

Interreg



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*CATCHING THE WAVES
OF COOPERATION*

Italy – Croatia

Interreg VI A 2021-2027 Italy- Croatia

Operations of Strategic Importance (OSI)



WHAT OPERATIONS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE ARE

Operations of Strategic Importance (OSI) are **a new type of projects**, introduced by the regulatory framework for the 2021-2027 programming period.

An Operation of strategic importance **provides a significant contribution to the achievement of a Programmes' objectives** and is subject to particular monitoring and communication measures.

The aims of operations of strategic importance:

- ensuring higher visibility of EU support
- bringing policy achievements closer to citizens' understanding
- helping Programmes to achieve their objectives with targeted Calls for Proposals, devoted to specific domains and, consequently, to categories of beneficiaries, or addressing strategic challenges and potentials, as investigated by the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) flagship initiatives.



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OSI FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

EUR 27million

INDICATIVE ERDF contribution





CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES OF OSIs SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

In coherence with what is illustrated in our approved Interreg Programme 21-27 (IP), the proposed OSIs are expected to adhere to a **set of cross-cutting issues** that underpin the Programme's objectives.

These issues are designed to ensure that funded actions align with the **EU core values**, as well as with **Interreg priorities** :

- Measures to mitigate the impact on the environment
- Complementarities and synergies with other programmes
- Capitalisation
- Digitalisation
- Communication





PRIORITY 1

Sustainable growth in the blue economy

N. 2 OSIs for
Specific
Objective 1.1

- SO 1.1: *“Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies”*

N. 1 OSI for
Specific
Objective 1.2

- SO 1.2. *“Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship”*



SO 1.1 – OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen innovation** capacities and access to research results decreasing the administrative burden for SMEs to participate in R&I processes
- **Enhance collaboration** between SMEs and research institutions, reducing the administrative burden for SMEs participating in research and innovation processes.
- **Facilitate the engagement** of young researchers in direct involvement with business activities, including both existing enterprises and start-ups

SO 1.2 OBJECTIVES

- **Enhance SME collaboration practices**, supporting their innovation efforts in competitive domains, including internationalization.
- **Strengthen SME capabilities to adapt** to transformative changes and foster innovative business





TYPES OF ACTIVITY

SO 1.1

1. Improving **alignment** between **innovation service providers** and **potential adopters**

2. Promoting **knowledge** and **technology transfer** particularly in the **blue economy** sector

3. Developing **innovation services** targeted at improving **sustainability, green** and **digital transition** and the **growth**

4. Boosting **collaborative research in blue technologies** and biotechnologies, eco-innovations, and **circular economy** practices to develop sustainable solutions

5. Providing **coaching** and **technical support to SMEs** to improve sustainability measures, digital transition and environmental impact reduction

6. Offering **mentorship to start-ups**





TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

SO 1.2

1. **Promotion of knowledge** and **technology transfer** particularly in the blue economy sector

2. Developing **innovation services** targeted at improving sustainability, green and digital transition and the growth of activities in the blue economy

3. Providing **coaching** and **technical support** to **SMEs** to improve sustainability measures, digital transition and environmental impact reduction

4. Offering **mentorship** to **start-ups** during their go-to-market phase and scaling-up efforts





PRIORITY 2

Green and resilient shared environment

N. 1 OSI for Specific Objective 2.1

- SO 2.1: *“Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches”*

N. 1 OSI for Specific Objective 2.2

- SO 2.2 *“Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution”*





SO 2.1 – OBJECTIVES

- **generate new knowledge** about territorial impacts of climate change
- **assess** economic, social and ecological **vulnerabilities** of Programme territories, also exchanging adaptation strategies and practices and tailored action plans able to cope with the risks addressed
- **improve** institutional and social **awareness** as well as scientific and **technical capacities** in managing climate change impacts at Italy-Croatia scale
- **identify specific shared approaches / guidelines** to mainstream integrated climate-adaptation solutions at sectoral and territorial policy scale

SO 2.2 OBJECTIVES

- **improve knowledge** of natural marine habitats and species as well as impact of human activities on environment and biodiversity
- **improve environmental management and management of natural resources**, enhance awareness of environmental pollution and threats and pressures to biodiversity.





TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

SO 2.1

1. Knowledge upgrade and integration about **territorial climate-related impact scenarios**

2. Design of **jointly developed cross-border strategies** and of local action plans

3. Joint promotion of **citizens' awareness** raising as well as of advanced training schemes

4. **Identification** of territorial and sectoral **policies** and **tools** of common interest

5. Implementation of **small-scale investments and pilot activities**



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

SO 2.2

1. Monitoring and its use: **development of joint/shared systems/programmes/protocols**, data platforms and data evaluation

2. Development and testing of **models and simulations**

3. Development and testing of **innovative solutions** (including use of ICT and pilot actions).

4. Joint **strategies and action plans** for improved environmental management





PRIORITY 3

Sustainable maritime and multimodal transport

N. 1 OSI for
Specific
Objective 3.1

- SO 3.1: *“Sustainable maritime and multimodal Transport”*





SO 3.1 – OBJECTIVES

- **reduce the negative impact** on the environment and to **increase the resistance to climate changes** of the cross-border transport system including improvements in alternative energy production and energy savings capacities;
- **develop the cross-border transport** by improving or introducing ICT systems including also systems that are strengthening the physical and/or cyber security in ports;
- **transfer experiences and knowledge** to the wider port community in the entire cross-border region (TEN-T and non-TEN-T ports).



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

SO 3.1


1. Improvement of the **energy efficiency** and reduction of emission of vessels, fostering alternative energy production or reducing the use of traditional energy in ports

 2. Deployment of **more efficient** lighting systems in ports, of **sustainable waste and waste water management** concepts, improvement of **infrastructure resilience** and deployment of measures to contain extreme weather events

 3. Enabling **multimodal travel planning** toward inland or hinterland, **standardization of services** and information for passengers

 4. Protection of **ports from threats** (physical and cyber), improving cooperation in the exchange of data and/or protocols to increase security in ports

 5. Transfer **experiences** and **successful practices** to the **wider port system** of the cross-border area (including ports that are not part of the TEN-T network)

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PRIORITY 4

Culture and Tourism for Sustainable Development

N. 1 OSI for
Specific
Objective 4.1

- SO 4.1: *“Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation”*





SO 3.1 – OBJECTIVES

- **delocalise and diversify traditional tourist flows** aiming at environmental sustainability and positive socio-economic impact on local communities with a special focus on **accessibility** for diverse visitors
- improve and modernize policies for **valorisation of the natural and cultural heritage** and development of sustainable cultural tourism focusing on participation and multistakholdership
- promote new and innovative integrated offers with the aim to **deseasonalise tourism** and maintain the competitiveness of the sector
- promote **inclusive education and training**



SO 4.1 TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

SO 4.1

1. Establishing or **creating the basis for new Cultural Routes**

2. Strengthening and **promoting existing Cultural Routes** present within the Programme territory:

- by establishing and putting in network visitor centres, including educational trips for schools

- by developing joint strategies

- through digitisation of natural and cultural heritage targeting young travellers and entrepreneurs

- organizing trainings to build and strengthen professional capacities for the effective design, implementation and sustainable management of Cultural Routes, including hospitality and accessibility

3. Establishing **cross-border cultural tourism hub(s)** with the view to **develop a joint strategy** as well as **participative governance models**

4. Developing and testing **training materials** and **methodologies** for vocational schools and SMEs

5. **Developing and testing interdisciplinary training materials and methods** addressing cross-border Cultural Routes' strategic planning and management **for students and professionals.**



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