

**MEDITERRANEAN
SEA BASIN PROGRAMME
2014-2020**

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

Decision No C(2015) 9133

Amended by Decision No. C(2021) 4327

Annual Report 2021

Approved by JMC on 28/02/2022

I. Technical part

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

1. IDENTIFICATION

Managing Authority	Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy)
Head of the MA	Name: Cinzia Lilliu Title: Director Tel. Number: 0039 070 606 2443 Email: eni.med@regione.sardegna.it
Contact Person	Name: Aldo Puleo Title: MA Programme officer Tel. number: 0039 070 606 7069 Email: apuleo@regione.sardegna.it
Reporting Period	From 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2021
Date of approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee	28/02/2022

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).]

The MA sent the first set of data to KEEP in November 2019, this update included all standard projects funded in the first call.

A second update of KEEP was completed in January 2021 and this included all strategic projects funded in the second call.

A new update will be sent in January 2022 so to include all capitalization projects funded in the third and last call of the Programme.

Please note that the MA had already foresee in the e-form of the call for proposals 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 2020, the Grant Contracts of the 22 strategic projects were signed, and the first pre-financings were transferred to the Lead Beneficiaries within the first semester of 2021.

On August 2020 the evaluation process of the 69 proposals submitted within the call for capitalization projects (whose deadline for submission was July 28th, 2020) started. The results of the administrative check were presented to the JMC during the web meeting held on 15 December 2020. The evaluation process was completed in February 2021, and on 22 March 2021 the JMC approved 11 projects (plus 5 out of the reserve list to be financed upon approval of the major change of the budget allocation among Thematic Objectives of the JOP).

The negotiation of the grant contracts with the applicants of the capitalisation projects started in April 2021 and it was almost entirely completed in June 2021. The 5 additional proposals were contracted by the end of the year.

As far as projects implementation is concerned, on 23 and 24 February 2021 the MA, in coordination with the NAs, and supported by the JTS, the BOs, the CCPs and TESIM, organized a training for Lead Beneficiaries of the financed strategic projects. The National Contact Points attended as well.

In relation to the support to project beneficiaries, during the first semester of 2021 the MA and the JTS organized eight (8) national training on project management for Lead Beneficiaries and partners of the on-going projects as well as 41 specific training sessions focusing on how to implement the reporting procedure through the MIS. All seminars were held remotely due to the travel restrictions and other COVID-19 related measures in force in the Programme area.

As far as the management tools are concerned, the Managing Authority continued to work on risk management, updating the assessment at the program and project level and integrating with the country level risk assessment, pandemic risk and fraud risk assessment for the Aqaba and Valencia offices. The Managing Authority also completed the development of the internal control monitoring methodology, integrated with the risk assessment.

Finally, during the reporting period, the MA continued the preparation of the INTERREG NEXT MED Programme by chairing the Task Force meetings (4 meetings were organized between July 2020 and June 2021), where the programme strategy has been finalized with the choice of the Policy and related Specific Objectives and the structure of the governance of the Programme has been proposed to the participating countries.

Concerning the major difficulties encountered during this reporting period, the most important challenge was still the pandemic situation that affected the modalities in which the Programme bodies usually operate. The PSC and the JMC had to meet via web to approve the results of the evaluation procedure within the call for capitalisation projects. Thanks to the experience gained in

the previous period, the deadlines set for the completion of the process were met regardless. Moreover, during the reporting period 17 written procedures have been launched and positively closed, including the approval by the JMC of two major amendments to the grant contracts of two standard projects.

As far as the communication aspects are concerned, the events at programme level (NCPs training, training of project lead beneficiaries, partners and auditors on reporting etc.) were held via web.

The period has been characterized, as well, by the continuing financial crisis in Lebanon (see in paragraph 3.1.1) which led to heavy effects on the access to funds and on the possibility to spend and implement the activities in this Country.

The JTS and the MA together with the NCPs and CCPs carried out several activities to mitigate this general difficult situation as reported below:

- cluster activities, initially set for transferring good practices and solutions, soon and effectively turned up as a boosting factor for the implementation of projects, allowing wider circulation of solutions;
- support by the JTS in moving online most activities, in particular management, communication, desk analyses and preparatory studies, training preparation and delivery. Activity plans were re-furbished for that purpose by all 41 standard projects and by most 22 strategic projects, provided that among the latter many had natively structured the methodology in a way allowing an online carry out;
- all projects included COVID-19 and its consequences into an updated risk plan, identifying specific risks and specific contingency measures;
- a high flexibility is being applied with projects which cannot implement activities and spend as initially planned. The MA gave a one-month extension to all standard projects in occasion of the first Interim Report. Furthermore, tailored solutions have been applied on a case-by-case basis;
- specific measures to mitigate the effect of the financial crisis in Lebanon have been set (opening a bank account abroad or using a foreign account, use of foreign currency (€/ \$) to minimize the effect of the depreciation, use of foreign currency (€/ \$) to minimize the effect of the depreciation, budget management support from another partner).

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].

At the end of 2020, the JMC approved the major change of the JOP on the basis of the actual amounts granted and contracted to the standard and strategic projects and the revision of the indicators included in Annex II to the JOP (Monitoring and Evaluation Plan). The request for a major change was submitted to the EC in December 2020 and through SFC in January 2021 and it was adopted through the EC decision n. C(2021) 4327. Within the same major change, the JMC decided to use the possibility offered by the modified Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/879, allowing to end the implementation of project activities until December 2023.

The major change allowed to finance the only strategic project remaining in the reserve list (TECH-LOG) and five additional capitalization projects (which were contracted in the second semester of 2021 and therefore not reported in the table below).

The updated allocation per Thematic Objective and the amounts in euro absorbed by the contracted standard and strategic projects (including one strategic project on the reserve list TECH-LOG) and the amount allocated to the projects which have been funded within the call for capitalization projects are reported in the table below:

T.O.	ALLOCATION AT JOP LEVEL	ALLOCATION AT JOP LEVEL (Approved by the JMC on December 2020 and adopted by EC in 2021)	Total Funds absorbed Standard Project	Total Funds absorbed Strategic Project	Total absorbed Capitalization Project	Total Funds absorbed
1	45.156.487,39	52.014.969,00	29.873.616,83	18.079.875,82	4.789.986,29	52.743.478,94
2	33.867.365,54	44.737.850,00	12.836.573,43	25.716.031,25	2.735.341,88	44.437.640,01
3	33.867.365,54	36.369.693,00	14.783.345,00	19.054.117,81	1.997.346,25	35.834.809,06
4	75.260.812,32	55.029.519,00	43.191.323,44	6.246.109,89	5.594.698,06	55.032.131,39
	188.152.030,79	188.152.031,00	100.684.858,70	72.245.828,22	15.117.372,48	188.048.059,40

As far as the Programme performance indicators are concerned, Annex II of the JOP “indicative monitoring and evaluation plan” has been updated in December 2020 and included in the major modifications approved by the EC through the above-mentioned decision. Therefore, the following table and those included in the next paragraph show the main achievements obtained so far according to new version of Annex II:

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

The total amount of 188.048.059,40 euro has been committed during the year 2021, after the

<i>Programme performance indicators</i>	Achieved (June 2021)	Target value
Number of calls for proposals successfully launched and closed	3	3
Number of projects approved	80	70
Total funds committed to approved projects	169.7 Meuro	188.1 Meuro
Number of transnational events (training standard Lead beneficiaries)	2	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

contracting of the last strategic project (23RD) and all capitalization projects (16 including five projects on the reserve list).

As far as the expected cross border results are concerned, the table below reports the data at 30th June 2021.

Expected cross border results	Achieved (June 2021)	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	8.399 (directly trained) 121.522 participants to project events/ 799.439 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 delay of the programme implementation (both the initial one already mentioned in the previous annual report as well as the one deriving from the pandemic situation). In particular, through the major change the Programme could maximise the allocation of the EU funds. At the same time, the possibility to extend the project duration until the end of December 2023 will ensure projects affected by delays linked to the pandemic situation, to have additional time to finalize their activities and the achievement of results.

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: 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.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	0	NA
			200 new job contracts	380 new job contracts			
	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.	Euro	0		NA	0	NA
			6,250 K Euro	4,372 K Euro			
ER 1.1.2: Increased share of youths/women staff in managerial positions in	RI 1.1.2.C Enterprises with youth/women staff in managerial positions, that	Enterprises	0		NA	0	NA
			40% (at least 20 enterprises)	80% (at least 52 enterprises)			

companies recently established (since 2011) that access and develop innovative markets domestically and/or in other MED countries.	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	160 new products and services	NA	0	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	167 Public Authority Staff	NA	0	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	120 IPR registered products	NA	0	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	11 IPR reviews	NA	0	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	0	0
		100 trainings organized and successfully completed by at least 80% (1200) of the expected participants (1500)	446 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	46 MEDSt@rts	46
		200 entrepreneurial ideas	672 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	0	0
		€ 500,000 total value of external risk capital raised in addition to capital invested by the ENI CBC-MED Programme	€ 820,000 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	0	0
		80 entrepreneurs that successfully launched new ventures in the creative sectors	106 entrepreneurs			
RI 1.1.2.C Enterprises with youth/women staff in managerial positions, that have signed commercial contracts (domestic and for export) for	OI 1.1.2.4.e Number of youths and women participating in training activities and business meetings	Persons		NA	0	0
		900 young persons (16-30 years) and women (all ages) trainees who successfully completed the capacity building programme	905 young persons (16-30 years) and women (all ages) trainees	NA	0	0

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	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	0	0
		10 Business development organizations	23 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	0	0
		30 website or platforms that successfully support business with their clients	7 website or platforms	NA	0	0
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	1,130 Guide books	NA	0	0
		720 staff that have acquired bilingual guidebooks	1,380 staff that have acquired bilingual guidebooks	NA	201 IPMED	201
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	0	0
		3,000 training days successfully completed by staff of public authorities and brokers	1,900 training days successfully completed			
RI 1.1.3.G IPR Laws and regulations reviewed and developed to reflect international best practices	----	---		NA	0	0

* 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	200 successful business agreements	NA	0	NA
			90 successful business agreements				
	RI 1.2.1.B Number of new products and services sold on domestic and foreign markets	New products and services sold	0	162 new products/services sold	NA	0	NA
			180 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	31 PPPs	NA	0	NA
			30 PPPs				
	RI 1.2.2.D Additional public and private resources invested by created PPPs as co-	Euro	TBD	126,000 Euro	NA	0	NA
			600,000 Euro				

	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		454 MSMEs	NA	229 MedArtSal	229
	120 MSMEs						
	1.2.1.2.b Number of enterprises participating in cross-border business events (ENI CBC 3)	Enterprises		494 MSMEs	NA	62 SME4SMARTCITIES	62
	120 MSMEs						
RI 1.2.1.B Number of new products and services sold on domestic and foreign markets	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		572 MSMEs	NA	0	0
		120 MSMEs					
RI 1.2.2.C Number of created public-private partnerships promoting demand-driven innovation in	1.2.2.4.d Number of public tenders awarded as results of joint collaborations and additional resources allocated	Public Tenders		70 Successful tenders by PPPs	NA	0	0
	18 Successful tenders by PPPs						
	1.2.2.5.e Number of public	Trained Persons		3400	NA	0	0
	300 persons						

the public and private sector and implementing new medium-long term investments	and private stakeholders involved in training events and joint pilots that have made written commitments to engage in PPP undertakings		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	61 ORGANIC ECOSYSTEM	61
		750 persons	322 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	0	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 off season periods	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	0	NA
			25	81			
	RI 1.3.2.C Number of persons actively	Trained persons	TBD		NA	50 MED GAIMS	NA
			125 persons that have	755 persons that have			

	and directly involved in project implementation having gained improved tourism management skills / profiles		improved their tourism management skills/profiles	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	60 CROSSDEV	60
		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	5 CROSSDEV	5
40		20				
	OI 1.3.1.2.c Number of visibility/marketing initiatives to attract tourists in the targeted area	Visibility/marketing Initiatives		NA	18 CROSSDEV	18
		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	20 MED GAIMS	20
		100	246			
	OI 1.3.2.4.e Number of action plans adopted by local authorities based on participatory activities	Action plans		NA	5 CROSSDEV	5
50		36				
	OI 1.3.2.5.f Number of cross-border agreements signed by competent bodies to promote low season networks of destinations and / or number of low-season initiatives offered in	Cross-border agreements		NA	2 CROSSDEV, Med Pearls	2
		15	7			

	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	0	0
		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	1241 CROSSDEV, MED GAIMS	1241
		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	49	NA	0	NA
			18				
	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	88	NA	0	NA
			30				
ER 2.1.2 Increased commercialization opportunities of research products in the fields of clean/environmental technologies, new	RI 2.1.2.C Forecasted value of sales of newly identified innovative products/services	Euro	TBD	22,680,600	NA	0	NA
			6,000,000				
	RI 2.1.2.D	co-patents	TBD		NA	0	NA

cultural heritage technologies and Key Enabling Technologies (KETS)	Number of co-patents registered		30	64			

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		NA	0	0
		90	854			
	OI 2.1.1.1.b Number of Enterprises cooperating with research institutions (ENI CBC 5)	Enterprises		NA	0	0
		48	546			
	OI 2.1.1.2.c Number and type (bilateral, consortium, etc.) of industry-academia research agreements before, during and after intervention	Agreement/Contract		NA	0	0
		24	175			
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		NA	0	0
		162	1,007			
	OI 2.1.1.4.e Number of researchers and specialized staff in public authorities involved/contracted in joint activities with industries and SMEs	Persons		NA	0	0
		120	690			
OI 2.1.1.5.f Number and field of co-publications	Co-publications		NA	0	0	
	36	97				
RI 2.1.2.C Forecasted value of sales of newly identified	OI 2.1.2.6.g Number of new products/services developed	Products/services		NA	0	0
		60	293			

innovative products/services	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		NA	0	0
		12	30			
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)		NA	0	0
		180	458			
	OI 2.1.2.8.j Number of Technology transfer support and new intellectual property brokering services delivered	Number of services		NA	0	0
		120	349			

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		NA	0	NA
			90	60			
	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	Euro	TBD		NA	0	NA
1,500,000	1,220,000						
	RI 2.2.1.C New (foreign) investments (in euro) in targeted SMEs	Euro	TBD		NA	0	NA
			1.500,000	820,000			

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	0	0
		60	78			
	OI 2.2.1.1.b Number of SMEs using programme support for cooperating with research institutions (ENI CBC 5)	SMEs		NA	1 GREENinMED	1
		48	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	0	0
		60	50			
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	1 GREENinMED	1
		60	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 people 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	7 RESMYLE	NA
			1,350	2,240			

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	0	0
		20	83			
	OI 3.1.1.2.b Number of new curricula proposing skills required by the labour market (new professions)	Curricula materials		NA	0	0
		45	119			
	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	0	0
		450	5,149			
	OI 3.1.1.2.d Number of youth, NEETS and women trained	Persons		NA	0	0
		14,400	13,873			
	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	0	0
		150	250			
	OI 3.1.1.4.f Number of associations (civic, arts, sports, performing arts) launched by young people, NEETS and women	Associations		NA	0	0
		30	82			
OI 3.1.1.5.g Number of agreements between TVET institutions and the business sector	Agreements		NA	0	0	
	20	53				
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		NA	0	0	
	20	116				

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	81,076 people	NA	3.5 MoreThanAJob	NA
			135,000 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	28	NA	1 MoreThanAJob	NA
			45				

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* <i>(common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)</i>	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				
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	1,290	NA	180 TEC-MED	180
		450				
	OI 3.2.1.2.b Number of cross-border events on social services supported by CBC MED projects	Events	24	NA	0	0
		15				
	3.2.1.3.c Number of new social enterprises established and strengthened	New social enterprises	27	NA	0	0
		12				
RI 3.2.2.B Number of agreements between public	3.2.2.4.d Number of public institutions involved in social inclusion actions as part of the CBC MED projects	Public institutions	80	NA	20 MedTOWN, MoreThanAJob	20
		30				

administrations and relevant stakeholders for coordinated planning and implementation of social services	3.2.2.5.e Number of Action plans to coordinate social services provision	Action Plans		NA	3 MoreThanAJob	3
		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	0	0
		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, specialized agencies and other relevant stakeholders	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	Hectares	TBD	1,588	NA	0	NA
			400				
	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	Measures	0	33	NA	2 MEDISS	NA
			20				

	efficiency and quality and use of non-conventional water resources (NCWR) in agricultural practices						
	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 8	8	NA	0	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 domestic purposes	RI 4.1.2.D Number of technologies applied for the use of non-conventional water resources for domestic purposes	Technologies	TBD 2	4	NA	0	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 domestic purposes	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 water use efficiency and quality and use of non-conventional water resources for	Measures	0 20	43	NA	0	NA

	domestic purposes						
	RI 4.1.2.F Volume (m ³) of non-conventional water supply used for domestic purposes	Volume (m ³)	TBD 1,800,000 m ³ /year	909,000 m ³ /year	NA	0	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 4	5	NA	1 AQUACYCLE	1
	OI 4.1.1.2.b Number of public / private actor alliances engaged in non-conventional and efficient water management plans	Alliances 4	13	NA	0	0
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	OI 4.1.1.2.c Number of local authorities applying integrated approaches for water cycle management in agriculture	Local Authorities 12	21	NA	1 AQUACYCLE	1

practices						
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 320	846	NA	16 PROSIM	16
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 8	65	NA	15 MENAWARA	15
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 water use efficiency and quality and use of non-conventional water resources for domestic purposes	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 20	82	NA	19 AQUACYCLE	19
RI 4.1.2.F Volume (m ³) of non-conventional water supply	OI 4.1.2.6.g Number of staff of different stakeholders trained that are involved in CBC-MED projects	Persons 320	700	NA	0	0

used for domestic purposes	OI 4.1.2.7.h Number of local authorities applying integrated approaches for water cycle management in domestic water supply	Local authorities		NA	1 AQUACYCLE	1
		12	7			
	OI 4.1.2.8.i Number of new or enhanced ICT solutions for water supply and demand management in urban areas	ICT solutions		NA	1 AQUACYCLE	1
		6	4			

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	0	NA
			12	16			
	RI 4.2.1.B Number of enterprises involved in waste reuse and recycling	Enterprises	TBD		NA	0	NA
			12	31			
	RI 4.2.1.C Number of new waste management technologies adopted	Technologies	TBD		NA	0	NA
			12	9			

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be	OI units*	Projects target	OI [cumulative figure from	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*				

	included in grey shaded cells)			previous reports]			
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 360	845	NA	0	0	
	OI 4.2.1.2.b Number of integrated municipal solid waste management plans	Plans 24	71	NA	0	0	
	OI 4.2.1.2.c Additional waste recycling capacity (ENI CBC 18)	Tons/year 6,000	8,459	NA	0	0	
	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 6,000	8,943	NA	0	0
		OI 4.2.1.2.e Amount of energy produced (kWh) based on waste conversion	kWh/year 150,000	75,000	NA	0	0
	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 24	182	NA	6 CLIMA	6
OI 4.2.1.4.g Number of supported awareness raising initiatives (events, meetings, campaigns, spots broadcasted on TV/radio/internet etc.) promoting efficient waste collection		Awareness raising initiatives 60	129	NA	35 CEOMED, CLIMA	35	

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		NA	0	NA
			17	35			
	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		NA	0	NA
			17	42			
ER 4.3.2: Reduced and cleaner energy consumption in public buildings through the use of renewable energy measures and energy saving interventions	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)	Tons of CO ² equivalent/year	TBD		NA	0	NA
			504	1270			
	RI 4.3.2.D Total kWh generated using renewable energy applied to public buildings	kilowatt-hour (kWh)	TBD		NA	0	NA
			1,200,000	1,000,386			

	RI 4.3.2.E Total kWh saved (expressed in budget reductions) using renewable energy applied to public buildings	kilowatt-hour (kWh)	TBD 1,200,000	1,100,386	NA	0	NA
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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 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 12	26	NA	0	0
	OI 4.3.1.2.b Number of energy mix efficiency plans/strategies approved	Plans/strategies 18	33	NA	1 BEEP	1
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	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 24	37	NA	0	0
	OI 4.3.1.4.d Number of tools for planning and implementing the renovation of public buildings	Tools 8	18	NA	1 Med-EcoSuRe	1
RI 4.3.2.C Estimated annual decrease of greenhouse gases as a result of renewable energy and energy efficiency	OI 4.3.2.5.e Number of cost-effective technologies for energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions implemented on a pilot basis	Technologies 8	14	NA	0	0
	OI 4.3.2.5.f Additional	MW		NA	0	0

measures implemented in public buildings (adapted ENI CBC nr.23)	capacity of renewable energy production (ENI CBC 22)	6,000	1,800			
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	14 Med-EcoSuRe, BEEP	14
		24	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			2 Med-EcoSuRe	2
		36	59			

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 effective participatory approach with relevant stakeholders and local communities	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	Strategies/Tools	TBD		NA	4 COMMON	NA
			28	25			
	RI 4.4.1.B Number of coastal cities, relevant public authorities	Institutions	0		NA	NA	NA
			36	53			

	and other key stakeholders adopting new ICZM plans / guidelines for the sustainable management and use of coastal areas						
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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 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	0	0
		36	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	0	0
		12	22			
OI 4.4.1.1.c Number of organizations and their staff participating in workshops/trainings	Training-staff Days (Event duration)		NA	38 COMMON, MED4EBM	38	
	600	320				
OI 4.4.1.2.d. Number of measures adopted to prevent the negative impacts of coastal hazards	Risk prevention models		NA	0	0	
	12					
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	OI 4.4.1.2.e. Number of systemic tools available to strengthen planning, monitoring and management of coastal areas	Systemic Tools		NA	1 COMMON	1
		4	6			
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	0	0	
	6,000	3,500				
OI 4.4.1.4.g Number of communication awareness raising events	Awareness raising events		NA	14 COMMON	14	
	120	50				
OI 4.4.1.5.h. Number	Studies		NA	2	2	

	of studies, based on data collection activities, studying interlinkages between human activities and the environment	24	25		COMMON	
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* 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.]

The period covered by the present report (01/07/2020 - 30/06/2021) has been marked by two main issues having a substantial impact on projects performance.

- The first issue is the continued effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of restriction of mobility and difficult implementation of the activities in the field, affecting expenditure levels as well.
- The second issue is related to the ongoing financial crisis in Lebanon, hindering a smooth implementation of projects where beneficiaries from this Country are in the partnerships.

Continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the survey on projects difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, carried out in early 2020, the MA and BOs assisted by the JTS have supported the application of mitigation measures already defined in the previous period, such as: reformulation of work calendars; downsizing the implementation of the activities on the field and carrying them out online when and where possible (mostly management, communication, but also training and networking). Notwithstanding the difficult situation, none of the projects was suspended or terminated, nor modified objectives and results due to the COVID-19 effects. In some cases, specific deliverables in order to adapt to the pandemic were included, as reported for the previous period.

Nevertheless, the continuous uncertainty due to the health emergency brought as main effects: a) the delay in the implementation of the activities in the field and in the achievement of the expected results; b) a low level of expenditure, evidenced from the analysis of the 1st interim reports submitted by the standard projects.

In order to overcome these difficulties, projects have been invited to update their activity and financial plan and, where necessary, to ask for extensions of the reporting period, in order to increase the level of expenditures.

Moreover, during the period covered by this report, 2 projects (CLIMA, DECOST) requested and obtained an extension of the project duration through a major amendment, while other 7 major amendment requests were received and processed in the following 6 months. This tendency is

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

expected to increase in the next period, when standard projects (the most impacted by the pandemic outbreak) will enter their 3rd year.

Lebanese crisis. As already highlighted in the previous Annual Report, Lebanon is suffering from a long lasting financial crisis, reaching peaks of inflation of 750% and the development of a parallel market for currency change, requiring interventions by the Lebanese Government and the Central Bank, and bringing heavy effects on the financial flow from the Programme to the Lebanese beneficiaries and a heavy slowdown in the implementation of local activities, with very few exceptions. This crisis has continued in the period covered by the present report.

Lebanon participates in the Programme implementation with 34 beneficiaries in 26 standard projects out of the total 41 projects, with 22 beneficiaries in 16 strategic projects out of the total 23 projects and with 11 beneficiaries in 11 capitalization projects out of the total 16 projects.

The allocation of ENI funds to Lebanon for standard projects is € 12.539.206,48 out of a total ENI contribution of € 99.477.536,79 (12,60%). The ENI funds allocation to Lebanon for strategic projects is € 8.933.423,37 out of a total ENI contribution of € 71.534.984,29 (12,49%). The ENI funds allocation to Lebanon for capitalisation projects is € 1.437.856,15 out of a total ENI contribution of € 15.072.443,06 (9,54%).

As already reported, the effects of the financial crisis, reducing the financial flow, heavily impact the beneficiaries and the whole cross-border cooperation system. The MA, BOs and JTS have provided a constant monitoring of the project situations and feasibility of funds transfer from the Lead Beneficiaries to the project partners. Measures mentioned in the previous Annual Report have been confirmed and their use consolidated (opening of bank account abroad; use of foreign currencies; transfer of small amounts of pre-financing instead of the whole; managing of bank account by another Partner or by the Lead Beneficiary).

So far, the application of the above solutions on standard projects is as follows:

- Organizations having opened a bank account abroad (except for public bodies) or received the ENI funds in their existing bank accounts abroad: 5
- Organizations capable of using foreign currency (€/\$/) to minimize the effect of the depreciation and/or hold a bank account in foreign currency in Lebanon: 16
- Use of a dedicated bank account opened by and co-managed with another partner (or LB): 7
- Transfer of small amounts of funds more frequently to PPs: 1
- Organisations that have not received the pre-financing yet: 3 (few of them are involved in more than one project).

Major difficulties are experienced by the Lebanese public bodies which could not open a bank account in other currencies or abroad, being limited to the use of the national currency. Some of them, such as the Ministry of Agriculture in the standard project PROSIM, could not effectively participate in the implementation and will probably withdraw from the project.

Lebanese beneficiaries are being constantly monitored and assisted with the frequent involvement of the Lebanese National Authority. The Programme structures are applying the maximum of

flexibility in the application of the Implementing Regulation for allowing the achievement of all expected results in Lebanon and in the whole Mediterranean region.

3.3.2 Success stories

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

With respect to the previous Annual Report, the following success stories have been identified on the more solid basis given by a longer daily assistance and assessment of the project reports and related deliverables. In fact, during the period covered by the present report all standard projects have submitted the first interim report, many of them the second progress report and most strategic projects submitted the first progress report. The JTS was thus able to acquire a sound set of information, and in most cases confirm last year's promising situation into this year's success story.

TO1 - SMEs and business development: MedArtSal - Sustainable Management model for Mediterranean Artisanal Salinas (A_A.1.2_0234).

Geographical coverage: Tunisia, Lebanon, Spain, Italy

During the summer of 2020 the project carried out a Mediterranean-wide survey of the artisanal saltpans, in order to design a sustainable management model that encourages and provides solutions for salinas towards socioeconomic diversification, new income associated with the production of high-quality salt and other products for marketing, at the same time respecting the natural environment of the beautiful salt enclaves. In line with the outcomes of this research, the project launched the Call for **Sub-grants** at the beginning of 2021 aimed at supporting artisanal salinas in developing a sustainable business model. Due to the continued travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, the project reached out to potential subgrantees via a multi-country and multi-language Webinar in February 2021, and then again in April, upon request of support expressed by a number of salinas. A total of **14 sub-grantees** was eventually selected at the beginning of June 2021, coming from all the participating countries. The awarded sub-grants are intended for offering concrete support in **restructuring** artisanal salinas, **diversifying** their business (e.g.: by making them more attractive to tourists), by supporting them in the development of more **innovative** products through R&D (e.g.: the use of microalgae) and for a more environmental-friendly management of the salinas. Another interesting result is the creation of a shared **Strategic Marketing Plan**, which will eventually lead the project to launch a **shared Brand** to promote the artisanal salinas of the Mediterranean Basin.

TO2 Technology transfer and Innovation: BESTMEDGRAPE "New Business opportunities & Environmental sustainability using MED GRAPE nanotechnological products" (A_A.2.1_0035).

Geographical coverage: Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Italy, France.

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.

BESTMEDGRAPE aims at facilitating the technological transfer and expanding business opportunities in the Mediterranean region by exchanging knowledge/best practices on grape waste exploitation among researchers, private companies and local institutions.

BESTMEDGRAPE is having a success cross-border first achievement of results and setting ground for further impact on several levels: 1) **Scientific knowledge transfer** at the cross-border level through cooperative research that resulted in **four co-publications, 20 Living Labs co-implemented** at the partnership level (4 in each Country involved), and **all didactic material for living labs co-produced** by scientific partners on both sides of the Mediterranean; 2) **Creation and development of innovative start-ups and SMEs** at the cross-border level to ensure the same quality of products and services; Cross-border team building meetings/events involving entrepreneurs from all Partnership's Countries were held both online and in person in Jordan; 42 new business ideas based on Grape & Wine waste were presented during Jordan's Pitching event, which drew 134 aspiring entrepreneurs from Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Italy, and France.

A single **cross-border technology platform** in multiple languages has already been established and is operational, with all Living Labs courses and materials, as well as business creation courses and modules, uploaded and accessible to all target groups and beneficiaries from all Partnership's Countries. All partners contribute to the achievement of the project's objectives.

The continuation of project activities and the **sustainability of project outcomes** following the project closure are contingent on the partnership's ownership of certain factors. The technology platform and Living Labs are set to provide appropriate support to research entities, small and medium-sized enterprises, and local institutions, thereby establishing themselves as a critical tool for driving economic change in grape valorization and exploitation. Future entrepreneurs require living laboratories to conduct product research. Without primary funding, the BESTMEDGRAPE partnership is capable of delivering positive outcomes.

Furthermore, the proven strong financial and institutional capacities of all partners ensure the institutional and financial sustainability. A **new joint master's degree** is going to be created, and the project's cross-border network will support networking activities.

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**.

After **profiling the NEETS** and women in all the Countries involved, HELIOS could tune the methodology for defining new skills and curricula and started preparing specific **training** (80 hours) setting **five modules**: Blue Economy, Circular Economy, Entrepreneurship, Soft Skills, Coaching. Courses are planned in all the Countries and expected to be held starting from October in Italy, November in Palestine, Spain and Greece, December in Jordan and in Tunisia. The consortium has

prepared and tested the **e-Learning platform** to be opened previous to the training delivery, so as to allow all beneficiaries accessing the training events and materials.

Moreover, the project has carried out a sound **networking** in all Countries for reaching a wide number of beneficiaries and preparing multiplier effects with other projects, institutions and civil society organisations. As an example, in Spain a total of 27 Municipalities were networked and involved in the future training preparation. Specific **synergies** were set with projects InnovAgroWoMed, MYSEA, RESMYLE, U-SOLVE in the frame of ENI CBC MED, plus JobMatch2020 funded in the frame of Interreg VA Italy-Malta 2014-2020.

TO4 – Environment and climate change: MEDISS - Mediterranean Integrated System for Water Supply (A.B_4.1_0249)

Geographical coverage: Palestine, Jordan, Italy, Tunisia

During the reporting period most activities and efforts were dedicated to collect relevant and consistent **baseline data related to soil** (soil composition and characteristics also during different seasons of the year) and water (to test water quality and characteristics, the most suitable blending ratio to be used in irrigation). The baseline surveys provided technical directions for the **Pilot initiatives set-up** and represent reference values to monitor and evaluate their impact. Innovative solutions for non-conventional water supply have been implemented in the **4 areas** of the project (Wadi Qilt in Palestine, Al Rishah in Jordan, Arborea in Italy, Wadi Echerka Bechima in Tunisia), with the oversight of an *ad hoc* Board of experts. In early 2021, a prototype plant was delivered and installed in Sardinia (Italy) at Cooperative 'Produttori Arborea' facility, operating the treatment of zootechnical waste. In Italy, MEDISS develops a prototype for ammonia stripping with biogas cogeneration. The plant consists of a container furnished with all the necessary equipment (filtration units, membranes, tanks, pumps, valves, hydraulic and electrical connection, and all the essentials for the system's proper functioning). As for the Tunisian pilot (Gabès), MEDISS upgrades the existing pilot plant for tertiary treatment through infiltration percolation and tests an innovative filter bed of clay. The Tunisian partner did several analyses to investigate the impact of treated wastewater on soil physico-chemical and microbiological quality in arid zones. MEDISS Palestinian partners collected surface water in Wadi Quilt, storing it in a ground pool, blending it with underground saline water and treated wastewater. In the Jericho City Wastewater Treatment Plant a laboratory equipped with a multi-parameter system has been installed to carry out surveillance on the water quality through the latest technologies and high-level features. In the Governorate of Aqaba (Jordan), MEDISS tests an innovative approach to the desalination plant of brackish groundwater, extending the membrane's lifetime with innovative treatment, using photovoltaic panels for energy supply. Jordanian partner inspected the ongoing work for the water desalination plant, civil structure is completed, electromechanical equipment is supplied, and installation is about to start.

TO4 - Med-EcoSuRe - Mediterranean University as Catalyst for Eco-Sustainable Renovation (A_B.4.3_0218)

Geographical coverage: Tunisia, Italy, Palestine, Spain

Med-EcoSuRe project offers an innovative approach to the definition and diffusion of cost-effective energy renovation within university buildings, with the perspective of extending results to the whole public buildings sector in the long term. During the reporting period the project could develop 'A beta version of the Passive Solutions Design **toolkit**', which is going to be demonstrated through info events and workshops. A methodology to evaluate energy behavior of buildings has been defined, joint with an interactive decision-aid tool to help energy managers in implementing refurbishment solutions. The latter has been validated with students and professors to put it at the disposal of beneficiaries. The project developed **online simplified calculators** for the evaluation of buildings' energy consumption in residential and educational sectors. These online calculators, alongside with a part of the toolkits have been integrated in the **ICT platform** and are going to be accessible by all stakeholders. For the set of energy tools and calculations, the project organized online training, with participation of researchers and professors from all partners to provide students with the needed skills. The students proposed and developed passive solutions for the pilot sites of the project. As for **pilot actions**, partners started working on the concretization of the energy audit recommendations, and the implementation of pilot actions, mainly including the implementation of a Micro-Grid platform (SMARTNESS) allowing energy generation and trading in Tunisia, and the installation of PV power plants with a total capacity of 160 kW in Palestine. As for knowledge sharing and awareness, MED-EcoSure has been very active project in organizing online workshops, in particular on "Exploiting the Toolkit of Passive Solutions Design for Higher Education Buildings Retrofitting" on 14 April 2021, when the application of the toolkit at the University of Florence/Santa Verdiana pilot site was presented. An awareness raising event was held in June 2021, targeting Universities' energy managers and decision makers, focusing the importance of investment on energy efficiency in buildings, with real show cases of innovative solutions already validated and running.

TO4 - COMMON - COastal Management and MONitoring Network for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean Sea (A_B.4.4_0080)

Geographical coverage: Italy, Lebanon, Tunisia

COMMON project applies the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) principles to the challenge of marine litter, improving knowledge of the phenomenon, enhancing the environmental performance of 5 pilot coastal areas in Italy, Tunisia and Lebanon, and engaging local stakeholders in marine litter management. Awareness-raising activities were particularly relevant during the reporting period. COMMON launched the **CleanUpTheMed** and the **BEachCLEAN campaigns** in all pilot areas, with PRs and several social media posts, receiving good visibility among the main national media. A 3-minute **video on best practices** for Marine and beach litter prevention, starting from daily habits, was produced. A second 2:30 minutes **institutional video** on marine litter impacts was finalized, speaking from the "waste" side. To widen the project experience and to actively involve local marine and coastal stakeholders, project partners have organized more than 10 **thematic working groups** locally and events for specific local targets (fishermen, high school students, tourist operators, municipalities) and topics (waste management, circular economy, and integrated waste management). The **IT platform** (ENG and FR) for sharing methodologies and data on marine litter is a key tool to coordinate the data collection activities from the whole Mediterranean basin to facilitate citizen science activities. The platform has been strongly developed: News, events, and project documents are regularly updated. Users can upload data,

download valuable documents and pictures, spread news about Marine Litter in the Mediterranean basin and upcoming COMMON project initiatives. It includes a **monitoring map** to show the monitoring activities' results graphically. The registration form of the CleanUpTheMed campaign is available. It is also available to return beach litter monitoring data to LB. The questionnaires for data collection are in IT, FR, AR, and ENG to increase the civil society involvement. On the pages are available the surveys for bathing establishments, the tourist' questionnaires, the decalogue, the BEach CLEAN interactive game.

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.]

Beside the major budget shift above the 20% threshold, some non-substantial changes have been approved by the JMC in the JOP and notified together with the request of major change in January 2021. In particular, the name of the institution acting as member of the group of auditors for Tunisia has changed (the new one is the "Contrôle Général des Finances CGF"), as well as the name of the Directorate of the Spanish Ministry of Finance acting as National Authority and Control Contact Point (the new name is Dirección General de Fondos Europeos, Ministerio de Hacienda) and, finally, the

name of the institution acting as Control Contact Point in Cyprus (the new institution is the Verifications and Certification Directorate, Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus).

Moreover, in line with the decision to use the opportunity offered by the modified Implementing Regulation allowing to extent the implementation period of the project activities until December 2023, paragraph 4.2 of the JOP “*TIMEFRAME FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION*” has also been updated.

Finally, the minor changes concerning the programme budget shifts below 20% (concerning thematic objectives 1 and 3 which have been increased respectively of the 15% and 7% compared to the original JOP allocation) have also been included in the said major change. The Table B-2 TABLE B-2”*Provisional amounts of EU contribution and co-financing for the whole programming period for each thematic objective and technical assistance*” has been updated accordingly.

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.

As far as the Managing Authority is concerned, between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, the risk assessment activities set forth in the Risk Management Plan approved in November 2019 continued to be carried out. The MA also defined and approved the Manual of Monitoring of Internal Control, which defined the control objectives and procedures, as well as the methodology for sampling the projects to be audited. Since the levels of control over the activities carried out by the Managing Authority are of different nature, the MA decided to monitor only those activities that, in the risk assessment conducted by the Risk Management Group, were assessed as riskier.

With regard to risk assessment, during the year, in addition to the assessment of the projects approved in the Strategic Call (approved by Decision no. 1366-175 of July 15, 2020), the following activities were carried out:

- the periodic project risk assessment, in which the implementation of the standard and strategic projects was evaluated, as well as the sampling methodology of the projects to be subjected to "on the spot" controls was defined;
- the program risk assessment (approved with Decision no. 1467 Rep. 172 of June 29, 2021), in which both the risks of fraud and other risks, including risks related to the pandemic, were assessed.

Risk assessment templates to be sent to NA and BO for their risk assessment were also approved by 06/30/2021. The assessment by NA and BO was conducted in the second half of 2021.

The Management and Information System has continued to be developed and the credentials to access the MIS has been provided to all NAs and NCPs. Moreover, in the second semester of 2020 the MA set and developed, in cooperation with the JTS, a six months implementation state of play report on the on-going projects. During the 2021 the reports on the first two semesters (starting from June 2020) were shared with the JMC in order to ensure an overall monitoring of the implementation of the projects (see more details in Annex I Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan).

Beside the above-mentioned measures taken to overcome the difficulties deriving from the pandemic situation, the MA provided additional information on the Programme rules and procedures to the project beneficiaries through an update and new releases of the Project Implementation Manual.

As far as the programme management circuits are concerned, the MA ensured the proper follow up of the system audit carried out by the Audit Authority through the adoption of an updated version of the Document of Description of Management and Control System (DMCS), which has been published on the Programme website.

In order to reinforce the skills of the staff of the MA, specific training sessions have been organized in cooperation with TESIM on different Programme management subjects (eligibility of expenditures, risk assessment, fraud detection, specific critical issues and potential solutions etc.).

As far as the JMC is concerned, due to the pandemic situation two meetings were carried out: one on the 15th December 2020 to present the overall programme implementation and one on the 22nd of March to award the capitalization projects. The JMC decisions which were usually taken through physical meetings concerning the allocation to the call for capitalization and its application pack, the approval of the Strategic projects had to be taken via written procedure. Nevertheless, the JMC proved to be very reactive despite the loss of the debate that used to be an important part of such meetings.

Moreover, several written procedures concerning modifications to the on-going grant contracts, the updated working, financial and communication plan as well as those concerning the approval of the Annual Implementation Report July 2019-June 2020 in its narrative and financial parts have been successfully launched and closed.

As far as the National Contact Points are concerned, they were actively involved in the national seminar for the project partners and auditors of the standard projects, held in video conference mode between November 2020 and March 2021. The NCPs were also invited to attend a web-training for the beneficiaries of the strategic project beneficiaries held in February 2021. Finally, the NCPs were also involved in supporting the applicants during the negotiation of the grant contracts for capitalization projects and during the implementation of the standard and strategic projects.

As far as the Control Contact Points are concerned, they continued to perform their duties concerning the validation of the external auditors selected by the project beneficiaries. Moreover, they have also been consulted by the Managing Authority to clarify the compliance with some specific national legislation requirements during the analysis of the projects interim reports.

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 carried out it is worth to remind the impact of three major events as occurred before or rather after the reporting period, namely:

- the persistence of operational limits as imposed in Italy by COVID-19 pandemic since March 9, 2020 onwards,
- 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 till that date, as well as to revise the approach and tools of core audit activities as assigned.
- a new positioning for the ENI CBC MED AA (see point 4 below), in the framework of the organizational regional setting.

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

1. SYSTEM AUDIT FOLLOW UP

The AA started a system audit on 14 October 2020 in order to ascertain the effective functioning of the ENI CBC MED 2014-2020 Management, Control, Certification and Monitoring System, with reference to the 2019-2020 accounting period.

The AA drawn up the Final Audit Report n. 01/2021 and the annexed Action Plan on 16.02.2021

According to the audit carried out and the interviews with the controlled Authority, the system was rated under “Category 2. Works, but some improvement(s) are needed”.

2. AUDIT ON ANNUAL ACCOUNTS, ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT OPINION AND AUDIT STRATEGY UPDATE

In compliance with its Audit Planning Memorandum (APM) referring to the concerned accounting period as main planning document, the AA worked for the preparation of the Final Audit Report on the accounts, the Annual Audit Report and the Audit Opinion on the annual accounts of the OP, adopted on 22.02.2021 and sent to the MA for transmission to the European Commission via the SFC 2014 system.

Following the audit on the annual accounts carried out, the AA stated that, despite the need to implement some improvement actions:

- the accounts given a true and fair view, as established by Article 68(4) of Regulation (EU) No 897/2014,
- the expenditure in the accounts, for which the clearing has been requested in the amount of 40,983,862.16 Euro from the Commission was legal and regular.

Moreover, in compliance with Article 77.4 of the Reg. (EU) 897/2014, point (a) of paragraph 4, on 26.02.2021 the AA drafted the Programme Audit Strategy update (2.2 version) and sent it to the MA for transmission to the EC.

3. ADDITIONAL AUDIT ACTIVITIES REQUIRED BY DG REGIO

On 30.03.2021, based on the preliminary examination of the "Reliability Package" for the accounting year 01.07.2019 - 30.06.2020, DG REGIO requested some clarifications to the AA which consequently re-elaborated the following documents:

- the Final Audit Report on accounts n. 02/2021,
- the Audit Opinion n. 02/2021

These documents have been approved by the AA on 09.04.2021 and sent to the MA for transmission to the European Commission via the SFC 2014 system.

4. AA ORGANISATION AND STAFF

In March 2021, with the Decision n. 11/50 of 24.03.2021, the Sardinian Regional Council decided to allocate the ENI CBC MED Audit Authority, within the "project unit" named "Ufficio dell'Autorità di Audit dei Programmi Operativi FESR e FSE" (i.e. the already existing Regional AA in charge of the ERDF and ESF Programmes"), already structured with robust HR and ICT resources for carrying out its activities, along with a multiannual audit experience..

Therefore, with its Decree n. 37 Prot. n. 11870 of 28.06.2021, the President of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia assigned the functions of the ENI CBC MED AA upon Ms. Antonella Garippa, already in charge as Director of the above-mentioned project unit.

Accordingly, AA staff devoted to the ENI CBC MED OP is currently composed of the Head of Unit, 3 full time officers and 4 part-time officers.

5. INTERACTION AND DIALOGUE WITH DG REGIO

From 01.01.2020, the responsibility for the control of the ENI Programmed shifted from EC DG NEAR to DG REGIO. On 28/05/2020, DG REGIO addressed all AAs of the ENI Programmes in order to

confirm that Programme Technical Assistance expenditures should have been considered likewise any granted “project” and then related verification needed to be carried out under the Audit on operations, rather than the Audit on OP Accounts.

Therefore, following the new provisions required by DG REGIO, the AA elaborated a new methodology for sampling and auditing the operations, which was approved by DG REGIO itself on 10.12.2020 and officially adopted by the AA on 16.12.2020. Related audit tools were revised accordingly.

This new methodology was used to carry out the audit on the projects for the accounting year 2019-2020.

In this respect, the AA analysed the provisional annual accounts received by the MA, identifying the correct expenditure population for sampling activities.

It should be noted that for the accounting year 2019-2020, no project expenditures were reported by granted Beneficiaries but Technical Assistance ones only, as incurred by the AA, the MA and the Programme Branch Offices (Valencia and Aqaba).

6. AUDIT ON OPERATIONS

Based on the new sampling methodology (see previous point 5), the AA performed the audit on the operations, supported by an external auditor.

On 16.02.2021 the AA carried out a Quality Review on the activity of the external auditor, in order to assess the regularity of the review procedure, and adopted the Final Audit Report on operations n. 02/2021 on 18.02.2021.

Based on its professional judgment, taking into account the results of both the audit on the operations and the system audit carried out for the 2019-2020 accounting year, the AA concluded that errors as detected in the population were below the materiality threshold.

Therefore, the audit on the operations carried out did not reveal any irregularities.

7. GOA ACTIVITIES

On 30.7.2020, the AA sent a Note to the GoA delegates in order to communicate the closure of the first written procedure with the formal approval of the 1st GoA meeting minutes and to update as well on all the activities carried out by the AA in the first part of 2020.

Furthermore, in preparation of the 2nd GoA Meeting, on 06.11.2020, the AA sent the GoA a draft of the OP Audit Strategy update (version 2.2) for receiving contribution as the case may be.

Finally, due to the persistence of COVID 2019 pandemic, the 2nd GoA was held through videoconference on 10.11.2020.

8. 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:*

- Organization of the second meeting of the GoA – Contractual revision

Considering that the GoA 2nd meeting was held through videoconference, an amending act of the original TA contract was signed, with a saving of around 24% of the initial value.

- Tender for the award of the AA TA service

The AA finalized the open tender procedure package, pursuant to art. 60 of the Legislative Decree. No. 50/2016 and provide it to the Regional Central Unit for tenders on 13.11.2020. The contract initial value was set at Euro 2,457,000.00 plus VAT.

- Tender for the recruitment of an external auditor to carry out the administrative-accounting checks and the certification of the 2019-2020 accounting period expenditures

As a result of the new guidelines issued by DG REGIO on the audit of TA expenditures (December 2020), the AA launched a specific tender in order to speed up the audit on operations (projects) and meet the OP deadlines. The selected external expert signed the related contract on 22.12.2020 and concluded her tasks on 22.02.2021.

- Tender for ICT Equipment to support AA activities

On 25.11.2020 the AA awarded through the main national electronic platform for tenders of public bodies (MEPA) the purchasing of 6 laptops and 1 mobile phone which were assigned to the AA staff.

4.2. Management of the calls for proposals

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

During the second semester of 2020, the Grant Contracts of the 22 strategic projects were signed, and the first pre-financings were transferred to the Lead Beneficiaries within the first semester of 2021. The additional strategic project TECHLOG under TO2 started the negotiation process in the reference period, upon approval of the major change of the budget allocation among Thematic Objectives of the JOP, and was contracted by the month of July 2021.

On august 2020 the evaluation process of the 69 proposals submitted within the call for capitalization projects (whose deadline for submission was July 28th, 2020) started. The results of the administrative check were presented to the JMC during the web meeting held on 15 December 2020. The evaluation process was completed in February 2021, and on 22 March 2021 the JMC approved 11 projects (plus 5 out of the reserve list to be financed upon approval of the major change of the budget allocation among Thematic Objectives of the JOP).

The negotiation of the grant contracts with the applicants of the capitalisation projects started in April 2021 and it was almost entirely completed in June 2021. The 5 additional proposals were contracted by the end of the year.

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						
Priority 1	Submitted	28	14.146.275,35	26	17.009.435,03	6	5.936.290,45	60	37.092.000,83
	Contracted*	3	5.992.866,87	3	9.980.585,93	0	0	6	15.973.452,80
Priority 2	Submitted	59	26.243.552,64	45	22.673.709,62	13	13.291.247,94	117	62.208.510,20
	Contracted*	6	13.781.542,79	3	8.099.405,46	0	0	9	21.880.948,25
Priority 3	Submitted	67	31.832.398,58	0	0	9	9.371.745,56	76	41.204.144,14
	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	28	28.599.283,95	253	140.504.655,17
	Contracted*	13	29.873.616,83	6	18.079.991,39	0	0	19	47.953.608,22

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	3	3.276.082,25	92	56.986.350,21
	Contracted*	2	5.658.739,01	8	25.716.031,25	0	0	10	31.374.770,26
Priority 2	Submitted	25	12.742.573,14	0	0	5	5.176.843,08	30	17.919.416,22
	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	8	8.452.925,33	122	74.905.766,43
	Contracted*	5	12.810.765,03	8	25.716.031,25	0	0	13	38.526.796,28

Thematic objective A.3		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget						
Priority 1	Submitted	49	20.660.803,80	40	23.143.676,06	7	6.771.793,10	96	50.576.272,96
	Contracted*	3	6.959.025,45	6	19.054.117,81	0	0	9	26.013.143,26
Priority 2	Submitted	22	10.419.744,81	0	0	4	4.181.153,84	26	14.600.898,65
	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	11	10.952.946,94	122	65.177.171,61
	Contracted*	6	14.783.345,00	6	19.054.117,81	0	0	12	33.837.462,81

Thematic objective B.4		Call n°1		Call n°2		Call n°3		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget						
Priority 1	Submitted	45	24.089.778,21	22	14.884.504,46	6	5.926.827,09	73	44.901.109,76
	Contracted*	5	13.335.109,10	0	0	0	-	5	13.335.109,10
Priority 2	Submitted	19	9.727.814,12	12	8.245.982,99	5	5.374.204,09	36	23.348.001,20
	Contracted*	4	10.278.678,83	1	2.953.289,04	0	-	5	13.231.967,87
Priority 3	Submitted	35	19.651.993,59	18	10.610.319,12	4	3.997.586,34	57	34.259.899,05
	Contracted*	5	11.957.958,92	1	3.292.820,85	0	-	6	15.250.779,77
Priority 4	Submitted	36	18.863.147,80	0	0	7	7.329.179,54	43	26.192.327,34
	Contracted*	3	7.619.620,79	0	0	0	-	3	7.619.620,79
Total	Submitted	135	72.332.733,72	52	33.740.806,58	22	22.627.797,06	209	128.701.337,36
	Contracted*	17	43.191.367,64	2	6.246.109,89	0	-	19	49.437.477,53

The following table refers to the Capitalization projects selected for funding, including 5 from the reserve list, but still not contracted in the reference period:

Call n°3		
	N° of projects selected for funding	Total budget
Thematic objective A.1 / Priority 1	2	1.978.881,21
Thematic objective A.1 / Priority 2	2	1.811.107,38
Thematic objective A.1 / Priority 3	1	999.997,70
Thematic objective A.2 / Priority 1	1	999.190,50
Thematic objective A.2 / Priority 2	2	1.736.151,38
Thematic objective A.3 / Priority 1	1	997.346,36
Thematic objective A.3 / Priority 2	1	999.999,89
Thematic objective B.4 / Priority 1	1	999.878,09
Thematic objective B.4 / Priority 2	1	999.589,71
Thematic objective B.4 / Priority 3	2	1.606.356,00
Thematic objective B.4 / Priority 4	2	1.988.874,27
TOTAL	16	15.117.372,49

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

Thematic objective n°1		1_Standard		2_Strategic		3_Capitalisation		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	Submitted	7	20.444.664,39	2	5.617.824,71	2	2.180.326,16	11	28.242.815,26
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	999.548,74	1	999.548,74
EGY	Submitted	4	9.187.592,87	3	9.352.760,93	0	0,00	7	18.540.353,80
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
ESP	Submitted	27	66.160.209,36	11	35.460.474,09	5	5.451.956,91	43	107.072.640,36
	Contracted*	6	14.677.555,02	2	6.236.460,77	1	982.977,43	9	21.896.993,22
FRA	Submitted	2	5.623.008,08	3	9.381.034,95	1	873.108,23	6	15.877.151,27
	Contracted*	1	2.017.918,35	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	2.017.918,35
GRC	Submitted	27	56.392.562,45	8	26.687.698,11	5	4.289.026,93	40	87.369.287,49
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
ISR	Submitted	1	3.074.110,00	1	2.973.796,43	0	0,00	2	6.047.906,43
	Contracted*	0	0,00	1	2.676.416,79	0	0,00	1	2.676.416,79
ITA	Submitted	63	156.300.626,92	27	88.325.018,53	11	11.785.011,17	101	256.410.656,62
	Contracted*	3	7.773.927,28	1	3.219.363,89	3	2.807.460,12	7	13.800.751,29
JOR	Submitted	5	11.299.000,55	1	3.000.703,29	1	1.019.688,60	7	15.319.392,44
	Contracted*	2	3.261.101,95	0	0,00	0	0,00	2	3.261.101,95
LBN	Submitted	5	13.921.096,22	3	10.576.748,61	1	1.041.949,95	9	25.539.794,78

	Contracted*	1	2.143.114,23	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	2.143.114,23
MLT	Submitted	1	3.333.114,53	1	2.728.393,00	2	1.958.216,00	4	8.019.723,53
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PRT	Submitted	2	4.384.890,70	1	3.772.155,32	0	0,00	3	8.157.046,01
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PSE	Submitted	5	12.188.530,62	3	9.834.825,90	0	0,00	8	22.023.356,52
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
TUN	Submitted	5	11.968.686,26	4	12.737.289,04	0	0,00	9	24.705.975,30
	Contracted*	0	0,00	2	5.947.634,37	0	0,00	2	5.947.634,37

Thematic objective n°2		1_Standard		2_Strategic		3_Capitalisation		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	Submitted	1	1.191.735,00	0	0,00	1	1.110.777,27	2	2.302.512,27
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	
EGY	Submitted	1	1.862.596,72	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	1.862.596,72
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	
ESP	Submitted	16	38.768.895,54	6	20.464.266,91	0	0,00	22	59.233.162,45
	Contracted*	1	1.422.122,29	2	6.406.945,98	0	0,00	3	7.829.068,27
FRA	Submitted	0	0,00	1	3.084.246,92	0	141.561,00	1	3.225.807,92
	Contracted*	0	0,00	1	2.775.822,23	0	0,00	1	0,00
GRC	Submitted	22	54.165.095,62	4	13.965.642,14	0	953.684,79	26	69.084.422,55
	Contracted*	2	5.729.903,73	3	9.546.557,61	1	736.820,45	6	16.013.281,79
ISR	Submitted	1	3.326.221,92	1	3.849.142,57	0	0,00	2	7.175.364,48
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	
ITA	Submitted	22	61.376.699,63	12	42.383.526,05	1	1.086.167,70	35	104.846.393,38
	Contracted*	2	5.658.739,01	3	10.136.398,88	0	0,00	5	15.820.946,29
JOR	Submitted	1	3.119.547,55	2	7.274.428,92	2	2.189.914,55	5	12.583.891,02
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	999.190,50	1	999.190,50
LBN	Submitted	3	8.028.900,82	1	2.823.192,46	1	1.110.952,96	5	11.963.046,25
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
MLT	Submitted	2	5.412.183,05	1	3.641.511,74	0	0,00	3	9.053.694,79

	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PRT	Submitted	1	3.115.098,90	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	3.115.098,90
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PSE	Submitted	4	7.835.062,79	4	12.194.806,64	2	2.144.529,31	10	22.174.398,74
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	999.330,93	1	999.330,93
TUN	Submitted	3	8.162.381,58	3	10.726.289,04	0	0,00	6	18.888.670,62
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00

Thematic objective n°3		1_Standard		2_Strategic		3_Capitalisation		Total	
		N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget	N° of projects	Total budget
CYP	Submitted	2	4.535.130,80	3	10.298.106,82	0	0,00	5	14.833.237,62
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
EGY	Submitted	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
ESP	Submitted	11	27.646.811,29	9	30.185.972,67	2	2.219.273,61	22	60.052.057,57
	Contracted*	2	5.977.882,25	2	6.154.608,33	2	1.997.346,25	6	14.129.836,83
FRA	Submitted	3	7.540.181,51	1	2.963.375,70	1	968.949,20	5	11.472.506,41
	Contracted*	1	1.977.522,78	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	1.977.522,78
GRC	Submitted	12	27.634.845,02	5	16.274.649,05	1	711.219,37	18	44.620.713,44
	Contracted*	0	0,00	2	6.103.309,91	0	0,00	2	6.103.309,91
ISR	Submitted	0	0,00	1	2.985.683,76	0	0,00	1	2.985.683,76
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
ITA	Submitted	27	61.310.580,19	14	44.614.266,40	5	5.338.687,22	46	111.263.533,82
	Contracted*	2	4.981.502,67	2	6.796.199,57	0	0,00	4	11.777.702,24
JOR	Submitted	2	4.899.722,60	1	2.799.253,75	0	0,00	3	7.698.976,35
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
LBN	Submitted	0	0,00	1	3.661.379,50	1	869.863,94	2	4.531.243,44
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
MLT	Submitted	1	2.676.919,69	1	2.736.449,42	0	0,00	2	5.413.369,11
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PRT	Submitted	4	9.691.243,92	1	3.197.395,40	0	0,00	5	12.888.639,32

	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PSE	Submitted	3	5.535.076,83	2	5.564.513,30	1	844.953,60	6	11.944.543,73
	Contracted*	1	1.846.437,30	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	1.846.437,30
TUN	Submitted	6	13.825.860,71	1	3.610.039,64	0	0,00	7	17.435.900,35
	Contracted*	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00

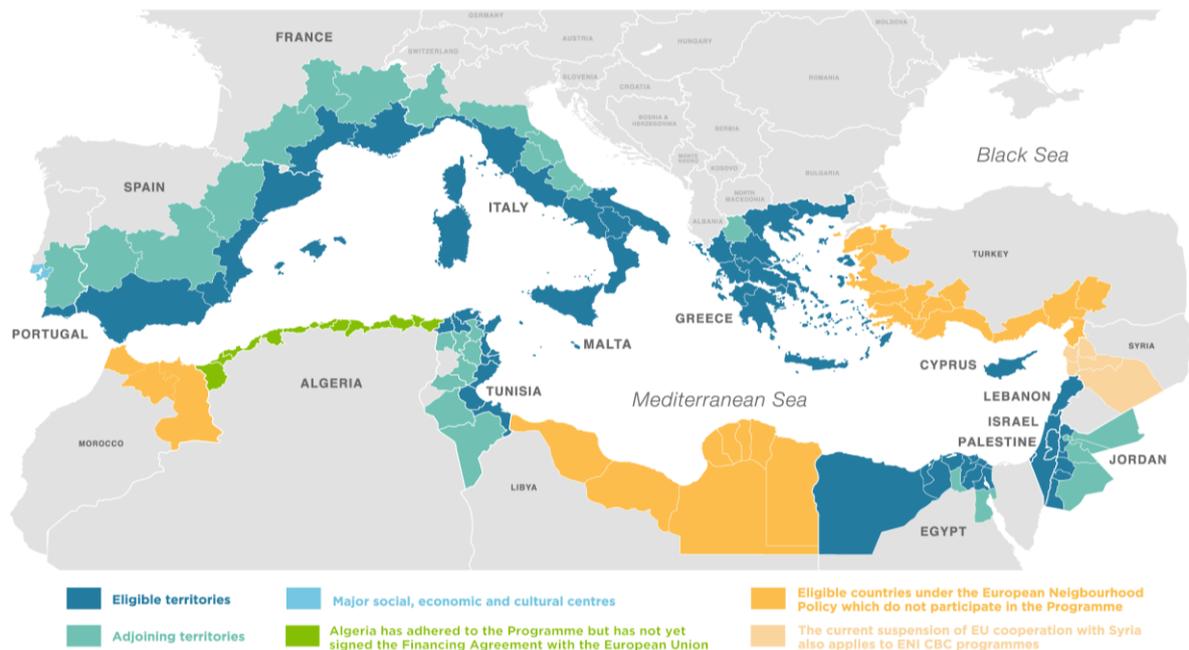
Thematic objective n°4	1_Standard		2_Strategic		3_Capitalisation		Total		
	N° of projects	Total budget							
CYP	Submitted	6	15.566.292,24	1	3.667.709,31	0	0,00	7	19.234.001,55
	Contracted *	1	2.581.440,71	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	2.581.440,71
EGY	Submitted	2	3.149.054,30	0	0,00	1	610.797,50	3	3.759.851,80
	Contracted *	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
ESP	Submitted	28	74.412.160,45	14	45.088.139,39	4	4.088.584,55	46	123.588.884,39
	Contracted *	2	5.582.511,81	1	2.953.289,04	3	2.645.071,13	6	11.180.871,98
FRA	Submitted	5	13.754.851,07	1	2.830.656,11	1	1.025.642,08	7	17.611.149,26
	Contracted *	1	2.143.099,36	0	0,00	1	950.770,21	2	3.093.869,57
GRC	Submitted	28	67.334.646,18	3	9.875.505,54	4	4.337.351,00	35	81.547.502,71
	Contracted *	2	4.549.181,29	0	0,00	1	999.878,08	3	5.549.050,24
ISR	Submitted	1	3.007.770,00	1	3.830.279,00	1	1.091.560,50	3	7.929.609,50
	Contracted *	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
ITA	Submitted	45	123.159.778,37	24	84.066.976,57	6	6.174.161,08	75	213.400.916,02
	Contracted *	7	17.836.833,37	1	3.292.820,85	1	998.978,64	9	22.128.610,33
JOR	Submitted	6	14.290.505,74	2	6.796.692,87	1	1.065.342,90	9	22.152.541,51
	Contracted *	1	2.979.213,84	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	2.979.213,84
LBN	Submitted	2	4.235.438,80	1	3.739.008,00	1	1.081.877,00	4	9.056.323,80
	Contracted *	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00

MLT	Submitted	3	9.431.138,79	0	0,00	1	1.033.987,50	4	10.465.126,29
	Contracted *	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PRT	Submitted	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
	Contracted *	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
PSE	Submitted	4	7.120.511,17	1	3.009.809,05	2	2.118.492,95	7	12.248.813,17
	Contracted *	1	2.208.271,67	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	2.208.271,67
TUN	Submitted	5	13.161.797,99	4	12.938.804,79	0	0,00	9	26.100.602,78
	Contracted *	2	5.281.344,40	0	0,00	0	0,00	2	5.281.344,40

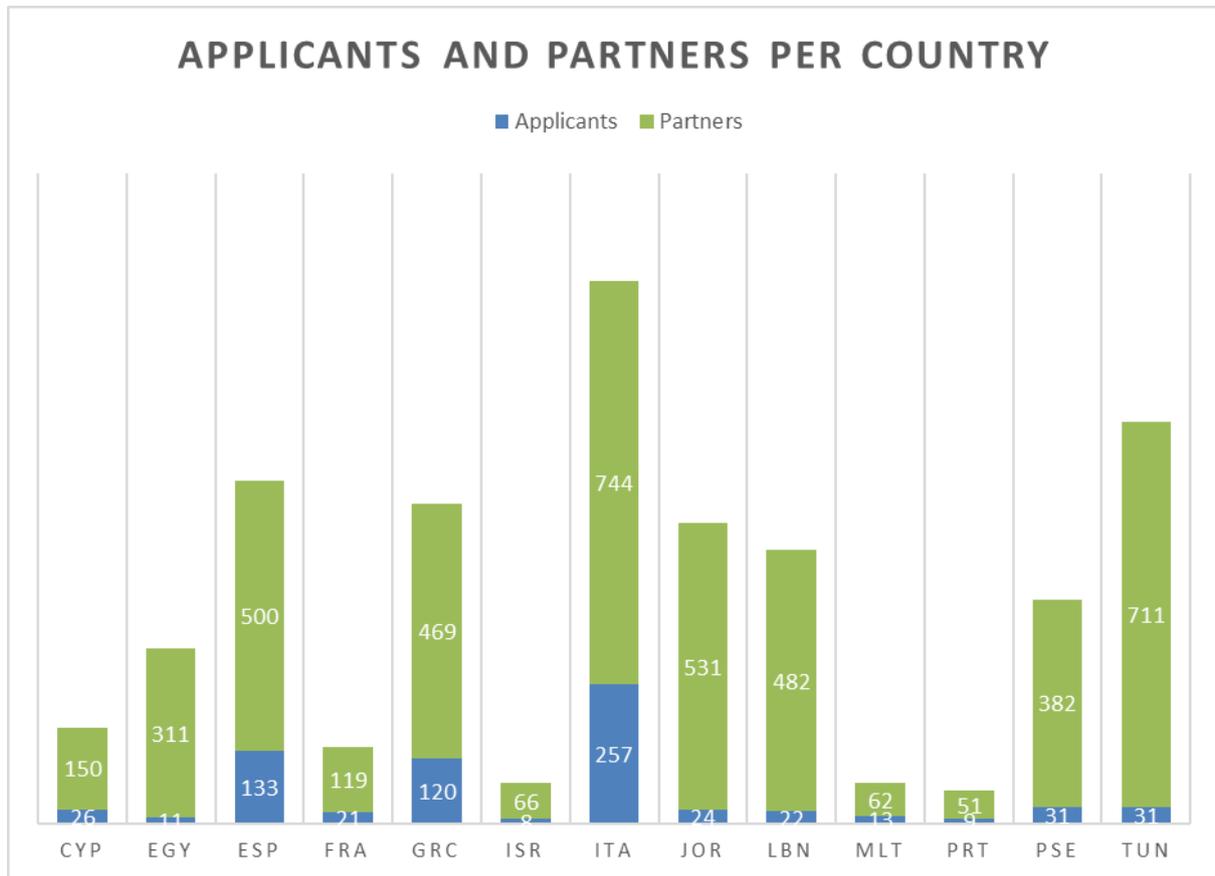
* The “total budget” column refers to the ENI contribution for contracted projects and to the entire project budget for submitted projects. All selected projects have been contracted at the time of the report submission.

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.]



In the following graph, data reported in the previous tables B are illustrated; they refer to the projects submitted under all calls for proposals, including capitalization projects selected for funding:



Map B: Organisations involved in grant contracts/projects selected for funding

[For the last call for proposals, please include a second map of the programme area (same format as Map A) showing for each eligible region the n° of organisations (distinguishing between lead beneficiaries and partner beneficiaries) involved in grant contracts or in projects selected for funding if contracts have not been signed yet – please specify.]

The graph refers to all calls for proposals, including capitalization projects selected for funding

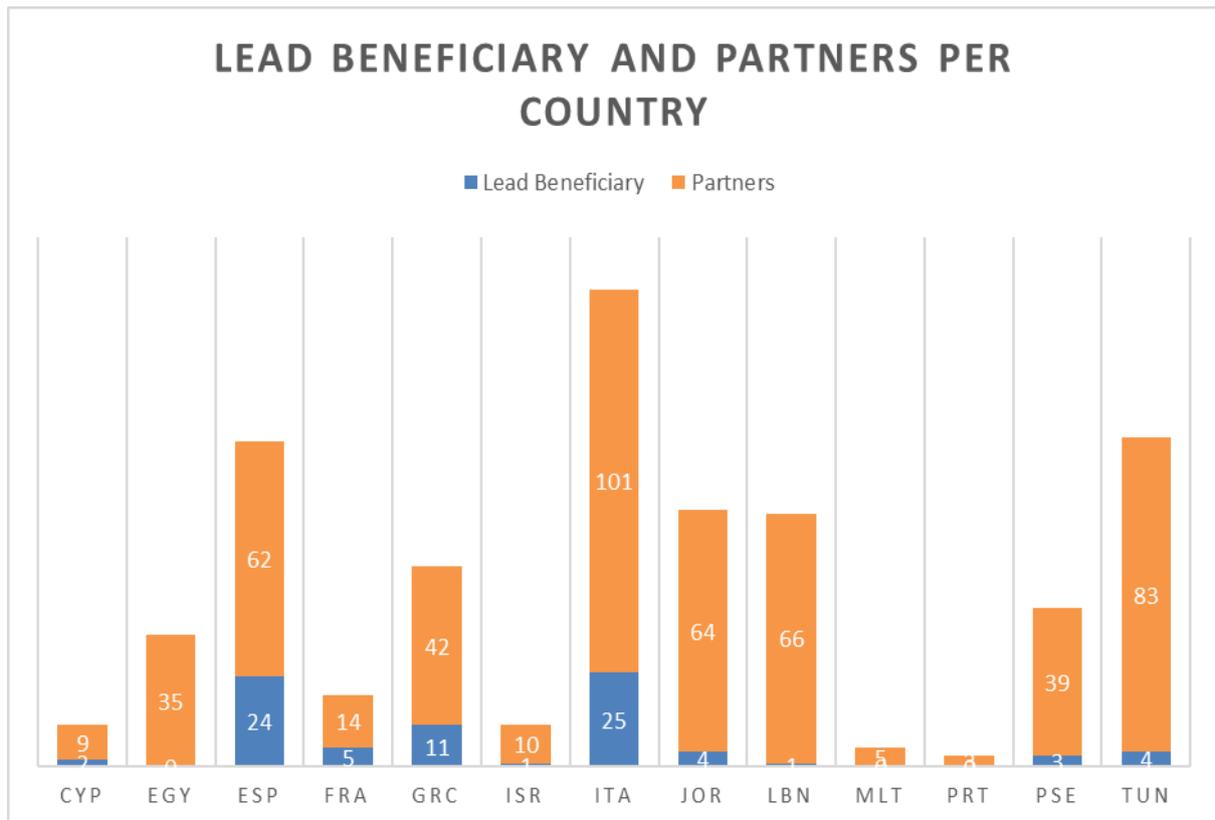


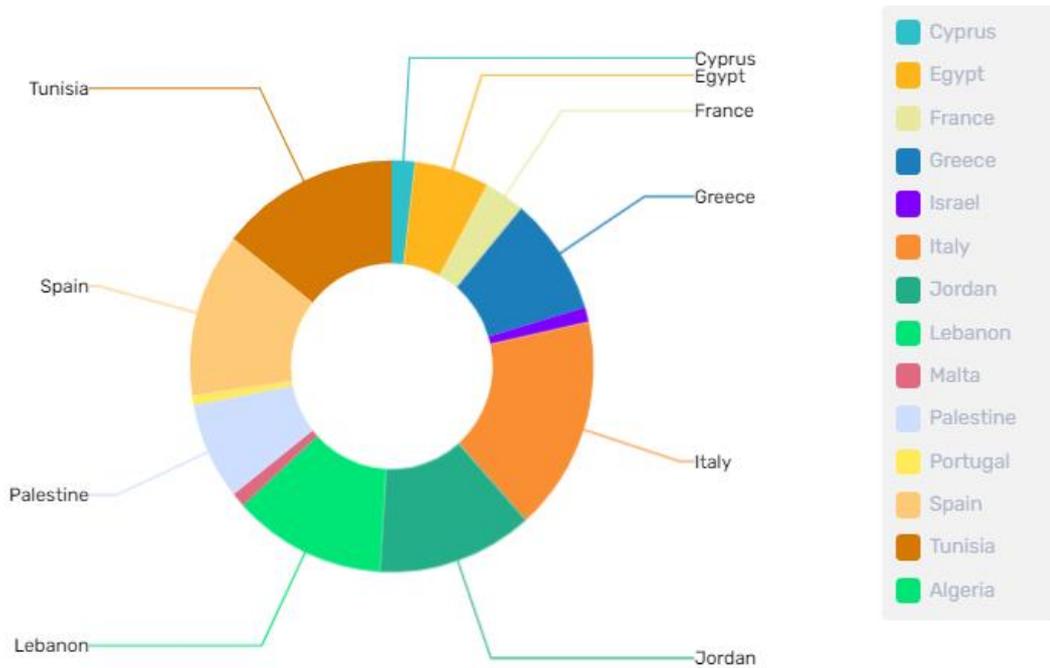
Table C: Organisations involved in projects proposals submitted for funding and in grant contracts

Country	Eligible regions	N° of Lead applicants	N° of partners	N° of lead beneficiaries	N° of partner beneficiaries
CYP		26	150	2	9
EGY		11	312	0	35
ESP		133	501	24	62
FRA		21	120	5	14
GRC		120	470	11	42
ISR		8	66	1	10
ITA		257	745	25	101
JOR		24	531	4	64
LBN		22	482	1	66
MLT		13	62	0	5
PRT		9	51	0	3
PSE		31	382	3	39
TUN		31	712	4	83
TOTAL		705	4593	80	533

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

The figure below shows the different weight of the Programme countries in terms of approved projects.

Figure 1 Projects approved per country (all calls)

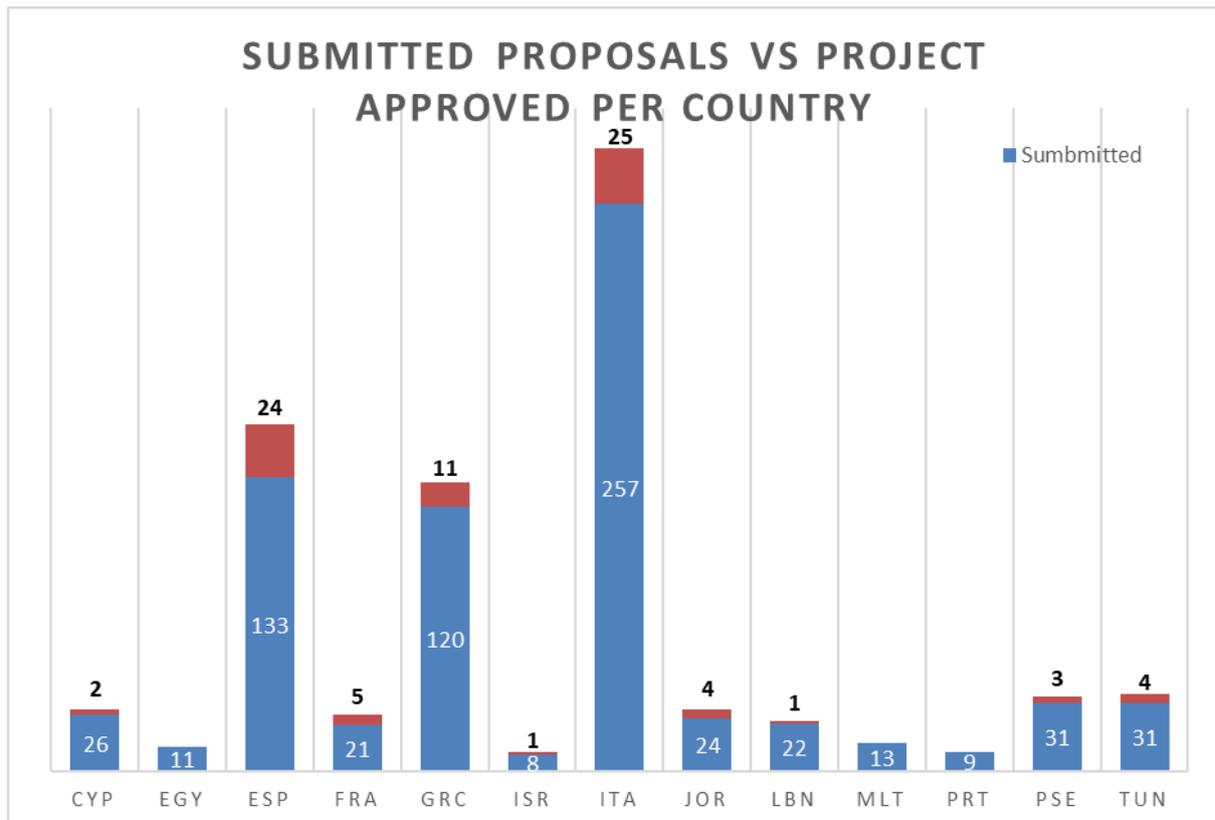


The analysis of the approval rate per country shows a sort of correlation between intensity of participation and success rate. Considering a first group of countries from where more than 350 proposals were submitted (Italy, Tunisia, Jordan, Spain, Greece, Lebanon), an average success rate of 13% is noted. A second group, featured by the submission of a number of proposals between 100 and 200 (Palestine, Egypt, Cyprus), presents a lower success amounting to 10%, whereas the five countries where the participation is under 100 proposals per country, see a success rate of 11% if Algeria is excluded as an outlier.

The country with the higher success rate is Lebanon (15%), whereas the lowest performances are observed in Cyprus and Portugal (6%).

The figure below shows the relationship between submitted proposals and approved projects per country.

Submitted proposals vs projects approved per country (all calls)



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, in situ monitoring, on the spot checks and ROM missions.

During the reference period, monitoring missions *in situ* could not be carried out due to the Covid-19 restrictions to mobility.

The ROM missions, as well as on the spot checks in the Lead Beneficiaries and Project Partners' premises were scheduled for the 2nd half of 2021 (following the 1st round of interim reports of the standard projects). Due to the ongoing restrictions to mobility, and upon approval of the JMC, an open tender to contract a company in charge of both services has been launched in June 2021.

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

The data and information available on the 41 standard projects after the first 18 months show an average adequate level of implementation, with sound examples of promising practices and initial good results, and some cases of critical situations being under close monitoring and support.

In particular, 11 projects may be considered "promising", showing satisfactory or even excellent performance, especially considering the difficult conditions caused by the restrictions on mobility experienced throughout the period. This category includes both projects having achieved a "4 Very good" score⁵ (7 projects) and other scored "3- Good" (7 projects), the latest have shown a high performance despite little critical issues encountered - promptly solved - and are working toward a sound activities implementation.

24 projects are having few "problems" being scored 3 or even 2.

6 projects are having "critical issues" for which they are being assisted continuously.

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.

A total of 22 strategic projects have been contracted and started their activities between July 2020 and February 2021, of which 6 under TO1, 8 under TO2, 6 under TO3 and 2 under TO4. A 23rd strategic project, under Thematic Objective 2, has recently closed the contractual phase and is ready to launch the activities.

All strategic projects have held their kick-off meeting and 20 of them already submitted the first progress report

⁵ The scoring system in use for identifying critical projects requiring interventions and corrective measures is as follows (see also AIR 2019-2020):

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 JTS and BOs officers have participated in all KO meetings, and organised specific training sessions in these occasions.

Overall, most contracted projects are on schedule and had a good start-up phase: 3 of them are classified as “promising” based on the daily assistance; 11 have reached an intermediate position with scores of 3 or 2; 4 are considered as having a critical start.

After the first year, during which cluster activities were important for transferring solutions against the COVID-19 outbreak, for project management and for sharing basic information on the intervention context, cluster meetings are currently favoring the development and sharing of specific tools. In particular, projects are sharing deliverables useful for many or even all projects, such as platform for sharing outputs and deliverable, for circulating innovation solutions, and similar.

Besides the continuous assistance provided by the JTS, MA, BOs and NAs, cluster meetings are still used as “peers solutions” to the problems identified. After the first year, during which cluster activities were important for transferring solutions against the COVID-19 outbreak, for project management and for sharing basic information on the intervention context, the meetings are currently favoring the development and sharing of specific tools and deliverables, or circulating innovative solutions.

Cluster meetings are being now thought crossing the TOs, in particular in case of projects investing the same sector (tourism, innovation and start-up, food production and processing) even if they are funded under different TOs.

The synthesis of the specific cluster work at TO level (problems, solutions, outputs) is available and has already been shared with the JMC.

On June 2021 the open tender for the Mid-term evaluation has been awarded, after the signature of the contract the activities started, the evaluation report is expected by March 2022 and will be consequently illustrated to 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 'Annual Information and Communication Plan' (AICP) template provided by the European Commission (EC) was not used for the 2020-2021 ENI CBC Med Communication Plan (this latest was already approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee before the final version of the EC AICP entered into force for all CBC programmes), it is not possible to fill in the table with the Output, Output indicator (OI), Result, Result indicator (RI) as the template used by the Programme is based on different KPIs. In any case, the latest Information and Communication for the 2021-2022 period was drafted according to the official template provided by the EC.

Despite the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the period July 2020 - June 2021 was marked by an acceleration of the communication activities implemented by the Programme. The switch to online implementation of communication activities has multiplied the possibilities for the Programme to communicate its work, results and opportunities, using a wide range of different digital tools – among the Programme website, social media, visual campaigns and webinars. The online modality allows doing more, on a more regular basis, with less logistical details to deal with and increased focus on contents. The magnitude of the activities and achievements, as detailed below, was made possible thanks to the valuable **contribution of the Programme Branch Offices** which have taken increased responsibilities in the implementation of the activities foreseen in the Annual Information and Communication Plan, in full cooperation with the Managing Authority.

Among the **main achievements and related activities** related to the Information and Communication Plan July 2020 - June 2021 are:

- A significant increase in the **quality** of the communication of funded projects through fostering the evolution to an 'impact-based' narrative where the focus is put on communicating results, conclusions, findings, achievements, positive impact rather than "processes" and "tools" (meetings, conferences, publications, trainings, studies, etc.), using an "universal" language accessible to the widest potential audiences, especially those who are not familiar with the projects. A major effort was delivered to support the transformation of projects communication by providing personalized support and feedback on press releases, news articles published on the Programme website, videos, publications and other communication material in view of increasing quality and impact. A substantial number of B2B meetings with project communication managers was organised to provide feedback, advice and guidance on communication and editorial material, always having in mind the importance of showcasing the positive impact of any activity implemented and highlighting the support of the EU to Euro-Mediterranean cooperation projects. Upon the start of the strategic projects, a training seminar was held – with the participation of TESIM - for the 23 communication managers of these projects (online, 23-24 February). The objective was to ensure the understanding and correct implementation of the Programme

main visibility provisions and enhance the capacity of projects to deliver engaging, newsworthy and efficient communication, including through social media, websites, press releases.

The increase in the quality of project communication was confirmed by **over 150 appearances** in **local and national media** of the cooperation area (as per the notifications from Google Alerts, full press review available upon request). A selection of media appearances includes for instance:

- Tunisian “African Manager”: [INVESTMED cartographie l’entrepreneuriat vert, bleu et innovant de la Tunisie](#)
- Italian “Il Sole 24 Ore”: [Mediterranean, cooperation for common development](#)
- Palestinian “Al Watan Voice”: [المجتمع للتعريف بأحد المشاريع بلدية بيت لحم وجامعة فلسطين الأهلية تبجنان خطة التواصل مع](#)
- Spanish “El Pais”: [Las salinas milenarias de Cádiz piden paso](#)
- Egypt “Daily news Egypt”: [4 EU-funded regional projects launched to support entrepreneurs, innovation in Egypt](#)
- Jordan “Al Ghad”: [“بيانات” للملكية الفكرية توقيع مذكرة تفاهم بين تطوير المشاريع الاقتصادي “ومجموعة](#)

An additional confirmation of the increase in the quality of project communication is provided by the substantial growth of users who visited the website throughout the reporting period, corresponding to a **66.4% increase** compared to the previous reporting period (see section ‘4.4.4 Programme website and social media’ for more detailed analytics of the website and social media performance).

- A growing acknowledgement of the relevance of the ENI CBC Med Programme as a **platform** for cooperation, dialogue and project implementation in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean relations. For instance, the Programme was selected by the Co-Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean – Jordan and the European External Action Service - as a [key partner of the Civil Society Forum](#) which took place in November 2020 ahead of the celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process. In this framework, the Programme moderated a workshop on the contribution of civil society to climate action which conclusions were shared during a [public webinar attended by hundreds of participants](#), included Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui - the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. In addition, 10 ENI CBC Med funded projects were selected to be featured in a virtual exhibition of 25 flagship initiatives to mark the anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. A further proof of the relevance of the ENI CBC Med Programme as a platform for enhancing Euro-Mediterranean cooperation came from Egypt’s Minister of International Cooperation Rania Al-Mashat. In a statement issued in [Egyptian media](#), Minister Al-Mashat said that “she expects many results to be achieved within the programme’s new phase, in order to enhance development efforts. This will take place by bridging the financing, gender, and technological gaps, and to enable countries to overcome the effects of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.”



- The increased positioning of the Programme as a platform for **dialogue and exchange** on key topics – including environment, gender equality, sustainable tourism, employment, women’s empowerment – thanks to the implementation of a series of webinars – organised in concomitance with UN international days/EU celebrations - which have gathered hundreds of participants and highlighted the good practices implemented by funded projects in the abovementioned sectors, giving voice to the final beneficiaries supported by the projects (start-uppers, owners of small businesses, etc.) and linking with international organisations/NGOs active in the cooperation area, including the Union for the Mediterranean, the International Labour Organisation, Ashoka, etc. Below is the complete list of events organised by the Programme during the reporting period:
 - o “Building a resilient tourism sector in the COVID-19 era: challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean” (28.09.2020): webinar organised to celebrate the “World Tourism Day” and shed light on the situation of tourism in the Mediterranean amid the COVID-19 pandemic, how ENI CBC Med projects are addressing this new reality and what could be done to support a sustainable future of the industry. Event attended by the European Commission (DG REGIO), sector experts and project representatives. Up to 120 participants connected. More information [here](#).
 - o "Unleashing the potential of Mediterranean women in rural areas: constraints and solutions in the COVID-19 era" (15.10.2020): webinar organised to celebrate the “International Day of Rural Women” and discuss about the barriers that rural women face in the Mediterranean area and ways to boost their economic inclusion, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Event attended by Anna Dorangricchia, senior expert at the Union for the Mediterranean, Elen Lemaître-Curri, deputy director of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier, as well as project representatives and final beneficiaries. Up to 60 participants connected. Full report [here](#).
 - o “Building the future of Europe with our Mediterranean neighbours” (10.12.2020): online debate between young people from both shores of the Mediterranean on expectations for the future of the area and most relevant priorities for cooperation. Up to 42 participants connected. Full report [here](#).

- “Fair employment in the Mediterranean area, a key element to advance social justice” (21.02.2021): webinar organised to celebrate the “World Day of Social Justice” and reflect on project good practices to promote decent work opportunities, especially for young people and women. Event attended by Mr Tariq Haq, Senior Employment Policy Specialist at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), as well as project representatives. Up to 70 participants connected. Full report [here](#).
 - “Women entrepreneurs: an essential factor to achieve real gender equality in the Mediterranean” (08.03.2021): webinar organised to celebrate the “International Women’s Day” and highlight cultural, financial, regulatory barriers that still exist for women to fully express their potential in the business sector and how these barriers can effectively be removed to boost women’s entrepreneurship, increase their opportunities in responsibility positions and facilitate access to credit. Event attended by representatives from the Union for the Mediterranean, business sector and civil society organisations, and final beneficiaries of ENI CBC Med funded projects. Up to 90 participants connected. Full report [here](#).
 - “Online dialogue between young people from the Mediterranean” (10.05.2021): webinar organised to celebrate the Europe Day and highlight topics of common interest for young people and their expectations towards the European Union. Event attended by six young people aged from 17 to 27 from Spain, Palestine, Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon representing the ‘Peace on Climate’ and ‘European Youth Parliament’ initiatives. Also attended by Luis Miguel Bueno Padilla, EU Arabic Spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa. Up to 100 participants connected. Full report [here](#) + video [recap](#).
 - ‘Young people as game changers for zero pollution in the Mediterranean’ (1/06/2021): partner event at the EU Green Week to highlight the efforts of young people engaged in keeping the Mediterranean region clean and healthy and inspire others to act the same way. Featuring young environmental activists from GreenPeace, Fridays for Future, etc. and including virtual visits to projects to witness live demonstrations and results. Up to 150 participants connected. Full report [here](#) + video [recap](#).
- Two major **communication campaigns** implemented on the occasion of the International Women’s Day (8 March 2020 under the title ‘[Women, leaders of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation #WOMED](#)’) and the EU Green Week (1 June 2021 under the title ‘[Young people for zero pollution in the Mediterranean #CLEANMED](#)’) through the dissemination of visuals and videos on the Programme social media, reaching thousands of people and showcasing the efforts of the Programme to promote women’s empowerment and the fight against pollution.
 - Specific actions carried out to **mobilize young people** from both sides of the Mediterranean and give them a platform to express themselves and share their aspirations as citizens of the Mediterranean. In this framework, two major events were organised: an online dialogue among young people on the occasion of the Europe Day (10 May) attended by young

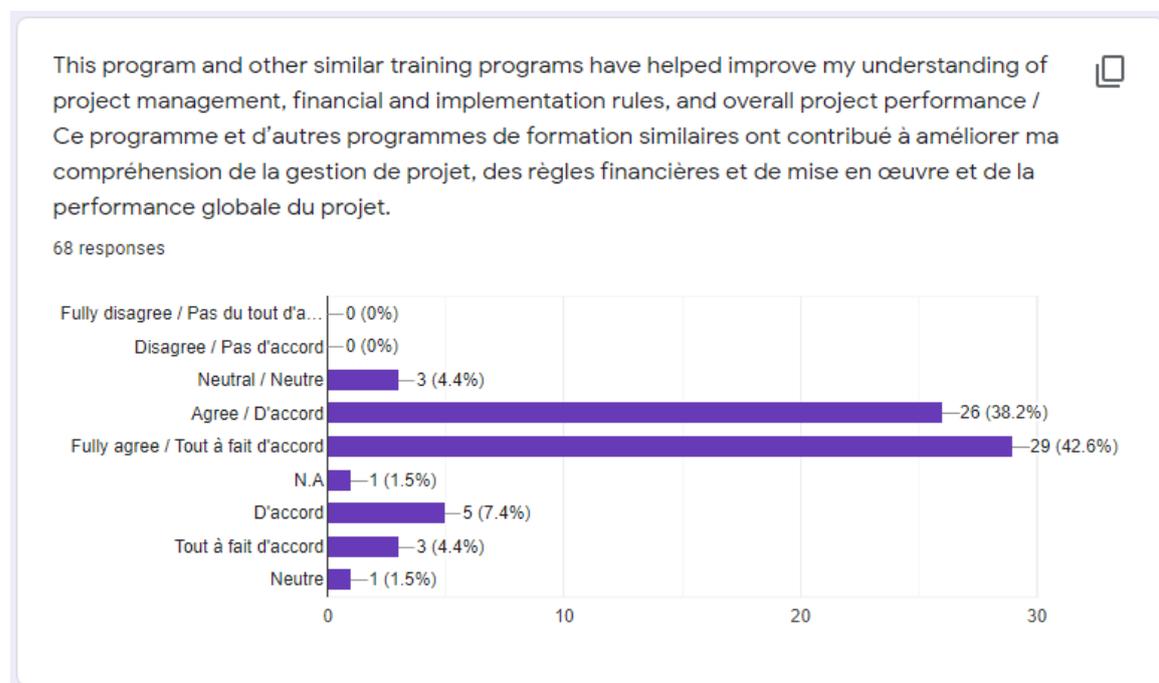
representatives from Spain, Palestine, Morocco, Turkey and Lebanon in an exchange about [what they expect from the European Union in fields such as employment, climate change, human rights, health, etc.](#) The event was attended by Mr. Luis Miguel Padilla Bueno, the appointed EU Arabic Spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa; a partner event at the EU Green Week on the 1st of June under the title “[Young people for zero pollution in the Mediterranean](#)” to highlight the efforts of youth in keeping the Mediterranean environment clean and healthy and showcase that we all have a responsibility in delivering against waste production and unsafe disposal. This strategy has allowed to build ties with youth organisations and movements, including Fridays for Future, European Youth Parliament, Peace on Climate and engage more young people with the Programme.

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.]

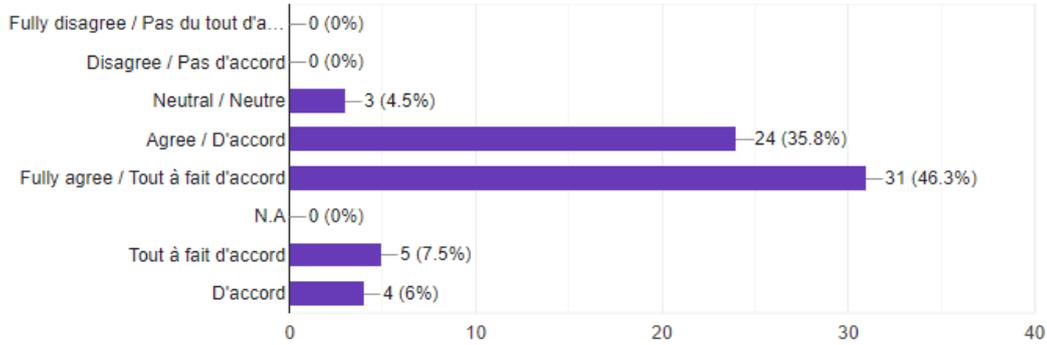
A series of training seminars for the partners and auditors of standard projects was organised at national level to reinforce the capacities of partners in terms of monitoring, use of Programme MIS, project technical/financial reporting and expenses verification.

Relevant feedback of participants on the usefulness and impact of the training to improve project management is reported below:



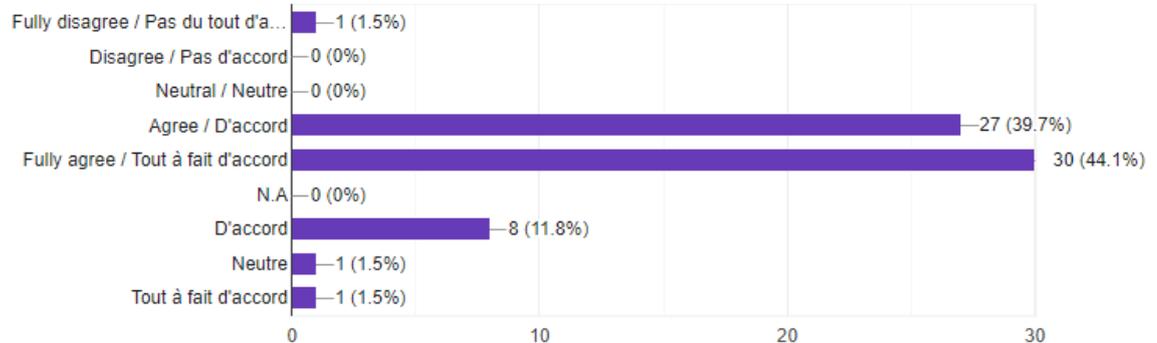
The addressed topics were relevant and will be useful in my work / Les sujets abordés étaient pertinents et seront utiles dans mon travail.

67 responses



The training was well structured and sufficient time was allocated to each subject or session / La formation était bien structurée et suffisamment de temps a été alloué à chaque matière ou session.

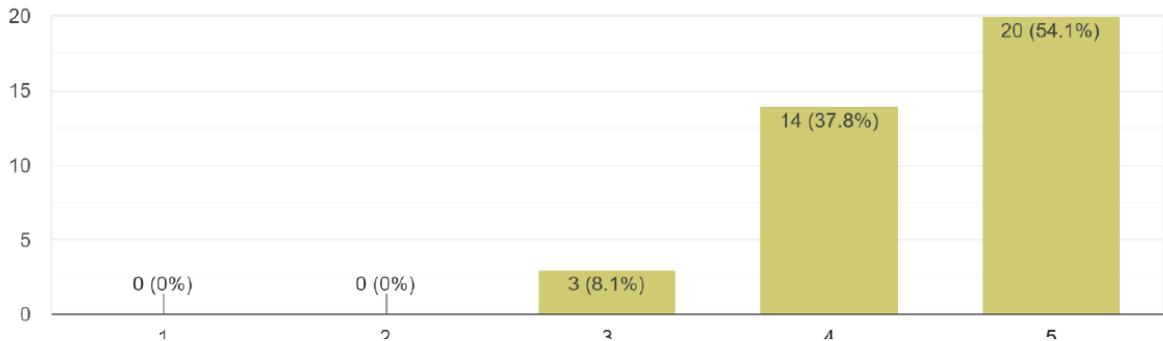
68 responses



As far as the training for the lead beneficiaries held online on 23-24 February is concerned, feedback was also positive as shown in the screenshots below:

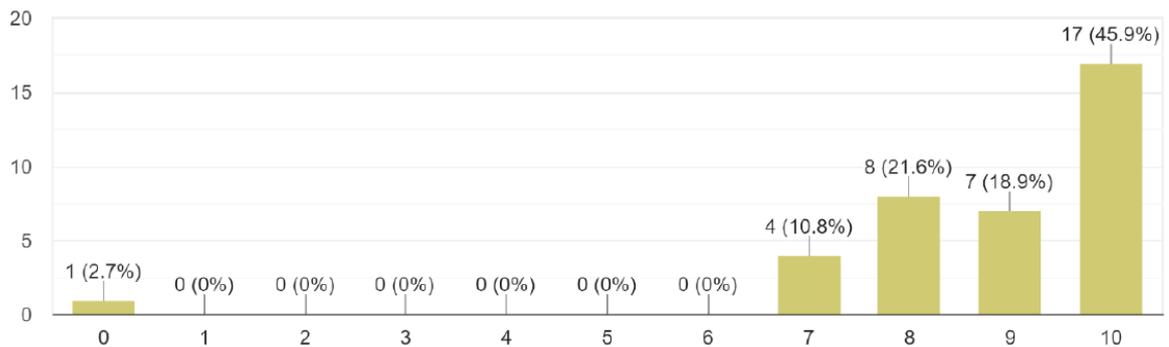
Can you apply what you have learnt from this training back home?

37 responses



To which extent would you recommend a training like this to another project?

37 responses



4.4.3 Participation of EU Delegations

Links with EU Delegations were maintained 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. In addition, it is worth mentioning that an officer responsible for following-up CBC issues in each concerned Delegation is in copy of the general mailing list of the Managing Authority, meaning EU delegations are constantly being informed about the main developments of the programme and decisions related to project implementation: this flow of information facilitates the monitoring of relevant projects and activities by the EU Delegations.

Concerning the participation of EU Delegations representatives in programme/projects activities, the following can be mentioned:

- Mr. Luis Miguel Bueno, EU Arabic Spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa, took part in the online dialogue between young people from the Mediterranean area organised by the Managing Authority on the 10th of May 2021 to celebrate the Europe Day. Find more information [here](#).

- A representative of the Managing Authority took part in the event “EU-funded CSO projects in Israel in the environmental sector” organised by the EU Delegation to Israel together with the international department of the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection. During this event, which took place on 31st of May 2021, the BERLIN and DECOST projects were also presented. Find more information [here](#).
- H.E. Mr Christian Berger, Ambassador of the European Union to Egypt, took part in the conference “Blending Business Support Organisations (BSOs) & Incubators Support” organised on 6th of May 2021 to officially launch the CRE@CTIVE, and INTECMED projects. Find more information [here](#).
- Former EU ambassador to Israel, Mr. Emanuele Giaufret, visited in 17th June 2021 the Yeelim school in Eilat selected as a pilot site by BERLIN to improve energy performance and become an energy independent building through integrated photovoltaics, building – applied photovoltaics and energy storage interventions. Find more information [here](#).
- Mr. Omar Abu Eid, environmental officer at the EU Delegation to Jordan, took part in the launching event of the ORGANIC ECOSYSTEM project which took place online on 3rd of June 2020. Find more information [here](#) (event not mentioned in previous report).

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.enicbcmmed.eu) as the main source of information on the ENI CBC Med Programme, adapting its contents to different types of audiences as follows:

- *Project beneficiaries and partners:* support to technical and financial implementation was further developed on the Programme website through the update of the dedicated section (<http://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/support-to-implementation>) containing the Project Implementation Manual, as well as a FAQ section on reporting (<http://www.enicbcmmed.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 published, contributing to the diversification of the audience potentially interested in the Programme.
- *People looking for opportunities:* the section dedicated to the financial opportunities (the so-called ‘sub-grants’) provided for by the ongoing standard projects was updated with new opportunities available (<http://www.enicbcmmed.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.

The Programme website was further developed and enhanced with the **integration of the webpages of the 23 strategic projects**, which sum up to the webpages of 41 standard projects: <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 are continuously 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 **over 1,500 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 key metrics reported below, there was a **steady increase in the Programme website performance** compared to the previous reporting period. This a proof that the communication strategy implemented by the Managing Authority on its website through an active presence and the diversification of content published was able to maintain the website attractive notwithstanding no calls for proposals were launched during the concerned reporting period. These data are very positive also because the Programme was able to diversify its core audience - usually composed of (prospective) Applicants and partners – and reach out a new audience with **those aged 24-35 being the largest group of users visiting the website (31%)**.

- Users: **478,794** (+191,055 users compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an **increase of 66.4%**);
- Sessions: **539,848** (+212,472 sessions compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an **increase of 64.9%**);
- Page views: **827,822** (292,940 page views compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an **increase of 54.8%**).

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

- Facebook: **12,469 followers** (+4,345 followers compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an **increase of 53.5%**);
- Twitter: **6,270 followers** (+1,070 followers compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an **increase of 20.6%**);
- LinkedIn: **7,370 connections** (+658 connections compared to the previous reporting period corresponding to an **increase of 10.7%**).
- Instagram: **1,609 followers** (after a period of stand-by, the Instagram was relaunched with content adapted to this platform, mostly focusing on visual storytelling and stories of – young - people engaged in funded projects).

Overall, the Programme has over **27,000 followers** on social media.

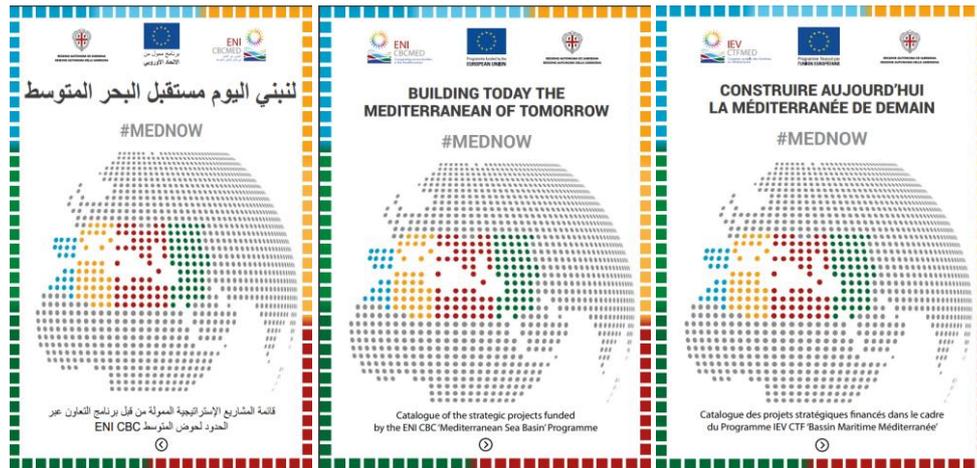
It should be noted that the Programme further fine-tuned its presence on social media by differentiating the language and type of content for each platform:

- Facebook: information on Programme/project results, video playlists and photo galleries;
- Twitter: information on Programme/project results, sharing of relevant content from other accounts and live event coverage;
- LinkedIn: only opportunities (training, job vacancies, tenders, sub-grants);
- Instagram: focus on people and visual storytelling.

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 23 strategic projects was designed under the title “Building today the Mediterranean of tomorrow”. It is available here in Arabic, English and French: <http://www.enicbcmcd.eu/info-center/publications>



In addition, it is worth mentioning the different videos were produced by the Programme in order to share the highlights of the different events organized throughout the reporting period, including:

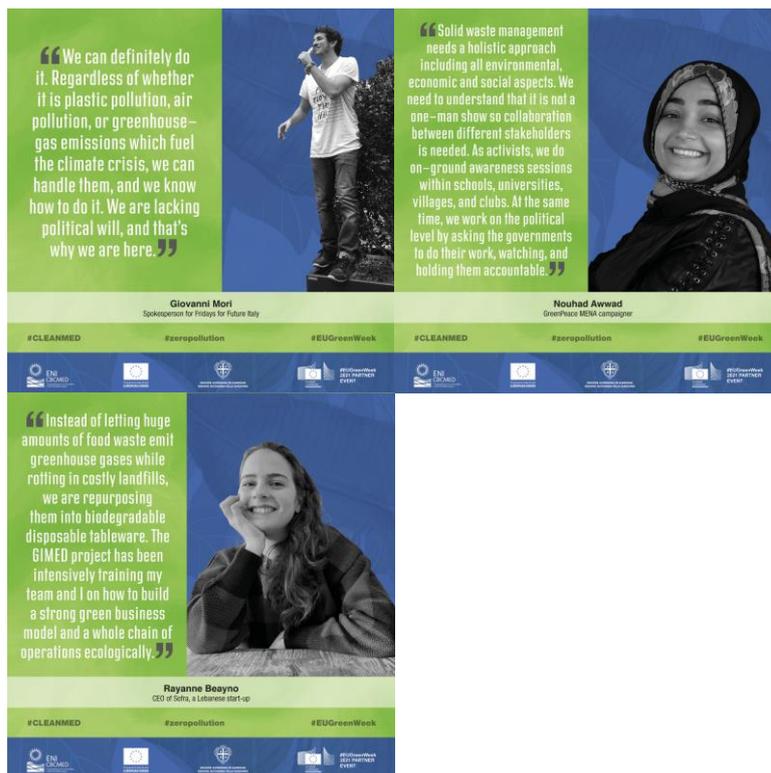
- [Europe Day 2021: views and expectations of young people towards the European Union](#)
- #CLEANMED: students for zero pollution in the Mediterranean: [1](#) – [2](#) – [3](#)
- Trailer: [#CLEANMED event at the #EUGreenWeek 2021](#)
- [#CLEANMED event at the EU Green Week 2021: Young people for zero pollution in the Mediterranean](#)

Finally, the Programme implemented visual information campaigns, mainly on social media, to mark its participation in key events and international celebrations, including:

- “Women as leaders of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation” launched on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2021 to highlight the contribution of women to Euro-Mediterranean relations



- “Young people for a clean Mediterranean” launched on the occasion of the Programme participation to the EU Green Week to highlight the efforts of young environmental activists in fighting pollution across the Mediterranean.



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, different administrative procedures were managed by the Operational and Authorising Unit in order to ensure the implementation of the Programme activities by providing it with operational tools by means of the management and signing of contracts with external experts and service providers, as described below.

1. An open call for tenders was launched on December 18th 2020, to select an economic operator in charge of the Midterm and Final Evaluation of the Programme. The activities related to the Mid-term evaluation were planned to start during 2021 while those related to the final evaluation will start towards the end of the Programme implementation. The selection of the bids was completed in May 2021 and the tender awarded on June 11th 2021.
2. An open tender for the maintenance and development of new functionalities of the Programme website and Monitoring and Information System was launched on December 18th 2020. The evaluation of the bids submitted was concluded and the award procedure closed in April 2021. The activities of the contract started soon after the awarding, in order to ensure the continuity with the previous contract.
3. An open call for tenders was launched on December 18th 2020, to select an economic operator in charge of the Midterm and Final Evaluation of the Programme. The activities related to the Mid-term evaluation were planned to start during 2021 while those related to the final evaluation will start towards the end of the Programme implementation. The selection of the bids was completed in May 2021 and the tender awarded on June 11th 2021.
4. An open tender was launched on 21st may 2021 for selecting a service provider to support the MA and the JTS for the execution of on-the-spot checks on projects and for the organisation and implementation of ROM missions. The deadline for the submission of the applications was set on 26th July 2021.
5. On 30th November 2020, the MA Operational and Authorising Unit selected, through a direct award, a company specialised in auditing consulting services to perform economic and financial audit for the technical assistance expenses (subcategories staff costs, travel and accommodation) incurred and paid by the MA, in view of the drawing up the accounts of the Programme.

In addition, 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 selection procedure of 4 external experts to support the preparation of the INTERREG NEXT MED Programme 2021-2027, on 31th July 2021, the MA completed the signature of the contracts with all the selected thematic experts.
2. Following the conclusion of the evaluation process, on 27th July 2020 the Operational and Authorising Unit signed the service contract for the organisation of the task force and JMC meetings. Due to the limitations to the mobility caused by the COVID – 19 pandemic situation, which prevents the possibility to organise meetings in presence, the contract was temporarily suspended.

Finally, during 2020 and 2021, the MA Operational and Authorising Unit finalized the updating of the equipment of the MA staff by purchasing desktop computers, laptops and software licenses.

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 second semester of 2021 the following Programme activities have been carried out:

- Train for capitalization projects (Barcelona November 2021) involving NCPs;
- the MA started the On-the-spot checks these checks on the following projects which have been sampled (ref. number and Acronym): A_B.4.2_0221 MED-InA; A_B.4.1_0290 NAWAMED; A_A.2.1_0190 LIVINGAGRO; A_A.2.2_0195 MAIA-TAQA; A_B.4.1_0317 PROSIM; A_A.1.2_0261 MedSNAIL; A_A.1.3_0210 Med Pearls; A_B.4.1_0027 AQUACYCLE and A_B.4.4_0075 Co-Evolve4BG) .
- The contract with the service provided T33 on the Mid-term evaluation started and, after the delivery of the methodology and of the preparatory documents, the interviews with the Programme bodies were carried out in 2021. The project beneficiaries' interviews on a sample of projects started at the end of 2021 and continued in January 2022.
- The call for tender on the Rom Missions was relaunched (due to the exclusion of the tenderers for lack of the minimum requirements) and the company to carry out the ROM missions was contracted, through a direct award procedure, at the end of 2021.
- After the adoption of the major change on the Programme budget shift, the MA contracted all capitalization projects and the strategic project (TECHLOG);
- In December 2021 the Court of Auditors of the EU carried out a performance audit on the Programme. The MA provided all the requested documents and attended an on-line interview, due to the impossibility for the ECA to physically visit the MA office in December, because of the pandemic situation;
- In December 2021 the Follow up System audit AA started;
- The MA continued the Preparation of the INTERREG NEXT MED 2021-2027 Programme through a first consultation on the Programme document including the paragraphs on the Programme strategy. Moreover, the MA presented a revised version of the Governance structure that was approved during the sixth Task Force meeting held on the 17th of November 2021. The MA launched a second consultation among the Task Force members on the updated draft of the Programme documents, according to the comments received on the parts related to the Programme strategy and on the new paragraphs concerning the

involvement of the programme partner, the set up procedure for the JS and the apportionment of liabilities among the participating countries.

Forecast activities from January 2022 until June 2022:

- Follow up of the Mid-Term evaluation. Expected date for the submission of the final evaluation report is April 2022. The report will be shared with the JMC members and the EC;
- Follow up of the on-the-spot checks;
- ROM missions will be carried out between February and June 2022;
- A JMC meeting is expected to take place in the first semester of 2022;
- A Heads of Delegation meeting will take place in February 2022 to examine the proposal of the financial allocation among the Policy Objectives and the Specific Objectives of the INTERREG NEXT MED Programme, while another meeting of the Task Force on the remaining paragraphs of the Programme document is expected to take place in March 2021 to allow, after a final consultation on the Programme, its submission to the EC (expected in June 2022). In parallel, the SEA process has started with the definition of the competent authority for Italy (the Italian Ministry of the ecological Transition) and the consultation on the screening report is expected to take place in March-April 2022.

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.]

During the 2nd semester of 2021 all contracting procedures of the selected capitalization projects were completed, bringing the number of funded projects to 80: 41 standard projects, 23 strategic projects, 16 capitalization projects.

In this timeframe, both the standard and strategic projects continued their progress in the implementation and in reaching the foreseen results, after two years heavily affected by uncertainty of the conditions in the field. The capitalisation projects could start the activities and 11 out of 16 have organized the kick-off meetings during the last quarter of 2021, while the remaining 5 are planned for the first quarter of 2022 (CARISMED, RESET, Plastic Busters CAP, SEACAP 4 SDG, CLUSTER4GREEN).

A list of main events and activities related to the next reporting period is proposed below:

- 34 info days and public events to promote projects and their activities (MED-Ina, REUSEMED, INTECMED, SKILLS4SPORTS, INVESTMED, MAIA-TAQA, TEX-MED Alliances, COMMON, ARTOLIO, MED-QUAD, MYSEA, U-SOLVE, INTERNISA, MoreThanAJob, Co-Evolve4BG, NAWAMED, PP4ME, IPMED)
- 29 workshops/meetings involving stakeholders and online conferences (MoreThanAJob, CRE@CTIVE, SME4SMARTCITIES, ESMES, NAWAMED, MedEcoSure, ARTOLIO, ORGANIC ECOSYSTEM, HELIOS, INTECMED, CROSSDEV, DE COST, Greenbuilding, TRANSDAIRY, MoreThanAJob, LIVINGAGRO, NAWAMED, CO-Evolve4BG, U-SOLVE, MED-QUAD, INTECMED, MED4EBM)
- 4 thematic webinars (MEDSt@rts, TEX MED Alliances, HELIOS, NAWAMED),
- 22 training webinars/programs (TRANSDAIRY, CLIMA, ORGANIC ECOSYSTEM, INTERNISA, NEX-LABS, RESMYLE, DE COST, INVESTMED, Stand-Up!, Med-EcoSuRe, PROSIM, COMMON)
- 14 specific events such as international study visits (MEDISS), B2B events involving stakeholders (LIVINGAGRO, CROSSDEV), exhibition and storytelling event (CRE@CTIVE), clean-up campaigns (MED4EBM, CLIMA), networking event (GIMED, Stand-Up!), awareness raising campaigns (CLIMA, IPMED, MedEcoSure), living labs (PPI4MED), clothes/toys and books donation event (CLIMA), art competition addressed to schools (ESMES)

Furthermore, several projects participated into regional, national and European thematic conferences showing their objectives and intermediate results, namely:

- Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, Monaco from the 27th November to 1st December 2021 (MED4EBM)
- 4th Mediterranean Water Forum, Malta 6th - 8th December (NAWAMED, MEDWAYCAP)
- 7th Patras IQ 2021 Exhibition, Greece (DE COST)
- EcoSwitch Festival, Lebanon November 2021 (GIMED, Stand-Up!)
- International Cairo ICT Fair, Egypt, November 2021 (iHERITAGE)
- 7th edition TECHNE Summit in Alexandria, Egypt, 2nd - 4th October 2021 (INTECMED)
- Entrepreneurship and Employment Conference on the Ecological Transition, Cádiz (Spain) 14th -15th October, 2021 (INTECMED)
- 85th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), Greece 11th - 19th September (MED-QUAD)
- Ecoforum organized by Legambiente, Italy November 2021 (CLIMA)
- Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean organized by Union for the Mediterranean and WestMED 3rd November (COEvolve4BG)
- “L’eau, l’énergie et l’électrification dans les pays en développement” organized by La Conférence Internationale des Formations d’Ingénieurs et de Techniciens d’Expression Française (CITEF), 10th November (MEDECOSURE)
- FOCUS 2021 - UNESCO cities and sites, within the 2021 edition of WTE | World Tourism Event, 24th September (iHERITAGE)
- “Strengthening EU-Africa cooperation in water Research, Development and Innovation: opportunities and challenges” organized by the Water Joint Program Initiative within the Cairo Water Week (NEX LABS)

- XII edition of the Borsa della Ricerca, Italy 20th October, 2021 (PPI4MED)
- 2nd National conference on “Water-Energy Nexus”, Jordan 15th -16th September, 2021 (NAWAMED)
- European Week of the Regions and the Cities, 11th - 14th October 2021 (BESTMEDGRAPE, GIMED, Stand-Up!)
- 21st International Conference on Environment and Electrical Engineering (EEEIC) Bari, Italy 7th -10th September (BERLIN)
- SHaring Researchers' Passion for Engaging Responsiveness -SHARPER- Night (iHERITAGE)
- European Researchers' Night, Spain 24th – 25th September 2021 (PPI4MED)
- "Capraia Smart Island - Sustainable Fish Industry", Italy 23rd September (FISHMEDNET)
- 5th edition of Arab Water Forum (AWF) Dubai (United Arab Emirates), 21st – 23rd September 2021 (MENAWARA)
- Online meeting organized by the Regional Tourism Agency of Lazio Region and BIG TC - Blue Italian Growth Technology Cluster on 13th July about sustainable tourism on the Mediterranean (Co-Evolve4BG)
- 8th International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics (CEMEPE 2021) and SECOTOX Conference in Thessaloniki (Greece), 20th – 24th July 2021 (AQUACYCLE)
- 9th International Conference on Modern Power Systems in Cluj, Romania (BERLIN)
- “I processi di capitalizzazione dei risultati tra programmi Interreg”, 15th July 2021 (Co-Evolve4BG, CLIMA, NAWAMED, COMMON)
- International Conference on Environmental Science & Technology CEST 2021 within the Special Session "Sustainable water management in the Mediterranean - Technological solutions, demonstration and deployment", organized by the Cluster of the five ENI CBC MED standard projects related to water and sanitation, 2nd September 2021 (AQUACYCLE, MEDISS, MENAWARA, PROSIM, NAWAMED)

During the 2nd semester of 2021, No. 4 cluster meetings grouping projects from TO1, TO2 and TO4 have been held, fostered by the JTS and MA, aimed at sharing the good practices, lessons learned, transferring knowledge in order to plan possible synergies in the coming period. Particularly:

- 2nd cluster meeting of priority 4.4. Integrated Coastal Zone Management projects and other blue projects under TO1 having activities related to ICZM and other cross cutting thematic, like marine litter, coastal sustainable tourism, and fisheries, on 26th July (COMMON, Co-Evolve4BG, MED4EBM, CLIMA, MedArtSal, MEDUSA and FISH MED NET)
- 4th Cluster event focused on the establishment of a common Platform involving 11 projects under TO2, on 28th July (BESTMEDGRAPE, LIVINGAGRO, GREENinMED, INNOMED-UP, MAIATAQA, FruitFlyNet-ii, iHERITAGE, INTECMED, MED-QUAD, NEX-LABS, PPI4MED, RE-MED, TRANSDAIRY)
- 5th Cluster event, focused on the creation of living labs among 8 TO2 projects planning the creation of more than 15 living labs, on 28th October (BESTMEDGRAPE, LIVINGAGRO, TRANSDAIRY, NEX-LABS, iHERITAGE, MED-QUAD, PPI4MED, FruitFlyNetii)

- 3rd Cluster meeting for Priority 1.3 projects, on 18th of November (Med Pearls, CROSSDEV, MED GAIMS, MEDUSA, RESTART MED!)

TO3 projects are working in cooperation adopting a different approach, organizing specific events attended by those projects most coherent with the event's objective.

In addition, projects are working together organizing joint initiatives and events creating synergies and connecting each other for further developments. Few examples are listed as follows:

- online mid-term conference entitled "LIVE, PLAY, LEARN - Sustainable tourism ideas to connect travellers and communities in the Mediterranean" involving the four sustainable tourism projects of the ENI CBC MED Programme CROSSDEV, MED GAIMS, MED PEARLS and MEDUSA on 1st December.
- open day to present the ENI CBC MED projects implemented in Jordan on 17th August. The event witnessed the signing of Memorandums of Understanding and cooperation involving the projects CRE@CTIVE, U-SOLVE, MYSEA, MEDGAIMS, PPI4MED, GREENLAND and HELIOS, aiming at creating synergies and linkages between them and aligning efforts to provide grants and job opportunities for youth and women in Jordan.

Upcoming project activities and events, planned for the 1st half of 2022 include, among others:

Thematic Objective 1:

- Info day for the launch of the grant scheme for the projects INVESTMED (Jan-Feb 2022), ARTOLIO (Jan-Feb 2022), CRE@CTIVE (Jan 22)
- Public synergy event NEX – LABS (Jan 2022)
- 2nd Cross-border forum of MEDSt@rts in Tunisia (Feb. 2022)
- ORGANIC ECOSYSTEM Cross-border event with local operators (Feb – March 2022)
- Gamification for Tourism Fairs in the involved countries for MED GAIMS (May-June 2022)
- Webinar to present the Open Eco-innovation methodology and platform of Stand-Up! (Jan 2022)
- MedBEEsinessHubs Open Day (Jan – March 2022)
- Participation into a fair in Athens to present the platform THEMEDNEW of TEX MED Alliances (Jan 2022)
- 1st International MedArtSal fair (Jan 2022)

Thematic Objective 2:

- NEX-LABS Innovation week in Tunis (Jan 2022)
- WEF NEXUS summer school (Oct. 2022) of NEX-LABS project and RE-MED summer school (2nd and 3rd quarter of 2022)
- Launching events for the promotion of the living labs of TECHLOG project in the involved countries (Mar., June, July, Oct., and Dec. 2022)

- 1st and 2nd INTECEMED dissemination matchmaking events for the Call for innovative ideas (Jan. 2022)
- Public conference of MED-QUAD (last quarter of 2022)
- 3rd INNOMED-UP Capitalization event in Athens (Nov. 2022)
- Pilot Re-use Open Market in MPCs and EUPCs (Mar-May 2022)
- Open days for the projects EMPHASIS (Feb. 2022), INTECEMED (Jan. 2022), TRANSDAIRY (Jan-Feb., June- July, Sept., Dec. 2022)
- RE-MED seminars (Mar., June, Aug. 2022)
- Living labs for the projects iHERITAGE (Jan-Feb, Apr. 2022), TRANSDAIRY (throughout 2022)
- Participation into international fairs and conferences for the projects TRANSDAIRY (SIAT and AGROTICA, in Oct. 2022; RIYEDA- Entrepreneurship Fair in Feb. 2022), iHERITAGE (Digitalization in Tourism and Hospitality in Feb. 2022)
- Holographic Exhibition of gardens in the World Heiritage in Andalusia (Spain for the project iHERITAGE (Sept. – Oct. 2022)

Thematic Objective 3:

- Opening of the RESMYLE incubators in Lebanon and Tunisia (Mar. 2022)
- MYSEA Mid-Term conference in Jordan (Feb. 2022)
- MYSEA National Policy making meetings in all the involved territories (last quarter 2022)
- INNOVAGROWOMED winter camp (Feb. 2022)
- Public Sector training in Spain for the project INTERNISA (Feb. 2022)
- SIRCLES on-line training programme on biowaste management (Mar. 2022)

Thematic Objective 4:

- International and cross-border events (training, thematic web talk, workshop) for the projects AQUACYCLE (Jan. 2022), PROSIM (Feb. 2022), ESMES (Feb. 2022), MENAWARA (June 2022).
- Study visits for the projects MENAWARA (first semester 2022), PROSIM (Jan. 2022), MEDISS (Jan. 2022), REUSEMED (first semester 2022)
- Inauguration of the Italian pilot sites and the Palestinian pilot sites of DECOST
- Promotional media events in Tunisia for the project MEDWAYCAP (first semester 2022)
- Mid-term events for the projects PROSIM (Jan. 2022), SOLE (Mar. 2022) and the final event of DECOST

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.

However, no major event was organised by projects in the Mediterranean Partners Countries during the 2nd half of 2021.

[You are invited to use separate files to complete the following items (to be sent together with the report, as annexes)⁶]:

5.2 Updated Audit Strategy December 2021⁷

5.3 Detailed Work Programme of the MA⁸ (adopted by the JMC in June 2021 for activities to be carried out until 30th June 2022).

5.4 Financial plan and planned use of the technical assistance (adopted by the JMC in June 2021 for activities to be carried out until 30th June 2022).

5.5 Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2022

5.6 Annual Information and Communication Plan (adopted by the JMC in June 2021 for activities to be carried out until 31st December 2022).

⁶ As per article 77.4 of the IR.

⁷ 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.

⁸ In accordance with 24(a) and 24(b) of ENI CBC IR