



**Interreg**  
*M*editerranean



EUROPEAN UNION

**MED with us!**  
Explore the Interreg MED Programme

Programme co-financed  
by the European Regional Development Fund

[www.interreg-med.eu](http://www.interreg-med.eu)

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# What is the Interreg MED Programme?

**The Interreg MED Programme is a European transnational cooperation programme adopted by the European Commission and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.**

It provides funds for cooperation projects developed and managed by public bodies – and in some cases by private entities – in the Northern regions of the Mediterranean. Its territory covers 57 regions from 13 European countries (including 3 countries in pre-accession to the EU), from Portugal to Cyprus. For 2014-2020, the total budget of the Programme is around 275 million euros.

Its overall objective is to promote sustainable growth in this area. As a consequence, the projects co-funded by the Programme should be focused on the following thematic:

- > blue growth
- > green growth
- > social innovation, cultural and creative industries
- > energy efficiency in public buildings
- > renewable energy
- > low carbon urban transports
- > sustainable maritime and coastal tourism
- > biodiversity protection









# BLUE GROWTH

## Acting for a bluer MED

The Interreg MED Programme supports projects in the Blue Economy allowing improved collaboration between organisations coming from civil society, research bodies and training structures, public authorities, economic operators (the quadruple helix players). In short : the Programme seeks to reinforce the joint work between clusters and networks across Mediterranean countries, trying to create innovative solutions to unlock the potential of a healthy and productive sea.

### What topics for innovation in Blue Growth?

- Blue Energy
- Fishing & Aquaculture
- Integrated Maritime Surveillance
- Biotechnologies
- Coastal and maritime tourism



BLUE GROWTH



## Types of actions:

Development of transnational clusters and networks, development of models and tools, transfer of knowledge as well as awareness-raising and capitalisation activities.

## Key target groups:

SMEs, economic operators and structures accompanying them, public authorities and research structures.

## What results\* does the Programme target for 2014-2020?

- 44 operational instruments to favour innovation of SMEs
- 35 enterprises receiving grants
- 4000 enterprises receiving non-financial support
- 10 transnational innovation clusters supported

\*shared with Green Growth and Social and Creative thematic



# GREEN GROWTH

## Unlocking the Green potential

Projects fostering closer collaboration between the quadruple helix organisations working in the Green Economy are supported by the Interreg MED Programme under this thematic. Projects should be aiming at a greener development model built on an environmentally friendly use of resources.

### What topics for Green Growth?

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Waste Management / Recycling
- Smart cities
- Eco-innovation





## Types of actions:

Development of transnational clusters and networks, development of models and tools, transfer of knowledge as well as awareness-raising and capitalisation activities.

## Key target groups:

SMEs, economic operators and structures accompanying them, public authorities and research structures.

## What results\* does the Programme target for 2014-2020?

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# SOCIAL & CREATIVE

## Fostering social innovation & cultural & creative industries

The objective of this thematic is to improve the innovation capacities of public and private stakeholders from cultural and creative industries and social innovation.

Projects shall seek new responses to social needs, but also make a positive impact for a more dynamic cultural and creative sector.

### What topics for Social and Creative industries?

- Open Data
- Social entrepreneurship
- Public Sector Innovation (including Public Procurement of Innovation/ Pre-Commercial Procurement)



## Types of actions:

Development of transnational clusters and networks, development of models and tools, transfer of knowledge as well as awareness-raising and capitalisation activities.

## Key target groups:

SMEs, economic operators and structures accompanying them, public authorities and research structures.

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thematics



# EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

## Improving energy efficiency capacities in public buildings

Buildings in Mediterranean regions and in particular public buildings, represent one of the main sources of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions. The majority of such buildings requires heavy upgrading in terms of isolation and cooling systems currently partly financed by national, regional and EU thematic programmes.

Projects co-funded by the Interreg MED Programme under this thematic must focus on increasing the capacity of public building owners and managers in the MED area to develop and implement energy efficiency practices.

From the design and analysis process to the transferability and sustainability of the project actions, these activities can cover a wide range of areas.



## Types of actions:

Strategy building, capacity building, awareness raising, training and changing practices; feasibility studies and analyses, drawing-up of policy plans, services and tools; possibility for small-scale investments and pilot projects.

## Key target groups:

Public authorities, research structures, enterprises, NGO's/civil society structures (end user role).

## What results does the Programme target for 2014-2020?

- 5 available planning tools to monitor and manage energy consumption in public buildings
- 5 strategies supporting plans on energy consumption management for public buildings
- 570 target groups participating in capacity raising activities on energy efficiency for public buildings
- 176 regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in developing energy efficiency plans/ strategies





# RENEWABLE ENERGY

## Increasing renewable energy sources in energy mix

Mediterranean islands are facing several energy challenges such as dependency, security of supply, interconnection with mainland and a growing demand, among others.

Projects co-financed under this thematic of the Interreg MED Programme shall mainly be directed to support actions that increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in MED territories. The thematic affects different levels of public authorities, specifically in islands and rural areas.



## Types of actions:

Strategy building, capacity building, awareness raising, training and changing practices; feasibility studies and analyses, drawing-up of policy plans, services and tools; possibility for small-scale investments and pilot projects.

## Key target groups:

Public authorities, research structures, enterprises, NGO's/civil society structures (end user role).

## What results does the Programme target for 2014-2020?

- 5 planning tools to develop energy plans including local RES
- 15% of island population covered by plans
- 5% of population from rural areas covered by plans
- 5 models to develop action plans including local RES in energy mix
- 192 regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in increasing the share of local RES in energy mix



# URBAN TRANSPORTS

## **Increasing low carbon urban transport systems**

Increase in population during touristic seasons is changing Mediterranean cities. They come unprepared and need to adapt to provide sustainable transit systems between the city centre, the port and the neighbourhood, while preserving their natural and cultural heritage, particularly their historical centres and social cohesion.

Projects co-financed under this thematic shall especially address issues related to the use and access to low carbon and multimodal transport systems for the different categories of population and territories.

In this regard, the framework of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) or Sustainable Energy Action Plans, section transport (SEAPs) will be fundamental.



## Types of actions:

Strategy building, capacity building, awareness raising, training and changing practices; feasibility studies and analyses, drawing-up of policy plans, services and tools; possibility for small-scale investments and pilot projects.

## Key target groups:

Public authorities, research structures, enterprises, NGO's/civil society structures (end user role).

## What results does the Programme target for 2014-2020?

- 5 instruments available to foster the use of LC transport solutions, including multimodal ones
- 10 models to develop urban plans including low carbon transport and multimodal connections soft actions
- Population (300.000 inhabitants) involved in awareness raising activities
- 80 urban areas engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in developing urban plans/strategies including low carbon transport and multimodal connection soft actions



# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

## Enhancing a sustainable coastal and maritime tourism

In the Mediterranean, the tourism sector offers great opportunities for economic growth and employment. Exploiting this potential requires sustainable development strategies for the sector.

For this reason, projects under this thematic shall ensure that the impact of these activities on natural and cultural heritage are taken into account in the development of coastal and maritime tourism. In this context, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) and maritime spatial planning principles should be duly considered.

Projects should therefore bring answers to two questions:

- How to integrate tourism development into wider strategies?
- How to enhance sustainable and responsible tourism management?



SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM



## Types of actions:

Improvement and adaptation of cooperation strategies, public policies, economic activities and joint planning tools; coordinated actions between public authorities of different MED territories; action plans and transfer of practices.

## Key target groups:

Public authorities, but also associations and NGO's, research bodies, and to some extent enterprises.

## What results does the Programme target for 2014-2020?

- 17 instruments available to enhance the development of sustainable and responsible tourism
- 108 tourist destinations covered by a sustainable tourism evaluation tool
- 11 strategies applying sustainable tourism management criteria
- 144 regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing sustainable tourism plans



# BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

## Strengthening biodiversity and ecosystems

EU policies have reaffirmed the importance of protected areas for the conservation of biological diversity.

It is thus in this context that the «Biodiversity Protection» thematic aims at strengthening the management capacities and networking of protected areas to adapt and improve protection measures in order to preserve the biodiversity of protected natural coastal and marine ecosystems.

This thematic also seeks to reach a better integration of protected areas in regional development strategies (exchange of information, strategies, regulations, etc.).

Projects' objective should be, for example, to improve conservation status, water management, fight against invasive species and monitoring of fishing and tourism activities.



BIODIVERSITY  
PROTECTION





## Types of actions:

Analyses, studies, policy-planning and strategy development, but also transfer of practices and policy implementing measures.

## Key target groups:

Public authorities, protected area management bodies, fishermen, but also associations and NGO's, research bodies, and to some extent enterprises.

## What results does the Programme target for 2014-2020?

- 36 joint governance plans
- 1,25 M hectares of surface of habitats supported to improve their conservation status
- 50 protected areas engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing management strategies





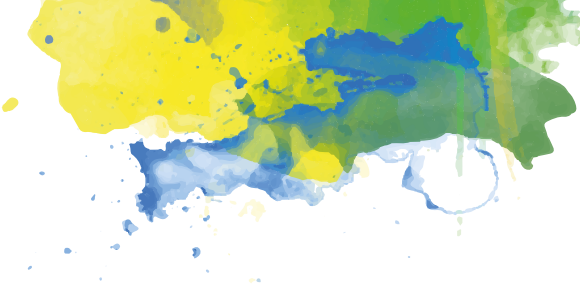
# Enhancing Mediterranean governance

**The Mediterranean region is one of the most heterogeneous cooperation areas in Europe. Geographical, socio-economic and political contexts can vary significantly from one region to another.**

The identification of shared policy approaches and strategic initiatives in key sectors is therefore challenging. The Axis 4 «Enhancing Mediterranean Governance» supports the relevant public authorities and stakeholders in defining a transnational governance joint framework and vision for the identification and implementation of shared approaches, policies and strategic projects on set themes.

For this purpose, the Axis 4 envisages the design and implementation of a multi-level permanent dialogue and decision making process – a “Platform” – of national and regional authorities, involving relevant stakeholders, programmes, organisations and networks acting in the Mediterranean. This innovative tool will allow the Programme to actively contribute to all pertinent initiatives tackling the challenging “governance exercise” in the Mediterranean.





The “Platform” will exploit the most relevant Interreg MED project results previously analysed and synthesized by the Programme’s thematic communities.

This evidence-based approach will thus enhance the thematic results produced by the projects at a transnational level and beyond the Interreg MED Programme area.

## **What results does the Programme target?**

- Reinforced transnational dialogue
- Sounder assessment of needs/gaps and potentialities of the Mediterranean
- Contribute to common strategic vision and consensus building
- Sustainable strategic initiatives
- Mainstreaming - increased impact of Interreg MED programme funds
- Potential reinforcement of the institutional capacity of public authorities to contribute to social emergencies affecting the area

# Where can you find information?

## Programme tools

You can find all technical information you need to develop your project idea or clarify any doubts (FAQ, Glossary, Programme Manual and a Guide on the application information system, the Synergie CTE Guide) on the Programme website.

## Contacts in your country

Should you require personal assistance, all Programme Member States have national offices that are available to answer your questions and doubts. You can find their contacts on the programme website.



## Joint Secretariat contact

You can also send your questions to the Joint Secretariat at the following e-mail address :

**info@interreg-med.eu**

**Transnational Cooperation Programme  
Interreg MEDiterranean 2014-2020**

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