

**Interreg**



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**Italia - Malta**

## **Summary of the decisions**

### **Monitoring Committee**

Malta – 20 June 2024

## Italia - Malta

On 20 June 2024, at the headquarters of the Maltese National Coordination Authority - The Oaks Business Center Block B - the members of the Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG VI-A Italy Malta programme met as per the attached attendance sheet. The representative of the European Commission Valeria Cenacchi, the Managing Authority represented by Daniela Segreto, and the members of the Joint Secretariat of the programme also participate in the work.

The members of the Monitoring Committee connected remotely via the zoom platform are:

- Ministero delle Economia e delle Finanze - Dipartimento della Ragioneria Generale dello Stato Ispettorato Generale per i Rapporti Finanziari con l'Unione Europea - I.G.R.U.E.
- Regione Siciliana – Dipartimento Regionale dell'Ambiente
- ANCI Sicilia
- Local Council Association
- Commission for the Rights of Persons with disability
- National Commission for the Promotion of the Equality
- The Gozo Business Chamber

In line with the agenda of the Monitoring Committee, the summary of the decisions regarding the items on the agenda is illustrated below.

**Approval of the agenda** – Once the quorum has been verified, the following agenda is approved:

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Public Notice 1/2023 – Discussion about the list of projects with the related eligibility details of the project proposals, following the formal eligibility check
3. Presentation about the “common submission deficiencies” made by potential beneficiary participants. Discussion with the MC to consider resorting to the “preliminary assistance” principle
4. Presentation about the update of the call calendars (including projects of strategic importance and small projects
5. Presentation about the post 2027
6. Any other business

The **Maltese National Coordination Authority** introduces all participants at the meeting, invites them to submit the declarations regarding the absence of conflict of interest and ask the ones in conflict of interest to leave the room/meeting. Ing. Camilleri summarizes the main outcomes of the technical meeting held on the 19th of June which was prodromic to the Monitoring Committee.

**Point 2 and 3 - Public Notice 1/2023 – Discussion about the list of projects with the related eligibility details and “common submission deficiencies” made by potential beneficiary participants.**

The **Managing Authority** gives an overview of the main outcomes of the Public Notice 01/2023 in terms of activities carried out by the MA and MNCA supported by the JS: information events, support to potential beneficiaries, publication of FAQs in the programme’s website thus determining the submission of 53 projects with the participation of 252 potential beneficiaries. An overview of the Maltese and Italian participation is also provided as well as the distribution of projects among the programme’s specific objectives.

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The **Joint Secretariat** illustrates the work done together with the Nucleo di Valutazione e Verifica degli Investimenti Pubblici to verify di eligibility requirements. The JS illustrates the systemic errors occurred after having clustered projects per type of deficiencies. More specifically, the list of systemic errors are:

- Annex A with different amounts than the additional co-financing and/or different amounts of national co-financing included in the AF
- Annex C with incomplete compilation
- Annex D with the incorrect net worth and/or ERDF contribution claimed which however reach the threshold required applying the correct formula ( $> 0,5$ )
- Formal administrative act containing typos and/or incomplete information; Absence of delegation by the legal representative's authority to sign the documentation
- Horizontal Principles: Mismatch between Annex A and Section C.2.7 of the AF

The Monitoring Committee decides that such type of deficiencies can be solved asking lead partners clarification considering that they don't affect the nature of the project.

The JS illustrates all other type of errors occurred after having clustered projects per type of deficiencies:

- AF submitted after the call for proposals expiring date
- Financial capacity lower and/or equal to 0,5
- Absence of one or more annexes of the AF
- Third sector Entity not included within the national register (RUNTS + VO register)
- Incomplete AF or incorrect compilation of the AF in line with the threshold of the art. 6 of Public Notice 1/2023

The Monitoring Committee decides that such type of deficiencies cannot be solved asking lead partners clarifications because they affect the nature of the project. This means that these projects will be ineligible to proceed to Phase 2 of the selection procedure.

The **Managing Authority** gives evidence of the timeframe of activities to be carried out after the Monitoring Committee which should bring to close the phase 1 in August and the phase 2 by end of December.

Finally, the Managing Authority focuses on the lack of projects submitted within the specific objective 4.1 related to "governance" giving some probable reasons which determined the failure and proposing a solution. in terms of different approaches. More specifically, drafting a structured questionnaire shall be submitted to the main bodies present in the cross-border cooperation area (civil protection, coast guard, port authority, marine protected areas, ministries, et cetera) with the following objectives: defining the concrete and punctual needs for specific governance actions; understanding who is interested in developing governance projects; workout the best implementation methods (projects funded by means of public call or directly); and enlarging the beneficiary audience through specific communication activities and tools.

The **Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione** stresses the aspects related to a highly oriented approach to inform potential beneficiaries on the main content of the questionnaire.



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The **European Commission** invites to cluster the potential beneficiaries focusing on the real need of “governance” across the area and identified the relevant ones.

The Monitoring Committee approves the proposal to explore such possibility using the methodology proposed by the Managing Authority.

### **Point 4 - Presentation about the update of the call calendars (including projects of strategic importance and small projects)**

The Joint Secretariat gives an update of the future call to be launched in 2025 targeted to “small projects” and in 2026 targeted call/capitalisation call.

The **European Commission** stresses the importance of “small projects” whose beneficiaries may need an extra effort to be supported both during the submission and implementation phase.

The **Maltese National Coordination Authority** highlights the importance of the third call for proposals strictly linked to the outcomes of the first call for proposal.

The **Managing Authority** focuses on the importance to monitor very close the projects funded under the first call so that the output/results can be observed already after one year of implementation.

The **Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione** emphasizes the importance of reducing the burden on beneficiaries of “small projects” as much as possible.

### **Point 5 - Presentation about the post 2027**

The **European Commission** illustrates the rationale behind the consultation on post 2027 period. A questionnaire will be distributed to the MC members who are asked to further disseminate it with more stakeholders in order to ensure the widest dissemination.

The activities of the Monitoring Committee conclude at h 12:40.

**APPROVED BY THE MONITORING COMMITTEE**