

Annual Report 2016

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 State candidates to the EU or 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 – themselves divided 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” (34% of the total budget)

- ➔ Priority Axis 3 “Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources” (20% of the budget)
- ➔ Priority Axis 4 “Enhancing Mediterranean Governance” (8% of the budget).
- ➔ The rest of the budget (6%) has been allocated to Priority Axis 5: “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 capitalization. Each modular project works in a thematic group attached to 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 cover the following fields: Blue growth, Green growth, Social and creative innovation, Energy efficiency in public buildings, Renewable energy, Urban transport, Sustainable tourism, Biodiversity protection.

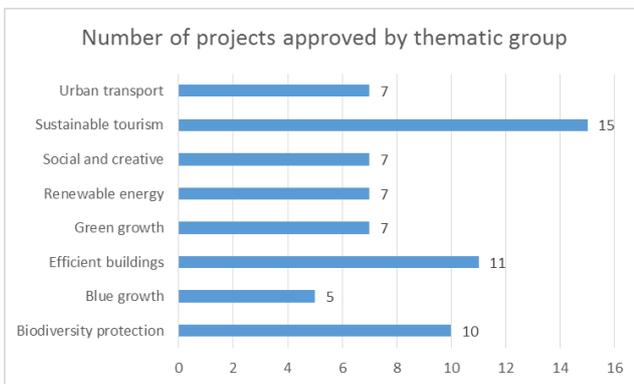
The results of this thematic synthesis work will then be taken into account by a project designed and implemented by the States and Regions participating in the Programme, planned in the framework of Axis 4 (PANORAMED project). This project is a long-term cooperation forum, where the results of thematic projects form the basis for shared governance.

The negotiation on the themes to be worked on resulted in the choice of ‘maritime coastal tourism’ and ‘maritime surveillance’. In a spirit of co-operation, the partner States share responsibility for carrying out this joint project. This project will become operational in 2017.

In 2016, the first calls for projects were targeted to horizontal and modular projects:

The call for horizontal projects took place in two stages. At the end of these two stages (pre-application + full application), **8 horizontal projects** were selected by the Steering Committee (composed of the 13 partner states) and were able to start, in September 2016, their coordination activities of modular projects in their respective themes.

The call for modular project received 375 applications. Following a two-stage evaluation (operational and strategic) validated by the Steering Committee, **61 modular projects** were selected to start their operations in the last quarter of 2016.



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

During this period, in order to support applicants and obtain interesting project proposals, the Interreg MED Managing Authority, with the help of the Joint Secretariat, organized two transnational public events: an information seminar for applicants of the call for modular projects and then an information seminar for applicants of the call for horizontal projects. It has also contributed to the national information meetings organized in the member countries of the Programme.

At the same time, the Joint Secretariat continued to develop tools necessary 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. This interactive platform, launched in early 2017, was designed to allow:

- A greater visibility of cooperation actions co-financed by the ERDF,
- An efficient capitalization of the projects' productions and their use by the greatest number of territorial actors,
- A better exchange of actors in the MED area concerned by the same territorial problems and objectives (through the creation of thematic sites).

The year 2016 thus marks the concrete start of the Interreg MED projects.

As regards the administrative closure of the period 2007-2013, it has almost come to an end since the final activity report with its financial annexes has been drawn up and validated by the authorities of the Programme. This report was submitted to the Commission for its validation.

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

KEY FIGURES 1st call for proposals 2016

69 projects **393** applications **617** partners

3,1 M€ IPA **112,9 M€** ERDF