

Annual Implementation Report 2018 CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

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PROGRAMME PRESENTATION

The **Italy - Croatia CBC Programme 2014 - 2020** is an European Union funding Programme that encourages cooperation among

2 MEMBER STATES
25 ITALIAN PROVINCES
8 CROATIAN COUNTIES
12,4 M CITIZENS
1500 MUNICIPALITIES

With **236,8 Million of Euro** of total Programme budget (around 201 Million of Euro of ERDF + National co-financing), we support institutions and organizations to increase the prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible changes.

It is composed of the following **four Priority Axes** and **seven Specific Objectives** responding to the identified key assets and challenges:

1. PRIORITY AXIS 1: Blue innovation

- Specific Objective 1.1: Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area

2. PRIORITY AXIS 2: Safety and Resilience

- Specific Objective 2.1: Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects, in the cooperation area;
- Specific Objective 2.2: Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster.

3. PRIORITY AXIS 3: Environment and cultural heritage

- Specific Objective 3.1: Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development;
- Specific Objective 3.2: Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity;
- Specific Objective 3.3: Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches.

4. PRIORITY AXIS 4: Maritime Transport

- Specific Objective 4.1: Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services and nodes by promoting multimodality in the programme area.



2018 MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main actions in these months concerned:

➤ PROJECTS

“Standard+” Projects

22 “Standard+” projects have started in January 2018 (except one project which started in June 2018), the Lead Partners signed the Subsidy Contract with the MA and the Partnership Agreement with the project partners. Activities were launched in the Spring 2018 with the participation of the JS Project Managers. In September, the Standard+ projects reported to the Programme via the SIU system the costs related to the first reporting period (January-June 2018) and the activities carried out. A total of **1.991.998,40 Euro (ERDF + National Co-financing)** was reported and validated by the First Level Controllers in the SIU system.

“Standard” Projects

During the 5th MC meeting held on 19-20 July 2018 the Monitoring Committee approved **50 projects** with conditions. 3 out of 50 projects have started their activities at the end of 2018, while the other projects indicated as starting date January 2019.

The budget of "Standard" Projects approved amounts to 101,1 Mil of € of ERDF and the projects cover all Priority Axis and, in particular:

1. PRIORITY AXIS 1- Blue innovation: 8 projects funded;
2. PRIORITY AXIS 2 - Safety and Resilience: 10 projects funded;
3. PRIORITY AXIS 3 - Environment and cultural heritage: 22 projects funded;
4. PRIORITY AXIS 4 - Maritime Transport: 10 projects funded.

Strategic Projects

2018 was a crucial year for the generation of the Strategic projects, which are “top-down” projects foreseen in the Cooperation Programme in particular for Priority Axes 2 and 4, but possible also for the other axes or Specific Objectives.

According to the decision of the MC, a **Working Group (WG)** on the generation of Strategic projects was set up at the beginning of 2018 and 4 meetings of the WG were held during the year.

➤ **Reinforcing the administration and Programme managing structures**

A reinforcement of the Managing Authority structure was carried out starting from 2018 with 2 new units created (the Overall coordination Unit and the Control coordination unit) and new staff acquired.

Regarding the Joint Secretariat, the Head of JS resigned in the Spring 2018 and a selection procedure was launched during the summer in order to replace this crucial position. The new Head of JS was contracted in October and in the same month the running contracts of the JS staff were extended until the end of the programming period. Moreover, a selection for one financial officer and one project manager was carried out before the end of the year in order to replace the JS staff that resigned in 2017 and 2018.

➤ **Performance Framework and Performance Review 2019**

A revision of the CP was requested in September in order to correct some wrong assumptions in the definition of the milestones of a couple of output indicators. As explained in the dedicated section, the revision of the CP allowed the Programme to be better prepared for the Performance Review of 2019 and meet its targets.

➤ **Designation and system audit**

The process of designation of two different structures of the Veneto Region as MA and as CA was finalized in November 2017 although with an action plan which was implemented until the end of May 2018. In July 2018 the first system audit took place focusing on the key requirements 2 (selection of operation) and 3 (information to beneficiaries).

➤ **Management and Monitoring system (SIU)**

The progress of the SIU system are were still affected by the difficulties of adapting the system to the Italy-Croatia context. Even if delays and need for a continuous assistance to beneficiaries were part of the difficulties that had to be faced in 2018, all information flows regarding project management, reporting and monitoring were managed through the SIU system.

➤ **Communication Strategy**

In 2018, alongside with the realisation of the foreseen communication materials and organisation of Programme events, the MA and JS worked hard to produce the new website. In order to allow the projects to properly inform about their activities the new website shall host the projects' websites and ensure visibility for the Programme.

➤ **Technical Assistance budget and administrative procedures launched**

During 2018 the TA activities were carried out according to the agreed plans. 1 Monitoring Committee meeting was held in Venice in July and 7 written procedures were launched and closed in 2018. The Programme bodies implemented their activities according to their respective roles and work plan. For the Technical Assistance, a total of 2.492.275,40 Euro (ERDF and National Co-financing when due) was reported and validated by the First Level Controllers in the SIU system.

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

The Programme dedicated own active participation to the following events co-organized with the National Authorities, EUSAIR Governing board members, EU Commission and other ETC Programmes:

- **EU Cooperation Showcase: «How cooperation Programmes and macro strategies are supporting green logistics»** in March in Padua Interporto
- **3rd Annual Forum of the EUSAIR** in Catania in May
- **European Maritime Day in Burgas (Bulgaria)** in May
- **TEN-T network day** in Lubiana in May
- **European Cooperation Day** in Venice in September
- **14th meeting of the CoR Adriatic Ionian Interregional Group** in Bruxelles in May
- **Interreg Annual meeting 2018** in Bruxelles in June 2018.

Several Programme events were organized in 2018 in line with the Communication Strategy and addressed at a narrow and rather specific audience. The Programme staff trained representatives of the approved Standard+ projects in order to support and guarantee smooth and efficient project implementation since the project start-up phase.

- **Seminar for Standard+ LPs** in June (Venice), held as two-day event including 3 workshops on financial/ administrative/ communication topics
- **Seminar for Standard+ projects Italian FLC** in October (Mestre) - Presentations and Q&A in Italian language

What about spending?

The Programme certified a **total amount of 3.811.632,25 Euro** reported by the “Standard+” projects and by the Technical Assistance, reaching thus the N+3 spending target for the year 2018.

WHERE TO FIND AND CONTACT US?



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