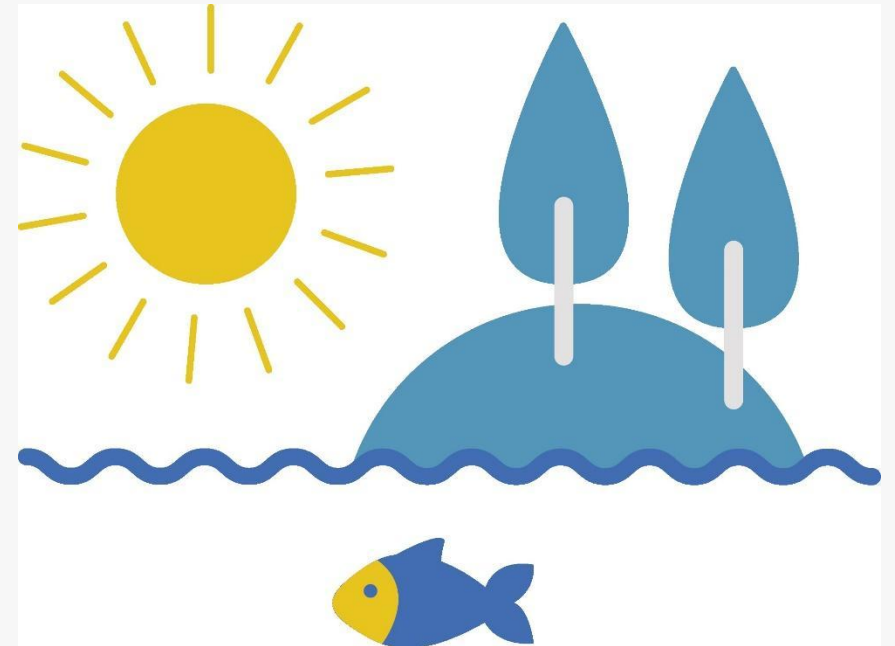


Annual MedLab meeting

Interreg implementation and role in the Mediterranean

29.10.2025



Interreg
TESIM NEXT



Funded by
the European Union

Interact



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg

Why are we here today?

- 
1. Learn about the **New Pact for the Mediterranean and the European Ocean Pact**.
What is for Interreg?
 2. Revise and consolidate Interact tools for capitalisation : **INDEX, KEEP.eu**
 3. Review **programmes implementation progress**
 4. Share updated developments from **Mediterranean initiatives** in synergies:
 - SYNERGIES (Italy)
 - Multiprogramme Mechanism (MMM)
 - MEDCOOPNET as pilot actions for coordination and synergies in the Mediterranean

Welcome

Jean Pierre Halkin

EU Commission



- Highlighted MedLab's origin (2019): to foster synergies between 17 Interreg programmes operating in the Mediterranean (€1.8 billion EU support, ERDF, IPA, NDICI).
- Emphasised the need to connect programmes with broader EU political frameworks and sea-basin initiatives (WestMed, UfM, DG MARE, DG MENA).
- Underlined that Interreg programmes are now well advanced in implementation while discussions on 2028-2034 are starting.
- Noted the Commission's proposal of €10 billion ERDF for future cooperation and the importance of coordination with external funds.
- Stressed the value of understanding how other EU instruments operate on the Mediterranean and identifying Interreg's comparative advantage.
- Mentioned the Mid-Term Review Regulation, inviting programmes to reflect on emerging priorities for the next period.
- Concluded with optimism for stronger synergies and mutual learning across programmes and funds.

Changing Mediterranean context

Mercedes Acitores. Interact

The New Pact for the Mediterranean

Beatrice Grifoni, DG MENA

Roger Albinyana, IEMED

European Ocean Pact

Iglika Yakova, DG MARE

THE PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

One Sea. One Pact. One Future



“The geopolitical importance of the Mediterranean cannot be overstated. [...] With the Pact for the Mediterranean we open a new chapter and a chance for more productive cooperation and lasting stability in the region.”

Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission

“The Pact is a clear testimony of a renewed focus and commitment of the EU to the Mediterranean region. [...] Close cooperation and co-ownership will make this a success story for our citizens on all shores of the Mare Nostrum.

Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner for the Mediterranean

A NOVEL APPROACH in the COMMON MEDITERRANEAN SPACE: CO-OWNED, PRACTICAL, FLEXIBLE

- An approach driven by **extensive and inclusive consultations**, involving:
 - EU Member States
 - Partner countries of the southern Mediterranean
 - Regional and international stakeholders (international organisations, civil society, academia, businesses)
- **17 Initiatives** with more than 100 **concrete actions**, delivering tangible results for peoples and societies, under **three interconnected thematic pillars**.
- A **flexible framework**, tailored to the needs and specificities of each partner.
- Triangular Cooperation

THE PACT IN THREE PILLARS

1. People: driving force for change, connections and innovation

Higher education, skills and vocational training, jobs, culture, tourism and sport, civil society, youth and local communities.

2. Stronger, more sustainable and integrated economies

Trade and investment, support to start-ups, renewable energy and clean technology, blue economy, digital connectivity and transports, statistics and knowledge sharing.

3. Security, preparedness and migration management

Security and peace, preparedness, migration management, justice and law enforcement cooperation.

THE WAY FORWARD - ADOPTION

- Adoption by the Commission on 16 October
- Discussion and endorsement of the Pact at the level of EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
- Welcoming of the Pact by EU Member States and Southern Mediterranean partners through a ministerial-level ceremonial event in late November 2025, marking the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration.

WAY FORWARD – IMPLEMENTATION and MONITORING

Monitoring

- **Two-layer structure**

 - EU level

 - Euro-Mediterranean level

- Key stakeholders

Implementation

Action Plan:

- Q1 2026
- Flexibility
- Variable geometry

THANK YOU



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Timeline



Phase 1: Reflection and consultations

March

April / May / June

2025



Region-wide consultation

Multistakeholders Survey



Connect and Kick-off

- Brussels

Consultation circles

- Rabat
- Cairo
- Brussels

Launch of the New Pact



October 2025



Phase 2: Dissemination and outreach

January

May

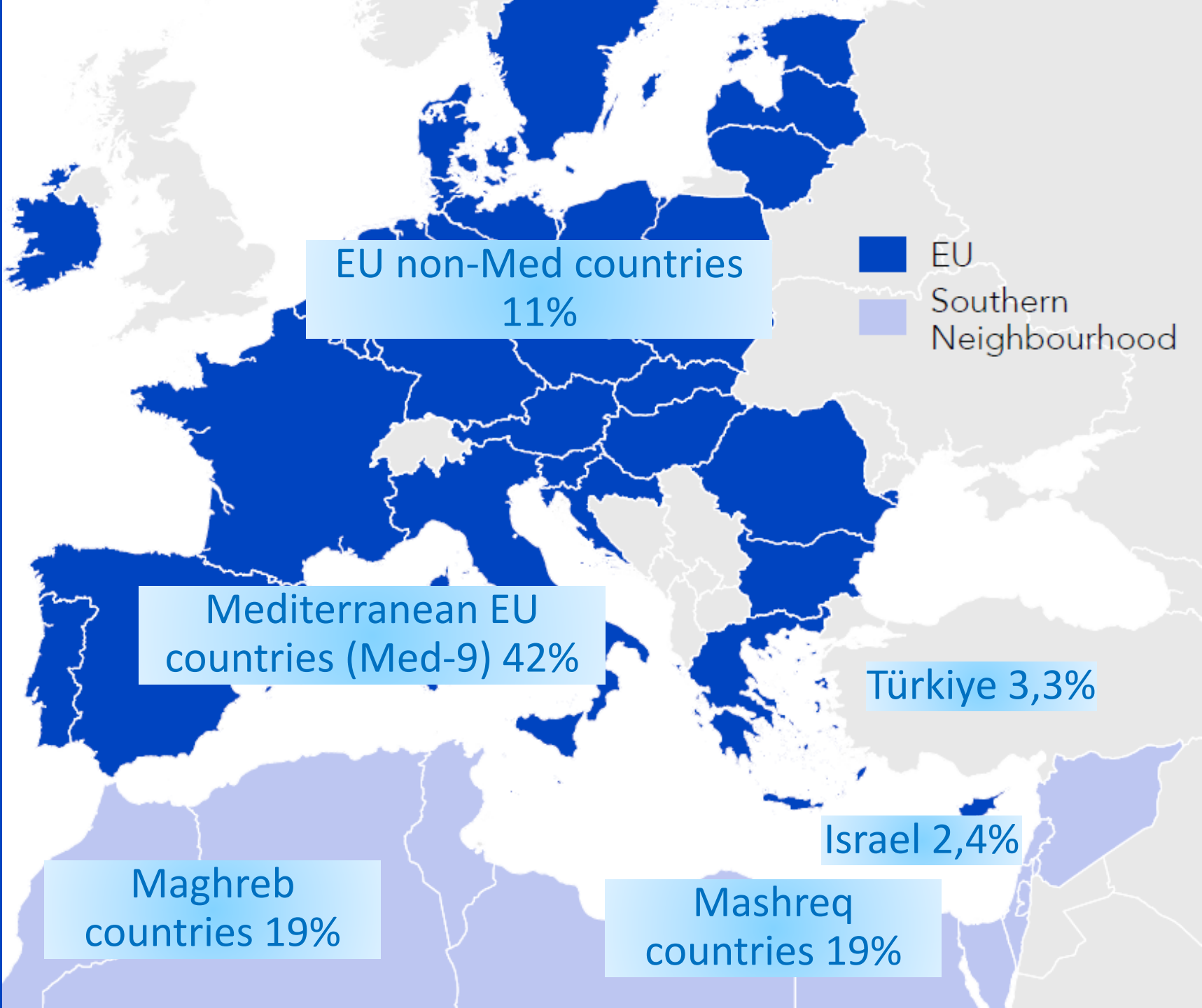
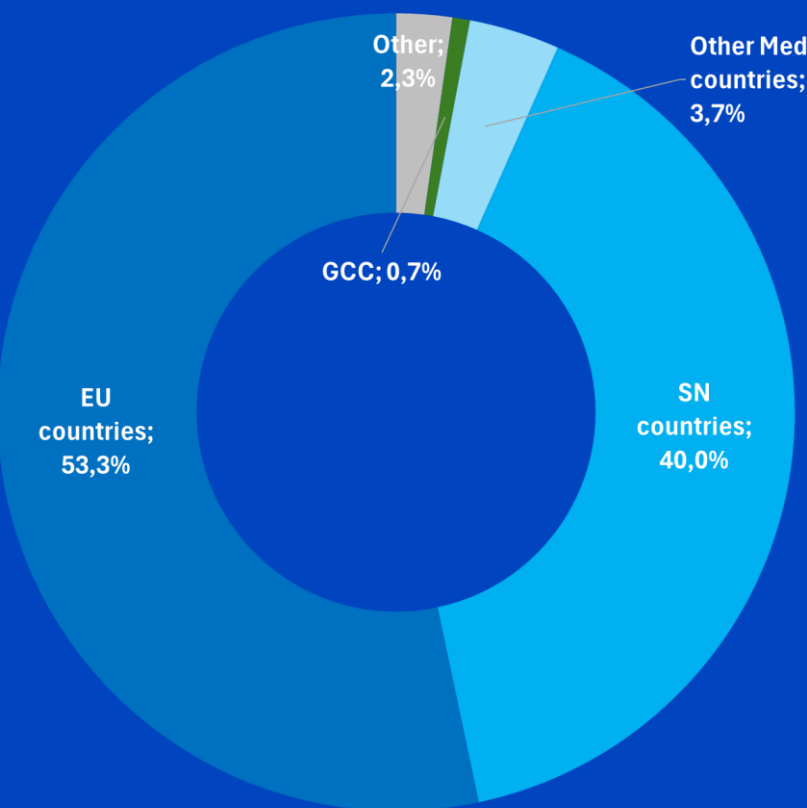
2026



Dissemination & engagement actions

- Country-specific events in Southern Mediterranean

Euromed Survey





When identifying which areas should be prioritised in the Pact’s partnerships, results showed a clear consensus around “**economic development, trade and investment**” as the main top priority followed by “environment and climate change adaptation”. “**Social, cultural and education cooperation**” was seen as the third priority area.

How to shape effective cooperation

Structuring of cooperation mechanisms

The EU's relations with Southern Neighbourhood partners should be based on a **more equal and balanced** footing, while also contributing to the **resolution of long-standing conflicts**.

To better engage with the Southern Neighbourhood, shaping a **stronger partnership model** should be the priority of the New Pact for the Mediterranean.

Within the **toolbox** of the New Pact, **investment instruments** are seen as a top priority, with a particular emphasis on **fostering talent and skills**, as well as intensifying cooperation on **climate adaptation**.

“The New Pact should aim at strengthening partner countries through promoting bottom-up approach where local authorities, communities and CSOs can share their local know-how and co-create mechanisms that will better withstand shocks, face adversity and allow for quicker recovery”

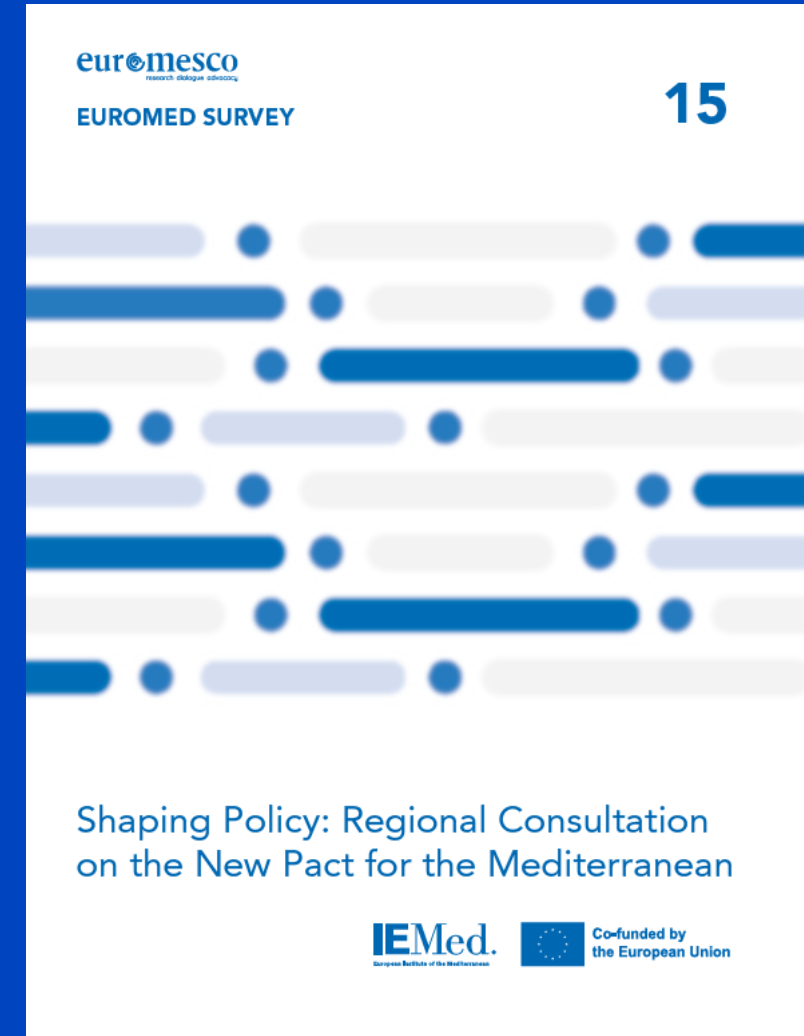
— Belgian respondent



Thank you for your attention



All results available www.euromesco.net





The European Ocean Pact

Sustaining the ocean that sustains us

Political impetus

Mission letter to
Commissioner Costas
Kadis: “***European Ocean
Pact, ensuring
coherence across all
policy areas linked to
the oceans.***”

”

The EU is an Ocean Union

EU: the world's largest collective maritime area



25 million km²
EEZs

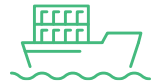


40% of EU
population living within
50 km of the sea

EU critical interests in maritime matters



70 000 km
coastline



Maritime routes
carry **74%** of the
EU's external trade



Undersea cables
for **99%** of inter-
continental internet
traffic

EU blue economy powerhouse



5 million jobs



€250 billion in
annual GVA



Traditional, new and
emerging sectors



Restorative and
regenerative practices

Triple planetary crisis impact on the ocean



Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) or white plague disease, Caribbean Sea

**Biodiversity
loss**



An Actively Calving Glacier in Gulf of Alaska

Climate change



Toxic plastic waste floating underwater in the ocean

Pollution

A strong governance framework is needed to align actions at Union, regional, national, and local levels through the various sea basins, involving both EU and non-EU countries.

”

Strengthened Governance Framework

- 1 Ocean Act:** by 2027 that will build on a revision of the MSP Directive
Ocean Board: stakeholders supporting the Commission in implementation
Ocean Pact dashboard: to monitor and report progress
- 2** Working together at regional level: **sea basin approach/** Black Sea, Baltic, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Arctic
- 3 Financial** support – integrated approach to funding from private and public sources, incl. to enhance coastal communities' resilience through EU financing and EIB loans.

6 PRIORITIES

Protecting and restoring **ocean health**



Boosting **competitiveness** of the sustainable blue economy



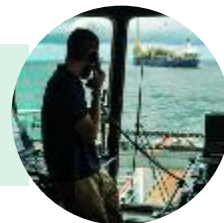
Supporting **coastal, island and outermost regions**



Advancing **ocean research**, knowledge, skills and innovation



Enhancing **maritime security** and **defence**



Strengthening **EU ocean diplomacy** and **international governance**.



Guiding principles for implementation

**Source-to-sea
approach**

**Precautionary
principle**

**Ecosystem
based
approach**

**Best available
scientific
advice**

The Pact aims at a holistic approach and collaboration across Member States, regions, and with stakeholders: fishers, blue economy professionals, innovators, investors, scientists, and civil society.

”

Reception

Η ΕΕ εγκρίνει Σύμφωνο για τους Ωκεανούς με στρατηγική για βιώσιμη θάλασσα

Visits: 2149045

EU-Ozeanpakt: theoretisch gut, praktisch noch unverbindlich

Bruselas adopta el Pacto de los Océanos, con el que animará a Estados miembros a establecer áreas marinas protegidas

"L'Union européenne doit devenir l'Union des océans"

Europeche hails new EU framework as safeguard for fishing grounds access

Comissão Europeia lança plano para o oceano e financiamento de mil milhões

miljöpartiet de gröna
EU-PARLAMENTET

Isabella Lövin (MP) om EU-kommissionens havspakt: "Glädjande steg mot en havslag på EU-nivå - något Miljöpartiet slagits för"



Le Pacte européen pour l'océan présenté à Nice
Conférence des Nations unies à Nice

BIODIVERSITÀ
L'Ue lancia il "patto per gli Oceani"

di Redazione 6 giugno 2025

Le Pacte européen pour l'océan peut-il placer les citoyens au cœur de la politique bleue ?

GREENWIRE

EU conjures surprise law to govern ocean resources

By Leonie Cater | 06/06/2025 01:19 PM EDT

The unexpected "Ocean Act" will cover everything from fishing to tourism to defense — but details are scant.



Presentation at UNOC 3 in Nice

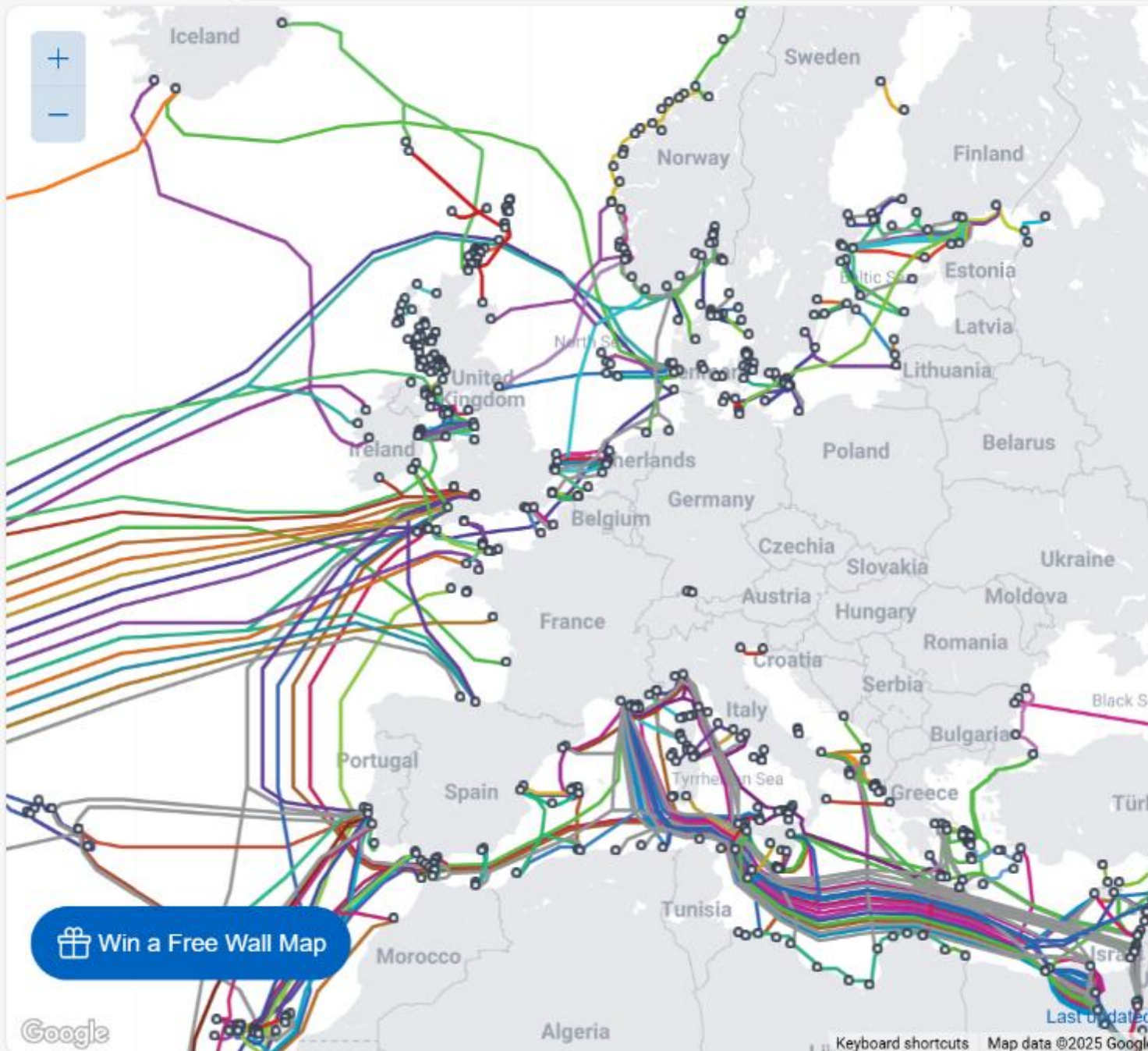


Thank you

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Source: Adobe.stock.com



Baltic Sea Cable Incidents Pile Up

Incidents of damage to underwater cables and pipelines in the Baltic Sea (2022-2025)

- Telecommunications — Electricity — Gas
- ✖ Jan. 26, 2025 (Sweden-Latvia cable)
- ✖ Dec. 25, 2024 (Finland-Estonia cables)
- ✖ Nov. 17-18, 2024 (mid-Baltic incidents)
- ✖ Oct. 7-8, 2023 (Baltconnector pipeline & cables)
- ✖ Sep. 26, 2022 (Nord Stream 1&2 pipelines)



Source: Media reports



Floor is open for discussion

- Interreg's added value for the New Mediterranean Pact and for the EU Ocean Pact
- Future of synergies in the region



Effective use of data for capitalisation and synergies.



Keep.eu

Rafael Agostinho, Interact
Index

Janne Kiilunen, Interact

Current programme implementation state of play



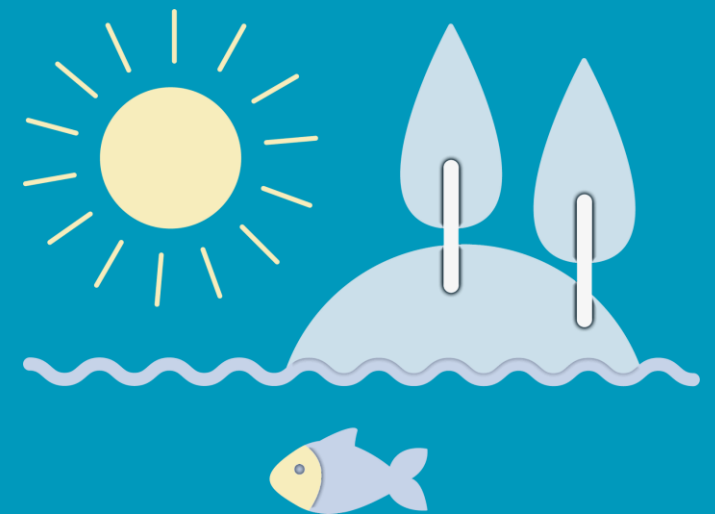
Rosario Sapienza. TESIM

MedLab Group - Interact and TESIM

MedLab Annual Meeting

Current programmes' implementation state of play

Online, 29 October 2025

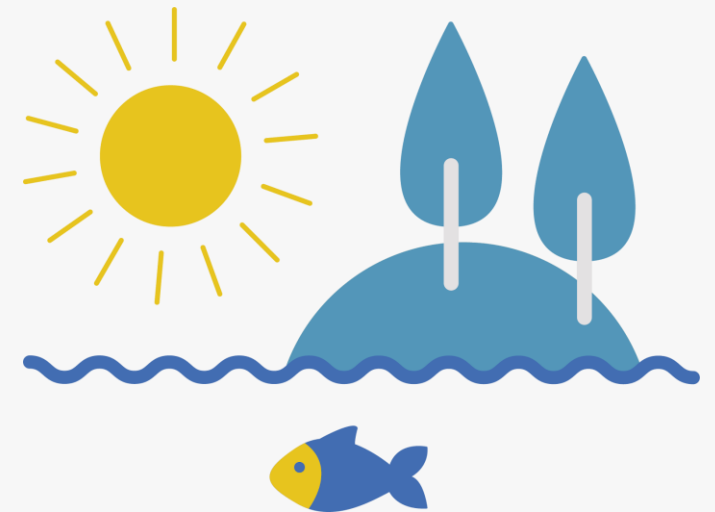


How to freeze a moving image: The Interreg Programmes in the Mediterranean

As of September 2025, over **40 calls** for project proposals have been launched under the 2021–2027 edition of the 17 Interreg programmes in the Mediterranean.

At least **six additional calls** have been pre-announced, scheduled to open during the first semester of 2026.

Currently, at least **two calls** are open.



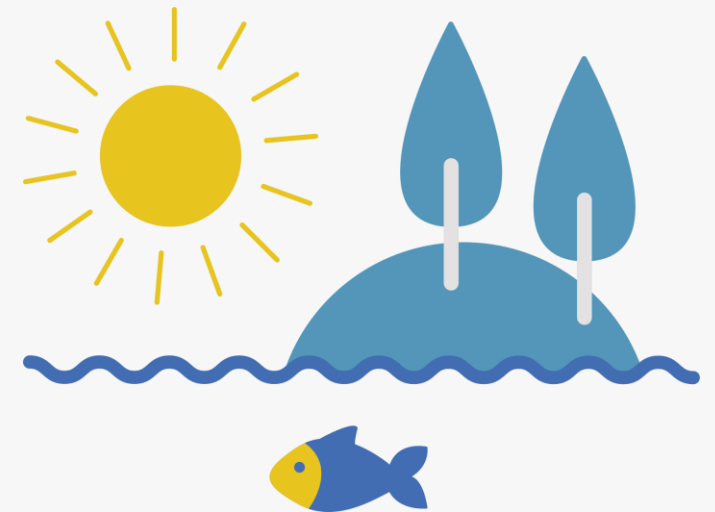
The knowledge management challenge:

Cross-checking sources

The state of play is photographed as of **September 2025**, although today (late October 2025) the picture has already changed for some programmes.

The data were collected using **multiple sources**: keep, interreg.eu, index, official websites of the programmes, direct information from the MAs and JS.

To ensure easy data retrieval, it is important to transmit and update the data to the **keep.eu** platform regularly.



808 contracted projects

IPA Italy Albania
Montenegro (South
Adriatic)

Italy Slovenia

Spain France Andorra (POCTEFA)

Italy France maritime

Sudoe

IPA Croatia
Bosnia
Montenegro

NEXT Italy
Tunisia

Greece Italy

5,528 partners

Italy Malta

IPA
Greece
North
Maced...

IPA Greece Albania

Greece
Bulga...

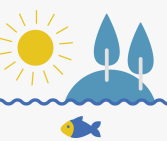
Greece
Cyprus

NEXT MED

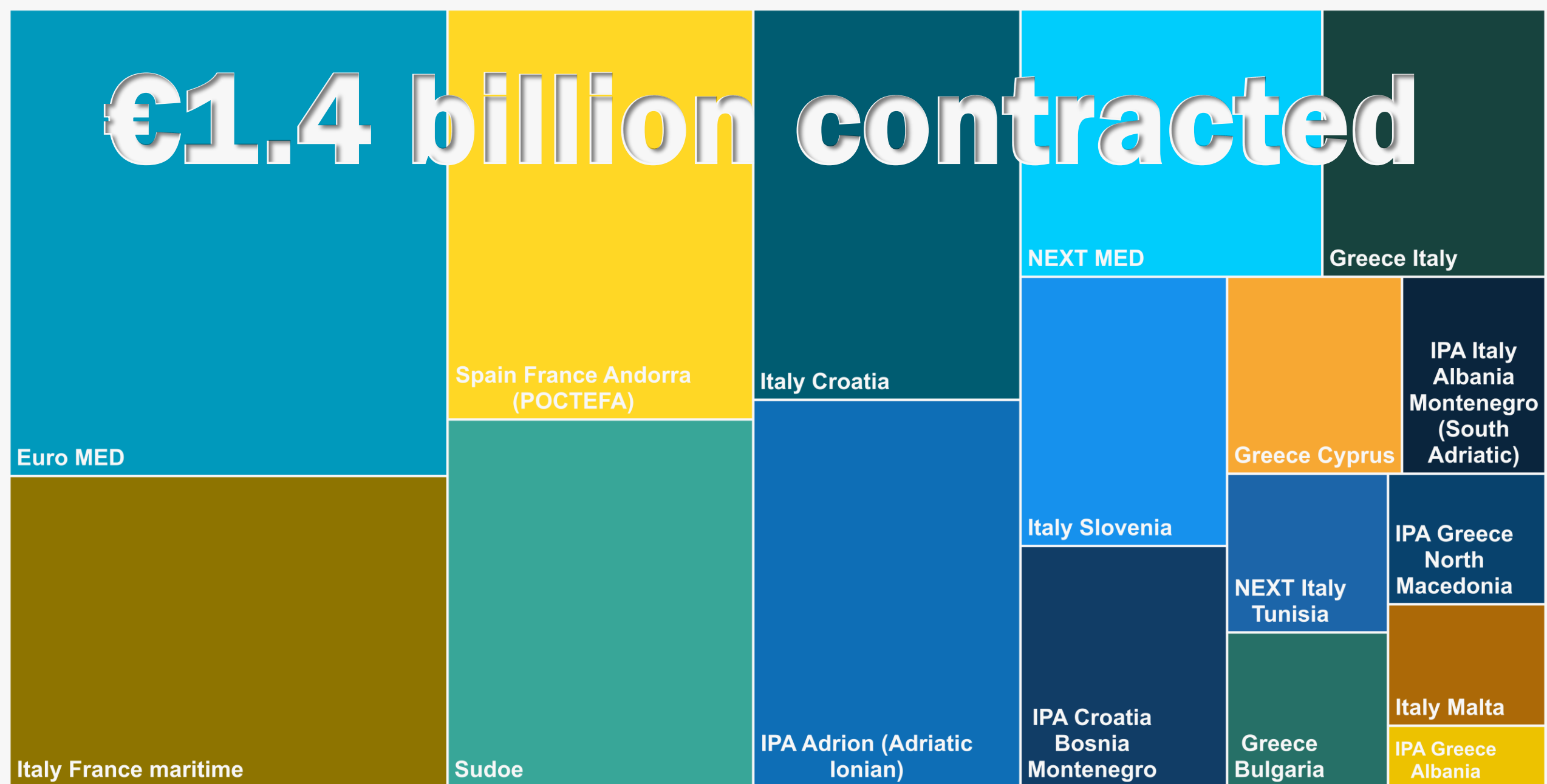
IPA Adrion (Adriatic
Ionian)

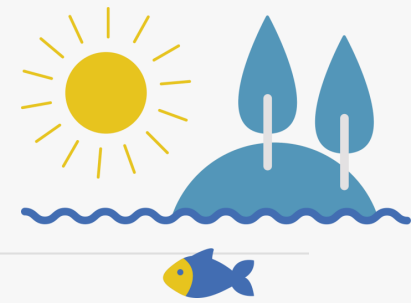
Italy Croatia

Euro MED

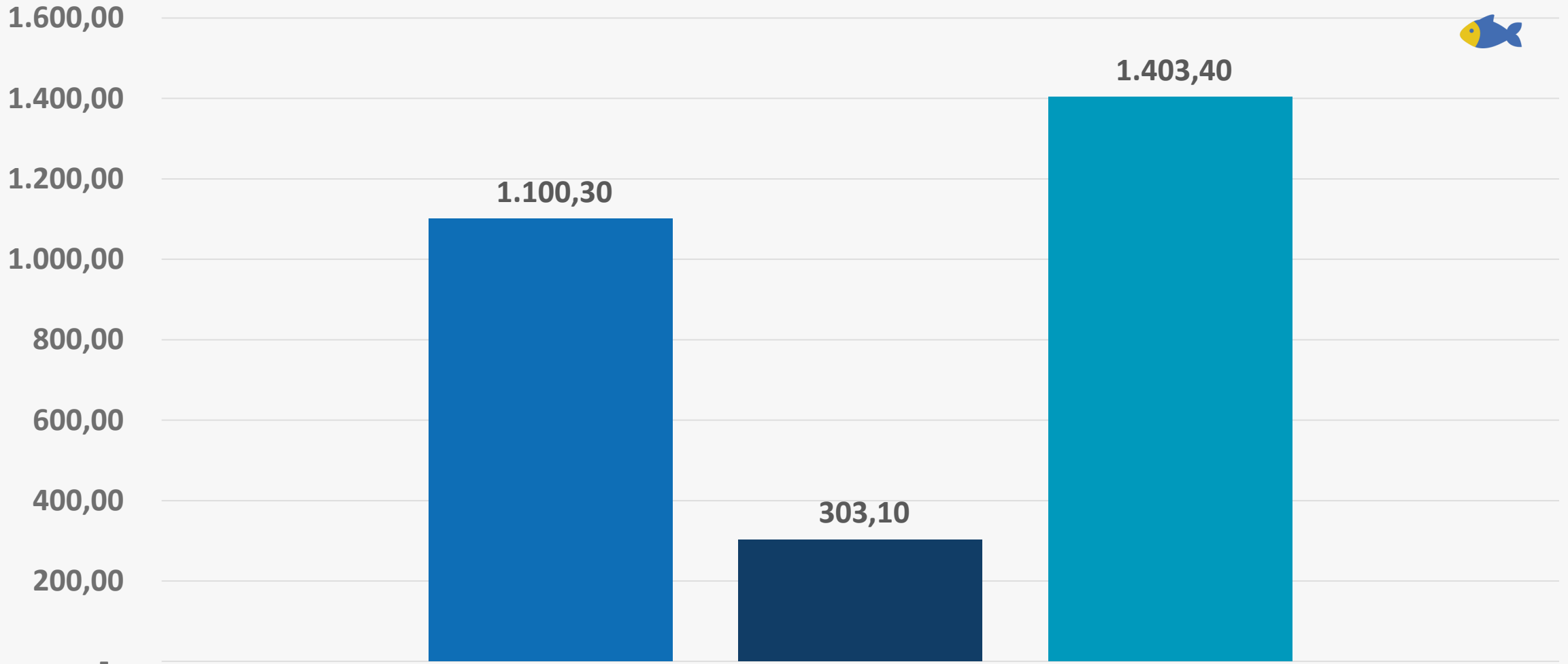


€1.4 billion contracted





Contracted budget

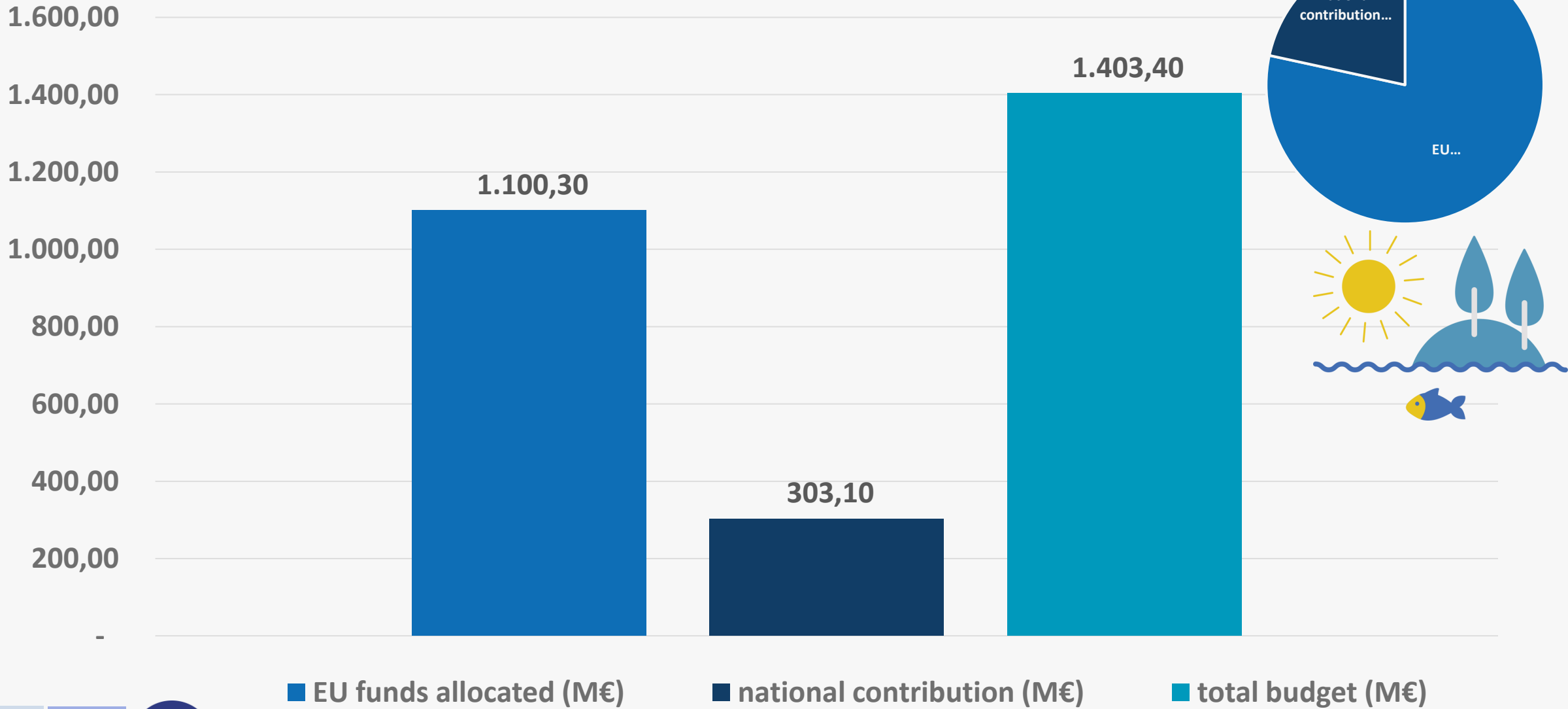


■ EU funds allocated (M€)

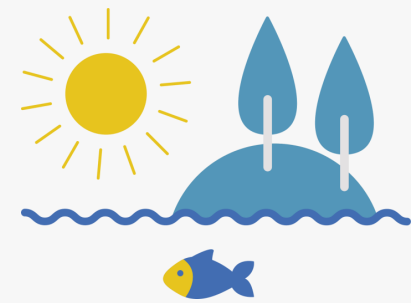
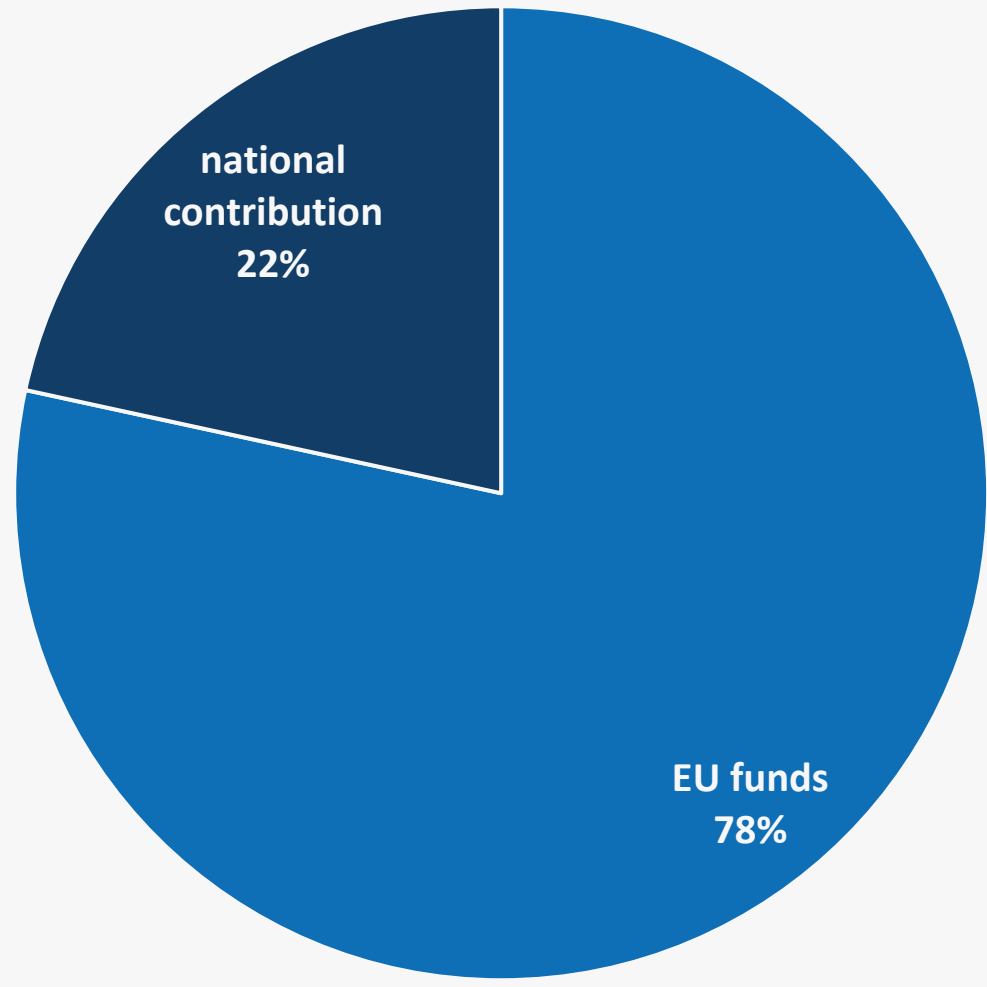
■ national contribution (M€)

■ total budget (M€)

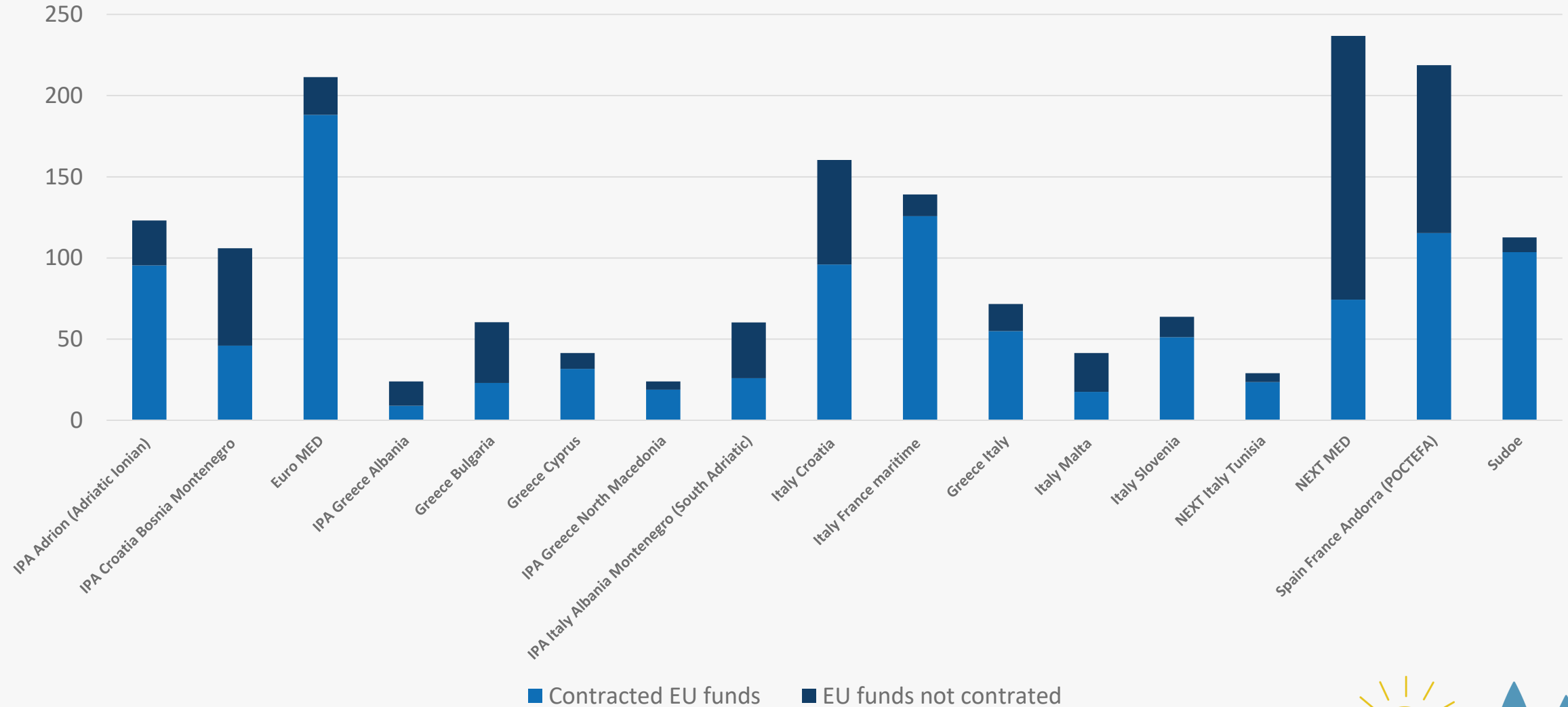
Contracted budget



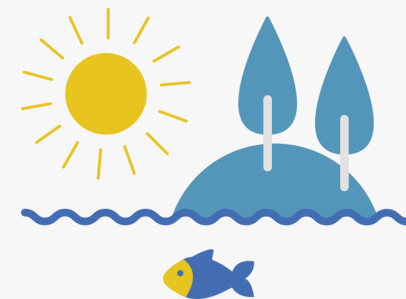
Contracted budget



Contracted EU funds (M€)



64% of EU funds contracted



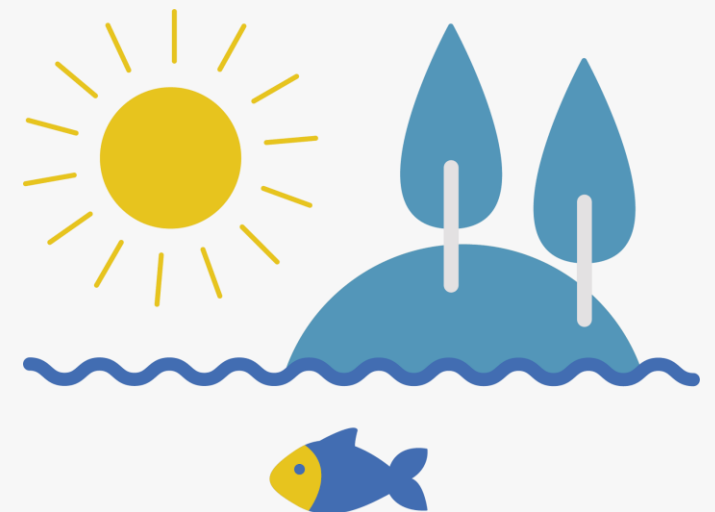
How are projects distributed across priorities?

Strong topics vs weak topics

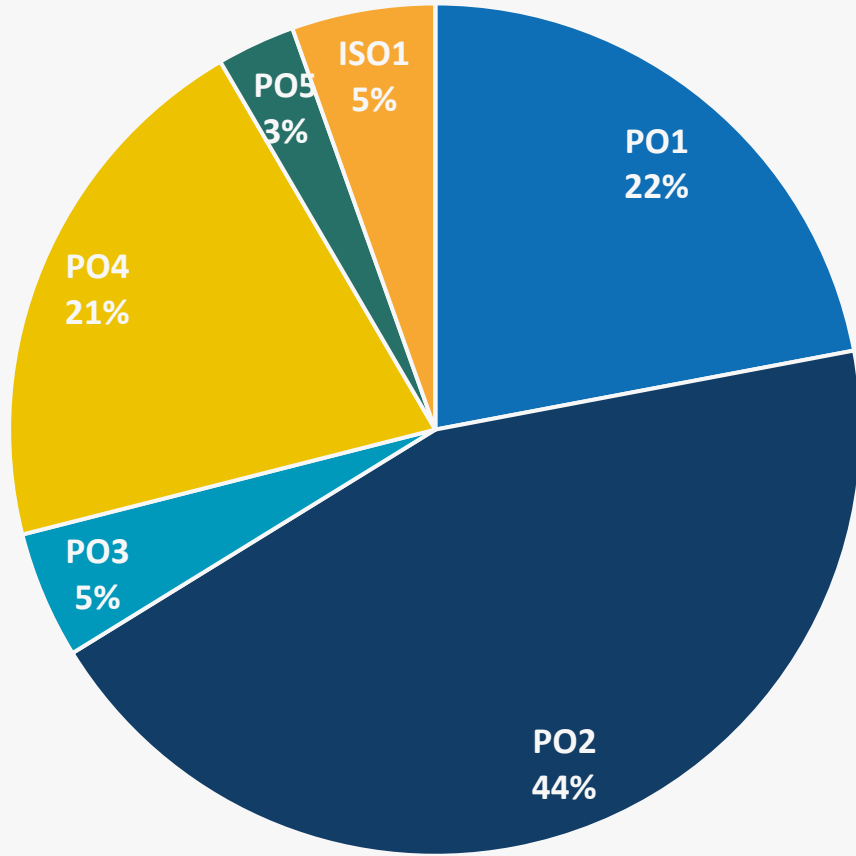
There are priorities and policy objectives which have been **less addressed**, such as **P05** (citizens) and especially **IS02** (safer and more secure territories).

P03 (connectivity) and **IS01** (governance in cooperation) are addressed by **eight programmes** each.

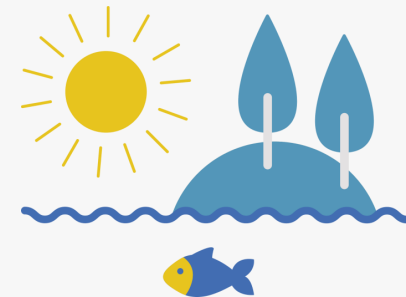
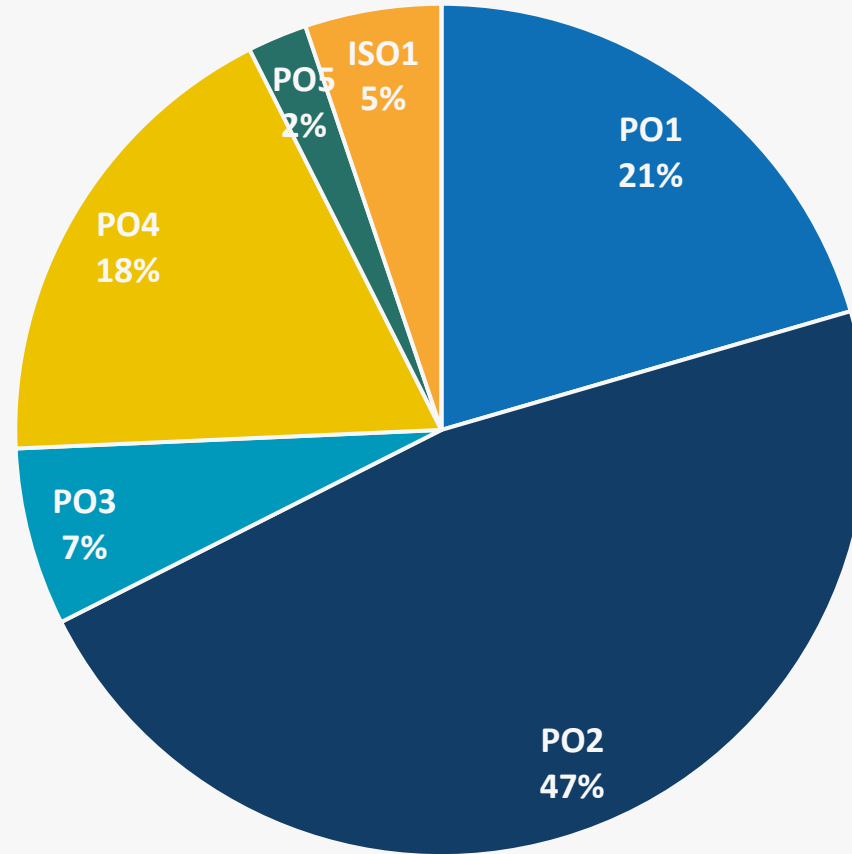
The **most addressed** priorities have been the one related to re **P01** (smarter..), **P04** (more inclusive) and, of course, **P02** (greener territories).



Projects across priorities



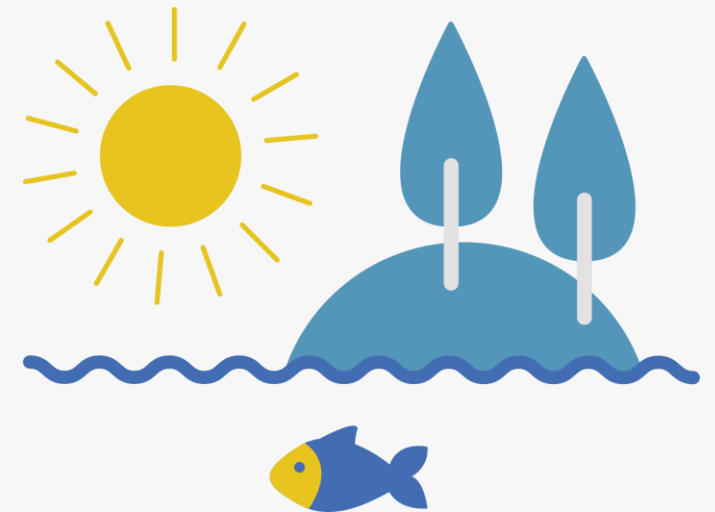
EU funds across priorities



The space for synergies

The most frequently experienced themes

Beyond priorities, projects are demonstrating to focus on certain themes that could be the subject of specific synergies between programmes, region and projects, especially in making territories **smarter**, **greener** and **more inclusive**





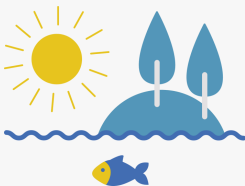
P01: for smarter territories

Main topics

Research and innovation (SO1.1), from ICT and digital society to knowledge and technology transfer to innovation capacity and awareness-raising, in the economic cooperation, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry.

Enhancing competitiveness of SMEs (1.3), SME competitiveness & entrepreneurship, innovation, R&D & technology transfer, green & circular economy, including job creation.

Skills, (1.4) with a focus on blue economy, agriculture & agri-food systems, rural development & bioeconomy, circularity & sustainability, green and digital transition.





P02: for greener territories

Main topics

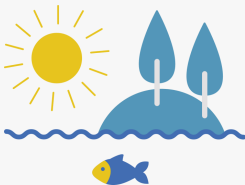
Climate change (S02.4), natural and man-made threats, risk management, knowledge and technology transfer, practicing experiments on governance and partnership.

Biodiversity (2.7), waste and pollution, sustainable management of natural resources, agriculture and fisheries and forestry, coastal management and maritime issues, rural and peripheral development, soil and air quality.

Energy efficiency (2.1) public & private, buildings & transport sectors, urban & community-level, behavioral and social, governance & policy.

Water (2.5), quality & pollution, scarcity & efficiency, rural & urban management, nature-based solutions (NBS) & green technologies, renewable & thermal energy.

Circular economy (2.6) on waste & pollution, agriculture, fisheries & forestry, green technologies, knowledge & technology transfer, governance & institutional cooperation, tourism & cultural heritage.





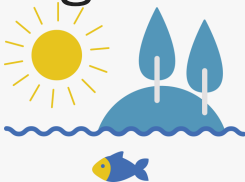
P04: for more inclusive territories

Main topics

Labor market (S04.1) is addressed considering topics as social inclusion, youth empowerment, gender and equal opportunities, rural development, social economy, green entrepreneurship, employment & inclusion for migrants and people with disabilities.

Education and training (4.2) is addressed by projects with a preference to the domains of cultural heritage, creative industries & ICT and digital skills, innovation & entrepreneurship, including social inclusion, disability & accessible opportunities.

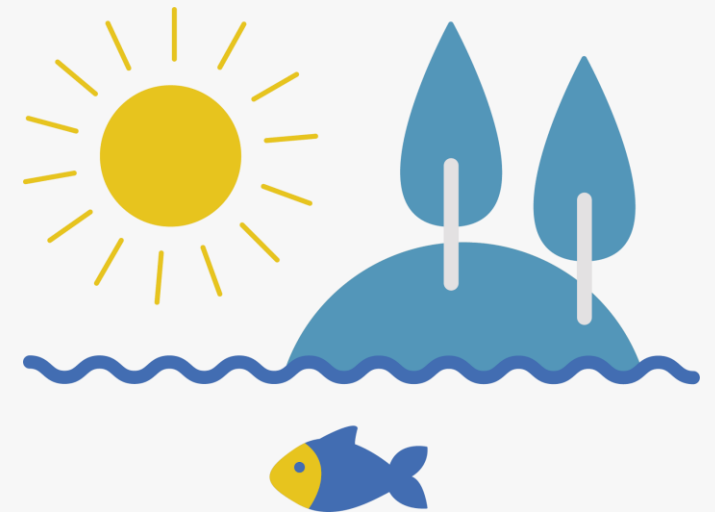
Health (4.5) is addressed by several projects exploring health and social services, social inclusion, community integration, rural/peripheral development, demographic change including the domains of domains of ICT, digital society & knowledge sharing, institutional cooperation & governance.



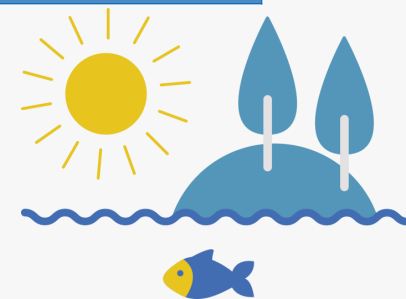
Geographical differences across Mediterranean between differences and similarities

Let's analyse the data from a geographical perspective, dividing the cooperation areas into four broad dimensions:

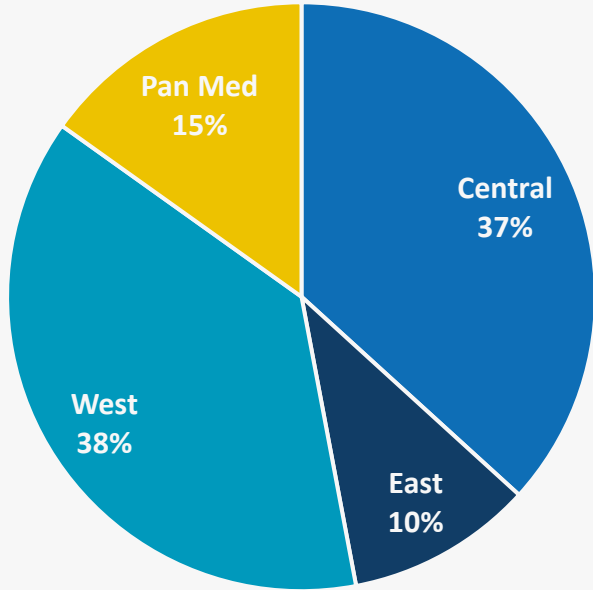
- West
- Central
- East
- Pan-Mediterranean



West	Central	East	Pan-Mediterranean
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy France maritime • Spain France Andorra (POCTEFA) • Sudoe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPA Adrion • IPA Croatia Bosnia Montenegro • IPA Italy Albania Montenegro (South Adriatic) • Italy Slovenia • Italy Croatia • NEXT Italy Tunisia • Italy Malta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPA Greece Albania • Greece Bulgaria • Greece Cyprus • IPA Greece North Macedonia • Greece Italy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euro MED • NEXT MED

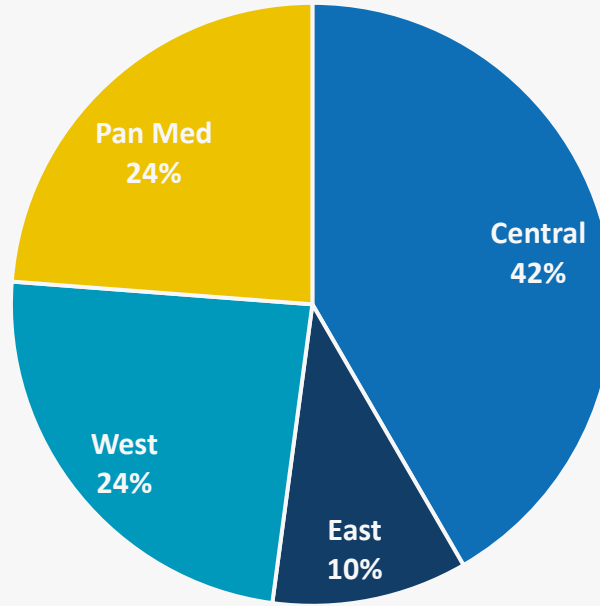


PO1



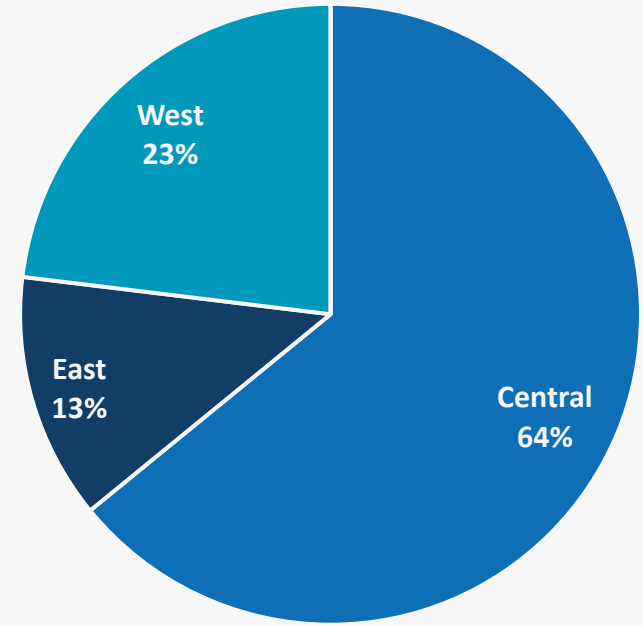
Smarter...

PO2

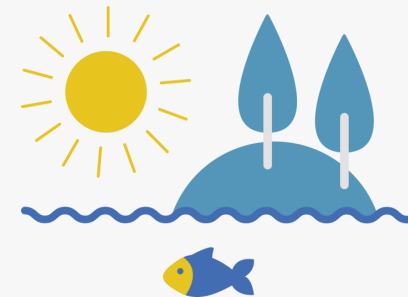


Greener...

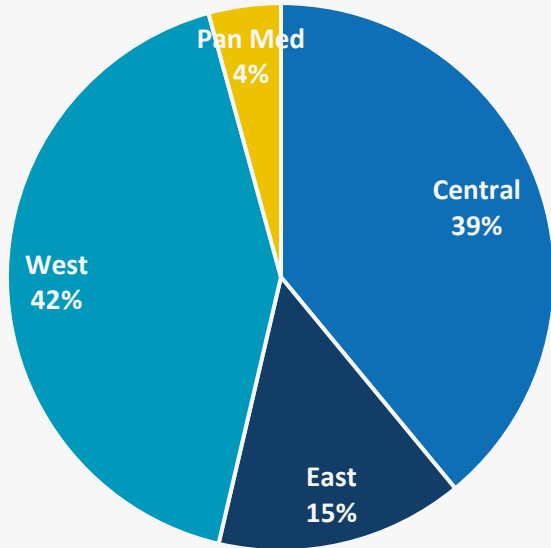
PO3



more Connected...

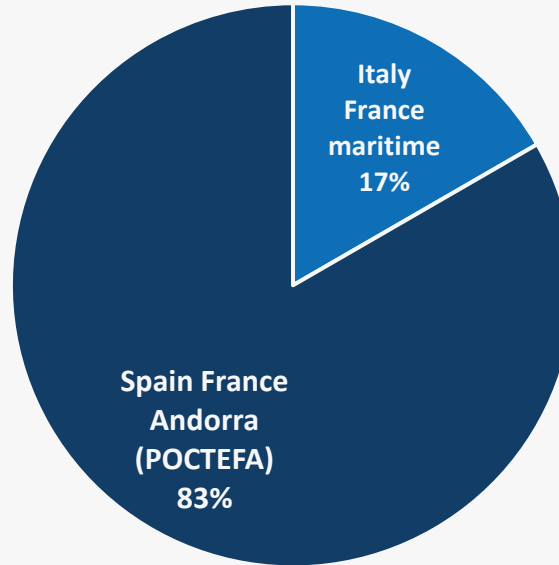


PO4



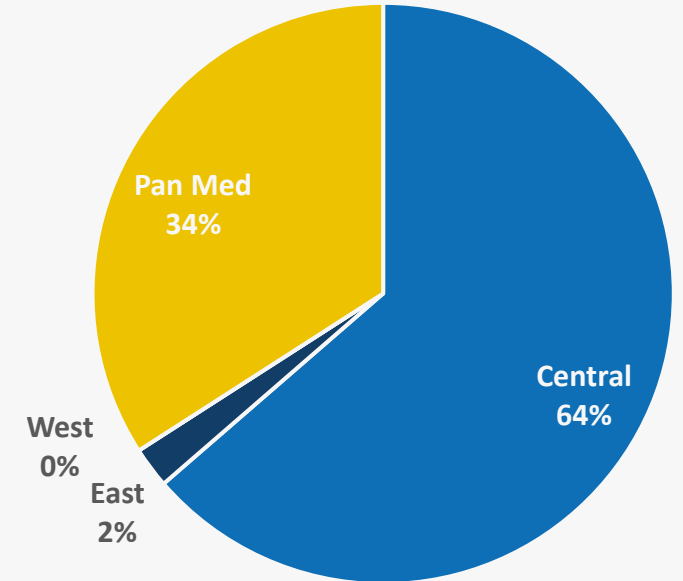
more Inclusive...

PO5, in West Mediterranean

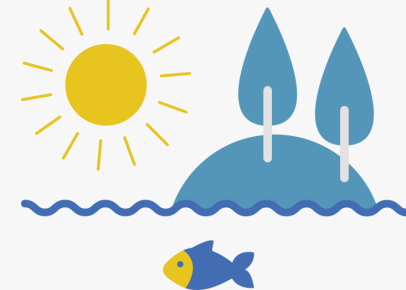


closer to Citizens...

ISO1



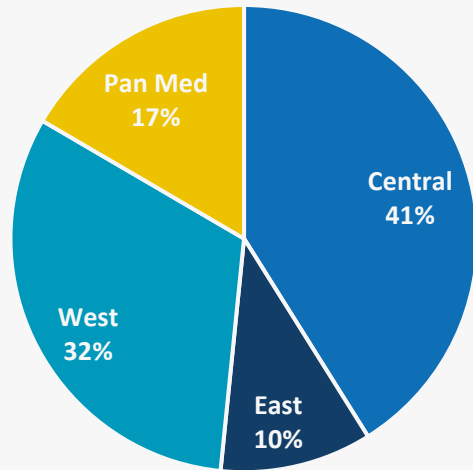
*better cooperation
Governance...*



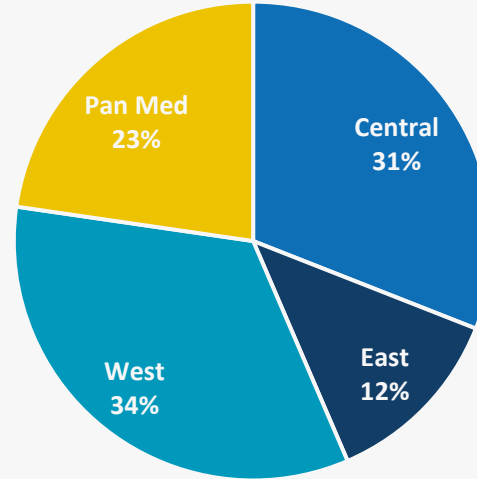
Geographical differences

Projects, funds and partners

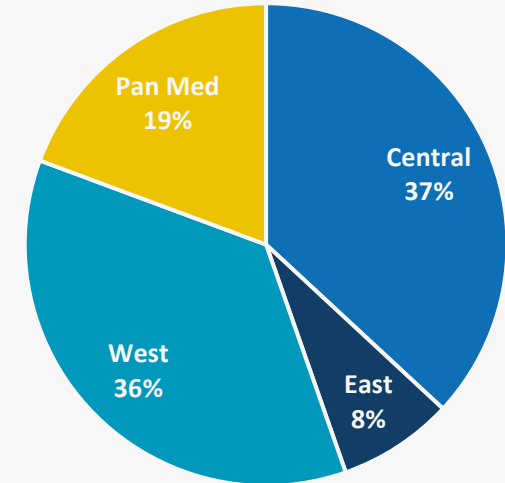
Projects



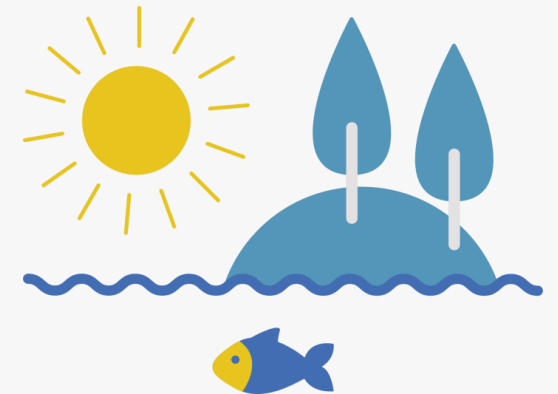
All funds



Partners



More **projects** and less budget in **Central Mediterranean**;
 Higher **budget** to **pan-Mediterranean** and **Eastern** programmes;
 Wider range of **partners** in **West Mediterranean**



In conclusion

People-centered action for a sustainable growth

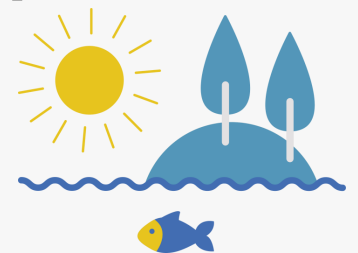
Much is already happening on the ground — **2026 will be a crucial year** for implementation and for building synergies.

Synergies are not only opportunities but **also a necessity**, both at programme and project level.

Interreg in practice continues to prove itself as one of the most coherent and effective instruments of cohesion policy.

Projects — even more than programmes — remain the **true engines of synergy**, which can only succeed when driven by a shared goal and a common space.

Looking ahead to the thematic perspective: **MedLab Thematic Week, 2-4 December 2025.**



Cooperation **works**

More information about the MedLab [here](#)

Initiatives for Synergies in the Mediterranean. Updates

Diana Kobayter. TESIM

- ***Sinergie* Italian strategic project for synergies.**
Luca Palazzo. Italian Presidency of Council of Ministers
- **Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism (MMM)**
Filippo Giabbani. Interreg Italy France Maritime. Managing Authority
- ***MedCoopNet* Project.** Alessandro Daraio. Emilia Romagna Region



MedLab Annual Meeting, 29 October 2025:
Interreg implementation and role in the Mediterranean
Updates of Initiatives for Synergies in the Mediterranean
The Italian pilot project: Experiences and guidelines for the next future

Monica Bellisario, Luca Palazzo

*Department for cohesion policies and Southern Italy, DG V, INTERREG Unit,
Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Italy*



Why SYNERGIES?

- Cooperation is a powerful tool, core of the EU project and essential for EU future.
- Interreg generates high-value knowledge and outputs, often underutilised in mainstream programmes.
- Enhanced synergies and integrated approach among EU funds, programmes, projects and stakeholders are key for boosting public policy impact.

SYNERGIES is a replicable approach, combining:

- **Strategic Alignment:** Linking Interreg/Horizon outputs with SDGs, S3/S4 priorities, and macro-regional/sea-basin strategies.
- **Evidence-Based Analysis:** Leveraging datasets (e.g. ISTAT – National Statistics Institute, ASVIS - Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development) and recent constitutional reforms that reinforce environmental, health, and biodiversity priorities.
- **Pilot Experimentation:** Focusing on five regional 21-27 ERDF programs, 14-20 INTERREG flagships' outputs, and Horizon programmes to validate synergy mechanisms.
- **Participatory Process:** Engaging regional managing authorities (MAs) in co-design and mapping exercises.

Towards Post-2027 Cohesion Policy:

- **Scale-Up:** Extend the SYNERGIES model to additional Italian Regions and align it with upcoming ERDF/ESF+ cohesion programming periods.
- **Capacity Building:** Implement training programmes for regional and managing authority representatives on integrated planning and capitalisation techniques.
- **Sustainability:** Establish a national platform for continuous reuse of Interreg outputs and strategic monitoring of synergies.
- **Pilot Projects:** Launch transnational and cross-border pilots to further test and refine cooperation actions, starting from the post-27 CPR and funds regulations, linking Interreg, mainstream funds, Horizon Europe and additional EU-directly managed programs.

Can we still count on existing frameworks / tools for synergies in the post 27?



Strategic regulatory framework

Livello di integrazione	Contenuti	Caratteristiche principali	Impatto di INTERREG
Base	1. Condivisione occasionale di contenuti e informazioni	Scambi informali e non strutturati tra attori regionali. Eventuale partecipazione a eventi comuni o consultazioni generiche.	Bassa incidenza delle progettualità INTERREG. Possibili sinergie limitate a iniziative sporadiche e senza pianificazione condivisa.
Intermedio	2. Coordinamento tematico e allineamento strategico	Esistono tavoli di confronto periodico, documenti programmatici definiti tra AQG e referenti regionali con riferimenti a più fondi e all'utilizzo di strumenti condivisi per il monitoraggio.	Favorisce la coerenza programmatica di INTERREG e può attivare progetti congiunti e integrati su sfide comuni ai territori con autonomia progettuale della Regione e dei territori.
Avanzato	3. Definizione congiunta di priorità e azioni	Governance strutturata (accordi, protocolli, task force). Co-pianificazione di interventi e definizione condivisa di bandi, criteri di selezione delle progettualità e piani di valutazione congiunti.	Alta potenzialità per generare progetti INTERREG strategici, multibacini e coerenti con le strategie macroregionali e di bacino, in sinergia con altri fondi.

Monitoring governance



Operational tools and practices

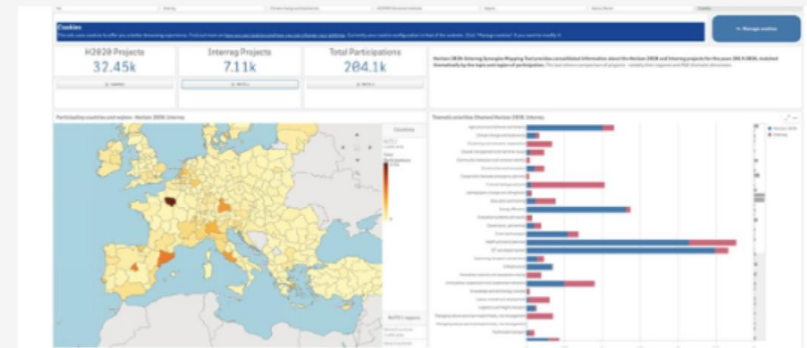


Figura 9: Panoramic dei progetti HORIZON (blu) e INTERREG (rosso) finanziati

Projects support and analysis



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

SYNERGIES PILOT PROJECT

WHO'S WHO at the Department for Cohesion Policies and Southern Italy - DG

V – INTERREG UNIT - for additional info, please contact: interreg@governo.it

Paolo Galletta - Head of Interreg Unit - Responsible of the project

Monica Bellisario - Senior officer at Interreg Unit - Project and Guidelines Coordinator

Thematic Experts:

Battistina Cugusi – EUSAIR, embedding, “flagship” project analysis, Balkans area programs

Luca Palazzo – Proposal and preliminary development of SYNERGIES methodology and guidelines; WestMED, SDGs analysis, S3/S4, “flagship” projects analysis, Horizon, Mediterranean area programs

Eleonora Recalcati – EUSALP, “flagship” project analysis, Alpine area programs

Agostina Rocca – Preliminary data analysis and intermediate report infographics

Viviana Russo – Contribution to questionnaire development

Giovanni Sammarco – Online questionnaire data processing and data analysis

Sergio De Luca – Graphic design

MMM

Who we are

MMM:

a unique initiative gathering

9 Interreg Programmes operating in the **Mediterranean**

22 countries (EU, NEXT and IPA)

Over €1.160 Budget

7 Cross-borders

Interreg



Cofinanziato dall'Unione europea
Cofinancé par l'Union européenne

Marittimo-IT FR-Maritime

Interreg



Co-funded by the European Union

Italy - Croatia

Interreg



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΕΝΩΣΗΣ

Ελλάδα - Κύπρος

Interreg



Cofinancé par l'Union Européenne

NEXT Italie - Tunisie

Interreg



Cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Co-funded by the European Union

Italia - Malta

Interreg
Italia-Slovenija



Cofinanziato dall'Unione europea
Sofinancira Evropska unija

Interreg



Co-funded by the European Union

IPA South Adriatic

2 Transnational

Interreg
Euro-MED



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Interreg



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NEXT MED

Interregional

[support]

Interact



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Interreg

Interreg
TESIM NEXT



Funded by the European Union

MISSION

Strengthen cooperation among Mediterranean Programmes to enhance joint action, increase visibility, and ensure the long-term sustainability of regional investments.

Key words:

Synergies & Cooperation

Foster collaboration among programmes and initiatives.

Policy Support

Develop shared and reinforced policy recommendations.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Promote joint assessment based on tested good practices.

Innovation & Sustainability

Transfer innovative solutions to increase territorial impact.

Sustainable tourism



Mediterranean
Multi-Programme
Mechanism

Interreg implementation and role in the Mediterranean

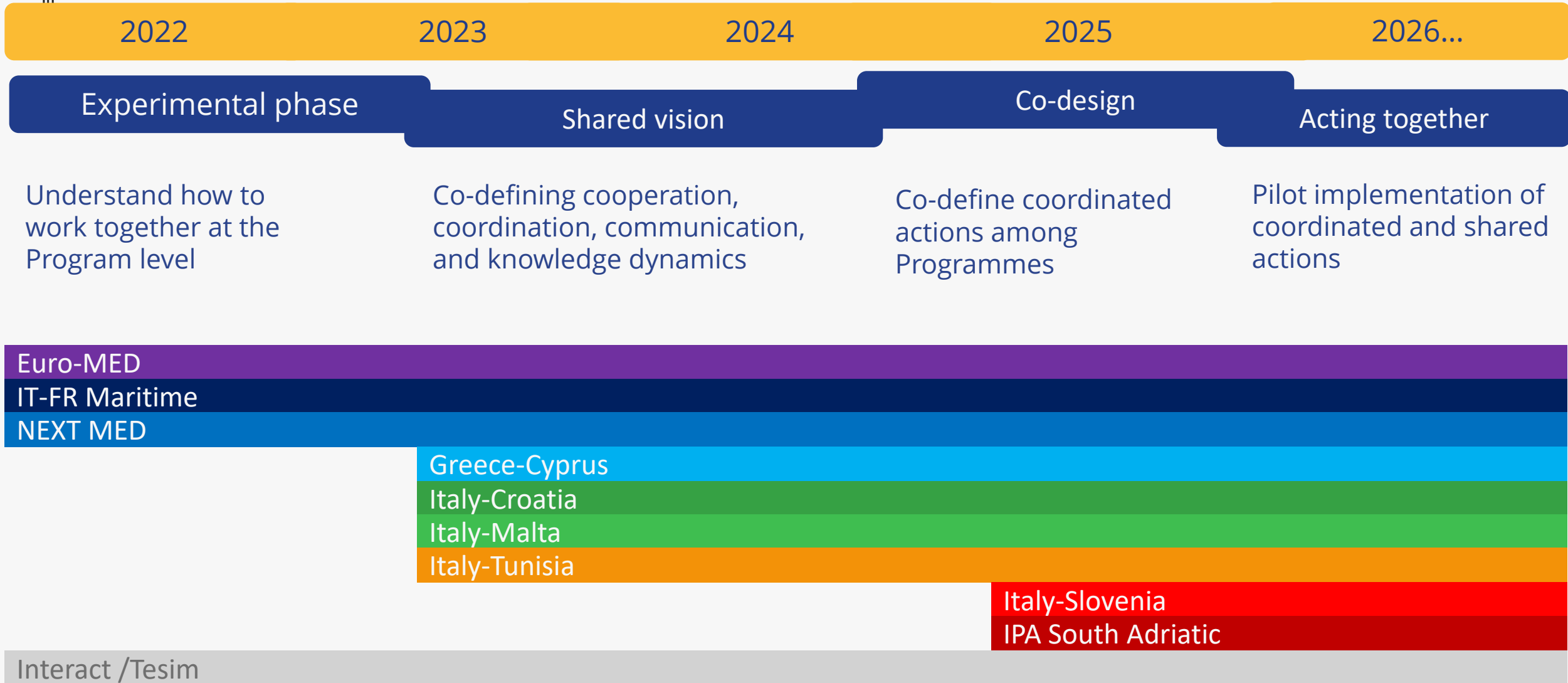
MedLab Annual Meeting
29 October 2025 (online)

Filippo Giabbani (IT-FR Maritime Programme) -
on behalf of the MMM

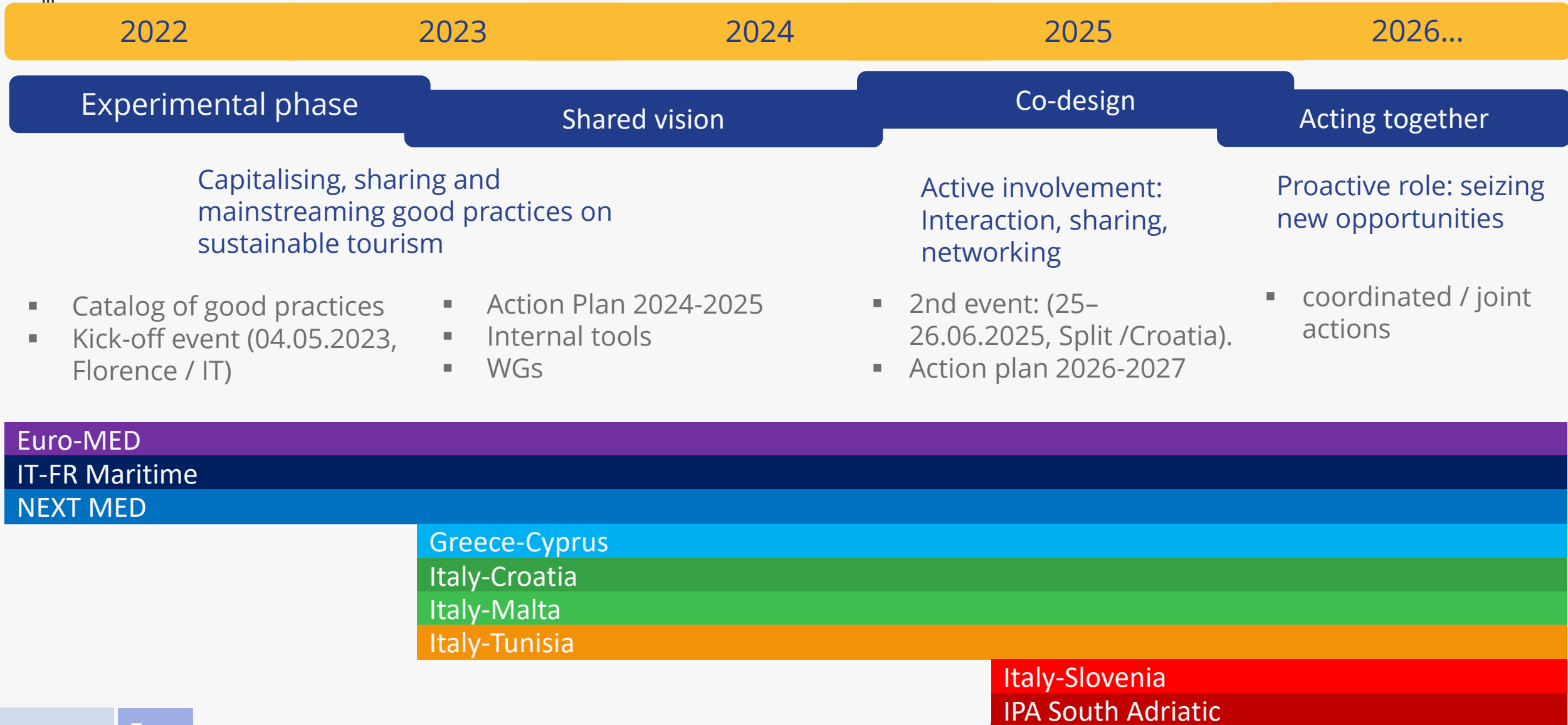
MMM

Exploring, strengthening and fostering synergies

Synergies between Programmes



Synergies between Programmes and projects



MMM

Next steps

IN

Work in progress

PRES

9 Programmes, kicking off together

Action-plan 2026-2027

- Strengthen team dynamics
- Deploy communication & sharing tools
- Foster proactive stakeholder and project engagement
- Transforming the findings of the Split workshops into action



Coordinated opportunities
co-designed for projects and stakeholders:

- Coordinated call
- Peer exchange mechanism for Sustainable Tourism



Further events

to disseminate the MMM good practices and projects



Post 2027

Consolidating shared and tested strategies and tools

MMM

Added value so far

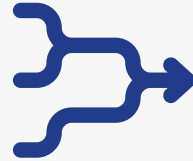


Starting situation

Interreg Programmes in the Mediterranean often work on similar themes with limited coordination and visibility at basin level

Interreg projects deliver excellent results, but they do not always turn into collective knowledge or shared long-term value

MMM added value



Integrated
Coordination

The MMM fosters shared and stable governance by:

- Planning joint actions and calls;
- Promoting thematic and territorial complementarity and coordination;
- Building real synergies between different funds and programmes;
- Reinforcing North-South dialogue and cooperation



Capitalize results

The MMM fosters:

- Structured mechanisms for capitalization;
- Coordinated use of results across programmes;
- Transferability and scalability of territorial solutions.

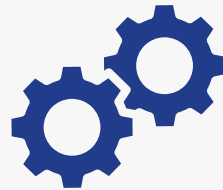
Starting situation

There is a need for a common reference point for Interreg cooperation in the Mediterranean.

Interreg programmes deliver quality results, but links with macro-regional, maritime, and national/local policies are weak.



Mediterranean
Interreg space



Coherence between EU
and Territorial Policies

MMM added value

The MMM fosters a permanent network for dialogue and cooperation through:

- Open and ongoing dialogue among stakeholders;
- Easier and more inclusive involvement of multiple programmes and partners across the Mediterranean.

The MMM fosters:

- Alignment of cooperation programmes with Mediterranean strategies;
- The use of Interreg projects as tools for the integrated implementation of European and territorial strategies.

MMM **Coordinated call**

Coordinated call

What it is:

- One of the tools identified to address shared needs and challenges
- An experimental initiative



Our Approach

- Establishing a **dedicated working group** (WG)
- **Co-designing** initiatives collaboratively
- **Sharing and integrating** the unique characteristics and needs of all 9 MMM Programs
- Developing a **common language** across programs
- Systematizing **cross-border and transnational programs**
- Turning the call into an **added value for all** MMM Programs

A project labelled by the UfM



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

ESPON



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Interreg

Mapping Mediterranean Cooperation Networks and Governance – MedCoopNet

Alessandro Daraio

*MedLab Annual Meeting: Interreg implementation and role in
the Mediterranean*

29 October 2025



Innovative
sustainable economy

Interreg
Euro-MED



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MedCoopNet in a nutshell



ESPON TARGETED ANALYSIS - Governance of new geographies

WHERE: Mediterranean functional area (including Southern and Eastern shores)

WHAT: mapping of cooperation networks across borders

HOW: open data, natural language processing techniques, smart visualization and download

WHY: improving current governance initiatives and informing new action-driven governance mechanisms

WHO: Actors of the Mediterranean Governance - Interreg Managing Authorities, multilevel governance public authorities (local, regional, national, Mediterranean) and networks

WHEN: 2014-2020 and current programming period (delivery in 2025)



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MedCoopNet



Proponent stakeholders:

- **Emilia-Romagna Region** – Dialogue4Innovation and Interreg IPA ADRION MA
- Ministry for Regional Development and EU Funds of Croatia – Dialogue4Innovation
- Generalita de Catalunya – Dialogue4Innovation
- Nice Côte d’Azur Metropolis – Dialogue4GreenLivingAreas
- Region Crete – Dialogue4Nature
- Interreg Euro-MED MA
- Interreg NEXT MED MA
- Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission
- UNEP/MAP Secretariat

Other actors:

- *Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), PRIMA Foundation, INTERACT, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), WestMED TA*



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Objectives:

- Overcoming existing knowledge gaps, providing new evidence for:
 - Understanding of the concrete cooperation dynamics in the functional area;
 - Exploring the influence of hard and soft governance tools on the emergence and consolidation of effective relations within the functional area;
 - Evaluating the coherence/alignment of cooperation activities with the Agenda 2030 SDGs and with agreed transnational priorities;
 - Facilitate stakeholder-led mapping and awareness to support the establishment and development of new and existing bottom-up collaborations and action-driven governance mechanisms.



MedCoopNet



- **Mapping cross-border collaborations** in the Mediterranean region (thematic areas, actors and networks, territorial distribution of activities).
- Inputs:
 - ✓ open datasets of cooperation projects funded under EU and international Programmes (*Interreg, Horizon, Erasmus, Creative Europe, Life, EMFAF*)
 - ✓ development of suitable taxonomies and semantic analysis.
- Deliverables/Outputs:
 - ✓ A clean and harmonised database of projects and partners;
 - ✓ A user-friendly interactive visualisation system, with pre-defined set of information for a general view of the data and a smart download facility;
 - ✓ An analysis of the data and policy conclusions on their relevance for the consolidation of the governance in functional area.



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Timeline and updates

- Start: 13 January 2025
- **End: 13 June 2026**
- Updates: [study website](#)

- Service Providers
- **SIRIS Academic (Spain)**  | A•C•A•D•E•M•I•C
Together with Ontopic Srl (Spain), Bilbomatica S.A. (Spain), Maria Giovanna Brandano (Italy), Maroun El Moujabber (Italy)

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MedCoopNet: preview of expected outcome



All cooperation projects (since 2014) with at least 2 partners from different Mediterranean countries:

- Number of projects
- Funding
- Partner organisations
- Regions (NUTS3)

- *...by funding programme, topic, typology of actor, year, etc.*

organisation type	SUM of total eu funding	SUM of h2020 eu funding	SUM of horizon eu funding	SUM of interreg 2014-2020 eu funding	SUM of interreg 2021-2027 eu funding	SUM of erasmus eu funding	SUM of creative europe eu funding	SUM of life eu funding	SUM of emfaf eu funding
EDU	€858,219,761	€7,580,588	€4,988,916	€23,750,990	€5,731,284	€813,105,272	€1,418,524	€1,147,792	€496,395
HEI	€6,655,460,741	€2,640,745,757	€2,167,220,409	€318,868,285	€115,708,762	€1,285,741,456	€16,279,512	€101,873,541	€9,023,019
OTH	€3,548,698,094	€565,753,164	€534,228,186	€633,831,690	€208,499,395	€1,310,824,802	€157,699,277	€130,657,206	€7,204,374
PRC	€9,095,328,222	€4,766,573,827	€3,496,658,102	€150,184,011	€57,725,975	€412,491,891	€21,233,796	€180,099,775	€10,360,844
PUB	€3,140,692,334	€611,819,337	€539,844,470	€1,316,028,224	€358,920,439	€192,252,959	€16,064,590	€99,554,709	€6,207,606
REC	€6,412,560,669	€3,229,506,733	€2,570,527,112	€271,621,690	€108,340,667	€108,061,515	€6,678,290	€105,484,247	€12,340,415
Grand Total	€29,710,959,822	€11,821,979,406	€9,313,467,197	€2,714,284,890	€854,926,523	€4,122,477,895	€219,373,989	€618,817,270	€45,632,653



Innovative sustainable economy

Interreg Euro-MED



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MedCoopNet: preview of expected outcome

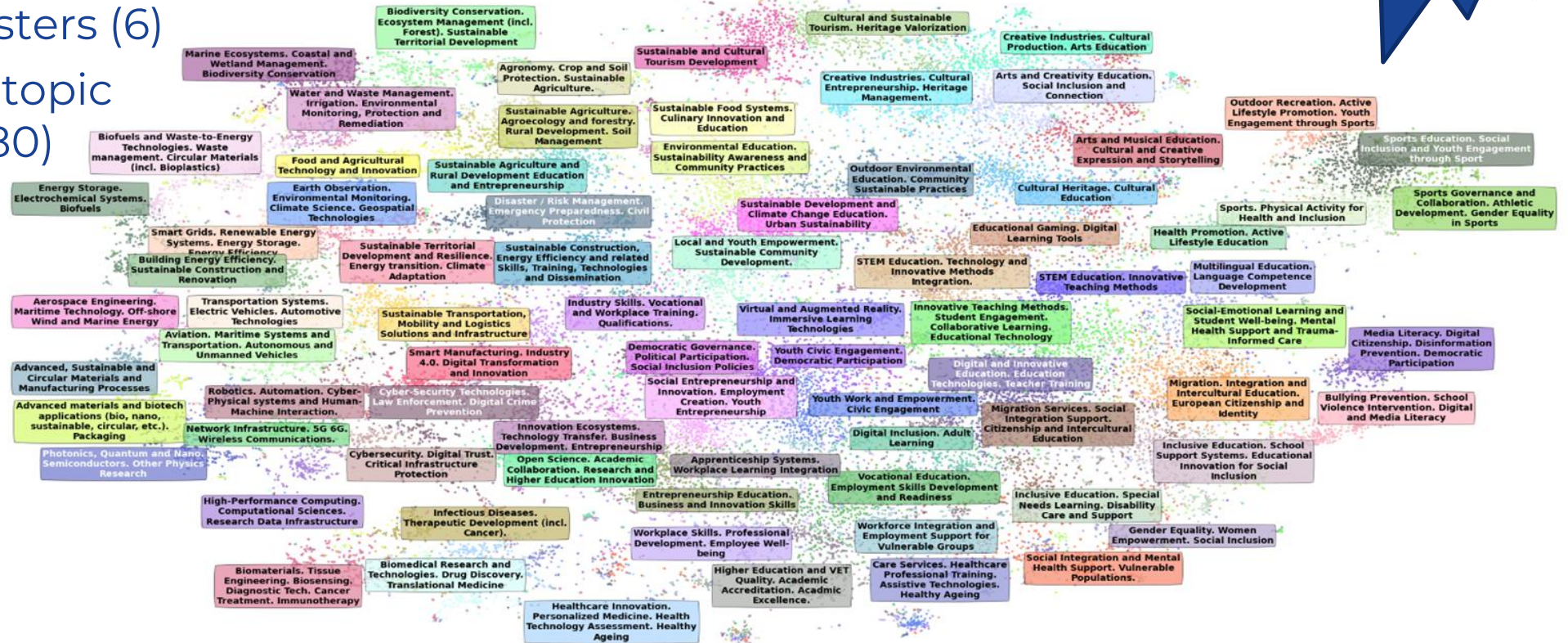


Work in progress
. Please do not quote

Thematic classification:

- SDGs
- Horizon clusters (6)
- Bottom-up topic modeling (80)

ESPON TM - 80 topics



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Interreg
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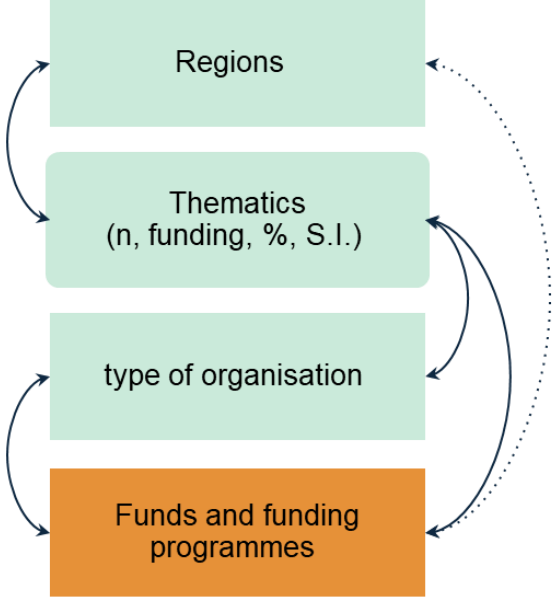


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MedCoopNet: preview of expected outcome

Work in progress
. Please do not quote

Single variable analysis and cross-tabulation



Network analysis

identify cross-regional networks and deriving network centralities

Cluster analysis

identify transversal hubs,

specialised/thematic hubs

understand the characteristics which differentiates them

Focus sections

Specific regions, funding instruments, thematics: in-depth data analysis and maps

Case Study: beyond network/cluster analysis contextualised for understanding emerging patterns.



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Interreg Euro-MED



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Final remarks

- Open facility available for all interested stakeholders to derive new perspectives on synergies and complementarities based on project level activities. E.g.:
 - *Actor specialization across funding programmes (and inclusiveness)*
 - *Evolution of collaboration networks over time*
 - *Scaling up of cooperation (from cross-border to transnational?)*
 - ...
- MedCoopNet as an initial steps open for further development and ad hoc focus studies

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<https://innovative-sustainable-economy.interreg-euro-med.eu>



innovative-sustainable-economy@interreg-euro-med.eu



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/gov4innovation/>



Conclusion

Moray Guillard

EU Commission



- Reaffirmed Interreg's crucial role in delivering EU cooperation in the Mediterranean.
- Acknowledged the political transition: new MFF proposals (2028-2034) and new College of Commissioners introducing diverse strategies.
- Noted that Interreg remains on solid ground: continuity of approach and an increased proposed budget.
- Recognised Interreg's added value and record performance in 2021-2027 (faster commitments and spending than ever before).
- Warned of limited visibility of Interreg in broader EU policy debates – urged stronger communication and collective visibility (e.g. through MedLab).
- Emphasised the need to adapt to new EU policy frameworks (Mediterranean Pact, Ocean Pact, Coastal Communities Pact).
- Called for continued collaboration and coherence between programmes, funds, and policies to ensure Interreg's impact and recognition.

Usefull links and reminder!

- [New Pact for the Mediterranean](#)
- [Factsheet European Ocean Pact.](#)
- [MedCoopNet Project.](#)

Reminder call for action! Call for experts!! Contact us with some suggestions

[Interact | Mediterranean Thematic Week 2025.](#)

Next steps

MedLab Thematic Week 2025

2 Dec – **Water:** Managing a Shared Resource: Water Governance Across the Mediterranean

3 Dec – **Islands:** Island Voices in the Mediterranean Agenda

4 Dec – **Skills:** Empowering Mediterranean People Through Skills and Learning

Horizontal theme: Interreg as a Policy Lab – **Impact & Reforming** Cohesion in the Mediterranean

MedLab Annual Meeting 2026

In situ

April

Focus on Post27 Programming

Address to 17 programme authorities, EC, MS and National delegations

MedLab Thematic week 2026

Online

December

Thematic Focus

Address to thematic experts of the Mediterranean

**Thank you for your
participation!**

**Please give us your
feedback 😊**



Cooperation **works**

All materials will be available on:

Interact connections