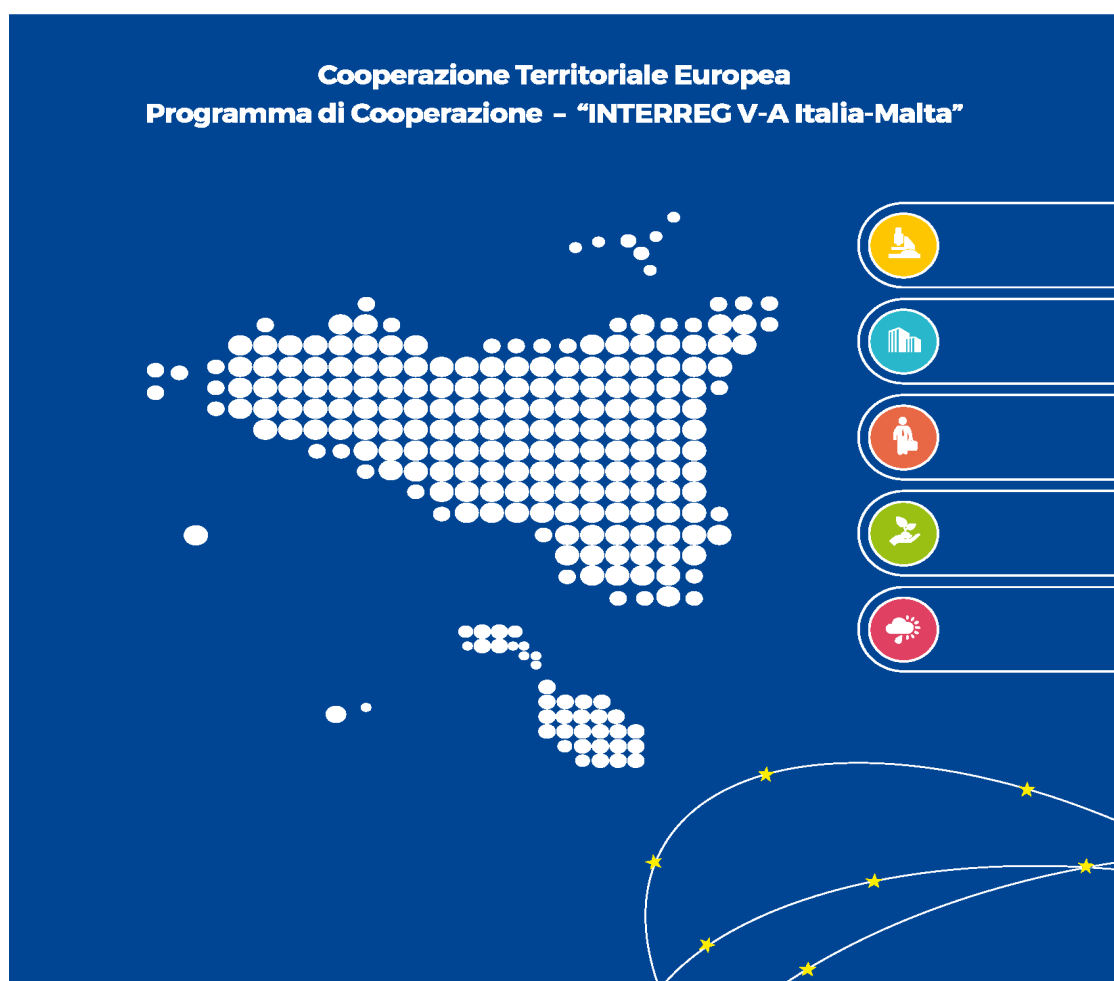


## Model Report for the implementation of the European territorial cooperation objective



## Summary

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## PART A - DATA REQUIRED YEARLY ('LIGHT REPORTS') (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

### 1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Cci	2014TC16RFCB037
Title	INTERREG V-A ITALIA-MALTA cross-border cooperation programme
Version	2019.0
Year of reporting	2019
Approval date of the annual report by the Monitoring Committee	Approved with written procedure of the Monitoring Committee launched the 17 <sup>th</sup> of September 2020 and concluded the 28 <sup>th</sup> of September 2020 (ref. n. 11677)

### 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.*

In 2019, the action of the Managing Authority and the Malta National Coordination Authority with the support of the Joint Secretariat supported the implementation of the program's axes. In particular:

- Implementation of projects funded under Public Notice 01/2016
- Support actions for sound implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance of the program

Projects implementation financed under the Public Notice 01/2016 during the year 2019 , there has been an overall progress of the program output indicators of which is provided below an overview classified by priority axis and indicator.

#### Axis I – Indicator CO01

The NATIFLIFE project aimed at developing assistive technology to facilitate the de-hospitalisation of elderly people in nursing homes. To date, the project has created a network of 13 associated companies that exchange *peer-to-peer* products-services-information so to reduce costs for health care system.

#### Axis I – Indicators CO04

The BYTHOS project, which aims to develop sustainable resources from fish and catering industry waste in Sicily and Malta, has so far involved 6 companies that use laboratory services to reduce waste disposal risks.

The MEDIWARN project aimed to develop a monitoring system for the real-time acquisition of patients' vital parameters through the use of a peripheral sensory system equipped with artificial intelligence. To date the project has involved 2 companies for actions aimed at industrial prototyping and the commercialization of technological products derived.

The NATIFLIFE project has also identified 10 companies that will benefit from the transfer of

knowledge on new methodologies and technologies for the development of assistive home automation.

#### Axis II – Indicators CO01, CO03 and 2.1.3

The ENISIE project, aimed to create and strengthen companies in the area of social enterprise and social responsibility sectors. The project involved 11 companies in Malta and Sicily, that benefited from experimental services for the growth of social innovation and social business. The project also experimented with innovative services for access to credit and micro-finance in Malta and Sicily involving No. 2 companies and has developed No. 1 service network consisting of an open *source* cross-border platform for the digitization of support services between Malta and Sicily..

#### Axis II – Indicators 2.2.1 and 2.2.2

The JOB MATCH 2020 project aimed to create a cooperation centre to promote harmonization of *recruitment* processes, the mobility of workers and their qualifications. The project has set up a portal for the provision of counselling, tutoring, recruiting, human resources management services for the two countries and thus supporting the matchmaking of work demand and supply. The project also involved 10 Italian and Maltese companies in activities to exchange experiences through internships.

#### Axis III – Indicators 3.1.1 and 3.1.3

The HARMONY project aimed to implement integrated measures to monitor and control the integrity of the seabed and the species that inhabit them and to develop measures to manage Natura 2000 marine sites and habitats, through a network of subjects involved in the data collection through *Local Ecological Knowledge*. It has created an *inventory* of cross-border biodiversity in sites and Habitat Natura 2000. The project also carried out an awareness campaign to make sure the fruition of protected areas through interviews\meetings with institutional actors aimed at the transfer of project guidelines (e.g. focus groups).

#### Axis III – Indicator 3.2.1

The BESS project aimed to of a management system for environmental niches - pocket beaches, that is small beaches limited by natural headlands that constitute a naturally resilient response to the effects of climate change. The project has created a surveillance system to cover an area of 83.000.000 sqm of beaches.

The NEWS project, aimed at the implementation of an integrated system for monitoring risks coming from the sea and for early warning to the population about the possibility of risks while also activating safeguards to prevent harm to people. The project has created an area monitoring network to measure the characteristics of the waves covering a marine surface of 1.000.000.000 sqm.

From a financial point of view on the 31/12/2019 Axes I, II, III , recorded an absorption of ERDF resources certified to the EC of €4,640,585, of which €1,836,589 on Axis I for 6 operations; €737,244 on Axis II for 3 operations; €2,066,751 on Axis III for 6 operations.

With regard to support actions for sound implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance of the programme, during 2019, the action of the Managing Authority and the Malta National Coordinating Authority, supported by the Joint Secretariat, ensured the proper implementation of the programme and projects financed under The 01/2016 Notice, as well as the correct information and communication activities with regard to potential beneficiaries of the 02/2019 Notice.

The activity took place both through constant and daily contact with beneficiaries for the resolution of contingent issues and through summits and meetings requested by beneficiaries or arranged by the MA/MNCA.

Referring specifically to the support for beneficiaries of the 01/2016 Notice, hereunder are described the details of the meetings\summits held in Sicily and Malta:

- 18 recurrent meetings\summits to support beneficiaries in the implementation of operations carried out in Sicily. In particular, these concerned the compliance with the execution times of the activities provided in the AF for the achievement of the output and result indicators; compliance with project GANTT chart; compliance with the PF indicators for the year 2018; details about public procedures concluded and to be implemented; how to fill in the RoFR in order to comply with the needs of Ulysses and the program; how to do projects review and budget changes.
- An annual meeting has been conducted in Malta with all the 32 Maltese beneficiaries with the aim of documenting the developments and project implementation as planned in the AF, particularly the attainment of the project output indicators and targets, expenditure balance to be certified vis-à-vis the annual programme targets. The possible project modifications and other issues have also been discussed. In addition, the Malta National Coordinating Authority attends the project Steering Committees on a regular basis in view of its monitoring role.

In view of the Notice 02/2019, 6 information and communication activities for were held targeting potential beneficiaries in Sicily and Malta: 1) 17/06/2019 – Enna; 2) 18/06/2019 – Catania; 3) 18/06/2019 – Catania; 4) 24/06/2019 – Palermo; 5) 24/06/2019 – Palermo; 6) 4/7/2019 – Malta.

From a financial point of view, as at 31/12/2019, Axis IV recorded an absorption of EC-certified ERDF resources equal to €806,514 for 9 operations.

Overall, the Program implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance activities ensured the achievement of the expenditure target N+3; as at 31/12/2019a total of €5,447,100 ERDF claims have been submitted vis-à-vis the expenditure target of €4,085,374.

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

#### 3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Asse prioritario Priority Axis	Key information on priority axis implementation with reference to key development, to significant problems and to the adopted actions to target these problems
Axis I	Promoting sustainable and intelligent growth through research and innovation	<p>During the month of May 2019, the Public Notice 02/2019 "targeted call" was published for the presentation of cooperation projects with a "one step" procedure to apply for priority axes I, II, III, as approved by the Monitoring Committee during the session of 4/4/2019.</p> <p>The Notice provided a total ERDF budget for Axis I-IP 1.b -SO 1.1 equal to €3,400,000 for the distribution of vouchers (individual grants) to postdoctoral researchers to support their cross-border mobility within either an SME in the area of cooperation (Sicilia and Malta) or at public and private research bodies.</p> <p>Specifically referring to Axis I, the aim of the Notice was to achieve the indicator CO043-Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives of the programme whose target value for 2023 is 200.</p> <p>On the expiry date of the Notice (August 9th, 2019) no project proposal was submitted under axis I/IP</p>

		<p>1.b/SO 1.1 mainly due to low interest from beneficiaries.</p> <p>In this regard, it has been brought to the attention of the programme's Executive Committee the opportunity to partially reschedule the resources allocated to Axis I in order to finance further Axis II actions to which a strong interest have been shown by the in beneficiaries of the area.</p> <p>Moreover, this would allow, the achievement of the CO43 output indicator by reprogramming under Axis II.</p> <p>These considerations will be put forward to the Monitoring Committee to proceed with a possible programme modification during 2020.</p>
Axis II	Promoting the competitiveness of the cross-border area	<p>During the month of May 2019, the Public Notice 02/2019 "targeted call" was published for the submission of cooperation projects with ae "one step" procedure to apply to priority axes I, II, III, as approved by the MC in the session of 4/4/2019.</p> <p>The Notice provided a total ERDF amount for Axis II-IP 8.e-SO 2.2 equal to €2,416,495 aimed at the provision of vouchers for the activation of internships for young people and new graduates in companies (micro, small and medium) operating in the areas of environmental protection and the quality of life and health of citizens.</p> <p>Specifically referring to Axis I, the aim of the Notice was to achieve the following program output indicators:</p> <p>ID 2.2.1 - Activated operative cross-border networks which support demand supply of labour whose target value to 2023 is 2</p> <p>ID 2.2.2 - Enterprises (micro, small and medium) that activate stages whose target value to 2023 is 50</p> <p>ID 2.2.3 - Protocols and/or institutional agreements which promote mobility of persons in cross-border context, whose target value to 2023 is 3</p> <p>On the date of the Notice deadline (August 9th, 2019), 4 project proposals were submitted under the Axis II/IP 8.e/SO 2.2 which include the presence of 15 potential beneficiaries, 10 of which Italians and the remaining 5 Maltese, for a total amount of €6,067,361.34 (ERDF).</p> <p>At the end of the documentary investigation, concluded on 18/11/2019 with the seventh Executive Committee written procedure, a total number of 3 out of 4 project proposals were eligible for the next evaluation phase concluded in 2020.</p>
Axis III	Resource Environment and Efficient Use	<p>The Public Notice 02/2019 provided for an ERDF budget for Axis III/IP 6.d/SO 3.1 equal to €8,455,063 for actions safeguarding land and sea biodiversity and Natura 2000 network sites and to support the dissemination of knowledge/fruition of natural heritage.</p> <p>The aim of the Notice was to achieve the following program output indicators:</p> <p>ID 3.1.1 Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 network whose target value to 2023 is 10</p> <p>ID 3.1.3 Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas whose target value to 2023 is No. 4</p> <p>On the date of the Notice deadline (9/8/2019)10 projects were submitted under Axis III/IP 6.d/SO</p>

		<p>3.1 with the presence of 48 beneficiaries, of which 28 Italians and 20 Maltese, for a total amount of €14,448,951.18.</p> <p>The Notice provided a total ERDF budget for Axis III/IP 5.b/SO 3.2 equal to €1,798,852 for the monitoring and the mitigation of the effects of climate change actions.</p> <p>More specifically, the aim of the Notice was to achieve Programme output indicators 3.2.1- Surface covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change whose target value to 2023 is equal to 375,000,000 sq. meters</p> <p>On the date of the Notice deadline (9/8/2019) 4 projects were submitted under Axis III/IP 5.b/SO 3.2 with the presence of 23 beneficiaries, of which 16 Italians and 7 Maltese, for a total amount of €6,399,399.54.</p> <p>At the end of the documentary investigation, completed on 11/18/2019, a total number of 8/10 projects under SO 3.1 and <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> projects under SO 3.2 were eligible for the evaluation phase concluded in 2020.</p>
Axis IV	Technical support	<p>During 2019, the selection process of the Programme's Joint Secretariat fourth member selection was completed. As from the beginning of May 2019, this member was engaged and is acting as a (junior) programme assistant.</p> <p>With reference to the MA internal staff responsible for programme implementation, monitoring and surveillance, it is to be noted that several procedures for recruiting additional human resources as internal staff aimed at strengthening MA administrative capacity have been published. However, due to the regional administrative structure reshaping, these acts of appeal have not been successful and therefore new internal procedures are under way for the identification of internal staff to be employed on INTERREG V-A Italy Malta activities.</p> <p>Regarding monitoring activities, the Managing Authority initiated a procedure for setting up a long list of external experts to support the First Level Control unit. These external controllers will be employed in the first-level control activities related to Public Notice 02/2019. This is in order not to overwhelm the current internal controllers engaged in first-level control activities of the operations financed under the Public Notice 01/2016.</p>

### 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 (for priority axis and specific goal); also applies to the Technical Support priority axis.**

Automatically from the SFC						ANNUAL VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Year of Reference	Target Value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1.1	Enterprises which adopt technologies and innovative service created and / or enhanced at cross-border level	ΔN	15	2013	100	-	-	-	-	-	13					
2.1a	Enterprises which engage in cross-border commercial activities	ΔN	15.247	2013	12	-	-	-	-	-	-					
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	-	-	-	-	-	-					
2.2	Workers participating in cross-border mobility initiatives	Δ	40	2013	100	-	-	-	-	-	-					
3.1a	Protected marine sites and areas that develop joint actions for the biodiversity protection	ΔKmq	200	2013	100	-	-	-	-	-	-					
3.1b	Protected terrestrial sites and areas that develop joint actions for the biodiversity protection	ΔKmq	300	2013	150	-	-	-	-	-	-					
3.2	Area monitored by cross-border technological system	ΔKmq	47.500	2013	23,750	-	-	-	-	-	-					
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)	Measure ment Unit	Target value (1) (2023)	CUMUL ATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	Businesses	100	0	0	0	0	10	13					
	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Businesses	100	0	0	0	0	10	18					
	CO43	Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives	People	200	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	1.1.3	Spin-offs generate through research activities	Number	10	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	Businesses	21	0	0	0	0	0	11					
	CO03	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Businesses	6	0	0	0	0	2	2					
	CO04	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	Businesses	15	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	2.1.3	Networks of cross-border services created for new or existing enterprises	Number	3	0	0	0	0	0	1					
	2.2.1	Activated operative cross-border networks which support the demand and supply of labour	Number	2	0	0	0	0	0	1					
	2.2.2	Enterprises (micro, small, and medium) that activated stages	Number	50	0	0	0	0	10	10					
	2.2.3	Protocols and / or institutional agreement which promote mobility of persons in a cross-border context	Number	3	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	3.1.1	Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 networks	Number	10	0	0	0	0	2	2					
	CO023	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	20	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	3.1.3	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	Number	4	0	0	0	0	1	1					

	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measure ment Unit	Target value (1) (2023)	CUMUL ATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	3.2.1	Surface covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change	Square meters	375,000,000	0	0	0	0	83000000	1.083.000000					
	3.2.2	Surface covered by ICT instrumentation for the monitoring of the risks of the area	Square meters	3,750,000,000	0	0	0	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	0	0	5					
	4.1.2	Accompanying structures created (Joint Secretariat + Contact point)	N.	2	0	0	0	1	1	1					
	4.1.3	Number of workers whose salary is co-financed by Technical Assistance	N.	6	0	0	0	3	3	4					
	4.1.4	Audit of management and control system and operations	N.	18	0	0	0	0	0	8					
	4.1.5	Monitoring and supporting activities for potential beneficiaries and stakeholders (information workshop training and exchange of experiences, manuals, guidelines, etc.	N.	25	0	0	7	13	24	49					
<b>Selecte d operati ons [foreca st provide d by benefici aries]</b>	a														
<b>Fully</b>	Na														

	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measure ment Unit	Target value (1) (2023)	CUMUL ATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
implemented operations [actual achievement]															
(1) the final targets for the Technical Assistance Priority Axis are optional.															

### 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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
<b>Axis I</b>	Output indicator	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprise	10	100	0	0	0	0	10	18					
	Financial indicator	Expense declared to the EC	Euro	2.637.129	15.512.531	0	0	0	0	801.410,39	1.836.589,40					
<b>Axis II</b>	Output indicator	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprise	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	2					
	Output indicator	Enterprises (micro, small and medium) that activated traineeships	Number	10	50	0	0	0	0	10	10					
	Financial indicator	Expense declared to the EC	Euro	1.318.565	8.790.434	0	0	0	0	82.923,25	737.244,45					
<b>Axis</b>	Output indicator	Recovery and	Number	3	10	0	0	0	0	2	2					

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
III		evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 network														
	Output indicator	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	Number	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	1					
	Output indicator	Area covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change	Square meters	112.500.000	375.000.000	0	0	0	0	83000000	1.083.000.000					
	Financial indicators	Expense declared to the EC	Euro	3.581.408	23.876.060	0	0	0	0	1.037.085,68	2.066.751,33					
* 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.<sup>1,2</sup>*

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 (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%)	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure paid to beneficiaries and certified to the Commission on 31/12/2019
1	ERDF	Less developed	Public	15.512.531	85%	10.757.601	69%	10.349.316	2.188.679	14,11%	6	2.188.679
2	ERDF	Less developed	Public	8.790.435	85%	3.649.329	42%	3.360.638	867.346	9,87%	3	867.346
3	ERDF	Less developed	Public	23.876.060	85%	11.867.326	50%	11.867.326	2.431.472	10%	6	2.431.472
4	ERDF	Less developed	Public	3.529.412	85%	1.936.363	54%	1.936.363	948.841	27%	9	948.841
<b>Total</b>				<b>51.708.438</b>		<b>28.210.619</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>27.513.643</b>	<b>6.436.338</b>	<b>12,45%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6.436.338</b>

(1) GU L 286 of 30.9.2014, pg. 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.

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

(2) Structured data required for the IOG report to be submitted in April 2015 under Article 19, paragraph 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).

Not applicable

**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)

Priority Axis	Characteristics of spending		Intervention dimension codes							Financial data			
	Fund	Category of regions	1 Field of intervention	2 Funding forms	3 Territorial Size	4 Territorial disbursement mechanisms	5 "Thematic objective" size ERDF/Cohesion Fund	Economic size	Location	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Less developed	62	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	24	IT	8.342.553	8.065.090	1.319.048	5
1	ERDF	Less developed	63	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	24	IT	2.415.048	2.284.226	869.631	1
1	ERDF	Less developed	64	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	24	IT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0
1	ERDF	Less developed	67	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	24	IT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0
2	ERDF	Less developed	82	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	3. Promoting the competitiveness of agricultural SMEs	24	IT	2.987.960	2.819.056	641.093	2
2	ERDF	Less developed	102	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting worker mobility	24	IT	661.369	541.582	226.254	1
3	ERDF	Less developed	85	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	5. Promoting adaptation to climate change, prevention and risk management	24	IT	1.675.246	1.675.246	543.539	1
3	ERDF	Less developed	86	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	5. Promoting adaptation to climate change, prevention and risk management	24	IT	1.808.377	1.808.377	278.072	1
3	ERDF	Less developed	87	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and	24	IT	3.383.703	3.383.703	602.042	2

		ped		fund	ble	e	promoting the efficient use of resources						
3	ERDF	Less developed	88	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources	24	IT	5.000.000	5.000.000	1.007.819	2
4	ERDF	Less developed	121	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	Na	24	IT	1.920.260	1.920.260	932.738	8
4	ERDF	Less developed	122	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	Na	24	IT	0	0	0	0
4	ERDF	Less developed	123	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	Na	24	IT	4:10p.m. 3	4:10p.m. 3	16.103	1
<b>Total</b>										<b>28.210.619</b>	<b>27.513.643</b>	<b>6.436.338</b>	<b>24</b>

**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
	<b>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)</b>	<b>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)</b>	<b>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))</b>	<b>Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located out- side the Union part of the programme area(%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)</b>
<b>All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area (1)</b>	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable

#### **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 title and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

The Program Evaluation Plan includes both **operational** assessments - regarding CP's implementation processes and the structures involved, the Program ability to achieve its specific objectives through the correct logical connection between actions and expected results and the

modalities and levels of use of available resources - and **strategic** assessments, inherent in the CP contribution towards achieving Europe 2020 strategy goal.

Following art. 114 of the Reg (EU) No. 1303/2013, the MA drew up the plan and, based on its contents, commissioned the Sicilian Region Public Investment Assessment and Verification Centre (NVVIP - Nucleo di Valutazione e Verifica degli Investimenti Pubblici), a technical structure to support the "*phases of planning, evaluation, implementation and verification of plans, programmes and intervention policies promoted and implemented by each individual administration*" (institutional law No. 144/1999), functionally placed within the Programming Department, to carry out the implementation evaluation.

More specifically, based on the planning path of the evaluation exercise contained within the document approved by the MC, the NVVIP carried out the implementation assessment (Part I), referring to the period between the start of the programme and May 2017, which has been reported in the Annual Implementation Report presented in 2018.

In 2019, the preparatory activities for the realisation of the implementation assessment (Part II) were launched. This Part II provides, on one hand, an update of the first report with reference to the aspects of the organisation and functionality of the structures responsible for implementing the programme as well as the adequacy of the procedures adopted for the selection of operations and, on the other, contains some assessments of programme ability to achieve the expected results by the 2023 annuity.

In particular, main aspects investigated in the implementation assessment (Part II) were as follows:

- Functionality of the program management structures and the degree of implementation of the same;
- Effectiveness/efficiency of the processes for submission and selection of applications, also in relation to the compliance of approved projects to the horizontal principles (Art. 7 and 8 of Reg. 1303/2013);
- Effectiveness, in terms of Program ability to achieve expected results with particular reference to Performance Framework targets and efficiency (the financial aspect of the CP);
- Level of integration of the Programme with the other instruments of the Union;
- Effectiveness of the management of the new cooperation area;
- Effectiveness of the Communication Strategy: a) communication and dissemination to the public; b) communication and information to beneficiaries

The realization of the second phase of the programme implementation assessment has been commissioned to Sicilian Region Public Investment Assessment and Verification Centre (NVVIP) and the results of this assessment will be made available during the 2020 financial year.

## **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**

With regard to aspects that affect programme results, it should be noted that during the year 2019, the program authorities continued to ensure the acceleration of all the main administrative procedures that had been initiated late and/or had shown slowdowns during the previous years of program implementation.

Specifically, in March 2019, the Program Executive Committee approved the new operation

implementation manual and selection criteria, for subsequent approval by the Monitoring Committee, in order to launch **the call No. 02/2019 "targeted call" for the presentation of cooperation projects with "one step" procedure to apply to Priority Axes I, II, III of the programme.**

On 04 April 2019, the Monitoring Committee, during Palermo meeting, approved all the documentation related to the call 02/2019, thus adopting all the corrective actions suggested by the Joint Secretariat to ensure the acceleration of the implementation processes.

Summarizing, these actions concerned:

- 1) **Re-modelling of the criteria for selecting operations** in order to ensure that the criteria is more coherent with public notice 02/2019. This has improved the readability of the selection criteria with regard to AF related sections;
- 2) **Pre-disposition of a public notice organized in 4 intervention schemes** for each SO covered by the Notice. Identification within each tab of the specific purposes of the project proposals with obligation for potential beneficiaries to include only a few output and result indicators. This was done to improve the better understanding of the specific call requests for each SO and, at the same time, ensure the submission of project proposals by potential beneficiaries, which closely adhere to the output indicators expected as program targets for 2023;
- 3) **Pre-disposition of AF No. 03 - excel section** with a control mechanism and information alerts which, in the case of financial instances, regulated in the public notice as reason for exclusion, shall alert the potential beneficiary with information on how to modify the erroneous sections in order to avoid the ineligibility of the proposal;
- 4) **Mandatory application of simplified cost (Flat rate cost)** for "office and administrative costs" (Art. 68 par 1 lett b Reg 1303/2013) and for the "staff costs"(Art. 19 Reg 1299/2013), with reference to the project proposals under SO 1.1 and 2.2 in order to contribute significantly to the reduction of administrative burdens for beneficiaries and to speed up the evaluation process on the AF financial section;
- 5) **Mandatory application of spending limits on work packages** provided by the project proposals in order to contribute significantly to the reduction of administrative burdens for beneficiaries and to speed up the evaluation process on the AF financial section.

The notice 02/2019 was published in Sicilian Region Official Journal "GURS" on 31/05/2019 and remained open until 09/08/2019.

The simplification of the measures introduced for the generation phase of operations, referred to in call 02/2019, allowed the Joint Secretariat to present the results to the Executive Committee, of the administrative eligibility exercise carried out on the project proposals submitted under Notice 02/2019, already on 07 October 2019.

The Program Executive Committee:

- On 22/10/2019, approved 18 Administrative compliance grids and simultaneously authorised the program MA to request document regularisation for 9 project proposals in order to ensure the widest participation in the selection procedure;
- On 18/11/2019, approved the regularisation of 09 project proposals and requested the MA to notify the results of the procedure.

The Program MA, after notifying all potential Lead Partners about the Executive Committee's investigation results, on 23/12/2019 launched a new written procedure among the Executive Committee members for the approval of the letters to be sent in reply to the counter-deductions submitted by three potential Lead Partners, against the decision to exclude them from the

eligibility procedure.

The summary of the administrative procedures, initiated and concluded during the year 2019, highlights the acceleration processes carried out in the programming and implementation procedures made by the programme authorities. In the course of 2019, therefore, the necessary corrective mechanisms were ensured in order to allow the programme to fully achieve the results.

**(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*

A summary for the general public is attached.

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

The Program does not cater provide for the activation of financial instruments

## 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

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

Not applicable

## 8.2 Joint action plans

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

Not applicable

**Table 8**  
**Joint action plans**

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of im - plementation of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50 % im - plemented 3 Star ted 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public suppor t	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

**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*

NOT APPLICABLE

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*

NOT APPLICABLE

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

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

NOT APPLICABLE

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*

NOT APPLICABLE

## **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

NOT APPLICABLE

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

NOT APPLICABLE

## **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

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

NOT APPLICABLE

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

NOT APPLICABLE

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

NOT APPLICABLE

## 12. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

*For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:*

13	14
Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework	
Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018	Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission
Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

## **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
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### **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
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