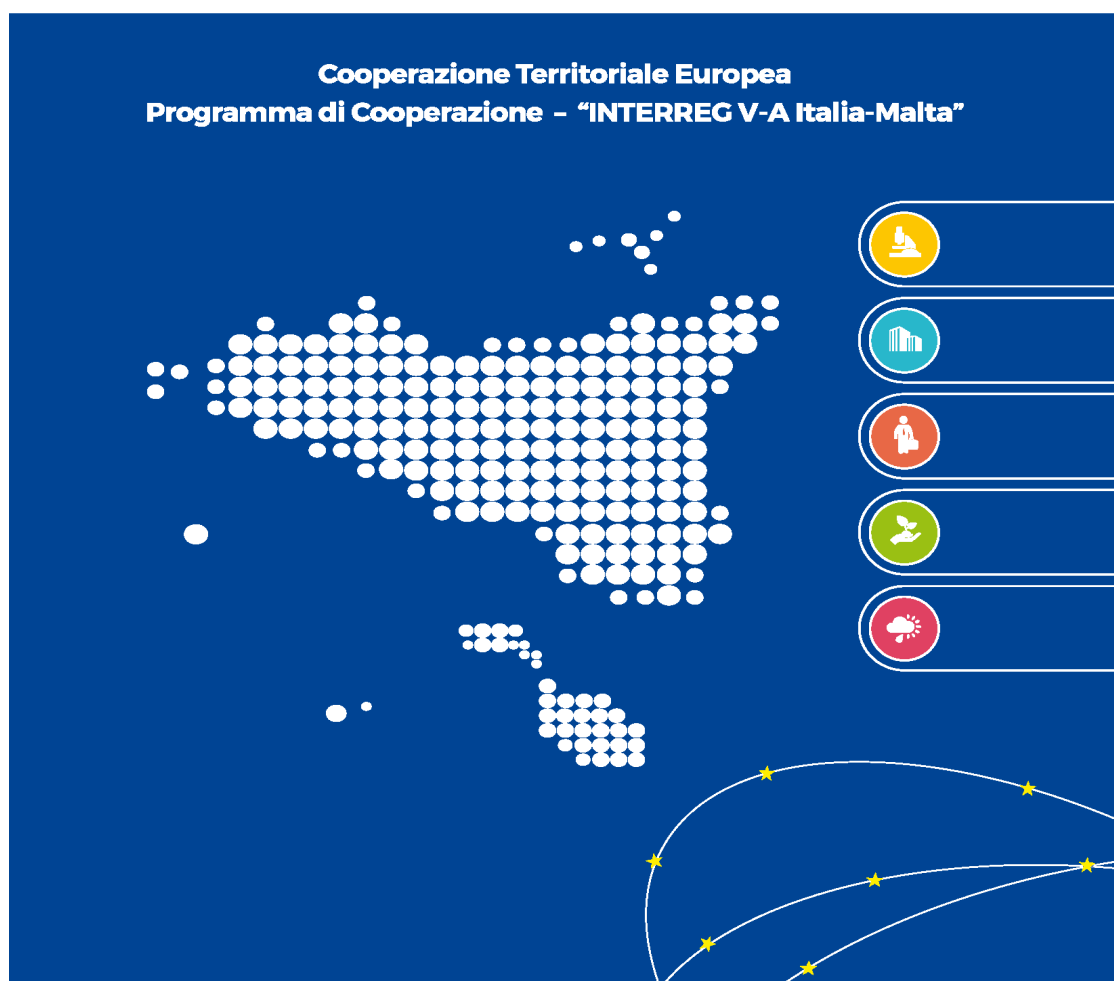


## PUBLIC SUMMARY – ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2019

(under Article 50, paragraph 9, of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013)



In 2019, the action of the Managing Authority and Maltese National Coordination Authority with the support of the Joint Secretariat supported the implementation of the programme's axes and the sound implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance of the program. In summary and for points:

### 1. Physical and financial implementation of axes

Regarding the implementation of the projects financed under the **Public Notice 01/2016** during the 2019 year, there has been an overall progress of the programme's output indicators.

Regarding Axis I: with respect to the CO01 indicator – number of enterprises receiving support, the NATIFLIFE project aimed at the development of assistive technology to facilitate the de-hospitalization of elderly people in nursing homes has created a network to date counting No. 13 associated companies that exchange peer-to-peer products-services-information so to reduce costs for health care system. With respect to CO04 indicator – *number of enterprises receiving a non-financial support*, BYTHOS project, which aims to develop sustainable resources from fish and catering industry waste in Sicily and Malta, has so far involved No. 6 companies that use laboratory services to reduce waste disposal risks, involved six companies using the laboratory for waste disposal services. Within the same axis MEDIWARN project, aimed at the realization of a monitoring system for the real-time acquisition of patients' vital parameters using a peripheral sensory system equipped with artificial intelligence involved 2 companies for actions aimed at industrial prototyping and the marketing of technological products for monitoring vital patient parameters. Moreover, NATIFLIFE project identified 10 companies that will benefit from the transfer of knowledge on new methodologies and technologies for the development of home automation, have contributed to the achievement of its target.

Regarding Axis II: with respect to the CO01 indicator - *Number of enterprises receiving support*, CO03 indicator - *Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants* and 2.1.3 indicator - *Networks of cross-border services created for new or existing enterprises* ENISIE project identified n.11 companies that have profited experimental services to increase social innovation and social business, n.2 companies that have experimented with innovative services for access to credit and micro-finance and has developed a network of services consisting of an open cross-border *open source* platform for the digitization of support services. With respect to the 2.2.1 indicator - *Activated operative cross-border networks which support the demand and supply of labour* and 2.2.2 indicator - *Enterprises (micro, small and medium) that activate stages*, the JOB MATCH 2020 project created n. 1 portal for the provision of counselling, tutoring, recruiting, human resources management services and involved n. 10 Italian and Maltese companies in activities of exchange of internship experiences.

Regarding Axis III: with respect to 3.1.1 indicator - *Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 network* and 3.1.3 indicator- *Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas*, the HARMONY project created No. 1 network of subjects involved in the data collection through Local Ecological Knowledge and realized N. 1 inventory of cross-border biodiversity in sites and Habitat Natura 2000. The project has also carried out no 1 awareness campaign for the proper use of protected areas. With respect to 3.2.1 indicator - *Surface covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change* BESS and NEWS projects, thanks to an environmental niches surveillance system and an areal monitoring network to measure the characteristics of wave movement, ensure respectively to cover an area of 83,000.000 sqm of beaches (*pocket beaches*) and a sea surface of 1,000,000 sqm.

From a financial point of view, Axes I, II, III recorded on 31/12/2019 an absorption of ERDF resources certified to the EC of 4,640,585, of which 1,836,589 on Axis I for n. 6 operations; € 737,244 on Axis II for No. 3 operations and € 2,066,75 on Axis III for No. 6 operations.

Regarding Axis IV during 2019 MA and MNCA action, supported by JS, has also ensured the proper implementation of the programme and projects funded under the Public Notice 01/2016, as well as the correct information and communication activities towards potential beneficiaries of the Public Notice 02/2019.

From a financial point of view, Axes IV recorded to date 31/12/2019 an absorption of ERDF resources certified to the EC of € 806,514 for n. 9 operations.

During the month of May 2019, the Managing Authority published the **Public Notice 02/2019** "targeted call" for the submission of cooperation projects with procedure "one step" to apply on priority Axes I, II, III and with a financial allocation of € 16,070,410 that included a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) public co-financing of 85% distributed as follows:

- Priority Axis I: Euro 3,400,000 (ERDF share) under Investment Priority 1.b - Specific Objective 1.1;
- Priority Axis II: Euro 2,416,495 (ERDF share) under Investment Priority 8.e - Specific Objective 2.2;
- Priority Axis III: Euro 8.455.063 (ERDF share) under Investment Priority 6.d - Specific Objective 3.1;
- Priority Axis IV: Euro 1,798,852 (ERDF share) under Investment Priority 5.b - Specific Objective 3.2.

For the Axis I-SO 1.1 the Public Notice provided for actions addressed to the delivery of vouchers (individual grants) to postdoctoral researchers to support their cross-border mobility

For Axis II-SO 2.2, the Public Notice provided for actions addressed to vouchers delivery for internships activation for young and newly-qualified people in companies (micro, small and medium) operating in the areas of environmental protection and the quality of life and health of citizens.

For Axis III-SO 3.1, the Public Notice provided for actions to safeguard land and marine biodiversity and Natura 2000 network sites and to support the dissemination of knowledge/benefits.

For Axis III-SO 3.2, the Public Notice provided for actions for monitoring and mitigating climate change effects.

On the expiry date, a total number of 18 project proposals were received. These proposals were submitted by partnerships constituted by 86 potential beneficiaries. At the end of documental investigation, finished in 18/11/2019 through the 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee written procedure a total number of 14 project proposals resulted as eligible for the next evaluation phase then concluded during 2020.

Overall implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance of the programme actions ensured at the date of 31/12/2019 the achievement of the N+3 disbursement target with a submission of a request for payment of € 5,447,100 (FESR) against an expected disbursement target of € 4,085,374.

## **2. Evaluation of the Program**

During 2019, the preparatory activities for the implementation assessment report (II part) were initiated, which on the one hand offers an update of the first report with reference to the aspects related to the organization and functionality of the structures responsible for the implementation of the programme as well as the adequacy of the procedures adopted for the selection of operations and on the other it contains some assessments concerning the ability of the programme to achieve the expected results within the 2023 annuity.

The programme management structures and the degree of implementation of the programme; the effectiveness/efficiency of the application and selection processes and programme ability to achieve the expected results and targets of the Performance Framework; the degree of integration of the programme with the Union's other instruments; the effectiveness of the management of the new cooperation space and the communication strategy are the main aspects investigated in the implementation assessment (Part II).