

Annual Report 2017

Citizens' summary

The Interreg MED Programme is a European programme of transnational cooperation co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It provides funds for cooperation projects developed and managed by public bodies – and in some cases by private entities – in the Northern regions of the Mediterranean. Its eligible territory includes Mediterranean EU Member States and potential candidates participating with the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance funds (IPA Funds).



INTERREG MED 2014-2020 COOPERATION AREA



For the 2014-2020 programming period, the total budget of the programme is € 275.905.320.

Four thematic investment priority axes – divided themselves into specific objectives – have been chosen for this programming period:

- ➔ **Priority Axis 1:** “Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth” (32% of the total budget)
- ➔ **Priority Axis 2:** “Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories: cities, islands and rural areas” (20% of the total budget)

- ➔ **Priority Axis 3** “Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources” (34% of the budget)
- ➔ **Priority Axis 4** “Enhancing Mediterranean Governance” (8% of the budget).
- ➔ **Priority Axis 5:** 6% of the budget has been allocated to “Technical Assistance”.

Following feedback received from the previous programming period (2007-2013), the project structure was revised. There are now two types of projects in priority axes 1, 2 and 3: modular and horizontal. "Modular" projects focus on the following types of actions: studies, tests or capitalisation. Each modular project works in a thematic group coordinated by one "horizontal" project, the aim of this approach being to help modular projects to work together on common results and messages.

The specific thematic groups of projects cover the following fields: Blue growth, Green growth, Social and creative industries, Energy efficiency in public buildings, Renewable energy, Urban transport systems, Sustainable tourism, Biodiversity protection.

The results of this thematic synthesis work, filtered by Horizontal projects, will be taken into account by PANORAMED, a project designed and implemented by the States and Regions participating in the Programme, which has been approved in 2017 under Axis 4 (Governance project). This project is a long-term cooperation forum, where the results of thematic projects form the basis for shared governance on specific themes that have been jointly chosen.

These themes are: ‘maritime coastal tourism’ and ‘maritime surveillance’. In a spirit of co-operation, the partner States share responsibility for carrying out this joint project. The project became operational in 2017.

In 2017, based on an analysis of the results of the first programmed projects, the Programme launched 2 simultaneous calls: the first for modular projects (test or capitalisation) on the thematic axes and objectives that had been less successful in the first call. In parallel, another call for integrated projects combining modules 1 + 2 + 3 (study, test, capitalisation) was also launched. These important projects will have to bring together a partnership composed of the thematic key actors and be spearheaded by regional authorities.

By the end of the year, the Programme key figures regarding the projects and financial programming have been kept the same as in 2016, as no new project had been yet selected from this call.

Nevertheless, the assessment under the new calls took place between October and December 2017. It led to a JS proposal of **21 projects** selected for approval (**13 single-modular** and **8 Integrated**).

As a reminder in 2016, were approved 70 projects **8 horizontal projects** out of 14 applications; **61 modular projects**, out of 375 applications and the Axis 4 PANORAMED Governance platform project, approved in June.

The complete and updated list of approved projects, with all relevant partners, is available on our website: <https://interreg-med.eu/projects-results/our-projects>.

2017 is the year that the consolidation of the implementation of the projects, hence it was rich in events.

The JS organised three major transnational public events with the support of the 2017 Spanish presidency of the Programme: firstly, in order to support candidates, an information seminar for applicants of the calls for projects aforementioned, in Barcelona, that conveyed 200 participants. Secondly, a major community building event in Alicante, gathering approximately 200 representatives of all Modular and Horizontal projects;

thirdly, the Axis 4 PANORAMED project kickoff event, in Seville, for 200 participants as well.

Other than these events, the Interreg MED Programme organised several trainings and meetings addressed to develop projects' capacities in diverse skills: trainings on the web-platform for communication officers; meetings of the Group of Auditors (GOA) and the First Level Control (FLC).

The JS was also active in liaising with other transnational programmes by organising in its premises a transnational Inter-programme meeting (gathering all TN plus ENI MED programmes overlapping the Interreg MED area).

At the same time, the Joint Secretariat delivered the necessary tools for the efficient coordination of the Programme's activities, in particular the web portal hosting the sites of all the programmed projects as well as the Programme's website itself. The projects were thus able to build up and launch their websites. In the end of 2017, 55 out of 70 websites were online and about 1800 deliverables uploaded in the library of deliverables section of the web platform. The project's results have thus started to emerge and even more is expected in 2018.

Key figures until 2017 (cumulative)

70
projects

121 M€
ERDF

533
applications

3,5 M€
IPA

617
partners