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## **Summary of the decisions**

### **Monitoring Committee**

**Malta - The Oaks Business Centre, Hamrun**

**2 April 2025**

## Italia - Malta

### Foreword

This document summarises the main contents that emerged during the meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG VI-A Italy-Malta Programme, held in hybrid mode on 2 April 2025 in Malta.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Italian and Maltese Authorities, the Joint Secretariat, the European Commission and the other members of the Committee.

During the meeting, the progress of the programme, the evaluations of the project proposals, the expenditure projections for the n+3 target, and the future prospects of the Programme were examined, with operational indications to ensure an effective implementation and quality of the interventions.

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## Italia - Malta

### Discussion of agenda items

#### 1. "Public Notice 1/2023 - examination and approval of the qualitative evaluation grids of the project proposals related to the Specific Objectives 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3".

The Joint Secretariat illustrated **the evaluation grids of the proposals for SO 2.1, 2.2, 2.3**, highlighting that:

- **12 projects were conditionally accepted for funding.**
- **6 projects were rejected.**

**Critical issues identified** in the projects rejected or conditionally admitted include:

- Lack of originality and weak cross-border character.
- Overlap with projects already funded in the 2014-2020 cycle.
- Limited territorial impact and massive presence of universities.

For **conditionally eligible projects**, common conditions include:

- Revision **of output and result indicators** to align with the monitoring system.
- Revision **of communication activities in a "green" key.**
- **Budget reduction between 5% and 25%** according to the score on the proportionality criterion (criterion 8.1).

**The Committee approved the evaluation grids**, with specific conditions defined for each project as set out in the sheets.

There were also in-depth studies on compliance with the **DNSH (Do No Significant Harm)** principle and on the management of **direct and indirect state aid**.

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## Italia - Malta

### 2. "State of the art regarding the resources committed under call 01/2023 and forecast of expenditure to be certified by December 2025 to reach the n+3 target".

The Joint Secretariat presented the resource update:

- The outcome of **call 01/2023 allows the commitment of 66% of the available resources (€ 27,669,485)**.
- 34% of the resources (€ 9,348,752) constitute savings.

In order to ensure the full funding of the projects admitted under SO 2.3, the **MC approved the shift of resources from SO 2.1 and 2.2 to SO 2.3**.

The expenditure targets for reaching **n+3** were confirmed:

- **€ 3,504,064.06 by 31/12/2025.**
- **€ 8,270,455.31 by 31/12/2026.**

The European Commission expressed its appreciation for the quality approach of the proposals, stressing the need to launch a new call to ensure full absorption of the resources.

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### 3. "Discussion on the possible terms of reference of the notice concerning Priority 4 ISO1 - An area of cooperation with better governance between Italy and Malta".

The Joint Secretariat, in synergy with the Maltese and Italian Authorities, started the discussion to define the terms of reference of the next **Notice on Priority 4 (ISO1 Governance)**, aimed at:

- Develop **top-down actions** with clear operational indications for potential beneficiaries.
- Broaden the range of beneficiaries, limiting the excessive presence of universities.
- Facilitate the implementation of projects with a direct impact on improving cross-border governance.

The MC **agreed on the need to launch the call by autumn 2025** to contribute to the 2026 spending target.

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## Italia - Malta

### 4. "Correction of material errors in the outcomes of the evaluations related to priority 1 and 3".

The Joint Secretariat informed the MC **about corrections of material errors** in the evaluation grids of the OS 1.1 and 3.1 proposals due to technical calculation problems in the Excel formulas.

The corrections, **which do not alter the evaluation methodology**, were approved by the MC to ensure the correctness of the lists of conditionally admitted and rejected projects.

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### 5. "Any other business"

The following operational topics were discussed

- **Timeline of future** calls: planning of the new call by autumn 2025 and subsequent territorial information sessions in Sicily and Malta.
- **Update on the JEMS monitoring system**: confirmed the completion of the customisation process of the system for the complete monitoring, management and reporting of projects.
- **Programme evaluation**: started the independent evaluation activity on the programme with the expectation of a technical discussion session by the end of October 2025.
- **Regiostars 2025**: discussed the possibility of submitting outstanding projects from the Programme for nomination in the Regiostars competition.
- **Closure of 2014-2020** projects: confirmed the progress of the project closure procedures and the regularisation of the last reports to ensure the full absorption of the certified resources.