

Improving Synergies across the Mediterranean for post 2020.

Prior invitation only.



15 June 2020.

Improving Synergies across Mediterranean programmes for post 2020.

1st Meeting. Online_ 9.30 - 12.00 CET

Check the Zoom address in the Registration Acceptance email



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Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 crisis, the event foreseen in Valencia on improving synergies in the Mediterranean for post 2020 was cancelled. However, the need for meetings to tackle this topic has been acknowledged by the Interreg programmes structures (MA, JS and MC) in the Mediterranean. In this context Interact wanted to react and give service as soon as possible to the programmes demand by organising online meetings.

Outlines.

With the new programming period the renowned calls for more integrated approach to sectoral and/or territorial policy implementation are being raised. In parallel, the Commission through the Orientation Papers encourages a stronger cooperation between CBC and transnational programmes, in particular those operating within the same area or sea basin. Working together, promoting common objectives and reinforcing synergies between programmes leads to a higher EU added value, a stronger impact in the area, a better allocation of public resources and improves the capacities of the programme authorities and beneficiaries. In this spirit and within this goal the Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes are encouraged as well to use cooperation more actively.

ETC programmes operate in certain territory/geographical area thus give response to territorial challenges. Based on this reality better coordination between the ETC programmes – CBC, TN, can increase the efficiency and pave the way for subsequent and more integrated interventions. In this way creating a common approach and common response to territorial challenges.

A dialogue between the programmes is, therefore, essential, to agree on challenges and type of actions /interventions. This should be addressed from an early stage of the programming, as a basis for long term coordination or simply flow of information between the programmes.

Objectives

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE.

To reinforce the cooperation covered by the ETC regulation from the programming process to its implementation for a higher impact in the territory and efficiency while using public funds in the Mediterranean area.

To explore the need for a **coordination mechanism/solution** to address geographical and thematic challenges and build synergies.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE.

To kick off the discussion between programmes authorities covered by the ETC regulation connected by functional area and to explore the need for a coordination mechanism/solution to address geographical and thematic challenges and build synergies. This whole process will take several meetings.

In this first meeting, the programmes operating in the Mediterranean will share some inputs coming from their territorial assessment and if possible identify their potential common challenges, as well as common needs. Only if suitable, select 1 or 2 common strategic themes that we could further elaborate together. (Ex. ICZM, Sustainable Tourism, Plastic free sea....). This is done having full respect to the fact that the decisions are being taken in each Programme TF.

Commission will provide information on the current context:



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- How can TN and CBC programmes operate together? EC perspective
- New CPR, in what is related to themes.
- Clarify the idea of a possible FA in the whole Mediterranean.

Target group

This meeting will be prior invitation.

- MA or JS (only 1 representative).
 1. TN Med
 2. TN Adrion
 3. CBC Italy France Maritime,
 4. CBC Italy Malta
 5. CBC Italy Croatia
 6. CBC Italy Slovenia
 7. CBC Italy Greece
 8. CBC France Italy Alcotra
 9. CBC Spain France Andorra
 10. CBC Greece Cyprus
 11. CBC IPA Croatia Bosnia Montenegro
 12. CBC IPA Italy Albania Montenegro
 13. CBC IPA Greece Albania
 14. NDICI CBC MED
 15. NCICI CBC Italy Tunisia.
- Observers:
 - MS (member of Interact MC or Interreg programme TF member) Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain. 2 maximum,
 - TESIM

Methodology.¹

Organising an event online uses a different methodology than a physical one, this means that each meeting will not take more than 2 hours and only one objective will be tackled by each meeting. There are three meetings foreseen:

1. The first meeting focuses on WHAT. During this session, the programmes operating in the Mediterranean will share information and identify their common challenges, common needs, based on each programme's territorial assessment. If possible, select 1 or 2 possible common strategic themes to work on together. (Ex. ICZM, Sustainable Tourism, Plastic free sea....). 15 of June 2020 (tbc) at 9:30-11:30 CET. Online.
2. The second meeting focuses on WHO. Each programme financially supports certain type of operations/interventions or line of actions based on their strand's nature (TN, CBC, neighbourhood, pre-accession, etc). During this session, the programmes will explore their strength and discuss which programme/s can achieve the change through the type of

¹ Too consider the Paper: OVERLAPS IN INTERREG: A view from Transnational Cooperation practitioners.18 October 2019.



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activities they can finance in the most efficient way. In this way striving to avoid overlaps and finance the same kind of operations (Ex. TN working at a strategical and global level while CBC implementing actions that are much more effective if done locally).
July/September 2020. Online

3. The third meeting focuses on HOW to build a lasting cooperation and exchange. This will be achieved by reviewing the main difficulties when working on synergies with other programmes. During this session, programmes will identify suitable ways and levels of coordination and cooperation to improve complementarities across Interreg programmes working in the Mediterranean. Find [here](#) some [examples](#) of those already existing and [suggestions](#) for improvements, based on Interact's work on "Coordination and Cooperation across programmes " group from 2016-2018. (Ex. Specific type calls, joint ToR, participation in each other's' MS or selection committee, staff exchanges, etc).
November 2020.

Beyond 2021. Starting putting into practice the identified ways to improve complementarities and coordination during 2020-2027 programming period.

For the fulfilment of the before mentioned objectives, there are the existing EUSAIR, WESTMED and UfM, who have developed papers and reflections that are suggested to be taken into account.



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Thursday, 15th May 2020 (tbc)

9.00 - 9.30

Check-in to virtual meeting room and technical settings.

Please join the virtual meeting room in good time to test technical settings and to ensure we will start on time. The room will be open half-an-hour before the meeting will start (i.e. at 9:00 CET). Be aware that online registration takes time.

9.30 - 12.00

Event

Introduction to the meeting, objective and approach

Interact.

Opening Speeches.

- Jean Pierre Halkin (tbc). Head of Unit D1-DG REGIO. EU Commission.
- Pascal Boijmans (tbc). Head of Unit D2-DG REGIO EU Commission.

Objectives of the session: European Commission will establish the current framework for post 2020 dynamics across programmes. Working in a complementary way is first step to ensure impact on the territory. Due to COVID-19 impact on the programming, European Commission will reflect on Priority Objectives and time schedule.

Informal discussion. Territorial assessment and lessons from 2013-2020.

Objectives of the session: Programmes will share information on the following issues using one slide explaining in bullet points:

- If they expect to have their OP ready by December 2020
- Territorial needs assessment: highlighting the main possible challenges/themes they want to tackle in the area. Those who do not have their territorial assessment yet can inform on “potential” Objectives based on the previous experience in 2014-2020 or tentative discussions with MS.

Debate and reaction from the MS, MA and EC.

Select possible up to three strategic challenges that being tackled jointly will have a higher impact in the Mediterranean.

Conclusions and next steps.



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Practicalities

Online meeting and meeting times

All times indicated in this agenda are CET (Brussels time).

We will meet online using the video conferencing tool Zoom. Together with your registration confirmation, you will receive the link and further information how to access the virtual meeting room.

To enable a swift start at 9:30, the virtual room will open half an hour before (9.00) the meeting start and we will be present for your (technical) assistance.

Other information

In case of questions, please do not hesitate to address Mercedes Acitores
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