

**MEDITERRANEAN
SEA BASIN PROGRAMME
2014-2020**

**Adopted by the European Commission on 17 December
2015**

Decision No C (2015) 9133

Annual Report 2020

Submitted on 01 March 2021

I. Technical part

Article 77(2) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 897/2014

1. IDENTIFICATION

Managing Authority	Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy)
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Reporting Period	From 01/07/2019 to 30/06/2020
Date of approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee	22/02/2021 (narrative part) 01/03/2021 Financial part

2. KEEP DATABASE¹

[Please confirm that the KEEP database was fed and updated with the relevant data and mention the dates when these updates took place. Indicate where relevant any issue faced.]

If projects selected for funding under a specific call are not yet encoded in KEEP, please provide a list of these projects (including the reserve list) as an annex of this report (mentioning the project title, duration, EU contribution, applicant name and country).]

After the Interact meeting on KEEP held in Prague in October 2019, the MA sent the first set of data to KEEP, so the first data feeding was completed in November 2019.

Taking into account the importance of providing updated information on the projects newly contracted that are not listed in this report because of its time range, an update of KEEP was completed in January 2021.

Please note that the MA had already foresee in the e-form of the call for proposals for standard and strategic projects that applicants have to select up to three fields of activities in line with the topics available in KEEP, in order to ensure that they first consider projects already funded before applying for the Call.

¹ A limited number of statistics are requested from you in this report based on the assumption that most data are available in the KEEP database - hence the importance of maintaining KEEP up to date.
<http://www.keep.eu/keep/>

3. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

3.1 Executive summary

[Main achievements and problems/difficulties encountered by programme bodies during the reporting period both at programme and project level (max. 1 page)]

During the second semester of 2019, the Grant Contracts of the 41 standard projects were signed and the first pre-financings were transferred to the Lead Beneficiaries. In the same semester the evaluation process of the 198 proposals submitted within the call for strategic projects (whose deadline for submission was July 3rd 2019) started. The results of the first step of the evaluation process were approved by the JMC during its meeting held in Amman (Jordan) in December 2019. Step two of the evaluation process was completed in March 2020 and in April 2020 the JMC approved 22 projects (plus one on the reserve list to be financed upon approval of the major change of the budget allocation among the Thematic Objectives of the JOP). The negotiation of the grant contracts with the applicants of the strategic projects started in April 2020 and it was almost entirely completed in July 2020. In May 2020 the call for capitalization projects was launched and it remained open until 28th of July 2020.

As far as projects implementation is concerned, in October 2019 the MA, supported by the BOs and TESIM organized the first training for Lead Beneficiaries of the financed standard projects. The National Contact Points attended also this training. The MA published the project implementation manual and its revised version while the

As far as the programme management is concerned, the JTS was set up in March 2020. Moreover, on the basis of the recommendations of the EC concerning the previous annual report, in June 2020 the MA went through a follow up of the system audit carried out by the Audit Authority. As far as the management tools are concerned, the MA continued working on the risk management plan, the recovery procedure (adopted by the JMC through written procedure) and the completion of the audit trails concerning project reporting. The MIS implementation concerning project reporting was also finalized and tested in the first part of 2020.

As far as the major difficulties encountered during this reporting period are concerned, the most important challenge derived from the pandemic situation that affected the modalities in which the programme bodies usually operate. The Project Selection Committee had to meet via web in March 2020 to approve the evaluation report of STEP 2 within the call for strategic projects, while the JMC had to adopt the its main decisions through written procedure. This modality affected the time needed to achieve the decisions since, in some cases, different written procedures have been needed (for example the award decision on the strategic projects to be financed and the major changes of the JOP were taken in April 2020 through two different written procedures).

As far as the communication aspects are concerned, the events at programme level (NCPs training, info events for the call for capitalization projects, training of project partners on reporting etc.) were cancelled and replaced by specific commented PPTs published on the website or were held via web.

At project level, the main difficulties were linked to two core issues which had a substantial impact on projects performance during the reporting period considered. The first refers to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the second relates to the financial constraints that have hampered the

smooth implementation of activities, requiring relevant efforts from concerned Programme bodies (MA, JTS, NCP).

Furthermore, main **financial difficulties** were faced by **standard projects** during the reporting period refer to two specific issues:

- a. obtaining the financial guarantees required for private Lead Beneficiaries considered at risk;
- b. financial management for Lebanese partners involved in the projects.

The JTS and the MA together with the NCPs and CCPs carried out several activities to overcome this situation (see below in the report).

3.2 Progress achieved in implementing the Programme and its Priorities

[What is your assessment of the programme implementation progress so far? Please quantify this assessment, using the programme result and output indicators described in your Joint Operational Programme and the performance and process indicators² proposed by the Managing Authority to monitor the internal control].

The table below shows the achievements in terms of Programme funds allocation to the standard and strategic projects. In particular, during the 2019 and 2020, the 41 grant contracts of the approved standard projects were signed and the evaluation of the proposals submitted within the call for strategic projects ended. To this regard, since the original allocation among thematic objectives would have allowed to finance only 13 strategic projects, the JMC decided to make a budget shift among thematic objectives to allocate the remaining funds budgeted for this call for proposals (about 68.7 Ml euro) to maximise the use of the ENI funds. In particular, since there were 10 projects on the reserve list, the JMC decided to shift some funds from Thematic Objective 4 mainly to Thematic objective 2 in order to finance 9 strategic projects on the reserve list (for a total of 22) within limits set by the regulation (20% flexibility among thematic objectives).

² See more details on performance and process indicators in “Guidelines on linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation” DG NEAR. July 2016

The shifts are reported below:

Table 8: Allocation to Call for Capitalization without shifting more than 20%

T. O.	TO ALLOCATION AT JOP LEVEL	TOTAL SHIFT AT TO LEVEL ALLOWED 20% (JOP)	TOTAL ABSORBED STANDARD AND STRATEGIC	Potential allocation Call capitalization	Total allocation (3 calls)	DIFFERENCE	Variation in %
1	€ 45.156.487,39	€ 9.031.297,48	€ 47.953.608,22	€ 3.000.000,00	€ 51.253.608,22	€ 6.097.120,83	13,50 %
2	€ 33.867.365,54	€ 6.773.473,11	€ 38.526.796,27	€ 2.000.000,00	€ 40.526.796,27	€ 6.659.430,73	19,66 %
3	€ 33.867.365,54	€ 6.773.473,11	€ 33.839.013,25	€ 2.000.000,00	€ 35.839.013,25	€ 1.971.647,71	6,41%
4	€ 75.260.812,32	€ 15.052.162,46	€ 49.437.478,50	€ 11.095.134,55	€ 60.532.613,05	-€ 14.728.199,27	- 19,84 %
	€ 188.152.030,79	€ 37.630.406,16	€ 169.756.896,24	18.095.134,55 €	€ 188.152.030,79	€ 188.152.030,79	

Since it remained one strategic project on the reserve list, the JMC approved, through a second written procedure, a major shift of Programme funds among thematic objectives. The major shift was then completed in December 2020 with the approval through another written procedure, of the revised Programme target indicators and notified to the EC on December 24th 2020. The above mentioned minor modifications have been included in the proposal for major modification currently under assessment of the EC.

As far as the Programme performance indicators are concerned, Annex II of the JOP “indicative monitoring and evaluation” has been updated in December 2020 (out of the reporting period of this report) and the major modifications are included in the major change procedure mentioned above. Therefore, the following table and those included in the next paragraph show the main achievements obtained so far according to the previous version of Annex II:

<i>Programme performance indicators</i>	Achieved (2020)	Target value
Number of calls for proposals successfully launched and closed	2	3
Number of projects approved	63	70
Total funds committed to approved projects	169.7 Meuro	188.1 Meuro
Number of transnational events (training standard Lead beneficiaries)	1	3
Number of info seminars on the call for proposals for applicants and partners	26	10 (per Call)

Evaluation (Midterm and Final) reports	0	2
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As far as the expected cross border results are concerned, since the financed projects started reporting after June 2020, the table below can only include the data concerning the visibility results and a partial data concerning the participation in project events (data available for the first 6 months of project implementation as reported in the six months reports by Lead Beneficiaries).

Expected cross border results	Achieved (2020)	Target value
Enhanced capacity of the public authorities to implement joint international initiatives under the identified Thematic Objectives and Priorities	0	300
New jobs created as a result of the projects initiatives carried out within each Priority	0	5.000
Increased participation and visibility of cross-border cooperation	6.342 participants/ 287.739 Website single visits	100.000 Participants / 500.000 Website single visits

The overall assessment of the Programme implementation shows the will of the JMC to overcome the initial delay in the start up phase (see report 2019). In particular, following the same approach already used for the standard projects (increasing the available budget up to 108 Meuro to finance projects on the reserve list, as reported in 2019), the JMC decided to make a shift among thematic objectives to maximise the programme allocation to projects. Moreover, the results of the strategic projects show that this type of projects was particularly successful under T.O. 1, 2 and 3, while for T.O. 4, only few proposals passed the minimum quality thresholds. The reason for this could be the fact that the environmental priorities were difficult to be tackled within projects whose duration could not be longer than 30 months (the duration had to be reduced to comply with the deadline for project implementation taking into account the delay of the start up of the Programme. In the JOP the originally maximum duration was 48 months). The lack of sufficient time for their implementation, being these very technical proposals, affected the assessment of their feasibility. This lesson learnt could be considered also for the next programming period.

3.2.1 Results and outputs by thematic objective and priority

3.2.1.1 Thematic objective A.1 Business and SMEs development

Priority A1.1 - Support innovative start-up and recently established enterprises, with a particular focus on young and women entrepreneurs and facilitate the protection of their Intellectual Property Rights and commercialisation where applicable

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 1.1.1.1: Innovative start-up enterprises having a cross border dimension managed by youths (graduates or equivalent between 24 and 35 years old) and/or women (all ages) sustainably grow their share in traditional and non-traditional sectors.	RI 1.1.1.1.A Number of new jobs (contracts) created in knowledge intensive MSMEs for young people and women in the traditional and non-traditional economic sectors where innovative start-ups have entered.	Jobs/Contracts	0		NA	NA	NA
			200 new job contracts	240 new job contracts			
	RI 1.1.1.1.B Value of sales in existing and new markets of new youths/women led innovative start-up enterprises that are legally established, and continuously involving at least two Mediterranean countries that have a cross-border dimension.	Euro	0		NA	NA	NA
			6,250 K Euro	3,000 K Euro			
ER 1.1.1.2: Increased share of youths/women staff in	RI 1.1.1.2.C Enterprises with youth/women staff in	Enterprises	0		NA	NA	NA
			40% (at least 20 enterprises)	80% (at least 40 enterprises)			

managerial positions in companies recently established (since 2011) that access and develop innovative markets domestically and/or in other MED countries.	managerial positions, that have signed commercial contracts (domestic and for export) for the first time (Percentage out of the total number of the enterprises supported)						
	RI 1.1.2.D Number of new products and services sold on domestic and foreign markets	Products and services	0 150 new products and services	30 new products and services	NA	NA	NA
ER 1.1.3: Increased capacity of public authorities to facilitate access to and protect Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and commercial contracts of youths and women entrepreneurs .	RI 1.1.3.E Number of public authority staff actively and directly involved in IPR and commercial cross-border projects	Persons	TBD 50 Public Authority Staff	130 Public Authority Staff	NA	NA	NA
	RI 1.1.3.F Number of products registered and protected under IPR laws and regulations	Applications for registration	TBD 100 IPR registered products	80 IPR registered products	NA	NA	NA
	RI 1.1.3.G IPR Laws and regulations reviewed and developed to reflect international best practices	Reviews of IPR Laws and regulations	TBD 10 IPR reviews	8 IPR reviews	NA	NA	NA

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				

RI 1.1.1.A Number of new jobs (contracts) created in knowledge intensive MSMEs for young people and women in the traditional and non-traditional economic sectors where innovative start-ups have entered.	OI 1.1.1.1.a Number of trainings provided to youths graduates or equivalent (24-35 years old) and/or women (all ages)	Training of young graduates or equivalent and/or women		NA	NA	NA
		100 trainings organized and successfully completed by at least 80% (1200) of the expected participants (1500)	105 trainings organized and successfully completed			
	OI 1.1.1.1.b Number of entrepreneurial ideas identified in the scouting stage and supported	Entrepreneurial ideas for new products and new services		NA	NA	NA
		200 entrepreneurial ideas	350 entrepreneurial ideas			
RI 1.1.1.B Value of sales in existing and new markets of new youths/women led innovative start-up enterprises that are legally established, and continuously involving at least two Mediterranean countries that have a cross-border dimension.	OI 1.1.1.2.c Volume of risk capital (in euro) raised by hubs and start ups accelerators	Euro		NA	NA	NA
		€ 500,000 total value of external risk capital raised in addition to capital invested by the ENI CBC-MED Programme	€ 350,000 total value of external risk capital raised			
	OI 1.1.1.3.d Number of entrepreneurs that successfully launched new ventures/projects in a creative sector	Entrepreneurs		NA	NA	NA
		80 entrepreneurs that successfully launched new ventures in the creative sectors				
RI 1.1.2.C Enterprises with youth/women staff in managerial positions, that have signed commercial contracts (domestic and for export) for the first time (Percentage out of the total number of the	OI 1.1.2.4.e Number of youths and women participating in training activities and business meetings	Persons		NA	NA	NA
		900 young persons (16-30 years) and women (all ages) trainees who successfully completed the capacity building programme	425 young persons (16-30 years) and women (all ages) trainees			

enterprises supported)						
RI 1.1.2.D Number of new products and services sold on domestic and foreign markets	OI 1.1.2.5.f Number of business development organisations receiving support (ENI CBC 1) for coaching and acceleration programmes	Business development organizations		NA	NA	NA
		10 Business development organizations	5 Business development organizations			
	OI 1.1.2.6.g Number of launched/developed and operational business websites and/or operational online platforms	Websites or learning platforms		NA	NA	NA
		30 website or platforms that successfully support business with their clients		NA	NA	NA
RI 1.1.3.E Number of public authority staff actively and directly involved in IPR and commercial cross-border projects	OI 1.1.3.7.h/l Number of bilingual (Arabic/English) and (Arabic/French) guide books acquired by public authority staff and entrepreneurs	Guide books		NA	NA	NA
		720 staff that have acquired bilingual guidebooks	950 staff that have acquired bilingual guidebooks	NA	NA	NA
RI 1.1.3.F Number of products registered and protected under IPR laws and regulations	OI 1.1.3.9.j Number of trainings for public authorities and brokers (e.g. technology transfer offices located at Universities) that are aimed at the development of new services (e.g. Support for Proof of concept projects)	Training Days (training duration) completed by persons		NA	NA	NA
		3,000 training days successfully completed by staff of public authorities and brokers	1,000 training days successfully completed			
RI 1.1.3.G IPR Laws and regulations reviewed and developed to reflect international best practices	----	---		NA	NA	NA

* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1st call for proposals

** to be provided if available and in any case in the final report

Priority A1.2 - Strengthen and support euro-Mediterranean networks, clusters, consortia and value-chains in traditional (agro-food, tourism, textile/clothing, etc.) and non-traditional sectors (innovative ideas solutions for urban development, eco-housing, sustainable water-related and other clean technologies, renewable energy, creative industries, etc.)

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 1.2.1: Increased number of MSMEs participating in Euro-Mediterranean enterprise alliances	RI 1.2.1.A Number of newly established business alliances in traditional and non-traditional sectors (at local and international level)	Cross-border agreements signed among enterprises	TBD		NA	NA	NA
			90 successful business agreements	132 successful business agreements			
ER 1.2.1: Increased number of MSMEs participating in Euro-Mediterranean enterprise alliances	RI 1.2.1.B Number of new products and services sold on domestic and foreign markets	New products and services sold	0		NA	NA	NA
			180 new products/services sold	100 new products/services sold			
ER 1.2.2: Cross-border enterprise alliances empowered by the support from and cooperation with public authorities	RI 1.2.2.C Number of created public-private partnerships promoting demand-driven innovation in the public and private sector and implementing new medium-long term investments	Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)	TBD		NA	NA	NA
			30 PPPs	26 PPPs			
ER 1.2.2: Cross-border enterprise alliances empowered by the support from and cooperation with public authorities	RI 1.2.2.D	Euro	TBD		NA	NA	NA
			600,000 Euro	126,000 Euro			

	Additional public and private resources invested by created PPPs as co-financing of project activities (€)						
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Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 1.2.1.A Number of newly established business alliances in traditional and non-traditional sectors (at local and international level)	1.2.1.1.a Number of enterprises substantially and actively involved in CBC-MED projects satisfied with consultancy services and making requests for follow-up (ENI CBC 2)	Enterprises		NA	NA	NA
		120 MSMEs	352 MSMEs			
	OI 1.2.1.2.b Number of enterprises participating in cross-border business events (ENI CBC 3)	Enterprises		NA	NA	NA
		120 MSMEs	286 MSMEs			
RI 1.2.1.B Number of new products and services sold on domestic and foreign markets	OI 1.2.1.3.c Number of enterprises involved in CBC-MED projects that share common knowledge on specific items (i.e. food security, sustainable tourism, eco-innovation, green and sustainable water technologies, internationalisation processes etc.).	Enterprises		NA	NA	NA
		120 MSMEs	190 MSMEs			
RI 1.2.2.C Number of created public-private partnerships promoting demand-driven innovation in the public and private	OI 1.2.2.4.d Number of public tenders awarded as results of joint collaborations and additional resources allocated	Public Tenders		NA	NA	NA
		18 Successful tenders by PPPs	8 Successful tenders by PPPs			

sector and implementing new medium-long term investments	OI 1.2.2.5.e Number of public and private stakeholders involved in training events and joint pilots that have made written commitments to engage in PPP undertakings	Trained Persons		NA	NA	NA
		300 persons	300 persons			
RI 1.2.2.D Additional public and private resources invested by created PPPs as co-financing of project activities (in euro)	OI 1.2.2.6.f Number of campaigns (e.g. global forums, seminars, platforms etc.) where public sector and PPP practitioners exchange knowledge to support value chains and their economic activity	Persons who attend these events/Experiences		NA	NA	NA
		750 persons	313 persons			

Priority A1.3 - Encourage sustainable tourism initiatives and actions aimed at diversifying into new segments and niches

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 1.3.1: Encourage sustainable tourism initiatives and actions aimed at diversifying into new segments and niches	RI 1.3.1.A Increased domestic and international tourist flows visiting the targeted area	Visitor days	TBD		NA	NA	NA
			240,000	294,000			
ER 1.3.2: Increased diversification of tourism offer through the promotion of local and territorial assets / drivers especially in	RI 1.3.2.B Number of new sustainable touristic products in off season periods created in specific niches with a cross-border dimension	Sustainable tourism initiatives	0		NA	NA	NA
			25	81			
	RI 1.3.2.C		TBD		NA	NA	NA

off season periods	Number of persons actively and directly involved in project implementation having gained improved tourism management skills / profiles	Trained persons	125 persons that have improved their tourism management skills/profiles	755 persons that have improved their tourism management skills/profiles			
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Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 1.3.1.A Increased domestic and international tourist flows visiting the targeted area	OI 1.3.1.1.a Number of enterprises substantially and actively involved in CBC-MED projects (ENI CBC 2)	Enterprises		NA	NA	NA
		80	188			
	OI 1.3.1.1.b Number of improved cultural and historical sites as a direct consequence of programme support (ENI CBC 7)	Improved cultural and historical sites		NA	NA	NA
		40	20			
	OI 1.3.1.2.c Number of visibility/marketing initiatives to attract tourists in the targeted area	Visibility/marketing Initiatives		NA	NA	NA
		200	181			
RI 1.3.2.B Number of new sustainable touristic products in off season periods created in specific niches with a cross-border dimension	OI 1.3.2.3.d Number of private actors substantially and actively involved in new touristic initiatives	Private actors		NA	NA	NA
		100	246			
	OI 1.3.2.4.e Number of action plans adopted by local authorities based on participatory activities	Action plans		NA	NA	NA
		50	36			
	OI 1.3.2.5.f Number of cross-border agreements signed by competent bodies to promote low season networks of	Cross-border agreements		NA	NA	NA
		15	7			
				NA	NA	NA

	destinations and / or number of low-season initiatives offered in the participating countries						
RI 1.3.2.C Number of persons actively and directly involved in project implementation having gained improved tourism management skills / profiles	OI 1.3.2.6.g Number of enterprises participating in cross-border business events (ENI CBC 3)	Enterprises		142	NA	NA	NA
		150					
	OI 1.3.2.6.h Number of enterprises and local community entities participating in training and awareness raising events	Enterprises/Local actors		800	NA	NA	NA
		300					

3.2.1.2 Thematic objective A.2 Support to education, research, technological development and innovation

Priority A2.1 - Support technological transfer and commercialisation of research results, strengthening the linkages between research, industry as well as private sector actors

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 2.1.1 Enhanced demand driven technological transfer among research, industry and SMEs in the fields of clean/environmental technologies, new cultural heritage technologies and Key Enabling Technologies (KETS)	RI 2.1.1.A Number of demand driven Cross Border Living Labs created for R&D and technological transfer among research, industry and SMEs	Living Labs	0	22	NA	NA	NA
			10				
	RI 2.1.1.B Indicator name: Number of spin-offs established as new enterprises and operating across borders, able to sell their products or services	Enterprises	0	10	NA	NA	NA
			25				
ER 2.1.2 Increased commercialization	RI 2.1.2.C	Euro	TBD		NA	NA	NA

opportunities of research products in the fields of clean/environmental technologies, new cultural heritage technologies and Key Enabling Technologies (KETS)	Forecasted value of sales of newly identified innovative products/services		5,000,000	1,500,000			
	RI 2.1.1.2.D Number of co-patents registered	co-patents	TBD 25	7	NA	NA	NA

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 2.1.1.A Number of demand driven Cross Border Living Labs created for R&D and technological transfer among research, industry and SMEs	OI 2.1.1.1.a Number of institutions using programme support for cooperation in education, R&D and innovation (ENI CBC 4)	Organisations 50	55	NA	NA	NA
	OI 2.1.1.1.b Number of Enterprises cooperating with research institutions (ENI CBC 5)	Enterprises 40	54	NA	NA	NA
	OI 2.1.1.2.c Number and type (bilateral, consortium, etc.) of industry-academia research agreements before, during and after intervention	Agreement/Contract 20	24	NA	NA	NA
RI 2.1.1.B Number of spin-offs established as new enterprises and operating across borders, able to sell their products or services	OI 2.1.1.3.d Number of industries and SME researchers trained to initiate/create enterprises	Persons 135	327	NA	NA	NA
	OI 2.1.1.4.e Number of researchers and specialized staff in public authorities involved/contracted in	Persons 100	40	NA	NA	NA

	joint activities with industries and SMEs					
	OI 2.1.1.5.f Number and field of co-publications	Co-publications 30	14	NA	NA	NA
RI 2.1.2.C Forecasted value of sales of newly identified innovative products/services	OI 2.1.2.6.g Number of new products/services developed	Products/services 50	20	NA	NA	NA
	OI 2.1.2.7.h Number of platforms allowing a pre-competitive analysis of promising products and services put in place and effective	Regional platforms 10	3	NA	NA	NA
RI 2.1.2.D Number of co-patents registered	OI 2.1.2.8.i Number of brokerage events for scientist /researchers and entrepreneurs-organisations	Days (Event duration) 150	55	NA	NA	NA
	OI 2.1.2.8.j Number of Technology transfer support and new intellectual property brokering services delivered	Number of services 100	30	NA	NA	NA

Priority A2.2 - Support SMEs in accessing research and innovation also through clustering

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 2.2.1 Upgraded innovation capacity of SMEs participating in CBC Med projects in processes, products and management systems for uptake of research outcomes	RI 2.2.1.A Number of innovative products/services created by clustered SMEs across or within borders	Products or Services	TBD 75	36	NA	NA	NA
	RI 2.2.1.B Investments (in euro) in targeted SMEs for new knowledge and equipment (hardware and software) and joint R&D and	Euro	TBD 1,250,000	1,220,000	NA	NA	NA

	innovation activities						
	RI 2.2.1.C New (foreign) investments (in euro) in targeted SMEs	Euro	TBD	820,000	NA	NA	NA
			1.250,000				

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 2.2.1.A Number of innovative products/services created by clustered SMEs across or within borders	OI 2.2.1.1.a Number of SMEs substantially and actively involved in projects as final beneficiaries (ENI CBC 2)	SMEs		NA	NA	NA
		50	78			
	OI 2.2.1.1.b Number of SMEs using programme support for cooperating with research institutions (ENI CBC 5)	SMEs		NA	NA	NA
		40	52			
RI 2.2.1.B Investments (in euro) in targeted SMEs for new knowledge and equipment (hardware and software) and joint R&D and innovation activities	OI 2.2.1.2.c Number of SMEs receiving grants for operational instruments (equipment) to favor their innovation	SMEs		NA	NA	NA
		50	45			
RI 2.2.1.C New (foreign) investments (in euro) in targeted SMEs	2.2.1.3.d Number of SMEs using programme support for cooperation in education, R&D and innovation (ENI CBC 4)	SMEs		NA	NA	NA
		50	60			

3.2.1.3 Thematic objective A.3 Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty

Priority A3.1 - Provide young people, especially those belonging to the NEETS, and women with marketable skills

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				

ER 3.1.1 Increased employability of women (all ages) and youths up to 30 years old, especially those belonging to the NEETS	RI 3.1.1.A Number of women (all ages) and youths up to 30 years old, especially those belonging to the NEETS, supported by the Programme who have found a job	Job contracts for young people (18-24 year old), NEETS and women	0		NA	NA	NA NA
			1,350	662			

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 3.1.1.A Number of women (all ages) and youths up to 30 years old, especially those belonging to the NEETS, supported by the Programme who have found a job	OI 3.1.1.1.a Number of socio or sector professional representatives involved in social inclusion actions and networks	Organisations		NA	NA	NA
		20	16			
	OI 3.1.1.2.b Number of new curricula proposing skills required by the labour market (new professions)	Curricula materials		NA	NA	NA
		45	47			
	OI 3.1.1.2.c Number of training courses designed and targeted to young people (18-24 year old) (especially those belonging to the NEETS and women)	Training days		NA	NA	NA
		450	694			
	OI 3.1.1.2.d Number of youth, NEETS and women trained	Persons		NA	NA	NA
		14,400	2,664			
	OI 3.1.1.3.e Number of social media specifically targeting learning for unemployed youth and women	Social media posting learning tools created		NA	NA	NA
		150	30			
	OI 3.1.1.4.f Number of associations (civic, arts, sports, performing arts) launched by young	Associations		NA	NA	NA
		30	27			

	people, NEETS and women						
	OI 3.1.1.5.g Number of agreements between TVET institutions and the business sector	Agreements		16	NA	NA	NA
		20					
	OI 3.1.1.6.h Number of public institutions engaged (i.e. through charters, protocols, Memoranda of Understanding) in employment schemes to foster employability of young people and women	Public institutions		21	NA	NA	NA
		20					

Priority A3.2 - Support social and solidarity economic actors, also in terms of improving capacities and co-operation with public administrations for services' provision

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 3.2.1 Enlarged access and improved quality of existing social services in favor of vulnerable people	RI 3.2.1.A Population covered by improved social services as a direct consequence of Programme support (ENI CBC 9)	Persons	0		NA	NA	NA
			135,000 people	81,076 people			
ER 3.2.2 Reinforced planning, operational capacities and cooperation of public administrations and relevant stakeholders in providing social services	RI 3.2.2.B Number of agreements between public administrations and relevant stakeholders for coordinated planning and implementation of social services	Agreements	TBD		NA	NA	NA
			45	28			

		OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative]		
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Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* <i>(common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)</i>	OI targets*		figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
RI 3.2.1.A Population covered by improved social services as a direct consequence of Programme support (ENI CBC 9)	OI 3.2.1.1.a Number of social service professionals participating in cross border exchanges or activities (ENI CBC 13)	Persons		NA	NA	NA
		450	1,290			
	OI 3.2.1.2.b Number of cross-border events on social services supported by CBC MED projects	Events		NA	NA	NA
		15	24			
	3.2.1.3.c Number of new social enterprises established and strengthened	New social enterprises		NA	NA	NA
		12	27			
RI 3.2.2.B Number of agreements between public administrations and relevant stakeholders for coordinated planning and implementation of social services	3.2.2.4.d Number of public institutions involved in social inclusion actions as part of the CBC MED projects	Public institutions		NA	NA	NA
		30	80			
	3.2.2.5.e Number of Action plans to coordinate social services provision	Action Plans		NA	NA	NA
		30	33			
	3.2.2.6.f Indicator name: Number of social service professionals participating in cross border exchanges or activities (ENI CBC 13)	Persons		NA	NA	NA
		150	320			

3.2.1.4 Thematic objective B.4 Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation

Priority B.4.1 - Support sustainable initiatives targeting innovative and technological solutions to increase water efficiency and encourage use of non-conventional water supply

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 4.1.1 Increased adoption of innovative sustainable water-efficiency technologies and systems in agriculture by public authorities,	RI 4.1.1.A Surface in ha. of land irrigated with treated wastewater and non-conventional water or equipped with modern and efficient	Hectares	TBD	1,588	NA	NA	NA
			150				

specialized agencies and other relevant stakeholders	irrigation systems						
	RI 4.1.1.B Number of measures and initiatives to showcase, exchange, test and transfer water management solutions to end-users in the agricultural sector in view of improving water use efficiency and quality and use of non-conventional water resources (NCWR) in agricultural practices	Measures	0 30	33	NA	NA	NA
	RI 4.1.1.C Investments in up-scaling of appropriate technologies to increase water efficiency and use of non-conventional water supply systems for irrigation purposes	Investment Initiatives	0 12	8	NA	NA	NA
	ER 4.1.2: Support research and development for locally applicable and low cost technologies for the use of non conventional water resources for	RI 4.1.2.D Number of technologies applied for the use of non-conventional water resources for domestic purposes	Technologies	TBD 3	4	NA	NA
resources for	RI 4.1.2.E Number of	Measures	0 30	43	NA	NA	NA

domestic purposes	measures and initiatives to showcase, exchange, test and transfer water supply and demand solutions to end-users in view of improving water use efficiency and quality and use of non-conventional water resources for domestic purposes						
	RI 4.1.2.F Volume (m ³) of non-conventional water supply used for domestic purposes	Volume (m ³)	TBD 2,700,000 m ³ /year	909,000 m ³ /year	NA	NA	NA

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 4.1.1.A Surface in ha. of land irrigated with treated wastewater and non-conventional water or equipped with modern and efficient irrigation systems	OI 4.1.1.1.a Number of new or enhanced ICT solutions for water resources management in agriculture	ICT solutions		NA	NA	NA
		6	5			
	OI 4.1.1.2.b Number of public / private actor alliances engaged in non-conventional and efficient water management plans	Alliances		NA	NA	NA
		6	13			
RI 4.1.1.B Number of	OI 4.1.1.2.c Number of local authorities applying	Local Authorities		NA	NA	NA

measures and initiatives to showcase, exchange, test and transfer water management solutions to end-users in the agricultural sector in view of improving water use efficiency and quality and use of non-conventional water resources (NCWR) in agricultural practices	integrated approaches for water cycle management in agriculture	18	21			
RI 4.1.1.C Investments in up-scaling of appropriate technologies to increase water efficiency and use of non-conventional water supply systems for irrigation purposes	OI 4.1.1.3.d Number of staff of different stakeholders trained that are involved in CBC-MED projects	Persons		NA	NA	NA
		480	846			
RI 4.1.2.D Number of technologies applied for the use of non-conventional water resources for domestic purposes	OI 4.1.1.4.e Number of replicable technologies for water efficient use and use of non-conventional water resources	Technologies		NA	NA	NA
		9	65			
RI 4.1.2.E Number of measures and initiatives to showcase, exchange, test and transfer water supply and demand solutions to end-users in view of improving	OI 4.1.1.5.f Number of organizations involved in WRM applying sustainable innovative water efficiency and non-conventional water technologies within local water governance frameworks	Organizations		NA	NA	NA
		30	82			

water use efficiency and quality and use of non-conventional water resources for domestic purposes							
RI 4.1.2.F Volume (m ³) of non-conventional water supply used for domestic purposes	OI 4.1.2.6.g Number of staff of different stakeholders trained that are involved in CBC-MED projects	Persons		700	NA	NA	NA
		480					
	OI 4.1.2.7.h Number of local authorities applying integrated approaches for water cycle management in domestic water supply	Local authorities		7	NA	NA	NA
		18					
	OI 4.1.2.8.i Number of new or enhanced ICT solutions for water supply and demand management in urban areas	ICT solutions		4	NA	NA	NA
		9					

Priority B.4.2 - Reduce municipal waste generation and promote source separated collection and the optimal exploitation of its organic component

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 4.2.1: Efficient and effective integrated municipal waste management systems are planned and operationalized on a pilot basis	RI 4.2.1.A Number of local authorities adopting and implementing new solid waste management plans (e.g. systems of separate collection of municipal waste)	Local authorities	TBD		NA	NA	NA
			18	12			
	RI 4.2.1.B Number of enterprises involved in	Enterprises	TBD		NA	NA	NA
			18	31			

	waste reuse and recycling						
	RI 4.2.1.C Number of new waste management technologies adopted	Technologies	TBD 18	9	NA	NA	NA

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 4.2.1.A Number of local authorities adopting and implementing new solid waste management plans (e.g. systems of separate collection of municipal waste)	OI 4.2.1.1.a Indicator name: Number of staff of public administrations and other stakeholders trained in integrated municipal waste management	Persons 540	315	NA	NA	NA
	OI 4.2.1.2.b Number of integrated municipal solid waste management plans	Plans 36	14	NA	NA	NA
	OI 4.2.1.2.c Additional waste recycling capacity (ENI CBC 18)	Tons/year 9,000	7,100	NA	NA	NA
RI 4.2.1.B Number of enterprises involved in waste reuse and recycling	OI 4.2.1.2.d Biodegradable municipal waste (m ³ /tons) reused as fertilizers	Tons/year 9,000	8,400	NA	NA	NA
	OI 4.2.1.2.e Amount of energy produced (kWh) based on waste conversion	kWh/year 225,000	75,000	NA	NA	NA
RI 4.2.1.C Number of new waste management technologies adopted	OI 4.2.1.3.f Number of actions and common approaches to reduce food waste and municipal waste and packaging materials generated at relevant stages of the food system	Solutions/approaches 36	170	NA	NA	NA
	OI 4.2.1.4.g Number of supported	Awareness raising initiatives		NA	NA	NA

	awareness raising initiatives (events, meetings, campaigns, spots broadcasted on TV/radio/internet etc.) promoting efficient waste collection	90	108			
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Priority B.4.3 - Support cost-effective and innovative energy rehabilitations relevant to building types and climatic zones, with a focus on public buildings

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 4.3.1: Enhanced capacity of public institutions to plan and implement sustainable energy policies and measures with regard to public buildings	RI 4.3.1.A Number of public institutions that adopted energy mix efficiency plans/strategies	Institutions	TBD 25	30	NA	NA	NA
	RI 4.3.1.B Number of public institutions cooperating towards strengthened multi-level governance (linking up local, regional and national levels) for delivering integrated sustainable energy action planning and measures	Institutions	TBD 25	35			
ER 4.3.2: Reduced and cleaner energy consumption in public buildings through the use of renewable energy measures	RI 4.3.2.C Estimated annual decrease of greenhouse gases as a result of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures	Tons of CO ² equivalent/year	TBD 771	1140	NA	NA	NA

and energy saving interventions	implemented in public buildings (adapted ENI CBC nr.23)						
	RI 4.3.2.D Total kWh generated using renewable energy applied to public buildings	kilowatt-hour (kWh)	TBD 1,800,000	700,386	NA	NA	NA
	RI 4.3.2.E Total kWh saved (expressed in budget reductions) using renewable energy applied to public buildings	kilowatt-hour (kWh)	TBD 1,800,000	800,386	NA	NA	NA

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 4.3.1.A Number of public institutions that adopted energy mix efficiency plans/strategies	OI 4.3.1.1.a Number of new or revised procedures (legal, regulatory, economical, etc.) initiated as a result of a transfer of good practices	Procedures		NA	NA	NA
		18	21			
	OI 4.3.1.2.b Number of energy mix efficiency plans/strategies approved	Plans/strategies		NA	NA	NA
		27	28			
RI 4.3.1.B Number of public institutions cooperating towards strengthened multi-level governance (linking up local, regional and national levels) for delivering integrated	OI 4.3.1.3.c Number of innovative and affordable renovation solutions and technologies for public buildings that can deliver significant improvements in energy performance while ensuring indoor comfort requirements, and being non-invasive, and reversible	Renovation solutions		NA	NA	NA
		36	30			

sustainable energy action planning and measures	OI 4.3.1.4.d Number of tools for planning and implementing the renovation of public buildings	Tools		NA	NA	NA
		12	11			
RI 4.3.2.C Estimated annual decrease of greenhouse gases as a result of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures implemented in public buildings (adapted ENI CBC nr.23)	OI 4.3.2.5.e Number of cost-effective technologies for energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions implemented on a pilot basis	Technologies		NA	NA	NA
		12	11			
RI 4.3.2.D Total kWh generated using renewable energy applied to public buildings	OI 4.3.2.6.g Number of energy audits carried out on public buildings	Energy audits/pilot action		NA	NA	NA
		36	34			
RI 4.3.2.E Total kWh saved (expressed in budget reductions) using renewable energy applied to public buildings	OI 4.3.2.7.h Number of public buildings and/or facilities benefiting from Renewable Energies & Energy Efficiency (REEE) measures	Public building				
		54	51			
		MW		NA	NA	NA
	OI 4.3.2.5.f Additional capacity of renewable energy production (ENI CBC 22)	9,000				

Priority B.4.4 - Incorporate the Ecosystem-Based management approach to ICZM into local development planning

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	Projects target	RI [1 st measure]**	RI [2 nd measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*				
ER 4.4.1: Enhanced cross border capacity of public authorities to plan for, sustainably manage, use and monitor their coastal ecosystems, using an	RI 4.4.1.A. Newly adopted integrated strategies and tools for sustainable management of coastal areas, etc. that include appropriate reflection of	Strategies/Tools	TBD	25	NA	NA	NA
			48				

effective participatory approach with relevant stakeholders and local communities	the ecosystem approach and that have been developed through a participatory exercise						
	RI 4.4.1.B Number of coastal cities, relevant public authorities and other key stakeholders adopting new ICZM plans / guidelines for the sustainable management and use of coastal areas	Institutions	0 54	53	NA	NA	NA

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
RI 4.4.1.A. Newly adopted integrated strategies and tools for sustainable management of coastal areas, etc. that include appropriate reflection of the ecosystem approach and that have been developed through a participatory exercise	OI 4.4.1.1.a Number of replicable or transferable actions to improve or restore the targeted ecosystem	Actions		NA	NA	NA
		54	8			
	OI 4.4.1.1.b Number of participating organizations that cooperate for improved local governance in coastal zones (ENI CBC 14)	Organisations		NA	NA	NA
		18	22			
	OI 4.4.1.1.c Number of organizations and their staff participating in workshops/trainings	Training-staff Days (Event duration)		NA	NA	NA
900		320				
OI 4.4.1.2.d Number of measures adopted to prevent the negative impacts of coastal hazards	Risk prevention models		NA	NA	NA	
	18					
RI 4.4.1.B	OI 4.4.1.2.e. Number of systemic tools	Systemic Tools		NA	NA	NA
		6	6			

Number of coastal cities, relevant public authorities and other key stakeholders adopting new ICZM plans / guidelines for the sustainable management and use of coastal areas	available to strengthen planning, monitoring and management of coastal areas						
	OI 4.4.1.3.f. Surface area of coastal ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status (ENI CBC nr. 15)	Hectares			NA	NA	NA
		9,000	3,500				
	OI 4.4.1.4.g Number of communication awareness raising events	Awareness raising events			NA	NA	NA
		180	50				
	OI 4.4.1.5.h. Number of studies, based on data collection activities, studying interlinkages between human activities and the environment	Studies			NA	NA	NA
36		25					

* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1st call for proposals

** to be provided if available and in any case in the final report

3.3 Problems and achievements reported by project applicants and beneficiaries

3.3.1 Summary of issues reported

[Please provide a summary of the problems reported by applicants and beneficiaries, of the measures taken to overcome them³ and of the related impacts on the selection procedure and project implementation.]

Two core issues had a substantial impact on projects performance during the reporting period considered. The first refers to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the second relates to the financial constraints that have hampered the smooth implementation of activities, requiring relevant efforts from concerned Programme bodies (MA, JTS, NCP).

The MA and JTS carried out two specific interventions to assist the projects in better answering the COVID-19 emergency: a) a survey, organized to understand needs and attitudes towards the emergency; b) the definition of a consequent set of measures to facilitate the projects implementation and reporting, despite the mobility restrictions.

The purpose of the survey, launched in mid-April 2020, was to have an information flow from the field, in order to devise efficient measures for mitigating the effects and impact of the pandemic.

In particular, detailed information was requested:

- on the extent of the restrictions and effects on the implementation;

³ i.e. measures taken by project applicants and beneficiaries and by the concerned programme bodies

- on the resilience and capacities of the projects management for coping, collaborating and applying flexible measures;
- on the possible re-orientation of activities and outputs to contribute in the fight against the COVID- 19 pandemic.

The results of the survey highlighted three main positions, which are further detailed below:

- out of the 41 on-going standard projects, 28 have taken an active position, though prudent, choosing to carry on their activities in the wider frame of mobility restrictions and risks of infection;
- 9 projects have waited out the evolution of the pandemic, at least in its first phase;
- 4 projects have proactively used their resources to contribute in fighting the pandemic.

The first position, taken by most projects, is shaped as a new planning, with the shifting online and anticipation as much as possible of all the activities that could be carried out long distance, such as coordination meetings, training and analyses, social media activities, etc. The main obstacles identified are: difficulties in meeting at project level; difficulties in tendering for acquiring services and equipment, with consequent difficulties for technical WPS and in respecting the expenditure plan.

A less frequent position taken by some projects can be defined as the passive wait. This position, adopted only in the first phase of the pandemic, considered the project not easily manageable and adaptable to a different context. The prolongation of the emergency however, and the prospect of damaging the project irremediably, led to a shift of these projects towards the first position.

A third position is the pro-activity. This is not a common position and has been taken by those projects which are using their resources to actively fight against the COVID-19. The way the project is conceived influences very much the opportunity to fight or not against the COVID-19. Not all projects can reshape their outputs, introduce new ones, and address their activities in such a way to contribute to reduce the COVID-19 effects at a wider scale. Projects working on SMEs start-up, on technologies and on ICT can do it in an easier way with respect to projects addressing climate change. Nonetheless the survey has collected interesting information on the way projects are reacting and creatively defining new solutions.

The measures set up by the Programme to better assisting the projects include:

- 1) cluster activities, which have been carried out for transferring good practices and solutions, and which turned up to be a boosting factor for the projects implementation during the lock-down, allowing a wider circulation of solutions;
- 2) support by the JTS in moving online most activities, in particular management, communication, desk analyses, etc. Activity plans were re-furbished for that purpose.
- 3) update of the Risk plan. All projects have included the COVID-19 and consequences into an updated risk plan, identifying specific risks and specific contingency measures.
- 4) flexibility on reporting deadlines. A high flexibility is applied towards projects which cannot spend as initially planned; tailored solutions are applied on a case-by-case basis.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a deep analysis of the Risk Management Plan was carried out building upon the direct feedback coming from the projects in order to identify and develop a list of potential risks and mitigation strategies useful for improving the current Risk Management strategy.

Furthermore, main **financial difficulties** faced by **standard projects** during the reporting period refer to two specific issues:

- i. obtaining the financial guarantees required for private Lead Beneficiaries considered at risk,
- ii. financial management for Lebanese partners involved in the projects

Concerning point i), several projects encountered obstacles to acquire the financial guarantees, due to the fact that the application procedure is rather lengthy and time-consuming in most of the Countries of the Programme area, leading to delays in the launch of the actions. After an in-depth analysis of the situation and of the possible solutions, the MA approved a specific procedure consisting in reducing the amount of each scheduled ENI contribution installments and increasing their number, allowing projects to ask for further grant payments upon submission of the annual or Final Report (the deadline may be extended, if necessary, for the assessment of the request). The procedure has been formalized into a specific addendum to the Grant Contract for the concerned projects.

Concerning point ii), after the uprisings of 17 October 2019, which were followed by mass demonstrations in the streets for more than three months in response to increased unemployment rate, and deterioration of the economy, Lebanon entered a critical economic, financial and monetary crisis, which somehow affected the implementation of ENI CBC projects. This economic crisis imposed some measures on the banks, mainly a capital control limiting the access to money in foreign currency, in addition to a freeze of money transfer outside Lebanon. In addition, with the significant devaluation of Lebanon's national currency, some Lebanese partners faced problems in executing bank-to-bank wire payment in foreign currency, as well as fast discrepancies in the transferred rate/incurred rate of foreign currency versus Lebanese Pound (LP). This has consistently impacted budget expenditure in the different cost categories. Purchase of equipment that requires bank-to-bank wire payment in foreign currency remains gravely affected. An analysis of the difficulties of the individual projects has been carried out by the JTS, and following this analysis and a specific consultation with TESIM, the following solutions were proposed:

- opening a bank account abroad (except for public bodies);
- use of foreign currency (€/ \$) to minimize the effect of the depreciation;
- transfer (from the LB) small amounts of funds more frequently;
- in case all above solutions are not feasible, and upon assessment of the JTS and approval of the MA, the budget can be co-managed with another partner through a dedicated bank account opened by said partner.

The adoption of the one or several of the above solutions is analysed and approved by the MA on a case by case basis.

Nothing have to be reported concerning Strategic projects, since the negotiation phase of the 21 funded projects was still under finalization by the end of the reference period.

3.3.2 Success stories

[Please provide one success story⁴ for each thematic objective (max. ½ page per success story).]

As the ongoing standard projects did not submit the first interim report by the end of the reporting period considered, the following presentation of success stories refers to the promising results achieved in assessing the 6-months progress reports.

TO1 - SMEs and business development: CROSSDEV Cultural Routes for Sustainable Social and economic Development in Mediterranean (A_A.1.3_0090). Geographical coverage: Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Italy

The CROSSDEV partnership is developing a committed collaboration finding common values and the willingness to act to have a deep impact on the territories involved, guided by the principles of the ENI CBC MED Programme and of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. In spite of many difficulties due to the COVID 19 emergency outbreak, which strongly limited mobility and the organisation of participatory social activities, CROSSDEV has already actively involved over 3.000 families, 500 students, 200 stakeholders from local communities, economic sector, institutions, Universities, CSOs. The actions started immediately after the kick-off meeting, with field trips to pinpoint the intervention areas and strengthening the relations with local communities and key stakeholders. Most Associated Partners and international institutions have been involved providing data, statistics, instructions and providing technical assistance through online lectures and meetings. Moreover, CROSSDEV partners have been actively involved in the international debate on sustainable tourism and socio-economic development in the Post COVID-19 era. Cross-border challenges have been addressed through the identification of main stakeholders and approaches to be adopted. Social media and the webpage of CROSSDEV project, partners' and national and international stakeholders are utilised to spread the messages of the project towards both the target communities and institutions and towards the main international organisations.

TO2 - Technology transfer and innovation: MAIA – TAQA Mobilizing new Areas of Investments And Together Aiming to increase Quality of life for All (A_A.2.2_0195). Geographical coverage: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Italy, Spain.

MAIA-TAQA's objective is to define a new set of sustainable services related to energy, water and waste, and consequently to promote innovative resource efficiency services in the Mediterranean SMEs enhancing their technical and management capacities. The project worked on the definition and design of 4 pilot projects (WP3) to be implemented in the fields of Building integrated Photovoltaics (Amman), Solar thermal cooling (Aqaba), Wastewater treatment plant and reuse treated wastewater for irrigation purposes (Beirut) and PV-based back-up power generation system for the El-Ameria wholesale market (Alexandria). These pilots will be procured and installed in the 2nd year. The project purpose is to involve local SMEs in the pilots and link them with EU or regional industrial partners. This will be reinforced through the involvement of established business networks in project activities and collaborating with regional organizations and initiatives. To this end, the partnership has already met

⁴ A success story is to be understood as a project with a clear cross-border impact (concrete benefits for each side of the land/sea border), a strong partnership, a good sustainability perspective (e.g. signature of cooperation agreement in specific area between participating countries) and easily communicable results. This item should be filled-in once the first round of projects has submitted the first reports.

key stakeholders, such as the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists. Partners were proactive in establishing collaboration with other ENI projects and participating in external events to enhance the project impact. Finally, the project started the development of an improved training curriculum for local SMEs on the aforementioned technologies (WP4).

TO3 - Social inclusion and fight against poverty: *HELIOS enHancing thE social Inclusion Of neets* (A_A.3.1_0155). Geographical coverage: Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia, Italy, Spain, Greece

HELIOS tackles social exclusion and poverty by increasing the employability rate of young people and women, thanks to the provision of tailored courses in Blue and Circular Economy sector. For that purpose, a profiling of NEET was developed by analysing 3.600 questionnaires filled in by young NEETs and women. NEETs involved, albeit with electronic tools, have had the perception that HELIOS is working to create opportunities for their future, which will soon be real, concrete and out of their homes. The PPs reported on the methodologies and lessons learnt, in order to improve the next profiling activities. The Economic BaCE sector-profiling questionnaire and implementation methodology have also been developed. The LB and PP1 co-designed and managed the HELIOS PROJECT WEBINAR (22.10.2020) “The role of the Blue and Circular Economy in promoting employment and social inclusion in the Mediterranean Region” within the framework of the “Blue Sea Land-event Edition 2020” and, as a follow up, a Letter of intent was signed between Helios and the “Blue Generation” project. In fact, in recent months, HELIOS has focused on the development of synergies previously not foreseen with actions that can give an even stronger boost in the enhancement of the opportunities to offer to the Target Group (synergies with Bythos, funded by Interreg V-A Italy-Malta 2014-2020; Blue Generation, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment; ENI CBC MED funded projects Medusa and CO-Evolve4BG, etc.). The consortium has focused on development of WP5 eLearning platform, PP5 UCAS has made good progress on structuring the platform and several meetings were held among PPs to agree on the platform architecture and portal requirements. The beta version of the platform should be available by the end of December 2020. UCAS has also made a preliminary version of the course architecture. The communication action implemented has also seen some very encouraging results with the social media sites gaining ground and followers (increased by over 200 in last 6 months).

TO4 – Environment and climate change: *Co-EVOLVE4BG Co-evolution of coastal human activities & Med natural systems for sustainable tourism & Blue Growth in the Mediterranean* (A_B.4.4_0075). Geographical coverage: Tunisia, Lebanon, Italy, Greece, Spain

Co-Evolve4BG analyses and promotes the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic coastal areas, allowing sustainable development of touristic activities based on the principles of ICZM/MSP and promoting Blue Growth in the Mediterranean. Threats and Enabling Factors (T&EF) for the development of sustainable Coastal/Maritime tourism at Mediterranean scale and Pilot Areas scale were identified in the frame of WP3. The identified list of T&EF includes seven Threats and nine Enabling Factors. The T&EF of Coastal/Maritime Tourism at National scale is being carried out. Also, a set of T&EF parameters (Indicators) was developed. It aims to improve the knowledge related to the different T&EF combinations that exist at MED scale. On the other hand, an Advisory Committee WP3 (AC3) composed of the main national organizations and several experts of different background

relevant to a sustainable and ecosystem-based coastal tourism development was established. In this context, a Geo-Platform that will be filled with the main results of the studies that will be carried out during the WP3 execution is being developed by the partnership. This platform will be accessible to the public and aims to provide a support for the authorities while taking decisions related to Coastal/Maritime Tourism. In the frame of the project, several Action Plans will be implemented at Pilot Area scale. To ensure that these action plans will lead to a long-term and sustainable results and positive impacts, the first steps related to designing a Participatory Approach to be adopted by all partners were carried out. Partners have identified the main Stakeholders/Target Groups, which will be involved in the action plan designing and implementation. Furthermore, the list of the pilot areas was identified. These Pilots will represent a relevant transnational and cross-border experience of implementation of the ICZM principles in a coordinated way at Med scale. Pilot activities will be implemented on the basis of a common planning phase and shared methodology.

3.4 Implementation of Large Infrastructure Projects (LIPs) (if applicable)

[Please provide an overview of large scale projects: describe the status of implementation of each project including the level of works undertaken (e.g. tenders launched/awarded, amounts contracted, works ongoing/certified, payments made to project partners, eligible expenditure accepted by MA, achievement of indicators etc.).]

The ENI CBC MED Programme does not have any LIP.

Thematic objectives	Total amount for LIPs contracted	EU share of total amount for LIPs contracted	Total amount of eligible LIPs expenditure (EU share) accepted by the MA	Absorption rate % (total amounts)
TO1				
TO2				

3.5 Financial implementation (N/A)

Financial information should be provided in the Financial Part of the Annual Report.

3.6 Summary of non-substantial changes of the JOP

[Please provide a description of the non-substantial modification of the Joint Operational Programme, as approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee in the reporting period. This should correspond to the changes introduced to the programme via the programming module of the SFC2014 system.]

The non substantial changes approved by the JMC concern the financial allocation among thematic objectives approved in April 2020, together with the approval of the Strategic projects. These changes allowed the Programme to enlarge the number of projects to be financed through a shift below the 20% threshold (mainly from T.O. 4 to T.O. 2) as reported in par. . However, in order to maximise the

Programme funds allocation to the projects, the JMC decided to propose a major change above 20% and the revised target values of the programme indicators (annex II to the JOP). The major change has been approved in December 2020 and it was notified, through SFC to the EC. The minor changes mentioned above, as well as those occurred in the second part of 2020 (concerning the changes in the names of the institutions acting as Control Contact Point for Cyprus and Spain and the change in the organization acting as member of the Group of Auditors for Tunisia) were included in the major change modification request submitted on December 24th through SFC.

4. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Summary of main activities

[a) Please summarise the main activities carried out by the MA, the JMC and the JTS/BO as well as NAs and CCPs, highlighting the problems encountered (in terms of implementation/management/control, achievement of results, target groups involvement, data collection, etc.) and the good practices developed.

The main activities carried out by the MA can be summarized as follows:

The MA continued developing programme circuits and in particular the recovery procedure was approved by the JMC in December 2019. Moreover, the MA hired in March 2020 two external experts in charge of supporting the MA with the risk analysis and its main activities related to the monitoring of the programme circuits. In particular, after the approval of the risk management plan on 25 November 2019, with Decision of the Director of the MA n° 1821/215, the Risk Assessment should have been updated by December 2020 to take into account of: 1) the progress of standard projects, together with the launch of strategic projects; 2) differences of risk at country level; and 3) the changed context in which the programme operates, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As far as the first two points are concerned, the MA updated the risk assessment to take account of the launch of strategic projects (approved on 16.07.2020 by the Director of the MA with Decision n° 1373/176) and, between July and December 2020, with the support of the two external experts, carried out a first country-level risk analysis with the available information and updated the existing Risk Assessment template to carry out, in 2021, a more comprehensive assessment of risk at country-level, involving also National Authorities (CNPs and CCPs) and Branch offices.

The Management and Information System has continued to be developed and the reporting module was activated to allow projects to start reporting in the first half 2020. As far as the management of the calls for proposals is concerned, in May 2020 the MA launched the call for capitalization projects. Due to the pandemic situation the MA could not organize the national informative sections in the participating countries but it developed, supported by the JTS and the Branch Offices, some informative tools (commented PPTs) to be downloaded by potential applicants and partners from the Programme website. In the second semester of 2019, the MA continued the negotiation and signature of the grant contracts of the approved standard projects and the first pre-financings were transferred within a shorter delay (average of 11 calendar days from the receipt of the complete request compared to the 30 calendar days foreseen in the grant contract). The Lead Beneficiaries of the

standard projects were invited to attend the training event held in Rome in October 2019, organized in cooperation with the Branch Offices and TESIM. The first version of the Project Implementation Manual was also developed in the second part of 2019 while its update was released in Spring 2020. As far as the strategic projects are concerned, the evaluation process ended in March 2020 with the approval of the recommended list of projects by the Project Selection Committee (meeting held online due to the pandemic situation) and they were approved by the JMC in April 2020. The MA started the negotiation of the grant contracts right after the publication of the list of approved projects and three contracts were signed before June 2020 (the remaining ones were signed in the second part of 2020).

As far as the JMC is concerned, in December 2019 the JMC met in Amman to approve the results of step 1 of the evaluation of the proposals submitted within the call for strategic projects. The pandemic occurred in March 2020 did not allow the JMC to physically meet again, and its main decisions (including the approval of the annual work, financial and communication plan, the award decision on the strategic projects, the major change proposal including a shift above 20% of the original budget allocation among thematic objectives and the other procedures concerning major modifications to the approved projects) were taken through written procedure.

The National Contact Points were actively involved in the training for the standard project beneficiaries held in Rome in October 2019. The NCPs were also invited to attend a web-training on the call for capitalization projects (April 2020) to support potential applicants when the call was launched. NCPs were also involved in supporting the applicants during the negotiation of the grant contracts and during the implementation of the standard projects, to solve specific issues (i.e. bank account opening for Lebanese partners).

As far as the Control Contact Points are concerned, they started to perform their duties concerning the validation of the external auditors selected by the project beneficiaries mostly in 2020. Moreover, in 2019 the CCPs of the MPCs were involved in the drafting of the informative notes concerning the public procurement rules applicable to the public bodies, in cooperation with TESIM experts. The info notes were published in the Programme website.

The JTS started its activities at the end of February 2020. Having become part of some of the already ongoing process, the JTS officers has participated in several training sessions to achieve in-depth analysis of the Programme rules and the MIS functions. An initial training was provided by the MA officers at the beginning of March 2020, and a series of webinars were carried out by the TESIM experts at the end of March-beginning of April 2020. Initial activities of the JTS included the negotiation of the strategic projects, the revision of the PIM and the takeover of the daily assistance to the standard projects, carried out until then by the officers of the MA-OAU. By the end of the reference period, the JTS completed the assessment of the progress reports, as well as an analysis of the effects of the pandemic on running projects. The clustering activities, started during the training seminar for Lead Beneficiaries carried out in October 2019, were also boosted thanks to the initiative and facilitation of the JTS officers.

b) Please summarise the main activities carried out during the period by the Audit Authority and the Group of Auditors.(max. 2 pages)]

For a better understanding of Audit Authority (AA) and the Group of Auditors (GoA) activities it is worth to remind the two major changes as occurred in the reporting period, namely:

- the operational limits as imposed by COVID-19 pandemic since, from March 9, 2020 the Italian Government declared the entire country as "red zone" and from that date onwards AA staff carried out its tasks on a smart working basis only, thus facing understandable difficulties;
- the handover for ENI 2014-2020 Programmes from EC DG NEAR to DG REGIO starting from 1st January 2020, with consequent need to provide both detailed explanation and revision of documents or reports issued as well as to revise the approach and tools of core audit activities as assigned.

Nonetheless, the AA was able to achieve important goals as will be hereinafter summarized.

1. SYSTEM AUDIT AND FOLLOW UP OF THE DESIGNATION PROCESS

The system audit concerned the Managing Authority (MA). It was carried out from May till September 2019. Main objectives were the following:

- to ascertain the effective functioning of the ENI CBC MED 2014-2020 Management, Control, Certification and Monitoring System, with reference to the 2018-2019 accounting period,
- to carry out the follow-up of both the overall assessment on the reliability of the System as well as on actual implementation of AA Action Plan as annexed to the MA designation act (DGR 53/1 of 29th October 2018). Observations and requests raised by EC - DG NEAR through Notice Ares (2019)3226739 of June 2019 were considered as well.

Audit activities were conducted through specific interviews with MA officers in charge, as well as by examining documents as provided by the same authority (i.e., on the spot and desk analysis audit activities were performed).

The Final Report and related annexes were released on 1st October 2020. The System was rated under ***“Category 3 - it works partially, and substantial improvements are needed.”***

A detailed Action Plan by the AA to overcome deficiencies as detected, including binding deadlines, was fixed as well on a shared basis.

2. SYSTEM AUDIT ON PROGRAMME BODIES IN JORDAN

The system audit was out from November 2019 till June 2020. Its main objective was to ascertain the effective functioning of the Management, Control, Certification and Monitoring System, with reference to the 2018-2019 accounting period, focusing to the Programme bodies in Jordan, namely:

- the National Contact Point – Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation,
- the National Authority – Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation,
- the Control Contact Point – Ministry of Finance,
- the MA Branch Office in Jordan – Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority.

Audit activities were conducted through specific interviews with Jordanian officers in charge, as well as by examining documents as provided by them (i.e., on the spot and desk analysis audit activities were performed).

The Final Report and related annexes were released on 8th July 2020 only. AA executed a quality review (QR) activity as well, aimed at ensuring the reliability of the checks as performed. The QR was carried out following the specific procedure and tools as stated in the Audit Manual Version 2.0, approved by the AA in June 2020, and then formalized in special checklists.

Based on the system audit carried out, the Management and Control System as set for Jordan was rated under **“Category 2, since it works, but some improvements are needed”**.

3. SYSTEM AUDIT FOLLOW UP

The system audit follow up was carried out from November 2019 till February 2020. Its main objective was to verify the actual implementation of recommendations by the AA as stated the System Audit Final Report (see previous point 1.) and related Action Plan.

Following the desk analysis of documentations as received by MA, the AA verified with a reasonable assurance that most relevant corrective measures requested were adopted, thus overcoming main weakness or deficiencies and by consequence, it upgraded MA evaluation from Category 3 to **“Category 2 – it works but some improvements are needed”**.

Pending deficiencies requiring further additional corrective measures involved the followings topics:

- the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) actual setting;
- the Programme Management and Information System (MIS) completion;
- the enhancement of the Programme Internal Control System;
- the updating of the DMCS in force (October 2018).

4. AUDIT ON ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Audit on Annual Accounts was carried out from January till February 2020 to provide the EC a reasonable assurance whether:

- the programme accounts given a true and fair view, the related transactions are legal and regular, and the control systems properly put in place exist and function,
- the audit work as planned and performed by the AA would put in doubt the assertions made in the MA Management Declaration referred in Article 68.4 of the Reg. (EU) 897/2014, point (b) of paragraph 2.

In this respect, the AA opinion as released, was not based on a pure financial check of the Programme accounts but took into consideration the results (either final or provisional) or evidence of any audit previously performed.

Despite a full cooperation by AA, relevant delays in the preparation of the accounts occurred because the MA did not sign any specific agreement on responsibilities and deadlines for the preparation of the annual accounts as recommended by EGESIF 15_0018-04 and EGESIF 15_002-04.

Accordingly, the Audit on Accounts Final report was released on 25th February 2020 only. Even though the AA issued an unqualified audit opinion, the following topic were considered as pending:

- the quality and reliability of the external auditors;
- the improvement of Programme MIS, which shall include Technical Assistance expenditures as declared.

5. AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT OPINION AND AUDIT STRATEGY UPDATE

The follow up on the MA designation process, System Audit and Audit on the Accounts, concluded with the issue of the Final Report on Audit on Programme Annual Accounts, the Annual Audit Report, and the Audit Opinion, approved with the AA Decision n. 231 of 25.02.2020.

Moreover, in compliance with Article 77.4 of the Reg. (EU) 897/2014, point (a) of paragraph 4, the AA drafted the updated the Programme Audit Strategy with a 2.1 version which was approved by its decision n. 253 of 27.02.2020.

All documents as mentioned were duly provided to the MA on 27thFebruary 2020, as part of the reliability package, for the uploading on the SFC 2014 System due by March 1, 2020 (extended deadline as granted according to Article 63 paragraph 5 and 7, point 2 of the Reg. (EU/Euratom) n. 1046/2018).

It is worth to precise that, due to an uploading error by the MA on SFC 2014 system, two follow up reports released by the AA on 01.10.2019 and on 19.02.2020, properly included by the AA in the reliability package, were not sent to the EC by the MA.

Finally, findings and recommendations listed in the EC DG Regio Note Ares(2020)2761582 of 28/05/2020 forwarded to the AA, required to update the Final Report on Audit on Programme Annual Accounts and the related Audit Opinion (Unqualified Opinion confirmed) and to send the two missing follow up reports, both approved with the AA Decision n. 809 of 15.07.2020, as well as of the Annual Audit Report approved with the AA Decision n. 815 of 15.07.2020 (see point n. 8 below for further details);

6. MEF-IGRUE FOLLOW-UP ON THE AA DESIGNATION (key requirement 14):

As regards to MEF-IGRUE (Italian National Authority for accreditation of Audit Authorities) follow-up of the evaluation procedure on the AA for the accounting period 2018-2019 and considering its issues as described in its note of the April 2020, among others, the AA focused its activities on the fulfilment of all MEF requirements and on the compliance with all its observations and recommendations.

As a result, a new version of the Audit Manual was issued, with fully revised sections for example on sampling, audit of projects, audit of the accounts, and with new and revised procedures and tools.

The AA Manual 2.0 version, consisting of around 200 pages and 47 annexes, was approved with AA Decision No. 666 of 12 June 2020, and provided to MEF-IGRUE with AA note n. 19379 of 15, June 2020.

With note n. 114351 of 6, June 2020, MEF-IGRUE issued an unqualified opinion, thus upgrading AA evaluation from level 3 to level 2, assessing that all observations and recommendations on audit Strategy, Audit Manual and AA staff requirements as regards to workforce and organisation were duly fulfilled. The sole open finding highlighted by MEF-IGRUE concerns the missing implementation of the AA section of the MIS, which is an activity on charge of the MA.

7. AUDIT AUTHORITY STAFF

During the reporting period two officer joined the AA, Mr. D. Fois and Mrs. L. Gorini, respectively in May 2019 and April 2020, with previous experience in legal affairs and tenders (Mr. Fois) and in international cooperation, accounting, and statistics (Mrs. Gorini), thus completing the required workforce number of 5 persons.

Most updated AA functional chart detailing workforce actual setting was approved on 27th April 2020 with AA decision n. 482.

8. DG REGIO NOTE ON PROGRAMME ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

On May 28, 2020 the MA forwarded to the AA the EC DG Regio Note Ares(2020)2761582 of 28/05/2020 which:

- informed both authorities that, in line with Article 69 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 897/2014 (CIR), the Commission services examined the quality of the submitted documents, highlighting their observations on versions as provided, as well as their recommendations for future reports,
- confirmed that the Commission services were unable to conclude that the accounts of the Programme as provided were complete, accurate and true and were thus unable to accept them.

As a consequence, the AA carried out a Quality review option, by formalizing and explaining the quality review and supervision as carried out on the work of the internal control offices.

In this respect, on 25th June 2020 the AA opened a supplementary audit of the accounts, to complete the quality review process on the verification of the expenditures included in the accounts.

The MA was requested to carry out additional work to provide evidence for a reasonable assurance that adequate controls were made on both MA and AA TA expenditures, namely external supplies and procurement, personnel, travel, and subsistence expenditures, and that those controls were made by third party offices with respect to the ENI OP, providing suitable guarantees, due to the high qualification and independency of their personnel.

On 7th July 2020, the MA provided all required information and documentations.

Subsequently the AA carried out the QR activities on MA and AA TA expenditures, which did not highlight any irregularities and were closed with a positive result.

On the 13th July 2020 the new Provisional Report on Audit on the Annual Accounts referred to the accounting period 01.01.2018 – 30-06-2019 was issued by the AA, describing the main findings as detected in supplementary Audit activities, and on 14th July 2020 the Final Report on Audit on the Annual Accounts (2.0 version) was adopted, after MA assessment of the Provisional Report issues and considering its counterarguments and observations.

New QR checklists to be annexed to the Audit Manual were issued and then formally adopted.

On 14th July 2020, an Unqualified Opinion was issued by the AA with decision n. 809, and on 15th July 2020 the version 2.0 of the Audit Annual Report was adopted by the AA with decision n. 815.

As a conclusion of the abovementioned activities, with note n. 23355 of 15/07/2020 the AA sent the

MA a letter addressed to DG Regio, providing all requested information and documents, to be forwarded to the EC through the EC SFC 2014 Information System. The MA sent all documents with its note n. 1365 of 15, July 2020.

9. GOA ACTIVITIES

The Group of Auditors (GoA) of the ENI CBC MED Programme, convened on 8th August 2019, met for the first time on 14-15th October 2019 in Cagliari (ITA) at the Autonomous Region of Sardinia Presidency premises., to discuss and deliberate on the following topics:

- ENI CBC MED Programme GoA and its tasks,
- ENI CBC MED Programme 2014-2020 AA state of play and MA designation process,
- Rules of Procedure of the GoA (ROP),
- Tools and instruments to support the implementation of the audit tasks,
- ENI CBC MED Programme Audit perspectives.

The formal approval of the Rules of Procedures occurred on 24th October 2019 and the AA formally adopted them through its decision n. 900 of 29th July 2020.

10. OTHER AA ACTIVITIES

Given the impact on AA tasks as assigned it is worth to mention the following activities which started and were finalized during the reporting period or rather after:

- First level control agreement on the AA TA tenders expenses, by identifying an independent structure of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, considering the potential conflict of interest of AA Director, who is also responsible of the regional Certifying Authority for ESIF funds in the 2014-2020 programming period.
- Agreement on documents exchange between MA and AA for the fulfilment of their responsibilities for the preparation of annual accounts and data flows, as recommended by EGESIF 15_0018-04 and EGESIF 15_002-04, which was drawing up by the AA and sent to the MA in August 2019, solicited in September 2019, revised on shared basis, and finally fully signed on October 6,2020.

4.2. Management of the calls for proposals

Please provide an overview of the calls for proposals carried out using the tables as follows.

All 41 projects selected under the call for **standard projects** (closed in the previous reporting period) were contracted and started their activities in the reference period, the majority of them between July and October 2019. The ENI contribution was committed and the 1st pre-financing paid to all of them as well.

The selection process of the strategic projects, whose call for proposal was launched on 21 March 2019, has been carried out in the reference period. Following the closure of the call on 3 July 2019, STEP 1 of the evaluation has been completed by the end of the year (the PSC meeting was held on 12-13 November and the JMC meeting on 4 December 2019). The second step, however, was affected by the pandemic outbursts; the 2nd PSC meeting, planned on 11 and 12 March 2020, has been held online on 11 March. Given the impossibility to hold a JMC meeting, the results have been approved by written procedure on 10 April 2020. Out of the 22 Strategic projects selected, 2 were contracted by the end of June 2020, 19 in the following 6 months, while 1 project is finalising the contracting phase following a change of lead partner and the related controls implemented by the MA. Moreover, an additional project could be contracted from the reserve list upon approval of the major change to the JOP budget assigned to projects.

The call for capitalisation projects has been published on 6 May 2020 and closed on 28 July 2020, therefore its assessment and results will be detailed in the next report.

Table A: Projects by call and priority

Thematic objective A.1		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
Priority 1	Submitted	28	14.146.275,35	26	17.009.435,03	0	0	54	31.155.710,38
	Contracted*	3	5.992.866,87	1	3.324.588,01	0	0	4	9.317.454,88
Priority 2	Submitted	59	26.243.552,64	45	22.673.709,62	0	0	104	48.917.262,26
	Contracted*	6	13.781.542,79	0	0	0	0	6	13.781.542,79
Priority 3	Submitted	67	31.832.398,58	0	0	0	0	67	31.832.398,58
	Contracted*	4	10.099.207,17	0	0	0	0	4	10.099.207,17
Total	Submitted	154	72.222.226,57	71	39.683.144,65	0	0	225	111.905.371,22
	Contracted*	13	29.873.616,83	1	3.324.588,01	0	0	14	45.442.607,87

Thematic objective A.2		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
Priority 1	Submitted	54	29.461.652,37	35	24.248.615,59	0	0	89	53.710.267,96
	Contracted*	2	5.658.739,01	0	0	0	0	2	5.658.739,01
Priority 2	Submitted	25	12.742.573,14	0	0	0	0	25	12.742.573,14
	Contracted*	3	7.152.026,02	0	0	0	0	3	7.152.026,02
Total	Submitted	79	42.204.225,51	35	24.248.615,59	0	0	114	66.452.841,10
	Contracted*	5	12.810.765,03	0	0	0	0	13	12.810.765,03

Thematic objective A.3		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget

Priority 1	Submitted	49	20.660.803,80	40	23.143.676,06	0	0	89	43.804.479,86
	Contracted*	3	6.959.025,45	0	0	0	0	3	6.959.025,45
Priority 2	Submitted	22	10.419.744,81	0	0	0	0	22	10.419.744,81
	Contracted*	3	7.824.319,55	0	0	0	0	3	7.824.319,55
Total	Submitted	71	31.080.548,61	40	23.143.676,06	0	0	111	54.224.224,67
	Contracted*	6	14.783.345,00	0	0	0	0	6	14.783.345,00

Thematic objective B.4		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
Priority 1	Submitted	45	24.089.778,21	22	14.884.504,46	0	0	67	38.974.282,67
	Contracted*	5	13.335.109,10	0	0	0	0	5	13.335.109,10
Priority 2	Submitted	19	9.727.814,12	12	8.245.982,99	0	0	31	17.973.797,11
	Contracted*	4	10.278.678,83	1	2.953.289,04	0	0	5	13.231.967,87
Priority 3	Submitted	35	19.651.993,59	18	10.610.319,12	0	0	53	30.262.312,71
	Contracted*	5	11.957.958,92	0	0	0	0	6	11.957.958,92
Priority 4	Submitted	36	18.863.147,80	0	0	0	0	36	18.863.147,80
	Contracted*	3	7.619.620,79	0	0	0	0	4	10.912.441,64
Total	Submitted	135	72.332.733,72	52	33.740.806,58	0	0	187	106.073.540,30
	Contracted*	17	43.191.367,64	1	2.953.289,04	0	0	18	46.144.656,68

* If, at the time of report submission, projects have been selected for funding but not contracted yet, figures should be provided for the projects selected for funding (with an explanatory footnote).

The following table refers to the strategic projects selected for funding but still not contracted in the reference period:

Call n°2		
	N° of projects selected for funding	Total budget
Thematic objective A.1 / Priority 1	2	€ 6.655.997,91
Thematic objective A.1 / Priority 2	3	€ 8.099.405,46
Thematic objective A.2 / Priority 1	9	€ 28.865.724,70
Thematic objective A.3 / Priority 1	6	€ 19.054.117,81
Thematic objective B.4 / Priority 3	1	€ 3.292.820,85
TOTAL	21	€ 65.968.066,73

Table B: Projects by call and country of lead applicant/beneficiary

Thematic objective n°1		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	Submitted	7	3.834.234,16	3	1.135.399,76	0	0	10	4.969.633,92
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Thematic objective n°1		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
EGY	Submitted	4	2.285.974,75	3	2.053.715,20	0	0	7	4.339.689,95
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESP	Submitted	27	12.324.858,35	11	5.041.649,89	0	0	38	17.366.508,24
	Contracted*	6	14.677.555,02	1	3.324.588,01	0	0	7	18.002.143,03
FRA	Submitted	4	1.883.135,44	3	1.586.131,63	0	0	7	3.469.267,07
	Contracted*	1	2.017.918,35	0	0	0	0	1	2.017.918,35
GRC	Submitted	27	9.984.489,30	8	3.806.348,73	0	0	35	13.790.838,03
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISR	Submitted	1	727.600,00	1	512.622,02	0	0	2	1.240.222,02
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITA	Submitted	63	28.352.587,36	27	15.368.585,70	0	0	90	43.721.173,05
	Contracted*	3	7.773.927,28	0	0	0	0	3	7.773.927,28
JOR	Submitted	5	2.752.780,01	1	1.036.398,16	0	0	6	3.789.178,17
	Contracted*	2	3.261.101,95	0	0	0	0	2	3.261.101,95
LBN	Submitted	5	3.969.010,88	5	4.815.686,15	0	0	10	8.784.697,03
	Contracted*	1	2.143.114,23	0	0	0	0	1	2.143.114,23
MLT	Submitted	1	1.166.590,07	1	466.734,00	0	0	2	1.633.324,07
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRT	Submitted	2	781.213,15	1	749.866,27	0	0	3	1.531.079,42
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PSE	Submitted	5	2.870.212,82	1	526.133,00	0	0	6	3.396.345,82
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUN	Submitted	5	2.266.000,33	4	2.017.737,13	0	0	9	4.283.737,46
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* If, at the time of report submission, projects have been selected for funding but not contracted yet, figures should be provided for the projects selected for funding (with an explanatory footnote).

Thematic objective n°2		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	Submitted	1	2.953.952,40	0	0	0	0	1	2.953.952,40

	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EGY	Submitted	1	8.222.660,82	0	0	0	0	1	8.222.660,82
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
ESP	Submitted	54	14.753.387,05	24	7.875.771,14	0	0	78	22.629.158,19
	Contracted*	1	1.422.122,29	0	0	0	0	1	1.422.122,29
FRA	Submitted	2	3.162.410,21	1	3.398.212,52	0	0	3	6.560.622,73
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRC	Submitted	43	12.380.145,13	4	8.036.189,89	0	0	47	20.416.335,02
	Contracted*	2	5.729.903,73	0	0	0	0	2	5.729.903,73
ISR	Submitted	1	5.859.755,50	1	2.587.769,43	0	0	2	8.447.524,93
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITA	Submitted	76	24.302.837,98	12	18.181.608,97	0	0	88	42.484.446,95
	Contracted*	2	5.658.739,01	0	0	0	0	2	5.658.739,01
JOR	Submitted	1	5.475.716,01	2	12.044.793,71	0	0	3	17.520.509,72
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LBN	Submitted	3	16.606.317,95	1	10.906.590,35	0	0	4	27.512.908,30
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MLT	Submitted	2	420.966,89	1	796.490,88	0	0	3	1.217.457,77
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRT	Submitted	1	885.677,24	0	0	0	0	1	5.231.475,69
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PSE	Submitted	4	10.128.290,13	4	4.345.798,44	0	0	8	26.055.140,82
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUN	Submitted	3	29.630.542,26	3	15.926.850,69	0	0	6	29.630.542,26
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* If, at the time of report submission, projects have been selected for funding but not contracted yet, figures should be provided for the projects selected for funding (with an explanatory footnote).

Thematic objective n°3		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	Submitted	2	2.141.853,29	1	3.142.325,99	0	0	3	5.284.179,28
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Thematic objective n°3		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
EGY	Submitted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESP	Submitted	11	11.697.485,98	9	9.412.055,37	0	0	20	21.109.541,36
	Contracted*	2	5.977.882,25	0	0	0	0	2	5.977.882,25
FRA	Submitted	3	5.572.804,85	1	2.555.983,44	0	0	4	8.128.788,29
	Contracted*	1	1.977.522,78	0	0	0	0	1	1.977.522,78
GRC	Submitted	40	10.621.752,12	5	12.033.670,61	0	0	45	22.655.422,73
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISR	Submitted	0	0	1	677.638,58	0	0	1	677.638,58
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITA	Submitted	72	20.520.797,96	14	13.740.811,80	0	0	86	34.261.609,77
	Contracted*	2	4.981.502,67	0	0	0	0	2	4.981.502,67
JOR	Submitted	1	11.432.097,74	1	11.397.071,50	0	0	2	22.829.169,24
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LBN	Submitted	0	0	1	18.274.176,97	0	0	1	18.274.176,97
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MLT	Submitted	1	329.993,40	1	579.941,24	0	0	2	909.934,64
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRT	Submitted	4	2.275.879,46	1	936.111,10	0	0	5	14.424.111,45
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PSE	Submitted	3	5.359.669,60	2	12.148.231,99	0	0	5	17.780.727,70
	Contracted*	1	1.846.437,30	0	0	0	0	1	1.846.437,30
TUN	Submitted	6	24.844.086,08	1	12.421.058,10	0	0	7	24.844.086,08
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* If, at the time of report submission, projects have been selected for funding but not contracted yet, figures should be provided for the projects selected for funding (with an explanatory footnote).

Thematic objective n°4		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	Submitted	6	6.219.650,78	1	1.814.187,33	0	0	7	8.033.838,11
	Contracted*	1	2.581.440,71	0	0	0	0	1	2.581.440,71

Thematic objective n°4		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
EGY	Submitted	2	6.628.099,20	0	0	0	0	2	6.628.099,20
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESP	Submitted	79	22.058.726,23	54	16.705.845,31	0	0	133	38.764.571,54
	Contracted*	2	5.582.511,81	1	2.953.289,04	0	0	3	8.535.800,85
FRA	Submitted	16	5.194.938,59	1	2.015.173,20	0	0	17	7.210.111,79
	Contracted*	1	2.143.099,36	0	0	0	0	1	2.143.099,36
GRC	Submitted	74	20.906.567,36	3	9.359.917,78	0	0	77	30.266.485,13
	Contracted*	2	4.549.181,29	0	0	0	0	2	4.549.181,29
ISR	Submitted	0	5.101.749,30	1	2.163.778,61	0	0	1	7.265.527,91
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITA	Submitted	134	42.480.431,83	57	19.768.079,34	0	0	191	62.248.511,17
	Contracted*	7	17.836.833,37	0	0	0	0	7	17.836.833,37
JOR	Submitted	6	22.643.457,76	2	16.552.937,76	0	0	8	39.196.395,52
	Contracted*	1	2.979.213,84	0	0	0	0	1	2.979.213,84
LBN	Submitted	2	9.019.644,51	1	6.081.996,56	0	0	3	15.101.641,07
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MLT	Submitted	3	3.150.907,51	0	0	0	0	3	3.150.907,51
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRT	Submitted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.630.795,09
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PSE	Submitted	4	13.280.128,31	1	5.630.795,09	0	0	5	33.306.612,52
	Contracted*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUN	Submitted	5	46.394.361,16	4	20.026.484,21	0	0	9	46.394.361,16
	Contracted*	2	5.281.344,40	0	0	0	0	2	5.281.344,40

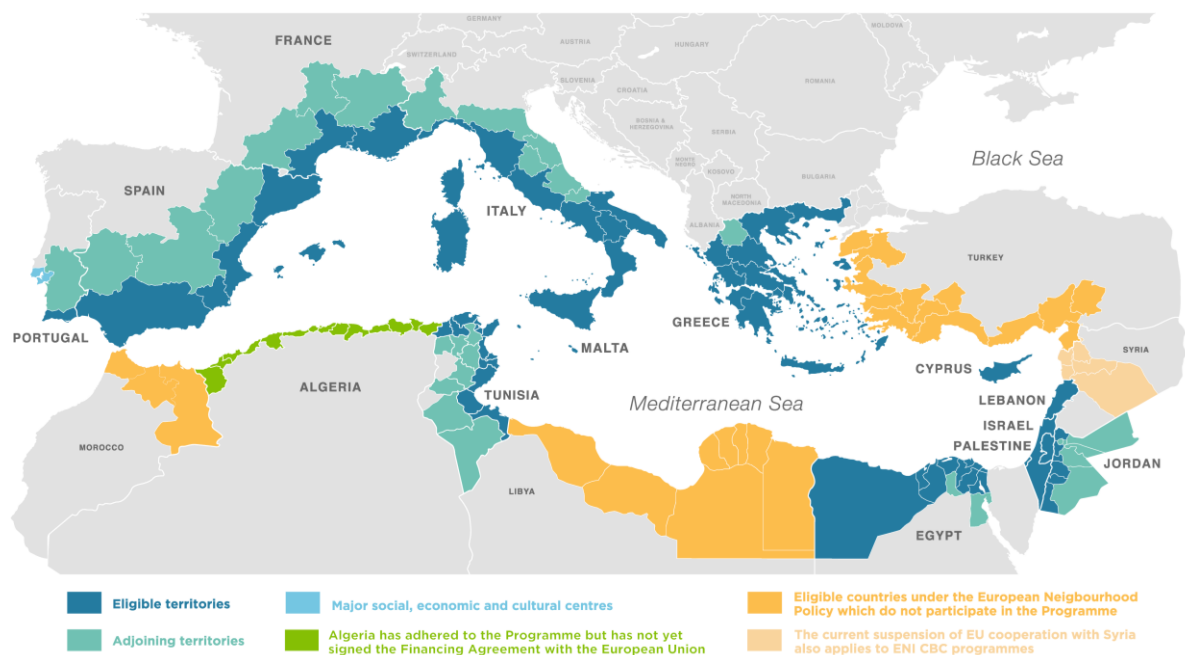
* If, at the time of report submission, projects have been selected for funding but not contracted yet, figures should be provided for the projects selected for funding (with an explanatory footnote).

The following table refers to the countries of lead beneficiary per Thematic Objective of the strategic projects selected for funding but still not contracted during the reference period:

Country	Thematic objective 1		Thematic objective 2		Thematic objective 3		Thematic objective 4	
	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EGY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESP	5	15.473.542,63	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRA	1	2.775.822,23	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRC	5	15.649.867,52	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISR	1	2.676.416,79	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITA	6	20.151.962,34	0	0	0	0	1	3.292.820,85
JOR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LBN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MLT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUN	2	5.947.634,37	0	0	0	0	0	0

Map A: Organisations involved in projects proposals submitted for funding

[For the last call for proposals, please include a map of the programme area [choose the map corresponding to your programme from the package provided by the European Commission] showing for each eligible region the n° of organisations (distinguishing between applicants and partners) involved in project proposals submitted for funding.]



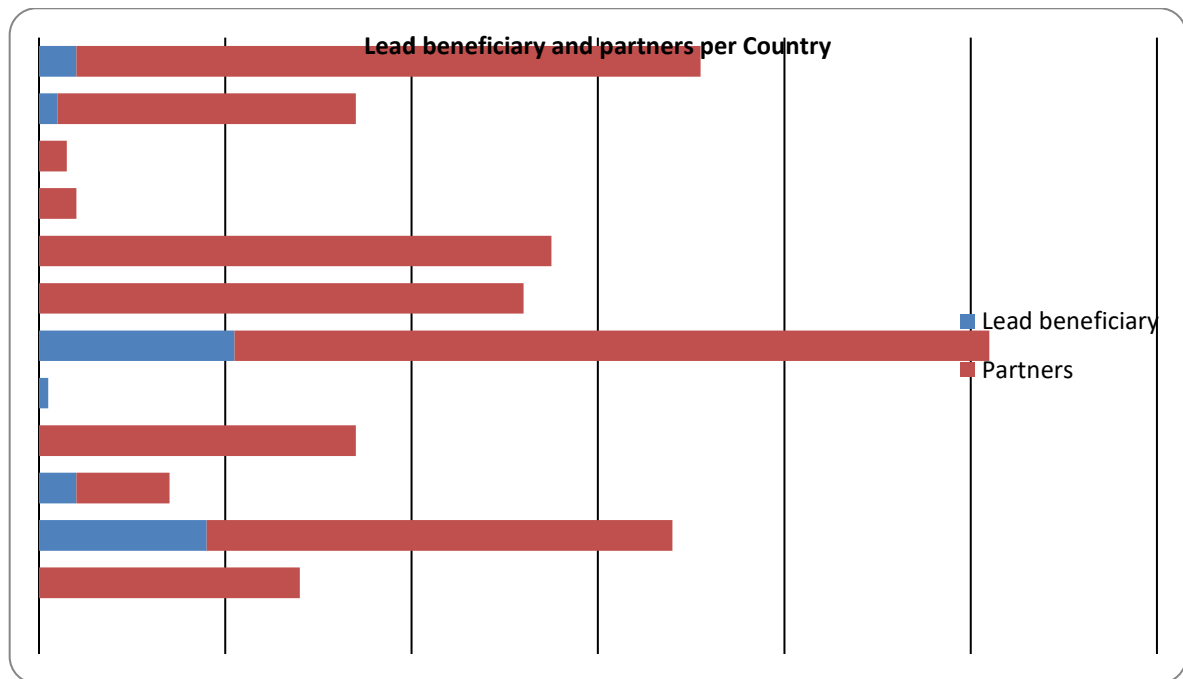


Table C: Organisations involved in projects proposals submitted for funding and in grant contracts

Country	Eligible regions	N° of Lead applicants	N° of partners	N° of lead beneficiaries	N° of partner beneficiaries
CYP		23	137	1	6
EGY		10	277	0	28
ESP		122	446	18	50
FRA		18	108	4	10
GRC		109	312	9	34
ISR		7	17	1	10
ITA		234	295	21	81
JOR		20	212	3	52
LBN		18	238	1	55
MLT		10	31	0	4
PRT		9	21	0	3
PSE		26	150	2	32
TUN		31	271	4	67
TOTAL		637	2515	64	432

The same data presented in Maps A and B should also be provided in the above Table C.

4.3 Monitoring and evaluation (max 2 pages)

[Please describe the measures undertaken to monitor, evaluate and audit projects, their results and actions undertaken to remedy to problems identified. Please put a special focus on the result-oriented monitoring reviews requested under Article 78(3) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.]

The ENI CBC MED Programme follows the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) approach, based on two founding principles:

1. “Action-oriented”: monitoring must produce concrete recommendations for the upcoming activities;
2. “Partnership-oriented”: recommendations are expected to be agreed and adopted by the LBs and partners.

Monitoring is carried out by the JTS and the MA on the basis of day-to-day interactions with projects, analysis of progress and interim reports, monitoring and ROM missions.

During the reference period, monitoring missions to Lead Beneficiaries and Project Partners could not be carried out due to the Covid-19 restrictions to mobility. The ROM missions on the other hand are scheduled for the 2nd half of 2021 (following the 1st round of interim reports of the standard projects).

Nonetheless, monitoring was carried out through the collection of project documents, the analysis of progress reports and the daily assistance to projects, and supported by the information stored in the Management Information System of the Programme (MIS).

Based on the information reported, a scoring system has been defined and used for identifying critical projects requiring interventions and corrective measures:

1. Serious deficiencies (sensitive issues are reported and a prompt intervention is needed)
2. Problems (Although all main expected results are still likely to be achieved, some of them may not or should be reconsidered)
3. Good (The outputs delivered are in line with the action plan and the description in the e-form. Even if no good practice(s) are detected, activities are jointly implemented and expected results seems likely to be achieved. Minor issues require corrective actions)
4. Very good (Outputs delivered are in line with the action plan and the description in the e-form. Achievement of the expected results seems feasible and very likely to be completed with potential good practice(s). All partners are fully committed and activities are jointly implemented. Few recommendations should be considered).

The system has also a warning purpose, pushing projects to improve their performance and avoid consequences in terms of reduction of the grant. Following the analysis of the 41 progress report submitted in the reference period, scores and results are as follows:

Thematic Objective 1 “SMEs and business development” (13 projects):

- 3 projects scored 4 (MedArtsAL, MEDSt@rts, CROSSDEV);
- 7 projects scored 3 (GIMED, MedSNAIL, SME4SMARTCITIES, TEX-MED ALLIANCES, MED GAIMS, Med Pearls, MEDUSA);
- 2 projects scored 2 (IPMED, ORGANIC ECOSYSTEM)
- 1 project scored 1 (FISH MED NET)

TO2 “Technology transfer and innovation”: all 5 projects scored 3 (BESTMEDGRAPE, GREENinMED, INNOMED-UP, LIVINGAGRO, MAIA-TAQA)

TO3 “Social inclusion and fight against poverty” (6 projects):

- 2 projects scored 4 (HELIOS, MedTOWN)
- 4 projects scored 3 (RESMYLE, InnovAgroMed, MoreThanAJob, TEC-MED)

TO4 “Environment and climate change” (17 projects):

- 6 projects scored 4 (AQUACYCLE, MENAWARA, PROSIM, BEEP-BBIM, BERLIN, COMMON)
- 10 projects scored 3 (MEDISS, NAWAMED, CEOMED, CLIMA, DECOST, MED-Ina, ESMES, GreenBuilding, Med-EcoSuRe, Co-Evolve4BG)
- 1 project scored 1 (MED4EBM)

Low scoring projects were the object of a closer monitoring of the JTS, involving frequent meetings and almost daily exchanges, in order to identify problems and propose solutions. Specific actions identified include the development of updated Action Plans, the completion of procurement procedures, specific trainings for the project staff, and the involvement of the National Authorities.

Furthermore, the daily assistance to projects allows the collection of updated information and good practices, immediately used for timely interventions. In this respect, the cluster meetings boosted exchanges among projects and mutual learning, allowing a cross-fertilisation of ideas and circulation of solutions, leading to the result of avoiding any request for suspension and the continuation online of all feasible activities for all 41 standard projects during the 1st pandemic outbreak. Cluster activities apply different methodologies, ranging from brain storming and selection of ideas, to analysis of problems and objectives, to output identification (in line with the Results Oriented Management approach). A synthesis of the specific cluster work at TO level (problems, solutions, outputs) is available and has been already shared with the JMC.

4.4. Technical Assistance activities: Information and communication activities

4.4.1 Implemented information and communication activities, as per the Communication plan

[Please submit a detailed list of all information and communication activities undertaken. Ensure that outputs and outcomes are well documented. Follow the table below.]

Please note that since the AICP template provided by the European Commission was not into force for the concerned reporting period, it is not always possible to fill in the fields Output, Output indicator (OI), Result, Result indicator (RI) as the communication plan template used by the Programme was based on Outputs and their indicators. Therefore, some fields have been marked as N/A.

Aim of the activity <i>(specific objective)</i>	Target group	Tool	Activity and location	Output (value)	OI Target value	Result (cumulative value)	RI Target value	Timing	Resp. body	Measures to ensure EU visibility
Increase the knowledge of the main features and rules of the call for capitalization projects	National Authorities	Information event	Webinar	Representatives of the National Authorities from the 13 participating countries took part in the webinar (around 30 people)	N/A	N/A	N/A	May 2020	MA	EU logo used in all documents, and presentations EU financial contribution to the call highlighted
Increase the knowledge of the main	Potential beneficiaries	Information events	Webinars	15 webinars organized with nearly	N/A	N/A	N/A	May – June 2020	MA	EU logo used in all documents,

features and rules of the call for capitalization projects				1,300 participants						and presentations EU financial contribution to the call highlighted
Increase the knowledge of the main features and rules of the call for capitalization	Potential beneficiaries and National Authorities	Videos	N/A	One trailer to present the call and 20 videos produced in Arabic, English and French on the main issues of the call	N/A	3,800 views	N/A	May 2020	MA, BOs	EU logo used in all presentations EU financial contribution to the call highlighted
Raising the visibility of the EU and the Programme in the region	Journalists, media	Media relations	Press briefings organised in conjunction with the kick-off meetings of standard projects Press releases disseminated at launch of projects and on the occasion of key	N/A	N/A	Over 100 appearances in leading media outlets of the cooperation area, including EuroNews, La Vanguardia	N/A	Continuous	Project beneficiaries under supervision of MA	EU flag and logo highly visible during press briefing EU logo displayed in press releases, EU financial contribution to projects

			events/achievements			a (Spain), L'Orient le Jour (Lebanon), La Repubblica (Italy), The Jordan Times (Jordan), Al Quds (Palestine), Le Temps (Tunisia). See press review on Programme website.				highlighted in press releases
Raising the visibility of the EU and the Programme in the region and showcase opportunities	Young people	Events	Organisation of project stands at the #EU4YOUth forum and EU campus tour in Egypt at Cairo and Alexandria University (Estimated 10,000 people visited the Tunis cooperation fair and 300 the EU campus tour in Egypt	N/A	N/A	N/A	#EU4YOUth forum (Tunis, 28 November 2019), Alexandria University on 20 February 2020 and Cairo University	MA, Project beneficiaries	EU logo used in press releases and briefings brochures, presentations and advertisements in newspapers. EU contribution to the

								on 24 February 2020		programme highlighted in presentation s EU flag and logo highly visible during press briefing. Amount of EU contribution to programme properly emphasised.
Raising the visibility of the EU and the Programme in the region and showcase opportunities	Young people, public	Event	Webinar on the Europe Day “The EU and its neighbors: the ENI CBC MED Programme brings together the two shores of the Mediterranean”	Around 100 participants	N/A	N/A	N/A	7 May	MA, VAencia BO	EU logo displayed in all presentation s EU positive contribution Euro-Med cooperation highlighted

Reinforce capacities of beneficiaries in the project implementation	Project, financial and communication managers	Event	Training event for stand projects	120 participants	N/A	N/A	N/A	1-3 October 2019	MA, BOs	EU logo displayed in all presentations and EU flag displayed in meeting room EU positive contribution Euro-Med cooperation highlighted
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4.4.2 Summary of review by applicants/beneficiaries

[In relation to the activities targeting applicants/beneficiaries, please provide a summary of reviews by applicants/beneficiaries and analyse the impact on the applicants/beneficiaries' capacities.]

The Managing Authority organized a training seminar for the Lead Beneficiaries of standard projects from the 1st to 3rd of October 2019 in Rome. The event involved the project coordinators, financial and communication managers of the 41 standard projects in order to train them on the rules for the technical and financial implementation of projects.

While the results of the survey (available upon request) carried out after the training underlined that the event was mostly useful for participants - especially in the field of eligible, procurement rules and visibility criteria – one the most important outcomes of the event was the creation of thematic clusters among projects in order to foster synergies and collective work. Clusters meetings took place throughout the reporting period and some projects decided to join forces on a permanent basis (example of the water cluster: <http://www.enicbcmec.eu/five-projects-join-forces-and-vows-improve-wastewater-reuse-across-mediterranean>).

4.4.3 Participation of EU Delegations

[Please inform about whether EU delegations were invited to the events taking place in their countries and indicate their participation where the case.]

Links with EU Delegations were reinforced throughout the reporting period in order to enhance synergies between the Programme and funded projects and the actions carried out the concerned EU Delegations. As a general rule, for events organised in Mediterranean Partner Countries, project beneficiaries are requested to assess with the Managing Authority the opportunity to invite a representative of the local EU Delegation. Upon request, the Managing Authority provided EU delegations with information on funded projects.

Concerning the participation of EU Delegations representatives in programme/projects activities, it is worth mentioning as follows:

- H.E. Mrs Maria Hadjitheodosiou, Ambassador of the European Union to Jordan, opened the sixth meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee which took place in Amman on 4th and 5th of December 2019;
- Ambassador Hadjitheodosiou also took part to the launching events of IPMED and HELIOS projects and she visited National Agricultural Research Center (<http://www.enicbcmec.eu/presentation-livingagro-project-eu-delegation-and-ambassador-jordan>) which participated in the LIVINGAGRO, MENAWARA, HELIOS and PROSIM projects;

- A technical meeting between the partners of the [SME4SMARTCITIES project](#) and the representatives of the EU Delegation in Israel and the EU office for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- A representative of the EU Delegation to Israel took part to the kick-off meeting of the GreenInMed project as well as to the project webinar for hotel managers and owners (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/israeli-partners-greeninmed-will-host-zoom-conference-hotel-owners-and-managers-discuss-current>).

4.4.4 Programme website and social media

[Please describe any activity undertaken in relation to the programme website and social media (max ½ page)]

Throughout the reporting period, the Managing Authority continued to develop the website (www.enicbcmed.eu) as the main source of information on the ENI CBC Med Programme, adapting its contents to different types of audiences as follows:

- *Potential beneficiaries:* creation of specific section dedicated to the call for capitalization projects (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/calls-for-proposals/call-for-capitalisation-projects>) with presentation of the main features and rules of the call supported by video tutorials, questions and answers, and a tool to support partner search.
- *Project beneficiaries and partners:* support to technical and financial implementation was reinforced on the Programme website with the creation of a dedicated section (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/support-to-implementation>) containing the Project Implementation Manual, as well as a FAQ section on reporting (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/reporting>)
- *Job seekers, SMEs:* project beneficiaries are required to publish on their webpages hosted on the Programme website all the vacancies and calls for tenders launched under the projects. Over 400 job and tender announcements were already published, contributing to the diversification of the audience potentially interested in the Programme.
- *People looking for opportunities:* a section dedicated to the financial opportunities (the so-called 'sub-grants') provided for by the ongoing standard projects was created here <http://www.enicbcmed.eu/opportunities>. The section is organised by topics – business creation, tourism diversification, social inclusion, innovation, environment – and lists all the available calls for sub-grants and modalities for participation available for young people, start-uppers, women's entrepreneurs, SMEs, NGOs, etc.
- *Journalists:* a section containing a press review of all news articles and TV features conceding the Programme and its projects was created here: <http://www.enicbcmed.eu/info-center/press-review>. It contains over 100 appearances in leading media outlets of the cooperation area, including EuroNews, La Vanguardia (Spain), L'Orient le Jour (Lebanon), La Repubblica (Italy), The Jordan Times (Jordan), Al Quds (Palestine), Le Temps (Tunisia), etc.

- *Institutional stakeholders and general public*: specific contents that potentially have an interest for institutional stakeholders and the general public were drafted including a section on the Programme response to the COVID-19 pandemic (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/adapting-covid-19-pandemic-instructions-lead-beneficiaries-and-partners-funded-projects>), statement of EU Commissioner Elisa Ferreira on the TEX-MED ALLIANCES project (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/info-center/response-covid-19>), cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/union-mediterranean-labels-thematic-clusters-eni-cbc-med-programme>), importance of the Programme for participating countries (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/cross-border-cooperation-issue-mutual-interest-eu-egypt-relations>) and project stories drafted by TESIM (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/turning-wine-products-cosmetics-european-commissions-panorama-magazine-highlights-bestmedgrape>).

One of the main achievements concerning the website was the integration of project webpages on the Programme website in order to give more visibility to the entire ENI CBC Med community on a single platform. A webpage for each of the 41 standard projects was created: <http://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/funded-projects>. Project beneficiaries have access to their webpage and can update it with news, events, documents and videos. Project beneficiaries were supported in the management of their website, in particular to adopt an impact-based narrative focusing on achievements, opportunities and tangible benefits for people. An impressive number of 1,300 contents were published, making the Programme website a lively and constantly updated platform with at least 5 contents published on daily basis.

As per by Google analytics, there was a substantial increase in the Programme website performance compared to the previous reporting period as highlighted by the following key metrics:

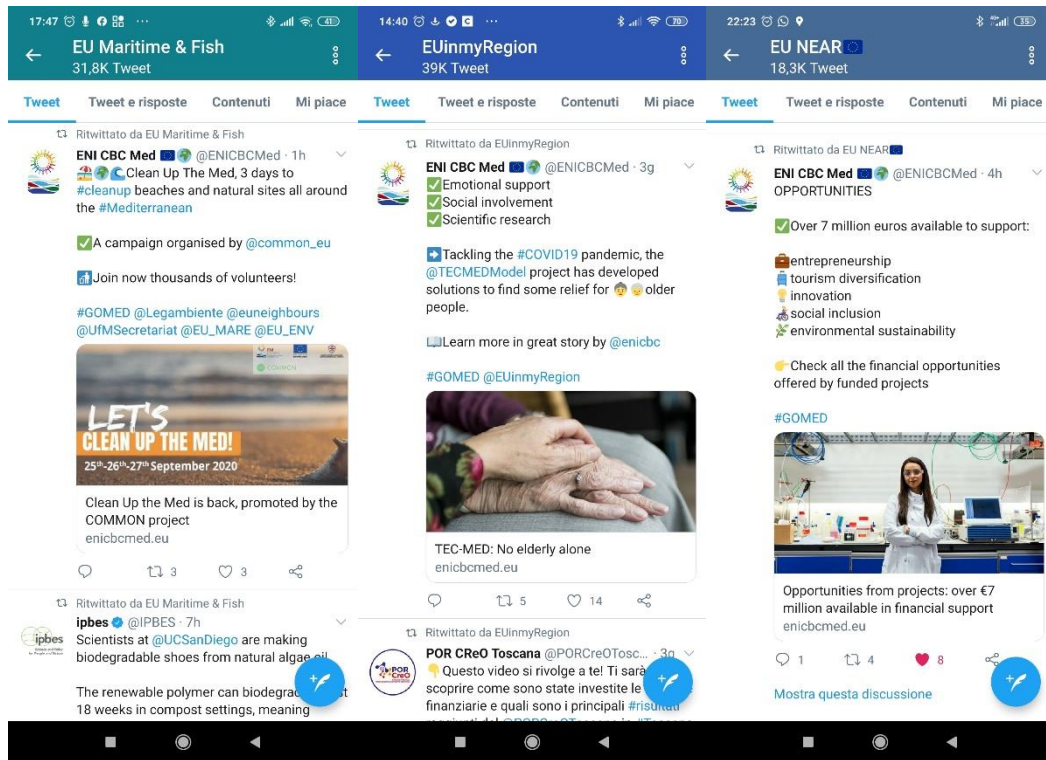
- Users: 287,739 (+776.99% compared to previous programming period);
- Sessions: 327,376 (+785.69%);
- Page views: 534,882 (+684.13%).

Finally, the Programme maintained an active presence on social media, mainly on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, with daily posts focusing on opportunities, stories, and celebrations of international days, tangible results as a way to engage and retain audience. As for the Programme website, social media witnessed an increase in their audience:

- Facebook: **8,124 followers** (+724 followers compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an increase of 9%);
- Twitter: **5,200 followers** (+804 followers compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an increase of 18%);
- LinkedIn: **6,658 connections** (+658 connections compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an increase of 10%).

It is worth mentioning that contents posted on the Programme social media were regularly shared and promoted by the European Commission and EU Delegations as shown below:

Retweets by DR MARE, REGIO and NEAR



Post of the EU Delegation to Israel

European Union in Israel · 5h · 🌐

כשהחיים נתונים לך זיתים, עשה מהם שמן זית! 🇺🇸
 בשיתוף עם **Artolio ENI CBC Med Programme**, פתחתם השנה בפילוט אזורי שיסייע ליצרני שמן זית מקומיים להגדיל את תפוקת השמן ואת האיכות. אנו נייעץ, נסייע ונעקוב מעקום כספיים לחקלאים, לבעלי עסקים קטנים ולרבותי-בד כדי שיוכלו להגיע לשוקים חדשים וגדולים ולהגשים את מלאו הפוטנציאל שלהם.
 תאריך אחרון להרשמה: 1.2.21. את כל המידע אפשר למצוא פה <<
<https://bit.ly/39mBX82>

When life gives you olives, make olive-oil! 🇺🇸
 This year we decided to make oil from the olives, and in cooperation with **ENI CBC Med Programme** & **Artolio**, we opened a regional pilot project that will help local olive-oil makers increase oil yield and quality. We will consult, assist, and allocate funds to small businesses, farmers, and millers so they'll be able to reach new and large markets and fulfill their full potential 🇺🇸
 The deadline for signing up: 1.2.21, for more information >>
<https://bit.ly/39mBX82>

لما الحياة تعطيك زيتون ، إصطله زيت زيتون! 🇺🇸
 بالمشراكة مع **Artolio** و **ENI CBC Med Programme** ، أطلقنا هذا العام تجربة إقليمية لهدف دعم ومساعدة منتجي زيت الزيتون المحليين على زيادة إنتاج الزيت وجودته. من خلال تقديم خدمات استشارية ومرافقة مهنية بالإضافة إلى تقديم منح مالية للمزارعين وأصحاب المصانع الصغيرة ومعاصر الزيتون حتى يتمكنوا من الوصول إلى أسواق جديدة وكبيرة، لتحقيق إمكاناتهم الكاملة.
 آخر موعد للتسجيل: 1.2.21 ، بإمكانكم العثور على معلومات إضافية هنا <<
<https://bit.ly/39mBX82>

See Translation

4.4.5 Publications

[Please describe any activity undertaken in relation to programme publications (max ½ page)]

A brochure highlighting the objectives, partnerships and expected achievements of the 41 standard projects was designed under the title “Cooperating for a more competitive, innovative, inclusive and sustainable Mediterranean”. It is available here in Arabic, English and French: <http://www.enicbcmmed.eu/info-center/publications>

Due to the restrictions related to COVID-19, the physical distribution of the brochure has been put on standby.

4.5. Other Technical Assistance activities

[Please describe any other TA activity undertaken during the reporting period (e.g. networking and capitalisation, complaint resolution, reinforcement of administrative capacity, control and audit activities, etc.).]

During the concerned reporting period, the MA finalised the setting up of the operational structure with the appointment of the Head of the Operational and Authorising Unit and the Head of the Accounting and Payment Unit. With a specific act, the staff of the MA, previously involved in the ENPI CBC MED Programme structure, has been formally assigned to the units composing the MA office of the ENI CBC MED Programme.

As a consequence, the management of the procedures for the purchasing of goods and services and for the selection of external experts, and related contracts, was transferred to the Operational and Authorising Unit.

Moreover, in February 2020, following the official authorization from the European Commission to use part of the Technical Assistance funds to cover the preparatory costs of the INTERREG NEXT MED Programme 2021-2027, a modification to the annual financial allocation was adopted by the JMC through a written procedure, in order to proceed with the new programming activities.

Following the JMC decision, two procedures were thus drafted and published from February 2020, as follows:

1. A call for the recruitment of 4 external experts to support the preparation of the INTERREG NEXT MED Programme 2021-2027, has been published on March, 2nd 2020. In particular, the following four profiles were required:

Profile A – Thematic expert in the field of socio-economic development

Profile B – Thematic expert in the environmental field

Profile C – Expert in Programme management

Profile D – Expert in evaluation and monitoring of Programmes and public policies

An internal evaluation commission was appointed on 24 April 2020 in order to check the formal regularity of the submitted applications and to draft the 4 shortlists composed by those experts

satisfying all the necessary requirements. The selection procedure was finalised and the results were published on May 20th 2020.

2. An open call for tenders was launched on February 28th 2020, to select an economic operator in charge of organizing the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee for the period 2020-2022 and of the Task Force 2021-2027. The selection of the bids was completed in May and the tender awarded on June 4th 2020.

Concerning the other technical assistance activities, the Operational and Authorising Unit managed the follow up of the procurement procedures started and / or the contracts signed in the previous reporting periods. In particular, the following activities have been implemented:

1. Following the conclusion of the evaluation process, in August 2019 the regional office in charge of the public procurement procedures awarded the tender launched in October 2018 to select a service provider in charge of supporting the MA in both Programme and projects monitoring & implementation (team of experts composing the Joint Technical Secretariat). The following checks and some unexpected administrative issues delayed considerably the conclusion of the contracting process, which could be finalised on 17 February 2020 with the signature of the contract between the MA - OAU and the service provider, and the immediate start of the services implementation. The Team of experts composing the JTS was thus set up and started their activities according to the working plan agreed with the OAU. From March 2020 the constraints related to the COVID - 19 pandemic emergency delayed the physical setting up of the JTS in Cagliari and the experts started their activities remotely.
2. the activities foreseen under the service contract for the organisation of the PSC meetings were suspended due to the limitations to the mobility caused by the COVID – 19 pandemic situation, which prevents the possibility to organise meetings in Cagliari;
3. the activities foreseen under the contract service for the design of the Programme Website and the Management and Information System (MIS) have been implemented and partially closed, with the completion of the main sections of the MIS.

5. FORECAST FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

5.1 Programme and beneficiaries' activities

5.1.1 Summary of main programme activities

[Please, list the main activities carried out by all programme and national bodies in the first six months of the next reporting period (until December). Please list a forecast of main activities to be carried out by all programme and national bodies from January to June of the next reporting period. Include audit, management and control, technical assistance and communication as well as capitalisation activities.]

During the first semester of 2021, several events are planned to support project beneficiaries in the activities implementation, particularly:

- training seminars for partners and auditors of standard projects – focusing on reporting and financial management - will be organized at national level, closing the seminars series

launched during the month of December 2020 in collaboration with the National Authorities and Contact Points;

- training seminars for strategic projects beneficiaries (lead beneficiaries, partners and auditors)
- cluster meetings including the first-time participation of strategic projects, organized around thematic objectives and priorities
- webinars on topics related to the communication strategy of the Programme
- specific activities to engage youth and/or targeted webinars to projects (currently under design).

5.1.2 Summary of main project beneficiaries' activities

[Please, list important events and activities planned by project beneficiaries, including the LIPs, during the next reporting period (please use the same flexible approach as defined above) based on project reports or any direct contacts with beneficiaries (e.g. big conference, opening/inauguration ceremony, closing event, etc.).

Please inform about whether the concerned EU Delegations are aware of the events that will take place in their countries.]

As far as the 41 standard projects are concerned, during the 2nd semester of 2020 the pace of activities implementation has been satisfactory, several intermediate results have been achieved and important events have been organized – according to the scheduled timeline. In particular:

- 18 info days and public events to promote projects have been organized (e.g., Co-EVOLVE4BG, COMMON, DECOST, CROSSDEV, GREENinMED, MED GAIMS, NAWAMED, TEX MED ALLIANCES),
- 17 workshops addressed to local stakeholders (e.g., INNOMED-UP, AQUACYCLE, Co-EVOLVE4BG, COMMON, MAIA-TAQA, Med Pearls, MED-Ina, TEC MED, IPMED),
- 4 thematic webinars (e.g., Med Pearls, IPMED, MED4EBM, TEX MED ALLIANCES),
- 16 training webinars (e.g., CROSSDEV, Med Pearls, MED4EBM, MoreThanAJob),
- specific events such as educational press tours, networking event, a cultural exhibition - organized by CROSSDEV - and hackathon and creative labs – organized by MED GAIMS.

In addition, several projects participated into 5 national and European thematic conferences showing their objectives and intermediate results (e.g., COMMON, CROSSDEV, Co-EVOLVE4BG), namely:

- ECOMEDPORT webinar “Feasibility study of an ecosystem-oriented plant for sediments management in Mediterranean ports and marinas” under the Bluemed Start-up Action and funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, 6 July 2020;
- PADI Women’s Dive Day 2020 in Jordan, organised by the project CROSSDEV under the patronage of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), Sea Breeze Dive Club – Shwikini Tourism

Investment Group with the support of the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) and Ayla Oasis, 20 July 2020;

- the Italian HUB for the BlueMed Pilot action, organized by the BLUEMED GSOs and CSA and hosted by CLUSTER BIG, October 2020;
- Ecomondo conference "Networking for tackling marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea", organized by Legambiente, Corepla, Union for the Mediterranean and ISPRA on the strategies implemented to free the Mediterranean from plastic waste, 6 November 2020
- online talk show entitled "Plastica in mare: dal capitano Moore ai costumi da bagno circolari" promoted by BeccoGiallo publisher and Mercato Circolare, 11 November 2020.

Finally, most of the 22 strategic projects organized the kick-off meetings during the 2nd semester of 2020 according to a standard agenda, including the participation of the related BO and JTS officers.

Upcoming project activities and events, planned for the 1st half of 2021 include, among others:

- the participation in the "Terra Madre" event (SlowFood network)- Jan-April 2021 (project MedSNAIL);
- the participation in the international event "World Water Day" - 22 March 2021, (project NAWAMED);
- the organisation of a Mediterranean Business event on Tourism Product Co-creation at Cross-border level - March 2021, (project MEDUSA);
- the organisation of Cross-border training seminars in Greece, Lebanon and Palestine addressed to SSE actors in the field of unemployment, refugees and migrants' support - 1 February 2021 (project MORETHANAJOB);
- the organisation of Kick-off meetings to launch the incubators set up by the project - January 2021 (project RESMYLE);
- the participation in the 18th International RAMIRAN Conference "Managing Organic Resources in a Changing Environment" Cambridge UK, presenting an abstract "Sustainability of market waste anaerobic digestion by the recycling of the digestate: CEOMED perspective", already submitted - date to be defined – (project CEOMED);
- the organisation of the Reuse Festival in Spain (Cordoba), Italy (Capannori), Tunisia (SakietEzzit), and Jordan (New Deir Allaa) - date to be defined (project REUSEMED);
- participation in the World Turtle Day – 23 May 2021, (project COMMON);
- the organization of the University Business Forum on the Energy Renovation Solutions in Spain and launching event of the experimental platform at the National Engineering School of Tunis - January 2021 (project (Med-EcoSure);
- the participation in the International day of Oceans - 8th June 2021, (project CO-EVOLVE4BG).

For major events organized in Mediterranean Partner Countries, an invitation is addressed to the local EU Delegation. Delegations are also informed through posts shared on social media, email exchanges and direct communications of the MA Communication manager.

[You are invited to use separate files to complete the following items (to be sent together with the report, as annexes)⁵]:

5.2 Updated Audit Strategy February 2021⁶

5.3 Detailed Work Programme of the MA⁷ (adopted by the JMC in June 2020 for activities to be carried out until 30th June 2021).

5.4 Financial plan and planned use of the technical assistance (adopted by the JMC in June 2020 for activities to be carried out until 30th June 2021).

5.5 Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

5.6 Annual Information and Communication Plan (adopted by the JMC in June 2020 for activities to be carried out until 31st December 2021).

⁵ As per article 77.4 of the IR.

⁶ Depending on the date of submission of the Audit Strategy (as per article 28.5 of the IR) the update may not be needed in the report for the year ending by June 2017, unless there has been a change or unforeseen event that needs to be reported.

⁷ In accordance with 24(a) and 24(b) of ENI CBC IR