



European Territorial Cooperation 2007-2013
Cross Border Cooperation Programme Italy-Malta 2007 - 2013

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1. IDENTIFICATION

Operational Programme	Objective concerned:	European Territorial Cooperation
	Eligible area concerned:	Italy - Malta
	Programming Period:	2007/2013
	Programme number:	CCI 2007 CB 163 PO 037
	Programme title:	Operational Programme Italy-Malta 2007/2013
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2. OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

2.1 Results and analysis of the progress

2.1.1 Material progress of the Operational Programme

The programme indicators as envisaged by the OP that highlight the achieved objectives in comparison to the significant achievements of the Operational Programme are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1.A Degree of projects cooperation within the programme context

LEVEL OF COOPERATION OF PROJECTS AT PROGRAMME LEVEL						
Programme Indicators	Unit of measure *	Baseline	Target	Progress		
				2009	2010	2011
Projects that respect at least two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint personnel, joint financing	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	20%	0	0	6%
Projects that respect at least three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staff, joint financing.	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	55%	0	0	12%
Projects that respect all of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staff, joint financing.	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	25%	0	0	82%

The table highlights the percentage of approved operations (17 projects) that have proposed the activation of one of 4 modes of cooperation as provided for in Art. 19 of Reg. 1083/2006 in accordance with the project management.

In detail, based on the data entered by the lead partner in the project proposal of Section A.4 of the Application Form for the selection of ordinary projects, the cooperation mode for each approved operation guaranteed during the project implementation, is being recorded (joint development, joint implementation, joint staff, joint financing).

Taking into consideration that the minimum condition of eligibility for approval of an ordinary cooperation project foresaw the observance of least two of the expected four cooperation modes, it should be noted that 82% (15 ordinary projects) from the 17 operations approved in accordance with the Notice for ordinary projects have ensured compliance with all the cooperation modes provided for by Community legislation.

The data in relation to the high degree of cooperation in the projects, apart from confirming the full achievement of the targets set by the operational programme which projected a percentage of 25% of the funded projects, confirms that there are high levels of enthusiasm and a spirit of pro-activeness among the beneficiaries taking part in the Cooperation, who, as shown by the institutional networks that have already been established through the previous Italy-Malta 2004-2006 cooperation programme, have provided mature and concrete project proposals capable of achieving the OP targets.

Below is a progress list achieved as at the 31/12/2011 in accordance to the cooperation degree, at programme level, which have been recorded through the examination and investigation of the initial request for reimbursement submitted by the lead partners of the ordinary projects.

Table 1.B Degree of projects' cooperation within the programme context

NATURE OF COOPERATION AT PROGRAMME LEVEL						
Programme Indicators	Unit of measure *	Baseline	Target	Progress		
				2009	2010	2011
Projects that promote the use of common infrastructure	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	10%	0	0	12%
Projects that develop partnerships in the public services sector	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	15%	0	0	6%
Projects that reduce insularity through better transport accessibility, ICT networks and services	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	15%	0	0	0%
Projects that encourage and improve the protection and common management of the environment	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	20%	0	0	12%
Projects that contribute to the management of natural and anthropic risks	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	10%	0	0	6%
Projects that promote R & ST and innovative networks	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	10%	0	0	0%
Projects that jointly promote tourism in the cross-border area	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	20%	0	0	0%
Public institutions (regional, local) that cooperate on a cross-border level	Number	0	100%	0	0	18%

The first indicator shows a percentage equal to 12%, which corresponds to 2 operations that promote the shared use of infrastructure. In particular, the following projects are noted:

- THE HUB Axis I – specific target 1.1 – which through the provision of a public space for the project's needs by the City of Syracuse partner has allowed the initiation of the Sicily-Malta HUB implementation.
- PANACEA Axis II - specific target 2.2 that, within the context of the structures of a number of project partners - Province of Syracuse, Province of Palermo, Municipality of Lampedusa and City of St. Lawrence - have identified the creation of 4 CEA "Environmental educational centres" for the initiation of the pilot project related to raising awareness and contextual presentation of the characteristic elements of protected marine areas.

The second indicator shows a percentage equal to 6%, which corresponds to 1 operation for the partnership development in public services. In particular, the following project is noted:

- CALYPSO Axis II - specific target 2.3 that has secured the involvement of 6 public partnerships as part of the activities defining the technical characteristics of radars to be installed in the Strait of Sicily;

The fourth indicator shows a percentage equal to 12%, corresponding to 2 operations encouraging and enhancing the protection and joint management of the environment. In particular, the following projects are noted:

- THE HUB Axis I - specific target 1.1 - which involved 10 from the 60 companies, associations and entities which are aware of the HUB ethics with regards to the respect and management of the environment.
- PANACEA Axis II - specific target 2.2 - that has already involved 30 public and private entities that have been reached by awareness raising activities carried out as part of the project's activities;

The fifth indicator shows a percentage equally to 6%, corresponding to 1 operation contributing to the management of natural and human risks. In particular, the following project is noted:

- CALYPSO Axis II - specific target 2.3 in relation to the 1×10^{10} square metres surface area in securing the Strait of Sicily

The eighth indicator shows a percentage equal to 12%, corresponding to 2 operations recording the number of public institutions (regional and local) cooperating on a cross-border level. In particular, the following projects are noted:

- THE HUB Axis I - specific target 1.1 - which involved 5 from the 8 expected associations, which are aware of the HUB ethics with regards to the respect and management of the environment.
- CALYPSO Axis II - specific objective 2.3 which involved 6 cross-border area institutions;

2.1.2 Financial information

Table 2 Financial data

PRIORITY	OP TOTAL FUNDS (EU AND NATIONAL) €	EU CONTRIBUTION CALCULATION BASIS (PUBLIC OR TOTAL COST)	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY RECIPIENTS €	CORRESPONDING PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION €	IMPLEMENTATION RATE (%)
	A	B	C	D	E= D/A
Axis I - Competitiveness: innovation and research, sustainable development	17,379,445	P	897,502	897,502	5%
Axis II - Environment, energy and risk prevention	15,960,715	P	925,045	925,045	6%
Axis III - Technical assistance, awareness, communication and advertising	2,128,095	P	599,052	599,052	28%
TOTAL	35,468,255		2,421,599	2,421,599	7%

2.1.3 Information regarding the Funds usage breakdown

Table 3: Classification Sheet

Target	Priority theme	Types of financing	Territory	Economic activity	Location	Planned Community Contribution	Allocated Community Contribution
CTE	1 - R & TD activities in research centres	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,808,881	735,959
CTE	2 - R & TD infrastructures (<i>including physical installations, equipment and high-speed computer networks linking research centres</i>) and competence centres related to a specific technology	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,507,401	1,419,673
CTE	3 - Technology transfers and improvement of cooperation networks between small businesses (SMEs), between the said small businesses (SMEs) and other businesses and universities, post-secondary education institutions of all kinds, regional authorities, research centres and scientific and technological entities (<i>science and technology parks, technopolis, etc.</i>)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,205,921	1,164,793
CTE	11 - Information and communication technologies (<i>access, security, interoperability, risk prevention, research, innovation, digital content, etc.</i>)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	904,441	0
CTE	13 - Services and applications for citizens (online health services, e-government, e-learning, e-Inclusion, etc.)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	904,441	593,592
CTE	14 - Services and applications for SMEs (<i>e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.</i>)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	904,441	0
CTE	26 - Multimodal Transport	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	602,960	0
CTE	30 - Ports	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	753,700	0
CTE	40 - Renewable energy: solar	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	4,220,722	0
CTE	43 - Energy efficiency, cogeneration, energy management	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	2,411,841	499,543

CTE	44 - Management of household and industrial waste	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,205,921	0
CTE	45 - Water management and distribution (<i>drinking water</i>)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	904,441	0
CTE	46 - Water treatment (<i>waste water</i>)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	301,480	688,473
CTE	48 - Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	602,960	0
CTE	51 - Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (<i>including Natura 2000</i>)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,205,921	2,286,488
CTE	52 - Promotion of clean urban transport	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	602,960	0
CTE	53 - Prevention of risks (<i>including development and implementation of plans and measures for the prevention and management of natural and technological hazards</i>)	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,205,921	1,650,588
CTE	54 - Other measures for the preservation of the environment and the prevention of risks	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	904,441	734,706
CTE	55 - Promotion of natural resources	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,055,181	936,054
CTE	56 - Protection and enhancement of natural heritage	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,205,921	636,108
CTE	58 - Protection and enhancement of cultural heritage	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,356,660	1,160,094
CTE	63 - Development and dissemination of more innovative and productive work organization methods	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	452,220	0
CTE	74 - Development of human potential in research and innovation, notably through post-graduate studies and training of researchers, together with networking activities between universities, research centres and enterprises	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	753,700	0
CTE	80 - Promotion of partnerships, agreements and initiatives through the	04 - Other types	08 - Areas of	00 - Not	Cross-border	753,700	243,923

	shareholders' networking	of financing	cross-border cooperation	applicable			
CTE	81 - Mechanisms aimed at improving the planning of effective policies and programmes, and for the monitoring and evaluation of local capacity building and implementation of policies and programmes on the national, regional and local levels	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	602,960	0
CTE	85 - Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	1,205,921	667,664
CTE	86 - Evaluation and studies; information and communication	04 - Other types of financing	08 - Areas of cross-border cooperation	00 - Not applicable	Cross-border	602,960	139,441

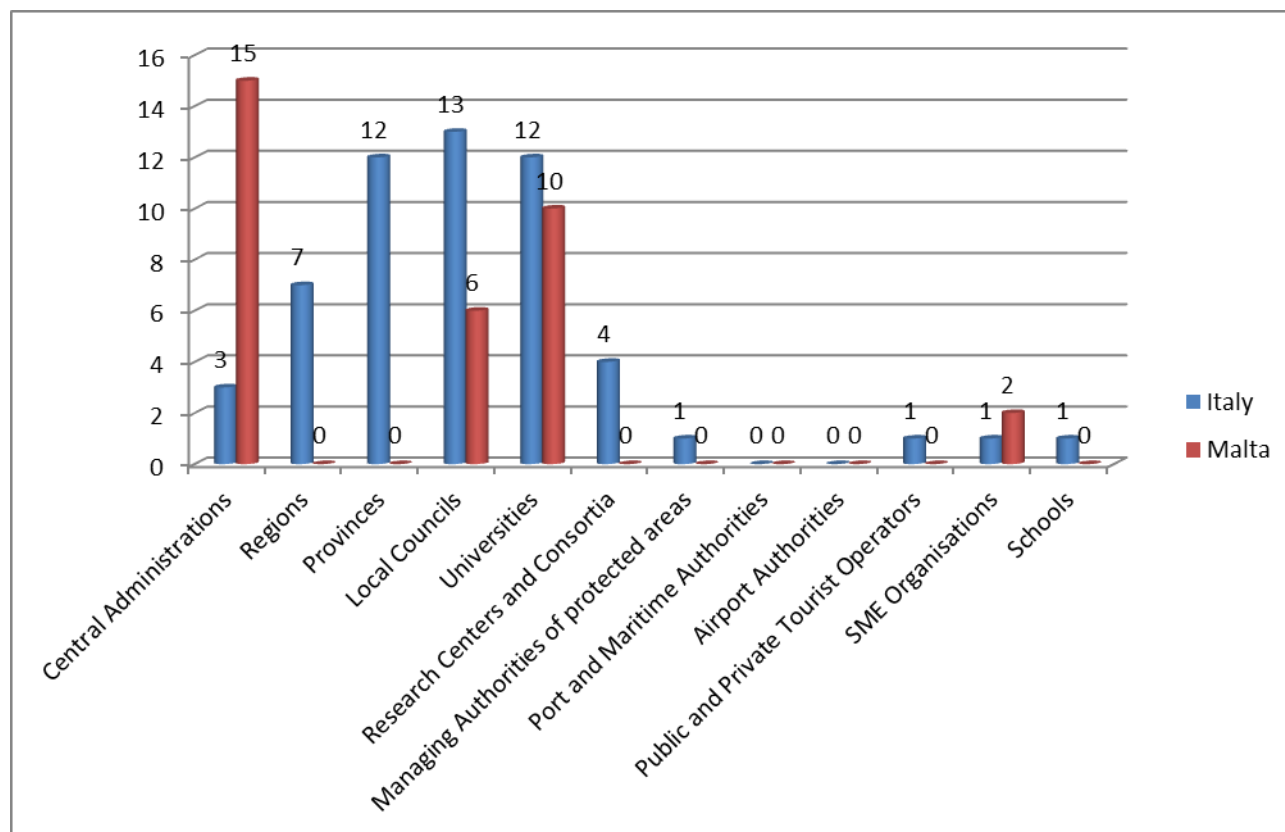
2.1.4 Progress achieved in the financing and implementation of financial engineering instruments under Art. 44

The Italy-Malta Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 has not activated any type of financial engineering instrument.

2.1.5 Assistance categorised according to beneficiary groups

During 2011, several activities pertaining to ordinary projects were undertaken. These saw the involvement of 88 beneficiaries from the eligible territories, 55 of which were Italian and 33 were Maltese. Based on the information contained in the OP implementation manual, the call for ordinary projects has guaranteed the participation of potential beneficiaries who have their head and/or secondary office, including their administrative office, in the area eligible for the programme. The call also guaranteed the participation of the following groups of beneficiaries in the programme. In particular, regarding Priority Axis 1 “Competitiveness: Innovation and Research, Sustainable Development” the call involved the participation of central and local public administrations, universities, research centres and consortia, entities managing protected marine areas, maritime and port authorities, airport authorities, public and private tourism operators and SME organizations. Regarding Priority Axis 2 “Environment, Energy and Risk Prevention”, the call involved the participation of central and local public administrations, universities, research centres and consortia, entities managing protected areas, maritime and port authorities, consortia and local development agencies. The chart shown below illustrates the stratification of beneficiaries who received financial support under the first call for ordinary projects.

Chart no. 1 - Stratification of beneficiaries



The chart brings together, as groups of recipients, all the beneficiaries who received funding under Axes I and II of the Programme, thereby making it possible for them to be analysed in respect of three main factors:

- Stratification according to category;
- The level of participation;
- The degree of private involvement.

Regarding the stratification of the beneficiaries according to category, the graph highlights the maximum participation by the Sicilian provinces, which are all involved in various capacities in work related to ordinary projects. A similar involvement can also be observed on the Maltese side, which, lacking regional and provincial structures in its administrative system, participated in the call for ordinary projects through a strong presence by its central administrations, which were involved 15 times in the funded ordinary projects. An equally significant presence was registered with regard to the science and research fields, both in Sicily and in Malta. In particular, Sicilian and Maltese universities and research centres and consortia were involved 16 and 10 times respectively, in the ordinary funded projects.

Regarding the level of participation, attention is directed towards what emerges from the chart in relation to the lack of participation in projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects by Sicilian and Maltese maritime and aviation authorities. In fact, in response to the presence within the OP of the Objective 1.2 “Improving cross-border accessibility and strengthening transport systems with low environmental impact” in which the above-mentioned authorities would have been able to participate fully in the selection procedures, it should be noted that no project was placed usefully in a favourable position for funding under the first call for ordinary projects. This lack of participation in Priority Axis I was again repeated in the first call for strategic project proposals.

Finally, with regard to the degree of involvement of private entities, in line with the Operational Programme Italy-Malta 2007-2013, private entities have participated in the implementation of operations as project partners justifying, through adequate motivations and information, the added value for their participation. Under the first call for ordinary projects, a total of 6 private entities, including 4 Italian entities (Research Centre of Applied Economics at the *Ingegneria di Catania*, *Legambiente Comitato Regionale Siciliano onlus*, *Confcooperative Siracusa* and *GiriTravel srl*) and 2 Maltese entities (Maltese Italian Chamber of Commerce, *Organizzazzjoni Produttori Għeneb Għall-Inbid Malta*) participate in the funded operations. The presence of private partners concerns 6 different ordinary projects out of a total of 17 funded operations. The important presence of the private component is certainly attributable to an interest in the territory in respect of initiatives designed to influence the development of the territories involved, and for which the active components of economic development recognize growth elements with regard to opportunities for local development.

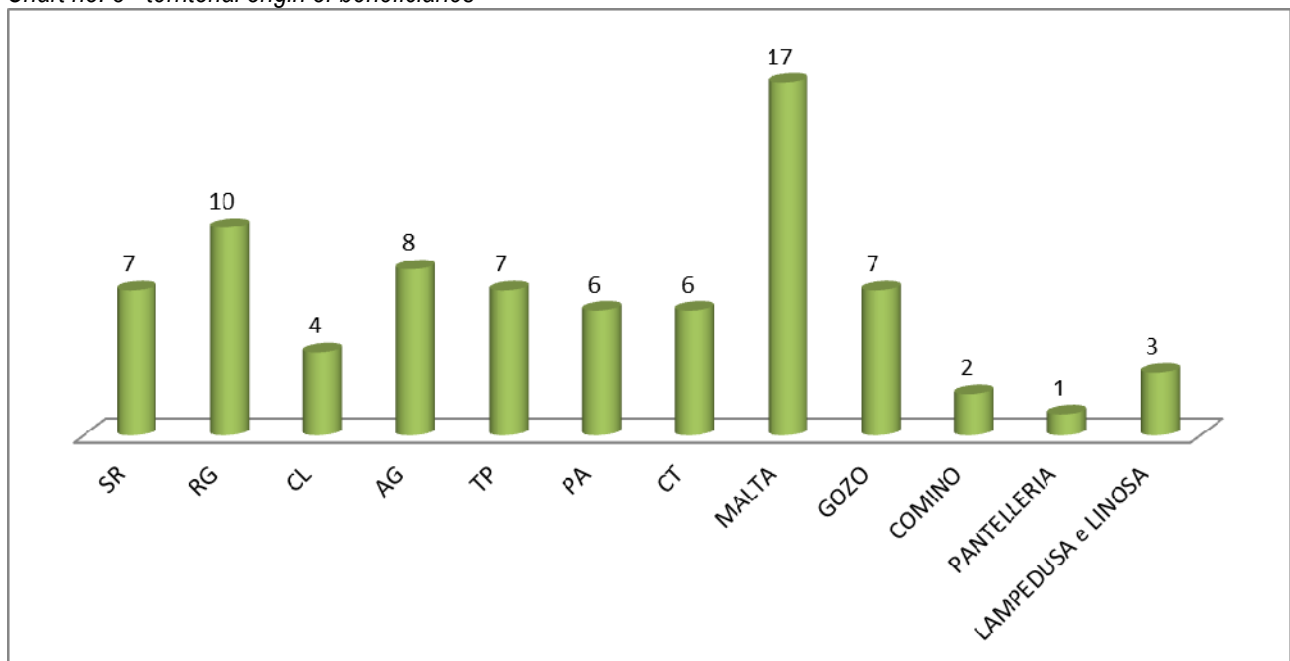
The table below gives an account of the categories of beneficiaries, with reference to the axes, objectives and projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects.

Graph no. 2 - Categories of Italian and Maltese beneficiaries in respect of the call for ordinary projects

	Axis I								Axis II								TOTALE	
	Sp. Obj. 1.1				Sp. Obj. 1.3				Sp. Obj. 2.1				Sp. Obj. 2.2		Sp. Obj. 2.3			Sp. Obj. 2.4
	The hub	T-Cheesimal	PROMED	LITHOS	ARCHAEOTUR	GARDMED	OBIMED	SIBIT	MORISO	PANA CEA	REMASI	SIMBIOTIC	RESI	CALYPSO	RESPIRA	VAMOS SEGURO		WATER FRONT
Central Administrations			1	1	2		1	1	2		1	1	1	3	2	2		18
Regions		1	1	1	1				2					1				7
Provinces				1			5		2				2				2	12
Local Councils	1		2		4	2	3	1	2	1	1					1	1	19
Universities	2	2	1	1		2	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1		2	22
Research Centers and Consortia			1						1				1	1				4
Managing Authorities of protected areas										1								1
Port and Maritime Authorities																		0
Airport Authorities																		0
Public and Private Transport Operators					1													1
NGO Organizations	1		1				1											3
Schools	1																	1

As regards the areas affected by the actions of the operational programme, it would be appropriate to point out that in the call for ordinary projects all funded projects included the acceptance of entities belonging to all OP eligible areas. In particular, the Italian beneficiaries from the NUTS III neighbouring border areas, eligible for funding under Art. 7(1) of Reg. 1083/2006 were the provinces of Agrigento, Caltanissetta, Ragusa, Siracusa and Trapani. The Maltese beneficiary was the entire State of Malta (the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino). The beneficiaries from the adjacent NUTS III areas eligible for funding pursuant to Art. 21(1) of Reg. 1080/2006, were the provinces of Catania and Palermo.

The graph below illustrates the territorial origin of beneficiaries funded under the first call for ordinary projects.
Chart no. 3 - territorial origin of beneficiaries



With reference to the territorial origin of the beneficiaries, it would be appropriate to highlight two important aspects:

- The territorial coverage of the entire programme area;
- The consistent presence of territories belonging to neighbouring NUTS III cross-border areas.

As regards territorial coverage, the above chart shows a relatively good participation throughout the entire Programme eligible territory. Furthermore, a number of project proposals emerged as well from the ultra-peripheral territories including the smaller Sicilian islands (Lampedusa, Linosa and Pantelleria), and the Maltese islands of Gozo and Comino.

Regarding the NUTS III adjacent areas, a significant representation of entities belonging to the territories of Palermo and Catania should be noted. Such a presence may be appropriately considered in the future, during the programming period 2014-2020 if such consideration is approved by the appointed task force working group.

2.1.5.1 Information regarding the application of Art. 21 of Reg. (EC) 1080/2006

The eligible area of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP on the Italian side is formed not only by NUTS III border areas of the Sicily Region (the Regional Provinces of Ragusa, Siracusa, Agrigento, Caltanissetta and Trapani), but also by the NUTS III adjacent areas through the Regional Provinces of Catania and Palermo, to the extent permitted by Community legislation which provides for the opportunity of allocating up to 20% of OP ERDF resources.

The call for the selection of ordinary projects approved by the OP Executive Committee has, in accordance with Art. 21(1) of Reg. (EC) 1080/2006, provided for the *principle of territorial affiliation* for the beneficiaries of the adjacent NUTS III areas (Catania and Palermo). According to this principle such beneficiaries participate in the implementation of the project with a financial allocation that must remain below the 20% threshold of the ERDF funding required by the operation. However, so as to ensure the involvement of the main institutional entities falling within the NUTS III areas of Catania and Palermo performing their institutional activities for the benefit of the entire region (universities, state institutions and regional bodies), the same call has provided for the principle of *localization of activities*.

The principle provides, for beneficiaries belonging to adjacent areas that wish to avail themselves of it, the ability to incur expenses in the areas bordering the area of cooperation without any limitations on the use of the ERDF. While remaining closely tied to the effective utilization of the ERDF in favour of neighbouring areas, this possibility has requested an analysis and evaluation of the types of costs eligible for operations funding in order to verify their compatibility with respect to the aforementioned principle of *localization of activities*.

Based on the findings of the evaluation process, the Executive Committee has accepted to finance 8 proposed projects, out of the approved 17, which have an impact in the NUTS III adjacent areas of Catania and Palermo.

So as to ensure that the financial data related to the planned ERDF in the adjacent Zone IIIs is respected during the implementation of the operations, the MA has provided, with the support of the JTS, a system that allows the possibility to, among other things, associate to each item of documentary evidence of expenditure and payment the reference to the NUTS III area to which the expenditure relates in the supporting documentation for OP beneficiaries for the reporting and monitoring of expenditure. Therefore, in the claim for reimbursement templates Sheet III - Table 2, it is possible to consolidate the details relating to an operation with the expenditure reported by each beneficiary of an operation, divided according to "expense item" in relation to the Work Packages of the project and the adjacent NUTS III Areas of Catania and Palermo. This verification methodology allows the first level control office of the Italian side, which carries out the verification of expenditure pursuant to Art. 16 of Reg. 1080/2006, to detect the exact amount of verified expenditure used

for the adjacent OP territories in relation to the ERDF percentage used for NUTS III areas approved by the Steering Committee for each operation.

Such financial information is also recorded in the “request for reimbursement ” (Annex II, table 1) that the lead partner submits to the MA to request reimbursement of expenses that have been verified and validated by the MA pursuant to Art. 20(b) of Reg. 1083/2006.

The table below shows the ERDF percentage approved by the Executive Committee in adjacent NUTS III areas in comparison to the percentage which was already verified and validated on 31/12/2011:

Table 3: list of approved projects in the adjacent NUTS III OP areas

PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OPERATION	BENEFICIARY	NUTS III AREA PALERMO	NUTS III AREA CATANIA	APPROVED ERDF PERCENTAGE IN ADJACENT AREAS	PERCENTAGE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIARIES AS AT THE 31/12/2011
1	1.3	GARDMED A1.1.3-02	LP - University of Catania - Department of Biological Sciences and Environmental Geology		x	17.58%	6.35%
1	1.1	LITHOS A1.1.1-10	PP 2 - University of Palermo - Department of History and Architectural Design	X		3%	0%
			PP 3 - Regional Department for Cultural Heritage - Regional Centre for Design and Restoration, and for Natural and Applied Science for Cultural Heritage	X			
2	2.1	MORISO A1.2.1-73	LP - Sicily Region - Department of Infrastructural Interventions in Agriculture	X		16.23%	0.08%
			PP 2 - University of Catania - Department of Food Farming and Environmental Systems Management		x		
			PP 3 - Centre for Studies in Economics Applied to Engineering - CSEI		x		
2	2.1	PANACE A A1.2.1-57	PP 2 - Regional Province of Palermo	X		20%	0%
1	1.1	ProMed A1.1.1-42	LP - Regional Institute of Vines and Wine	X		7.55%	0.43%
			PP 2 - Centre for Studies in Economics Applied to Engineering - CSEI		x		
2	2.1	REMASI A1.2.1-16	PP 2 - Legambiente onlus Sicilian Regional Committee	X		15.33%	0%
			PP 3 - University of Palermo	X			

2	2.3	VAMOS SEGUR O A1.2.3- 62	LP - National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, Catania branch		x	20%	5.79%
			PP2 - National Institute of Astrophysics		x		
2	2.4	WATER FRON A1.2.4- 67	PP 2 - Regional Province of Palermo	X		12.84%	0%
			PP 3 - City of Palermo	X			
			PP 4 - University of Palermo	X			
ERDF adjacent areas /OP ERDF						6%	

The table analysis indicates that under the first call for the selection of ordinary projects, the ERDF percentage benefiting the adjacent territories of Palermo and Catania amounted to 6% of the total OP ERDF.

2.1.6 Repaid or re-used assistance

During the reference year, the Certifying Authority did not effect any reduction in payments pursuant to Art. 57 and 98.2 of Reg. (EC) 1083/2006.

2.1.7 Qualitative Analysis

In 2011, the action of the Managing Authority of the Cross Border Cooperation Programme Italy-Malta 2007-2013, supported by the Maltese National Coordination Authority, ensured the correct management and implementation of the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management of available resources.

In particular, during 2011, the programme's activities focused on the following macro actions:

- a) Launch of the selection and evaluation process for strategic projects in accordance with Axes I and II of the OP;
- b) Implementation of ordinary projects in accordance with Axes I and II of the OP;
- c) Implementation of technical assistance activities and fulfilment of the communication plan, in accordance with Axis III of the PO.

With reference to the selection and evaluation of strategic projects, during 2011 the OP Monitoring Committee approved the priorities and criteria for the selection of these projects, through a written procedure which was concluded on the 13 June 2011. The successful conclusion of this procedure has enabled the Maltese National Coordination Authority to convene the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, which was held on 21-22 June 2011, during which the Managing Authority explained the contents of the first call for the selection of strategic projects and the Joint Technical Secretariat presented the forms attached to the mentioned call (OP implementation manual, concept note, application form, the guidelines for filling in the documents, letters of intent and co-financing). The approval of the call by the Executive Committee and the subsequent sharing of the same with the equality opportunities and environment authorities allowed the launch of the first call for the selection of strategic projects - Phase 1 - published in the Official Gazette of the Sicilian Region on the 1 July 2011 and in the mainstream media and official websites in Sicily and Malta. The notice has provided a budget amounting to €10,625,000 of ERDF resources, of which €4,250,000 for Axis I and

With regard to the implementation of ordinary projects, during 2011, the Managing Authority, in joint collaboration with the MNCA, ensured a smooth start to the operations of 17 projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects. In particular, following the considerations of the Monitoring Committee during the meeting held on the 6 December 2010 that approved a funding proposal and allocation of financial resources for some specific objectives, the Executive Committee instructed the MA to verify the re-shape of the 17 project proposals, in accordance with the indications that emerged during the evaluation phase. This verification, seconded by the contribution of the Joint Technical Secretariat and by the Contact Point at the Maltese National Coordination Authority, which in January 2011 were engaged in face to face meetings with the lead partners to ensure that these received the necessary support in the re-shape of the budget planning, was concluded on the 2 February 2011 and allowed the 17 project proposals to be eligible for funding.

During the two months of March and April 2011, the MA, which was continuously supported by the JTS, together with the MNCA, finalised the draft Partnership Agreement template to be signed between project partners (in Italian and English). The model was duly notified to the lead partners of the approved projects through notice 7293 dated 21/04/2011. The MA has presented the Partnership Agreement (in Italian and English) through notice 10536 dated 13/6/2011 during the month of June 2011.

The two-month period from July to August 2011 saw the JTS engaged in a constant exercise of sharing and support with the lead partners of the 17 projects approved for financing for the compilation and validation of data to be included within the 17 subsidy contracts. Given the regulatory framework of the Sicilian region, the MA has submitted to the competent Court of Auditors – the Section for the control regarding legality of Acts of the Sicilian Region - the 17 subsidy contracts signed with the lead partners which have been duly registered and validated during the quarter running from September to November 2011.

Following the registration of the subsidy contracts by the Court of Auditors, the Management Authority initiated the procedures for the 20% advance payment of the ERDF amounts with respect to Maltese project partners and the ERDF + CPN amounts with respect to Italian project partners, in accordance with the OP Manual.

The Sicilian Regional Council of Government, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 as amended by Regulation (EC) 284/2009 and in order to standardize the advance payment percentages provided by the various lines of action of the 2007-2013 ERDF OP, established the rate of advance payments at 50% of the total aid to be granted to every project partner.

Based on this resolution (resolution no. 203 dated 5 August 2011), in order to enable the harmonization of administrative and accounting procedures, the Programme Authorities of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP has deemed it fit to allow the lead partners of the approved projects to ask the Management Authority for an advance payment of up to a maximum of 50% of the total public contribution (ERDF for Maltese entities and ERDF + CPN for Italian entities) following the verification of conformity assessed on the basis of the commitments taken up by each beneficiary. Following the approval of said provision by the Court of Auditors, the MA has committed itself to ensure payment of the further 30% after verifying the beneficiaries' commitment levels.

Together with the administrative and financial requirements, the departments responsible for the OP management, through the Joint Technical Secretariat, have granted to the beneficiaries of the ordinary projects the necessary support for the proper initiation of activities, ensuring the organization and implementation of specific meetings during the months of July and September 2011, aimed at informing the

beneficiaries about the requirements needed for achieving the project life cycle: monitoring, reporting, first-level checks, refunds and the achievement of the spending and fulfilment targets with regard to information and publicity. On Maltese territory, beneficiaries received similar support for their respective obligations in terms of monitoring, reporting and control. With particular reference to the first level control activities, in line with the manual for the reporting of expenses, the Maltese beneficiaries sent the claim templates together with the supporting documentation to the respective auditors, who validated it, in accordance with the same rules and national and Community regulations, by completing the appropriate checklists and issuing an audit certificate. The first level controls were carried out by an auditor from among those listed in the MFEI Register of Accountants/Auditors. These controllers/auditors were identified by the respective Maltese beneficiaries on the basis of national public procurement procedures. Following the first level control, the expenses were sent to the Funds and Programmes Division for further verification. Following the checks carried out in line with the manual for the reporting of expenses, the FPD issued an audit certificate for each project in relation to the amount verified. Such activities have guaranteed the MA with the correct receipt of the procedural, physical and financial monitoring of the funded projects, as at 31 August 2011 and 31 December 2011 respectively, and the receipt of the first request for reimbursement submitted by the lead partners. The latter have provided a request for reimbursement amounting to €1,822,547.76 in claims for Axes I and II of the Operational Programme.

As regards the implementation of technical assistance plan, during 2011, the MA of the Operational Programme initiated and concluded the identification procedure for the third JTS member, following the resignation of one of the previously selected members. In particular, following the notice validity verification for the selection of 1 member of the Joint Technical Secretariat published in the Official Gazette of the Region of Sicily of the 30 July 2010 and on the mainstream media and official web sites in Sicily and Malta, during the month of November 2011, the MA has provided for the conclusion of negotiations with the new member through the implementation of the abovementioned ratings.

As from the 21 November 2011, the Maltese Information Executive who acted as the contact point of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP within the Maltese National Coordination Authority was assigned the role of Project Manager within the same MNCA. During December 2011, the Maltese Public Service Commission launched a new selection procedure to identify a new contact point. The selection process was concluded in 2012 through the identification of a person who will carry out the activities required by the programme's function, in accordance with the respective contract.

During 2011, the MA initiated and completed the public consultation process for the acquisition of goods and services related to the organisation of committees, seminars and events to be fulfilled during the programming period. The MA has concluded the public procedure for a long list of auditors for the validation of expenses in connection with Axis I and Axis II undertaken during 2010, thereby following up on the recommendation of the European Commission with regard to the advice on conformity of the system of management and control of the OP as in the note 6015 of July 2010. In addition, during the year, the MA, taking into consideration the state of its implementation and application modalities of the General Regulation 1083/2006, with special reference to the invocation of the principle of proportionality which is also related to the programme evaluation, has proposed the opportunity to approve an update of the evaluation plan to the Monitoring Committee.

This proposal was based on the opportunity to carry out an assessment regarding the quality, effectiveness, coherence, strategy and implementation of the Programme, taking into account all the OP priority axes, and also provided for an update of the timeframe for the implementation of the interim evaluation, which was set for the month of June 2012. This proposal, which was shared with the Maltese National Coordination Authority,

was approved by the Programme's Monitoring Committee through a written procedure which was concluded on the 13/06/2011. During the following session held on the 6 December 2011, the Monitoring Committee approved the scopes of the abovementioned interim evaluation, which were mainly related to the OP strategic axes capacity, the distribution of resources within the objectives' context and the approved operations programming, as well as the approval for the creation of a working group to define the issues on which it will base itself the new OP strategic architecture for the period 2014-2020. During the same meeting of the Monitoring Committee, the Managing Authority, with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat, outlined the road map activities and obligations related to the selection of strategic projects and the activities related to the implementation of ordinary projects that have secured compliance with the planned schedule for 2011 for achieving spending targets and that will allow the achievement of a similar performance for the year 2012. These performance levels for 2011 have also been secured through the activities and the expenses implemented by, the OP's MA and by the Maltese National Coordination Authority, which have secured a statement of expenditure amounting to €599,051.73 in relation to Axis III of the Operational Programme.

With reference to the implementation of the communication plan, during 2011 the OP's Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat, in joint collaboration with MNCA, have been engaged in constant informational and support activities in favour of the beneficiaries of the projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects. In particular, during the months of February, July and August 2011, meetings were held with the beneficiaries of the ordinary projects, both in Sicily and Malta, regarding eligibility of expenditure, obligations related to information and publicity and reporting procedures. In addition, in conjunction with the publication of the Notice for strategic projects, ample space was given to the information, advertising and communication activities through the organisation of specialised events, both in Sicily and in Malta. In particular, a launch event and specific info days held during the month of July 2011 held on both sides of the territory served to advertise and inform potential beneficiaries regarding the call's main themes. The information and support activity was also ensured through the creation of a dedicated section on the site www.italiamalta.eu, the activation of a FAQ section within the same site, which serves to provide real-time answers to questions from potential beneficiaries, as well as the creation of a discussion forum regarding the issues and problems related to the notice. Specific information sections were also created on the Programme's official website (section dedicated to the MC, ordinary and strategic projects sections, and section for downloading the OP logos) and new *utilities* such as calendar events, a counter and a job opportunities section were implemented. The support activities for the beneficiaries have been ensured through the drawing up, the publication and dissemination of manuals to be used by the beneficiaries, among which the expenditure reporting manual, guidelines for requirements regarding information and publicity, guidelines for proper completion of the formats for reporting and reimbursement of expenses, the completion of monitoring, the correct drafting of concept notes and the Application Form for the submission of strategic projects. A field survey data analysis was conducted during 2011 among potential beneficiaries of the programme. Such field survey is considered the first test whose objective was the information level measurement of potential beneficiaries regarding access opportunities and methods, in particular related to the resources of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Operational Programme, and the level of awareness with respect the added value of the EU in regional development policies. Based on the information contained in the OP communication plan (Section 7.2), the investigation focused on three main areas: the role of the European Union and of regional development policies, through which it was intended to investigate the knowledge level in relation to policies and actions undertaken by the European Union in the period 2007-2013, the perception of their added value and the confidence level in relation to the effectiveness of these interventions, the role of the Structural Funds (ERDF in particular), understood as knowledge and awareness of the opportunities offered by the Structural

Funds for territorial development, the access modalities to resources and the objectives of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP, in relation to the level of knowledge and awareness of the mechanisms of the Operational Programme and the methods for accessing resources. A number of impact indicators and their baselines were defined from the survey results to determine an intervention strategy aimed to the activities provided by the communication plan of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Programme. These indicators were approved by the Monitoring Committee of the programme through a written procedure which was concluded on the 13/06/2011.

With regard to the coherence of the OP actions in relation to the renewed Lisbon Strategy, it should be emphasised that the 17 operations selected under the first call - ordinary projects - contribute directly to promoting the competitiveness of the cross-border area through actions that encourage research and innovation for the sustainable development of territories and of their resources.

The level of the approved project proposals, which provides real added value to new and innovative planning in respect of cross-border area, guarantees the full achievement of the set objectives in line with key regional assets (tourism, cultural resources, natural resources and environmental) through concrete actions. As will be better stated in paragraphs 3.1.1.2 and 3.2.1.2 "Qualitative Analysis" for Axis I and Axis II respectively, the 17 approved operations contribute directly to the creation of scientific and technological networks and to the enhancement of research, development and innovation capacity, with a view to promote, among other things, institutional partnerships between public sector agencies, universities and business organizations.

With regard to the coherence of the OP's actions with respect to the principle of equal opportunity, it should be noted that based on the selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee in 2008, the Executive Committee was given the authority to identify prime specific criteria to enhance the project proposals with a clear contribution to the following issues:

- Specific actions aimed at the removal of participation barriers, ensuring that all project activities are effectively accessible and made available for all groups at risk of discrimination (age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion).
- Scheduling information campaigns which are free from bias, with increased understanding as regards the promotion of equal opportunities and social inclusion

Based on the approved operations, several operations that promote actions whose impact is in line with the above mentioned requirements can be reported. As examples, the following projects can be mentioned:

ARCHAEOTUR, which will create a visitors centre at the Ta' Bistra site by using innovative promotion systems: 3D video, educational programs, ICT equipment such as touch screens and multimedia kiosks for providing information and multimedia images, giving special attention to the aspect of use by more vulnerable categories (children and the disabled).

OBIMED: which aims to increase, among other things, the attractiveness of the territories and mainly female employment by using the most innovative communication technologies.

T-CHEESIMAL: which aims to achieve, as part of the survey activities of dairy farms, an industry-specific study about "the role of women in the dairy production and marketing chain".

2.2 Compliance with Community law

No problems relating to compliance with Community law were encountered during the implementation of the OP.

Regarding the application of Community legislation to public procurement, it should be noted that all the public procedures activated in respect of Axis I, II and III were carried out in accordance with Legislative Decree no. 163 dated 12 April 2006, "Code of public contracts for works, services and supplies pursuant to Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC" published in the Republic of Italy Official Gazette no. 100 of the 2 May 2006 and in line with national procurement rules and procedures.

With particular reference to Axis I and II of the Operational Programme, the procedure for public evidence for the selection of strategic projects has been published in the Official Gazette of the Regione di Sicilia dated 1st July 2011 and on the main media outlets and official websites in Sicily and Malta.

With reference to Axis III of the OP, specific reference is made to the fact that the services for the organization of events (committees, Monitoring Committee, information seminars,...) as well as the purchase of equipment, hosting and updating of website of the OP were carried out through negotiated procedure (call for quotations) with the selection given to the cheapest offer in accordance with article 81 of the law 12th April 2006, n. 163.

With reference to the 4th Executive Committee meeting, which was held in Malta on 21st- 22nd of June 2011, the FPD issued a call for quotations as required by Legal Notice 296 / 2010. Two bidders submitted quotations in this regard, namely the Golden Tulip Vivaldi and the Phoenicia Hotel. The Golden Tulip Vivaldi Hotel was selected due to the fact that the respective quotation was the cheaper one.

Another call for quotations was issued for the organization of an information session in connection with the first call for strategic projects which was held in Malta on the 12th July 2011. Two quotations were submitted under this call by Intercontinental hotel and The Palace. Given that the bid submitted by the Intercontinental Hotel was the cheaper one, this hotel was chosen as the service provider in this regard.

The MA's commitment to allow access to Programme funding in full compliance with Community legislation in this regard and, in particular, with the specific rules of the EC Treaty, with Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, with the Commission's Interpretative Communication regarding Community law C(2006) 3158 dated 24 July 2006 applicable to public contracts, and well as with the relevant national and regional implementing legislation is hereby reaffirmed.

2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures which need to be resolved

No significant problems were encountered during the implementation of the OP, as was also reported by the annual audit report.

In line with the acceleration measures taken by the MA, in 2010, in respect of the implementation and preparation procedures of the programme documents required by law, it should be noted that in the year 2011 there was significant progress that has almost fully made up for the initial slight delay accumulated by the OP during the planning stage.

2.4 Changes regarding implementation

During the implementation of the OP, no unexpected changes occurred in relation to the legislative framework or to economic and social development.

2.5 Substantial changes

During the implementation of the OP, no substantial changes in accordance with Art. 57 of Reg. (EC) 1083/2006 took place.

2.6 Complementarity with other instruments

During 2011, the implementation process of the Italy-Malta OP came into full effect with the 17 approved operations, and this has necessarily required a joint and coordination activity with other financial instruments in use in the cross-border territory. This activity has been ensured by the Managing Authority for the Italian side, and by the Maltese National Coordination Authority for the Maltese side.

With regard to the activities carried out by the MA, it should be noted that the latter performs the same functions within the context of the ERDF Sicily 2007-2013 OP and the CBC ENPI Italy-Tunisia OP. The activity of demarcation of the operations funded by the Italy-Malta OP with the other two programmes co-financed by the ERDF and by the ENPI fund is ensured by the Department of Regional Planning through the action of Service V.

Compared to the coordination and joint action with other programs (ESF Sicily 2007-2013 OP, FEP 2007-2013 OP, PSR Sicily 2007-2013 and PAR FAS 2007-2013, it is reported that the Programming Department participated in the Monitoring Committee meetings of the above mentioned programmes through its own representative and ensures, among other things, a specific action on the preparation, updating and implementation of the Single Programming Document SPD Sicily and of other planning tools. The Single Programming Document (SPD) 2007-2013, prepared in accordance with the community's Cohesion Policy reform, has provided for the joining of the Regional Community planning policy (funded through the Structural Funds) with the regional National planning policy (funded by the national co-financing structural funds and the Fund for Underused Areas - FUA).

With regard to Maltese National Coordination Authority, it should be noted that it is based at the Funds and Programmes Division – Office of the Prime Minister. A separate Division called the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division and also falling under the Office of the Prime Minister acts as Managing Authority for the mainstream ERDF and Cohesion Fund (Operation Programme I) and ESF (Operational Programme II) programmes. The demarcation activity of the operations funded by the Italy-Malta OP with the other programmes co-financed by the Cohesion Fund, by the ERDF and by the ESF is ensured through participation in the Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee on EU Infrastructure and Productive Funding that discusses the projects selected as part of the various Programmes, including the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP.

During the implementation phase of the Programme, no overlapping action between programmes and projects was observed during the selection process for strategic projects whose selection procedures were initiated during 2011.

2.7 Monitoring and evaluation

During 2011 the MA has established all the necessary activities required to guarantee an adequate monitoring system for the approved operations.

The MA, with the aim of respecting the proportionality principle stipulated by the cohesion policy, which requires that the formulation of the Member States' obligations should be in line with the operational programme expenses, has decided to proceed with the activation of an administrative procedure (activated with note no. 24671 dated 28/12/2010) to request the Managing Authority of the Italy-France Maritime OP – Toscana Region – the free reutilization of the OP's IT System. This decision was prompted following an opportunity that takes into consideration the Operative Programme's resources in relation to the high costs involved in assigning the operation services to an adequate management system in line with the OP's requirements.

Following the signing of an agreement protocol with the MA of the Italy–France Maritime OP, which took place on the 01/07/2011, a list of assignments was stipulated with the aim of assigning, through a transparent public procedure, the services for adjusting (vertically) the acquired IT system in accordance with the specific exigencies of the Italy-Malta OP.

This was done coherently following up on the recommendation of the European Commission with regard to the advice on the conformity of the system of management and control of the OP as in the note 6015 of July 2010.

The MA, with the support of the JTS, as already highlighted in the Annual Audit Report (AAR) submitted to the AA, has provided the preparation of an alternative or complimentary monitoring system through the use of Pivot tables that allow the registration of the following information, by every single participating beneficiary, for each operation: *Section 1*, commitment data, *Section 2* General data, *Section 3* Document of Expenditure, *Section 4* Document of Payment, *Section 5* Monitoring, *Section 6* Claim for reimbursement, *Section 7* First Level Control Checks, *Section 8* First Level Control Checks by the FPD (applicable to maltese partners), *Section 9* Lead Partner verification, *Section 10* Request for reimbursement, *Section 11* Certification, *Section 12* Second Level Checks, *Section 13* Transmission of BDU-IGRUE data.

The said system has made it possible, in accordance with the rules and indications regarding use which have been published as part of the “*manual for the reporting of expenses*”, to validate the expense commitments generated by the approved programmes, as well as to check and monitor the increases in expenses in relation to the approved time schedule. The data uploaded on the system will be subject to the following verification and validation process:

1. Registration of expense commitments and of expenses on the monitoring system by each beneficiary;
2. Verification, checking and allocation of all expense commitments and expenses following their substantiation and certification by each lead partner
3. Transmission of the single monitoring file to the JTS by each lead partner
4. Verification, checking and validation of all incurred and certified expenses by the MA/JTS;
5. Verification, checking and validation of all the incurred and certified expenses by the Control Unit;
6. Verification, checking and validation of all the incurred and certified expenses by the Certification Authority;

Monitoring Committees

During 2011, the Monitoring Committee was convened in Trapani on the 6 December 2011, at the premises of the Regional Province of Trapani, which were kindly provided free of charge.

During this meeting, the Programme's MA reported on the OP's procedural and financial progress, on the implementation of the information/management system and on the implementation of the call for the selection of strategic projects.

In order to adapt the Technical Assistance Plan to the needs that have arisen during the programme's implementation, the committee approved the necessary changes in the Plan.

During 2011, the MA of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Operational Programme, taking into consideration the implementation stage and methods of implementation of General Regulation 1083/2006, with special reference to the required principle of proportionality which is also related to the programme's evaluation, has proposed the possibility to approve an evaluation plan update to the Monitoring Committee.

This change has been substantiated in the possibility to carry out an assessment regarding the quality, effectiveness and coherence of the Programme and its strategy and implementation, taking into account all the OP's priority axes, and has also provided an updated timeline for the implementation of the interim evaluation, which was established for June 2012. In order to proceed with the implementation of the *mid-term evaluation*, the members of the Monitoring Committee decided to set up a working group to define both the issues on which it is to be based (for example those themes will be: the capacity of the OP's strategic axes, the distribution of resources on the OP's objectives, programming areas of the approved operations) as well as the strategic structure of the new OP.

Within the workings of the MC, attention is drawn to an important appeal by one of its members, and in particular to that of the ANCI representative, who requested the approval of territorial eligibility on the NUTSIII areas of Messina and Enna for regional territorial unity purposes.

In addition 2 written procedures were also initiated and concluded during 2011.

The first written procedure was launched on the 26/05/2011 and was concluded on the 13/06/2011 with the approval, inter alia, of the following documents: 1. strategic project themes; 2. Selection criteria for strategic projects; 3. adaptation of the OP's evaluation plan and tables relating to impact indicators of the communication plan.

The second written procedure was launched on the 20/06/2011 for the approval of the AIR 2010 which was concluded on the 29/06/2011.

2.7.1 Executive Committee

The Monitoring Committee has worked in close collaboration with the OP's Executive Committee, which met 3 times during 2011.

In particular, during the meeting held on the 21-22 June 2011, the MC approved the first call for the selection of strategic projects and the forms to be provided as attachments (OP implementation manual, concept note, application form, guidelines for correct compilation, letters of intent and co-financing).

During the meeting held on the 5 and 6 October 2011, the Executive Committee, based on the investigations and verifications regarding the existence of the "eligibility requirements" made by the Joint Technical Secretariat, has admitted 24 project proposals to the next phase, while 7 project proposals were deemed as being non-eligible due to lack of formal admissibility and eligibility requirements. During the same meeting, the

MC authorized the Managing Authority to initiate the negotiation phase, which was aimed at improving the contents of the eligible project proposals.

During the meeting held on 2 November 2011, the MC, on the basis of the counter-arguments submitted by the lead partners of the excluded projects, has concluded the selection phase of the strategic projects by approving the re-admission of 1 proposal to the list of project proposals “eligible to the next step in the development of a project proposal” and confirmed the non-eligibility of the other proposals.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AXES

3.1 Axis I - Competitiveness: innovation and research, sustainable development

3.1.1 Achievement of targets and progress analysis

3.1.1.1 Financial and material progress

Table 4.a - allocated and disbursed amounts

AXIS I	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION (A)	FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION			
		ALLOCATED AMOUNTS (B)	PAYMENTS (C)	ALLOCATED AMOUNTS (B/A) %	PAYMENTS (C/A) %
Competitiveness: innovation and research, sustainable development	17,379,445	7,819,146	897,503	45%	5.16%

Table 5.a Priority Axis I Objectives

INDICATORS AT PRIORITY AXIS LEVEL	UNIT OF MEASURE	TARGET	SOURCE	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
R&ST projects that involve public entities, research institutions, Universities and enterprise organisations	Number	5	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	5		
Projects that promote actions of awareness even to SME's for the utilisation of eco-compatible models in the tourism sector, management and supply of natural resources	Number	2	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	7		
Projects of territorial marketing and joint promotion of tourism and cultural potential of the cross-border area	Number	2	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	5		
Projects aimed at the improvement of the coordination and accessibility of transportation systems in the programme area	Number	3	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	2		
Projects of promotion in favour of the reconversion of the transport system respecting environmental sustainability and with particular reference to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	Number	1	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	0		

Projects aimed at the realisation and promotion of a brand of environmental sustainability even for the minor islands of the programme area	Number	1	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	1		
Projects that promote the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	Number	2	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	6		

Table 4.a above shows the financial progress of Axis I together with the total committed resources, valid upon binding legal acts such as contract or a commitment letter arising from acts that are legally binding in respect of the payment of expenses that were certified as at the 31/12/2011. The data shows significant progress with regard to the allocated funds, representing 45% of the amounts allocated to the Axis at PO level, corresponding to €7,819,146. In this regard, expenses totalling €897,503, corresponding to 5%, have been certified since the 31/12/2011.

Table 5.a shown above shows the most significant progress for the year 2011 recorded through the fulfilment indicators provided for by the OP.

This data was collected through the investigations carried out in relation to the most recently presented and approved “Application Form indicators” for each operation. From here onwards, we will be analyzing the selected planned operation for each indicator by highlighting how this contributes directly to the fulfilment of the targets set for Axis I of the OP.

The first indicator “*Technology R&D projects involving public bodies, research institutes, universities and business organizations*” has been fulfilled by the contribution of 5 operations out of the 8 approved operations which, in detail, are the following:

THE HUB: The project aims to create a centre for research, aggregation, services, and project and social enterprise incubators, based on what has already been achieved in over 23 cities around the world, including four projects carried out in the Mediterranean basin. The headquarters of the HUB centre are located in the region of Ortigia (Syracuse), with a branch in Lampedusa and a double virtual space on the Internet (one for Malta and the other for connecting Syracuse, Ortigia and Malta). The idea of adopting the HUB philosophy to strengthen the vocations and the identities of Syracuse, Malta and Lampedusa - especially in their old town centres and as the southernmost outposts of the European Union – addresses the need, which has already been emphasized by the strategic priorities of the EU neighbourhood policies, to overcome the logic of a development point (Messina, Catania, Siracusa, Ragusa, Malta, Lampedusa) and to contribute, conversely, towards the creation of a distributed, interconnected and therefore sustainable endogenous corridor, area and axis of development.

LITHOS: The project has as its main objective the establishment of an international research centre with expertise in the field of stereotomy and building stone. Its premises will be located in the Province of Ragusa, and it will have a branch, which will be carrying out complementary functions, in Malta. The centre will attract scholars and operators involved in the stone industry from around the Mediterranean basin. It will also collect the field investigations carried out, and will operate various scientific and educational activities. The centre will consist of a laboratory specializing in knowledge regarding the physical and mechanical properties of stone and the diagnostics of its degradation. Within it will be a specialized library with all the sources related to

stereotomy. In addition, the Fund will be supplemented with detailed texts on the use of stone in contemporary architecture and restoration.

ProMed: The project aims to develop and expand sources of eco-friendly income alternatives to seaside tourism, by focusing on the agriculture sector. The activities include the study of the territories including identification of risk areas, the optimization of winemaking plants, the proper use of different vine varieties according to particular local characteristics, the definition of wine protocols that are able to guarantee the system's profitability, the creation of an experimental Maltese centre capable of continuing applied research activities and the promotion of new tourist routes.

T-CHEESIMAL: The project aims to study and qualify traditional cheese and dairy products, obtained exclusively from milk through the use of new technologies, thus creating a network among producers, consumers, research and public institutions involved in the agriculture sector and which certify quality products. Each type of traditional cheese is in fact linked to its territory of origin, from which it takes on its peculiar characteristics, which are defined as "Biodiversity Factors". Many of these factors are related to climate, natural pasture type, farming type and to all other cultural and historical aspects that characterize that particular area. The project's objective is to focus on biodiversity factors so as to create a territorial brand that represents a means of interaction between the market and the consumers, not only to promote the variety of cheeses but also to promote the diversity of the territories.

GARDMED: The project aims to create a network of gardens in Malta and Sicily in order to promote economic and environmental sustainability through the creation and promotion of tourist routes through major tour operators specializing in ecotourism and responsible tourism. GARDMED is expected to directly involve at least 15 gardens in Malta and in the eligible areas of Sicily. The project covers two major needs: that of establishing connections between similar gardens located in the two islands (networking) and that of exchanging experiences and new management models for the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage and the creation of integrated tourism (innovation).

The second indicator *"Projects promoting awareness even for SMEs to use ecologically efficient models in the fields of tourism, natural resource management and procurement"* has been fulfilled by the contribution of 7 operations out of the 8 approved operations, which, in detail, are the following:

GARDMED: which contributes, among other things, to the optimization of the use and role of gardens in local development, and as a cultural attraction for tourism.

LITHOS: which is to ensure training activities and knowledge dissemination, in order to create operators who are specialized in the recovery of traditional stone working techniques.

THE HUB: which, apart from facilitating the development of social innovation in the cross-border area, contributes towards increasing the awareness of operators and SMEs regarding the use of ecologically efficient models in the fields of tourism, culture, innovation and architectural heritage.

ProMed: which will carry out awareness raising activities in order to help reduce land erosion in the islands of Gozo, Malta, Linosa and Pantelleria and combat the abandonment of the countryside. To achieve this, the project has planned demonstration projects aimed at safeguarding stone walls, at the rationalization of water resources, at obtaining high-profit generating products and at the development of tourist routes.

OBIMED: which aims at developing the potential of tourism and at contributing to the improvement of tourism through integrated promotional innovation tools and the expansion of integrated Sicily–Malta themed routes,

which have already been identified and promoted as part of MEDPOT - a project funded and implemented as part of INTERREG IIIA 2000-2006.

The aim is to expand and strengthen operative relations and collaborations, which were already developed during the course of Medpot, between Italian and Maltese tourism services companies, training institutes related to tourism and social and economic stakeholders in the territory that are responsible for the promotion of tourism and for the management of the tourism assets of the areas concerned. The main target of the promotion activity will consist of the associations and international groups that organise social travel activities (Rotary, Lyons, Inner Wheels) annually.

SIBIT: The project's main objective is to support local development while ensuring the protection of the natural and rural environment. It is also aimed at raising awareness and at increasing cycle tourism's position as a sustainable form of use and development of the area. The areas which are currently involved in the project lack the necessary facilities, infrastructure and services. The project's specific objectives are the advancement of the potential development of cycle tourism in Sicily and Malta and the improvement of the cycle tourism product in both areas, while simultaneously creating integration between the two tourist systems. The expected result is the launch of a standardized Malta-Sicily cycle tourism product, which is complete in all its aspects, and is characterized by high quality and an outstanding organization method that imparts a sense of reliability and security. Positive impacts of the project will be the creation of new wealth and employment, through an activity that promotes respect for the environment and knowledge related to the area.

ARCHAEOTUR: This project capitalizes on the experience of CULTEXCHANGE (Interreg IIIA It-Mt) in order to develop a management approach that integrates interventions for the promotion, preservation and accessibility to archaeological sites. The scheduling of such factors in tourism development is critical for enhancing the heritage in the areas. The offer will be diversified through the creation of various "heritage trails" for touristic and educational purposes, and will be integrated into a joint international conservation, management and marketing plan.

The third indicator *"Joint territorial tourism and cultural projects for the marketing and promotion of the cross-border area"* has been fulfilled by the contribution of 5 operations out of the 8 approved operations, which, in detail, are the following: ARCHAEOTUR, GARDMED, OBIMED, SIBIT and THE HUB. These projects, as previously mentioned, operate by offering, among other things, direct marketing and promotion activities related to tourism within the context of the objectives set for each operation.

The fourth indicator *"Projects aimed at improving the coordination and accessibility of transportation systems in the cross-border area"* has been fulfilled by the contribution of 2 operations out of the 8 approved operations, which, in detail, are the following:

OBIMED: which, among other things, aims at the promotion of access routes to the territories defined as being "alternative", within the framework of actions for the promotion of common eco-friendly tourism. These routes will be established through an appropriate communication plan executed by means of mobile web applications with regard to timetables and routes;

SIBIT: which aims to promote cross-border cycle tourism routes, while providing, among other things, the modernization of existing facilities and the upgrading of accommodation facilities for 'bike tourists'.

The sixth indicator "Projects aimed at the creation and promotion of an environmental sustainability brand for the smaller islands in the cross-border area" has been fulfilled by the contribution the OBIMED project, that will create a sustainability brand for the established routes;

The seventh indicator "Projects promoting the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area" has been fulfilled by the contribution of 6 operations out of the 8 approved operations, which, in detail, are the following: THE HUB, LITHOS, T-CHEESIMAL, ARCHA EOTUR, GARDMED and OBIMED. The six operations and the objects of intervention will ensure the strengthening of the institutional partnership between the following entities: Universities and research centres, Sicilian superintendences of cultural heritage and Maltese ministerial bodies, MEPA and local entities and government public authorities.

On the basis on the findings related to the first request for reimbursement by the lead partners of the ordinary projects, the following results have been registered at operation level:

Table 5.a1 Performance objectives for each Axis I operation

IMPLEMENTATION INDICATORS	UNIT OF MEASURE	AXIS I OPERATIONS								
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2011								
		THE HUB	LITHOS	ProMed	T-CHEESIMAL	ARCHAEOTUR	GARDMED	OBIMED	SIBIT	TOTAL 2011
R&ST projects that involve public entities, research institutions, Universities and enterprise organisations	No. of entities involved	5	0	0	0	na	5	na	na	10
Awareness activities even to SME's for the utilisation of eco-compatible models in the tourism sector, management and supply of natural resources	No. of entities (including SMEs) reached by the actions	0	0	0	na	0	0	0	0	0
Projects of territorial marketing and joint promotion of tourism and cultural potential of the cross-border area	No. of countries/tour operators reached by the actions	0	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0
Actions aimed at the improvement of the coordination and accessibility of transportation systems in the programme area	No. of actions	na	na	na	na	na	na	0	0	0
Actions of promotion in favour of the reconversion of the transport system respecting environmental sustainability and with particular reference to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	No. of promotional interventions	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

Actions aimed at the realisation and promotion of a brand of environmental sustainability even for the minor islands of the programme area	No. of users reached by the promotion	na	na	na	na	na	na	0	na	0
Actions promoting the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	No. of entities involved	0	0	na	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.1.1.2 Qualitative Analysis

Based on the data reported in Table 4.a, and bearing in mind that for the previous year, in 2010, the same figures amounted to zero, it can be stated that the operations for the OP Italy-Malta 2007-2013 were concretely initiated in 2011. In the course of one calendar year, the MA, with the support of the JTS and the MNCA, has managed to speed up operations thus allowing the recording of commitments representing 45% of the resources allocated for Axis I operations. The constant monitoring activities and drive to accelerate the procedures for the generation of expenditure conducted by the JTS in relation to the 8 projects approved under Axis I, involving the respective project managers and financial managers, allowed the achievement of a level of certified expenses of 5% in respect of those involved.

The data relating to the payment, even though modest when compared to expectations derived from the percentage of expenditure, must be justified in the light of two important external factors:

1. the socio-economic context of the cross-border area
2. the complex procedural system for ensuring the launch of operations

With regard to point 1, it should be stated that the severe and known economic crisis has exacerbated the already difficult situation being faced by local entities, universities and research centres in the cross-border area within the context of funds availability and related economic resources and liquidity. In the light of a survey conducted by the JTS through meetings with the projects' lead partners approved for funding, it was found that most of the abovementioned categories of beneficiaries face the recurring problem of lack of cash flow and the resulting impairment of internal procedures related to spending.

With regard to paragraph 2, it should be stated that the regulatory framework on which the Italian public bodies base themselves requires the fulfilment of a series of accounting and administrative acts aimed at ensuring the start of operations and the ability to generate spending. By way of example, we can mention the obligations related to registration with the relevant competent control bodies of the acts approving the spending commitments and the procedures for appointing members of the commissions for assessing the public procedures carried out.

The qualitative analysis of the data shown in Table 5.a Priority Axis I Objectives clearly shows that the selection of ordinary projects has largely allowed the Programme Authorities to reach the targets set during the planning stage of the interventions related to Axis I of the OP.

In fact, with the exception of indicator 5 *"Projects for the promotion of the re-conversion of the transport system in terms of environmental sustainability, with particular reference to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions"* for which there is no record of interventions and/or indirect contributions from any of the 8 operations approved as part of Axis I, of the stated performance indicators for Axis I have been widely achieved through the selected projects.

The Programme Authorities will be prospecting that indicator 5 could be achieved through the selection of strategic projects which, in the context of priority themes, actually explicitly provides for a reference to the issues of Accessibility and the reconversion of the transport system;

With regard to the data shown in Table 5.a1 *Performance objectives for Axis I operations*, it should be specified that this is preliminary data monitored as at the 31/12/2011, as it takes into account only six months of the implementation period for planned operations activities. Moreover, the meagre degree of available data justifies the implementation by the 8 approved operations of other typical performance indicators of joint development cooperation projects requiring the fulfilment of a number of preliminary technical and administrative obligations that are necessary for the full launch of operations. By way of example, some of the results achieved and monitored by all 8 approved operations are being shown below.

Table 5.a2 *Implementation indicators for each Axis I operation*

OUTPUT INDICATORS	UNIT OF MEASURE	AXIS I OPERATIONS								
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2011								
		THE HUB	LITHOS	ProMed	T-CHEESI MAL	ARCHAEOTUR	GARDMED	OBIMED	SIBIT	TOTAL 2011
Kick off meeting/ project launch event	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Regulation of approved Steering Committees	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Steering Committee meetings	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Appointment of Project Manager and of Chief Financial Officer	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Communication Plan approved at operation level	Number	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Procedural, financial and physical monitoring, presented to the MA/JTS	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Statement of expenditure incurred	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Request for reimbursement of expenses incurred following verification	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Partnership Agreement signed between lead partners and project partners	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Subsidy Contract signed between the Managing Authority and lead partners	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8

3.1.2 Significant problems encountered and measures for solving them

No difficulties related to implementation with regard to Priority I of the OP were encountered during 2011.

3.2 Axis II - Environment, Energy and Risk Prevention

3.2.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of progress

3.2.1.1 Financial and material progress

Table 4.b - allocated and disbursed amounts

AXIS II	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION (A)	FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION			
		ALLOCATED AMOUNTS (B)	PAYMENTS (C)	ALLOCATED AMOUNTS (B/A) %	PAYMENTS (C/A) %
Environment, energy and risk prevention	15,960,715	7,180,851	925,045	45%	5.80%

Table 5.b Priority Axis II Objectives

INDICATORS AT PRIORITY AXIS LEVEL	UNIT OF MEASURE	TARGET	SOURCE	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Projects of management and prevention from natural and anthropic risks (including technological risks)	Number	2	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	4		
Projects aimed at promoting the safeguarding of the environment of the area (including the management of parks and protected areas)	Number	3	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	6		
Projects relating to the improvement of the energy efficiency and the utilisation of sources of renewable energy	Number	5	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	1		
Projects that promote the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	Number	2	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	7		

Table 4.b above shows the financial progress of Axis I together with the total resources allocated, arising from acts that are legally binding in respect of the payment of expenses that were certified as at the 31/12/2011. The data shows significant progress with regard to the allocated funds, representing 45% of the amounts allocated to Priority Axis II, corresponding to €7,180,851. In this regard, expenses totalling €925,045, corresponding to 6%, have been certified by the 31/12/2011.

Table 5.b shown above shows the most significant progress, for the year 2011, recorded through the fulfilment of indicators as provided for by the OP.

This data was collected through the investigations carried out in relation to the most recently presented and approved "Application Form indicators" for each operation. From here onwards, we will be analyzing the

selected planned operation for each indicator by highlighting how this contributes directly to the fulfilment of the targets set for Axis II of the OP.

The first indicator *“Projects for the prevention and management of natural and human risks in the cross-border area (including technology projects)”* has been fulfilled by the contribution of 4 operations out of the 9 approved operations, which, in detail, are the following:

CALYPSO: The project proposes the development of a stable and operational system for monitoring sea currents, wind and sea waves in the Maltese channel through the use of a system for remote observation based on a network of High Frequency (HF) radars capable of providing data on a continuous basis (hourly). The system involves the installation of HF radars at specially selected sites in the Northern part of the island of Malta as well as in the Southern coast of Sicily. The project involves the combined use of HF radars and processing stations for the distribution of the maps provided by the system.

RESPIRA: The project helps to identify conditions that can determine the relationships between exposure to pollutants and health, through the analysis of the major risk factors. Through the joint activities of the cross-border health authorities, the project will evaluate a sample of the population of Malta and Gela for respiratory pathologies by using scientific standardized questionnaires, and will carry out measurements related to respiratory conditions and to the level and type of allergies affecting these populations. Specific measurements of indoor pollution will be carried out, while routine data for outdoor pollution will also be gathered.

VAMOS SEGURO: The project involves the construction of an automated system for monitoring and projection the dispersion of volcanic ash in the cross-border area. The installation of instruments for providing important information about explosive activity and erupted material, and the use of volcanic ash dispersion models that can predict the location and altitude of the eruption cloud. The developed system will be able to identify the areas between Sicily and Malta having a high probability of being affected by harmful concentrations of ash and volcanic gases, and will provide early warning systems to indicate areas from which air traffic should not be allowed. The results will also be distributed to the competent authorities, and since they will also be providing information on volcanic ash falling on the territory, they will be of great benefit to all the citizens and social and production activities of the areas concerned.

WATER FRONT: this project contributes through actions related to setting up and to the exchange of experience in the fields of risk analysis and of the opportunities offered by the transformation dynamics of water fronts, which have already been activated (Valletta) or which still have to be activated (Trapani and Palermo). The dissemination of good practices for the harmonization of territorial planning techniques, which is set to improve environmental conditions for the transformation and coastline development of the territories in the provinces of Trapani, Palermo and Malta, is envisaged to take place through the definition of operational strategies and tools for the planning of common coastal areas.

The second indicator *“Projects aimed at promoting environmental protection in the cross-border area (including the management of parks and protected areas)”* has been fulfilled by the contribution of 6 operations out of the 9 approved operations, which, in detail, are the following:

MORISO: the project's overall objective is the monitoring of coastal aquifers, mainly related to the control of the seeping of saltwater intrusion and the reduction of pollution caused by agricultural activities. A particular contribution of the project's activities is aimed at defining the quality and quantity of underground water sources in various watersheds, and at identifying coastal aquifers that are at risk of saltwater intrusion and/or pollution caused by agricultural activities.

PANACEA: The project aims to promote, enhance and monitor the Sicilian and Maltese MPAs (Marine Protected Areas), so as to improve their management and thus facilitate interaction with them and promote their scientific and environmental value through the implementation of Environmental Education Centres (EEC), namely structures designed to offer a learning process regarding MPAs and the biodiversity contained within them, through documentaries, edutainment panels, dioramas and experiential workshops.

SIMBIOTIC: The project aims to strengthen the planning, management and restoration of coastal areas in South-Eastern Sicily, which are already Natura 2000 sites of great national and EU level importance, and to restore stepping stones in the Mediterranean agricultural landscape of Gozo in order to increase ecological connectivity in the cross-border area. The participatory planning and activities aimed at landscape restoration will involve the Municipality of Pachino (Siracusa), the Ministry and local administrations of Gozo and the owners and users of the lands concerned.

RESPIRA: as already mentioned, this project contributes directly to the conservation and protection of the environment so as to prevent risk factors for coastal areas which are situated in close proximity to areas affected by a high incidence of air pollution.

CALYPSO: based on data collected from the radar observations already mentioned above, this project will guarantee a system for combining such information with numerical modelling methods in order to support the competent authorities in the optimization of operations in the event of spills involving hydrocarbon materials.

WATER FRONT: This project is set to promote the value of protecting the environment, with particular reference to the coast, among the public authorities involved in the project;

The third indicator *“Projects related to the improvement of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources”* has been partially fulfilled by the contribution of one operation out of the 9 approved operations, namely

RESI: The project aims to develop common strategies to overcome the gap in the European average regarding the use of renewable energies, thus promoting technology transfer and best practices. The operation contributes directly towards improving the knowledge, responsibility and acceptability of RES, comparing and evaluating the energy strategies from a socio-economic and environmental point of view and identifying and implementing an action plan for the diffusion of renewable energy.

The fourth indicator *“Projects promoting the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area”* has been fulfilled by the contribution of 7 operations out of the 9 approved operations, which, in detail, are the following:

MORISO, PANACEA, REMASI, SIMBIOTIC, RESI, CALYPSO and WATER FRONT. Taking into account specific policy areas, which in detail are:

- environmental protection through the preservation, enhancement and monitoring of natural resources for the MORISO, PANACEA, REMASI and SIMBIOTIC projects;
- the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency for the RESI project;
- the development of joint actions for the prevention of both natural and human risks for the CALYPSO project;
- the strengthening of the institutional cross-border partnership in the context of Priority Axis II through the WATER FRONT project

It should be noted that the abovementioned operations contribute towards strengthening the institutional partnership and ensuring a stable connection and network between the following entities: universities and research centres, health authorities in the area, coastal authorities and armed forces, and local and public government authorities.

Based on the first request for reimbursement as submitted by the lead partners of the ordinary projects, no indicators at priority axis level selected by the operations were recorded and achieved as at the 31/12/2011.

3.2.1.2 Qualitative analysis

Based on the data reported in Table 4.b, and bearing in mind that for the previous year, in 2010, the same figures amounted to zero, it can be stated that the operations for the OP Italy-Malta 2007-2013 were concretely initiated in 2011. In the course of one calendar year, the MA, with the support of the JTS and the MNCA, has managed to accelerate the operations thus allowing the recording of commitments representing 42% of the resources allocated for Axis II operations. The constant monitoring activities to accelerate the procedures for the generation of expenditure conducted by the JTS, in joint collaboration with the contact point, with respect to the 8 projects approved under Priority Axis II, with the direct involvement of the respective project managers and financial controllers, allowed the achievement of a certified expenses level of 6% of those allocated.

The data relating to the payment, which has been certified as being of around 6%, even though modest when compared to the allocated funds, should be taken into consideration bearing in mind what has already been stated in paragraph 3.1.1.2 Qualitative analysis regarding Axis I operations.

The qualitative analysis of the data shown in Table 5.b Priority Axis II Objectives clearly highlights that the selection of ordinary projects has largely allowed the Programme Authorities to achieve the targets set during the planning stage of the interventions related to Axis I of the OP.

With the exception of indicator 3 “*Projects related to the improvement of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources*” that records a single operation out of the 5 planned operations, it can be stated that all the other indicators have been largely met by the contribution of a number of projects, which is 100% more in relation to the program in the case of indicators 1 and 2, and 300% in the case of indicator 4.

Similar to projects within Axis I, by the 31/12/2011, the 9 projects within Axis II registered important achievements with respect to preliminary technical and administrative requirements for the full launch of operations. For example, some of the results achieved and monitored by all 9 approved operations are being shown below.

Table 5.b2 Implementation indicators for each Axis II operation

OUTPUT INDICATORS	UNIT OF MEASURE	AXIS II OPERATIONS									
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2011									
		MORISO	PANACEA	REMA SI	SIMBI OTIC	RESI	RESPI RA	CALY PSO	VAMO S SEGU RO	WATE R FRON T	TOTAL 2011
Kick off meeting/project launch event	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Regulation of approved Steering Committees	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Steering Committee meetings	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9

Appointment of Project Manager and of Chief Financial Officer	Number	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Communication Plans approved at operation level	Number	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Procedural, financial and physical monitoring, presented to the MA/JTS	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Statement of expenditure incurred	Number	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Application for reimbursement of expenses incurred following verification	Number	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Partnership Agreement signed between lead partners and project partners	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Subsidy Contract signed between the Managing Authority and lead partners	Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9

3.2.2 Significant problems encountered and measures for solving them

No difficulties related to the implementation with regard to Priority II of the OP were encountered during 2011

3.3 Axis III - Technical support, awareness, communication and advertising

3.3.1 Achievement of targets and progress analysis

3.3.1.1 Financial and material progress

Table 4.c - allocated and disbursed amounts

Axis III	Total contribution (A)	Financial implementation			
		Allocated amounts (b)	Payments (c)	Allocated amounts (b/a) %	Payments (c/a) %
Technical support, awareness, communication and advertising	2,128,095	949,536	599,052	45%	28.15%

Table 5.c Priority Axis III Objectives

Axis 3								
Implementation indicators	Unit of measure	Target	Progress					
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Personnel for the Joint Technical Secretariat	Number	4	0	2	2	0		
Communication and Publicity events	Number	30	0	0	4	25		
Operational Programme Guidelines	Number	5	0	1	3	5		

Table 4.c above shows the financial progress of Axis III together with the total resources allocated, arising from acts that are legally binding in respect of the payment of expenses that were certified as at the 31/12/2011. The data shows significant progress in respect to the allocated funds, representing 45% of the amounts allocated to the Axis at OP level, corresponding to €949.536. These spending commitments are clearly related to both the MA and the MNCA. In this regard, expenses totalling €599.052, corresponding to 28%, have been certified as at the 31/12/2011.

Instead Table 5.c, shown above, indicates the progress for the year 2011 in relation to the indicators of Priority Axis III.

With reference to criterion 1 “Joint Technical Secretariat Staff” it can be observed that during 2011, as already stated in section 2.1.7, steps were taken to initiate and conclude the process for the appointment of a new member due to the resignation of the previous responsible member during 2009. At present, there are three staff members at the JTS. Together with the contact point in Malta (extension of JTS in the territory of Malta), the total number of staff members involved in this role is 4. The selection process to select the contact point was concluded in 2012 through the identification of a person who will carry out the activities required by the programme’s function, in accordance with the respective contract.

With reference to criterion 2 “*Events held in relation to territorial communication and promotion*”, as described in Chapter 6 “Communication and information”, it will be observed that during 2011, the MA/JTS and the MNCA held the following events, which were closely related to territorial communication and promotion: the holding of two launch events in connection with the call for strategic projects, in Sicily and in Malta; the holding of 17 bi-lateral meetings, in Sicily, with the lead partners and with the respective projects’ partners of those projects approved for funding, aimed at initiating promotional actions for informing the beneficiaries regarding the activities to be implemented, even with regard to the dissemination of project outcome data; the holding of two plenary sessions for information and promotion for lead partners and partners held in Sicily; the holding of bi-lateral meetings held in Malta during the months of February and August; the holding of two round tables with lead partners of projects eligible for the following phase for the development of a project proposal under the first call for strategic projects, which took place in Sicily.

With regard to criterion 3 “*Guidelines for facilitating the implementation of the OP*”, as described in Chapter 6 “Communication and information” it will be observed that the following documentation in beneficiaries’ support were created by the MA/JTS in collaboration with the MNCA in 2011: guidelines for filling in the concept note for submission of project proposals under the call for strategic projects, guidelines for filling in the application form for submission of proposals under the call for strategic projects, guidelines for the preparation of financial and procedural monitoring, guidelines for filling in operation reports and guidelines for filling in requests for reimbursement.

3.1.1.2 Qualitative Analysis

The qualitative analysis of the financial progress recorded for Axis III serves to confirm that the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP has, thanks to its energy and determination, effectively boosted its management and implementation processes during 2011. The amounts committed as at the 31/12/2011, which amount to 45%, is in line with MA projections stating a commitment forecast of 65% of the resources allocated under Axis III up to 2012.

During 2011, due to the full engagement of the monitoring, management and control activities of operations related to all the OP Axes, steps were also taken to verify, within the MA, the level of management flows as described in the document “description of management and control systems” in accordance with Art. 71 of Reg. 1828/2006 amongst all those responsible for the OP management, namely the Competent Office Operations (COO) of Axes I and II, the COO for Axis III, the Control Unit and the Head in charge of the OP Axes. From a preliminary analysis, and taking into account the stability of the data obtained, the system is well-integrated and well-coordinated, thus leading to the avoidance of any suggestion of over-lapping of activities. The system also shows that it can handle flows as described in the above document.

With regard to the administrative and financial requirements to be adopted by the MNCA, solely for the management of items of expenditure as approved in the Technical Assistance Plan, it should be noted that during 2011 the MA, with the support of the contact point and the JTS, presented two monitoring activities and two requests for reimbursement of expenses incurred which were properly validated in accordance with Art. 16 of Reg. 1080/2006. Expenditure involved in such claims for reimbursement focused primarily on expenses related to man-hours of the 4 officials of the Funds and Programmes Division working to ensure the timely and proper implementation of the Italy-Malta Programme. The costs were also related to the activities carried out by the Information Executive, who was engaged in the role of contact point for the Programme at the MNCA, who, amongst other duties, assists the project partners by participating in the respective Steering Committee

Meetings. The two requests for reimbursement have been properly handled and paid by the MA in compliance with the agreed timeframes.

From a general point of view, and based on the above information, one can confirm that the management structures of both the Italian and Maltese sides are managing to work in unison while sharing choices and solutions, despite the difficulties which are typically associated with the management of cross-border cooperation programmes.

3.1.2 Significant problems encountered and measures for solving them

No difficulties related to implementation with regard to Priority 3 of the OP were encountered during 2011.

4. MAJOR PROJECTS

The Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP does not envisage the creation and implementation of any major projects

5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The CBC Programme Italy-Malta 2007-2013 is supported by the Joint Technical Secretariat, established by the Programme Authorities, in accordance with Art. 14(1) of Reg. 1080/2006.

The Joint Technical Secretariat is represented by 3 members who assist the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee, as well as the Audit Authority, in carrying out their respective duties.

The tasks of the JTS are conducted through the allocation of areas of responsibility to each of the components involved in the following activity areas:

- Management and support in connection with the OP implementation;
- Communication and support in connection with the OP implementation.

With regard to management, during 2011, the management and support efforts for the OP implementation have seen the engagement of two individuals in the JTS, which were mainly involved in the implementation, monitoring and reporting processes of the activities related to Axes I, II and III of the programme. With regard to Axes I and II, the activities were directed towards the direct assistance actions offered to lead partner beneficiaries and to partner beneficiaries in connection with the technical and administrative implementation methods of the funded interventions. The mode of operation was executed through the constant connection between the JTS and the "project manager" overseeing the operations who handled the aspects related to project progress and to any changes made to the work plan and/or financial plan.

In detail, the JTS was responsible for the verification and appraisal of the progress reports for partners and lead partners, as well as the requests for modifications to the projects financial planning, for verifying the fulfilment of the "Subsidy Contract" with respect to the MA, for providing support in resolving problems regarding the correct management of funded projects, verifying whether project performance indicators are achieved, for the drawing up of reports on the operations' financial progress (commitments and payments), for supporting the implementation of reporting duties and the filling in of reimbursement requests and for the monitoring of expenditure in connection with the adjacent NUTS III areas (Art. 21 of Reg. (EC) 1080/2006). The JTS, in collaboration with the MNCA support was also evidenced through appropriate support for the ordinary project beneficiaries which was aimed at providing them with the assistance tools necessary for fulfilling their responsibilities under the program (by way of example, we can mention the following: Model Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee, reporting annex, reimbursement annex, annex for financial and procedural monitoring, meeting minutes template, table for calculation of cost per hour, etc.). The monitoring and reporting activities were addressed to the actions for the provision of assistance to lead partner and partner beneficiaries in connection with the expenditure monitoring operations via the MA's computerised system. The mode of operation has provided for direct assistance to the lead partners and/or to the partners, so as to ensure the correct use of the system and of the procedures for data input. The support activity was then implemented through the holding of face to face meetings with the beneficiaries and through the use of specific tools such as the website's FAQ section, which ensured timely feedback to requests for support from the beneficiaries.

The communication activity has seen a human resource engaged primarily in direct assistance actions to lead partner and to project partners in connection with any communication activities and their planned output, and to the MA in relation to the technical aspects related to the implementation of the communication plan of the programme. The mode of operation provides for the continued close relationships between the JTS and the lead partners and/or partners who have reported on the issues related to the communication plan. In detail,

the JTS, in close collaboration with the contact point, was responsible for the communication activities under Axes I, II and III for carrying out the institutional communication and implementation activities of the programme's communication plan through the release of news, adverts and notices in the press, and through the implementation of specific content on the website. The JTS has also worked as a liaison with the programme's Info point in Malta and with Info points of other Territorial Cooperation programmes, and has provided support to the activities related to planning, monitoring and implementation of the communication plans for projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects. The JTS's communication activities were also carried out through the management of relations with the programme beneficiaries and the monitoring of stipulated ERDF agreements, that has allowed the preparation of meetings held with the project leaders that were deemed eligible for funding so as to explain the contract procedures for monitoring and for the presentation of intermediate documentation, and for information/training regarding the beneficiaries' obligations.

With reference to the overall management of the Programme, one is to make reference to the JTS support action towards the OP Monitoring Committee and Executive Committee activities. In particular, the Joint Technical Secretariat has supported the MA during the performance of its duties as outlined in paragraph 6.1.3 of the Italy-Malta OP. With regard to assistance given to the MC for the holding of the meeting of the 6 December 2011, the JTS has accomplished the following tasks: preparation of documents related to the organisation and progress of the meeting; organization and progress of the MC meeting (communication, information, logistics, contact with participants, sending and distribution of documents, minutes and summaries of the decisions taken, etc.); assistance to the chairman of the MC for the carrying out of his duties. In this meeting, the JTS participated with all its components who, working through a distribution of tasks, respectively explained the topics and the documents under discussion, offered assistance to the members of the MC and drafted the minutes of the meeting. During 2011, the JTS also provided support for the initiation and conclusion of two written procedures implemented during the months of May and June 2011, under which the Joint Technical Secretariat prepared and submitted to the said MC the selection criteria and the priority topics of the call for strategic projects, the updated OP evaluation plan, the communication plan impact indicators and the AIR 2011. The MC of the Italy Malta 2007-2013 OP has created internally an Executive Committee, in line with the provisions of the OP, for the selection and approval of projects pursuant to Art. 19 of Reg. 1080/06. During 2011, the JTS ensured the holding of 3 Executive Committee meetings through the execution of the following functions: collaboration with the Chair in the carrying out of its functions; preparation of the preliminary investigation procedures (preparation of attachments to the call for strategic projects, preparation of lists, evaluation grids, evaluation reports, etc.); transmission of the documentation on behalf of the Chair; drafting of the minutes for the EC meetings. The constant support activity given by the JTS to the OP's Executive Committee and Monitoring Committee has ensured that the meetings and the written procedures were started and concluded within the timeframes stipulated in the respective regulations, thus also ensuring the formalisation of the closing minutes of the said meetings. This serves to ensure that timely feedback regarding the outcomes of meetings is given to members of the MC and of the EC, and to ensure the immediate implementation of decisions taken within the Committees.

With regard to audits, the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP underwent two system audits during 2011. These were carried out in Sicily and Malta respectively. As part of the audit that took place in Sicily, the JTS supported the competent authority in its operation auditing activities, and has helped to meet the functional recommendations for the improvement of management and auditing systems. The Internal Audit and Investigations Directorate

within MFEI organised a preliminary meeting with MNCA in October 2011 to discuss methods used for reporting and presenting claims and requests for Reimbursement.

With regard to certification, during 2011 the JTS offered its support for the definition of two statements of expenditure during the month of December 2011. In particular, the JTS has provided support to the competent authority for the definition of the certification of the Managing Authority of Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP; of the Claim for Reimbursement; of the statement of auditing activities; of the list of amounts withdrawn, repaid or awaiting repayment; of the level of legally binding pledges; of the list of the operations which gave rise to expenditure; of the collection of copies of approval certificates related to expenditure pursuant to Art. 16 of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 in respect of expenditure on the Italian side with regard to Axes I, II and III; and of the collection of copies of the Audit Certificates pursuant to Art. 16 of Reg. 1080/2006 in relation to the expenditure of the Maltese side with regard to Axes I, II and III.

During the month of November 2011, a redistribution of the responsibilities of the Joint Technical Secretariat took place following the previously mentioned replacement of one of the members. In particular, the new member has been appointed to perform the activities related to communication and support for the implementation of the Operational Programme.

6. INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING

6.1 Communication plan implementation

Consistently with the activities of the communication plan of the Cross Border Cooperation Programme Italy-Malta 2007-2013, the activities conducted during 2011 were directed toward the following actions:

- Information and advertising activities;
- Support activities;
- Actions for transparency and the role carried out by the European Union;
- Actions for communication with other community programmes.

With reference to actions for information and advertising, during 2011 wide coverage was provided to the opportunities offered by the Operational Programme through the creation of specific events, in Sicily and in Malta, which ensured both the advertising of the opportunities offered by the OP and well as the provision of timely information regarding access to the Programme's resources. Of particular importance was the launch event for the first call for strategic projects, which was published in the Official Gazette of the Sicilian Region of the 1 July 2011 and in the key media operators and official websites in Sicily and Malta. The publication of this information was followed by the holding of two Info-days and launch events in Malta and Sicily, which were held on 12 and 22 July 2011 respectively.



On July 22, 2011, the MA organised a joint session in Syracuse for the publication of the call and of the information. The joint session was attended by over one hundred potential beneficiaries from Sicily and Malta.



In particular, the event was held in three different sessions: the first was dedicated to the presentation of the call, the selection criteria, the priority themes and the documentary kits for the submission of projects. The second session was dedicated to clarifications requested from the MA/JTS regarding the presentation of strategic projects and from the MNCA represented by two officials, in respect to clarifications pertaining to Maltese partners, procedures and regulations. Finally, the third session served as a chance for in-depth examination, by focusing specifically on the topics of strategic projects such as “accessibility and ecologically sustainable transport” and “prevention of risks caused by natural effects and human activity - renewable energy and waste treatment”.



Evento di lancio del 1° bando per progetti strategici

Siracusa – Castello Maniace
22 Luglio 2011

SESSIONE 1

Ore 09:30

REGISTRAZIONE DEI PARTECIPANTI

Ore 10:00

SALUTI DELLE AUTORITÀ

Gaetano Armao

Assessore all'Economia

Felice Bonanno

Dirigente Generale Dipartimento della Programmazione –
Autorità di Gestione

Stephen Calleja

Ufficio del Primo Ministro della Repubblica di Malta

Ore 10:45

"L'esperienza dei bandi per la selezione dei
progetti strategici nei programmi di coope-
razione territoriale in Italia"

Rosa Bungaro

Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico

Ore 11:30

Pausa Caffè

Ore 11:45

"I temi prioritari dei progetti strategici"

Antonio Piceno

Servizio V Dipartimento Regionale della Programmazione

"Il primo bando per la selezione di progetti strategici"

Lucia Di Fatta

UOB 2 Servizio V Dipartimento Regionale della Programmazione

Ore 12:00

"Il kit per la presentazione di progetti strategici"

Marco Sambataro

Segretario Tecnico Congiunto del PO Italia Malta 2007-2013

"I criteri di selezione dei progetti strategici"

Chiara Di Bella

Segretario Tecnico Congiunto del PO Italia Malta 2007-2013

SESSIONE 2

Ore 13:00

Domande e risposte

Ore 13:30

Pranzo

SESSIONE 3

Ore 15:00

"Charting the path for successful future strategic coo-
peration by looking at previous and current experiences"

Celia Mintoff

Funds and Programmes Department

Ore 15:30

Tavole Rotonde

Focus tematici sui temi dei progetti strategici

1° Tema – Accessibilità e trasporti ecosostenibili

2° Tema – Prevenzione dei rischi causati sia da effetti natu-
rali sia da attività umane legati ai territori costieri e ai mari
- Energie rinnovabili e trattamento dei rifiuti.

Ore 17:30

CONCLUSIONE DEI LAVORI

The event received wide media coverage also through the involvement of the Press Office of the Presidency of the Sicilian Region, which ensured wide dissemination of the news related to the holding of the event by the main regional news agencies and by the local media.

At the launch event for the call for strategic projects, wide coverage was also provided through various targeted advertising activities on institutional websites in Italy and Malta, and in particular on the OP official website www.italiamalta.eu, on the website of the Sicilian ERDF OP www.euroinfoscilia.it and on the institutional website of the Funds and Programmes Division of the Republic of Malta www.ppcd.gov.mt. Finally, an advert about the event was published in two national newspapers and in three regional daily newspapers in Italy (La Stampa of the 21/07/2011, Il Sole 24 Ore on the 27/07/2011; La Repubblica - Palermo Ed. of the 21/07/2011; Il Giornale di Sicilia of the 21/07/2011; La Sicilia of the 21/07/2011).



Programma Operativo
di Cooperazione Transfrontaliera



La Regione Siciliana, Autorità di Gestione del Programma Operativo di Cooperazione Transfrontaliera Italia-Malta 2007-2013, il 22 luglio alle 09.30 presenta il bando per la selezione di progetti strategici presso il Castello Maniace di Siracusa - Ortigia. Interverranno ai lavori le rappresentanze istituzionali dei due paesi, arch. Felice Bonanno e Dott. Stephen Calleja. Parteciperà l'Assessore Regionale On. Gaetano Armao.

Il Programma Operativo Italia-Malta 2007-2013, con una **dotazione finanziaria pari a 35 milioni di euro**, mira al rafforzamento della competitività dell'area transfrontaliera interessata attraverso l'attuazione di progetti congiunti tra i territori siciliani e maltesi, volti a incentivare la ricerca e l'innovazione per uno sviluppo sostenibile delle aree coinvolte e delle relative risorse.

Nel corso della giornata sarà illustrato il primo bando per la selezione dei progetti strategici a valere sugli Assi I e II del Programma, per un importo complessivo di 12,5 milioni di euro così ripartiti: 5 milioni di euro per l'Asse I - Competitività: Innovazione e Ricerca, Sviluppo Sostenibile e 7,5 milioni di euro per l'Asse II - Ambiente, energia e prevenzione dei rischi (GURS n. 28 del 01/07/2011).

Ogni progetto dovrà ricadere in una delle azioni eleggibili previste nell'ambito dei temi prioritari per gli Assi I e II del programma. In particolare, per l'Asse I il tema prioritario individuato è "Accessibilità e trasporti eco-sostenibili" mentre per l'Asse II i temi prioritari individuati sono "Promuovere azioni congiunte di prevenzione dei rischi causate sia da effetti naturali sia da attività umane", "Prevenzione dei rischi legati ai territori costieri e ai mari" e "Energie rinnovabili e trattamento dei rifiuti". Ogni proposta progettuale dovrà trattare temi con un chiaro valore strategico per l'area interessata, avere una dotazione finanziaria compresa tra un minimo di € 1.500.000 ed un max di € 2.500.000 e avere una durata massima di 30 mesi. Le zone ammissibili per l'Italia sono le province di Agrigento, Caltanissetta, Ragusa, Siracusa e Trapani. Le province di Catania e Palermo possono beneficiare fino a un massimo del 20% del costo del progetto. Per Malta l'area ammissibile è l'intero Stato, incluse le isole di Gozo e Comino. Possono presentare proposte progettuali le Amministrazioni pubbliche centrali e locali, le Università, i Centri e Consorzi di ricerca, gli Enti gestori di aree protette, le Autorità portuali e marittime. Inoltre sono beneficiari per l'Asse I le Autorità aeroportuali, gli Operatori turistici pubblici e privati, le Organizzazioni di PMI, e per l'Asse II i consorzi e le agenzie di sviluppo locale. Il termine per la presentazione delle proposte è il 09 Settembre 2011 entro le ore 13.30, fa fede il timbro postale.

In linea con la mission del programma i progetti strategici sono chiamati ad approfondire problematiche di interesse comune e/o a valorizzare le potenzialità di sviluppo negli ambiti e nei settori strategici individuati dai temi prioritari. Al fine di supportare i potenziali beneficiari nel focalizzare i temi dei progetti strategici, nel corso dei lavori sono previsti due focus tematici che approfondiranno i contenuti dei temi prioritari.

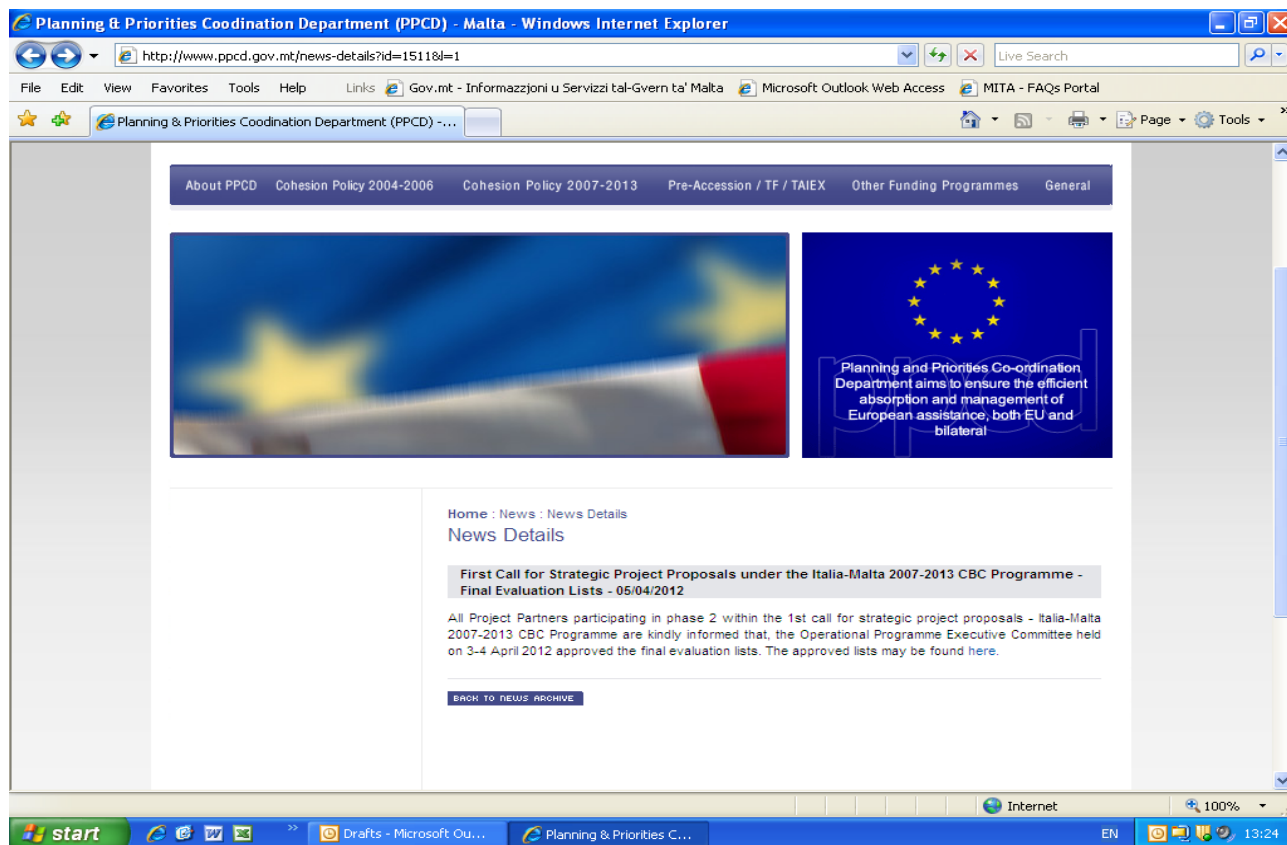
Il bando e la documentazione completa sono disponibili sul sito web del Programma www.italiamalta.eu. È possibile partecipare all'evento registrandosi sul sito oppure all'apertura dei lavori.

During the month of July 2011 a similar event dedicated to the call for strategic projects took place in Malta through the creation of an info-session dedicated to an in-depth description of the priority themes, of the eligibility requirements and of the methods and timeframes for the submission of project proposals. The event was attended by around 60 potential beneficiaries from Malta and Italy.



At the launch event for the call for strategic projects, wide coverage was also provided through various targeted advertising activities on institutional websites in Malta and Italy, and in particular on the institutional website of the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department of the Republic of Malta www.ppcd.gov.mt and on the OP official website www.italiamalta.eu.

In particular, the MNCA regularly updates the website of the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department with the main content of the projects selected as part of the first call for ordinary projects. The site is also updated with the relevant programme themes, such as the launch of the call for the selection of strategic projects. An example of published data can be seen on the website www.ppcd.gov.mt.



During 2011, the information and advertising activities were also supported through the constant updating and improvement of the programme's official website www.italiamalta.eu. This activity has been ensured both

through the uploading of content and through the publication of updated news releases, as well as through the implementation of new utilities such as the events calendar, the counter and the job opportunities section.

In particular, as regards the documentary section of the site, during 2011, 102 documents related to procedures, minutes, lists, Italian and Maltese reference regulations, a list of beneficiaries, etc. were uploaded. Moreover, more than 20 news relating to facts which are relevant to the Operational Programme were also published. The number of documents published in 2011 was twice more than those published in 2010. This served to ensure the provision of timely and updated information about the activities of the programme. At the same time, new utilities were added on the site, so as to make the identification of contents more effective and immediate.

Enhancements to the website led, during 2011, to an increase in access to the site equal to 31% when compared to 2010, and an increase in the percentage of new visitors amounting to 43.51% of total hits. This is also due to the site indexing through the main global search engine (Google).

The graph shows the fulfilment performance indicators of the website www.italiamalta.eu, with particular reference to the following fulfilment indicators: no. of users/visitors, no. Of unique visitors, no. Of page views, % of web-bounce rate, % of new visits.

During 2011 even the activity of projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects was widely covered and publicised in the media, while consideration was given to the fact that their activities were duly started, and that it was possible to trace the initial project results.

Following the selection of projects, the MNCA also issued a press release in which cognizance of the funded projects was provided.



 **DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION - MALTA** 

No. Press Releases
DOI
-
0876E

SELECTION OF ORDINARY PROJECTS UNDER THE FIRST CALL OF THE ITALY-MALTA CROSS BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2007 - 2013

As the Maltese National Coordination Authority of the Italy - Malta Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department at the Office of the Prime Minister is pleased to announce that seventeen projects have been selected for financing under the first call for ordinary projects in connection with the programme in caption. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) budgetary allocation for such projects amounts to €5.2 million. The selected projects shall contribute towards the priority areas of the Programme, namely research, innovation and sustainable development as well as the environment, energy and risk prevention. Brief information on each of the projects is also being attached.

Further information regarding the Italy - Malta Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007 - 2013 may be obtained from the Programme's website (<http://www.italiamalta.eu>), from the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department's website (<http://www.ppcd.gov.mt>) or by telephone on 2200 1147.

[.../pr0876.pdf](#)

DOI – 06.05.2011

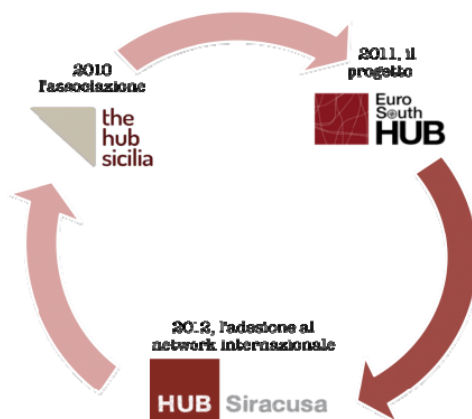
9.17 Kbytes Last Modified on 09th May, 2011

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In particular, with reference to the implementation indicators listed in the OP Communication Plan during 2011, the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Programme was mentioned in a total number of 84 media coverages. 146 articles, advertisements and video productions about the OP and about the funded projects were published, while 1 production was created by the mass media.

Particularly exemplary were the practices related to the THE HUB project, which is part of the specific objective 1.1, and to the CALYPSO project, which is part of the specific objective 2.3 of the OP.

Through the provision of a public space dedicated to the needs of the project by the City of Syracuse partner, THE HUB project allowed the initiation of the implementation of the Sicily-Malta HUB. The networking and communication activity conducted by the project was particularly relevant during 2011, since it laid the groundwork for including the Sicily Hub in the international hub circuit.



The relevance of the abovementioned activity is mainly due to the fact that the project has succeeded in creating the right mix of traditional media and new media that allowed a capillary communication and networking action that has been able to intercept amply diversified beneficiary targets.

During 2011 a number of 40 different regional media showed interest in the initiative, which was unique in Sicily, and a total of 74 articles appeared in the regional and national press. This contribution towards having citizens give their contributions for the implementation of the The Hub-Sicily area.



Through the use of new media, the The Hub project made use of online applications that allow a high level of interaction between the project website www.thehubsicilia.net and users (blogs, forums, chats, youtube, facebook, myspace, twitter, google +, linkedin, etc.) through appropriate techniques related to Web programming pertaining to the concept of dynamic Web content.

The project has also implemented within its structure the The Hub Corner, which is a radio programme organized by The Sicily Hub @ Radio Lab on 101 FM in Catania, and which is streamed on www.radiolab.it.

Live broadcasting reaching other hubs from around the world is aired at 19:00 on the second and last Thursday of each month, and interviews are held with Sicilian social innovators.




The CALYPSO project proposes the development of a stable and operational system for monitoring sea currents, wind and sea waves in the Maltese channel through the use of a system for remote observation based on a network of High Frequency (HF) radars capable of providing data on a continuous basis (hourly).

The networking and communication activity conducted by the project was particularly relevant during 2011, and served to lay the groundwork for the wide dissemination of the project data within the scientific community. The activity involved 6 public partnerships, which will enable the full implementation of radar instruments in the territories involved.

Why CALYPSO?

In Greek mythology, Calypso was the daughter of the titan Atlas (also known as Oceanus) and was a nymph living on the magical island of Ogygia. As referred to by Homer in 'The Odyssey', she seduced and imprisoned Odysseus on his journey home from the Trojan war and promised him immortality if he would sojourn permanently with her in the cave. However, after seven years he escaped to return to his beloved wife Penelope. Some people are convinced that Ogygia is indeed the island of Gozo which consequently is also known as Calypso. Over Ramla bay, the most prominent sandy beach in the Maltese Islands, one finds Calypso's cave, a complex labyrinth which was reputed to extend to sea level in places.

Like the nymph, the HF Radars envisaged through the CALYPSO project will vigilate on the stretch of sea extending from Malta to the Sicilian shores.



The Concept

The project brings together an 8-member partnership for the setting up of a permanent and fully operational HF radar observing system, capable of recording in real-time with hourly updates surface currents in the Malta Channel. The system consists of HF radar installations on the northern Malta and southern Sicilian shores at selected sites and combines stations to elaborate and publish data to users.

Collected data will be combined with outputs from numerical models to support a wide range of applications including:



- Optimised response in case of oil spill
- Safer navigation
- Improved metro-marine forecasts
- Monitoring of currents in critical areas
- Security and surveillance
- Search and rescue
- Better management of the marine space between Malta and Sicily

Risks can be highly minimised by using the best tools for surveillance, operational monitoring against pollution threats, as well as a capacity to respond with informed decisions in case of emergency. CALYPSO intends to utilise a top-end technology, consisting of an array of HF radars, to monitor in real-time meteo-marine surface conditions.

With the support of numerical modelling applications that will be also developed in the project, the HF radar data targets to provide accurate information to monitor and respond effectively to threats from oil spills. In combination with Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) this information can be used to back-track the origin of spills and provide evidence to identify the source of the pollution. Moreover the HF radar provides an avenue for a wider range of applications including search and rescue, and safer navigation.

Through a network of stakeholders, including the participation of public authorities in the partnership, the project envisages the full exploitation of the HF radar system, and dedicates direct activities for the exchange of information, practices and the preparation of common protocols for collaborative surveillance and operational interventions in the case of accidents and emergencies between Maltese and Sicilian counterparts.

The project puts Malta and Sicily at the forefront of such initiatives in the Mediterranean.

Niche for CALYPSO

The risk of oil from marine spillages beaching on shores and hitting important economic resources and causing irreversible environmental damage is a very realistic menace in the stretch of sea between Malta and Sicily. Especially in a small island state like Malta where economic assets are concentrated in space, the damage would be even more devastating. Moreover this region is situated along the main shipping lanes of the Mediterranean Sea.

Risks can be highly minimised by using the best tools for surveillance, operational monitoring against pollution threats, as well as a capacity to respond with informed decisions in case of emergency. CALYPSO intends to utilise a top-end technology, consisting of an array of HF radars, to monitor in real-time meteo-marine surface conditions.

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Envisaged Project Deliverables

The main project target is to set up a High Frequency radar system with parallel installations in Malta and on the Sicilian coast providing real-time maps and information on sea surface currents in the strip of sea dividing Malta and Sicily. The first phase will be dedicated to the optimal system design and procurement. This will be followed by radar installations and testing. The third phase will validate the system by comparing and tuning to observations. The project will train local personnel so as to enable the full autonomous control and maintenance of the HF radar system.


The project also aims to establish contacts between Maltese and Sicilian responsible authorities for marine surveillance and security, and to draft common plans for joint and coordinated operations and intervention in case of emergencies especially those arising from spillage of oil. Competent authorities in Malta and Sicily will be provided with new technologies in routine marine observations and forecasting for improved response to marine hazards, better control of the trans-boundary maritime space and greater efficiency for security and safety at sea.

The final stages of the project will involve the elaboration of data for web publishing and dissemination in real-time. Dedicated applications for oil spill response and customised data products that will serve to support the Search and Rescue operations by the Armed Forces of Malta and the Italian coastguard will be made available.

A wide spectrum of users will benefit from the results of this project. Promotion on general activities for a wider public outreach as well as the dissemination of project data itself will be made available online on the project's website.

Key characteristics for site selection are:

- proximity to the sea
- geographical position
- availability of power supply
- communications to enable the use of internet data flow
- good shelter for the electronics



Maritime Transportation

Search and rescue

Oil spill simulation

During 2011, 30 different regional media showed interest in the initiative, and a total of 54 articles appeared in the national and regional press, putting emphasis on the media and on increased public awareness in respect of the contribution of the European Union and of the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP towards the development of the territories involved in the initiative.

The added value of the subject covered by the project has allowed the publication of a scientific article in the specialised magazine of the University of Malta, whose widespread dissemination among professionals has ensured the conveyance of the contents of the Calypso project within the scientific community.

watching the seas

Calypso

Prof. Aldo Drago - Project Coordinator
Physical Oceanography Unit, University of Malta

Some people are convinced that Ogygia is indeed the island of Gozo, within the Maltese archipelago, which consequently is also known as Calypso. Over Ramla bay, the most prominent sandy beach in the Maltese Islands, one finds Calypso's cave, a complex labyrinth which was reputed to extend to sea level in places.

Times have changed but perils still threaten the Mediterranean basin, although their nature is somewhat different from when Homer penned his masterpiece. The risk of oil from marine spillages beaching on shores and hitting important economic resources and causing irreversible environmental damage is a very realistic menace in the stretch of sea between Malta and Sicily. Especially in a small island state like Malta where economic assets are concentrated in space, the damage would be even more devastating. Risk is high because the island is situated along the main shipping lanes of the Mediterranean Sea.

Risks can be highly minimised by using the best tools for surveillance, operational monitoring against pollution threats, as well as a capacity to respond with informed decisions in case of emergency. CALYPSO is a research project that intends to utilise a top-end technology, consisting of an array of High Frequency (HF) radars, to monitor in real-time meteo-marine surface conditions. Like the nymph Calypso, the HF Radars will vigilate on the stretch of sea extending from Malta to the Sicilian shores.

The project is partly financed by the EU under the Operational Programme Italia-Malta 2007-2013, and co-ordinated by Prof. Aldo Drago from the Physical Oceanography Unit of the University of Malta. It brings together 3 other partners from Malta - namely Transport Malta, Civil Protection Department and Armed Forces of Malta - and 4 partners from Sicily - ARPA Sicilia, IAMC-CNR, Capo Granitola, Università degli Studi di Palermo (UNIPA) and Università di Catania (CUTOJANA). The consortium consists of research entities and also public entities with responsibilities for civil and environmental protection, surveillance, security and response to hazards. The project is a first of its kind

28 Research Matters - University of Malta

The HF radar data also targets to provide accurate information to monitor and respond effectively to threats from oil spills... Eventually this information can be used to back-track the origin of spills and provide evidence to identify the source of the pollution

in the Mediterranean basin, although the technology has already been put into use in similar exercises carried out in Trieste, Italy and in the Bay of Biscay, in the Basque region of Spain. It was put into use in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The project will set up a permanent and fully operational HF radar observing system, capable of recording (in real-time with hourly updates) surface currents in the Malta Channel. The system consists of HF radar installations on the northern Malta and southern Sicilian shores. The Radars are expected to be installed early in 2012 and the whole system will be operational by mid-2012.

Collected data, combined to numerical models, are intended to primarily support applications to optimise intervention in case of oil spill response as well as endow tools for search and rescue, security, safer navigation, improved metro-marine forecasts, monitoring of sea conditions in critical areas such as proximity to ports, and better management of the marine space between Malta and Sicily.

Partners will share experiences and build on existing practices as well as undertake new joint initiatives targeting key problem issues that put at risk the coastal and marine resources especially from oil pollution. The project further envisages the participation of public authorities to enable the full exploitation of the system, improve exchange of information and prepare a common base for joint interventions in the case of accidents and emergencies. The project shall also serve for capacity

In Greek mythology, Calypso was the daughter of the titan Atlas (also known as Oceanus) and was a nymph living on the magical island of Ogygia. As referred to by Homer in 'The Odyssey', she seduced and imprisoned Odysseus on his journey home from the Trojan war and promised him immortality if he would sojourn permanently with her in the cave. However, after seven years he escaped to return to his beloved wife Penelope.

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building in the monitoring of the coastal seas and adjoining resources. The routine acquisition of multi-disciplinary, spatially widespread, long-term data sets of the ocean and coastal seas is expected to trigger an unprecedented leap in the economic value of ocean data and information, and will additionally target multiple applications and users.

With the support of numerical modelling applications that will be also developed in the project, the HF radar data will provide accurate information to monitor and respond effectively to threats from oil spills. In combination with the

Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) this information can be used to back-track the origin of spills and provide evidence to identify the source of the pollution, vital in identifying polluters. Moreover the HF radar provides an avenue for a wider range of applications including search and rescue, and safer navigation.

The main project targets are to set up a High Frequency radar system with parallel installations in Malta and on the Sicilian coast providing real-time maps and information on sea surface currents in the strip of sea dividing Malta and Sicily. The project will then apply the system for the joint intervention of Malta and Sicily against major oil spill incidents in this high risk and heavily trafficked trans-boundary maritime area.

The project will also establish contacts between Maltese and Sicilian authorities for marine




Artistic Impression of Radar Installation at Sopus Area, Ta' Qortin, Gozo



Key characteristics for site selection are:

- proximity to the sea
- geographical position
- availability of power supply
- communications to enable the use of internet data flow
- good shelter for the electronics

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surveillance and security (especially in connection with marine hazards) and draft common plans for joint and coordinated operations and intervention in case of emergencies especially those arising from oil spillage.

Monitoring the sea between Malta and Sicily with this advanced technology is essential because of the heavy sea traffic. Those ships carry billions of euros worth of goods and thousands of people while providing a crucial link between North Africa and Europe. CALYPSO will save money, lives and provide security, a feat that even Homer might have had difficulty to foretell. ●

THE PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY UNIT

The Physical Oceanography Unit (PO-Unit) constitutes the research arm of the International Ocean Institute - Malta Operational Centre (IOI-MOC) at the University of Malta. The Unit undertakes oceanographic research, including operational observations and forecasts, specialised data management analysis and participation in international cooperative ventures. The overarching research themes of the PO-Unit cover coastal meteorology, hydrography and physical oceanography with a main emphasis on the experimental study of the hydrodynamics of the sea in the vicinity of the Maltese Islands. The Unit has mainly endeavoured to promote activities in operational oceanography by the installation and maintenance of permanent sea monitoring systems, and the provision of meteo/marine forecasts. Observations include atmospheric parameters, sea level, currents and waves in both delayed and operational mode; forecasts for the same parameters are issued daily for the Central Mediterranean area and in the vicinity of the Maltese Islands on the services website www.cape.malta.net. The PO-Unit also acts as a national oceanographic data centre and promotes the IOC/IODE (Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange) products and activities in Malta. A main achievement in this field is the online national oceanographic database forming part of the Malta Blue Pages.



Permanent sea monitoring systems will be in place to provide meteo/marine forecasts, including atmospheric parameters, sea level, currents and waves

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The MNCA has also given exposure to the Calypso project, together with the publication by MEUSAC of an article about the project in its newsletter.

Funding Snippet

Fostering cross-border cooperation



EU Funding Programme	2007 -2013 Italia-Malta Cross Border Cooperation Programme
The Participants	University of Malta, Transport Malta, the Armed Forces of Malta and the Civil Protection Department
Project Title	Calypso
Allocated Funds	Total European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) allocation - €1,152,089
Project Duration	2 years from 15th April 2011



The Calypso project is one of the 17 projects selected for financing under the

first call of the Italia-Malta Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. This Programme is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013. It is one of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

coordinated by the Territorial Cooperation Unit within the Funds and Programmes Division, Office of the Prime Minister.

CALYPSO is a project submitted under Priority Axis II *Environment, Energy and Risk Prevention* which

brings together eight partners - Physical Oceanography Unit - IOI-Malta Operational Centre, at the University of Malta (lead partner), Transport Malta, the Armed Forces of Malta and the Civil Protection Department, as well as Italian partners ARPA - Sicilia, IAMC-CNR CAPO GRANITOLA, UNIPA and the Università di Catania. It aims at enhancing the management of the maritime space between Malta and Sicily via safer navigation, surveillance, improved meteo-marine forecasts as well as monitoring of currents in critical areas such as ports.

A permanent and fully operational High Frequency (HF) radar observing system is to be set up to record surface currents of the Malta Channel in real-time. Three HF radars will be installed in the northern Maltese and southern Sicilian shores. Moreover, the project includes the sharing of practices and the preparation of common procedures aimed at collaborative surveillance between Maltese and Italian entities, and joint operational interventions in the case of accidents and emergencies.

Below is a table showing the progress achieved for the communication plan indicators, with reference to the information and advertising actions.

Table 6 Implementation indicators for the communication plan (Information and advertising actions)

INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING ACTIONS							
Instruments for information and advertising	Output	Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Events of public interest	Organization of the programme launch event and of other scheduled events (info day, seminars, meetings and workshops, information conferences)	No. of organised seminars	0	2	2		
		No. of organised events	0	2	2		
		No. of final participating beneficiaries	0	420	250		
		No. of articles and notices for publicising the events	0	3	4		
Launch of the OP website	Enhancement of the OP website	No. of users/visitors	0	30.621	32.723		
		No. downloaded documents	0	73.225	85.718		
	Verticalisation of the information of the previous Interreg III Programme	No. of news published in the news section	0	22	0		
	Setting up of a back-end section	No. of content System management (CSM)	1	1	0		
	Setting up of a section reserved for OP beneficiaries	No. of reserved sections	0	0	1		
	Constant updating of website	No. of published news	2	27	21		
		No. of documents uploaded	42	58	102		
	Creation of a database of participating beneficiaries/partners	No. of databases created	0	0	1		
No. of users registered in the database		0	182	153			
Advertising in local and national media	Publication of items related to the OP and to funded projects in national regional press	No. of media showing interest in the OP	0	0	84		
	Mass media productions and dissemination	No. of articles, notices and video productions regarding the OP and the funded projects	0	0	146		
		No. of productions created by the mass media	0	0	1		

With reference to the support actions, the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority, with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat created a number of informative and support seminars for the beneficiaries of the first call for ordinary projects.

In particular, during the month of January 2011, 17 face to face meetings were held with the lead partners and partners of the projects eligible for funding in order to offer them the necessary technical support for the reformulation of the project budgets approved by the Executive Committee during its meeting held on the 5 November 2010. The meetings were attended by a total of 95 beneficiaries, and during the same session explanations and information necessary for the proper initiation and implementation of project activities were provided. During the first half of 2011, following the initiation of the activities of the ordinary projects, the Joint Technical Secretariat participated in special meetings organized by the lead partners of the ordinary projects, and ensured their presence in the launch events and in the first meeting of the respective Steering Committees, both in Sicily and in Malta, in order to provide the necessary support during the start up phase of the project. During the month of July 2011, the MA has taken steps to organise 2 days of training with the beneficiaries of the ordinary projects in Sicily, in Catania and Palermo respectively, in order to allow the widest possible participation by the beneficiaries from the different territories of the eligible area, regarding the issues of eligibility of expenditure, the obligations related to information and advertising, as well as procedures for reporting, monitoring and reimbursement of expenses. The training days saw the participation of 65 beneficiaries from Sicily.

Even the MNCA organised bilateral meetings with all the Maltese partners of the ordinary projects in February 2011. The meetings focused mainly on project outputs, on the rules of eligibility of expenditure, on public procedures, on information and advertising requirements and on principles of automatic decommitment. A further session of bilateral meetings took place during the month of August 2011, with the aim of training beneficiaries on how to complete the necessary documentation for the definition of the reporting and reimbursement annexes, in accordance with the reporting manual.

During 2011 the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority, supported by the Joint Technical Secretariat and by the Maltese Contact Point, guaranteed a constant liaison connection between the activities of the OP and the obligations to be carried out in the two territories through constant interlocution and sharing of activities. During the month of January 2011, the Joint Technical Secretariat and the contact point have ensured the successful holding of the 17 meetings with the lead partners of the ordinary projects, thus assuring them a constant follow up action after the meetings. During the month of June 2011, the Joint Technical Secretariat took part in 6 different work sessions, which were organized in Malta by the Maltese National Coordination Authority, and which were aimed at the sharing and the subsequent publication of the documents and guidelines for beneficiaries, which were needed for the initiation and implementation of the activities. In particular, in 2011 the Joint Technical Secretariat drew up 39 supporting documents for the beneficiaries of the ordinary projects in order to offer them the support tools necessary for the fulfilment of the responsibilities under the programme (as an example, we can mention: Model Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee, reporting annex, reimbursement annex, annex for financial and procedural monitoring, meeting minutes template, table for calculation of cost per hour, etc.). The documentation for the use of beneficiaries has been distributed to all entities, even through their publication in the documents section of the corporate website www.italiamalta.eu. The latter has proved itself to be a great tool for the dissemination of information regarding the OP and related documents, leading to a total of 30,679 document downloads during 2011.

Below is a table showing the progress achieved for the communication plan indicators, with reference to the support actions.

Table 7 Implementation indicators for the communication plan (Support actions)

SUPPORT ACTIONS							
Instruments for information and advertising	Output	Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Seminars/workshops with beneficiaries	Organisation of seminars and workshops	No. of organised seminars and workshops	0	0	23		
		No. of participating beneficiaries	0	0	199		
Informative material	Guidelines for end beneficiaries, reporting manuals, forms, etc.	No. of created documents		9	22		
		No. of downloads from the OP website	5828	45913	30679		
		No. of programme related publications	0	0	0		
		No. of FAQs published on the site	0	29	55		
		No. of answers on the Forum	0	62	0		
Assistance actions for end beneficiaries	Meetings held with the JTS and with the Maltese contact point	No. of organised meetings	0	1	6		
	Meetings with the Programme authorities	No. of information requests	0	0	55		
	Meetings with the project beneficiaries	No. of participations in Steering Committees	0	0	17		

With reference to the actions for transparency and promotion of the role carried out by the EU, during 2011 the ordinary projects also launched the informational and communication activities, in accordance with the requirements stipulated by Reg. 1828/2006 and as instructed by the OP reporting manual. In particular, the activities performed have ensured the compliance of the 17 ordinary projects with the communication plan requirements, thus ensuring the transparency of the procedures and activities and the visibility of the contribution of the European Union. In line with their respective communication plans, which were drawn up in accordance with the OP communication plan, the ordinary projects started a dissemination action involving the national and regional media, thus always ensuring the adequate visibility of the role played by the European Union and of the European Fund for Regional Development instrument in the development of territories. In particular, 7 projects were advertised in regional and national mass media. In this regard, the MNCA published, through MEUSAC, an article with respect to Calypso project.. which reported detailed information about the types of activities funded by the European Union, under the Operational Programme and with the possible additional funding of the beneficiaries involved.

Below is a table showing the progress achieved for the communication plan indicators, with reference to the actions for transparency and promotion of the role carried out by the European Union.

Table 8 Implementation indicators for the communication plan (Support actions)

ACTIONS FOR TRANSPARENCY AND PROMOTION OF THE ROLE CARRIED OUT BY THE EU							
Instruments for information and advertising	Output	Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ensuring compliance	Drawing up of the section related to	No. of examples of promotional activities reported in the annual and	0	0	4		

with provisions in the preparation of the section of the annual and final implementation report with regard to the activities and results of the CP	the activities and results of the CP in the annual and final reports	final reports					
		No. of projects that meet the CP requirements	0	0	17		
		No. of projects publicised by the mass media	0	0	6		
Monitoring of websites created by the OP beneficiaries	Verification activities of websites created by the approved projects	No. of consulted websites	0	0	5		
		No. of links leading to the OP website	0	0	5		
		No. of uploaded documents	36	2	3		
Ensuring observance of transparency with regard to the opportunities offered by the OP	Publication of press releases, advertorials, and articles	No. of articles, press releases and advertorials published	0	11	4		

With reference to actions for communication with other community programmes, during 2011, the Managing Authority of the OP and the Joint Technical Secretariat took part in 4 meetings and seminars organised by the European Commission and the INTERACT Programme.

In particular, during the month of January 2011, the MA and the JTS went to Brussels to participate in the “Consultation Meeting of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes in the 5th European Cohesion Report” organised by the INTERACT programme, and which was related to the contribution of the European Territorial Cooperation programmes within the European integration and cohesion framework and to the future prospects for the 2014-2020 Programme.

In October 2011, the Joint Technical Secretariat participated in the “Annual Meeting regarding communication networks in cross-border cooperation programmes”, which was organised by the INTERACT Programme and held in Dublin, during which the communication actions performed by the European cooperation Programmes were presented and guidelines about the creation of specific products aimed at communicating the results of the Programme and of the funded projects were provided. During their participation in the meeting, the representatives of the INTERACT Programme explained some of the communication products that were created by its own programme and by other CBC programmes, like for example for communicating the projects’ results. The INTERACT programme also described the draft concept for the creation of the ETC Day to be held on the 21/09/2011, and in which the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP will participate by organising an event within one of the most important events to be held in Sicily at that time. Moreover, as part of a cross-border event, the MNCA is currently proposing to promote a number of success stories in the local press. Finally, the INTERACT programme described the most relevant aspects related to new programming and to communication, with particular reference to the following documents: COM (2011) 615, Articles 105-107 of the draft new regulation, Annex V.

During the same month of October 2011, the MA and the JTS went to Brussels to participate in the “Annual Meeting of the Commission with the MA of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes.” During the participation in the meeting at the headquarters of DG Regio, the European Commission representatives explained the main contents of the draft new regulation on territorial cooperation for the period 2014/2020. In particular, the main news related to the present programming period with respect to Regulations 1083/2006

and 1080/2006 were explained, with reference to the authorities involved in the new operational programmes, the control and certification system, the expansion to new NUTS III territories that are not currently involved in the various Programme areas, and the selection of operations. As part of the meeting, a specific intervention by the representatives of the INTERACT Programme was held that focused on the concept of added value of cross-border cooperation programmes and on the need for a more detailed focus on the funded actions. Finally, the representatives of the INTERACT Programme presented the KEEP instrument, in which all the Cooperation Programmes took part by providing information related to the funded actions.

In addition, in November 2011 the JTS participated in the “Consultation Seminar for ETC programs regarding methods for the application of Art. 37b of Regulation 1083/2006”, which was organized by the INTERACT Programme and the Veneto Region, with the support of the MISE-DPS, and was held in Venice. The aim of the meeting was to present a study drawn up by Interact regarding the application of cooperation to the OP objectives 1 and 2, and to offer the participants from the Italian regions the opportunity to present the modes of operation of the cooperation within mainstreaming programmes, namely the future work prospects for regions that have recently decided to introduce this possibility.

During 2011, the Maltese National Coordination Authority has operated an effective dissemination of projects funded under the Italy Malta OP by participating in specific events such as Projects Steering Committee Meetings. As part of a thematic session of the Information Day Programme ENPI CBC Med, the MNCA gave ample visibility to the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP by providing an overview of projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects. Moreover, during the same event, five different projects presented the objectives and outputs of their respective projects, with each falling into one of the themes organised as part of the Information Day. Projects funded under the first call have also been given visibility in the meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee, during which the respective beneficiaries had the opportunity to present their respective projects.

Below is a table showing the progress achieved for the indicators of the communication plan, with reference to the actions for communication with other community programmes.

Table 9 Implementation indicators for the communication plan (Actions for communication with other community programmes)

ACTIONS FOR COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES							
Information and advertising tools	Output	Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Participation of the authorities involved in the OP in events of public interest	Participation in training/information days	No. di events	0	0	4		
		No. of involved Authorities	0	0	30		
		News published on the website in relation to the activities	0	0	4		

During 2011, the Managing Authority has taken steps to publish the list of beneficiaries under the OP. The list was published on the institutional website of the Italy Malta 2007-2013 OP www.italiamalta.eu and on the official website of the ERDF Sicily OP www.euroinfocicilia.it.

Below is the updated list of beneficiaries as at 31/12/2011.

Table 10 List of beneficiaries as at 31/12/2011.

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	ERDF

						amount
Sicilian Region	3	Technical Assistance payments	2009	24,000.00	23,936.03	20,345.63
Sicilian Region	3	Monitoring Committee of Catania - April 2009	2009	9,024.00	9,024.00	7,670.40
Sicilian Region	3	Payment for publication of JTS call on La Repubblica	2009	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,275.00
Sicilian Region	3	Payment for publication of JTS call on Sicilia and Giornale di Sicilia	2009	3,434.76	3,434.76	2,919.55
Sicilian Region	3	Payments to JTS members	2009	300,000.00	196,642.00	167,145.70
Sicilian Region	3	Mission payments	2009	49,000.00	26,242.08	22,305.77
Sicilian Region	3	Publications, translations, organisation of events	2010	250,000.00	150,900.26	128,265.22
Sicilian Region	3	Payments to 3 rd JTS member	2011	150,000.00	45,818.53	38,945.75
Sicilian Region	3	Other MA related expenses	2011	44,000.00	35,373.60	30,067.56
Maltese National Coordination Authority	3	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	2010	250,800.00	80,629.55	68,535.12
Maltese National Coordination Authority	3	Evaluation, studies, information and communication	2009	5,287.00	25,550.92	21,718.28

Mosta Local Council	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	413,500.00	5,356.87	4,553.34
Heritage Malta	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	157,700.00	4,795.57	4,076.23
Malta Tourism Authority	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	94,500.00	1,089.70	926,25
Rabat local Council	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	81.900,00	1.092,08	928.27
The Municipality of Ragusa	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	196,558.00	0.00	0.00
Sicilian Region - Superintendency for Cultural and Environmental Heritage of Ragusa	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	223,494.00	0.00	0.00
Municipality of Santa Croce Camerina	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	80,600.00	10,097.92	8,583.23
GiriTravel srl	1.3	ARCHAEOTUR Project	2011	116,565.00	16,847.96	14,320.77
University of Malta	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	598,271.00	46,765.45	39,750.63
Transport Authority (TA)	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	142,722.00	4,476.58	3,805.09
Civil Protection Department (CPV)	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	27,245.00	511.68	434.93
Armed Forces of Malta (AFM)	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	30,405.00	1,731.41	1,471.70
ARPA Sicily – Regional Agency for the Protection of the Environment	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	174,666.00	2,517.03	2,139.48
Institute for Coastal Marine Environment of Capo Granitola, National Research Council (IAMC-CNR)	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	119,545.00	43,817.96	37,245.27

CAPO GRANITOLA)						
University of Palermo - University Centre of Trapani	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	186,590.00	12,275.96	10,434.57
UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA - University Centre for the Protection and Management of Natural Environments and Agro-ecosystems (CUTGANA)	2.3	CALYPSO Project	2011	75,955.00	6,999.79	5,949.82
University of Catania – Department for Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences	1.3	GARDMED Project	2011	219,513.00	45,334.34	38,534.19
University of Malta - Argotti Botanical Gardens	1.3	GARDMED Project	2011	212,996.00	3,445.24	2,928.45
Municipality of Syracuse	1.3	GARDMED Project	2011	187,951.00	37,590.20	31,951.67
Floriana Local Council	1.3	GARDMED Project	2011	127,902.00	596.50	507.03
Regional Province of Ragusa	1.1	LITHOS Project	2011	322,475.04	2,881.00	2,448.85
University of Palermo - Department of History and Architectural Design	1.1	LITHOS Project	2011	188,111.00	94,055.50	79,947.18
Regional Department for Cultural Heritage - Regional Centre for Design and Restoration, and for Natural and Applied Science for Cultural	1.1	LITHOS Project	2011	116,449.00	0.00	0.00

Heritage						
Heritage Malta	1.1	LITHOS Project	2011	268,729.20	753.00	640.05
Region of Sicily - Department for Infrastructural Interventions in Agriculture	2.1	MORISO Project	2011	288,610.00	0.00	0.00
University of Catania - Department of Food Farming and Environmental Systems Management	2.1	MORISO Project	2011	51,205.00	26,138.50	22,217.73
Centre for Studies in Economics Applied to Engineering - CSEI	2.1	MORISO Project	2011	139,650.00	27,930.00	23,740.50
Regional Agency for Environmental Protection - DAP Ragusa	2.1	MORISO Project	2011	37,240.00	18,620.00	15,827.00
Malta Resources Authority - Directorate for Water Resources Regulation Directorate for Water Resources Regulation	2.1	MORISO Project	2011	153,615.00	3,560.70	3,026.60
Water Services Corporation	2.1	MORISO Project	2011	139,650.00	0.00	0.00
Municipality of Sciacca	1.3	OBIMED Project	2011	313,644.00	6,811.58	5,789.84
Municipality of Għarb	1.3	OBIMED Project	2011	146,900.00	2,978.02	2,531.32
Maltese Italian Chamber of	1.3	OBIMED Project	2011	158,000.00	2,597.06	2,207.50

Commerce							
Municipality of Castelvetro	1.3	OBIMED Project	2011	45,800.00	22,900.00	19,465.00	
Malta Tourism Society	1.3	OBIMED Project	2011	34,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Regional Province of Syracuse	2.1	PANACEA Project	2011	446,132.00	133,839.60	113,763.66	
Regional Province of Palermo	2.1	PANACEA Project	2011	243,620.00	121,810.00	103,538.50	
Municipalities of Lampedusa and Linosa	2.1	PANACEA Project	2011	103,784.00	51,892.00	44,108.20	
Kunsill Lokali San Lawrenz	2.1	PANACEA Project	2011	188,054.00	3,275.50	2,784.18	
University of Malta	2.1	PANACEA Project	2011	240,866.00	26,356.23	22,402.80	
Regional Institute of Vines and Wine	1.1	ProMed Project	2011	574,725.00	19,700.00	16,745.00	
Centre for Studies in Economics Applied to Engineering - CSEI	1.1	ProMed Project	2011	110,300.00	0.00	0.00	
University of Malta	1.1	ProMed Project	2011	198,500.00	12,446.59	10,579.60	
Ministry for resources and Rural Affairs	1.1	ProMed Project	2011	342,520.00	1,981.43	1,684.22	
Municipalities of Lampedusa and Linosa	1.1	ProMed Project	2011	15,000.00	3,000.00	2,550.00	
Municipality of Pantelleria	1.1	ProMed Project	2011	15,000.00	3,000.00	2,550.00	
Organizzazzjoni Produttori Għeneb Għall-Inbid Malta	1.1	ProMed Project	2011	114,300.00	0.00	0.00	

Municipality of Bivona	2.1	REMASI Project	2011	142,712.00	0.00	0.00
Legambiente onlus Sicilian Regional Committee	2.1	REMASI Project	2011	92,120.00	0.00	0.00
University of Palermo	2.1	REMASI Project	2011	115,068.00	0.00	0.00
Heritage Malta	2.1	REMASI Project	2011	115,600.00	0.00	0.00
Regional Province of Ragusa	2.2	RESI Project	2011	176,152.09	5,858.62	4,979.83
Regional Province of Agrigento	2.2	RESI Project	2011	158,843.91	31,768.78	27,003.46
Malta Resources Authority	2.2	RESI Project	2011	126,004.40	2,061.35	1,752.15
University of Malta - Institute for Sustainable Energy	2.2	RESI Project	2011	126,697.60	16,302.43	13,857.07
Ministry for Health, Elderly, and Community Care – Malta	2.3	RESPIRA Project	2011	345,744.00	0.00	0.00
Caltanissetta Province Healthcare Company - District of Gela	2.3	RESPIRA Project	2011	146,873.00	0.00	0.00
University of Palermo - D.R.E.A.M Department	2.3	RESPIRA Project	2011	121,488.00	5,346.35	4,544.40
Institute of Biomedicine and Molecular Immunology, National Research Council (IBIM-CNR)	2.3	RESPIRA Project	2011	250,255.00	43,260.55	36,771.47
Regional Province of Agrigento – Policy	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	344,160.00	74,910.53	63,673.95

office						
Regional Province of Ragusa	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	137,650.00	68,825.00	58,501.25
Regional Province of Syracuse	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	137,650.00	68,825.00	58,501.25
Regional Province of Trapani	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	137,650.00	68,825.00	58,501.25
Regional Province of Caltanissetta	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	137,650.00	68,825.00	58,501.25
Malta Tourism Authority	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	91,770.00	7,630.73	6,486.12
Local Council Association – Malta	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	91,770.00	4,085.50	3,472.68
Agrigento University Centre	1.3	SIBIT Project	2011	22,940.00	11,470.00	9,749.50
University of Malta - International Environment Institute	2.1	SIMBIOTIC Project	2011	413,616.00	13,817.49	11,744.87
Ministry for Gozo	2.1	SIMBIOTIC Project	2011	161,349.00	1,261.55	1,072.32
University of Catania - "Marcello La Greca" Biology Department	2.1	SIMBIOTIC Project	2011	226,975.00	923,85	785.27
Municipality of Pachino	2.1	SIMBIOTIC Project	2011	200,088.00	0.00	0.00
University of Malta	1.1	T-CHEESIMAL Project	2011	341,087.00	11,589.21	9,850.83
CoRFiLaC - Consortium for Dairy Sector Research	1.1	T-CHEESIMAL Project	2011	228,010.00	41,332.59	35,132.70
University of Catania	1.1	T-CHEESIMAL Project	2011	205,342.00	0.00	0.00
University of	1.1	THE HUB Project	2011	380,967.00	27,119.40	23,051.49

Catania - Faculty of Architecture, Syracuse						
University of Malta	1.1	THE HUB Project	2011	190,484.00	8,818.79	7,495.97
Confcooperative Siracusa	1.1	THE HUB Project	2011	34,633.00	0.00	0.00
L. Pirandello Institute	1.1	THE HUB Project	2011	86,584.00	47,999.06	40,799.20
Municipality of Syracuse	1.1	THE HUB Project	2011	173,167.00	87,896.40	74,711.94
National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, Catania branch	2.3	VAMOS SEGURO Project	2011	205,264.00	60,832.68	51,707.78
National Institute of Astrophysics	2.3	VAMOS SEGURO Project	2011	105,565.00	68,254.95	58,016.71
Atmospheric Research Physics Department University of Malta	2.3	VAMOS SEGURO Project	2011	111,429.00	0.00	0.00
Municipality of Montedoro	2.3	VAMOS SEGURO Project	2011	164,212.00	123,592.40	105,053.54
Regional Province of Trapani	2.4	WATER FRONT Project	2011	86,091.00	0.00	0.00
Regional Province of Palermo	2.4	WATER FRONT Project	2011	28,697.00	5,739.40	4,878.49
Municipality of Palermo	2.4	WATER FRONT Project	2011	18,560.00	0.00	0.00
University of Palermo	2.4	WATER FRONT Project	2011	67,531.00	13,506.20	11,480.27
University of Malta	2.4	WATER FRONT Project	2011	86,091.00	0.00	0.00