



Interreg



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Euro-MED



Terms of Reference

CALL FOR PROPOSALS EURO-MED02

MISSION **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

PRIORITIES
1. SMARTER MEDITERRANEAN
2. GREENER MEDITERRANEAN

S.O.
1.1 DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES AND THE UPTAKE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES
2.4 PROMOTING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK PREVENTION, RESILIENCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES
2.6 PROMOTING THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR AND RESOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY
2.7 ENHANCING PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF NATURE, BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING IN URBAN AREAS AND REDUCING ALL FORMS OF POLLUTION

TYPE OF CALL OPEN CALL

PROJECT TYPE THEMATIC PROJECTS

PROJECT CATEGORIES STUDY, TEST AND TRANSFER

June 2022 version

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INTRODUCTION

The ambition of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme (hereafter “The Programme”), which cooperation area covers 69 regions of 14 countries¹, 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:
 - 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”,

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

- 2.7 “Enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution.

In addition, each Thematic project **shall contribute to one of the 4 missions** of the Programme.

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**

In order to increase the impact on the territory, 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 have a more sustainable impact on the territories through 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.

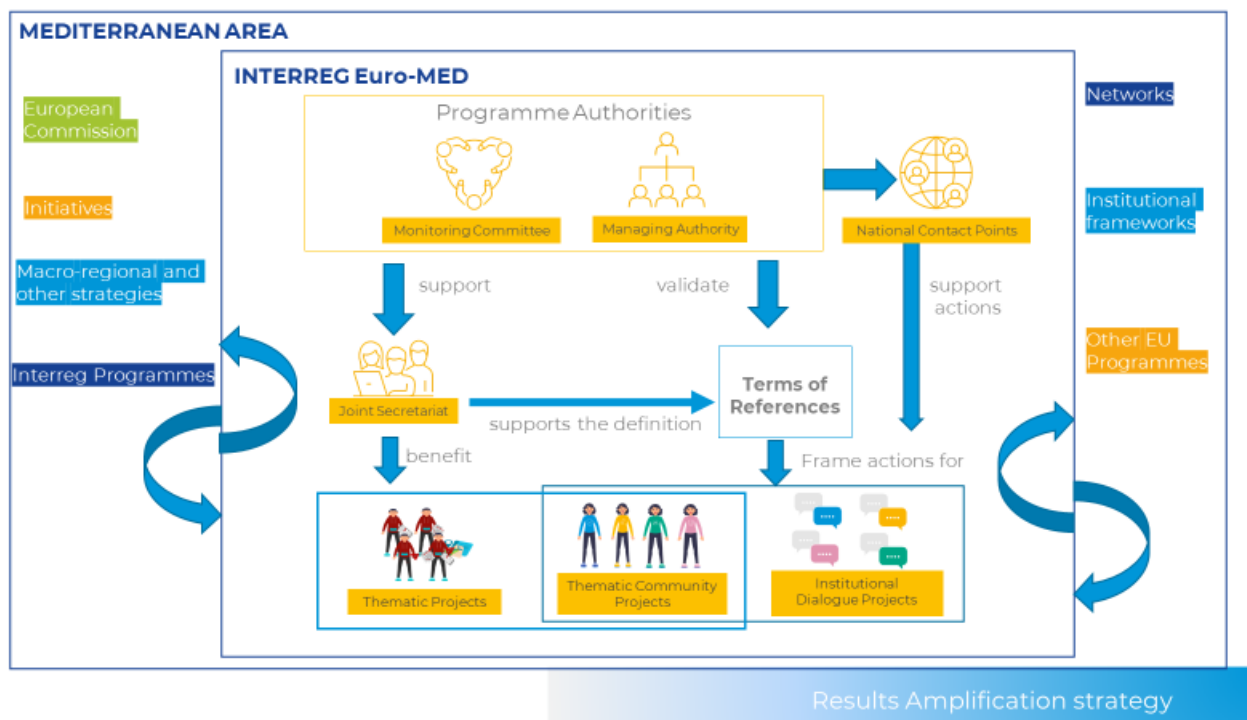


Illustration of the actors involved in the **Results Amplification Strategy** and network of relations

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

In the context of the 2nd 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 Objectives PO1 “A more competitive and smarter Europe” summarised for the Programme under the priority “Smarter Mediterranean” and PO 2 “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 “ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM”**

The main objective of this mission is to reinforce the sustainability of the tourism sector, through ensuring the protection and valorisation of the natural and cultural resources of the area and overcoming the heavy impacts of the pandemic on this sector for the Mediterranean.

Considering the overall environment and climate focus and the transnational nature of the Programme, the recovery of sustainable tourism is addressed transversally in all Programme priorities, in order to allow Euro-MED regions “to practice a tourism governance that enables continuous improvements of environmental, social and economic sustainability, increases competitiveness through quality and innovations and ensures implementation and monitoring of strategies and policies”². The final goal is to support a permanent and sustainable change in tourism practices.

To achieve this objective, this mission addresses the development of sustainable tourism as a transversal issue:

- fostering smart tourism by promoting innovation technologies and enhancing research,
- fostering tourism integrated in circular economy,
- promoting the preservation of natural resources and the reduction of pollution, considering sustainable eco-system services as touristic assets to protect and promote.

Due to its transversal character, all project activities addressing any of the S.O. of the Programme but focused mostly on the tourism sector must be developed on the frame of this mission.

Projects should integrate in the design of the proposal the complementarities with other initiatives, strategies and programmes priorities focusing on similar challenges, 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
- EU strategy for Sustainable Tourism (P9 TA(2021)0109)
- Other Interreg Programmes covering all shores of the Mediterranean and relevant thematic EU-Programmes (ADRION, NextMED, Horizon Europe, LIFE...)

WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES TARGETED?

Each project selected through this call have 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.

² *Panoramed Key Policy Paper on tourism, June 2020*

- 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 the mission SUSTAINABLE TOURISM through this call has to contribute to 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)

In the context of this mission, we expect to:

- improve innovation capacities, competitiveness and internationalisation / extroversion of tourism SMEs confronted to international competition in economic activities linked to tourism;
- strengthen Smart Specialization Strategies, promote advanced technology (digitalization is now more than ever an enabler of a sustainable economy) and non-technological innovations in the tourism sector;
- strengthen cooperation between stakeholders of the quadruple hélix in the tourism sector, considering the environmental dimension in their activities;
- reinforce tourism as a growth sector supporting environmental and climate change initiatives and representing important jobs potential;
- support new business models oriented to the generation of shared value and cultural and creative industries in a post-Covid context.

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

In the context of this mission, we expect to:

- reduce the huge environmental impact of the current linear production system;
- overcome the scarcity of natural resources and current overexploitation;
- reduce waste production and its externalities, turning waste into a resource;
- encourage the adoption of more sustainable economic model based on circular bioeconomy whilst fostering sustainable tourism;
- exploit the new economic opportunities offered by the circular economy model to the tourism sector;
- cultivation of the ‘reuse’ philosophy in the touristic living areas.

SO 2.4 “Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches” (Greener Mediterranean Priority)

In the context of this mission, we expect to:

- Foster sustainable tourism models which ensure the protection of the environment, including natural resources and cultural heritage;
- Answer the central issue of climate change for the future of Mediterranean regions (accelerated warming);
- Urge the environmental protection in view of both the pressure of human activities and/or climate change;
- enhance eco-system-based approaches in order to prevent disasters and improve resilience;
- Improve the prevention and mitigation of risks;
- Promote the importance of energy transition in the context of climate change;
- Tackle the climate change effects on health;
- Involve citizens in the greener transition of living areas with high touristic asset.

SO 2.7 “Enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution”. (Greener Mediterranean Priority)

In the context of this mission, we expect to:

- consolidate the connection of natural ecosystems with high touristic asset at transnational level;
- ensure ecological corridors to boost and preserve biodiversity;
- reinforce sustainable, efficient management and strong protection of protected areas;
- work beyond protected areas to address pollution, overfishing and climate change;
- improve restoration of ecosystems at land and sea degraded by tourism activities;
- promote adequate conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity in touristic areas;
- support the vision of the biodiversity conservation as an economic and social value.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND RESULTS?

The projects selected under the mission SUSTAINABLE TOURISM 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 types 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

Indicative types of solutions:

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

- ✓ Solutions for the development of value chains in the tourism sector and setting up transnational cooperation patterns with tourism clusters
- ✓ Solutions enhancing transnational cooperation among 4 helix stakeholders in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies) in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for skills development and capacity building of public institutions for the implementation of RIS3 strategies in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for strengthening the competitiveness, internationalization, and sustainability of tourism SME's, promoting technological and non-technological innovations
- ✓ Solutions assisting tourism SMEs in extroversion and transnational and/or international cooperation
- ✓ Solutions and tools establishing sustainable business development practices for tourism SMEs
- ✓ Solutions for acceleration of technology transfer and digital transformation to be applied in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions promoting climate friendly innovations in tourism activities
- ✓ Solutions enabling tourism SMEs to turn environmental challenges to opportunities
- ✓ Solutions promoting entrepreneurship and cultural and creative industries in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for the effective change in tourism practices promoting destinations sustainability and "responsible tourism" practices.
- ✓ Solutions for the management of tourism flow during high season
- ✓ Solutions for a sustainable recovery of the tourism sector in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis
- ✓ Solutions for the improvement of data collection, management, and sharing in the field of sustainable tourism
- ✓ Solutions for the establishment of knowledge networks focused on both enabling knowledge transfer in the area of data collection and tourism research, and initiating and conducting research on topics related to innovative tourism practices

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 the 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 the tourism sector.

- ✓ Solutions for the development of circular value chain and setting up cooperation partners among 4 helix actors in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for supporting tourism SMEs in accessing innovative technologies and adopting circular practices
- ✓ Solutions for reinforcing Green Public Procurement in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for fostering water efficiency resources and water re-use in the tourism sector³
- ✓ Solutions to prevent and reduce waste generation caused by touristic activities, improve waste management, and resource efficiency and promote economic recovery of waste in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for triggering public and private sources of financing to scale up green and/or improved technologies and processes in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions for tourism SMEs to include circular economy in their business model
- ✓ Solutions for promoting a shift in consumers' and citizens' behaviour, including as tourists
- ✓ Solutions to promote tourism services and products to mitigate seasonality and sustain local business initiatives based on the circular economy, local skills and traditions
- ✓ Solutions to promote circular and sustainable practices in the cultural and creative industries linked to the tourism sector

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.

Indicative list of strategies and action plans:

- ✓ Strategy and action plan, local and regional, to improve circularity in the tourism sector

³ As an example, see [Tourism and water, a difficult relationship that should be exemplary | We Are Water](#)

- ✓ Strategy and action plan for local and regional waste management to increase prevention and recycling during the development of tourism-related activities, reduce the landfilling of waste, encourage use of economic instrument to ensure coherence with the EU waste hierarchy
- ✓ Strategy and action plan for Resources management to increase resources efficiency and productivity in the tourism sector

Targeted strategies should contribute to the following EU strategies/directives and be easily transferable:

- EU Green Deal
- Circular Economy action plan
- 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
- Urban Waste Water Treatment directive
- SME Strategy
- EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
- EU strategy for Sustainable Tourism (P9 TA(2021)0109)

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/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 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.

Under SO 2.4

Indicative list of solutions:

Targeted solutions shall aim at preventing and managing risks linked to tourism activities, increasing environment protection, and promoting sustainable tourism management models.

- ✓ Solutions to increase capacity in the monitoring and management of tourism-related risks in touristic areas
- ✓ Nature-based solutions to tackle risks caused by climate change which hamper sustainability in the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions to increase the resilience of urban areas against the risks of an excessive touristic pressure and improve the quality of life in areas depending on the tourism sector
- ✓ Solutions to reduce the impact of touristic activities on the environment, including reduction of CO2 emissions
- ✓ Solutions to trigger financing for energy transition in touristic spaces and facilities and for rolling out nature-based solutions in urban areas
- ✓ Solutions to implement a sustainable tourism model with a more respectful use of the environment and natural resources
- ✓ Solutions for the recovery of ecosystems whose resilience against natural disasters and climate change has been undermined by mass tourism
- ✓ Solutions for the inclusion of crisis management in destination’s tourism management plans
- ✓ Solutions for the deployment of non-combustible renewable energies in touristic facilities
- ✓ Solutions improving the connection to services for urban and inland/remote areas, including islands to facilitate sustainable tourism development in such areas

Indicative list of strategies and action plans:

- ✓ Strategies and action plans for Climate Change Adaptation of the tourism sector at regional and local level
- ✓ Strategy and action plan for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan at regional and local level, adapted to the tourism sector
- ✓ Strategy and action plan for Long-Term Renovation Strategies for the building stock at regional and local level, in particular for the renovation of tourism infrastructure or the re-orientation of buildings’ purpose towards tourism activities
- ✓ Strategy and action plan for Clean Energy Transition Agendas (for islands) at regional and local level, adapted to the tourism sector
- ✓ Strategy and action plan for Urban Agendas at local level, from the sustainable tourism perspective

- ✓ Strategy and action plan to contribute to more effective implementation of existing policies and instruments, to improve access to funding/investment and for more climate-resilient urban/living areas, adapted to the tourism sector
- ✓ Strategy and action plans for integrating climate change adaptation and resilience into further local/regional development plans concerning the tourism sector
- ✓ Strategy and action plans to implement a sustainable tourism model, more respectful with environment, natural resources, and cultural heritage.
- ✓ Strategies and action plans for the promotion of a more sustainable tourism behaviour among the general public, taking into consideration the added value of culture to address environmental issues in order to change behaviour in the use of resources in tourism practices.

Targeted strategies should be easily transferable and contribute to the following strategies/directives:

- EU Green Deal
- New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- European Climate Law (achieving climate neutrality by 2050)
- European Climate Pact (citizen-oriented actions towards green living areas, transport, buildings and skills), as well as the New European Bauhaus
- Urban Agenda for the EU
- EU 'Renovation Wave' Strategy for the building sector
- EU recast Renewable Energy Directive
- EU Strategy on Energy System Integration
- Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative
- EU Sustainable & Smart Mobility Strategy
- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- New EU Forest Strategy
- Urban Waste Water Treatment directive
- EU SME Strategy
- EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
- EU strategy for Sustainable Tourism (P9 TA(2021)0109)

Overall, strategies and action plans should support the EU's comprehensive plan to increase the EU 2030 climate target to at least 50% and towards 55% in a responsible way.

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 (course of actions designed to achieve a long-term goal in a specific domain), and action plans (translation of jointly developed strategies into actions) 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**) (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 promote climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches 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/action plans developed by the project may be or not a direct participant in the project. It will reflect the increased capacity of public authorities in effective planning and financing for climate change adaptation and energy transition and reinforce citizens engagement for more sustainable living areas in the Mediterranean.

Under SO 2.7

Indicative list of solutions:

Targeted solutions shall aim at improving the sustainable management of natural resources, restoring overused and polluted natural environments and enable to enhance the management, monitoring and connecting of the natural environment.

- ✓ Solutions to increase connectivity between natural ecosystems with high touristic asset through effective and sustainable management plans
- ✓ Solutions to support the sustainable use of natural resources in tourism activities and consider the ecosystem services as a touristic asset to promote
- ✓ Solutions to restore degraded natural habitats, including in urban areas, allowing them to recover their resilience against touristic pressure
- ✓ Solutions to protect and preserve biodiversity in areas suffering from high touristic pressure thanks to the coordination and cooperation between key-networks and initiatives in the Mediterranean on this topic
- ✓ Solutions to manage protected areas of special interest for tourism, providing a framework for economic operators
- ✓ Solutions to explore/promote the connection between cultural and natural heritage, in particular with nature conservation areas under the European network Natura 2000

Indicative list of strategies and action plans:

- ✓ Strategy and action plan for the improvement, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies/legislations regarding the tourism sector
- ✓ Strategy and action plan for reinforcing the links between sustainable tourism practices, environmental protection, sustainable development, and citizens health.
- ✓ Strategy and action plan for the integration of protection, conservation, and restoration of natural resources into territorial tourism strategies as pillars toward long term and sustainable growth in touristic areas

- ✓ Strategy and action plan to redistribute tourism flows in space and time

Targeted strategies should contribute to the following strategies/directives and be easily transferable:

- EU Green Deal
- EU Biodiversity Strategy
- EU Maritime Spatial Planning Strategy
- EU Marine Strategy Framework directive
- Zero Pollution Action Plan
- New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- Urban Agenda for the EU
- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- European Habitats Directive
- Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- Barcelona Convention
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ramsar Convention
- EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
- New EU Forest Strategy
- EU strategy for Sustainable Tourism (P9 TA(2021)0109)

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**) (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 the protection, preservation, and restoration of natural resources 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/action plans

developed by the project may be or not a direct participant in the project. It will reflect the increased capacity of public authorities in effective improvement and adoption of environmental strategies as a driver for sustainable economic development in the Mediterranean.

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 area⁴ 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 “SUSTAINABLE TOURISM”, most of the territories of the programme are concerned by the issues tackled by it. Nevertheless, the following areas are especially indicated for projects:

- Natural protected areas and green areas in general offering ecosystem services
- Urban areas suffering of lack of resources or excess of waste due to high tourism pressure
- Islands and remote areas
- Rural and mountain areas
- Coastal/maritime areas

⁴ See Footnote 1

- Areas with potential to offer sustainable tourism alternatives to traditional tourism activities
- Touristic areas especially vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters
- Inland (wetlands in inland, freshwater, rivers, lakes, dams, ...)

Areas of special interest (natural and cultural heritage)

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 “SUSTAINABLE TOURISM”, key target groups are:

- Local, regional, and national authorities with competences related to tourism, resources and waste management, urban planning, transport, and environmental matters
- SMEs and economic operators in the tourism sector
- Business support organisations
- Universities, high education institutions and research centres
- Civil society, local communities and associations, NGOs involved in issues related to tourism, consumption, waste reduction, cultural heritage preservation, and ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Destination Management Organizations
- Tourism management agencies
- Energy management organizations/bodies
- Research centres and organizations
- Recycling organizations
- Infrastructure operators (Port Authorities, Marine Protected Areas, etc.)

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.

Furthermore, to amplify the impact of the mission “SUSTAINABLE TOURISM”, the Programme is currently designing a multi-programme pilot cooperation mechanism, focused on Sustainable Tourism as its first application. By the moment this experimentation involves 2 other Interreg Programmes, Interreg NEXT MED and Italy-France Maritime, but it is open to additional volunteer Interreg Programmes. Selected projects for this mission shall be eventually asked to contribute to this reinforced cooperation, through the respective governance projects on Sustainable tourism, by putting into value their outputs and providing ideas.

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 \(interreg-med.eu\)](https://interreg-med.eu). Please, note that references to project’s results concerns only finalised outputs and is subject to additional information and update.

For the “SUSTAINABLE TOURISM” mission, we strongly recommend to consult the “[Catalogue of Projects outputs and policy targets](#)”, developed by the Sustainable Tourism Thematic Community of the Interreg MED 2014-2020 Programme. It presents the most important outputs of the projects implemented during the corresponding programming period. (please note that this catalogue

does not integrate outputs from running projects and will be updated during the autumn 2022, we kindly invite you to consult the Programme website for more details on running projects).

You will find in particular the following documents and works, essential to understand the work undertaken and the results already achieved:

Solutions:

Online **tool to calculate the Tourism Carrying Capacity** (TCC) of a destination - [Alter Eco project](#)

Online tool to understand, compare, assess and rate the performance on **water efficiency and water management** – [Castwater project](#)

Governance tool for coastal areas (Coast Contract) – [Coasting project](#)

Coastal Tourism Sustainability Toolkit to establish monitoring and evaluation schemes of tourism impact – [Co-Evolve project](#)

Label for tourism service providers which apply specific energy, water and waste sustainable management actions and develop customers awareness – [Consume-Less project](#)

Ecotourism Product Standard to benchmark and monitor the quality, sustainability, and resource use of ecotourism products in the touristic destinations – [Destimed Project](#)

Ecological Footprint calculator – [Destimed project](#)

Tourist Flow management platform – [Herit-Data project](#)

Green Beach Model – [Mitomed+ project](#)

Online **tool to interpret tourism dynamics** based on Reputation, Attractiveness, Competitiveness, and Sustainability – [ShapeTourism project](#)

Fishing tourism business model – [Tourismed project](#)

Tested list of actions for **islands** to measure and concretely **reduce the waste** that enters the environment (marine litter and anthropogenic nutrients) – [Blueislands project](#)

Mountain Network scheme to develop new “Ecojourneys” itineraries – [Emblematic project](#)

Strategies / Action plans:

Roadmap to adopt business model for the management of **Underwater Cultural Heritage sites** (Museums and Diving Parks) and to create Knowledge Awareness Centres – [Bluemed project](#)

Management and **protection plan for coastal area of touristic interest** and rich natural heritage in the Mediterranean – [Inherit project](#)

Action Plans for the development of EuroVelo8 **Mediterranean cycling routes** – [Medcycletour project](#)

Sustainable Cruise value chain action plan – [Sirocco project](#)

Policy recommendations for sustainable tourism at the Mediterranean scale (based on the results of the entire MED project community) – [Sustainable Tourism 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 projects/programmes:

[Italy-France Maritime Programme:](#)

- [MARITTIMOTECH Project](#)
- [SMART DESTINATION Project](#)
- [QUALIPORTI Project](#)
- [MOBIMART Project](#)
- [MOBIMART Plus Project](#)
- [INTENSE Project](#)

[ADRION Programme: ADRION Thematic Cluster Towards Sustainability in Cultural and Natural Tourism Destinations](#)

[ENI CBC MED: Projects on Sustainable Tourism](#)

[Danube Transnational Programme projects](#)

[Italia-Croatia Programme: Nautical Tourism projects](#)

[Greece-Albania Programme: Specific objective 2.1 Tourism development](#)

[Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro Programme: Project Axis 3: Tourism and Cultural Heritage](#)

[EU Strategy for the Alpine Region projects](#)

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

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 **21M€** 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 composition⁵.

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: 1st May 2023

Ending date for Study projects: 31st July 2025

Ending date for Test projects: 31st January 2026

Ending date for Transfer projects: 31st July 2025

⁵ 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 rd June 2022 in Limassol (Cyprus) and online
Opening of the Call	27 th 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 th October 2022 at 13.00 Brussels time
Submission of mandatory annexes	10 th 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 st 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 **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**⁶ 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**).

⁶ 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
A	Administrative check
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	Eligibility Check
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
C	Pre-contracting check
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.

2nd 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"> • 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) • The project clearly contributes to a wider strategy on one or more policy levels (EU / national / regional) • 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. 			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"> • The importance of the transnational approach for the topic addressed is clearly demonstrated • The results cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without transnational cooperation. • There is a clear benefit from cooperating for the target groups / Programme area. • 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). 			C.2.3 C.2.4 C.7.5

Assessment questions (Main questions)	Guiding principles for the assessment □ To what extent does the project ... (Sub questions)	SCORE	Comment	Sections in AF
3.Project Intervention Logic <i>To what extent is the project intervention logic relevant?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The project outputs and results contribute to the Programme indicators – and are in line with the specific objectives and the requirements of the Priority. 			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"> • The project involves the relevant actors needed to address the challenge/joint asset for territorial development and the objectives specified for the mission tackled. • The project partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is balanced with respect to the levels, sectors, territory - consists of partners that complement each other - each partner plays a defined role • 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. • Associated partners have a defined role and bring added value. 			C.3 B.1 B.1 C.7.1 B.1

Assessment questions (Main questions)	Guiding principles for the assessment □ To what extent does the project ... (Sub questions)	SCORE	Comment	Sections in AF
5. Horizontal principles <i>What is the project's impact on horizontal principles?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure respect for fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the implementation of the Funds. • Ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation • Ensure equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender perspective • Promote sustainable development as set out in Article 11 TFEU, accounting for UN SDG, the Paris Agreement and the "do no significant harm" principle 			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
<p>6. Work plan</p> <p><i>To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed activities and deliverables are relevant and lead to planned outputs and results 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) Distribution of tasks among partners is appropriate (e.g. sharing of tasks is clear, logical, in line with partners' role in the project, etc.) Time plan is realistic, and activities, deliverables and outputs are in a logical time-sequence. Communication activities (and deliverables) are appropriate to reach the relevant target groups and stakeholders 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 <p>Project main outputs are applicable and replicable by other organisations/regions/countries outside of the current partnership (transferability) – if not it is justified</p>			<p>C.4</p> <p>C.5</p> <p>C.6</p> <p>C.7.2, C.7.3</p> <p>D</p> <p>C.8.1, C.8.2</p> <p>C.8.3</p>
<p>7. Budget</p> <p><i>To what extent is the budget coherent, proportionate, realistic and valuable?</i></p>	<p>Sufficient and reasonable resources are planned to ensure project implementation</p> <p>Total partner budgets reflect real partners' involvement - are balanced and appropriate corresponding to the partners' responsibilities in the project.</p>			<p>D</p> <p>E.3</p>
<p>8. Final overview</p>	<p>The project globally answers to the expectations and needs of the Programme. Is it coherent in the implementation of all its sections?</p>		<p><u>(comment without score)</u></p>	<p>Full AF</p>