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Interreg

Italy – Croatia

INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA PROGRAMME 2021 – 2027

Draft Annex 1 to the Call announcement

Thematic focus

(Version 1.0 – 10th of April 2025)

Introduction

This annex to the 3rd Call for Standard and Small-Scale project proposals of the Interreg Italy-Croatia 2021-2027 Programme provides additional information on the themes, results and actions, which are prioritized in the call. Against limited resources available and based on an analysis of the themes, results and actions included in the Interreg Programme, but lagging behind in previous calls of the Programme, project proposals focused on the identified themes, results and actions are going to receive additional points during the quality assessment (see Project Selection procedure).

1. Focus for Standard project proposals

These are the Interreg Programme actions, which are lagging behind in previous calls and therefore which will be prioritised in the quality assessment of Standard projects:

S.O. 1.1	- (Act. ICT[1]) Improving cross-border access to research and advanced technologies for SMEs by providing ICT services and web/cloud facilities. - (Act. Researchers) Facilitating cross-border mobility of researchers through cooperation agreements among Italian and Croatian institutions for shared (research) scholarships - (Act. Blue innovation) Implementing joint research on emerging market needs and new business opportunities, mainly in the blue economy sectors, fostering the attraction of public/private investments and increasing number of researchers in the private sector
S.O. 2.1	- (Act. Emergencies) Reinforcing cooperation between local authorities and non-governmental organisations to define and apply integrated emergency/rescue plans and to develop mechanisms to report identified needs for equipment supplies to relevant authorities - (Act. CC schools) Students and teachers' exchanges aimed at developing common projects on climate change adaptation. - (Act. First Aid) Developing cross-border agreements and protocols for accelerating mutual supply of goods/equipment for the management of the first phases of the emergency/recovery - (Act. Resilient Sites) Increasing climate resilience of cultural/natural heritage sites by developing and implementing disaster risk reduction policies and actions in local and regional development plans - (Act. Adaptation) Integrated cross-border community-based initiatives aiming at fostering active awareness about anthropogenic changes on local ecosystems and related adaptation measures

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[1] The code Act. + key word may be used by applicants as an abbreviation, when they quote an action they would like to implement

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S.O. 2.2	- (Act. Indicators) Developing homogenous indicators through the exchange and comparison of existing good practices in order to harmonize data collection and monitoring systems - (Act. MSPs/ICMs) Providing new tools for the integrated management of sea, coast and river environment and of cross-border natural resources (i.e., coordinated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) - (Act. GREEN ICT) Designing integrated policies aimed at limiting the anthropogenic pressure on coastal and inner regions including green ports, by adopting innovative technologies/procedures/processes by the use of ICT tools (including pollution monitoring, handling meteorological data, etc) and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture models)
S.O. 3.1	- (Act. Green Data) Promoting joint monitoring and data analysis helping defining cross border policies on greener maritime routes and sea pollution reduction - (Act. Cycle/ Intermodality) Designing cycle routes of macro-regional relevance and testing new services to encourage intermodality (bike and train/ ferry/ tram/ bus/ plane) also considering tourism needs - (Act. Transport cybersecurity) Establishing action plans and common standards to manage physical and cybersecurity of freight and passengers' transports also in real time through the use of ICT and web-based tools - (Act. Ports circular economy) Promoting innovative solutions for implementing the circular economy approach in the management of the ports
S.O. 4.1	- (Act. Culture) Enhance the places of culture as multidisciplinary hubs by reinforcing their spill-over effects in the economic and tourism sector, also involving private investors to ensure financial self-sustainability of the sites and implement revenue-generating activities - (Act. Tourism) Fostering agreements between tourist operators of the coastal and the inner areas in order to set up coordinated, sustainable and innovative offers and itineraries, also including residents in the planning and follow-up of tourism activities - (Act. Jobs) Foster the experimentation of social economy measures aimed at creating resilient, fair and stable jobs, also open to people with vulnerable background, and able to develop attractive career paths in the culture and tourism sector - (Act. Peripheries) Promote sustainable tourism in peripheral areas through the enhancement of experiential tourism, the diffusion of slow mobility, the creation of new routes linked to local specificities and new services provided by cultural and creative industries, also applying circular economy approaches.

As regards S.O. 5.1 the proposals must be focused on one of the following five themes:

S.O. 5.1	1. Digitalisation and cooperation of public administrations such as promotion of the interoperability of data structures and sources from public and private stakeholders in order to improve cross-border service delivery (5.1 CB Data).
	2. Cybersecurity, digital right protection and AI application in public administration, protection of intellectual property rights, safety in digital identity and transactions, also through capacity building actions for public administration, etc (5.1 CB Cybersecurity).
	3. Risk management/Civil protection CB collaboration. Investigating obstacles and proposing solutions for mutual cooperation between Italian and Croatian entities in case of natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.) and first aid (5.1 CB Risks).
	4. Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime spatial planning. Obstacles investigation and propose solutions to collaboration between Italy and Croatia (5.1 CB Sea).
	5. Addressing language barriers and promoting cross-border multilingualism to help border citizens and for the benefit of businesses (5.1 CB Language).

2. Focus for Small-scale project proposals

The quality assessment shall prioritise Small-scale project proposals having the following focus on actions identified in the specific objectives of the Interreg Programme:

S.O. 2.2	- (Act. Digital[2]) Extending the use of digital solutions to evaluate ecosystem services especially in the sea basins
	- (Act. OECMs) Supporting feasibility studies for setting up cross-border protected marine areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)
	- (Act. MSPs/ICMs) Providing new tools for the integrated management of sea, coast and river environment and of cross-border natural resources (i.e., coordinated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)
S.O. 4.1	- (Act. Culture) Enhance the places of culture as multidisciplinary hubs by reinforcing their spill-over effects in the economic and tourism sector, also involving private investors to ensure financial self-sustainability of the sites and implement revenue-generating activities
	- (Act. Tourism) Fostering agreements between tourist operators of the coastal and the inner areas in order to set up coordinated, sustainable and innovative offers and itineraries, also including residents in the planning and follow-up of tourism activities

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	- (Act. Jobs) Foster the experimentation of social economy measures aimed at creating resilient, fair and stable jobs, also open to people with vulnerable background, and able to develop attractive career paths in the culture and tourism sector - (Act. Digital Culture) Supporting the cross-border exchange of know-how and experiences concerning the digitalisation of cultural heritage and implementing joint solutions to innovate cultural fruition (i.e. through artificial intelligence) - (Act. Creative) Designing and testing innovative digital solutions to interpret and promote coastal and inner areas touristic resources also through the involvement of cultural and creative industries - (Act. Circular) Promote sustainable tourism in peripheral areas through the enhancement of experiential tourism, the diffusion of slow mobility, the creation of new routes linked to local specificities and new services provided by cultural and creative industries, also applying circular economy approaches.
S.O. 5.1	- (Act. CB Obstacles) Raising awareness of the persistence and impact of legal and administrative cross- border obstacles related to maritime cooperation in the Programme area - (Act. Blue Obstacles) Investigating and recognising legal and administrative cross-border obstacles hindering cooperation, especially in the fields of risk management, fisheries and aquaculture, Maritime Spatial Planning - (Act. CB ICT) Supporting joint actions to investigate, adapt and test digital CB services for better administrative cooperation in crucial fields of maritime cooperation (surveillance, emergency response, accessibility)

Small-scale types of activities

In addition, Small-scale projects shall efficiently focus and limit the scope of their activities to soft measures, in proportion to the financial allocation, which may be clustered around these main types (see also the Guidelines for Applicants):

1) Analyses, in form of studies, feasibility studies, papers, gap analysis, surveys, etc.
2) Agreements, in form of MoU, agreements, exchange of commitment letters, contracts, strategies – action plans, etc.
3) Meetings, i.e. Cross-border meetings / workshops / conferences / meetings / study visits, etc.
4) Digital tools such as websites, mobile app, software, database, AI applications, etc.

While describing the activities of the project proposals, applicants should make explicit reference to the targeted actions (or theme in case of 5.1 Standard proposals).