



Press Release

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European Commission adopts new ENI CBC Med Programme 2014-2020: over €209 million for cross-cooperation in the Mediterranean Sea Basin

As the national coordinator of the 2014-2020 Territorial Cooperation Programmes, which includes the ENI CBC Med Programme, the Funds and Programmes Division within the Parliamentary Secretariat for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds, Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto, is pleased to announce that on the 17 December 2015, the European Commission approved the adoption of the 2014-2020 cross-border cooperation (CBC) "Mediterranean Sea Basin" Programme with over €209 million of EU funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

The cross-border component of the European Neighbourhood Policy is made up of 17 programmes, worth €1 billion, which aims at supporting social and economic development in regions on both sides of the Eastern and Southern external borders of the European Union. As one of these programmes, the ENI CBC Med Programme aims to foster fair, equitable and sustainable economic, social and territorial development in regions placed around the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

"Cross-border cooperation plays a key role in avoiding the creation of new dividing lines. This new funding will further contribute to a more integrated and sustainable regional development in the neighbouring border regions and to a more harmonious territorial cooperation on EU's external borders," said Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn.

The programme provides a framework for implementing cooperation projects in four main thematic objectives:

- **Business and SMEs development**, through support to start-up enterprises and the enhancement of Euro-Mediterranean value chains and clusters. Diversification of tourism into new segments and niches is also part of this objective.
- **Support to education, research, technological development and innovation**, with focus on technological transfer, commercialization of research results and links between industry and research.
- **Promotion of social inclusion and the fight against poverty**, addressing the NEETS category (Not in Education, Employment or Training) as well actors from the social and solidarity economy.
- **Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation**, including efficiency in water, waste and energy management as well as conservation of coastal areas.

Attachments: none

Page: 1 of 2

Women and young people are key target groups of the new Programme while people to people cooperation and institutional capacity building are considered as cross-cutting issues to guide the implementation phase.

Same as for the 2007 – 2013 programming period, the Autonomous Region of Sardinia will once again be the programme's Managing Authority, which is the institution in charge of the day to day management and implementation of the Programme on behalf of the European Commission and the participating countries.

14 countries, namely Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia, form the Joint Monitoring Committee, which is responsible for designing and implementing modalities of the new Programme. Other eligible countries under the ENI will be able to join at a later stage.

Support to projects (grants) will be awarded through calls for proposals expected to be launched starting late 2016, following the signing of the Financing Agreements between the European Commission and the Mediterranean Partner Countries. Further information will be communicated by the Funds and Programmes Division to the general public nearer to the time when the First Call for Proposals shall be launched.

For more information about the programme, please visit the FPD website <http://eufunds.gov.mt/> and the programme website www.enpicbcmed.eu.