



INTERREG V-A
ITALY - CROATIA
2014-2020

CCI 2014TC16RFCB042

Annual Implementation Report
CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

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

Approved on June 9th, 2016

The Cooperation Programme between Italy and Croatia supports the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The total Programme budget is EUR 236.890.849,00, with EUR 201.357.220,00 from the European Union funds and EUR 35.533.629,00 as National counterpart (public and private).

It will cover the entire period 2014-2020 continuing and strengthening collaboration between institutions, organisations and networks facilitated by the South East Europe, Mediterranean, and IPA Adriatic 2007-2013 Programmes.

The Programme preparation phase started in March 2013 with the establishment of a Task Force composed by the Institutional partners of the Programme (representatives of the Republic of Croatia and Italy, Zadarska County, Istarska County, Friuli Venezia Giulia autonomous Region, Marche Region - later replaced with Emilia Romagna Region) and one representative of the European Commission.

The Task Force had the responsibility to prepare the contents of the CP and supervise the programming procedures; with regards to the preparation of the CP, from May 2014 to November 2015, the Task Force was supported by a team of experts contracted by the Temporary Association of Companies SOGES s.p.a. - RAZBOR d.o.o. in defining and building the strategy of the CP. Equally important was the support of T33 s.r.l., responsible for implementing the ex ante evaluation and the strategic environmental assessment.

The Task Force, after a long and complex negotiation process, defined the contents of the programming documents and management structure: the confirmation of the Managing Authority, the selection of Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities, the list of activities to be financed by the Programme; the types of projects; the financial allocation; the indicators; the main elements of the management and control system of the Programme; the measures to be taken for the setting up of the IT system and simplification of the Programme implementation.

In the framework of the programming process, the Task Force organized two Stakeholders events in Italy (Trieste - June 17th, 2015) and Croatia (Split - June 19th, 2015) aimed to collect suggestions mainly about the actions lists for the fine-tuning of the Programme strategy and about indicators. Both events have been organized in one plenary session and four parallel focus groups on the Programme Priority Axes.

The programming phase finished in Autumn 2015, when the final text of the CP has been approved by the Task Force of the Programme during the ninth meeting held in Venice on October 27th, 2015 and finally submitted to the European Commission on November 13th, 2015. Approval by the European Commission was on December 15th, 2015 by Decision C (2015) 9342, officially notified on December 18th, 2015.

The INTERREG V-A Italy-Croatia Programme intends to implement smart solutions answering to territorial challenges in the fields of innovation, climate change, environment, natural and cultural resources, and sustainable transport.

The overall objective of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Croatia Programme is:

“Increase the prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible changes”.

The following 4 Priority Axes have been identified to answer to the existing needs and challenges:

- Priority Axis 1: Blue Innovation
 - SO 1.1: Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area
- Priority Axis 2: Safety and resilience
 - SO 2.1 Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects, in the cooperation area
 - SO 2.2 Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster
- Priority Axis 3: Environment and cultural heritage
 - SO 3.1: Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development
 - SO 3.2: Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity
 - SO 3.3: Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches
- Priority Axis 4: Maritime transport
 - SO 4.1: Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services and nodes by promoting multimodality in the Programme area

In 2015 the Joint Secretariat (JS) setting up was agreed. Afterwards, selection process for the JS head and four JS senior profiles started at the beginning of 2016, and will be concluded within June 2016.

The activities regarding the process for the publication of the first call for project proposals were started in 2016. The launch of the first call is planned in 2016.