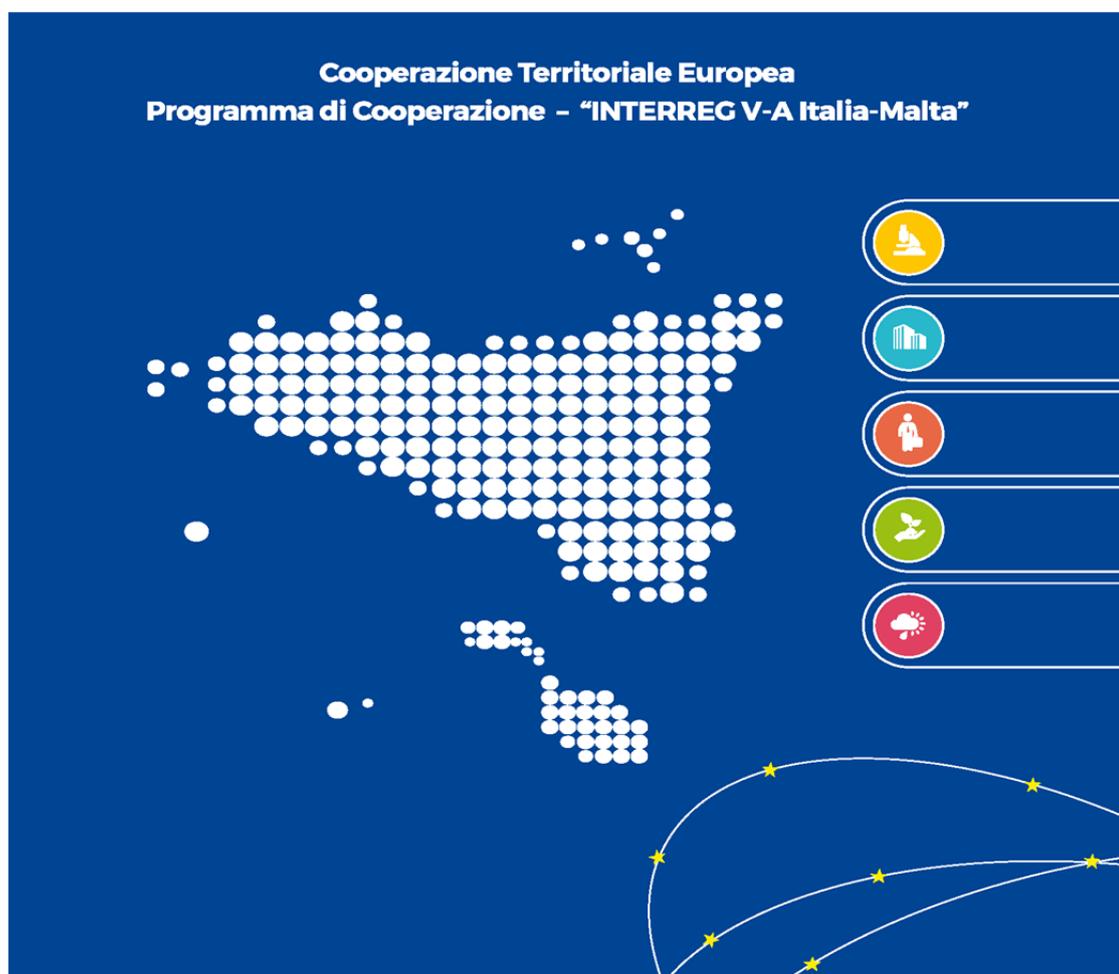


SUMMARY FOR CITIZENS - ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2016

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



During the 2016, the action of the Managing Authority was primarily aimed at the development of the tools necessary to allow the launch of the INTERREG V-A Italy - Malta programme.

In January 2016, the MA instituted the **Monitoring Committee**, in line with the provisions of art. 47 and 48 of Reg. (EU) n. 1303/2013.

Further to it, the procedure for **establishing the Joint Secretariat** was launched pursuant to art. 23 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 and the following human resources were selected: Head of the Joint Secretariat (Senior), "Projects manager (senior)" and "Programme monitoring manager (senior)".

In April, the **communication strategy** of the cooperation programme, drafted pursuant to art. 115 of Reg. (EU) no. 1303/2013, has been approved. It will support the programme during the whole programming period and will contribute to raise the level of knowledge of the programme and to inform stakeholders on the opportunities offered by it.

In 2016, the **Public Notice of 1/2016 for the submission of co-operation projects with one step procedure** was agreed with the Maltese National Coordination Authority on priority axis I, II and III of the programme INTERREG V – Italy-Malta. 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 ERDF allocated for the public notice was € 32.404.019,90, corresponding to the 79,13% of the total ERDF allocated 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; Priority axis III Euro 20.294.651,00. The call was launched on 09/09/2016 and on 08/11/2016 the deadline for submission of project proposals expired. The project proposals submitted by the potential beneficiaries at the end of the call for proposals amounted to n. 83.

While the call for proposals were opened, the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority provided to organize three **information and dissemination events** in Sicily and Malta in order to ensure that the potential beneficiaries of the cross-border area were informed about the main programme and implementation lines of the operations envisaged in the public Notice 1/2016.

For what above, during 2016 no operations falling within Axis I, II, and III of the CP were selected and the MA didn't register any advancement regarding the programme implementation phase. On Axis IV, the procedure for selection of three human resources of the Joint Secretariat was launched and concluded. Having regard to the **financial data** for 2016, the eligible public expenditure declared by the beneficiaries to the MA is totaling € 151,184.33 with reference to Axis IV of the programme.

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" drawn up in accordance with Annex III of Regulation (EU) No.1011/2014 has been drafted. Having regards to the information system, the procedure for aligning the system to the need of the 2014-2020 programming period are in delay. Such delay is related to the public procurement procedure in connection with the re-organization of the administrative structures pursuant art. 49(1) of the Regional Law n. 9 of the 7th of May 2015, namely "Rimodulazione degli assetti organizzativi dei Dipartimenti regionali".

After the approval of the evaluation plan by the MC, the **evaluation on implementation (I part)** was concluded on 30/05/2017. It highlights that in general the organizational and programming framework is appropriate to the challenges of the program although it is necessary to quickly conclude the evaluation procedures of the public notice 01/2016 that actually is in delay caused by:

1. overlapping between the closure activities of 2007-2013 programming period and launch activities of 2014-2020 programming period
2. re-organization of the administrative structures responsible for the programme implementation;
3. discontinuity in the support activities guaranteed by the JS due to the delays in contracting the human resources;

During 2017, a number corrective actions able to face the delay will be carried out:

1. Finalizing the evaluation procedure of the operations falling within the Public Notice 01/2016 and take 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 supplier able to provide the service before the deadline
3. Enhancing the number and competences of the MA internal staff in relation to the activities to carry out (accountability, recovery, litigation)
4. Concluding the procedure for selection of the fourth human resource of the Joint Secretariat related to the "Programme assistant junior");
5. Concluding the procedure for selection of the programme Contact Point in Malta