

# Synergies in the Mediterranean during Implementation



21-22 of March 2023

Hotel DUBROVNIK PALACE HOTEL

Dubrovnik | Croatia





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### About the Med Lab Group

The Med Lab Group is a multilevel platform of all Interreg programmes in the entire Mediterranean to discuss jointly and in practical terms WHY, WHAT, WHO, HOW to work in **synergies**, and to explore the needs and **inter-programme coordination** solutions.

Within the new programming period the renowned calls for a more integrated approach to sectoral and/or territorial policy implementation are being raised. In the meanwhile, the Commission encouraged through the Orientation Papers a stronger cooperation between programmes operating within the same area encompassing transnational (TN) and cross-border cooperation (CBC), including Interreg NEXT. There is no doubt that 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 to use cooperation more actively.

Interreg programmes operate in a specific territory/geographical area, thus, give response to territorial challenges. Based on this reality, improving synergies and inter-coordination of the operations implemented by the most appropriate geographical scale can increase its efficiency when giving response to territorial challenges. For the past two years Interact and TESIM have been facilitating this process in the Mediterranean region focusing on the 2021-2027 programming.

After 7 events, 2 tools and the nurturing of a community based on the partnership principle and the multilevel governance, **Interact and TESIM together with the European Commission will continue supporting programmes in this task during the implementation phase.**

Starting from the first quarter of 2023, our work will build on three complementary perspectives:

1. **The Project/Programme cycle dimension**, where the lifespan of programmes and projects is stressed, optimising synergies all along the different phases of the programming cycle, from the design of calls to the capitalisation of results;
2. **Thematic approach**, where the convergence of programmes and projects into policy and specific objectives and indicative actions is the key and where tools intended to maximise synergies among actions addressing common topics in the core dimension;
3. **The Territorial impact**, where the focus is on the geographical dimension of cooperation and where synergies are exploited in their potential to add value at territorial level, valorising the effort of project partners on transforming cooperation into an asset at local level.

### Objectives

After a long period of Task Force meetings, all programmes in the Mediterranean area have been approved. This meeting will be the first one in 2023 and it will focus on the following objectives:

1. *For the Project/Programme cycle dimension*, we will address the first steps of the programme's implementation cycle, notably **calls and projects' assessments**: How synergies and complementarities are considered in your 2021-2027 calls and assessments? What are you thinking about more precisely and why?



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2. *For the Thematic approach*, we will start investigating and exchanging on the most popular topics selected by most of the programmes and through parallel sessions we will explore possible synergies under the environmental dimension (PO2) and specifically on under the specific objective addressing **Biodiversity & Natural protection** (SO 2.7) and under the social and socio-economic dimension, focusing on the topics around popular theme of **Sustainable Tourism** (SO 4.6).
3. *For the Territorial impact*, we will switch into an experiential and bottom-up approach based first on a **project visit linked to EUSAIR** and afterward on a common reflection on the added value of TN/CBC synergies at local level.

### Format

1st day: Presential for plenary, working groups and networking and live streaming options only for plenary sessions

2<sup>nd</sup> day: In person site visit + follow-up & networking session

### Target group

This meeting will be by prior invitation, and it will be mainly focus on Heads of MA and/or JS of the following programmes:

1. TN EuroMed
2. TN IPA Adrion
3. TN Sudoe
4. CBC Italy France Maritime,
5. CBC Italy Malta
6. CBC Italy Croatia
7. CBC Italy Slovenia
8. CBC Italy Greece
9. CBC Spain France Andorra
10. CBC Greece Cyprus
11. CBC Greece Bulgaria
12. CBC IPA Croatia Bosnia Montenegro
13. CBC IPA South Adriatic
14. CBC IPA Greece Republic of North Macedonia
15. CBC IPA Greece Albania
16. TN NEXT MED
17. CBC NEXT Italy Tunisia.

National authorities and other institutions or bodies operating in close cooperation with programmes or other initiatives will be welcomed as observers.

- Observers:
  - Member States, Partner and IPA countries members of TF meetings.
  - EUSAIR and WestMed representatives. (WestMed Assistance Mechanism on behalf of the Initiative)
  - EC: DG Regio, DG Mare, other DG's.



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### Day One

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

13.15 – 15.00

Buffet Lunch

### Improving synergies focusing on thematic parallel sessions: Biodiversity & Natural protection and Sustainable tourism

15.00 – 15.15

**How to ensure, facilitate and implement thematic synergies? Introduction to the session in plenary**

*Introduction: Interact and TESIM*

15.30 – 16.30

**Parallel sessions:**

- **Round Table 1 on Biodiversity and natural protection.**
- **Round Table 2 on Sustainable Tourism**

Objectives of the session: Finding synergies across programmes from a thematic approach. During this session there will be an “inspirational presentation” which will lead to a discussion with the programmes about their 2014-2020 legacy from a thematic perspective and how did they link it to the new calls. There should be a conclusion on how working in a collective way will bring a higher impact to all this process.

- Inspirational speech for Biodiversity and natural protection. Maja Mikosinska. *Former Head of our Nature and Biodiversity sector. ‘LIFE Environment’ (on line).*
- Inspirational speech for Sustainable tourism. Lovre Karamarko. *Head of Service for the implementation of Financial Mechanisms in the field of Energy and Climate Change and Strategic Projects and Initiative. Croatian Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds.*

Round tables will be formed by Interreg programmes, MS, National delegations, EC, LIFE, EUSAIR and WESTMED representatives.

16.45 – 17.05

**Back to plenary: Conclusions**

Objectives of the session: the outcomes from parallel sessions will be harvested and briefly analysed and discussed.

17.05- 17.15

**Closure day 1**

20.00

**Networking Cocktail**

### Day Two

Wednesday, 22 March 2023



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### Sustainable Tourism Projects visit in Ston

- 8.30 – 9.00** Meeting at hotel entrance
- 9.00 – 10.00** Bus trip to several Interreg Projects in Ston.
- 10.00 – 11.15** **Project visit: Synergies across TAKE IT SLOW (Interreg VA Italy Croatia) CREATURES (Interreg Adrion), BLUEfasma (Interreg MED) and WINE (IPA CBC Croatia – Montenegro)**  
Objectives of the session: Project visit and explanation of the partner's role, Regional Agency DUNEA, in the project's synergies and its impact in territory.  
Bottom-up approach: from the project experience to the territorial impact.
- 11.30 – 13.00** **Round table discussion**  
Introduction: Interact and TESIM  
EUSAIR Pillar 4 (Sustainable Tourism): Natalija Haviđić, Director General for Strategic Planning, Digitalization and EU funds, Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Croatia  
Discussion: All participants  
  
Objectives of the session:
- The plans for building synergies with the EUSAIR framework and flagship from the project partner, programme and EUSAIR perspective. Potentials for building links between EUSAIR initiatives and WestMed.
- 13.15 – 15.00** **Lunch and end of the event.**
- 15.00 – 16.15** **Bus to Dubrovnik**
- 16.30** **City visits.**

### Practicalities

Accommodation **Hotel DUBROVNIK PALACE HOTEL**

Code for booking: INTERACT

**Step 1:** Go to [Hotel Dubrovnik Palace \(book-secure.com\)](https://book-secure.com)

**Step 2:** Complete your reservation by choosing exact date you need and your room and fill-out the other reservation details requested

**Step 3:** Read carefully the "Terms & conditions" to get the information about the cancellation policy.