

Programme co-financed by the
European Regional Development Fund

www.interreg-med.eu

Programme overview

The Interreg MED Programme is a European transnational cooperation programme co-financed by the ERDF and IPA funds. It provides funds for projects developed and managed by public and private entities. Its overall objective is to promote sustainable growth by fostering innovative concepts and practices and a reasonable use of resources. In addition, it supports social integration.

Territories:

57 regions from 13 partner
European States (10 EU + 3 IPA)

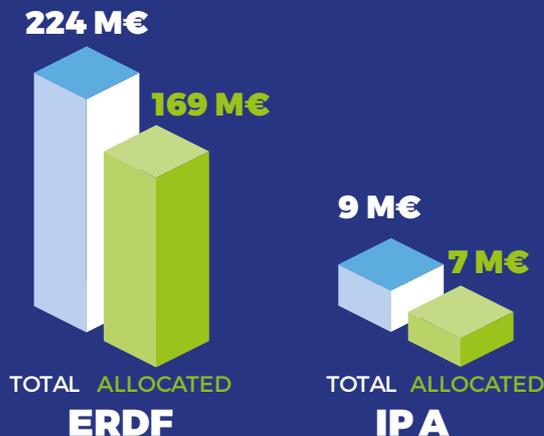


INTERREG MED 2014-2020 COOPERATION AREA



Budget allocation 2018

- 84% of ERDF
- 83% of IPA



Projects until 2018

- 91 projects approved
- 900 institutional beneficiaries



Priorities & thematics

Axis 1 - Innovation 32% of the budget

- BLUE GROWTH
- GREEN GROWTH
- SOCIAL & CREATIVE

Axis 2 Low carbon economy 20% of the budget

- EFFICIENT BUILDINGS
- RENEWABLE ENERGY
- URBAN TRANSPORTS

Axis 3 - Natural and cultural resources 34% of the budget

- SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
- BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Axis 4 - Governance 8% of the budget

- MEDITERRANEAN GOVERNANCE

2018 Annual Report

Citizen's summary

Following lessons learned from the previous programming period (2007-2013), we revised the project structure. There are now 2 types of projects in priority axes 1, 2 and 3: modular and horizontal. "Modular" projects focus on the types of actions: studies, tests or capitalisation. Each modular project works in a thematic community, coordinated by a "Horizontal" project. The aim of this approach is to better work together on common results and messages.

The specific thematic communities 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 Modular projects' work, are filtered by Horizontal projects, which 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). 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 2018, a total of **91 projects were approved and running**, and an additional **14 technical assistance (TA)** projects. The first projects started at the end of 2016 and, by December 2018, **12 projects had already been completed** and are now in the financial closing phase.

Excluding technical assistance, this implies **900 direct beneficiaries of ERDF and IPA funds** and **330 organisations identified as associated partners** (for the implementation of operations but not direct beneficiaries of the funding).

In terms of financial commitment, the **ERDF programmed now stands at €169 million** while the **IPA envelope ensures a commitment of €7 million**, which represents approximately **84% of the available ERDF funds** and **83% of the IPA funds** respectively.

The 8 Horizontal projects in 2018, have **benefited from an increase in their financial allocation of between 10 and 20%**, taking into account some new activities, developed in addition to those expected.

Projects are distributed per thematic community as follows:

- 18 projects for sustainable tourism
- 15 projects for green growth
- 12 projects for biodiversity protection
- 12 for innovation in social and creative industries
- 11 projects for energy efficiency in public buildings
- 8 sustainable transport projects
- 7 projects for blue growth (innovation)
- 7 for renewable energies.

During 2018, the Programme organised or participated in:

- The mid-term event in Rome, under the Italian Presidency, bringing together more than a thousand people over two days. This event was also accompanied by several side events held by the projects throughout the same week. Besides this transnational event, some other events took place, namely:
 - Seminars of selected project leaders and for potential lead partners for candidate projects;
 - A meeting of National Contact Points (NCPs);
 - Meetings of the Group of Auditors (GOA) and of the FLC network (First Level Controllers);
 - Three Monitoring Committees (MCs) and one Steering Committee (SC);
 - A "training" event on Advocacy in partnership with the Interreg SUDOE Programme;
 - The joint coordination of a stand shared by all the transnational Interreg Programmes at the EWRC week in Brussels and the promotion of 2 projects in the session held by Interact «Project Slam», in which one of the projects won 2 prizes.

More generally, 2018 overcame many of the challenges that the Programme experienced in 2017.

The implementation of projects, certification circuits, analysis and validation of payment requests, transmission of the MA certificates to the Certifying Authority (CA), payments from the CA to each ERDF and IPA partner are effective at all levels.

The same applies to the control circuits. During 2018, the Programme positively finalised its first campaign for **second level control with an error rate at the closure of the annual accounts of 0.6%** and continued its programme of project on-site visits (on average 4 per accounting year).

In addition, still with satisfactory results (level 2), the MA and the CA underwent their first system audits (which for the MA will have to be completed in 2019 on the key requirements not yet verified: in particular the reliability of flows between IT/monitoring systems).

The operability of the procedures made it possible to **avoid any risk of decommitment** from the first half of the year, thus allowing much more qualitative than financial project monitoring, but also additional work to analyse and readjust the budgets and activities of the working plans of multiple operations, particularly multi-modular projects. The latter are required to undergo a mid-term evaluation before starting their new module.

Finally, among the many activities implemented during this year, the Interreg MED Programme also **launched the operational evaluation** (impact evaluation upcoming from 2019), hosted an **IVY Interreg volunteer** for six months, and contributed or participated in numerous Interact training/seminars. Further on, we note the involvement in a project of indicators desk analysis under the ESPON umbrella.