



Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale
European Regional Development Fund



Minutes

3rd meeting – Monitoring Committee

14-15 December 2017 – Catania

On the 14-15 December 2017 the members of the Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta Programme as listed in the attendance sheet met at 12:30 at the Monastero dei Benedettini, Catania. The members of the Joint Secretariat, the representatives of the AA and the CA, take part in the Monitoring Committee.

Gianpaolo Simone (Managing Authority), as Chairman, opens the proceedings of the 3rd Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta Programme, greets the participants, verifies the number of the participants and the necessary quorum of the participants, declaring the meeting valid and reading the agenda.

1. Approval of the agenda;
2. Decision on the results of the selection of operations - public notice 01/2016 - including the list approved by the Executive Committee;
3. State of play on the evolutionary activities of Ulysses System;
4. Approval of the annual communication plan for 2016, 2017 and 2018;
5. Any other business;

Dr. Simone informs that by e-mail dated 30 November 2017 and 1 December 2017, two representatives of the Funds and Programmes Division have sent requests for changes to the agenda with the addition of the following points to be inserted: "Any other business":

- Proposal to modify the TA plan proposed by the MNCA with some movements between items of expenditure
- Details regarding the 2018 financial target
- Details on the timing of the next call

Mr Simone invites you to discuss about the above listed points within point 5 of the agenda "Any other business".

The Monitoring Committee approves the modified agenda with the discussion of the three additional points in point 5) "Any other business".

Gianpaolo Simone (Managing Authority), asks all participants to complete and sign the declaration of absence of conflict of interest or not to be / find themselves in a situation of current, potential or apparent conflict of interest in relation to beneficiaries of interventions co-financed by the ERDF under the cooperation program INTERREG VA Italia Malta and be / are not aware of circumstances that could place it in a situation of current / potential / apparent conflict of interest in the near future.

All those present proceed to the compilation and signing of this declaration, following which it emerges that two members of the Monitoring Committee, the representative of the Ministry for Gozo Director for Program Implementation MGOZ and the representative of the socio-economic partnership of Sicily, are in a situation of conflict with respect to point 2) on the agenda. Both representatives therefore moved away from the meeting at

the time of the discussion of the point relating to the decision on the outcomes of the selection of transactions pursuant to the Public Notice 01/2016

The meeting moved on to agenda n. 2 Decision on the results of the selection of operations - public notice 01/2016 - including the list approved by the Executive Committee.

Marco Sambataro (Joint Secretariat) illustrates the procedural and administrative procedure of the public Notice 01/2016 as well as the selection procedure for project proposals based on the specific objectives 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2. In particular, a general overview of the selection criteria, the Public Notice 01/2016 and the resources allocated to it is presented. Subsequently the results of the Public Notice are illustrated with particular reference to the project proposals presented and subdivided by specific objective, to the distribution of potential beneficiaries among the Member States and to the legal status. Following this, it is presented the timing of the assessment procedure, from the submission by the MA of the project proposals to the JS (March 2017) up to the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee (December 2017). In dealing with the issue related to the evaluation procedure, the main systemic errors, the results of the admissibility and evaluation phases of the proposals, the acceleration measures approved by the ExC and the MC and finally the numbers related to the projects eligible for funding, admissible under condition and rejected are illustrated.

Finally, Dr. Sambataro illustrates the figures related to the absorption capacity of the financial resources of the Public Notice 01/2016, with particular reference to the ERDF allocations assigned at the SO level by the Public notice 01/2016, to the ERDF allocations financed at the specific target level and to the economies registered on the Public Notice 01/2016. At the end of the discussion the rankings of the projects eligible for funding and rejected projects are presented; at the same time, the contribution of each project eligible for funding to the achievement of the program-level output indicators, including the performance framework, is illustrated.

At the end of this presentation, the discussion ensues into a broad debate on the results of the Public Notice 01/2016.

Magherita Caracappa (Audit Authority) asks for an in-depth analysis of the performance of the public Notice 01/2016, in the light of the results reported.

Valeria Ajovalasit (Third Sector partnership) points out that it is essential to understand the reasons that led to a very low percentage of absorption of ERDF resources allocated with the public Notice 01/2016 in particular of the objective 3.1 (savings € 8.389.949) and at the same time to understand the reasons for such a high number of rejected projects, also considering the presence of apparently very qualified partnerships. She highlights the critical issues that emerged in the call and the need to correct these critical issues in the next call, bearing in mind the importance of this objective within the program both for innovation and environmental protection. Finally, it also represents the possibility to approve a procedure that allow to all rejected projects to become fundable in order to ensure the total absorption of the financial resources of the public Notice 01/2016.

Silvana Dell'Abate (Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale) represents that during the meetings of the Executive Committee there was also a representative of the Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale and therefore a member of a central administration, far from the territories. The members of the ExC have promptly proceeded to a vision of the evaluation criteria and the related scores, confirming the goodness and correctness of the same.

Gianluca Comuniello (European Commission) Highlights that the performance of the public Notice 01/2016 under the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme was also found in other European territorial cooperation programs following the publication of the first notices for the selection of projects. Certainly the overall results will have to be appropriately evaluated by the MA following the conclusion of the evaluation process and the definition of the list of projects related to the specific objective 1.1 in order to draw the appropriate conclusions and evaluate any future actions that ensure the good performance of the program.

With reference to the possibility of admitting to financing also projects that have been rejected, dr. Comuniello invites to take attention due to the potential problems that may occur during implementation of these operations and the insufficient contribution to achieve the results of the programme by operations that have been classified with a very low score on the strategic assessment and operational.

Marco Sambataro (Joint Secretariat) highlights that the change in the 2014-2020 programming period approach, compared to the 2007-2013 cycle, is with particular reference to the fact that the European Commission requires greater attention to indicators, results and their measurability. This aspect has probably not been fully understood by potential beneficiaries.

Valeria Ajovalasit (Third Sector partnership) underlines the importance that in future project selection notices a more detailed animation and support activity will be carried out to potential beneficiaries in order to better understand the importance of the aspects that have proved most critical in the context of public Notice 01/2016. She proposes to modify the calls on the basis of the previous experience, making the objectives that the Program requires more explicit and clear to the beneficiaries. She also requests news of the notices relating to objectives 1.1 and 2.2 not yet published.

Chiara Di Bella (Joint Secretariat)

highlights that the MA and the MNCA have ensured the realization of two seminars on the Sicilian territory and one on the Maltese territory that have seen the total participation of 522 potential beneficiaries. Furthermore, during the period of the 01/2016 public notice, in response to specific requests from potential beneficiaries, the Joint Secretariat and the MNCA assured one-to-one meetings with these subjects aimed at providing further clarification on the public Notice 01/2016, on the modalities of presentation of the project proposals and on the specific requisites required for each project in order to ensure an adequate drafting. Nevertheless, the results of the public Notice 01/2016 have certainly highlighted some shortcomings on the part of potential beneficiaries that will be better addressed in the subsequent seminars to be realized on the occasion of future calls.

At the end of the debate, the Monitoring Committee approves the final evaluation lists concerning the specific objectives 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, as well as the list of the proposals that are inadmissible for the evaluation phase submitted by the Executive Committee.

Hereunder are reported the final grids and the lists of the project proposals that are not eligible for the evaluation phase divided per specific objective.

Public notice 01/2016 – Final list Specific objective 2.1

N. Ulysses	Acronimo Acronym	LP	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4	Partner 5	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (ERDF+NC+PF)	TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS (ERDF+NC)	PRIVATE FUNDS	VALUTAZIONE SCORE	CONDIZIONE DI ELEGIBILITÀ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	BUDGET FINANZIABILE BUDGET FOR FUNDING (ERDF)
80	ENISIE	Tree S.r.l.	The Hub Sicilia Società Cooperativa	Malta Enterprise	Malta Council for Voluntary Sector		1.439.856	1.439.856	-	401	progetto ammissibile al finanziamento - project eligible for funding	1.223.878
65	I KNOW	PARCO SCIENTIFICO E TECNOLOGICO DELLA SICILIA S.C.P.A.	Università degli Studi di Messina	Libera Università degli Studi di Enna "Kore"	University of Malta	Arkimede srl	1.548.104	1.548.104	-	349	progetto ammissibile al finanziamento - project eligible for funding	1.315.888

Public notice 01/2016 – Final list Specific objective 3.1

N. Ulysses	Acronimo Acronym	LP	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (ERDF+NC+PF)	TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS (ERDF+NC)	PRIVATE FUNDS	VALUTAZIONE SCORE	CONDIZIONE DI ELEGIBILITÀ A ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	BUDGET FINANZIABILE BUDGET FOR FUNDING (ERDF)
16	SiMaSeed	UNICT Dipartimento di S. Biologiche, Geologiche e Ambientali	UNIMA-Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre	Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento Regionale Sviluppo Rurale e Territoriale	Ministry for Gozo					1.884.981	1.884.981	0	415	progetto ammissibile al finanziamento - project eligible for funding	1.602.234
31	HARMONY	Università degli Studi di Palermo	Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale	CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	ASSESSORATO DELL'AGRICOLTURA DELLO SVILUPPO RURALE E DELLA PESCA MEDITERRANEA	University of Malta	DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE	Environment and Resources Authority		1.675.246	1.675.246		395	progetto ammissibile al finanziamento - project eligible for funding	1.377.468
8	INCOMING Innovative COatings Marine protection	UNIME	CNR	UNIMA						1.502.819	1.502.819	0	312	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	
93	AGRIQUALECO	UNIPA	Consorzio di Ricerca Innovazione Tecnologica della Serricoltura	Comune di Castronovo di Sicilia	COMUNE DI FAVIGNANA - ISOLE EGADI	Xaghra Local Council				1.631.284	1.500.000	131.284	282	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	
96	MARINE MEETTER	CNR - IAMC Messina	UNIMA	Environment and Resources Authority	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	INFN - Laboratori Nazionali del Sud	UNIPA	Area Marina Protetta Isole Pelagie	Comune di Milazzo	2.100.000	1.900.000	200.000	257	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	

N. Ulysses	Acronimo Acronym	LP	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (ERDF+NC+PF)	TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS (ERDF+NC)	PRIVATE FUNDS	VALUTAZIONE SCORE	CONDIZIONE DI ELEGGIBILITÀ À ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	BUDGET FINANZIABILE BUDGET FOR FUNDING (ERDF)
98	RIWET NET	Gozo Regional Committee	MIEMA	Libero Consorzio Comunale di Ragusa	Comune di Pachino	Parco Fluviale dell'Alcantara				1.384.640	1.384.640	-	254	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	
71	Apesindicum	University of Malta	Unict - DIBA	Mellieha local Council	Città Metropolitana di Catania					1.994.968	1.994.968	-	245	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	
59	MARA	UNIPA	University of Malta	Comune di Custonaci	Building Industry Consultative Council					1.150.000	1.135.104	14.896	236	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	
56	BioWater	Gharb Local Council	GENISTA FOUNDATION	IZS SICILIA	COMUNE DI GELA					2.070.000	2.070.000	-	208	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	
48	MediBioRes	Consorzio Universitario della Provincia di Palermo	UNIPA Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie e Forestali	Azienda Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente	Ente Parco delle Madonie	UNIMA Departement of Biology				1.950.000	1.950.000	-	199	Progetto rigettato / rejected non-eligible project	

Public notice 01/2016 – Final list Specific objective 3.2

N. Ulysses	Acronio Acronym	LP	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (ERDF+NC+PF)	TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS (ERDF+NC)	PRIVATE FUNDS	VALUTAZIONE SCORE	CONDIZIO NE DI ELEGGIBILI TÀ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	BUDGET FINANZIABILE BUDGET FOR FUNDING (ERDF)
79	CALYPSO SOUTH	University of Malta	Universita' di Palermo	Transport Malta	Universita' di Catania	Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente della Sicilia	Istituto Ambiente Marino Costiero	Civil Protection Department	2.500.000	2.500.000	-	454	progetto ammissibil e al finanziame nto - project eligible for funding	2.125.000
57	SIMIT- THARSY	Regione Siciliana Presidenza- Dipartimento della protezione civile	UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI CATANIA	CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT MALTA	UNIVERSITY OF MALTA			2.500.000	2.500.000	-	407	progetto ammissibil e al finanziame nto - project eligible for funding	2.125.000
5	BESS	UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA	University of Malta - Euro- Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics	Università di Palermo, Dipartimento Scienze della Terra e del Mare	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia- Sezione Palermo	Government of Malta-Ministry for Gozo			2.074.359	2.074.359		347	progetto ammissibil e al finanziame nto - project eligible for funding	1.763.205
60	NEWS	LIBERA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI ENNA "KORE"	Università degli Studi di Catania	University of Malta	Libero Consorzio Comunale di Ragusa				1.309.344	1.309.344		325	progetto ammissibil e al finanziame nto - project eligible for funding	1.112.943

N. Ulysses	Acronio Acronym	LP	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (ERDF+NC+PF)	TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS (ERDF+NC)	PRIVATE FUNDS	VALUTAZIONE SCORE	CONDIZIO NE DI ELEGGIBILI TÀ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	BUDGET FINANZIABILE BUDGET FOR FUNDING (ERDF)
81	TRANSEA T	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia	University of Malta	Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare	Istituto Superiore per la Ricerca dell'Ambiente				1.685.825	1.685.825	-	277	Progetto rigettato / rejected non- eligible project	
61	VOLARE	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia – Osservatorio Etneo –sezione di Catania	INAF Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania	University of Malta	Università Palermo	Stazione di Osservazioni Climatiche ENEA sull'isola di Lampedusa			1.398.769	1.398.769	-	257	Progetto rigettato / rejected non- eligible project	
77	SAFE	University of Malta	University of Palermo	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e vulcanologia					1.089.172	1.089.172	-	231	Progetto rigettato / rejected non- eligible project	
99	SAFE HAVEN - PORTO SICURO	MINISTRY OF HEALTH (Malta)	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	Università degli Studi di Palermo	Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente SICILIA	Comune di Palermo	Protezione Civile Maltese		1.819.921	1.819.921	-	173	Progetto rigettato / rejected non- eligible project	
53	SEMPER	Università degli Studi di Messina	University of Malta						1.303.221	1.303.221	-	168	Progetto rigettato / rejected non- eligible project	

Public notice 01/2016 – project proposals not admissible to the evaluation phase - Specific objective 2.1

N. Ulysses	Acronimo del progetto: / Project acronym	Titolo progetto / Project Title:	LP	STATUS	MOTIVAZIONE / REASON
45	CLUSTERBIONET	Clustering e Networking per lo sviluppo e il potenziamento delle PMI – Biomediche, Biotecnologiche, Bioinformatiche.	Istituto Giglio di Cefalù	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto ai criteri 2 e 5 Lack of partnership compliance with criteria 2 and 58
78	CoWoMed 2020	Mediterranean CoWorking 2020	Cooperativa Elaborazione Dati e Assistenza Società Cooperativa	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8
94	Share.TEC	Sharing Technology and Innovation for Competitiveness of SMEs	CNA Associazione Provinciale di Ragusa	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8
101	INNO CRAFT	INNOVATION IN LOCAL TRADITIONAL CRAFT	Gharb Local Council	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità amministrativa rispetto al criterio 1 Lack of administrative compliance with criterion 1
103	IG	INCUBA-GREEN	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Plico arrivato oltre il termine massimo fissato dall'Avviso Envelop sent after the expiring date indicated within the Public Notice

Public notice 01/2016 – project proposals not admissible to the evaluation phase - Specific objective 3.1

N. Ulysses	Acronimo del progetto: / Project acronym	Titolo progetto / Project Title:	LP	STATUS	MOTIVAZIONE / REASON
33	BIOCENTRO	Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation Research in the Central Mediterranean	University of Malta	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità amministrativa rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of administrative compliance with criterion 8
2	TRANSGRASS	TRANSplantation of seaGRASS	ISAFoM - Institute for mediterranean agriculture and forest systems	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità amministrativa rispetto al criterio 5 Lack of administrative compliance with criterion 5
39	FAST	Fight Alien Species Transborder	Università di Catania	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità amministrativa rispetto al criterio 5 e mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of administrative compliance with criterion 5 and lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8
49	GOT SEA	GOODNESS OF THE SEA	Comune di Castellammare del Golfo	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Plico arrivato oltre il termine massimo fissato dall'Avviso/Envelop sent after the expiring date indicated within the Public Notice
67	BEST	Beaches promotE Sustainable Tourism	Università degli Studi di Palermo	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto ai criteri 7 e 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criteria 7 and 8
72	CEFAD	Collateral effects of anchored Fish aggregation device (aFAD) on benthic communities and surrounding valuable stocks (Shrimp and Norway lobster); comparing two contiguous aFAD grounds (SE Sicily an	Università di Messina	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità degli aspetti finanziari rispetto al criterio 9 Lack of Financial aspects compliance with criterion 9
76	MITHOS	Rete Maltese e Italiana di osservatori idrografici e biologici per il monitoraggio a lungo termine in uno Scenario di cambiamento climatico/Maltese and Italian Hydrographic and biological Observatorie	Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8

N. Ulysses	Acronimo del progetto: / Project acronym	Titolo progetto / Project Title:	LP	STATUS	MOTIVAZIONE / REASON
83	REMMelo2020	Restoration and Management of Central Mediterranean Coastal Lagoons	Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8
84	AReCECC	Achieving Resilience in Coastal Ecosystems to Climate Change – Restoring and Managing Natura 2000 sites towards climate resilience	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità amministrativa rispetto al criterio 5 Lack of administrative compliance with criterion 5
89	UTBL	Under The Blue Line	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto ai criteri 7 e 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criteria 7 and 8
92	BioVine	Biodiversità in vigneto	Istituto regionale del Vino e dell'Olio	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 7 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 7

Public notice 01/2016 – project proposals not admissible to the evaluation phase - Specific objective 3.2

N. Ulysses	Acronimo del progetto: / Project acronym	Titolo progetto / Project Title:	LP	STATUS	MOTIVAZIONE / REASON
69	GIFLUID	Green Infrastructures to mitigate Flood risks in Urban and sub-urban areas and to Improve the quality of Drainage water	Università degli Studi di Catania - Di3A	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8
15	S4	Smart System for a Sustainable Sea monitoring	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8
26	SUMMER	SUstainable ManageMent of coastal Erosion	Università di Palermo- Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e del Mare	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità del partenariato rispetto al criterio 8 Lack of partnership compliance with criterion 8
86	SURF OFF	Metodi innovativi per il controllo e il monitoraggio dei reflui di produzione agricola, industriale e degli allevamenti di acquacoltura	Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente - Sicilia	Inammissibile alla fase di valutazione fornendo le dovute motivazioni / Ineligible for the evaluation phase with supporting arguments.	Mancata conformità amministrativa rispetto al criterio 4 Lack of administrative compliance with criterion 4

Gianpaolo Simone (Managing Authority) having regard to the approval of the projects within the public Notice 01/2016, suggests to discuss one of the additional points on the agenda and in particular that related to the "Details regarding the 2018 financial target".

Marco Sambataro (Joint Secretariat) clarifies that the financial target $n + 3$ for the year 2018 is equal to €803.209,27. This amount is calculated on the basis of the financial allocation at program level up to 2015 less the initial pre-financing by the European Commission, related to the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 and the annual pre-financing by the European Commission, related to the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, ex art. 134 of the Reg. (UE) n. 1303/2013.

Dr. Sambataro illustrates the contribution of projects eligible for funding with respect to the framework of the program-level output indicators, including the performance framework, and the contribution of projects eligible for funding with respect to the achievement of the 2018 expenditure target, based on information contained in the application forms and referable to the data for the first half of 2018.

Dr. Sambataro emphasizes that the payment of advances to the beneficiaries of the projects, even if not certifiable, would ensure that they are able to dispose of the liquidity necessary to quickly start the project activities. Furthermore, the dott. Sambataro stresses that the payment of these advances should certainly take place as soon as possible in order to allow them to sustain the expected expenses in the first half of 2018 in a short time.

Gianluca Comuniello (European Commission) invites the MA to verify if, from a financial point of view, the program is able to respect the performance framework data. What above in consideration of the fact that the European Commission foresees the possibility of a revision of the same within the first half of 2018 when two conditions occur, namely that the performance framework has been presumed to be flawed or that a calculation error is demonstrated. In this regard, dott. Comuniello invites for a meeting between the MA and the EC by January 2018 in order to avoid any possibility of incurring the provisions of art. 22 of the Reg. (UE) n. 1303/2013 for failure to achieve the output and financial indicators of the performance framework.

The meeting moved on to agenda n. 3 **"State of play on the evolutionary activities of Ulysses System"**

Ilva Parlato (Joint Secretariat) clarifies that the information system of the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme, called "Ulysses", already in use during the 2007-2013 programming period, ensures - in line with the provisions of art. 125, par 2, lett. d) of the Regulation (EU) n. 1303/2013 - the collection, registration and storage in electronic format of the data related to each operation, necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit, including data on individual participants, specifying the distribution of all the expected data for measuring the indicators.

In particular, "Ulysses" ensures the collection of data as per Annex III of Delegated Regulation (EU) no. 480/2014 of the Commission of 3 March 2014, applicable to the Programme, as well as compliance with the provisions of Article 122 paragraph 3 of the DRC, ensuring that all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and MA, CA and AA can be carried out through electronic exchange of data.

The information system complies with the unitary protocol of dialogue defined by the IGRUE and is accessible via web through personal credentials that allow to assign different levels of visibility and privileges on the data.

The information system is also equipped with support functions for programming, management and monitoring and control of operations, which constitute the heart of the application.

The application is configured as a real management system that supports users in their activities guiding them in the production and storage of related information, which are then used for monitoring and surveillance. The system is, in fact, equipped with a document manager, which allows for the archiving of documentation related to both individual projects and the Programme.

Furthermore, Ulysses translates the organizational forecasts of the Si.Ge.Co. through a data processing workflow and user profiling that ensures full alignment between organizational / administrative procedures and system functions.

Dr. Parlato informs that in the days 19-20 December 2017 an audit will be carried out by IGRUE through the company SOGEI which has made available a guide to the verification of the SI. Following this verification, the AA will make a report and an audit opinion to be issued to the MA in preparation for the designation of the MA and CA. The process, expecting the positive outcome of the verification by the AA / IGRUE, will be completed within the month of December 2017.

At 6:00 pm the first day of the meeting of the Monitoring Committee is concluded.

On 15 December 2017 the second meeting day of the Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta Programme starts at 9:30.

The meeting moved on to agenda n. 4 Approval of the annual communication plan for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Chiara Di Bella (Joint Secretariat) summarizes the contents of the communication strategy of the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme with particular reference to the objectives, results, activities and tools envisaged. Dr. Di Bella informs about the progress of the implementation of the communication strategy and the analysis of its results, ex art 110, par. 1, lett. c) of the Reg. (EU) n. 1303/2013 by providing a presentation of the targets reached in 2017 with specific reference to the result indicators and illustrating how they have been reached. Dr. Di Bella further gives evidence of the planned communication and information activities to be carried out in 2018, ex art . 116. par. 3 of the Reg. (EU) n. 1303/2013.

Silvana Dell'Abate (Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale) informs about the need to carry out the institutional website of the programme as soon as possible, also considering that the open cohesion platform uses the data contained within each programme web site.

Gianluca Comuniello (European Commission) highlights that the launch of the website should be considered a priority and in this regard invites to follow the example of the Germany Denmark cross-border cooperation program website, winner of the contest launched by the EC in 2016. Dr. Comuniello underlines that one of the reasons why the programme won is linked to the fact that it makes available some free communication services and provides the beneficiaries with downloadable tools thus supporting communication activities and contributing to the reduction of costs.

Chiara Di Bella (Joint Secretariat) shares what was said about the programme site and clarifies that its implementation is the first priority of the communication plan for 2018 and in this regard, the details of the technical characteristics of the website have already been prepared. Regarding the communication services made available to the beneficiaries, Dr. Di Bella clarifies that the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme also made a similar choice by developing the coordinated image manual for both the programme and the beneficiaries, providing them with the technical details useful for the realization of the project logos and the communication materials to be realized

Gianpaolo Simone (Managing Authority) clarifies that the administrative structure of the MA will ensure, within the first half of 2018, the creation of the new programme site in line with the communication plan for 2018.

Carmen Dalli (Maltese National Coordination Authority) proposes some changes to an output indicator of the communication strategy. In particular, delete the words "made" and "distributed" for the 3.5.1 indicator and transform it in "Electronic newsletter carried out". In Italian the wording therefore becomes "electronic newsletter realized".

The members of the Monitoring Committee approve the annual communication plan for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The meeting moved on to the issue "Proposal to modify the TA plan proposed by the MNCA with some movements between items of expenditure" within point 5 of the agenda "any other business".

Carmen Dalli (Maltese National Coordination Authority) illustrates a number of change requests from the MNCA's TA plan.

Gianpaolo Simone (Managing Authority) suggests that changes to the TA plan should be treated in a unified manner, including any changes for the Italian part and that they are subsequently approved by the Monitoring Committee by written procedure following the consolidation of the plan in its entirety

The meeting moved on to the issue "Details on the timing of the next call" within point 5 of the agenda "any other business".

Marco Sambataro (Joint Secretariat) clarifies that it would be advisable to provide that the second public notice should be aimed at acquiring project proposals based on the specific objectives of the programme for which there were savings on the Public Notice 01/2016, on specific objective 1.1 – Type of Action C "Interventions aimed at financing exchanges and mobility of researchers" and 2.2 – Type of action B "Interventions aimed at financing cross-border mobility via the issuance of a voucher".

Dr. Sambataro clarifies that it would be advisable that Type of Action A.3 "Aids for the start of innovative start-ups in the sectors of intervention of the Axis II strategy" under SO 2.1 and Type of Action B.2 "Investments to promote (incubated and non-incubated) spin-offs for services with high technological and innovative value between Universities and enterprises operating within the sectors of cultural heritage, quality of life and citizens' health" under SO 1.1 are dealt with a third public notice. This, in consideration that it would be advisable to wait for: (1) the pending outcome of the evaluations by the Dipartimento Attività Produttive of the project proposals submitted under the thematic objective 3 - Actions 3.5.1- 01 and 02 of the ERDF OP for

Sicily in order to avoid any possible overlapping with what the Sicilian territory plans to achieve in this area and to guarantee the start of innovative start-ups and investments in favour of spin-offs strictly linked to the objectives of the programme; and (2) the implementation of the two project proposals admitted for funding within the SO. 2.1 "To promote the creation and the enhancement of enterprises (micro, small and medium) in the intervention field of the cooperation area" of INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme whose objective is support and enhance new enterprises (micro, small and medium).

Dr. Sambataro states that it would be advisable to provide a "targeted call" and proposes to the members of the MC easier selection criteria. Furthermore, he specifies that a targeted call would better explain what is required by each Programme's actions.

Valeria Ajovalasit (third sector) reiterates that it is essential to resolve the critical issues that arose for the first public notice objective 3.2 in relation to the very low absorption rate of the allocated ERDF resources and proposes in the next calls clearer and more precise indications and the use of tools that can better support the potential beneficiaries in the drafting of project proposals. She also reiterates the importance of publishing new calls in the short term to better use the savings produced in the first notice, underlining the importance of the objective within the program.

Gianpaolo Simone (Managing Authority) reiterates that the evaluation of project proposals is aimed at verifying not only the quality of the project, but also whether and how the planned results shall contribute to the achievement of the expected results at programme level.

Carmen Dalli (Maltese National Coordination Authority) shares the idea of providing a next call to acquire project proposals based on specific objectives where savings were registered and on specific objective 1.1 - Type of Action C "Interventions aimed at financing exchanges and mobility of researchers" and 2.2 – Type of action B "Interventions aimed at financing cross-border mobility via the issuance of a voucher". She proposes to better define the articulation of the public notice in relation to SOs. 1.1 and 2.2 providing more details but not too stringent. This in order not to inhibit the innovative part of the project. She also points out that the 'voucher' system still needs to be discussed in detail internally between MNCA, MA and JS since the details of how and who shall benefit from these vouchers were not determined during the time when the CP was being compiled.

Gianluca Comuniello (European Commissione) represents that the orientation of the European Commission is to suggest to the Programmes to launch targeted calls and shares the idea of providing more detailed indications. This would facilitate both the management of the Programme and the beneficiaries in the drafting of project proposals increasing their level of understanding in relation to the programme's expected results.

Silvana Dell'Abate (Agenzia della Coesione Territoriale) shares the statement made by Dr. Comuniello, reaffirming that the targeted calls are foreseen by the programme.

Valeria Ajovalasit (third sector) agrees with Dr. Comuniello and reiterates that it is necessary to find effective tools to make potential beneficiaries understand what are the actions of the programme in order to achieve its expected results.

Mr Zappalà (Confcommercio) asks whether a call for proposals for already existing start-ups is foreseen and the reasons why it is necessary to wait for the results of the projects eligible for funding under the SO. 2.1. He also asks when the public notice for start-ups will be launched.

Marco Sambataro (Joint Secretariat) clarifies that it is necessary to define the methods for classifying 'start-ups' in line with Italian and Maltese legislation, providing for harmonized procedures between the two MS. In fact, according to the Maltese legislation "start-up" means a simple enterprise that has just started its activities while for Italy the concept of start-up is adequately regulated by a state law that identifies the precise requirements. The main idea is preparing a public notice for start-ups where some of the requisites foreseen by the Italian law could be identified and applicable also for the Maltese territory with at least two years of acceleration and defining criteria for the identification of subjects who can submit project proposals. Dr. Sambataro also informs that the call dedicated to start-ups and spin-offs will certainly be published after the first quarter of 2018 at the end of the second call procedures.

The members of the Monitoring Committee share the work plan for the year 2018 summarized as follows:

Procedure	Content of the call	Timing
Second Programme's Public Notice (targeted call)	SOs and related actions for which there were savings on the Public Notice 01/2016 as well as SO 1.1 – Type of Action C "Interventions aimed at financing exchanges and mobility of researchers" and SO 2.2 – Type of action B "Interventions aimed at financing cross-border mobility via the issuance of a voucher".	By the first half of 2018 and in any case after the conclusion of the procedures of the first call where the project proposals pertaining to SO 1.1 and SO 2.2 remain to be evaluated.
Third Programme's Public Notice (targeted call)	Type of Action A.3 "Aids for the start of innovative start-ups in the sectors of intervention of the Axis II strategy" under SO 2.1 Type of Action B.2 "Investments to promote (incubated and non-incubated) spin-offs for services with high technological and innovative value between Universities and enterprises operating within the sectors of cultural heritage, quality of life and citizens' health" under SO 1.1	By the second half of 2018 and in any case after the conclusion of the procedures of the second call

At h 15:00 the members conclude the activities of the third Monitoring Committee