

# ANNEX 07 – Screening for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, in particular article 3 (3) to (5), transposed at the national level by Italian law 152/2006, in particular Title II, Part II, following steps were taken:

- From April 2021 until October 2021, a preliminary SEA screening analysis and report was developed with the support of an external evaluator;
- On 10 September 2021 the environmental authorities of the four territories (Region Puglia, Region Molise, Albania and Montenegro) met and agreed on the steps of the procedure;
- On 28 October 2021 the environmental authorities met to agree on a joint approach in relation to the preliminary report, which they formally received from the Managing Authority of the Programme on 29 October 2021. Accordingly, the environmental authorities consulted the concerned environmental organisations;
- Until 27 January 2021, the screening opinions by the environmental authorities were received by the Managing Authority. On the basis of the opinions, the elements referred to in Annex II of the SEA directive and taking into account the comments received, the programme was excluded from the full Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the compatibility of each Specific Objective of the Programme with the DNSH (“do not significant harm”) has been carried out and included as annex to the SEA screening report;
- As soon as the 2021-27 programme is approved, the SEA screening report, containing the reasons for the exclusion, is going to be published on the programme website [www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu).

Enclosure: SEA screening report.

Managing Authority: Puglia Region

# SEA Screening Procedure Italia – Albania – Montenegro Cross-Border Cooperation Programme

April 2021 – report

# Index

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>1. Introduction</b>  | 3  |
| <b>2. National and regional regulatory framework</b>            | 5  |
| <b>3. The cooperation area and 2021-2027 Programme strategy</b> | 9  |
| 3.1 Characteristics of the cooperation area                     | 9  |
| <b>4. Environmental analysis</b>                                | 14 |
| 4.1 Environmental characteristics of the cooperation area       | 14 |
| 4.2 Vulnerable areas and vulnerabilities                        | 19 |
| <b>5. Evaluation of potential effects on the environment</b>    | 20 |
| 5.1 Methodological approach                                     | 20 |
| 5.2 Assessment of the potential effects on the environment      | 20 |
| <b>6. Conclusions</b>   | 26 |
| <b>APPENDIX 2: The QUASAR approach</b>                          | 31 |
| <b>APPENDIX 3: Terminology</b>                                  | 32 |
| <b>APPENDIX 4: Sources of information for table 2</b>           | 33 |

# I. Introduction

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report covers the CBC programme Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2021-2027. According to EU SEA Directive (42/2001/CE article 3, commas from 3 to 5), the verification of eligibility (or screening) procedure determines whether a plan or programme should go through the entire SEA procedure. In Italy, this procedure is governed by National Law 152/2006 Title II, Part II.

This report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1** deals with the SEA legislative framework in the cooperation area. This framework is analysed at various levels, beginning with the most general, the community level, and progressing to the specific, passing through national laws in the three countries of the cooperation area and concluding with regional reference standards for the Italian regions included in this Programme. The logic for preferring a screening report over other approaches is then explained.
- **Section 2** presents the cooperation area, which includes Italy (including Puglia and Molise Regions), Albania, and Montenegro. The Interreg 2021-2027 programme strategy is also explained, with clear reference to the most recent version of the programme available. There are details of actions envisaged, indicators (output and result) and financial resources, all of which are distinguished by priority and specific objective.
- **Section 3** is an analysis of the environmental context, updating prior SEA 2014-2020 report findings. Following a general description the various environmental indicators of interest are detailed as well as the status of previous analysis in relation to recent data.
- The environmental overview is followed **in section 4** by a definition of the cooperation area's environmental sustainability objectives and an assessment of potential environmental effects. The assessment will highlight the Programme's effect on each environmental objective based on the QUASAR<sup>1</sup> approach, indicating the nature and intensity of environmental effects.

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<sup>1</sup> QUALitative Structural Approach for Ranking (QUASAR) the Environmental Effects. See Appendix 2.

- Finally **conclusions** highlight potential environmental effects of the Interreg 2021-2027 programme as a result of programme implementation. These conclusions use criteria listed in Annex II of Italian Law 152/2006, article 12.

Terminology in this report is consistent with Directive 42/2001/CE and ISPRA<sup>2</sup> guidance (see Appendix 3).

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<sup>2</sup> Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale

## 2. National and regional regulatory framework

SEAs were introduced by Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the environmental effects of certain plans and programmes. This was later transposed at the national level by Italian law 152/2006, specifically the section relating to SEA from article 4 to 36 'General principles for the SIA and SEA procedure, as well as for the impact assessment and integrated environmental authorisation.' Article 12 and the related Annex II details the screening procedure steps:

- For plans and programmes referred to article 6 (3) and (3a), the authority responsible for the report transmits a preliminary report of SEA eligibility to the techno-consultative committee including a description of the plan or programme and the information and data necessary to verify significant impacts on the environment of the plan or program, referring to the criteria of Annex II;
- The competent authority in collaboration with the report authority, identifies the environmental organisations to be consulted and sends them the preliminary report to get their opinions. The opinions are sent within 30 days to the competent authority and the report authority;
- Unless otherwise agreed by the competent authority and the report authority, the competent authority, on the basis of elements referred to in Annex II and taking into account the comments received, checks if the plan or programme can have **significant environmental impacts**;
- The competent authority, having consulted the report authority, taking account of the contributions, within 90 days from the transmission referred to in paragraph I, issues the screening opinion to either exclude the plan or programme from the SEA evaluation (referred to in articles 13 to 18) or submit it for a full assessment;
- The result of the eligibility check, including the reasons, is published on the competent authority website.

Annex II illustrates the criteria to be used to assess the programme eligibility to a SEA procedure

**Box I:** Italian Law 152/2006 article 12 - Annex II, related to the screening procedure

Criteria for verifying the eligibility of plans and programmes referred to in Article 12 – Annex II.

- I. Characteristics of the plan or programme, taking into account:
  - a) the extent the plan or programme establishes a framework for projects and other activities, or the location, nature, size and operating conditions, or the allocation of resources;
  - b) how much the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes;
  - c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular to promote sustainable development;
  - d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or program;
  - e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of EU legislation in the environmental sector (e.g. plans and programmes related to waste management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the impacts and areas that may be affected, taking into account the following elements:
  - probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of impacts;
  - cumulative nature of the impacts;
  - cross-border nature of the impacts;
  - risks to human health or the environment (e.g. In the event of accidents);
  - extent of the impacts (geographic area and population potentially affected);
  - value and vulnerability of the area that could be affected due to:
    - special natural features or cultural heritage,
    - excess environmental limits or intensive land use;
  - impacts on areas or landscapes recognised as protected at national, community or international level.

For the **Puglia region** environmental regulatory framework, Regional Law 44 of 14 December 2012<sup>3</sup> 'governs the adaptation of the regional system to the provisions of Part II of Legislative Decree 3 April 2006, no. 152 (Environmental regulations), with reference to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedures in implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001, concerning the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. The Department of Environment, Landscape And Urban Quality - Environmental Authorization Section - is the competent authority in matters of SEA for Puglia region.

The screening procedure and the documentation required are described in article 8<sup>4</sup> as follows:

- *Activation of the procedure* that is the request to activate the SEA screening procedure: in this phase the *preliminary report*, which shall include a description of the plan or programme and the information and data necessary for the verification of significant impacts on the

<sup>3</sup> <http://portale2015.consiglio.puglia.it/documentazione/leges/modulo.aspx?id=12453>

<sup>4</sup> On the screening procedure

environment, is transmitted by the prosecuting/developer authority to the competent authority. Other documents to be annexed are:

- Copy of the administrative act;
  - Existing information on the plan or programme, if relevant to define possible significant impacts on the environment;
  - proposal for a list of experts with environmental competences and local authorities to be consulted;
  - Contributions, opinions and comments already expressed by experts on environmental matters and local authorities if relevant to the plan or programme;
  - The results of any other form of consultation and public participation already carried out, if relevant.
- *Publication* within 15 days from the documents' presentation and analysis
  - *Consultation*, where the preliminary report is transmitted by the prosecuting and competent authority to the experts on environmental matters; opinions, comments and contributions are acquired within 30 days
  - *Screening decision*, which is issued by the competent authority, excluding, or submitting the programme to the SEA procedure, within 90 days from the transmission of the preliminary report
  - *Information on the screening decision*, published on the institutional websites of the competent and prosecuting authorities and in the official gazette of Puglia region

**Molise** region's reference legislation is Regional Council Resolution 26 of 26/01/2009<sup>5</sup>, Territorial planning - Strategic environmental assessment procedures (SEA) in the regional context. The first provisions are outlined in accordance with the second part of Italian Law 152/2006, which has been replaced by Italian Law 4/2008.

The competent authority for Molise region is the regional structure responsible for conservation, protection and valorisation of the environmental, namely identified in Directorate-General VI - Nature Conservation Service and Environmental Impact Assessment.

The screening procedure, including the list of documents to be provided, is described in comma 4.I (a)<sup>6</sup>as follows:

- *Activation of the procedure* that is the request to activate the SEA screening procedure: in this phase the *preliminary report*, which shall include a description of the plan or programme and

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www3.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/659>

<sup>6</sup>Phases and modalities of the SEA in the regional context, general dispositions, Phase (a), screening procedure



the information and data necessary for the verification of significant impacts on the environment, is transmitted by the prosecuting/developer authority to the competent authority

- *Publication* of the preliminary report for 15 days to allow the formulation of comments and opinions
- *Consultation*, where the preliminary report is transmitted by the prosecuting and competent authority to the experts on environmental matters; opinions, comments and contributions are acquired within 30 days
- *Screening decision*, which is issued by the competent authority, excluding, or submitting the programme to the SEA procedure, within 90 days from the transmission of the preliminary report
- *Information on the screening decision*, published on the institutional websites and official gazette of Molise region.

**Albania** is not yet a member of the EU therefore does not have to comply with Directive 2001/42/EC. However, Law 91/2013 'PËR VLERËSIMIN STRATEGJIK MJEDISOR', 'On Strategic Environment Assessment', is fully aligned with the Directive on the assessment of environmental consequences of certain plans and programmes'<sup>7</sup>. Government Decree 620/2015 'On the approval of rules, responsibilities and detailed procedures on the Strategic Environment Assessment' also applies.

**Montenegro** is not officially part of the European Union yet, so the environmental regulatory framework is not subject to Directive 2001/42 / EC. However, law 52/16 on strategic environmental assessment regulates the process of assessing the impact of projects that may have a significant and/or concrete impact on the environment in Montenegro, the environmental impact assessment contents including the participation of public authorities and organisations, administrative rules and appraisal approvals, notification of projects that may have a significant impact on the environment of another state as well as supervision and other issues important for the assessment.

The justification for starting with a screening report rather than a full SEA assessment is based on:

- The nature of interventions supported by the Programme. These are 'soft' and include training, networking, knowledge transfer, programming and planning, which are unlikely to significantly affect the environment and will have minimal territorial impacts;
- Infrastructure interventions and material interventions on NATURA 2000 sites are not eligible for funding; no project listed in Annex I and 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive should be funded;

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<sup>7</sup> CELEX number: 32001L0042, Official Journal of the European Union,

- European Commission (EC) guidance advises assessing the possibility of adopting a shortened SEA procedure for Interreg and IPA programmes with soft interventions (EC note appendix 2);
- Previous SEA evaluation experience for the 2014-2020 Program concluded that the programme had no significant negative impact: *'The environmental assessment revealed that the Italy-Albania-Montenegro CBC Programme has overall positive effects on environmental issues. The few negative effects assessed can be avoided with the mitigation measure proposed'* (Non-technical synthesis). In addition, the on-going evaluation report on the environment in section 6 states that *'In general, supported interventions report low negative impacts, considering their type ('immaterial') and outcomes (capacity building, networking and planning)'*.

### 3. The cooperation area and 2021-2027 Programme strategy

#### 3.1 Characteristics of the cooperation area

The cross-border area is identical to the Programming Period 2014-20 area, covering 66 562 km<sup>2</sup> (24 002 in Italy, 28 748 in Albania, 13 812 in Montenegro). The cross-border area includes Molise and Puglia regions in Italy and the whole territory of Albania and Montenegro. Albania covers the largest part of the Programme area (more than 40%), and Molise the smallest (4 460 km<sup>2</sup>). The two Italian regions share approximately 760 km of maritime border with Albania and Montenegro, in the South Adriatic Sea, while Albania and Montenegro share a 172 km land border. The whole cooperation area is within the Mediterranean biogeographical region.

Albania has about 2.8 million inhabitants with an average population density of 97/km<sup>2</sup>; Montenegro has some 630 000 inhabitants with a density of 48 per km<sup>2</sup>. Puglia region with a population of about 3.9 million inhabitants and a density of 200/km<sup>2</sup> in its 19 541 km<sup>2</sup> far outweighs the other two countries combined.

The main urban areas are the cities of Bari (312 000 inhabitants, or 2 686/km<sup>2</sup>), Taranto (188 000, 754/km<sup>2</sup>), Foggia (148 000, 290/km<sup>2</sup>), Podgorica (151 000, 125/km<sup>2</sup>), Tirana (895 000, 806/km<sup>2</sup>), Durrës (113 000, 335/km<sup>2</sup>), Fier (121 000, 194/km<sup>2</sup>) and Shkodër (136 000, 148/km<sup>2</sup>). Also, Campobasso (48 000, 852/km<sup>2</sup>), Lecce (94 000, 390/km<sup>2</sup>), Brindisi (84 000, 251/km<sup>2</sup>), Niksic (72 000, 37/km<sup>2</sup>), Valona (189 000, 292/km<sup>2</sup>), and Elbasan (142 000, 162/km<sup>2</sup>) have high population density, while internal areas are sparsely populated.

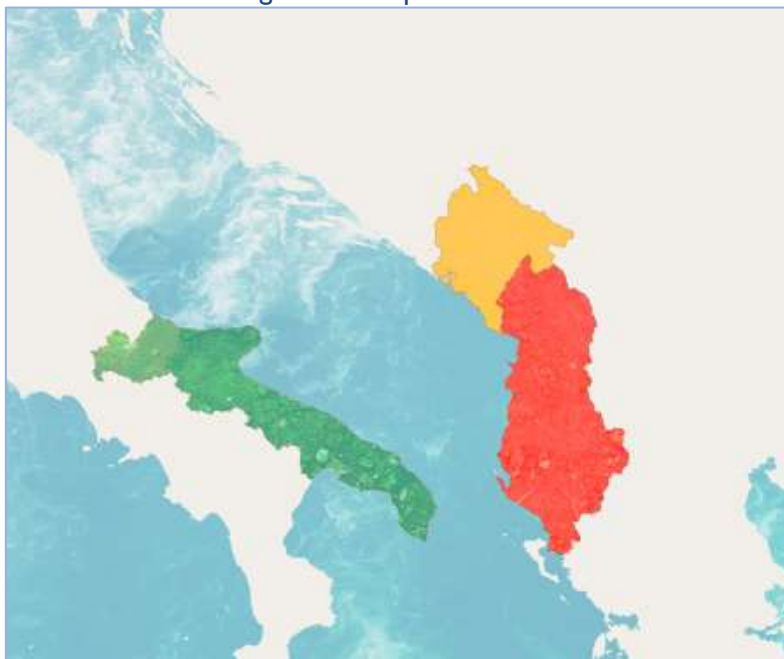
The programme area is 66 562 km<sup>2</sup>, which is roughly 22% of Italy's surface area (302 068 km<sup>2</sup>).

Geomorphologically, the cross-border territory has extensive coastal areas, plains in Puglia as well as mountain areas in Montenegro, Albania, and Molise.

The area has 1 651 km of coastline (903 km in Puglia, 36 km Molise, 418 km Albania, 294 km Montenegro), including the six Tremiti Islands, 13 islands in Albania and 8 in Montenegro. While Albania, Montenegro and Molise have abundant water resources, Puglia is essentially Karst with scarce water resources. The most important lakes in the Balkans are the cross-border lakes Skadar (Albania – Montenegro) and Ohrid, (Albania - Northern Macedonia), while Puglia has coastal lakes.

The area is geopolitically important due to EUSAIR and the TAP (Trans Adriatic Pipeline) natural gas pipeline. The area is in the Mediterranean Basin and is at the very heart of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. Montenegro also belongs to the Danube macro-region. For specific topics, Italian beneficiaries outside Puglia or Molise may participate, if functionally necessary.

Figure I. Cooperation area



The priorities and Specific Objectives for the 2021-2027 programming period are reported in the table below. Actions envisaged for each priority and Strategic Objective are also described, along with output and result indicators, as well as an estimate of financial allocation, based on the share of each Strategic Objective, since exact values are unconfirmed (as yet).

### 3.2 Programme strategy for the period 2021-2027

Table 1. Strategy of the Interreg 2021-2027 Programme

| Priority  | Specific Objectives and priorities  | Actions/type of actions  | Indicators   |  | Financial allocations |
|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|
|   |   |  | output   | result   |                       |
| 1. A smarter South Adriatic programme area, by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation   | 1.1 Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs through joint cross-border actions   | Cooperation actions focused on improving conditions for SME and MSME competitiveness, such as: green tourism, cultural / creative SMEs (e.g. joint artistic productions), healthcare (e-health), agro-food, blue economy; R&D, start-ups, S3 strategies, business advice; border-crossing procedures, trademarks, patents, cyber-security, fight against counterfeiting, adoption of EU rules for SMEs, digitalisation.  | Jointly developed solutions, strategies and action plans | Solutions, joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations | 16.182.480*           |
| 2. A greener South Adriatic programme area, promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management | 2.1 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience with joint cross-border actions                  | Cooperation actions focused on risk management and adaptation, such as: natural risks (floods, landslides, earthquakes, wildfires, coastal erosion, human/animal/vegetal pandemics, etc.), artificial risks (oil spills, maritime disasters, etc.); measures targeting specific groups e.g. tourism, cultural industries, etc. or risks at border-crossings, adoption of EU rules on risk management; digitalisation in risk management e.g. for monitoring & planning coastal / maritime environment. | Jointly developed solutions, strategies and action plans | Solutions, joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations | 8.921.955*            |
|   | 2.2 Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution with joint cross-border actions | Cooperation actions focused on biodiversity / reducing pollution, such as: protection of natural habitats / reducing pollution, promotion of circular economy / waste / sewage water; management of natural / cultural heritage for green tourism, water resources / landscapes, including actions for   | Jointly developed solutions, strategies and action plans | Solutions, joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations | 8.921.955*            |

|   |  |  |  |   |             |
|---|--|--|--|---|-------------|
|   |  | Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Maritime Spatial Planning;<br>adoption of EU rules including green deal / digitalisation.   |  |   |             |
|   | 2.3 Promoting energy efficiency with joint cross-border actions  | Cooperation actions for energy efficiency, such as:<br>awareness-raising on CO2 emissions;<br>energy efficiency measures targeting specific sectors (e.g. culture/tourism, construction, public buildings, etc.);<br>security of cross-border energy networks;<br>digital tools / processes for energy efficiency;<br>integrated energy efficiency plans within RES strategies;<br>adoption of EU rules on energy.                                   | Jointly developed solutions, strategies and action plans   | Solutions, joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations                            | 4.779.358*  |
| 3. A more connected South Adriatic programme area by enhancing mobility and regional connectivity | 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 | Cooperation actions focused on sustainable intermodal connectivity, such as:<br>maritime, air, rail / road sustainable transport, soft mobility, multimodal transport links, e.g. targeted on tourism;<br>port security/ security at border-crossings & customs, adopting EU rules on transport / digitalisation;<br>accessibility of peripheral, areas / urban-coastal areas;<br>top-down projects of strategic importance.                         | Jointly developed solutions, strategies and action plans   | Solutions, joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations                            | 12.376.560* |
| 4. A more social South Adriatic programme area  | 4.1 Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training, and lifelong learning through cross-border actions  | Cooperation actions focused on inclusive training, such as:<br>professional training or capacity building, especially for tourism, cultural / creative sectors;<br>professional / entrepreneurial / digital skills;<br>inclusion of vulnerable social groups (unemployed, migrants, NEETs, etc.);<br>efficiency of cross-border labour markets, recognition of professional qualifications / adoption of EU rules on welfare, labour, qualification. | Jointly developed solutions, strategies and action plans; Participations in joint training schemes | Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations; Completion of joint training schemes | 7.267.844*  |
|   | 4.2 Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social   | Cooperation actions focused on making tourism / culture more social and more economically resilient, targeting vulnerable social groups / local communities;<br>sustainable management of cultural / natural assets, more diversified, valorised, e.g. through cultural routes;  | Jointly developed solutions, strategies and action plans   | Solutions, joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations                            | 7.436.183*  |

|   |   |   |  |   |            |
|---|---|---|--|---|------------|
|   | innovation, through cross-border actions  | digitalisation, capacity building, services & new opportunities for vulnerable groups, adoption of EU rules.  |  |   |            |
| 5. Better governance in the South Adriatic programme area | 5.1 Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular to solve legal and other obstacles in border regions | Cooperation actions focused on institutional capacity, such as:<br>manage / promote cultural, natural heritage, creative industries;<br>increasing mutual trust, improved management of border-crossing points, adoption of EU rules, enhanced e-government & statistics data collection/ accessibility;<br>identification / mitigation of administrative / legal obstacles or mainstreaming interventions. | Strategies and action plans jointly developed;<br>Organisations cooperating across borders | Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations;<br>Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion | 7.319.078* |

\* No official communication on the programme budget has been issued by the Commission or Italian Government so far (17 September 2021). These figures are based on assumptions from outcomes of the on-going debate on financial allocations for ETC programmes in Italy.

## 4. Environmental analysis

The cross-border area has diverse marine, coastal and inland ecosystems. These provide ecological benefits to local communities including fish, plants and animals, water quality and quantity, as well as air quality.

### 4.1 Environmental characteristics of the cooperation area

The environmental update for the programming period 2021-2027 confirmed the main trends and key issues for the 2014-2020 period, specifically the environmental threats from climate change related risks (floods, erosion and desertification), as well as water quality and maritime ecosystems. Moreover, waste recycling is low in the whole programme area, but with high disparities between countries. There are positive trends in the number of natural and cultural protected sites, energy production and consumption as well as renewable energy. In comparison to other EU areas, waste production remains low. Soil artificialisation remains lower than the EU average, although consumption of natural soil has steadily increased over the period.

In more detail:

- Emission of climate change gasses in the CBC area is lower than the European average. All the administrations in the programme carry out measures and strategies for additional reductions in strategic sectors, so an incremental trend is not apparent. For air quality, Montenegro appears to have a higher standard than the Albanian and Italian parts of the area. There are excess PM10 levels in Albania and Puglia. The trend of pollutants seems to be stable.
- In the CBC area, water body statuses are generally 'sufficient', with some problems such as pollution from urban water discharge (in Albania), pollution from agriculture and livestock (in Puglia) and declines in quality and quantity for ground water with dangerous substances in marine water (in Molise).
- All the territory, except for Montenegro, has Marine Protected Areas for the conservation of marine resources. Marine water quality is not excellent in the CBC area, with frequent problems related to bathing water.
- Coastal erosion is a problem for the whole CBC coastal area, and has increased in recent years due to climate change (especially the sea level rise) as well as human pressure. Floods are frequent in all the countries in the programme but are less frequent than the European average, though their number has increased in recent years due to climate change. The CBC area has a low to medium risk of desertification. These risks have increased, which is linked to ongoing climate change.

- The CBC area hosts many natural protected areas. The Natura 2000 network is well defined in Puglia and Molise and has been introduced also in Albania and Montenegro. Moreover, the area hosts 10 UNESCO sites, seven of which are Cultural Heritage, two are Natural Heritage and one is mixed.
- The share of artificial soils in the CBC area is lower than the EU average, but the consumption of natural soil has increased in the last decade and all the administrations have contaminated sites.
- At a CBC level energy consumption is lower than the EU average, with the highest consumption in Montenegro and the lowest in Albania. Waste generation is lower than the EU average in all areas, but the trend varies. In recent years, waste production in Italian regions has decreased, however, in Albania and Montenegro it has increased. Waste recycling in the CBC area is also lower than the EU average with Albania and Montenegro just starting, whilst Puglia and Molise have constantly increased recycled waste each year.

A synthesis of the main environmental issues for 2021-2027 in the CBC area is presented in table 2. Red refers to a bad condition, yellow to medium and green for a good status of the environmental component.



Table 2. Environmental indicator trends for the Programme 2021-2027

| Indicators                             | Status | Trends | Update     | Description  | Source of information* |
|--|--------|--------|------------|--|------------------------|
| Climate change adaptation and risks    |        |        |            |  |                        |
| GHG emission                           | 😊      | ➡      | Confirmed  | The CBC area has lower climate change gas emissions than the rest of Europe. All the administrations in the programme are implementing measures and strategies for additional reductions in strategic sectors. | 1,2                    |
| Coastal erosion                        | 😞      | ↗      | N/A*       | Coastal erosion is an issue for the whole area, and has worsened in recent years as a result of both climate change (particularly the sea level rise) and human pressure.                                      |                        |
| Flood risk                             | 😊      | ↗      | Confirmed  | Floods occur often in all the programme countries albeit less than the European average, though their frequency has increased in recent years as a result of climate change.                                   | 3,4,5                  |
| Risk of land desertification           | 😊      | ↗      | Confirmed  | The CBC area has a low to medium vulnerability to desertification. As with the last indicator, we see an upward trend in these risks, which is linked to climate change.                                       | 6                      |
| Biodiversity and ecosystems            |        |        |            |  |                        |
| Nationally designated protected areas  | 😊      | ↗      | Increasing | There are many natural protected areas in the CBC area, and the number has grown in recent years.  | 7,8                    |
| Natura 2000 network                    | 😊      | ↗      | Confirmed  | In Puglia and Molise, the Natura 2000 network is well-defined, and has also been introduced in Albania and Montenegro.   | 7,8                    |
| Natural and seminatural ecosystems     | 😊      | ?      | N/A*       | The CBC area is dominated by natural and semi-natural habitats, with an agricultural system predominating.   |                        |
| Species conservation                   | 😊      | ?      | Stable     | The CBC area is known for having a higher species diversity than the European average, but it also has the highest proportion of vulnerable amphibian and reptile species.                                     |                        |
| Marine ecosystem and natural resources |        |        |            |  |                        |

|  |   |   |            |   |             |
|--|---|---|------------|---|-------------|
| Marine protected areas                   | ☹ | ↗ | Increasing | Except for Montenegro, every territory has Maritime Protected Areas dedicated to the conservation of marine resources. The number of marine protected areas has increased.  | 9,10,11     |
| Marine water quality                     | ☹ | ? | N/A*       | The CBC area marine water quality isn't excellent and there are frequent problems with bathing water.   |             |
| <b>Air quality</b>                       |   |   |            |   |             |
| Air pollution                            | ☹ | → | Confirmed  | For urban areas, Montenegro seems to have higher air quality than Albania and the Italian parts of the area. In Albania and Puglia, the PM10 level has been exceeded, though the pollutants under consideration appear be stable.   | 12,13,14,15 |
| <b>Inland water quality and supply</b>   |   |   |            |   |             |
| Water body status                        | ☹ | → | Confirmed  | Water body status in the CBC area is generally sufficient, despite some issues such as pollution from urban water discharge (in Albania), pollution from agriculture and livestock (in Puglia), lower ground water quality and quantity, and some dangerous substances in marine water (in Molise). | 16,17,18    |
| Water consumption                        | ☹ | ? | N/A*       | The CBC area water consumption is comparable to the European average (150 l/inhabitant/day). Consumption in the Italian and Albanian areas is slightly higher, but in Montenegro it is lower than the European average.   |             |
| <b>Soil use and landscape</b>            |   |   |            |   |             |
| Artificial soils and soil surfaces       | ☹ | ↗ | Confirmed  | Although the share of artificial soils in the CBC area is lower than the EU average, natural soil consumption has increased in the last decade.   | 19          |
| Contaminated sites                       | ☹ | ? | N/A*       | There are contaminated sites in all the cooperation territories   | 20          |
| <b>Cultural and natural heritage</b>     |   |   |            |   |             |
| UNESCO World Heritage Sites              | 😊 | ↗ | Confirmed  | There are several UNESCO sites in the CBC area  | 21          |
| <b>Energy production and consumption</b> |   |   |            |   |             |
| Energy consumption                       | 😊 | → | Confirmed  | Energy consumption is lower than the EU average, with Montenegro having the highest and Albania the lowest. Italy in 2017 consumed approximately 3.3 GWh of electricity.  | 22,23       |

|                                |   |   |            |   |          |
|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|---|----------|
| Energy production              | 😊 | ↗ | Confirmed  | There has been a significant rise in energy output from renewable sources in Puglia and a modest increase in Molise. These two participating regions produce more electricity than they use.  | 24,25,26 |
| Renewable energy               | 😊 | ↗ | Confirmed  |   | 27,28,29 |
| Waste production and recycling |   |   |            |   |          |
| Waste production               | 😊 | ? | Increasing | Waste generation is lower than the EU average in all CBC areas, although the trend differs. In recent years, waste production has decreased in Italian regions, but has increased in Albania and Montenegro. Disposal is increasing in all three countries. CBC waste recycling is also lower than the EU average, with Albania and Montenegro just getting started, but Puglia and Molise have increased recycled waste each year. | 30,31    |
| Recycling                      | 😞 | ↗ | Confirmed  |   |          |

\* for sources see Appendix 4

## 4.2 Vulnerable areas and vulnerabilities

Vulnerabilities in the cooperation area refer mainly to UNESCO sites (see table 3 below) and Natura 2000 sites, as well as local polluted hot spots such as the ILVA steel production area in Puglia.

Puglia. Currently 87 Natura 2000 sites have been identified in Puglia, with 75 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), 7 Special Protection Areas (SPA) and 5 that are both<sup>8</sup>. The ILVA area in Taranto is extremely fragile due to high air pollution from the steel mill over the years. Interventions proposed by the programme are unlikely to cause further environmental deterioration in this area.

Molise has recently defined its own legislation on natural areas, adapted to the needs of the territory<sup>9</sup>. There are 4 state nature reserves in the region, in addition to the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park, which is partly in Molise. There are also two wildlife protection oases.

### Albania

There are 799 protected areas including 14 national parks, 1 marine park, 2 nature reserves, 22 managed nature reserves, 5 protected landscapes and 770 other protected areas of various categories. Further there is a biosphere reserve, 3 world heritage sites, 4 Ramsar (wetland) sites, 45 important plant and 16 important bird areas in Albania<sup>10</sup>.

Montenegro<sup>11</sup> has 10 protected areas across the country.

Table 3. UNESCO sites in the cooperation area

| Country    | Site  | Location                  | Year listed |
|------------|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Italia     | 1. Castel del Monte   | Andria                    | 1996        |
|            | 2. Trulli of Alberobello  | Bari                      | 1996        |
| Albania    | 1. Butrint  | Vlorë                     | 1992        |
|            | 2. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastër  | Berat, Gjirokastër        | 2005        |
|            | 3. Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe*                             | Kukës, Elbasan            | 2017        |
|            | 4. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region*   | Korçë                     | 2019        |
| Montenegro | 1. Natural and Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor  | Kotor, Herceg Novi, Tivat | 1979        |
|            | 2. Durmitor National Park   | Žabljak                   | 1980        |
|            | 3. Stećci Medieval Tombstones Graveyards*   | Žabljak, Plužine          | 2016        |
|            | 4. Venetian Defence Works between the 16th and 17th centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar* | Kotor                     | 2017        |

\*Transnational sites

<sup>8</sup> Regione Puglia <https://pugliacon.regione.puglia.it/web/sit-puglia-paesaggio/rete-natura-2000>

<sup>9</sup> Regione Molise <http://www3.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/214>

<sup>10</sup> Initial assessment of protected areas in Albania, 2016

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.prirodainfo.me/Forma>

## 5. Evaluation of potential effects on the environment

### 5.1 Methodological approach

The Directive requires the evaluation of likely significant environmental effects of actions under the Cooperation Programme<sup>12</sup>. The evaluation must consider direct and indirect impacts, their probability and scale, frequency, duration and reversibility, the cumulative nature of their effects and their cross-border dimension (see also criteria in box 1).

Methodological steps for the evaluation are:

- Identify environmental objectives of the area (see appendix 1 for objectives considered in the analysis);
- Estimate the nature and intensity of programme effects on the environmental objectives: no effect (n.e.), unknown effect (?), no significant effect, significant effect and very significant effect;
- Estimate the cumulative and cross-border effects of the programme on the environment

The nature and intensity of the impacts are assessed according to the QUASAR approach (see appendix 2) with definitions in article 5 (1)(c) of Italian Law 152 (see appendix 3).

### 5.2 Assessment of the potential effects on the environment

#### Overview

Evidence from experience and other cooperation programmes show that many expected effects from programmes like the CBC Interreg and IPA Programme Italia – Albania Montenegro should be ‘immaterial’ and indirect, with no significant impact on the general environment. This is mainly due to the type of actions (see table below), their time horizon and the financial allocation should not allow significantly change the status and quality of the environment in the CBC area.

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<sup>12</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC Annex II (2)

Table 4. Expected impacts by type of action and links with the programme strategy

| Type of action   | Environmental effects                       | Time horizon     | Expected change in the global / local environment      | Programme Strategy                  |
|--|---|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Investment in infrastructure</b>                        | Direct, local and certain, non-reversible   | Short, long term | Very significant for high financial allocation         | Excluded from support               |
| <b>Strategy and plan</b>                                   | Indirect, uncertain, reversible, non-local  | Medium long term | Not significant for low to medium financial allocation | Intervention in all 4 priority axes |
| <b>Research, information, and communication</b>            | Indirect, intangible, non-local, reversible | Short, medium    | Not significant for low to medium financial allocation | Intervention in all 4 priority axes |
| <b>Networking, cooperation, and exchange of experience</b> | Indirect, intangible, non-local, reversible | Short, medium    | Not significant for low to medium financial allocation | Intervention in all 4 priority axes |

### Analysis of the effects at priority and Specific Objective levels

A brief description of the programme's environmental effects by Priority Axis is provided in the following sections while a synthesis of effects at Specific Objective level is reported in table 5.

### PAI – A smarter South Adriatic programme area, by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation

This includes only one Specific Objective (I.I. Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs through joint cross-border actions), aimed at strengthening cross-border competitiveness, cross-border R&D, capacity building for trademarks, patents, cybersecurity, combatting counterfeiting and contributing to cross-border smart specialisation strategies. Possible actions range from access to research and technology transfer for SMEs, to networking with Intermediary Organisations (such as Chambers of Commerce), joint planning and jointly developed solutions.

An environmental assessment of this objective is not straightforward. Innovation could imply less pressure on natural resources, but this is clearly true only for the blue economy and green tourism or for sustainable innovation in general. In the programme, it is not clear how much these practices will be encouraged. Therefore, possible positive effects on water and energy use, emissions and waste production would not be significant (because they are not certain, are reversible and not local).

For other actions regarding start-ups, trademarks, patents or cybersecurity, environmental impacts are unknown and possible interactions with environmental components cannot be determined at this stage. This will need to be assessed later on a case-by-case approach, considering project objectives and achievements.

**PA2 – A greener South Adriatic programme area, by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management**

The priority includes three Specific Objectives: 2.1 ‘Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience’; 2.2 ‘Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution with joint cross-border actions’ and 2.3 ‘Promoting energy efficiency with joint cross-border actions’. All these objectives are devoted to improving environmental conditions in the cooperation area and contributing more broadly to green deal objectives for 2020-2030. Infrastructure is excluded from the support. The expected long-term impacts are positive, with effects on resource consumption, biodiversity, energy transition, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. However, at this stage of programming, they are difficult to determine at local or broader level, very much depending on the policy context (and availability of other financial resources) and the behaviour of target groups. In addition, for the financial allocation, the intervention will be limited in space and time, with no likely scale effect. For this reason, the impact of the three OSPs, although positive, is not significant.

**PA3 – A more connected South Adriatic programme area by enhancing mobility and regional connectivity**

The only Specific Objective selected for Priority Axis 3 – ‘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’ - is devoted to increasing coordination among stakeholders to promote sustainable intermodal connectivity in the cooperation area. Actions under the programme are widespread, including soft mobility solutions, port security, multimodal links and digitalisation. Interventions on infrastructure are excluded from the support. More sustainable projects would positively impact emissions and energy consumption. However, the positive or negative nature of these effects will depend on how much the actions address sustainability. This can only be reviewed during project selection, defining clear sustainable criteria, considering project objectives and achievements.

#### **PA 4 – A more social South Adriatic programme area**

Priority 4 has two Specific Objectives: 4.1 ‘improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through cross-border actions’ and 4.2 ‘Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation, through cross-border actions’. For both objectives, actions are mainly ‘immaterial’, including sharing experiences between institutions, training and networking involving private and public stakeholders, and setting joint strategies and action plans. No physical intervention or material investment is anticipated. Impacts on the environment are neutral for social actions, or largely unknown at this stage for the promotion of cultural routes or improved efficiency in the cross-border labour market.

#### **PA5 – Better governance in the South Adriatic programme area**

There is one specific objective, 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’. Even though efficient administration is a pre-condition for sustainable development policies in the cooperation area, no direct and significant environmental impact (positive or negative) is expected from actions under this objective. It worth noting that physical impacts from governance actions (including capacity building) normally depend on the type of intervention (and the sector targeted) and are, by nature, indirect as they require further conditions to make them happen, i.e. financial resources, decisions by other institutions, or changes in behaviour.



Table 5. Possible effects on environmental issues

| Environmental issues                           | Environmental objectives   | SO1.1 | SO2.1 | SO2.2 | SO2.3 | SO3.1 | SO4.1 | SO4.2 | SO5.1 |
|--|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Climate change and associate risks</b>      | Reduce GHG emissions   | n.s   | n.e   | n.s   | n.s   | ?     | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Reduce flood risks   | n.e   | n.s   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Reduce coastal erosion risks                                       | n.e   | n.s   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Reduce risks of desertification                                    | n.e   | n.s   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
| <b>Air quality</b>                             | Improve air quality  | n.s   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | ?     | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
| <b>Water quality supply</b>                    | Improve or maintain underground, surface and bathing water quality | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Reduce pressures on fresh water                                    | n.s   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
| <b>Biodiversity and ecosystem</b>              | Restore degraded ecosystems and their associated services          | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Protect and preserve species diversity                             | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
| <b>Marine ecosystem and natural resources</b>  | Improve or maintain costal water quality                           | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Protect and preserve species diversity                             | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Reduce pressures on natural resources                              | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
| <b>Soil quality and use</b>                    | Remediate contaminated soils and lands                             | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Improve efficiency in soil and land management                     | n.e   | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
| <b>Technology</b>                              | Prevent technological risks  | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
| <b>Health and sanitary risks and nuisances</b> | Reduce chemical pollution and its effect on health                 | n.e   | n.s   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Decrease noise pollution   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | ?     | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |
|  | Reduce electromagnetic pollution                                   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   | n.e   |

|  |  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  |  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Natural and cultural heritage and landscape</b> | Preserve landscape and cultural heritage | n.e | n.e | n.s | n.e | n.e | n.e | n.e | n.e |
| <b>Energy</b>                                      | Promote renewable energy                 | n.s | n.e | n.e | ?   | n.e | n.e | n.e | n.e |
|  | Improve energy efficiency                | n.s | n.e | n.s | n.s | ?   | n.e | n.e | n.e |
| <b>Waste management</b>                            | Reduce waste production                  | n.s | n.e | n.s | n.e | n.e | n.e | n.e | n.e |
|  | Promote recycling and reuse              | n.s | n.e | n.s | n.e | n.e | n.e | n.e | n.e |

n.e = no effect; ? = unknown effect; n.s = no significant effects

## Overview of cumulative effects by environmental component

The overall environmental assessment of programme cumulative effects is positive, no cumulative negative effects are expected. Cumulative positive impacts are seen for climate change (from specific objectives 1.1, 2.2 and 2.3), air and water quality, as well waste and energy (1.1 and 2.2). Nevertheless, for all the environmental issues considered, the positive effects are not significant, because of low expected direct impacts and largely unknown effects from single actions on specific issues.

## 6. Conclusions

Conclusions on the potential environmental effects from implementation of the Interreg Italia-Montenegro-Albania 2021-27 programme are based on the criteria in Annex II, article 12 (see box 1). A review of the evaluation questions related to programme characteristics is based on the above sections 2 to 3, while a synthesis of the impact analysis is based on evidence from section 4.

**The programme has no likely significant and durable impact on the status or quality of the environment in the cooperation area. Impacts are mainly indirect, uncertain, non-local and reversible and should easily be addressed during implementation with specific guidance for project proponents, using adequate criteria for project selection.**

The overall assessment has shown that IPA CBC Italy – Albania – Montenegro 2021-2027 programme is coherent with the European Green deal, especially as it contributes positively to environmental objectives in the field of climate change adaptation, circular economy, reduction of GHG emissions and biodiversity conservation.

On the basis of the analyses and in line with the results of the SEA (table 5), it should be noted that the Programme does not cause significant damage to the environment, and it is in compliance with Article 9 of the CPR and with article 17 of the Taxonomy regulation<sup>13</sup>, meaning that the actions are compatible with the DNSH principle.

In the Programme implementation phase the compliance with the DNSH will be checked firstly through the definition of specific project selection provisions and then through the set-up of an environmental monitoring system. Any change emerged during the implementation period in the Programme priorities (including investments in infrastructures affecting the environment), and/or relevant to the reference area, e.g. changes

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<sup>13</sup>Article 17 *Significant harm to environmental objectives* – Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088  
SEA screening procedure IPA CBC Italia – Albania – Montenegro //pag. 26

in the environmental context or the environmental components, and to the program strategy, will require a new screening environmental assessment and a consultation with the competent environmental authorities.

A monitoring system is not required by the screening procedure as it is the upstream phase and because from the analyses carried out, no negative environmental impacts have been detected to require one. However, in a subsequent phase of the programme implementation, environmental monitoring provisions should be defined by the managing authority, including the definition of a set of indicators, as well as data collection measures and reporting provisions. This should mainly help to ensure that the compliance with the DNSH principle – for the six environmental objectives, as defined in article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation – is confirmed during Programme implementation.

#### Programme characteristics

- a) To what extent does the plan or programme establish a framework for projects and other activities, or location, nature, size and operating conditions, or the allocation of resources*

The programme establishes a general framework for projects supported through ETC Regulation. Location, nature, size and operating conditions for project implementation will be defined based on calls for proposals. Specific allocation of financial resources to projects is not detailed in the programme draft template, which allocates resources at the Specific Objective level.

- b) To what extent does the plan or programme influence other plans or programmes*

The programme does not influence and is not part of a hierarchy with other programmes and plans. The programme provides a financial framework for actions or interventions which are consistent with objectives and actions in other plans and programmes, separately approved and implemented.

- c) The relevance of the plan or programme to integrate environmental considerations, in particular to promote sustainable development*

The programme addresses *inter alia* environmental issues and pursues environmental objectives, specifically in priority 2. ETC programmes are expected to contribute to 'green deal' objectives and to promote sustainable development goals.

- d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme*

Environmental problems for the cooperation area are detailed in table 2 above. Most challenging issues concern climate change, marine resources, pollution and waste management. The programme addresses

some of these with the objective to support cross-border environmental planning, facilitate the adoption of best practices, and to promote experience sharing and capitalisation.

- e) *The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of EU legislation in the environmental sector (e.g. plans and programmes related to waste management or water protection).*

The programme enables the implementation of EU legislation in various sectors and regions, however it neither contributes to the definition or consolidation of EU legislation nor provides a sectoral framework for intervention. No material investment or infrastructure is planned and outcomes are mainly 'immaterial'.

### **Characteristics of the impacts**

The analysis as emerged from section 4, and taking account the criteria as quoted in annex 2 article 12 of Italian Law 152/2006, can be summarised as:

- 'Probability' of impact is low – due to the nature of the interventions which require other conditions to be effective (such as further policy support, other financial support or changes in behaviour); while 'duration' is expected to be variable, in most cases it refers to the short-medium term; impact should be not permanent and not frequent as the programme does not support permanent infrastructure and material investments in the long term. There is no expected irreversible effect considering the general positive contribution from the programme to the environment.
- Cumulative effects have been analysed considering potential interconnection between actions and environmental components. Cumulative impacts should be synergic, with actions being complementary between each other, as for example actions on biodiversity contribute also to improving the cooperation area capacity to adapt to climate change; no 'additive impacts' are expected as the programme supports mainly immaterial, non-local interventions and actions with unknown effects at local level;
- The programme will operate cross-border (in maritime and land areas); however, project impacts are expected to be limited to smaller CBC areas, considering the typology of interventions and the financial size of projects;
- There is no expected significant impact on human health, and the environment, from programme implementation; the main reason is the lack of support for major infrastructure and polluting activities and the small financial allocation to projects in general, which does not allow for significant impacts;
- The programme area is scarcely populated compared to other European regions; the programme covers approximately 66 560 km<sup>2</sup>. Impacts should be largely spread across the area, very local and limiting the population affected due to the type of interventions planned and size of projects supported.
- Although some vulnerable areas are identified in the programming areas, there are no material interventions in vulnerable sites – such as protected or Natura 2000 sites – in the programme strategy. Furthermore, given the size of projects and the nature of interventions, no action is expected to produce

pollution that exceeds minimum quality levels. The programme does not contribute to land use planning and master planning, so interventions are unlikely to increase soil artificialisation and land fragmentation. No impacts on areas or landscapes designated as protected at the national, community, or international levels are foreseen.

## APPENDIX I – Environmental objectives in the cooperation area

Environmental objectives have been defined based on provisions in SEA Directive Annex I and the previous SEA environmental report 2014-2020.

| Environmental issues                               | Topic                    | Environmental objectives   |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Climate change and associate risks</b>          | GHG emissions            | Reduce GHG emissions   |
|  | Adaptation               | Reduce flooding risks  |
|  |                          | Reduce coastal erosion risks                                       |
|  |                          | Reduce risks of desertification                                    |
| <b>Air quality</b>                                 | Air pollution            | Improve air quality  |
| <b>Water quality and supply</b>                    | Water quality            | Improve or maintain underground, surface and bathing water quality |
|  | Water use                | Reduce pressure on fresh water                                     |
| <b>Biodiversity and ecosystem</b>                  | Ecosystem                | Restore degraded ecosystems and their associated services          |
|  | Biodiversity             | Protect and preserve species diversity                             |
| <b>Marine ecosystems and natural resources</b>     | Marine water quality     | Improve or maintain costal water quality                           |
|  | Marine ecosystems        | Protect and preserve species diversity                             |
|  | Marine Natural resources | Reduce pressure on natural resources                               |
| <b>Soil quality and use</b>                        | Soil quality             | Remediate contaminated soils and lands                             |
|  | Soil management          | Improve efficiency in soil and land management                     |
| <b>Technological risks</b>                         | Risks prevention         | Prevent technological risks  |
| <b>Health and sanitary risks and nuisances</b>     | Human health protection  | Reduce chemical pollution and its effect on health                 |
|  |                          | Decrease noise pollution   |
|  |                          | Reduce electromagnetic pollution                                   |
| <b>Natural and cultural heritage and landscape</b> |                          | Preserve landscape and cultural heritage                           |
| <b>Energy</b>                                      | Renewable                | Promote renewable energy   |
|  | Efficiency               | Reduce waste production  |
| <b>Waste management</b>                            | Recycling                | Promote recycling and reuse  |

## APPENDIX 2: The QUASAR approach

In the QUASAR approach<sup>14</sup>, analysis is in three main steps.

- Firstly, environmental objectives are matched with proposed actions and eligible activities planned by the programme.
- Secondly, the previous table is combined with an estimation of effect intensity weighted by the characteristic of each effect. The scale of intensity for positive and negative effects is illustrated in the table below.

Table 6. Scale for positive and negative effects

| Positive effects | Scale                 | Negative effects |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ++               | Very significant      | --               |
| +                | Significant           | -                |
| ?                | Unknown <sup>15</sup> | ?                |
| n.s.             | No significant effect | n.s.             |

Legend:

n.e. = no effects; n.s. = no significant effects;

- Thirdly, the information is organised to assess the cumulative and cross-border effects of each action. The cumulative impact is ordered by environmental theme and evaluated considering all causal relationships leading to an impact on that theme. The effects are weighted by their contribution to the environmental theme to obtain the cumulative effect.

<sup>14</sup> Gaia Galassi and François Levarlet, 'Improving Sustainability of Programmes in Strategic Environmental Assessment Procedures: the QUALitative Structural Approach for Ranking (QUASAR) the Environmental Effects', European Journal of Sustainable Development, 2017, vol.6 No.1.

<sup>15</sup> '?': some actions planned by the Programme could have indirect impacts that are difficult to estimate with current assessment methodologies E.g. innovation or R&D projects could have environmental effects depending on many different factors, such as technology, market conditions or implementation, unknown at the beginning of the program.



## APPENDIX 3: Terminology

The following definitions are taken from the ISPRA guidelines:

- a) *Environment*: system of relationships between anthropic, naturalistic, chemical-physical, climatic, landscape, architectural, cultural, agricultural, and economic factors<sup>16</sup>.
- b) *Environmental impact*<sup>17</sup>: in the broadest sense of 'environmental effect' as positive or negative changes resulting from implementation of the plan / programme not only on the environment directly but also on pressures and determinants, with reference to Model Determinants - Pressures - Status - Impacts - Responses (DPSIR) of the European Environment Agency.
- c) *action of the plan / program*: includes guidelines, interventions and measures that the plan / programme intends to implement.
- d) *preliminary document*: document to verify eligibility, in agreement with article 12 (2) of Italian Law 152 and subsequent amendments.
- e) *preliminary report*: document for the preliminary phase pursuant to article 13 (1) and (2) of Italian Law 152 and subsequent amendments.
- f) *environmental problem*: non-contextual condition that directly or indirectly affects the environment.
- g) *environmental criticality*: environmental problem referred to a specific territory.
- h) *direct impact*: impact that occurs as a direct consequence of the action.
- i) *indirect impact*: impact that occurs due to one or more consequent impacts of the action.
- j) *reversible impact*: where cessation of the action makes it possible to restore the original conditions in a shorter or longer timeframe.
- k) *irreversible impact*: impact where it is impossible to restore initial conditions.
- l) *cumulative nature of the impacts*: the overall impact of several actions on the same environmental aspect. To assess the cumulative nature of impacts it is necessary to consider:
  - i. *synergistic* if the impact of several actions is greater than the sum of individual impacts.
  - ii. *additive* if the impact of several actions is equal to the sum of individual impacts.
  - iii. *antagonistic* if the impact of several actions is less than the sum of individual impacts.

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<sup>16</sup> Art. 5, paragraph 1, lett. c) of Legislative Decree 152/06 and subsequent amendments

<sup>17</sup> As defined in art. 5, paragraph 1, lett. c of Legislative Decree 152 and subsequent amendments.

## APPENDIX 4: Sources of information for table 2

- (1) Albania: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator>
- (2) Italy: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/data-viewers/greenhouse-gases-viewer>
- (3) Albania: [https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Albania%20\(003\).pdf](https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Albania%20(003).pdf) 2016
- (4) Montenegro: Significance of Early Announcement of Weather Extremes: Case Study - Montenegro  
Miroslav Doderović, Dragan Burić and Jovan Dragojlović EasyChair 2020
- (5) Italy: Landslides and floods in Italy: hazard and risk indicators summary report 2018 ISPRA
- (6) Combating desertification in the EU: a growing threat in need of more action; 2018; European Court of Auditors
- (7) Albania + Montenegro: State of nature conservation systems in South-Eastern Europe Maja Vasilijević, Sanja Pokrajac, Boris Erg; 2018 IUNC
- (8) Italy: <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/>
- (9) Albania: Small-Scale Fisheries at an Albanian Marine Protected Area: A Collaborative Attitude is associated with Higher Catches; 2018; Rigers Bakiu\* and Marko Cakalli
- (10) Montenegro: 2021 RAC <https://www.rac-spa.org/node/2067>
- (11) Italy: <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/aree-marine-istituite>
- (12) Albania: <https://www.iamat.org/country/albania/risk/air-pollution>
- (13) Montenegro: <https://www.iamat.org/country/montenegro/risk/air-pollution>
- (14) Italy – Molise: 2019 - relazione sulla qualità dell'aria in Molise, ARPA Molise
- (15) Italy – Puglia: <http://old.arpa.puglia.it/web/guest/qariainq2>
- (16) Albania: 2018 Water quality in Albania: An overview of sources of contamination and controlling factors; Sulejman Sulçel, Evan Rroco, Jamarbër Malltezi, Seit Shallari, Zamir Libohova, Sokratsinaj, Nikolla P. Qafoku
- (17) Montenegro: 2020 Assessment of Water Quality In The Morača River Basin (Montenegro) Using Water Quality Index Miroslav Doderović, Ivan Mijanović, Dragan Burić, Milan Milenković
- (18) Italy: 2020 <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2021/03/Report-Giornata-mondiale-acqua.pdf>
- (19) Italy: 2019 <https://www.statista.com/chart/19591/average-consumption-of-tap-water-per-person-in-the-eu/>
- (20) 2012 <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/daviz/percentage-sealing-by-country>
- (21) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>
- (22) Albania, Montenegro: 2015 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/>
- (23) Italy: 2019 <https://www.terna.it/it/sistema-elettrico/statistiche/pubblicazioni-statistiche>

- (24) Albania: 2015 <https://www.worlddata.info/europe/albania/energy-consumption.php>
- (25) Montenegro: 2015 <https://www.worlddata.info/europe/montenegro/energy-consumption.php>
- (26) Italy: 2019 <https://www.terna.it/it/sistema-elettrico/statistiche/pubblicazioni-statistiche>
- (27) Albania: 2015 <https://www.worlddata.info/europe/albania/energy-consumption.php>
- (28) Montenegro: 2015 <https://www.worlddata.info/europe/montenegro/energy-consumption.php>
- (29) Italy: <https://www.istat.it/storage/rapporti-tematici/sdgs/2020/goal7.pdf>
- (30) Albania and Montenegro: A Comprehensive Assessment of the Current Waste Management Situation in South East Europe and Future Perspectives for the Sector Including Options for Regional Co-Operation in Recycling of Electric and Electronic Waste Dr Dominic Hogg D., Vergunst T. 2017
- (31) Italy: ISPRA Rapporto rifiuti urbani 2020

## Integration of the DNSH principle in the Italia-Albania-Montenegro Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2021-2027

In reference to the Screening report and based on the Programme logic of intervention, as illustrated in table I, the analysis of compatibility with DNSH has been carried out for each of the eight programme Specific Objectives. The table below has been structured based on Annex I, part II of the Commission Notice, Technical Guidance on the application of “do not significant harm” under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation C(2021) 1054 final.

The elements in the first column are consistent with Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation. Column 2 report the checking criterium used; while column 3 provides with the Programme status considering the specific criterium and column 4 illustrate the answer as in column 3.

### S.O 1.1 Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs through joint cross-border actions

| Environmental objective  | Check - Art 17 Taxonomy  | Programme Status (Yes/No) | Comments   |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact in terms of GHG emissions. In addition, the Programme will finance actions promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, having a positive contribution to the objective of mitigation.               |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on the climate change adaption objective.  |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on the maritime resources, while they slightly contributed to the reduction of pressure on the freshwater system.  |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of action have no foreseeable negative impact on the transition to circular economy. Positive contribution is expected in terms of waste management related to reduction of waste production and promotion of waste recycling and material re-use. |

|   |   |    |   |
|---|---|----|---|
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land        | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?   | No | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of action have no foreseeable impact on the emission of pollutants into air, water and land. Moreover, actions contribute to a slight improvement of air quality. |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest? | No | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable negative impact on biodiversity.   |

#### S.O 2.1 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience with joint cross-border actions

| Environmental objective  | Check - Art 17 Taxonomy  | Programme Status (Yes/No) | Comments   |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of action have no negative impact on climate change mitigation objective.  |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of action have a slight positive impact on climate change adaptation. Measures to reduce floods, coastal erosion and desertification will be implemented. Moreover, measures to prevent technological risks will be implemented. |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources  |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on the transition to circular economy objective  |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land                   | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on pollution of air, water or land. Measures aiming to reduce chemical pollution and its effect on health will be implemented.   |

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest? |  | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable negative impact on biodiversity. |
|---|---|--|---|

S.O 2.2 Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution with joint cross-border actions

| Environmental objective  | Check - Art 17 Taxonomy  | Programme Status (Yes/No) | Comments   |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact in terms of GHG emissions. In addition, actions aimed at improving energy efficiency will be implemented.               |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact on climate change adaptation by preventing and reducing risks related to natural disasters.                             |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact on sustainable use and protection of water quality supply and marine resources.   |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact on waste management, in relation to reduction of waste production and promotion of waste recycling and material re-use. |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land                   | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact on improving air quality and soil quality and management, by remediating contaminated soils and lands.                  |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems            | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact on protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and preserving landscape heritage.   |

S.O 2.3 Promoting energy efficiency with joint cross-border actions

| Environmental objective  | Check - Art 17 Taxonomy  | Programme Status (Yes/No) | Comments   |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have a slight positive impact on the reduction of GHG emissions and improvement of energy efficiency. |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change adaptation   |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on use and protection of water and marine resource objective               |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on the transition to circular economy objective                            |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land                   | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on pollution prevention objective  |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems            | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition <sup>5</sup> and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.                                   |

**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**

| <b>Environmental objective</b>   | <b>Check - Art 17 Taxonomy</b>   | <b>Programme Status (Yes/No)</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change mitigation.                        |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change adaptation.                        |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on use and protection of water and marine resources. |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on transition to circular economy objective.         |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land                   | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?  | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on air, water or land pollution.                     |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems            | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition <sup>5</sup> and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?   | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.             |



**S.O 4.I Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training, and lifelong learning through cross-border actions**

| <b>Environmental objective</b>   | <b>Check - Art 17 Taxonomy</b>   | <b>Programme Status (Yes/No)</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change mitigation.                        |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change adaptation.                        |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on use and protection of water and marine resources. |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on transition to circular economy.                   |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land                   | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?  | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on air, water and land pollution.                    |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems            | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition <sup>5</sup> and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?   | No                               | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.             |

S.O 4.2 Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation, through cross-border actions

| Environmental objective  | Check - Art 17 Taxonomy  | Programme Status (Yes/No) | Comments   |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change mitigation.                        |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change adaptation.                        |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on use and protection of water and marine resources. |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on transition to circular economy.                   |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land                   | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on air, water or land pollution.                     |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems            | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition5 and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.             |

S.O 5.1 Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular to solve legal and other obstacles in border regions

| Environmental objective  | Check - Art 17 Taxonomy  | Programme Status (Yes/No) | Comments   |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Climate change mitigation  | Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change mitigation.                        |
| Climate change adaptation  | Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on climate change adaptation.                        |
| Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources             | Is the measure expected to be detrimental:<br>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or<br>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on use and protection of water and marine resources. |
| Transition to circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | Is the measure expected to:<br>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or<br>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or<br>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on transition to circular economy.                   |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land                   | Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?  | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable impact on air, water and land pollution.                    |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems            | Is the measure expected to be:<br>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition <sup>5</sup> and resilience of ecosystems; or<br>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?   | No                        | As reported in table 5 in the screening report, the types of actions have no foreseeable negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.             |