



Interreg



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NEXT MED

Third Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting
for the

Interreg NEXT MED Programme 2021-2027

Valencia (Spain)
25 and 26 February 2025

Summary of the main decisions



REGIONE AUTÓNOMA
DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA
DELLA SARDEGNA

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February 25, 2025

Main results of the meeting

Documents / items on the Agenda	Results
First call for proposals	<p>Ms. Silvia Cubadda (MA Officer and AB Chairperson) provides the overview of the selection procedure, and presents results and next steps of the first call for proposals. The selection procedure was completed with a result of 47 projects recommended for funding.</p> <p>Moreover, she presents the AB recommendations in order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to assign the non-allocated budget on the basis of the funds per Priority, and of the ranking of the proposals in the reserve lists; - to consider increasing the budget in order to finance additional proposals; - to revise the eligibility requirement for Youth-oriented projects; - to specify the methodology for the distribution/allocation of any dedicated budget applicable in the selection process. <p>Finally, she opens the discussion and replies to the questions.</p>
Priority 1 - Smarter Mediterranean	<p>Ms. Anouska Stoka (JS) describes the 1.1 recommended projects: HERACLES, MILenARI, INNOVATILE, PROTECHMED, EONANOBIOPS.</p> <p>Mr. Khaled El Saadany (JS) presents the 1.2 recommended projects: YIELD, CERES, CReSIInMed, SmartGreenEcos, SMAC, CLUSTERATLAS4MED, SPEEDUP, SheEmpower.</p> <p>After the presentations, Ms. Silvia Cubadda gives the floor to the members of Jordan and Egypt in order to disclose their comments.</p> <p>At last, MC approves recommended projects submitted under Specific Objectives 1.1 and 1.2.</p>
Priority 2 – Greener Mediterranean	<p>Ms. Joumana Sweiss (Valencia BO) describes the 2.1 and 2.2 recommended projects: GREENOLIVE, STORM, SHAREN, GREENMEDPORTS, YOUthCARE4planet, MedJICARP, MedFireWise, MedPROACT, NBS4MED. Mr. Esmat Al-Karadsheh (Aqaba BO) presents the 2.3 and 2.4 recommended projects: SWAMED, NCWRRUWM, MAENA, MedRESOURCE, Waste2Fashion, WEEEVALUE, MEDWISE.</p> <p>After the presentations, Ms. Silvia Cubadda opens the discussion.</p> <p>Ms. Tamara Pavlin takes the floor to underline that MA has to ensure that the main elements of the projects are respected during the negotiation phase, no major changes can be allowed.</p> <p>Finally, MC approves recommended projects submitted under Specific Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.</p>



<p>Priority 3 - More inclusive Mediterranean & Priority 4 - A better Governance for the Mediterranean</p>	<p>Mr. Fabrizio Paloni (JS) presents the 3.1 recommended projects: DigitalLife4ALL, DIGIWAVE, EmpowerNEET, EUSEEDS, DIEM, and Ms. Anouska Stoka (JS) describes the 3.2 recommended projects: AIGENCY, CAREMED.</p> <p>At last, MC approves recommended projects submitted under Specific Objectives 3.1 and 3.2.</p> <p>Finally, Ms. Silvia Cubadda opens the discussion and replies to the questions.</p> <p>Mr. Vincent Ernoux (Valencia BO) shows the 4.1 recommended projects: Gov4GreenMed, CLOSER, JADEITE, FOODGaP, SHARE4MED, MEDinCHAMBERS.</p> <p>After the presentations, Ms. Silvia Cubadda gives the floor to the MC members. At last, MC approves recommended projects submitted under Priority 4.</p>
<p>Award decision</p>	<p>Ms. Giovanna Medde asks the approval of the evaluation report including the recommended projects and the reserve lists and the MC approves via consensus.</p>
<p>Proposal for potential budget increase</p>	<p>In line with the recommendation of the AB, Mr. Aldo Puleo (MA) presents a proposal to maximize the absorption of EU funds and secure the achievement of specific objectives and results through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the budget of the first call and finance good projects on the reserve list; • having a high number of projects which could contribute to reach the target levels of Programme specific objective and result indicators. <p>In case the potential budget is increased, to finance the best ranked proposals, he underlines it would be essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To distribute the additional funds according to Priority and Specific objective original distribution of the call (including a maximum of 20% for youth projects); • To avoid shifts among Priorities at this stage; • To absorb the additional funds at SO allocation first and then consider the remaining funds that could be used to finance additional projects on the basis of the ranking list per priority. <p>The first decision concerns the new distribution of the EU funds among the different calls. He proposes to avoid the 4th call “the Consolidation call” and to move/allocate the 11.9 million (about 5% of the Programme budget) to increase the total budget of the first call. This amount and the 4 million euro resulting from the Programme budget increased made by the EC in December 2023 that were not yet allocated to the first call for proposal having been launched before the EC decision, would allow to</p>



	<p>reach 119.588.512 € of EU funds available for the first call. The proposal of the MA would allow to finance 57 projects absorbing about 116 million euro.</p> <p>Ms. Tamara Pavlin (EC) states that MA needs to boost the implementation of the Calls not to lose the available funds. This proposal can be a great opportunity to finance more projects because EC is not going to add funds to those already planned.</p> <p>Mr. Aldo Puleo opens the discussion and replies to the questions on the proposed budget increase and allocation to finance additional projects in the reserve list and how to use the remaining funds.</p> <p>Ms. Giovanna Medde closes the first day of the meeting with a general agreement, in principle, on the need to increase the budget of the first call and on the distribution according to the original allocation among priorities and specific objectives. However, different options are proposed by some participating countries for the remaining funds. The decision is postponed to the second day.</p>
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February 26, 2025

Main results of the meeting

Documents / items on the Agenda	Results
Supporting the implementation of projects	<p>The Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting starts at 09:30 am, Ms. Giovanna Medde proposes a change of order of the agenda: the first point will be postponed, allowing the preparation of the discussed options on the budget increase for the first call, while the meeting will start with the topic dedicated to the support in the implementation of the financed projects.</p> <p>Ms. Annalisa Pireddu (MA) communicates that the projects to be financed (referred mainly to 47 projects before 13 more from the reserve list) are going to receive the Awarding letter within two weeks and contracts are going to be finalized in June after the finalization of the negotiations and the signature of the Grant Contract set for approximately April. The actors involved in this final phase are the Authorizing Unit of MA, JS and the Lead Applicant. Finally, she describes the negotiation and contracting process and the main contractual conditions (i.e. 1st pre-financing set at 20-30% according to the risk analysis, 6 months reporting periods, further pre-financings according to the reported amount, 1 minor amendment per year, 1 major amendment during the project implementation).</p> <p>Mr. Fabrizio Paloni (JS) specifies the integrated strategy to reduce errors and issues in order to avoid risks in the certification of the expenses submitted by the project partnerships.</p>



	<p>Mr. Martin Heibel (MA) states that it is essential to support project beneficiaries to ensure impactful project communication and good communication capacities. In addition, he underlines that boosting communication efforts at national level organizing specific initiatives is a fundamental step to promote the project activities. He suggested using communication-specific indicators concerning outputs and results at project level, they are useful to measure the number of communication initiatives and products implemented, and the number of people reached and engaged. Finally, he launched a common hashtag for community building #MADE4MED.</p> <p>Ms. Anuska Stoka (JS) speaks about Programme monitoring activities which ensure that the project stays on track and meets the set goals, they are fundamental to identify any issues or risks that may arise during the implementation of the projects and promptly support the projects to solve them.</p> <p>After the presentations, the discussion on these topics is opened by the speakers. Ms. Tamara Pavlin underlines that risk assessment is mandatory and the double funding of the projects is forbidden.</p>
<p>Follow-up- Award decision on additional projects from the reserve list: presentation of the proposals of the reserve list recommended for award according to the decision on the budget increase</p>	<p>Mr. Aldo Puleo (MA) shows the MA's proposals according to the debate of the first day.</p> <p>A new total budget of 119.588.511,50€ for the first call could be available in the event that the MC decides to add the following amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 millions from increase of the budget of the Programme, • 11,9 millions from the 4th call. <p>Moreover, 10 additional projects could be funded according to the score in the respective SO until absorption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A_T_1.1_0430 – NutraSHIELD - A_T_1.2_0450 – PLANBEE & A_T_1.2_0485 – ReTour - A_T_2.2_0517 - SIMMER - A_T_2.3_0390 – MEDWISE - A_T_2.4_0289 – MATRIX - A_Y_3.1_0232 – HEEFTA - A_T_3.2_0496 – SALAM - A_G_4.1_0529 – SMARTMED & A_G_4.1_0590 – TRANSFORMED <p>In this case, a total of 57 projects could be funded and the remaining budget would amount to €7,388,913.91.</p> <p>The MC agrees on the proposed budget increase and distribution.</p> <p>MA proposes two options to carry on a correct distribution of this remaining budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Option 1: to fund 2 additional projects according to the ranking per Priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. A_T_2.2_0220 - GREENWEMED



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2. A_T_2.2_0631 - N0FRONTIERS • A total of 59 projects could be funded and the remaining budget would amount to €2.939.981,91. <p>- Option 2: to fund 3 additional projects on the principle of funding all SOs with at least one thematic project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. A_T_2.1_0483 - RESt4GREEN • 2. A_T_2.1_0522 - Sludge2Energy • 3. A_T_3.1_0396 – MERAUVIGLIA • A total of 60 projects could be funded and the remaining budget would amount to € 181.070,91. <p>Mr. Aldo Puleo opens the discussion and replies to the questions. Thereafter, Mr. Fabrizio Paloni, Mr. Esmat Alkaradsheh, Mr. Vincent Ernoux, Ms. Joumana Sweiss, Ms. Anouska Stoka and Mr. Khaled El Saadany present the mentioned projects in the reserve lists.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the voting procedure, Ms. Giovanna Medde asks the approval of the MC for the budget increase with the adoption of the Option 2 in order to distribute the remaining budget.</p> <p>The MC approves the proposal and option 2 via consensus.</p> <p>Ms. Constantia Constantinou (Cyprus) and Mr. Oliverio Graca (Portugal) speak about the experience as AB members and the importance of this complex role.</p>
<p>Preliminary concept for the next call for proposals</p>	<p>Mr. Martin Heibel speaks about the third call for proposals: #ULTRAMED. The goal is to foster transnational cooperation, emblematic economic, cultural, social, and environmental topics of shared significance across the Mediterranean. It focuses on themes that define a common Mediterranean identity and reflect the essence of being Mediterranean with a special attention to capitalization.</p> <p>After Mr. Guillaume Huet’s speech on the Programme data, Ms. Giovanna Medde invites the Participants to come back to the room after the lunch break for the conclusion of the meeting.</p>
<p>Enhancing the impact of Interreg NEXT MED Programme</p>	<p>Ms. Giovanna Medde opens the discussion on the topic described before the lunch break.</p> <p>Mr. Aldo Puleo takes the floor for the next presentation regarding the multi-programme coordination mechanism, synergies with other initiatives on cooperation, and upcoming activities.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the speech, MC members from France and Spain take the floor for comments.</p>
<p>Post 2027 perspectives</p>	<p>Ms. Tamara Pavlin speaks about the Post 2027 Programme perspectives, she mentions in particular the new challenges and the next publication of the EU budget which will be activated starting from 2028. Finally, she</p>



	greeted all the participants and thanked them for the beneficial and interesting meeting.
Other business	<p>Mr. Oliverio Graça (Portugal) reads a statement regarding the concerns of the Portuguese delegation (the document is attached). He underlines that it is necessary an effective communication between the management structures and Applicants.</p> <p>Ms. Marwa A. Mahmoud (Egypt) specifies that Egypt needs a facilitator who can support the Egyptian Applicants, and involve and encourage new actors to participate in the Programme.</p> <p>Ms. Constantia Constantinou (Cyprus) takes the floor to greet the MC members, EC and the Staff of the Programme management structures, and communicates officially that it is her last MC meeting because she has been assigned to a new job role by her Administration.</p>
Closing of the meeting	Ms. Giovanna Medde thanks all the participants for their important contributions and she officially closes the MC meeting at 4:30 pm.

ANNEXES

1. List of participants
2. Final Agenda
3. Documents presented during the meeting including:
 - a. PPT1_Overview of results
 - b. PPTs_Projects (recommended proposals per priority)
 - c. Budget increase proposals
 - d. Interreg NEXT MED_Enhancing Project Communication
 - e. Interreg NEXT MED_PPT_Concept third call for proposals
 - f. PPT2 Overview of results option 2
 - g. Reserve list option 2
 - h. Negotiation and contracting
 - i. Synergies with other Programmes and initiatives
 - j. Interreg NEXT MED_Monitoring_considerations_v3
 - k. Portuguese Statement (original message in French and courtesy English translation)

