

Annual Implementation Report CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

24.05.2018

PROGRAMME PRESENTATION

The **Italy - Croatia CBC Programme 2014 - 2020** is an European Union funding Programme that encourages cooperation among

2 MEMBER STATES

25 ITALIAN PROVINCES





8 CROATIAN COUNTIES

12,4 M CITIZENS

1500 MUNICIPALITIES

948 km MARITIME BORDER

With **236,8 Million of Euro** of total Programme budget (around 201 Million of Euro of ERDF + National co-financing), we support institutions and organizations to:

- ✓  exchange **knowledge and experiences**
- ✓  develop and implement **joint pilot actions**
- ✓  test the feasibility of **new policies, products and services**
- ✓  support investments by creation of **new business networks and models**

The Italy-Croatia cooperation area shows a distinct blue and green pattern, featuring the sea basin, coastal landscapes, green but also urban areas. The location of the Adriatic Sea in the very centre of the territory – although shared with other Countries – on one hand, requires more efforts to accomplish collaboration aims related with the cross-border integration of economic, educational and labour markets. On the other, it is a joint economic and environmental asset, and a natural platform for cooperation building on long-dating trade exchange contacts reflected in some common traits of cultural heritage.

The Italy-Croatia CBC Programme's **overall objective** is to increase the prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible changes.

It is composed of the following **four Priority Axes** responding to the identified key assets and challenges:



2017 MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main actions in these months concerned:

➤ **Setting up the Management and Monitoring system**

The development of the SIU management and monitoring system continued throughout all 2017. Despite several difficulties and delays the following modules were developed, tested and, when relevant, opened to beneficiaries: application, assessment, condition clearing.

➤ **Reinforcing the administration and Programme managing structures**

At the beginning of 2017 **MA's** staff were 7 units (including 2 fixed-term); during 2017 the MA staff have been reinforced with 2 full-time permanent employees. In addition, a new unit in charge of Control coordination has been foreseen starting from 2018. As far as the **JS** is concerned, the Croatia-based staff (4 Branch Offices Project Managers based in Zadar and Dubrovnik) were contracted at the beginning of 2017.

The internal structure for FLC, named "**FLC Unit**" already in charge for the validation of expenditure related to TA activities managed by the MA, CA and AA, has also been charged in 2017 with the validation of Italian first level controllers selected by beneficiaries (LPs and PPs) of approved projects.

➤ **Designation of the Managing Authority and Certifying Authority**

Designation was finalized in November 2017 although with an action plan to be implemented within 6 months and mainly focusing on the finalization of the SIU system, on the finalization of Programme control manuals and documents for beneficiaries.

➤ **Implementation documents for beneficiaries**

During 2017, besides the 1st Call Application Pack, other three main documents addressed to beneficiaries were developed: the Factsheet n. 6 on project implementation detailing procedures, requirements and eligibility of expenditure, the Subsidy Contract and Partnership Agreement templates providing the legal framework for project implementation.

➤ **Technical Assistance budget and administrative procedures launched**

Within the TA budget procurement procedures were launched to perform all the activities related to the organisation of MC meetings of the Programme and to realise the Programme logo and corporate identity together with some giveaway materials to be distributed at public events.

In July 2017 the multi-annual TA plan was approved by MC and in December the TA Call was open and the agreed 5 TA projects led by the Italian (MA, AA) and the Croatian authorities (Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Agency for Audit of European Union Programmes Implementation System) were submitted.

➤ **Launch and closure of the 1st Call for Proposal for 2 typologies of standard projects**

The 1st Set of Calls for Proposals was launched in Spring 2017 and consisted of 2 call typologies:

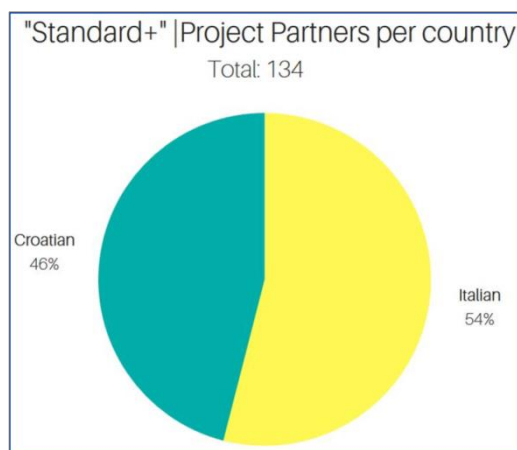
- **STANDARD+**: open call on all 4 Priority Axes for all types of organizations from 27/03 to 22/05/2017
- **STANDARD**: open call on all 4 Priority Axes for all types of organization from 21/04 to 04/07/2017

The following infographics demonstrate the **results of the 1st Call for Proposals submitted projects**, allocation to the Specific Objectives, as well as the participating institutions.

STANDARD+ KEY FIGURES: Nr. 24 of project proposals submitted and the **share** in the total according to the **Priority Axis (PA)** and **Specific Objectives (SO)**



- Final approved projects: **22**
- Nr. of organizations involved: **114**
- ERDF Committed for approved St+ projects: **18,57 M €**



STANDARD KEY FIGURES: Nr. 210 of project **proposals submitted** and the **share** in the total according to the **Priority Axis (PA)** and **Specific Objectives (SO)**



- Assessment ongoing - results are **expected in Summer 2018**

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

Several Programme events were organised in 2017 in line with the Communication Strategy and in cooperation with EU institutions and Italian and Croatian Authorities, among which: 4 **infodays** held in Italy in April 2017 (Venice, Udine, Ancona, Pescara), 3 infodays held in Croatia in April 2017 (Ploce, Zadar, Karlovac), **European Cooperation Day 2017** in Rome, **INTERACT Climate change** network in Venice.

Additionally, to increase the visibility of the Programme presence on the territory at regional level, **Zadar Branch office opening** has been inaugurated during the Infodays roadshow. The high-level institutional representatives and Croatian policy-makers attended the event, while the JS organized the press-conference and prepared the communication press-kit for local media.

What about spending?

The total eligible cost of operations selected for support until now is **36,062,168.96 €** (ERDF + national Co-financing), which corresponds to **15,22%** of its total allocation.

WHERE TO FIND AND CONTACT US?

MANAGING AUTHORITY

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