

INTERREG VI-A Italia-Malta - 2021-2027

1° public notice for the selection of cooperation project INFO DAY

11 march 2024 Malta









The role of the IT-MT Programme in the context of regional, national and community policies



- Strengthening access to transnational networks of regional innovation systems
- Fostering brain circulation and/or joint training of researchers and high-tech practitioners
- Providing openness to innovative policies and smart specialization
- Addressing environmental issues across regional/national administrative boundaries









Links with strategies for the Mediterranean



- Cooperation with other Mediterranean cross-border maritime programmes (e.g., Italy-Tunisia, Italy-France) or transnational programmes (e.g., INTERREG Euro-MED and Next Med) on joint or parallel projects can lead to better results and more sustainable outcomes (Multiprogram mechanism);
- The programme contributes to the **implementation of relevant priorities** of WestMED, Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea Basin, of which Italy and Malta (but also Tunisia) are members.
 - **Objective 1:** A safer and more secure maritime space;
 - **Objective 2:** a smart and resilient blue economy and
 - **Objective 3:** Better governance of the sea
- the Programme Strategy ensures full consistency with the Common Framework for Regional Cooperation of the Union for the Mediterranean and also with the Communication on a New Sustainable Approach to the Blue Economy in the EU (17/05/21)









Coordination mechanisms



Italia - Malta

- Coordination with the different strategies will be ensured through the implementation of the following **complementary themes**
- protection of biodiversity,
 - maritime security,
 - blue economy,
 - Implementation of shared initiatives (e.g., joint thematic events, capitalization of results).
- Provided **selection criteria** to account for synergies that can be activated with other programs (e.g., Horizon Europe Program mission "Restoring our oceans and waters by 2030").
- At the project level, synergies and complementarities will also be monitored through a specific focus with the **ESF+ and ERDF** of both member states' programmes.









AGENDA



- Focus objectives, results, outputs and indicators
- Operational arrangements for partner search
- Platform for filing project proposals
- How to fill out the Application Form
- Question and answer section





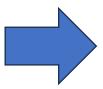




FOCUS OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS



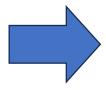




Can only be submitted under one specific objective of the programme



Must contribute to the achievement of the outcome indicators in the program for the chosen SO



Must provide for the achievement of at least one output indicator from among those included in the chosen SO









FOCUS OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS



Italia - Malta

FAQs: What is the Unit of Measurement and what does it mean to use the same unit of measurement for an indicator?

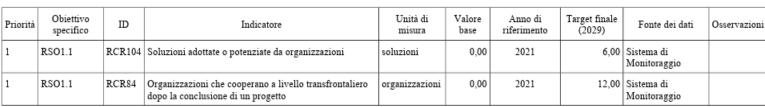
Risposta: It is a quantity that is used as a reference for a measurement. The programme's output and result indicators have preestablished units of measurement and expressly indicated in the programme. The use of the same unit of measurement envisaged by the Programme for output and result indicators allows the contribution of the project to be measured in a coherent and unequivocal manner.

	os	Expected result	Eligible actions	Eligible actions	Units of Measurement of OUTPUT Indicators	Outcome Indicator	Unit of Measurement of RESULT Indicators
			Promotion of collaborative research (partnerships between companies and	RCO84 - Pilot actions jointly developed and implemented under projects	Pilot actions	RCR104 - Solutions adopted or	Solutions
		competitiveness of the cross-border area through the adoption of joint solutions developed by organizations that cooperate permanently in the cross-border area	research centers)	RCO116 - Jointly developed solutions	Solutions	enhanced by organizations	
1	1			CO04 - Firms receiving non-financial upport RCR84 - Or		RCR84 - Organizations that	
			Provision of advisory and novation support services	RCO84 - Pilot actions jointly developed and implemented under projects	Pilot actions	cooperate across borders after the conclusion of a project	Organisation
				RCO116 - Jointly developed solutions	Solutions		

FOCUS OBJECTIVES AND

Section of the program to refer to for each OS







SO results Indicators

SO Output Indicators





2.1.1.2. Indicatori

Riferimento: articolo 17, paragrafo 3, lettera e), punto ii); articolo 17, paragrafo 9, lettera c), punto iii) Tabella 2 - indicatori di output

Priorità	Obiettivo specifico	ID	Indicatore	Unità di misura	Target intermedio (2024)	Target finale (2029)
1	RSO1.1	RCO84	Azioni pilota sviluppate congiuntamente e attuate nell'ambito di progetti	azioni pilota	0	2
1	RSO1.1	RCO01	Imprese sostenute (di cui: micro, piccole, medie, grandi)	imprese	0	15
1	RSO1.1	RCO04	Imprese beneficiarie di un sostegno non finanziario	imprese	0	15
1	RSO1.1	RCO87	Organizzazioni che cooperano a livello transfrontaliero	organizzazioni	0	24
1	RSO1.1	RCO116	Soluzioni elaborate congiuntamente	soluzioni	0	6















FOCUS OBJECTIVES AND



Section of the AF to refer to > A5 + Compilation Instructions

Obiettivo specifico Specific objective	Indicatore output programma/progetto Programme/project's output indicator	Unità di misura Unit of measurement	Numero dell'output Output number	Titolo output Output title	Valore obiettivo Output Output's target value	Indicatore risultato del programma/progetto Programme/project's result indicator	Valore base Baseline	Valore obiettivo Risultato Result's target value
2.1 - Promuovere l'adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici, la prevenzione dei rischi di catastrofe e la resilienza dell'area transfrontaliera (RSO2.4) 2.1 - Promoting climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and resilience in the cross-border area	RCO83 - Strategie e piani d'azione sviluppati congiuntamente RCO83 - Strategies and action plans jointly developed RCO84 - Azioni pilota sviluppate congiuntamente e attuate nell'ambito di progetti RCO84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects RCO116 - Soluzioni	Strategia o piano d'azione Strategy or action plan Azioni pilota Pilot Actions				RCR104 - Soluzioni adottate o potenziate da organizzazioni RCR104 - Solutions taken up or upscaled by organisations e/o and/or RCR84 - Organizzazioni che cooperano a livello transfrontaliero dopo la conclusione di un progetto RCR84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion		N soluzioni N solutions e/o and/or N organizzazioni N organizations
(RSO2.4)	elaborate congiuntamente RCO116 - Jointly developed solutions	Soluzioni Solutions						

FOCUS OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS



Italia - Malta

FAQs: May a project select all output indicators of a specific objective? For example, to carry out a pilot action (indicator RCO84), are strategies and action plans preliminarily created (RCO83), which, if successful, will lead to solutions developed and adopted jointly (RCO116)?

Answer: Yes, it is possible. The eligibility requirement is that the project achieves at least one output indicator among those envisaged by the chosen specific objective.

FAQs: The "specific objectives" mentioned in WP2 are not the specific objectives of table A.5 of the application form (e.g "2.1 - Promoting climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and resilience in the cross-border area (RSO2.4)"), but they are those that are defined for each project. Is it correct?

Answer: The specific objectives of WP2 refer to the communications actions that the project proposal intends to envisage. Therefore, these objectives must be identified by the Project on the basis of the communication strategy envisaged by the Project in line with the core project actions that should be implemented.









FOCUS OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS



Italia - Malta

FAQs: The evaluation of projects is based on the number of output/result indicators (such as number of "Strategies and action plans jointly developed" or number of "Jointly developed solutions") or only on the basis of the coherence between project result indicators and result indicators of the specific objective?

Answer: The evaluation of the projects is based on the selection criteria which are part of the Public Notice. With specific reference to objectives and indicators, reference is made to the following selection criteria:

- 4.1.1- The project's general objective contributes to the specific objective of the Programme
- 4.1.2 The work packages are consistent with the project's overall objective
- 4.1.3 The project result indicators contribute to the result indicators of the specific objective (SO) of the Programme and report the same unit of measurement, where relevant
- 4.1.4 The project output indicators contribute to programme output indicators and report the same unit of measurement, if relevant









FOCUS OBIETTIVI E INDICATORI



FAQs: May a project include activities covering several types of actions?

Answer: The types of actions are listed for each specific objetive. Each project must be

coherent and contribute to the type of action chosen.

FAQs: May a project include only some types of projects among those listed in the public notice relating to each types of actions, or on the contrary also include more than those listed?

Answer: The types of projects indicated in the public notice constitute EXAMPLES and list of possible types of projects is NON-EXHAUSTIVE. Therefore, it will be the responsibility of each partnership to develop the project with a specific set of activities as long as these are consistent with the types of actions of the chosen specific objective.









MODES OF COOPERATION



Italia - Malta

Joint	The partners and the lead partner jointly carried out the design, preparation and finalization of the project							
development	proposal through technical meetings and/or operational meetings							
	The partners and the lead partner shall, through the identification of their respective tasks and roles,							
Joint	contribute to the implementation of cross-border project activities. This division of roles and tasks should							
implementation	always take into account the technical and institutional specificities of the partners as well as the cross-							
	border character							
	The partners and the Lead Partner have envisioned that the project will not originate overlapping and/or							
Cooperation to	duplication of personnel roles and functions among the partners. Therefore, In line with the principle of the							
staff the project	lead partner (Lead Partner) there may be provision for the identification of a Project Coordinator and a							
sufficiently	Financial Officer who will work on behalf of the entire partnership at the Lead partner's facility under WP 1							
	"Management and Coordination"							
	The partners and the lead partner have a single, joint project financial plan and funds are allocated to all							
Cooperate in	partners. Funding is divided between the Sicilian and Maltese partners in a manner appropriate to their							
Cooperate in financing	respective activities and results to be achieved. Therefore, in line with the principle of "joint implementation,"							
operations	it will be the responsibility of the partner finalizing the results to provide for their distribution/use and possible							
	reuse and dissemination to the partnership;							









BUDGET



Contribution of the European Commission ERDF 80% National Contribution NC 20%

Beneficiaries for public, public-law and private entities, the national contribution of 20% is Italians provided by the National Revolving Fund, subject to state aid rules

Maltese beneficiaries

for public, public law and private entities, the national contribution of 20% shall be secured from the partner's own funds, or own resources, or from other public entity(ies), if it is so approved.









BUDGET



Italia - Malta

FAQs: How much is the contribution percentage for Research Organisations?

Answer: It amounts to 80% of resources, namely to the ERDF contribution. In the event that they are Itaian entities, in addition to the ERDF contribution of 80% will also be paid the percentage of 20% of the national contribution, without prejudice to the regulations on state aid.

FAQs: Considering that only external expertise and services costs are subject to first level control, it is herewith requested to clarify the reason why it is recommended to allocate 4% of the budget of each beneficiary and not 4% of the budget relating only to the cost category subject to first level control.

Answer: <u>ALL</u> cost categories relating to the implementation of the operation (1. Staff costs; 2. office and administrative costs; 3. travel and accommodation costs; 4. External expertise and services costs; 5. Equipment costs; 6. Costs for infrastructure and works) are subjected to first level controls and if sampled to second level controls









BUDGET



Italia - Malta

FAQs: There is no defined ceiling or even a recommended threshold for the Investments item. Is there a criterion of congruity and coherence that balances the analysis, design and modeling activities with respect to the physical environmental restoration interventions?

Answer: The programme does not include a cost category or an item named "investments". If reference is made to the cost category " Costs for infrastructure and works" or "equipment costs" it is confirmed that a defined percentage has not been foreseen.

FAQs: May travel costs include those incurred for short educational trips of students and citizens involved in the participatory/training processes envisaged by the project (Italians to Malta, Maltese to Italy) in addition to those incurred by the staff directly involved in project activities?

Answer: Yes, if these costs refer to travel expenses (tickets, insurance, food, accommodation, visas). In the event that these services are provided by an economic operator selected for this purpose, such costs must be reported in the category cost "External expertise and services costs"









ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENSES



Italia - Malta

The eligibility of expenditure is governed by Chapter V of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059

Eligible cost categories

Mode of reporting

Staff costs

Office and administrative expenses

Travel and living expenses

Costs for consulting and external

Equipment-related expenses

Infrastructure and works expenses

Real costs (40% max direct costs) or forfait (20% direct costs ≠

personal)

Always 15% of staff costs

Always real costs

Always real costs

Always real costs

Always real costs



services







NATIONAL CO-FINANCING



Italia - Malta

FAQs: It is herewith requested to clarify the percentage of 20% which is partly requested as private funds but is then proposed as a Fondo di Rotazione. How can we access this fund?

Answer: For Italian beneficiaries (public bodies, bodies governed by public law and private bodies) the national contribution, equal to 20%, is ensured by the national Fondo di Rotazione, without prejudice to the rules on state aid. It means that, this 20% national cofinancing does not apply to Italian beneficiaries whose actions under the project have been assessed as having an impact on state aid.

FAQs: How to check availability and access the National Contribution for the 20% co-financing? Answer: This verification is the responsibility of the Managing Authority and not the beneficiary.









BENEFICIARIES



Beneficiaries (lead and partners) must be in line with

Type of beneficiaries as listed in Article 3 of the public notice

Legal status of the beneficiaries as listed in Article 8 the public notice

Cumulative conditions







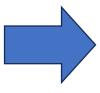


STATUS LEGALE DEI BENEFICIARI



Italia - Malta

Public Entities



"Contracting authorities" within the meaning of Article 2(1), number 1 of Directive 2014/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

Bodies governed by public law



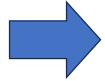
Pursuant to Article 2(1)(1) of Directive 2014/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

Enti privati



Private entities

Third sector entities



only if they are registered in the Single National Register of the Third Sector (Runts) for the State of Italy and in the register of the "Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations" for the State of Malta.









BENEFICIARIES



Italia - Malta

FAQs: Is the appointment of all partners in section B3 of the application form mandatory during the submission of the project or can other partners be added during the project's progress

Answer: Yes, it is mandatory. Each partner must be identified before submitting the project proposal and cannot be added during the implementation phase.

FAQs: We ask to know whether the participation of the Local Authority is limited to a single project or whether it is possible to be a partner in several different projects

Answer: non è prevista alcuna limitazione in merito alla partecipazione di un beneficiario a più progetti.

FAQs: Is it possible to participate as a beneficiary even we are based in another Italian region but having an organization based in the Sicily Region as the lead partner?

Answer: Yes, only if it is proven and justified that such participation is essential to achieve the project's results. Therefore, if the indispensable role of the partner outside the eligible area in achieving the project's results is not proven, the partner will not be able to take part in the project









STATE AID



Italia - Malta

Grants under the Programme must comply with the state aid rules in effect at the time the public grant is made

- The activities carried out under the project must be evaluated to understand what they consist of in offering goods or services in the market.
- Each potential beneficiary is asked for an initial self-assessment of the planned activities (Annex C) in order to determine their relevance for state aid purposes;
- A **second evaluation** is performed by the evaluator
- The legal status of the beneficiary is irrelevant since, for example, a nonprofit or public entity may also carry out an economic activity
- Article 20 of EU Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 of June 7, 2014 as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of July 23, 2021 applies only to enterprises participating in cooperation projects.









STATE AID



Italia - Malta

FAQs: 42. On what date will the state aids already received by the entity be counted? And how will the state aids received through this call be counted: on which year, that of approval or receipt of the financing

Answer: Aids are counted from the moment of granting and not from the moment of disbursement by the authority granting the aid.

FAQs: If the state aid threshold is exceeded, is it possible to receive 80% ERDF, 10% rotation fund and 10% co-financing?

Answer: The legal basis of the aid envisaged by the notice is art. 20 of Reg. 651/2014 and subsequent amendments and therefore the intensity threshold for all entities (public and private) is always 80%. There is therefore no threshold of aid granted to access this aid as in the case of de minimis aid. Finally, if there is aid, the beneficiary will have to provide his own contribution of 20% entirely.









DOCUMENTATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL





Italia - Malta

Application form Annex 2.a + Annex 2.b

All types of beneficiary (Lead Partner/Partner)



Letter of intent and co-funding lead/partner (Annex A)

Copy (front and back) of a valid identification document

Declaration of State Aid (Annex C)

Any necessary clearances/permissions/authorizations



Formal administrative act

Private entity and/or "public law body"



Statute

Last two budgets approved

Document confirming financial capacity (Annex D) - private entities only









DOCUMENTATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL



Italia - Malta

FAQs: Must Annex D relating to financial capacity also be completed by private non-profit entities (e.g. associations)? If yes, since there is no percentage of participation, but the "one person, one vote" principle applies, how should the relevant table in the attachment be filled in?

Answer: Yes, Annex D must also be completed by private non-profit organisations. If there are no shareholdings, the table relating to the social composition of Annex D will not need to be completed.

FAQs: With reference to Annex D (financial capacity), to verify the admissibility of the private entity in relation to its financial capacity (above 0.5) it is required to know what percentage of contribution is expected for: - MICRO; - SMALL; - MEDIUM; - LARGE ENTERPRISES?

Answer: e percentage for the participation of enterprises is always 80% regardless of the size of the entity.









DOCUMENTAZIONE E PRESENTAZIONE DELLA PROPOSTA DI PROGETTO



Italia - Malta

FAQs: Which annexes must be produced as a private entity with legal personality registered in the

NGO register?

Answer: The document(s) from which this registration is evident.

FAQs: Regarding the definition of the start/end/implementation months, can we assume that the funded projects will start in January 2025?

Answer: Yes, all potential beneficiaries are suggested to consider as project's starting date January 2025.

FAQs: Is it possible to insert images/graphics into the project proposals?

Answer: Yes, the images/graphics can be attached as additional documents to the project proposal.

FAQs: Are there any preparation costs for the project proposal?

Answer: No. Any costs incurred for the preparation of the proposal remain the responsibility of the beneficiaries. The date of eligibility of the expenditure within the project starts from the moment in which it is communicated following the eligibility for financing of the project..









MODALITÀ OPERATIVE PER RICERCA DEI PARTNER











Italia - Malta

Programme website

⊃rogramma ∨

Documenti

Progetti 🗸

Bandi 🗸

Comunicazione 🗸

Programma 2021-2027 🗸

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- 14 FEB 2024

Comunicazione sui Bandi – Interreg VI-A Italia-Malta 2021 2027

INTERREG VI-A Italia-Malta 2021-2027 –



Avvisi Aperti

Interreg VI-A Italia-Malta Sorveglianza Regolamenti

Calendario Avvisi 2021-2027

Ricerca Partner

FAQ

Comunicazione sui Bandi

A new tool is available on the Programme website to facilitate contacts between entities interested in submitting a project under Notice 01/2023. Fill out the "Partner Search Form" and send it to stc.italiamalta@regione.sicilia.it. The Joint Secretariat will post the partner search form on the









PROJECT PROPOSAL FILING PLATFORM



- Starting March 10, the deposit Platform for submission of project proposals will be available online;
- It will not be necessary to compile the project proposal within the platform but it will only be a
 tool for uploading the documentation required by the Notice and subsequent transmission to the
 MA
- Proof of successful transmission of documentation will be issued by the platform
- The platform registration system includes a dual authentication system with the MicrosoftAuthenticator programme

Url: Interreg.regione.sicilia.it









HOW TO FULFILL THE AF



Italia - Malta

- Be careful to use the latest updated Excel version available on the program website.
- Fill in only the editable sections;
- Follow the pop-up instructions on the document to make selections (excel);
- Pay attention to the control messages that the document returns if the thresholds in the Public Notice are exceeded;
- All financial information by partner must be completed to be sure all data entered is correct.









HOW TO FULFILL THE INVESTMENT SECTION OF THE AF



Italia - Malta

FAQs: Does the "Investments (Equipment and/or Infrastructure)" table, included in the application form at the end of the implementation WPs, need to be replicated for all the equipment and infrastructures acquired in each WP? e.g, if in WP3 we purchase equipment A and equipment B, do we have to replicate the table (with all the entries: title, justification, properties, etc...) twice, once for equipment A and once for equipment B?

Answer: A public investment could be defined as the set of expenses for the purchase of equipment and/or infrastructures for the realization of an envisaged objective such as the strengthening of a laboratory, the prototyping of a product, an action to restore and safeguard an area, the realization of a digital infrastructure, etc.

Therefore, the enhanced laboratory, the prototype, the digital infrastructure, the restored site, etc. must be considered an "investment".

For the purposes of correct fulfillment of the AF, for each WP the investment must be accounted for, where relevant, in its entirety, taking care to consider the complex of equipment and/or infrastructures that are part of the investment itself.

The information relating to the investment made by each project's beneficiary in each WP must be included in the "Investments (Equipment and/or Infrastructure)" section of each WP. This information must be repeated for each WP taking into account the investment costs foreseen by each project's







PURCHASE OF DURABLE GOODS



Equipment costs are eligible on the basis of the incurred costs or on the basis of depreciation, depending on whether they are support or thematic equipment, as further explained:





<u>support equipment</u> – used to contribute to the implementation of the actions envisaged by the project. The support equipment is for partial use of the project and must be claimed pro-rata according to the depreciation methods in compliance with the legislation in force in the countries participating in the program and conditions established by EU legislation.

However, it is possible to claim the entire purchase cost provided that: The percentage of use during the project's implementation corresponds to 100%;

The depreciation period is equal to or less than the remaining project lifetime.

In the event that the depreciation period is longer than the residual project lifetime, it will be possible to claim only the depreciation costs or part of them, provided that they are calculated according to national standards, based on the duration of the project and that the same good has not already been granted with other EU or national contribution.

thematic equipment - all equipment focused on the main project's objectives whose exclusive use is essential for achieving them (for example: specific software, technical tools, laboratory equipment, etc.). For this type of equipment, the entire cost is eligible provided that its property and use are maintained for at least five years from the date of final payment.

For thematic equipment, beneficiaries must indicate in the project proposal the need to purchase these durable goods and claim their cost at 100%, providing proof of their essentiality for achieving the project objective.

This proof must be argued within the "Investments (Equipment and/or Infrastructure)" section of each WP of the AF (see also answer n. 50).









HOW TO FULFILL THE AF





Cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea

										Co-funded	nv/	
	Descrizione / Description			misura / Unit	Unit Dettagli per WP - Periodo / detail per WP and periods							
	Funzione del personale / Staff function	Tipo di personale / Type of staff	Commenti / Comments		Cofinanziament o aggiuntivo - Additional co- financing	Work Packages	Periodo / Periods	Localizzazione / Localisation	Prodotto / Deliverable	Numero di unità / N. of units	Budget unitario / Budget per units	Budget totale / Total budget
	altro / other	tempo pieno / Full time	Attività di test laboratorio analisi della	ore uomo	NO	WP4	P3	ICT	D.3.2 - analisi e test di lab	1	650,00	€ 650,00
Costi del personale - costi reali / staff costs - real costs	junior	I flaccibile / t nartial rate	Attività di campionamento in situ presso XXXXXXXXXX	ore uomo	NO	WP3	P5	ME - Isole	D.2.4 - rilievi e campioni di XX	1	560,00	€ 560,00

Correct compilation of information

	Descrizione / Description			misura / Unit	isura / Unit Dettagli per WP - Periodo / detail per WP and periods							
	Funzione del personale / Staff function	Tipo di personale / Type of staff	Commenti / Comments		Cofinanziament o aggiuntivo - Additional co- financing	Work Packages	Periodo / Periods	Localizzazione / Localisation	Prodotto / Deliverable	Numero di unità / N. of units	Budget unitario / Budget per units	Budget totale / Total budget
	altro / other	tempo pieno / Full time	Attività di test laboratorio analisi della	ore uomo		WP4	_	ст	D.3.2 - analisi e test di lab D. 4.1 - installazione di antenne	1	650,00	€ 650,00
Costi del personale - costi reali / staff costs - real costs	junior	I flaccibile / t partial rate	Attività di campionamento in situ presso XXXXXXXXXX	ore uomo		WP3	P5		D.2.4 - rilievi e campioni di XX	1	560,00	€ 560,00

NOT Correct compilation of information









HOW TO FULFILL THE AF



- Only ONE PRODUCT/DELIVERABLE MUST BE ENTERED in the Product/Deliverable column for each expenditure
- IT IS NOT POSSIBLE to type in more than one product/deliverable under an expense.
- ALL fields must be populated
- Failure to comply with these rules for filling out the AF financial part will have repercussions at the evaluation stage











Trank you for your attention

Please do not propose questions that require a merit evaluation of the eligibility of a project idea







