

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN
TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL
PART A**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

Several targets have been achieved in 2016, notwithstanding some delays due to the difficulties related to the launch of a brand new CBCP, requiring the setting up of all the management bodies, the definition of several administrative procedures and the identification of the most efficient information flows.

Main Programme achievements:

Setting up of Programme bodies

The staff assigned to the MA at the start up stage was composed of 4 units with a permanent contract and one Director (all FTE). During 2016, MA staff was increased by 3 units (all FTE), initially with fixed-term contracts, then from November 2nd one has become permanent. MA was transferred to an appropriate venue at the Veneto Region's headquarters in Venice. An internal structure for FLC, named “Nucleo di Controllo di Primo Livello” (FLC Unit), functionally dependent from the Director of the Budget and Accounting Directorate, has been identified for projects related to the TA activities managed by the MA, as well as for the TA projects dedicated to the CA and to the AA. MA, CA and the FLC Unit were restructured following the general re-organization of the Veneto Region in 2016.

Concerning the CA, with resolution No.994/2016 the Regional Gov., following the previous resolution No.1001/2014, confirmed its identification, as a regional structure functionally independent from the MA. The personnel assigned to the CA initially consisting of n.2 permanent units, as well as one Director, has been strengthened with an additional fixed-term employee during 2016, (expenditures on TA budget). In Jan. and in July 2016 the CA submitted the expenditure forecasts for 2016 and 2017.

Regarding the AA, the Ministry of Economy and Finance - office for Financial Relations with the European Union (IGRUE) - concluded the formal verification of the requirements of the identified AA–AVEPA. Given that the AA is not an internal structure of the Veneto Region administration, the requirements of organizational and functional independence are guaranteed by the Regional Law of 09/11/2001, N. 31 instituting AVEPA. On 13.12.2016 and 14.12.2016 the agreement between the AA and the Veneto Region was signed. Contacts with Croatian Audit Agency were taken in order to appoint the GoA which was formally set up in March 2016. During 2016, the audit strategy, as per art.127(4) of Regulation (EU) No.1303/2013 was subject to prior assessment by the GoA on 26/07/2016, and then was adopted by Decree no.150 of 09.08.2016. Following the adoption of the audit strategy, also the Audit Manual and its annexes, prepared with the assistance of the GoA were approved by Decree no.1 on 15.12.2016.

Joint Secretariat (JS) selection and contracting

The JS was established, according to the composition, the selection procedures and the call requirements for the Head of JS and for the JS staff discussed and agreed between MSs in the Task force meetings in Zagreb on 26/11/2015 and in Venice on 16/02/2016. According to MSs decisions, the JS is composed by 12 persons recruited by the Region and operating in Venice (HQs), and by 4 additional staff working in Croatia (JS Branch Offices) to be hired by the ARD of Croatia. The selection board was composed by representatives of the two MSs and the selection assured equal access to European citizens.

Concerning the Head of JS, MA launched a selection procedure for that role, to be acquired through a fixed-term contract (so-called *collaborazione coordinata e continuativa*), art.7 co.6 of Legislative Decree 165/2001. Even though this type of contract ensures short term commitment (3 years), it has allowed MA to proceed quickly with a selective procedure. It was therefore possible to hire the Head of JS at the beginning of May, even though with some difficulties and delays, also due to the definition of the budget rules for the accounting year 2016.

- The remaining JS staff was recruited and contracted by Veneto Region through procedures for the specific profiles as follows:n.2 administrative (1 senior contracted in Oct. and 1 junior in Dec.)
- n.1 legal (senior contracted in Oct.)
- n.2 financial (1 senior contracted in July and 1 junior in Dec.)
- n.2 communication (1 senior contracted in July and 1 junior contracted in Dec.)
- n.4 project managers (all junior contracted in Dec.)
- n.4 BOs project managers: In parallel, in Oct. 2016, the ARD of the Republic of Croatia, launched the recruitment procedures for 4 Project Managers operating in Zadar and Dubrovnik.

Programme Launch Event

With reference to the Programme kick-off event, held in Venice on 7-8/11/2016, this was the occasion to officially launch the Programme with the slogan "Catching the European wind to sail in the blue cooperation space".

Communication Strategy and Plan for 2017

Regarding Programme communication activities, the MC approved in Dec. 2016 the CS and Plan for 2017, which was integrated with the Gantt diagram to clarify the activities' timing and the introduction of meetings with beneficiaries, regional events, use of social media and project clustering.

Management and Monitoring System

During the TF meeting (Feb. 2016) it was proposed to use the e-monitoring system developed by Veneto Region to support the implementation of ESI-funded Programmes. The system, named "SIU", had to be customised for the needs of an ETC Programme; SIU has been designed to manage all interactions via electronic data exchange for the entire Programme cycle, starting from the drafting and submission of the applications, to their assessment, financial management and control and also the monitoring requirements. It ensures all electronic interactions between beneficiaries and MA/CA/AA along all Programme duration.

Revision of Cooperation Programme (CP)

Concerning the CP, a revision was necessary mainly due to the fact that it was adopted in Dec.2015 without baseline values for result indicators of PA2 (SO 2.1 and SO 2.2).

Other minor revisions of the CP concerned:

- a reformulation of some output indicators, in order to align them with the wording of the ETC regulation's common indicators and make them more fitting to the SOs of the CP;
- minor revisions due to clerical mistakes;
- inclusion of the co-financing in some tables of the financial plan;
- the revision of the names of MA and CA (as a result of internal re-organisation)

The MC approved all the final revisions regarding the CP during the 2nd MC meeting in mid-Dec. 2016.

First Set of Calls for Proposals

Concerning the 1st CfPs, the MC set up a Working Group to support the definition of its main elements (call, selection criteria, application package) and the main features of different typology of the projects identified Standard and Standard+ related to the budget characteristics, nr. of PPs, prj. duration etc

The **main decision-making activities** put in place during 2016 for the implementation of the Programme are:

- 1 TF plenary meeting on 16/02/2016.
- 2 MC meetings, held in Venice on 9–10/06/2016 and 13-14/12/2016;
- 1 WG meeting held on 20/07/2016
- 1 WP for MC decision

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA 1	BLUE INNOVATION	<p>The Programme was approved in December 2015, while the first Set of Calls for Proposals has been postponed to 2017. The implementation of this priority axis was not yet started in 2016 thus it is not possible to report on key developments and significant problems. However even if some Programme implementation steps have been delayed, such as the launch of the CfP, the Working Group set up during the 1st MC meeting, worked along all 2016 on the main elements and requirements of the Calls, which were transposed by the MA, with the support of the JS, in the main documents of the Application Package, such as the Call Announcement, Factsheet n. 1 "Introduction and Background", Factsheet n. 2 "Project Generation", Factsheet n. 3 "Project Development" and Glossary.</p> <p>The main elements of the Calls and in particular the proposal of launching a two-fold CfP, one for "Standard" projects and one for "Standard+" projects (with budget and ranking defined per Priority Axis), and the above-mentioned documents have been approved by MC in 2016.</p>
PA 2	SAFETY AND RESILIENCE	<p>The Programme was approved in December 2015, while the first Set of Calls for Proposals has been postponed to 2017. The implementation of this priority axis was not yet started in 2016 thus it is not possible to report on key developments and significant problems. However even if some Programme implementation steps have been delayed, such as the launch of the CfP, the Working Group set up during the 1st MC meeting, worked along all 2016 on the main elements and requirements of the Calls, which were transposed by the MA, with the support of the JS, in the main documents of the Application Package, such as the Call Announcement, Factsheet n. 1 "Introduction and Background", Factsheet n. 2 "Project Generation", Factsheet n. 3 "Project Development" and Glossary.</p> <p>The main elements of the Calls and in particular the proposal of launching a two-</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		fold CfP, one for “Standard” projects and one for “Standard+” projects (with budget and ranking defined per Priority Axis), and the above-mentioned documents have been approved by MC in 2016.
PA 3	ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	<p>The Programme was approved in December 2015, while the first Set of Calls for Proposals has been postponed to 2017. The implementation of this priority axis was not yet started in 2016 thus it is not possible to report on key developments and significant problems. However even if some Programme implementation steps have been delayed, such as the launch of the CfP, the Working Group set up during the 1st MC meeting, worked along all 2016 on the main elements and requirements of the Calls, which were transposed by the MA, with the support of the JS, in the main documents of the Application Package, such as the Call Announcement, Factsheet n. 1 "Introduction and Background", Factsheet n. 2 "Project Generation", Factsheet n. 3 “Project Development” and Glossary.</p> <p>The main elements of the Calls and in particular the proposal of launching a two-fold CfP, one for “Standard” projects and one for “Standard+” projects (with budget and ranking defined per Priority Axis), and the above-mentioned documents have been approved by MC in 2016.</p>
PA 4	MARITIME TRANSPORT	<p>The Programme was approved in December 2015, while the first Set of Calls for Proposals has been postponed to 2017. The implementation of this priority axis was not yet started in 2016 thus it is not possible to report on key developments and significant problems. However even if some Programme implementation steps have been delayed, such as the launch of the CfP, the Working Group set up during the 1st MC meeting, worked along all 2016 on the main elements and requirements of the Calls, which were transposed by the MA, with the support of the JS, in the main documents of the Application Package, such as the Call Announcement, Factsheet n. 1 "Introduction and Background", Factsheet n. 2 "Project Generation", Factsheet n. 3 “Project Development” and Glossary.</p> <p>The main elements of the Calls and in particular the proposal of launching a two-fold CfP, one for “Standard” projects and one for “Standard+” projects (with</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		budget and ranking defined per Priority Axis), and the above-mentioned documents have been approved by MC in 2016.
PA 5	<p>The technical assistance aims at supporting the implementation of the programme, the involvement of relevant partners, as well as to increase capacity of institutions and beneficiaries in the Programme area for the cross-border actions.</p> <p>According to article 17 of ETC regulation, the limit for technical assistance is determined in a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the programme. The co-financing rate will be 15%.</p>	<p>The selection procedures launched to hire the JS staff based in Venice has been delayed due to the reorganization of the hosting institution (Veneto Region) and the difficulties of implementing the agreements between IT and HR as stated in the CP within the Italian legal framework.</p> <p>For stipulating staff contracts the quickest and also because of limitations foreseen by the Italian labour Law the MA decided to proceed with short-term contracts (3 years) for the Head of JS, JS senior and junior staff. As suggested by the EC Desk Officer, in order to avoid a new public selection after the 3 initial years, which would result in a waste of time and resources, it seems necessary to involve the Italian NAs to understand how to overcome the law constraints and to ensure JS staff stability to implement Programme until 2023.</p> <p>The I&M System has been set up in 2016, adapting it to the need of the CP the web-based system developed by the Veneto Region to support all ESI-funded Programmes managed by the Region. Some delays in designing and adapting the system have to be reported, due to the particularity of the ETC procedures: in order to avoid further delays and to adapt the SIU system to the needs of a CBC Programme, experts involved by Veneto Region have developed the platform, throughout the year 2016, in close collaboration with MA/ JS. The IT developers released several beta versions of the system during 2016, however the system was not finalized by the end of the year.</p> <p>As the application module of the system had to be made available to applicants for the first Cfp, its fine-tuning continues during 2017.</p> <p>No TA expenses have yet been claimed from the EC, since the MA designation process was not finalized in 2016</p>

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	PA 1 - BLUE INNOVATION
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation 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 general purpose technologies

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 1.1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	1.1O1	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	Number	30.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	1.1O1	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	Number	30.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	1.1O2	Enterprises receiving grants	Number	6.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	1.1O2	Enterprises receiving grants	Number	6.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	1.1O3	Research institutions participating in crossborder, transnational or interregional research projects	Number	10.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	1.1O3	Research institutions participating in crossborder, transnational or interregional research projects	Number	10.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	1.1O4	Participants to training activities	Number	120.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	1.1O4	Participants to training activities	Number	120.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	1.1O5	Enterprises receiving support	Number	36.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	1.1O5	Enterprises receiving support	Number	36.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	1.1O1	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00
S	1.1O1	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00
F	1.1O2	Enterprises receiving grants	0.00	0.00
S	1.1O2	Enterprises receiving grants	0.00	0.00
F	1.1O3	Research institutions participating in crossborder, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00
S	1.1O3	Research institutions participating in crossborder, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00
F	1.1O4	Participants to training activities	0.00	0.00
S	1.1O4	Participants to training activities	0.00	0.00
F	1.1O5	Enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00
S	1.1O5	Enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 1 - BLUE INNOVATION
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation 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 general purpose technologies
Specific objective	1.1 - Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 1.1b.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.1R	Number of EPO applications	Number	673.28	2012	680.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1R	Number of EPO applications				

Priority axis	PA 2 - SAFETY AND RESILIENCE
Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 2.5a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	2.1O1	Climate change monitoring systems put in operation	Number	5.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	2.1O1	Climate change monitoring systems put in operation	Number	5.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	2.1O2	Plans of adaptation measures put in place	Number	5.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	2.1O2	Plans of adaptation measures put in place	Number	5.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	2.1O1	Climate change monitoring systems put in operation	0.00	0.00
S	2.1O1	Climate change monitoring systems put in operation	0.00	0.00
F	2.1O2	Plans of adaptation measures put in place	0.00	0.00
S	2.1O2	Plans of adaptation measures put in place	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 2 - SAFETY AND RESILIENCE
Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
Specific objective	2.1 - Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects, in the cooperation area

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 2.5a.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.1R	Inhabitants benefiting from planning of adaptation measures	Number	0.00	2015	0.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1R	Inhabitants benefiting from planning of adaptation measures				

Priority axis	PA 2 - SAFETY AND RESILIENCE
Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 2.5b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	2.2O1	Risk management measures operative	Number	3.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CFP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	2.2O1	Risk management measures operative	Number	3.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CFP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	2.2O2	People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness	Number	100,000.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CFP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	2.2O2	People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness	Number	100,000.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CFP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	2.2O1	Risk management measures operative	0.00	0.00
S	2.2O1	Risk management measures operative	0.00	0.00
F	2.2O2	People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness	0.00	0.00
S	2.2O2	People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 2 - SAFETY AND RESILIENCE
Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
Specific objective	2.2 - Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 2.5b.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.2R	Inhabitants benefiting from risk management coordinated measures	Number	0.00	2015	0.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2R	Inhabitants benefiting from risk management coordinated measures				

Priority axis	PA 3 - ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 3.6c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	3.101	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	Number	20.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.101	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	Number	20.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	3.102	Actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism)	Number	40.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.102	Actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism)	Number	40.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	3.103	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place	Number	10.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.103	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place	Number	10.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	3.104	Beneficiaries with ecolabel/green certification	Number	10.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.104	Beneficiaries with ecolabel/green certification	Number	10.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	3.101	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	0.00	0.00
S	3.101	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	0.00	0.00
F	3.102	Actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism)	0.00	0.00
S	3.102	Actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism)	0.00	0.00
F	3.103	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place	0.00	0.00
S	3.103	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place	0.00	0.00
F	3.104	Beneficiaries with ecolabel/green certification	0.00	0.00
S	3.104	Beneficiaries with ecolabel/green certification	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 3 - ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	3.1 - Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 3.6c.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.1R	Seasonality in tourism in the programme area	Number	0.62	2014	0.62			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1R	Seasonality in tourism in the programme area				

Priority axis	PA 3 - ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 3.6d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	3.201	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	6.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.201	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	6.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	3.202	Monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.202	Monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	3.203	Restoration actions supporting endangered species	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.203	Restoration actions supporting endangered species	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	3.204	Integrated management systems (sea, coastal and river environment) put in place	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.204	Integrated management systems (sea, coastal and river environment) put in place	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	3.201	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0.00	0.00
S	3.201	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0.00	0.00
F	3.202	Monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place	0.00	0.00
S	3.202	Monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place	0.00	0.00
F	3.203	Restoration actions supporting endangered species	0.00	0.00
S	3.203	Restoration actions supporting endangered species	0.00	0.00
F	3.204	Integrated management systems (sea, coastal and river environment) put in place	0.00	0.00
S	3.204	Integrated management systems (sea, coastal and river environment) put in place	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 3 - ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Specific objective	3.2 - Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 3.6d.3.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.2R	Excellent conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in the programme area	Number	3,538.00	2014	3,550.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2R	Excellent conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in the programme area				

Priority axis	PA 3 - ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Investment priority	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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 3.6f

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	3.3O1	Environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented	Number	2.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.3O1	Environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented	Number	2.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	3.3O2	Knowledge systems put in place	Number	3.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	3.3O2	Knowledge systems put in place	Number	3.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	3.3O1	Environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented	0.00	0.00
S	3.3O1	Environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented	0.00	0.00
F	3.3O2	Knowledge systems put in place	0.00	0.00
S	3.3O2	Knowledge systems put in place	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 3 - ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Investment priority	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
Specific objective	3.3 - Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 3.6f.3.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.3R	Quality level of coastal bathing waters (according to the dir. 2006/7/CE)	Number	2.87	2014	2.87			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.3R	Quality level of coastal bathing waters (according to the dir. 2006/7/CE)				

Priority axis	PA 4 - MARITIME TRANSPORT
Investment priority	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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 4.7c

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	4.101	Improved multimodal transport services	Number	5.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	4.101	Improved multimodal transport services	Number	5.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	4.102	New links established	Number	2.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	4.102	New links established	Number	2.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
F	4.103	Harmonized services for passengers put in place	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016
S	4.103	Harmonized services for passengers put in place	Number	4.00	0.00	Revision of CP and postponement of 1st CIP to 2017 were approved by MC in December 2016

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	4.101	Improved multimodal transport services	0.00	0.00
S	4.101	Improved multimodal transport services	0.00	0.00
F	4.102	New links established	0.00	0.00
S	4.102	New links established	0.00	0.00
F	4.103	Harmonized services for passengers put in place	0.00	0.00
S	4.103	Harmonized services for passengers put in place	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 4 - MARITIME TRANSPORT
Investment priority	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
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

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 4.7c.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
4.1R	Goods transported by maritime mode	Thousand tonnes	2,445.00	2014	2,690.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.1R	Goods transported by maritime mode				

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	PA 5 - The technical assistance aims at supporting the implementation of the programme, the involvement of relevant partners, as well as to increase capacity of institutions and beneficiaries in the Programme area for the cross-border actions. According to article 17 of ETC regulation, the limit for technical assistance is determined in a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the programme. The co-financing rate will be 15%.
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 5. The technical assistance aims at supporting the implementation of the programme, the involvement of relevant partners, as well as to increase capacity of institutions and beneficiaries in the Programme area for the cross-border actions. According to article 17 of ETC regulation, the limit for technical assistance is determined in a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the programme. The co-financing rate will be 15%.

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	TA1	Calls for proposals successfully launched and closed	number	3.00	0.00	First Call for Proposals postponed to 2017.
S	TA1	Calls for proposals successfully launched and closed	number	3.00	0.00	First Call for Proposals postponed to 2017.
F	TA2	Operations financed following calls for proposals	number	75.00	0.00	First Call for Proposals postponed to 2017.
S	TA2	Operations financed following calls for proposals	number	75.00	0.00	First Call for Proposals postponed to 2017.
F	TA3	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	number	1.00	1.00	Programme Communication Strategy presented, discussed and approved by MC in December 2016.
S	TA3	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	number	1.00	1.00	Programme Communication Strategy presented, discussed and approved by MC in December 2016.
F	TA4	Independent on-going programme evaluation implemented	number	1.00	0.00	During 2016 the evaluation plan was drafted and discussed by MC ; approval postponed to 2017.
S	TA4	Independent on-going programme evaluation implemented	number	1.00	0.00	During 2016 the evaluation plan was drafted and discussed by MC ; approval postponed to 2017.
F	TA5	Programme e-Monitoring System established	number	1.00	0.00	During 2016 the customisation of the SIU system developed by the Veneto Region for all ESI-funded Programmes was started but no module has been finalized along the year. Fine-tuning of the system was postponed to 2017.
S	TA5	Programme e-Monitoring System established	number	1.00	1.00	During 2016 the customisation of the SIU system developed by the Veneto Region for all ESI-funded Programmes was started but no module has been finalized along the year. Fine-tuning of the system was postponed to 2017.
F	TA6	Workshop and events held	number	8.00	1.00	During 2016 1 Programme event (official launch of the Programme) was organised in Venice on 7-8 November.
S	TA6	Workshop and events held	number	8.00	1.00	During 2016 1 Programme event (official launch of the Programme) was organised in Venice on 7-8 November.
F	TA7	Number of employees (Full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number	20.00	16.00	The personnel (Full-time equivalent) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance has been recruited during 2016 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 MA Staff (FTE term contracts) • 12 JS staff (FTE term contracts) • 1 CA Staff (FTE term contracts) The remaining 4 JS staff were hired by the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic (ARR) of Croatia at the beginning of 2017.
S	TA7	Number of employees (Full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number	20.00	16.00	The personnel (Full-time equivalent) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance has been recruited during 2016 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 MA Staff (FTE term contracts) • 12 JS staff (FTE term contracts) • 1 CA Staff (FTE term contracts) The remaining 4 JS staff were hired by the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic (ARR) of Croatia at the beginning of 2017.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	TA1	Calls for proposals successfully launched and closed	0.00	0.00
S	TA1	Calls for proposals successfully launched and closed	0.00	0.00
F	TA2	Operations financed following calls for proposals	0.00	0.00
S	TA2	Operations financed following calls for proposals	0.00	0.00
F	TA3	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
S	TA3	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	0.00	0.00
F	TA4	Independent on-going programme evaluation implemented	0.00	0.00
S	TA4	Independent on-going programme evaluation implemented	0.00	0.00
F	TA5	Programme e-Monitoring System established	0.00	0.00
S	TA5	Programme e-Monitoring System established	0.00	0.00
F	TA6	Workshop and events held	0.00	0.00
S	TA6	Workshop and events held	0.00	0.00
F	TA7	Number of employees (Full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	0.00
S	TA7	Number of employees (Full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA 5 - The technical assistance aims at supporting the implementation of the programme, the involvement of relevant partners, as well as to increase capacity of institutions and beneficiaries in the Programme area for the cross-border actions. According to article 17 of ETC regulation, the limit for technical assistance is determined in a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the programme. The co-financing rate will be 15%.
Specific objective	5.1 - To assure efficiency and effectiveness in the management and implementation of the Cooperation Programme

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 5.5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
-	-	-			0.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
-	-				

Priority axis	PA 5 - The technical assistance aims at supporting the implementation of the programme, the involvement of relevant partners, as well as to increase capacity of institutions and beneficiaries in the Programme area for the cross-border actions. According to article 17 of ETC regulation, the limit for technical assistance is determined in a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the programme. The co-financing rate will be 15%.
Specific objective	5.2 - To assure the support to applicants and beneficiaries and to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the Programme implementation

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 5.5.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
--	-	-			0.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
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3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
PA 1	F	1PF1	financial	EUR	2.416.286,7	24,162,867.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 1	I	1PF4	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support involved in the funded operations	Number	10	30.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 1	I	1PF5	Number of cross-border, trans-national or interregional research projects started	Number	2	5.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 1	O	1PF2	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Number	0	30.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 1	O	1PF3	Number of research institutions participating in crossborder, transnational or interregional research projects	Number	0	10.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 2	F	2PF1	financial	EUR	2.567.304,55	51,346,091.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 2	I	2PF5	Preparatory technical documents for putting in operation the climate change monitoring systems	Number	2	7.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 2	I	2PF6	Plans adaptation measures being drawn up	Number	2	5.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 2	O	2PF2	Climate change monitoring systems put in operation	Number	0	5.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 2	O	2PF3	Plans of adaptation measures put in place	Number	0	5.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 2	O	2PF4	People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness	Number	5000	100,000.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	F	3PF1	financial	EUR	4.933.251,89	70,475,027.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	I	3PF2	Open building sites for the improved accessibility in the selected cultural and heritage destinations	Number	8	15.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	I	3PF3	Approved projects in order to put in place knowledge systems	Number	10	20.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	O	3PF4	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	Number	5	20.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	O	3PF5	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place	Number	0	10.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	O	3PF6	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	2	6.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	O	3PF7	Knowledge systems put in place	Number	0	3.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 3	O	3PF8	Beneficiaries with ecolabel/green certification	Number	3	10.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 4	F	4PF1	Financial	EUR	2.164.590,1	43,291,802.00		No operations started in

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
								2016
PA 4	I	4PF2	Approved projects aimed at improving multimodal transport services	Number	2	10.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 4	I	4PF3	Analyses for the harmonization services	Number	2	4.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 4	O	4PF4	Improved multimodal transport services	Number	0	5.00		No operations started in 2016
PA 4	O	4PF5	Harmonized services for passengers put in place	Number	0	4.00		No operations started in 2016

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
PA 1	F	1PF1	financial	EUR		
PA 1	I	1PF4	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support involved in the funded operations	Number		
PA 1	I	1PF5	Number of cross-border, trans-national or interregional research projects started	Number		
PA 1	O	1PF2	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Number		
PA 1	O	1PF3	Number of research institutions participating in crossborder, transnational or interregional research projects	Number		
PA 2	F	2PF1	financial	EUR		
PA 2	I	2PF5	Preparatory technical documents for putting in operation the climate change monitoring systems	Number		
PA 2	I	2PF6	Plans adaptation measures being drawn up	Number		
PA 2	O	2PF2	Climate change monitoring systems put in operation	Number		
PA 2	O	2PF3	Plans of adaptation measures put in place	Number		
PA 2	O	2PF4	People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness	Number		
PA 3	F	3PF1	financial	EUR		
PA 3	I	3PF2	Open building sites for the improved accessibility in the selected cultural and heritage destinations	Number		
PA 3	I	3PF3	Approved projects in order to put in place knowledge systems	Number		
PA 3	O	3PF4	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	Number		
PA 3	O	3PF5	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place	Number		
PA 3	O	3PF6	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number		
PA 3	O	3PF7	Knowledge systems put in place	Number		
PA 3	O	3PF8	Beneficiaries with ecolabel/green certification	Number		
PA 4	F	4PF1	Financial	EUR		
PA 4	I	4PF2	Approved projects aimed at improving multimodal transport services	Number		
PA 4	I	4PF3	Analyses for the harmonization services	Number		
PA 4	O	4PF4	Improved multimodal transport services	Number		
PA 4	O	4PF5	Harmonized services for passengers put in place	Number		

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
PA 1	ERDF	Total	28,426,903.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
PA 2	ERDF	Total	60,407,166.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
PA 3	ERDF	Total	82,911,797.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
PA 4	ERDF	Total	50,931,532.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
PA 5	ERDF	Total	14,213,451.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
Total	ERDF		236,890,849.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
Grand total			236,890,849.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

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Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA 1	ERDF												
PA 2	ERDF												
PA 3	ERDF												
PA 4	ERDF												
PA 5	ERDF												

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
None	0.00		0.00	

(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

During 2016 no evaluation was carried out. The MA/JS carried out preliminary work on the evaluation plan, to be finalised and then approved by MC in 2017. A first draft was presented and briefly discussed at the 2nd MC meeting in December 2016 and useful suggestions were collected for the completion of the work.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

In 2016, following a long process for the approval of the Cooperation Programme, and consequently a considerable delay in the implementation of the activities, several significant aspects affecting Programme performance were faced, in particular the setting up of the management structures and the development of the management and monitoring system.

Concerning the management structures, the selection of the JS staff started with a remarkable delay, due to different causes few of them under the MA control. In order to speed up the selection procedure and also because of some restrictions laid down by the Italian labour Law, the Veneto Region chose to stipulate short-term contracts (3 years) to hire the JS staff. For that reason at the expiration of these contracts, the MA will be obliged to put in place another public procedure for selecting new JS staff. The MA will try to find a solution to avoid this situation that could deeply and negatively affect the Programme performance, also involving representatives of the National level to overcome legislation constraints.

As far as MA is concerned, the body suffered to some extent from understaffing, considering the demanding activities connected with the start-up of the Programme; a plan for further strengthening has been foreseen, however given the complexity of recruitment procedures it will only have effect in late 2017. Moreover the reorganisation of Veneto Region administration decreased the level of the MA autonomy, and, in general, has led to a transit phase for all regional structures that has slowed down many activities, due to the need to redefine internal processes. In order to continue the implementation of the Programme the MA obtained by delegation from the higher-level structures the necessary autonomy.

It shall be highlighted that, in order to decrease the negative impact of the accumulated delay in Programme implementation, the MC decided to launch a “capitalization Call” (“Standard+”) able to support a quicker allocation of ERDF resources and provide a contribution to the achievements of the targets set for the performance framework.

As far as the Programme management and monitoring system is concerned, there have been some delays, due to the needed customization of the existing IT system to the Programme characteristics and requirements. The MA, with the support of JS, in close and daily collaboration with the ICT provider appointed by the Veneto Region, was able to support the system development and speed up as much as possible its finalisation. The application module of the monitoring system has been developed by technicians, throughout 2016, with the aim to be utilised for the first CfP, but it was finalized in 2017. The system customisation and fine-tuning activity continued throughout all 2016.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

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6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

**7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
(ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	PA 1 - BLUE INNOVATION
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In 2016 no operations started nor were selected for funding. The achievement of the objectives of the Cooperation Programme was thus pursued in terms of preparatory work aimed at opening the first Set of Calls for Proposals and at meeting Performance Framework Targets in time. In particular, in order not to miss milestones of PA 1, a specific work was carried out to better explain to beneficiaries the meaning and impact of Programme and project intervention logics and in particular the importance of output and result indicators in project generation and implementation. These explanations were provided in *ad hoc* Programme documents (particularly Factsheet n. 2 “Project Generation”) and during the afternoon workshops at the official Programme launch event held in Venice on 7/8 November 2016.

Moreover, in order to diminish the risk of de-commitment and further ensure the achievement of thematic milestones, the MC decided to launch a call for capitalisation projects with a twofold aim: ensuring a fast and easier absorption of funds for 2018 and 2019 and achievement of thematic targets thanks to short (18 months) projects involving experienced partners and to be selected within 2017; bridging the gap of being a new Programme with no history and lessons learnt behind by taking advantage of previous successful cooperation stories in the framework of MED, SEE and IPA Adriatic ETC Programmes

Priority axis	PA 2 - SAFETY AND RESILIENCE
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In 2016 no operations started nor were selected for funding. The achievement of the objectives of the Cooperation Programme was thus pursued in terms of preparatory work aimed at opening the first Set of Calls for Proposals and at meeting Performance Framework Targets in time. In particular, in order not to miss milestones of PA 2, a specific work was carried out to better explain to beneficiaries the meaning and impact of Programme and project intervention logics and in particular the importance of output and result indicators in project generation and implementation. These explanations were provided in *ad hoc* Programme documents (particularly Factsheet n. 2 “Project Generation”) and during the afternoon workshops at the official Programme launch event held in Venice on 7/8 November 2016.

Moreover, in order to diminish the risk of de-commitment and further ensure the achievement of thematic milestones, the MC decided to launch a call for capitalisation projects with a twofold aim: ensuring a fast and easier absorption of funds for 2018 and 2019 and achievement of thematic targets thanks to short (18 months) projects involving experienced partners and to be selected within 2017; bridging the gap of being a new Programme with no history and lessons learnt behind by taking advantage of previous successful cooperation stories in the framework of MED, SEE and IPA Adriatic ETC Programmes.

Priority axis	PA 3 - ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
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In 2016 no operations started nor were selected for funding. The achievement of the objectives of the Cooperation Programme was thus pursued in terms of preparatory work aimed at opening the first Set of Calls for Proposals and at meeting Performance Framework Targets in time. In particular, in order not to

miss milestones of PA 3, a specific work was carried out to better explain to beneficiaries the meaning and impact of Programme and project intervention logics and in particular the importance of output and result indicators in project generation and implementation. These explanations were provided in *ad hoc* Programme documents (particularly Factsheet n. 2 “Project Generation”) and during the afternoon workshops at the official Programme launch event held in Venice on 7/8 November 2016.

Moreover, in order to diminish the risk of de-commitment and further ensure the achievement of thematic milestones, the MC decided to launch a call for capitalisation projects with a twofold aim: ensuring a fast and easier absorption of funds for 2018 and 2019 and achievement of thematic targets thanks to short (18 months) projects involving experienced partners and to be selected within 2017; bridging the gap of being a new Programme with no history and lessons learnt behind by taking advantage of previous successful cooperation stories in the framework of MED, SEE and IPA Adriatic ETC Programmes

Priority axis

PA 4 - MARITIME TRANSPORT

In 2016 no operations started nor were selected for funding. The achievement of the objectives of the Cooperation Programme was thus pursued in terms of preparatory work aimed at opening the first Set of Calls for Proposals and at meeting Performance Framework Targets in time. In particular, in order not to miss milestones of PA 4, a specific work was carried out to better explain to beneficiaries the meaning and impact of Programme and project intervention logics and in particular the importance of output and result indicators in project generation and implementation. These explanations were provided in *ad hoc* Programme documents (particularly Factsheet n. 2 “Project Generation”) and during the afternoon workshops at the official Programme launch event held in Venice on 7/8 November 2016.

Moreover, in order to diminish the risk of de-commitment and further ensure the achievement of thematic milestones, the MC decided to launch a call for capitalisation projects with a twofold aim: ensuring a fast and easier absorption of funds for 2018 and 2019 and achievement of thematic targets thanks to short (18 months) projects involving experienced partners and to be selected within 2017; bridging the gap of being a new Programme with no history and lessons learnt behind by taking advantage of previous successful cooperation stories in the framework of MED, SEE and IPA Adriatic ETC Programmes.

Priority axis

PA 5 - The technical assistance aims at supporting the implementation of the programme, the involvement of relevant partners, as well as to increase capacity of institutions and beneficiaries in the Programme area for the cross-border actions.
According to article 17 of ETC regulation, the limit for technical assistance is determined in a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the programme. The co-financing rate will be 15%.

During 2016 much effort was put by all Programme bodies to set up a fully operational management system notwithstanding significant challenges of being a brand new Programme with no antecedent. The MC was set up as required by the regulations and the management structures followed in the course of 2016. In particular, the Joint Secretariat staff to be hired in the Venice headquarter, was selected and contracts were signed by the end of the year. Also the MA and CA hired ad hoc staff to carry out their duties and ensure effective Programme implementation. Furthermore, MA, CA and JS put much effort in the definition and description of the Management and Control Systems by elaborating internal manuals and templates, by keeping constant contacts with AA and National authorities for the definition of control arrangements, by making sure that e-Cohesion is properly put in place.

The management and monitoring system has been developed during 2016 although its fine-tuning was postponed to 2017. Finally, in order to reach beneficiaries and convey important messages on Programme expectations, a kick-off event was held in Venice (Italy) on 7th and 8th November.

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

During the preparation of the first Call for proposals carried on by the Monitoring Committee in 2016 and in particular in the definition of the assessment criteria for selecting the operations, horizontal principles such as promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the integration of the gender perspective, as set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 have been deeply taken into consideration.

Applicants were thoroughly informed about the need to respect the commitments of the CP in terms of prevention of any discrimination based on disability, to ensure a balanced participation of men and women and gender mainstreaming highlighting that specific provisions will be included in the Programme Factsheets.

In particular, specific rewarding scores in line with these principles have been foreseen in the evaluation of the operations for all the priority axes.

As concerns the promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination and in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender:

- the specific objective 1.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal includes elements for fostering the inclusion of disadvantage groups and gender mainstreaming (2 points);
- the specific objective 3.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal includes elements for fostering the inclusion of disadvantaged groups and gender mainstreaming (2 points);
- the specific objective 3.3 attributes additional scores if the project proposal includes elements for fostering the inclusion of disadvantage groups and gender mainstreaming (2 points);
- the specific objective 4.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal includes elements for fostering the inclusion of disadvantage groups and gender mainstreaming (2 points).

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

Even though no operations were funded during 2016, horizontal principles, such as sustainable development, preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of environment, as set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, were taken into deep consideration during the preparatory activities of the first call for proposals, carried on by the Monitoring Committee and in particular in the assessment criteria for selecting the operations, among which specific rewarding scores have been foreseen in line with these principles. In particular:

- the specific objective 1.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal supports eco-efficiency tools and solutions (3 points);
- within the specific objective 2.1, the assessment criterion related to “complementarities of the proposed activities with pre-existing strategies, RBMPs or instruments previously present in the cooperation area”, attributes an additional score of 4 points;
- within the specific objective 2.2, the assessment criteria related to “raising awareness in the population on hazard management procedures” and “developing common tools and schemes for monitoring the natural and man-made disasters” attribute both 2 additional points each;
- the specific objective 3.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal is creating synergies in nature, cultural heritage and tourism and supporting the leverage capacity of natural and cultural valorization (3 points); reducing the pressure on endangered and sensitive natural features on UNESCO and Natura 2000 sites, taking into account their conservation status and conservation objectives (2 points); building construction and renovation which go beyond cost-optimal levels (2 points);
- the specific objective 3.2 attributes additional scores if the project proposal is: focused on Natura 2000 sites of European importance implementing management actions reducing the pressure on endangered and sensitive natural features taking into account their conservation status and conservation objectives (3 points); aiming at increasing the knowledge on marine biodiversity, designating and improving management of marine protected areas (2 points); focusing on river basins, coastal, marine and wetland areas (2 points); aiming to develop tools for integrated management of the sea, coastal and river environment and of cross-border natural resources (2 points);
- the specific objective 3.3 attributes additional scores if the project proposal includes elements supporting the shift toward the low-carbon economy (3 points);
- the specific objective 4.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal is complementary with the urban and regional mobility plans of the territories (4 points) and/or includes elements supporting the shift toward the low-carbon economy (3 points).

Moreover, within the Management organisations special attention was given to GPP principles in the selection of sub-contractors (e.g. for event organisation). Specific reference was made in internal manuals of JS and MA to the need for the staff to adopt behaviours in line with sustainable development principles.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	0.00	0.00%

During the preparatory activities of the first call for proposals in 2016 and the definition of assessment criteria for the selection of the operations, close attention was also devoted to the support to climate change objectives, also considering that the Programme has selected Investment Priorities 5a and 5b to reach Programme objectives.

In particular some rewarding scores have been foreseen by the Monitoring Committee for those operations in line with the support to climate change objectives:

- the specific objective 3.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal focuses on Natura 2000 sites or sites/ areas where cultural/ natural heritage is less known or strongly affected by climate change, adverse extreme natural events, environmental degradation (2 points) and/or fosters green certifications (2 points);
- the specific objective 3.2 attributes additional scores if the project proposal is complementary with projects funded by LIFE Programme 2014 – 2020 (2 points);
- the specific objective 3.3 attributes additional scores if the project proposal is complementary with projects funded by LIFE Programme 2014 - 2020 (2 points), fosters green certifications (2 points), includes elements supporting the shift toward the low-carbon economy (3 points);
- the specific objective 4.1 attributes additional scores if the project proposal includes elements supporting the shift toward the low-carbon economy (3 points).

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

According to art. 47 of CPR, the MC has to be set up within three months of the date of notification to the Member States of the Commission decision adopting the Cooperation Programme.

The MC composition was agreed by the Member States participating in the Programme, during the Task Force meeting held on February, 16th 2016, in compliance with the Section 5 of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Italy-Croatia 2014-2020.

The MC includes MSs relevant representatives, in accordance with art. 5.2 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and the relevant representatives set forth by the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 – Code of Conduct (CoC) for partnership; representatives of the economic and social partners and bilateral non-governmental organisations, bodies representing civil society (e.g.: environmental partners, non-governmental organizations) are involved in accordance with art. 10.2 of Code of Conduct.

The MC composition was formally established by regional resolution of the Veneto Region No. 257 of the 08th March 2016; subsequently, the MA has appointed the members and substitutes of the Monitoring Committee of the Italy-Croatia Cooperation Programme by the decision of the MA Director No. 3 of the 17th March 2016. The MA has informed the authorities and identified bodies.

Only for the Republic of Croatia, the designated Monitoring Committee members in advisory capacity representing public authorities, economic and social partners and civil society of the Italy-Croatia CBC were identified as follows:

a) Representatives of public authorities Ref. art. 4 co. 1 (a) (ii) of CoC

b) Representatives of public authorities Ref. art. 4 co. 1 (a) (iii) of CoC

c) Representatives of economic and social partners Ref. art. 4 co. 1 (b) (i) of CoC

d) Representatives of economic and social partners Ref. art. 4 co. 1 (b) (ii) of CoC

e) Representatives of bodies representing civil society Ref. art. 4 co. 1 (c) (i) of CoC

The appointment of the remaining Croatian members in advisory capacity was postponed to a later stage.

The designation of Italian members in advisory capacity was postponed due to some delays in the definition of the National governance. In order to speed up the appointment of the Italian non-voting members, the MA urged the Italian authorities to make a decision, also addressing the National Committee which was established and operational in 2016. Finally, it shall be highlighted that the MA reported the lack of continuity in the appointment of MC members and decided, to this end, to make available to new members a “Welcome Kit” with all relevant documents and information to carry out at best their role within the Programme decision-making body.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Evaluation plan under development to be approved by MC in 2017.

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

During the year 2016 the Communication Strategy was finalized. Starting from the 1st version of the document (approved during the 1st Monitoring Committee) and taking into account the suggestions of EC representative - Programme Desk officer - the following revisions were applied:

1. minor revisions of the first part of the document (detailed activities per each communication field);
2. overall clustered activities defined and detailed;
3. all the functions of the Programme website explicitly described;
4. budget split per year and aggregated activities defined and detailed;
5. specific output indicators identified;
6. clear reference to EU main regulations (annex XII of the general Regulation 1303) included.

Furthermore in 2016 also the Communication Plan for 2017 has been drafted and completed. The presentation of both aforementioned documents was given by the JS at the MC meeting and the documents were finally approved by the Monitoring Committee meeting on 13th December 2016.

PROGRAMME KICK-OFF EVENT

As regards to the Programme kick-off event, held in Venice on 7th and 8th November 2016, this was the occasion to officially launch the INTERREG V A Italy-Croatia CBC Programme with the slogan "**Catching the European wind to sail in the blue cooperation space**".

During the first day, the works were opened by the intervention of high level EU and National Member States representatives. This was followed by a session dedicated to other Cross-border maritime Programmes of the Adriatic basin and beyond, focusing on cooperation in the maritime context.

The second day was devoted to the presentation of the Italy-Croatia CBC Programme intervention logic. The Joint Secretariat provided technical orientation to potential beneficiaries for the 1st Call for Proposals in terms of approach, priorities and financial allocations. Furthermore, during 4 thematic parallel sessions, the floor was given to potential applicants to present their project ideas. Each of the two days of Programme launch was attended by more than 300 participants, representing organizations and institutions from the entire Programme area.

The kick-off event involved **19 different speakers, moderated by a professional facilitator** whose work was supported by the Communication Unit in gathering the curricula of the speakers prior to the event. Furthermore, 19 different presentations for the event were prepared by the speakers and displayed during the event in plenary session and during the thematic workshops.

Besides the participants that took part in the event, for the **on-line web-streaming 314 participants requests** were received by the Programme. The final result was that **420 viewers followed the web-streaming and for an average Viewing Time calculated in 1h 59m 19s**.

After the event the video registrations of the plenary sessions for each day were made available on the **Programme Youtube channel (21 assembly videos)**, while the photos from the event were uploaded on Flickr. Both tools were opened and set up graphically by the JS, and then connected with the relative icons to the Programme website in coordination and collaboration with the ICT internal staff of the Veneto

Region. As agreed with the stakeholders and participants, and immediately after the Kick-off event, also all speakers' presentations were uploaded on the website of the Programme and related news published on the home page. Contents in Italian for the article that was published in the European bulletin of the Veneto Region for the December edition were also prepared by the JS.

- 4467 minutes watched time for an average view duration of 2 minutes and 50 seconds. There are 6 registered users, 1542 total views. Single users are 657. (data available at 19th May 2017)

Stakeholders age: > 34 years represent 51% of total users

- 50 photos uploaded. 3347 photo views (data available at 19th May 2017).

During 2016 the JS collected and organized the relevant information on the Programme and its characteristics in a leaflet. Save the Date for the Kick-off event was also elaborated and sent out to 2000 different Programme stakeholders by the MA and to different institutional representatives. **30 project posters** – with project ideas were printed and displayed during the event.

Other **promotion and communication materials** that were produced for the purposes of the Kick-off event and in order to raise awareness of the Programme and leave a memorable gadgets with Programme logo were:

- 500 leaflets
- 10 posters A3 print for the purpose of the event announcement on the local territory;
- 1 roll up (h. 200 x 1,85 cm) placed at the event premises;
- 350 folders A4 print for the event coordinated image;
- 350 pens personalized with Programme logo;
- 300 usb sticks containing all Programme relevant documents and personalized with Programme logo;
- 300 block notes personalized with event coordinated image;
- 350 printed agendas of the event;
- 350 badge holder in plastic and with event coordinated image.

Satisfaction survey for the purposes of evaluation of the Italy – Croatia CBC Programme kick-off event was set up by the Programme and uploaded on an online tool. 195 Total answers among which 175 complete answers were submitted by participants. The answers and data were analysed and presented during the 2nd MC meeting in Venice.

At the end of the process the Communication Manager has created a new updated list of Programme stakeholders - **Programme contact database enriched with new 700 e-mail/phone/address contacts at 31st December 2016.**

The Programme's online communication was carried out by updating the website, virtual networking section – related to the project idea generation and search and expertise availability tools.

Both sections have been finalized and made fully operational in autumn 2016. The day-to-day activity was carried out constantly in reviewing the proposed project ideas/expertise availabilities uploaded by the

users before those are published by the Programme, and direct mailing to the users whose contents should be revised before the publishing. The results are: **351 registered external users to the website; 53 Project Ideas published in the related section of the website and 24 Expertise Availabilities published.**

Website data (data taken in consideration for analysis from website launch till 31st December 2016)

- 38.848,00 Sessions
- 15.195,00 Users
- 196.634,00 Page views
- 27,44% Bounce rate
- 5'29" average session duration
- 39,11% News sessions (new visitors), 60,9% returning visitors
- Connection from aprox. 10 different countries (Italy 72%, Croatia 16%, Remaining 12% among: Belgium, France, UK, Greece, Romania, USA, Austria)

Stakeholders age: > 34 years represent 61% of total users

In relation to the CS Output Indicators targets here bellow short summary:

- TA3 - 1 Programme communication strategy developed, approved by the Monitoring Committee
- TA6 - 1 Kick off Meeting organized
- CS2 - On 31st Dec. 2016 15.195,00 Website Users
- CS3 - 500 leaflets produced
- CS 8 - 4 thematic workshops organized during the KoM
- CS9 - 5 news releases published online

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

The Programme adopted the concept of “blue growth” as the overall approach where its action on the territories is framed. The topic of “blue growth” allows the Programme to contribute to EU2020 objectives and achieve tangible results enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion. Main objective of the Programme is indeed “to increase prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible results”. In order to properly respond to main territorial challenges, the 4 Priority Axes aim at recovering the competitiveness of the Adriatic Basin (PA 1), making the area more resilient and secure (PA 2), valorising the rich cultural and natural heritage (PA 3) and supporting multimodality for more sustainable and secure transport networks (PA 4). All these dimensions, grounded in blue growth principles, are meant to enhance the Programme integrated approach to territorial development and thus increase the effectiveness of Programme actions in the two Member States participating in the Programme.

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

During 2016 preparatory activities also involving the reinforcement of the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use ERDF were carried out. In particular, training opportunities for MA and JS staff (e.g. workshops organised by Interact or the European Commission) were exploited whenever possible. In addition, relevant and detailed information on how to best manage ERDF paying particular attention to the sound financial management were included in Programme factsheets drafted by MA/JS and approved by the MC.

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Contribution to EUSAIR is a crucial reference point for the INTERREG Italy-Croatia Programme. Indeed, its overall eligible area is included in EUSAIR as approved by the European Council on 23 October 2014 and for this reason the Programme can definitely support this Macro-regional Strategy.

During the preparation of the first Call for proposals carried on by the Monitoring Committee in 2016 and in particular in the definition of the assessment criteria for selecting the operations, contribution to EUSAIR was deeply taken into consideration. In fact, *ad hoc* rewarding scores were included in the evaluation of the operations for all specific objectives, giving 5 points (out of a total of 120 for the whole quality assessment process) for projects that contribute to EUSAIR and its Action Plans.

Moreover, the Programme provided valuable contributions to the EUSAIR debate in 2016, taking part in the First EUSAIR Forum in May 2016 and to subsequent follow-up and coordination meetings with other key-players of the Adriatic and Ionian area.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

Pillar(s), topic(s) and/or cross cutting issue(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Pillar	Topic / Cross cutting issue
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.1 - Blue technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.2 - Fisheries and aquaculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.3 - Maritime and marine governance and services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.2 - SMEs development
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.1 - Maritime transport
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.2 - Intermodal connections to the hinterland
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.3 - Energy networks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.1 - The marine environment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.2 - Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.1 - Diversified tourism offer (products and services)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.2 - Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.3 - Capacity building

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSAIR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Pillar Coordinators, or Thematic Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSAIR?

Yes No

a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSAIR

Yes No

b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)

c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSAIR?

Yes No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSAIR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSAIR (n.a. for 2016)

E. Does the programme contribute to the objectives and/or targets which are attached to each topic under the Pillars, as stated in the Action Plan? (please specify the objective(s) and target(s))

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

No operations started in 2016 thus implementation of actions specifically targeting social innovation is not relevant for this report.

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

No operations started in 2016.

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

No operations started in 2016.

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated