

Interreg



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MAIN DECISIONS

11TH MONITORING COMMITTEE

26th May 2026,
Hybrid Meeting

SUMMARY

The meeting addressed updates on current state of art of the contracts with external experts, presentation on the assessment results for Standard Projects of the 3rd Call for Proposals, progress of ongoing projects, approval of Call documents for the 4th Call for Proposals (capitalisation projects) in coordination with the Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism, the MC also discussed findings of the Operational Evaluation and updates on 2028-2034 programming by establishing the Task Force .

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ITEM 0 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chair: Mr. Antonio Verrico (Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department for Cohesion Policy)

Head of the Italian Delegation: Mr. Francesco Martelli (Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department for Cohesion Policy)

Head of the Croatian Delegation: Ms. Stella Arneri (Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds)

Representative of the European Commission: Mr. Beniamino Brunati (DG REGIO)

The quorum is confirmed and the members present declare no conflicts of interest.

ITEM 1 – INFORMATION FROM DG REGIO

The Monitoring Committee (MC) **acknowledges** the information from Mr. Brunati (DG REGIO, European Commission) about some strategies currently being developed at the Commission level which can be of interest for the Programme, inviting the National Authorities to apply to the call for evidence under the Right to stay Strategy open until 5th of June. Finally he informs about the Interreg Governance Facility project (InterregGov) and its call for applications, open from 20 May till 17 June.

ITEM 2 – STATE OF THE ART OF CURRENT CONTRACTS WITH EXTERNAL EXPERTS

The MC **acknowledges** the **updates** on communication-related activities provided by MA External Experts on **ongoing long-term contracts**. Contract implementation has reached 17 out of 36 months and activities are on track. Five events have been organised with over 700 participants. Key visibility products have been delivered: an updated project results dashboard, an institutional video, animated infographic on capitalisation, and an animated infographic on the Mediterranean



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Multi-Programme Mechanism (MMM). Moreover, the MC **acknowledges** the contracts **updates** and **results** outlined by the MA External Experts.

ITEM 3 – STATE OF ART AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The MC **acknowledges** the financial and reporting **updates**, provided by the Joint Secretariat (JS) representatives on ongoing projects. The Programme currently includes 99 projects involving 589 partners. To date, almost 60 million euros have already been verified by the JS, corresponding to approximately 37% of the original Programme budget.

Moreover, the MC **acknowledges** the **project modifications** outlined by the JS representatives.

ITEM 4 – STANDARD PROJECTS QUALITY AND STATE AID ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The MC **approves**:

- the **results** of the **quality assessment** results and the **ranking lists**.
- To **directly finance** 22 projects (in Specific Objective 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1 and 5.1) under conditions and **reallocate** the **savings** from the S.Os to finance 2 additional projects (in 4.1 and 5.1). To **replace** 7 projects in Condition Clearing due to private PPs not being able to reach the financial capacity.
- To **give mandate** to the JS to immediately start the Condition Clearing phase with the LeadApplicants of the 3rd Standard Call verifying the fulfilment of Conditions.
- That the MA will inform the MC about the fulfilment of the condition clearing process and then proceed with the contracting phase
- To **acknowledge** that the MA needs to express its opinion for ECOADRIA (3.1) and GEOHERITAGE (4.1) projects related to Reg. (EU) 2021/1059, Art. 22 (operations implemented



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outside the Programme area) and for possible other activities emerging during the condition clearing phase.

ITEM 5 – 4th CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CALL ANNOUNCEMENT, SELECTION CRITERIA AND DISCUSSION.

The MC **approves** the **Call documents**, including the Call Announcement and the Call Selection Procedure with Annex 1. An urgent Written Procedure will approve the complete Application Package. In the final drafting of the documents, the text will be revised by removing references to “interviews,” align criterion 4.1 with the TOR and adding a reference to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the selection process. The 4th Call is scheduled to open on 15th of June 2026, pending approval from the Veneto Regional Government.

ITEM 6 – STATE OF THE ART OF EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND PRESENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL EVALUATION

The MC **acknowledges** the main findings of the **Operational Evaluation Report** conducted by the external experts, with a focus on the Programme’s relevance, coherence, and effectiveness. Overall, the evaluation indicates strong progress towards the achievement of Specific Objectives, accompanied by financial performance. Nonetheless, unmet needs remain, particularly regarding the definition of targets at project level, the link between activities and indicators, and the application of simplified cost options by less experienced organisations.

ITEM 7 – POST-27 PROGRAMMING UPDATE AND TASK FORCE ESTABLISHMENT

The representative of the European Commission provides an **update on the post-2027 programming period** and European negotiations. The European Commission proposed the new



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financial framework in July 2025, and discussions continue among institutions. Programme bodies will have nine months to submit chapters after regulation adoption expected by late 2027. A dedicated event in Brussels is scheduled for November 2026 to discuss Cooperation Orientation Papers. MA representative outlines the Task Force's composition and planning steps involving members of the National Delegations. Representative. The MC approves the **establishment of the Task Force**.

AoB (ANY OTHER BUSINESS)

The MC **acknowledges updates** provided by the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat on:

- accounts for the period **2023-2024** and **the Final Implementation Report**;
- the **payment application** to European Commission and the achievement of **Target N+3**
- Future meeting of the **Task Force** on 23 June in Rome and **Monitoring Committee** meeting in November in Venice.

