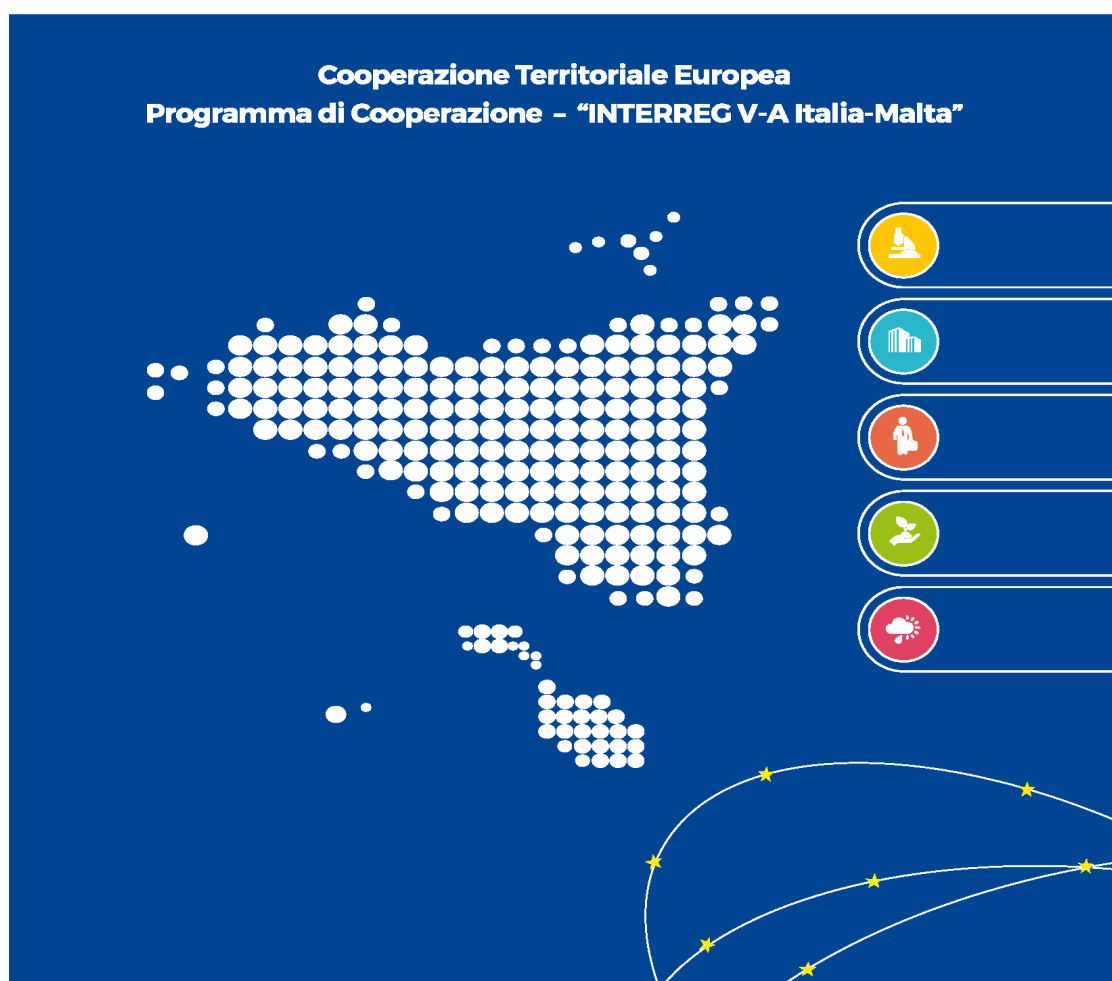


## Model Report for the implementation of the European territorial cooperation objective



## Summary

<b>PART A - DATA REQUIRED YEARLY ('LIGHT REPORTS') (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>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)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>6</b>
3.1 Overview of the implementation.....	6
3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) .....	8
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 .....	13
3.4 Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).....	15
<b>4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>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)</b> .....	<b>21</b>
8.1 Major projects.....	21
8.2 Joint action plans.....	22
<b>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)</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>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)</b> .	<b>23</b>
9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) .....	23
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) .....	23
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) .....	23
9.4 Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) .....	23

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) .....	24
<b>10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (a) AND (b), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013 .....</b>	<b>24</b>
10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations .....	24
10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy .....	24
<b>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).....</b>	<b>24</b>
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 .....	24
11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF. ....	24
11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate).....	24
11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation .....	24
<b>12. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU)No 1303/2013).....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>PART C - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU)No 1303/2013).....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013). 26</b>	

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

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

<b>Cci</b>	<b>2014TC16RFCB037</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>INTERREG V-A ITALIA-MALTA</b> cross-border cooperation programme
<b>Version</b>	
<b>Year of reporting</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Approval date of the annual report by the Monitoring Committee</b>	<b>Approved with written procedure of the Monitoring Committee launched the _____ and concluded the _____ (ref. n. _____)</b>

### 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 2021, 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 the face of the persistence of the complex situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, the following actions were insured:

- Completion of the evaluation procedure - Notice 2/2019;
- Following the administrative closure - Notice 01/2016;
- Start up of the capitalization path.

With reference to the evaluation of Notice 2/2019, as of 31/12/2021 all the operations that had been admitted to financing at the end of 2020 are in "implementation" and there are no significant misalignments and / or delays. More specifically, these are 9 projects distributed as follows: n. 2 projects under PI 8.e-SO 2.2; n. 6 projects under IP 6.d-SO 3.1; n. 1 project under IP 5.b-SO 3. 2.

In this regard, following the amendment pursuant to Article 30 of Reg. (EU) n.1303/2013, and par. 5 of Annex II of Regulation (EU) n. 1303/2013, as well as Reg. Implementing Decision No 215/2014 of the Programme and of the Implementing Decision of the European Commission C(2021) 1351 of 23.2.2021 the amended version of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta programme has been adopted.

This modification allowed the ranking list of Notice 02/2019 and the consequent admission to funding of two further projects: the CROSSWORK project, based on IP 8.e-SO 2.2 and the GIFLUID project, based on IP 5.b-SO 3. 2. The projects started operations during June 2021 and are currently being implemented.

The total amount of the projects of the Notice 02/2019 is € 20. 070,541.69 of which € 16,787,288.53 ERDF, € 2,962,462.69 national co-financing and € 320,790.48 additional co-financing by beneficiaries.

With reference to the operations under Notice 01/2016, on 31/12/2021, 11 out of 15 financed

operations were concluded because the leaders of the BYTHOS, ENISIE, SIMIT THARSY and ITAMA projects, whose conclusion was scheduled by 31/12/2021, requested a further extension of the date of conclusion of the interventions. This is in order to cope with some limitations that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that have not allowed the closure of interventions on schedule.

During the year, the MA and the MNCA, supported by the JS, carried out an activity of constant support and accompaniment towards the beneficiaries of the projects being closed, providing information about the obligations for the correct administrative and accounting conclusion of the initiatives.

In this regard, the JS of the programme has drawn up the closing report of the JOB MATCH, BESS and NATFLIFE projects. The report had the objective of consolidating and verifying the attainments completed for the achievement of the result objectives of the same interventions. Specifically, the closing reports of the operations have analyzed the following aspects:

- project results with examination of each WP
- financial data (with examination and consolidation of expenditure excerpts, corrections following quality checks (first-level control) and corrections following second-level control;
- verification of project indicators
- verification of output indicators
- verification of result indicators
- recommendations relating to the need to promptly notify the MA of the registration of any industrial patents related or connectable (referred to or referable) to the project financed by the programme, to communicate to the MA whether the project generates revenue and whether or not they fall within the requirement of self-sustainability; to ensure the full functionality of all the main achievements, the obligations to maintain documentation in-line with Art. 140 of EU Reg. 1303/2013.

The MA, before proceeding with the formal adoption of the closure measures with the simultaneous settlement of the balance for the three operations mentioned above, carried out on-the spot visits in online mode (following the indications provided by the Member State). During the visits, together with the JS, the operating mechanisms of the main achievements achieved by the operations (prototypes, software, platforms, data processing systems for the management of the "pocket beach" beaches, etc.) were also verified.

With reference to the start of the capitalization process during 2021, the representatives of the program participated in the national accompanying path managed by INTERACT, with the support of the Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione and of the Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale.

The path represented a "tailor-made support package" to allow the Maltese Managing Authority/National Coordination Authority, supported by the Joint Secretariat: 1) to better understand the context and needs to start a capitalisation approach; 2) better identify the thematic areas on which to focus; 3) develop an appropriate capitalisation approach based on the 2014-2020 end-of-programme experience and develop systematically in 2021-2027; 4) support the draft of a 2021-2027 capitalisation strategy to be further approved.

The course was divided into 4 workshops. During the first workshop (21/07/2021) the methodological path was shared and the Capitalization management Guide and the tools already implemented were presented by Interact. The comparison with the participants was also started on: Capitalization Strategy and/or Capitalization Plan and capitalization actions already implemented; capitalization activities planned for the future programming period; responsibilities of

the assets; resources and instruments available; demands and support needs. Based on the needs expressed and the priorities indicated, the contents of the subsequent workshops focused on the possible actions and actions of the capitalization process during the year (04/10/2021) and on the specification of the results of the /output to be capitalised on as well as on the creation of thematic clusters and/or communities (26/10/2021). Finally, during the programme-specific support seminar of 18/11/2021, the allocation of capitalisation activities for the programme and the main difficulties encountered were discussed.

As a result of the process, the programme authorities have started drafting a Public Notice for capitalisation of project results to be published in the course of 2022.

The implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance activities of the programme ensured, as of 31/12/2021, the achievement of the N+3 disbursement target through the submission of a payment application of € 18,715,312.15 (ERDF) against an expected disbursement target of € 18,572,304.81 (ERDF).

.

### 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 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>Axis 1 was the subject of the financial amendment to the programme approved by the EC on 23/02/2021. This change was determined by the need for a partial revision of the strategic structure of the axis. The verification of the procedural status of SO 1.1 has highlighted, in fact, the need to evaluate the reallocation of financial resources from Axis 1 to Axes 2 and 3, in the light of the actual performance and the relative absorption capacity.</p> <p>The reasons for the transfer of resources concerned: A) absence of project proposals submitted under SO 1.1 for Notice 02/2019; B) beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic</p> <p>With reference to point A) it should be noted that as part of the "targeted call" no. 02/2019 for Axis 1-S.O. 1.1-PI 1b, no project proposals were submitted in relation to Action C - Interventions aimed at financing exchanges and mobility of researchers - for which ERDF resources of € 3,400,000 had been allocated.</p> <p>With reference to point B) it should be noted that in February, during the evaluation of Notice 02/2019, the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. This situation has led to a serious crisis in the socio-economic context of the cross-border area.</p> <p>In order to mitigate the socio-economic impacts</p>

		<p>originated as a result of the pandemic, the MC on 03/09/2020 approved the proposal of the Ma and the MNCA aimed at scrolling through the ranking of the targeted call 02/2019 under the specific objective 2.2 "Promote the mobility of workers in the cross-border area through the creation of networks".</p>
Axis II	Promoting the competitiveness of the cross-border area	<p>Axis 2 was the subject of the proposal to amend the programme approved by the EC on 23/02/2021.</p> <p>The amendment provided for an increase in the Axis' allocation determined by the need to admit to financing all the projects positively selected under Action B - Interventions aimed at financing cross-border mobility through the provision of a voucher subject of Notice 2/2019 - specific objective 2.2 "Promote the mobility of workers in the cross-border area through the creation of networks".</p> <p>This resulted in the shift of the common output indicator CO043 Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives from Axis 1 to Axis 2- Specific Objective 2.2.</p> <p>With regard to the specific objective 2.1 " Promote the creation and strengthening of enterprises in the intervention sectors of the cross-border area ", the same has undergone a reprogramming of the resources originally allocated, also contributing to increasing the financial allocation of the S. O.2.2 for the financing of the project proposals presented under Notice 2/2019.</p> <p>Finally, the financing of the COVID-oriented actions of the ENISIE project under SO 2.1 involved the inclusion of the CV24 Number of SMEs receiving non-financial support (advice, etc.) indicator in COVID-19 response within the set of indicators of the S. O.2.1.</p>
Axis III	Resource Environment and Efficient Use	<p>Axis 3 was the subject of the proposal to amend the programme approved by the EC on 23/02/2021.</p> <p>The amendment affected investment priority 5b – S.O. 3.2 " 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 from the maritime risks ". In particular, a shift of resources from Axis 1 to Axis 3 has been envisaged in order to allow the financing of a further project under Action A – Interventions to mitigate the effects of climate change of Notice 2/2019. This project, in fact, was found to have the condition of "eligible project but not financeable due to lack of financial resources" within the ranking of the S.O: 3.2 – Notice n 2/2019.</p> <p>The need to allocate additional resources in S.O: 3.2 has also become necessary following the financing of <i>covid-oriented actions</i>.</p> <p>With regard to the result indicators, it has been proposed to aggregate under a single indicator "Sites and protected areas that develop joint actions for the protection of biodiversity" the indicators 3.1a</p>



		<p>Sites and marine protected areas that develop joint actions for the protection of biodiversity and 3.1 b Sites and protected land areas that develop joint actions for the protection of biodiversity, initially distinguished as one intended for marine protected areas and the other for terrestrial protected areas. This is because, during the implementation of the programme, it was often difficult to quantify the area concerned by distinguishing marine and terrestrial areas in portions of the surface where they sometimes overlapped each other as they were two islands, Sicily and Malta.</p>
Axis IV	Technical support	<p>During the year 2021, the MA carried out the management, implementation and monitoring of the service contract with the economic operator (ALMAVIVA) - whose contract was signed on 31/12/2020 - for the management, maintenance and development of evolutionary modules of the local information system ULYSSES. Several functionalities have been released and/or improved some methods of transmitting data relating to the implementation of the operation also taking into account the indications of the AA during the system audits.</p> <p>In addition, during 2021 the Task Force for the preparation of programme 21-27 approved the territorial analysis aimed at identifying the main common challenges, complementarities and synergies with other programmes and funding instruments, lessons learned from past experiences. In the first half of 2021, the task force also approved the partnership consultation path identifying the composition and modalities the involvement of the latter in the preparation of the programme. Therefore, at the end of the territorial analysis process from which the choices related to the strategic objectives and specific objectives of the new programme were derived, the first public consultation was launched, based on a "thematic" approach, which had the objective of collecting suggestions, ideas, proposals on eligible actions and potential beneficiaries to be included in the new programme. The Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme was informed of the results of the discussions during the meeting held in December 2021.</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	Reference year	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	ΔN	15	2013	+100	-	-	-	-	-	13	15	15			
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	Δn	40	2013	+100	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20			
3.1	Sites and protected areas that develop joint actions for the protection of biodiversity	ΔKmq	200	2013	+100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	104.0 9			
3.2	Area monitored by cross-border technological systems	ΔKmq	47.500	2013	+23.750	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	18283			
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**

Axis/I.P.	ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE								Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Axis 1 - 1.b	CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	Businesses	100	0	0	0	0	10	13	28	59	
Axis 1 - 1.b	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Businesses	100	0	0	0	0	10	18	28	59	
Axis 1 - 1.b	CV4b	Value of COVID-19 related IT for health	Businesses	100.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.000	
Axis 2 - 3.a	CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	Businesses	21	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	
Axis 2 - 3.a	CO03	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Businesses	6	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	
Axis 2 - 3.a	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Businesses	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	
Axis 2 - 3.a	CV24	Number of SMEs receiving non-financial support (advice, etc.) in COVID-19 response	Businesses	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	
Axis 2 - 3.a	2.1.3	Networks of cross-border services created for new or existing enterprises	Number	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Axis 2 – 8.e	CO43	Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives	Persons	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Axis 2 - 8.e	2.2.1	Activated operative cross-border networks which support the	Number	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	

Axis/I.P.	ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE								Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
		demand and supply of labour											
Axis 2 - 8.e	2.2.2	Enterprises (micro, small, and medium) that activated stages	Number	50	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	10	
Axis 2 - 8.e	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	3	
Axis 3 - 6.d	3.1.1	Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 networks	Number	10	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	5	
Axis 3 - 6.d	CO023	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	631	
Axis 3 - 6.d	3.1.3	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	Number	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Axis 3 – 5.b	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	83.000.000	1.083.000.000	1.083.000.000	5.083.000.000	
Axis 3 – 5.b	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	1.100.000.000	18.200.000.000	
Axis 4	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	6	10	
Axis 4	4.1.2	Accompanying structures created (Joint Secretary + Contant point)	N.	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	

Axis/I.P.	ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE								Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Axis 4	4.1.3	Number of workers whose wages are salary is co-financed by Technical Assistance	N.	6	0	0	0	3	3	4	4	4	
Axis 4	4.1.4	Audit of management and control system and operations	N.	18	0	0	0	0	0	8	16	20	
Axis 4	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	39	66	91	123	

### 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)
Axis I	Output indicator	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprise	10	100	0	0	0	0	10	18	28	59			
	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	4.907.580,06	8.173.789,68			
Axis II	Output indicator	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprise	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2			
	Output indicator	Enterprises (micro, small and medium) that activated traineeships	Number	10	50	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	10			

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)
	Financial indicator	Expense declared to the EC	Euro	1.318.565	8.790.434	0	0	0	0	82.923,25	737.244,45	1.517.394,37	2.404.818,23			
Axis III	Output indicator	Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 network	Number	3	10	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	5			
	Output indicator	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	Number	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	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	1.083.000.000	5.083.000.000			
	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	5.801.640,95	9.865.949,54			
* 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	Bottom	Category of regions	Basis for calculating Union support	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Share of the total budget covered by the operations selected for support (%)	Eligible public expenditure of operations selected for support(EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total budget covered by the eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiaries (%)	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2020
1	ERDF	Less developed	Public	10.565.520	85%	10.603.318,84	101,18%	10.236.192,66	8.173.789,68	53,21%	6	8.173.789,68
2	ERDF	Less developed	Public	11.068.516	85%	10.951.904,13	92,15%	10.076.056,75	2.404.818,23	14,83%	6	2.404.818,23
3	ERDF	Less developed	Public	26.544.990	85%	25.441.071,96	89,10%	25.441.071,95	9.865.949,54	25,01%	14	9.865.949,54
4	ERDF	Less developed	Public	3.529.412	85%	2.729.969,77	77,35%	2.729.969,77	1.645.533,84	43,33%	11	1.645.533,84
<b>Total</b>				51.708.438,00		49.726.264,69	96,17%	48.483.291,13	22.090.091,29	42,72%	37	22.090.091,29

(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	EN	8.188.270,73	7.951.967,30	6.167.008,80	5
1	ERDF	Less developed	63	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	24	EN	2.415.048,11	2.284.225,36	2.006.780,88	1
2	ERDF	Less developed	82	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	3. Promoting the competitiveness of agricultural SMEs	24	EN	3.669.162,83	3.424.833,81	1.832.320,77	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	EN	7.282.741,30	6.651.222,94	572.497,46	4
3	ERDF	Less developed	85	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources	24	EN	7.549.770,97	7.549.770,97	1,381,326.57	5
3	ERDF	Less developed	86	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources	24	EN	5.564.421,21	5.564.421,21	1.262.078,58	3
3	ERDF	Less developed	87	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	5. Promoting adaptation to climate change, prevention and risk management	24	EN	7.075.845,71	7.075.845,71	3.269.634,90	4
3	ERDF	Less developed	88	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	5. Promoting adaptation to climate change, prevention and risk management	24	EN	5.251.034,07	5.251.034,07	3.952.909,49	2
4	ER	Less developed	121	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	Na	24	EN	2.689.482,	2.689.482,85	1.619.677,40	9

	DF	ped		fund	able	ble				85			
4	ERDF	Less developed	122	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	Na	24	EN	-	-	-	-
4	ERDF	Less developed	123	Grant to a lost fund	not applicable	not applicable	Na	24	EN	40.486,92	40.486,92	25.856,44	2
Total										49.726.264,69	48.483.291,13	22.090.091,29	37

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	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 evaluation plan of the programme shall include evaluations of both **operational type** - concerning the processes of implementation of the CP 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 - and **strategic type**, concerning the contribution of the CP to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy.

On the basis of art. 114 of Reg. (EU) no. 1303/2013, the MA drew up the plan and, on the basis of its contents, appointed the Nucleo di Verifica e Valutazione degli Investimenti Pubblici NVVIP (Evaluation and Verification Unit of Public Investments) of the Sicilian Region, a technical structure to support the "phases of programming, evaluation, implementation and verification of plans, programs and intervention policies promoted and implemented by each individual

administration" (founding law no. 144/1999), functionally located within the Planning Department, to carry out the implementation evaluation.

More specifically, on the basis of the planning of the evaluation path contained in the document approved by the MC, the NVVIP carried out the implementation evaluation (Part I), referring to the period between the start of the program and May 2017, which was taken into account in the annual implementation report presented in 2018.

The NVVIP also carried out the implementation evaluation (Part I) which on the one hand offered an update of the first report with reference to the aspects related to the organization and functionality of the structures responsible for implementing the program as well as the adequacy of the procedures adopted for the selection of operations and on the other hand included some evaluations related to the capacity of the programme to achieve the expected results by the year 2023. The report was released in June 2020 and was taken into account in the annual implementation report presented in 2021.

During 2021, preparatory activities were launched for the award of the service linked to the implementation of the impact assessment of the programme, which is strategic, i.e. functional to the verification of the programme's ability to contribute to the achievement of its specific objectives and the objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth specific to Europe 2020.

In particular, the evaluation will take into account the contribution of the Programme to the implementation of the Union strategy, with regard to: 1) quality of life and health of citizens (Axes 1 and 2); 2) cultural heritage (Axis 1); 3) environmental protection (Axis 2 and 3); 4) risk prevention (Axis 3).

More specifically, the evaluation will focus on the results of the projects financed under the Programme and will be conducted with reference to the results achieved by the projects financed under Notice 1/2016 published on 09/09/2016, including the so-called "covid-oriented" actions aimed at providing specific measures in the use of programme funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak adopted during the year 2020, as well as in the context of Notice 2/2019 published on 31/05/2019. In the consideration that the program, during 2022 will publish a third notice for the selection of projects, the evaluation will also concern the project proposals of Notice no. 3 that capitalize on the results achieved by the projects already financed in the previous Program Notices that have concluded the activities and / or achieved the expected results.

## **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 2020, 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.

For the Sicilian area the crisis resulted in a real final blow inflicted on an economy already in great difficulty. The sectors subject to suspension/closure during the lockdown period accounted for 22% on the formation of added value, but the slowdown affected the entire economy of the area.

Based on the first economic released data, it should be noted that in the first half of 2020, production activity underwent a significant contraction due to the spread of the pandemic.

Businesses faced a drastic drop in domestic demand which led to a marked reduction in

expected revenues, especially in the private non-financial services sector. Therefore, the pandemic crisis particularly hit Sicily in a phase of substantial stagnation.

Compared to other European Regions the medium long-term analysis shows a disappointing regional economic performance, especially because of productivity and employment dynamics, also in the periods before and after the double recession that took place between 2008 and 2014.

Referring to the financial status of the cross-border area territorial authorities, significant critical situations are highlighted, especially on the Sicilian side.

In fact, in Sicily the local authorities financial condition is characterized by the presence of high deficits mainly due to provisions for the past State advances and the presence of high receivables that are doubtful and difficult to collect.

One third of the regional population lives in municipalities that have either failed or adopted financial rebalancing plans.

As a result of the government measures taken by the Italian and Maltese States in recent months in order to deal with the health emergency, the resources available to the health systems have increased and they have been used to expand the provision of both intensive care beds and staff.

The programme Authorities through their profuse action tried to ensure a constant action of assistance to all beneficiaries of the call 01/2016 in order to ensure the stability of the projects from a programmatic point of view and expected results. In fact, the closure activities due to the first lock down imposed by the containment measures of COVID-19 led to disruptive effects in the management and implementation processes of many financed projects whose activities concerned the development of actions in the medical-health field, in civil protection sectors, in the development of sea monitoring campaigns, in the sowing of endemic plants in certain areas of the NATURA 2000 network.

In addition, COVID-oriented actions have been financed within 4 project of call 01/2016, already mentioned in previous sections.

With reference to the call 02/2019, the JS and the Executive Committee took care to provide adequate instructions for the revision of the submitted AF (since they are eligible for funding under conditions) in order to adapt the planned project actions to the pandemic moment (replacement of all events in attendance: seminars, events, dissemination actions, kick-off meetings, etc.). Furthermore, taking into account that within the call 02/2019 no project proposals were submitted under Axis I - which concerned the funding of "mobility of researchers within the area for the development of an innovative project at SMEs" - the programme authorities, in agreement with the MC, decided to proceed with the scrolling of the ranking of operations that were validly included within the ranking in Axis II - which concerned the financing of mobility of young workers within the area for the carrying out an internship for professional integration.

Therefore, through the modification of the program in line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2020/460 approved on 3/09/2020, it was possible to proceed with the financing of an additional project under SO 2.2 of the program for activation of n. 100 mobility of workers (identified among weak and unemployed groups) within the cooperation area to carry out a job placement internship in companies (micro, small and medium) operating in the sectors of the program strategy (safeguarding environment and quality of life and health of citizens). In a very difficult moment in the economy of the cross-border area afflicted by the socio-economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the final recipients of this intervention will receive a job mobility voucher quantified at Euro 12,000 for 6 months to be paid by the programme resources. Therefore, as of 31/12/2020 the programme authorities allowed to finance a total of 200 worker mobility under Axis II of the programme.

In light of the above, it can be stated that the programme at this stage will be able to guarantee the expected results, also taking into account the non-substantial changes introduced with the request sent to the EC in December 2020 in line with the articles 30 and 96 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

**(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), 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*

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  Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission  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

### **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