

Interreg



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First Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting of Interreg NEXT MED Programme 2021-2027

Cagliari (Italy)

March 14th and 15th, 2023

Summary of main decisions

Published pursuant to article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg)

During the Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting, which was held in Cagliari, Italy, on 14th and 15th March 2023, the following topics were approved and discussed.

Documents / Items on the agenda	RESULTS
Approved items	
Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee (MC)	<p>The MC adopted by unanimity its Rules of Procedure. According to the Art. 28, Interreg Reg. (EU) 2021/1059: <i>“The rules of procedure of the monitoring committee and, where applicable, of the steering committee shall prevent any situation of conflict of interest when selecting Interreg operations and shall include provisions regarding voting rights and rules for attending the meetings”</i>. Consult the approved Rules of Procedure in English and French.</p>
Functions of the Joint Secretariat (JS) and terms of reference/procedure for the selection of JS staff	<p>The MC adopted the Terms of References for the recruitment of the staff of the Joint Secretariat (JS). This Programme body assists the Managing Authority in the day-to-day management of funded projects. It supports beneficiaries and partners in the implementation phase and processes technical and financial reports submitted by projects.</p>
Functions of the Branch Offices (BOs) and terms of reference/procedure for the selection of BOs staff	<p>The MC adopted the main functions and the ToRs of the Staff of the Branch Offices (BOs) which will support the Managing Authority (MA) and the Joint Secretariat (JS) in the diffusion of the Programme opportunities, organisation of events and trainings, as well as monitoring of funded operations. BOs are located in Valencia (within the Generalitat Valenciana) and in Aqaba (within the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, ASEZA).</p>
Main rules and features of the first call for proposals: budget allocation, type of projects and main rules for participation	<p>An indicative total allocation of about 100 million euro for this first call for proposals has been adopted by the MC. The maximum co-financing rate to projects will be 89% while a minimum 11% of co-</p>

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	<p>financing shall be provided by the partnership. Moreover, three types of projects are expected (thematic, youth oriented, governance) and the main rules for participation concern submission, actors, geographical eligibility, have been approved by the MC.</p>
<p>Selection process and selection criteria</p>	<p>The MC approved the evaluation criteria to assess the proposals to be submitted within the first call. The said criteria concern relevance, quality of design, partnership operational and financial capacity, effectiveness, sustainability, cost effectiveness and horizontal principles.</p> <p>Moreover, the MC agreed on the selection process (one step submission and two steps evaluation). In particular, the MC decided to use external evaluators to carry out the quality assessment of the proposals in a consistent and reliable manner. Moreover, the MC has agreed to have an Assessment Board consisting of one representative for each participating country, that will carry out a strategic assessment of the proposals admitted to step 2.</p>
<p>Main communication activities</p>	<p>The MC agreed on the main communication activities related to the first call for proposals aim to ensure the visibility of the call across the cooperation area and to support networking and partnership creation. A specific challenge is related to the promotion of youth-oriented projects.</p>
<p>Synergies and coordination with other Programmes/initiatives (multi-programme coordination mechanism)</p>	<p>The multi-programme coordination mechanism is a pilot initiative which aims to reinforce synergies and complementarities among programmes and initiatives implemented in the Mediterranean and to enhance the impact of innovative solutions tested at local level, by creating a value chain among projects. The mechanism currently involves the Interreg Euro-MED, Italy-France Maritime and NEXT MED programmes. The MC approved the annual action plan 2022-2023.</p>



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Discussed items	
Update and next steps concerning the process of signing the Financing Agreements with partner countries	The Financing Agreements are mandatory documents to be signed whenever EU financial support is delivered in a partner country, to allow the participation and the actual EU spending in that country. For the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, the Financing Agreements with the 8 IPA (Türkiye) and partner countries involved (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia,) are expected to be signed between the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024.
