



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

*CCI 2007 CB 163 OP 037
Decision C(2008) 7336 of the 27 November 2008*

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2012

Approved by the MC on 27 June 2013



1. IDENTIFICATION

Operational Programme	Objective concerned:	European Territorial Cooperation
	Eligible area concerned:	Italy - Malta
	Programming Period:	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	2012
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%	5%
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%	14%
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%	82%

The table highlights the percentage of approved operations (17 ordinary projects and 5 strategic projects) at 31/12/2012, regarding to the cooperation modes, provided for in Art. 19 of Reg. 1083/2006, which each project activates for its management.

In detail, based on the data entered by the lead partner in the Section A.4 of the Application Form of the ordinary project proposals and in the Section C (point 27) of the Application Form of the strategic project proposals, the cooperation mode for each approved operation guaranteed during the project implementation, is being recorded (joint development, joint implementation, joint staff, joint financing).

In 2012 column, the aggregated data are updated with the 5 funded strategic operations (STREETS, VIENERGY, CRIM SAFRI, BIODIVALUE and PORT PVEV). In details, 4 strategic projects with Italian lead partner(the first four) have ensured compliance with all the four cooperation modes, the 1 strategic project with Maltese lead partner has ensured compliance with three cooperation modes.

Taking into consideration the data related to the 17 operations approved within the call for ordinary projects, the full achievement of the Operational Programme targets.

Actually, the percentage of 82% relating to the operations which ensure compliance with all the four cooperation modes, provided for the Regulation, 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 31/12/2012, in accordance to the cooperation degree at programme level, which have been recorded through the examination and investigation of the second, third and fourth requests 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	2012
Projects that promote the use of common infrastructure	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	10%	0	0	12%	35%
Projects that develop partnerships in the public services sector	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	15%	0	0	6%	24%
Projects that reduce insularity through better transport accessibility, ICT networks and services	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	15%	0	0	0%	12%
Projects that encourage and improve the protection and common management of the environment	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	20%	0	0	12%	41%
Projects that contribute to the management of natural and anthropic risks	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	10%	0	0	6%	24%
Projects that promote R & ST and innovative networks	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	10%	0	0	0%	24%
Projects that jointly promote tourism in the cross-border area	Percentage (%) of total projects	0	20%	0	0	0%	18%
Public institutions (regional, local) that cooperate on a cross-border level	Number	0	100%	0	0	18%	66

The first indicator shows a percentage equal to 35%, which corresponds to 6 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 implementation of the Sicily-Malta HUB, which 400 people a year take advantage of.
- ARCHAEOEUR Axis I - specific target 1.3 – which realized some restoration and accessibility works in Sicilian sites (Cava Celone, Cisternazzi and Donnafugata) and in Maltese sites (S. Augustine and Ta' Bistra). The project also developed a plan for the combined management of the sites. The works in the three Sicilian sites have been finished, whereas the works in the two Maltese sites are in the final stages of implementation.

- OBIMED Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which realized n° 3 info points in Malta and in Sicily for an online booking system by means of the new technologies. The info points have facilitated the integration of the Sicilian and Maltese territories, the accommodation offering and the use of the sites.
- SIBIT Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which realized 5 cross border biketourisme packages, by means of the modernization of existent infrastructures and the adaptation of hotel with services in behalf of biketourists.
- PANACEA Axis II - specific target 2.2 which, 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 - 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.
- CALYPSO Axis II - specific target 2.3 – which during 2012 purchased and installed two radars on the Maltese coast and purchased one radar that will be installed on the Sicilian coast of Pozzallo (Ragusa).

The second indicator shows a percentage equal to 24%, which corresponds to 4 operations for the partnership development in public services. In particular, the following projects are noted:

- THE HUB Axis I – specific target 1.1 – which during 2012 consolidated the local community with potential users and began to put online The Hub by the means of international networks.
- OBIMED Axis I – specific target 1.3 – whose partners realized n° 3 public services as: the implementation of the technological platform, the online booking system and the setting up of WI FI free areas in order to favour the use of the contents and to offer a guided service to the tourists.
- RESI Axis II - specific target 2.3 – that, with the realization of the Energy Tours in Malta and in Sicily, involved 4 bodies having energy expertise in the presentation of the best practices realized within the renewable energies.
- CALYPSO Axis II - specific target 2.3 that secured the involvement of 6 public partnerships as part of the activities defining the technical characteristics of radars to be installed in the Maltese Channel;

The third indicator shows a percentage equal to 12%, corresponding to 2 operations that reduce insularity through better transport accessibility, ICT networks and services. In details, the following projects are noted:

- ARCHAEOEUR Axis I - specific target 1.3 – which favoured the promoting of the “heritage trails” of the archeological sites by means of n° 2 digital totems.
- OBIMED Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which during 2012 realized the territorial analysis to define the itineraries and video guides and the installation of the WI FI free areas.

The fourth indicator shows a percentage equal to 41%, corresponding to 7 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 15 subjects among bodies, companies and associations which are aware of the HUB ethics with regards to the respect and management of the environment.
- OBIMED Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which provided for the subscription of a protocol aimed to the opening of a technological platform also in low and middle season periods.
- SIBIT Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which by the means of cross border biketouristic itineraries registered 50 accommodation facilities on the basis of an estimated target of 30 structures.
- MORISO Axis II - specific target 2.1 – which provided for a territorial information system for the monitoring of underground water resources installation and the developing of a pilot desalination plant as well as a micro-irrigation system.
- PANACEA Axis II - specific target 2.2 – which realized n° 6 studies concerning the environment and the biodiversity of the protected marine areas which provided for the processing of ecological models.
- RESI Axis II - specific target 2.3 – which realized n° 3 Local Action Plans for the territories involved in the project, by means of workshops and laboratories activated on the basis of EASW methodology. The workshops registered a very good success of attendance of the stakeholders.
- CALYPSO Axis II - specific target 2.3 – involved 1 x 10¹⁰ square metres surface area in the activity of developing of a permanent operational system of monitoring of marine currents in the Maltese Channel by means of a HF (High Frequency) radar observing system.

The fifth indicator shows a percentage equally to 24%, corresponding to 4 operations contributing to the management of natural and human risks. In particular, the following project is noted:

- PROMED Axis I - specific target 1.1 – which involved a 60.000 square metres area in the realization of activities aimed to the promoting the planting of vineyards in risk areas of the territories and to the correct use of the different varieties in accordance with the local characteristics.
- MORISO Axis II - specific target 2.1 – which, among the valuation of the human influence on the underground water resources, focalized the attention on the impact of the sewerage, in particular the urban one, on the water resources.
- CALYPSO Axis II - specific target 2.3 - involved 1 x 10¹⁰ square metres surface area in relation to the monitoring of the Maltese Channel.
- VAMOS SEGURO Axis II - specific target 2.3 – which affected a 37.500 square kilometres area within the realization of an automatic system for the monitoring and forecasting of volcanic ash dispersal.

The sixth indicator shows a percentage equally to 24%, corresponding to 4 operations promoting R & ST and innovative networks. In particular, the following project is noted:

- THE HUB Axis I – specific target 1.1 – which started 4 innovative networks as follows: the setting up of The Hub Siracusa and the realization of events; the establishment of the antenna The Hub in Lampedusa, the developing of the computer platform and the connection of the Euro South HUB system with the international network.

- PROMED Axis I - specific target 1.1 – which, as innovative actions, defined n° 3 oenological protocols able to obtain a viable system and the realisation of an experimental center in Malta so as to be able to continue the applied research activities.
- OBIMED Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which favoured the developing of networks by means of the realization and the implementation of a technological platform in order to improve the integration between Sicilian and Maltese operators, their visibility and availability.
- RESI Axis II - specific target 2.3 – which favoured the technological transfer by the means of the collection and the exchange of 30 RES good practices.

The seventh indicator shows a percentage equally to 18%, corresponding to 3 operations jointly promoting tourism in the cross-border area. In particular, the following project is noted:

- ARCHAEOEUR Axis I - specific target 1.3 – which realized n° 2 different “heritage trails” of the archeological sites in Sicily (province of Ragusa) and in Malta for touristic and educational aims. These sights have also undergone restoration and significant works have been carried out so as to make them accessible for tourists and persons with different abilities as well as children.
- OBIMED Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which defined n° 3 integrated itineraries in order to increase the attraction capacity of the territories by means of the use of the most innovative communication technologies with 50 contacts reached by the joint Italian and Maltese promotion.
- SIBIT Axis I – specific target 1.3 – which during the 2012 contributed to a 5% increase in the tourism flows between the two islands.

The eighth indicator refers to the number of public institutions (regional and local) cooperating on a cross-border level. During 2012 n° 66 institutions were involved within the activities of 11 operations. In particular, the following projects are noted:

Tab. 1. C Public institutions (regional and local) cooperating on a cross-border level

Axis	Specific Obj	Project	Institutions involved
AXIS I	1.1	THE HUB	8
	1.1	LITHOS	6
	1.1	PROMED	10
	1.3	ARCHAEOEUR	3
	1.3	OBIMED	4
	1.3	SIBIT	8
AXIS II	2.1	MORISO	2
	2.2	PANACEA	10
	2.1	SIMBIOTIC	4
	2.2	RESI	5
	2.3	CALYPSO	6
TOTALE			66

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	3.720.678	3.720.678	21%
Axis II - Environment, energy and risk prevention	15.960.715	P	3.713.062	3.713.062	23%
Axis III - Technical assistance, awareness, communication and advertising	2.128.095	P	840.908	840.908	40%
TOTAL	35.468.255		8.274.648	8.274.648	23%

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	2.696.001
CTE	2 - R & TD infrastructures (including physical installations, equipment and high-speed computer networks linking research centres) 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 (science and technology parks, technopolis, etc..)	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 (access, security, interoperability, risk prevention, research, innovation, digital content, etc.)	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 (e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.)	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	2.110.814
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	3.166.221
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	1.718.806
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	2.107.799
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	2.349.834
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	813.426
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	256.333

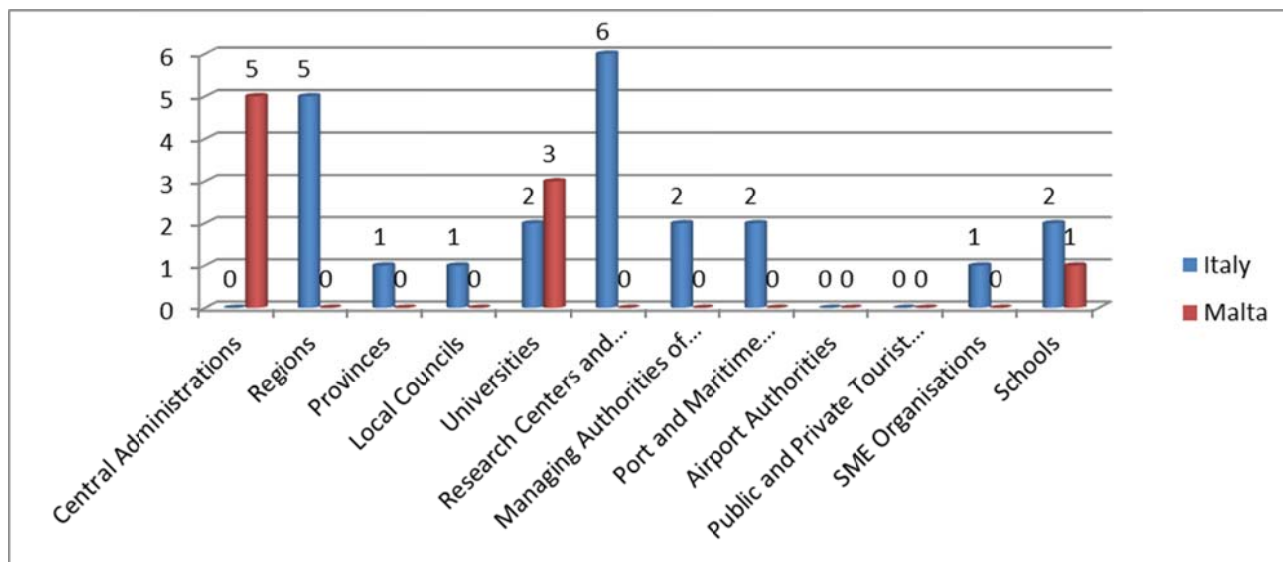
2.1.4 Progress achieved in the financing and implementation of financial engineering instruments under Art. 44

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 2012, the activities pertaining to strategic projects were initiated by means of the involvement of 31 beneficiaries from the eligible territories, 22 of which were Italian and 9 were Maltese. Based on the information contained in the OP implementation manual, the call for strategic projects has guaranteed the participation of potential beneficiaries who have their head and/or secondary office, including their administrative office, in the eligible area of the programme. The call also guaranteed the participation in the programme of the following groups of beneficiaries: 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 strategic projects.

Chart no. 1 - Stratification of beneficiaries



The chart brings together, as groups of recipients, the beneficiaries who received funding under Axes I and II of the Programme, limited to strategic projects, analysed in respect of three main factors:

- Stratification according to category;
- Level of participation;
- Degree of private involvement.

Regarding the stratification of the beneficiaries according to category, the graph highlights the maximum participation by the Sicilian regional governments and the Maltese central governments, since the call for

strategic projects established this type of lead partner, among the selection criteria, to guarantee the strategic value of the projects. Also in the partnerships this kind of beneficiaries is present, in fact inside the partnerships of the funded projects there are 1 Sicilian regional government and 4 Maltese central governments. A 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 8 and 3 times respectively, in the strategic 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 strategic 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 strategic projects.

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 strategic projects, a total of 6 private entities, including 5 Italian entities (Green Life soc. coop. a r.l., Med.O.R.O., Collegio Universitario ARCES, Centro Studi di Economia applicata all’Ingegneria di Catania, Abe s.r.l.) and 1 Maltese entity (GAL XLOKK) participate in the funded operations. The presence of private partners concerns 4 different strategic projects out of a total of 5 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 involved territories, 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 strategic projects.

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

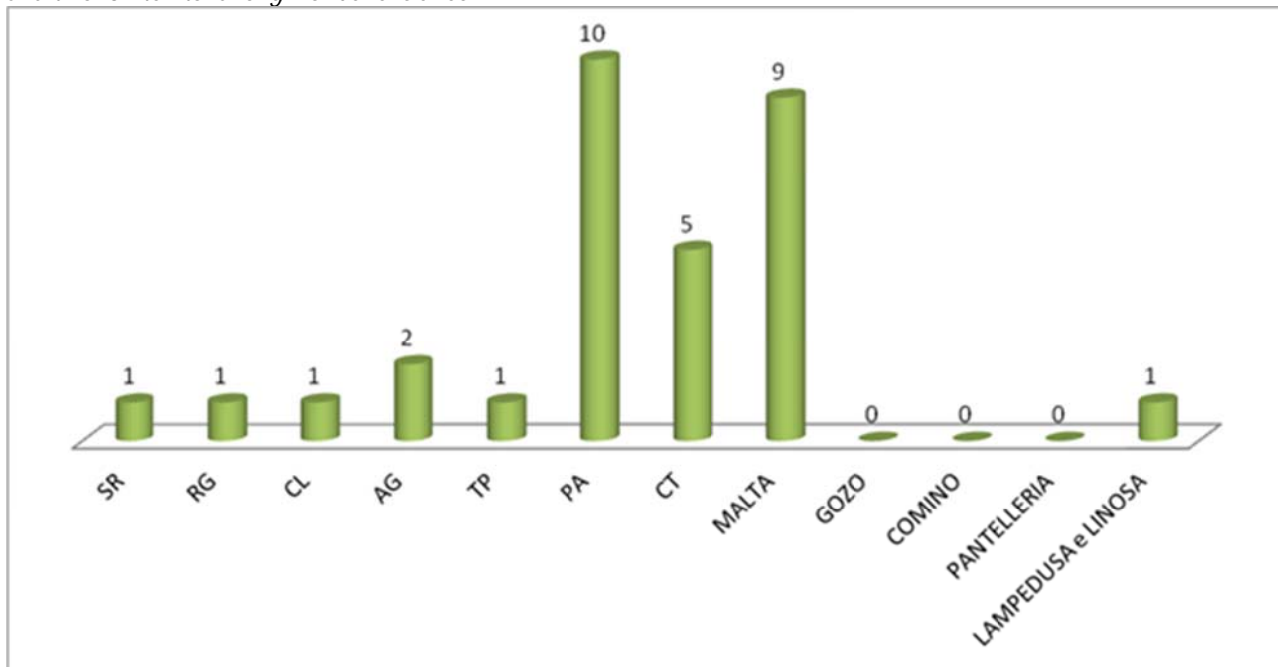
	Axis I	Axis II				TOTALE
	Sp. Obj 1.2	Sp. Obj. 2.1		Sp. Obj. 2.2	Sp. Obj. 2.3	
	STREETS	BIODIVALUE	PORT PVEV	CRIM SAFRI	VIENERGY	
Central Administrations	1		2	1	1	5
Regions	1	1		2	1	5
Provinces			1			1
Local Councils	1					1
Universities	1	2		1	1	5
Research Centers and Consortia	1	1		1	3	6
Managing Authorities of protected areas		2				2
Port and Maritime Authorities	1		1			2
Airport Authorities						0
Public and Private Tourist Operators						0
SME Organisations				1		1
Schools		2		1		3

As regards the areas affected by the actions of the operational programme, it would be appropriate to point out that in the call for strategic 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. All the Maltese partners participating in the strategic projects are located in Malta, although a

number of Gozitan entities have participated in the ordinary projects. 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 strategic 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 the territorial coverage, the above chart shows the participation of all eligible Sicilian provinces, the ultra-peripheral territory of the Sicilian islands of Lampedusa and Linosa and the Maltese territory.

Regarding the NUTS III adjacent areas, a significant representation of entities belonging to the territories of Palermo and Catania should be noted. The Task Force dealing with the Italia Malta 2014 – 2020 Programme have taken note of this presence and discussions regarding the participation of such areas are currently underway. .

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.

Concerning the call for the selection of strategic projects the OP Executive Committee confirmed the application of the *principle of territorial affiliation* for the beneficiaries of the adjacent NUTS III areas (Catania and Palermo). Even more so in consideration that the selection criteria of the call for strategic projects established that the lead-partner would be chosen among public national or regional bodies being in charge of the thematic area the project proposal deals with. Therefore, considering that Sicilian Region Departments are located in the NUTS III area of Palermo, all projects having an Italian lead partner will fall within the adjacent area of Palermo.

Based on the findings of the evaluation process, the Executive Committee has accepted to finance 5 proposed projects, out of the approved 5, 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 31/12/2012:

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

PRI ORI TY	SPECI FIC OBJE CTIVE	OPERATI ON	BENEFICIARY	NUTS III AREA PALER MO	NUTS III AREA CATA NIA	APPROVE D ERDF PERCENTA GE IN ADJACENT AREAS	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 1	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 2	TOTAL AT THE 31/12/201 2
Ordinary Projects									
1	1.3	GARDM ED A1.1.3- 02	LP - Università di Catania – Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche e Geologiche e Ambientali		x	17,58%	6,35%	8,79%	15,14%
1	1.1	LITHOS A1.1.1- 10	PP 2 - Università degli Studi di Palermo - Dipartimento Storia e Progetto nell'Architettura	x		3%	0,00%	0,00%	0%
			PP 3 - Assessorato regionale Beni Culturali - Centro Regionale per la Progettazione e il Restauro e per le Scienze Naturali ed Applicate ai Beni Culturali	x			0,00%	0,00%	
2	2.1	MORIS O A1.2.1- 73	LP - Regione Siciliana – Dipartimento Interventi Infrastrutturali in Agricoltura	x		16,23%	0,00%	0,00%	3,50%
			PP 2 - Università di Catania - Dipartimento di Gestione dei Sistemi Agroalimentari e Ambientali		x		0,08%	0,83%	
			PP 3 - Centro Studi di Economia applicata all'Ingegneria - CSEI		x		0,00%	2,59%	

PRI ORI TY	SPECI FIC OBJE CTIVE	OPERATI ON	BENEFICIARY	NUTS III AREA PALER MO	NUTS III AREA CATA NIA	APPROVE D ERDF PERCENTA GE IN ADJACENT AREAS	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 1	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 2	TOTAL AT THE 31/12/201 2
2	2.1	PANAC EA A1.2.1- 57	PP 2 - Provincia regionale di Palermo	x		20%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
1	1.1	ProMed A1.1.1- 42	LP - Istituto Regionale della Vite e del Vino	x		7,55%	0,43%	17,64%	19,29%
			PP 2 - Centro Studi di Economia applicata all'Ingegneria - CSEI		x		0,00%	1,22%	
2	2.1	REMAS I A1.2.1- 16	PP 2 - Legambiente Comitato Regionale Siciliano onlus	x		15,33%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
			PP 3 - Università degli Studi di Palermo	x			0,00%	0,00%	
2	2.3	VAMOS SEGUR O A1.2.3- 62	LP - Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, sezione di Catania		x	20%	0,00%	2,31%	16,20%
			PP2 - Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica		x		0,04%	13,85%	
2	2.4	WATER FRON A1.2.4- 67	PP 2 - Provincia regionale di Palermo	x		12,84%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
			PP 3 - Comune di Palermo	x			0,00%	0,00%	
			PP 4 - Università degli Studi di Palermo	x			0,00%	0,00%	
Strategic projects									

PRI ORI TY	SPECI FIC OBJE CTIVE	OPERATI ON	BENEFICIARY	NUTS III AREA PALER MO	NUTS III AREA CATA NIA	APPROVE D ERDF PERCENTA GE IN ADJACENT AREAS	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 1	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 2	TOTAL AT THE 31/12/201 2
1	1.2	STREE TS B1.1.17 -3	LP - Dipartimento regionale delle infrastrutture, della mobilità e dei trasporti, Regione Siciliana	x		20%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
			PP 2 - ARCES Collegio Universitario	x			0,00%	0,00%	
			PP 3 - Autorità Portuale di Catania		x		0,00%	0,00%	
2	2.1	BIODIV ALUE B1- 2.8/1	LP - Regione Siciliana - ARPA	x		20%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
			PP 4 - Istituto superiore per la prevenzione e la ricerca ambientale ISPRA	x			0,00%	0,00%	
			PP 8 - Università degli studi di Catania - Dipartimento di Ingegneria industriale meccanica		x		0,00%	0,00%	
2	2.1	PORT PVEV	PP 2 - Autorità Portuale di Catania		x	20%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
2	2.2	CRIM SAFRI B1.2.14 -8	LP - Regione Siciliana Assessorato regionale Territorio e Ambiente Dipartimento Urbanistica	x		19%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
			PP 2 - Università degli Studi di Palermo- Dipartimento delle Energia	x			0,00%	0,00%	
			PP 3 - CNR isituto di biomedicina e di immunologia molecolare IBIM	x			0,00%	0,00%	

PRI ORI TY	SPECI FIC OBJE CTIVE	OPERATI ON	BENEFICIARY	NUTS III AREA PALER MO	NUTS III AREA CATA NIA	APPROVE D ERDF PERCENTA GE IN ADJACENT AREAS	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 1	PERCENTA GE OF CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE EXPENDIT URE INCURRED BY THE BENEFICIA RIES AS AT THE 31/12/201 2	TOTAL AT THE 31/12/201 2
2	2.3	VIENER GY B1- 2.9/6	LP - Istituto Regionale della Vite e del Vino	x		20%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
			PP 2 - Consorzio di Ricerca per lo Sviluppo di Sistemi Innovativi Agroalimentari (CO.RI.S.S.I.A.)	x			0,00%	0,00%	
			PP 3 - Centro Studi di Economia Applicata all'Ingegneria (CSEI Catania)		x		0,00%	0,00%	

The table analysis indicates that the beneficiaries of the projects, approved under the two calls for the selection of ordinary and strategic projects, take up an ERDF percentage, benefiting the adjacent territories of Palermo and Catania, which is always under the limit of the 20% of the ERDF approved for each operation. Moreover at the 31/12/2012 the percentage of certified FESR in Palermo and Catania territories is under the 7%.

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

Axis I and II

On 31/12/2012 the operational Programme concluded two evaluation procedures that gave way for the financing of 22 projects (17 ordinary projects and 5 strategic projects). None of these projects is concluded at the date of conclusion of this AIR.

With reference to the implementation of ordinary projects during 2012, every project partnership gave way to the implementation of the main project activities linked to the objectives of every project. With regards to the results and progress obtained by each project please refer to paragraphs 3.1.1.2 and 3.2.1.2.

With reference to the conclusion of the procedure for the generation of strategic projects and the successive start of these projects, on the 17th January 2012 the terms for the presentation of project proposals were closed on the terms of the call 01/2011 for the selection of strategic projects – 2nd phase, published in the official Gazzette of the Region of Sicily (dated 18 November 2011) along with the main media and official websites in Sicily and Malta.

The call for proposals was closed the Joint Technical Secretariat establishing the guidelines on the admissibility of the projects (amounting to 17 in all) in the first half of February 2012, and this permitted the Managing Authority of the OP to organise the seventh Steering Committee meeting held on 28 and 29 February 2012.

The Steering Committee, on the basis of the guidelines and the verification of the consistency of “admissibility requirements” carried out by the JTS, approved the list of 8 proposals that were “admissible to the successive evaluation phase” and 9 proposals that “weren’t admissible to the evaluation”.

Following the Executive Committee, the JTS carried out the evaluation of the project proposals that were retained as admissible according to the “coherence verification” and the “evaluation of the project proposal”, providing as well a table, ranking the different projects as well as a “final technical evaluation report”.

This allowed the MA to invoke the eight meeting of the Steering Committee that took place on the 3rd and 4th April 2012. During this meeting, following the research carried out the MA according to the counterarguments presented by the Lead Partners of the projects that were considered as non-admissible since they missed out on the formal requirements for admissibility and eligibility, approved the addition of one proposal to the list of project proposals “admissible for the successive phase for evaluation”. The non-admissibility of the rest of the proposals was confirmed. In the same meeting on the 3rd and 4th April 2012, eight steering committee approved the contribution with regards to equal opportunities and the environment of the respective representatives of the Maltese government and the Region of Sicily and proceeded for the approval of the evaluation grid for each of the project proposals as well as a financial re-modulation of the projects that were admissible but not financeable. The approval of the evaluation grids, along with the relative points for each project proposal allowed the Steering Committee the drafting of a “list of projects admissible for financing” (CRIM SAFRI, BIODIVALUE, PORT PVEV and STREETS), a “list of projects admissible for financing under certain conditions” (VIEnergy), a “list of project that were admissible and not financeable” (ImaGenX, SIMIT, and PIM ENERGETHICA) and the “list of rejected projects” (SUWAMA and MEMSAFE).

Successive to the decisions taken by the Steering Committee, the MA submitted to all lead partners the evaluation grid of the project proposals along with a note on the decisions of the Steering Committee. A synthesis of the decisions of the Steering Committee was published on the official website of the Programme www.italiamalta.eu, along with a “list of approved and financeable projects”, a “list of projects admissible for financing under certain conditions” and the “list of rejected projects”.

During April 2012 the Managing Authority of the OP, in the light of the decisions taken by the Steering Committee during the meeting on the 3rd and 4th April 2012 initialised the written procedure of the Steering Committee for the approval of a proposal for the utilisation of the financial resources that were available for Axis II.

This proposal provided for the utilisation of resources available within Axis II of the OP and corresponding to the sum of €1.279.864 that, together with the resources available within the Axis according to the call N.

01/2011 equivalent to 620,287, would allow the approval of the project “admissible for financing under certain conditions” for the total amount of €1,900,151.

This procedure was concluded on April 24 2012 (Note 7316) and was processed in accordance with art 6 of the call 01/2011 for the selection of strategic projects. The final ranking results would remain valid for 12 months. The Monitoring Committee could provide further resources according to their availability within the Programme for the eventual financing of further projects.

The conclusion of this procedure allowed the admissibility for financing for the project Vienergy.

At the end of April the evaluation and approval of the strategic projects was concluded and the MA provided to ask the lead partners of the projects approved for financing to prepare a new Application Form that was revised according to the conditions and the total budget approved by the Steering Committee on the 3rd and 4th April 2012.

During the month of May 2012 the Programme Authorities (i.e. the MA, the JTS and the MNCA) produced a draft of the partnership agreement for the project partners (in Italian and English) as well as the Subsidy contract (in Italian and English), amended in the light of certain modifications according to the regulatory framework in Sicily.

During the month of June 2012, the MA and the JTS gave start to the analysis of the revised Application Forms that were presented by the respective lead Partners. Having verified conformity with the instructions of the Steering Committee, the MA provided to inform the Lead Partners on the 17 July 2012 of the successful conclusion of the investigation and the expiration dates of the period of eligibility of expenditure for each respective project. The MA also provided to notify to the Lead Partners the drafts for the initialisation of activities of the partnership agreement between the Lead Partner and the project partners as well as the Subsidy contract between the MA and the Lead Partner. The MNCA also liaised with the Maltese partners in this regard.

During August-September 2012 the JTS provided to verify the information provided by the lead Partners in the contracts so that the partnership agreement could be signed. Within September 2012, the projects STREETS, BIODIVALUE, PORT PVEPV and VIENERGY had started the project related activities and by October 2012 the Lead Partners had finalised the partnership agreements and the subsidy contract with the Managing Authority.

The above mentioned projects started the first project activities during 2012 as well as sharing the work plans for the correct implementation of these plans. With regards to the project objectives and the progress registered in relation to the objectives of each strategic project, please refer to paragraphs 3.1.1.2 e 3.2.1.2.

One can find in the coming pages a qualitative analysis of the general results on the progress according to the defined objectives defined in the Operational Programme.

From an examination of the results of the first evaluation procedure – the first element that emerges with regards to the ordinary projects is when considering the financial allocation on all the objectives as provided by the OP, the proposals effectively admitted for financing only partially traced the initial forecasts for the distribution of resources in relation to the objectives of the call.

More specifically, with regards to two of the objectives of Axis I, particularly for objective 1.2, focused on the improvement of trans-frontier accessibility and for the reduction of the impact on the environment in connection with mobility, and for objective 1.4 focused on the reinforcement of the trans-frontier institutional partnership, it

wasn't possible to identify any proposals that could be accepted for financing whereas with regards to Axis II, the only proposal identified with regards to Axis 2.2, this project absorbed only in part the resources at its disposal.

The deficit of proposals isn't linked to a lack of quality but rather is linked to a scarce participation of the beneficiaries with respect to the strategic priorities. The attention of the beneficiaries was in fact oriented in a particular manner towards certain aspects of the Programme.

With regards to Axis I a concentration of projects and resources was registered with regards to two objectives: objective 1.1 oriented towards the sustainment of activities of research and innovation within a framework of sustainable development and objective 1.3 relative to the joint development of tourism potential and the improvement of an integrated tourism product, the joint development of potential tourism and the improvement of an integrated tourist product. Four interventions were eligible for funding for each of the two objectives.

With regard to Axis II, however, the project proposals have focused mainly on the objective 2.1 on the protection of the environment and the exploitation of natural resources, and with regards to objective 2.3, aimed at the promotion of joint actions the prevention of both natural and human.

By performing the same analysis on the call for strategic projects it again emerged as the absorption of resources within the priority theme for which they had been previously allocated was partial.. This is particularly true for Axis I, for which the priority thematic area selected was that of accessibility and sustainable transport and for which there was a weak response in terms of demand on the part of the territory, with just the 50% of the resources allocated on the only project submitted and approved for funding.

The situation, however, is very different with regards to Axis II, for which the total volume of financing required has been about three times that of available resources and for which it has been possible to fund 4 of the 7 projects eligible for funding of this Axis. In the case of Axis II, the priority issues related to renewable energy and waste treatment were the sectors that benefited from the higher volume of resources, followed by the prevention of risks specifically related to coastal areas and seas.

The table no. 4 below gives an account of the project proposals submitted and funded in progress in two calls for ordinary and strategic projects:

Table 4: Project distribution in relation to ordinary and strategic calls for proposals

Axis/Specific Objective	Indicator	Projects					%
		Submitted	Funded	In progress	Revoked /Refused	Concluded	
		A	B	C	D	E	B/A
Axis I: Competitiveness: innovation and research; sustainable development	No. of Projects	56	9	8	-	-	16,1%
1.1) Supporting research and innovation in order to promote sustainable development paths		19	4	4	-	-	21,1%
1.2) Improving cross-border accessibility and reinforcing transport systems that are more environmentally friendly		4	1	0	-	-	25,0%
1.3) Contributing to the improvement of the integrated tourist offer in the cross-border area		32	4	4	-	-	12,5%
1.4) Contributing to the strengthening of cross-border institutional partnership in the areas identified under Priority Axis I		1	0	0	-	-	-
Axis II: Environment, energy and risk prevention		41	13	9	-	-	31,7%
2.1) Contributing to the protection of the environment through the safeguarding, valorisation and monitoring of natural resources		16	6	4	-	-	37,5%
2.2) Contributing to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency		9	2	1	-	-	22,2%
2.3) Promoting joint actions in the sphere of prevention of risks resulting from both natural and human causes		15	4	3	-	-	26,7%

2.4) Contributing to the strengthening of cross border institutional partnership in the areas identified under Priority Axis II		1	1	1	-	-	100,0%
Axis III: Technical assistance, awareness, communication and advertising		-	-	-	-	-	-
3.1) Ensuring actions to support for the programme's implementation , improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the management and surveillance system of the O.P.		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		97	22	17			22.7%

Specifically, maintaining a balance between the results of the first call and the second, based on the evidence gathered, the areas that would seem to be less "covered" are those of the improvement of cross-border mobility in the area and that relating to the strengthening of the institutional partnership of 'area of cooperation. On the other hand, projects aimed at supporting research and innovation aimed at fostering sustainable development paths as well as those aimed at jointly developing the potential of tourism as an improvement of the integrated tourist offer and those aimed at the prevention and mitigation of risks in cross-border appear to be those that have received greater interest at the local level.

In this regard, in fact a more in depth qualitative assessment has allowed the identification the several thematic areas of the programme that have been met both to a higher or lesser extent by the activation of the OP. A qualitative analysis was therefore put in place, which even if not fully methodologically robust by overarching the one idimensional approach linked to the project classification according to specific objectives has helped to identify the potential effects of each project with regards to the several thematic areas covered by the OP.

In this regard, in fact, a more qualitative study allowed us to identify the different thematic areas of the programme that were more strongly and more weakly intercepted by the implementation of the OP. A qualitative analysis was carried out as well which, although not formally supported by a strong methodological background, surpassing the one-dimensional approach to the classification project linked to specific objectives, has been able to bring out the potential effects of each project with respect to the various fields intercepted the PO.

Based on the results of this exercise, the table n. 5 below highlights the interdisciplinary nature of most of the selected projects. Deducing the type of effects that each initiative is potentially able to exercise with respect to the priority areas of the Programme in a direct and indirect manner¹, it is possible to observe how virtually all the projects are linked, both to the priority area, in an indirect manner, to one or more priorities of the OP, in some cases they are linked in a direct manner to several priority areas.

The results of this analysis therefore confirm the overall assessment of the capacity of the selected interventions to "cover" the thematic priorities identified at the Programme level. In other words, we can see how, even in the areas where there has been a limited capacity allocation of resources available, such as accessibility and transport, and strengthening the institutional capacity of the cross-border partnership, there are several initiatives which seem capable to positively affect and contribute to the achievement of the targets.

¹ A direct effect takes place when the outcome from a certain type of analysis is directly linked to the prevailing road and in its implementation; an indirect effect takes place when it comes to a result obtained from a secondary intervention is the outcome of its implementation with respect to another result that is more directly linked to the same analysis.

Table n. 5 Correlation summary framework between the Programme's priority areas and projects

Project Acronym	Subject	Type	Ob. O.P.	OP Italy Malta 2007-2013 – Priority aspects							
				R&I	Sustainable transport and accessibility	Tourism	Institutional Strengthening (Axis I)	Safeguarding and improving natural resources	Renewable energy	Risk Prevention	Institutional Strengthening (Axis II)
Euro South Hub	Research centre, aggregation, services and incubator for projects and social companies aimed at the cultural, social and entrepreneurship of the human patrimony.	O	1.1	■		□	□				
Promed	Protection of the environment in the Mediterranean islands through the improvement of an arboreal cultural system.	O	1.1	■				■		□	□
T-Cheesimal	Study and qualification of traditional dairy products by utilising new creations and technologies through a network of producers, consumers, research and public education	O	1.1	■		□	□				
Lithos	The establishment of an international research centre on <i>stereotemia</i> , aimed at studying, renovating and constructive sustainable testing	O	1.1	■			■				
Garmed	Creation of a gardens' network in Malta and Sicily to promote an economic and environmental sustainability through the creation and promotion of tourist circuits	O	1.3			■	■				
Sibit	Support local development aimed at safeguarding the natural and cultural environment through bike tourism as a sustainable model to exploit and valorise the territory	O	1.3		□	■	■	□			
Obimed	Development of the integrated tourism potential through the widening and consolidation of the operational collaboration and relations between companies, educational institutions and other socio-economic stakeholders which are active in the tourism sector.	O	1.3		□	■	□				
Archeatour	Formulation of a management approach which integrates interventions related to promotion, conservation and accessibility in the archaeological sites	O	1.3			■	■				
Moriso	Monitoring water resources together with interventions for the control of marine intrusion and for the reduction in pollution from agricultural activities	O	2.1	■				■			□
Remasi	Integrated actions aimed at increasing and disseminating the knowledge related to natural resources, SIC and geo-sites in	O	2.1			□		■			□

OP Italy Malta 2007-2013 – Priority aspects											
Project Acronym	Subject	Type	Ob. O.P.	R&I	Sustainable transport and accessibility	Tourism	Institutional Strengthening (Axis I)	Safeguarding and improving natural resources	Renewable energy	Risk Prevention	Institutional Strengthening (Axis II)
	Sicily and Malta for the promotion of awareness actions to safeguard biodiversity in the local communities and to create interventions for the development and sustainable fruition of the sites										
Panacea	Promotion, development and monitoring of the Sicilian and Maltese SMEs aimed at an improved management, integration and promotion of the environmental and scientific value	O	2.1	□		□		■			□
Simbiotic	Strengthening of the planning, management and renovation of some Sicilian south easterly coastal areas and the reactivation of stepping stones in the Mediterranean area of the agricultural landscape in Gozo to increase the ecological connectivity in cross border areas	O	2.1	□		□		■			
Resi	Definition of common strategies aimed at specifically increasing the availability of solar and renewable energy	O	2.2						■		
Calypso	Finalisation of a monitoring system for currents, wind and waves in the Maltese channel aimed at the monitoring and support in the eventuality of accidents and/or emergencies (e.g. oil pollution)	O	2.3	■						■	
Vamos Seguro	Creation of an automatic system for the monitoring and forecast of volcanic ash dispersion in cross border areas also aimed at the identification of those areas which should be declared as no-fly zones	O	2.3	■	■					■	
Respira	Population sample testing in Malta and Gela aimed at determining the relationship between health and the exposure to pollution through an analysis of the main risk factors.	O	2.3	■						■	□
Water front	Promotion for the exchange of experiences and dissemination of good practices for territorial planning by improving the area's environmental conditions	O	2.4								■

OP Italy Malta 2007-2013 – Priority aspects											
Project Acronym	Subject	Type	Ob. O.P.	R&I	Sustainable transport and accessibility	Tourism	Institutional Strengthening (Axis I)	Safeguarding and improving natural resources	Renewable energy	Risk Prevention	Institutional Strengthening (Axis II)
Streets	Actions aimed at the improvement of the transport chain and the strengthening in the integration of the different transport systems in the 2 islands to support the TEN-T corridor 5	S	1.2		■						
CrimSafri	Creation of an Italian-Maltese research centre for environmental sustainability and renewable sources	S	2.2						■		
Biodivalue	Utilisation of the operational tools in support of the local administrators and operators of maritime navigation, which are useful in limiting the harmful effects generated by operational pollution arising from industrial, commercial fishing and recreational activities in the Sicilian channel	S	2.1		□			■		□	
Vienergy	Reduction in the dependency on traditional energy sources and development of technologies related to the generation of energy from renewable sources, as well as specific objectives from the reduction of polluting emissions and sustainable waste disposal in the wine producing sector	S	2.2					□	■		
PortPvev	Installation of photovoltaic panels on public buildings port areas in Malta and Catania with the produced energy serving to power electric vehicles for the loading and unloading in port areas	S	2.2		□				■		

Legend: (O) ordinary project, (S) strategic project; (■) direct effect, (□) indirect effect;

With regard to the consistency of the actions of the OP with respect to the renewed Lisbon Strategy it is emphasised that the 17 selected operations in the first call for ordinary projects and the first call for strategic projects help to promote the competitiveness of the cross border area directly through actions that foster research and innovation for sustainable development of the territory and its resources.

The maturity level of project proposals approved, provides real added value to the project base of the cross-border area with concrete actions to fully achieve the objectives set, in line with the main local assets (tourism, cultural resources, resources natural and environmental). As will be described in sections 3.1.1.2 and 3.2.1.2 of "qualitative analysis" respectively for Axis I and Axis II, the 17 ordinary projects and the 5 approved strategic projects contribute directly to the creation of scientific and technological networks, the enhancement of research capacity, development and innovation, promoting, among other things, institutional partnerships among government agencies, universities and business organizations.

With regard to the consistency of the actions of the OP with respect to the principle of equal opportunities, it should be noted that on the basis of the selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee in 2008, the competence to identify specific criteria awards for enhancing the project proposals with a clear contribution to the following themes was transferred to the Executive Committee:

- Specific actions to remove barriers to participation, ensuring that all project activities are actually accessible and made accessible to all groups at risk of discrimination (age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion);
- Programming of information campaigns free from prejudice, which increase the awareness of the issues of the promotion of equal opportunities and social inclusion.

On the basis of the approved projects, one can highlight several different projects that promote actions whose impact is in line with the above mentioned requirements reward. As an example, recall the following ordinary projects:

ARCHAEOTUR: will develop at the site of Ta 'Bistra a center for visitors using innovative promotion (3D video, educational programs, use of, ICT equipment such as touch screens and kiosks to provide information and multimedia images) giving particular attention to the appearance of use by the most fragile groups (children and the disabled).

OBIMED: aims at increasing, among other things, the attractiveness of the Programme territories and promote employment especially among women, utilising the most innovative communication technologies.

T-CHEESIMAL: aims at achieving, as part of the census of dairy farms, a specific industry study on "the role of women in the chain of production and marketing of the dairy industry."

And the following strategic project:

STREETS: that aims to improve the transport chain and to strengthen the integration of multimodal transport between Sicily and Malta even through the organization of transport for vulnerable users of the territory.

Axis III

With reference to the levels of advancement Axis III, in 2012, the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority, supported by the Joint Technical Secretariat and the National Contact Point in Malta, have constantly monitored the implementation of activities as well as procedural and financial progress of the

ordinary projects and strategic plan in line with the Technical Assistance approved by the Monitoring Committee.

At the end of 2011, the Maltese Information Executive who has worked as a contact point of the OP Italy Malta 2007-2013 at the Maltese National Coordination Authority has been appointed to act as Project Manager within the same MNCA and therefore the Maltese Public Service Commission launched a new selection procedure for the detection of a new contact point. The selection procedure was completed in 2012 through the identification of an officer who will perform the function of the support required by the contact point of the programme, in line with the contract signed.

In order for a timely discussion of the main results and the progress made in relation to the physical goals of each strategic project please refer to paragraphs 3.1.1.2 e 3.2.1.2.

During 2012, the MA gave the go ahead for a number of activities related to the implementation of the mid-term evaluation of the OP Italy Malta 2007-2013, in line with the decisions taken by the Monitoring Committee in its meeting on 06/12/2011 and this was done through the identification of internal resources that were independent in such a way so as not to have an impact on the realisation of this mid-term evaluation report.

In particular, with note 7514 of 26/04/2013, the Head of the Axis' of the OP, in order to operate in compliance with the principle of proportionality of the controls with respect to funds allocated to the OP, requested the Director General of the Department of Planning, the availability of the Evaluation Nucleus of Public Investment in Sicily – (NVVIP) to draw up, with funds from the budget of Italy, as a Member State, the mid-term "on-going evaluation" of the OP. Following positive feedback (note no 7933 of 07/05/2013), the evaluation team initiated activities related to the drafting of the document. The evaluation was conducted within the legal framework defined by EU regulations on Structural Funds, with specific reference to the issue of evaluation.

In particular, Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund, acting, art. 47 paragraph 2, that "Evaluations may be of a strategic nature in order to examine the evolution of a programme or group of programmes in relation to Community and national priorities or those of an operational nature in order to support the monitoring of an operational programme. Evaluations are carried out before, during and after the programming period." With reference to the assessments made during the programming period, the next article 48 paragraph 3 provides that "in the course of the programming period, Member States shall carry out evaluations linked to the monitoring of operational programmes in particular where that realization is a significant departure from the goals initially set or where proposals are made for the revision of operational programmes referred to in Article 33." The ongoing evaluation activity on the OP Italy Malta 2007-2013 is therefore a full operational evaluation linked to the monitoring of the Programme. In this regard, the specific purpose of the report was to provide an updated report on the implementation framework related to the objectives identified in the planning stage and, on this basis, to highlight the consistency of the implementation process compared to the overall strategy and the specific programme. The draft document outlined the progress of the financial, procedural and physical aspects of the Programme as of 31/12/2011, according to official data of the monitoring system. Specific analysis and qualitative considerations were then made on the basis of the information collected in the course of work by the team of assessment in relation to implementation processes (calls) that on the date of 31/05/2012 had produced significant results in terms of the evaluation of the OP.

The draft report illustrated in the first section, the evaluation questions selected and the methodological approach adopted (Chapter 1), described later the evidence that emerged from the analysis of the

implementation based on data provided by the monitoring system (see Chapter 2) and the results of the consistency check of the strategy being implemented (Chapter 3), and finally dealt with aspects related to the evaluation of the communication activities (Chapter 4). The final section (Section 5), summarized in a schematic way the main results of the analyses conducted as well as some specific recommendations aimed at supporting any decisions that will improve the implementation process of the programme until its natural conclusion even in view of the new Programming period.

2.2 Compliance with Community law

During the implementation of the OP no problems were encountered relating to compliance with Community law.

With regard to the application of Community legislation on public procurement it should be noted that all public procedures activated under Axis I II and III were carried out in full compliance with Community legislation and, in particular, the specific rules of the EC Treaty and Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, the Commission Interpretative Communication on the Community law applicable to public procurement C (2006) 3158 of 24 July 2006, and the relevant legislation implementing national and regional level.

In particular, with regards to the Axis I and II of the OP, the public tender for the selection of strategic projects - the second phase was initiated by a notice published in the Official Gazette of the Region of Sicily on July 1, 2011 and in the mainstream media and Official web sites in Sicily and Malta. Such a public selection procedure took account of compliance with Community legislation in the sector and in particular the provision on the communication and information to potential beneficiaries as provided for in Regulation 1828/2006. With regard to national and regional legislation it should be noted that the Managing Authority has taken account of the various provisions regarding "administrative proceedings" pursuant to Law 241/90 and subsequent amendments and L: r n.10/2012.

With reference to Axis III of OP – with the Beneficiary being Sicilian Region (MA), it should be noted that, all procedures activated were performed in compliance with the Legislative Decree of 12 April 2006, no. 163 "Code of public contracts for works, services and supplies in implementation of Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC" published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic no. 100 of 2 May 2006. Below is a list of the public procedures undertaken during 2012;

OBJECT OF THE PROCEDURE	AMOUNT AWARDED	LEGAL FRAMEWORK
Services of design and implementation of the actions of communication, information and advertising and promotional print products.	€ 136.150,00	Legislative Decree of 12 April 2006, no. 163
Acquisition of goods and services related to the maintenance and evolution of the information system for monitoring the programme.	€ 100.800,00	Legislative Decree of 12 April 2006, no. 163

Having regards to the Axis III of the OP – *Maltese National Coordination Authority beneficiary – it is to highlight that all the procedures have been launched respecting the national Maltese rules.*

OBJECT OF THE PROCEDURE	AMOUNT AWARDED	NATIONAL LEGISLATION
Salaries for staff and national contact point	€ 64,284.38	In line with national employment legislation.
Expenses related to organisation of Monitoring Committee 23-24 May 2012 and the organisation of an information session in July 2012.	€ 9,264.52	In line with Legal Notice 296 / 2010

Travel from November 2011-November 2012 including participation in the Executive committees and ad hoc meetings.	€ 10,196.97	In line with LN 296 / 2010 and national per diem rates.
Expenses in connection with translation of official documents pertaining to the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 Programme during 2012.	€ 6,190.95	Procurement in line with LN 296 of 2010.

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.

2.4 Changes regarding implementation

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

During 2012, the MA launched the procedure to amend the financial plan of the OP Italia Malta 2007-2013 through its submission to the Offices of the European Commission, via SFC system. The above mentioned modification dealt with a sound and efficient administrative management of public resources and allowed to meet the requests expressed by entities of the cooperation area. The opportunity to modify the financial plan of the OP has emerged following the conclusion of the selection procedures of the ordinary projects – call 01/2009 – and strategic projects – call 01/2011 - that have allowed the MA and the Executive Committee of the OP to capture a particular interest of the beneficiaries of the cross-border cooperation area on the issues related to environmental protection, risk management and renewable energy. These considerations have been highlighted in the decisions taken during the Executive Committee meeting on 03 and 4 April 2012 in which the the eligibility for funding of n. 1 project under Axis I and n. 3 projects under Axis II have approved, allowing the absorption of € 2.500.000 and € 6.879.713 respectively. During the same meeting, the Executive Committee has approved the eligibility for funding under condition of n. 1 project under Axis II that after its subsequent approval by the Monitoring Committee allowed the absorption of € 1.900.151. Furthermore, the Executive Committee has approved the evaluation grids of n. 3 projects eligible but not fundable and n. 2 rejected projects, under Axis II. During the meeting on 03 and 04 April 2012, the Executive Committee invited the MA to draft the proposal for the modification of the financial plan of the OP in order to reallocate € 7.060.299 of Axis I into Axis II and allow the admissibility for financing of the projects listed as “eligible, but not fundable”.

The Monitoring Committee during the meeting on 23 and 24 May 2012 in Malta approved an amendment to the financing plan of the OP by providing a transfer of financial resources of 20% corresponding to € 7,060,299 from Axis I to Axis II in order to ensure the full absorption of funds allocated to the programme. By means of a letter dated 29 June 2012 (ref. n. 12404) the Managing Authority submitted via SFC the amended version of the OP as well as the new financial plan, in line with the provision of art. 33 par. 1(d) of the Reg. (EC) 1083/2006, by assuring the achievement of the indicators previously approved.

On 07 November 2012 the MA received an e-mail communication that informed about the approval of the financial plan after the closure of the internal EC procedure n. PH/2012/7120. On 09 November 2012 the MA was informed by the European Commission that due to a mistake occurred in the adopted Decision C(2012) 7627 of the 31/10/2012, it was necessary to launch a new procedure for the approval of a *corrigendum* to the

previous Decision. Thus, no Decision C(2012) 7627 of the 31/10/2012 would have been notified to the Member State through the Offices of the Italian Permanent Representation in Brussels.

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 2012, the implementation process of the Italy-Malta OP came into full effect with the 17 approved operations and 5 strategic projects, 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 this Authority is based within the Funds and Programmes Division – Office of the Prime Minister. The MNCA is responsible for the monitoring of the projects and also for the First Level Control in view of the verification of expenditure incurred under such projects. It should be noted that with every claim for reimbursement, all partners are requested to submit a declaration confirming that the expenditure for that particular project has not and will not be submitted for funding under any other programme. Furthermore, each claim is checked by an independent auditor who is responsible to check the expenses against double funding.

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 monitored 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 2012.

2.7 Monitoring and evaluation

In 2012 the Managing Authority has put in place all necessary measures to ensure an adequate system of monitoring of the operations approved.

The MA, in order to respect the principle of proportionality, as set by the cohesion policy, which requires to set the obligations of the Member States according to the amount of the costs of an operational program, has decided to proceed by way of efficiency and economy to activate an administrative procedure to request the Managing Authority of Maritime OP Italy-France - Region of Tuscany - free re-use of the Information System of the OP. This decision was driven by a reflection of opportunity that took into account the high cost of implementation in order to entrust the services of a management system appropriate to the needs of the OP compared to the overall resources.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Managing Authority of OP Italy-France Maritime a set of specifications were prepared in order to entrust, through a public tender, the services to adapt (through verticalisation) the information system, acquired free of charge, to the specific needs of the OP Italy-Malta.

With such a tendering procedure, the Regione of Sicily agreed to outsource the tender for services for adjustment, maintenance and evolution of the application " Maritime Monitoring System 2007-2013" for the implementation, monitoring, reporting, monitoring and certification of the operations of the OP Italy Malta 2007-2013, involving relevant actors at different stages. This was composed of several modules, each of which, after necessary adaptation, contributes to the management of aspects of the OP and in particular:

- *Information Manager Module*: This is the module that allows for the management of the administration of the system, the information of the Operational Programme Italy-Malta and information relating to operations and advances financial, physical and procedural.
- *Profiling Form*: The module through which all the users of the other modules will be profiled
- *Reporting Form*: This is a module that maximises the use of the information contained in the application and in doing so each user can obtain reports to support their role functions.
- *Interoperability Module*: This is the form by which the Application will liaise with the central system of IGRUE.

In line with the formalities and the timing provided for by Legislative Decree no. N. 163/2006, the award of the tender and the subsequent signing of the contract with the company contracting the service is scheduled to take place in the beginning of 2013.

Consistent with the recommendations of the European Commission, with reference to the compliance opinion on the description of the System of Management and Control of the OP, with n. 6015 of 12 July 2010, the Managing Authority, with the support of the JTS has taken steps to use the monitoring system called SRTP, in line with the provisions of the CIPE. 36 of 15/06/2011.

Through appropriate use license issued by the MA in 2009 from the MEF-IGRUE, the information system "SRTP" allows the collection and transmission of certified expenditure under the OP. The system, developed and managed by MEF-IGRUE, was designed as a local application in all respects ensuring both that the exchange of data between the central system and SRTP protocol is through interview protocol, the communication takes place in a similar manner via the recall of web services developed on the central system.

The SRTP also shall:

- Register the activation of data;
- Interrogate the central system and receive data in context
- Manage the application users
- Determine and transmit the data feed (delta)
- Check and monitor transmissions or data feed
- Receive the outcomes of programs (aggregate and detail, that can also be exported into excel)

With regard to the need to have a valid support of the "management" type, thus ensuring that the phases of planning, implementation and control, it is reported that the Managing Authority with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat, have set up the monitoring excel file in bilingual mode (Italian and English) that allows the recording of the following information:

1. Section 1 Generation operation / extreme commitment
2. Section 2 General references
3. Section 3 Document Expense
4. Section 4 Payment Document
5. Section 5 Monitoring
6. Section 6 Reporting
7. Section 7 First Control Level
8. Section 8 only for partners Maltese First Level Control of the FPD
9. Section 9 Check leader
10. Section 10 Application for reimbursement
11. Section 11 Certification
12. Section 12 Control II level
13. Section 13 Data transmission BDU-IGRUE

Through the application of Pivot tables, the system, which is accessed through a password issued by the MA is able to track all the movements of expenditure made in the Programme and follow the same compared to all the stages outlined above.

Finally it should be noted that the system used is compatible in terms of reading and data transfer with all necessary forms (Application for reporting, application for reimbursement, certificates, etc.) agreed and approved by the Maltese National Coordination Authority and is capable of processing of ad hoc reports to meet the needs of the Programme and in more detail with respect to specific criteria.

In 2012, the Monitoring Committee met on 23-24 May 2012 in Malta, at the Corinthia Hotel-Malta. During this meeting we proceeded to the discussion of the Annual Implementation Report 2011 which was read to all members whilst it was agreed to amend some parts in the light of information provided by the representative of the European Commission and the Ministry of Economic Development. It was also agreed that as a result of

additional information required, the MA would seek to launch a written procedure for the approval of the same report and the final submission to the European Commission. In the same meeting, the Monitoring Committee proceeded to approve the proposed amendment relating to the shift of 20% of the resources of the OP, available to Axis I, to be allocated to Axis II, and requested the MA to formulate the letter accompanying the proposed amendment to be sent to the European Commission. As part of the work of the Monitoring Committee it should be noted that the representative of the European Commission presented the status update concerning the legislative framework on cohesion policy 2014-2020 and dealt with the theme of "Key features of the draft Cohesion Policy regulations and ETC 2014 -2020 ", focusing in particular on the current status of the Community regulations as well as the overall picture of the status of the negotiation of the OP at the European Commission. The representative of the European Commission also provided some clarifications on specific issues of the new programming including: delegated acts, thematic concentration, joint action plans, multi-country approach.

In 2012, moreover, 3 written procedures were initiated and concluded.

The first was launched on 13/04/2012 and ended on 24/04/2012 with the approval of the following documents: 1. Proposed use of the financial resources of the Axis II for admission to the financing of operations validly included in the list of projects "eligible for funding under condition" 2. Creation of a small group working for the needs of the mid-term evaluation of the Operational Programme.

The second was launched on 21/06/2012 for the approval of RAE 2011 and ended on 27/06/2012. The third was launched on 29/06/2012 and ended on 17/07/2012 with the approval of the following documents: 1. Joint Proposal for participation in the European Day of Territorial Cooperation 2012; 2. Creating a task force to share areas of cooperation and the thematic objectives under the European Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020.

During 2012, the Managing Authority of OP Italy Malta 2007-2013 started a written procedure of the Monitoring Committee, which ended on 24 April 2012 (note no. 7316), for the establishment of small group for the needs of mid-term evaluation. This is to derive the issues related to the tightness of the Strategic Axes of the OP, the distribution of resources on the objectives of the OP, the areas of programming the approved operations, in line with the decisions taken by the Monitoring Committee in its meeting of 06 / 12/2011, which, among others, shared the opportunity to identify independent internal resources for the realization mid-term evaluation. Following this, the Head of the Axes of the OP asked the Director General of the Department of Planning, in the capacity as member of the Evaluation and Verification of the Public Investment Sicily, the availability of the same NVVIP to prepare the mid-term evaluation of the OP.

Following positive feedback (note no 7933 of 07/05/2013), the Evaluation Team has initiated an operational assessment linked to the monitoring of the Programme. The specific aims of the Operational Assessment NVVIP guided the identification of evaluation questions that have translated more precisely the cognitive demands expressed by the Monitoring Committee and the small group. In particular, the NVVIP moved within the following evaluation questions: 1) Does the progress of the programme showed adequate performance for the achievement of spending targets? 2) Is the process of implementation of the programme consistent with the overall strategic objectives and specifications defined in the planning stage? 3) Do critical issues emerge , in particular concerning the implementation with respect to the subject areas of intervention of the Programme? 4) Is it possible to adopt practical solutions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme?; 5) Were Actions with regards to communications consistent and relevant with respect to the

promotion of the programme and the achievement of specific objectives identified by the communication plan?. From the point of view of the method used has NVVIP analysis tools desk and field.

First, the data provided by the monitoring system of the programme has been collected and processed, with reference to the advancement financial, procedural and physical. In view of the level of activation of the projects, the NVVIP decided to adopt a qualitative and quantitative approach, since an analysis based solely on monitoring the performance indicators for output and results did not appear likely to provide all the elements of knowledge and interpretation necessary for the purposes of evaluation. In this context, in-depth analysis of some specific projects was made, selected on the basis of their strategic importance and according to the evaluation questions identified in order to gather evidence of assessment of their potential to affect the achievement of objectives measured by indicators defined during planning.

Recourse to discussions with privileged interlocutors related to the coherence of the Programme allowed for the possibility to link the desk analysis with useful observations in the context of the completion of the implementation cycle and setting up a planning exercise inherent in the Community cycle 2014-2020. The collection of information and qualified opinions was carried out through semi-structured interviews, conducted face to face in part and partly at a distance, by administering a questionnaire with the possibility of an open answer carried out via email.

The final document on the ongoing evaluation on the Italy Malta 2007-2013 Programme with the relevant conclusions and recommendations will be submitted in early 2013 and will be submitted to the Monitoring Committee of the OP.

2.7.1 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the OP has operated in close collaboration with the Monitoring Committee that in 2012 met 2 times and has initiated and completed 2 written procedures.

In particular, in the meeting held on 28 to 29 February 2012, the Executive Committee approved the list of projects eligible for further evaluation as part of the 1st call for the selection of strategic projects (2nd Phase).

At the sitting of 3rd April 2012, the Executive Committee reviewed the responses presented by the leader of projects not eligible for Phase 2 evaluation approved the readmission of the project VIENERGY; approved the contribution in the field of equal opportunities and environment by the respective representatives of the State Maltese and Sicilian Region with regard to the evaluation process for the selection of strategic projects call 01/2011, has approved the technical assessment of projects accepted for the evaluation phase; approved the lists of strategic projects admitted to the second phase.

As part of the written procedure, which ended on 16 October 2012 (note no. 18465), the Executive Committee has not taken any decision or by consensus or by majority vote, with reference to the proposed reformulation of the project Gardmed, referring back to the lead partner by the request for a new remodelling project budget and redistribution of resources. The project is envisaged to be completed successfully beginning 2013.

With regard to the written procedure, which ended November 22, 2012 (note no. N. 21205), the Executive Committee has approved the application of Article. 16 of the grant agreement "Right of termination of this Agreement" in the case of projects REMASI and WATERFRONT by reason of the application of paragraph 1, lett. b) and c) of that article: "The LP did not present any request for reimbursement within six months" following the commencement of the activities and the "LP repeatedly fails to comply with the deadlines for the submission of the report on the progress / final data and documentation to support or does not provide the necessary information."

In the case of the project WATERFRONT, in line with the recommendations of the Executive Committee, within thirty days after the notification of the measures, the project leader sent the complete monitoring data of all the partners and reported to all periods as well as the sending of the request for reimbursement correct in the manner governed by manual expense reporting, and therefore the MA proceeded to cancel the suspension.

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	10.314.520	3.720.678	59,35%	21,41%

Table 5.a Priority Axis I Objectives

INDICATORS AT PRIORITY AXIS LEVEL	UNIT OF MEASURE	TARGET	SOURCE	2009	2010	2011	2012
R&ST projects that involve public entities, research institutions, Universities and enterprise organisations	Number	5	Annual monitoring and end of programme	0	0	5	3
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	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	4
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	1
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	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	4
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Table 4.a above illustrates the financial progress of Axis I and highlights the total amount of resources committed, resulting from acts which are legally binding with respect to payments made for certified expenditure up to 31/12/2012. The data show significant progress with respect to the commitments which amounts to 59% of the sums allocated to the Axis at OP level which corresponds to € 10.314.520. In this regard, by 31/12/2012 certified expenses amounted to € 3.720.678, corresponding to 21,41%.

The indicators shows that the implementation can be split in two phases

The first consisted in the processing of claims for reimbursement n. 02, 03 and 04 duly verified and validated by the Management Authority as at 31/12/2012. In particular, in the context of this activity, consideration was given to the physical progress of each individual project and the progress of expenditure declared. This was possible through the analysis of groups of indicators that have enabled the verification of the quality of the actions completed or in progress compared to planned activities.

The second phase of the survey was dedicated to the thorough examination of the coherence between the implementation indicators and results provided by the Project leaders in the applications for reimbursement, and the output of the products developed under each project as at 31/12/2012 and accepted by the Managing Authority following a formal request addressed to all the Leaders of the ordinary projects that took place with note prot. 1902 dated 30/01/2013.

Based on the methodology described above, steps were taken to develop tables 5.a, 5.a1, 5.a2 and 5.a3 where the following data has been reported:

- Tabella 5.a: number of operations that registered progress with respect to the implementation indicators of the OP;
- Tabella 5.a1: actual progress achieved by the operations listed in Table 5.a within the framework of the programmed indicators at project level;
- Tabella 5.a2: actual progress achieved by the operations funded under Axis II within the framework of the indicators at project level;
- Tabella 5.a3: actual progress achieved by the operations listed in Table 5.a within the framework of the communication indicators.

Hereunder, it is reported the main progress achieved by each operations within Axis I of the OP

THE HUB – The project aims to create a research centre, aggregation, services and incubator projects and social enterprises active between Malta and Lampedusa and Syracuse, in order to support the promotion and upgrading cultural, social and entrepreneurial heritage present in the area, through the networking of territories between them and with the international circuits based on emerging social innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship. During 2012, the project activity has produced the following key findings: 1) Development of The Hub space Siracusa and realisation of events, 2) Creation of the antenna The Hub in

Lampedusa, 3) Development of the platform, and 4) Connect the System EUR South HUB with international network. More specifically, in 2012 the project has nearly completed the construction of the physical space. During 2012 within the Hub of Ortigia 15 workshops and initiatives were held related to the company and to 'social innovation, sustainable economy aimed at entrepreneurs, young people entering the labour market and women. At the same time a series of seminars and sessions of co-creation were held, which allowed the creation and construction of the first space furnishings Hub of Lampedusa, which opened in the second half of 2012. By the end of 2012 a digital platform was also developed, compatible with that developed by the global network. The Hub, which features a virtual space in 2D and 3D, and that reproduces the same dynamics and interactions of the physical space at The Hub. *As planned, the ICT component of The Hub project assured progress not only on the above mentioned physical and "off line" achievements, but also on the combined and interconnected domains of the Virtual World and the Social Network.* The Web 2.0 technologies allowed the project to link most of its achievements with the broader worldwide community of "hubbers", thanks to a dedicated and tailored platform which has been specifically created. Specific technology has been also produced with the purpose of enabling the users to switch from the traditional flat 2-dimensional world (similar to Facebook) to a 3-dimensional world that, imitating the real experience of being hosted in a hub, is more immersive and engaging (similar to the virtual world Second Life). At this stage, some seed experiments of "Augmented Reality" have been pre-designed with the purpose of using ICT for reinforcing the connectivity between hubs and users. By mixing digital, virtual and physical interactions The HUB project intends to contribute to the growth of its social network and lead to new connections and new members attraction. During 2012, the project has finally consolidated the local community of potential users and embarked on the networking of The Hub with international networks, through participation and the organization of joint activities with the centres The Hub in London, Barcelona, Madrid, Brussels, Stockholm, etc. Furthermore 180 articles were published in print and digital media, participation of the project representatives in a series of public meetings took place, including with the minister of territorial cohesion Fabrizio Barca on growth, employment and entrepreneurship female. Hub Syracuse was presented during the opening day of Hub Rome and participation in the Summer School: "Social Innovation for Enterprise Liability" and the invitation of Syracuse at the first Smart Hub City Exhibition Italian (Bologna) organized by ForumPA and even the use of social networks in the course of 2012 showed in their official pages about 1500 adhesions on Facebook and of 250 followers on twitter.

T-CHEESIMAL – The project is aimed at the qualification of traditional dairy products - milk, obtained solely from raw milk, through new technologies, creating a network among producers, consumers, research, public institutions involved in agriculture and that certify quality products. In the course of 2012, work began on the creation of a data base on local systems of production and the Maltese traditional cheeses, the same analysis has commenced on the territory, aimed at drawing up a manual on women's role in dairy production. At the same time the project proceeded to the characterization and cataloguing of local fodder plants and their effects on the aromatic cheeses and milk. In 2012 the project also began marketing activities related to the development of labels and packaging solutions product.

LITHOS – The project aims to create an international research centre, a library and a laboratory specialist with expertise in the field of stereotomy and stone building, located in the Province of Ragusa, and a sub-office in Malta , with complementary functions. In 2012, it was decided to set-up work of the centre and this will be completed in early 2013 along with the implementation of the library through research and the purchase of texts and manuscripts on stereotomy. As for the specialist laboratory as part of the project, it was decided to purchase equipment to innovative specialist in the conservation of stone material and the organisation and production of two one-week workshops aimed at young artisans appropriately selected in

Malta. Restoration work as a pilot study on a façade of a historical building in Malta is envisaged to be finalized in the first quarter of 2013.

PROMED – The project aims to optimize the planting of the vineyards and to identify ways for the correct use of the vines to Linosa and Malta in the local peculiarities. This activity is aimed at defining wine protocols can ensure the profitability of the system as well as the creation of an experimental Maltese centre able to continue the activities of applied research. During 2012, through the collection of data regarding the use of land, the acquisition of climatological maps of the territories and the reliefs on the spot of the grapes, the project has developed experimental protocols and agronomic practices suitable for an adequate qualitative response of grapes of the islands of Linosa, Pantelleria and Malta. In 2012, also most of the experimental wines that have been obtained in the course of the 2011 vintage were bottled and refinement and evolution in the bottle has been verified. Preliminary results on the implementation of geographic information systems for the islands of Pantelleria and Linosa, the results of the research carried out in Malta and experimental wines were made the subject of several presentations to the public both specialised and non specialised, including at the Vinitaly 2012. On that occasion and the press the first ProMed wines were presented to the public and in particular: Central Malta Chardonnay, Girgentina Siggiewi Malta Centre, Malta criomacerato Vermentino, Blend Girgentina/ Chardonnay, Gellewza Burmarrad Malta, Malta South Sirah, Sirah Gozo, Blend Gellewza old/Burmarrad. During 2012, activities were launched to create the experimental center at Buskett and Maltese were carried out training of personnel. The training was carried out through an internship in Marsala made by the technicians of the Regional Institute of Vine and Wine for a mixed group of Maltese technicians (7 Vitimalta producers in the organization and a technician from the Ministry of Rural Affairs (Maltese)) which included visits to the vineyard, winery visits and related experimental laboratories, as well as visits to wineries business in the area. A further session was also held in Malta and was attended by two technicians of the Maltese Ministry of Rural Affairs and 11 members of Vitimalta. As part of the 2012 harvest, the project also provided for the winemaking of the grapes coming from the islands of Malta, Gozo and Linosa, the chemical and microbiological analysis of musts and wines obtained will be followed by further chemical and microbiological controls before and all ' bottling of these wines, which will take place in 2013.

OBIMED – The project is aimed at creating a common eco-tourism proposal and the promotion of innovative channels of the same target niche and making it possible to increase the attractiveness of the territories and employment especially among young people using the most innovative technologies of communication. During 2012, the project has completed the spatial analysis for the definition of routes and video guides, has completed the construction of the Areas WI-FI free in Sciacca and Gozo, to facilitate the use of content and provide a driven service to tourists, and has completed the design and construction of apps for iPhone and Android. Three info points were also built and installed in Malta and Sicily for the telebooking system. During 2012, the project has also developed Web 2.0 applications directed to target youth for the promotion of special packages designed to encourage the exchange of tourist flows youth based on the English language and the Mediterranean identity. A select group of young Italians and Maltese were involved in a cultural exchange and were trained in the use and dissemination of apps and pathways developed by the project at the target of their peers.

SIBIT – The project is aimed at the improvement of cycling in Sicily and Malta through the creation of cross-border cycling routes, the modernisation of existing infrastructure, the adjustment of accommodation with facilities for bike tourism. During 2012, the project has set out a plan of cycling routes of the 5 provinces of Sicily (Agrigento, Ragusa, Siracusa, Trapani, Caltanissetta) and of Malta, through the identification of 3 routes for the area, all for a total of 18 routes, including main and secondary, and a total 1000 km. Along the three Maltese paths all signage has been installed that takes into account elements useful for cyclists, such as

distances, the elevation, the degree of difficulty, the coordinates (latitude and Longitude). Along the Sicilian routes installation of signage has started and this will be completed in early 2013. During 2012 the appropriate accommodations were also identified to offer targeted services and kits have been delivered for bike hotels in almost all provinces as well as in Malta. Finally, the project has taken part in two important international trade fairs, Expobici of Padua and BTS of Montecatini, within which meetings were held with industry professionals and press.

GARDMED – The project aims to create a permanent network of gardens between Malta and Sicily to improve the management, conservation and enhancement and complement the tourist offer dedicated to the promotion of cultural circuits. During 2012, the project has mapped the gardens surveyed in the territories of all Sicilian and Maltese, with evidence of the peculiarities and common features. The collected data were entered into a catalogue, which will be followed in 2013 by a management manual for the sustainability of operating costs and the profitability of these structures. As a result of the mapping of the gardens, the project has defined the tourist routes that link the catalogued gardens and has organised road shows with tour operators who have visited the gardens in Malta and Sicily.

ARCHAEOTUR – The project aims to create different "heritage trails" of archaeological sites in Sicily (Ragusa) and Malta for tourism and education, integrated into a joint plan for the conservation, management and international marketing. During 2012, the project has achieved some restoration and accessibility of sites in Sicily (Cava Celone, Cisternazzi and Donnafugata) and Malta (St. Augustine and Ta 'Bistra), and has developed an integrated management plan of the same. These sites have been set up with technical support, an information kiosk and the installation of tourist signs to improve its usability. In 2012 the heritage trails of the project were presented at the fair in Paestum which represents the most important international event in the field of archaeological tourism.

The table below illustrates where effective progress has been achieved by the operations listed in Table 5.a within the context of the programmed indicators at project 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 31/12/2012							
		The HUB	LITHOS	ProMed	ARCHAEOTUR	GARDMED	OBIMED	SIBIT	Totale 2012
R&ST projects that involve public entities, research institutions, Universities and enterprise organisations	No. of entities involved	9	4	7	-	-	-	-	20
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	4	30	11	143	3	452	77	720
Projects of territorial marketing and joint promotion of tourism and cultural potential of the cross-border area	No. of countries/tour operators	5	-	-	10	5		2	22

	reached by the actions								
Actions aimed at the improvement of the coordination and accessibility of transportation systems in the programme area	No. of actions	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-	65	-	65
Actions promoting the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	No. of entities involved	3	-	-	8	2	15	-	28

In line with the table no. 5 "Synoptic framework of the correlation between projects and priority areas of the Programme", which highlights the interdisciplinary nature of a considerable amount of projects, the following table shows the operations that, although selected under Axis II, also have an impact on several priority themes which are relevant to Axis I of the OP.

Tab. 5.a2 Performance objectives at the level of each Axis II operation

Implementation indicators Axis I	Unit of measure	AXIS II OPERATIONS				
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2012				
		MORISO	RESI	RESPIRA	CALYPSO	Total 2012
R&ST projects that involve public entities, research institutions, Universities and enterprise organisations	No. of entities involved	4	50	5	2	61
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	12	30	-	-	42
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	-	3	-	-	3
Actions aimed at the improvement of the coordination and accessibility of transportation systems in the programme area	No. of actions	-	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Actions promoting the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	No. of entities involved	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5.a3 provides the communication indicators concerning the activities undertaken by individual projects selected under Axis I aimed at the achievement of the Programme's objectives in the field of communication.

Tab. 5.a3 Communication indicators at the level of each Axis I operation

Communication indicators	Unit of Measure	Axis I Operations							
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2012							
		THE HUB	LITHOS	ProMed	ARCHAE OTUR	GARDME D	OBIMED	SIBIT	Total 2012
Events in the public interest (seminars, meetings and workshops, information conferences);	Number	15	2	5	10	8	7	18	65
Participants at events, registered on an attendance sheet;	Number	543	160	543	260	-	100	602	2208
Contacts and mailing list of groups of identified beneficiaries;	Number	500	13	2	250	125	1000		1890
Coverage on local and national media of the activities carried out;	Number	180	15	1	33	13	5		242
Newsletter of the project;	Number	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Printed material (brochures, posters, invitation cards, etc..) and multimedia material (CD-ROMs, DVD);	Number	2	2230	7	63000	-	3000	6000	74239
Gadgets and promotional material;	Number	-	1010	-	2800	-	1		3811
Exchange of experience with other projects;	Number	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	5

Networks and partnerships with other institutions;	Number	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	8
Publications related to the project and the results achieved;	Number	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	5
Implementation project website (additional)	Number	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Articles in magazines and newspapers	Number	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

From the data extracted one can note that, under Axis I, 47 events have taken place with the participation of 1,363 people. There was also a significant number of material produced with the aim of disseminating information on the activities of the projects concerned. There are in fact 68,293 printed and multimedia items such as brochures, posters, cards, CD-ROMs, DVD. Among the information channels there also local and national media which amount to 242 broadcasters and newspapers. Various gadgets (3,811) were produced and distributed, for promotional purposes, during the carrying out of events of public interest.

3.1.2 Significant problems encountered and measures for solving them

During 2012, no difficulties related to implementation were encountered with respect to Priority I of the OP.

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	13.796.068	3.713.062	86,44%	23,26%

Table 5.b Priority Axis II Objectives

INDICATORS AT PRIORITY AXIS LEVEL	UNIT OF MEASURE	TARGET	SOURCE	2009	2010	2011	2012
Projects of management and prevention from natural and anthropic risks (including technological risks)	Number	2	Annual monitoring and end of programme	-	-	4	2
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	-	-	6	3
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	-	-	1	1
Projects that promote the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	Number	2	Annual monitoring and end of programme	-	-	7	5

Table 4.b above illustrates the financial progress of Axis II and highlights the total amount of resources committed, resulting from acts which are legally binding with respect to payments made for certified expenditure up to 31/12/2012. The data show significant progress with respect to the commitments which amounts to 86.44% of the sums allocated to the Axis at OP level which corresponds to € 13,796,068. In this regard, by 31/12/2012 certified expenses amounted to € 3,713,062, corresponding to 23,26%.

The indicators shows that the implementation can be split in two phases.

The first consisted in the processing of claims for reimbursement n. 02, 03 and 04 duly verified and validated by the Management Authority as at 31/12/2012. In particular, in the context of this activity, consideration was given to the physical progress of each individual project and the progress of expenditure declared. This was

possible through the analysis of groups of indicators that have enabled the verification of the quality of the actions completed or in progress compared to planned activities.

The second phase was dedicated to the thorough examination of the coherence between the implementation indicators and results provided by the Project leaders in the applications for reimbursement, and the output of the products developed under each project as at 31/12/2012 and accepted by the Managing Authority following a formal request addressed to all the Leaders of the ordinary projects that took place with note prot. 1902 30/01/2013.

Based on the methodology described above, steps were taken to develop tables 5.b, 5.b1, 5.b2 and 5b3 where the following data has been reported:

- Tabel 5.b: number of operations that registered progress with respect to the implementation indicators of the OP;
- Tabel 5.b1: actual progress achieved by the operations listed in Table 5.b within the framework of the programmed indicators at project level;;
- Tabel 5.b2: actual progress achieved by the operations funded under Axis I within the framework of the indicators at project level;
- Tabel 5.b3: actual progress achieved by the operations listed in Table 5.b within the framework of the communication indicators.

MORISO – The project is aimed at the creation of a territorial information system for monitoring groundwater resources and the development of pilot plants for desalination and micro-irrigation. In 2012, surveys were conducted for the hydrogeological characterization of aquifers in the province of Ragusa and the Maltese Islands. Upon completion of the same surveys, a monitoring network of groundwaters has been defined which, in the case of aquifers in Sicily, will be integrated with the existing one managed by the Province of Ragusa. In 2012 a survey was also launched with respect to small desalination plants for the treatment of brackish water taken from wells and the possibility of installing a small desalination plant at the experimental company Contrada Perciata (Ragusa) is currently being evaluated. In 2012, a micro-irrigation plant was established at the same company whereby experimental investigations were initiated with respect to the micro-irrigation of small fruits grown in greenhouses using water with different salt content. From the Maltese side significant progress was registered and from the Maltese side the project proceeded towards its full implementation for the installation and operation of a micro-irrigation plant (it isn't fully operative yet).

PANACEA – The project is aimed at creating environmental education centers that promote the scientific and environmental importance of Sicilian and Maltese marine protected areas. During 2012, the project completed the layout of the 4 environmental education centers (Palermo, "Plemmirio" Marine Protected Area - Syracuse, "Pelagie Islands" Marine Protected Area - Lampedusa, "Dwejra" Marine Protected Area - Gozo) and proceeded with the preparation of the centers through the purchase of diving equipment and technology, fittings, panels and dioramas. In 2012, an underwater video documentary was produced regarding the marine biodiversity present Dwejra and Rdum Majjiesa areas which was widely distributed in schools in Malta and will be available at the centers of environmental education. Within the first few months of 2013 video documentaries will be completed in the Plemmirio and Pelagie Islands marine areas.

REMASI – The project aims at promoting awareness actions on the conservation of the biodiversity of some sites (nature reserves, geological sites and sites of Community importance), in Sicily and Malta. During 2012, the project has created a local workshop and outreach activities, aimed at young people, at the natural reserves of Sant'Angelo Muxaro, Macalube and Lampedusa.

SIMBIOTIC – The project aims at promoting the use of some areas which are already Natura 2000 sites and restore the Mediterranean macquis. During 2012, the project produced the mapping of the biodiversities identified in the chosen areas and laboratory equipment was purchased for the molecular characterization of species. Restoration activities were also initiated with respect to the marshes in south-eastern Sicily and Gozo.

RESI - The project aims at promoting measures aimed at increasing the diffusion of renewable energy, by promoting the transfer of technology and best practices. During 2012 the best practices implemented were collected with respect to the reference areas and 2 informative Energy Tours were organised to present the most interesting renewable energy plants to students and university researchers. Furthermore, in 2012, data collected on territorial excellence and technical data on the plants have contributed to the definition of an Atlas of renewable energy, with a final version available in early 2013. Finally, in 2012, the Energy Forum was created, a workshop organised in a plenary session and a session divided into 4 specific groups (entrepreneurs, technical people, politicians, citizens) for a total of 25/30 people and its outputs lead to the preparation of documents containing the best ideas for the drafting of a territorial action plan on renewable energy, whose completion is scheduled for early 2013.

CALYPSO – The objective of the project is the development of a stable and operative system for the monitoring of currents, wind and waves in the Maltese channel through the use of a remote observation system based on a network of HF radars which are capable of providing data with an hourly temporal frequency. During 2012, the project purchased and installed two radars on the Maltese coast and purchased a radar which will be installed in the first months of 2013 on the Sicilian coast of Pozzallo (Ragusa). During the same year, the project established a working group which was adhered to by parties outside the partnership and are responsible for monitoring activities, search-and-rescue operations and with whom terms of reference have been defined for an extensive use of the radar. On the Sicilian side, the interest shown by the Coast Guard, the Regional Department of Civil Protection and Legambiente has led to the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding.

VAMOS SEGURO - The project is aimed at creating an automated system for monitoring and forecasting the dispersion of volcanic ash and for warning against harmful concentrations of gases ash and volcanic for air traffic. During 2012, 4 LIDAR systems in Sicily and Malta and the platform interface between systems were installed and the first tests were carried out for the simulation of the ashes in the cross-border area and of the explosive activity of the Etna.

RESPIRA – The project aims at identifying the conditions that can determine the relationship between exposure to pollutants and health, by means of the analysis of the main risk factors. In 2012 a sampling of the population, represented by students and parents, both in Malta and in Sicily (Gela), was carried out and clinical analysis were conducted on it. Throughout 2012 another campaign was launched with the aim of increasing the sample of the subjects analyzed up to a participation level of 1,200 individuals and the same tests of immunological and biochemical analysis took place, together with tests measuring air quality.

WATER FRONT – The objective of the project is the dissemination of good practices for the definition of guidelines, strategies and operational tools for planning coasts. In 2012 the partnership carried out, in the

areas concerned, an analysis and evaluation of the scenarios and risks related to the management of the waterfront by drafting guidelines which were instrumental for the preparation of an Atlas of common and future standards that will be defined in the first months of 2013.

The table below illustrates where effective progress has been achieved by the operations listed in Table 5.b within the context of the programmed indicators at project level.

Tab. 5.b1 Performance objectives for each Axis II operation

IMPLEMENTATION INDICATORS	Unit of Measure	Axis II Operations					
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2012					
		MORISO	PANACEA	RESI	CALYPSO	VAMOS SEGURO	TOTAL 2012
Projects of management and prevention from natural and anthropic risks (including technological risks)	Mq of the area involved in the activities	-	-	-	10.000 Km ²	7.500 Km ²	17.500 Km ²
Projects aimed at promoting the safeguarding of the environment of the area (including the management of parks and protected areas)	Mq of the area involved in the activities	0.00006 km ²	258,09 km ²	-	10.000 km ²	-	10.258 km ²
Projects relating to the improvement of the energy efficiency and the utilisation of sources of renewable energy	Mq of the area involved in the activities	-	-	5%	-	-	5%
Projects that promote the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	Kw of Energy produced by renewable sources	3	7	4	6	-	20

In line with the table no. 5 "Synoptic framework of the correlation between projects and priority areas of the Programme", which highlights the interdisciplinary nature of a considerable amount of projects, it is hereunder reported the PROMED operation that, although selected under Axis I, also has an impact on priority themes which are relevant to Axis II of the OP

Tab. 5.b2 Performance objectives at the level of each Axis I operation

Implementation Indicators Asse II	Unit of Measure	Axis I Operations	
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2012	
		ProMed	Total 2012
Projects of management and prevention from natural and anthropic risks (including technological risks)	Mq of the area involved in the activities	60.000	60.000
Projects aimed at promoting the safeguarding of the environment of the area (including the management of parks and protected areas)	Mq of the area involved in the activities	60.000	60.000
Projects relating to the improvement of the energy efficiency and the utilisation of sources of renewable energy	Mq of the area involved in the activities	-	-
Projects that promote the strengthening of the institutional partnership in the cross-border area	Kw of Energy produced by	-	-

Table 5.b3 provides the communication indicators concerning the activities undertaken by individual projects selected under Axis II aimed at the achievement of the Programme's objectives in the field of communication.

Tab. 5.b3 Communication indicators at the level of each Axis II operation

Communication Indicators	Unit of Measure	Axis II Operations							
		REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED, AS AT THE 31/12/2012							
		MORISO	PANAC EA	RESI	RESPIR A	CALYPS O	VAMOS SEGUR O	WATER FRONT	Total 2012
Events in the public interest (seminars, meetings and workshops, information conferences);	Number	1	5	9	6	3	1	1	26
Participants at events, registered on an attendance sheet;	Number	499	60	9	241	161		13	983
Contacts and mailing list of groups of identified beneficiaries;	Number		17	2000	0	1552			3569
Coverage on local and national media of the activities carried out;	Number	1		20	2	120		1	144
Newsletter of the project;	Number	0		4	0	0			4
Printed material (brochures, posters, invitation cards, etc..) and multimedia material (CD-ROMs, DVD);	Number	501	200	4000	0	37000	10	0	41711
Gadgets and promotional material;	Number	0		7000	600	2			7602
Exchange of experience with other projects;	Number	0	2	3	0	5	1		11
Networks and partnerships with other institutions;	Number	0	3		0	3		0	6
Publications related to the project and the results achieved;	Number	0		2600	0	0	9		2609
Implementation project website (additional)	Number	0							0
Articles in magazines and	Number		9						9

newspapers									
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The events of the projects financed axis II were n. 26 who were found to have participated in 983 people. It also notes a significant number of material produced for the dissemination of information about the activities of the projects concerned. There are in fact 41,711 pieces of paper and multimedia such as brochures, posters, cards, CD-ROMs, DVD. Among the channels of information shall also include local and national media for a total of 144 broadcasters and newspapers. Promotional purposes were then made various gadgets (7,602) distributed during the construction of the events of public interest.

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 2012

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	1.258.540	840.908	59,14%	39,51%

Table 5.c Priority Axis III Objectives

Axis 3							
Implementation indicators	Unit of measure	Target	Progress				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Personnel for the Joint Technical Secretariat	Number	4	0	2	2	4	4
Events related to communication and territorial animation	Number	30	0	0	4	25	32
Guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the OP	Number	5	0	1	3	5	0

The table 4.c shown above shows the financial progress of Axis III and highlights the total resources committed, arising from acts that are legally binding in respect of payments of certified expenditure made up to 31/12/2012. The data show a significant progress on the commitments equal to 59.14% of the sums allocated for the Axis at OP, corresponding to €1,258,540. Such commitments are clearly related both to the MA as well as to the MNCA. Against this background, by the date of 31/12/2012 expenses for an amount of €840,908 have been certified corresponding to 39.51%.

The table 5.c above shows instead represented the advances made in the year 2012 in relation to the indicators at the level of Priority Axis III.

With reference to criterion 1 "Personnel of the Joint Technical Secretariat" it is observed that during the year 2012, the personnel involved in the STC was composed of three components, which together with the contact point in Malta (extension of JTS in Maltese territory), adds up to the total number of 4 units of personnel involved in this role. Following a specific requirement of the MA related to the need to ensure the launch of the strategic projects, speeding up expenditure for ordinary projects and the start of the planning activities related to the cycle 2014-2020, in the course of 2012 steps were taken to initiate a comparative analysis of the titles of the current members of the STC in order to identify a coordinator.

With reference to criterion 2 "Events related to communication and territorial animation", as described in Chapter 6 "information and communication", we observe that during 2012 the MA/JTS and the MNCA carried out the following events closely related to communication and territorial co-ordination:

:

In particular, during the month of January, 2012, 17 face to face meetings were carried out with the leaders and partners of the ordinary projects with the aim to test both the technical administrative content of the 2011 payment requests as well as the delays related to the progress of the project activities that have undermined the respect of expenditure levels tied to the grant agreement. Meetings were also held in Sicily and Malta with all the beneficiaries in order to raise awareness on the need to accelerate disbursement procedures, with seminars organised for the use of the system for monitoring and reporting on expenditure.

With reference to criterion 3 "Guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the OP", as described in Chapter 6 "information and communication", we observe that during 2012 the MA/JTS has updated the manuals the OP (manual reporting, checklists, etc.) based on development of the national and regional levels as well as the specific needs to improve both the management processes that those responsible for the control of expenses.

During 2012 steps were taken to ensure compliance with the management flows, as described in the document "Description of the Management and Control System" under Article. 71 Reg.1828/2006, among all those responsible for the management of that OP in detail are: the Office Responsible for Operations (UCO) of Axis I and II, UCO Axis III, the Control Unit and the Head of the Axes (MA) of the OP. From a preliminary analysis and taking into account the stability of the observations, it is well-coordinated and integrated to avoid any possibility of over-lapping activities, is able to manage flows as provided in the above document.

With regard to the administrative and accounting obligations by the MNCA, with regards to management of expenditure items as approved in the plan of Technical Assistance, two claims for reimbursement in connection with expenses incurred pursuant to Article 16 of Reg. 1080/2006 were submitted and regularly validated. The costs that fall into these claims for reimbursement mainly concerned the allocation of man hours of 4 officials of the Funds and Programmes Division engaged on the Italy-Malta Programme to ensure the timely and proper implementation. The costs are also related to the activities carried out by the Information Executive, engaged in the role of contact point of the program at the MNCA. Costs pertaining to translation, travel of MNCA representatives, interpretation, hosting of information events, meetings and general costs including stationary and postage were covered by the Technical Assistance budget.

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 2012.

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 2012, 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", the "financial manager" and the "communication 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 strategic 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 activities related to the budget reshape of the ordinary projects were carried out through the realization of specific template, the direct support to beneficiaries for correct fulfilment of it, the analysis of a number of 12 budget reshape requests and the subsequent notifications of their outcomes. 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.

Referring to the implementation of the communication plan, the JTS and the Maltese contact point implemented a number of support activities during the year through the realization of n. 30 meetings with LPs and PPs of ordinary and strategic projects where a number of 260 beneficiaries involved in the implementation of the projects took part. These meetings aimed at supporting the start and implementation of the each projects, supporting the beneficiaries in the budget reshape, providing indications to speed up expenditures as well as implement eventual corrective actions and supporting beneficiaries on the eligibility rules, monitoring, claiming and reimbursement of expenditures, on the fulfilment of the claim and request for reimbursement in line with the manual for reporting of expenses.

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 23-24 May 2012, 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 two 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 2012, the JTS also provided support for the initiation and conclusion of three written procedures implemented during the months of April, June and July 2012, under which the Joint Technical Secretariat prepared and submitted to the said MC the proposal for using the financial resources of the Axis II for financing the operations inserted in the list of the "project eligible for financing pending condition" within the call for strategic projects; the constitution of a working group for the mid-term evaluation of the OP purpose; the joint proposal for participation to the European Territorial Cooperation Day 2012; the constitution of a task force to share the main cooperation fields and objects within the European Territorial Cooperation, 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

2012, the JTS ensured the holding of 2 Executive Committee meetings through the execution of the following functions: collaboration with the Chair in the carrying out of its functions; 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.

During 2012, two written consultative procedures were launched and closed for reshape the Application Form of GARDMED project and to suspend for 30 calendar days the subsidy contract of REMASI and WATER FRONT projects in line with paragraph 1, lett. b) and c) of the art. 16 of the subsidy contract that states: "the LP does not submit any request for reimbursement within 6 months" and "the LP repeatedly does not respect the deadlines set for sending the progress/final report, the data and the supporting documentation or does not provide the necessary information". Having regard to WATER FRONT project it is to highlight that the LP provided within the deadline to remove the obstacles that determined the suspension of the subsidy contract and thus the MA on 19 December 2012 revoked the suspension of the contract, in line with the indications of the Executive Committee. Furthermore, in 2012 a third written consultative procedure was launched that will be closed in 2013, in order to reshaping the budget of MORISO, REMASI and SIBIT projects.

With regard to audits, the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 OP underwent one system audit and one operations audit in Sicily during 2011 as well as in Malta. 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.

With regard to certification, during 2012 the JTS offered its support for the definition of one statement of expenditure during the month of December 2012. 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.

With regard to Axis III of the OP Technical Assistance – the Maltese National Coordination Authority has always followed strictly LN 296 of 1st June 2010 which outlines the obligations pertaining to the Public Procurement Regulations. Detailed information regarding the deliverables carried out by the MNCA under Technical Assistance in 2012 is provided hereunder:

In view of the above, In 2012, the MNCA implemented the Axis III in line with the last approved Technical Assistance plan.

6. INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING

6.1 Communication plan implementation

In line with the activities envisaged by the communication plan of the Cross Border Cooperation Programme Italia-Malta 2007-2013, the activities carried out during 2012 have been geared towards the following actions:

- information and publicity actions;
- support actions;
- actions concerning transparency and the role played by the European Union;
- actions concerning communication with other Community programs.

With reference to the information and publicity actions, in 2012, the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 Programme participated in the main dissemination and information event held in Europe i.e. The European Cooperation Day 2012, an initiative promoted by the European Commission and organized by the INTERACT programme. The participation of the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP at the ETC Day 2012 has been endorsed by the Monitoring Committee of the OP which, following a written procedure concluded on 17 July 2012 (note prot. no. 13641), approved the joint proposal of the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority in favour of the OP Participation at the European Territorial Cooperation Day 2012.

The aim of the Day was to improve the visibility of European Territorial Cooperation, disseminate the main results and show the benefits of cooperation with respect to the population of the target areas. The joint initiative took place through the implementation of activities in Malta and Sicily, involving the management bodies of the programme and projects financed under the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP in order to disseminate the results achieved by funded projects.

With respect to the activities carried out in Sicily, the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP participated in the 15th edition of the International Festival of Cultural Integration "Cous Cous Fest" held in San Vito Lo Capo (TP), held on 25 to 30 September 2012. The beneficiary of this initiative was the general public, primarily consisting of visitors from EU countries who visited Sicily in order to attend the "Cous Cous Fest". In particular, the average attendance was of about 200,000 visitors, predominantly from all Mediterranean countries, 80 journalists from all over Europe and 10 national and satellite television crews. The initiative took place through the creation of an exhibition area of 24 square meters dedicated to the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP within the expo village of the event in which all projects were invited to present the information and communication material produced (brochures, leaflets, gadgets, information totems, videos and photos containing results of the respective projects etc..) and by participating in this initiative by means of a project representation who could illustrate the main results attained to the general public.



Within the event, a number of specific initiatives were targeted at the general public in order to give visibility to the program and some projects turned out to be particularly interesting with respect to the results attained throughout 2012 and the objectives of the event.

One must note the creation of the Mediterranean Food Lab for Cooperation, a food tasting session with excellent Sicilian and Maltese agricultural food products explained by an Italian chef and a Maltese one, who illustrated the various food preparation techniques and the respective cuisines to the general public. Furthermore, an event called Tasting Cooperation: Cheese and Wines was organised – a wine and food tasting session consisting of various wines and Sicilian and Maltese cheeses, carried out within the context of the T-CHEESIMAL and PROMED projects.



During the event, the MA has participated in initiatives that have received wide media coverage from the regional and national media. These include, amongst others, the Cous Cous live show "Café Le Cous Cous", the event's talk show, with space allocated for the presentation of the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 Operational Programme as well as by means of participation at the Decanter programme which is broadcasted daily on the national radio broadcaster Rai Radio 2.



During the event, constant communication activities have accompanied the unfolding of events of ETC Day 2012 at the International Festival of Cultural Integration "Cous Cous Fest". In particular, one must note the participation at the press conference held at the launch of the event, the dissemination of press releases, the integrated communication activities concerning all references to the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP which aimed at giving maximum visibility to the programme and all funded projects (eg. editorial pages, leaflets etc.), the creation of a section dedicated to the Italia Malta 2007-2013 OP on the official website - www.couscousfest.it - with insertion of the OP logo and a link to official site - www.italiamalta.eu.

Furthermore, a video advert - ETC Day – Italia-Malta OP was shown daily on a led wall of 20 square meters placed on the performance stages of the Cous Cous Fest event. The advert was screened daily for the entire duration of the event in the moments leading up to the shows, so as to ensure maximum visibility and audience.

The ETC Day found ample space in the printed material campaign by means of a specific section within the event's official magazine, written in two languages and with 15,000 printed copies containing 1 double page dedicated to the European Cooperation Day and one double editorial page dedicated to the Italia-Malta OP.



Thanks to the support of a press office, the initiatives promoted by the ETC Day have been included in 5 official event press releases, disseminated at a regional, national and international level. The press release was also included in the official press pack of the Cous Cous Fest that has been delivered to more than 100 accredited journalists, members of the event's jury and guests. The press releases had a very wide dissemination with respect to the regional and national press as these were published by 45 different newspapers and online news websites with media coverage spread over a period of time lasting from 22 September until 12 October 2012.

Furthermore, an entire page dedicated to the event was published by the main Sicilian regional newspaper, Il Giornale di Sicilia, by means of an article dedicated to the ETC Day 2012 event and to the Italia Malta 2007-2013 OP.



Throughout the communication activities, maximum visibility for the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP was ensured through the creation of information material dedicated to the program together with the insertion of the official logos on all communication material.

A leaflet in Italian and English was created in collaboration with the MNCA, f.to 11x23 containing the presentation of the ETC Day and the calendar of upcoming events, as well as information and insights on the

OP and funded projects. 5000 copies of the leaflet were printed and distributed to the public and tourists attending the event both within the institutional exhibition space and during the side events of the programme.



With respect to the initiatives carried out in Malta, the Maltese National Coordination Authority has launched a press campaign, to promote the Italia Malta 2007-2013 OP, which took place over two weeks, from 21 September up to the first week of October 2012. In this regard, the MNCA has identified a total of five projects related to both Priority Axes (Respira, Vamos Seguro, Resi, Archaeotour and Moriso), carefully selected from amongst the most significant projects under both axes which touch upon an array of thematic areas including health, risk prevention, renewable energy, cultural heritage and the preservation of water. The final beneficiary

of this initiative was the general public, particularly, the Maltese population as well as visitors from European Union countries visiting Malta during the tourist season. The proposal consisted in the promotion of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and projects through advertising on different media – both printed as well as audiovisual. Promotion activities in this regard consisted of press releases and articles in Maltese and English as well as reference to the ETC Day in the MEUSACNews newsletter which is printed every two weeks, on Saturdays. The MNCA has participated in local TV and radio Programmes whereby information on the ETC Programmes in which it participates, with particular reference to the Italia Malta Programme was provided. Such programmes have a significant audience and promote topics of European relevance, as well as European policies, programmes and projects. Reference to the ETC Day was also made on the website of the MNCA: www.ppcd.gov.mt. This website was also updated regularly to include reference to updates under the Italia Malta Programme.

In a transversal manner with respect to the initiatives described above, the Joint Technical Secretariat dealt with relations with the INTERACT programme, by currently updating the www.ecday.eu portal with a programme of initiatives, photos, reports etc.

During the event which took place in Sicily, the Joint Technical Secretariat of the OP has prepared and administered the questionnaires revealing the level knowledge concerning regional policies put in place by the European Union.

The results attained by the analysis of 243 subjects, showed that the majority of the population sampled feels that it is poorly informed about the European Union policies (49%), whilst part of the population, on the other hand, considered itself quite informed on the subject (28%).

Cross-border cooperation and the role played by the latter in regional development policies is considered relevant by 37% and useful by 45%, whilst 18% of the subjects can be found in an intermediate position between “irrelevant” and “crucial”.

24% of the sample said they had heard of the Italia-Malta Cross-Border Cooperation Operational Programme 2007-2013. With respect to the channels leading to knowledge of the programme (internet, informational material, newspapers, radio / TV, projects carried out under the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP, others) 32% admit to having become aware through the use of the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP website, whilst 23% thanks to the projects carried out under the IT-MT OP 2007-2013.

The information and publicity activities, during 2012, have been maintained through constant updating and improvement of the programme's official website www.italiamalta.eu. This activity was ensured both through the uploading of content and the publication of news which were always up-to-date, as well as through the implementation of new utilities such as calendar events, the counter and the job opportunities section.

Particularly with respect to the documentation section of the website, throughout 2012, a total of 54 documents related to procedures, records, lists, relevant Italian and Maltese legislation, lists of beneficiaries, etc. were uploaded and more than 27 news items regarding significant events concerning the operational programme were published. The amount of documents published in 2012 was in line with the average of previous years and this in order to ensure timely and updated information with respect to the activities of the programme. At the same time, new utilities were introduced within the website to make the identification of contents more effective and immediate.

During 2012, the activities of the projects funded under the first call for ordinary projects were widely disseminated and publicized in the media since the activities of the same projects were already in a position to present the first results.

In particular, with reference to the implementation indicators indicated in the Communication Plan of the OP, during 2012, 152 media were interested in the OP, 125 articles, adverts and video productions on the OP and on the funded projects have been published or issued and 2 productions have been carried out through the mass media.

Particularly exemplary practices resulted from the SIBIT project, under the specific objective 1.3, and from the VAMOS SEGURO project, under objective 2.3 of the OP.

The SIBIT project has created a standardized Sicily-Malta cyclotourism product, characterized by a high quality of supply, complete in all its aspects, and a recognisable organization which conveys reliability and safety. In particular, a plan was drawn up with cyclotourism routes of the 5 provinces of Sicily (Agrigento, Ragusa, Siracusa, Trapani, Caltanissetta) and of Malta, through the identification of 3 routes for the area, amounting to 18 routes in all, including the main and secondary ones, and a total of 1000 km. Along the routes, suitable accommodation points, offering targeted services, have been identified and bike hotels have been entrusted with and given specific kits. The communication and networking activities carried out by the project were particularly relevant during 2012 since these laid the groundwork for the inclusion of the cyclotourism route developed within the circuits of international cycling.

In this regard, one must note the particularly significant impact of the communication activities carried out by the project through the development of a communication plan that has focused on issues of freedom, movement and nature in order to promote a dissemination and information campaign on the cyclotourism routes developed.



The theme of freedom to discover, admire, move and dream has characterized the production of all the promotional material concerning the project, the cyclotourism routes and the accommodation facilities included in the project network.



The material produced has brought together, in the best possible way, all the aspects concerning information linked to the project and the added value of the same project for the territories of the area concerned as well as those primarily concerning more communication and the impact of communication on the general public.

**7 TERRITORI, 7 ITINERARI PER TUTTI I GUSTI
7 LANDS, 7 ITINERARIES TO SUIT ALL TASTES**

AGRIGENTO
Bella Valle con templi, tre storia antica e rinascita culturale
for history of fascinating ancient history and natural heritage

CALTANISSETTA
Bellissime castella, storia, tre storia di rinascita culturale
for history of Sicily, ancient medieval custom and splendid city walls

RAGUSA
Bellissime castella, tre storia di rinascita culturale
for history of Sicily, ancient medieval custom and splendid city walls

SIRACUSA
Tempio Ortigia, tre storia di rinascita culturale
features the Orto, myth, legends and ancient culture

TRAPANI
Lunghe spiagge, tre storia di rinascita culturale
along the sea, surrounded by beaches, bars, restaurants and hotels

MALTA
Bellissime castella, tre storia di rinascita culturale
for history of the Maltese islands, including the islands

GOZO
Alle scoperte di percorsi naturali e culturali
Discover the unspoilt, agricultural areas

**ENTI PARTNER DEL PROGETTO
PROJECT PARTNERS**

 Provincia di Agrigento	 Polo Comunitario della Provincia di Agrigento
 Provincia di Caltanissetta	 PROVINCIA REGIONALE DI RAGUSA
 Provincia di Siracusa	 Provincia di Trapani
 MALTA	 GOZO
 REGIONE SICILIANA	

Per scoprire tutti gli itinerari (percorsi) e saperne di più, visitate il sito
To discover all the itineraries (routes) and know more details, visit the website

www.medinbike.com

info@medinbike.com

**Liberi in bicicletta
FREE TO WHEEL**

**ALLA SCOPERTA DI SICILIA E MALTA
DISCOVER SICILY AND MALTA**

Sibit MED IN BIKE

È una rete di itinerari in bicicletta che si snodano tra i territori delle **cinque province meridionali della Sicilia** (Agrigento, Caltanissetta, Ragusa, Siracusa, Trapani) e le **isole di Malta e Gozo**. Terre ricche di vita e di sole, di mare e di passione, di cultura e di sapori, di miti e di storie leggendarie.

Oltre 1.000 km di percorsi di ogni difficoltà e tipologia, pensati per turisti, visitatori occasionali, cittadini e amanti della bici, immersi in paesaggi naturali inconfondibili. Una rete strutturata per poter costruire itinerari di visita personalizzati, singoli o combinati fra loro, ma anche brevi escursioni per chi il territorio lo vive quotidianamente.

Potrete **muovervi senza limiti**, ammirare scorci mai visti, seguire sentieri avventurosi, provare emozioni uniche e indimenticabili. Ad attendervi un'ospitalità sincera e strutture di accoglienza dedicate con tutti i confort per i cicloturisti più esigenti.

**Venite a vivere la vera libertà.
Scoprite Sicilia e Malta in bicicletta.**

Vi aspettiamo!



*A meandering cycling itinerary around the **five southern provinces of Sicily** (Agrigento, Caltanissetta, Ragusa, Syracuse, Trapani) and the **islands of Malta and Gozo**, *vivacious lands full of sun, sea, passion, culture and flavours, legendary myths and stories.**

*More than **1,000 km of tracks** of varying levels of difficulty that have been planned for tourists, day trippers, the townspeople and anyone who loves cycling surrounded by natural rich landscapes. The network of tracks can be explored at leisure suiting the preferences of the various visitors, whether as single itineraries, a combination of routes, or joint short trips for the locals.*

***There is no limitation to travel**, you are free to admire the stunning views, venturing along the tracks for a unique and unforgettable experience. You will then be welcomed in friendly and comfortable surroundings, able to satisfy the needs of even the most demanding cyclists.*

**Feel free to Wheel...
Discover Sicily and Malta by bike**

We look forward to seeing you!

IL PROGETTO

SIBIT (Sustainable Interregional Bike Tourism) è un progetto co-finanziato dall'Unione Europea e FESR (Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale), al interno del P.O. Italia-Malta 2007-2013. Ha l'obiettivo di **promuovere il cicloturismo** come forma sostenibile di conoscenza del territorio, favorendo l'integrazione tra i sistemi turistici siciliano e maltese. Il progetto, attraverso l'individuazione e la predisposizione di un **intreccio di itinerari ciclabili** e la creazione di un rete adeguata di **Bike Hotel**, ha permesso di ideare e promuovere, a livello internazionale, un nuovo prodotto cicloturistico "Sicilia-Malta".

THE PROJECT

The SIBIT (Sustainable Interregional Bike Tourism) project is co-funded by the European Union and ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), as part of the P.O. Italy-Malta 2007-2013. The aim of the project is the **promotion of cycling tourism** as an eco-friendly way for one to discover new places, integrated in the Sicilian and Maltese traditional tourist offer. Through the identification and the organisation of a **network of cycling itineraries** and efficient **Bike Hotels**, the project provides for the international promotion of the new "Sicily-Malta" cycling tour package.



The information and publicity also included reference to technical information on , making reference to specific information related to every different route. As an example one can find the information available on two routes, one in Sicily and one in Malta.

Principali punti di interesse MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST



AGRIGENTO

La Valle dei Templi, il centro storico, l'acquedotto di Luigi Pirandello.
The Valley of the Temples, the historic center, the aqueduct of Luigi Pirandello.



ERACLEA MINORA

Scaglie: importantissime e il sito archeologico con piccolo teatro sul mare.
Pitifully famous and the archaeological site with little theatre of the sea.



LICATA

Zona urbana e collinare con annessa la spiaggia di Licata. Area di alta cura con un adjoining Maldivian beach.
Urban and hilly area with an adjoining Maldivian beach.



PORTO EMPEDOCLE

La città di Andrea Cavallotti, ricca di spiagge infinite.
The city of Andrea Cavallotti, full of endless beaches.



ICCALI MONTE

La famosa Scalinata Turca e la Villa Romana.
The famous Turkish Steps and the Roman Villa.



CALTABELLOTTA

La città cava "Thea di Caltabellotta" (Cava del Vespro 1302).
The city of the "Thea of Caltabellotta" (1302 Vespro Wine).



RESERVE NATURALI MONTE CAMMARATA E VALLE DEL SOSIO NATURAL RESERVES MOUNT CAMMARATA AND VALLEY OF THE SISO

Immersi in estese pinete, tra sorbi meridionali e cornioli.
Surrounded by extensive pine forests among southern sorbs and oaks.

Altri luoghi da non perdere: la città romana di Monte Ierone, Marina di Montechiaro e Scoglio, la spiaggia scenografica di Licata, Scoglio di Licata, il Faro di Licata e il Faro di Porto Empedocle.
Other locations not to be missed: the roman ruins of Monte Ierone, Marina di Montechiaro and Scoglio, the Scenic beach and the Paganella of Licata, the view of San Leone, Agrigento and Porto Empedocle.

Enti partner del progetto / Project partners



Caratteristiche tecniche dei percorsi ITINERARY TECHNICAL DATA

Ciclovie / Route	Lunghezza / Length	Tempo / Time	Difficoltà / Difficulty	Quota massima / Maximum altitude
Agrigentina	171 km	11h 30m 7:00am - 7:00pm	●	186 m
Sicani	117 km	8h 7:00am - 7:00pm	●	965 m
Valle del Sosio	31 km	3h 30m	●	965 m

● Per tutti / For everybody
● Qualche difficoltà / Medium difficulty
● Per esperti / For experts

Di itinerari puoi vedere percorsi fatti finora, ma ti consigliamo particolarmente nei periodi primaverili e autunnali.
The routes can be followed throughout the year, but we recommend particularly during the spring and autumn periods.

Numeri utili - USEFUL NUMBERS

Ufficio Relazioni con il Pubblico / Customer Relations Department
800/315555 - 800/736867

Ufficio Turistico Provinciale / Provincial Tourism Office
+39/0922 593649

Carabinieri, Comando Provinciale / Carabinieri Provincial Station
+39/0922 499000

Quartiere Polizia di Stato / Police Station
+39/0922 483111

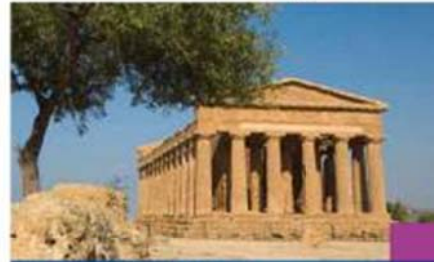
Questura di Agrigento / Agrigento Police Station
+39/0922 26604

Vigili del Fuoco, Comando Provinciale / Fire Brigade Provincial Station
+39/0922 511911

Pronto Soccorso / Emergency Assistance
112

www.medinbike.com

info@medinbike.com



AGRIGENTO

Tra storia antica e riserve naturali
BETWEEN ANCIENT HISTORY AND NATURE RESERVES



LIBERI IN BICICLETTA. ALLA SCOPERTA DI SICILIA E MALTA.
FREE TO WHEEL. DISCOVER SICILY AND MALTA.

Gli itinerari di Agrigento AGRIGENTO ITINERARIES

Ciclovial Route AGRIGENTINA

È la ciclovial principale che si interconnette lungo l'asse costiero and-ovest con le Province limitrofe di Trapani e Caltanissetta, al fine di creare una continuità nel progetto SIBIT. L'itinerario è unico nel suo genere e si attraversa passo a passo dall'antico mare siciliano al mare agrippino. Il percorso inizia nei pressi di Porto Palo per poi attraversare i centri di Merù, Sciacca e Ribera (capofila di giungla o Montebello), per proseguire poi verso Sciacqua Marina e la famosa WWT di Torre Salsa. Da qui inizia una strada panoramica di grande interesse storico: si passano i centri di Randersia (Villa Romana) e Capo Rosetta. La Strada Scala dei Turchi e Porto Empedocle, offrendo ogni possibilità della Valle dei Templi di Agrigento, dove è consigliata una lunga sosta per godersi a pieno la sua meraviglia. Una volta riparti si attraversa il lato agrigentino di San Leone e si visita un tratto di litorale lungo costa paesaggificamente molto suggestivo, che prosegue fino agli scavi archeologici di Polina di Montechiaro. Si entra così nell'ultimo tratto, dove si attraversa Melara e le sue splendide spiagge e infine l'importante centro di Licata, per concludere così l'itinerario agrigentino.

It is the main cycle route that connects along the coast west-east and west with the neighbouring Provinces of Trapani and Caltanissetta, in order to create continuity in the SIBIT project. The route is unique in its genre and you pass through the sea and areas of immense historical and landscape value. The route starts near Porto Palo and then goes through the centers of Merù, Sciacca and Ribera (capital of the jungle or Montebello), then around Sciacqua Marina and the WWT reserve of Torre Salsa. From here begins a scenic road of great historical interest: you pass the centers of Randersia (Roman Villa) and Capo Rosetta. The Turkish Steps and Port Empedocle, offering all the possibilities of the Valley of the Temples, where we recommend a long stop to fully enjoy its wonders. Once you cross the Agrigento beach of San Leone and begin a section of the coast along the coast scenery very attractive, that goes up to the archaeological site of Polina di Montechiaro. You will enter the last stretch where you cross Melara and its beautiful beaches and finally the important center of Licata, to then conclude the Agrigento route.



Ciclovial Route SICANI

Ciclovie per esperti, che percorre l'entro agrigentino. Si snoda completamente su strada provinciale e nazionali di collegamento dei vari paesi che si attraversano, per giungere a Santa Stefano Quisquina, luogo incantevole al centro della catena montuosa dei Sicani. Si raggiunge un'altezza massima di 1.000 mt. al di sopra di Santa Stefano, alcuni tratti hanno pendenze del 16%, mentre la pendenza media si aggira intorno al 7%.

Cycle Path for experts, which runs along the Agrigento interior. It runs entirely on national and provincial roads connecting the various countries that are crossed in each. Finally, Santa Stefano Quisquina, lovely place at the middle of the Sicani mountain range it reaches a maximum height of 1000 meters, above St. Stephen's, and some sections have slopes of 16%, while the average gradient is about 7%.

Variante / Variant VALLE DEL SOSIO

Interessante variante della Ciclovial Sicani che affiora la Valle del Sosio, la quale, con i suoi particolari canyon e le montagne più antiche della Sicilia, rappresenta un paesaggio unico al mondo. Arrivati a Santa Stefano Quisquina, si può decidere se proseguire verso la ciclovial costiera e continuare sul nuovo tratto verso Buglio e la Valle del Sosio, ritornando verso la ciclovial più a ovest, nei pressi del paese di Ribera.

Interesting variant of the Sicani Cycle Path road that joins the Sicani Valley, which, with its particular canyons and the oldest mountains in Sicily represents a unique landscape. Once in Santa Stefano Quisquina, you can decide whether to proceed to the coastal cycle path or continue on the new stretch to Buglio and Sicani Valley, going down towards the cycle path further west near the village of Ribera.

Cosa vedere a Malta WHAT TO SEE IN MALTA



HAGAR QIM

Tavoli preistorici, famosi per la loro posizione in cortine vicine al mare.
Prehistoric temples, famous for their attractive location near to the sea.



GHAR LAPSI

Attorniato da roccie spesse in un'insenatura sotto le roccie.
Picturesque village sheltered in a bay beneath the rocks.



CROCCIA LAPPELLA MADONNA CROSS

Placca a forma di croce nel 1900 in occasione dell'Anno Santo. È alta 26m ed è visibile da tutti i villaggi vicini.
Set up in 1900 on the occasion of the Holy Year it is 26m high and is visible from all the neighbouring villages.



PALAZZO VERDALA VERDALA PALACE

Spaziosa palazzo costruito dal Gran Maestro Verdala verso la fine del XVI sec., ora la residenza storica dei Grandi Maestri.
This magnificent palace built by Grand Master Verdala towards the end of the 16th century was the summer residence of the Grand Masters.



FORTE BUGEJA BUGEJA FORT

Forti in stile Vittoriano costruiti perfettamente e utilizzati durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale.
Perfectly preserved fort, designed in Victorian style, used during the Second World War.



BAIA DI GACINA GACINA BAY

Baia solitaria situata sulla costa nord-ovest dell'isola. Ideale per fare il bagno in acque incontaminate.
Secluded cove situated on the north-west of the island ideal for a swim in the pristine waters.



CHIESA DI MOSTA MOSTA PARISH CHURCH

Alta più di 60m, la sua facciata è ricca di sculture in pietra di disposizione classica.
More than 60m high, its facade is rich with classically inspired stone sculpture.

Enti partner del progetto / Project partners



Caratteristiche tecniche dei percorsi ITINERARY TECHNICAL DATA

Ciclovia Route	Lunghezza Length	Tempo Time	Difficoltà Difficulty	Quota massima Maximum altitude
South West Malta	27 km	2h	●	254 m
North West Malta	34 km	2h 50m	●	251 m

Guidare il percorso come percorso continuo è consentito, ma può essere interrotto in qualsiasi momento.
The routes can be followed throughout the year but we recommend participants bring the cycling and outdoor gear.



MALTA

Nel cuore del Mediterraneo, al centro della storia
THE HEART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, CRADLE OF CIVILIZATIONS



LIBERI IN BICICLETTA. ALLA SCOPERTA DI SICILIA E MALTA.
FREE TO WHEEL. DISCOVER SICILY AND MALTA.

Numeri utili - USEFUL NUMBERS

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+356/22 915 440-1-2

www.medinbike.com

info@medinbike.com



Gli itinerari di Malta MALTA ITINERARIES

Ciclovia/Route SOUTH WEST MALTA

L'itinerario percorre tutta la parte sud-ovest di Malta e attraversa in rapida successione 5 tra i villaggi più caratteristici dell'isola: Rabat, Dingli, Siggiewi, Mgarr e Qrendi. Il tratto che si può incontrare lungo il percorso è piuttosto limitato nelle zone di campagna, mentre può essere abbastanza intenso in prossimità dei villaggi. L'itinerario si collega facilmente con l'altra ciclovia presente nell'isola, la North West, fra le principali attrazioni che si possono incontrare lungo questa ciclovia, si segnalano in particolare la Villa Bonaria di Rabat, la grotta di San Paolo e la sua cataomba, i Basket Gardens, la splendida vista dalle Dingli Cliffs, la Giggewi Valley e i centri storici di Qrendi e Siggiewi.

This route runs along the south-west of Malta and crosses in quick succession the five most characteristic villages of the island: Rabat, Dingli, Siggiewi, Mgarr and Qrendi. The traffic that you might come across along the way is quite limited in rural areas, but can be quite intense in the vicinity of the villages. The route can be easily integrated with the other cycle path present on the island, the North West. Among the main attractions that can be found along this cycle path the following are particularly noteworthy: the Roman Villa in Rabat, St. Paul's Catacomb and its crypts, the Basket Gardens, the stunning view from the Dingli Cliffs, Giggewi Valley and the villages of Qrendi and Siggiewi.

Ciclovia/Route NORTH WEST MALTA

L'itinerario percorre tutta la parte nord-ovest di Malta e attraversa in rapida successione 8 villaggi: Rabat, Dingli, Mtarfa, Bahrija, Mgarr, Mosta, Attard e Hijafo. Il tratto che si può incontrare lungo il percorso è piuttosto limitato nelle zone di campagna, mentre può essere abbastanza intenso in prossimità dei villaggi e molto intenso nei pressi di Mosta, la Gola di Qortin e il Villaggio dei Meridionali. L'itinerario si collega facilmente con l'altra ciclovia presente nell'isola, la South West.

The route runs along the north-west of Malta and crosses eight villages in quick succession: Rabat, Dingli, Mtarfa, Bahrija, Mgarr, Mosta, Attard and Hijafo. The traffic that you may encounter along the way is rather limited in the countryside, whereas it can be quite intense in the vicinity of villages and very intense near Mosta and St. Qata. The route can be easily integrated with the other cycle path present on the island, the South West. Among the main attractions that can be found along this cycle path, the following are particularly noteworthy: the Dingli Cliffs, the archaeological site of Bahrija, the St. Qata Roman Park, the Village of Qortin, the railway line, the centres of Dingli, Mgarr, and Mosta.



Punti di interesse lungo i percorsi POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE PATHS

- La Grotta e la Cataomba di San Paolo / St Paul's Grotto and Catacomb
- Mgarr
- Villa Bonaria / Roman Villa
- Chiesa di Siggiewi / Siggiewi Parish Church
- Grotto di San Paolo / St Paul's Grotto
- Chiesa di Qrendi / Qrendi Parish Church
- Chiesa di Dingli / Dingli Parish Church
- Chiesa di Mgarr / Mgarr Parish Church
- Valle dei Giganti / Giggewi Valley
- Limstone Heritage
- Bahrija / Bahrija
- Villaggio dei Meridionali di St. Qata / St. Qata Village

Moreover, in 2012 the SIBIT project has also participated in two of the most important fairs in this sector i.e. "Expo Bici Padova 2012" and "BTS Montecatini 2012".

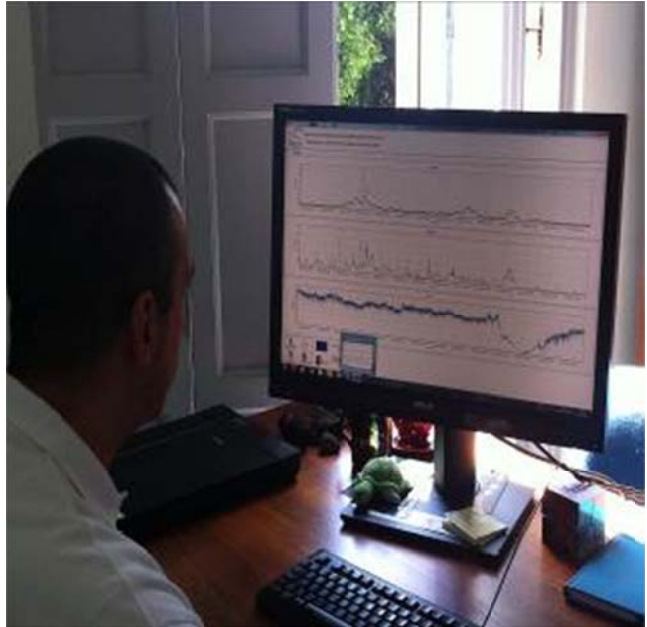
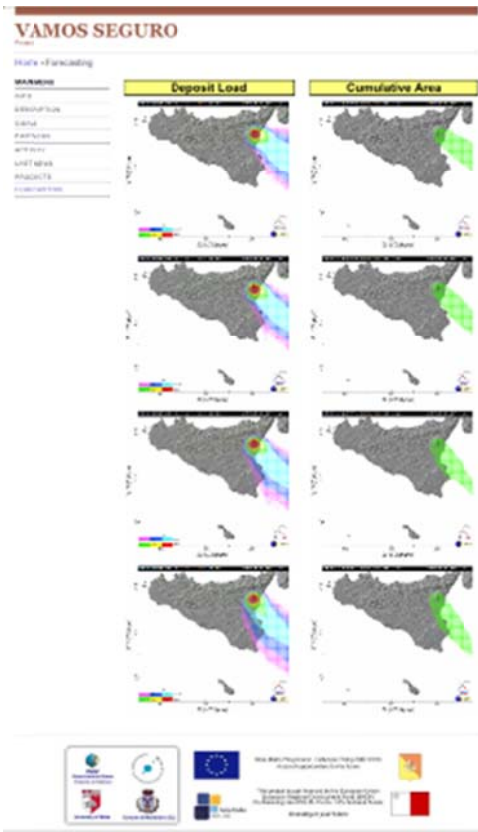


During the events, project representatives participated in meetings with the visitors, both those that are interested in the subject and operators in the field, in order to establish, for the rest of the project and for its future sustainability, specific agreements on the dissemination of tourism packages amongst tour operators. The meetings also allowed the inclusion of the SIBIT project in specialized international journals with their editions eventually being published at the beginning of 2013.

The VAMOS SEGURO project created an automated system for monitoring and forecasting the dispersion of the Etna volcanic ash thanks to the use of a complex instrument which is capable of identifying the areas between Sicily and Malta where there are harmful concentrations of volcanic ash and gas and producing early warning systems for the authorities responsible for air traffic.



During 2012, 4 LIDAR systems in Sicily and Malta and the interface platform between systems were installed and the first tests were carried out for the simulation of the ashes in the cross-border area and of the Etna's explosive activities. The project was of a highly strategic nature within the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP, although it is an ordinary project. Particular reference is made to the importance of the data that the cross-border detection system is able to generate and use of such data by the authorities involved in traffic management and air navigation in the cross-border area.



Other added value in terms of dissemination is represented by the fact that the project makes available the information gathered in an open format. This is achieved through the publication of detection data in real-time on the project website <http://www.ct.ingv.it/vamosseguro/>.

The project has received broad support from the scientific community and as a result of the activities carried out, in 2012, the same project produced 8 scientific publications. The dissemination activities also took place

at international conferences in which the results of the project were presented and the detection of the ashes technique was simulated.



VAMOS SEGURO

Volcanic Ash Monitoring and forecasting between Sicily and Malta arEa and sharing of the resUlts foR aviatiOn safety

During explosive activity, volcanoes release a large amount of silicate particles and gases that are mainly made up of water vapor, carbon and sulphur dioxides. This emission represents the most important natural source of pollutants in the atmosphere, affects terrestrial ecosystems and human health and influences the climate. The accidental encounter between volcanic ash and airplanes causes damage to control surfaces, windshields and landing lights, loss of visibility and failure of critical navigational and operation instrumentations and in the worst scenario, the failure of the engine. Moreover, volcanic ash deposited on the ground cause respiratory problems, eye injuries and skin irritations, damage to crops, roads and infrastructures.



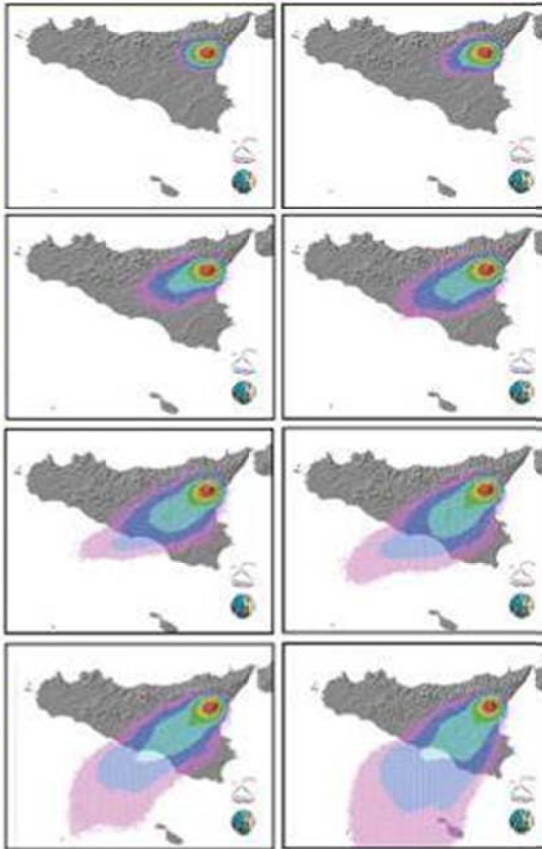
One of the most active volcanoes in the world is Mt. Etna, in Italy. Explosive activity occurs from the central craters and from fractures opened up along the volcano flanks. In the last two decades the number of explosive events has increased, making Etna an extraordinary natural laboratory for testing new instruments and validating volcanic ash dispersal models. During its frequent explosive episodes, volcanic plumes have risen up to several kilometers above the summit craters and volcanic ash plumes have also reached the Maltese islands, 100 km south of Sicily.



In order to reduce the impact that Etna explosive activity has in the area between Sicily and Malta, a new research project VAMOS SEGURO (Volcanic Ash Monitoring and Forecasting between Sicilia and Malta arEa and sharing of the results for aviation safety) has been funded by Programma di Cooperazione Transfrontaliera Italia-Malta 2007-2013, A1.2.3-62, Obiettivo Specifico 2.3). The project is a cooperation among The Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica, Osservatorio Etneo, lead partner of the project, the Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica, Comune di Montedoro and the Physics Department of the University of Malta. The goals of the project are the acquisition of new data retrieved by instruments that can detect in real time the presence of volcanic ash between Sicily and Malta in real time; the laboratory analysis of the collected data, a daily forecasting of the deposit and plume dispersal produced; model validation through comparisons with data retrieved by instruments.

The VAMOS SEGURO project provides an automatic system for monitoring and forecasting of volcanic ash dispersal between Sicily and Malta in the case of an Etna eruption. New instruments have been installed both in Sicily and at the University observatory facility at Giordan lighthouse and at Xewkija, Gozo. This station comprises monitors for Carbon Monoxide and Dioxide (CO and CO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Water Vapour (H₂O), volcanic ash and meteorological stations. Moreover, an innovative transportable scanning lidar system, designed and realized by CNISM (Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze Fisiche della Materia), will be operated mainly from two suitable sites, Montedoro (Caltanissetta) in the center of Sicily and at Serra La Nave, 7 km away from the Etna summits. The lidar instrument is able to detect aerosol layers, estimate the column height and give a 3D vision of volcanic plumes if it has scanning capabilities. The polarization lidar technique is also particularly suited to distinguish volcanic ash from liquid components in volcanic plumes. At Etna, a scanning lidar system has already been tested to analyze volcanic plumes. Data analysis has allowed identifying of the volcanic plume region and to estimation of ash mass concentration, crucial information for preventing air traffic accidents. High resolution camera and binoculars also enable recording of the eruptive phenomena while laboratory instruments allow the analysis of volcanic ash particles collected on the ground during explosive events. The automatic forecasting system simulates the region affected by the volcanic ash plumes in case of an Etna eruption on a daily basis. Every day an automatic system downloads weather forecasts from meteorological mesoscale models, runs the PUFF-parallel model, plots hazard maps of volcanic ash dispersal and deposition for certain scenarios and publishes the results on the project's web-site www.ct.ingv.it/vamosseguro. Warning messages will be issued during the main eruptive events and with the support of the Malta International Airport Meteorological Office they will be transmitted to the competent Civil Authorities and Catania and Malta airports. The VAMOS SEGURO's project part-financed by the European Union Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (Co-financing rate 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds), will provide rapid responses during volcanic emergencies from Etna volcano and drastically reduce the risks from volcanic ash in the Mediterranean area.

Volcanic Ash forecasting between Malta and Sicily



LAW is an optical remote sensing technology that allows atmospheric composition detection from the ground.



Malta - Durr



A new prototype of LIDAR realized ad hoc for the VAMOS SEGURO project by CNISM in collaboration with the University of Naples.

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CNISM, University of Naples, IMAA-CNR and SPIN-CNR



Italia-Malta Programme - Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
A sea of opportunities for the future



This project is part-financed by the European Union
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Co-financing rate 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds

Investing in your future



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	TOT
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	0	4
		No. of organised events	0	2	2	2	6
		No. of final participating beneficiaries	0	420	250	243	913
		No. of articles and notices for publicising the events	0	3	4	58	65
Launch of the OP website	Enhancement of the OP website	No. of users/visitors	n.a.	30.621	32.723	15.044	78.388
		No. downloaded documents	n.a.	22	0	0	22
	Verticalisation of the information of the previous Interreg III Programme	No. of news published in the news section	1	1	0	0	2
	Setting up of a back-end section	No. of content System management (CSM)	n.a.	n.a.	1	n.a.	1
	Setting up of a section reserved for OP beneficiaries	No. of reserved sections	2	27	21	27	77
	Constant updating of website	No. of published news	42	58	102	54	256
		No. of documents uploaded	0	0	1	1	2
	Creation of a database of participating beneficiaries/partners	No. of databases created	n.a.	182	153	105	440
		No. of users registered in the database	0	0	84	152	236
Advertising in local and national media	Publication of items related to the OP and to funded projects in national regional press Mass media productions and dissemination	No. of media showing interest in the OP	0	0	146	125	271
		No. of articles, notices and video productions regarding the OP and the funded projects	0	0	1	10	11
		No. of productions created by the mass media	0	2	2	0	4

With reference to the support actions, the activities of the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority, supported by the Joint Technical Secretariat, have ensured the realization of information seminars and support to the beneficiaries of the first call for ordinary projects.

In particular, during the month of January 2012, 17 face to face meetings were carried out with the leaders and partners of the ordinary projects with aim of verifying both the technical administrative content of the 2011 payment requests as well as the delays related to the progress of the project activities which have undermined the respect of expenditure levels ensured by the grant agreement. The meetings were attended by a total of 130 beneficiaries and during the same session the necessary explanations and information were provided for the proper implementation of the project activities.

In 2012, the Maltese National Coordination Authority was in constant contact with Maltese project partners, whilst also liaising regularly with the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat so as to ensure satisfactory progress of the seventeen ordinary projects which were underway. In this regard, regular meetings were held with the Maltese entities participating in such projects in order to monitor the progress achieved by each project and to be able to undertake the necessary action as required. The meetings helped to smoothen any obstacles that the project partners would encounter from time to time particularly with regards to tenders. The MNCA would give particular importance to any project that might have fallen somewhat and that therefore might be at risk of not meeting and the project goals because of different issues.

In view of the approval of several strategic projects, the MNCA also organised initial meetings with all the partners, so as to explain the initial procedures that needed to be taken after the formal go-ahead for the projects was given. Furthermore, the MNCA undertook to explain to the project partners the procedures pertaining to the compilation and submission of the necessary documentation for claims for reimbursement. Further meetings were held in throughout 2012 and as needed to discuss any issues with regards to the strategic projects that might hinder their progress.

In addition to the above, bilateral monthly meetings were held with the partners whose projects were deemed to be lagging behind in terms of the respective implementation and submission of claims. Further to such regular monitoring, most projects are on track and are envisaged to be finalised in 2013.

The MNCA also attended a number of project steering committees and / or seminars organised in connection with some of the projects. Examples include the Symbiotic steering committee and the Calypso half day seminar. The MNCA also attended different events of the T-Cheesimal project.

During the first half of 2012, the Joint Technical Secretariat, attended specific meetings organized by the leaders of the ordinary projects and ensured the presence at Steering Committees that required the necessary support for the continuation of activities and to reformulate the project budgets. In April, following the outcomes of the Steering Committee meetings held on 3 to 4 April 2012, which approved the list of projects eligible for funding and those eligible under certain conditions, the Managing Authority assisted by the Joint Technical Secretariat held 5 meetings with the leaders of the strategic projects in order to support them in the reformulation of the budget following the outcomes of the Steering Committee meeting. Similarly, the MNCA held similar meetings with the Maltese beneficiaries of strategic projects, providing support activities with respect to the budget reformulation.

In June 2012, the MA convened a meeting in Palermo with all the leaders and partners of the ordinary projects with the aim of taking corrective action for the acceleration of spending and to allow the full use of resources allocated to individual projects. A similar meeting was organized in Malta during the month of July 2012, in order to give broad support to the beneficiaries of ordinary projects. Within the framework of the regular

meetings, all projects were made aware of the spending targets for 2012 and were given the necessary indications linked to a corrective action of redistribution of the project budget in accordance, where possible, with the ERDF percentages between Italy and Malta or to the eventual decommitment of financial resources declared as "unusable".

During the month of October 2012, the Joint Technical Secretariat took part in an information session with the beneficiaries of the strategic project BIODIVALUE on issues of eligibility of expenses, the information and publicity obligations, reporting, monitoring and reimbursement of expenses procedures, on how to compile the necessary documentation for complying with the reporting annexes and according to the indications of the reporting manual.

During 2012, the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority, supported by the JTS and the Maltese Contact Point, have ensured constant linking between the activities of the OP and the commitments to be carried out on the two territories through constant dialogue and sharing of activities. During May 2012, the Joint Technical Secretariat constantly liaised with the Maltese National Coordination Authority and the contact point in defining 16 supporting documents for beneficiaries of strategic projects in order to provide them with the necessary support tools for complying with their obligations under the programme (for example one can mention: model rules of procedure of the steering committee, reporting annex, reimbursement annex, financial and procedural monitoring annex, model meeting minutes/report, tables showing the calculation of hourly rates etc.). The documentation for the beneficiaries' use has been distributed to all stakeholders, also through the publication of the same documentation within the documentation section of the corporate website www.italiamalta.eu. In 2012, the Joint Technical Secretariat has also instructed regarding 12 reformulations of ordinary projects by providing the necessary guidance for the proper compilation of the relevant files processed.

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

SUPPORT ACTIONS							
Instruments for information and advertising	Output	Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	Tot
Seminars/workshops with beneficiaries	Organisation of seminars and workshops	No. of organised seminars and workshops	0	0	23	51	74
		No. of participating beneficiaries	0	0	199	335	534
Informative material	Guidelines for end beneficiaries, reporting manuals, forms, etc.	No. of created documents		9	22	28	59
		No. of downloads from the OP website	5828	45913	30679	56807	139.227
		No. of programme related publications	0	0	0	16	16
		No. of FAQs published on the site	0	29	55	0	84
		No. of answers on the Forum	0	62	0	0	62
		No. of Forum members	0	2011	0	0	2.011
Assistance actions for end beneficiaries	Meetings held with the JTS and with the Maltese contact point	No. of organised meetings	0	1	6	3	10
	Meetings with the Programme authorities	No. of information requests	0	0	55	53	108

	Meetings with the project beneficiaries	No. of participations in Steering Committees	0	0	17	22	39
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With reference to actions for transparency and promotion of the role played by the EU, in 2012, strategic projects also started information and communication activities, in accordance to the obligations imposed by Reg 1828/2006 and to the indications of the reporting manual of the OP. In particular, the activities have ensured that the 5 strategic projects complied with the requirements of the communication plan, ensuring both transparency of procedures and activities and the visibility of the European Union's contribution. In conformity with their communication plans, prepared in accordance with the communication plan of the OP, ordinary projects have undertaken a dissemination action with respect to regional and national media, always ensuring adequate visibility to the role played by the European Union and the instrument of the European Fund for Regional Development in territorial development. In particular, 10 projects have been promoted in national and regional media which have reported detailed information on the types of activities funded by the European Union under the Operational Programme and on the possible additional funding from the beneficiaries involved. Furthermore, as part of the ETC Day 5 press releases, 45 articles, 2 editorials, 1 page was prepared and published on the Giornale di Sicilia and 5 were articles were published on weekly or daily newspapers in Malta.

The MNCA also participated in the ETC Day 2012, whereby a number of projects were selected and featured in the national press, both printed and online as well audiovisually. With specific reference to the press, a number of articles were drafted by the MNCA, giving concrete examples of some of the ordinary projects which were underway. Such articles, which were drafted both in Maltese and in English so as to reach a wider audience, included reference to several projects including the Respira project, which focused on the identification and mitigation of allergies, the Promed project under which a centre which focuses on viticulture has been restored and inaugurated, the Moriso project which dealt with the quality and the quantity of the underground hydrological basins, the Resi project, which focused on renewable energy as well as the Archaeotur project, under which two Maltese heritage sites, namely the Ta' Bistra Catacombs in Mosta and the Catacombs of St. Augustine in Rabat are currently being restored.

Some of the featured articles, which were published on the 21st of September 2013 or in the following week, are being reproduced below:

21 PROJECTS UNDER THE ITALY-MALTA 2007-2013 CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME

- Friday, 21 September 2012, 00:00 - by Mark De Martino

Twenty-one projects, which involve a number of Maltese entities, have been selected for funding under the Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Cross-Border Programme which falls under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). These projects, which involve ministries, local councils, authorities, as well as the University of Malta, have a budgetary allocation of €83.3 million.

One of these projects is the Horsa project, which has an ERDF budgetary allocation of €248,273 and aims at the conservation of water and the improvement of the efficiency in the management of our water networks. One of the deliverables of this project is the monitoring of our coastal aquifers so as to determine which of these aquifers are vulnerable to sea water intrusion and / or contamination caused by agricultural activities. This project shall also assess the underground water resources of some hydrological basins in terms of their quantity and quality and also define agricultural practices that tend to save water used for irrigation purposes. In this regard, the installation and the commissioning of a pilot desalination plant and a micro-irrigation system is also foreseen. The Maltese partners in this project are the Malta Resources Authority and the Water Services Corporation.

On the other hand, the Reai project focuses on spreading the use of renewable energy, particularly solar energy, in Malta and in Sicily. To this end, this project shall establish common strategies aimed at attaining a widespread use of renewable energy in both territories, by means of the identification and implementation of a specific action plan. The project will also develop an environmental and a socio-economic database, which will provide information on the various renewable energy scenarios in the cross-border area. A renewable energy atlas, which maps the installation of renewable energy sources and good practices, is another deliverable of this project. The ERDF budgetary allocation pertaining to the two Maltese partners in this project i.e. the Malta Resources Authority and the Institute for Sustainable Energy amounts to €224,797.

Another project, foresees the restoration of two archaeological sites – Ta' Bistra in Mosta and St Augustine in Rabat, Malta. The Archaeatur project, which is being led by the Mosta local council and which also involves the Rabat local council, Heritage Malta and the Malta Tourism Authority as Maltese partners has an ERDF budgetary allocation of €633,460. Once these two sites are rehabilitated, they will be opened to the general public and to tourists. Heritage trails, which include other historical places, such as the Mosta Dome and the Roman Villa, will also be developed under this project.

The Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Cross-Border Programme, which is one of the Territorial Cooperation Programmes in which Malta is currently participating, is coordinated by the Territorial Cooperation Unit within the Funds and Programmes Division at the Office of the Prime Minister. Further information on this programme may be obtained from the programme's website www.italiamalta.eu or from the Funds and Programmes Division on 2200-1102.

Mark De Martino is Information Executive Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Cross-Border Cooperation Programme



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Ahbarijiet Lokali

21 proġett taħt il-Programm ta' Kooperazzjoni Territorjali Italja-Malta 2007-2013

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21 proġett, li jinvolvu numru ta' entitajiet Maltin, qed jiġu ffinanzjati taħt il-Programm Italja-Malta 2007-2013, li jibni fuq il-relazzjonijiet li ilhom jeżistu għal snin twal bejn Malta u Sqallija, kif ukoll fuq il-Programm precedenti (Italja - Malta 2004-2006) li sewa ta' bazi sabiex tinbena kooperazzjoni mill-aqwa bejn entitajiet Maltin u Taljani. Dawn il-proġetti, li jinvolvu fost oħrajn numru ta' Ministri, Kunsill Lokali, u Awtoritajiet, kif ukoll l-Università ta' Malta, għandhom valur ta' €8.3 miljun.

Wiehed mill-proġetti hu il-proġett Promed li jinkludi tlett imsieħba Maltin; il-Ministeru għar-Riżorsi u Affarijiet Rurali, l-Organizzazzjoni Produtturi Għeneb għall-Inbid (Malta) u l-Università ta' Malta. Dan il-proġett, ser jgħin sabiex isir l-użu korrett minn varjetajiet ta' għeneb differenti skond il-karatteristiki lokali. Permezz ta' dan il-proġett, qed tiġi rinnovata binja ġewwa il-Buskett biex isservi ta' stazzjon sperimentali għall-vitikultura u l-enoloġija.

Il-Proġett Respira mmanigġjat mill-Ministeru għas-Saħħa, l-Anzjani u l-Kura fil-Kommunità għandu l-għan li jidentifika u jippreveni l-allerġiji f'Malta u fi Sqallija. Dan ser isir billi issir evaluazzjoni klinika ta' madwar 300 student Malti, kif uko li 300 student Sqalli, bejn il-11 u l-14 il-sena. Ir-riżultati ta' dan l-istudju ser jipprovdu informazzjoni ġdida u preċiża fuq il-konnessjoni li jista' jkun hemm bejn l-ambjent u l-mard respiratorju.

Il-Programmi ta' Koperazzjoni Territorjali, li huma ffinanzjati mill-Fond ta' Żvilupp Reġjonali Ewropew 2007 - 2013, huma koordinati mill-Unità tal-Kooperazzjoni Territorjali fi ħdan id-Divizjoni għall-Fondi u Programmi, l-Uffidju tal-Prim Ministru.

Aktar informazzjoni fuq il-Programm Italja-Malta tista' tinkiseb minn fuq is-sit www.italiamalta.eu jew tel: 2200 1102.

Article 4: Maltarightnow.com

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Monday, October 1, 2012

Archaeological restoration

Two archaeological sites - Ta' Bistra in Mosta and St Augustine in Rabat - are being rehabilitated as part of a €600,000 project.

The Ta' Bistra catacombs date back to the fourth century and consist of an extensive system of early Christian tombs that add up to 16 groups of hypogea.

Discovered in 1891, the site features sculpted spiral borders, scallop shells, arched pottery shelves and agape tables.

The St Augustine catacombs are 100 metres away from St Paul's and St Agatha's catacombs. In fact, they once formed part of the same complex of burial grounds. The catacombs were only rediscovered in the 1920s when new houses were being built in the area.

The project, led by the Mosta local council with the collaboration of the Rabat local council, Heritage Malta and the Malta Tourism Authority, has an ERDF budgetary allocation from the Italy-Malta Programme of €635,460.

The Italy-Malta 2007-2013 Cross Border Programme is coordinated by the Territorial Cooperation Unit within the Funds and Programmes Division at the Office of the Prime Minister. Further details are available at www.italiamalta.eu.

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In addition to the above, the MNCA also took part in two radio programmes as well as a TV Programme, during which information on some of the projects as well as their benefit to the cross border area, with specific reference to Malta was provided. Reference to the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes in which Malta is participating, including the Italia Malta Programme was also made on the MNCA's website.

The MNCA also facilitated the participation of two representatives from the Institute of Tourism Studies (Gozo) in the event organised by the Managing Authority.

Below is a table indicative of the progress of the indicators of the communication plan, with reference to actions for transparency and the promotion of the role played 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	Tot
Ensuring compliance with provisions in the preparation of the section of	Drawing up of the section related to the activities and results of the CP in the annual and final reports	No. of examples of promotional activities reported in the annual and final reports	0	0	4	3	7
		No. of projects that meet the CP requirements	0	0	17	22	39
		No. of projects publicised by the	0	0	6	10	16

the annual and final implementation report with regard to the activities and results of the CP		mass media						
Monitoring of websites created by the OP beneficiaries	Verification activities of websites created by the approved projects	No. of consulted websites	0	0	5	16	21	
		No. of links leading to the OP website	0	0	5	16	21	
		No. of uploaded documents	0	30	7	0	37	
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	58	73	

With reference to actions for communication with other Community programmes, the Managing Authority of the OP and the Joint Technical Secretariat, in 2012, participated in 8 meetings and seminars organized by the European Commission and the INTERACT Programme. On October 24th 2013 all the Territorial Cooperation Unit staff including those forming part of the MNCA attended a one day training seminar organized by Interact that focused on Programming issues such as how the calculations of decommitment are carried out.

During the month of January, 2012, the MA and the JTS went to Valencia for participation in the seminar organized by the INTERACT Programme on the 2014-2020 programming on "The role of European Territorial Cooperation in cohesion policy" where the new regulatory framework 2014 - 2020 in relation to the European territorial cooperation was presented.

In the month of February 2012, the MA attended the meeting concerning the negotiation related to territorial cooperation and EGTC organized at the representative office of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

During the months of May and June 2012, the Strategic coordination group for economic cooperation met in Rome to discuss the future of the Territorial Cooperation Objective 2014-2020 during which the regions provided their observations on the Commission's legislative proposals related to this objective of cohesion policy.

In September 2012, the Managing Authority attended the meeting organized by the Ministry of Economic Development for a first discussion on the definition of the geographic areas of cross-border cooperation 2014-2020 and the preparation of new programmes.

During the month of October 2012, the MA attended the meeting on interregional coordination on European Territorial Cooperation organized to discuss cross-cutting issues in view of the definition of the future structure of the ETC to be addressed first in the "position paper".

Below is an indicative table of the progress of the indicators of the communication plan, with reference to actions for communication with other Community programs.

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	Tot
Participation of the authorities involved in the OP in events of public interest	Participation in training/information days	No. di events	0	0	4	8	12
		No. of involved Authorities	0	0	30	50	80
		News published on the website in relation to the activities	0	0	4	8	12

During 2012, the Managing Authority provided for the publication of a list of beneficiaries under the OP. This publication was made on the website of the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 OP website www.italiamalta.eu and on the official ERDF OP www.euroinfocilia.it.

Below is a list of beneficiaries updated as at 31/12/2012.

Table 10 List of beneficiaries as at 31/12/2012.

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	
Regione Siciliana	3	Compenso Assistenza Tecnica	2009	24.000,00	23.936,03	20.345,63
Regione Siciliana	3	Comitato di Sorveglianza Catania - aprile 2009	2009	9.024,00	9.024,00	7.670,40
Regione Siciliana	3	Pagamento pubblicazione bando STC su Repubblica	2009	1.500,00	1.500,00	1.275,00
Regione Siciliana	3	Pagamento pubblicazione bando STC su Sicilia e Giornale di Sicilia	2009	3.434,76	3.434,76	2.919,55
Regione Siciliana	3	Compenso componenti S.T.C.	2009	300.000,00	260.683,92	221.581,33
Regione Siciliana	3	Pagamento missioni	2009	49.000,00	38.803,63	32.983,09
Regione Siciliana	3	Pubblicazioni traduzioni organizzazione eventi	2010	250.000,00	174.227,70	148.093,55
Regione Siciliana	3	Compenso 3° componente STC	2011	150.000,00	97.636,15	82.990,73
Regione Siciliana	3	Altre spese ADG	2011	44.000,00	35.373,60	30.067,56
Regione Siciliana	4	Servizio di catering in occasione del Comitato Direttivo del 5 e 6 ottobre 2011	2011	700,00	700,00	595,00
Autorità Nazionale di Coordinamento Maltese	3	Preparazione, attuazione, sorveglianza e ispezioni	2010	219.750,00	154.602,32	131.411,97
Autorità Nazionale di Coordinamento Maltese	3	Valutazione, studi, informazione e comunicazione	2009	168.400,00	40.985,74	34.837,88
Mosta Local Council	1.3	Progetto ARCHAETUR	2011	413.500,00	68.762,16	58.447,84

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	
Heritage Malta	1.3	Progetto ARCHAEO TUR	2011	157.700,00	58.535,42	49.755,11
Malta Tourism Authority	1.3	Progetto ARCHAEO TUR	2011	94.500,00	42.979,03	36.532,18
Rabat local Council	1.3	Progetto ARCHAEO TUR	2011	81.900,00	26.414,08	22.451,97
Comune di Ragusa	1.3	Progetto ARCHAEO TUR	2011	196.558,00	85.172,98	72.397,03
Regione Siciliana - Soprintendenza ai BB.CC. Ragusa	1.3	Progetto ARCHAEO TUR	2011	223.494,00	134.780,66	114.563,56
Comune di Santa Croce Camerina	1.3	Progetto ARCHAEO TUR	2011	80.600,00	26.506,40	22.530,44
GiriTravel srl	1.3	Progetto ARCHAEO TUR	2011	116.565,00	76.087,52	64.674,39
University of Malta	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	598.271,00	517.632,33	439.987,48
Transport Authority (TA)	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	142.722,00	110.336,91	93.786,37
Civil Protection Department (CPV)	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	27.245,00	11.436,04	9.720,63
Armed Forces of Malta (AFM)	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	30.405,00	11.820,91	10.047,77
ARPA Sicilia – Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	174.666,00	174.666,00	148.466,10
Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero uos di Capo Granitola, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (IAMC-CNR CAPO GRANITOLA)	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	119.545,00	73.398,93	62.389,09
Università degli Studi di Palermo – Polo Universitario di Trapani	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	186.590,00	129.654,69	110.206,49

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	
UNIVERSITÀ DI CATANIA - Centro Universitario per la Tutela e Gestione degli Ambienti Naturali e degli Agro-ecosistemi (CUTGANNA)	2.3	Progetto CALYPSO	2011	75.955,00	49.447,71	42.030,55
Università di Catania – Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche Geologiche e Ambientali	1.3	Progetto GARDMED	2011	219.513,00	153.922,41	130.834,05
University of Malta - Argotti Botanical Gardens	1.3	Progetto GARDMED	2011	212.996,00	52.819,08	44.896,22
Comune di Siracusa	1.3	Progetto GARDMED	2011	187.951,00	46.511,22	39.534,54
Floriana Local Council	1.3	Progetto GARDMED	2011	127.902,00	60.464,14	51.394,52
Provincia regionale di Ragusa	1.1	Progetto LITHOS	2011	322.475,04	183.478,33	155.956,58
Università degli Studi di Palermo - Dipartimento Storia e Progetto nell'Architettura	1.1	Progetto LITHOS	2011	188.111,00	100.699,26	85.594,37
Assessorato regionale Beni Culturali - Centro Regionale per la Progettazione e il Restauro e per le Scienze Naturali ed Applicate ai Beni Culturali	1.1	Progetto LITHOS	2011	116.449,00	72.593,50	61.704,48
Heritage Malta	1.1	Progetto LITHOS	2011	268.729,20	144.428,77	122.764,45
Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento Interventi Infrastrutturali in Agricoltura	2.1	Progetto MORISO	2011	288.610,00	0,00	0,00
Università di Catania - Dipartimento di Gestione dei Sistemi Agroalimentari e Ambientali	2.1	Progetto MORISO	2011	51.205,00	26.138,50	22.217,73
Centro Studi di Economia applicata all'Ingegneria - CSEI	2.1	Progetto MORISO	2011	139.650,00	87.942,72	74.751,31

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	
Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente – DAP di Ragusa	2.1	Progetto MORISO	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	Progetto MORISO	2011	153.615,00	79.343,51	67.441,98
Water Services Corporation	2.1	Progetto MORISO	2011	139.650,00	69.168,96	58.793,62
Comune di Sciacca	1.3	Progetto OBIMED	2011	313.644,00	168.674,72	143.373,51
Comune di Gharb	1.3	Progetto OBIMED	2011	146.900,00	103.299,98	87.804,98
Maltese Italian Chamber of Commerce	1.3	Progetto OBIMED	2011	158.000,00	79.649,72	67.702,26
Comune di Castelvetrano	1.3	Progetto OBIMED	2011	45.800,00	22.900,00	19.465,00
Malta Tourism Society	1.3	Progetto OBIMED	2011	34.000,00	21.915,80	18.628,43
Provincia Regionale di Siracusa	2.1	Progetto PANACEA	2011	446.132,00	159.968,59	135.973,30
Provincia regionale di Palermo	2.1	Progetto PANACEA	2011	243.620,00	121.810,00	103.538,50
Comune di Lampedusa e Linosa	2.1	Progetto PANACEA	2011	103.784,00	51.892,00	44.108,20
Kunsill Lokali San Lawrenz	2.1	Progetto PANACEA	2011	188.054,00	71.907,54	61.121,41
University of Malta	2.1	Progetto PANACEA	2011	240.866,00	199.690,92	169.737,28
Istituto Regionale della Vite e del Vino	1.1	Progetto ProMed	2011	574.725,00	429.650,74	365.203,13

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	
Centro Studi di Economia applicata all'Ingegneria - CSEI	1.1	Progetto ProMed	2011	110.300,00	76.351,06	64.898,40
University of Malta	1.1	Progetto ProMed	2011	198.500,00	160.983,04	136.835,58
Ministry for resources and Rural Affairs	1.1	Progetto ProMed	2011	342.520,00	136.220,28	115.787,24
Comune di Lampedusa e Linosa	1.1	Progetto ProMed	2011	15.000,00	3.000,00	2.550,00
Comune di Pantelleria	1.1	Progetto ProMed	2011	15.000,00	3.000,00	2.550,00
Organizzazioni Produttori Gheneb Ghall-Inbid Malta	1.1	Progetto ProMed	2011	114.300,00	54.569,97	46.384,47
Comune di Bivona	2.1	Progetto REMASI	2011	142.712,00	0,00	0,00
Legambiente Comitato Regionale Siciliano onlus	2.1	Progetto REMASI	2011	92.120,00	0,00	0,00
Università degli Studi di Palermo	2.1	Progetto REMASI	2011	115.068,00	0,00	0,00
Heritage Malta	2.1	Progetto REMASI	2011	115.600,00	0,00	0,00
Provincia Regionale di Ragusa	2.2	Progetto RESI	2011	176.152,09	45.265,62	38.475,78
Provincia Regionale di Agrigento	2.2	Progetto RESI	2011	158.843,91	57.839,39	49.163,48
Malta Resources Authority	2.2	Progetto RESI	2011	126.004,40	59.542,13	50.610,81
University of Malta - Institute for Sustainable Energy	2.2	Progetto RESI	2011	126.697,60	111.066,28	94.406,34
Ministry for Health, Elderly, and Community Care - Malta	2.3	Progetto RESPIRA	2011	345.744,00	206.831,40	175.806,69

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	
Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale Caltanissetta - Distretto di Gela	2.3	Progetto RESPIRA	2011	146.873,00	0,00	0,00
Università degli Studi di Palermo - Dipartimento D.R.E.A.M.	2.3	Progetto RESPIRA	2011	121.488,00	58.228,62	49.494,33
Istituto di Biomedicina e di Immunologia Molecolare del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (IBIM-CNR)	2.3	Progetto RESPIRA	2011	250.255,00	185.709,12	157.852,75
Provincia Regionale di Agrigento - Ufficio Politiche Comunitarie	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	344.160,00	167.236,90	142.151,37
Provincia Regionale di Ragusa	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	137.650,00	68.825,00	58.501,25
Provincia Regionale di Siracusa	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	137.650,00	68.825,00	58.501,25
Provincia Regionale di Trapani	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	137.650,00	68.825,00	58.501,25
Provincia Regionale di Caltanissetta	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	137.650,00	68.825,00	58.501,25
Malta Tourism Authority	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	91.770,00	64.636,93	54.941,39
Local Council Association - Malta	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	91.770,00	12.620,92	10.727,78
Polo Universitario Agrigento	1.3	Progetto SIBIT	2011	22.940,00	11.470,00	9.749,50
University of Malta - International Environment Institute	2.1	Progetto SIMBIOTIC	2011	413.616,00	239.155,60	203.282,26
Ministry for Gozo	2.1	Progetto SIMBIOTIC	2011	161.349,00	93.209,92	79.228,43
Università di Catania – Dipartimento di Biologia "Marcello La Greca"	2.1	Progetto SIMBIOTIC	2011	226.975,00	54.553,33	46.370,33
Comune di Pachino	2.1	Progetto SIMBIOTIC	2011	200.088,00	6.833,38	5.808,37
University of Malta	1.1	Progetto T-CHEESIMAL	2011	341.087,00	34.417,52	29.254,89
CoRFiLaC - Consorzio per la Ricerca sulla Filiera Lattiero-Casearia	1.1	Progetto T-CHEESIMAL	2011	228.010,00	62.498,95	53.124,11
Università degli Studi di Catania	1.1	Progetto T-CHEESIMAL	2011	205.342,00	10.630,56	9.035,98

Name of Beneficiary	Axis	Name of operation	Year of Funding	Community contribution allocated	Amount actually Disbursed	
					Total	
Università di Catania - Facoltà di Architettura Siracusa	1.1	Progetto THE HUB	2011	380.967,00	191.652,70	162.904,80
University of Malta	1.1	Progetto THE HUB	2011	190.484,00	142.666,20	121.266,27
Confcooperative Siracusa	1.1	Progetto THE HUB	2011	34.633,00	17.281,33	14.689,13
Istituto Onnicomprensivo L. Pirandello	1.1	Progetto THE HUB	2011	86.584,00	47.999,06	40.799,20
Comune di Siracusa	1.1	Progetto THE HUB	2011	173.167,00	87.896,40	74.711,94
Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, sezione di Catania	2.3	Progetto VAMOS SEGURO	2011	205.264,00	174.755,17	148.541,89
Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica	2.3	Progetto VAMOS SEGURO	2011	105.565,00	94.211,82	80.080,05
Atmospheric Research Physic Department University of Malta	2.3	Progetto VAMOS SEGURO	2011	111.429,00	105.080,52	89.318,44
Comune di Montedoro	2.3	Progetto VAMOS SEGURO	2011	164.212,00	153.326,13	130.327,21
Provincia regionale di Trapani	2.4	Progetto WATER FRONT	2011	86.091,00	46.914,57	39.877,38
Provincia regionale di Palermo	2.4	Progetto WATER FRONT	2011	28.697,00	5.739,40	4.878,49
Comune di Palermo	2.4	Progetto WATER FRONT	2011	18.560,00	13.506,20	11.480,27
Università degli Studi di Palermo	2.4	Progetto WATER FRONT	2011	67.531,00	755,66	642,31
University of Malta	2.4	Progetto WATER FRONT	2011	86.091,00	35.661,61	30.312,37