



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Interreg
Greece-Italy

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Address: 65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, Pilea 570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece

Contact person: Katia Sagona, Giorgos Simos, Syropoulou Matoula, Gavriilidis Vassilis

Tel.: +30 2310 469659, +30 2310 469655, +30 2310 469619, +30 2310 469633

Fax: +30 2310 469602

Email: ksagona@mou.gr

gsimos@mou.gr

msiropoulou@mou.gr

vgavriilides@mou.gr

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1st CALL FOR ORDINARY PROJECT PROPOSALS
Cooperation Programme Interreg V/A Greece-Italy (EL-IT) 2014-2020
Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

1. Context

The *Co-operation Programme Interreg V/A Greece-Italy (EL-IT) 2014-2020* links eleven (11) NUTS III level prefectures and six (6) provinces from two different EU member states, Greece and Italy.

The Programme has a total budget of EUR 123.176.899 and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a total amount of EUR 104.700.362 for the 2014-2020 period.

The overall objective is to support strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region across the Ionian Sea. Emphasis will be placed upon developing the foundations for a dynamic economy which fosters smart, sustainable and inclusive growth with the goal to improve the quality of life for those living in the region especially in times of economic crisis such as these.

Accordingly, the specific objectives of the programme are:

- ➔ To exploit in a sustainable way the endogenous potential of the cross-border GR-IT Programme Area;
- ➔ To promote the cross-border Area's integration and connectivity to fields which are important to its development, in full complementarity with EUSAIR;
- ➔ To act as a policy driver to tackle common challenges and needs in specific policy fields where cross-border cooperation is expected to deliver practical results.

2. Documents of reference

Before submitting any project proposal, applicants are invited to consult the Cooperation Programme approved by the European Commission on 15-12-2015 under Commission Decision C(2015)9347 final, Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 as in force, Regulation (EU) 1301/2013 as in force, Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 as in force. These documents are available on the Programme website at <http://www.greece-italy.eu>, on Managing Authority's website at <http://www.interreg.gr>, and on Region Puglia's website <http://www.europuglia.it>. Applicants are also invited to study carefully the *Programme and Project Manual* (Annex).

3. Priority Axes, Thematic objectives, and Specific Objectives

The present call for proposals is open to all three (3) Programme Priority Axes and the respective seven (7) Specific Objectives of the Programme, namely:

Table 1 : Programme Priorities and Specific Objectives under this Call

PRIORITY AXIS	Thematic objectives	Specific Objectives	
PA 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	1. strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1.1	Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness
	3. Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises	1.2	Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area
PA 2: Integrated Environmental Management	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	2.1	Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area
		2.2	Improvement of joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems, paying attention on natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures
		2.3	Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution

PA 3: Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	7 promoting transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	3.1	Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity
		3.2	Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions

Indicative actions' types and expected results are analytically described in the Programming Document.

Table 2 : Output Indicators(by priority axis)

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit
<u>PRIORITY AXIS 1</u> <i>INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS</i>	SO1.1-1	Number of supported innovation-related cross border cooperation structures and networks	Number
	SO1.1-2	Number of innovation support tools/approaches/techniques introduced through cross-border co-operation	Number
	COI_1	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number
	SO1.2-1	Number of supported cross-border knowledge transfer structures and networks for SMEs	Number
	SO1.2-2	Number of incubators supported (business plans, feasibility studies, etc.)	Number
<u>PRIORITY AXIS 2</u> <i>INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT</i>	SO.2.1-1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of natural and cultural heritage	Number
	CO_2	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year
	SO.2.2-1	Number of jointly developed management and support tools in the field of biodiversity and environmental protection	Number
	SO.2.3-1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmental technologies	Number
<u>PRIORITY AXIS 3</u> <i>CROSS BORDER AND SUSTAINABLE</i>	SO.3.1-1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number

<i>TRANSPORT SYSTEM</i>	SO.3.1-2	Number of development plans/initiatives in the field of maritime mobility and transport	Number
	SO.3.2-1	Number of supported cross border cooperation structures and networks in the field of environmentally-friendly mobility and transport	Number

Table 3 : Result Indicators(by priority axis)			
Axis	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit
<u>PRIORITY AXIS 1</u> <i>INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS</i>	RI1.1	Level of capacity of businesses and innovation stakeholders to utilise the available innovation support services and clusters	%
	RI1.2	Number of enterprises in NACE sections J and M	Enterprise
<u>PRIORITY AXIS 2</u> <i>INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT</i>	RI2.1	Level of capacity for the stakeholders in the fields of natural and cultural heritage protection and tourism to sustainably valorise natural and cultural heritage as a growth asset	%
	RI2.2	Total protected site areas in the eligible Programme regions	km ²
	RI2.3	Level of capacity of regional and local authorities and public utilities operators to integrate environmental friendly processes and technologies in their operations with special attention to the coastal and maritime zones	%
<u>PRIORITY AXIS 3</u> <i>CROSS BORDER AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM</i>	RI3.1	Maritime transport of passengers: Number of passengers embarked and disembarked in Programme Area Ports (in 1000)	Passenger
	RI3.2	Annual road freight transport loaded in the Programme Area (in 1000)	tonne

4. Programme Area

The eligible programme area is indicated in the table below:

Table 4: Eligible area

Country	NUTS regions covered by the cooperation programme
Greece	EL211 - Άρτα (Arta)
	EL212 - Θεσπρωτία (Thesprotia)
	EL213 - Ιωάννινα (Ioannina)
	EL214 - Πρέβεζα (Preveza)
	EL221 - Ζάκυνθος (Zakynthos)
	EL222 - Κέρκυρα (Kerkyra)
	EL223 - Κεφαλληνία (Kefallinia)

	EL224 - Λευκάδα (Lefkada)
	EL231 - Αιτωλοακαρνανία (Aitoloakarnania)
	EL232 - Αχαΐα (Achaia)
	EL233 - Ηλεία (Ileia)
Italy	ITF43 - Taranto
	ITF44 - Brindisi
	ITF45 - Lecce
	ITF46 - Foggia
	ITF47 - Bari
	ITF48 - Barletta-Andria-Trani

5. Budget available

The total available budget for the 1st Call for ordinary project proposals is **53.148.184€** (including Union Support and National Counterpart) and is **indicatively** allocated per Specific Objective, as follows:

Priority Axis	Thematic Objective	Budget of Axis	Specific Objective	Indicative Budget
PA 1: Innovation and Competitiveness	1 strengthening research, technological development and innovation	19.092.419 €	1.1 Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness	8.046.614
	3 enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises	15.397.112 €	1.2 Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area	6.489.205
PA 2: Integrated Environmental Management	6 preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	23.403.612 €	2.1 Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area	12.000.000
		12.317.689 €	2.2 Improvement of joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems, paying attention on natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures	5.191.364
		12.317.689 €	2.3 Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution	5.191.364
PA 3: Cross Border and Sustainable Transport System	7 promoting transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	18.476.534 €	3.1 Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity	10.000.000
		14.781.227 €	3.2 Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions	6.229.637
Total		115.786.282 €		53.148.184

6. Eligible Partnerships

In the Greece – Italy CP Programme the project partnership can consist of three types of beneficiaries:

- lead beneficiary (LB);
- project beneficiary (PB);
- associated partner (AP).

Project proposals must include beneficiaries from both countries participating in the Cooperation Programme. Beneficiaries shall cooperate in the development and implementation of operations. In addition, they shall cooperate in the staffing or the financing of operations, or in both¹. The total number of beneficiaries must not be less than **three (3)** and not exceed a maximum of **five (5)**, including the Lead beneficiary. Associated partners are not included in the above limits. The maximum number of potential associated partners per project is **two (2)**.

Each applicant can participate as Lead beneficiary in no more than one project proposal per specific objective. If an applicant does not conform to the previous rule as explicitly stated above, all of its project applications will be rejected.

This Call for proposals is only addressed to beneficiaries' categories a, b, c and d as defined in the *Programme & Project Manual*:

- a. National, regional or local **public authorities**;
- b. **bodies governed by public law**², other than legal entities defined under paragraph a, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest (needs not having an industrial or commercial character) and which fulfil at least one of the following conditions:
 - i. be financed, for the most part, by the national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law, or;
 - ii. be subject to management supervision by those bodies, or;
 - iii. have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the national, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;
- c. **private organisations**, non-profit organisations founded according to private law can be eligible under the following conditions as a whole:
 - they are not established with the goal to obtain profit
 - they do not distribute profits to the shareholders,

¹ Paragraph 4, article 12 REG 1299/2013

² Bodies governed by public law as defined in Article 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU

- they operate for at least one year before the launch of the specific call for proposals. This rule is also applicable for the local/regional subsidiary/branch offices.

d. **International organisations** in compliance with article 43 of EC Delegated Regulation no. 1268/2012.

It should be noted that **private companies not falling under the above category c. are not eligible.**

See also section 2.A.6.1 of the programme for a non-exhaustive list of the type of beneficiaries per each specific objective.

In principle to become a project beneficiary, an organisation has to be located (decisive is the legal address of the organisation) in the eligible area of the Programme. Organisations located outside the Programme's eligible area are encouraged to be involved in the projects as associated partners without allocated budget.

However if a beneficiary is located outside the Programme area and has a local/regional subsidiary/branch office established in the programme area, it will receive full ERDF funding.

Funding granted by the Programme to all beneficiaries indicated above is subject to the EU rules on State Aid within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union. Every beneficiary should comply with the rules on State Aid regarding the activities of the project proposed and comply with the relevant assessment made by the JS of the Programme during its evaluation phase. Therefore, all potential beneficiaries should fill in the State Aid Declaration form when applying for funding. The conditions and modalities to comply with these rules are specified in the Project Manual.

The International Organizations as well as the private bodies cannot assume the Leadership of the projects.

Further information about the eligibility of partnerships is provided in the *Programme & Project Manual*.

7. How to apply - deadline

In order to submit a project proposal, Applicants must refer to the Applicant's Package and to all relevant documents for this call for proposals. Project Proposals should be submitted according to the guidelines given below:

A Project Proposal consists **of the followings:**

- A. Electronic submission of the project proposals into the M.I.S³ of the programme including the "Project Detailed Description" that should be uploaded as a separate (excel) file.
- B. The digital version of the following documents that have to be uploaded into the MIS of the programme:
1. The '*Partnership Declaration*' (standard form provided), **stamped** and **signed** by all the participating beneficiaries.
 2. The '*Co-Financing Statement - Non double financing*' (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** by each beneficiary separately.
 3. The '*Declaration of not generating revenues*' (standard form provided) **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary. In case of revenue generating projects, a cost - benefit analysis should be attached (using the "Guide to Cost-benefit Analysis of Investment Projects - Economic appraisal tool for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020" at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba_guide.pdf).
 4. The '*Declaration for the non-distribution of profits*' (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** only by beneficiaries under category of article 6.c (private organisations).
 5. The '*Justification of Budget Costs*' (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary for the total project budget.
 6. The '*project readiness sheet*' by the Lead Beneficiary (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by the Lead beneficiary.
 7. '*The State aid declaration*' (standard form provided) completed, stamped and signed by each beneficiary separately
 8. *Decision of the designated body* of each Project Beneficiary (e.g. Municipal Council, Board of Directors, etc) stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, according to the internal rules/statute of each Beneficiary or the national legislation. **This document can be submitted before the approval of the Monitoring Committee. For the Italian beneficiaries the Italian legal framework shall apply.**

For the bodies governed by public law (of article 6.b above) official documents providing evidence that the requirements of article 6.b of this call are met. In case that the nature of a public body is not clearly delivered from the submitted documents, the JS or MA may request additional documentation for clarification.

³ The Monitoring Information System (M.I.S.) is an information and management system for projects co financed under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and the Community Support Framework (CSF).

For the private organisations (of article 6.c above) the digital version of the following documents should be submitted into the MIS of the programme,:

- Statutes including all modifications for the past 2 years.
- Official document indicating the composition of the administrative/managerial or supervisory board.
- Official document indicating the supervision by national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law (if applicable)
- Official document indicating the sources of the body's revenues, during the last two years preceding the presentation of the project proposal.
- Declaration for the non distribution of profits.
- Any official document certified by a public administration authority, providing that the organisation operates for at least one year before the launch of the specific call for proposals.

For Bodies governed by public law (of article 6.b above) and for private organisations (of article 6.c above) **the existence of a branch within the Programme area is documented with at least one of the following documents to be electronically submitted through the MIS (digital version):**

- Official document for the establishment/registration of a branch issued by the competent Public Authority (e.g. Tax Service of the respective country)
- Copy of the rental contract, submitted to and validated by the respective Public Authority (e.g. Tax Service of the respective country)
- Payroll sheet, validated by the competent Public Authority (e.g. Ministry of Labour)
- Operational costs bills (e.g. electricity, telephone etc.)

For bodies governed by public law (of article 6.b above) that have been established by a Law or Presidential Decree, the submission of a copy of the respective Official Government Gazette where the establishment of the branch is being mentioned is sufficient.

In any case, the documents above must provide evidence that the branch was established and in operation for the period required by the call under each type of beneficiary/category of beneficiary.

Infrastructure Projects (where infrastructure activities are foreseen in the AF) must include the relevant accompanying documents (licenses, approval of feasibility study or any other required approvals, construction permits, preliminary designs/studies, priced bill of quantities signed by the respective body, technical specifications, technical designs, a document certifying the land/building ownership or documentation of transferring the operation rights for the period of 5 years after the end of the project environmental impact assessment etc., where applicable), any other required approvals according to the National Legislation.

The non-submission of the above mentioned documentation, stamped and signed (where applicable) will lead to the project proposal rejection.

Regarding the “Partnership Declaration” (point 2), the JS shall accept the signature of each beneficiary on a separate page.

Inconsistencies (such as wrong name of beneficiaries, wrong project title or budget, wrong name of undersigning person if not entitled to sign) among the information provided in the documents under points B.1-7 will lead to the project proposal rejection (deviations of decimals – amounts lower than 1€ in budget reference can be accepted).

The Application Package must be compiled in English language (apart from the supporting documents such as the decision of the designated body stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, the eligibility of project beneficiaries and the relevant documents for the infrastructure projects such as (feasibility studies, compatibilities, building permissions etc), which may be in the national language.

The Project Proposal must be submitted to the Programme’s Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat (JS) in electronic version, via MIS.

To facilitate applicants’ familiarity with the electronic environment of the MIS a model for the application form is attached, although it is not demanded to fill it in and submit it in paper version.

To be recognised as admissible submission, the project proposal must be electronically submitted into the MIS by October 15th 2016 until the **24:00 Italian time at the latest**. Proposals submitted after the above date will not be considered as eligible.

8. Project size

Projects shall have total eligible costs ranging from a minimum of **600,000 €**. The maximum of the project proposal budget is provided in the following table:

Table 6: Specific Objective	Maximum (€)	
1.1 Delivering innovation support services and developing clusters across borders to foster competitiveness	1.000.000	
1.2 Supporting the incubation of innovative specialized micro and small enterprises in thematic sectors of interest to the Programme Area	1.000.000	
2.1 Valorisation of cultural heritage and natural resources as a territorial asset of the Programme Area	Soft projects	1.000.000
	Infrastructure	3.000.000
2.2 Improvement of joint management and governance plans for biodiversity of coastal and rural ecosystems, paying attention on natural resources and protected areas and development of environmental protection measures	Soft projects	1.000.000
	Infrastructure	3.000.000

2.3 Developing and testing of innovative technologies/ tools to reduce marine and air pollution	1.000.000	
3.1 Boosting maritime transport, short-sea shipping capacity and cross-border ferry connectivity	Soft projects	1.000.000
	Infrastructure	3.000.000
3.2 Improving cross-border coordination among transport stakeholders on introducing multimodal environmentally-friendly solutions	Soft projects	1.000.000
	Infrastructure	3.000.000

9. Eligibility of expenditure

Eligibility of expenditure for beneficiaries commences on the 1st of January 2014. The final date of eligibility of expenditure under no circumstances may exceed the 31st of December 2023.

Eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are described at the *Programme & Project Manual*.

10. Duration

The project activities shall not be physically completed or fully implemented before the application for funding is submitted.

Projects should be concluded within a maximum period of twenty four (24) months after the signing of the Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Beneficiary. Projects that have started their implementation before the signing of the contract, and in any case after 1/1/2014, should not have been concluded before the official launch of the respective call for proposals.

11. Evaluation of proposals

After submission, each project proposal will be evaluated based on specific selection criteria and will be subject to a two-phase selection procedure, carried out by the Joint Secretariat (JS) and, if necessary (i.e need for very specific scientific expertise arises by the JS coordinator), external experts with advisory capacity, as referred in the Cooperation Programme V-A "Greece-Italy 2014-2020" (Section: ***Guiding principles for the selection of operations***).

The MA ensures that the evaluation procedure is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 1st call for ordinary project proposals and the approved selection criteria.

The evaluation procedure is described in Annex, "Project Selection Criteria".

12. Additional information

To obtain additional information on the project application procedure and project development, please contact:

1. Managing Authority
 Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism
 Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes –Unit B2
 Address: 65, Georgikis Sholis Avenue, Pilea
 570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece
 Tel: +30 2310 469600, Fax : +30 2310 469602
 Website : <http://www.interreg.gr>

2. Joint Secretariat
 Regione Puglia
 Coordinamento delle Politiche Internazionali
 Address: Via Gobetti, 26
 70125, Bari, Italy
 Tel: 0039 080 5406478 – Fax 0039 080 5406554
www.europuglia.it, www.regione.puglia.it

All relevant information and documents shall be available on the Cooperation Programme website, which is a key communication tool between the programme management bodies (MA, JTS) and the potential beneficiaries.

Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs

Evgenia Fotoniata

Annexes:

Supporting documents

1. Programme and Project Manual
2. Project Selection Criteria
3. Summary Budget Limits for the Call

Applicant package documents

- A. Project Detailed Description
- B1. Partnership Declaration
- B2. Co-Financing Statement –Non double Financing
- B3. Declaration of not generating revenues

- B4. Declaration of non-distribution of profits
- B5. Justification of Budget Cost
- B6. Project readiness sheet
- B7. State aid declaration