.5

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Italy Performance Overview

Key  Score Compare with  No comparator



Past performance

Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Edition	2015	2017	2019
Rank	8 / 141	8 / 136	8 / 140
Score	5.0	5.0	5.1

Country	Best performance	Worst performance
Greece	Public Health, Prioritisation of Travel and Tourism Safety and Security	Cultural Resources and Business Travel Natural Resources
Italy	Public Health Safety and Security ICT Readiness	International Openness Environmental sustainability Price competitiveness

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

According to INSETE⁸⁶ (2021), the overnight stays in the eligible area in Greece, increased from 2013 to 2019, by 53,43%⁸⁷. The Region of Ionian Islands has the largest portion of tourism (between 75% -79% of the total tourism in the eligible area). That is shown also in the data of ELSTAT (2019), justifying that in Epirus and Western Greece (i) the contribution to the GDP of the region was 3% in Western Greece and 7% in Epirus, while in the Ionian Islands it was 71%; and (ii) the employment rate in the accommodation-food-and beverages is at almost 9% in Western Greece and Epirus, while in Ionian Islands is at 25%.

In the Region of Puglia, according to ISTAT⁸⁸, the overnight stays increased between 2013 and 2019, by 15,59%⁸⁹. Arrivals in Puglia are near the EU average⁹⁰.

It is concluded that tourism has increased significantly until 2019⁹¹, while the seasonality is yet a serious issue to deal with.

⁸⁶ Institute of SETE (Greek Tourism Confederation).

⁸⁷ 2014: +4,21% as per the previous year; 2015: +5,51% as per the previous year; 2016: +7,90% as per the previous year; 2017: +8,30% as per the previous year; 2018: +26,45% as per the previous year; 2019: +0,33% as per the previous year. In year 2020 with the severe lockdown and other measures for the prevention of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), the figures were reduced by 71,26%, compared to the previous year.

⁸⁸ The official Statistics Entity of Italy.

⁸⁹ 2014: -0,64% as per the previous year; 2015: +1,90% as per the previous year; 2016: +6,73% as per the previous year; 2017: +5,23% as per the previous year; 2018: +0,04% as per the previous year; 2019: +1,61% as per the previous year. In year 2020 with the severe lockdown and other measures for the prevention of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), the figures were reduced by 34,38%, compared to the previous year.

⁹⁰ INSETE (2020).

⁹¹ The data for 2020 with the severe measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, are not appropriate for suitable comparisons.

The main difference between the two eligible areas is that the vast majority of tourists in the Greek eligible side are from abroad (approx. 73%), while in Italy (Puglia) they are from the same country (appr. 80%).

Both countries have strategic tourism plans (Greece for the period 2021 – 2030 and Italy for the period 2017 – 2022), both approaching the sustainable growth in tourism as priority.

Another serious aspect is the exploitation of the cultural and natural assets, which give significant added value in the areas. In this period, the use of ICT, multivision, multimedia and other modern technology goods, would become significant tools for further development, as they are the trends in the needs of the majority of the visitors. Thus, the matching of ICT with cultural and natural heritage, in an approach for sustainable and responsible development, are key factors for further growth. In that field, Puglia is ahead of the other regions and it is a challenge for all of them to benefit and go beyond, contributing to the local economies⁹².

Unemployment

The unemployment rate of the labour force is significant in the area. In the rates of unemployed people, the part time and part-part time employees are not counted as unemployed, but only those who do not have work.

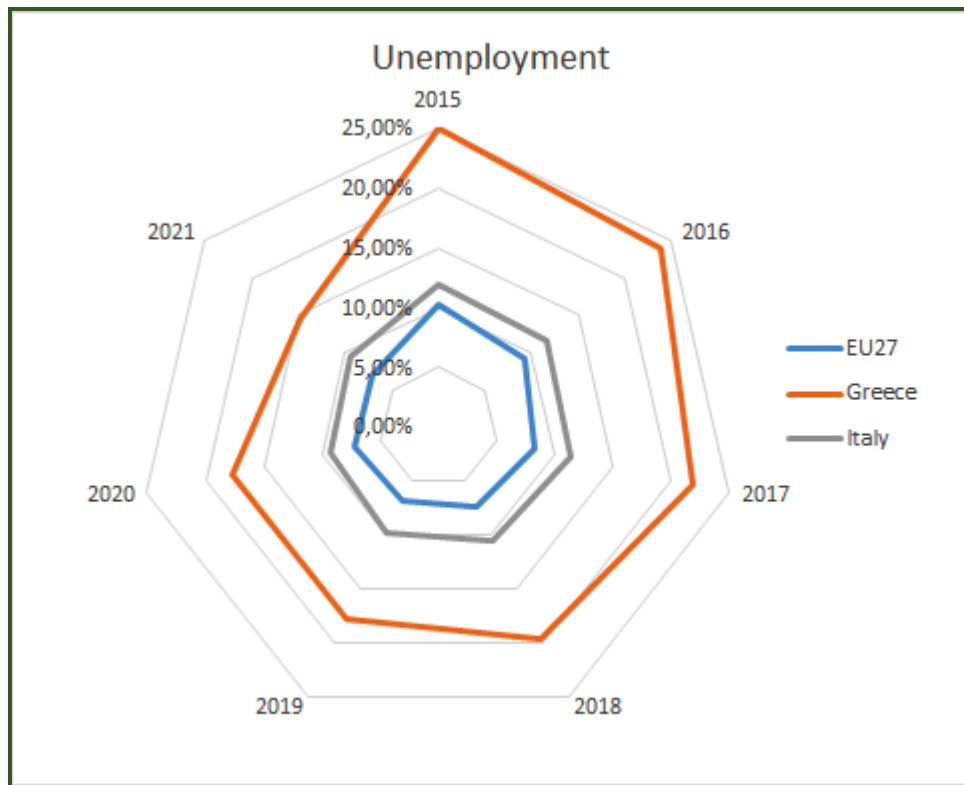
In table below the unemployment in Greece, Italy and EU27 is presented from 2015 to 2021⁹³.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
EU27	10,20%	9,30%	8,30%	7,40%	6,80%	7,20%	7,00%
Greece	25,00%	23,90%	21,80%	19,70%	17,90%	17,60%	14,70%
Italy	12,00%	11,70%	11,30%	10,60%	9,90%	9,30%	9,50%

⁹² Puglia runs the initiative *Distretto Produttivo Puglia Creativa*, promoting cultural and creative industries.

⁹³ Eurostat, 2022.

and is represented in the following diagram:



As it can be concluded, in all years Greece has significantly higher rates of unemployment from Italy and Italy has higher rates of unemployment from the average EU27.

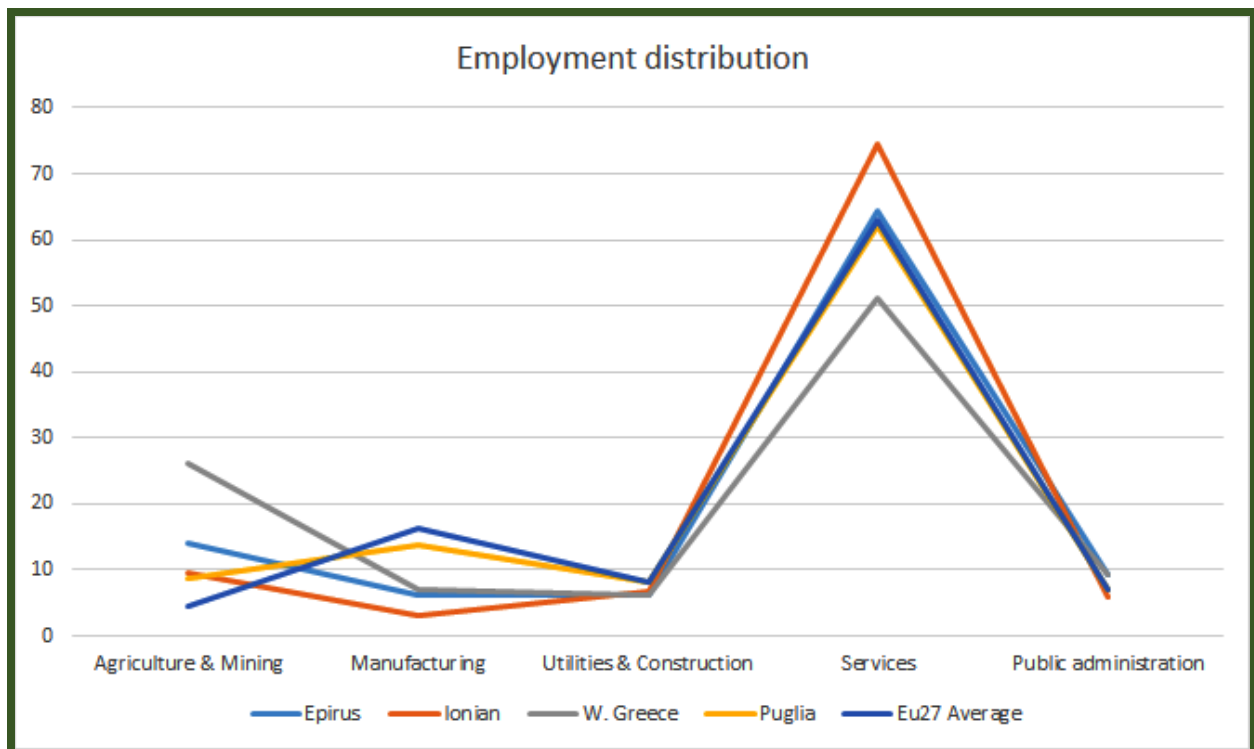
Employment per sector

The employed labour force is distributed per economy sector, as follows⁹⁴:

⁹⁴ Regional Scoreboard 2021.

Employment Distribution					
REGION	Agriculture & Mining	Manufacturing	Utilities & Construction	Services	Public administration
Epirus	14,2	6,1	6,2	64,3	9,3
Ionian	9,6	3,2	6,7	74,5	6,0
W. Greece	26,3	7,1	6,2	51,2	9,3
Puglia	8,7	13,8	8,3	62,2	7,0
Eu27 Average	4,6	16,4	8,2	62,9	7,1

and the differences between regions are shown in the following diagramme.



Entrepreneurship

Most of the companies in the intervention area, are SMEs and there are also many micro-enterprises, particularly in Greece⁹⁵. Among them there are also few social enterprises / cooperatives.

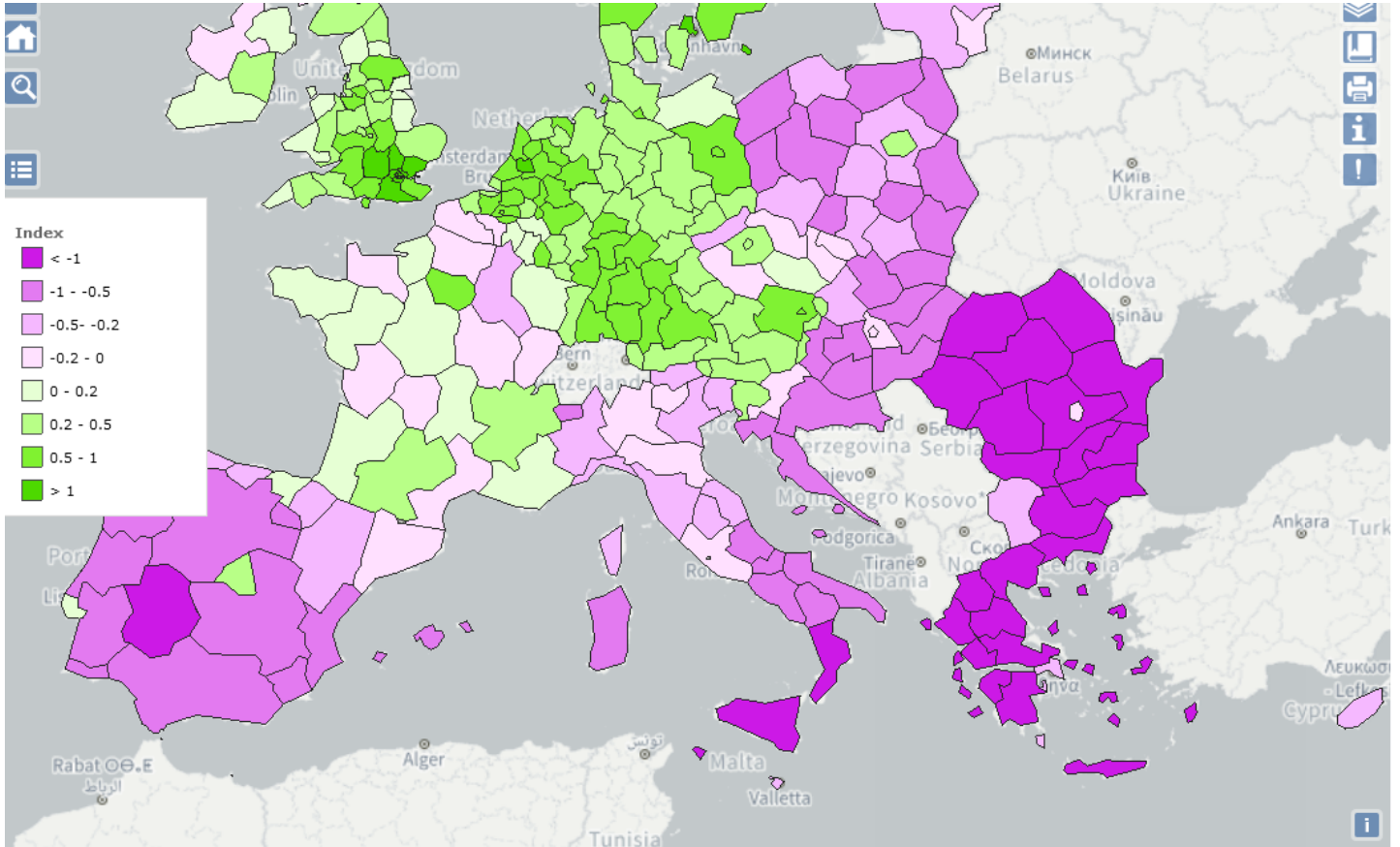
Competitiveness

The economy in the eligible area of the Programme, is low in the ranking of competitiveness as presented in the Regional Competitiveness Index Map⁹⁶ (2019), shown below, with Puglia being in less bad position compared to the other regions⁹⁷.

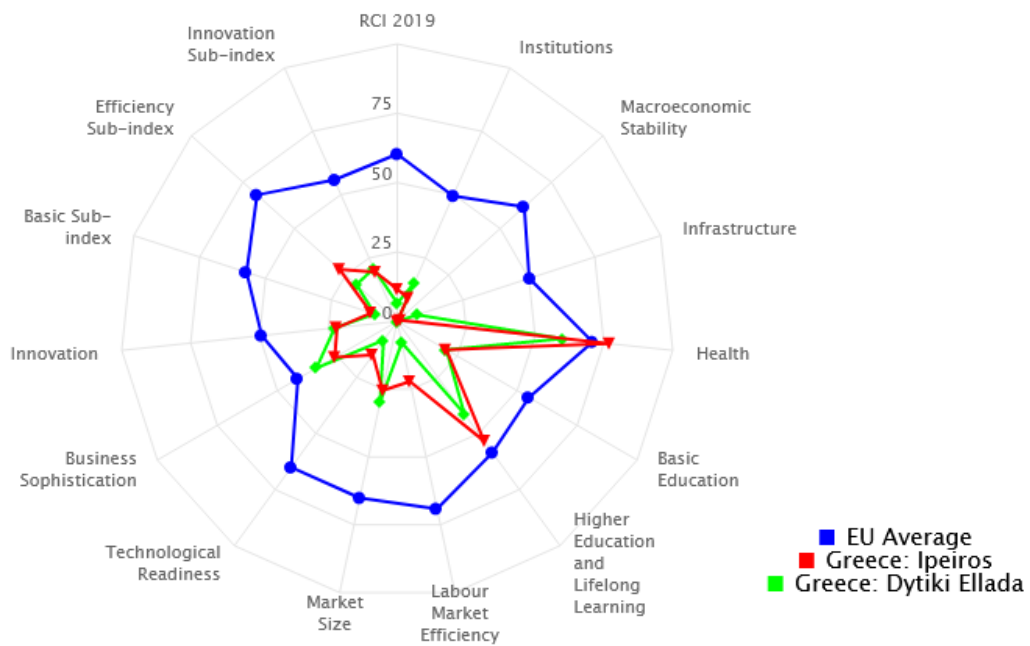
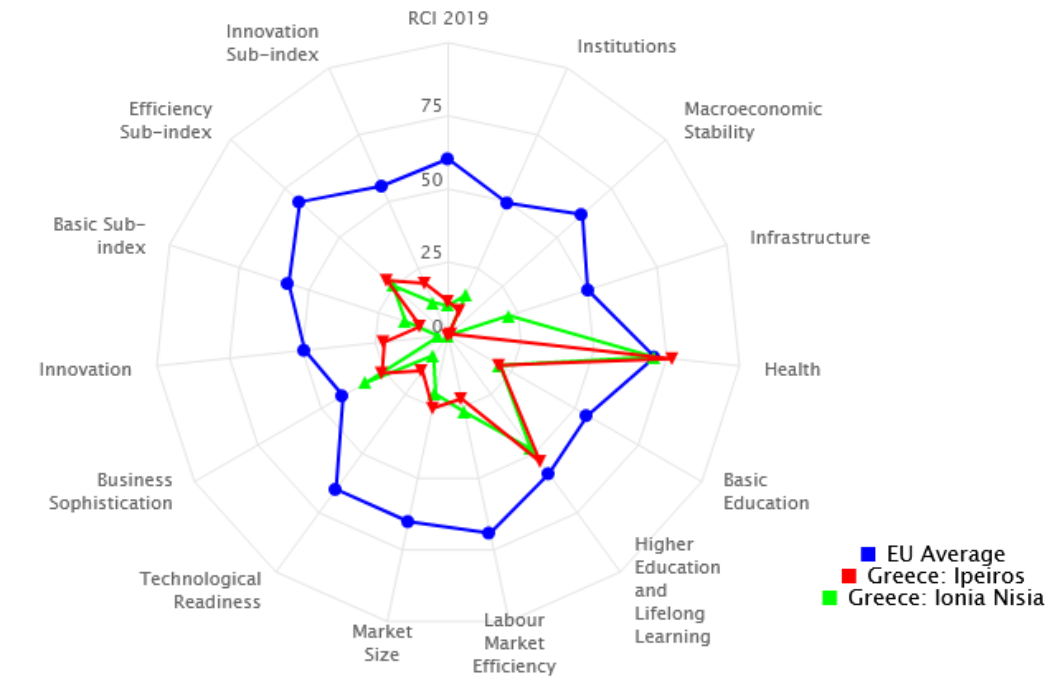
⁹⁵ Many small family businesses, or shops operating by the owners and 1-2 employees, etc.

⁹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/maps/regional_competitiveness/#map

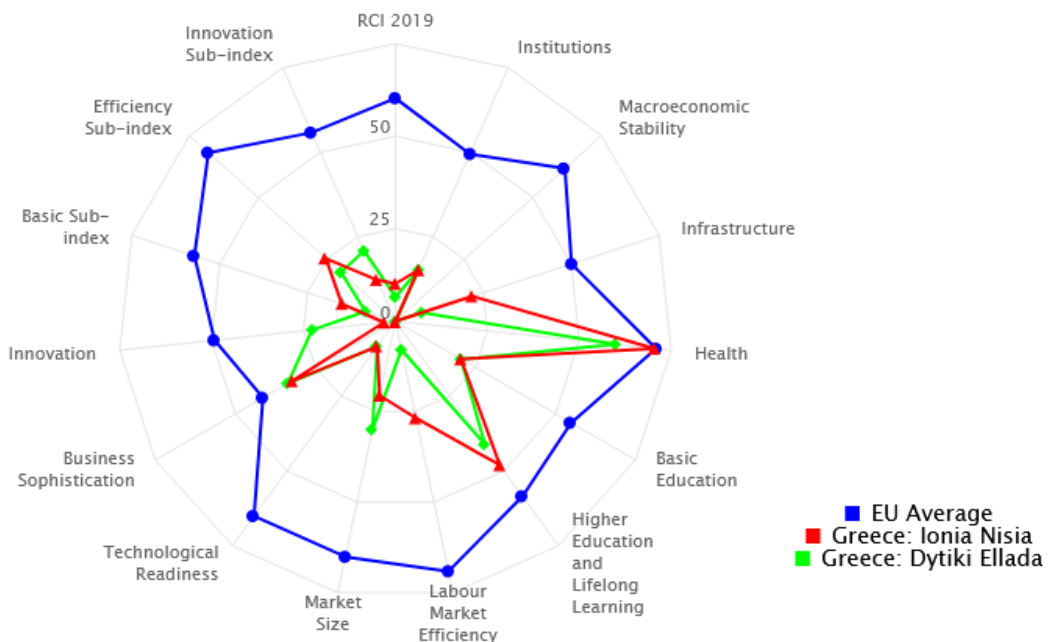
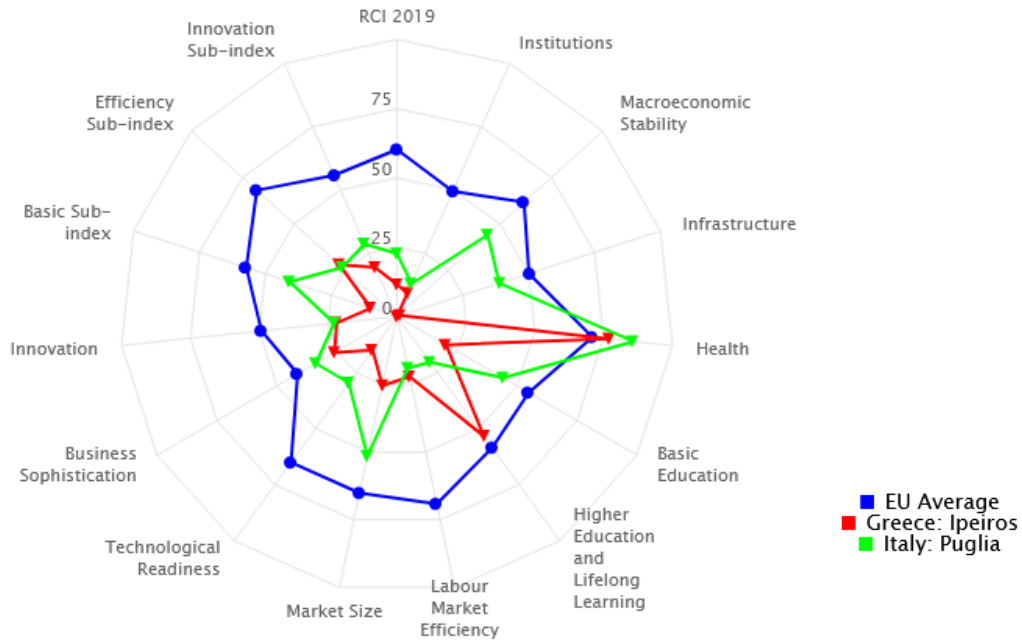
⁹⁷ Puglia: -1.00; Epirus: -1.29; Ionian Islands: -1.33; Western Greece: -1.43.



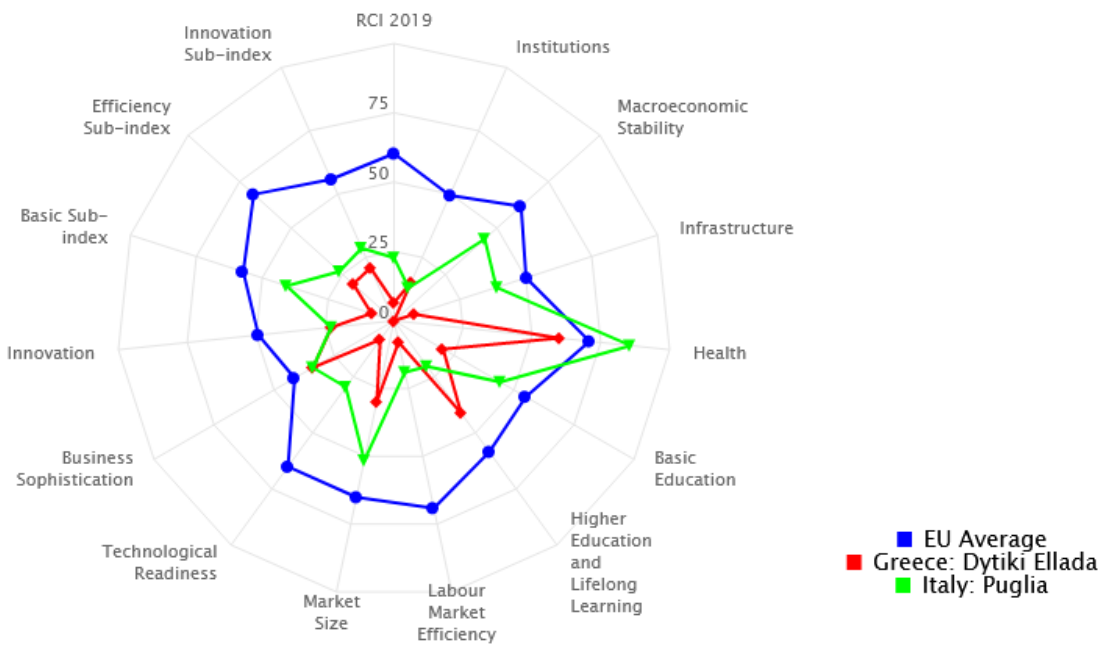
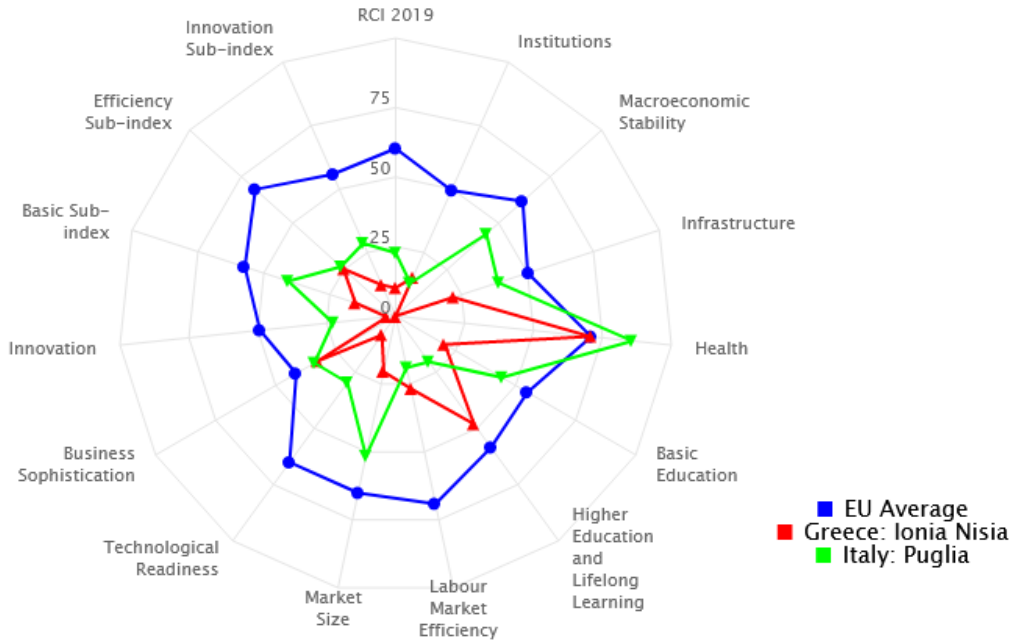
Below is the comparison spider map between the different regions and the EU average:



The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.



The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

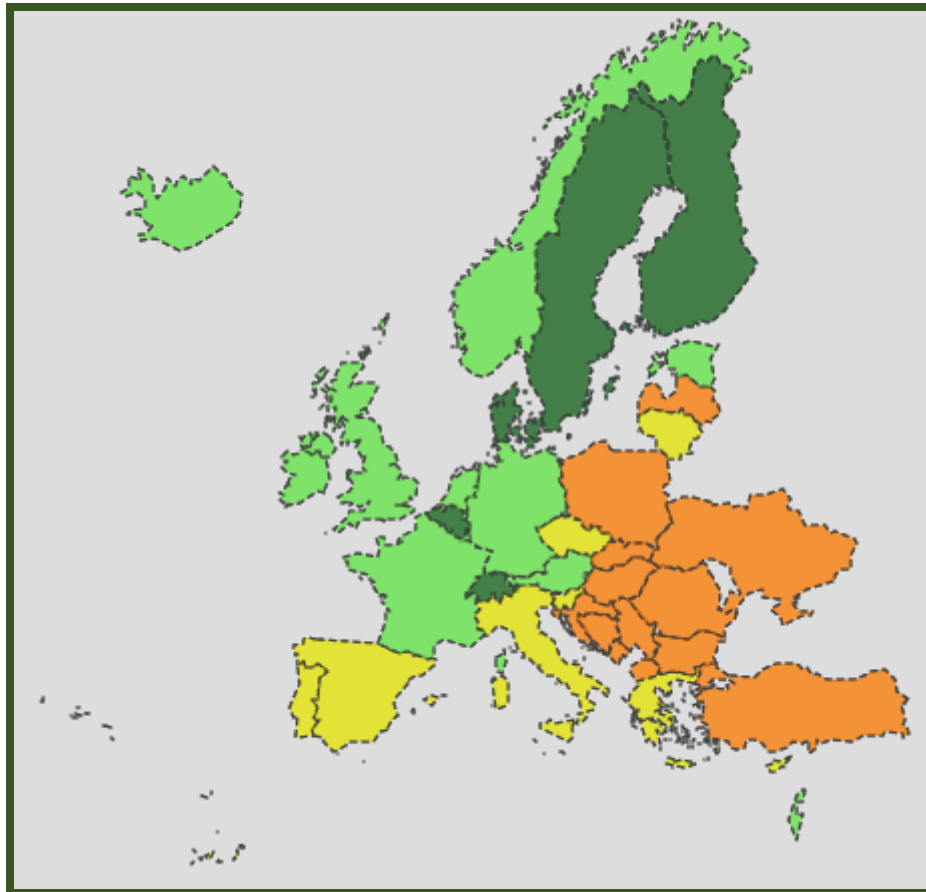


The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

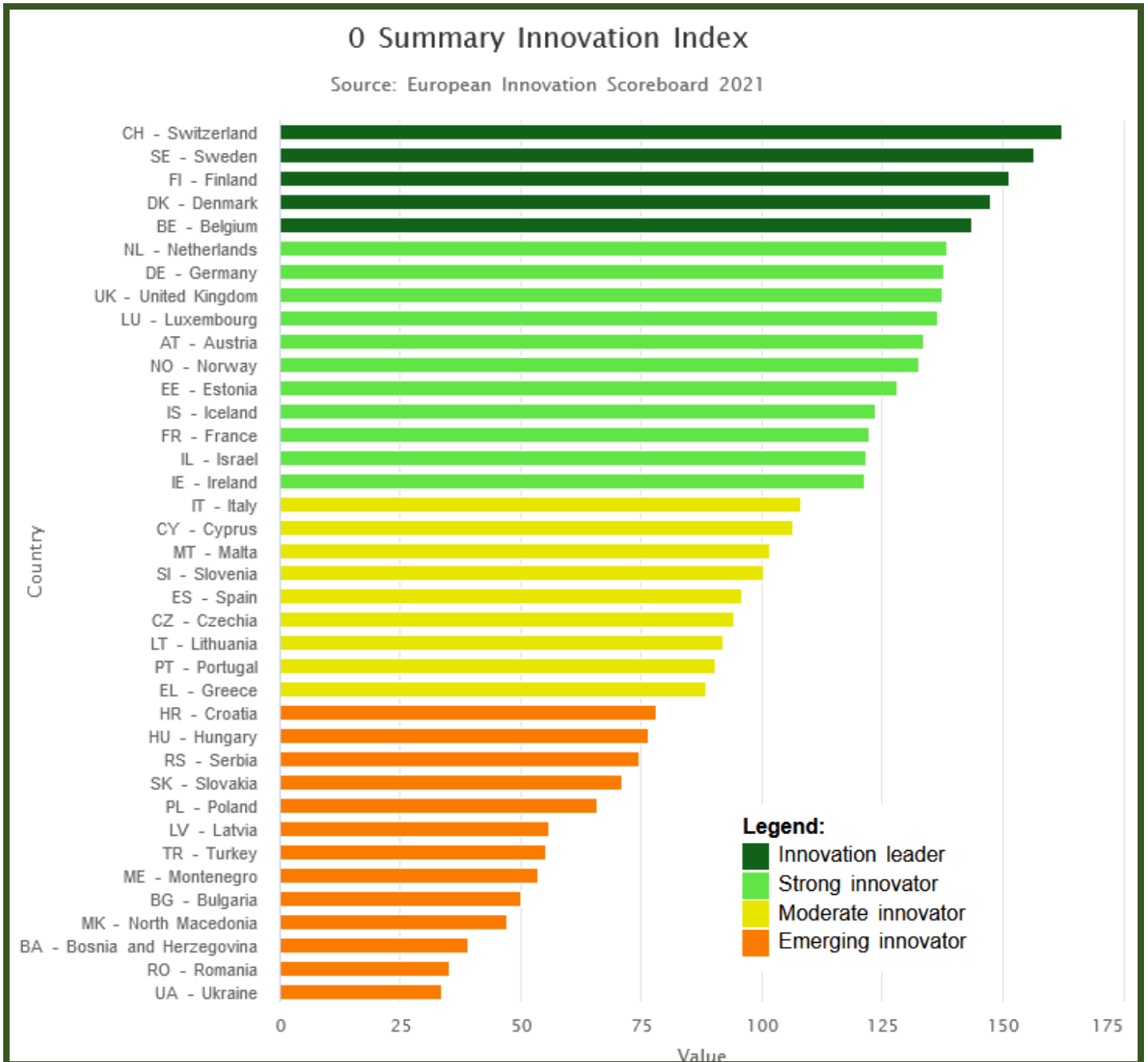
From the diagrams above, the strengths and weaknesses between the 4 eligible regions, in comparison, can be easily concluded and support the decisions for the adjustment of the existing strategies or the design of the new ones.

Innovation

The Regional Innovation Scoreboard for 2021⁹⁸, shows that the intervention area is a moderate innovator, as presented below.

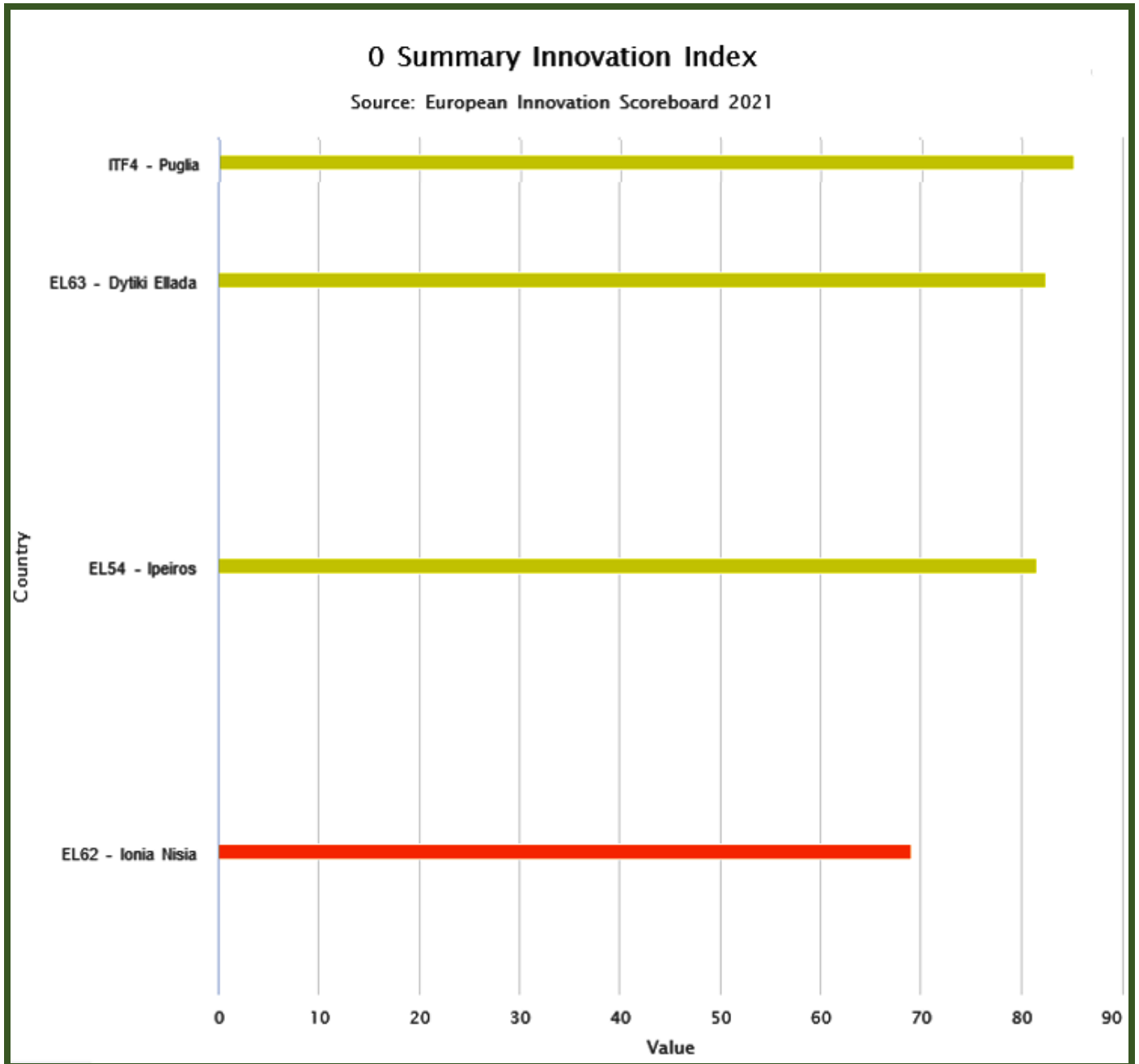


⁹⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard/eis>



At regional level for the eligibility area, the innovation index is as follows:

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.



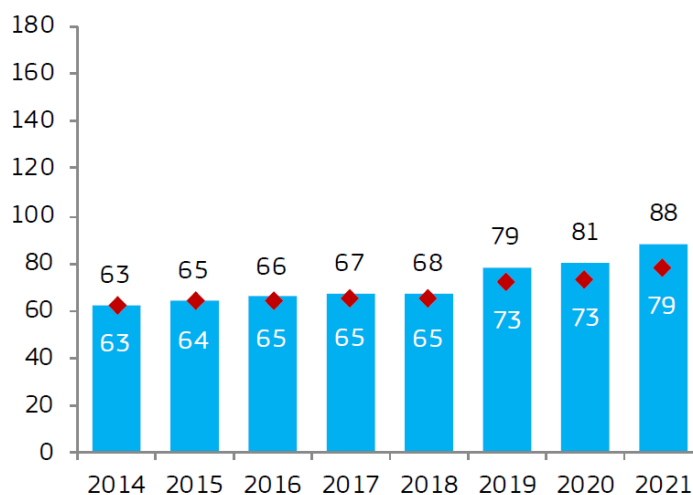
The detailed Scoreboard (2021) for the 2 countries is presented below:

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.



Greece is a Moderate Innovator.

Over time, performance relative to the EU has increased strongly, in particular in the last three years.



■ Relative to EU in base year ◆ Relative to EU in same year

Structural differences with the EU are shown in the table below including, compared to the EIS 2020, new information on different types of (innovating) enterprises (Innovation profiles) and environmental indicators.

	EL	EU
Performance and structure of the economy		
GDP per capita (PPS)	20,600	30,800
Average annual GDP growth (%)	-3.2	-2.5
Employment share Manufacturing (NACE C) (%)	9.5	16.5
of which High and Medium high-tech (%)	16.3	37.9
Employment share Services (NACE G-N) (%)	46.1	41.2
of which Knowledge-intensive services (%)	28.2	35.1
Turnover share SMEs (%)	39.4	36.5
Turnover share large enterprises (%)	35.0	45.7
Foreign-controlled enterprises – share of value added (%)	4.5	11.8
Business and entrepreneurship		
Enterprise births (10+ employees) (%)	2.4	1.0
Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) (%)	6.5	6.7
FDI net inflows (% GDP)	1.7	2.0
Top R&D spending enterprises per 10 million population	2.8	16.2
Buyer sophistication (1 to 7 best)	3.3	3.7
Innovation profiles		

Greece's strengths are in *Innovators*, *Linkages* and *Employment impacts*. The top-3 indicators include Sales of innovative products, Innovative SMEs collaborating with others, and Product innovators.

The strong increase in innovation performance since 2018 is due to improved performance for Broadband penetration, Venture capital, Product innovators, Job-to-job mobility of HRST, and Medium and high-tech goods exports.

Greece has above average shares of In-house product innovators and is showing close to average scores on the Climate change related indicators.

Greece	Relative to EU		
	2021 in	2014 in	
SUMMARY INNOVATION INDEX	78.6	62.6	88.5
Human resources	68.6	62.0	72.7
Doctorate graduates	48.1	42.6	42.6
Population with tertiary education	119.2	123.1	153.7
Lifelong learning	30.3	26.7	33.3
Attractive research systems	67.3	65.4	75.8
International scientific co-publications	84.6	85.2	111.0
Most cited publications	88.8	79.6	87.3
Foreign doctorate students	5.8	10.4	6.9
Digitalisation	60.8	42.1	84.2
Broadband penetration	59.0	44.7	89.4
People with above basic overall digital skills	63.6	38.9	77.8
Finance and support	50.3	27.1	59.9
R&D expenditures in the public sector	90.9	47.4	87.7
Venture capital expenditures	29.1	4.9	48.9
Government support for business R&D	25.6	15.0	29.7
Firm investments	63.8	56.3	77.1
R&D expenditure in the business sector	38.3	15.0	42.5
Non-R&D Innovation expenditures	106.6	111.3	121.2
Innovation expenditures per employee	66.1	53.4	87.3
Use of information technologies	40.8	39.1	47.1
Enterprises providing ICT training	46.7	40.0	46.7
Employed ICT specialists	35.7	38.1	47.6
Innovators	160.0	115.3	218.9
Product innovators (SMEs)	162.3	75.6	229.1
Business process innovators (SMEs)	157.7	150.3	209.9
Linkages	109.1	86.5	147.1
Innovative SMEs collaborating with others	174.8	148.1	256.1
Public-private co-publications	112.9	91.9	126.7
Job-to-job mobility of HRST	58.9	38.5	84.6

In-house product innovators with market novelties	16.7	10.7
In-house product innovators without market novelties	20.5	12.3
In-house business process innovators	12.8	11.0
Innovators that do not develop innovations themselves	8.5	11.6
Innovation active non-innovators	1.8	3.3
Non-innovators with potential to innovate	31.8	19.9
Non-innovators without disposition to innovate	7.9	31.3
Governance and policy framework		
Ease of starting a business (0 to 100 best)	67.6	76.5
Basic school entrepreneurial education and training	1.9	2.0
Govt. procurement of advanced tech. products	2.6	3.5
Rule of law (-2.5 to 2.5 best)	0.1	1.1
Climate change indicators		
Circular material use rate	3.4	11.7
Greenhouse gas emissions intensity of energy consumption	82.0	86.6
Eco-Innovation Index	75.0	100.0
Demography		
Population size	10.7	446.7
Average annual population growth (%)	-0.1	0.1
Population density	82.4	108.8

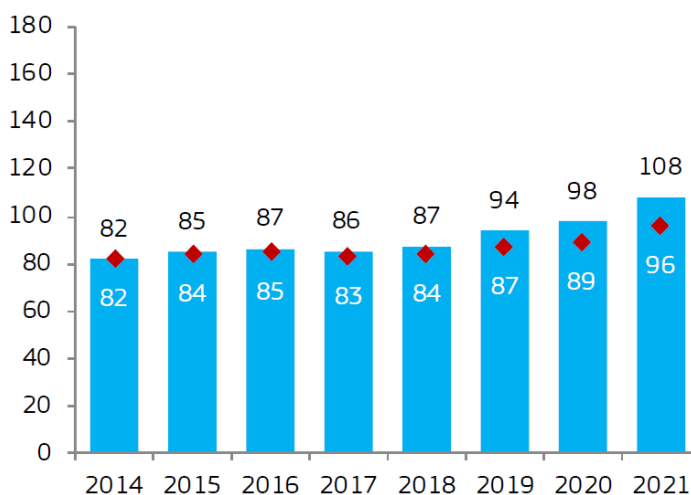
Intellectual assets	48.7	30.8	42.2
PCT patent applications	19.0	11.2	16.5
Trademark applications	87.9	63.6	92.3
Design applications	22.8	15.8	15.7
Employment impacts	107.7	95.2	109.7
Employment in knowledge-intensive activities	79.3	89.3	86.7
Employment in innovative enterprises	130.5	99.3	126.0
Sales impacts	89.7	54.5	91.4
Medium and high tech goods exports	30.1	2.5	33.0
Knowledge-intensive services exports	67.9	83.5	71.9
Sales of innovative products	220.1	88.3	191.3
Environmental sustainability	80.9	95.7	84.2
Resource productivity	95.1	67.3	140.9
Air emissions by fine particulate matter	62.1	65.6	66.0
Environment-related technologies	98.4	151.1	73.9

The colours show normalised performance in 2021 relative to that of the EU in 2021: dark green: above 125%; light green: between 100% and 125%; yellow: between 70% and 100%; orange: below 70%. Normalised performance uses the data after a possible imputation of missing data and transformation of the data.



Italy is a **Moderate Innovator**.

Over time, performance relative to the EU has increased strongly.



Italy's strengths are in *Innovators*, *Employment impacts* and *Environmental sustainability*. The top-3 indicators include Resource productivity, Sales of innovative products, and Design applications.

The strong increase between 2019 and 2021 is due to improved performance on the indicators using innovation survey data and Broadband penetration.

Italy has above average shares of In-house product innovators without market novelties and In-house business process innovators. Italy is showing above average scores on the Climate change related indicators.

Italy	Relative to EU 2021 in		Relative to EU 2014 in	
	2021	2014	2014	2021
SUMMARY INNOVATION INDEX	96.0	82.0	82.0	108.1
Human resources	56.2	51.9	51.9	59.6
Doctorate graduates	74.0	77.0	77.0	65.5
Population with tertiary education	25.0	3.3	3.3	32.2

■ Relative to EU in base year ♦ Relative to EU in same year

Structural differences with the EU are shown in the table below including, compared to the EIS 2020, new information on different types of (innovating) enterprises (Innovation profiles) and environmental indicators.

	IT	EU
Performance and structure of the economy		
GDP per capita (PPS)	29,800	30,800
Average annual GDP growth (%)	-4.1	-2.5
Employment share Manufacturing (NACE C) (%)	18.6	16.5
of which High and Medium high-tech (%)	33.8	37.9
Employment share Services (NACE G-N) (%)	45.0	41.2
of which Knowledge-intensive services (%)	37.3	35.1
Turnover share SMEs (%)	41.9	36.5
Turnover share large enterprises (%)	31.0	45.7
Foreign-controlled enterprises – share of value added (%)	6.7	11.8
Business and entrepreneurship		
Enterprise births (10+ employees) (%)	1.1	1.0
Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) (%)	3.8	6.7
FDI net inflows (% GDP)	1.1	2.0
Top R&D spending enterprises per 10 million population	6.4	16.2
Buyer sophistication (1 to 7 best)	3.8	3.7
Innovation profiles		
In-house product innovators with market novelties	10.0	10.7
In-house product innovators without market novelties	22.3	12.3
In-house business process innovators	16.0	11.0
Innovators that do not develop innovations themselves	8.4	11.6
Innovation active non-innovators	5.2	3.3
Non-innovators with potential to innovate	7.4	19.9
Non-innovators without disposition to innovate	30.8	31.3
Governance and policy framework		
Ease of starting a business (0 to 100 best)	73.0	76.5
Basic school entrepreneurial education and training	2.0	2.0
Govt. procurement of advanced tech. products	2.9	3.5
Rule of law (-2.5 to 2.5 best)	0.3	1.1
Climate change indicators		
Circular material use rate	18.8	11.7
Greenhouse gas emissions intensity of energy consumption	84.9	86.6
Eco-Innovation Index	112.0	100.0
Demography		
Population size	60.0	446.7
Average annual population growth (%)	-0.7	0.1
Population density	202.6	108.8

Lifelong learning	72.7	63.3	80.0
Attractive research systems	99.6	86.7	112.0
International scientific co-publications	91.5	85.0	120.0
Most cited publications	113.9	97.6	112.0
Foreign doctorate students	86.0	66.2	102.1
Digitalisation	68.7	71.4	95.1
Broadband penetration	75.2	70.7	114.0
People with above basic overall digital skills	59.1	72.2	72.2
Finance and support	82.5	56.5	98.2
R&D expenditures in the public sector	60.0	63.2	57.9
Venture capital expenditures	50.9	75.0	85.7
Government support for business R&D	140.2	34.5	162.2
Firm investments	77.7	66.3	93.8
R&D expenditure in the business sector	61.0	61.4	67.7
Non-R&D Innovation expenditures	107.0	78.6	121.6
Innovation expenditures per employee	97.9	61.3	129.3
Use of information technologies	76.9	62.2	88.8
Enterprises providing ICT training	66.7	33.3	66.7
Employed ICT specialists	85.7	95.2	114.3
Innovators	144.2	149.3	197.3
Product innovators (SMEs)	134.5	139.9	189.7
Business process innovators (SMEs)	153.3	157.6	204.0
Linkages	86.2	64.4	116.2
Innovative SMEs collaborating with others	118.9	47.6	174.3
Public-private co-publications	119.3	104.5	133.7
Job-to-job mobility of HRST	42.9	46.2	61.5
Intellectual assets	110.4	89.3	95.6
PCT patent applications	68.1	57.8	59.1
Trademark applications	109.3	93.7	114.7
Design applications	159.2	113.0	109.1
Employment impacts	126.5	110.3	128.8
Employment in knowledge-intensive activities	104.9	101.3	114.7
Employment in innovative enterprises	143.9	116.6	138.9
Sales impacts	93.2	83.3	95.0
Medium and high tech goods exports	85.3	91.3	93.5
Knowledge-intensive services exports	61.8	75.7	65.5
Sales of innovative products	151.7	81.7	131.9
Environmental sustainability	124.6	103.5	129.8
Resource productivity	196.1	161.0	290.4
Air emissions by fine particulate matter	104.0	100.8	110.6
Environment-related technologies	78.6	72.7	59.0

The colours show normalised performance in 2021 relative to that of the EU in 2021: dark green: above 125%; light green: between 100% and 125%; yellow: between 70% and 100%; orange: below 70%. Normalised performance uses the data after a possible imputation of missing data and transformation of the data.

From the scorecards we can conclude about the progress and position of each country and region, regarding innovation.

Greece managed to have great improvement from 2018, due to improved performance for Broadband penetration, Venture capital, Product innovators, Job-to-job mobility of Human Resources in Science & Technology (HRST), and Medium and hightech goods exports and the best ranked strengths are: **Innovators, Linkages and Employment impacts.**

Italy managed to have great improvement from 2019 to 2021, due to improved performance on the indicators using innovation survey data and Broadband penetration and the best ranked strengths are: **Innovators, Employment impacts and Environmental sustainability.**

The scorecard per region is presented below.

Greece		Ipeiros			EL54		
RCI 2019	Score	Score 0-100	Rank*	GDP per head PPS - EU28=100	Value	Rank	Stage of development (1 = Lowest; 5 = Highest)
	-1.29	11.61	251/268		48	253/268	1

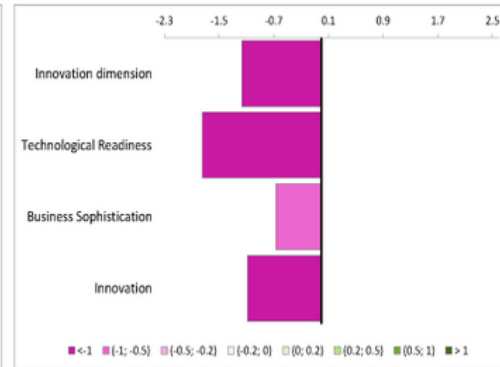
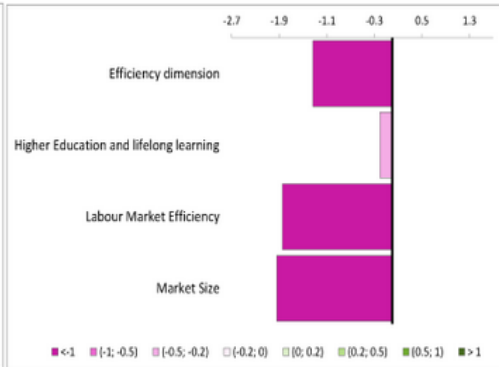
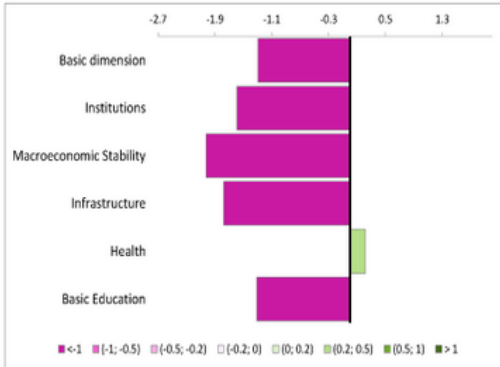
Peer Regions: Dél-Alföld; Podkarpackie; Lubelskie; Warmińsko-mazurskie; Świętokrzyskie; Sud-Est; Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki; Sud - Muntenia; Dytiki Ellada; Podlaskie; Voreio Aigaiο; Észak-Magyarország; Thessalia; Nord-Vest and Dél-Dunántúl

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Basic dimension	-1.30	🟡
Institutions	-1.59	🔴
Macroeconomic Stability	-2.02	🔴
Infrastructure	-1.77	🔴
Health	0.22	🟢
Basic Education	-1.31	🟡

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Efficiency dimension	-1.33	🟡
Higher Education and lifelong learning	-0.21	🟡
Labour Market Efficiency	-1.85	🔴
Market Size	-1.94	🟡

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Innovation dimension	-1.17	🟡
Technological Readiness	-1.74	🟡
Business Sophistication	-0.67	🟢
Innovation	-1.08	🟡

- 🟢 Overperforming with respect to its peers
- 🟡 Similar to peers
- 🔴 Underperforming with respect to its peers









* Equal ranking is assigned if the difference in score is equal or below 0.1 on the 0-100 scale





Note: Macroeconomic Stability and Basic Education at the country level





Greece **Ionia Nisia** **EL62**




RCI 2019	Score	Score 0-100	Rank*	GDP per head PPS - EU28=100	Value	Rank	Stage of development (1 = Lowest; 5 = Highest)
	-1.33	10.15	256/268		63	221/268	2

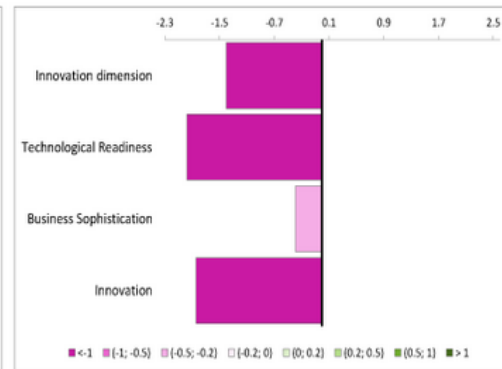
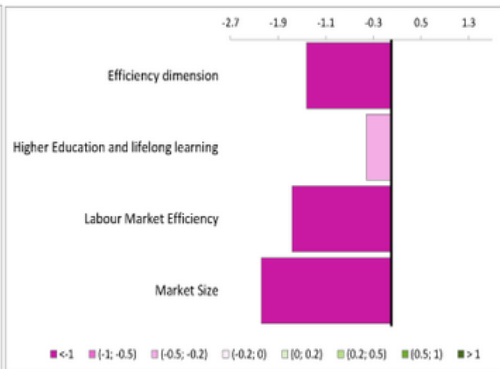
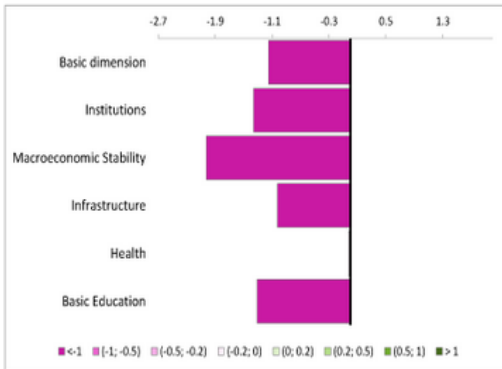
Peer Regions: Közép-Dunántúl; Małopolskie; Vest; Extremadura; Severozápad; Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos regionas ; Southern Scotland; Puglia; Dytiki Makedonia; Campania; Kontinentalna Hrvatska; Łódzkie; Latvija; Sterea Ellada and Stredné Slovensko

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Basic dimension	-1.15	
Institutions	-1.36	
Macroeconomic Stability	-2.02	
Infrastructure	-1.03	
Health	-0.03	
Basic Education	-1.31	

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Efficiency dimension	-1.42	
Higher Education and lifelong learning	-0.42	
Labour Market Efficiency	-1.67	
Market Size	-2.19	

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Innovation dimension	-1.40	
Technological Readiness	-1.98	
Business Sophistication	-0.39	
Innovation	-1.84	

-  Overperforming with respect to its peers
-  Similar to peers
-  Underperforming with respect to its peers



* Equal ranking is assigned if the difference in score is equal or below 0.1 on the 0-100 scale

Note: Macroeconomic Stability and Basic Education at the country level

Greece *Dytiki Ellada* **EL63**

RCI 2019	Score	Score 0-100	Rank*	GDP per head PPS - EU28=100	Value	Rank	Stage of development (1 = Lowest; 5 = Highest)
	-1.43	6.53	262/268		50	248/268	2

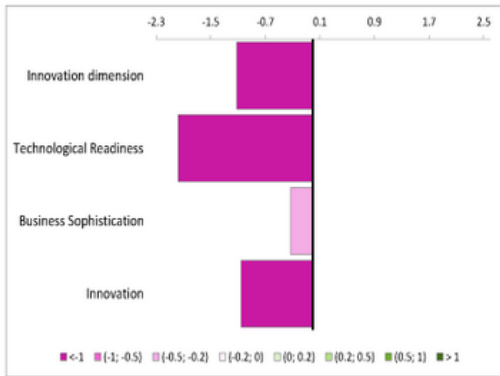
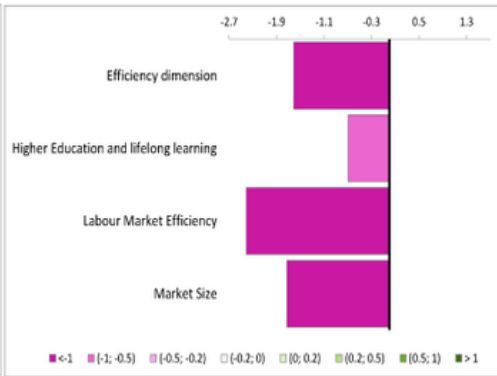
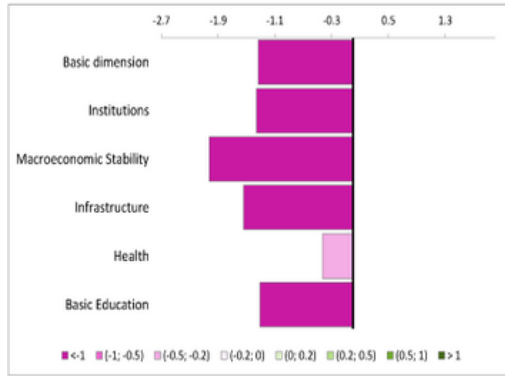
Peer Regions: Podlaskie; Sud-Est; Świętokrzyskie; Warmińsko-mazurskie; Podkarpackie; Voreio Aigaio; Ipeiros; Dél-Alföld; Thessalia; Lubelskie; Nord-Vest; Guyane; Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki; Sud - Muntenia and Kentriki Makedonia

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Basic dimension	-1.33	🟡
Institutions	-1.36	🟡
Macroeconomic Stability	-2.02	🔴
Infrastructure	-1.54	🟡
Health	-0.43	🟡
Basic Education	-1.31	🟡

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Efficiency dimension	-1.61	🟡
Higher Education and lifelong learning	-0.69	🟡
Labour Market Efficiency	-2.41	🔴
Market Size	-1.72	🟡

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Innovation dimension	-1.12	🟡
Technological Readiness	-1.98	🔴
Business Sophistication	-0.33	🟢
Innovation	-1.05	🟡

- 🟢 Overperforming with respect to its peers
- 🟡 Similar to peers
- 🔴 Underperforming with respect to its peers



* Equal ranking is assigned if the difference in score is equal or below 0.1 on the 0-100 scale
Note: Macroeconomic Stability and Basic Education at the country level

Italy		Puglia			GDP per head PPS - EU28=100		ITF4	
RCI 2019	Score	Score 0-100	Rank*	Value	Rank	Stage of development (1 = Lowest; 5 = Highest)	2	
	-1.00	22.72	235/268	62	224/268			

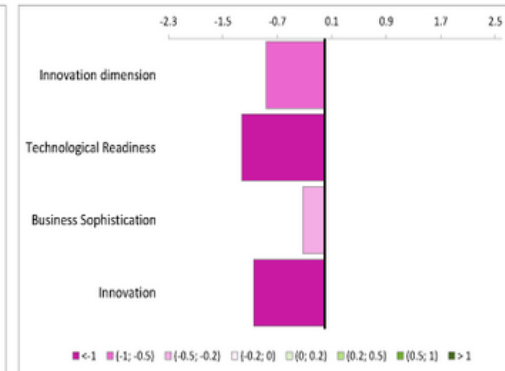
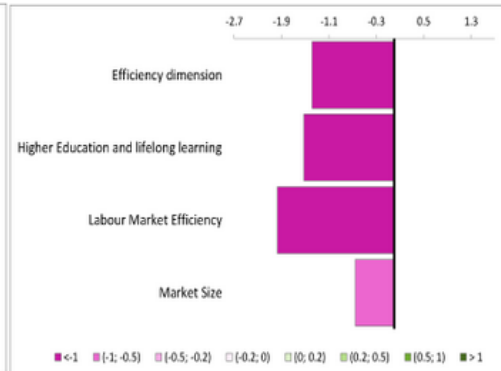
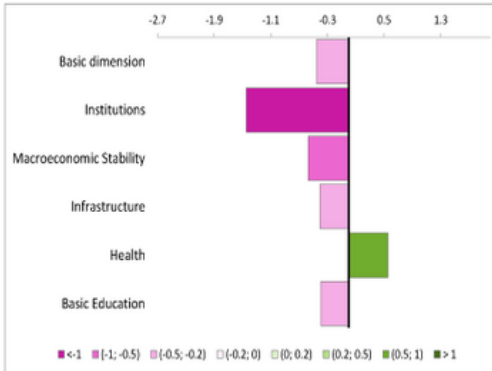
Peer Regions: Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos regionas ; Vest; Dytiki Makedonia; Ionia Nisia; Campania; Kontinentalna Hrvatska; Közép-Dunántúl; Małopolskie; Extremadura; Severozápad; Sterea Ellada; Stredné Slovensko; Southern Scotland; Łódzkie and Latvija

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Basic dimension	-0.45	🟡
Institutions	-1.45	🟡
Macroeconomic Stability	-0.57	🟡
Infrastructure	-0.41	🟡
Health	0.55	🟢
Basic Education	-0.39	🟡

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Efficiency dimension	-1.38	🔴
Higher Education and lifelong learning	-1.52	🔴
Labour Market Efficiency	-1.97	🔴
Market Size	-0.65	🟡

	score (EU28=0)	peers comparison
Innovation dimension	-0.86	🟡
Technological Readiness	-1.22	🟡
Business Sophistication	-0.32	🟡
Innovation	-1.05	🟡

- 🟢 Overperforming with respect to its peers
- 🟡 Similar to peers
- 🔴 Underperforming with respect to its peers



* Equal ranking is assigned if the difference in score is equal or below 0.1 on the 0-100 scale

Note: Macroeconomic Stability and Basic Education at the country level

The regional scorecards and the regional competitiveness index can jointly support the optimal decisions on the redesign of existing strategies and the design of new ones.

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Environment, Protected Areas and Natural Disasters

The area has 6 Ramsar protected wetlands⁹⁹, 3 in each country: (i) Amvrakikos gulf in Epirus; (ii) Kotychi lagoons and (iii) Messolonghi lagoons in Western Greece; (iv) Le Cesine; (v) Saline di Margherita di Savoia; and (vi) Torre Guaceto in Puglia.

In the National Catalogue of the Natura 2000 Network in Greece, there are 34 sites included in Western Greece; 31 in Epirus and 19 in the Ionian Islands 19 sites¹⁰⁰, while in Puglia there are 87 sites¹⁰¹.

Despite the large number of the protected sites in the eligible area, there are no transboundary ecosystems.

The Sea Environment is relatively good in the intervention area as proven also by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in its 2019 report about the bathing waters, with 95,7% in Greece and 88,4% in Italy.

According to the European Environment Agency, the economic damages from extreme weather events in the participating countries, is as follows (80's/90'/00'/10'):

Greece: 7,7bilEUR (728EUR per capita) and 2550 fatalities;

Italy: 72,5bilEUR (1254EUR per capita) and 20735 fatalities.

⁹⁹ Ramsar Sites Information Service. Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance in Greece; and
Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance in Italy.

¹⁰⁰ Regional Operational Programmes of Western Greece, Epirus, and Ionian Islands

¹⁰¹ Puglia.con, La Rete Natura 2000. <https://pugliacon.regione.puglia.it/web/sit-puglia-paesaggio/rete-natura-2000>

The Sea Environment relatively is good in the intervention area as proven also by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in its 2021 report about the bathing waters, with 97,1% (in 2019 it was 95,7%) in Greece¹⁰² and 88,6% (in 2019 it was 88,4%) in Italy¹⁰³, but needs further actions.

There's a considerable number of events with the prime involvement of the communities on marine litter, mainly in Italy as shown below (EEA¹⁰⁴) (2014 – 2021).



¹⁰² <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/state-of-bathing-water/country-reports-2020-bathing-season/greek-bathing-water-quality-in-2020/view>

¹⁰³ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/state-of-bathing-water/country-reports-2020-bathing-season/italian-bathing-water-quality-in-2020/view>

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/marine-litterwatch/data-and-results/marine-litterwatch-data-viewer>



The air pollution evolution in Greece and Italy is as follows¹⁰⁵:

GREECE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BaP annual mean			0,0		
NO2 annual mean	2,9	2,3	2,6	3,2	1,9
O3 percentile 93,15	95,5	78,7	96,0	95,0	94,2
PM2.5 annual mean	0,0	0,00,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/greece>; and <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/italy>

PM10 annual mean	2,6	2,6	0,0	0,0	1,8
PM10 Percentile 90,41	4,9	26,0	19,6	4,5	4,4

ITALY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BaP annual mean	8,0	6,0	6,8	1,1	2,6
NO2 annual mean	27,4	23,0	23,6	7,3	12,5
O3 percentile 93,15	77,3	46,0	67,6	59,1	59,3
PM2.5 annual mean	27,1	0,0	5,2	2,2	2,9
PM10 annual mean	20,3	0,0	5,2	0,0	2,9
PM10 Percentile 90,41	64,1	38,1	47,8	33,3	39,2

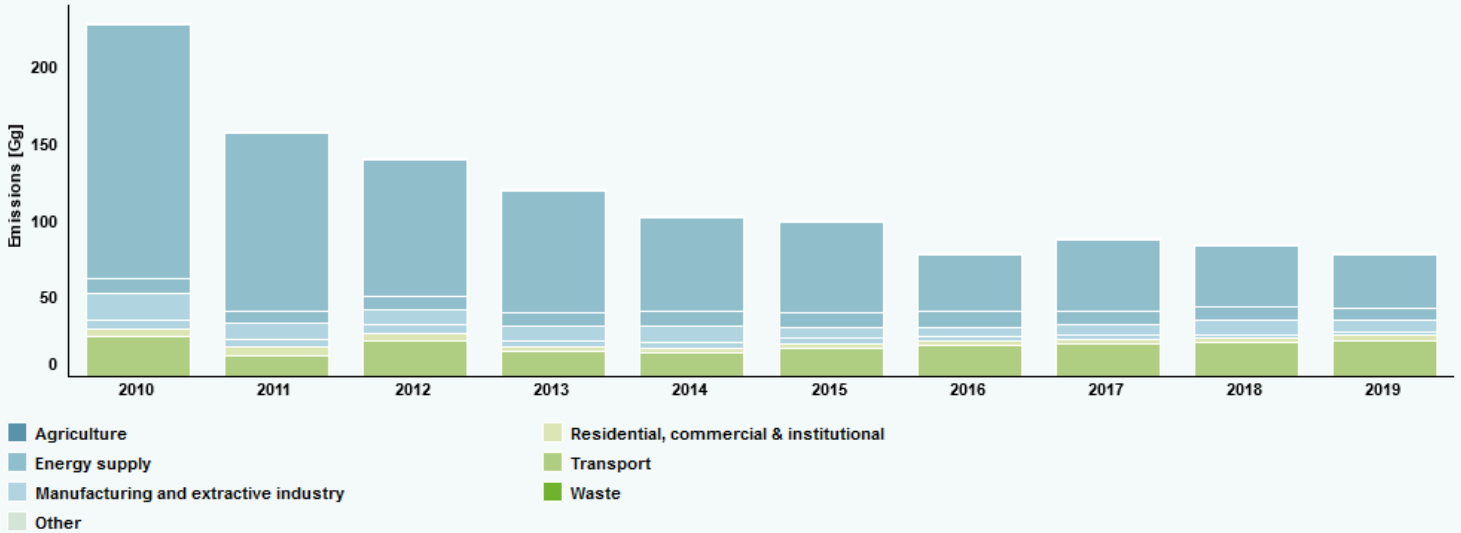
According to EEA¹⁰⁶, the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) — a pollutant mainly emitted by road transport — have decreased in many European cities where lockdown measures have been implemented.

The air pollution as per Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) evolution in Greece and Italy is as follows¹⁰⁷:

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/air-quality-and-covid19>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/greece>; and <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/italy>

Greece: SO2-Timeserie by EEA Sector - Total emissions



Italy: SO2-Timeserie by EEA Sector - Total emissions



[fact-sheets/italy](#)

The meeting emission ceilings evolution in Greece and Italy is as follows¹⁰⁸:

Greece:

	Meeting emission ceilings									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NH3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NM/OC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NOx	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SO2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Italy:

	Meeting emission ceilings									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NH3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NM/OC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NOx	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SO2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

2. Findings of the Analysis

Based on the analysis performed in this document, consisting of the programme achievements and the general progress in the wider environment of the intervention area, we summarise the following:

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/greece>; and <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/italy>

Question1: Are the Specific Objects timely?

SO1.1 “Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness”

The SO1.1 remains timely and affects the login of the programme intervention, as it is justified that innovation is a key factor for sustainable growth. It would be suggested to be rephrased to include the wordings “advanced technologies” and “research”.

The cooperation of the economy actors (enterprises, unions, associations, etc.) in the intervention area, is a key element for local and regional development. Such active cooperation adds value in the growth strategy of the regions of the intervention area and contributes to reduction of unemployment and social exclusion.

The programme, based on the EU announced directives to confront COVID-19 pandemic, carrying the title “Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII)”, adjusted successfully the title of the SO1.1 to “Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness and COVID-19 emergency” in order to fund health projects..

SO1.2 “Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area”

The support of micro and small enterprises is important as the area of intervention has a very large number of such legal entities. Although it has high performance, and surpassed significantly the programme target values of the respective indicators, it is estimated that it should be upgraded and include “digitalization”, competitiveness” and “growth”.

SO2.1 “Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area”

It is justified that the cultural and natural assets of the intervention areas are important factors of growth. The SO2.1 remains fundamental for the development of the eligible area of the programme.

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”

The climate crisis leads to high risks for the biodiversity in the protected areas and the areas that are not in a status of protection. The climate change leads to the suggestion to upgrade it, including the wordings “prevention of disasters”, “resilience”, “mitigation of consequences” and “adaptation to climate change”.

SO2.3 “Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution”

Marine and air pollution are critical factors of the climate crisis. It remains timely. It could however be extended to cover “circular economy” and “zero carbon policies”/“carbon neutral policies”.

SO3.1 “Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity”

This SO could be skipped as although shipping is a very important way of communication for all participating regions, higher priorities, like sustainable and zero-carbon transport might be promoted.

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

It is too complicated and requires a lot of time efforts to perform results within the ordinary project period of implementation, therefore it is suggested this SO to be skipped.

Question2: Output indicators: Are they timely?

The analysis of the progress of the implementation of the approved interventions, suggest that the target values of the selected indicators should

be considered and measured by the beneficiaries, during the project proposal preparation and the project implementation, through a justified methodology¹⁰⁹.

Output indicator **CO09** “Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions”

The indicator CO09 is too complicated to be measured and justified as directly improved because of a project, therefore it is suggested not to be used.

New indicators

It is suggested to create a new output indicator “Target Groups communicated”, which will include unique presence of each body/entity, no matter the number of people of it, and it should be measured by either one value (e.g. 2 municipalities) or 2-dimensional values with the 2nd dimension being the number of different communications of each. Furthermore, it should be described in a separate report, how it was communicated (e.g. through the x-event, email, phone call, registration in newsletter, etc.).

It is suggested to create a new output indicator “People reached” referring to people reached through communication in general (from the general public or the stakeholders).

For both indicators, it is suggested to create a common database in the MIS to record and monitor the figures at project and programme level¹¹⁰.

¹⁰⁹ As it was found and presented, certain indicators were either with low target value of the Programme or with very high value of the projects. Especially the measurement of the indicators during implementation, should be presented clearly. During the submission of the proposals, in case of huge diversification from the programme target values (higher), the lead partner should be asked to justify the selection.

¹¹⁰ As in some occasions mistakenly some project beneficiaries reported the indicators, the reporting would have to be modelled for all, with predefined categories of target groups (many different categories and option for “others”).

Question3: Result indicators: Are they timely?

The result indicator RI3.1 / R0506 “Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports” (in 1000)

The result indicator R0506 is too complicated to be measured and justified as actual result of a project, therefore it is suggested not to be used in the future, or organize special seminars by MA/JS or provide specific guidelines for the training of the beneficiaries, regarding the measurement of this Result indicator.

The result indicator RI3.2 / R0507 “Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area” (in 1000)

The result indicator R0507 is too complicated to be measured and justified as actual result of a project, therefore it is suggested not to be used in the future, or organize special seminars by MAJS or provide specific guidelines for the training of the beneficiaries, regarding the measurement of this Result indicator.

The other result indicators may be assessed as useful for gaining better results.

Summarised presentation of the achievement of the result indicators

As presented in the chapter A1 - Update of the 1st Assessment of the Programme Implementation of this document, the achievement of the addressed result indicators is as follows, with the estimation about the achievement of the programme target value by end of the programme (31.12.2023).

PA	ID	Baseline (year) /	Programme Final	Target Value of	Achieved on	Comment
----	----	-------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-------------	---------

		Measu- rement Unit	Target 2023	the Approved projects	31.12.2021	
1	RI1.1 R0501	56% (2015)	Increase	738	473 (increased)	It is expected to be achieved
	RI1.2 R0502	52360 Enterprises (2012)	Increase 55000	420	356 (increased 13.48%)	It is not expected to be achieved as the total of the declared target value of the projects is far less than the target value of the programme ¹¹¹
2	RI2.1 R0503	65 (2015)	Increase	1142	871 (increased)	It is expected to be achieved
	RI2.2 R0504	42401 Km ² (2013)	Increase 46000	76232	900 (increased 25.00%)	It is expected to be achieved
	RI2.3 R0505	63% (2015)	Increase	210	160 (increased)	It is expected to be achieved

¹¹¹ As the projects CREATIVE CAMPS and AGRIFARM did not declare yet and also MEDINNO project is still in progress, the indicator will be improved, however, will remain under-achieved.

3	RI3.1 R0506	7005 Passengers (2012)	Increase 7500	3794	1900 (increased 383,83%)	It is expected to be achieved
	RI3.2 R0507	88532 Tonnes (2011)	Decrease 88000	333	10,33 (1.94%)	It is not expected to be achieved as the total of the declared target value of the projects is less than the target value of the programme ¹¹²

Question4: Do the output indicators and the result indicators contribute to the intervention logic of the Programme?

The selected output indicators and the result indicators, do reflect the contents of the respective Specific Objectives.

All but the following indicators, do contribute to the logic of the programme.

Output indicator **CO09** "Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions"

The indicator CO09 is practically difficult to be measured with a clear methodology that would justify that any increase would be the actual result of the respective project. Thus, it does not contribute in terms of credibility.

¹¹² The contributing project FRESH WAYS is ongoing and can improve the indicator, , however, will remain under-achieved.

The result indicator RI3.1 / R0506 “Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports” (in 1000)

The result indicator R0506 is too complicated to be measured and justified as actual result of the respective project, therefore it is suggested not to be used in the future, or organize special seminars by MA/JS or provide specific guidelines for the training of the beneficiaries, regarding the measurement of this Result indicator.

The result indicator RI3.2 / R0507 “Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area” (in 1000)

The result indicator R0507 is too complicated to be measured and justified as actual result of the respective project. Thus, it does not contribute in terms of credibility. Therefore, it is suggested not to be used in the future, or organize special seminars by MAJS or provide specific guidelines for the training of the beneficiaries, regarding the measurement of this Result indicator.

The analysis of the update of the logic of intervention led to some proposals already described in the text above and will be presented in the next chapter “Update of the Programme”, while the conclusions are summarized in the SWOT Analysis in the next sub-chapter.

SWOT Analysis

The SWOT¹¹³ analysis below, examines the main characteristics of the intervention areas and will contribute in identifying the update of the strategy or the drafting of the new strategy.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
------------------	-------------------

¹¹³ SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.

<p>Tourism;</p> <p>Cultural and Natural Heritage;</p> <p>Strategic policies in tourism for growth and sustainability in both countries;</p> <p>Enormous number of Natura 2000 and Ramsar protected areas;</p> <p>Cultural and Creative Industries (Puglia);</p> <p>Blue Economy / Growth increase;</p> <p>Programme Interventions with significant contribution in the area;</p> <p>Enormous number of Universities and Research Institutes;</p> <p>EUSAIR Macroregional strategy;</p> <p>Good health services.</p>	<p>Seasonal Tourism;</p> <p>Seasonal employment (due to work in tourism sector);</p> <p>High number of older people (Epirus in worst position);</p> <p>GDP per capita, below the EU27 average;</p> <p>Regional Competitiveness Index below the EU27 average;</p> <p>All regions are assessed as moderate innovators.</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>THREATS</p>
<p>Potential for further tourism growth;</p> <p>Blue Economy / Growth further prospects;</p> <p>Circular Economy;</p> <p>Green Deal;</p> <p>Green Public Procurements (GPP);</p> <p>Enormous number of Universities and</p>	<p>Unemployment;</p> <p>Brain Drain of young people, including scientists;</p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic;</p> <p>Competition from other areas with lower labour cost (such as former Eastern European Countries or Asia);</p> <p>Tensions between “The west” and</p>

Research Institutes; RIS3 Strategies of the regions; EUSAIR Macroregional strategy; Promotion of the participation of Social Enterprises and Cooperatives in the economic life of the local communities; Support social innovation initiatives at local level.	Russia; In somecases high increase of tourist flows cause risks for the biodiversity and the nature; Climate Crisis; Coastal Erosion; Marine Litter; Air Polution; Risks for the biodiversity.
--	--

3. Lessons Learnt

1. The programme was properly adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the confrontation of the disease. As a result of the revision of the programme, relatively significant changes between PAs occurred. Thus to a certain level, the weight of the Specific Objectives of the programme was reconsidered in order to respond in the health crisis and other related conditions. The new needs that were created, where considered and the fast reaction of the Programme Authorities, allowed the appropriate adaptation. The latest goals remain valid.

2. The results' indicators need to be considered further, in order to achieve the target values as early as possible.

The results' indicators of PA1 are in progress (RI1.1 / R0501; RI1.2 / R0502¹¹⁴).

¹¹⁴ R0502: It is not expected to achieve the Programme target value as the total of the declared target value of the projects is far less than the target value of the programme.

For PA2, RI2.2 / R0504 needs more efforts by the end beneficiaries, in order to be achieved.

For PA3, the indicators RI3.1 / R0506¹¹⁵ and RI3.2 / R0507¹¹⁶, need more efforts by the beneficiaries, however they will manage to achieve the programme target value.

3. The output and result indicators contribute to the intervention logic of the Programme, except the result indicators R0506 and R0507¹¹⁷.

4. The Programme authorities responded quickly to the new challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and related consequences in several sectors, and updated the programme, where needed.

E. Update of the Programme

The strategy of the programme, has to incorporate the RIS3 strategies for the eligible regions of the two countries, which are summarised in the following table¹¹⁸:

REGION	RIS3 2014-2020
Epirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary sector and food processing; • Experience industry (tourism - culture - creative)

¹¹⁵ Especially for R0506, it is advised that the beneficiaries review and update the respective values in the Application Forms.

¹¹⁶ R0507: It is not expected to achieve the Programme target value as the total of the declared target value of the projects is far less than the target value of the programme.

¹¹⁷ Also, the output indicator CO09, is hard to be justified, how it is measured to ensure that the reported achieved value is directly related to the related projects.

¹¹⁸ Regional RIS3; EC Regional Innovation Monitor Plus

REGION	RIS3 2014-2020
	industries); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & wellness; and • Academic Institutions, ICT and youth entrepreneurship.
Ionian Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary sector - agrifood & gastronomy; • Marine economy - fishery - aquaculture & marine tourism; and • Experience industry: tourism, culture and creative economy
Western Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT; • Energy applications. • Agriculture - fisheries - gastronomy; • Tourism - culture; and • Materials - microelectronics.
Puglia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Manufacturing (smart factory, aerospace, mechatronics); • Health and the environment (green and blue economy, food processing, sustainable construction, cultural heritage and tourism); and • Digital, creative and inclusive communities (cultural and creative industry, services, social innovation, design, non-R&D innovation).

It worth to mention that the area of intervention has a large number of knowledge carriers¹¹⁹, which can play a significant role in the sustainable socio-economic development of the area.

The time for the completion of the Programme is less than 24 months, therefore, any update of the Programme, if needed, would be preferred to be targeted to existing partners. The analysis in this document does not lead to suggestions about such an option (major modification).

1. The need for update of the Programme

Specific Objectives

It is suggested to take out the specific objectives:

- (i) SO3.1 “Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity”; and
- (ii) SO3.2 “Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions”

Due to the fact that the context of the first one is surpassed by other, major priorities and the second one is too complicated and requires a lot of time efforts to perform results within the ordinary project period of implementation, therefore it is suggested to skip these SO.

¹¹⁹ The Region of Western Greece hosts a large number of public academic and research organisations: University of Patras; Hellenic Open University, Patras Science Park, Patras Innovation Hub, Foundation for Research and Technology and Industrial Systems Institute. In the Region of Epirus, there is the University of Ioannina and in Ionian Islands the Ionian University. Puglia Region hosts several academic and research centres in Bari, Lecce, and Foggia: Polytechnic University of Bari, University of Salento, University of Foggia and LUM Jean-Monnet (Libera Università Mediterranea).

Output Indicators

It is suggested to take out the output indicator CO09 “Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions”, because as justified, it is not an easy exercise to justify with credibility that any increase in travelling, is due to the project.

It was suggested to create two new indicators for the target groups (stakeholders) and the participants in events and those figures to be reported in MIS with a specific model.

Result Indicators

It is suggested to take out the result indicators:

- (i) R0506 “Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports”; and
- (ii) R0507 “Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area”,

as they are too complicated to be measured and justified as actual result of a project.

Funds’ Allocation

There’s no need currently to revise the programme budget, as the real implementation of projects is less than 24 months and there is already a significant overbooking.

2. Required changes in the intervention logic

The intervention logic of the Programme, is suggested to have the following revisions:

In PA1, SO1.1 to include in the context, and respectively improve the wording of the title of the SO, direct connection of the entrepreneurship with the knowledge carriers of the area of intervention and promote innovation in

business and the approach “research to business” for enhancing the capacity of the local enterprises and the local economies and employment.

The SO1.2 to include in the context, and respectively improve the wording of the title of the SO, the digitalisation the competitiveness and the growth.

In PA2, SO2.2 to include clearly in the context, and respectively improve the wording of the title of the SO, the climate crisis which leads to high risks for the biodiversity in the protected areas and the areas that are not in a status of protection. Thus, it could include the prevention of disasters, the resilience of the ecosystem, the adaptation to the climate change and the mitigation of consequences.

The SO2.3 to include in the context, and respectively improve the wording of the title of the SO, the approach to the circular economy and zero carbon policies.

In PA3, and the SO3.1 and SO2, they could be skipped as despite the importance of the topic, there are complications that usually are not solved within the time window of an INTERREG project.

The affected indicators are:

- (i) The output indicator CO09 “Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions”, which is suggested not to be used.
- (ii) A new output indicator “Target Groups reached”
- (iii) A new output indicator “People reached”
- (iv) The result indicator R0506 “Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports”, which is suggested not to be used.
- (v) The result indicator R0507 “Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area” , which is suggested not to be used.

The above changes and the Performance Framework are not suggested to be implemented in the ongoing programming period, but are suggested for consideration in the new Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2021-2027.

3. Conclusions

The Programme is near its end and there's no need for major modifications, especially with the overbooking of the budget of the Programme and the fact that many projects ended and several are near the end of their lifespan, while 8 out of 9 calls were targeted (strategic).

The analysis of the progress of the projects and socio-economic environment and other parameters in the area of interventions, leads to some ideas for improvement, which are suggested for further consideration, for the new Programming Period 2021 - 2027.

A2 – Assessment of the Communication Strategy

The procedure for the assessment of the communication strategy, focused on extensive research for the Programme and each and every approved project of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Among the objectives of the assignment is to assess the degree to which the contribution of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and the participating countries, is highlighted.

Furthermore, it is important to realise to which degree the project objectives and results of the projects that are implemented or within the project lifetime, were promoted and diffused in the local societies of the intervention areas.

Key points of the Communication Strategy of the Programme

The Communication Strategy of the programme (April 2016, v.3), intends to *“support the development of a cross-border community that recognises common challenges and is willing to jointly capitalise on supraregional assets for the benefit of citizens, businesses and the environment through cross-border cooperation and competence networks, supply chains and interorganisational alliances”*¹²⁰.

The Communication Strategy faces the following challenges:

- Capitalising the lessons learnt from the past;

¹²⁰ Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A “Greece – Italy 2014-2020” – Communication Strategy (CCI 2014TC16RFCB020), 19/4/2016 (3rd version).

- Approach a wide variety of receivers (audience) with challenges in terms of language and culture of the two countries and also in terms of different levels of awareness of what a cooperation programme is;
- The link with the project beneficiaries.

The general objectives of the communication strategy are: (i) awareness of the role of EU and the added value in the intervention area; and (ii) transparency about the public funds used.

The target groups are: potential partners and beneficiaries of the programme; representatives of local and regional authorities; media/press; and the general public.

The communication strategy identified as primary tasks the following:

- Promote the Programme and its results to the general public and all the potential interested parties, taking into account the promotion of equal opportunities and nondiscrimination;
- Deliver adequate information about the Programme, its role, impact and aims to the identified target groups (inform the institutions involved in the implementation of the Programme about their role in information and publicity; ensure that the potential beneficiaries have the appropriate and full information about the programme; inform the target groups about the criteria that should be met in order to have the opportunity for funding by the programme; highlight the role of EU and how the public money are spent and the importance of equality and non-discrimination).

A. Findings of the research on the communication strategy

Programme information for potential beneficiaries, final beneficiaries and general public

According to the feedback from the beneficiaries¹²¹ about the usefulness, the updated information and the availability of the news and tools in the website of the cooperation programme (visibility), it is good (mostly ~73%) to very good (~17%), which complies with the previous findings.

The programme website (<https://greece-italy.eu>) is considered as the most important tool for providing promotion of the cooperation programme, support with project implementation and communication tools for the project beneficiaries and also for promoting news and events of the Programme and projects, to the public.

Indicative printscreen of the news section and the events' section of the website of the cooperative programme.

¹²¹ Responses to the distributed questionnaire to the project beneficiaries.



CREATIVE@HUBS
 Holistic networking of creative industries via Hubs

CREATIVE@HUBS
 networking of creative industries

Creative@hubs project: first infoday in Puglia
 Posted on March 26, 2022 Posted in news Strategic Call

The first infoday of the Interreg CREATIVE@HUBS Project, a strategic project funded by Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Program took place online on 24 March. The project will create 8 hubs dedicated to cultural and creative industries, six in Greece and two in the Puglia Region. The works have been introduced by Donato Pentassuglia, Puglia Region


[Read more](#)

Search ...



News

- Job&tender
- News 2021-2027
- News First call
- news Strategic Call
- Other

Interreg
Greece-Italy
 European Regional Development Fund



The Programme • | projects & calls • | news & events • | library • | 2021-2027 | contact us

CREATIVE@HUBS
 networking of creative industries

Informative Seminar for First Level Controllers: 25 June 2020 on webex platform
 Posted on June 22, 2020 Posted in Programme Meeting

The informative seminar for the Italian First level Controllers will be held on 25 June 2020 (9.15-13.30), on webex Platform at the following link. The meeting is organized by Puglia Region, Coordination of International Policies - Territorial Cooperation Section, in cooperation with the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat of Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Programme. The

[Read more](#)

Search ...

News

- Job&tender
- News 2021-2027
- News First call
- news Strategic Call
- Other

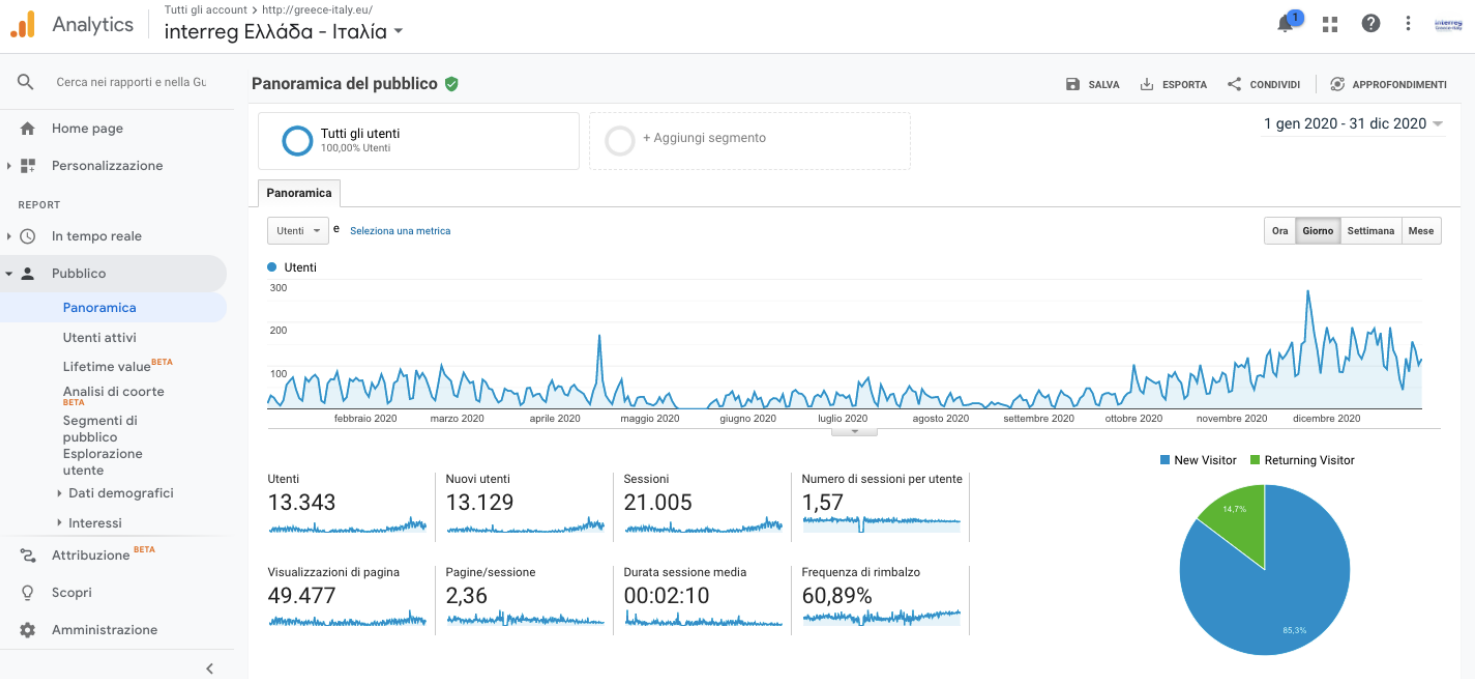
Website metrics from 2017 to 2020

According to the Annual Communication Plan 2021 – 2022 of the Cooperation Programme, the website performance was as follows:

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Metric	Description	2017	2018	2019	2020
Unique visitors	Number of users requesting pages from the website	452	6.693	13.780	13.343
Visits	Number of visits (or sessions) to a website	669	15.510	24.889	21.005
Page views	Number of pages requested (Page Impressions)	1.768	43.957	65.930	49.477
Page views per visit	Average number of pages viewed per visit	2,64	2,83	2,65	2,36
Time spent per visit	Average amount of time spent per visit	1m59s	2m51s	2m32s	2m10s
Return Visit Rate	Calculated as the number of visits from returning visitors divided by the total number of visits to the site	17,60%	79,30%	82,05%	14,70%

The Google Analytics of the website for the year 2020 is presented below:




The Cooperation Programme implemented several events for the programme implementation, such as the use of MIS and also Infodays from the first call to provide extensive clarifications and updates to the potential beneficiaries.

An important key communication action was the frequent direct communication of the project officers of the Joint Secretariat of the programme with the beneficiaries to speed up performance and required actions, which led to better performance of the programme (among others, this is justified also by the fact that most of the paid expenditures are also certified).

The Cooperation Programme uses also social media, namely facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/interregreeceitaly/>), instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/interregreeceitaly/>) and twitter (https://twitter.com/Interreggr_it) to communicate with the beneficiaries and the general public.

Below are presented indicative PrintScreens of the social media.

 **Interreg V-A Greece-Italy**
25 March at 12:30 · 🌐

🚧 Infrastructural works for the redevelopment of [Porto di Otranto](#) 🚢
for cross-border and cruise sea transport

🙏 Thanks to [AI SMART - Interreg V-A Project](#) 🇪🇺
🇮🇹 New services for tourists and fishery ports 🇬🇷

👉 [Reg... See more](#)





AI SMART
Adriatic Ionian Small Port Network

-NAME BENEFICIARY "Regione Puglia Department of Mobility"
"Municipality of Otranto - Province of Lecce"

-PRIORITY AXIS "3. Multimodal Sustainable Transport System"

-TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET € 17.250.000



👍 17

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Interreg Greece Italy

1,380 Tweets

Follow

RegionePuglia and 9 others



3

7



Interreg Greece Italy @Interreggr_it · 18 Mar

Patra 18- 19 March @auth_olivenet Events

🌿 The bioactive ingredients of olive oil 🌿

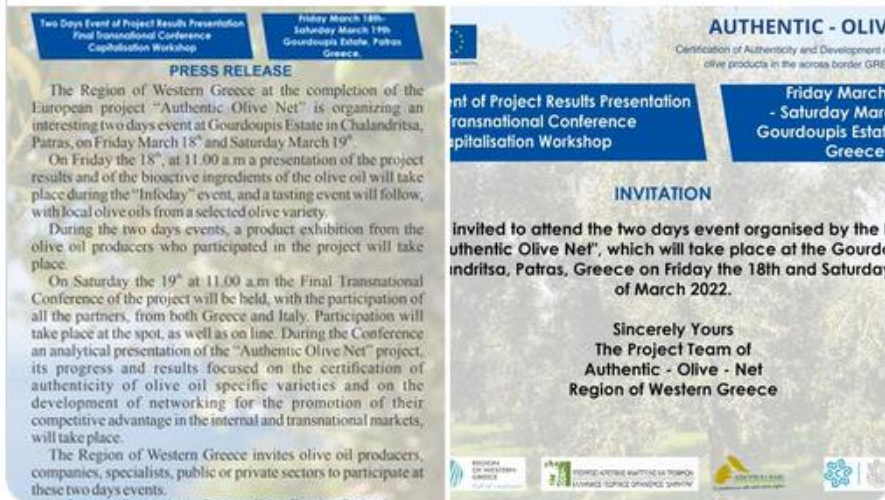
@pde_rwg @upatras @patrasmunicipal @EuropeDirectPDE @EEAthina

Interreg Authentic Olive Net @auth_olivenet · 18 Mar

Region of Western Greece is organizing two days event in Patra on Friday March 18 and Saturday March 19

interreg-authentic-olive-net.eu

#AUTHENTICOLIVENET #InterregGrit #EUproject



1

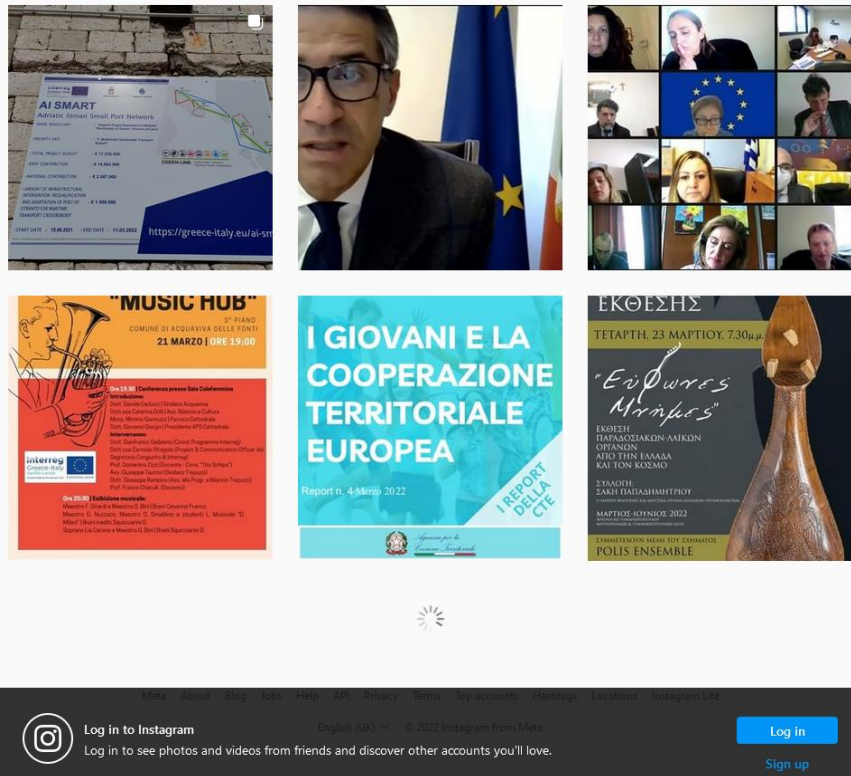
1



Interreg Greece Italy @Interreggr_it · 15 Mar

🎯 Focus on European Territorial Cooperation projects for the promotion of

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.



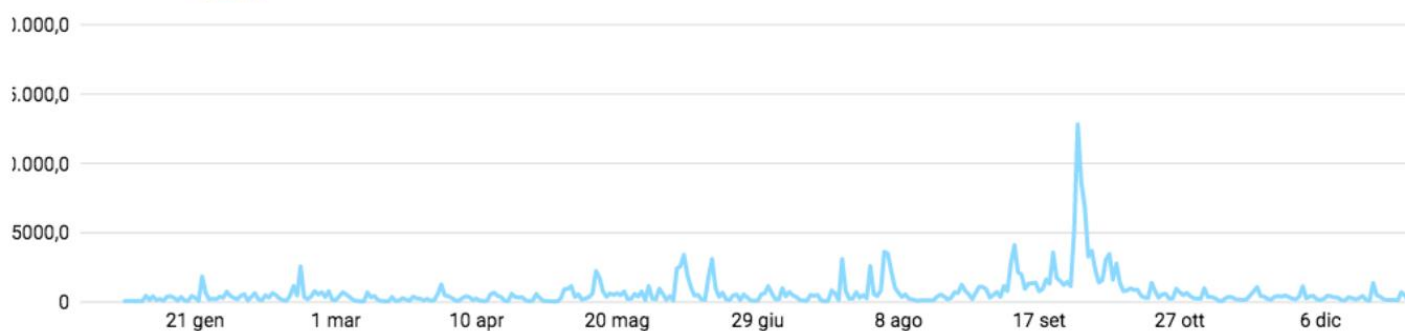
The promotion of the programme and projects' activities through the website and the social media presence of the programme, is relatively good and frequently updated.

Graphs of the social media pages for the year 2020

Risultati

Copertura della Pagina Facebook

125.094 ↑ **344,8%**



Copertura di Instagram

556 ↑ **25,5%**



Twitter views for the years 2018 – 2020 as follows¹²².

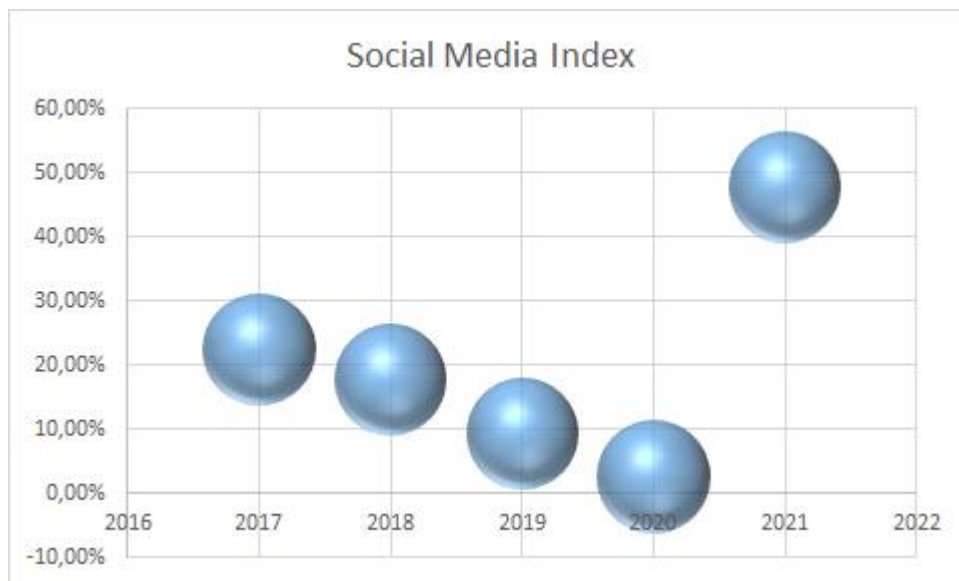
Year	2018	2019	2020
Views	241.300	321.000	190.531

¹²² Source: Annual Communication Plan 2021 – 2022 of the Cooperation Programme.

In total, at the end of the year 2021, there were over 200 posts in Instagram, over 350 posts in facebook (with near 200 photographs) and over 1300 tweets in twitter¹²³.

Since March 2017 that started, until December 2021, there were on average 6 posts per month in facebook, 23 tweets in twitter and 4 posts in instagram¹²⁴ (including the year 2020, where the social media presence was limited due to the restrict measures for the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic that led to limited publicity activities in general).

Below is provided a graph for the effect of social media of the Programme.



¹²³ As posts were counted until 31.12.2021.

¹²⁴ As posts were counted until 31.12.2021.

However, the presence in social media was not regular with higher rates in the first years and lower in the years 2019 – 2020¹²⁵, while in 2021 there was boost of near double amount of information posted. There 's an explanation as in the year 2021 many projects were in full implementation and therefore more posts of the Programme were published. Although the social media are constantly updated, it is suggested to use them with sufficient regularity in order also to keep the posts in high ranking.

The facebook page of the programme has 3.500 followers, the twitter has 1250 followers and instagram 840 followers, significant figures meaning that the messages and information are widely spread.

Social media is consideres as a very useful tool to add value in the communication of the Cooperation Programme and the projects.

The phrase “INTERREG Greece - Italy” is found in Google search over 6400 times; in Bing search over 4800 times; and in Yandex search over 4000 times¹²⁶.

Effectiveness of the communication actions

As in the heart of the programme implementation, most of the projects faced a new communication reality, many activities were performed online instead of actions with physical presence, during the lockdown periods and the periods with the restriction measures for the prevention of spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic).

The programme activities were performed with respect to the differences and no discrimination (sex, sexual orientation, religion, disabilities, ethnic groups, etc.) and in compliance with the GDPR¹²⁷ rules.

¹²⁵ In 2020 the sudden revision of the working model affected also that part of activities, especially in the first months of the severe lockdown measures..

¹²⁶ Search engines assessed on 24 March 2022.

Communication Performance of the approved projects

The research of the presence of the approved projects led to the following findings:

For some projects it is difficult to identify events and meetings, meaning a gap in the implementation of their communication plan.

Some project websites were facing technical problems for few months¹²⁸, which contradicts the communication rules.

There's no database where data are collected for further analysis, such as meetings/events and respective stakeholders and participants in each one and for each and every project.

The project beneficiaries found that the communication activities of their projects and the activities of the programme, were very good¹²⁹.

421 meetings and events were found to be performed by project beneficiaries, with an estimated number of participants, being in total, more than 11.000¹³⁰.

¹²⁷ GDPR: General Data Protection Regulation.

¹²⁸ Three (3) projects mentioning their webpages which were not valid. E-PARKS, POLYSEMI, Ci-NOVATEC. They are currently in operation (<https://www.interregeparks.eu/>; <https://polysemi.di.ionio.gr/>; <https://interregcinovatec.eu/>).

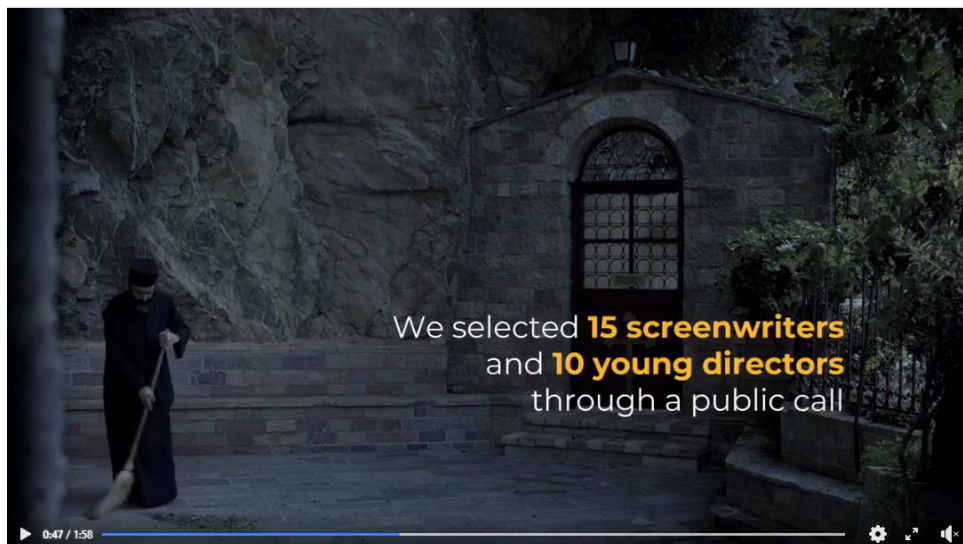
¹²⁹ According to the responses of the questionnaire that was distributed among project beneficiaries.

¹³⁰ The number of participants is estimated based on evidence such as photographs, videos, in some cases data from Project Reports and for those without good evidence, with a minimum estimation based on the number of events/meetings, partners and a minimum number per partner, being 3, thus the estimated figure of 11.000 is a conservative approach.

Indicative Communication Performance Highlights

The Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 won the Project Slam Social Media Award 2020 with the video of *Ciak project*, with over 3,760 likes and 21430 views on Facebook. A video that tells with simple phrases and breathtaking images the work done in almost two years of cooperative work focused on the promotion of Apulian and Greek territory through movie tourism. Young directors and screenwriters have written and filmed stories, characters and places that tell the common history of Puglia and Greece, which is intertwined over the centuries¹³¹.

Interreg Project Slam



¹³¹ October 1, 2020.

<https://greece-italy.eu/ciak-has-won-the-interreg-project-slam-social-media-award-2020/>



The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

The Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 won the Project Slam Competition 2021 and the Social Media Award for the second year¹³² with the video of the *Ofidia2 Project*, surpassing the 10 European finalists with 28% of the votes in favour expressed by the audience in the auditorium and broadcasted live on Facebook. The video, sharing the story of the *Ofida 2 project* – a fire detection and warning system – which supports fire fighters with data and analysis of the risk and severity of potential wildfires, received over 1,300 likes and 22000 views in the one-week campaign.



¹³² Ceremony on October 7, 2021.

<https://greece-italy.eu/interreg-greece-italy-wins-the-project-slam-competition-2021/>



Normunds Popens awards Carmela Sfregola Greece-Italy Communication Officer

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Budget allocated for Communication Services 2021 – 2023

The Cooperation Programme has allocated in total 369.000,00€, of which 67.000,00€ for the website and social media, 105.000,00€ for mass media, 45.000,00€ for promotional material, 10.000,00€ for videos and 142.000,00€ for events.

Conclusions

The Communication Strategy of the Programme, had to face the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly changed the way that communication and publicity activities were usually performed and the Programme and the Project beneficiaries had to adapt to the new situation.

Presence of the projects in social media with regular / near-regular posts is not the appropriate, leading to less followers and attracted visitors.

There's lack of a database identifying the target groups, their approach and type of approach (through a physical presence event, through an online event, through other means of communication), at project level and at programme level, in order to get good quality measurements of the communication performance.

Many project websites do not envision actions for promotion such as promoted through mass-attracted sites and social media etc. or do not update frequently and gain higher ranking in Search engines, while they do not secure also the minimum of five (5) presence after the completion of the project.

1. Lessons Learned

The Programme Communication Strategy is well structured but it should had been updated with the COVID-19 pandemic;

The Communication tools for beneficiaries, including the communication guide, was updated in 2018. It would be advised to be updated to incorporate tools and suggestions to beneficiaries for communication efficiently during the COVID-19 pandemic;

The communication plan of all projects, should include all key elements and its timeline to be followed and assessed regularly in every progress report;

The project beneficiaries should be guided for more intensive presence in the Internet and Social Media;

The projects should set specific indicators for their presence in social media and Internet, people reached, followers and other related indicators, checked through analytics tools;

The projects should ensure that their webpages would be online for at least five (5) after their lifetime, though their respective contracts with the ICT companies. In case their contract do not foresee that with advanced payment from their projects, then to be obliged to go for another contract through own funds, prior to closure of the project;

A monitoring tool for following up of the communication plan, would be preferred to be prepared for better assessment of the impact of the respective activities and also support decisions of measures of improvements;

A database model for target groups by the JS/MA is suggested to be prepared and all project beneficiaries to be obliged to complete that with the target groups and participants in events and from that tool to extract their relative reports and measure the achievement of the respective goals;

The option of preannouncement of the launch of forthcoming calls might improve the time that is available for potential beneficiaries to analyse the criteria of participation and prepare qualitative project proposals.

A3 – Assessment of the Impact of the Programme

The purpose of the impact assessment, is to examine to what extent the implementation of the programme as structured, affected the area of intervention. Furthermore, it could lead to more general socio-economic assumptions, should that be based on findings.

It is important to identify the actual progress in certain sectors in the area of intervention, addressed by the Programme, which are directly linked to the implementation of the Cooperation Programme, while any indirect impact should be also pointed out. While most of the changes that happen in the different sectors (environment; economy; public health; labour market; other) are not related only to one intervention, it is very important to be very precise, in order to support with the findings, decisions related to the preparation and selection on new interventions or improvement of ones that are still important for the Programme area¹³³.

The prioritisation of this part of the assessment is the protection of the environment and the prevention of risks, and to assess the impact of the Cooperation Programme interventions in the eligible area.

The first general approach, is that the Cooperation Programme has positive impact. This is justified by the fact that unlikely other Cooperation Programmes, it dedicated 57,01% of its approved projects' budget (80.065.600,00€) in targeted calls, with very specific objectives, based on common priorities in the area, including targeted calls (I8, I9) for the health

¹³³ The assessment of the impact in the area of intervention is a complicated procedure and increased risk of non-credible outcomes, as except of the many other factors affecting an area, there's always the issue of adequate data that would be possible to be directly linked to the indicators of the Programme in the eligible area.

sector during the COVID-19 pandemic¹³⁴. Furthermore, the Cooperation Programme was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, relatively early, with the preparation of a dedicated Call (I8 / 7th targeted in July 2020) and provisions for already ongoing projects. The first general approach is also justified with the example of the TRITON project, part of which was selected by the European Environment Agency (EEA)¹³⁵ to be one of the eleven selected interventions to be included in its annual report (March 2021) as one of the best Nature Based Solutions (NBS) in environmental issues.

The Programme is performing in the area of intervention and some of the main factors are:

- (i) the preparation and update of the Programme timely, with the selection of objectives based on real needs; and
- (ii) the beneficiaries who prepared their project proposals to confront actual problems in the area they operate. Therefore, the initially expected results, while being achieved or near to be achieved, are providing improvements in the local communities.

The analysis of the available data of the Programme intervention, will lead to assessment of the extend that the different factors contribute (or prevent) in gaining the optimum impact.

¹³⁴ The I8 call led to a health project (COOFHEA) with 3,4mil€ budget, signed in October 2020 and having performed payments of near 85% of it, within one year. The I9 call led to the second phase with a health project (COOFHEA2) with 12mil€ budget, however it cannot be assessed yet as the call was until the 15th of October 2021 and the SC was signed on the 18th of November 2021.

¹³⁵ EEA (2021). *Nature-based solutions in Europe: Policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction*. European Environment Agency: Luxembourg, pp142-143.

The official data used, are related to:

- (i) the progress monitoring of the implemented interventions and the comparison to the baseline values, enabling a clear approach to the progress and the achieved results;
- (ii) the indicators of the approved projects as reported in the latest progress reports (January 2022, referring to the period of implementation until 31st of December 2021);
- (iii) the outputs of the implemented interventions as reported in the latest progress reports;
- (iv) the interventions of the strategic (targeted) interventions;
- (v) the analysis of the general socio-economic environment of the Programme eligible area, through data retrieved by genuine sources¹³⁶.

A. Approach to the assessment of the selected Specific Objectives

The funds allocation of the approved projects per Specific Objective and the number of the projects falling in the respective Specific Objective, are as follows:

¹³⁶ ELSTAT (Greece), ISTAT (Italy), EUROSTAT (EU), etc..

SO ¹³⁷	Number of approved projects	Approved Budget	% of SO1.1 + SO1.2 + SO2.1 + SO2.2 + SO2.3 + SO3.1 + SO3.2
1.1	16	36.106.244,91€	25,71%
1.2	8	6.830.557,76€	4,86%
2.1	19	51.055.616,02€	36,35%
2.2	6	14.369.219,39€	10,23%
2.3	3	2.688.689,35€	1,91%

¹³⁷ SO1.1 “Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness”

SO1.2 “Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area”

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”

SO3.1 “Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity”

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

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

3.1	4	25.238.295,00€	17,97%
3.2	3	4.164.248,07€	2,96%
ALL	59	140.452.870,50€	100,00%

1. Not selected Specific Objectives

The SO1.1 is not selected for assessment as, although very important, it is related to expected impact in long term and practically could not identify actual changes, other than the related financial performance.

The SO1.2 is not selected because the impact of any related activities, although remains important for the small entrepreneurship, in general the actual performance effects are expected to be measured in longer term than the assessment and only the financial performance would be possible to be evaluated.

The SO3.1 is very important as it is linked to local development, however the implementation period of the approved projects was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and for the effects of the respective projects to be visible and distinctive, allowing the measurement of the added value, long period would be needed, thus it cannot be assessed ex-post properly.

2. Selected Specific Objectives

The selected specific objectives for the assessment of the impact of the programme in the intervention area, are:

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

The set of key questions to be answered in this section is as follows¹³⁸:

Specific Object 2.1 “Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area”

SO2.1	Question1 To what extent has the Cooperation Programme contributed to the improvement of the utilization of the cultural and natural heritage?
	<p>The SO2.1 is linked with the output indicators O0519 and CO09, and the result indicator R0503.</p> <p>The Cooperation Programme budgeted 51,055,616.02€ in this specific object, through 19 different projects¹³⁹, which attempt to improve the status of sustainable exploitation of cultural and natural heritage. The approved budget is 36,35% of the total approved</p>

¹³⁸ The answers to the questions are set per selected specific objective.

¹³⁹ 17 projects from the First Call for Ordinary projects, 1 project from Targeted Call 2 and 1 project from Targeted Call 3

amount (PA1, PA2, PA3) of the Cooperation Programme, and the approved projects count the 32.30% of the total number of approved interventions.

Until 31.12.2021, the reported payments of the interventions in SO2.1, were 14.694.840,21€ (28,78%) and the Verified Expenditures were 12.008.619,12€ (23,52%) of the approved budget of the interventions¹⁴⁰. The underspending of SO2.1 is considerable, especially when taking into consideration that 13 projects had signed the subsidy contract before 2019 and the latest subsidy contract was signed in September 2019.

The output indicator O0519 “Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage” at the level of the Cooperation Programme was set at the target value of 20 (2023), while the approved projects had a consolidated target value of 185 and by the 31.12.2021 had reported the achievement of 177, which is the 885,00% of the target value of the Cooperation Programme and the 95,66% of the reported target values of the approved interventions and 13 out of 19 projects were contributing to this indicator (68,42%).

The output indicator CO09 “Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions” at programme level was set at the target value of 20 thousands (2023), while the approved projects had a consolidated target value of 100,02 thousands and by the 31.12.2021 had reported the achievement of 101,00 thousands, which is the 505,00% of the target value of the Cooperation Programme and the 100,99% of the reported target values of the approved interventions and 1 out of 19 projects was contributing to this indicator (5,26%).

¹⁴⁰ 80,84% of the paid expenditures were certified.

The 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” at programme level was set at the target value of increase (2023), with baseline value of 65%. The approved projects had substantially diversified approach (contributing from 6% to 100%). From the reported figures it is not clearly found what the progress is, because of non-clearly clarified measuring methodology of each project. By 31.12.2021, 14 out of 19 projects were contributing to this indicator (73,68%), of which, three (3) surpassed their target value, ten (10) reached it or were near that, one was below 40% of its target value and five (5) did not report achievement¹⁴¹.

Thus, the contribution of the Cooperation Programme in the area, was significant by 31.12.2021, but has the potential to improve further at the final stage of implementation of the interventions.

Some explanations for the degree of significance of the impact are directly related to the fact that the area for the years 2020, 2021, which were the prime years of project implementation for all 19 approved interventions, were years of restriction measures against COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the area.

Question2 What change can be observed in the tourism sector?

The approved projects focus in utilizing or updating or bringing into the *tourism map* new routes and destinations, based on assessment and prioritisation of the comparative development assets in the intervention area. That included also the approach to special markets

¹⁴¹ As these projects are in progress, reported indicators are expected to be declared in the next period.

(e.g. silver tourism or trekking, etc.).

According to INSETE¹⁴² (2021), the overnight stays in the eligible area in Greece, increased from 2013 to 2019, by 53,43%¹⁴³. However there's a high difference between regions, with the Region of Ionian Islands having the large portion of tourism (between 75% -79% of the total tourism in the eligible area).

In the Region of Puglia, according to ISTAT¹⁴⁴, the overnight stays increased between 2013 and 2019, by 15,59%¹⁴⁵.

It is clearly viewed that tourism has increased significantly until 2019¹⁴⁶.

The main difference between the two eligible areas is that the vast majority of tourists in the Greek eligible side are from abroad (approximately 73%), while in Italy (Puglia) they are from the same country (approximately 80%).

¹⁴² Institute of SETE (Greek Tourism Confederation).

¹⁴³ 2014: +4,21% as per the previous year; 2015: +5,51% as per the previous year; 2016: +7,90% as per the previous year; 2017: +8,30% as per the previous year; 2018: +26,45% as per the previous year; 2019: +0,33% as per the previous year. In year 2020 with the severe lockdown and other measures for the prevention of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), the figures were reduced by 71,26%, compared to the previous year.

¹⁴⁴ The official Statistics Entity of Italy.

¹⁴⁵ 2014: -0,64% as per the previous year; 2015: +1,90% as per the previous year; 2016: +6,73% as per the previous year; 2017: +5,23% as per the previous year; 2018: +0,04% as per the previous year; 2019: +1,61% as per the previous year. In year 2020 with the severe lockdown and other measures for the prevention of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), the figures were reduced by 34,38%, compared to the previous year.

¹⁴⁶ The data for 2020 with the severe measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, are not appropriate for suitable comparisons.

	<p>The interventions of the Cooperation Programme, reported the contribution the increase of visits due to their activities, by 101.000, which refers to 2,68% of the total increase of visits¹⁴⁷. That is a substantial contribution, taking into consideration that practically only one project contributed to that indicator, and also the fact that the budget of the Cooperation Programme is a small fraction of the GDP¹⁴⁸ of the eligible area (appr. 0.12% of the GDP of the eligible area¹⁴⁹).</p>
	<p>Question3 What are the factors that facilitate this contribution? Are there any unexpected results of the Cooperation Programme in this area?</p>
	<p>The main factor is the involvement of people of the areas of intervention and the beneficiaries. Their involvement for activities and development in the area where they live and create is the boost to include more stakeholders, end users, promoters, etc.</p> <p>According to The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019¹⁵⁰, Greece is in position 25 (score 4.5) and Italy in position 8 (score 5.1),</p>



















¹⁴⁷ The calculated increase of visits in the eligible area in Greece is 1.404.256 (6.319.153 nights) (2013 to 2019) and 2.360.250 (9.441.000 nights) (2014 to 2019), with an average calculated number on nights per visit 4,5 for Greece and 4 for Italy (INSETE and ISTAT with data analysed by the authors).

¹⁴⁸ GDP: Gross Domestic Product.

¹⁴⁹ The programme expenditure divided by the GDP in the eligible area (ISTAT, ELSTAT).

¹⁵⁰ <https://reports.weforum.org/travel-and-tourism-competitiveness-report-2019/rankings>
 This index combines a series of factors, such as the general environment (entrepreneurship, security, public health, human resources, ICT), tourism policies (priorities in tourism and transportation, pricing, environmental sustainability), infrastructure (airport facilities, land and

both with increase trend, out of 140 countries. The ranking is significantly higher than the average, for both countries.

i	7	Australia	5.1		
i	8	Italy	5.1		
i	9	Canada	5.1		
i	10	Switzerland	5.0		
i	11	Austria	5.0		
.....					
i	24	Belgium	4.5		
i	25	Greece	4.5		
i	26	Ireland	4.5		
i	27	Croatia	4.5		

According to the same report, Europe remains the most competitive destination worldwide and includes some of the most precious cultural resources.

The best performance in Greece is in Public Health (6.5 ↓)¹⁵¹, Prioritisation of Travel and Tourism (5.6 ↑)¹⁵², Safety and Security

port facilities for transportation, tourism facilities), and natural and cultural resources (natural resources, cultural resources, and resources for business travelling).

¹⁵¹ With lowering from the previous ranking (13 from 11) in this sub-category.

¹⁵² With improvement from the previous ranking (13 from 15) in this sub-category.

(5.6 ↓)¹⁵³ and the worst in Cultural Resources and Business Travel (3.3 ↑)¹⁵⁴, Natural Resources (3.5 ↓)¹⁵⁵.

The best performance in Italy is Public Health (6.5 ↑)¹⁵⁶, Safety and Security (5.5 ↑)¹⁵⁷, ICT Readiness (5.5 ↓)¹⁵⁸ and the worst in International Openess (4.1 →)¹⁵⁹, Environmental sustainability (4.3 ↓)¹⁶⁰, Price competitiveness (4.4 ↓)¹⁶¹.

Another important factor is the joint development of management and support tools, which the beneficiaries of the approved projects consider of great importance (the indicator O0519 had a target value (Dec'23) of 20 while the approved projects have a target of 185 and achieved already 885,00% of the programme target).

The valorization of cultural and nature assets through innovation initiatives and ICT tools, is another factor that causes positive impact in the intervention area.

¹⁵³ With lowering from the previous ranking (61 from 53) in this sub-category.

¹⁵⁴ With improvement from the previous ranking (21 from 27) in this sub-category.

¹⁵⁵ With lowering from the previous ranking (45 from 32) in this sub-category.

¹⁵⁶ With improvement from the previous ranking (25 from 30) in this sub-category.

¹⁵⁷ With improvement from the previous ranking (69 from 70) in this sub-category.

¹⁵⁸ With lowering from the previous ranking (41 from 37) in this sub-category.

¹⁵⁹ Same position with the previous ranking (29) in this sub-category.

¹⁶⁰ With lowering from the previous ranking (64 from 37) in this sub-category.

¹⁶¹ With lowering from the previous ranking (129 from 124) in this sub-category.

Specific Object 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”

<p>SO2.2</p>	<p>Question1 To what extent has the Cooperation Programme contributed to the improvement of joint management and governance plans for the biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems?</p>
	<p>The SO2.2 is linked with the output indicators CO09 (1 project)¹⁶², the O0520 (6 projects) and the result indicator R0504.</p> <p>The Cooperation Programme budgeted 14,369,219.39€ in this specific object, through 6 different projects¹⁶³, which attempt to improve joint management and governance plans for the biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems. The approved budget is 10,23% of the total approved amount of the Cooperation Programme, the approved projects count the 10.17% of the total number of approved projects.</p> <p>It worth to mention that a project in SO2.2 (TRITON) was selected by the European Environment Agency (EEA) as one of the 11 best Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for environment issues (published in the EEA annual report on March 2021).</p> <p>Until 31.12.2021, the reported payments of the interventions in SO2.2, were 2.873.290,69€ (20,00%) and the Verified Expenditures were</p>

¹⁶² One project addresses both output indicators.

¹⁶³ 4 projects from the First Call for Ordinary projects, 1 project from Targeted Call 4 and 1 project from Targeted Call 7

3.509.091,34€ (24,42%) of the approved budget of the interventions. The underspending of SO2.2 is considerable, especially when taking into consideration that 50% of the projects have ended. However, two projects (from the targeted calls 4 and 7), counting 68,76% of the SO2.2 total amount, end in June and October 2023.

The output indicator O0520 “Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection” at Cooperation Programme level was set at the target value of 10 (2023), while the approved projects had a consolidated target value of 20 and by the 31.12.2021 had reported the achievement of 4 (by 2 out of 6 projects), which is the 40,00% of the target value of the Cooperation Programme and only the 20,00% of the reported target values of the approved interventions. However, the two projects from targeted calls 4 and 7, count together the number of 10 (out of 12 at programme level).

The output indicator CO09 “Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions” is referred by error for one project in SO2.2, therefore it is not taken into consideration.

The result indicator R0504 “Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions” at programme level was set at the target value of 46000 Km² (2023), with baseline value of 42401 Km² (2013), a targeted increase of 3599 Km² or 8,49%. The approved projects had substantially diversified approach (contributing from 900 Km² to 44.300 Km²), with a total 76.157,45 Km². From the reported figures, one project (completed) reached 900 Km², which counts the 25,00% of the programme targeted value and 1,18% of the total target value of the approved projects.

Thus, the contribution of the Cooperation Programme in the area, was not significant by 31.12.2021, but has the potential to improve that at the final stage of implementation of the interventions.

Some explanations of the insignificant impact are directly related to

	<p>the fact that the 2 strategic projects (from Targeted Calls 4 and 7) and one project from the Call 1 are in full implementation in the years 2022 and 2023 and they count near 75% of the SO2.2 budget and 88,03% of the target value of the result indicator R0504 of the approved projects.</p>
	<p>Question2 To what extent has the Cooperation Programme contributed to the improvement of the management of natural resources and protected areas and to the development of environmental protection measures?</p>
	<p>The approved projects focus on biodiversity and environment protection. 2 out of the 6 approved interventions in this SO (AETHER and BEST), are targeted¹⁶⁴, based on the prioritization of the Cooperation Programme, covering almost the 69% of the total SO projects' allocation budget. One more project is in progress (SUSWATER) and 3 projects (ERMIS, OFIDIA2, TRITON) have been completed.</p> <p>The reported contribution in the result indicator R0504 "Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions" is received only from one completed project (TRITON), which achieved its target value (900Km2), while more information is expected to be collected in the next reporting period, from the other projects. The vast contribution in the area of intervention is expected by the 2 targeted projects (AETHER and BEST) and the ongoing project (SUSWATER), covering more than 88% of the total target value of the interventions in</p>

¹⁶⁴ AETHER: Call 7 (targeted 6) and BEST: Call 4 (targeted 4) respectively

	<p>this SO.</p> <p>The TRITON project, was selected by the European Environment Agency (EEA)¹⁶⁵ to be one of the eleven selected interventions to be included in its annual report (March 2021) as one of the best Nature Based Solutions (NBS) in environmental issues, thus there's some significant intervention, with results to be further developed for the sustainability of the biodiversity ecosystem, and the environment of the intervention area. The project provided for free of charge use, ICT tools for management and timely monitoring of important environment and ecosystem parameters. The project contributed to the result indicator R0504 at 25% of the target value at programme level.</p> <p>Thus, until 31 December 2021, the Cooperation Programme in general hadn't contributed significantly in the eligible area in the framework of the SO 2.2.</p>
	<p>Question3 What change can be observed in the field of environmental management?</p>
	<p>Improved tools for environmental-friendly solutions to existing problems (like the coastal erosion and its effects on biodiversity, the ecosystem of the lagoons and the protected areas); the use of sophisticated tools to prevent wild fires or mitigate their consequences; the common governance strategy by eligible Regions</p>

¹⁶⁵ EEA (2021). *Nature-based solutions in Europe: Policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction*. European Environment Agency: Luxembourg, pp142-143.

(and policy instrument owners) of the Programme.

The area has 6 Ramsar protected wetlands¹⁶⁶, 3 in each country: (i) Amvrakikos gulf in Epirus; (ii) Kotychi lagoons and (iii) Messolonghi lagoons in Western Greece; (iv) Le Cesine; (v) Saline di Margherita di Savoia; and (vi) Torre Guaceto in Puglia.

In the National Catalogue of the Natura 2000 Network in Greece, there are 34 sites includes in Western Greece; 31 in Epirus and 19 in the Ionian Islands 19 sites¹⁶⁷, while in Puglia there are 87 sites¹⁶⁸.

Despite the large number of the protected sites in the eligible area, there are no transboundary ecosystems.

The Sea Environment is relatively good in the intervention area as proven also by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in its 2021 report about the bathing waters, with 97,1% (↑, in 2019 it was 95,7%) in Greece¹⁶⁹ and 88,6% (↑, in 2019 it was 88,4%) in Italy¹⁷⁰, but needs further actions

The change that can be observed in the intervention area, is linked

¹⁶⁶ Ramsar Sites Information Service. Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance in Greece; and
Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance in Italy.

¹⁶⁷ Regional Operational Programmes of Western Greece, Epirus, and Ionian Islands

¹⁶⁸ Puglia.con, La Rete Natura 2000. <https://pugliacon.regione.puglia.it/web/sit-puglia-paesaggio/rete-natura-2000>

¹⁶⁹ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/state-of-bathing-water/country-reports-2020-bathing-season/greek-bathing-water-quality-in-2020/view>

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/state-of-bathing-water/country-reports-2020-bathing-season/italian-bathing-water-quality-in-2020/view>

	<p>directly to the four (4) reported monitoring tools, produced and in use by two projects, OFIDIA2 and TRITON, for monitoring and prevention of fires (and consecutively protecting the biodiversity) and monitoring the changes in the coastal ecosystems, respectively. Two (2) tools by each project.</p>
	<p>Question4 What are the factors that facilitate this contribution? Are there any unexpected results of the Cooperation Programme in this area?</p>
	<p>A key factor is the cooperation of decision makers and policy instrument owners for exchange of good practices but more significantly for preparing joint or common tools to mitigate consequences of natural or technological processes, on the biodiversity and the environment.</p> <p>It was proven through the implementation of the interventions of the Cooperation Programme in this SO, that the cooperation of the scientific community with the decision makers and the services and other stakeholders is, of critical importance, as the scientific knowledge, the training by servants and other professionals on the use of produced sophisticated monitoring tools, the sensitization of the general population and their involvement, can guarantee the sustainability of the interventions and the evolution through next initiatives.</p>

Specific Object 2.3 “Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution”

<p>SO2.3</p>	<p>Question1 To what extent has the Cooperation Programme contributed to the improvement of innovative technologies / tools for the reduction of marine and air pollution?</p>
	<p>The SO2.3 is linked with the output indicator O0521 and the result indicator R0505.</p> <p>Although the Cooperation Programme dedicates limited resources for this specific objective (3) projects¹⁷¹ out of 59 with 2.688.689,35€ (near 2% of the total budget of the Cooperation Programme), it performs improvements in innovative technologies for management of wastewater disposal; the sensitization to reduce the plastics with sophisticated management and experimental prototypes for collecting waste from the coast; or the efficient management of irrigation systems, including minimization of pollution from fertilisers, with state of art managements systems. The approved budget is 1,91% of the total approved amount of the Cooperation Programme, and the approved projects count the 5.08% of the total number of approved interventions.</p> <p>Until 31.12.2021, the reported payments of the interventions in SO2.3, were 1.902.476,33€ (70,76%) and the Verified Expenditures were 1.552.521,31€ (57,74%) of the approved budget of the interventions¹⁷². The interventions ended in 2021, which allows better conclusions about their contribution in the achievement of the objectives of the Cooperation Programme.</p>

¹⁷¹ All from the First Call or Ordinary projects

¹⁷² 81,61% of the paid expenditures were certified.

The output indicator O0521 “Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies” at programme level was set at the target value of 12 (2023), while the approved projects had a consolidated target value of 11 and by the 31.12.2021 had reported the achievement of 11, which is the 91,67% of the target value of the Cooperation Programme and the 100,00% of the reported target values of the approved interventions, with all projects achieving their goal. The use of the tools for monitoring by the stakeholders and daily awareness of the decision makers and owners of policy instruments and precious interventions.

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” at programme level was set at the target value of increase (2023), with baseline value of 63%. The approved projects had substantially diversified approach (contributing from 10% to 100%). From the reported figures (31.12.2021) it is shown that all 3 projects contributed to the indicator (from 10%, 100% and 50%), achieving the goal at programme level.

Thus, the contribution of the Cooperation Programme in the area in the improvement of innovative technologies / tools for the reduction of marine and air pollution, was significant by 31.12.2021.

Question2 What change can be observed in the field of marine and air pollution?

Improvement in water management and reduction of plastics on the coast and limitation of the wastewater pollution at the coast and the sea.

According to the European Environment Agency, the economic damages from extreme weather events in the participating countries, are as follows (80's/90'/00'/10'):

Greece: 7,7bilEUR (728EUR per capita) and 2550 fatalities;

Italy: 72,5bilEUR (1254EUR per capita) and 20735 fatalities.

The Sea Environment is relatively good in the intervention area as proven also by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in its 2021 report about the bathing waters, with 97,1% (in 2019 it was 95,7%) in Greece¹⁷³ and 88,6% (in 2019 it was 88,4%) in Italy¹⁷⁴, but needs further actions.

There's a considerable number of events with the prime involvement of the communities on marine litter, mainly in Italy as shown below (EEA¹⁷⁵) (2014 – 2021).

¹⁷³ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/state-of-bathing-water/country-reports-2020-bathing-season/greek-bathing-water-quality-in-2020/view>

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/state-of-bathing-water/country-reports-2020-bathing-season/italian-bathing-water-quality-in-2020/view>

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/marine-litterwatch/data-and-results/marine-litterwatch-data-viewer>



Beach details

None, None, None



The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

The air pollution evolution in Greece and Italy are as follows ¹⁷⁶ :					
GREECE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BaP annual mean			0,0		
NO2 annual mean	2,9	2,3	2,6	3,2	1,9
O3 percentile 93,15	95,5	78,7	96,0	95,0	94,2
PM2.5 annual mean	0,0	0,00,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
PM10 annual mean	2,6	2,6	0,0	0,0	1,8
PM10 Percentile 90,41	4,9	26,0	19,6	4,5	4,4

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/greece>; and
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets/2021-country-fact-sheets/italy>

ITALY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BaP annual mean	8,0	6,0	6,8	1,1	2,6
NO2 annual mean	27,4	23,0	23,6	7,3	12,5
O3 percentile 93,15	77,3	46,0	67,6	59,1	59,3
PM2.5 annual mean	27,1	0,0	5,2	2,2	2,9
PM10 annual mean	20,3	0,0	5,2	0,0	2,9

PM10 Percentile 90,41	64,1	38,1	47,8	33,3	39,2
<p>According to EEA¹⁷⁷, the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) — a pollutant mainly emitted by road transport — have decreased in many European cities where lockdown measures have been implemented.</p> <p>The implemented projects (IR2MA; RECORD; RE-WATER) cover the issues related to water and marine but the air pollution was not addressed, which is a flaw in the programme implementation.</p> <p>The 11 tools created through the programme interventions and being in use, provide a significant set of tools for the topic, while the improvement of the level of capacity of the stakeholders (increase) is currently an asset for the intervention area.</p> <p>The use of the tools for monitoring by the stakeholders and daily awareness of the decision makers and owners of policy instruments are also important interventions that contribute in dealing with the marine and air pollution.</p>					
<p>Question3 What are the factors that facilitate this contribution? Are there any unexpected results of the Cooperation Programme in this area?</p>					
<p>The key factor is the sensitization and the participation of the locals, those who live in the area of application. Also the exchange of good practices, the training of end users in facilitating the new and</p>					

¹⁷⁷ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/air-quality-and-covid19>

	<p>sophisticated tools that are produced..</p> <p>A key factor for the contribution in the change in the area of intervention, is the cooperation and the linkage between the local and regional authorities (decision makers and policy instrument owners) with the knowledge carriers (Universities, Research Institutes, etc.).</p> <p>Currently, no findings were linked to unexpected results.</p>
--	---

Specific Object 3.2 “Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions”

SO 3.2	<p>Question1 To what extent has the Cooperation Programme contributed to the improvement of cross-border coordination between transport operators regarding the introduction of multimodal environmentally friendly solutions?</p>
	<p>The SO3.2 is linked with the output indicator O0524 and the result indicator R0507.</p> <p>The Cooperation Programme dedicates limited resources for this specific objective, to three (3) projects¹⁷⁸ out of 59, with 4.164.248,07€ (2,96% of the total budget of the Cooperation Programme) which intends to support and improve the introduction of multimodal solutions that are environmentally-friendly. The approved projects count the 5.08% of the total number of approved interventions.</p>

¹⁷⁸ All from the First Call or Ordinary projects.

Until 31.12.2021, the reported payments of the interventions in SO3.2, were 1.954.499,71€ (46,94%) and the Verified Expenditures were 3.030.999,67€ (72,79%) of the approved budget of the interventions. The underspending of SO3.2 is considerable, especially when taking into consideration that 2 projects have been reported as completed almost 12 months before this report. However, the ongoing project (FRESH WAYS) has the biggest budget, counting the 62,48% of the total SO budget.

The output indicator O0524 “Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport” at programme level was set at the target value of 5 (2023), while the approved projects had a consolidated target value of 7 and by the 31.12.2021 had reported the achievement of 11, which is the 220,00% of the target value of the Cooperation Programme and the 157,14% of the reported target values of the approved interventions, with all 3 interventions contributing to the indicator.

The result indicator R0507 “Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)” at programme level was set at the target value of decrease (2023) to 88.000 tons, with baseline value of 88.532 tons (2011) [-532 tons]. The projects INVESTMENT and TRUST do not measure the result indicator. The ongoing project FRESH WAYS reported that by end of 31.12.2021, the achievement was 10,33 tons which counts the 3,10% of the target value of the approved projects and 1,94% of the goal at programme level.

The two projects (INVESTMENT and TRUST) ending on 31.12.2021, had not identified Results indicator, only output. They jointly with the ongoing project (FRESH WAYS) achieved 11 outputs, with their target goal being 12 and the target value of the Cooperation Programme being 5 (achievement of 220%).

Based on the findings, and the fact that transnational cooperation entities that were supported to cooperate, were significantly above the target value at programme level, it is concluded that the Cooperation

	Programme contributed significantly to the improvement of cross-border coordination between transport operators regarding the introduction of multimodal environmentally friendly solutions.																																																
	Question2 What change can be observed in the field of multimodal environmentally friendly solutions?																																																
	<p>According to the statistics¹⁷⁹, until 2016, the marine passengers were reduced (in total from 11827 thousands in 2013, to 10596 thousands in 2016) and until 2015, freight was reduced (in total from 45059 thousand tonnes in 2013, to 40669 thousand tonnes in 2015). Then the number of maritime passengers increased slightly until 2018 (to 12845 thousands) and the freight increased until 2019 (to 45431 thousand tonnes).</p> <p>Air freight is reported only for Puglia at 2 thousand tonnes / annum, but 3 thousand tonnes in 2020.</p> <p>Air passengers were increasing constantly from 2016 to 2019 (in 2020 there the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe restriction measures reduced significantly the travelling).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Maritime Freight ('000 tonnes)</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Epirus</td> <td>2525</td> <td>2740</td> <td>2952</td> <td>3113</td> <td>3160</td> <td>3549</td> <td>3725</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ionian</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western Greece</td> <td>4850</td> <td>5036</td> <td>4862</td> <td>5790</td> <td>5286</td> <td>5736</td> <td>5985</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Puglia</td> <td>37684</td> <td>35627</td> <td>32855</td> <td>35002</td> <td>34804</td> <td>34596</td> <td>35721</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>45059</td> <td>43403</td> <td>40669</td> <td>43905</td> <td>43250</td> <td>43881</td> <td>45431</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Maritime Freight ('000 tonnes)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Epirus	2525	2740	2952	3113	3160	3549	3725	Ionian	0	0		0	0	0	0	Western Greece	4850	5036	4862	5790	5286	5736	5985	Puglia	37684	35627	32855	35002	34804	34596	35721	TOTAL	45059	43403	40669	43905	43250	43881	45431
Maritime Freight ('000 tonnes)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019																																										
Epirus	2525	2740	2952	3113	3160	3549	3725																																										
Ionian	0	0		0	0	0	0																																										
Western Greece	4850	5036	4862	5790	5286	5736	5985																																										
Puglia	37684	35627	32855	35002	34804	34596	35721																																										
TOTAL	45059	43403	40669	43905	43250	43881	45431																																										

¹⁷⁹ EUROSTAT (2021).

Air Freight (‘000 tonnes)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Epirus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ionian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puglia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
TOTAL	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3

Maritime Passengers (‘000)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Epirus	2471	2544	2532	2452	2696	2835	2717
Ionian	3341	3616	3418	3530	4088	4538	4442
Western Greece	4200	3742	3723	3388	3444	3546	3507
Puglia	1815	1739	1607	1226	1657	1926	
TOTAL	11827	11641	11280	10596	11885	12845	10666

Air Passengers (‘000)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Epirus	97	96	109	133	37
Ionian	4738	5184	5618	5560	1621
Western Greece	612	717	740	764	203
Puglia	6628	6984	7559	8294	2736
TOTAL	12075	12981	14026	14751	4597

The air travelling passengers were increasing by 2019, mainly due to the airports in the Ionian islands and the Region of Puglia, while in the Region of Western Greece and the Region of Epirus, the air travelling is lower.

Especially for the COVID-19 pandemic, all airports took measures as quickly as possible to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

	<p>Another important point, is the cruise sector, involved in social, environment and economic aspects. In Greece, by 2019, according to INSETE (2020), the Regions of Western Greece and Epirus were affected negatively, while Puglia Region, as presented in statista.com (2021), was in better position.</p> <p>The preparation and use of sophisticated mobile app¹⁸⁰ to assist passengers minimize waiting hours for public transport is another pure change.</p>
	<p>Question3 What are the factors that facilitate this contribution? Are there any unexpected results of the Cooperation Programme in this area?</p>
	<p>The main challenge is to optimize transportation to minimize emissions and eliminate the waiting times.</p> <p>The key factor is the cooperation of the different actors in the public transportation sector and the use of sophisticated ICT for the multimodal transportation, with the customer (passenger) moving with ease.</p>

B. The views of the beneficiaries

According to the feedback of the beneficiaries, there's a direct positive impact in the local communities, which wouldn't be possible to be identified without the implementation of the specific projects.

¹⁸⁰ Project INVESTMENT

The science community has in general as clear view on how to approach the related issues which is not the same with the view of the decision makers. For the first it is crucial to have genuine data, live and test and improve their proposed solutions, while for the second it is crucial to apply as quickly as possible viewable results.

For all, the scientific community, the decision makers, and other entities being engaged in the projects' implementations (stakeholders), it is important to continue this cross border cooperation.

Conclusions based on the findings

The analysis of the updated data, shows that the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 has achieved significant progress. Especially PA1 is in better pace than the other priority axes and also SO1.2 and SO2.3 have significant progress (around 70%). Based on the experience in ETCP projects' implementation, the state of play of the project progress is in good pace.

Some delays that are viewed in the progress tables of the projects, can be justified because of the relatively big budget, the fact that some tenders last longer than others¹⁸¹. That causes pressure in the implementation as the actual time of implementation is limited significantly below the duration of the projects.

In general, it is estimated that the Cooperation Programme will manage to achieve all its goals and objectives, by the end of the programming period.

The Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020 was adjusted to incorporate actions in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. For that, new indicators were prepared, reallocation of the budget,

¹⁸¹ Particularly this is the case for public bodies

new targeted calls and contracting of grants. The reaction of the Managing Authority (decision for modification of the Cooperation Programme and preparation of the related work) is estimated as very efficient¹⁸². That adjustment with the additional output indicators, remains timely.

A. Lessons Learnt

The authorities should be in position for quick response to major crisis, as it happened within this Cooperation Programme.

Furthermore, the partners should adopt easier and faster new or revised / updated methodologies and new tools of communication and operation. The use of social media and online tools could mitigate any difficulties, while it could bring also new audience which would be not possible to be reached through the classical forms of communication, due to distances, etc.

Projects with infrastructure and works need more time to be implemented and this would be preferred to be considered from the beginning, as otherwise the entities are required to work on a short time period which becomes also part of any sub-contracting. For certain cases, possibly the duration of the project would be longer from the start of the respective projects.

Project webpages should be paid to remain valid for a minimum of five (5) years after the completion of each project, preferably five (5) after the end of the programming period, to avoid expiration.

The projects sometimes get into the condition to lose some of their initial energy and enthusiasm, somewhere in the middle of the implementation period and then they need a boost. Thus, probably an intermediate control would be a good boosting tool.

¹⁸² after March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic was widely spread and the most severe lockdown was in place, with work from distance being a new situation, a targeted call was prepared and announced and also the revision of the Cooperation Programme.

Events and meetings of the projects should be reported in a way that will be unified and in a database with respect to the GDPR rules¹⁸³, in order to allow the public and the researchers to find reliable data for participants and stakeholders.

Regarding the stakeholders, it is important to record them and in connection with the activities of interest and distinguish them from the participants.

As the public procurements take long time to be prepared and the respective contracts be granted, in combination with the fact that they need approved projects (i.e. signed subsidy contracts), there should be a flexible option to allow procedures¹⁸⁴ to start after the approval date and before the subsidy contract is signed, in order to save implementation time.

The Cooperation Programme may add timeline for the achievement of the target values of the addressed indicators, with intermediate assessment, however, such approach should be decided case per case.

During the evaluation of the proposals and before signing of the subsidy contracts, the target values of the indicators proposed by the beneficiaries, should be well justified to avoid problems in achieving them. Especially for the result indicators, when they refer to percentage at programme level, the measurement method per project should be clearly stated, in order to allow more accurate assessments.

B. Lessons Learnt per Specific Objective

Below are presented specific lessons learnt per specific objective¹⁸⁵.

¹⁸³ GDPR: General Data Protection Regulation.

¹⁸⁴ e.g. announcement of public procurements, pre-announcements, etc.

¹⁸⁵ A following chapter includes cumulative lessons learnt.

SO1.1 “Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness”

- Based on the contents and nature of the activities of the approved projects, it would be useful to recalculate the initial duration, before signing of the subsidy contract;
- Many of the goals of the performance framework being achieved; the pending goals, including the ones with the very little progress, can be covered until the end of the programming period (31.12.2023), subject to speeding the actions of the approved projects which are in delay¹⁸⁶;
- The available budget is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The programme was properly adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the confrontation of the disease and created I8 and I9 targeted calls related to the health sector. The new needs that were created, were considered and the fast reaction of the Programme Authorities, allowed the appropriate adaptation¹⁸⁷;
- The project activities related to COVID-19 are not in the appropriate progress, especially taking into consideration the emergency of the pandemic, which did lead to the targeted Calls (7 and 8). The calls had a very short preparation period until submission of the proposals, due to the emergency of the health crisis in both countries. It is suggested that in similar occasions a task force of the JS and MA assist the beneficiaries with their procedures;

¹⁸⁶ Excluding the I8/I9 projects (COOFHEA/COOFHEA2), the output indicators are already either achieved or overachieved. The RI 0501 is expected to be achieved with the reports of the year 2022 and 2023.

¹⁸⁷ The SO1.1 cover 25,71% of the actual SOs budget, from the 13,94% of the approved one (v3.0). The initial ration (v1.3) was 16,48%

- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;
- There's a substantial difference between the best performing projects and the less performing projects. Probably the target values of the indicators of the approved projects and the expenditure plan should have a more in deep check before the subsidy contracts are signed;
- The CVEs of the approved projects are at 32,51% of the approved budget, however that is 95,20% of the paid expenditures. The project beneficiaries should put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The results indicator RI1.1 / R0501 is in progress but it should be considered further, in order to achieve the target value as early as possible;
- Excluding the I8, I9 targeted calls for COVID-19 pandemic, dedicated to the health sector, the projects needed extension of the implementation period (average duration excluding the I8/I9 calls is 36 months with some projects being above 40 months). This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the programme area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts. It is suggested that the projects would be mature and start preparation of the implementation once their selection is announced and prior to the signing of the respective subsidy contracts, in order to allow more actual implementation time;
- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (466 days in average, including the fast emergency

/ targeted calls and 3 projects from the reserved list and 527 days without the health projects of I8/I9). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

SO1.2 “Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area”

- Based on the contents and nature of the activities of the approved projects, it would be useful to recalculate the initial duration, before signing of the subsidy contract;
- The output indicators of the SO1.2 have been achieved, justifying the good implementation approach in link with the nature of the envisaged activities of the approved projects; The existence of a timeline towards the target values of the indicators, is a good tool for the management of the project;
- The available budget¹⁸⁸ is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;

¹⁸⁸ The actual budget is 4,86% of the total SOs budget from the 10,99% of the approved one (v3.0). The initial ration was 13,22%.

- There's a substantial difference between the best performing projects and the less performing projects, particularly in relation to the expenditure. Probably the expenditure plan of the approved projects should have a more in deep check before signing the subsidy contracts;
- The CVEs of the approved projects are in average at 60,96% of the approved budget, however that is 83,41% of the paid expenditures. The rate are good. The project beneficiaries would be advised to put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The results indicator RI1.2 / R0502 is in progress and should be considered further; however, it is not expected to achieve the Programme target value as the total of the declared target value of the approved projects is far less than the target value of the Programme. Probably a better calculation of the initial target value would have to be concluded;
- A number of projects requested and received extension of the initial duration period of implementation (average duration is 37 months with some projects having duration above 40 months). This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. It is suggested that the projects would be mature and start preparation of the implementation once their selection is announced and prior to the signing of the respective subsidy contracts, in order to allow more actual implementation time. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts;
- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (574 days in average, including 2 projects from the reserved list). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending

and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

SO2.1 “Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area”

- Based on the contents and nature of the activities of the approved projects, it would be useful to recalculate the initial duration, before signing of the subsidy contract;
- The output indicators have been achieved, justifying the good implementation approach in link with the nature of the envisaged activities of the approved projects; The existence of a timeline towards the target values of the indicators, is a good tool for the management of the project;
- The available budget¹⁸⁹ is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;
- There’s a substantial difference between the best performing projects and the less performing projects in terms of expenditure. Probably the

¹⁸⁹ The ratio of the budget of SO2.1 to the budget of SOs was increased from 20,23% (v1.3) to 37,54% (v3.0), while the actual of the approved projects is 36,35%.

spending provisions would have to be better considered before the signing of the subsidy contracts and so the procurements plan;

- The CVEs of the approved projects are at 23,52% of the approved budget, however that is 81,72% of the paid expenditures. The project beneficiaries should put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The results indicator R0503 is in good progress (76,27% achievement of the declared value of the projects and achieved value at programme level). It need to be considered further, in order to achieve the declared target value as early as possible;
- A significant number of projects requested and received extension of the initial duration period of implementation (average duration almost 41 months, with some projects being above 50 months). This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. It is suggested that the projects would be mature and start preparation of the implementation once their selection is announced and prior to the signing of the respective subsidy contracts, in order to allow more actual implementation time. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts;
- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (541 days in average, including 3 projects from the reserved list). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

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”

- Based on the contents and nature of the activities of the approved projects, it would be useful to recalculate the initial duration, before signing of the subsidy contract;
- Most of the goals of the performance framework have not being achieved; the pending goals, including the ones with the very little progress, can be covered until the end of the programming period (31.12.2023), subject to speeding the actions of the approved projects which are in delay;
- The available budget¹⁹⁰ is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;
- During the evaluation of the proposals and before signing of the subsidy contracts, the target values of the indicators proposed by the beneficiaries, should be well justified to avoid problems in achieving them. Especially for the result indicators, when they refer to percentage at programme level, the measurement method per project should be clearly stated, in order to allow more accurate assessments;

¹⁹⁰ The ratio of the budget of SO2.2 to the budget of SOs was increased from 10,64% (v1.3) to 12,51% (v3.0), while the actual of the approved projects is 10,23%.

- The achievement of the indicators lacks behind. As most of the projects signed subsidy contracts in 2018 and 2019 (2 other projects signed in April and November of 2020 respectively) there should be further investigated why there's such delay, despite the delay of the applied procedures. It is suggested that the achievement of the target values of the indicators that are declared by each project, are checked more frequently;
- The CVEs of the approved projects are in at 24,42% of the approved budget. The project beneficiaries should put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The SO2.2 is facing significant delays and should be carefully considered for this programming period and the design of the next programme (2021 – 2027);
- The results indicator RI2.2/R0504 need to be considered further and more efforts to be put by the beneficiaries, in order to achieve the target values as early as possible;
- A significant number of projects requested and received extension of the initial duration period of implementation (on average 37 months of duration, while some projects have over 40 months duration). This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. It is suggested that the projects would be mature and start preparation of the implementation once their selection is announced and prior to the signing of the respective subsidy contracts, in order to allow more actual implementation time. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts;
- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (475 days in average, including 1 project from the reserved list). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts,

would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

SO2.3 “Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution”

- Based on the contents and nature of the activities of the approved projects, it would be useful to recalculate the initial duration, before signing of the subsidy contract;
- The output indicator OI 0521 achieved the declared target value, but the programme target value is not achieved¹⁹¹, while the result indicator is achieved at programme level but not as per the declared target value of the funded projects. This SO had only 3 proposals and that affected the cumulative target values expected by those projects. The nature of the activities of this SO make it more difficult to design short-period projects, therefore, probably in such complicated objectives, less optimistic precalculation of the target values of indicators at programme level would be needed;
- The available budget¹⁹² is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long

¹⁹¹ The declared target value is 11 while the provisioned target value by the programme is 12.

¹⁹² The ratio of the budget of SO2.3 to the budget of SOs was decreased from 10,64% (v1.3) to 2,50% (v3.0), while the actual of the approved projects is 1,91%.

lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;

- During the evaluation of the proposals and before signing of the subsidy contracts, the target values of the indicators proposed by the beneficiaries, should be well justified to avoid problems in achieving them. Especially for the result indicators, when they refer to percentage at programme level, the measurement method per project should be clearly stated, in order to allow more accurate assessments;
- The CVEs of the approved projects are at 57,74% of the approved budget, however that is 81,61% of the paid expenditures. The project beneficiaries would be advised to put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The average duration of projects was 36 months with one project having a duration of near 43 months. This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. It is suggested that the projects would be mature and start preparation of the implementation once their selection is announced and prior to the signing of the respective subsidy contracts, in order to allow more actual implementation time. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts;
- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (469 days in average). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

SO3.1 “Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity”

- Based on the contents and nature of the activities of the approved projects, it would be useful to recalculate the initial duration, before signing of the subsidy contract;
- Most of the goals of the performance framework have not been achieved; the pending goals, however, all approved projects are in progress and the goals can be covered until the end of the programming period (31.12.2023), subject to speeding the implementation;
- The available budget¹⁹³ is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;
- There's a substantial difference between the best performing projects and the less performing projects. Probably the target values of the indicators of the approved projects should have a more in-depth check before subcontracting;
- During the evaluation of the proposals and before signing of the subsidy contracts, the target values of the indicators proposed by the beneficiaries, should be well justified to avoid problems in achieving

¹⁹³ The ratio of the budget of SO3.1 to the budget of SOs was increased from 16,00% (v1.3) to 18,35% (v3.0), while the actual of the approved projects is 17,97%.

them. Especially for the result indicators, when they refer to percentage at programme level, the measurement method per project should be clearly stated, in order to allow more accurate assessments;

- There's a substantial difference between the achievements of different indicators. It is advised that the new programme design takes into consideration the characteristics of the performance of the selected indicators for an improved approach to the target values;
- It is realized, that some of the indicators¹⁹⁴ are left behind and certain care should be taken by the respective project lead partners and project beneficiaries for timely achievement. Thus more pressure on them would be advised to be exerted;
- The SO3.1 is facing delays, and should be carefully considered for this programming period and the design of the next programme (2021 – 2027);
- The CVEs of the approved projects are in average at 23,46% of the approved budget. The project beneficiaries should put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The results indicator RI3.1 / R0506 need more efforts by the beneficiaries, in order to achieve the target values as early as possible¹⁹⁵;
- The average duration of the projects is 48 months while one project has a duration of 56 months. This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-

¹⁹⁴ Output indicators Q0522 and O0523.

¹⁹⁵ The indicator R0506 is expected to be achieved, while it is advised that the beneficiaries review and update the respective values in the Application Forms.

lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. It is suggested that the projects would be mature and start preparation of the implementation once their selection is announced and prior to the signing of the respective subsidy contracts, in order to allow more actual implementation time. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts;

- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (447 days in average). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

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

- Based on the contents and nature of the activities of the approved projects, it would be useful to recalculate the initial duration, before signing of the subsidy contract;
- The output indicator (O0524) has been achieved while the result indicator (RI3.2/R0507) lacks behind and is not expected to be achieved due to non-declared target values that cumulate to the programme target value. That is related to the complicated nature of this SO which could have only 3 projects. The nature of the activities of this SO make it more difficult to design short-period projects, therefore, probably in such complicated objectives, less optimistic precalculation of the target values of indicators at programme level would be needed;

- The available budget¹⁹⁶ is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;
- There's a substantial difference between the best performing projects and the less performing projects, in terms of expenditure. It should be examined why such diversion occurs, in order to get measures for correction and prevention in the future;
- During the evaluation of the proposals and before signing of the subsidy contracts, the target values of the indicators proposed by the beneficiaries, should be well justified to avoid problems in achieving them. Especially for the result indicators, when they refer to percentage at programme level, the measurement method per project should be clearly stated, in order to allow more accurate assessments;
- The CVEs of the approved projects are in average at 72,79% of the approved budget. The project beneficiaries should put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The average duration of the approve projects is 39 months with one project having 47 months duration. This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to

¹⁹⁶ The ratio of the budget of SO3.2 to the budget of SOs was decreased from 12,80% (v1.3) to 4,17% (v3.0), while the actual of the approved projects is 2,96%.

shift specific activities in online mode. It is suggested that the projects would be mature and start preparation of the implementation once their selection is announced and prior to the signing of the respective subsidy contracts, in order to allow more actual implementation time. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts;

- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (472 days in average). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities).

Collection of Lessons Learned and Recommendations

In this subchapter, the lessons learned are collected in a subchapter, including specific recommendations for further future improvement.

Lessons learned and specific recommendations

- The good cooperation and frequent communication of the progress of the activities of the projects, with the Programme Authorities, contributes to the optimization of the performance of the projects and the overall programme;
- There's need for even closer follow up of the projects, with regards to the progress, payments and verification of expenditures;
- As the public procurements take long time to be prepared and the respective contracts be granted, in combination with the fact that they need approved projects (i.e. signed subsidy contracts), there should be a flexible option to allow procedures to start after the approval date and before the subsidy contract is signed, in order to save implementation time. The option of preannouncement of the launch of forthcoming calls might improve the time that is available for potential beneficiaries to analyse the criteria of participation and prepare qualitative project proposals;
- Complicated projects present more and longer delays in performance, due to more bureaucratic procurement procedures. Furthermore, public beneficiaries take longer time to prepare and complete their procurements. It is therefore suggested the beneficiaries to be guided to prepare the procurement procedures prior to the signing of the subsidy contracts;
- Especially, Infrastructure works take long time in both countries and it should be taken into consideration during planning. Projects with

infrastructure and works need more time to be implemented and this would be preferred to be considered from the beginning, as otherwise the entities are required to work on a short time period which becomes also part of any sub-contracting. For certain cases, possibly the duration of the project would be decided to be longer from the start of the respective projects, as it is reflected within the sub-contracts with the constructors;.

- The beneficiaries, through the lead beneficiary, should have close cooperation with JS/MA, in order to minimise problems and lead to solutions easier, whenever needed;
- It is estimated that with many of the goals of the performance framework being achieved, the pending goals, including the ones with the very little progress, can be covered until the end of the programming period (31.12.2023), subject to speeding the actions of the approved projects which are in delay;
- The available budget is estimated as sufficient, taking into consideration the initial and the updated budget distribution per PA, as adjusted during the programming period;
- The programme was properly adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the confrontation of the disease. The Programme authorities responded quickly to the new challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and related consequences in several sectors, and updated the programme, where needed. As a result of the revision of the programme, relatively significant changes between PAs occurred. Thus to a certain level, the weight of the Specific Objectives of the programme was reconsidered in order to respond in the health crisis and other related conditions. The new needs that were created, were considered and the fast reaction of the Programme Authorities, allowed the appropriate adaptation. The latest goals remain valid;
- The project activities related to COVID-19 are not in the appropriate progress, especially taking into consideration the emergency of the pandemic, which did lead to the targeted Calls (7 and 8). The calls had

a very short preparation period until submission of the proposals, due to the emergency of the health crisis in both countries. It is suggested that in similar occasions a task force of the JS and MA assist the beneficiaries with their procedures;

- The efficiency of the programme until 31.12.2021, is estimated as relatively good, especially taking into consideration the severe long lockdown periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the figures should be improved as the programme entered its last phase of 2 years before its completion;
- There's a substantial difference between the best performing projects and the less performing projects, within same Specific Objectives and the Respective Indicators. There should be examined further, in the next programming period, if the target values of certain indicators should be further examined for calibrated performance;
- There's a substantial difference between the achievements of different indicators. It is advised that the new programme design takes into consideration the characteristics of the performance of the selected indicators for an improved approach to the target values;
- It is realized, that some of the indicators are left behind and certain care should be taken by the respective project lead partners and project beneficiaries for timely achievement. It is suggested that the achievement of the target values of the indicators that are declared by each project, would be checked more frequently and more pressure on the beneficiaries would be exerted;
- During the evaluation of the proposals and before signing of the subsidy contracts, the target values of the indicators proposed by the beneficiaries, should be well justified to avoid problems in achieving them. Especially for the result indicators, when they refer to percentage at programme level, the measurement method per project should be clearly stated, in order to allow more accurate assessments;

- Certain SOs (SO 2.2 (biodiversity) and SO 3.1 (maritime transportation) are facing significant delays and should be carefully considered for this programming period and the design of the next programme (2021 – 2027);
- The CVEs of the approved projects are in average at 29,85% of the approved budget, however that is 94,43% of the paid expenditures. The project beneficiaries should put more efforts to make payments, as early as possible during a project implementation period;
- The results' indicators need to be considered further, in order to achieve the target values as early as possible.
The results' indicators of PA1 are in progress (RI1.1 / R0501; RI1.2 / R0502¹⁹⁷).
For PA2, RI2.2 / R0504 needs more efforts by the end beneficiaries, in order to be achieved.
For PA3, the indicators RI3.1 / R0506¹⁹⁸ and RI3.2 / R0507¹⁹⁹, need more efforts by the beneficiaries, however they will manage to achieve the programme target value;
- The output and result indicators contribute to the intervention logic of the Programme, expect the result indicators R0506 and R0507²⁰⁰.
- The Cooperation Programme is suggested to add a timeline for the achievement of the target values of the addressed indicators, with

¹⁹⁷ R0502: It is not expected to achieve the Programme target value as the total of the declared target value of the projects is far less than the target value of the programme.

¹⁹⁸ Especially for R0506, it is advised that the beneficiaries review and update the respective values in the Application Forms.

¹⁹⁹ R0507: It is not expected to achieve the Programme target value as the total of the declared target value of the projects is far less than the target value of the programme.

²⁰⁰ Also, the output indicator CO09, is hard to be justified, how it is measured to ensure that the reported achieved value is directly related to the related projects.

intermediate assessment, however, such approach should be decided case per case;

- Lessons learned from the past, should be capitalised;
- The Programme Communication Strategy is well structured but it should had been updated with the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The Communication tools for beneficiaries, including the communication guide, was updated in 2018. It would be advised to be updated to incorporate tools and suggestions to beneficiaries for communication efficiently during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The communication plan of all projects, should include all key elements and its timeline to be followed and assessed regularly in every progress report;
- The projects should set specific indicators for their presence in social media and Internet, people reached, followers and other related indicators, checked through analytics tools;
- The projects should ensure that their webpages would be online for at least five (5), after the end of the project lifetime though their respective contracts with the ICT companies. In case their contract do not foresee that with advanced payment from their projects, then to be obliged to go for another contract through own funds, prior to closure of the project;
- The project beneficiaries should be guided for more intensive presence in the Internet and Social Media. They should make more use of the social media and adjust to external factors affecting the communication actions for improved achievements;
- The partners should adopt easier and faster new or revised / updated methodologies and new tools of communication and operation. The use of social media and online tools could mitigate any difficulties, while it could bring also new audience which would be not possible to

be reached through the classical forms of communication, due to distances, etc.;

- A monitoring tool for following up of the communication plan, would be preferred to be prepared for better assessment of the impact of the respective activities and also support decisions of measures of improvements;
- A database model for target groups by the JS/MA is suggested to be prepared and all project beneficiaries to be obliged to complete that with the target groups and participants in events and from that tool to extract their relative reports and measure the achievement of the respective goals;
- Events and meetings of the projects should be reported in a way that will be unified and in a database with respect to the GDPR rules, in order to allow the public and the researchers to find reliable data for participants and stakeholders;
- Regarding the stakeholders, it is important to record them and in connection with the activities of interest and distinguish them from the participants;
- The authorities should be in position for quick response to major crisis, as it happened within this Cooperation Programme;
- A significant number of projects requested and received extension of the initial duration period of implementation. This is partly justified by the fact that since February 2020 the area entered the COVID-19 pandemic era. However, there are other reasons as well, namely delayed and long-lasting procurement procedures and delays in making decisions to shift specific activities in online mode. Thus, it is recommended to consider the initial time-plan more carefully, before signing of the respective subsidy contracts;
- The signing of the subsidy contract of the approved projects is considered as long (505 days in average, including the fast emergency

/ targeted calls and the ones from the reserved list). The measures to gain earlier signed subsidy contracts, would allow earlier implementation of activities and earlier spending and verification of expenditure. Such measures could include prioritisation of projects that are preparing for getting the subsidy contract signed, based on their complexity of activities or expected longer procurement procedures (e.g. in public entities);

- The projects sometimes get into the condition to lose some of their initial energy and enthusiasm, somewhere in the middle of the implementation period and then they need a boost. Thus, probably an intermediate control would be a good boosting tool;
- The assessment would be preferred be accompanied with a more extended qualitative research, through surveys to larger number of responders, in order to manage improved conclusions and point out any weaknesses (if the case).

Disclaimer

The Project is funded by 85% from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and by 15% from national funds of Greece and Italy, in the framework of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of the report are sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat.

Annex I – Output Indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Performance framework	PA	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Milestone	Final target	Source of data
						1	Financial	PA1F	Financial	EUR		0,25	0,95	Monitoring
SO1.1-1	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number	20	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	Yes	1	Output	SO1.1-1	Output	Number		4	20	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring
SO1.1-2	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Number	5	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	no									
COI_1	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number	500	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	no									
SO1.2-1	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number	15	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	Yes	1	Output	SO1.2-1	Output	Number		3	15	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring
SO1.2-2	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number	5	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	no									

1. PRIORITY AXIS 1: INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS

2. PRIORITY AXIS 2: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Performance framework	PA	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Milestone	Final target	Source of data
							2 Financial	PA2F	Financial	EUR		0,25	0,95	Monitoring
SO.2.1-1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Number	20	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	Yes	2 Output	SO.2.1-1	Output	Number			4	20	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring
CO_2	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	20000	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	no									
SO.2.2-1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number	10	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	Yes	2 Output	SO.2.2-1	Output	Number			2	10	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring
SO.2.3-1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number	12	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	Yes	2 Output	SO.2.3-1	Output	Number			3	12	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

3. PRIORITY AXIS 3: MULTIMODAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Performance framework	PA	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Milestone	Final target	Source of data
							3	Financial	PA3F	Financial	EUR	0,25	0,95	Monitoring
SO.3.1-1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	Yes		3 Output	SO.3.1-1	Output	Number		3	10	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring
SO.3.1-2	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number	10	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	no									
SO.3.2-1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number	5	Progress / Reporting, Monitoring	Yes		3 Output	SO.3.2-1	Output	Number		1	5	0

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

PA 4 - Technical Assistance

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Performance framework	PA	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Milestone	Final target	Source of data
							4 Financial	PA4F	Financial	EUR		0,25	0,95	Monitoring
TA	Number of calls	Number	4	Monitoring										
TA	Number of projects approved	Number	70	Monitoring										
TA	Number of events and workshops	Number	10	Monitoring										
TA	Number of seminars and trainings for applicants and beneficiaries	Number	4	Monitoring										
TA	Studies, reports and surveys on strategic relevance for the Programme	Number	4	Monitoring										
TA	Number of INTERREG V GR-IT Programme Staff	Number	12	Monitoring										

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Annex II – Result Indicators

	ID	Definition	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target 2023	Source	Reporting frequency	baseline for the SFC	Target SFC
PRIORITY AXIS 1: INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS	RI1.1	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	%	56	2015	Increase	Survey	2018, 2020, 2023	56	
	RI1.2	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	Enterprise	52.360	2012	Increase	Eurostat	2018, 2020,2023	52.360,00	55.000,00
	RI2.1	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	%	65	2015	Increase	Survey	2018, 2020, 2023	65,00	
PRIORITY AXIS 2: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	RI2.2	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	km2	42.401	2013	Increase	Desk Research for baseline, survey for reporting	2018, 2020, 2023	42.401	46.000,00
	RI2.3	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	%	63	2015	Increase	Survey	2018, 2020, 2023	63	
PRIORITY AXIS 3: MULTIMODAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM	RI3.1	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	Passenger	7.005	2012	Increase	Eurostat	2018, 2020, 2023	7.005,00	7.500,00
	RI3.2	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	tonne	88.532	2011	Decrease	Eurostat	2018, 2020, 2023	88.532,00	88.000,00

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

Annex III – List of projects' events and meeting

Project Acronym	Partners	Events	Meetings	Duration	Participants
AETHER	5			01/11/2020 - 31/10/2023	
AGRIFARM	5	15	12	28/02/2019 - 27/02/2021	500
AI SMART	4			01/07/2019 - 10/7/2023	300
APOLLO LANDS	4			15/04/2019 - 14/10/2021	400
AUTHENTIC OLIVE NET	5	12	2	28/02/2019 - 31/08/2021	500
BEST	5			01/07/2019 - 30/06/2023	
CIAK	6	5		16/04/2018 - 28/02/2021	90
CI-NOVATEC	4	8	17	15/05/2018 - 30/09/2021	300
CIRCLE-IN	4	9	4	22/01/2018 - 28/02/2021	156
COHEN	5	12	9	15/7/2019 - 31/12/2022	315
COOFHEA	3	1	1	01/10/2020 - 31/05/2022	400
CRAFT LAB	5	3	4	16/04/2018 - 15/02/2021	200
CREATIVE CAMPS	4			28/02/2019 - 31/10/2021	
CREATIVE@HUBS	4	11	1	01/07/2019 - 19/08/2022	144
CROSS THE GAP	5	15		31/05/2018 - 30/11/2021	225
DOCK-BI	4	1	1	30/10/2018 - 30/06/2022	20
EGOV-INNO	4	13	6	31/05/2018 - 31/10/2020	228
E-PARKS	4	2		31/05/2018 - 15/12/2021	24
ERMIS	5	2	1	30/03/2018 - 31/10/2021	45
FAME ROAD	5	18		01/04/2019 - 30/03/2022	270
FISH&CHIPS	7			30/04/2018 - 30/10/2021	
FRESH WAYS	5	7	6	30/07/2018 - 31/12/2021	195
HERMES	4	4	1	20/05/2019 - 19/05/2022	60
ICON WOM-EN	5	3	1	31/03/2018 - 31/03/2021	60
ILONET	5	4	6	30/03/2018 - 31/03/2021	200
IN MED TOUR	5	13	5	01/12/2017 - 30/06/2021	1000
INCUBA	7	10	4	31/05/2018 - 30/11/2020	294
INNO_TRITION	4			01/04/2019 - 31/03/2022	
INNONETS	7	5	2	10/04/2018 - 28/02/2021	147
INVESTMENT	5	1	1	01/01/2018 - 31/01/2021	30
IR2MA	6		2	10/12/2017 - 30/06/2021	36
JUMP	6	3	1	01/04/2019 - 05/08/2021	72
MEDINNO	6	9		30/03/2018 - 30/04/2022	162
MOBILAB	4	5	7	15/01/2018 - 30/10/2021	144
MUSE	5	4	1	16/12/2017 - 30/06/2022	75
NETT	6	5	1	30/05/2018 - 30/11/2020	108
OFIDIA2	6			01/01/2018 - 31/05/2021	
PALIMPSEST	5	1	2	15/05/2018 - 30/06/2021	200
PATH	5	2	3	01/12/2017 - 30/03/2021	75
PIT STOP	5	5	2	27/04/2018 - 26/05/2021	105
POLYSEMI	5	4	1	14/02/2018 - 31/12/2020	75
PORTOLANES	5		2	01/07/2019 - 31/12/2022	30
RECORD	5	3	5	31/05/2018 - 31/05/2021	120
RE-WATER	7	8	4	01/05/2018 - 14/11/2020	252
SILVER WELLBEING	7	2	1	31/05/2018 - 30/06/2021	63
SPARC	6	9	1	31/05/2018 - 28/02/2022	180
SUNWATER	6		6	16/04/2018 - 30/06/2021	108
SWAN	5	2	4	01/01/2018 - 15/02/2022	90
TAGS	5	9	2	15/05/2018 - 15/11/2020	165
TELEICCE	6	2	2	01/04/2018 - 30/11/2020	72
THE ROUTE NET	5	3	1	27/09/2019 - 26/09/2022	60
THEMIS	5	7	1	31/05/2018 - 31/03/2022	120
TRACES	7	13	1	30/03/2018 - 29/11/2020	294
TRITON	5	8	1	16/04/2018 - 16/10/2020	300
TRUST	4	2	1	01/03/2018 - 31/12/2020	2000
YESS	5	5	2	31/05/2018 - 31/12/2021	200
COOFHEA2 AF					
SUSWATER AF					
OCTANE AF					

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020.

**Annex IV – Questionnaire to Lead Beneficiaries and
Beneficiaries of the Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A)
EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020**

Programme Assessment Procedure

Thessaloniki, 2 March 2022

Questionnaire to beneficiaries and Lead beneficiaries
of projects implemented within the
Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020

MYCOMPANY Projects O.E. has been contracted by the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes to provide services for the update of the 1st Assessment 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 purpose of the questionnaire is to collect data and information that will underpin the assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the interventions of the programme.

All responses to this questionnaire will remain confidential and will only be used for the purposes of the assessment report. No personal information or other sensitive information will be released or published. Any responses received will by no means be linked to individual beneficiaries.

Estimated time needed to complete the questionnaire: 12 minutes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact:
Christina Cleanthous, Tel: +30 2310 231552, Email: xristina@mycompany.com.gr

Verification of the authenticity of this assignment can be provided by contacting directly Unit B2 - Management - Monitoring of the Programmes implemented in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, 65 Georgikis Scholis Av., Thessaloniki, GR - 570 01. Tel: +30 2310 469600

A. General Info

1. Project Acronym:
2. Call Number:
3. Beneficiary name:
4. Name of the person responsible for this questionnaire:
5. Position in the beneficiary:
6. Contact: e-mail: tel:

7. Member state: Greece Italy

8. Prefecture / Regional Unit:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ioannina | <input type="checkbox"/> Kefallinia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thesprotia | <input type="checkbox"/> Zakynthos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arta | <input type="checkbox"/> Lecce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preveza | <input type="checkbox"/> Brindisi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aitolokarnania | <input type="checkbox"/> Taranto |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achaia | <input type="checkbox"/> Bari |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ileia | <input type="checkbox"/> Barletta Andria Trani |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kerkyra | <input type="checkbox"/> Foggia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lefkada | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. Beneficiary category:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National public authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Body governed by public law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional public authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit private organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local public authority | <input type="checkbox"/> International organization |

10. Beneficiary role:

- Lead beneficiary
 Project beneficiary
 Associated partner

B. Call for proposals

1. Usefulness of programme documents and guidelines

	not useful	useful	very useful
Programme and project manual			
Cooperation Programme			
FAQs			

Comments (if any):

.....

2. Usefulness of preparation workshops/events

<input type="checkbox"/>	not useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	very useful
<input type="checkbox"/>	useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	not attended

Comments (if any):

.....

3. Easiness of development of project proposals

	very difficult	mostly difficult	easy	very easy
Partnership creation				
Consolidation of partner interests				
Harmonizing with the CP requirements				
Understanding of State-Aid				

Comments (if any):

.....

4. Using of the MIS (ΟΠΣ)

<input type="checkbox"/>	very difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	easy
<input type="checkbox"/>	mostly difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	very easy

Comments (if any):

.....

5. Most difficulties encountered during the preparation of the project proposal:

<input type="checkbox"/>	project description
<input type="checkbox"/>	work plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	project budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	attachments

6. Support by programme authorities

	poor	satisfactory	good	very good
Support by MA				
Support by JS				
Support by National Authority				

Comments (if any):

.....

7. Project assessment and selection procedure

- fully checked and understood the selection criteria
- partly checked and understood the selection criteria
- checked but not fully understood the selection criteria
- not checked

Comments (if any):

.....

C. Communication activities

1. Channels for finding info about the call for proposals

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programme website | <input type="checkbox"/> Mass media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programme bodies | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kick-off event | <input type="checkbox"/> Other consultants/networks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other partners | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Programme web-site

	poor	satisfactory	good	very good
Usefulness of info				
Update of info				
Availability of info				

3. Effectiveness of the Programme Communication during the implementation of the project

Not at all
 Little

Moderate
 A lot

Comments (if any):

.....
.....

4. Visibility of the programme in your area

very high
 high

low
 none

5. Are you satisfied of the Communication of your project?

Not at lot
 Little

Moderate
 Very much

Comments (if any):

.....
.....

6. Did you achieve the Communication expectations of your project?

Not at lot
 Little

A lot
 Very much

Comments (if any):

.....
.....

7. Effectiveness of the Communication of your project to final beneficiaries and stakeholders

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little	<input type="checkbox"/>	A lot

Comments (if any):

.....

8. Lessons learned from the performance of your project, regarding the communication

.....

D. Project implementation

1. According to your perception, the time between the approval and the signing of the subsidy contract of the project was:

<input type="checkbox"/>	very long	<input type="checkbox"/>	somewhat short
<input type="checkbox"/>	somewhat long	<input type="checkbox"/>	very short

2. Implementation stage of project after contracting

{	<input type="checkbox"/>	kick-off phase (9 months)	}	{	<input type="checkbox"/>	minor delays	}	{	<input type="checkbox"/>	completed	}
	<input type="checkbox"/>	major delays			<input type="checkbox"/>	according to plan			<input type="checkbox"/>	(if completed, when)	

Comments (if any):

.....

3. To what extent are the objectives of the project achieved?

Not achieved
Achieved

Partly achieved
Additional achievements

Comments (if any):

.....
.....

4. Please elaborate in few lines the impact of the project implementation in your area, with focus on the specific objective of the programme that corresponds to your project.

.....
.....

5. Other comments about the impact of the project implementation in your area. Would any changes in the topic of your project in the area of implementation, in the last years occur without the interventions of your project? If yes, to what extent?

.....
.....

6. What are the factors that support / facilitate the contribution in positive changes / impact in the area of intervention? Were there any unexpected results during the project implementation?

E. Lessons Learned

1. Please elaborate any lessons learned during the project implementation

.....
.....

F. Intervention Logic

1. To what extent, the programme logic remains timely?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little

<input type="checkbox"/>	A lot
<input type="checkbox"/>	Very much

G. Proposals for improvement

1. Programme Strategy, intervention logic and contents:

.....
.....

2. Planning of Calls:

.....
.....

3. Project Implementation:

.....
.....

4. Other Comments (if any)

.....
.....

Your contribution is appreciated.

Thank you!

Annex V – Questionnaires to stakeholders, regarding the baseline value of the result indicators RI 1.1 (R0501); RI 2.1 (R0503); and RI 2.3 (R0505)

Programme Assessment Procedure

Questionnaire to stakeholders

regarding the baseline of the Result Indicator RI1.1 (R0501)

“Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters”
of the

Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020

MYCOMPANY Projects O.E. has been contracted by the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes to provide services for the update of the 1st Assessment 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 purpose of this questionnaire is to update the baseline value of the Result Indicator RI1.1 (R0501) “Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters”, in Spring 2022.

All responses to this questionnaire will remain confidential and will only be used for the purposes of the assessment report. No personal information or other sensitive information will be released or published. Any responses received will by no means be linked to individual beneficiaries.

Estimated time needed to complete the questionnaire: 5 minutes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact:
Christina Cleanthous, Tel: +30 2310 231552, Email: xristina@mycompany.com.gr

Verification of the authenticity of this assignment can be provided by contacting directly Unit B2 - Management - Monitoring of the Programmes implemented in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, 65 Georgikis Scholis Av., Thessaloniki, GR - 570 01. Tel: +30 2310 469600

Fact:

Baseline Value of the RI1.1 (R0501) in year 2015: 56%

Questions:

Qn	QUESTION	Answer (%)
Q1	To what extent do SMEs and innovation brokers in your region are having access to applied research results and technology transfer mechanisms?	
Q2	To what extent is there exchange and networking across the border among innovation stakeholders and/or SMEs?	
Q3	To what extent are SMEs in your area cooperating with other stakeholders (e.g. universities, laboratories, policy departments, regulators, competitors, suppliers and customers) in developing and adopting innovations?	
Q4	How strong is the capacity in developing and adopting innovations among businesses and administration in your area?	
Q5	To what extent are businesses in your area in the position to operate within clusters and benefit from them?	

You are kindly requested to provide the answers at the following form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xWJjuFL36fob_pYKDJYgrcbxgYzWrq_697vJSeZ1XKs/edit

Your contribution is appreciated.

Thank you!

Programme Assessment Procedure

Questionnaire to stakeholders

regarding the baseline of the Result Indicator RI2.1 (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”

of the

Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020

MYCOMPANY Projects O.E. has been contracted by the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes to provide services for the update of the 1st Assessment 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 purpose of this questionnaire is to update the baseline value of the Result Indicator RI2.1 (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”, in Spring 2022.

All responses to this questionnaire will remain confidential and will only be used for the purposes of the assessment report. No personal information or other sensitive information will be released or published. Any responses received will by no means be linked to individual beneficiaries.

Estimated time needed to complete the questionnaire: 5 minutes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact:

Christina Cleanthous, Tel: +30 2310 231552, Email: xristina@mycompany.com.gr

Verification of the authenticity of this assignment can be provided by contacting directly Unit B2 - Management - Monitoring of the Programmes implemented in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, 65 Georgikis Scholis Av., Thessaloniki, GR - 570 01. Tel: +30 2310 469600

Fact:

Baseline Value of the RI2.1 (R0503) in year 2015: **65%**

Questions:

Qn	QUESTION	Answer (%)
Q1	To what extent are stakeholders in your area “up to date” to the latest developments in the field of sustainable valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources?	
Q2	To what extent is there exchange and networking across the border among cultural heritage, natural resources and tourism stakeholders?	
Q3	To what extent are sustainable tourist destinations of high natural or cultural value in the programme area effectively promoted and marketed?	
Q4	How strong is the capacity in developing and adopting cross-border management plans of cultural heritage and natural resources and in involving the stakeholders?	
Q5	What potential exists in better protecting cultural heritage and natural resources from anthropogenic impacts in your area?	

You are kindly requested to provide the answers at the following form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BcydGDWILBiZg4dTNj6hfOLqjl2roeN5KANcPz2tBbs/edit>

Your contribution is appreciated.

Thank you!

Programme Assessment Procedure

Questionnaire to stakeholders
regarding the baseline of the Result Indicator RI2.3 (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”
of the
Cooperation Programme (Interreg V-A) EL-IT - Greece-Italy 2014-2020

MYCOMPANY Projects O.E. has been contracted by the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes to provide services for the update of the 1st Assessment 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 purpose of this questionnaire is to update the baseline value of the Result Indicator RI2.3 (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”, in Spring 2022.

All responses to this questionnaire will remain confidential and will only be used for the purposes of the assessment report. No personal information or other sensitive information will be released or published. Any responses received will by no means be linked to individual beneficiaries.

Estimated time needed to complete the questionnaire: 5 minutes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact:
Christina Cleanthous, Tel: +30 2310 231552, Email: xristina@mycompany.com.gr

Verification of the authenticity of this assignment can be provided by contacting directly Unit B2 - Management - Monitoring of the Programmes implemented in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, 65 Georgikis Scholis Av., Thessaloniki, GR - 570 01. Tel: +30 2310 469600

Fact:

Baseline Value of the RI2.3 (R0505) in year 2015: **63%**

Questions:

Qn	QUESTION	Answer (%)
Q1	To what extent are regional and local authorities and public utilities operators in your area aware of “state of the art” environmental friendly processes and technologies in their field of operations in order to reduce environmental burden (e.g. discharges, landfill residues etc.)?	
Q2	To what extent is there exchange and networking among regional and local authorities and public utilities operators across the border regarding “state of the art” environmental friendly processes and technologies in their field of operations in order to reduce environmental burden (e.g. discharges, landfill residues etc.)?	
Q3	To what extent do regional and local authorities and public utilities operators possess the means (know-how and capital) to introduce environmental friendly processes and technologies in their field of operations in order to reduce environmental burden (e.g. discharges, landfill residues etc.)?	
Q4	To what extent do regional and local authorities have the capacity to develop and monitor Marine Spatial Plans especially in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and especially integrating cross border elements?	
Q5	To what extent do regional and local authorities have the capacity to develop, implement and monitor joint risk management and contingency plans for man-made hazards especially in small islands and coastal zones?	

You are kindly requested to provide the answers at the following form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1w-rFS-yys0U7WaLp-pbF73uhUcmwoy-GuVZJHQ0olww/edit>

Your contribution is appreciated.

Thank you!