

# Terms of Reference

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS** EURO-MED02

**MISSION**

**INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

**PRIORITIES**

1. SMARTER MEDITERRANEAN
2. GREENER MEDITERRANEAN

**S.O.**

- 1.1. DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES AND THE UPTAKE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES
- 2.6. PROMOTING THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR AND RESOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY

**TYPE OF CALL**

OPEN CALL

**PROJECT TYPE**

THEMATIC PROJECTS

**PROJECT CATEGORIES**

STUDY, TEST AND TRANSFER

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## INTRODUCTION

The ambition of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme (hereafter “The Programme”), which cooperation area covers 69 regions of 14 countries<sup>1</sup>, is to support the transition towards a climate-neutral and resilient society, in line with the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, and the Territorial Agenda 2030.

In order to reach this goal and ensure concrete and manageable solutions, the Programme identified 4 **missions**:

- Strengthening an innovative sustainable economy
- Protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage
- Promoting green living areas
- Enhancing sustainable tourism

Each mission operates as a **portfolio of actions** working on complementary thematic issues to enhance the full potential of their results.

To contribute and to be part of a mission is for projects mandatory.

The actions under those missions are addressed within the Priorities, related Specific Objectives and types of projects supported by the Programme.

**The Smarter and Greener Mediterranean** priorities, implemented via **Thematic projects**, encompass the issues tackled by the Programme’s missions.

**The Better Mediterranean Governance** priority, implemented via **Governance projects**, is the backbone for strengthening and amplifying the results of the Thematic projects in cooperation and coordination with other Programmes, initiatives, and strategies in the area.

**Thematic projects** are divided into 4 categories:

**Study projects (targeted by this call)** perform analyses to better address a thematic issue and open the door to the development of new instruments, policies, strategies, and action plans.

**Test projects (targeted by this call)** experiment common instruments, policies, strategies and action plans already developed to validate concrete solutions to be transferred.

**Transfer projects (targeted by this call)** optimise and share validated common instruments, policies, strategies and actions plans to have the stakeholders adopt them.

**Strategic territorial projects (not targeted by this call)** conduct studies, test solutions and transfer results addressing the strategic topics of a specific type of territory.

Each Thematic project must **contribute to one of the priorities and specific objectives** (SO) selected by the Programme:

1. Smarter Mediterranean:
  - 1.1 “Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies”,
2. Greener Mediterranean:

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<sup>1</sup> For information on the Programme cooperation area, please see: [Where we work - Programme Interreg Euro-MED \(interreg-euro-med.eu\)](https://www.interreg-euro-med.eu)

- 2.6 “Promoting the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy”,
- 2.4 “Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches”,
- 2.7 “Enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution”,

**Governance projects** are divided into 2 categories:

- **Thematic Community projects (not targeted by this call)** facilitate the exchanges and the development of synergies between projects. They develop technical knowledge embedding the results of the projects and support the effective transfer of their results to other territories or stakeholders.
- **Institutional Dialogue projects (not targeted by this call)** support the effective cooperation of all stakeholders concerned by the Programme missions to improve the governance at transnational level within and beyond the Interreg Euro-MED Programme cooperation area. They optimize the conditions for the transfer and the mainstreaming of the projects results into practices and public policies

There is one Thematic Community project and one Institutional Dialogue project for each of the 4 missions and for the whole duration of the Programme.

All the Thematic projects operating under each mission are supported by one Thematic community project and one Institutional Dialogue project.



Illustration of the structure of the Programme: **Missions and Specific Objectives**

The approach of the Programme is built on the idea that improving governance is closely linked to the processes of capitalisation of the projects results. This requires to address all the actors of the territories, including those not directly involved in the Programme.

Therefore, the design of the different types of projects is based on the overall strategy of the Programme, called "[Results Amplification Strategy](#)" (RAS), developed to amplify the results of the Thematic projects and impact more sustainably the territories thanks to a better coordination and, where possible, integration of (inter)sectoral practices and policies.

The RAS embeds all actors of the Programme having different responsibilities, including the Monitoring Committee (MC), the National Contact Points (NCP), the Managing Authority (MA) and the Joint Secretariat (JS), along with the project partnerships to streamline results visibility and added value, and details how their roles and tasks must be complementary to reach the overall ambition of the Programme on governance.

It is essential to take into account the Programme RAS before and during the design of the proposal to fully understand the challenges related to the implementation of the Thematic projects, which are the targeted types of projects for this call for proposals.

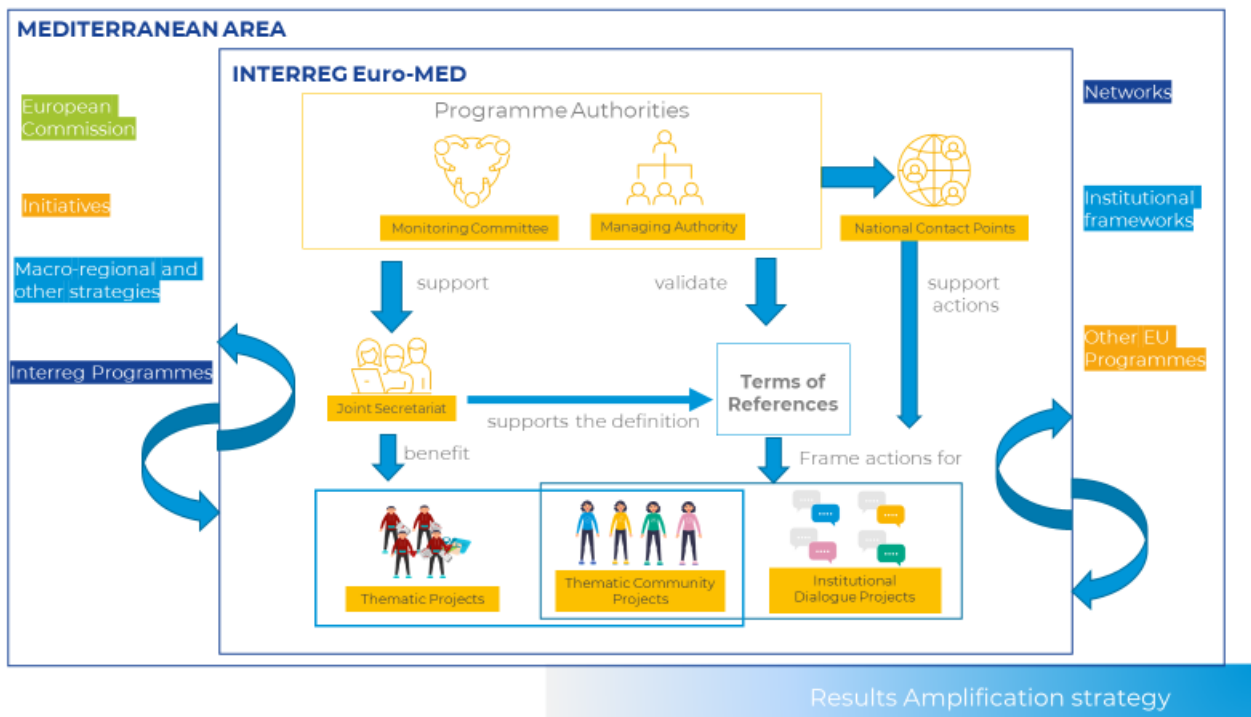


Illustration of the actors involved in the **Results Amplification Strategy** and network of relations

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE TARGETED WITH THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE?

In the context of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for proposals, one Terms of Reference (hereinafter ToR) is presented for each one of the 4 Programme missions. One mission can concern one or several specific objectives.

These ToR concern projects under the Cohesion Policy Objective PO1 “A more competitive and smarter Europe” summarised for the Programme under the priority “Smarter Mediterranean” and PO2 “A greener, low-carbon Europe transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe” summarised for the Programme under the priority “Greener Mediterranean” and refer to the Mission “**Innovative sustainable economy**”.

Research, innovation and circular economy are essential to **ensure sustainable products and services and provide pathways to circular model**, especially in the current context of increased environmental pressure and biodiversity loss.

The reinforcement of the collaboration of stakeholders throughout the value chains, of sustainable production and consumption practices should drive to mitigate climate change impacts on the environment.

Continuation of the work done in the previous programming period will be sought with a focus on improvement of the environmental dimension of economic activities and accompanying services and products. Exploitation of existing tools, platforms, such as 3S thematic platforms, solutions, action plans... should also be taken into consideration.

Identified **needs** under this mission are the following:

- Innovative solutions to re-shape linear economies and make the transition to inclusive and circular growth possible
- Aligned policies and business practices fostering a resilient economy and society
- Increased resource efficiency, prevention, reduction and economic recovery of waste, including awareness raising and consumers' engagement
- Reinforced capacity of public authorities in the implementation of Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies and S3 projects
- Enhanced transnational cooperation between the quadruple helix stakeholders, including engaging the civil society

The mission's **scope** is cross-cutting to the other missions: selected projects could assist, by bringing an innovative dimension, in protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage, promoting green living areas and enhancing sustainable tourism

Projects should address in priority **key sectors for the transition to the blue and green economy** such as agriculture and food production, water-energy-food security nexus, fisheries and aquaculture, smart manufacturing and remanufacturing, resource efficiency and energies, waste management, biotechnologies **and/or other sectors related to regional smart specialisation strategies** (RI3S) covering the Interreg Euro-MED cooperation area.

Projects should integrate in the design of the proposal the complementarity with other initiatives, strategies and programmes priorities focusing on similar challenges, in particular among others:

- UfM and more specifically the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, along with the "2030 Greener Med" Agenda supporting its implementation and the Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy
- Communication on Sustainable Blue Economy (DG MARE)
- Eusair macro-regional strategy
- Eusalp macro-regional strategy
- WestMED Initiative (sea-basin strategy)
- BLUEMED Initiative
- Other Interreg programmes covering all shores of the Mediterranean and relevant thematic Programmes (ADRION, NextMED, Horizon Europe, LIFE...)

## WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES TARGETED?

Each project selected through this call has to fit into one of the **three categories below**:

- 1. Study projects** perform analyses to better address a thematic issue and open the door to the development of new instruments, policies, strategies, and action plans. (if necessary and not available by other projects)

Precisely, studies should aim at exploring innovative topics from a thematic and/or geographical point of view or generating knowledge in the Programme cooperation area on issues where there

is a real need of analysis and diagnostic. Study projects shall have the potential for future experimentation and/or transfer activities and pave the way for the future implementation of their results through follow-up activities.

Indicative types of **activities**:

- Analysing and establishing the state of the art in a field of intervention, produce complementary data and references.
- Designing common approaches and developing common strategies
- Consolidating, adjusting existing networks or creating new networks in order to strengthen the presence of the Interreg euro-MED cooperation area at transnational and European level.

Indicative types of **outputs**:

SWOT analyses, state of the art, comparative analyses, definition of approaches, joint action plans, common strategies, establishment of networks.

**For Study projects**, it is highly recommended to include institutional and scientific partners mixed according to the project objectives and not to exceed 8 project partners.

- 2. Test projects** experiment common instruments, policies, strategies, and action plans already developed to validate concrete solutions to be transferred to a larger number of beneficiaries and territories.

Indicative types of **activities**:

- Conducting preliminary or feasibility studies (if necessary and not available by other projects)
- Implementing pilot activities (as well as the implementation methodology, testing and evaluation phases)
- Elaborating plans for transferability of results

Indicative types of **outputs**:

Preliminary studies (feasibility), common demonstration methodology, experimentation (including small scale investments when needed) and assessment, plan for transferability of results, transfer tools and protocols.

**For Test projects**, it is highly recommended to include institutional and operational partners, mixed according to the project objectives, and not to exceed 10 project partners.

- 3. Transfer projects** optimise and share validated common instruments, policies, strategies, and action plans to have the stakeholders adopt them. Transfer projects focus on existing results, replicability, and up-scaling of project results in the Programme cooperation area and beyond (In the context of this Call, project results from the 14/20 programming period)

Indicative types of **activities**:

- Conducting preliminary or feasibility studies (if necessary)
- Identifying/consolidating relevant project results
- Developing an initial stakeholder mapping to define target roles and objectives
- Developing and implementing of a targeted public relations strategy
- Raising awareness among targeted stakeholders through outreach strategies, including training activities.
- Capitalising on existing results from transferability activities to enhance the effective transfer of results

- Designing, customizing and deploying modules for transfer of results in a step-by-step approach.

**Indicative types of outputs:**

Policy implementing measures and recommendations, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) agreements, procedures, regulatory proposals, transferring plans, transferring reports, transfer assessments.

**For Transfer projects**, it is highly recommended to include institutional partners and networks, and not to exceed 8 project partners.

Each project selected under this mission through this call has to fit into one of the following **specific objectives (SO)**:

**SO 1.1” Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies (Smarter Mediterranean Priority)**

The development of research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies is a driver to accelerate the transition towards competitive, innovative, sustainable and resilient ecosystems in the Mediterranean with the engagement of all stakeholders.

Overall, **expected changes** driven by the projects are:

- the effective harness of the innovation potential with aligned tools and practices
- the increased cooperation and capacities of the 4helix stakeholders (Public Authorities, Industry, Higher education and Research organisation, Civil society), in particular in the context of RIS3.

Projects should prioritise actions that **focus** on:

- Innovation and technology transfer
- Climate friendly innovations, efficient industrial transition processes, new business models oriented to the generation of shared value (that generate social and environmental value in addition to economic value) and innovative entrepreneurship (especially among young people, new/emerging sectors and those in transition)
- Innovative sustainable business development practices, change management tools and methods, innovation capacities and cross-sectorial cooperation for SMEs
- Cooperation and coordination of the 4helix stakeholders for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of RIS3, knowledge sharing, capacity building, skills development and reinforcement for RIS3, uptake of technologies in sectors related to RIS3
- Value chain and cooperation within transnational clusters, transnational coalitions (public – private collaborations), services coordinated transnationally, internationalization and extroversion of SMEs.
- Green finance sector and SMEs access to finance for innovative product and/or services

**SO 2.6 “Promoting the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy” (Greener Mediterranean Priority)**

Circular economy is a win-win strategy for the natural and the business environment, contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions and at the same time creation of jobs and sustainable growth.



The results of the projects within this specific objective should aim at supporting territories to effectively and sustainably embed circular economy transition. This will help building long-term resilience and at the same time will provide new economic opportunities, benefitting our society at large, in terms of business opportunities and consumers' awareness.

Projects should prioritise actions that **focus** on:

- Supporting and promoting circularity, resource efficiency and sustainability of products and production systems, including eco-design and eco-innovative business models for closing loops
- Supporting initiatives for the water-energy-food security nexus
- Supporting sustainable practices for waste reduction and prevention, tackling waste generation and over-packaging – with a focus on plastic
- Supporting public authorities in the development and adoption of strategies leading to the transition to circular economy on local/regional level

## WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND RESULTS?

The projects selected under this mission must develop a set of activities to tackle the identified common challenges and lead to the expected change. Those activities must be coherent with the category of project selected and result oriented. Activities shall be designed to produce the outputs and reach the results listed below. Possible type of activities are described in the above section (“What are the categories of projects and specific objectives targeted”) and in the Programme Manual. (Section I.C and Annex I.C B).

Depending on the Specific Objective chosen projects are particularly expected to produce solutions and strategies or action plans.

**Solutions** are methodologies, tools, technologies, services, partnership/cooperation agreements and should be developed through the involvement from at least 2 partners from the Programme cooperation area, tested in real conditions and easily transferable.

A **strategy** is a course of actions designed to achieve a long-term goal in a specific domain.

An **action plan** is the translation of jointly developed strategies into actions. Targeted strategies should contribute to the main Mediterranean or EU strategies/directives of the topic tackled and be easily transferable.

Other achievements could be carried-out as long as they are coherent with the corresponding SO and the requirements of the ToR.

### Under SO 1.1

All types of innovation **activities**, being technology driven or not, can be performed.

Indicative list of **solutions**:

Targeted solutions shall be innovative and beneficial to the targeted end-user in the relevant sector.

- ✓ Solutions for acceleration of technology transfer to be applied in economic sectors
- ✓ Solutions promoting climate friendly innovations Solutions promoting entrepreneurship and cultural and creative industries in sectors in transition

- ✓ Solutions and tools establishing sustainable business development practices for SME
- ✓ Solutions enabling SMEs to turn environmental challenges to opportunities
- ✓ Solutions enhancing transnational cooperation among 4 helix stakeholders
- ✓ Solutions for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of RIS3 strategies
- ✓ Solutions for skills development and capacity building of public institutions for the implementation of RIS3 strategies
- ✓ Solutions for the development of value chains and setting up transnational cooperation patterns with clusters
- ✓ Solutions assisting SMEs in extroversions and transnational and/or international cooperation,
- ✓ Solutions proposing access to financial scheme for innovative product or services

By developing such solutions, projects will contribute to the following Programme indicators:

- **Output indicator “Jointly developed solutions” (RCO116).**

This indicator counts the solution newly developed by the project partnership or the solution already developed that are adapted to the Programme context and geographic area by the partnership.

- **Result indicator “Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations” (RCR104)**

This indicator measures the number of solutions (defined in **RCO116**) (other than legal or administrative), developed by the supported project and taken-up or upscaled by a given organisation. The uptake or upscale (effective or at initial stage) should occur during the implementation of the project or at project closure. The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may be or not a direct participant in the project. It will reflect the uptake or upscale of solutions to support innovative practices leading to a more sustainable economy as expected results of the project.

### **Under SO 2.6**

#### Indicative list of **solutions**:

Targeted solutions shall aim at reinforcing the circularity and resource efficiency of key economic sectors.

- ✓ Solutions for the development of circular value chains and setting up cooperation patterns among 4 helix stakeholders
- ✓ Solutions supporting SMEs in accessing sustainable innovative technologies and adopting circular practices and models
- ✓ Solutions for circular and sustainable product design and product development with an integrated life-cycle approach (focus on plastic packaging)
- ✓ Solutions reinforcing the use of green public procurement
- ✓ Solutions leading to resource efficiency in value chains, promoting the collaboration between supply chains and sectors
- ✓ Solutions fostering water efficiency resources and water re-use
- ✓ Solutions to prevent and reduce waste generation, improve waste management and promote economic recovery of waste
- ✓ Solutions promoting sustainable consumption and consumers' behavioural change
- ✓ Solutions triggering public and private sources of financing to scale up green and/or improved circular technologies and processes

#### Indicative list of **strategies and action plans**:

- ✓ Strategies and/ or action plans promoting circular economy actions on local and/or regional level
- ✓ Strategies and/or action plans integrating sustainable production and consumption models
- ✓ Strategies and/or action plans improving the circularity of products and services in the different economic sector
- ✓ Strategies and/or action plans for waste management increasing prevention and recycling, reducing the landfilling of waste, encouraging the use of economic instruments to ensure coherence with the EU waste hierarchy on local and/or regional level
- ✓ Strategies and/or action plans for resources management, increasing resources efficiency and productivity (water- energy- food security nexus)

Targeted strategies should contribute to the following strategies/directives:

- EU Green Deal
- Circular Economy Action Plan
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste
- A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy
- Waste Framework Directive - Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (Text with EEA relevance)
- Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571)
- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- EU's growth strategy for a sustainable future
- EU Industrial Strategy

By developing such solutions, strategies and action plans, projects will contribute to the following Programme indicators:

- **Output indicator “Jointly developed solutions” (RCO116)**

This indicator counts the solution newly developed by the project partnership or the solution already developed that are adapted to the Programme context and geographic area by the partnership.

- **Output indicator “Strategies and action plans jointly developed” (RCO83)**

This indicator counts the strategies, and action plans developed jointly at regional or local level.

- **Result indicator “Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations” (RCR104)**

This indicator measures the number of solutions (defined in **RCO116**) developed by the supported project and taken-up or upscaled by a given organisation. The uptake or upscale (effective or at initial stage) should occur during the implementation of the project or at project closure. The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may be or not a direct participant in the project. It will reflect the uptake or upscale of solutions to support the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy as expected results of the project.

- **Result Indicator “Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations” (RCR79)**

This indicator measures the strategies/action plans (defined in **RCO83**) effectively taken up or being at the initial stage of uptake, by the supported project. The uptake should occur during its implementation or at the project closure. The organisation adopting the strategies and action plans developed by the project may be or not a direct participant in the project. The uptake should be demonstrated and documented by the adopting organisations. It will reflect the cooperation between stakeholders throughout the production systems and the waste management value chain, and the adoption of circular economy strategies, including integration of circularity principles/practices into existing policies.

**In addition, all projects shall contribute to the indicators:**

- **Output indicator “Organisations cooperating across borders” (RCO87):**

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in the supported project. An organisation is the legal entity acting as partner or associate partner in the project.

- **Result indicator “Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders” (PSI1):**

This indicator measures the number of organisations (defined in RCO87), that actively participated in cooperation activities of a project across borders and consequently increased their institutional capacity in the thematic field of the project. It refers in particular to organisations actively participating in the development of joint solutions, strategies and action plans. It will reflect the change sought for final beneficiaries of the Programme, namely increased institutional capacity for improved governance.

Please refer to the Programme Manual (Section I.C Annexe C. “Description of Programme indicators”) for further details regarding output and result indicators.

## **WHAT ARE THE TARGETED AREAS AND TARGET GROUPS?**

The interventions planned by the projects must cover some specific kinds of territories of the Programme (targeted areas) and point at specific groups of beneficiaries (target groups), in order to maximize its impact in the frame of the objectives pursued by the corresponding mission.

### **Targeted areas**

The Programme targeted area goes beyond its cooperation area<sup>2</sup> and covers a vast variety of territories in the whole Mediterranean whose challenges could be tackled by the projects. A realistic and detailed selection of the areas covered is fundamental for its success.

In particular, in the context of mission **“Innovative sustainable economy”**, there is no distinction to consider, and all type of areas are represented.

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<sup>2</sup> See Footnote 1

However, depending on the challenge(s) identify, focus could be made on specific kind of area (coastal and maritime zones, islands, hinterland areas, mountainous, urban and rural areas) to provide adapted outputs.

### **Target groups**

The core target groups of the Programme consists of national, regional and local public authorities engaged in policymaking, working together with other relevant bodies responsible for the definition and implementation of policies.

In particular, in the context of the mission “Innovative and sustainable economy”, beyond the core target groups and depending on the characteristics of the project, key target groups are:

- SMEs, enterprises and business support organisation
- Energy management organisations/bodies
- Higher education and research organisation
- Civil society, local communities, interest group and NGOs
- Sectorial agencies in the field of the mission

Those target groups can endorse different roles: transformation drivers, knowledge and expertise providers and receivers, bridge between practice and policy, awareness raiser...

Within SO 1.1 attention is given to the involvement and support to SMEs.

## **COORDINATION WITH THEMATIC COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE PROJECTS**

Each project shall participate actively in the thematic community of the mission it belongs to, and benefit from the experience and support of the governance projects. Those activities will be co-financed through the project budget.

Indeed, in the strategy of the programme, the governance projects aim to amplify the results of the thematic projects, not individually, but rather in combination with the results of other projects in order to achieve objectives of higher importance. To this end, the governance projects, and particularly the Thematic Communities projects, will implement activities focused on sharing, exchanging, and developing synergies between projects under the same mission. This implies active participation in these group activities and investment in the activities of the governance projects to maximise the impact of the results. The details of these activities will be developed by the governance projects that will lead their implementation, but from the outset, the thematic projects must adhere to this approach of cooperation between projects for the Programme strategy to work. In the project proposal, this dimension must be integrated, and a part of the budget must remain flexible to allow at least the participation in meetings (indicatively 2 per year) and the necessary preparation (providing data, participating in collective workshops, etc).

However, independently of the specific activities that will be proposed by the TCP and IDP, the programme will support the implementation of the Euro-MED Academy in coordination with these projects which will serve as a training platform to support the dissemination and transfer of knowledge and results. In this framework, all thematic projects will have to participate in the joint

elaboration of pedagogical material and will have to produce at least a short video presentation to be published in the resource section of the Academy. The creation of this video will be framed by the Academy steering committee composed of representatives of the JS and the governance projects in order to ensure harmony and a common approach.

The production of this video, which should not exceed 1 minute in length (the final characteristics will be determined with the members of the steering committee), will have to be foreseen in the activities of any thematic project.

In addition, as indicated above, here are two indicative activities that should at least be foreseen:

- 2 face to face meetings per year involving the Lead Partner and one communication/results amplification referent
- Participation to 1 joint communication event during the project lifetime

For more details on activities to be foreseen, please refer to the Programme Manual, “Designing the project activities” and “Drawing up my budget” sections.

## WHAT SHOULD THE PROJECTS BUILD ON?

The capitalisation of experiences and results is a common thread in the Programme and the core of the strategy to amplify results. Therefore, project proposals will have to take into account at least the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020 experience and draw on the implementation and work of previously implemented projects.

Seminars will be organised by the JS during the application phase to facilitate this task. Participation to the afore-mentioned seminars is crucial for the drafting of the applications.

To this end, we invite you to consult the library of the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020 where you will find the main deliverables of all the projects: [Interreg MED \(interreg-med.eu\)](http://interreg-med.eu). You will find in particular the following documents and works, essential to understand the work undertaken and the results already available:

Toolkits:

Environmental assessment online tool for olive oil, packed water and wine following Product Environmental Footprint' Common Regulation rules - [Pefmed project](#)

Social and economic key performance indicator tool to trace the Social Footprint of current agri-food production - [Pefmed project](#)

Capacity Building Tool for Public Authorities to improve innovation financing in green sectors - [Finmed project](#)

Crowdfunding training tool - [Bluecrowdfunding project](#)

Support Service Tool for Clusters and Business Support Organizations to support SMEs access to finance for innovation in Green Sectors - [Finmed project](#)

Business Plan Competition toolkit - [Mistral project](#)

Matchmaking event toolkit - [Mistral project](#)

Internationalization readiness webtool - [Chebec project](#)

Circularity Self-Assessment Tool - [BLUEfasma project](#)

Circular Business Model Toolkit - [Embrace project](#)

Customized operational model for zero inorganic waste for the agri-food companies (primary sector and industry) to preliminarily analyze the management of inorganic waste within the production process - [REINWASTE project](#)

Green public procurement tool – offered to public authorities for the insertion of green criteria in tenders - [Graspinno project](#)

Blue business tools for SMEs – [Blue Growth](#) thematic community project

Methodologies, guidelines and models: Innovation voucher scheme set up - [4helix+ project](#)

Methodology on establishing “pilot plants” on green manufacturing - [Greenomed project](#)

Operational services model for eco-innovation and smart cities - [Green Mind project](#)

Blue energy cluster building methodology - [Pelagos project](#)

Cooperative approach for building Blue Energy Labs - [Maestrale project](#)

Sustainability Indicators System for the yachting sector - [iBlue project](#)

Methodology for transdisciplinary collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement - [Blue Deal project](#)

Co-Create cross-fertilization methodology applied in creative camps - [Co-Create project](#)

Creative Nests' creation and Cooperation Model - [Smath project](#)

Clusters with Social Vocation and Responsiveness in the Med Area: state of play and the way ahead - [+Resilient project](#)

Model for developing a CreativeWear hub - [CreativeWear project](#)

Open data and linked open data' platform to support innovation - [Odeon project](#)

Sustainability Assessment Model to create sustainable innovation for SMEs - [CreaInnovation project](#)

Assessment report on the commercial viability of the production of fertilizers from waste - [Re-live Waste project](#)

Guide for production and quality control of olive oil with increased health protecting properties - [Aristoil project](#)

Benchmark of demand-driven innovation - [Prominent-MED project](#)

Innovation procurement procedure - [Prominent-MED project](#)

Guidance on Innovation procurement selection - [Prominent MED project](#)

Innovation procurement – pilot cases – [Prominent MED project](#)

Catalogue of actionable knowledge – [Green Growth thematic community project](#)

[Policy reflection paper - Green Growth thematic community project](#)

Capitalisation of knowledge and experience shall not stop to the Interreg MED Programme. For this reason, it is important to consider in the drafting of your proposal also results from implemented projects of other relevant programmes or initiatives.

Following the consultation of Interreg Programmes and strategies/initiatives covering the Mediterranean area, you can consult the following results:

[Interreg Adriatic Programme – Blue growth/Environment](#)

[ENI CBC MED and Technology transfer, innovation, SMEs and business development projects](#)

[Interreg Italy-Croatia – Blue Innovation](#)

[Interreg Italy-France Maritime – Innovation and ports' durability](#)

[MARITTIMOTECH](#)

[BlueConnect2](#)

[CIRCUMVECTIO](#): circularity of products and goods

[MED NEW JOB](#): sustainable employment in blue economy

[GEREMIA](#): management of waste in ports

[GRRinPORT](#): management of waste in ports

[PORT-5R](#): management of waste

[P.Ri.S.Ma. MED](#): governance and integrated management of waste from aquaculture and fishing

[MATRAC - ACP](#): monitoring of the coastline

You are also invited to consider results from other from other EU-funded programmes for which Sustainable Innovative Economy is commonplace. You can consult all information regarding Interreg programmes and results in the following links: <https://interreg.eu/>, <https://keep.eu> and [Projects & Results \(europa.eu\)](https://projects.europa.eu)



# TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

## FINANCIAL ALLOCATION AND PROJECT DURATION

The indicative financial allocation for this call for proposals is **around 86 million euros** in total (69M€ of Interreg funds + 17M€ of national co-financing), of which around **27M€** for these Terms of Reference.

**An estimated number of 40-45 projects is expected for this call, of which 10-12** for these Terms of Reference.

Few Study projects, a majority of Test projects and some Transfer Projects are expected to work within the same mission in this Call, depending on the quality and relevance of proposals received.

- Total budget per **Study** project should not exceed **600 000** EUR
- Total budget per **Test** project should not exceed **3 000 000** EUR
- Total budget per **Transfer** project should not exceed **1 000 000** EUR

Study Project duration: maximum 27 months

Test Project duration: maximum 33 months

Transfer Project duration: maximum 27 months

## EXPECTED PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE FOR THIS CALL

- **As a minimum, the project partnership must be composed of partners based in five (5) different countries within the Interreg Euro-MED Programme cooperation area** (eligibility criteria B.1).
- **The LP is a public body, or a body governed by public law** (as defined in Directive 2014/24/EU) (eligibility criteria B.2).

NB: Institutions wishing to participate in the project without contributing financially are considered as "associated partners" (AP) for which no limit of participation is set; these are not considered in the respect of the minimum partnership composition<sup>3</sup>.

No specific requirement applies regarding partnership composition or participation in past and ongoing calls. Still, the participation to several projects within the same call is not encouraged as it might endanger the quality of the implementation.

## KEY PROJECT DATES

**Starting date of the activities:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

**Ending date for Study projects:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**Ending date for Test projects:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

**Ending date for Transfer projects:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

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<sup>3</sup> Cf Programme Manual: definition of "associated partner"

Please consider that **activities related to the implementation and to closure activities** (i.e preparation and presentation of the final certification by the PPs and project final report and payment claim by the LPS) must be **completed by the end date of the project**.

### Fast lane process:

Once Study and Test projects are finished, a Fastlane process is foreseen to enable them to step up their activities in a new project. As a consequence, study projects will have the possibility to apply for a test project and test projects for a transfer project.

Project's performance based essentially on the quality of results/solutions proposed will be assessed by the Programme during the last months of the projects, to select those that will be invited further to a restricted call for proposals, right after the end of their project.

## TIMELINE OF THE CALL

The provisional timetable for the Euro-MED02 call for Thematic projects is as follow:

Key steps	Dates
Transnational information event for the opening of the call	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022 in Limassol (Cyprus) and online
Opening of the Call	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 at noon Brussels time
National information campaign by the Programme's National Authorities	Following national calendars
Technical meetings	7 July: Partnership & Logical framework, Indicators 8 September: Work Plan / Mandatory activities 22 September: Budget/Eligibility of expenditure 6 October: Q&A
Closure of the Call	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 13.00 Brussels time
Submission of mandatory annexes	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Assessment of proposals	November 2022 - Mid March 2023
Selection by the Programme Committee	End March 2023
Pre-contracting and contracting procedures	April 2023
Starting date of the projects	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023

Please note that the details of this schedule are subject to change and should be considered as indicative.

## SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS, EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

This section details the procedure for the submission of proposals, the assessment and the selection process in the framework of the **Euro-MED02 Call - THEMATIC PROJECTS**. In addition to the present specifications, the Programme Manual, as well as all the documents relevant for preparing the application (courtesy version of the application form, templates of partners'

declarations and Jems Guidelines), are available on the Programme website on the dedicated page of the call.

## SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The Lead Partner is responsible for the application process on behalf of the whole project partnership and will have to create a profile on the Jems platform to access the online form.

It is important to be sure that **the email address used** for the account creation is **easily accessible** by the applicant as it will be automatically taken over by the system for the reception of any subsequent notification, confirmation, etc.

The application procedure for this call consists of **two consecutive stages**:

- ➔ **The submission of the Application Form, Euro-MED02 Call - THEMATIC PROJECTS, written in English or French: to be validated on "Jems" before 27/10/2022, at 13.00 (Brussels time).** (eligibility criterion A.1)
- ➔ **The submission of several mandatory annexes: to be uploaded on Jems before 10/11/2022 at 13.00 (Brussels time).**

**Application form:** the template of the thematic projects' application form is the same, regardless of the category of project to which a Lead Partner applies **and must be created and completed on the [Jems platform](#).**

**The courtesy version of the application form** provided by the Programme is a guidance document made available to applicants **for information only** and contains indications on the information expected in the different sections of the form.

### **Mandatory annexes, documents to be provided**

The following standard annexes must be **signed and uploaded in PDF format** into the system by the above date (French time):

- For each partner participating in the project (including the LP): a copy of the partner declaration (or LP) **generated from the Jems system**. These forms must be **dated** and **signed** by the legal representative of the partner structure.
- For each of the associated partners (if applicable): a copy of the associated partner declaration (or LP) **generated from the Jems system**. These forms must be **dated** and **signed** by the legal representative of the partner structure.

The absence of any document or an error in its contents will be presented to the Committee and may be included as a condition for the signature of the Co-financing contract (on the basis of Annex II below: List of pre-contractual criteria)

## POINTS OF ATTENTION CONCERNING THE VALIDITY OF A DOCUMENT

**The content of the templates provided by the Programme and, where applicable, generated via Jems cannot be modified or amended in any way. All templates requiring a signature must be dated and signed (handwritten or electronic signature) to be considered valid.**

**The electronic signature** is considered valid for the Programme as far as it is recognised at national level; in case of doubt as to the format, it is recommended to **contact your National Authority** (or the one of the partners concerned) to ensure the validity of your documents before submitting them to the Programme.

**In case of delegation of signature and for any document concerned, a proof of delegation must be uploaded with the signed document for it to be considered valid.**

As the (signed) documents have been uploaded in PDF version on Jems, **the original paper version** must be kept by the partners in the project file.

## ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS PROPOSALS

- **Administrative and eligibility criteria**

The administrative and eligibility check is carried out to verify whether an application meets the minimum criteria established by the Programme for the projects of the Call.

The list of administrative and eligibility criteria to be met is given below in **Annex I** of this document.

**Proposals not fulfilling one of these conditions will be considered ineligible and will not be further processed.** Lead partners will be informed of the outcome of this first check.

- **Quality assessment criteria**

The list of project assessment criteria is available below in **Annex III** of this document.

The score for each assessment question will be calculated on a scale from 1 to 5 points. The evaluation grid for thematic projects is composed of 7 questions with a variable weighting depending on programme expectations.

The Lead Partners will be informed of the outcome of this assessment phase.

- **Pre-contractual criteria:**

If **two months<sup>4</sup>** after the selection of the project, the issues highlighted during the pre-contracting phase and conditions are not fulfilled, the Programme Committee may decide to cancel the project or to withdraw the partner concerned (**Annex II**).

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<sup>4</sup> The date to be taken into account for the calculation of the two months is the one of the **sending of the Joint Secretariat email** notifying the Programme Committee decision.

## ANNEX I: List of administrative and eligibility criteria

N°	Criteria
<b>A</b>	<b>Administrative check</b>
A.1	The application form was submitted via the online monitoring tool of the Interreg Euro - MED Programme, JEMs, respecting the deadline defined in the Terms of Reference
<b>B</b>	<b>Eligibility Check</b>
B.1	The project meets the minimum criteria relating to the composition of the partnership: 5 partners representing 5 different countries within the Interreg Euro - MED Programme cooperation area
B.2	The Lead Partner is a public body or a body governed by public law (according to the definition of Directive 2014/24/EU)

## ANNEX II: List of pre-contractual criteria

N°	Criteria
<b>C</b>	<b>Pre-contracting check</b>
C.1	The Application Form has been consolidated considering minor technical issues and/or to integrate the adjustments deriving from the assessment phase or from the Programme Monitoring Committee recommendations/conditions.
C.2	Compulsory annexes of each partner and associated partners are duly signed and available in the Interreg Euro-MED on-line monitoring tool JEMs (including, if relevant, De Minimis Declaration and Ad hoc Declaration for International Organisations under international law). When applicable, project partners have used the template provided by the Programme without modifying their content/format
C.3	In case of partner outside the Interreg Euro-MED cooperation area, an Agreement on management and control between the Managing Authority and the concerned European national or regional authority has been established or the procedure is already ongoing
C.4	The administrative information has been consolidated in the Application Form (partner identity, address, contact details, legal and financial information, bank account)
C.5	The budget has been consolidated in the Application Form and, if relevant, compulsory ad-hoc documents have been updated consequently and provided to the JS (correct use of flat rate, correct origin of co-financing source, ad hoc document for travel and accommodation costs declared as real cost, forecast per semester, distribution of preparation costs, state aid self-assessment ).

## ANNEXE III: List of qualitative assessment criteria

### **The quality assessment will be conducted in 2 phases, the first phase being eliminatory.**

The score per assessment question will be calculated on a scale of 5 points, with four sections in the first phase and three in the second phase of assessment. Three sections having been given a weight of x2 considering their importance in this call (1. Relevance with Euro-MED context, 4. Partnership relevance, 6. Work Plan).

The final maximum score reachable by a proposal is of 50 points equivalent to a percentage of 100%.

As indicated in the table below, in the first column you can find the main assessment questions. Each main question is supported by specific sub-questions (guiding principles for the assessment) and corresponds to specific sections of the Application form, as mentioned in the assessment grid below.

Each main question score consists of a single score, taking into account all of the elements mentioned as sub-questions.

### **First assessment phase:**

The first assessment phase will only be carried out on part of the Application Form. All questions needed for the first assessment are concentrated under the strategic assessment criteria. That is done in order to ensure the quality of the most important principles for an Interreg project: context, transnationality, logical framework and partnership.

The following sections of the Application Form are evaluated in the first phase:

- C.2, C.7.5 on project relevance and context (project approach, transnationality, synergies and complementarities, strategies embedding, cooperation criteria)
- C.1. and A.5 on project focus (intervention logic)
- B., C.3, 7.1 and 7.2 on partnership

The following assessment questions will be addressed in the first phase:

1. Project Relevance (with Interreg Euro-MED context, including, where appropriate, the contribution of the project to the embedding of the priorities of the EU macro-regional and sea-basin strategies and with call expectations)
2. Cooperation character
3. Project Intervention Logic
4. Partnership relevance

Only the contents of the form corresponding to the sections above will be assessed at this stage. It is therefore essential to target the sections and contents in relation with the key issues without scattering the answers.

The minimum score required in the first assessment phase is **18 out of 30 points** (representing 60% of the maximum score).

All applications that have reached the minimum score requested will be admitted to the second phase of assessment. Projects admitted to the second phase will keep their scores in the sections already evaluated in the 1st assessment phase. Each section not evaluated in the 1st phase will be assessed in the 2nd stage.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment phase:

The following sections of the Application Form are evaluated in the second phase:

- C.4, C.5, C.6, C.7 and C.8 on the work plan, management, communication approach and long term plans
- C.7.6. on horizontal principles
- D and E on the budget

The following assessment questions will be addressed in the second phase:

5. Horizontal principles
6. Work plan
7. Budget

The final maximum score reachable by a proposal evaluated on both steps is of 50 points.

The threshold for projects to be recommended for approval to the Programme Committee by the Joint Secretariat is of **35 out of 50** (representing 70% of the maximum score).

Projects will be selected, taking into consideration their score (in descending order), positions of each national delegation and budget availability for the call.

**Following the assessment of all proposals, these are ranked according to their final overall score, per mission.** A final decision on project approval or rejection is taken by the Programme Committee. Based on their overall score and final ranking, the proposal with the best score per mission will be approved. If the best proposals get the same score, applicants will be invited for an interview and pitch their proposal.

## Project identification

Project acronym	<i>Pre-filled from AF</i>
Project title	<i>Pre-filled from AF</i>
Project number	<i>Pre-filled from monitoring tool JeMS</i>
Name of the lead partner organisation (English)	<i>Pre-filled from AF</i>

## 1. Strategic assessment criteria

Assessment questions (Main questions)	Guiding principles for the assessment □ To what extent does the project ... (Sub questions)	SCORE	Comment	Sections in AF
1.Project Relevance (with Euro-MED context and with call expectations)  <i>How well is a need for the project justified?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project addresses common territorial challenges of the Programme or joint asset of the Programme area – there is a real need for the project (well justified, reasonable, well explained)</li> <li>• The project clearly contributes to a wider strategy on one or more policy levels (EU / national / regional)</li> <li>• The project actions will support the wider use and transfer of available knowledge and demonstrates new solutions that go beyond existing practices in the sector/programme area/participating countries or adapts and implements already developed solutions.</li> </ul>			C.2.1 C.2.2 C.2.5 C.2.2 C.2.6
2.Cooperation character  <i>What added value does the transnational cooperation bring?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of the transnational approach for the topic addressed is clearly demonstrated</li> <li>• The results cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without transnational cooperation.</li> <li>• There is a clear benefit from cooperating for the target groups / Programme area.</li> <li>• Cooperation criteria are fulfilled (Please take note that the evaluator will pay special attention to the fulfilment of at least 3 of the following cooperation criteria: joint development (mandatory), joint implementation (mandatory), and joint staffing or joint financing).</li> </ul>			C.2.3 C.2.4 C.7.5



<b>Assessment questions (Main questions)</b>	<b>Guiding principles for the assessment □ To what extent does the project ... (Sub questions)</b>	<b>SCORE</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Sections in AF</b>
3.Project Intervention Logic  <i>To what extent is the project intervention logic relevant?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project overall and specific objectives (including communication objectives) clearly contribute to the achievement of the Programme priority specific objective and is linked to the Results Amplification Strategy and the mission tackled...</li>   <li>• The project outputs and results contribute to the Programme indicators – and are in line with the specific objectives and the requirements of the Priority.</li> </ul>			C.1  C.4(only specific objectives description)  A.5
4.Partnership relevance  <i>To what extent is the partnership composition relevant for the proposed project?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project involves the relevant actors needed to address the challenge/joint asset for territorial development and the objectives specified for the mission tackled</li>   <li>• The project partnership:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is balanced with respect to the levels, sectors, territory</li> <li>- consists of partners that complement each other</li> <li>- each partner plays a defined role</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Partner organisations have proven experience and competence in the thematic field concerned, as well as the necessary capacity to implement the project (financial, human resources, etc.) – in particular, the Lead Partner demonstrates capacity/competence in coordinating the project action and the partnership.</li>   <li>• Associated partners have a defined role and bring added value.</li> </ul>			C.3  B.1  B.1 C.7.1  B.1

<b>Assessment questions (Main questions)</b>	<b>Guiding principles for the assessment □ To what extent does the project ... (Sub questions)</b>	<b>SCORE</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Sections in AF</b>
5. Horizontal principles  <i>What is the project's impact on horizontal principles?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure respect for fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the implementation of the Funds.</li> <li>• Ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation</li> <li>• Ensure equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender perspective</li> <li>• Promote sustainable development as set out in Article 11 TFEU, accounting for UN SDG, the Paris Agreement and the "do no significant harm" principle</li> </ul>			C.7.6

## 2. Operational assessment criteria

Assessment questions	Guiding principles for the assessment □ To what extent does the project ...	SCORE	Comments	Sections in AF
6. Work plan  <i>To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed activities and deliverables are relevant and lead to planned outputs and results</li> <li>Project outputs and results are realistic (it is possible to achieve them with given resources – i.e. time, partners, budget – and they are realistic based on the quantification provided)</li> <li>Distribution of tasks among partners is appropriate (e.g. sharing of tasks is clear, logical, in line with partners' role in the project, etc.)</li> <li>Time plan is realistic, and activities, deliverables and outputs are in a logical time-sequence.</li> <li>Communication activities (and deliverables) are appropriate to reach the relevant target groups and stakeholders</li> <li>Project outputs are durable (the proposal is expected to provide a significant and durable contribution to solving the challenges targeted).if not it's justified</li> </ul> Project main outputs are applicable and replicable by other organisations/regions/countries outside of the current partnership (transferability) – if not it is justified			C.4 C.5 C.6 C.7.2, C.7.3 D C.8.1, C.8.2 C.8.3
7. Budget  <i>To what extent is the budget coherent, proportionate, realistic and valuable?</i>	Sufficient and reasonable resources are planned to ensure project implementation  Total partner budgets reflect real partners' involvement - are balanced and appropriate corresponding to the partners' responsibilities in the project.			D E.3
8. Final overview	The project globally answers to the expectations and needs of the Programme. Is it coherent in the implementation of all its sections?		<i>(comment without score)</i>	Full AF