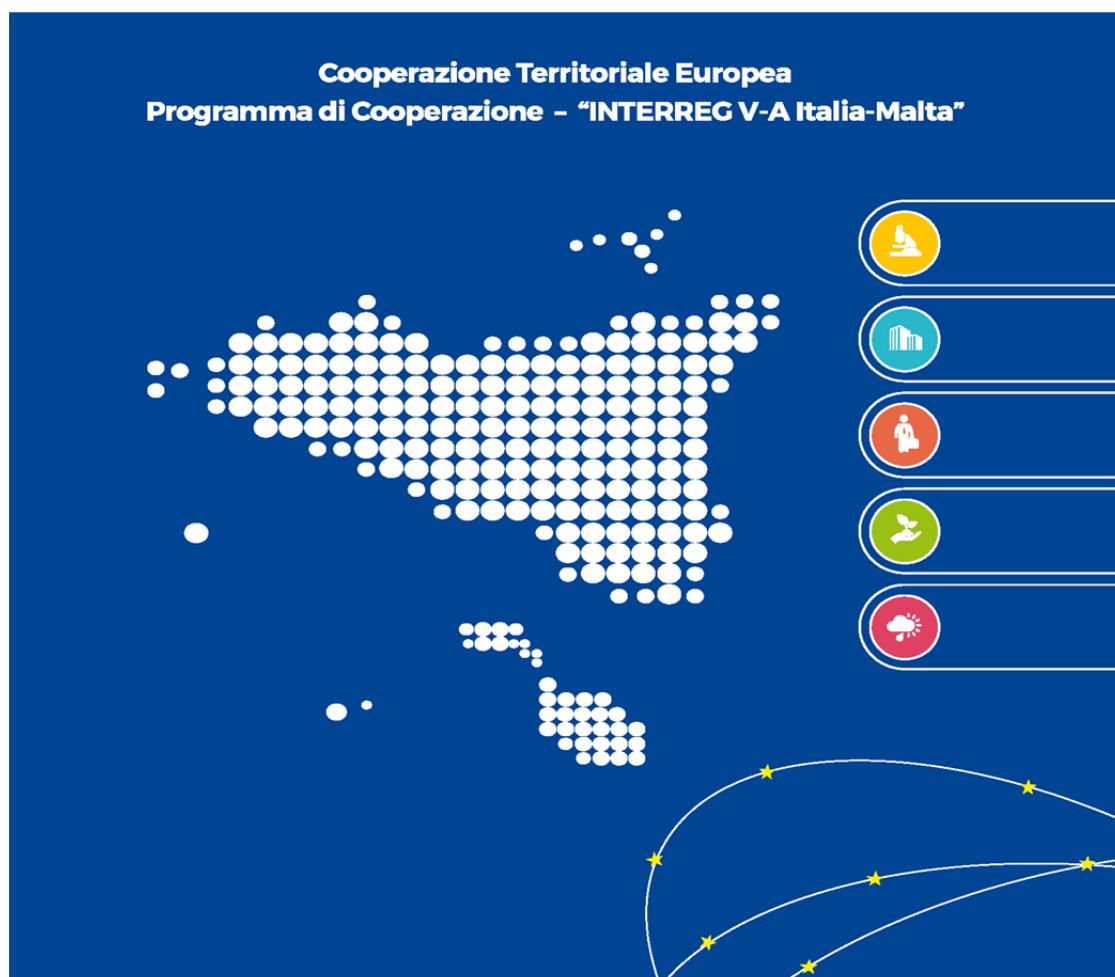


CITIZEN'S SUMMARY - ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2015

(in line with Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)



The cooperation programme INTERREG Italia-Malta was approved on 12/10/2015, by means of Decision C(2015) 7406. In this regard, there is not much relevant information about the Programme's actual implementation during the year 2015.

During the two implementation months under review, the Managing Authority aimed its actions towards developing all the elements and instruments essential for an efficient and correct launch of the Programme Interreg V-A Italia - Malta.

Over the month of November 2015, the Managing Authority started the necessary procedures to appoint the Italian and Maltese members of the **Monitoring Committee**, as stated in paragraph 5.3: "A summary description of the management and control arrangements" of the approved CP.

Subsequently, with the support of the Joint Secretariat, the MA started the following activities:

- drafting of the **Monitoring Committee Terms of Reference**;
- drafting of the **Technical Assistance Plan**, in order to define the expenditure procedures among the Programme Authorities related to the budget allocated to Axis IV of the Programme;
- drafting of the **Selection Criteria of the Operations**, in line with Art. 12 of the Reg. (EU) 1299/2013;
- drafting of the **Communication Strategy** of the Cooperation Programme in line with Art 115 of the Reg (EU) 1303/2013;
- organization of the **launch event** of the Cooperation Programme "INTERREG V-A Italia Malta" in order to present its objectives and investment priorities.

In accordance with Reg (EU) 1303/2013, Annex XII, the Managing Authority organized in Palermo, Sicily an informational event on 17th December 2015 in order to publicize the start of the programme. 198 potential beneficiaries attended the event. A similar event was programmed to be held in Malta together with the Maltese National Coordination Authority (MNCA) on 11th January 2016, which was held back-to-back to the first Monitoring Committee meeting.

The event in Sicily was preceded by a press campaign through the publication of two advertisements on the main regional newspaper, La Sicilia and Giornale di Sicilia. The informational campaign registered a significant media impact on all the regional territory.

In Malta, the Territorial Cooperation Unit within the Funds and Programmes Division (FPD) as the national coordinator of the Territorial Cooperation Programmes, including the Italia-Malta Programme, issued a press release on the 22nd of September 2015 informing any interested parties that the budgetary allocation of the new Programme was increased by €14 million.

This was followed by another press release on the 20th October 2015 whereby information regarding the launch of the new Programme was provided. In addition, on the 14th December 2015, the FPD organized a seminar entitled 'Celebrating the results achieved by the projects financed under Territorial Cooperation Programmes and paving the way for Malta's participation in the 2014-2020 Programmes'. During this seminar, which also involved the participation of the Hon. Dr. Borg, Parliamentary Secretary for EU funds, information on the Interreg Italia-Malta Programme was provided. A press release in connection with this event was also launched.

With reference to further informational activities carried out over 2015, the MA and the Maltese National Coordination Authority approved the logo of the Programme INTERREG V- A Italia-Malta.

The logo adhered to the European Commission proposal, based on the INTERACT programme, for the creation of a common brand for the ETC programmes on European territory. For this reason, a Brand Design Manual was drafted for use of the authorities and future beneficiaries of the programme, outlining the visual identity of the 2014-2020 programming period.

With reference to 2015 **financial data and indicators**, no relevant information can be included in this report due to the limited timeframe of actual implementation.

Having particular regard to the **alignment of the IT system** to the regulation requirements of e-cohesion in line with regulation 1303/2013 it is highlighted as follows:

The IT system called "Ulysses", financed through funds from the OP Italia-Malta 2007-2013, assure the exchange of information among the beneficiaries and the MA, the CA, the MNCA and the AA. During the first semester of 2016, the major evolutionary activities of the System shall commence, allowing the collection of all data as required by the Annex XII of the Regulation UE as well as the respect of the requirements of Art. 122 paragraph 3 of the General regulation.