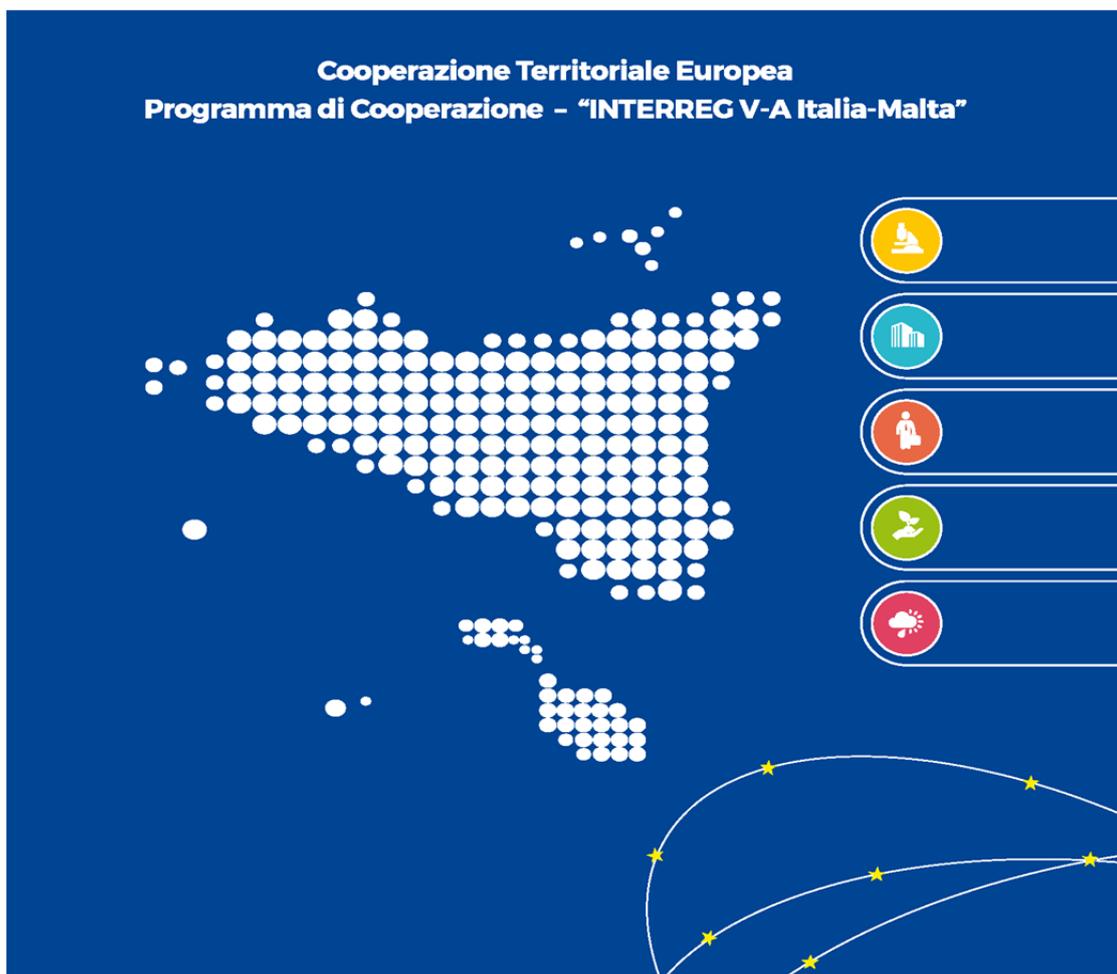


SUMMARY FOR CITIZENS - ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2017

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



In 2017, the actions of the MA with the operational support of the JS and in collaboration with the MNCA were aimed at the development of the necessary framework and tools required for the effective implementation of the CP. In particular:

- Setting up of the JS of the programme (pursuant to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013)
- Selection of operations (pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013)
- Procedure for the designation of the MA and CA (pursuant to articles 123-124 of the Reg (EU) No. 1303/2013)

With reference to the **establishment of the JS**, the three professionals selected in 2016 were contracted on 22/02/2017. Nevertheless, they still provided their constant support to the authorities of the programme in the period January-March 2017 and also with regard to the finalisation of the final report of the Malta Italy OP 07-13 by 31/3/2017. Following the presentation of the Final Implementation Report, the JS also provided its support for the clarifications requested by the EC on 14/07/2017 relating to the target of some indicators, the complementarity between the operational programme and other financial instruments operating in the cooperation area and to the synthesis of the results of the programme.

With reference to the **selection of operations**, as from 02/03/2017, the JS carried out the assessment related to both the verification of eligibility and the assessment pertaining to the strategic and operational elements as well as coherence, with respect to the specific criteria for the investment priority of the project proposals submitted under the public notice 01/2016, acting in close connection with the MA and with the guidance provided by the MA. The admissibility check included 83 proposals, out of which a total of 32 were not eligible for the next evaluation phase. This is mainly due to the lack / discrepancy of the documentation transmitted, the absence of the operational headquarters of the potential beneficiaries in the programme area, the lack of legal personality and also financial aspects.

During the month of September 2017, the evaluation in connection with the strategic and operational assessment as well as their respective coherence vis-à-vis the specific criteria for investment priority of the 21 project proposals, related to SO 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2, was initiated. This evaluation ended at the end of October 2017 outlining 8 proposals as "eligible under conditions" and 13 "rejected" proposals. Following the formulation of the eligibility conditions by the Executive Committee (November 2017), the respective Lead Partners were invited to comply with the requests of the EXC by submitting a revised application form. Further to the subsequent evaluation of the revised AFs, it was ascertained that all the partnerships have complied with the requests of the EXC and therefore, during the meeting of 4-5 December 2017, the EXC approved the revised AFs and the final rankings related to the SO 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2 of the Notice 01/2016 for the subsequent transmission to the MC. During the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 14-15 December 2017, the process of selecting the operations under SO 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2 of the Notice 01/2016 and the relative rankings, was concluded, further to which the following projects were financed:

- 2 proposals under SO 2.1 "To promote the creation and the enhancement of enterprises (micro, small and medium) in the intervention field of the cooperation area", investment priority 3.a "promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and promoting the creation of new firms, including through business incubators" for an amount of € 2,539,766 ERDF;

- 2 proposals for SO 3.1 "To contribute towards the arrest of the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the area, maintain and reactivate the ecosystem and the protected area", for Investment priority 6.d "Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soils, promoting services for ecosystems, even through Natura 2000 and the green infrastructure" for an amount of € 2,914,588 as ERDF;
- 4 proposals under SO 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", for the Investment priority 5.b " promoting investments targeting specific risks, thereby ensuring resilience in case of natural disasters and emergency management systems" for an amount of € 7,126,148 from the ERDF.

From a financial point of view, notice 01/2016 provided for an ERDF allocation of € 24,294,651 for SO 2.1, 3.1, 3.2. The projects which were financed absorbed financial resources amounting to € 12,580,501, resulting in overall ERDF savings of € 11,714,150, distributed as follows:

- SO 2.1 - PI 3.a, ERDF savings amounting to € 1,460,234
- SO 3.1 - PI 6.d, ERDF savings amounting to € 8,455,063
- SO 3.2 - PI 5.b, ERDF savings amounting to € 1,798,852.

With reference to the **procedure for designating the MA and the CA**, in 2017, work on the drafting and integration of certain attachments pertaining to the document "The functions and procedures in place for the MA and the CA" was carried out in line with the Annex III of the Reg (EU) n.1011 / 2014. Furthermore, the update of the "Ulysses" information system is in progress assuring its compliance with the EU regulations' framework. The system is subject to a specific audit by the AA which was carried out with the specialized technical support of IGRUE and its IT partner SOGEI and took place on 19 and 20 December 2017. The audit highlighted that the system ensures the collection, recording and storage in electronic format of the data related to each operation, necessary for monitoring, evaluating, financial management, verification and audit purposes, including data on the individual partners by specifying the breakdown of all the data required for measuring the indicators. In particular, "Ulysses" ensures the collection of data provided by the Annex III of Reg. 480/2014 of the EC and compliance with the provisions of Art. 122 par. 3 of the CPR, ensuring that all information may be exchanged between the beneficiaries and the MA, the CA and the AA by means of electronic data exchange systems. The system complies with the "Protocollo Unico di Colloquio" defined by the IGRUE and translates the organizational forecasts of the DMCS. Following the audit carried out on 19-20 / 12/2017, the AA drew up a report and an audit opinion issued to the MA at the beginning of 2018, necessary for the designation of the MA and the CA.