Interreg
Italy - Croatia
EUROPEAN UNION

INTERREG V A Italy – Croatia CBC Programme

Factsheet n. 1

Introduction and Background

Version N°1 of 20th February 2017

Factsheet n.1 – Introduction and Background

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ACRONYMS

AA – Audit Authority

AF – Application Form

CA – Certifying Authority

CBC – Cross Border Cooperation

CP – Cooperation Programme

CPR – Common Provision Regulation; Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

EC – European Commission

ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

ERDF Regulation – Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013

ETC – European Territorial Cooperation

ETC Regulation – Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013

EU – European Union

EUSAIR – European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

Financial Regulation – Regulation (EU) No 966/2012

FLC – First Level Control

JS – Joint Secretariat

LP – Lead Partner

MA – Managing Authority

MC – Monitoring Committee

NA – National Authorities

PA – Priority Axis

PP – Project Partner

SIS – Single Information System

SO – Specific Objective

WP – Work Package

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A. LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Programme documents:

- The INTERREG V A Italy-Croatia CBC Programme document adopted by the European Commission on 15th December 2015, Decision C (2015) 9342 (CCI 2014TC16RFCB042);

- The INTERREG V A - Italy-Croatia CBC Programme Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement;

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment of INTERREG V A Italy-Croatia CBC Programme – Environmental Report;

- The Ex Ante Evaluation of the 9th November 2015;

- The Call announcement of each call for proposals and other publications (e.g.: manuals and fact sheets) published on the Programme web site).

European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 key regulations:

- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and on general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006;

- Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006;

- Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal;

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 of 4 March 2014 supplementing Regulation No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for cooperation programmes;

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds;

- Commission Implementing Decision of 16 June 2014 setting up the list of cooperation programmes and indicating the global amount of total support from the European Regional Development Fund for each programme under the European territorial cooperation goal for the period 2014 to 2020 (2014/366/EU)

- Commission Implementing Decision of 16 June 2014 setting up the list of regions and areas eligible for funding from the European Regional Development Fund under the cross-border and transnational components of the European territorial cooperation goal for the period 2014 to 2020 (2014/388/EU)

- Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002;

- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2015/1929 Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 October 2015 amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union;

- Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid;

- Directives and rules on public procurement.

- Strategic framework

- EUROPE 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Communication from the Commission, COM(2010)2020 final;

- Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020: Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions, Gödöllö, May 2011;

- Sixth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion: Investment for jobs and growth. Promoting development and good governance in EU regions and cities, European Commission, July 2014.

Macro-regional strategy:

Endorsement of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), European Council, Brussels, 23-24 October 2014;

- Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the governance of macro-regional strategies - 20.05.2014 - COM(2014) 284 final.

- Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - concerning the added value of macro-regional strategies - 27.06.2013 - COM(2013) 468 final

- Commission staff working document - Accompanying the document "Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - concerning the added value of macro-regional strategies" - SWD(2013) 233 final

For reference and further documentation please consult the following websites:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/legislation/regulations/

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http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/legislation/delegated-acts/

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/legislation/implementing-acts/

B. WHAT IS EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION?

The INTERREG-V-A Italy – Croatia CBC Programme is a European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programme and therefore an integral part of the European Union's Cohesion Policy. This Programme enables regional and local stakeholders from two countries to exchange knowledge and experiences, to develop and implement pilot actions, to test the feasibility of new policies, products and services and to support investments.

The aim of cross-border cooperation is to overcome national borders and to address common problems or opportunities that would benefit from a common approach. Such challenges are faced by all border regions in the European Union as a result of the fragmentation of markets for labour and capital, infrastructure networks, fiscal capacity, and institutions.

In this respect, territorial cooperation stands out as a key tool in efficiently addressing common challenges. In particular, territorial cooperation in the European Union is about reducing disparities between regions, reinforcing cohesion and encouraging optimal economic development. By pooling together resources, exchanging knowledge and sharing good practices, cooperation projects improve the day to day lives of people throughout Europe and beyond.

The maritime dimension of the Programme is evident as the Adriatic Sea is the only border the two Countries share. In this respect the Programme is exploting the experience and the results of previous programming periods' Maritime CBC Programmes, that perceived

the sea as unique opportunity for cooperation rather than an obstacle, especially in relation to sensitive topics such as the need for integrated coastal zone management strategies, fundamental for the sustainable development of marine areas and coastal regions.

Considering the relevance and cross-cutting dimension of marine and maritime topics in ETC Programmes and, at a wider political level, for the development of an Integrated Maritime Policy, the INTERREG V A Italy-Croatia CBC Programme pursues the objective to play an active role in contributing to the strengthening of cooperation in the Adriatic Sea Basin and to the achievement of EUSAIR Macro-regional Strategic objectives.

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Cross-border cooperation programmes 2014–2020
IT-HR – Italy–Croatia

C. WHY PARTICIPATING IN AN ETC PROJECT?

Organisations sometimes devise ideas within their policy field they would like to realise, but which may be difficult to implement on their own. The reasons can be many: the organisation works at too small a scale; the issue at hand is by definition not confined to a single territory; essential expertise is required to complement their own, etc.

Addressing the issue through a cross-border project could be a way to take things forward and move towards a solution or accomplishment of what had initially been envisaged. Working at a cross-border level has several distinct advantages: the scale at which a problem is addressed will be increased as a consequence of working with people across borders; if the issue at hand

is a cross-border one by default, then it will also require a cross-border solution as suggested above; other organisations could dispose of the external expertise to complement their own which will facilitate mutual learning; etc.

Whilst improving the conditions of life of the people living in the Programme area is the primary achievement of territorial cooperation projects, benefits reach beyond this. Employees of the partner organisations involved in ETC projects, and therefore those organisations themselves, also benefit from working across borders with people who are experienced in similar topics.

As mentioned above, ETC Programmes such as the INTERREG V A Italy – Croatia CBC Programme, are part of the European Union's Cohesion Policy, which is the main investment tool to deliver the EU2020 goals.

Europe 2020 is the EU's growth and jobs strategy and the overall framework to which all adopted EU policies should contribute. It is aimed at overcoming the economic crisis, addressing the shortcomings of our growth model and creating the conditions for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five targets have been set for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty.

That is why the Cohesion Policy seeks to invest in actions that will have an impact on the creation of growth and jobs, on the issues of climate change and energy dependence and on the reduction of poverty and social exclusion.

European Union Macro-regional Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is the Strategy jointly developed by the Commission, together with the Adriatic-Ionian Region countries and stakeholders, in order to address common challenges together. It aims at creating synergies and fostering coordination among all territories in the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

EUSAIR is designed to promote the economic growth and prosperity of the Region by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity, while protecting the sea, coastal and inland environment and ecosystems. Accordingly, EUSAIR Action Plan is based on four pillars: Blue Growth, Connecting the Region, Environmental quality and Sustainable tourism.

D. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2014 – 2020

Whilst ETC (Interreg) is an instrument having a long tradition, there are some specific novelties for the current programming period 2014 – 2020 that should be duly taken into account.

As the focus on the overarching targets set at European level for the EU 2020 Strategy have to be maintained for ETC Programmes as well, the European Union has decided to streamline the available funding in fewer relevant themes. It is expected that this increased **thematic concentration** will strengthen the impact of the financial effort borne by the Union's budget and lead to more tangible and measurable results. This has led to a list of 11 thematic objectives defined in the European Regulations (art. 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013). In turn, each of these have been further broken down into investment priorities, which define in more detail what Programmes can focus on in order to achieve the thematic objectives (art. 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and art. 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.)

The above outlines the limitations in terms of contents for all ETC Programmes, decided at European level after extensive discussions between the European Council (Member States), the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Furthermore, Italy and Croatia also have made decisions with regard to defining their Programme strategy. The Programme Authorities, in coherence with the principle of thematic

concentration set by CPR, have chosen **4 thematic objectives** amongst the 11 defined by the European Union further broken down into **7 investment priorities**.

This choice was made on the basis of a thorough situation analysis looking at the Programme area and its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. That analysis has led to a definition of common needs, challenges and opportunities for the Programme area which helped to determine the Programme strategy. The situation analysis equally took into account development priorities defined at national, regional and local level which have been laid out by the respective Member States in their different strategies and policy documents.

The chosen thematic objectives and investment priorities have been translated into four **Programme Priority Axes**, which in turn are broken down into **7 Specific Objectives**. Both elements are Programme-specific but are consistent with the chosen thematic objectives and investment priorities as defined in the EU Regulations. This constitutes the basis of the Programme strategy.

The central location of the sea basin (affecting the transportation patterns and socio-economic processes in the Programme area), the maritime character of historical trade relations, the joint asset of natural areas and cultural heritage, the shared importance of economy branches exploiting the rich natural sea based resources show the essential **role of the blue and green economy** for the sustainable regional growth in the cooperation area.

At the same time, the area shows considerable disparities in the socio-economic characteristics, exemplified by urban-rural and north-south divides in the economic attainment of the SME sector, innovation capacity and labour market trends, as well as east-west mobility patterns, that need to be addressed by joint actions across the borders.

These issues are at the core of the strategic intervention by the Programme, driven by the **overall objective**: **"To increase the prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible changes".**

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OVERALL OBJECTIVE: To increase the prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible changes

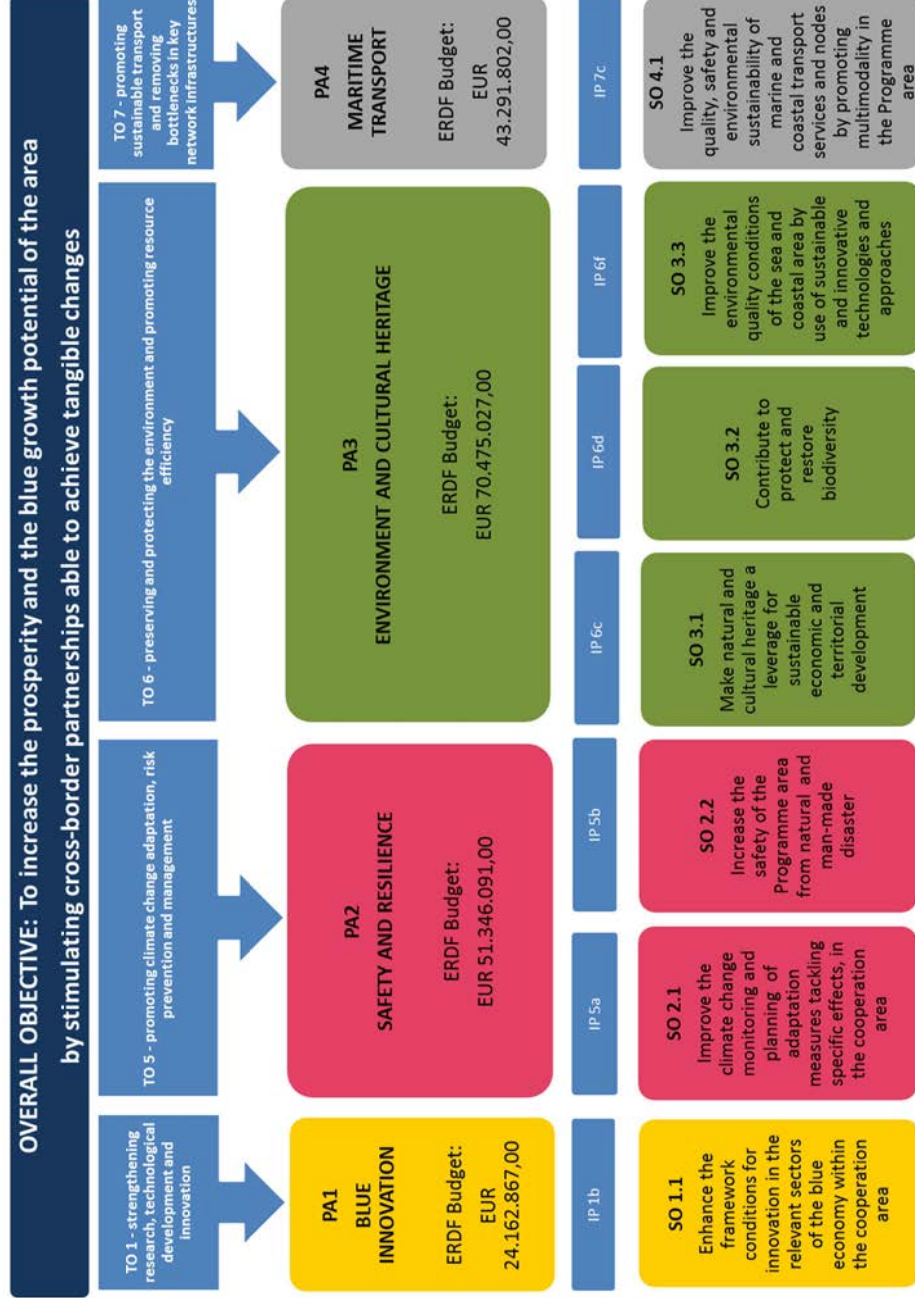| TO 1 - strengthening research, technological development and innovation	TO 5 - promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	TO 6 - preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	TO 7 - promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

PA1 BLUE INNOVATION ERDF Budget: EUR 24.162.867,00	PA2 SAFETY AND RESILIENCE ERDF Budget: EUR 51.346.091,00	PA3 ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ERDF Budget: EUR 70.475.027,00	PA4 MARITIME TRANSPORT ERDF Budget: EUR 43.291.802,00

IP 1b	IP 5a	IP 5b	IP 6c	IP 6d	IP 6f	IP 7c

SO 1.1 Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area	SO 2.1 Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects, in the cooperation area	SO 2.2 Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster	SO 3.1 Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable economic and territorial development	SO 3.2 Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity	SO 3.3 Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches	SO 4.1 Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services and nodes by promoting multimodality in the Programme area

Figure 1 - Italy-Croatia CBC Programme Intervention Logic

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10The table above illustrates thematic objectives, priority axes, investment priorities, specific objectives and the amount of resources available per priority axis.

Result indicators, output indicators and examples of actions to be funded are included in Annex I entitled to Factsheet n. 1.

2014-2020 Interreg Programmes not only have a clear thematic focus, they are also very much **result-oriented**. Through the process of devising the Programme strategy, Programme Authorities have decided on what they want to change in the Programme territories. This **change** is defined as a specific improvement of people's or communities' well-being. It should be brought about by financing projects that contribute to this change. Again it becomes evident that the Programme strategy can only be successful if projects contribute to realising the change the Programme envisages when achieving their own results. This implies a shift in the approach of projects from focusing on project activities to focusing on the results to which these activities lead.

The aforementioned thematic concentration and result orientation are both reflected in the Programme and project intervention logics. The **Programme intervention logic** can be defined as the theoretical framework that structures and visualises the entire logical and sequential process from defining the themes, investment priorities and specific objectives until the results that should ultimately be achieved. The **project intervention logic**, in turn, is then the sequential process of defining a project overall objective, one or several specific objectives as well as the outputs to be produced in order to deliver the results which are in line with the set objectives.

The Programme has established both **output and result indicators** for each adopted specific objective. Projects will therefore have to demonstrate in their proposal that they will be contributing to both types of indicators as further specified in factsheet n. 2 "Project Generation".

Project and Programme intervention logics are therefore intrinsically intertwined and cannot be seen separately from each other. The coherence of the project intervention logic with the Programme one is a prerequisite to deliver the change in the territories as foreseen in the Cooperation Programme. In order to be able to assess and measure a project's contribution to the achievement of the Programme strategy, the project needs to establish an intervention logic that mirrors the one at Programme level.

The Programme intervention logic incorporates the following elements:

- Selection of thematic objectives, investment priorities and corresponding specific objectives – which relate to the needs of the territory to be addressed;

- Result indicators as variables that provide information on some specific aspects of the intended change for the territory/sector and that lend themselves to be measured – baseline and target (qualitative or quantitative);

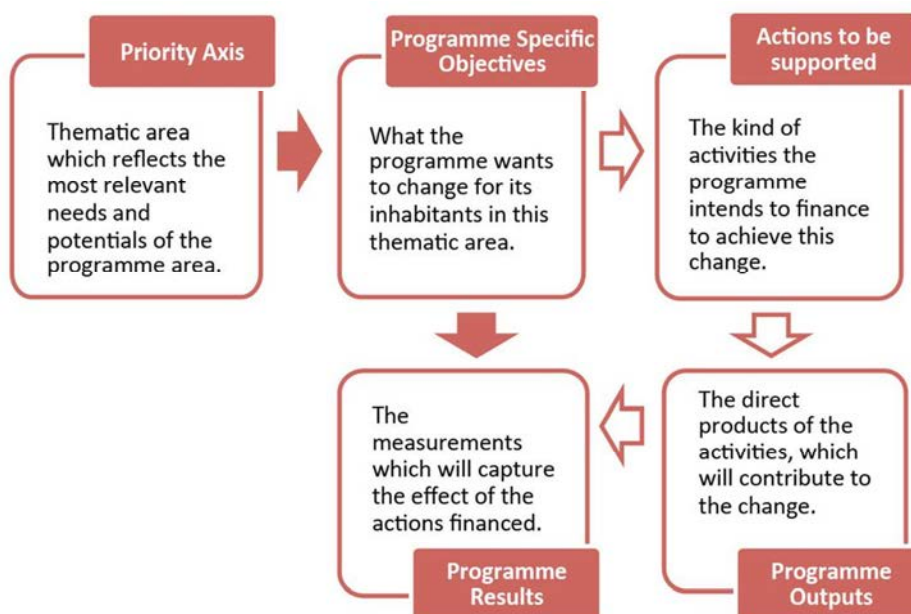- Output indicators which reflect the direct products of the activities in the priority.

Figure 2 – Programme intervention logic - INTERACT

For more detailed information on how to effectively and efficiently put this in place when developing a project, please refer to factsheet 2 "Project Generation".

Please refer to the glossary, available as a separate Annex, for the definitions of all terms used in this factsheet.

E. THE INTEREREG V A ITALY – CROATIA CBC PROJECTS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Even though projects will normally be proposed by the partner organisations on the ground (according to a bottom-up logic), they should be developed in order to directly contribute to the expected results set out by the Programme Authorities. Project proposals will therefore have to fit with the Programme strategy and be able to illustrate this in a concrete way. In other words, the envisaged Programme results will have to be reached through good quality projects that achieve their own results, which in turn fit with those of the Programme. Hence, project

bids will need to ensure strong links with the Programme strategy in order to demonstrate their contribution to achieving the expected Programme results and, ultimately, the EU2020 targets.

Programme Authorities will be looking at approving high quality project proposals capable of achieving their foreseen results, and which will in turn contribute to the delivery of the Programme strategy.
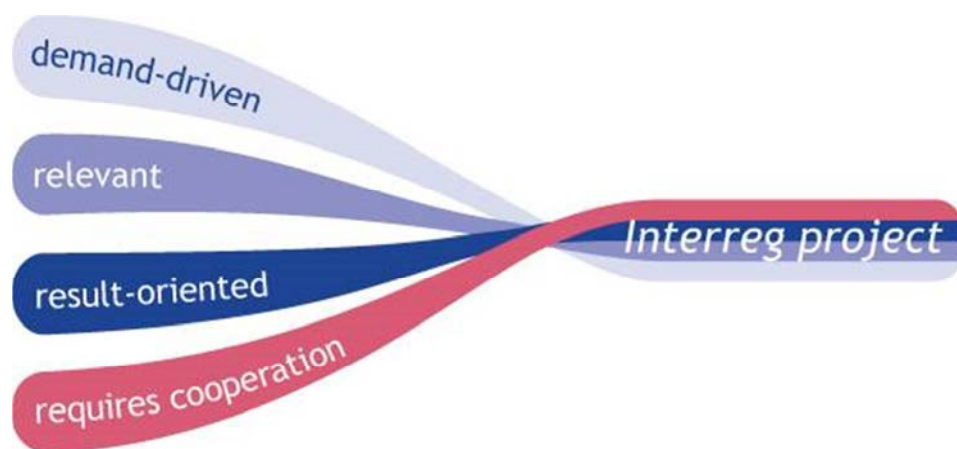
Figure 3 - 4 Interreg project characteristics - INTERACT

The essence of these projects is that they have a precise duration within which to reach specific objectives. It is therefore necessary to reach a high level of agreement about how to organise the work among project partners, and plan it in a structured way in order to reach the expected results; in this respect ETC projects do not differ much from other types of projects.

Ideally, a project proposal shall be capable of demonstrating excellence in the following fields:

- Relevance and strategy in regards to the context of the project. The project should address a common territorial challenge or a joint asset of the Programme area: there shall be a genuine demand and necessity for the project. Projects should be embedded in wider strategies adopted at one or several policy levels (EU/national/regional/local) and should consider knowledge that is already available.

- Cooperation character. The importance of the cross-border approach to tackle the issue at hand is clear. The benefit of cooperating on this topic is evident for the project partners, target groups and the Programme area as a whole. Solutions to the issue the project will be working on go beyond existing best practices or these are adapted and implemented by the partnership. The cooperation principles of joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing should be fulfilled as explained below.

- Contribution to the achievement of the Programme strategy. The project overall objective shall be clearly linked to a Programme Specific Objective. The results to be achieved by the project shall be clearly linked to the Programme expected results, and the main outputs to be produced shall clearly contribute to a Programme output indicators. All these elements (objectives, outputs and results) shall be logically interrelated. In general, the main outputs and results must be realistic, specific, concrete and measurable and address a need of the target audience. Finally, both

should be durable and transferable to other organisations, regions or countries. If durability and/or transferability are not ensured, this should be duly justified.

- Relevance of the partnership. The partnership shall comprise the relevant organisations present in the Programme area to address the common challenge or joint asset and achieve the set objectives. Partners should demonstrate complementary expertise and seek to provide for a balanced relevant representation in terms of Member States, sectors and governance levels. They shall have the necessary capacity to contribute in tackling the issue at hand and must dispose of the required resources to implement an ETC project.

- Project management. Management procedures and structures are appropriate in view of the size of the project, number of partners, etc. Procedures shall be clear, transparent, efficient and effective and allow for input from all partners involved. Internal communication within the partnership must be assured. The Lead Partner in particular shall have sufficient competency in managing EU-funded or similar projects. It is considered crucial that the project has a proper risk assessment scheme in place.

- Project communication. Communication activities should be in line with the project objectives, proposed work plan and related budget, as well as with project main outputs and results. The relevant target groups and stakeholders must be identified and reached by means of tailored communication activities, news and effective messages that are expected to meet their interest, enabling at the same time the awareness raising and informing the stakeholders and the interested public about the project, as well as creating, managing and sustaining constant relationships with the key audience. Furthermore, the communication activities should be able to reach effectively the final target groups and end-users and guarantee the effective use of the project outputs and results.

- Realistic, consistent and coherent work plan. The distribution of tasks among the partners is appropriate and sensible in view of partners' experience, budget, etc. The time plan is realistic and takes into account potential contingencies. The proposed activities are hence relevant and will lead to a timely delivery of the planned outputs and results. This presupposes that project activities and outputs are sequentially planned.

- Coherent budget. The project disposes of sufficient financial means to properly implement the project activities. Nevertheless, the budget shall be proportionate and reasonable in light of the proposed work plan and the outputs and results the project is trying to achieve. Value for money needs to be assured. The budget per partner makes sense considering the distribution of tasks. The planned costs in terms of budget lines, periods and work packages are sensible with regard to the work plan. Planned costs shall be clear or realistic in general.

As referred to above, the EU Regulations stipulate four cooperation criteria that specifically characterise territorial cooperation projects (art. 12(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013).

These four cooperation criteria are:

- Joint development. The project idea and scope are jointly developed by the partners.

- Joint implementation. The activities, outputs and results are jointly realised by the partners.

- Joint staffing. All partners assume the necessary role to coordinate and take a part of the responsibility.

- Joint financing. All partners contribute financially to the project resources.

According to the aforementioned art. 12(4), partners of ETC projects shall cooperate in the development and implementation of projects and in financing. In addition, they can cooperate in the staffing .The table below explores these concepts into more detail:

Joint development	Joint implementation
- All partners should contribute to the development of the project. - Partners define how the project will operate. Joint development of objectives and outputs, budget, timing and responsibilities for work packages and activities to achieve the objective. - Identifying knowledge and experience, which each partner brings to the project and what each partner expects to get from the project. - This approach secures the joint activities and joint results required by the Programmes.	- The Lead Partner bears the overall responsibility for the project; all partners take responsibilities for different parts of the implementation. - Each project partner responsible for a work package coordinates and ensures that planned activities are carried out, milestones are met and unexpected challenges to implementation are dealt with. - Several partners contribute to each work package as per work plan.
Joint staffing	**Joint financing**
- All project partners have a defined role and allocate staff to fulfil this role. - Staff members coordinate their activities with others involved in the	The project has a joint budget with funding allocated to partners according to the activities they are carrying out (the budget split reflects partner responsibilities).

activity or work package and exchange information regularly. • There should be no unnecessary duplication of functions in different partner organisations (for example one project manager per project, rather than several).	• The budget includes annual spending targets and spending targets per work package. • Generally, all partners contribute financially. • All partners participate financially in common activities and joint outputs, such as databases, publicity, project management costs, etc.

F. PROJECT LIFE CYCLE

Projects of all types have very similar lifecycles. That is to say, they go through comparable phases, whether these projects are engineering operations or cross-border cooperation projects.

The idea behind a circular visualisation of this lifecycle is that the lessons learned and outputs as well as results of a project can lead to the generation of new project ideas building to some extent on these. As a general rule, projects shall take into consideration the achievements from previous ones while developing their own. This is to avoid duplication of efforts and add value on what has already been funded.

The Programme guidance documents for potential applicants and approved beneficiaries are structured on the basis of and encompass the aforementioned different phases of a project lifecycle. A factsheet is available for each project phase, providing relevant information with regard to that specific moment in a project lifecycle as well as useful links to other factsheets, key documents, etc. The aim is to facilitate easy access to information by people who are in

different phases of the development or implementation of their project. The titles below indicate what is understood by every project phase and the contents of the dedicated factsheets linked to that phase.
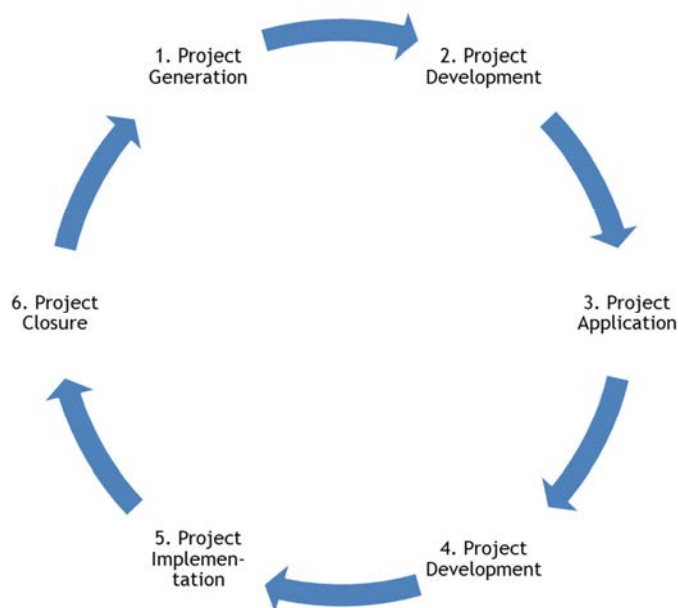
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Figure 4 - Project life cycle

Project generation

This is the time when an idea is being shared among potential partners until the moment it becomes clear that it is necessary and relevant to the communities in the Programme area. In other words, until the moment when it becomes evident that the project idea addresses a common need, challenge or opportunity of the territories involved in the Programme with regards to one of the four chosen thematic objectives.

The main actions are:

- To establish the need for a project based on an analysis of shared needs, challenges, or opportunities in the Programme area;

- To check if the project idea fits the Programme strategy and requirements;

- To establish the baseline, i.e. what has been already carried out and how to capitalise on this;

- To search for and involve partners;

- To outline the general scope and content of the project and revise it as more partners join the project.

The factsheet n. 2 "Project Generation" focuses on:

- The procedures of the Programme to foster project idea and partnership development;

- How to ensure that the project idea fits the Programme strategy and intervention logic;

- Where to find assistance during this phase.

Project development

In this phase partners are translating their initial project idea into an actual project proposal, by defining the strategic and operational framework as well as the responsibilities amongst the different partners. The aim of this phase is to be able to formally apply to the INTERREG V A Italy – Croatia CBC Programme.

The main actions are:

- To agree on what needs to be exactly achieved and how to get there, all of which shall be in line with the Programme strategy;

- To organise the responsibilities and accountabilities in the partnership and agree on who will take the role of the Lead Partner;

- To develop the project content and rationale with the partners & stakeholders;

- To work in detail on the project proposal, its justification and expected contribution to the Programme strategy, using the dedicated templates;

- To prepare the project budget;

- To keep contact with the National and Regional Authorities to get information on the Programme and the application phase.

The factsheet n. 3 " Project Development" focuses on:

- Programme area;

- Partnership requirements;

- Project activities as a means of achieving the sought after results;

- Planning a budget: important financial principles and horizontal issues;

- Where to find assistance during this phase.

Project application

This phase concerns the actual delivery of the project proposal to the Programme through the established procedures. The application procedure in the Programme consists of a single step.

The main actions are:

- To fill out the application (Application Form) using the online platform;

- To draft the complementary documents;

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- To submit the application to the Programme in accordance with the relevant procedures and rules.

The factsheet n. 4 "Project Application" focuses on:

- The templates, web application and procedures in order to apply to the Programme;

- Where to find assistance during this phase.

Project selection

This phase concerns the different Programme bodies involved in project selection on the basis of submitted full Application Forms.

The main action is:

- A formal decision on the application: rejected, approved under conditions or approved.

The factsheet n. 5 "Project Selection" focuses on:

- The admissibility and eligibility of the application: automatic checks carried out by the computerised application system and assessments performed by JS;

- Quality assessment of the application on the basis of pre-defined criteria;

- The subsequent Monitoring Committee decision and notification thereof;

- Where to find assistance during this phase.

Project implementation

This phase is the largest and most important one in terms of time, delivering what has been foreseen in the approved application, and administration and management efforts. It touches upon several different elements.

The partnership carries out the work planned to produce the desired outputs and results. Regular administration, management, monitoring and reporting activities will take place, along with communication and promotion tasks as stipulated in the Application Form. Changes and issues in the project are managed according to the established procedures and rules.

The main actions are:

- To sign the Subsidy Contract with the Managing Authority;

- To prepare the Partnership Agreement and to have it signed by all partners;

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- To carry out project activities to deliver the agreed project outputs to budget and time schedule;

- To set up smooth monitoring procedures;

- To request the advance payment and following reporting procedures;

- To anticipate and manage risks in agreement with the partners and the Programme;

- To identify and solve issues among partners, to keep things working smoothly;

- To communicate and promote project work and achievements;

- To build up a network of relevant contacts and initiate the uptake and use of project knowledge, outputs and results.

The factsheet n. 6 "Project Implementation" focuses on:

- Initiation stage: contractual arrangements and requirements imposed by the Programme in terms of management and administration;

- Project management: generic tools and methods to guarantee a proper project implementation (exception plans, reporting, tolerance levels with regards to risks);

- Project communication throughout the lifecycle of the project;

- Where to find assistance during this phase.

Project closure

At this phase the project content activities should be completed and all outputs delivered. The partnership takes care of the final administrative provisions before the funding is over. The project and the Programme reflect together on the results and lessons learned.

The project lifecycle formally ends with the closing date of the project, however the project outputs and results are intended to continue producing value, e.g. being used or enjoyed by the community. Depending on the nature of the outputs and results and of the users they are produced for, there should be different concrete measures taken during and after implementation. It is too late to address the transfer of project results and durability in the closing phase of the project.

The factsheet n. 7 "Project Closure" focuses on:

- Documentation to be produced and submitted to the Programme to formally close the project;

- Legal requirements to consider after project closure;

- Where to find assistance during this phase.

G. WHERE TO FIND ASSISTANCE

Different Programme bodies can support applicants and beneficiaries, before the submission of a project proposal and during the implementation of approved projects, respectively.

This paragraph is meant as a general introduction to these bodies. Detailed descriptions on how these Programme bodies can be of assistance during a given project phase will be described at the end of each chapter on the respective Programme factsheet.

Managing Authority (MA)

The Managing Authority is the body responsible for managing and implementing the Programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

The MA acts for the benefit and the smooth Programme implementation in cooperation with the Member States and it carries out the functions described in art. 125 of Reg. (EU) 1303/2013 and art. 23 of Reg. (EU) 1299/2013.

Furthermore, it ensures sound communication flow with the Member States, the European Commission, the applicants and beneficiaries providing all the necessary documentation and information.

Joint Secretariat (JS)

The Joint Secretariat is charged with the day-to-day management of the Programme on behalf of the Managing Authority. In this quality the Joint Secretariat is responsible for the management of the Cooperation Programme namely the co-ordination and facilitation of the Programme, project assessment, Programme monitoring and support to Programme administration.

The JS assists the Programme authorities in carrying out their respective functions and its main tasks toward potential beneficiaries and partners are:

- help desk office, as first contact point for information about the Programme to potential beneficiaries;

- assessment of the project proposals ensuring proper separation of functions;

- support to beneficiaries during project implementation;

- monitoring of approved project activities and expenditure.

As shown above, the JS' assistance and support take a higher importance during the implementation and closure phases of a project.

The JS is based in Venice, with two branch offices one in Zadar and one in Dubrovnik and can be contacted at any time by Lead Applicants and Lead Partners for any queries related to project development, implementation, finance, communication, management, etc.

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INTERREG V A Italy – Croatia CBC Programme

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ANNEX I

Intervention logic per Specific Objective

Here below the intervention logics of each Specific Objective of the Italy-Croatia CBC Programme are presented

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PRIORITY AXIS 1 "BLUE INNOVATION"

Investment priority 1b: Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies.

Specific objective 1.1: Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area.

Expected result: to improve the performance of the Programme area in the field of innovation by establishing and developing mechanisms which contribute to a better exploitation of the existing potential.

Result indicator 1.1: Number of EPO applications.

Types of actions:
- Joint projects and actions aimed at creating platforms, networks and at supporting exchange of good practices in order to enhance the knowledge transfer and capitalization of achieved results in the field of blue economy;
- Actions aimed at cluster cooperation, joint pilot initiatives in order to boost the creation of marketable innovative processes and products, in the field of blue economy.

Output indicators:
1.1O1 – Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support;
1.1O2 – Number of enterprises receiving grants;
1.1O3 – Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects;
1.1O4 - Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training;
1.1O5 – Number of enterprises receiving support.

Examples of Actions
- Joint development of cross-border supply chains by investing in research and innovation;
- Establishment of cross-border clusters in complementary areas of smart specialization;
- Joint development of links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres, education and the public sector, which shall facilitate the transfer of knowledge between them, shall disseminate the results of previous initiatives in the field of R&D, and shall facilitate the development of new initiatives in this field;
- Joint development of human capital, increasing skills regarding novel technologies (e.g. eco-innovation, low-carbon technologies, ICT, key enabling technologies, etc.), common development of innovative products, services or processes particularly for SMEs;
- Joint design / testing of innovative processes in the relevant sectors of the blue economy including aquaculture and sustainable fisheries with special reference to species, management techniques and breeding, fish welfare and disease control, seafood processing also to reduce the environmental impact of these activities;
- Joint development and piloting of eco-innovative tools and processes in the blue economy relevant sectors;
- Joint development and piloting of social innovation actions in the blue economy relevant sectors including awareness rising actions (i.e. e-health, education, digital divide, start up, labour market change, intellectual property rights);
- Joint actions aimed at improving the access to financing for R&D activities through trainings, information, awareness raising campaigns related to different opportunities.

Target Groups:
- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities;
- regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organisations;
- SMEs;
- universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions;
- centers of R&D excellence;
- NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks;
- education and training organisations as well as social partners and labor-market institutions.

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PRIORITY AXIS 2 "SAFETY AND RESILIENCE"

Investment priority 5a: Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches

Specific objective 2.1: Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects, in the cooperation area

Expected result: to improve the climate change monitoring and planning of measures for strengthening the adaptation capacity of the region while increasing the resilience of the territory including its natural environment. The main expected effects of climate change for which this SO aims to develop the area's adaptation capacity are sea level rise, flooding (in both coastal and hinterland areas), accelerated coastal erosion, subsidence, increasing water temperatures, acidification of the marine waters, saltwater intrusion into freshwater systems, increased occurrence of heavy rainfall and severe droughts and fires.

Result indicator 2.1: Inhabitants benefiting from planning of adaptation measures

Types of actions:
- Actions aimed at improving the knowledge base, data and monitoring systems supporting adaptation capacity;
- Actions aimed at increasing the capacity for planning of adaptation measures.

Examples of Actions:
- adoption of downscaled (Italy-Croatia area) climate data for better assessing local impacts and selecting adaptation strategies;
- setting up of common/ integrated/ harmonized monitoring and observing systems, model, spatial data infrastructures to improve the assessment and forecast capabilities, support the planning and design phase, promote the resilience to climate change;
- strengthening the capacity of public sector to develop and implement innovative services, incentives and financing schemes for increasing resilience to climate change;
- elaboration of strategic planning, action plans and other instruments for climate change adaptation.

Output indicators:
2.1O1 - Climate change monitoring systems put in operation;
2.1O2 - Plans of adaptation measures put in place.

Target Groups:
- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities and related entities;
- regional and local development agencies, environmental agencies and regional associations;
- NGOs;
- education and training centers;
- universities and research institutes.

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PRIORITY AXIS 2 "SAFETY AND RESILIENCE"

Investment priority 5b: Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems

Specific objective 2.2: Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster

Result indicator 2.1: Inhabitants benefiting from risk management coordinated measures

Expected result: to improve the safety the Programme area supporting the development of disaster management systems, furthering the capacity of recovery while minimising damages. The main natural and man-made disasters this SO aims to tackle are floods, fire, oil spill and other marine hazards

Types of actions:
- Actions aimed at improving monitoring of risks
- Activities aimed at increasing the management capacity of / prompt response to disasters

Examples of Actions
- establishment of better coordinated collective emergency planning and preparedness for flooding (water management, flood risk techniques, etc.) and other risks (i.e. fire, oil spill, etc.);
- joint development and implementation of awareness raising actions in the society (i.e. schools, citizen) and governance instruments;
- setting up of common framework/models/tools and pilot actions to promote the reduction of environmental risks and more coordinated/ harmonized management of the emergencies;
- development or improvement of existing early warning and decision-making support systems;
- addressing oil spill disasters with coordinated contingency plans at cross border regional scale;
- joint development of tools/methods for improvement of mapping and identification of oil spills disasters.

Output indicators:
2.2O1 - Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures;
2.2O2 - People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness;
2.2O3 - Population benefiting from flood protection measures;
2.2O4 - Population benefiting from oil spills and other marine hazards protection measures.

Target Groups:
- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities and related entities;
- emergency services and coast guard centers;
- NGOs;
- education and training centers;
- universities and research institutes.

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PRIORITY AXIS 3 "ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE"

Investment priority 6c: Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Specific objective 3.1: Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial

Expected result: to reach a higher level of sustainable economic and territorial development by exploiting the potentials of the natural assets and cultural heritage while preserving them and increasing their value

Result indicator 3.1: Seasonality in tourism in the Programme area

Types of actions:
- Actions aimed at increasing the value of natural and cultural heritage by developing and implementing protection and promotion measures;
- Actions aimed at fostering economic development by sustainable tourism or other activities based upon natural and cultural heritage protection and promotion;
- Actions aimed at decreasing the human pressure to natural and cultural heritage sites.

Output indicators:
3.1O1 - Cultural and natural heritage (tangible and intangible) promoted;
3.1O2 - Actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism);
3.1O3 - Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place;
3.1O4 - Beneficiaries with ecolabel/green certification.

Examples of Actions:
- development of cross border cluster of sustainable products typical of the area;
- development of marketing/ commercialization programmes for common and sustainable Adriatic products, integrating territorial services and piloting matchmaking actions (common branding included);
- support the valorisation of rural and minor natural – cultural sites by enhancing the linkage with coastal and nautical / boat tourism;
- development / enhancement of less targeted tourism itineraries link to common thematic destinations also to reduce pressure on main sites;
- support to cooperation actions for enhancing human resources in the field of sustainable tourism, natural and cultural heritage awareness and valorisation;
- development of cooperation strategies for management of preservation and valorisation of natural and cultural heritage (also by reducing human pressure and seasonalization);
- support for the knowledge and usability of the cultural and natural heritage destinations by all types of visitors including people with disabilities, improving accessibility, information, sustainability awareness, smart use of ICT;
- protection and promotion of common cultural heritage by analysis, digitalization, archiving and data sharing (i.e. virtual museum);
- protection and promotion of old crafts and tradition (e.g. historical boats sector) by mean of training and awareness raising actions;
- enhancing the cultural heritage through research activities and restoration of quality sites for territorial development.

Target Groups:
- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities;
- public service providers;
- cultural and natural heritage management bodies;
- regional and local development agencies, enterprises (in particular SMEs within the cultural and creative industry as well as the environmental and tourism sector);
- associations, regional innovation agencies;
- NGOs;
- education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

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PRIORITY AXIS 3 "ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE"

Investment priority 6d: Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

Specific objective 3.2: Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity

Expected result: to strengthen the management and protection of ecosystems and the cooperation between public actors/ managers of the protected areas in order to increase environmental benefits and to provide economic and employment opportunities

Result indicator 3.2: Excellent conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in the programme area

Types of actions:
- Actions aimed at improving the knowledge base, data and monitoring systems for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Actions aimed at supporting the restoring of biodiversity.

Examples of Actions:
- development of models for species monitoring and sustainable fisheries models testing for their protection;
- analysis of feasibility for setting up CB protected marine areas;
- development of innovative models and systems for increase the marine environment knowledge also through establishment of common platform for marine research, survey habitat-biodiversity mapping, networking to gather and process data related to the sustainable development;
- development of tools for integrated management of the sea, coastal and river environment and of cross-border natural resources (i.e. coordinated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM));
- actions aimed at reducing and preventing the environmental risk of alien species introduction due to the ballast water discharge;
- joint piloting of restoration actions for specific endangered species in the Adriatic basin;
- joint development of tools/ methods for degraded, damaged, destroyed habitats restoration (coastal dunes, etc.).

Output indicators:
3.2O1 - Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status;
3.2O2 - Monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place;
3.2O3 - Restoration actions supporting endangered species;
3.2O4 - Integrated management systems (sea, coastal and river environment) put in place.

Target Groups:
- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities;
- protected areas/ natural heritage management bodies;
- regional and local development agencies;
- associations;
- NGOs;
- education and training organizations as well as universities and research institutes.

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PRIORITY AXIS 3 "ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE"

Investment priority 6f: Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution

Specific objective 3.3: Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches

Expected result: to improve the quality of the water of the sea by using innovative technologies in waste management and treatment, as well as new integrated approaches in facing several problems, including the emerging issue of marine litter

Result indicator 3.3: Quality level of coastal bathing waters (according to the Directive 2006/7/CE)

Types of actions:
- Developing, demonstrating and implementing small-scale innovative environmental friendly technology actions and approaches;
- Innovative actions aimed at improving the knowledge on the environmental quality.

Output indicators:
3.3O1 - Environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented;
3.3O2 - Microplastic waste collected in marine areas.

Examples of Actions:
- implementing innovative common spatial information systems on ecosystem components and human uses and activities;
- actions aimed at using green technologies for reducing and preventing all possible kinds of pollution deriving from transport and port activities;
- support cooperation among different sectors for the development of new possibilities of recycling marine litter and development of a CB strategy to assess, prevent and reduce marine litter pollution in the area;
- promoting joint innovative solutions for the protection and efficient use of water resources;
- pilot actions for the implementation of technologies aimed at contrasting marine debris (radar, sensor platform, managing of multispectral data, solutions to prevent marine debris);
- transfer of knowledge and exchange of experience on innovative (green) technologies solutions to improve efforts of different actors in protecting;
- the water, air and soil, contingency planning and promoting resources efficiency.

Target Groups:
- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities;
- regional and local development agencies;
- SMEs and business supporting organizations;
- associations, innovation and environmental agencies;
- NGOs;
- education and training organizations as well as universities and research institutes.

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PRIORITY AXIS 4 "MARITIME TRANSPORT"

Investment priority 7c: Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

Specific objective 4.1: Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services and nodes by promoting multimodality in the Programme area

Result indicator 4.1: Goods transported by maritime mode

Expected result: to improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services. In order to achieve this change, the Programme will support actions developing new traffic modalities directed towards the use of vessels using compatible energy sources (such as methane), the adoption of ICT systems to perform embarking and disembarking of passengers in vessel traffic management and implementation of e-ticket (electronic ticketing) systems and electronic traffic management to ensure a more efficient development of traffic in the area. Efforts for enhancing the quality and the environmental sustainability of services and node will contribute to a reduction of the CO_2 emissions for transport purposes.

Types of actions:
- Support coordination/ harmonization/ monitoring of data and systems for enhancing multimodality;
- Piloting tools/ solutions for improving connectivity in the transport systems.

Examples of Actions:
- Promotion of short sea shipping and maritime transport services through piloting CB routes (passengers, ferry connection between ports and their connections to hinterland);
- Enhancing coordination between regional airports of the area for exploiting synergies and complementarities and promote multimodality, in order to improve their environmental performance;
- Harmonization of administrative procedures and improvement of port quality management system for freight and passengers transport, ensuring connections with internal nodes and the logistic system;
- Green upgrading of the logistic system linked with maritime transport sector;
- Improving multimodal (rail, road, sea) transport systems through innovative solutions (ITS) including the promotion of pilot rail services in connection with ports. The investments in road infrastructure are not eligible under this specific objective;
- Promote mobility concepts for harmonizing the development of passenger services (i.e e-mobility, soft mobility, etc.);
- Support the creation of a common vessel traffic centre for monitoring the vessel traffic within the cooperation area aimed at safeguarding environment.

Output indicators:
4.1O1 - Improved multimodal transport services;
4.1O2 - New links established;
4.1O3 - Harmonized services for passengers put in place.

Target Groups:
- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities;
- regional development agencies;
- enterprises, transport operators including operators of multimodal logistics hubs, infrastructure providers;
- transport associations;
- regional innovation agencies;
- NGOs;
- education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.