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PANORAMA Italia | Malta



Operational Programme Italy-Malta 2007-2013



IN THIS NUMBER TWELVE

This last issue of the newsletter Panorama Italia-Malta is dedicated to Cooperation Programme “INTERREG V-A Italy Malta” which will be implemented in the 2014-2020 programming period.

The program was approved by Decision of Execution of the European Commission C (2015) 7046 final of 12 October 2015 and adopted by the Board of the Regional Government with Resolution no. 281 of 18 November 2015.

The area covered by the current program of cooperation – which is part of the objective “European Territorial Cooperation” between European bordering regions – has been expanded compared to the previous programming period to encompass the entire Sicilian territory and the whole Maltese territory, therefore involving a total population of about 5.4 million people, who will benefit from the measures. In line with the principle of thematic concentration provided by the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020, the programme aims to promote targeted and timely measures to ensure high technology specialization of the territories in the following areas: 1) electronic; 2) mechatronics; 3) micro and nano-systems; 4) biotechnology applied to human health.

The total budget of the programme amounts to € 51,708,438, of which 85% is co-financing from the European Union through the European Fund for Regional Development.

>> INTERREG V-A ITALY MALTA 2014-2020

The cooperation programme INTERREG V-A Italy Malta will contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the cross-border area between Sicily and Malta concentrating resources on three main priorities

> PRIORITY AXIS 1

Sustainable and intelligent growth through research and innovation

> PRIORITY AXIS 2

Business competitiveness and support for mobility of workers

> PRIORITY AXIS 3

Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

> FINANCING PLAN

per priority axis



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employment and favoring, at the same time, the social and territorial cohesion.

The contribution of the program to the European Strategy, the Europe 2020, through the contribution to the attainment of **five major thematic objectives** among

the eleven identified by the Community strategy: **1)** strengthening research, technological development and innovation; **2)** to promote the competitiveness of the border; **3)** promoting employment and supporting labor mobility; **4)** to preserve and protect the environment and promote the efficient use of resources; **5)** to promote the adaptation to climate change, prevention and risk management.

The program, in continuation of the previous Operational Programme Italy Malta 2007-2013, aims to develop the potential of some areas of common interest for the territories of the area such as environmental protection, security of land and sea, cultural heritage, quality of life and health of citizens.

THE 5 THEMATIC OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Research & Innovation

Competitiveness of SMEs

Employment and Labour Mobility

Adaptation to Climate Change Risk Prevention and Management

Protection of the Environment

The cooperation program Interreg VA Italy-Malta is part of the objective "European Territorial Cooperation" of the Cohesion Policy of the European Union and aims to promote the integrated development between border regions with maritime and land borders in two or more Member States. The program contributes to the ten-year strategy for growth and jobs, which the European Union launched in 2010, designed to fill gaps in the European growth model and **create conditions for growth:**

- "smart", developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- "sustainable", promoting a more "green" and efficient economy in terms of resources and that can be more competitive;
- "inclusive", supporting an economy with high

>> Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta 2014-2020

The program Interreg V-A Italy Malta, through **Priority Axis 1**, aims to **strengthen the innovative capacity of the actors in the cross-border Sicilian-Maltese territory** increasing specialization of some technologically advanced sectors such as electronics, mechatronics, micro and nanosystems, biotechnology and applied research to human health.

Through the activation of **relations and collaboration networks between the world of research and production areas of the territory** (clusters, industrial districts, universities, public and private research institutes, SMEs, individual and / or associated social innovators, incubators, etc.), the Cooperation Programme aims to ensure the creation of a structured demand for innovation in the areas of "**cultural heritage**" and "**quality of life and health of citizens**".

In both these areas the program will support initiatives to:

- finance the costs associated with the introduction of "non-technological innovations" in



favor of the production system (e.g. Trademarks, business services, living labs / hubs etc.);

- supporting R & I to improve the quality of life and enjoyment of the cultural heritage (e.g. Strengthening research centers through capital investment for R & I, spin-off etc.);
- financing of measures for the exchange and mobility of researchers through the provision of vouchers for the realization of innovative projects and / or research.

Subjects, who can benefit from the resources of the program to create and / or enhance innovative services for enterprises in the cross-border areas of cultural heritage and the quality of life and health of citizens, are: central and local governments, research institutes, university clusters / districts, SMEs also newly established business incubators, chambers of commerce in the Sicilian and Maltese territories.

>> Priority Axis 1 - Promoting the smart and sustainable growth through research and innovation

Within the cooperation programme INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta, **Priority Axis 2** will **promote the competitiveness** of the border through the creation and strengthening of Sicilian and Maltese micro, small and medium enterprises and encouraging labor mobility.

With projects coming from below (*smart communities* and *smart cities*), the activation of public and private subscription of protocols between the centers for orientation and the use of Sicily and Malta, the programme aims to increase competitive areas of "**environmental protection**" and "**quality of life and health of citizens**".

In these two areas, the programme will support initiatives for the **creation and strengthening of SMEs** by providing financial support for:

- services related to diagnostics, the commercial positioning of products, the preparation of business plans, the creation of tools to enhance the commercial area of SMEs (e.g. e-invoicing, tracking, e-tendering etc.);
- creation of spaces of co-working, fab-lab and other forms of social innovation in support of enterprises;

• startup of innovative start-ups. Subjects, who can benefit from the resources of the programme for the creation and strengthening of enterprises, will be: SMEs and micro-enterprises, either alone or in association, also of new constitution; clusters / districts, public and private research centers, science parks, innovation centers, associations. With specific reference to the **mobility of workers** in the fields of environmental protection and the quality of life and health of citizens, the programme will support initiatives to:

- finance the creation of cross-border networks (e.g. counseling centres for the provision of information services, coaching, mentoring, cross-border employment fairs, creation of web platforms and devices to meet the demand and supply of labor and so on);
- implement pilot schemes for cooperation between centres for orientation and the use of Sicilian and Maltese;
- creating networks between schools and institutions of technical and professional training (e.g. activating internship employ-

ment of young people and high school graduates, disbursement vouchers etc.).

Subjects, who can benefit from the resources of the programme to promote the mobility of workers, will be: national research institutes and regional; public administrations; schools of higher education (technical colleges); businesses, also newly established; consortia and associations of SMEs, industrial districts and technology.



>> Priority Axis 2 - Promoting the competitiveness in the cross-border area

The programme INTERREG V-A Italy Malta, through **Priority Axis 3**, aims to contribute to "**environmental protection**" and "**security of land and sea**" through measures to protect the marine and terrestrial biodiversity, support for the use of the natural heritage, for mitigation of the effects of climate change and the creation of tools for increasing the resilience of the population of the border.

With specific reference to the **protection of terrestrial and marine biodiversity** and the **use of the natural heritage**, the programme will focus its resources on:

- repair or replacement of terrestrial and marine habitats;
- interventions to reduce the negative impact on flora and fauna caused by the presence of non-native invasive species;
- interventions for the monitoring of the seabed and ecosystems and the control of the presence of invasive species;
- raising awareness on the management and use of natural resources;
- construction of access points, observation infrastructure in places of interest and / or

subject to natural emergencies such as parks, reserves and geological sites.

Subjects who can benefit from the resources of the program to implement the initiatives for the protection of biodiversity and use of natural heritage will be: research institutes, universities, public administration, management bodies of protected areas.

With reference to the initiatives that will contribute to **mitigating the effects of climate change and cope with various risk scenarios**, the programme will devote a portion of their resources to fund:

- pilot interventions for prevention of hydro-



geological, coastal erosion and areas of the Natura 2000 network;

- interventions to identify health risks in the area and the coordination of joint actions;
- small infrastructure for monitoring, prevention and adaptation to marine hazard as well as instrumentation for observing and monitoring of weather and sea conditions in the area;
- measures to expand the coverage of security systems and monitoring of the risk caused by changes in natural or human activities;
- creation of systems of management of natural disasters designed to increase the resilience of the population;
- interventions to support search and rescue operations through the integration of models and existing technologies.

Subjects, who can benefit from the resources of the programme to implement the initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change and cope with the risk scenarios, will be: research organizations, universities, governments, port authorities, civil and military authorities, associations category.

>> Priority Axis 3 - Protecting the environment and fostering an efficient use of resources

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Research & Innovation



Competitiveness of SMEs



Adaptation to Climate Change
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Employment and Labour Mobility



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BREAKDOWN OF THE AMOUNT OF COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The total budget used for the realization of the cooperation programme amounts to € 51,708,438. The 85% of the resources necessary to implement the programme will be assured by co-financing from the European Union through the European Fund for Regional Development. The remainder, amounting to € 7,756,267, will be guaranteed by the national public counterpart.

Of this total amount:

- 30% will be allocated for actions that will finance initiatives related to research, technological development and innovation in the areas of “cultural heritage” and “quality of life and health of citizens”;
- 17% of the entire budget of the programme will contribute to the implementation of initiatives to increase the competitiveness of the territories, promote employment and support the mobility of the workers in the fields of “environmental protection” and “quality of life and health of citizens”;
- 46.17% of the resources of the programme will fall in the area of “environmental protection” and “security of land and sea” by financing initiatives for biodiversity protection, efficient use of resources, actions adaptation to climate change and risk management.

The remaining portion of the resources will contribute to the sound management, implementation, supervision and monitoring of the programme.



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