

European Territorial Cooperation

INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta

Monitoring Committee

of 6 December 2021 - on line

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

On 6 December 2021, the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta programme took place, in online mode.

In line with the agenda of the MC, the summary of the decisions with respect to the items on the agenda is illustrated below.

Approval of the agenda - The following agenda is approved:

- Approval of the agenda
- Programme Disbursement
- Annual Implementation Report 2020/2021
- Unutilised Funds under ongoing projects
- Evaluation of the Programme
- Financial Targets for 2022 and Payment Deadlines
- Revision of the programme's technical assistance budget plan
- Communication Strategy
- Post 2020 Programme drafting status and next steps
- Any Other business

Expenditure target of the program - The state of the art is illustrated in relation to the 2021 expenditure target whose cumulative value amounts to € 21,849,770 and of these the cumulative amount already certified amounts to 15,431,706. The amount relating to the 2021 year still to be transmitted to the European Commission amounts to € 6,482,620 and of these on December 6, 2021 expenses corresponding to € 5,003,981 have been validated and will be transmitted to the Certify Authority through a declaration of expenditure by 15/12/2021. Expenses of an amount of € 1.9 MEuro are currently being validated by the first-level controllers and at the end of the validation process and subsequent verification by the Programme Authorities will contribute to the amount to be transmitted to the European Commission by 31/12/2021.

Annual Implementation Report 2020/2021 - The state of implementation of the program is illustrated with specific reference to the actions undertaken by the Managing Authority and the Maltese National Coordination Authority in the two-year period 2020-2021 and which will also have repercussions in the year 2022. These actions were necessary to deal with the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and which led to the issuance of two circulars by the MA for the beneficiaries of the funded projects and two amendments to the program pursuant to Reg. (EU) 2020/460 and Articles 30 and 96 of the Reg. (EU) No 1303/2013. The state of the art relating to the achievement of the targets envisaged by the programme implementers and results is also illustrated, with a focus on the operations of Notice 01/2016 that have already contributed to their achievement and on the operations of Notice 02/2019 that will contribute during 2022.

Funds not used in the context of ongoing projects - The Monitoring Committee is informed that on 31/12/2021, n. 10 operations financed under Notice 01/2016 will conclude their respective activities and that the remaining n. 5 operations will be completed by July 2022. As regards the operations financed under Notice 02/2019, they were launched at the end of 2020 (no. 9 projects) and in 2021 (no. 2 projects), following the approval of the amendment to the program. Therefore, the operations of Notice 02/2019 during 2022 will be in full implementation phase. With specific reference to the projects of the Notice 01/2016 already completed (n. 4 projects) have been estimated economies of a physiological nature equal to about 1.9 Meuro to which must be added the savings of the remaining projects of the Notice 01/2016 and of the Notice 02/2019 estimated at about 1 Meuro. The hypothesis of a capitalization notice with a simplified procedure is proposed aimed at: 1) Implementing the important results achieved by the operations; 2) Facilitating the replicability of the good practices acquired in the perspective of the 21-27 program; 3) Facilitate the creation of clusters and knowledge communities through successfully funded and concluded operations (at the level of each TO).

Evaluation of the programme - The MA informs that on the basis of the programme evaluation plan, approved on 29/03/2017, the impact assessment (31/03/2021) of the programme should have been carried out during 2021. Nevertheless, given the state of implementation of the implementation of the programme, the deadline will have to be deferred. In addition, the MC is informed that the impact assessment will be carried out through the assignment to an external economic operator and that the NNVIP of the Sicilian Region will offer its support in the drafting of the terms of reference. The service is expected to be entrusted to the economic operator by the first half of 2022.

Financial targets for 2022 and payment deadlines - The 2022 expenditure target is illustrated, whose cumulative value amounts to € 30,925,440.46. The amount relating only to the 2022 annuity to be certified on the date of 31/12/2022 amounts to € 9,075,670. As far as payment deadlines are concerned, an amount of € 2.7 Meuro is estimated to be submitted in the final interim payment application for the 2021-2022 accounting year (July 2022). It is also estimated that an amount of € 6.4 Meuro will be submitted in the interim payment application for the accounting year 2022-2023 (December 2022).

Revision of the budget plan for technical assistance of the programme - A proposal to amend the plan, with reference to the budget allocated to the State of Malta, is presented by the Maltese National Coordination Authority.

Communication strategy - Information on the progress of the implementation of the communication strategy and the analysis of its results is provided (Article 110(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) and the planned communication and information activities to be carried out in 2022 (Article 116(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) are illustrated). The MA plans to select an economic operator for the implementation of communication services by the first half of 2022.

Status of drafting of the post-2020 programme and subsequent phases - The activities carried out to date by the task force in charge of drafting the INTERREG Italia Malta 2021-2027 programme are illustrated. More specifically, it is reported that the territorial analysis was carried out, the strategic objectives were identified, the specific objectives were discussed, the internal partnership tables and the consultation tables with the qualified partnership were conducted (environment sectors; risks; cultural heritage and tourism; research, innovation and competitiveness; governance) for the identification of eligible actions and potential beneficiaries of the future programme.

Overview on Audit Authority activity - the activity carried out during the 2019-2020 Accounting Period relating to the System Audit on the MA and MNCA are positively concluded with an opinion of the AA without reservation and in category 2. With reference to the control of the operations, a sampling of expenditure was carried out which ensured a control percentage of 10% of the certified expenditure. Residual error rate determined equal to 1.6%. For the accounting period 2020-2021, activities related to the control of the system and operations are underway.

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE