Targeted Call for Proposals Euro-MED06 ("Fast Lane Call")

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This targeted 6th call for proposals concerns exclusively the Study projects selected through the Monitoring Committee decision of the 21st of November 2023 in the frame of the 2nd Call for Project proposals of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme.

The call is targeted to thematic Test projects building on the results of pre-selected Study projects and focused on the Smarter and Greener Mediterranean Programme priorities.

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Introduction

The ambition of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme (hereafter "The Programme"), whose cooperation area covers 69 regions in 14 countries[1], 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 has identified 4 **missions**[2]**:**

- 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 mandatory for projects.

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.

This is a **targeted call for proposals** that concerns **exclusively** the **Study projects** selected through the Monitoring Committee decision of the 21st of November 2023 in the frame of the **2nd Call for Project proposals** of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme. **It is a "Fast Lane" targeted call that allows pre-selected Study projects to potentially become Test projects.**

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

Indicative types of **activities for Test projects**:

- Conducting preliminary or feasibility studies (if necessary and not available by other projects)

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

[2] For information on the Programme approach and missions, please see: What we do - Programme Interreg Euro-MED (interreg-euro-med.eu)

- Adapting, testing solutions through pilot activities
- Assessing and monitoring results from the pilot activities
- Elaborating plans for transferability of the results

The "Fast Lane process"

The Terms of Reference of the Call 02 for projects foresee the possibility for the selected Study and Test projects to participate on a "Fast Lane process":

"*Once Study and Test projects are finished, a Fast Lane 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 targeted call for proposals, right after the end of their project*".

This Fast Lane approach was born with the purpose of testing a model of complete project cycle (study-test-transfer) in which the transition from one phase to the next is based on sound management and quality of results, the **project performance** being a priority for the Programme since the very beginning.

This idea also pushes forward our Results Amplification Strategy, by capitalising on the most transferable outputs developed by the study and test projects.

The Programme wants to ensure that each project phase is implemented by **optimised partnerships,** with **new partners** with the **competences needed for each phase** (for ex., partners with competences on the pilot areas for the test phase, "receivers" from new geographic areas for the transfer phase).

As a consequence, the Programme proposes a **simplified procedure** that allows projects for a **smooth transition** from one phase to the other that is also adapted to their implementation calendar.

The implementation of the Call 2 projects has shown that a transition from Study to Test project would imply a redefinition of the project's overall and specific objectives On the other hand, the transition to a transfer phase for a Test project is not impacting the project rationale or objectives, since transferability is already deeply embedded in their objectives and their work plans, but is considered as a logic continuation and opportunity to strengthen their transferring capacity and direct impact on the territories.

The procedure is the following:

- **Transition from Study project to Test project (subject of this Call)**: based on sound management criteria, Study projects will be offered the possibility to apply through a targeted call (Call 06) for the implementation of the next Test phase.

The new test project will have to include new objectives, work plan, indicators, and a higher budget, as well as new partners with direct competences for the testing.

- **Transition from Test project to Test+Transfer project**: based on sound management criteria, Test projects will be offered the possibility to submit a request of project modification for the implementation of the next Transfer phase as an extension of the project. If the modification is approved, the project would become a Test+Transfer one.
  The modification shall imply the inclusion of a new "Transfer" Work Package, with extra budget and months to implement it. The last three months of the test project, originally dedicated to its closure, would become the first months of the transfer phase.
  The consortium shall be adapted, and the inclusion of new "receiver" partners is expected.

Following this procedure, the Test projects selected under this call for proposals will have the possibility to transition to a Test+Transfer project, in the terms defined by the Programme manual and the dedicated framework document.

Each Test project **shall contribute to the <u>same Programme mission, priority and specific objective</u>** (SO) that it contributed to during the Study project.

Pre-selection criteria

Only projects answering positively to the following **pre-selection criteria** are allowed to submit a Test project proposal in the frame of this call:

- Be a Study project selected under Call02.

- Not benefiting or having officially applied for an extension of the project duration by the time of the pre-selection.

- **Sound administrative management**: All expected Reporting Packages were submitted in due time by the time of the pre-selection assessment.

- **Sound financial management**: The level of certified expenditure, including the most recently submitted Reporting Package, corresponds to at least 80% of the cumulated expenditure declaration forecast (preparation cost included) specified in the project's Subsidy contract Annex (latest version of the Application Form).

List of pre-selected Study projects

Following the assessment of the abovementioned pre-selection criteria, we have obtained the following list of selected Study projects. They are therefore allowed to submit a new Test project proposal in the frame of this targeted call:

Project Acronym	Lead Partner	Mission	Priority / S.O.
CARBON 4 SOIL QUALITY	Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (SI)	Protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage	RSO2.7
GREENMO	University of West Attica (EL)	Promoting green living areas	RSO2.4
MAST	Carlo Bo University of Urbino (IT)	Enhancing sustainable tourism	RSO2.6
SMITour	Municipality of Prato (IT)	Enhancing sustainable tourism	RSO1.1

Selected Test projects under this call for proposals may only test outputs that were developed during the previous Study phase.

What are the expected outputs and results?

The projects selected under each mission must develop a set of activities to tackle the identified common challenges and lead to the expected change in the identified key sectors. Activities shall be designed to **fine-tune and test** the outputs and reinforce the results reached during the study phase. Possible types of activities are described in the Programme Manual. (Section "Design the project activities" and Annex "Deliverables list").

Depending on the Specific Objective and what was already developed during the Study phase, selected projects are particularly expected to fine-tune and test solutions and strategies or action plans.

Solutions are methodologies, tools, technologies, services, processes, partnership/cooperation agreements. Acceptable solutions should be jointly developed, tested in real life conditions, easily transferable to further territories of the Programme (include a list of actions needed for it to be taken up or upscaled by further organisations).

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 policies/directives of the topic tackled and be easily transferable.
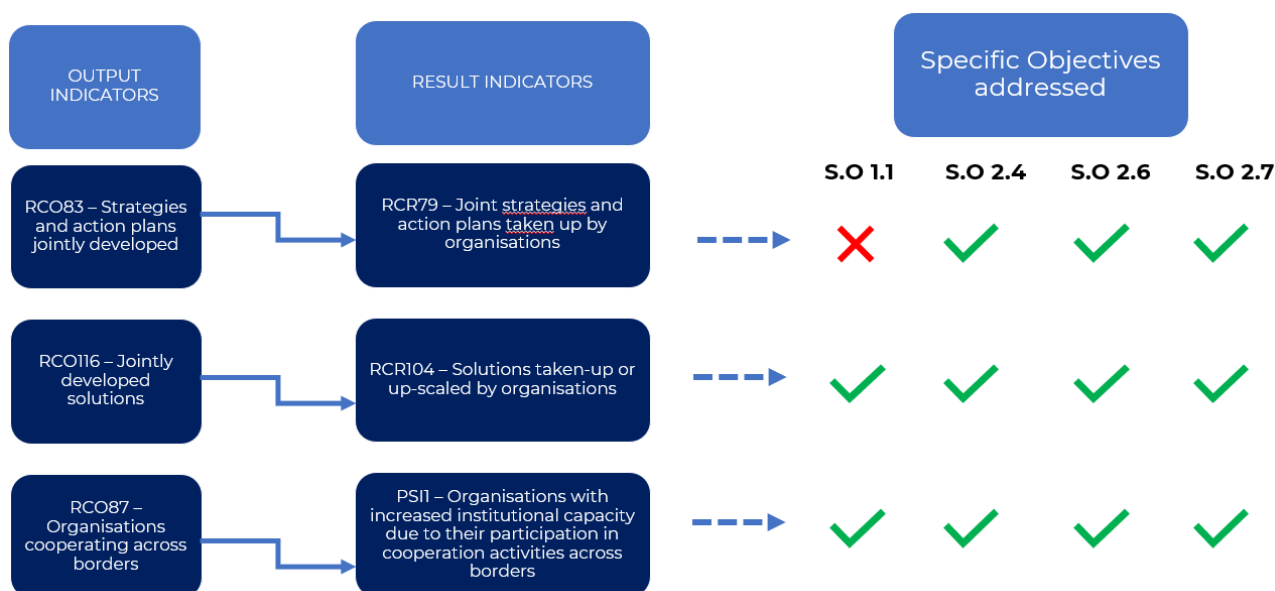
All activities testing outputs and providing results in target areas must be carried out from a transnational perspective. In other words, the final tested output should be transnational in scope, not exclusively local.

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

With the perspective of eventually transitioning to a Test+Transfer project, selected Test projects are expected to anticipate an eventual transfer phase in their Application Form.

Programme indicators

By testing such solutions, strategies and action plans, projects will contribute to the Programme indicators, depending on the S.O. they are applying to. Please consult the Programme Manual (Section Building my project / Designing project activities + Annex Methodology and Indicators template) for defining the project contribution to the Programme 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.

- **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 is not necessarily a direct participant in the project.

- **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 "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 the implementation of the project or at project closure. The organisation adopting the strategies/action plans developed by the project may be or not a direct participant in the project.

What are the targeted areas and target groups?

The interventions planned by the projects must point at **specific pilot areas** for the testing of the developed outputs. They must also point at new specific groups of beneficiaries (target groups), adapted to the new testing activities and pilot areas, in order to maximise their impact in the frame of the objectives pursued by the corresponding mission.

Targeted areas

The Programme targeted area goes beyond its cooperation area 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 the successful testing of the output. The selection must also be coherent with the type of territories selected during the Study phase.

For information on the specific targeted areas per mission, please consult the Terms of Reference of the Call Euro-MED02 of your respective mission.

Target groups

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

Target groups are:

- Public authorities having direct competency in the administrative or operational management of the selected topic
- Sectoral agencies
- Infrastructure and public service providers
- Interest groups including NGOs
- Higher education and research organisations
- Education/training centres and schools
- Business support organisations
- Enterprises, including SMEs
- General public

Coordination with Governance 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.

This implies active participation in group activities and investment in the activities of the governance projects to maximise the impact of project results. The details of these activities are developed by the governance projects that will lead their implementation, but from the outset, 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).

Moreover, the Programme supports the implementation of the Interreg Euro-MED Academy in coordination with Governance projects which serve as a training platform to support the dissemination and transfer of knowledge and results. In this framework,

all thematic projects are expected to participate in the **joint elaboration of pedagogical material**.

For more details on activities to be foreseen, please refer to the Programme Manual, "Designing the project activities" and specially the "**Mandatory activities to be integrated in each proposal**" and "Drawing up my budget" sections.

Technical Data sheet

Financial allocation and project duration

The indicative financial allocation for this call for proposals is **around 8 million euros** in total (6,4M€ of Interreg funds + 1,6M€ of national co-financing).

An estimated number of 4 projects are expected to be selected within this call.

- Total budget per project should not exceed **2 000 000** EUR
- 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).

- **As a minimum, the project partnership must be composed of the same lead partner and two partners of the pre-selected Study project** (eligibility criteria B.2).

- Partners must justify they **have direct ability to intervene** on the targeted pilot territories.

- The Project Partners from the pre-selected Study project that won't take part in the testing activities can be included in the new Test project as Associated Partners.

For Test projects, it is highly recommended to include institutional and operational partners, with direct competence on the field tackled, and should not exceed 10 project partners, following their project management experience (LP in particular).

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[3].

As a preparation for a future transition to a Test + Transfer project, it is recommended that the project includes among the APs organizations that would potentially become PP "receivers" of the tested solution after the transition.

No further restriction 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.

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[3] Cf Programme Manual: definition of "associated partner"

Partners participating in other ongoing project(s) are specifically verified and validated by the National Authorities to ensure their administrative and financial capacity to implement (an) additional project(s).

Key project dates

Starting date of the activities: 01/05/2026

Ending date of all activities: 31/07/2028

Please consider that **activities related to the implementation <u>and to the closure</u>** (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**.

Timeline of the Call

The indicative timetable for the Euro-MED06 targeted call for thematic Strategic Territorial projects is as follows:

Key steps	Dates
JS assessment for Projects' pre-selection for targeted call 06	End November
√ Pre-selection of the Study projects invited to apply	
Opening of the call	08/01/2026 at 13.00 Brussels time
Application Form submission including outputs and validation factsheets in the Application Annexes.	27/02/2026 at 13.00 Brussels time
Transnational information event for the opening of the call (online)	14/01/2026
Submission of mandatory annexes	13/03/2026
National information campaign by the Programme's National Authorities	Following national calendars (if any)
Assessment of proposals (**one step assessment**) + PPs national validation	Between 01/03 and 07 or 08/04
Selection by the Monitoring Committee	In Albania 21 or 22/04/2026 (to be confirmed)

Pre-contracting and contracting procedures	April - June 2026
Starting date of the projects	01/05/2026

Please note that the details of this schedule are subject to change **following the number of proposals submitted** and should be considered as indicative.

Submission of proposals, evaluation and selection procedure

This section describes the procedure for submitting proposals, the assessment and selection processes in the framework of the **Euro-MED06 targeted Call – TEST PROJECTS (FAST LANE PROCESS)**. 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 project's output validation factsheets, partners' declarations and Jems[4] 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.

It is important to be sure that **the email address used** for the account 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 deadlines**:

➡ **The submission of the Application Form, Euro-MED06 targeted Call – TEST PROJECTS (FAST LANE PROCESS), written in English or French, and including the finalized outputs from the pre-selected Study project and all output validation factsheets: to be validated on "Jems" before 27/02/2026, at 13.00 (Brussels time).** (eligibility criterion A.1)

➡ **The submission of mandatory annexes: to be uploaded on Jems before 13/03/2026 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.** Please note that for this call a simplified

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[4] "Jems" is the Interreg Euro-MED on-line mandatory monitoring tool

version of the Application Form is requested (a courtesy version is available on the dedicated page of the call).

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 respective dates provided above (Brussels time):

- For each partner participating (including the LP) in the project: a copy of the partner declaration (or LP) **generated from the Jems system after the submission of the Application Form**. These forms must be **dated** and **signed** by the legal representative of the partner organisation.

- For each of the associated partners (if applicable): a copy of the associated partner declaration, **generated from the Jems system after the submission of the Application Form**. These forms must be **dated** and **signed** by the legal representative of the associated partner organisation.

- For any partner declaring an investment in the AF: a Statement of Capacity and Compliance with the Principles for Investment, **generated from the Jems system after the submission of the Application Form**. These forms must be **dated** and **signed** by the legal representative of the project partner organisation in charge of the implementation of the so-called investment(s).

The absence of any document or an error in its contents will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee and may be included as a condition for the signature of the Subsidy 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.

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

Assessment of project proposals

- **Administrative and eligibility criteria**

The administrative and eligibility check, including the analysis of the outputs of the preceding Study project, is carried out to verify whether an application meets the minimum criteria established by the Programme for the projects of the Call.

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

This phase also includes the assessment of two criteria related to the outputs of the pre-selected Study project:

CRITERION "Submission of Outputs "

All outputs foreseen to be finalised in the AF of the Study project are uploaded in Jems in Application Annexes within the deadline (see section "Timeline of the call"), with the "Output validation factsheet". If the output is not yet available, the most updated draft version of the output and the "output validation factsheet" shall be uploaded.

CRITERION "Indicators relevance"

The output(s) contribute to the Programme output Indicator(s) as established in the Programme Manual (extract of Programme Manual annexes for solution and strategy/action plan per S.O.):

For solutions:

- *the challenge is relevant to the S.O.*
- *the solution was developed with partners from at least 2 programme countries.*
- *its results are available.*
- *it is effective in tackling the challenge;*
- *actions needed for its uptake are clear and complete.*

For strategies and action plans:

- *it contributes to an EU strategy.*
- *it was developed based on a common transnational methodology.*

- *it is clear and complete (objectives, targets, actions needed to achieve the objective, involvement of stakeholders).*

- *actions needed for its uptake are clear and complete (e.g. of actions needed for uptake: stakeholders, target groups and end-users are identified (existence of a mapping, a DTB...); feasibility study to test the output for study to test projects; guidance or a manual or a training scheme or training tool).*

All 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**[5] after the selection of the project, the issues highlighted during the pre-contracting phase and conditions are not fulfilled, the Monitoring Committee may decide to cancel the project or to withdraw the partner concerned (**Annex II**).

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[5] The date to be taken into account for the calculation of the two months is the one of the email sent by **the Joint Secretariat email** notifying the Monitoring 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.0	The proposal corresponds to one of the Study projects pre-selected by the Programme
B.1	The project meets the minimum criteria relating to the composition of the partnership: the project partnership must be composed of partners based in five (5) different countries within the Interreg Euro-MED Programme cooperation area
B.2	The project meets the minimum criteria relating to the composition of the partnership: the same lead partner and two partners of the pre-selected Study project
B.3	The proposal is in line with the category of project open for this Call and the duration and budget allocated for this category
B.4	The selected Programme Mission and Specific Objective are the same of the preselected Study project
C	**Analysis of outputs**
C.1	All outputs foreseen to be finalised in the AF are uploaded in Jems within the deadline or a factsheet if the output is not yet completely finalised.
C.2	The output(s) contribute to the Programme output Indicator(s) as established in the Programme Manual (extract of Programme Manual annexes for solution and strategy/action plan per S.O.).

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, a confirmation of the eligibility and of the legal status of the partner has been received by the competent national authority. The responsible authority of the respective EU Member State has provided a written communication to the MA/JS confirming aforementioned information and, in accordance with Art 22 of the ETC Regulation, its formal acceptance to reimburse any amounts unduly paid for each one of those partners, in accordance with Article 52(2) of ETC regulation.

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, justification for travel and accommodation costs declared as real cost, forecast per semester, distribution of preparation costs, state aid self-assessment).

ANNEX III: List of qualitative assessment criteria

Assessment in 1 phase

The quality assessment will be conducted in a single phase.

The score per assessment question will be calculated on a scale of 5 points, with some sections having a different weight considering their importance in this call:

1. Relevance with Euro-MED context x2
2. Cooperation character x1
3. Intervention logic x1
4. Partnership relevance x2
5. Horizontal Principles x1
6. Work Plan x2
7. Budget x1.

The final maximum score reachable by a proposal is 50 points, equivalent to 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, considering all the elements mentioned as sub-questions.

Assessment:

The threshold for projects to be recommended for approval to the Monitoring Committee by the Joint Secretariat is of **35** out of 50, which corresponds to 70%.

Projects will be selected by the Monitoring Committee, 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 within one mission. A final decision on project approval or rejection is

taken by the Monitoring Committee. Based on their overall score and final ranking, the proposal with the best score will be approved.

The Programme reserves the option to establish a reserve list with the non-selected project proposals; in case there is a future availability of resources that allows for the approval of more projects. In that case, the new projects would have a later starting date and closure date to be determined case-by-case.

Terms of reference – Test projects (Fast Lane call)

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 *How well is a need for the project justified?*	• There is a real need for the project (well justified, reasonable, well explained) • The proposal is linked with the expectations of the call (incl. outputs developed by the Study project). • The project's approach for testing and (or) transferring identified outputs is consistent and can allow to meet the call's objectives			C.2.1 C.2.2 C.2.2
2.Cooperation character *What added value does the transnational cooperation bring?*	• 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.2.4 C.7.5
3.Project Intervention Logic	• 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.			C.1 C.4(only specific objectives

Assessment questions (Main questions)	Guiding principles for the assessment ⮕ To what extent does the project … (Sub questions)	Score	Comment	Sections in AF
To what extent is the project intervention logic relevant?				description)
	▪ The project outputs and results contribute to the Programme indicators – and are in line with the specific objectives and the requirements of the Priority.			A.5
4.Partnership relevance *To what extent is the partnership composition relevant for the proposed project?*	▪ The project involves the relevant actors needed to address the challenge/joint asset for territorial development and the objectives specified for the mission tackled.			C.3
	▪ Partners have direct competencies to implement the pilot activities in their territory.			
	▪ The project partnership: - is balanced with respect to the levels, sectors, territory - consists of partners that complement each other - each partner plays a defined role			B.1
	▪ 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 has demonstrated capacity/competence in coordinating the project action and the partnership.			B.1 C.7.1
	▪ Associated partners have a defined role and bring added value. APs identified as "receivers" of a future Test+Transfer project are relevant for the transferring of the outputs, and with direct competence on the field tackled and on policy implementation.			B.1

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Terms of reference – Test projects (Fast Lane call)

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 *What is the project's impact on horizontal principles?*	▪ 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	PRE Application	FULL Application
6. Work plan *To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent?*	▪ Proposed activities and deliverables are relevant and lead to planned outputs and results			C.4		√
	▪ 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)			C.5		√
				C.6		√
	▪ Distribution of tasks among partners is appropriate (e.g. sharing of tasks is clear, logical, in line with partners' role in the project, etc.)			C.7.3		√
	▪ Time plan is realistic, and activities, deliverables and outputs are in a logical time-sequence.			D		√
				C.8.2		√
	▪ Communication activities (and deliverables) are appropriate to reach the relevant target groups and stakeholders			C.8.3		√

Assessment questions	Guiding principles for the assessment ☐ To what extent does the project …	Score	Comments	Sections in AF	PRE Application	FULL Application
	▪ Project outputs are durable (the proposal is expected to provide a significant and durable contribution to solving the challenges targeted)-if not needs to be justified ▪ The project presents a relevant plan for test evaluation and a potential transferring phase					
7. Budget *To what extent is the budget coherent, proportionate, realistic and valuable?*	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?	*(comment without score)*		Full AF		