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**Italy – Croatia**

# MAIN DECISIONS 8<sup>TH</sup> MONITORING COMMITTEE

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2025,**

**Hybrid mode – Dubrovnik (HR)**

## **SUMMARY**

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The meeting covered updates on POST 2027 programming period, approval of strategic projects (OSI) assessments, progress on ongoing projects, and the preparation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals. It also reviewed the Programme Implementation Manual, updates on the 2014-2020 Programme closure, and budget spending. Additionally, plans for future meetings and communication activities

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**ITEM 0 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Chair:** Ms. Stella Arneri (Croatian Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds)

**Head of the Italian Delegation:** Mr. Antonio Verrico (Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for cohesion policy and the South)

**Head of the Croatian Delegation:** Mr. Marko Opančar (Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds)

**Representative of the European Commission:** Mr. Beniamino Brunati

*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 update from Mr. Brunati (DG REGIO, European Commission), stating that Member States may soon be invited to **reprogram current funds** to support new EU priorities such as **competitiveness, defence, affordable housing, and energy transition**, as outlined in a broader legislative proposal to modernise cohesion policy.

**ITEM 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CfP) – OPERATIONS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE (OSI): ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

The MC **approves the ranking list and [assessment results](#)** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP – OSI Projects.

The following decisions are taken:

- The Managing Authority (MA) will publish the [list of approved OSI projects](#) under conditions, without waiting for the approval of the minutes;
- The MC **mandates** the Joint Secretariat (JS) to start the **Condition Clearing (CC) phase** immediately with Lead Partners (LPs);
- The MC **acknowledges** that the **infringement decisions assessment** is ongoing;



## Italy – Croatia

- The MC **acknowledges** that during the CC phase, the **collection of environmental indicators** will be carried out;
- Upon conclusion of each project's CC phase, the MC will **receive** a brief **report** before contracting begins;
- The MA **approves activities outside the Programme area** for the projects *REALIST* and *PRESPORT*, and will notify the MC of any further similar activities identified during the CC process.

### ITEM 3 – STATE OF THE ART OF STANDARD AND SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS | SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS LESSON LEARNT

The MC **acknowledges** the current state of the art of the [1<sup>st</sup> CFP](#) Standard and Small-scale Projects, which show **strong financial performance and timely reporting**.

- Highlighted projects:
  - [SITE](#) (SO 4.1): Universal design and sustainable tourism;
  - [DIH Innovamare](#) (SO 1.1): Green and digital skills in the blue economy.
- A new “**Library**” section on the Programme website showcases deliverables from projects like [MONI.CA](#) and [AdriaticPortLand](#).

### ITEM 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals (CfP) GAP ANALYSIS

The MC **acknowledges** the **gap analysis** made in preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfPs, **approves budget reallocations**, and **adopts a scoring system** to prioritise proposals addressing underfunded areas.



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**ITEM 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> CFP SMALL-SCALE AND STANDARD PROJECTS**

The MC **approves** the **proposed selection procedure** for the [3<sup>rd</sup> CFP](#), including the early publication of draft documents, and validates the correction of terminology in the call text.

**ITEM 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> CFP APPLICATION PACKAGE & SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The MC **approves** the **Call announcement, annexes, selection criteria**, and **next steps**, as follows:

- Call launch is set on 7/05/2025;
- Written procedure for full application approval: 28 April–6 May;
- Four Info Days planned: 14<sup>th</sup> May – Šibenik, 15<sup>th</sup> May – Rijeka, 21<sup>st</sup> May – Ravenna, 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Brindisi;
- [Partner search tool](#) available from 14<sup>th</sup> April on Programme website;
- Standard project duration confirmed at 30 months, with flexibility on extensions.

**ITEM 5 – PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL (PIM) VERSION 4.0 APRIL 2025**

The MC **approves** the **April 2025 update** ([version 4.0](#)) of the Programme Implementation Manual.

**ITEM 6 – UPDATE ON MULTI-PROGRAMME COORDINATION MECHANISM**

The MC **acknowledges** the update on the [Multi-Programme Coordination Mechanism](#).

**ITEM 7 – UPDATE ON POST-27 DISCUSSIONS**

The MC **acknowledges** the update on [Post-27 discussions](#). A **dedicated meeting** will be organised. The EC representative confirms that **draft regulations** and materials will be shared soon and invites stakeholders to participate in the [public consultation](#) on the Commission's website.



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**ITEM 8 – UPDATE ON 2014-2020 PROGRAMME CLOSURE**

The MC **acknowledges** that the [2014-2020 Programme](#) can **close by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**. All **Croatian audits** are completed; 6 out of 18 **Italian audits** are still open, expected to close by **May 2025**.

**ITEM 9 – EX-POST EVALUATION OF 2014-20 – INFOGRAPHIC AND VIDEO PRESENTATION**

The MC **acknowledges** the main findings of **the ex-post evaluation** of 2014-2020. A [video summary](#) **has been** published on the Programme website and YouTube channel. Additional communication content (clips, social media posts) to follow.

A new [procurement](#) for **2021–2027 evaluation** activities is **open until 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025**.

**AoB (ANY OTHER BUSINESS)**

The MC **acknowledges updates** on:

- N+3 rule implementation, budget spending is on track with defined objectives;
- Communication procurement activities;
- Recruitment of the Joint Secretariat Head;
- Planning of the next MC meeting to be held in October 2025.

