

ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO 2021-27 TASK FORCE

Partnership involvement

Art. 16 (3) of the proposed Regulation for European Territorial Cooperation 2021-2027 provides that the participating countries shall prepare the programme in cooperation with the programme partners, which in article 6 of the proposed Common Provision Regulation 2021-2027 are listed as competent regional authorities (and local authorities, depending on the constitutional setting of the Country), and at least also (a) urban and other public authorities, (b) economic and social partners, (c) relevant bodies representing civil society, environmental partners, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination.

On this basis, the 2021-27 Task Force of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro agreed to involve partners during programming in the most effective way, through:

- a) Public consultations online: A first consultation was already organised between January and March 2020. Another consultation was held once the outline of the Programme and its priorities were more defined, between January and February 2021, in order to confirm the selected priorities with the extended partnership and general public;
- b) Focused partnership meetings for competent regional/national authorities (and local authorities, depending on the constitutional setting of the country): 8 focused meetings, involving few experts/public officers were organised in the second and third quarter of 2020 under the responsibility of the Regional and National Authorities concerned and with the support of the Joint Secretariat. For Albania and Montenegro line ministries responsible for the Programme topics were involved;
- c) Complementarities and synergies meetings: Complementarities and synergies were assured with other key stakeholders such as the representatives of the EUSAIR (the pillar coordinators e.g.), of other Interreg programmes of the area in 10 meetings throughout 2020;
- d) An online extended partnership meeting for urban/local public authorities, socio-economic partners, third sector was held on 18 January 2021.

1. Focused partnership meetings

In the second and third quarter of 2020, focused partnership meetings for competent regional / national authorities were organised, involving few experts / public officers under the responsibility of the Regional and National Authorities concerned and with the support of the Joint Secretariat. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, meetings were only possible online.

For Albania and Montenegro line ministries responsible for the Programme topics were involved.

Focused partnership meetings held:

1. 02/02/2020 - Puglia (online)
2. 12/06/2020 - Puglia (online)
3. 19/06/2020 - Puglia (online)
4. 28/07/2020 - Albania (online)
5. 31/08/2020 - Montenegro (online)
6. 09/09/2020 - Molise (online)
7. 04/09/2020 - Montenegro (Online)
8. 22/10/2020 - (online) - Capitalisation meeting with 2014-2020 beneficiaries.

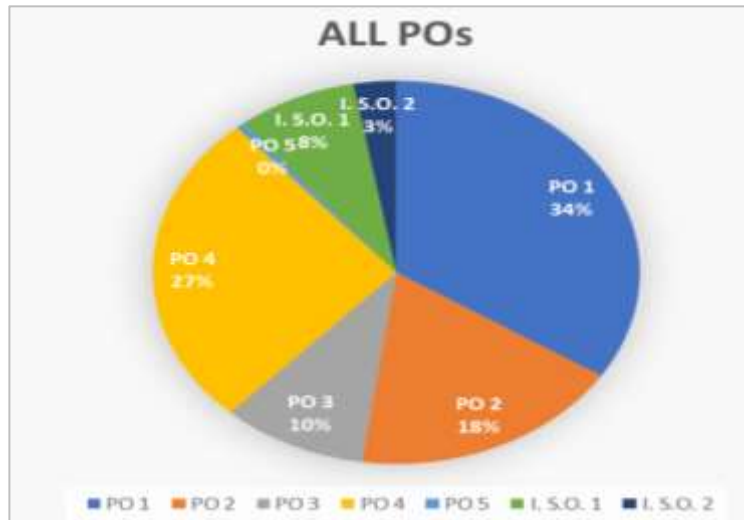
During these meetings, **101 persons** with different thematic expertise and background expressed their opinion on the key needs of the programme territories. Even if they were held online for COVID-19 restrictions, participants could discuss the key emerging needs of the territories, the actors to be involved as well as the need for cooperation on these topics.

A qualitative assessment of their opinions against the current versions of the Regulations, especially in relation to the ERDF and Interreg Priority Objectives, following trends emerged.

Chart 1 - Number of participants' opinions matching with POs

PO 1	SMARTER	60
PO 2	GREENER	32
PO 3	CONNECTED	17
PO 4	SOCIAL	47
PO 5	CLOSER	1
I.S.O. 1	GOVERN.	14
I.S.O. 2	SAFER	5

Chart 2 - Percentage of participants' opinions matching with POs



A high number of partners agreed on a strong need for **PO 1 Smarter EU**, as well as on actions which may be implemented within **PO 4 More social EU**. Promotion of the cultural heritage, creativity and **tourism** were important topics, which indeed may be covered horizontally in the future programming period (see below about PO 5). According to the participants, the **socio-economic challenges** related to both the structural weaknesses of the territories and to the mid-term consequences of the COVID-19 crisis may be more effectively targeted together across national borders by the Programme. At the same time, this is also due to a general understanding that within these two POs a lot of cooperation actions (such as training, capacity buildings, etc.) may lead to concrete results for the territories, especially in relation to the promotion of the **cultural heritage and the support to sustainable tourism**. This also reflects on the nature of already on-going cooperation projects: Projects in 2014-2020 already showed a big focus on PO 1 and many projects already implemented activities aiming at an increase of skills and capacities typical of PO 4, often in relation to weak social groups (such as e.g. disabled, inhabitants of suburban areas, etc.).

Like in most Interreg programmes in Europe, **PO 2 Greener EU** showed also a high interest and need of cooperation, as the **joint maritime environment**, and the **increased natural / man-made risks** may only be effectively addressed together. Also in PO 2 a focus on **sustainable forms of tourism** emerged.

The fact that **PO 3 A more connected EU** was not mentioned as a priority for the majority of participants is not due to a lack of needs to improve the connectivity in the area. On the contrary, several participants stressed that connectivity is a pre-condition for any development and require wider investments, which are limited in cooperation programmes such as ours, therefore as a total number, there are less cooperation actors involved in the theme and a general need emerges to focus on few strategic projects.

Finally, for **ISO 1 (governance) and ISO 2 (security) themes**, there is for sure a potential to develop cooperation actions, but especially for ISO 2, actors such as customs and ministries for interior use other tools to cooperate, rather than cooperation programmes.

The on-going debate of P.O. 5 EU Closer to citizens, which is understood as integrated, cross-border local development strategy and it requires a sub-strategy and sub-programme structure (such as cross-border local action groups or EGTC, not available in IPA countries), was in general not discussed by participants in these terms and therefore assessed accordingly (only one opinion is focused only on integrated local development strategies). Instead, promotion of the cultural heritage was stressed as cross-border cooperation theme to be covered horizontally in all POs.

Specific objectives

In relation to the specific objectives of the proposed ERDF and ETC Regulations 2021-2027, opinions showed some clear trends.

For P.O. 1 Smarter EU, where most of participants stressed the importance to improve **the framework conditions for the development of SMEs**, building up on the 2014-20 programming period results. The focus on **cultural, creative and touristic sector** was very often stressed by participants. At the same time, the **digital and green agendas, agro-food and blue economy** sectors were also mentioned as priority.

For P.O. 2 Greener EU, there is a more complex picture, because the different environmental aspects, which cooperation mostly focus on, are all interconnected, such as e.g. **the protection of the biodiversity of the sea** and territories depending on waste management, on circular economy, on water management and on water sewage system management. A clear need to jointly address **natural and man-made risks** and to decrease CO2 emissions with more efficient energy policies emerged. More **sustainable forms of tourism** was also mentioned as a need.

For P.O. 3 More connected EU, most participants focused on the missing links to TEN-T hubs and the intermodality.

For P.O. 4 More social EU, many cooperation actions mentioned by participants aimed at **skills and capacity building**, targeted to specific social groups, even here often focused on **cultural, creative and touristic sectors**. Efficient healthcare was also mentioned as possible priority.

For ISO 1, the majority of activities mentioned was focused on the efficiency and coordination of public administrations and of public services to citizens and SMEs.

Chart 3 -Number of participants' opinions matching with S.O.s

SO No.	Descr.	TOTAL
PO 1 I	R&D	0
PO 1 II	Digitalisation	0
PO 1 III	SMEs	60
PO 1 VI	Skills	4
PO 2 I	energy efficiency	4
PO 2 II	Renewable	3
PO 2 III	energy grids	4
PO 2 IV	risk	16
PO 2 V	water management	7
PO 2 VI	circular economy	14
PO 2 VII	biodiversity	22
PO 3 I	digital networks	0
PO 3 II	TEN-T	2
PO 3 III	intermodality	16
PO 3 IV	multimodality	0
PO 4 I	labour/employment	0
PO 4 II	training infrastructures	0
PO 4 III	marginalised persons	0
PO 4 IV	healthcare infrastructures	1
I.S.O. 4a	employment	7
I.S.O. 4b	training	40
I.S.O. 4c	common healthcare	3
I.S.O. 4d	efficient healthcare	8
I.S.O. 4e	social inclusion	5
PO 5 I	urban integrated strategy	1
PO 5 II	local integrated strategy	1
I.S.O. 1c	efficient administration	14
I.S.O. 1b	Legal obstacles	0
I.S.O. 1c	people-to-people	0
I.S.O. 2	Safer EU	5

2. Complementarities and synergies meetings

As main platform for exploiting complementarities and synergies with Interreg programmes along the Italian shore of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, the JS participated in the **Adriatic-Ionian Working Group**, set up by the Italian Government, Department for Cohesion Policies. This group is made of representatives of Interreg programme bodies of all Italian Regions and it has the objective to agree on common approaches and enhance complementarities and synergies among Adriatic-Ionian programmes. The group met in Rome on 20/01/20 and then online on 27/04/20, 11/09/20 and on 9/2/21. Furthermore, the Managing Authority of the **transnational programme ADRION** was invited to actively contribute to the discussion at the Task Force meeting on 15 September 2020. As key outcome, a common methodology was developed by the Italian Department for Cohesion Policy, for enhancing complementarities, synergies, cross-fertilisation and capitalisation across the Adriatic-Ionian programmes, which is going to be promoted during programme implementation.

To enhance the programme alignment with the **EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region** (EUSAIR), a first online meeting with the EUSAIR platform Regione Marche was held on 21 April 2020, followed by an online meeting organised by the Italian Department for Cohesion Policy on 1 September 2020, with all **National and Pillar Coordinators** of the EUSAIR. As an outcome, the EUSAIR actors were made familiar with the state of play and opportunities provided by the programme and they presented their EUSAIR flagship projects.

In 2020, three meetings devoted to synergies and capitalisation with **Mediterranean programmes**, and networking activities of the Knowledge of the Sea network, were organised and facilitated by **Interact**, which allowed us to align our approaches in enhanced coordination in the 2021-2027 programme.

3. Online public consultations

3.1. First online survey

A first online public consultation took place between January and March 2020, following up on the Border Orientation Paper on the 2021-2027 Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro (**2021-27 Programme**) developed by the European Commission, as well as on the work of the 2021-27 Task Force, established on 29 November 2019. The objective was to consult and provide all interested stakeholders with a possibility to contribute to the shaping of the 2021-27 Programme, in terms of the most important priorities and objectives for the Programme Area.

The public consultation was an anonymous survey, running from 3 January until 31 March 2020 on the website of the programme www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu.

The survey was relaunched with further news on the website, i.e. 13 January and 21 February, accompanied by Facebook posts, as well as with news on the websites of the National Authorities and mail invitation to participate by the Managing Authority.

3.2. Structure of the first survey

The survey was made of nine questions, with multiple-choice answers, in order to facilitate the participation and to enable an objective analysis of the answers, i.e. avoiding the need of a qualitative assessment.

The first question related to the key priorities for the 2021-2027 period in the border area between Italy-Albania and Montenegro and the possible answers were the specific objectives of the future programmes, as provided by art. 2 of the proposal of the European Commission for the ERDF Regulation, COM(2018) 372,

as well as by art. 14 of the proposal for the ETC Regulation, COM(2018) 374, with the possibility to select maximum three options.

The second question was related to the participants, who specified if their opinions were as interested citizens or reflected on official positions of their organisations, being national, regional, local authorities, socio-economic partners, NGOs or private bodies.

The other seven questions aimed at further specifying the seven specific objectives with topics raised by the Border Orientation Paper and discussed at the first meeting of the 2021-27 Task Force.

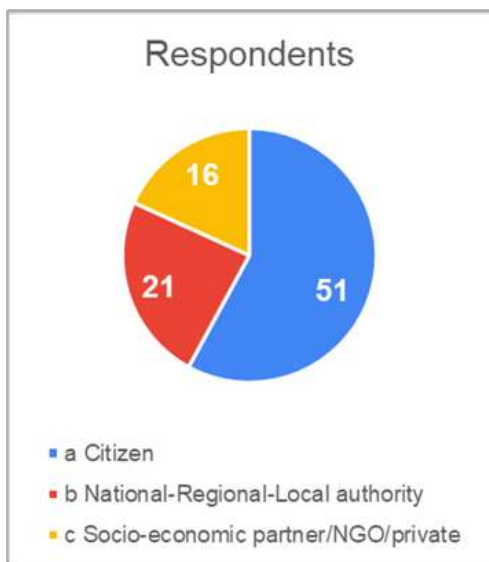
The full text of the survey is in Annex 1 to this analysis.

It needs to be noted that the first survey took place before the start of the **COVID-19 pandemics**, therefore in a completely different socio-economic environment. The needs for tackling the mid- and long-term consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on the society and economy were not known.

3.3. Outcomes of the first survey

Below the analysis of the outcomes of the different questions.

a) Analysis of the participants



88 persons participated in the survey, which is a low number compared to the stakeholders structure and population of the border area. This may be mainly due to the difficulty to reach the general public, as the wording of the Regulation and of the topics is rather technical and difficult to understand for a general public. It may be also due to the fact that the most interested and participative target groups of the programme communication are the programme partners, who prefer being involved in partnership meetings or personal interviews.

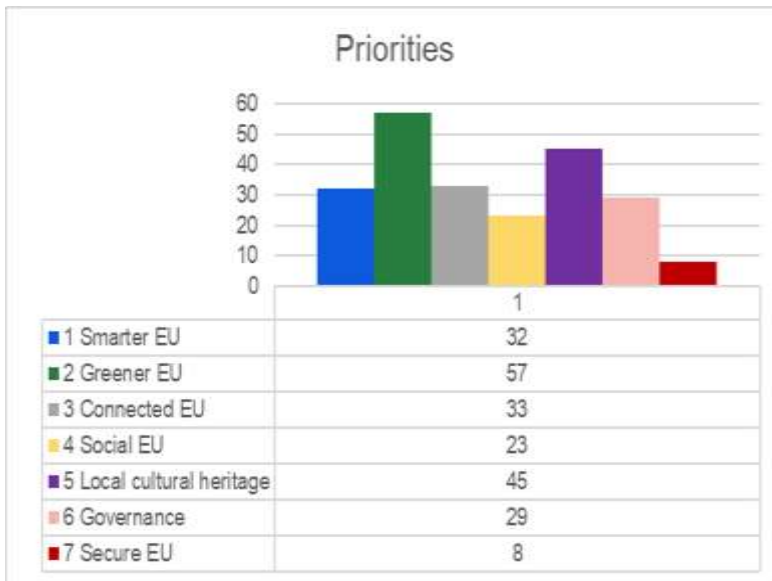
The responses are wide too limited to draw final conclusions on the priorities, and there is a clear need to follow up and organize further public consultations as well as to focus on partnership meetings.

Nonetheless, the opinion of 88 participants, who invested their time to fill in the survey, provides a relevant general orientation, which needs to be considered by the 2021-27 Task Force.

The 51% majority of participants in the survey were citizens, i.e. either they preferred expressing their personal opinion or they could not reflect on official positions of the organization they work for.

21% were staff of national, regional or local authorities, who could reflect on existing official positions / strategies / plans for the future, while only 16% were socio-economic, non-profit or private partners' staff. The shares public / private roughly match with the share of partners participating as beneficiaries of the current programme, which may suggest that many respondents were already partners, thus having an interest to continuing their cooperation.

b) 2021-2027 priorities



Participants could select maximum three priorities.

The overwhelming majority of participants (64,77%) selected PO2 Greener EU as a priority, followed by PO5 Promotion of local cultural heritage (51,14%)**, PO3 More connected EU (37,50%), PO1 Smarter EU (36,36%). This selection is aligned with the four priority axes of the current Programme, with the four EUSAIR pillars, as well as with the opinion of the 2021-27 Task force, which was in favour of continuity, i.e. the 2021-27 Programme to build up on the achievements of the current programme.

Also, the governance priority of Interreg and PO4 More social EU had substantial percentages (32,95% and 26,14%), while More secure EU had a lower interest (9,09%).

** As the debate between EU Commission and Member State on P.O. 5 was going on, the guidance and understanding of how this P.O. was not provided, therefore the data on P.O. 5 is not completely reliable.

c) Topics for the top four priorities

Participants could select maximum two topics per priority.

1- Greener EU

The topics, which were mostly selected under this priority were:

- a) "RES: Energy production from renewable sources, through supporting measures" (46 hits)
- b) "Waste: Sustainable waste management (recycling, circular economy etc.), through strategies, plans and pilot actions" (23 hits).

2- Local cultural heritage promotion**

The topics, which were mostly selected under this priority were:

- a) "Culture: Cultural initiatives for tourists and citizens in local, urban, rural, coastal communities" (50 hits)**
- b) "Green tourism: Increasing sustainable / green tourism (incl. culture, youngsters, family, sport, wine and food, experiences etc.), involving local communities" (35 hits)

** As the debate between EU Commission and Member State on P.O. 5 was going on, the guidance and understanding of how this P.O. was not provided, therefore the data on P.O. 5 is not completely reliable.

3- More connected EU

The topics, which were mostly selected under this priority were:

- a) "Public transports: Improve public transport links, through small infrastructures and joint planning" (27 hits)
- b) "Marine links: Improve maritime/lake transport links, as well as accessibility to the maritime hubs (incl. access to TEN-T nodes), through small infrastructures and joint planning" (16 hits)

4- Smarter EU

The topics, which were mostly selected under this priority were:

- a) “Agro-food: Support and services to the development of agro-food sector” (22 hits)
- b) “Blue economy: Enhancing the blue economy (sustainable economic development in the marine environment)” (21 hits)

5- Governance

The topics, which were mostly selected under this priority were:

- a) “Services: Improving public administration services jointly in the cross-border area” (42 hits)
- b) “Skills: Increase of administrative capacity of staff of public bodies jointly in the cross-border area” (28 hits)

6- More social EU

The topics, which were mostly selected under this priority were:

- a) “Professional training: Improving professional vocational training, through joint cross-border trainings” (26 hits)
- b) “Labour mobility: Measures to support cross-border labour mobility, such as administrative simplification, joint planning, efficiency of labour market organisations” (17 hits)

7- Safer EU

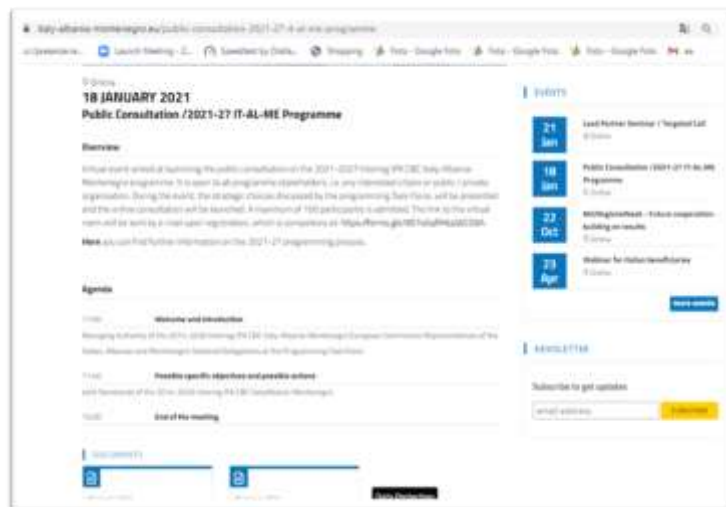
The topics, which were mostly selected under this priority were:

- a) “Border-crossing: Improving efficiency of border-crossing management” (54 hits)
- b) “Crises management: Improving capacity of neighbouring countries to address crises at border-crossing” (24 hits)

3.4. Public consultation

As decided by the 2021-2027 Task Force, an online Public Consultation event was held on 18 January 2021, with the objective to consult all interested stakeholders on the 2021-2027 programme, for which specific objectives, actions and target groups have already been defined at this stage.

During this event, the online public consultation was launched and participants were provided with access to the online survey tool. The online consultation was open from 18 January 2021 to 15 February 2021.



The online announcements were accompanied by e-mail invitation and announcement, as well as other news online and on social media, such as this one of 18 January 2021.

136 participants registered for the event, i.e. 22% non-profit organisations, 19% ministry / regional public officers and 15% from universities, while approximately 95 to 100 persons were connected online.



3.5. Structure of the public consultation

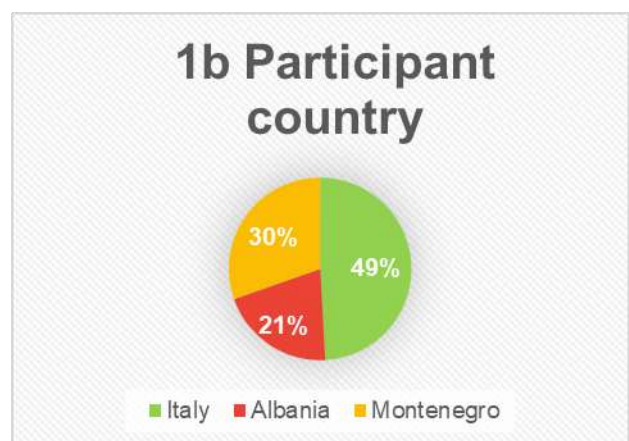
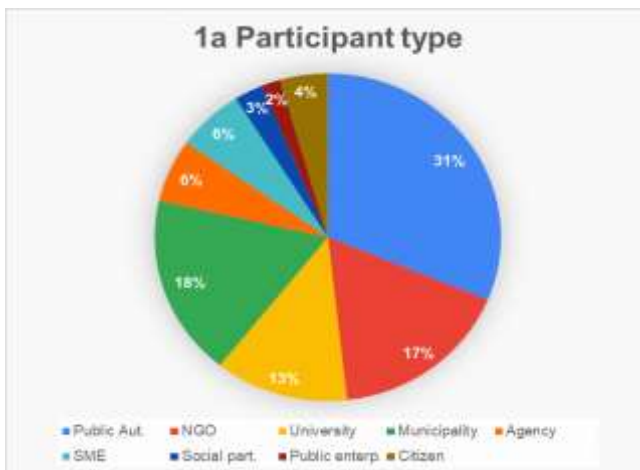
Differing from the first online survey, which was not based on a selection of programme objectives by the 2021-2027 task force, the online public consultation was focused on the selected specific objectives, actions and target groups. It was made of 3 sections:

1. identification of the participant (in this case, name and surname was required) and type of organization;
2. presentation of the specific objectives selected, with the request to assess how far these are a priority;
3. presentation of the planned actions and target groups within each specific objective, with the request to assess how far these cover the needs.

The full text of the consultation is in Annex 2 to this analysis.

3.6. Outcomes of the public consultation

a) Analysis of the 112 participants

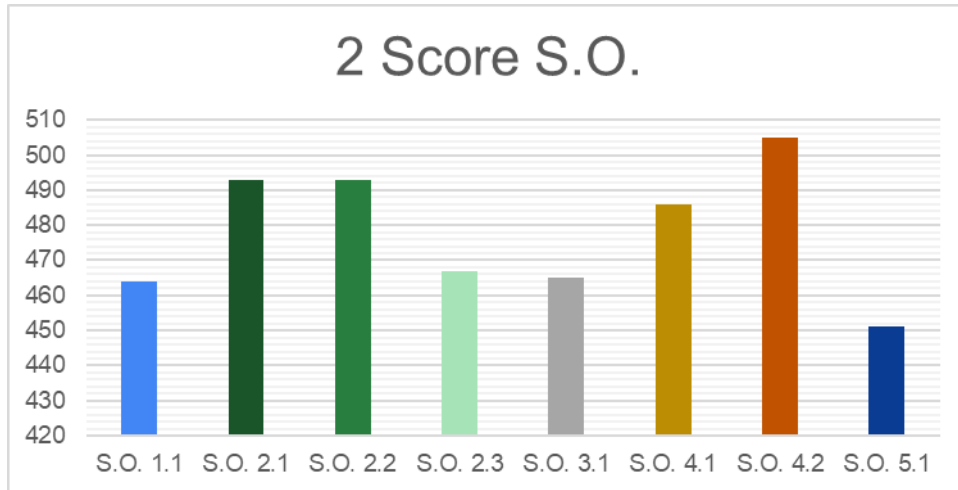


If we consider the difficulty in reaching interested stakeholders with online questionnaires, generally reluctant to participate, 112 participants in just one month, is a relevant and representative number of the programme stakeholders.

Most of participants represented public authorities, central and regional authorities (31%), which is aligned with the key beneficiaries and target groups of the programme. NGOs also showed a big interest in participating (17%), as well as universities and municipalities (both above 10%).

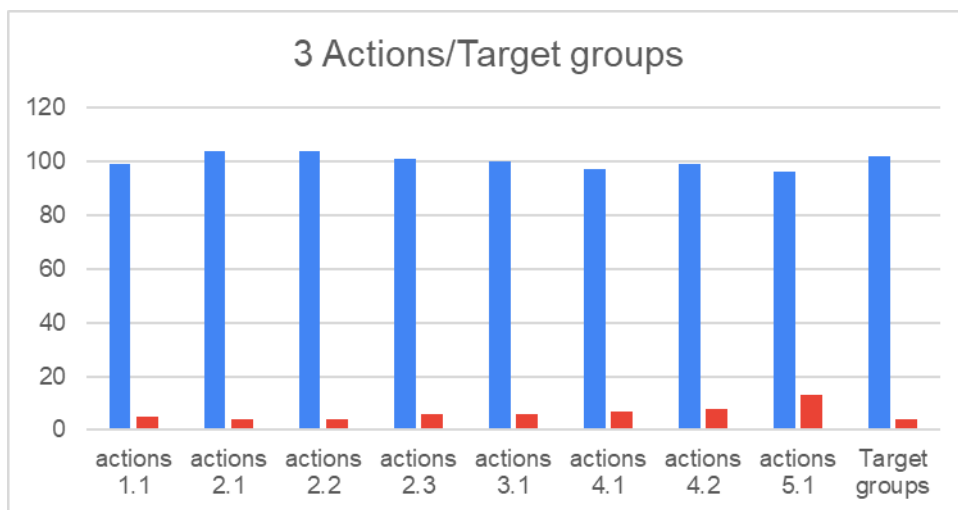
Almost half of the participants were from Italy, which is proportionate to the population, followed by Montenegro, which was highly represented compared to the small size of the population.

b) Analysis of the responses on specific objectives



In line with all partners' indications, S.O. 4.2 Inclusive Tourism had the highest score (505 on 560 maximum) in terms of being a priority for participants, followed by S.O. 2.1 Risk Management and S.O. 2.2 Biodiversity, which both exceeded 490 points. Also S.O. 4.1 Skills had a score above 480 points. While 5.1 Efficient administration, being a new objective, received only 450 points (the minimum score would have been 112 points). In any case all selected S.O.s exceed the average value of 336 and thus demonstrate that the majority of respondents agree with this selection.

c) Analysis of the responses on actions and target groups



In this chart the blue column shows the overwhelmingly positive opinions of participants to the actions and the target groups, as described in the draft programme, while the red column shows the dissenting opinions, i.e. the described actions/ target groups poorly cover the needs of the area.

Key words used in the additional comments made by some respondents: SMEs green tourism, start-ups, research (4 times), health care (4), agriculture and tourism (2), climate change, sustainable agriculture and farmers associations, water monitoring, Green agenda for EU and western Balkans, renewable energies, green TEN-T corridors and ports (2), marine ecosystems, green skills (2), blue economy skills, digital skills, health skills, COSME links, local communities, schools and VET providers.

3.7. Outcomes interviews 2014-2020 project partners / target groups

Within the evaluation of the 2014-2020 projects organized by the Joint Secretariat, 76 project partners of the standard call projects replied to a questionnaire and interviewed 399 representatives of project target groups, which concerned the 2021-2027 priorities in addition to project evaluation:

	Project partners	Target groups	TOTAL
Total participants	76	399	475
1 Smarter EU	12	167	179
2 Greener EU	29	211	240
3 More connected EU	2	79	81
4 More social EU	1	77	78
5 EU closer to citizens**	18**	177**	195**
6 Governance	3	44	47
7 More secure EU	1	18	19
SPECIFIC PRIORITIES			
Local-Communities (tourism)**	18**	299**	317**
Environment	27	228	255
Digitalisation	11	157	168
Culture	9	137	146
SMEs	8	132	140
Transport	2	113	115
Disaster prevention	11	83	94
Health care	5	62	67

** The description made in the text of the questionnaire was not fully aligned with latest guidance on P.O. 5 by the European Commission, therefore this data is not completely reliable.

The outcomes are aligned with the selection made, with a focus on Smarter EU (SMEs) and Greener EU, as well as on the key cross-cutting topic of culture and tourism, but also on digitalization and the green agenda.

4. Key conclusions and summary

- In spite of the COVID-19 restrictions, which stopped all meetings in persons, with 101 participants in the 8 focused meetings, 136 at the public consultation event, 88 and 112 participants in the online public consultations, 475 respondents to the evaluation questions, as well as thanks to the 10 meetings related to synergies and complementarities, the outcomes of **the partnership involvement provide a robust strategic orientation.**

- The most important priorities for the 2021-27 Programme are aligned with the strategic orientation of the 2021-Task force, thus widely building up on the 2014-20 priorities: Top priorities are **Greener EU** and **Smarter EU**, with a focus on the support to **Tourism/Culture and digitalisation.** A more connected and social EU are very relevant priorities for the involved partners as well.

- All in all, the **partners widely support** the **specific objectives, actions and the target groups** selected by the 2021-2027 Task Force.

2021-2027 Programme: Have your say!

This anonymous survey may be filled in by any person, who is interested in contributing to the shaping of the 2021-2027 Italy-Albania-Montenegro cooperation.

Thank you for your cooperation!

The Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat decline any responsibility for any malfunctioning or mis-use of this module.

The data collected in anonymous way shall be only disclosed as aggregated statistical data, to highlight the trends of stakeholders' opinions and in compliance with the GDPR regulation (EU) 2016/679.

***Campo obbligatorio**

1. 1) What are the key priorities for the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period? *

Please choose up to three priorities, out of the objectives proposed by the European Commission for the period 2021-2027 in its Communication you can find at

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/regional-development-and-cohesion_en

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- 1) a smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation
- 2) a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management
- 3) a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity
- 4) a more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights
- 5) a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives
- 6) enhancing efficiency and institutional capacity of public authorities
- 7) a safer and more secure Europe

2. 2) This opinion is *

We would like to know if the opinion you expressed is only your own, or if it represents an official position of the organisation you work for, and if it is the case, what kind of organisation this is. In all cases, through this anonymous survey, we are not collecting official opinions of the authorities concerned.

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- a) my personal opinion (as a citizen)
- b) in line with the official position of the National Public Authority I work for
- c) in line with the official position of the Regional Public Authority I work for
- d) in line with the official position of the local Public body I work for
- e) in line with the position of the organisation, defined as a socio-economic partner, I work for
- f) in line with the position of the private non-profit organisation I work for
- g) in line with the position of the private organisation I work for

Passa alla domanda 3.

**Main needs of
the border area**

Please answer only questions related to the priority objectives you selected.

The Programme shall address needs shared by the entire border area incl. Puglia, Molise, Albania and Montenegro

3. 1) "A smarter Europe": What are the main needs of the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period?

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- MSME: Services to Micro - Small Medium Enterprises
- Start-Ups: Support to start-ups (Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs)
- Clusters: Support to innovation clusters, incl. SMEs - Research - Administration
- Blue economy: Enhancing the blue economy (sustainable economic development in the marine environment)
- 3S: Smart specialisation strategies in the Cross-Border area
- Agro-food: Support and services to the development of agro-food sector
- R&D: Supporting micro- and SM-enterprises with R&D activities, incl. link to R&D organisations
- Skills: Skills development for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship
- Simplification: Simplification measures (administrative, access to credit, etc.) for micro and SM-Enterprises
- Digitalisation: Support to digitalisation of SMEs, digitalisation of public administration
- Internationalisation: Support measures for internationalisation of SMEs
- SMEs credit: Support for the access to credit for SMEs (incl. loans, guarantees etc.)

4. 2) "A greener Europe": What are the main needs of the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period?

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- CO2 and PM: Reduce CO2 and PM emissions, through strategies, plans and pilot actions
- RES: Energy production from renewable sources, through supporting measures
- Energy efficiency: Energy efficiency measures for public and private sector, through strategies, plans and pilot actions
- Risk management: Joint management of disasters and natural risks (land slides, flooding, fire, earth quakes etc.)
- Marine litter: Reduce marine litter and micro plastics, through strategies, plans and pilot actions
- Waste: Sustainable waste management (recycling, circular economy etc.), through strategies, plans and pilot actions
- Biodiversity: Protection of biodiversity, through strategies, plans and pilot actions, esp. in NATURA 2000 sites
- Green economy: Supporting green and blue economy through capacity building measures
- Energy distribution: Smart energy distribution services
- Water: Improve water management and water resource conservation, through joint planning and pilot actions
- Industrial sites: Rehabilitation of industrial sites, through joint planning and pilot actions
- Alien species: Fight against alien species / plant & animal diseases, which threaten to destroy the eco-system and landscape

5. 3) "A more connected Europe": What are the main needs of the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period?

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- Public transports: Improve public transport links, through small infrastructures and joint planning
- Transport infrastructures: Improve existing transport infrastructures, through small infrastructures and joint planning
- Marine links: Improve maritime/lake transport links, as well as accessibility to the maritime hubs (incl. access to TEN-T nodes), through small infrastructures and joint planning
- Air links: Improve air links, as well as accessibility to the air hubs, through small infrastructures and joint planning
- Digital infrastructures: Improve digital infrastructure and links (broad band strategy, ICT infrastructures, etc.), through small infrastructures and joint planning
- Links to peripheral areas: Improve transport/digital links to peripheral areas, through small infrastructures and joint planning
- Cybersecurity: Improve cybersecurity, through joint plans and pilot actions
- Skills: Improve skills for transport sector through capacity building and expertise
- Multimodality: Improve multimodal and sustainable transport, through small infrastructures and joint planning
- Digitalisation: Digitalisation of urban transport, through joint cross-border planning and digital services

6. 4) "A more social Europe": What are the main needs of the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period?

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- E-health: Support to health sector with e-services, joint planning and pilot actions
- Ageing population: Tackling ageing population, increasing people skills (incl. measures to support elderly unemployed persons)
- Start-ups: Improving youth entrepreneurship skills and start-ups, through training measures
- Brain circulation: Increase brain circulation (university - business)
- Vulnerable social groups: Inclusion of vulnerable social groups (migrants, elderly, young unemployed, Roma, etc.), through training, employment support
- Labour mobility: Measures to support cross-border labour mobility, such as administrative simplification, joint planning, efficiency of labour market organisations
- Child-care: Improving child-care services, through joint cross-border planning and pilot actions
- Professional training: Improving professional vocational training, through joint cross-border trainings
- Digital skills: Improving digital skills of specific vulnerable social groups (migrants, elderly, young unemployed, women, etc.)
- Social integration: Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion

7. 5) "A Europe closer to citizens": What are the main needs of the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period?

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- Cultural/natural assets: Valorisation of cultural /natural assets, involving local communities in urban/ rural/ coastal areas
- Seasonality: Reducing seasonal tourism, involving local communities
- Green tourism: Increasing sustainable / green tourism (incl. culture, youngsters, family, sport, wine and food, experiences etc.), involving local communities
- Family-agro-tourism: Supporting family or agro-tourism businesses in the local communities
- Skills: Increasing people skills in touristic sector, involving local communities
- Culture: Cultural initiatives for tourists and citizens in local, urban, rural, coastal communities
- Creative industries: Supporting cultural - creative industries, involving local communities
- Common cultural roots: Promoting cultural initiatives, to exploit joint cultural roots and assets, involving local communities

8. 6) "Efficient public administration": What are the main needs of the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period?

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- Policies: Joint Cross-border policies (strategies and plans) to tackle administrative and linguistic barriers
- Training: Joint cross-border training and education services
- E-solutions: Joint cross-border e-solutions (health, education, welfare and other public sectors)
- Services: Improving public administration services jointly in the cross-border area
- Skills: Increase of administrative capacity of staff of public bodies jointly in the cross-border area
- Simplification: Administrative simplification measures in the cross-border area

9. 7) "Safer and more secure Europe": What are the main needs of the border area between Italy, Albania and Montenegro in the 2021-2027 period?

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- Border-crossing: Improving efficiency of border-crossing management
- Cyber-security: Cyber-security in e-commerce
- Trade marks: Protection of trade marks, patents, fighting counterfeiting
- Ports security: Improving security of ports
- Dangerous transports: Improving security of dangerous transports
- Crises management: Improving capacity of neighbouring countries to address crises at border-crossing

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Public consultation Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2021-2027

Please fill in this survey open from 18/01/2021 to 15/02/2021.

The objective of the public consultation is to consult, to receive and collect feedbacks from an extended group of stakeholders of the Programme Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2021-2027, in relation to the strategic choices discussed by the programming task force, which is composed by appointed representatives of the cooperating countries.

See further information at: <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/programme-2021-27> .

For specific questions, please contact us at js@italy-albania-montenegro.eu.

NOTICE:

In compliance with the EU Data Protection Regulation GDPR (EU) 2016/679 and its supporting legislation, we ensure that the data collected is processed fairly and not used in ways that are beyond the scope of the public consultation, for which the data is collected. By entering this data, you give your consent that your data may be included anonymously in the analysis of the outcomes of the public consultation. Email addresses and personal data will not be disclosed or shared with third parties.

***Campo obbligatorio**

1. Indirizzo email *

Logo



Interreg - IPA CBC
Italy - Albania - Montenegro



EUROPEAN UNION

2. Name and surname *

3. Name of the organisation (English and Original) *

4. Type of organisation / role *

Please select only one option, i.e. the most significant role of your organisation in relation to our Programme

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- National public body / Government or Italian Region
- Public agency / authority with public functions
- Municipality / local public body / Union of municipalities
- Social partner (union, chamber of commerce, etc.)
- University / research centre / higher education
- Non-profit organisation (association, foundation, committee, etc.)
- Private enterprise governed by public law
- Private, micro, small and medium enterprise
- Private big enterprise
- Citizen

Possible objectives for 2021-2027 Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro

The future Programme 2021-2027 is going to build upon the results of the current Programme 2014-2020, it focuses on the same territories, i.e. whole Albania and Montenegro and Regions Puglia and Molise in Italy. The socio-economic and environmental analysis of this cross-border area, the consultation of the Programme partners, the analysis of the lessons learnt, and the EU, macro-regional, national and regional strategies lead to this pre-selection of objectives for the future Programme, which was discussed by the participating Countries in the programming Task Force, - not yet approved:-

Possible specific objectives 2021-2027



5. 1) ERDF objective 1, Smarter EU, Specific Objective S.O. 1.1 enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs through joint cross-border actions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

6. 2) Within the ERDF objective 2, Greener EU, S.O. 2.1 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience with joint cross-border actions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

7. 3) Within the ERDF objective 2, Greener EU, S.O. 2.2 Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution with joint cross-border actions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

8. 4) Within the ERDF objective 2, Greener EU, S.O. 2.3 Promoting energy efficiency with joint cross-border actions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

9. 5) Within the ERDF objective 3, More connected EU, S.O. 3.1. Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility, through joint cross-border actions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

10. 6) Within the ERDF objective 4, More social EU, S.O. 4.1 Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and life long learning through developing infrastructure, and cross-border actions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

11. 7) Within the ERDF objective 4, More social EU, S.O. 4.2 Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation, through cross-border actions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

12. 8) Within the ETC objective Governance, S.O. 5.1 Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular, with a view to solving legal and other obstacles in border regions. Do you agree that this specific objective is a priority for the cross-border area? *

Please express your opinion on the pre-selected specific objective

Contrassegna solo un ovale.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

Possible actions within the specific objectives

Within each S.O. the Programme may finance actions related to 1) Public services; 2) Digital services; 3) Small infrastructures/ investments; 4) Innovative experimental applications; 5) Agreements; 6) Joint models / processes; 7) Capacity building / trainings.

These actions shall contribute to the achievement of the specific objective and may also relate to cross-cutting issues, if coherent with the specific objective, as specified below.

S.O. 1.1 SMEs

For S.O. 1.1, actions shall aim at improving the framework conditions for growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including micro i.e. MSMEs. This includes growth of touristic SMEs, especially targeting green / sustainable forms of tourism, of cultural & creative SMEs, e.g. through joint artistic productions, and of SMEs in the health-care and long-term care sectors, especially through e-health and digital services, of SMEs in the blue economy, agri-food, etc.. This may include joint actions to increase innovation capacities of SMEs, such as R&D actions involving SMEs, incl. start-ups, implementation of S3 strategies, vouchers for business advice or capacity building, joint actions for blue & green SMEs, actions on efficiency of border-crossing procedures for SMEs. This may also include actions aiming at protecting SME's trademarks, patents, or cyber-security, fight against counterfeiting, as well as linked with the Adriatic - Ionian blue financing and Enterprise Europe Network. Actions may also aim at adopting EU rules for SMEs, incl. digitalisation in SMEs.

13. 9) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 1.1 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

S.O. 2.1 Risk

For S.O. 2.1, actions shall aim at promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience. Both natural risks (floods, landslide, earthquakes, wildfires, coastal erosion, human/animal/vegetal pandemics, etc.), and man-made risks (oil spills, maritime disasters, etc.) may be focused by the actions. This includes risk management measures targeting specific groups such as touristic, cultural industries, etc., or aiming at a mitigation of risks at border-crossings, or supporting the adoption of EU rules on risk management, or enhancing digitalisation in risk management, e.g. for monitoring and planning coastal / maritime environment.

14. 10) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 2.1 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

S.O. 2.2 Biodiversity

For S.O. 2.2, actions shall aim at enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure, and reducing pollution, including water, soil and air pollution. This includes management of natural / cultural heritage for green tourism, water resources and landscapes, including actions for adopting Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Maritime Spatial Planning, protection of natural habitats and reducing pollution, promotion of circular economy or effective management of waste and sewage water and adoption of EU environmental rules (e.g. NATURA 2000 sites) incl. within the green deal and digitalisation measures

15. 11) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 2.2 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

S.O. 2.3 Energy

For S.O. 2.3, actions shall contribute to promoting energy efficiency. This includes awareness-raising on CO2 emissions, energy efficiency measures targeting specific sectors (e.g. culture/tourism, construction, public facilities, etc.), but also security of cross-border energy networks, digital tools / processes for energy efficiency, integrated energy efficiency plans within RES strategies / actions, as well as adoption of EU rules on energy

16. 12) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 2.3 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

S.O. 3.1 Intermodality

For S.O. 3.1, actions shall aim at developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility. This includes maritime, air, rail and road transports, also targeted to tourism, such as with improved public transport links to cultural / natural heritage sites. Joint actions for soft mobility, multimodal transport links, ports security, or security procedures at border-crossing & customs, aimed at efficient connectivity are also included. These actions may also support adopting EU rules on transports, and include digitalisation management / monitoring of transport. It also includes actions focusing accessibility of peripheral, hinterland, remote areas and urban-coastal areas and top-down initiatives e.g. projects of strategic importance

17. 13) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 3.1 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

S.O. 4.1 Skills

For S.O. 4.1, actions shall aim at improving access to and the quality of training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the skills levels thereof as to be recognised across borders. This includes professional trainings or capacity building in touristic, cultural and creative sectors, improvement of professional & entrepreneurial & digital skills, improving efficiency of the cross-border labour markets aimed at a greater social inclusion of vulnerable social groups (incl. unemployed, migrants, NEETs, etc.), capacity building for increased effectiveness of border-crossing & customs, actions on recognition of professional qualification, & supporting the adoption of EU rules on welfare, labour, qualification

18. 14) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 4.1 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

S.O. 4.2 Tourism / social inclusion

For S.O. 4.2, actions shall aim at enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation. Actions aiming at making tourism and culture more social and more economically resilient shall primarily target vulnerable social groups and local communities. The management of cultural and natural assets shall become more sustainable, more diversified, and strategically valorised, e.g. through cultural & thematic routes. The actions may focus on enhancing digitalisation, skills, capacity building, services & new opportunities for vulnerable groups in these sectors, in complementarity with other interventions such as the ESF, and supporting the adoption of EU rules. Non-discrimination and equal rights are certainly key principles in this S.O

19. 15) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 4.2 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

S.O. 5.1 Efficient administration

For S.O. 5.1, actions shall aim at enhancing efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular, with a view to solving legal and other obstacles in border regions. This includes institutional capacity to manage and promote cultural, natural heritage, creative industries, but also increasing mutual trust, improved institutional management of border-crossing points, the adoption of EU administrative rules, or enhancing e-government & statistic data collection/accessibility. Identification & mitigation of administrative / legal obstacles or mainstreaming interventions (linking to National and Regional Programmes) is included

20. 16) How far do you think these actions for S.O. 5.1 cover the needs of the territories and the possible cooperation actions?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the main needs are covered or add "other" additional actions (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

Target groups of the possible actions

Building up and capitalising on the lessons learnt in the 2014-20 period, the 2021-27 programme keeps a similar approach to the main type of beneficiaries and target groups:

In relation to Axis 1, Smarter EU: the main target groups of the actions aiming at the growth of MSMEs of the cross-border area are MSMEs organisations involved or specifically targeted, such as for specific sectors, which benefit from improved framework conditions for growth and competitiveness, but indirectly also the public and private organisations involved and the citizens of the cross-border area may benefit.

In relation to Axis 2, Greener EU: the main target group of the project actions aiming at improved risk management and mitigation, biodiversity and energy efficiency are public and private organisations, including research centres and universities, who deal with these topics, but also the citizens or specific targeted group thereof may benefit.

In relation to Axis 3, More connected EU: the main target group of the actions aiming at an improved accessibility and connectivity of the cross-border area are private and public organisations of the cross-border area, who benefit from more efficient transports, but also the citizens may benefit.

In relation to Axis 4, More social EU: the main target groups of the project actions aiming at improved skills, the role of tourism and culture in social inclusion and innovation of the cross-border area are mainly the citizens of the cross-border area, in particular vulnerable or marginalised groups, but also private and public organisations may benefit.

In relation to Axis 5, Governance: the main target groups of the project actions aiming at a more efficient administration of the cross-border area are mainly the national/local public authorities, but also the citizens may benefit from more efficient, harmonised and simplified procedures.

21. 17) How far do the identified target groups cover the main stakeholders of the cross-border area?

Please select one option, describing the extent you think the identified target groups cover the main stakeholders of the cross-border area or add "other" additional target groups (please in short key words)

Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.

- fully
- widely
- sufficiently
- poorly

Altro: _____

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