



SUMMARY FOR CITIZENS - ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2018

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



In 2018, the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority with the support of the Joint Secretariat supported the implementation of the programme's axes. In particular:

- Projects' start and implementation
- Supporting actions for a sound implementation, management, monitoring and monitoring of the programme

1. Physical and financial implementation of the Axis

Regarding **Axes I, II, III** in February, the MA published the ranking lists of projects eligible for funding, rejected and inadmissible for the assessment phase approved by the MC on 14-15/12/2017 (SO 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2) and the lead partners of the **8 projects** eligible for funding started their activities

Regarding **Axis I**, in May the MA published the ranking list of projects eligible for funding, rejected and inadmissible for the assessment phase approved by the MC and by the ExC (SO 1.1 and 2.2) and the lead partners of the **7 projects** eligible for funding started their activities

Overall, the Public Notice 01/2016 financed n. 15 project proposals made up of 78 beneficiaries (46 Italian and 32 Maltese ones) and from a financial point of view, it provided for an ERDF budget of € **32.404.020** corresponding to 79% of the programme resources. Projects funded absorbed € **21.971.279** of ERDF resources, corresponding to 67% of resources allocated. The ERDF savings were € **10.432.741**.

- Axis 1 - SO 1.1 - IP 1b - 6 projects
- Axis 2 - SO 2.1 - IP 3a - 2 projects
- Axis 2 - SO 2.2 - IP 8e - 1 project
- Axis 3 - SO 3.1 - IP 6d - 2 projects
- Axis 3 - SO 3.2 - IP 5.b - 4 projects

Having regards Axes I, II, III, It is hereunder reported a summary about the 15 approved projects with the related financed amounts

Axis I - SO 1.1

MICRO WATTS Wastewater treatment system through photocatalytic surfaces and re-use in domestic and corporate contexts to improve the quality of life.

Project foresees funding for € 2.218.537

BYTHOS Sustainable management of resources deriving from waste produced by the fishing and catering industries in Sicily and Malta in order to reduce the risks associated with waste disposal.

Project foresees funding for € 1.828.681.

MEDIWARN Monitoring system for the acquisition in real time of the patients' vital parameters through the use of a peripheral sensory system equipped with artificial intelligence.

Project foresees funding for € 1.379.145.

ITAMA Creation of innovative ICT tools for health services aimed at improving the early diagnosis of autoimmune diseases, especially celiac disease in the Mediterranean area.

Project foresees funding for € 1.379.

NATIFLIFE Development of assistive technology to facilitate the de-hospitalization of elderly people at nursing homes, reducing costs for the health care system.

Project foresees funding for € 912.240.

I-ACCESS Development of innovative solutions to improve cultural and physical accessibility of cultural heritage in historical centers.

Project foresees funding for € 975.737.

Axis II - SO 2.1

ENISIE Creating and strengthening companies in the area of social enterprise and social responsibility through experimenting new services for social business.

Project foresees funding for € 1.223.878.

I KNOW Creation of a service hub to encourage the formation and empowering of entrepreneurial actions, to reach faster end markets and increase competitive performance.

Project foresees funding for € 1.315.888.

Axis II - SO 2.2

JOB MATCH 2020 Creation of a cooperation centre to promote the harmonization of recruitment processes, the mobility of workers and their qualification.

Project foresees funding for € 541.582.

Axis III - OS 3.1

HARMONY Integrated measures for monitoring and controlling the integrity of seabed and their species and tuning measures to manage Natura 2000 marine sites and habitats.

Project foresees funding for € 1.377.467.

SIMASEED Improvement of conservation status of wild flora in Natura 2000 threatened habitats to promote their use in environmental restoration and in the nursery sector.

Project foresees funding for of € 1.537.121.

Axis III - OS 3.2

CALYPSO SOUTH Enlargement of the HF radar observation system for monitoring the Sicilian Channel in case of deliberate actions of oil-spill into the sea and installation of weather stations to further support services for navigation in harbors.

Project foresees funding for € 2.125.000

SIMIT THARSY Implementation of a tsunami warning system for population, strengthening of the Sicilian-Maltese civil protection equipment and drafting guidelines for the coastal municipalities to use for an immediate intervention in case of natural disasters.

Project foresees funding for € 2.125.000.

BESS Management system of environmental niches - pocket beaches – namely, small beaches limited by natural headlands, which are a naturally resilient response to the effects of climate change.

Project foresees funding for € 1.763.205.

NEWS Development of an integrated system to monitor risks coming from sea, to early warn population about risks and to activate safety measures to prevent damages for the population.

Project foresees funding for € 1.112.943.

From a financial point of view, on 31/12/2018 the Axes I, II, III registered an absorption of ERDF resources certified to the EC of € 678.010,15

Referring to **Axis IV**, implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance activities assured the following results:

- designation of the MA and of the CA, ratified with Resolution of the Regional Government n. 246 of 05/07/2018
- achievement of N+3 disbursement target through the submission of a request for payment of € 1.298.876,70 of ERDF resources against an expected disbursement target of € 803.209,27
- partial achievement of the performance framework indicators
- JS staff completion through a junior assistant recruitment

From the financial point of view, on 31/12/2018, Axis IV registered an absorption of ERDF resources certified to the EC of € 620.856,58 for 8 operations.

2. 2018 Disbursement target

In 2018 Program achieved the N+3 disbursement target.

The foreseen ERDF amount at the end of the year was equal to € 803.209,27.

The ERDF disbursement amount certified and inserted in the DDr presented to the European Commission at the date of 31/12/2018 was equal to € 1.298.876,73. Hereunder the detailed amounts for Axis:

- Axis 1 - SO 1.1 –IP 1b – 6 projects
- Axis 2 - SO 2.1 –IP 3a – 2 projects
- Axis 2 - SO 2.2 – IP 8e - 1 projects
- Axis 3 - SO 3.1 – IP 6d - 2 projects
- Axis 3 - SO 3.2 –IP 5.b - 4 projects

3. Performance Framework

Here following a summary of **physical indicators** set out in the framework of effectiveness of the implementation and of the projects - financed under each specific objective and investment priorities - which contribute to the enhancement of their intermediate targets.

Axis I

Within Axis I, output indicator set out in the performance framework is common indicator *CO04 Number of enterprises that receive non-financial support* for which an intermediate target is foreseen for 2018 equal to n. **10 enterprises**. Indicator measures the number of companies that obtain benefits deriving both from development of services realized by clusters and districts of the area, and from the pilot actions carried out by the research centers in favor of productive system. Natilife is the project that contributes to the achievement of target value set for 2018 through n. **10 enterprises** involved in research activities aimed at developing innovative solutions in the context of technologies for living environments.

Axis II

With regard to specific objective 2.1, output indicator set out in the performance framework is the common indicator *CO03 Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than subsidies* for

which an intermediate target is foreseen for 2018 equal to n. *1 company*. Indicator takes into account the number of companies receiving financial benefits both to ensure the creation and enhancement of social innovation actions within the area and to launch innovative start-ups in sectors related to safeguarding the environment and to quality of life and citizens' health improvement. Enisie is the project that contributes to target value achievement set for 2018 through n. **2 enterprises** involved in the provision of experimental services, in collaboration with banking institutions, institutional investors, and European crowd-sourcing platforms for companies with a social vocation. In particular, through the SocialChallenges.eu platform have been funded two Sicilian startups (Urban Works S.r.l.s and Moodika S.r.l.).

With regard to the specific objective 2.2, output indicator set out in the performance framework is the specific indicator *2.2.2. Companies (micro, small and medium) that activate internships* for which an intermediate target is foreseen for the 2018 equal to n. **10 enterprises**. The indicator takes into account the number of private and public bodies in the cooperation area allowing the start of professional internships for young people and new graduates. Job Match project contributes to the achievement of the target value set for 2018 through n. **10 enterprises** involved in the activities of: companies selection in Blue economy and Circular economy sectors those being suitable for hosting mobility participants in Sicily and Malta; involvement of local stakeholders in defining the training program and internships.

Axis III

With regard to specific objective 3.1, the output indicators included in the performance framework are: a) the specific indicator *3.1.1. Restoration and enhancement interventions of the areas of the Natura 2000 network* for which an intermediate target is foreseen for the 2018 equal to n. **3 interventions**. The indicator takes into account the number of specific restoration actions and in situ remediation carried out within the Natura 2000 network area. Harmony project contributes to the enhancement\achievement of the target set for 2018 through n. **2 interventions**: an intervention relating the inventory activity of cross-border biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites and habitats; an intervention relating to the Network activity of subjects involved in data collection through Local Ecological Knowledge on the seabed integrity and on non-indigenous species. b) the specific indicator *3.1.3. Awareness raising campaigns for the correct use of protected areas* for which an intermediate target is foreseen for the 2018 equal to n. **1 awareness campaign**. The indicator takes into account the number of awareness campaigns for the correct use of protected areas. These activities include specific interventions for the monitoring and control of invasive species, the strengthening of environmental information centers as well as the financing of observation points, accesses and infrastructures for educational purposes that contribute to the promotion of protected areas in the area. Harmony project contributes to the achievement of the target value set for 2018 with n. **1 awareness campaign** aimed at shared evaluation of impacts that can derive from the application of methodologies proposed on existing procedures in order to receive feedback for any uptake of the implemented processes.

Regarding the specific objective 3.2, the output indicator included in the performance framework is the specific indicator *3.2.1 Surface covered by pilot measures for mitigating the effects of climate change* for which an intermediate target is foreseen for the 2018 equal to **112.500.000 sq. meters of surface**. In particular, indicator takes into account the surface area of the area covered by pilot actions for monitoring, prevention and adaptation to marine hazard, aimed at studying the meteorological and marine conditions of the area and at creating small infrastructures. Projects that contribute to the achievement of target value set for 2018 are: BESS

with **an area of 80 sq.km** corresponding to n. 110 *pocket beaches* characterized by detailed bathymetric surveys and surveys using drones; NEWS with **1.000 sq.km of surface area** covered by a monitoring system for the characteristics of wave motion.

With regard to financial indicators, the following is shown:

- Indicator *1.1b expenditure declared to the EC*: target value set for 2018 is € 2.637.129, the certified amount for projects financed under Axis I is € 801.410,39 equal to 30% of target value.
- Indicator *2.1b expenditure declared to the EC*: target value set for 2018 is € 1.318.565, the certified for projects financed under Axis II is € 82.923,25 equal to 6% of the target value.
- Indicator *3.2b declared expenditure to the EC*: the target value set in 2018 is € 3.581.408, the amount certified for projects financed under Axis III is € 1.037.085,68 equal to 29% of the target value.

Failure in achieving financial indicators targets is due to the insufficient number of projects funded under the 1/2016 notice which led to significant savings.

4. Information and communication

CP communication plan describes communication activities and tools that contribute to the achievement of the CP's objectives. Information and communication measures ensure the accessibility of information to the various target groups, including disadvantaged ones.

The activities carried out in 2018 in the field of web services were aimed at ensuring easy accessibility to program documents and at informing beneficiaries and the public about facts and events relevant for the Program.

The activities carried out in 2018 in the context of publications and information materials were aimed at informing the beneficiaries about the correct use of the program resources, ensuring their sound management.

The activities carried out about events and seminars had the goal of training potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries about methods of project proposals presentation and methods for sound project management.

In the context of the communication and diffusion events is highlighted the EC Day participation through the realization of a "Heritage Walking Tour", in Palermo, and a publication of an online booklet showing an updated summary of all selected projects in the INTERREG programmes framework in which Malta takes part.

5. Programme contribution to inclusive, sustainable and smart growth

The strategic orientation of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta cooperation program contributes to the three priorities identified by the European Union in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy:

- smart growth - developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- sustainable growth - promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- inclusive growth - promoting an economy with a high employment rate, which facilitate economic, social and territorial cohesion

Smart growth

Program has aimed to increase the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the R&I sectors in order to contribute to the development of innovative systems, products and services in the key sectors identified by the program: safeguarding the environment, territory and sea safekeeping, cultural heritage, quality of life and citizens' health.

In this regard, the program identified a target value of 100 companies that, by 2023, will adopt innovative technologies and services on a cross-border level in the sectors of cultural heritage, the quality of life and health of citizens.

As of 31/12/2018, a total number of 6 projects have started their activities in the framework of program Axis I dedicated to research and innovation, indicating an expected result of 39 Italian and Maltese companies that at the end of their respective projects will adopt innovative technologies and services

Sustainable growth

The program concentrates resources on joint actions that aim to recover habitats and to enhance their knowledge (migratory routes, fish species, fauna, etc.) determining an improvement of the natural heritage of the territories that favors their development and growth.

In this regard, the program has set the goal of extending biodiversity protection actions to a 100 square km marine area where there are sites and protected marine areas. Similar protection initiatives are addressed to land areas in an area of 150 sq. Km.

Up to 31/12/2018, a total number of 2 projects have started their activities under the program Axis III-SO 3.1 dedicated to safeguarding terrestrial and marine biodiversity, indicating an expected result of 100 Km² of sites and marine areas subject to monitoring and control and a plan of joint actions for the protection of biodiversity and 4 sq km of land surface subject to environmental restoration actions.

Furthermore, the program faces territorial needs to reduce the pressure on natural heritage caused by environmental factors, such as climate change, as well as the need to improve actions to mitigate environmental risks caused by human factors.

In this regard, the program has set the objective of extending the area monitored by cross-border technological systems to an additional 23.750 sq. Km.

At the date of 31/12/2018, a total number of 4 projects have started their activities under the program Axis III-SO 3.2 dedicated to risk prevention. These projects work mainly on the marine side, remotely monitoring the evolution of 83 square kilometers of coastal system; monitoring a Sicily Channel marine area of 5.000 square kilometers to improve the forecasting capabilities of catastrophes from the sea; covering an area of 10 sq. km with alert systems for coastal populations; monitoring a Sicily Channel marine area of 6.300 square kilometers in which deliberate spills of hydrocarbons are carried out by ships in transit.

Inclusive growth

The program concentrates resources on actions aimed at favoring the mobility of workers and the absorption of human capital living within the area (especially young graduates and/or researchers).

In this regard, the program has set the objective of increasing the number of workers participating in cross-border mobility initiatives by 100.

By the date of 31/12/2018, a project started its activities in the framework of Axis II by providing counseling, tutoring, recruiting, human resources management services for the two countries and promoting memorandums of understanding to encourage cross-border mobility of 20 young workers from the two areas at 10 Italian and Maltese companies.