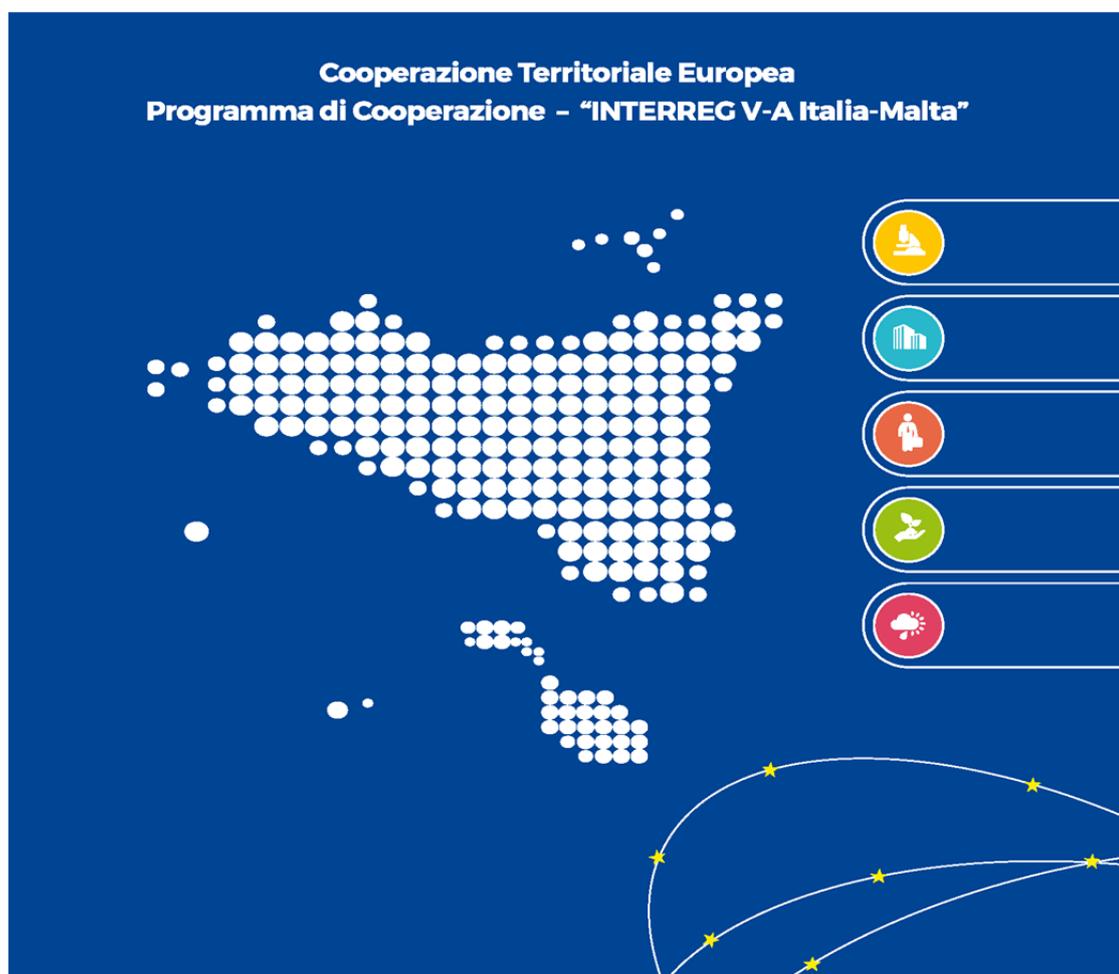


Model for the implementation reports for the European territorial cooperation goal



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PART A

DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ('LIGHT REPORTS') (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB037
TitLE	Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A ITALIA-MALTA
Version	1.0
Reporting year	2016
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	Approved with written procedure of the MC launched on 16/06/2017 (ref. n. 11286) and concluded on 29/06/2017 (ref. n. 12250)

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.

During 2016, the actions of the Managing Authority (MA), in collaboration with the Maltese National Coordination Authority (MNCA), were primarily aimed at the development of the tools necessary to be able to launch the INTERREG V-A Italy - Malta programme.

In line with art. 47 and 48 of Reg. (EU) 1303/2013 and contents of paragraph 5.3 "*Summary of the Management and Control Modalities*" of the Program, during January 2016, the MA established the **Monitoring Committee (MC)**.

With letter dated 07/01/2016, the MA summoned the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee, that took place on the 11 January 2017, with the following agenda:

1. Constitution of the Monitoring Committee;
2. Approval of the Agenda;
3. Approval of the Terms of Reference of the Monitoring Committee;
4. Approval of the TA plan;
5. presentation of the Communication Strategy of the Cooperation Programme (CP)
6. presentation of the selection criteria of the programme
7. Any other business.

In line with paragraph 5.2 "*Procedure for the establishment of the Joint Secretariat*" of the CP, the procedure for establishing the Joint Secretariat was launched pursuant to Art. 23 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

The public notice for selecting the 4 experts of the JS of the CP INTERREG V – A Italia-Malta, shared with the MNCA with letter dated 28/12/2015 and approved with the "*decreto*" of the MA DDG n. 25 of the 09/02/2016, which was published as abstract in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale della Regione Siciliana - Serie concorsi* – of the 26/02/2016 and in full

version on the programme web site: www.italiamalta.eu.

With the *decreto* DDG n. 282/SV/DRP of the 9/8/2016, registered by the *Corte dei Conti* on the 15/09/2016 reg. 1 foglio 95, the final list of participants in response to the public notice for selecting the 4 experts of the JS was approved.

In line with Art. 1 of the above mentioned *decreto*, the following professional profiles were identified and selected: 01 "Head of the Joint Secretariat (Senior)", 02 "Projects Manager (Senior)" and 03 " Programme monitoring manager (senior)".

On November 29, 2016, the contracts between the MA and the selected experts of the JS were signed up to 31/12/2023.

With reference to the professional profile 04 "Programme Assistant (junior)", no candidate participating in the selection was deemed appropriate and the call had to be re-issued in a later date.

On 19/12/2016 and 23/12/2016, the control offices of the Sicilian Region presented comments on both the legal basis used for the contractualization of the three experts and the duration of the contract. The MA promptly answered to its control offices by providing the clarifications and explanations of the case and also requested the office registration in order to avoid further delays in the institution of the JS procedure.

In April, the **Communication Strategy** of the CP, drafted pursuant to art. 115 of Reg. (EU) no. 1303/2013, was approved. Taking into account the contents of the document approved by the Monitoring Committee, the strategy and communication activities shall support the achievement of the general objective of the programme Interreg V-A ITALIA MALTA. In particular, the communication of the programme will contribute to raise the level of visibility of the programme and to inform stakeholders on the opportunities offered by it. It also includes the activities and tools for pursuing the objectives of the strategy, together with the budget allocation. Para. 10.2 outlines how the results of the information and advertising measures of the funds implemented in the framework of the communication strategy will be taken into account.

In 2016, **Public Notice No. 1/2016, calling for the first submission of co-operation projects with one step procedure** on priority axis I, II and III of the programme INTERREG V –A Italy-Malta was agreed with the MNCA. The Public Notice 01/2016 as well as the selection criteria, the application form pack and programme implementation manual were approved by the Monitoring Committee on 25/08/2017. The public notice was published in abstract on the Official Gazette of the Sicilian Region of 09/09/2016 and on the website www.italiamalta.eu. Specifically, the following documentation was published on the institutional web site of the programme in the "*Documents*" section:

- Application Form (word + excel sections)
- Annex 1 – Selection and sub-selection criteria
- Annex A – Letter of intent and co-financing
- Annex B – Co-financing letter by the co-financing entity
- Annex C – Option between contribution under the system of exemption or "de minimis"
- Annex D – Request of an Ulysses system account
- Implementation Manual of Interreg "V-A ITALY MALTA".

The ERDF allocated for this public notice was € 32.404.019,90, corresponding to the 79,13% of the total ERDF allocation for Axis I, II and III distributed as follows: Priority Axis I - Euro 6.800.000,00; Priority Axis II - Euro 5.309.368,90; and Priority Axis III - Euro 20.294.651,00. In

addition, in accordance with Reg. (EU) No. 1303/2013, Annex XII, and in line with the communication strategy, the MA and the MNCA have ensured that the objectives and funding opportunities offered by the Union's support have been widely disseminated to the potential beneficiaries and all interested parties, indicating the financial support provided by the funds in question.

In this regard, three information and dissemination events were organized in Sicily and Malta in order to ensure that the potential beneficiaries of the cross-border area were fully informed about the main programme and implementation procedures of the operations envisaged in the Public Notice 1/2016 for the presentation of one-step cooperation projects on priority axis I, II, III of the programme. Section 10.2 provides the results of such information and advertising measures of the funds implemented in the framework of the communication strategy.

In line with the programme's guidelines, the MNCA and the MA introduced for the first time the flat-rate cost tool for "*office and administrative expenses*" and "*cost of internal staff*" in order to significantly contribute to simplification and reducing administrative burdens for beneficiaries.

The project proposals submitted by the potential beneficiaries at the end of the call for proposals amounted to n. 83.

During the first semester of 2016, the **Designation of the Managing Authority and the Certifying Authority was initiated pursuant to art. 123-124 of the reg. (EU) n. 1303/2013** and the document "*The functions and procedures of the Managing Authority and the Certifying Authority*" was drawn up in accordance with Annex III to Regulation (EU) No.1011 / 2014, drafted and submitted to the MNCA for their review on 29/07/2016. Following this sharing exercise of the document with the MNCA, it was submitted to the Audit Authority (AA) on 10/11/2016 in order to allow them the finalization of the report and an audit opinion - in line with the audit strategy - that evaluates the compliance of the authorities with the criteria relating to the internal control environment, risk management, management and control activities and monitoring set out in Annex XIII to Reg. (EU) 1303/2013. On 16/12/2016, the AA sent a provisional report to the MA and the CA with its action plan pursuant to art. 124 (2) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2016 for the start of the contradictory phase. Within this provisional report, the AA has pointed out that the document has been drawn up in accordance with the model set out in Annex III to Regulation 1011/2014 and that no special criticism has been identified in the management and control system in continuity with the previous programming period.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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
Axis 1	Promoting the smart and	During the two months of implementation in connection with

	sustainable growth through and innovation	the 2015 reporting year, no operations were selected under this axis of the CP. Thus the MA did not advance any pre-financing funds.
Axis 2	Promoting the competitiveness in the cross-border area	During the two months of implementation in connection with the 2015 reporting year, no operations were selected falling under the axis of the CP. Thus the MA did not advance any pre-financing funds
Axis 3	Protecting the environment and fostering an efficient use of resources	During the two months of implementation in connection with the 2015 reporting year, no operations were selected falling under the axis of the CP. Thus the MA did not advance any pre-financing funds.
Axis 4	Technical assistance	During 2016, the procedure for selecting the 3 components of the Joint secretariat was launched and concluded. The profiles selected were: Head of the JS, person responsible for the monitoring of the programme and another person responsible for the management of the projects. Contracts were signed on the 22 nd February 2017 .

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

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

Table 1
Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to technical assistance priority axis

Automatic from SFC						ANNUAL VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Year of Reference	Target Value (2023)	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1.1	Enterprises which adopt technologies and innovative service created and / or enhanced at cross-border level	ΔN	15	2013	+20	15	15	15								
2.1a	Enterprises which engage in cross-border commercial activities	ΔN	15.247	2013	+12	15.247	15.247	15.247								
2.1b	New employees of active enterprises in intervention fields: safeguarding the environment and the quality of life and citizens' health	ΔN	736.760	2013	+20	736.760	736.760	736.760								
2.2	Workers participating in cross-border mobility initiatives	Δn	40	2013	+100	40	40	40								
3.1a	Protected marine sites and areas that develop joint actions for the biodiversity	ΔKms	200	2013	+100	200	200	200								

	protection															
3.1b	Protected terrestrial sites and areas that develop joint actions for the biodiversity protection	ΔKms	300	2013	+150	300	300	300								
3.2	Area monitored by cross-border technological system	ΔKms	47.500	2013	+23.750	47.500	47.500	47.500								
4.1	To guarantee support actions for the implementation of the programme, improving the efficiency, the effectiveness of the management, and the monitoring of the same															

Table 2

Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes

	ID	Indicator (name of indicator))	Measurement Unit	Target value (1) (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
	(CO01)	Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	100	0	0	0									
	(CO04)	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	enterprises	100	0	0	0									
	(CO43)	Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives	persons	200	0	0	0									
	1.1.3	Spin-offs generate through research activities	number	10	0	0	0									

	(CO01)	Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprice	21	0	0	0								
	(CO03)	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	enterprice	6	0	0	0								
	(CO04)	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	enterprice	15	0	0	0								
	2.1.3	Networks of cross-border services created for new or existing enterprises	number	3	0	0	0								
	2.2.1	Activated operative cross-border networks which support the demand and supply of labour	Number	2	0	0	0								
	2.2.2	Enterprises (micro, small, and medium) that activated stages	number	50	0	0	0								
	2.2.3	Protocols and / or institutional agreement which promote mobility of persons in a cross-border context	number	3	0	0	0								
	3.1.1	Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 networks	number	10	0	0	0								
	(CO023)	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	20	0	0	0								
	3.1.3	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	number	4	0	0	0								
	3.2.1	Surface covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climated change	Square metres	375,000,000	0	0	0								
	3.2.2	Surface covered by ICT insrtumentation for the monitoring of the risks of the area	Square metres	3,750,000,000	0	0	0								
	4.1.1	Implementation analysis documents and reports (Final execution report, evaluation reports, reports and notes on the state of implementation and planning	N.	10	0	0	0								
	4.1.2	Accompanying structures created (Joint Secretariat + Contact point)	N.	2	0	0	0								
	4.1.3	Number of workers whose salary is cofinanced by Technical Assistance	N.	6	0	0	0								
	4.1.4	Audit of management and control system and operations	N.	18	0	0	0								
	4.1.5	Monitoring and supporting activities for potential beneficiaries and stakeholders (information workshop training and exchange of experiences, manuals, quidelines, etc.	N.	25	0	0	0								
Selected															

operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]															
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]															
<i>(1) the final targets for the Technical Assistance Priority Axis are optional</i>															

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the Performance Framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in Annual Implementation Reports from 2017 onwards

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

Table 3
Information on the milestones and targets defined in the Performance Framework

Priority Axis	Indicator Type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
Axis 1	Output indicator	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprise	10	100	0	0	0								
	Financial indicator	1.1b	Expense declared to the EC	Euros	2.637.129	15.512.531	0	0	0								
Axis 2	Output indicator	CO03	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	enterprise	1	6	0	0	0								
	Output indicator	2.2.2	Enterprises (micro, small and medium) that activated traineeships	number	10	50	0	0	0								
	Financial indicator	2.2a	Expense declared to the EC	euros	1.318.565	8.790.434	0	0	0								
Axis 3	Output indicator	3.1.1	Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 network	Number	3	10	0	0	0								
	Output indicator	3.1.3	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	Number	1	4	0	0	0								

	Output indicator	3.2.1	Area covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change	Square metres	112.500.500	375.000.000	0	0	0								
	Financial indicator	3.2b	Expense declared to the EC	Euro	3.581.408	23.876.060	0	0	0								

** Member States submit cumulative values for output indicators. Values for financial indicators are cumulative. Values for the key implementation steps are cumulative if the key implementation steps are expressed by a number or percentage. If the achievement is defined in a qualitative way, the table should indicate whether they are completed or not.*

3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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 (1) [Model for transmission of financial data] (2) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal.1

Priority Axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support	Total funding	Co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	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
1	ERDF	Less developed	Public	15.512.531	85%	0,00	0%	0,00	0,00	0%	0
2	ERDF	Less developed	Public	8.790.435	85%	0,00	0%	0,00	0,00	0%	0
3	ERDF	Less developed	Public	23.876.060	85%	0,00	0%	0,00	0,00	0%	0
4	ERDF	Less developed	Public	3.529.412	85%	169.000,00	5%	151.184,33	151.184,33	4%	2
Totale				51.708.438	85%	169.000,00	0,33%	151.184,33	151.184,33	0,3%	2

(1) OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

(2) Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

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 (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

(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)

Table 6

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

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support (*) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	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)	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 (EUR))	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)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area (1)	Not applicable for 2016	Not applicable for 2016	Not applicable for 2016	Not applicable for 2016

2

ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

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

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

The Evaluation Plan of the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme includes both **operational** evaluations - regarding the implementation processes of the Programme and the structures involved, the ability of the Programme to achieve its specific objectives, through the correct logical connection between actions and expected results, and the methods and levels of use of available resources - as well as **strategic** evaluations, inherent in the contribution of the CP to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy goal.

The MA drafted the plan on the basis of the provisions of Art. 114 of (EU) Regulation No. 1303/2013 and, on the basis of its content, commissioned the Valuation and Certification Centre for Public Investments (NVVIP) of the Sicilian Region, a technical support structure for the "*programming, evaluation, implementation and verification phases of action plans, programmes and policies promoted and implemented by each administration*" (Act No. 144/1999), functionally located within the Programming Department, to carry out the implementation evaluation.

More specifically, on the basis of the planning of the evaluation path contained within the document approved by the Monitoring Committee, the NVVIP of the Sicilian Region was charged, by prot. note no. 4759 of 15 March 2017, with the execution of the implementation evaluation (part I), referring to the period from the launch of the programme to May 2017.

This evaluation considered the main organisational and administrative aspects of the structure appointed with the implementation of the Programme, together with the main procedural aspects implemented during the very first phase of the implementation of the Programme, including the first evidence with regard to the participation of the potential beneficiaries in the first call of the Programme.

"Part I" of the implementation evaluation of the Programme was executed on the basis of the definition of the following evaluation questions:

1. Can the administrative structures of the Programme ensure the implementation of the Programme?
2. Are the procedures, that have been put in place to ensure the timely launch of the PO, adequate?
3. Has the Programme adopted concrete measures to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries?
4. Does the CP administration help to foster the involvement and the participation of the stakeholders (beneficiaries, authorities/bodies etc.) in the implementation of the programme?

For information purposes, please refer to the working methodology and the analysis of the assessment questions, considering that in the Annual Implementation Report for the financial year 2017 any further details about the valuation activity will be provided.

The activities for the compilation of the Implementation Evaluation Report (RVI) of the Programme have been based on a prevalently qualitative analysis methodology, also considering the initial implementation stage of the Programme. The activities started as a result of the completion of a first phase of **documentary** analysis,

carried out with close links with the MA and referring not only to all the programming and implementation documentation, but to the organisational and procedural documentation as well. Subsequently, the working group responsible for carrying out the Evaluation started collecting primary data through **semi-structured interviews** carried out with representatives of the Programme's MA, the Funds and Programmes Division (FPD), as the MNCA, and the JS for the Programme.

With reference to **evaluation question no. 1**, the evaluation report points out that a first detection element in relation to the ability to ensure the implementation of the CP concerns the definite designation of the MA and of the CA by the Independent Auditing Body. The analysis showed that, at present, this designation process has not yet been completed due to the need to adapt, through evolution-type maintenance, the CP Information System (IS) to make it compliant with the provisions in EU Regulation 1303/2013 and with the provisions of Article 122 paragraph 3 of the General Rules.

A second detection element for an efficient CP implementation process conforms to the measures provided for by the MA's first-level control activities (CPL). The analysis has shown that, at present, procedures for the designation of controllers (internal or external) of the expenditure of Italian beneficiaries have not yet been initiated, whereas the Maltese Authorities have already completed the procedures to ensure the implementation of the respective first control system, which shall be a decentralized one.

In the light of the surveys carried out, it therefore emerges that the need to update the IS and the need to define the designation procedure for the first level control activities represent the two main recorded criticality elements that could cause a delay in the start of the projects should they not be surmounted before the conclusion of the project proposal selection activities that are currently under way.

Regarding the adequacy of the management structures in terms of the organisational structure, the CP operation appears to be strongly supported by assistance from the JS, which works in close synergy and in full complementarity with the MA, ensuring a significant level of operational technical support to the MA and to the Monitoring Committee in the performance of their respective functions. However, owing to a criticality concerning the drawing up of the individual collaborative contracts between the MA and the individual experts, the effective functioning of the JS was achieved at the end of February 2017. Overall, the Programme's designated structures (the MA and the MNCA) appear to be adequate to carry out the activities envisaged, also in view of the close and effective coordination in force between the MA, the MNCA and the JS.

With reference to **evaluation question no. 2**, the evaluation report points out that the implementation timeframe related to the CP start-up phase, which envisaged the closure of the initial launch phase of the Programme and the approval of the project proposals for June 2016, suffered a shift of approximately 16 months. This deviation is attributable to a number of factors, which partly result from the overlapping of the closure activities of the 2007-2013 Italy Malta Programme, or are partly due to the transition phase in administration structures dedicated to the implementation of the CP following the reorganisation of the regional offices as per R.L. 9/2015 and are partly also due to the discontinuity in the support activities guaranteed by the JS

owing to a lack of alignment between the closure of the Joint Technical Secretariat 2007-2013 staff contracts and the start of the contracts for the JS 2014-2020 components. Considering that the maximum duration envisaged for projects by the notice is of 36 months, this delay still appears to be compatible with the timeline for the implementation of the CP.

Referring to **evaluation question no. 3**, the evaluation report points out that the criticalities are attributable to two macro categories that directly impact the Programme's beneficiaries and are ascribable to the application-management component and to the monitoring and verification component. In both cases, the programme authorities have taken significant actions. Regarding the application-management criticalities, the Programme Authorities introduced specific actions to reduce the burden on the beneficiaries: the introduction of Guidelines integrated within the Application Form, and the introduction of simplified costs (flat rate cost) for office and administrative expenses and for costs related to internal staff. Regarding the criticalities linked to monitoring and verification, the programme envisaged the implementation of an Information System to ensure the electronic exchange of data between beneficiaries, and common check lists and templates were introduced and shared.

With reference to **evaluation question no.4**, the evaluation report examines the programme's management on an organisational-procedural level considering the overall progress of implementation. The research of the evidence therefore concerned the preparation phase of the Programme and the initiation of implementation, as per Notice 01/2016. With regard to the preparation phase of the Programme, the analysis of its composition and the contents of the structured interviews submitted to the MA, to the JS and to the MNCA, the preparatory partnership appears to have been initially formed on the basis of "carried-over" relationships from previous programming periods, with a prevailing public-institutional initiative and connotation. The CP's preparatory partnership is composed of 67 stakeholders.

As regards the project partnership constituted around the candidate proposals of Notice 01/2016, there are 81 "active" registrations through the Ulysses system, which actually correspond to a project proposal, which have a partnership that varies from the admissible minimum of two subjects to a maximum of eight. Regarding the general evaluation question, it is highly significant that, out of 40 lead partners, 13 are already present in the Programme's preparatory partnership and lead 52 projects (64% of the total); among these, 5 (the state universities and the CNR, even through their different institutes and departments) are leaders of 41 proposals (50.6% of the total) and subscribers in 89 other partnerships (27.3% of the total). Overall, the Programme's management has adopted modalities in line with the Partnership Code of Conduct to increase stakeholder engagement. In addition to the stabilisation and the continuity stemming from the dialogue with the ERDF 2014-2020 Partnership Table, the preparatory activities of the Notice have led to an enlargement of the Programme's partnership. Overall, the Programme's management applies the guidelines of the European Code of Conduct on partnership within the field of the European structural and investment funds. The analysis of the composition of the preparatory partnership, of the participation in the preparatory sessions of the Notice and of the partnerships approved for the submission of applications suggests a

monitoring of the proposals that were finally selected, closely related to the operational contents of the actions, so that the due balance between specialisation and competition is maintained, as well as a strong engagement in the evaluation and the selection of the mission of the proposing subjects.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013))

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

Having regard to the financial data for 2016, the eligible public expenditure declared by the beneficiaries to the MA totaled € 151,184.33, with reference to Axis 4 (Technical Assistance) of the programme.

Having regard to the output and result indicators for the year 2016, it is highlighted that no significant results were reported for Axis I, II and III.

Having regard to Axis IV, during 2016, results has been registered for indicators 4.1.3 "Number of workers whose salary are co-financed by technical assistance" and 4.1.5 "Accompanying activities and support to potential beneficiaries and stakeholders" .

With regard to Indicator 4.1.3, the progress recorded refers to the three selected experts within the framework of the joint constitution of the JS pursuant to art. 23 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013. With regard to Indicator 4.1.5, the seven accompanying activities and support to beneficiaries and stakeholders are based on:

- Three (3) information and dissemination events in Sicily and Malta for potential cross-border beneficiaries on the main programming and implementation procedures of the operations envisaged in the Public Notice 1/2016 for the submission of co-operation projects with "one step" procedure under priority axes I, II, III of the programme.
- Four (4) Documents (Interreg Implementation Manual "V-A ITALY MALTA, graphic line, AF word and excel, Manual for uploading project proposals presented under the Public Notice 1/2016 in the Ulysses system.

Having regard to the possible issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken by the MA, please refer to paragraph 9.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

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

please find attached the citizen's summary

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report.

Not applicable

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, 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 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/ submission to Commission	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission (if applicable)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	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 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4.procurement ; 5. design	Main Outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1) (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary)

(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.

Not applicable

3500

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

Not applicable

3500

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans.

Not applicable

3500

Table 8
Joint action plans

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50 % implemented 3 Star ted 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contr i -bution to JAP	Pr ior ity axis	Type of JAP 1. nor mal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submission to the Commis - sion	[Planned] star t of implemen - tation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results]	Total eligible expenditure cer tifi ed to the Commis - sion	Obser va - tions (if necessar y)

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them.

Not applicable

3500

PART B
REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of
Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

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)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS — Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

In 2016, the new functional organization of the Sicily Region was set up with a D.P. n. 12, dated 14 June 2016, and the presidency of the Sicily Region approved the "*Regolamento di attuazione del titolo II della legge regionale 16 dicembre 2008, n.19 "Rimodulazione degli assetti organizzativi dei Dipartimenti regionali" di cui all'art. 49, comma 1, della legge regionale 7 maggio 2015, n. 9*".

A delay was registered in the drawing up of the document named "*The functions and procedures of the Managing Authority and the Certifying Authority – DMCS*" caused by the re-organization of the administrative structures involved in the programme implementation as well as the procedures to be carried out in line with the new administrative structures. During 2016, the "*Centrale Unica di Committenza per l'acquisizione di beni e servizi*" was set up with the aim of improving the management of resources related to the public procurement procedures as well as the spending review performance of the Public Administration.

The internal re-organization also affected the set up of any other control instrument and Manuals.

Although the Audit Authority's provisional report pointed out that the document was drawn up in accordance with the model set out in Annex III to Regulation 1011/2014 and that no special criticism has been identified in the management and control system in continuity with the previous programming period, the MA and the CA has not been designated yet as per the Reg (EU) n. 1303/2013. The designation is however only subject to the alignment of the information system named "*Ulysses*" to the requirements of Annex III of Reg. (EU) n. 480/2014.

The new functional organization finally registered a delay in the constitution of the JS as well as in the launch of the Public Notice 01/2016 for the presentation of cooperation projects using a one step procedure under Priority Axes I, II, III of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Programme.

The last, but not least a secondary factor, that influenced the launch of the Programme is related to the closure of the OP Italia Malta 2007-2013 programme, that fully involved the JTS and the MA, whose activities were in overlap between two different programming periods.

During 2017, a number of corrective actions, in order to address these delays, will be

carried out:

1. Finalizing the evaluation procedure of the operations falling within the Public Notice 01/2016 and taking actions to support beneficiaries during the projects' starting phase;
2. Aligning the information system "Ulysses" to the e-cohesion provisions stated in Reg (EU) n. 1303/2013, implementing the necessary functionalities in line with art. 122(3) and annex XII of the Reg. (EU) n. 1303/2013. Furthermore, the tender for supplying the services related to Ulysses considered an additional score during the evaluation phase for that supplier, who is able to provide the service before the deadline
3. Enhancing the number and competences of the MA's internal staff in relation to the activities to be carried out (accountability, recovery, litigation)
4. Concluding the procedure for selection of the fourth human resource of the JS related to the "Programme Assistant - junior";
5. Concluding the procedure for the selection of the programme Contact Point in Malta

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

In line with the provisions of art. 7 of the Reg. (EU) n. 1303/2013, INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme ensures that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of the programme.

The programme takes appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation and implementation of programmes. In particular, accessibility for persons with disabilities shall be taken into account throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.

During 2016 the 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 gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations are hereunder summarized:

- Having regards to the programme implementation, during the negotiation phase related to launch of the Public Notice 01/2016, the MA provided to meet the representatives of the socio-economic and institutional partnership. Among others, also the representative of Arcidonna participated to the meeting
- Having regards to the projects selection in connection with the Public Notice 01/2016, the criteria for the assessment of the relevance and feasibility of the project proposals take also into account specific scores for the contribution to the horizontal principles such as equal opportunities and non-discrimination

- Having regards to the implementation of the communication strategy, it considers, where possible, that web media will take advantage of the most advanced technologies to provide access to information even to the most disadvantaged groups

During its implementation, the programme will carry out all necessary actions to assure equality and non-discrimination, even in relation to programme monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

9.3. Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subpara-graph 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

In accordance with the principles set out in Art. 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 the INTERREG V-A Italia-Malta programme promotes environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, disaster resilience, and risk prevention and management.

In 2016 the most important actions adopted for promoting the sustainable development are mainly linked to the programme implementation and in particular to the publication of the Public Notice 1/2016 that allocated a total amount of €20.294.651,00 (ERDF resources) for actions aimed for protecting the environment and fostering an efficient use of resources. In detail, an amount of €11.369.651,00 has been allocated to contribute towards the arrest of loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the area, maintain and reactivate the ecosystem and the protected area, in connection with investment priority 6d "*Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soils; promoting services for ecosystems, even through Natura 2000 and green infrastructure*". The remaining amount of € 8.925.000,00 has been allocated to promote systemic actions and technologies able to mitigate the climate change effects and the natural and anthropic risks with a particular reference to the catastrophic risks, in connection with the investment priority 5b "*Promoting investments targeting specific risks, thereby ensuring resilience in case of natural disasters and emergency management systems*".

Furthermore, with regards to selection of project proposals submitted under the call 01/2016, the criteria for the assessment of the relevance and feasibility of the project proposals provide a specific score for the contribution to the horizontal principles such as sustainable development.

On the deadline of presentation of the project proposals submitted under the call 01/2016, in all n. 21 project proposals were submitted under the specific objective 3.1 of the Programme related to actions aimed at the protection of the land and marine biodiversity of the area and in the sites of "Natura 2000" network and at supporting the dissemination of knowledge and the utilization of the natural heritage.

As part of the same call 01/2016, in all n. 13 project proposals were submitted under the specific objective 3.2 of the Programme related to implementation of interventions to mitigate the effects of the climate change and interventions to target the various risk scenarios.

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

Figures calculated automatically by the SFC2014 based on categorisation data.

Optional: clarification on the given values — <3500>

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

In accordance with the main principles and good practices concerning the involvement of the relevant partners in the preparation of calls for proposals and in accordance with the partnership principles and the multi-level governance referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and in Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014, the publication of the Public Notice 1/2016 was preceded by a consultation of the socio-economic and institutional partnership.

In particular, in July 2016, the MA requested the launch of the sectorial partnership for the presentation of the main implementation rules of the first call of the Programme. Arcidonna, Confcommercio, Fareambiente, Federconsumatori, Rete dei GAC Siciliani, Università Palermo, Confagricoltura took part at the meeting that took place on the 10th of August 2016. The Public Notice 1/2016 for the presentation of cooperation projects using a one step procedure under Priority Axes I, II, III of the Programme was shown during the meeting.

In particular the eligible actions, the financial resources allocated for each Specific Objective, the implementation rules of the projects, the percentage of public contribution for Italian and Maltese beneficiaries were shown and some clarifications required by Arcidonna and Confagricoltura representatives about the implementation of the public notice 01/2016 were provided.

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

The Evaluation Plan of the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta Programme envisages assessments of the Programme's implementation processes, the methods and levels of use of available resources and the verification of the achievement of the expected results in implementation evaluation reports and in evaluations that focus on the programme's contribution to the achievement of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth objectives particular to Europa 2020 which will be part of the impact assessment report.

The **implementation evaluation** is based on evaluations of effectiveness and efficiency intended to verify the ways in which the functions performed by the various Authorities and Bodies of the CP (process evaluation), the method and levels of use of available

resources (efficiency evaluation) and the ERDF's contribution to the achievement of the objectives and the results (effectiveness evaluation) are organised. The evidence of the implementation evaluations allows the acquisition of the necessary knowledge base for **impact assessment** of a strategic nature.

Based on the timing of the evaluation plan, chapter 4 of this document has taken into account the implementation evaluation (part I) whose conclusion was scheduled for 30/04/2017, which investigated two main aspects:

- ✓ The functioning of the programme's management structures and of its degree of implementation
- ✓ The effectiveness of the management of the new cooperative space, with particular reference to the degree of stakeholder engagement

On the basis of this implementation evaluation (part I), during 2017, the MA will carry out all necessary actions to adjust the IS needed to obtain the preliminary audit opinion regarding the definite designation of the MA and of the CA. The necessary actions will also be carried out to designate (internal and external) controllers for the expenses of the Italian beneficiaries. The MA and the MNCA will also be responsible for identifying the fourth component of the JS and of the Contact Point in Malta to ensure a more effective management of the programme.

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

Communication supports the attainment of the programme's results, engages all the parties involved in its management and implementation, contributes to an increase in knowledge and to the visibility given to the European Union's contribution to territorial development.

It follows that communication is intrinsically linked to the programme's management, contributing to the improvement of its efficiency, and to the effectiveness of its management, supervision and monitoring.

The objectives of the communication strategy are:

1. to improve the internal communication within the programme;
2. to strengthen the beneficiaries' capacity to implement operations;
3. to increase knowledge about and the visibility of the programme

The communication plan of the Interreg V-A ITALY MALTA Programme describes in an indicative way the communication activities and instruments that contribute to the achievement of the programme's objectives. The information and communication measures ensure the accessibility of information to the various target groups, including the disadvantaged ones, wherever possible.

Below are the activities and the related communication instruments used by the strategy to ensure adequate information measures and the advertising of funds:

1. Programme launch activities: elaboration of the communication strategy, programme launch event;

2. Web services: programme internet site, social media;
3. Publications and information material: manuals, brochures, infographics, information panels and booths, newsletters, thematic reports and catalogue;
4. Events and seminars: internal meetings and seminars; call launch events, intermediate event and final event, information and training seminars, participation at other events and seminars (INTERACT seminars, annual meeting of the European Commission; EC Day, etc);
5. Media: press releases and press conferences.

Below are details of the activities organised by the INTERREG V-A Programme during 2016 and of the tools used

Programme launch activities

As already described in par. 2 of this document, on 21 April 2016 the Monitoring Committee approved the programme's communication strategy whose objectives are to support the achievement of the programme's results, to engage all the parties involved in its management and implementation, to contribute to the increase of knowledge about it and to give visibility to the European Union's contribution to territorial development. It follows that the approved communication strategy is intrinsically linked to the programme's management, contributing to improve its efficiency, and the effectiveness of its management, supervision and monitoring. The document identifies the strategy's objectives: 1) to improve the internal communication within the programme; 2) to strengthen the beneficiaries' capacity to implement operations; 3) to increase knowledge about and the visibility of the programme; and it also describes a plan for activities and instruments to be used, as well as the allocated resources.

As part of the launch activities of the programme, in addition to the launch event that, in 2015, publicised the launch of the programme in Sicily, the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme held a similar information event on 11 January 2016 in Malta. During the event, which took place at the Fortification Interpretation Centre in Valletta, the Director General of the MNCA within the Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto (MEAIM), the Director of the Regional Programming Department, responsible for the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme, the Desk Officer of the European Commission, as well as the Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds, MEAIM, intervened to speak about the successes of the territorial cooperation between Sicily and Malta and also hoped that the increase in the financial allocation of the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme as well as the enlargement of the eligible area can ensure economic and social development results during the 2014-2020 programming period. The event also featured representatives of the Joint Technical Secretariat who spoke about the programme's investment objectives and priorities and answered requests for clarifications by the participants at the event during the "Questions and Answers" session.

Web services

During 2016, the main and most important contents of the programme were implemented within the two main web tools the programme uses: the website www.italiamalta.eu and social media platforms facebook and twitter. In particular, the pre-existing programme website, in line with its design modification, had already been improved during 2015 with a section dedicated to the 2014-2020 programme. During 2016, 86 documents and 25 news items related to the activities of the programme and aimed at publicising the events and the information relevant both to potential beneficiaries and to the general public were

published on the website. During 2016, the website registered an overall amount of 13,152 new logins. The use of the site's FAQ section is to be noted, in conjunction with the publication of Notice 01/2016 on the website where 127 questions and their replies related to clarifications about the procedures referred to in Notice 01/2016 were collected and published. Contextual evidence of the programme's main facts and events was given through the use of social media and in particular with the publication of 16 posts on facebook and 7 on twitter. In parallel, the Italia-Malta page on the website of the MNCA is updated regularly:
<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/EU%20Territorial%20Programmes/Pages/Italia-Malta%202014-2020.aspx>.

Publications and information material

In conjunction with the launching of the programme's activities and the publication of Notice 01/2016 for the project selection, the programme provided the drafting of the manuals necessary to ensure a clear understanding of the programme's cooperation structures, of the procedures for the generation, submission, management and closing of projects, of the rules for reporting expenditures and the control of operations, and finally of the provisions related to information and communication. The implementation manual of the Interreg V-A ITALY MALTA cross-border cooperation Programme was, in this regard, an instrument aimed at potential beneficiaries of Axes 1, 2 and 3 of the programme to strengthen their ability to draw up project proposals under the aforesaid notice.

Events and seminars

In conjunction with the publication of Public Notice no. 01/2016 for the submission of cooperation projects with a "one step" procedure on priority Axes I, II, III of the programme, a launch event for the call was held on 12/10/2016 in Catania with a total of 227 registered participants at the session. During the event the potential beneficiaries were informed about: 1) the contents of public notice no. 01/2016 for the submission of cooperation projects; 2) the procedures of the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme; 3) the selection criteria of notice 01/2016; 4) the contents and the compilation methods of the application pack. At the end of the presentations the MA, the JS and the MNCA participated in the "Question and Answer" session during which all requests for clarification were made to the programme authorities. After the event held in Catania, 2 other information and training seminars were held on 13/10/2016 in Malta and on 18/10/2016 in Palermo with a total number of 97 and 115 registered participants, respectively. During the two seminars, the Sicilian and Maltese authorities reiterated the contents of Notice 01/2016, outlined the way to access the programme's funds and addressed every aspect, which the potential beneficiaries needed to clarify.

During 2016, the MA and the MNCA also ensured participation in other events and seminars mainly intended to increase knowledge about the programme and its visibility, and to inform the populations in the programme's area about the results of the territorial cooperation. In this respect, during May 2016, the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme participated in the 16th Edition of Festa dell'Europa, an initiative organised by Euromed Carrefour and Antenna Europe Direct of Palermo with the aim to inform young people about European institutions and to draw them closer to them. Approximately 500 elementary and secondary school students participated in the event, accompanied by their teachers, who animated the day with workshops about rights, citizenship and international cooperation. During September/October 2016, the programme participated in the 2016

edition of European Cooperation Day organised in Malta, an activity in which 24 trees were planted, one for each project funded under the Italy Malta 2007-2013 CP as well as a tree planting event commemorating the launch of the Italy Malta 2014-2020 CP.

Media

On the occasion of Festa dell'Europa, 1 [press release](#) was published on 12 May 2016 on the regional news agency ANSA Sicily which described the contents and the objectives of the event.

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 implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

Not applicable

70003500

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

Not applicable

70003500

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

Although Malta will not be included in any macro-regional strategy, the interventions provided for in the Cooperation Programme however intercept certain terms of the Macro-regional strategies (MRS) and the basin strategies (SBS). Therefore only Sicily is involved in the planning process of the macro-region's EUSAIR macro-regional strategy.

To date, the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme has not funded any initiative that could contribute to the macroregional and maritime strategies.

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

In accordance with the principles set out in Art. 14, paragraph 4(f) of the Reg. (EU) 1299/2013 the Programme INTERREG V-A Italia-Malta has provided actions in the social innovation field.

During the year 2016 the most important actions are mainly linked to the programme implementation and in particular to the publication of the Public Notice 1/2016 for selecting projects proposal that provide the following eligible actions:

- Enabling the use of areas for open innovation such as living labs/hubs for business services and Public Administration under the Axis I of the Programme that aims for promoting the smart and sustainable growth through research and innovation;

PART C
REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU)No
1303/2013)

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

Not applicable

17500

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).

Not applicable

7000