

Ex-Ante Evaluation of the Italy – Croatia Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

Interreg
Italy - Croatia



Final Report

9th November 2015

Acronyms

CBC: Cross-border cooperation

COSME: EU Programme for Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises programme

CP: Cooperation Programme

CPR: Common Provision Regulation

CSF: Common Strategic Framework

ERDF: European Regional Development Fund

ESF: European Social Fund

ETC: European Territorial Cooperation

ICT: Information Communication Technology

IP: Investment Priority

JS: Joint Secretariat

MC: Monitoring Committee

MS: Member States

NRP: National Reform Programme

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PA: Priority Axis

PPG: Programme Preparation Group

R&D: Research and Development

SEA: Strategic Environmental Assessment

SME: Small Medium Enterprise

SO: Specific Objective

SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

TO: Thematic objective

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Introduction

The Final Report is based on the final CP version.

Coherently with the evaluation plan presented in the Inception Report and with the requirements set out in the regulation (see art. 55, reg. 1303/2013) the Final Report contains:

- the evaluation of the programme strategy (Ch.1);
- the appraisal of the indicators and of the programme arrangements for monitoring and evaluation (Ch.2);
- the evaluation of the consistency of the financial allocations (Ch.3);
- the evaluation of the contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy (Ch.4);
- the evaluation of the administrative capacity and measures planned to reduce administrative burdens (Ch.5);
- a summary of the SEA.

Key findings and recommendations

Consistency analysis (art. 55 (3) (d) reg. 1303/2013)

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<p>The challenges/ needs identified in the CP are generally coherent with the Italy and Croatia's Partnership Agreements and National Reform Programmes.</p> <p>In general the information provided under the territorial analysis is coherent with the SWOT tables with the 16 identified key needs and challenges. However, the analysis carried out highlights the presence of SWOT items which appear as not fully justified by the territorial analysis.</p> <p>Being concentrated around 4 TOs the programme is compliant with the concentration rule indicated in the regulation.</p> <p>Horizontal principles have been considered in the identification of needs and challenges.</p>	<p>It appears recommendable to revise and further check the coherence between the information provided in the territorial analysis and in the SWOT tables.</p>
<p>The CP presents a full explanation for the selection of the TOs/IPs based on challenges and needs. However the wording adopted for describing the key identified challenges is not homogeneous and this limits, from the formal point of view, the internal coherence of programme document.</p>	

Internal coherence (art. 55 (3) (b) reg. 1303/2013)

Findings	Recommendations
<p><i>Vertical coherence:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general the SOs appear to be well connected with the priority axis. • Some of the SOs titles are not fully consistent with the EC recommendations (see DG Regio Question and Answers document for ETC programmes), in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the case of SO 3.2 the title is not formulated as a change (as it would be in the case of “ more/increase”). ○ In the case of SO 4.1, the title makes reference to 3 different changes, which is inconsistent with the EC recommendations. • The CP associates to each SO a detailed list of actions which are in general coherent with the SOs and the IPs • It is noticed that the same target territory – the entire programme area – is defined for all the SOs with no further specifications. <p><i>Horizontal coherence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SOs do not have major conflicts; • The SOs which belong to the same priority axis show a good level of synergies at a strategic level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All the SOs have a strategic relation which is embodied in the CP strategy. The CP is structured around two main pillars, an innovation and blue economy strand and a strong focus on the improvement of the environmental quality and climate change adaptation in the area. <p>This intense complementarity could represent also a risk of overlapping which could be misleading for the potential beneficiaries.</p>	<p>The evaluators recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reflect on the possibility to improve the formulation of some of the proposed SOs titles in order to ensure a higher consistency with the EC recommendations set out in the DG Regio Q&A document • to pay particular attention in the elaboration of the call for proposals in order to avoid any possible overlapping between the SOs

External coherence (art. 55 (3) (b) reg. 1303/2013)

Findings	Recommendations
<p>No major conflict is identified, on the contrary it seems that most of the SOs have a potential synergy with the regional, national, and EU level policies.</p> <p>The CP represents a chance to further exploit the opportunities offered by the strategic orientation of the EUSAIR in particular and of the EUSALP.</p> <p>The CP opens a window of opportunity which could allow connecting research and innovation actors in the area.</p>	

Intervention logic (art. 55 (3) (f) (h) reg. 1303/2013)

Findings	Recommendations
<p>For all SOs the CP presents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an indicative list of actions which is coherent with the SOs and with the expected results and which contributes to the expected programme impact; • the targeted type of beneficiaries which are sometimes broadly defined rather than being precisely related to the Specific Objective. <p>All the paragraphs, describing the results to be achieved within the SO, are developed according to a quite homogenous structure which (1) makes reference to the needs underpinning the elaboration of the SO (2) describes the changes that the CP intends to bring the CBC area, (3) illustrates the programme contribution (impact) to the change.</p> <p>No clear reference is made to the external factors which can influence the achievement of the targeted results.</p> <p>The programme shall be implemented via grants (which appear consistent with the characteristics of the programme and with the typologies of targeted beneficiaries) but the programme authorities have agreed on leaving the option for the future implementation of financial instruments</p>	<p>It appears recommendable to detail, at least in the future programme evaluation plan, the external factors which can influence (positively or negatively) the achievement of the targeted results.</p> <p>The evaluators strongly recommend the programme authorities to monitor and to take a look at the guidance and trainings proposed in the framework of the DG Regio/EIB technical assistance platform fi-compass (www.fi-compass.eu)</p>

Adequacy of the measures on the horizontal principles (art. 55 (3) (l) (m) reg. 1303/2013)

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<p>The principle of sustainable development is considered one of the main pillars of the implementation of the CP.</p> <p>As regards ‘equal opportunities’, ‘non-discrimination’ and ‘equality between men and women’, the planned interventions are not expected to have a direct impact on those horizontal principles; however, as stated under CP section 8, the programme implementation arrangements (e.g. selection criteria, monitoring arrangements) shall be organised by taking into consideration both the ‘equal opportunities’, ‘non-discrimination’ and ‘equality between men and women’.</p> <p>The principle of partnership and multilevel governance was respected.</p>	

Result indicators (art. 55 (3) (e) (g) reg. 1303/2013)

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<p>The proposed indicators are coherent with the specific objectives, measurable and consistent with the respective priority axes.</p> <p>Due to the lack of baselines and targets, the indicators 2.1, 2.2, 3.3 and 4.1 cannot be considered as achievable and time-bound.</p> <p>The CP does not offer a clear understanding on the methodology that will be adopted for collecting information.</p>	<p>The ex-ante evaluators recommend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elaborate an additional note in particular by providing precise information on the expected timing for collecting result indicators baselines and targets as well as on the methodology that shall be adopted for defining both (baselines and targets).

Output indicators (art. 55 (3) (e) (g) reg. 1303/2013)

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>

The proposed output indicators are in general measurable, specific to the foreseen actions and relevant to the change of the SO.

The proposed indicators are generally time-bound, however it is important to underline that a large group of them are more levelled on project's results, than on project's outputs and in this sense it presents potential risks related to the timing of achievements of the expected targets (timing issue).

The most part of the proposed output indicators are mainly "fed" by data provided by the beneficiaries. This implies, for the programme monitoring system, the need to verify and control the data provided by the beneficiaries.

- it is recommended to provide beneficiaries with adequate definitions of all programme specific output indicators;

Suitability of the milestones of the performance framework (art. 55 (3) (k) reg. 1303/2013)

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<p>The performance framework is established for each priority, with the priority axis n.5 on technical assistance excluded.</p> <p>The performance framework indicates the priority and the unit of measurement.</p> <p>The output indicators selected for the performance framework assure to cover more than 50% of the allocation of the SOs as demonstrated by the fact that each of them covers the largest part of the example of actions proposed for the SO.</p>	<p>It is recommended to elaborate a specific additional note where the approach adopted for defining milestones and targets is illustrated.</p>

Procedures for monitoring the programme and for collecting the data necessary to carry out evaluations (art. 55 (3) (j) reg. 1303/2013)

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<p><u>Use of indicators</u>: the CP proposes a monitoring system based on output and result indicators. According to the ex-ante evaluators, the main challenges come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity of the programme to set up 	<p>The ex-ante evaluator proposes the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is necessary to design standardised procedures for monitoring result indicators and for the impact evaluation in order to

<p>flexible monitoring procedures, but also to assure an effective control of the data provided by the beneficiaries;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the capacity of the programme to manage and appropriately use this amount of information for the evaluation. This could require some adaptations in terms of available expertise; • the modalities of use of information in order to provide “early warning” which appear of particular relevance due to the performance framework. <p><u>Involvement of the stakeholders</u>, according to the ex-ante evaluators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full involvement of specific key stakeholders (regional and national authorities) in construction of the result indicator system and in future activities is a key condition for assuring the effective implementation of the programme. However at the moment it is not possible to assess the modalities for their involvement. <p><u>Evaluation planning</u>: the ex-ante evaluators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider it very important that the programme bodies are aware about the need to measure and report the results of the programme. As a matter of fact, the evaluation plan will be submitted to the monitoring committee no later than one year after the adoption of the operational programme. 	<p>reduce the burden for stakeholders and to capitalise from the activities already carried out for setting the baseline;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evaluation plan should clearly tackle the new challenges of the result-oriented approach; • In order to improve the organisation of the monitoring and evaluation system, it would be important and useful to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promote an increased focus on the project level, which will allow building a coherent system from project to programme level and will provide useful information for the evaluation; ○ Set a programme “intelligence” able to provide “early warning” and “justification” in case of possible failures and to reach “on time”; ○ Clearly define the roles and logically link the bodies, steps and mechanisms of the monitoring and evaluation system. This will allow building a system of information capable of feeding monitoring, performance and evaluation and “correlating” the strategy of the programme with the indicators’ system. • Take into consideration the possibility to organise part of the evaluation at project level, combining both a top-down and bottom-up approach
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Consistency of the financial allocation and Contribution to Europe 2020 (art. 55 (3) (a) (c) reg. 1303/2013)

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<p>The Italy-Croatia Programme complies entirely with the requirements that are set in the ETC Regulations</p>	

The different share of the ERDF funding available among the four priority axis is coherent with the challenges and needs underpinning the Programme strategy and with the political will and the expectations expressed by the TF.

The proposed ERDF co-financing rate is consistent with the requirements of the regulation and shall guarantee to the programme a good capacity to attract beneficiaries.

Administrative capacity and adequacy of human resources (art. 55 (3) (i) reg. 1303/2013) and reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries (art. 55 (3) (n) reg. 1303/2013)

Findings	Recommendations
<p>The evaluators underline that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the indications from the DG Regio study of 2012 carried out by t33/SWECO¹, the new certification procedure will comport an increase of complexity for certain aspects (e.g. rolling closures). • The JS will face specific challenges in particular related to activities regarding monitoring and evaluation. • At project level, a sound and efficient control system is the key requirement for limiting the administrative burdens for the beneficiaries. • From the information provided in the CP it emerges that the programme authorities are committed to solutions that are supposed to limit the administrative burdens towards beneficiaries. 	<p>The ex-ante evaluators recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to foresee specific training activities in order to support the staff in charge of the management of the programme (formal training, workshops, exchanges of professional experience shall be organised). • To carefully assess the number of human resources needed to effectively carry out the different tasks required. • To clearly define the different tasks of the two bodies (MA and JTS) and the roles and responsibilities of the staff.

¹ DG Regio 2012 (t33/SWECO) Measuring the impact of changing regulatory requirements to administrative cost and administrative burden of managing EU Structural Funds

1. Evaluation of the Programme strategy

The European Commission (EC) highlights in the ‘Guidance document on ex-ante evaluation’ that “Cohesion Policy (...) must be strongly orientated towards results in order to contribute to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Europe 2020 Strategy). To this end the regulation increases the importance of well-designed Programmes taking into account European, national and regional needs, and focused on the results they want to achieve (...)”.

These remarks underline that an appraisal of the Programme strategy is particularly important, wherefore ex-ante evaluations are expected to address a larger number of evaluation questions relating to:

- the consistency of the Programme objectives;
- the internal coherence of the Programme;
- the external coherence of the Programme;
- the intervention logic of the Programme and the linkage between supported actions, expected outputs and results;
- the horizontal EU-principles.

1.1 CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

1.1.a *Methodological approach*

The assessment of the Programme’s consistency reviews whether the needs and challenges identified for the Italy-Croatia area are sufficiently mirrored in its Cooperation Programme. For assessing the consistency, the ex-ante guidance document of the European Commission suggests seeking answers to the following questions:

- Are the identified regional challenges and needs in line with the Europe 2020 objectives and targets, the Council recommendations and the National Reform Programmes?
- Have the key territorial challenges for urban and rural areas as well as for areas with particular territorial features been analysed and taken into account in the strategy?

- Are the key territorial challenges analysed and taken into account in the Programme strategy?
- Have the horizontal principles, i.e. equality between men and women, non-discrimination and sustainable development, been considered in the identification of needs and challenges?
- Are the identified challenges and needs consistently translated into the selection of investment priorities and objectives of the operational Programme? Have the challenges and needs been given an appropriate weight in the investment priorities?
- Are the specific objectives sufficiently precise to demonstrate how the Programme intends to contribute to the EU 2020 strategy while addressing national or regional challenges and needs?
- Is the support from the ERDF sufficiently concentrated as foreseen in Article 18 CPR?
- If major challenges or needs are left out of the Programme strategy, what is the rationale for this choice?

The following section focuses on the identification of the needs and challenges in the Italy-Croatia area in relation to the Europe 2020 objectives. Afterwards the consistency of the needs and challenges with the Programme's objectives is assessed. The appraisal of the horizontal principles is included in the assessment of the internal coherence, since it tackles both parts of the evaluation and does not need to be included twice.

1.1.b Assessment

Are the identified challenges and needs in line with the Europe 2020 objectives and targets, the Council recommendations and the National Reform Programmes?

The programme shows a clear link of the programme challenges and needs with Europe 2020.

The needs and challenges characterising the area have been identified on the basis of a detailed SWOT analysis organised around the three priorities of Europe 2020 (Smart Growth, Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Growth). The territorial analysis was delivered by taking into account the available regional and national statistics.

The territorial analysis of Italy-Croatia area resulted in 16 development challenges/needs being identified which present a different level of consistency with the target and objectives of Italy and Croatia's National Reform Programmes. The analysis shows a high level of

consistency of the challenges/ needs identified in the CP with the Italy and Croatia’s Partnership Agreements and National Reform Programmes. Table 1-1 summarises the assessment; for more details see ANNEX II –CONSISTENCY WITH THE NATIONAL DOCUMENTS.

Table 1-1 Consistency between the needs/challenges identified by the CP and NRPs

		NRP		PA	
		IT	HR	IT	HR
Smart Growth	There is a need to increase the level of competitiveness on international markets of SMEs by fostering sound mechanisms of innovation and creating a critical mass				
	The cooperation between the innovation players in fields of relevant sectors of the blue economy shall be enhanced				
	There is a need to secure availability of high-skilled human resources in key economic sectors to strengthen development patterns				
	There is a need to facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research				
	The area shows evident potentials for blue growth				
	There is need to decrease road traffic congestion in urban areas especially along the coast, pressured by seasonal tourism				
	Adaptive capacity shall be improved due to the higher impact of climate change, especially in the vulnerable marine and coastal parts of the cooperation area				
	Adriatic basin calls for cross border actions in the field of risk prevention and management				
	Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions				
	Common characteristics of cultural heritage and shared marine natural resources can support a higher quality tourism if tackled in a sustainable way				
	There is potential for more systemic, integrated and efficient maritime connections from/to the eligible territories and between them				
	There is potential for additional cooperation between ports ensuring integrated information (ICT) and ticketing (passengers transport)				
	Inclusive Growth	Concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area			
Potential for an increase of the specialization of the workforce in specific sectors of the blue economy in which the area has competitive advantage					
Support “brain circulation” amongst research institutes/academies and companies as a condition for developing cooperation in the field of blue technologies					
Specific training to human resources employed in the tourism sector can increase the quality of services offered raising awareness of the added value of a sustainable approach					

Consistent
Some consistency
Neutral
In contrast

Are the key territorial challenges analysed and taken into account in the programme strategy?

The key territorial needs and challenges have been identified through a logical process organised around the following key steps:

1. Elaboration of the territorial analysis based on the available data and statistics (see annex 1 of the CP);
2. Synthesis of the territorial analysis through the elaboration of three SWOT tables (one table per each EU 2020 priority);
3. Extraction of the key territorial needs and challenges from the SWOT tables

The ex-ante evaluator has checked coherence between the information provided under the territorial analysis, the SWOT tables and the identified key needs and challenges. The detailed analysis is presented in Annex III. From this it emerges that generally the key territorial needs characterising the area and described under the territorial analysis have been coherently translated into the SWOT items and then into the identified needs and challenges.

However, the detailed analysis presented in the annex (see Table o-8) also highlights the presence of SWOT items which appear as not fully justified by the territorial analysis.

Is the support from the ERDF sufficiently concentrated as foreseen in Article 18 CPR?

The article 18 of the CPR indicates that the programme shall be concentrated in order to bring the highest added value taking into account Europe 2020 Strategy, the relevant territorial challenges in line with the CSF, the national reform programme, where appropriate, and relevant country-specific recommendations. Moreover, the ETC regulation, article 5, requires a concentration of the ERDF allocation of at least 80% on up to 4 thematic objectives. The TOs chosen are four in number, making the programme already compliant with the concentration rule indicated in the regulation.

Have the horizontal principles, i.e. equality between men and women, non-discrimination and sustainable development, been considered in the identification of needs and challenges?

The programme is basically coherent with Section 5 of the Annex I of the reg. 1303/2013 on “Common strategic framework”, which is related to the horizontal principles. Horizontal principles (i.e. sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation) have been considered in the identification of needs and challenges. Moreover, the CP has been constructed with a long process of consultation respecting the principles of partnership and multi-level governance. For more details on the consistency of the CP with the horizontal principles see chapter 1.5.

Are the identified challenges and needs consistently translated into the objectives of the OP (i.e. the thematic objectives, the investment priorities and corresponding specific objectives)?

Necessary premise to this analysis is an overview of the presentation of the identified challenges and needs in the CP template.

The analysis carried out by the CP drafters in 2013 allowed to identify 17 key challenges of the territorial area. These challenges are now 16 and they are presented in the part of the Section 1 which introduces the SWOT tables in relation with the EU 2020 objectives (p. 12-21).

However, in the following parts of CP (table 1.1.1 and Section 2) even if many references to the needs and challenges affecting the area are made, no clear reference to the 16 key identified challenges is proposed. This poses no problems in terms of ‘substantial’ consistency of the programme as the contents of the needs mentioned in the other parts of the CP are coherent with the identified 16 key challenges, however the wording is not homogeneous and this limits, from the formal point of view, the internal coherence of the CP.

As regards the consistency between the challenges/needs and the objectives, the analysis shows a consistent translation into programme objectives (see Table 1-2):

The programme strategy directly responds to the most part of the identified challenges and needs. Only exception is the challenge related to the raise of employment rate to which the programme shall respond indirectly..

Within the four selected thematic objectives the Italy-Croatia CP addresses five investment priorities.

- Within TO 1 the investment priority IP 1b is selected. This is in line with the previously identified needs and the type of actions supported by a cross-border Programme. Thus, the rationale for the selection within this TO is sufficient and convincing.
- With regards to TO 5, the Italy - Croatia CP selects two investment priority (IPs 5a and 5b) and formulates two SOs. By this choice the programme intends to respond to two distinct types of challenges, one typology related to climate change, the other to risk prevention.
- Out of the seven investment priorities of TO 6, the Italy-Croatia CP selects three investment priorities (IP 6c, 6d and 6f) and formulates three SOs. This choice is justified by different types of needs identified in relation with the EU 2020 sustainable growth priority.
- The investment priority selected under TO 7 is IP 7c. The rationale for this selection is convincing, as it strongly supports the identified needs and challenges.

Table 1-2 Assessment of the coherence between the identified needs and challenges and the selected SOs

Identified challenges and needs		IP	SO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to increase the level of competitiveness on international markets of SMEs by fostering sound mechanisms of innovation and a creating a critical mass through cooperation • The cooperation between the innovation players in fields of relevant sectors of the blue economy shall be enhanced • There is a need to secure availability of high-skilled human resources in key economic sectors to strengthen development patterns • There is a need to facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research • The area shows evident potentials for blue growth • There is a need to support “brain circulation” amongst research institutes/academies and companies as a condition for developing cooperation in the field of blue technologies • There is potential for an increase of the specialization of the workforce in specific sectors of the blue economy in which the area has competitive advantage 	→	Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector (1b)	1.1 Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area 	----→		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive capacity shall be improved due to the higher impact of climate change of the cooperation area 	→	Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches (5a)	2.1improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adriatic basin calls for cross border actions in the field of risk prevention and management 	→	Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems (5b)	2.2 Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common characteristics of cultural heritage and shared marine natural resources can support a higher quality tourism if tackled in a sustainable way • Specific training to human resources employed in the tourism sector can increase the quality of services offered raising awareness on the benefits of a sustainable approach • The cooperation between the innovation players in fields relevant sectors of the blue economy shall be enhanced 	→	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage (6c)	3.1 Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area 	----→		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions 	→	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure (6d)	3.2 Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions • There is a need to concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area 	----→	Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution (6f)	3.3 Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential for more systemic, integrated and efficient maritime connections from/to the eligible territories and between them • There is a need to decrease road traffic congestion in urban areas especially along the coast, pressured by seasonal tourism • There is potential for additional cooperation between ports ensuring integrating information (ICT) and ticketing (passengers transport) 	→	Developing and improving environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems, (...) (7c)	4.1 Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services and nodes by promoting multimodality in the programme area

→	Direct relation
----→	Indirect relation
!	Contrast

1.1.c Findings

From the analysis it emerges that:

- The challenges/ needs identified in the CP are generally coherent with the Italy and Croatia's Partnership Agreements and National Reform Programmes.
- In general the information provided under the territorial analysis is coherent with the SWOT tables and with the 16 identified key needs and challenges. However, the analysis carried out highlights the presence of SWOT items which appear as not fully justified by the territorial analysis. It appears recommendable to revise and further check the coherence between the information provided in the territorial analysis and in the SWOT tables.
- Being concentrated around 4 TOs, the programme is compliant with the concentration rule indicated in the regulation.
- Horizontal principles have been considered in the identification of needs and challenges.
- The CP presents a full explanation for the selection of the TOs/IPs based on challenges and needs. However the wording adopted for describing the key identified challenges is not homogeneous and this limits, from the formal point of view, the internal coherence of the programme document.

1.2 INTERNAL COHERENCE

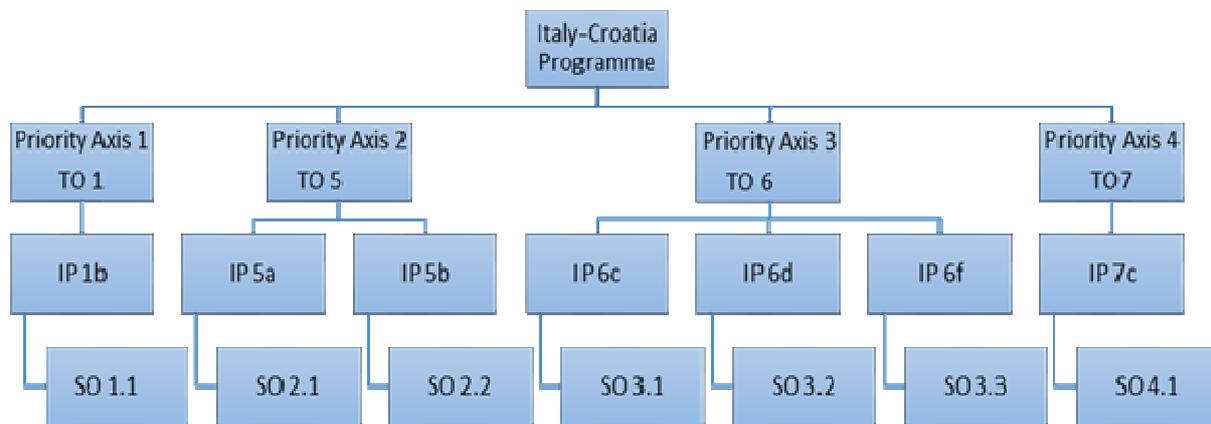
1.2.a Methodological approach

The assessment of the Programme's internal coherence reviews the potential synergies and complementarities between the specific objectives. For assessing the internal coherence the ex-ante guidance document of the European Commission suggests answering the following questions:

- Have the complementarities and the potential synergies been identified among the specific objectives of each priority axis?
- Have the complementarities and the potential synergies been identified among the specific objectives of the different priority axis?

The figure below presents the overall structure of the programme strategy (with the exclusion of the TA axis).

Figure 1-1 Overview of the Programme's strategy



The internal coherence:

- focuses on the vertical and horizontal relationship between:
 - the specific objectives of the different priority axes (horizontal coherence),
 - the specific objectives of each priority axis (vertical coherence);
- aims to:
 - highlight any complementarities and potential synergies,

- assess the relationship at strategic/operational level of the actions/specific objectives of the programme;
- uses the logical framework reported in chapter 3 and the coherence assessment matrix (horizontal coherence).

1.2.b Assessment

Vertical Coherence

The specific objectives titles seem to be well formulated according to the DG REGIO's Q&A guidance. The vertical coherence of each SO of the programme strategy has been analysed focusing on:

- a. its relation with the selected TO and the priority axis;
- b. the clear identification of the goals;
- c. the specificity of the actions;
- d. the direct identification of the target.

The table below summarises the result of the analysis.

Table 1-3 Vertical coherence

Is there a:	Specific Objective						
	1.1	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	4.1
• connection with the TO/priority axis?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
• clear identification of the goal?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	?
• specificity of the action?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
• clear target group definition?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Legend: "Yes" corresponds to a SO which is compliant with the criterion;
 "?" indicates a SO which needs an improvement

- a. **Relation with the priority axis.** In general the SOs appear to be well connected with the priority axis.
- b. **Identification of the goal.** Consistently with the ETC template, the CP foresees for each specific objective, a specific section where the expected results are described. Having in mind the DG Regio Question and Answers document for ETC programmes the SO titles proposed for SO 3.2 appears as not fully in line with the EC recommendations. In these case in fact the goal is identified, but the title is not formulated as a change (as it would be in the case of "more/increase"). In the case of Specific Objective 4.1 instead, the title makes reference to 3 different changes (*improve the quality -1-, safety -2 -, environmental sustainability - 3*) which

is inconsistent with the EC recommendations. Moreover, the reference to the improvement of the safety is not reflected in the result indicator and neither in the list of indicative actions proposed.

- c. **Specificity of actions.** The CP associates to each SO a detailed list of actions. The examples of actions have been classified in two different typologies (*types of actions*). In general, the examples of actions are coherent with the SOs and the IPs.
- d. **Target groups and sectors.** The CP provides a detailed description of the target territory, groups and final beneficiaries for each SOs.

Horizontal coherence

The assessment was performed considering various degrees of horizontal coherence:

- **Contrast / conflict**, when the SOs of the OP could have a potential clash with other SOs;
- **Neutrality**, if the SOs have no field of interaction, neither for target group nor for objective, with other SOs;
- **Strategic relation (synergy)**, if the SOs potentially have the same strategic goal as another SO;
- **Strategic and operational relation (complementarity and integration)**, when the SOs share the same strategic goal and operational targets as other SOs.

The figure below synthetically shows the result.

Table 1-4 Internal coherence assessment

	SO 1.1	SO 2.1	SO 2.2	SO 3.1	SO 3.2	SO 3.3	SO 4.1
SO 1.1		N	N	N	N	S	N
SO 2.1			S	S	S	S	S
SO 2.2				S	S	S	N
SO 3.1					S	S	N
SO 3.2						S	S
SO 3.3							S
SO 4.1							

Legend: “C” – Conflict/contrast; “N” – Neutral; “S” – Strategic; “O” - Operational

From the analysis of the horizontal coherence it emerges that:

- The SOs do not have major conflicts;
- The SOs which belong to the same priority axis show a good level of synergies at a strategic level

- All the SOs have a strategic relation which is embodied in the CP strategy. The CP is structured around two main pillars:
 - Innovation and blue economy strand, which especially regards the SOs 1.1 and 3.3
 - A strong focus on the improvement of the environmental quality and climate change adaptation in the area, which concerns the majority of the SOs and is particularly evident in the case of the SOs of axes 2 and 4, but is also true in the case of the SOs 3.1 and 3.2
- This intense complementarity could represent also a risk of overlapping which could be misleading for the potential beneficiaries. The risk appears particularly present in the case of SOs 1.1 and 3.3 (both focused on innovation capacity), and of SOs 3.3 and the other SOs of axis 3.

1.2.c Findings

Vertical coherence:

- In general the SOs appear to be well connected with the priority axis.
- Some of the SOs titles are not fully consistent with the EC recommendations (see DG Regio Question and Answers document for ETC programmes), in particular:
 - In the case of SO 3.2 the title is not formulated as a change (as it would be in the case of “more/increase”).
 - In the case of SO 4.1, the title makes reference to 3 different changes, which is inconsistent with the EC recommendations. Moreover, the reference to the improvement of the safety is not reflected in the result indicator and neither in the list of indicative actions proposed.
- The CP associates to each SO a detailed list of actions which are in general coherent with the SOs and the IPs.
- The CP provides a detailed description of the target territory, groups and final beneficiaries for each SO.

Horizontal coherence:

- The SOs do not have major conflicts;

- The SOs which belong to the same priority axis show a good level of synergies at a strategic level
 - All the SOs have a strategic relation which is embodied in the CP strategy. The CP is structured around two main pillars, an innovation and blue economy strand and a strong focus on the improvement of the environmental quality and climate change adaptation in the area.
- This intense complementarity could represent also a risk of overlapping which could be misleading for the potential beneficiaries. The evaluator recommends to pay particular attention in the elaboration of the call for proposals in order to avoid any possible overlapping between the SOs.

1.3 EXTERNAL COHERENCE

1.3.a *Methodological approach*

The assessment of the Programme's external coherence reviews whether the identified strategy is coherent with other relevant instruments at regional, national and EU level. For assessing the external coherence the ex-ante guidance document of the European Commission suggests answering the following questions:

- How does the Programme contribute to other strategies and policies (European, national and regional including Smart Specialisation Strategies, National Roma Inclusion Strategy, Horizon 2020 and macro-regional and sea basin strategies)?
- How does the Programme take into account the influence of other policies and Programmes?
- How does the Programme justify its role in the framework of the different interventions?

The following section focuses on the methodology adopted for the analysis of the external coherence; the coherence of the Programme's strategy with other relevant instruments is assessed afterwards.

1.3.b *Assessment*

How does the Programme contribute to other strategies and policies?

This section focuses on the assessment of the Programme's contribution to the other policies of interest for the area and presents the result of the analysis. The methodology adopted is based on:

- The analysis of other relevant instruments at regional, national and EU level interesting the cooperation area:
 - strategies and policies (European, national and regional including Smart Specialisation Strategies, National Roma Inclusion Strategy, Horizon 2020 and macro-regional and sea basin strategies), in order to highlight the programme contribution;
 - other policies and programmes (including other CSF programmes), in order to assess the influence on the expected results of the programme and to identify the programme role in the framework of the different interventions;

- the use of the policy matrix methodology for identifying the link between objectives, activities and inputs. The level of coherence has been analysed against three levels (European, national and regional) and according the following degrees of coherence :
 - Contrast / conflict, when the specific objectives of the OP could have a potential clash with other programmes;
 - Neutrality, if the SOs have no field of interaction, neither for target group nor for objective, with the other programmes;
 - Synergy, if the SOs potentially have the same strategic goal as other programmes/policy;

The following table reports the list of documents used for the external coherence and the overview of the key findings of the analysis. The complete analysis is reported in the Annex IV.

Table 1-5 External coherence with the main analysed documents

	SO 1.1	SO 2.1	SO 2.2	SO 3.1	SO 3.2	SO 3.3	SO 4.1
<i>Horizon 2020</i>	S	N	N	N	N	S	S
<i>Blue Growth Communication</i>	S	N	N	N	S	S	S
<i>COSME</i>	S	N	N	S	N	N	S
<i>National Roma Strategies</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>EUSAIR</i>	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<i>EUSALP</i>	S	N	S	S	N	S	N
<i>Partnership Agreement IT</i>	S	S	S	S	S	N	S
<i>Partnership Agreement HR</i>	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<i>ERDF Abruzzo Region (IT)</i>	S	N	S	S	S	N	N
<i>ERDF Apulia Region (IT)</i>	S	N	S	S	S	N	S
<i>ERDF E. Romagna Region (IT)</i>	S	N	N	S	N	N	N
<i>ERDF F.V.G Region (IT)</i>	S	N	N	S	S	N	N
<i>ERDF Marche Region (IT)</i>	S	N	S	S	S	S	S
<i>ERDF Molise Region (IT)</i>	S	N	N	S	S	S	S
<i>ERDF Veneto Region (IT)</i>	S	S	S	S	N	S	S
<i>OP Competitiveness and Cohesion (HR)</i>	S	S	N	S	N	S	N
<i>National Innovation Strategy (HR)</i>	S	S	S	N	S	S	S
<i>Strategy for entrepreneurship Development (HR)</i>	S	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>National Education, Science and Technology Strategy (HR)</i>	N	N	S	N	N	S	N
<i>The Strategy of Conservation, Protection and Sustainable Economic Use of Cultural Heritage (HR)</i>	N	N	N	S	S	S	N

	SO 1.1	SO 2.1	SO 2.2	SO 3.1	SO 3.2	SO 3.3	SO 4.1
<i>National Rural Development Programme (HR)</i>	S	S	N	S	S	N	N
<i>National Strategy of Maritime Development and Integrated Maritime Policy (HR)</i>	S	N	N	N	N	N	S
<i>Strategy for Tourism Development (HR)</i>	N	S	N	S	S	N	S
<i>Strategy of Transport Development – Draft (HR)</i>	S	S	N	N	S	N	S
<i>Nautical Tourism Development Strategy (HR)</i>	N	N	S	S	S	N	S
<i>National Energy Strategy (HR)</i>	S	S	S	S	S	S	N
<i>Smart Specialisation Strategy (HR)</i>	S	S	N	S	S	S	N
<i>The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity (HR)</i>	N	N	S	S	S	S	S
<i>National Environmental Protection Strategy and Environmental Action Plan (HR)</i>	N	N	S	S	S	S	S
<i>Operational Programme EMFF (HR)</i>	S	N	S	N	S	S	N
Weighting: S- synergy N - neutrality C - contrast							

The table shows a full coherence of the CP with the European, national and regional strategies taken in consideration. In the following paragraphs a more detailed description is provided.

Cross-border area level

For analysing the external coherence at a cross-border level, the following strategies were taken into consideration: The European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) which covers all the Italian and Croatian Regions involved in the CP and the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) which covers the Italian regions of Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia. The EUSAIR strategy has been extensively taken into consideration while drafting the programme and thus, all the Specific Objectives are coherent with this strategy. In particular the Specific Objective 1.1 which emphasizes the enhancement of innovation through cooperation in the sectors of blue economy is coherent with Pillar 1 of the EUSAIR strategy which strongly promotes blue growth through innovation. The Specific Objectives of the CP are also generally coherent with the EUSALP strategy, in particular as far as it concerns the innovation (SO 1.1 and SO 3.3) and the sustainable environmental development (SO 2.2 and SO 3.1).

Italian level

For the external coherence analysis at the Italian level the following documents were taken into consideration: the Partnership Agreement and the Regional Operational Programmes financed by ERDF of the Italian regions participating in the CP. As regards the Partnership Agreement, the Programme's Priority Axes and Specific Objectives do not conflict with its Thematic Objectives. Instead, the Programme is highly consistent with them, in particular the SOs related to innovation which reflect one of the main objectives of the Partnership Agreement. As regards the ERDFs, the CP Specific Objectives present no contrast with any of these Regional Operational Programmes. Furthermore, it can be noticed that SO 1.1 related to innovation through cooperation in the sectors of blue economy and SO 3.1 related to natural and cultural heritage becoming a leverage for economic and territorial development, are in synergy with all the ROPs.

Croatian level

For the external coherence of the programme at a Croatian level, several national strategies and programmes were analysed. From the analysis it emerges that the Specific Objectives of the CP are not in contrast with any of Croatian national strategies or programmes. Instead, a different level of synergy is noticed between the CP SOs and these strategies/programmes since the latter are all related to specific issues.

How does the programme take into account the influence of other policies and programmes and justify its role in the framework of the different interventions?

The programme strategy was elaborated with a strong awareness on the influence of the other policies of interest for the area and on the specificities of the territorial cooperation in the cross-border area. More precisely, as evident from the analysis of the information contained in the CP section 6, relevant strategic choices were elaborated also in order to capitalise, at cross border scale, the results of other national, regional and European policies, including the macro-regional strategies interesting the area. In particular the Italy – Croatia programme under PA 1 and 4 shares possible synergies with EU Instruments such as Horizon 2020, COSME and the Blue Growth Communication.

1.3.c Findings

The analysis highlights that the CP:

- does not identify any major conflict, on the contrary it seems that most of the SOs have a potential synergy with the regional, national, and EU level policies;
- represents a chance to further exploit the opportunities offered by the strategic orientation of the EUSAIR in particular and of the EUSALP;
- Opens a window of opportunity which could allow connecting research and innovation actors in the area.

1.4 INTERVENTION LOGIC

1.4.a *Methodological approach*

The evaluation of the intervention logic of the Programme aims to verify that the link between supported actions, planned outputs and expected results was clearly defined.

For doing this the evaluator adopted a theory-based evaluation approach², which allowed verifying, if under each SO:

- all the elements composing the intervention logic were identified (see Figure 1-2);
- the casual links and connections between these elements were coherent and realistic.

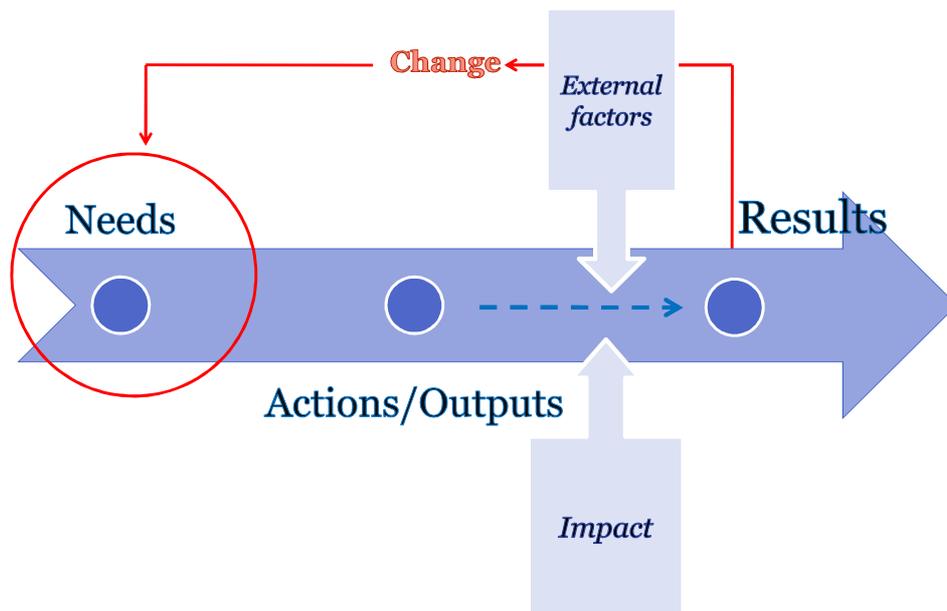
Following the Guidance ‘Monitoring and evaluation of European Cohesion Policy’, the ex-ante evaluator assesses “how the expected outputs will contribute to results” and the “rationale for the form of support proposed”³. The variety of aspects which should be considered according to the Commission’s Guidance results in the following major evaluation questions:

- For the proposed actions, are the main target groups identified, the specific territories targeted and the types of beneficiaries sufficiently described?
- Do other possible actions or outputs exist that would be more conducive to the intended results?
- What is the change (or the intended result) that the programme intends to bring in the cooperation area?
- Are the external factors that could influence the intended results identified?
- Are the policy assumptions underpinning the programme logic backed up by evidence (e.g. from previous experiences, evaluations or studies)?
- Are the proposed forms of support (such as grants, financial instruments, others) suitable for the types of beneficiaries and the specific objectives of the programme?

² Weiss, C. H. (1995). Nothing as practical as good theory: Exploring theory-based evaluation for comprehensive community initiatives for children and families

³ CPR, Art.55(3)(f,h)

Figure 1-2 Intervention logic chain



Source: t33

1.4.b Assessment

Annex V provides a detailed analysis of the intervention logic of each SO. This chapter presents the key findings of the overall analysis.

For the proposed actions, are the main target groups identified, the specific territories targeted and the types of beneficiaries sufficiently described?

The assessment focuses on the section 2.A.6 of the CP which describes the actions to be supported per each SO. In particular, in Section 2.A.6.1:

- there is an indicative list of actions which are coherent with the SOs and with the expected results and which contribute to the expected programme impact (see tables in annex V);
- all the SOs list the targeted type of beneficiaries, however these beneficiaries are sometimes broadly defined rather than being precisely related to the Specific Objective.
- The targeted territory is indicated as “the entire programme area is eligible for support” for all the SOs and thus, not well-specified.

Do other possible actions or outputs exist that would be more conducive to the intended results?

As illustrated by the tables presented in annex V, the set of actions and outputs seems to be adequate to the intended programme contribution (impact) and intended results.

What is the change (or the intended result) that the Programme intends to bring in the cooperation area?

The paragraph of the CP describing the “expected results” shall display the logic justifying the intervention. The paragraph shall provide the arguments underpinning the choice of the "results which MSs participating in the cooperation programme seek to achieve" and also highlight "the contribution of EU funds", particularly in the CBC programmes. Moreover, the description shall also illustrate the "reference situation" in order to make the result description meaningful. In other words, the "description" shall be an "extended" illustration of the SO providing the necessary narrative basis. Furthermore, taking into account the suggestions from the DG Regio Q&A document for ETC programmes, the “Result” paragraph shall contain target group and sectors too.

The assessment shows that all the paragraphs, describing the results to be achieved within the SO, are developed according to a precise structure which:

- makes reference to the needs underpinning the elaboration of the SO, even if with a wording which doesn't exactly corresponds to the key challenges identified in section 1;
- details the changes that the CP intends to bring the CBC area, in particular the contribution of the programme (impact) to these changes is well defined within the SOs, e.g. SO 4.1 *“The development of new traffic should be directed towards the use of vessels using compatible energy sources (such as methane), the adoption of ICT systems to perform embarking and disembarking of passengers in vessel traffic management and implementation of e-ticket (electronic ticketing) systems and electronic traffic management to ensure a more efficient development of traffic in the area.”*

Are the external factors that could influence the intended results identified?

No clear reference to the external factors which can influence the achievement of the targeted results is made. In this sense, from the ex-ante evaluator's perspective it appears recommendable to detail, at least in the future programme evaluation plan, the external factors which can influence (positively or negatively) the achievement of the targeted results.

Are the policy assumptions underpinning the Programme logic backed up by evidence (e.g. from previous experiences, evaluations or studies)?

The policy assumptions underpinning the Programme logic are based on different typologies of evidences:

- The territorial and SWOT analysis carried out by the CP drafters which allows to identify the final list of key challenges and needs to be addressed;
- Consultations carried out during the programming process

Are the proposed forms of support [such as grants, financial instruments, others] suitable for the types of beneficiaries and the specific objectives of the Programme?

According to the information provided in the CP, the programme shall be implemented via grants, which appear consistent with the characteristics of the programme (limited financial resources if compared to the mainstream programmes) and with the typologies of targeted beneficiaries. Moreover, the programme authorities have agreed on leaving the option for the future implementation of financial instruments ('The opportunity of the elaboration and implementation of financial instruments will be debated during the implementation of the programme') which, from the evaluator's perspective can represent an interesting solution for overcoming problems potentially faced by the beneficiaries in the co-financing of the projects. In this sense the evaluators strongly recommend the programme authorities to monitor and to take a look at the guidance and trainings proposed in the framework of the DG Regio/EIB technical assistance platform fi-compass (www.fi-compass.eu).

1.4.c Findings

In general, the analysis shows that:

- For all SOs the CP presents an indicative list of actions which is coherent with the SOs and with the expected results and which contributes to the expected programme impact (see tables in annex VI);
- For all SOs the CP presents a list of the targeted type of beneficiaries which are sometimes broadly defined rather than being precisely related to the Specific Objective.
- Regarding the type of territories where the SOs will intervene, they are not well-specified since for all the SOs the entire programme area is indicated as eligible for support.
- All the paragraphs, describing the results to be achieved within the SO, are developed according to a quite homogenous structure which (1) makes reference to the needs underpinning the elaboration of the SO (2) describes the changes that the CP intends to bring the CBC area, (3) illustrates the programme contribution (impact) to the change;
- No clear reference is made to the external factors which can influence the achievement of the targeted results. In this sense, from the ex-ante evaluators perspective it appears recommendable to detail, at least in the future programme evaluation plan, the external factors which can influence (positively or negatively) the achievement of the targeted results.
- The programme shall be implemented via grants (which appear consistent with the characteristics of the programme and with the typologies of targeted beneficiaries) but the programme authorities have agreed on leaving the option for the future implementation of financial instruments. From the evaluator's perspective this can represent an interesting solution for overcoming problems potentially faced by the beneficiaries in the co-financing of the projects. In this sense the evaluator strongly recommends the programme authorities to monitor and to take a look at the guidance and trainings proposed in the framework of the DG Regio/EIB technical assistance platform *fi-compass* (www.fi-compass.eu).

1.5 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

1.5.a *Methodological approach*

Article 55(3)(l-m) CPR requires that the ex-ante evaluator assesses "the adequacy of planned measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women and to prevent any discrimination, in particular as regards accessibility for persons with disabilities" and appraises "the adequacy of planned measures to promote sustainable development"⁴. Moreover the regulation requires the evaluator to assess the respect of the regulatory principle on partnership and multilevel governance.

The evaluation of the horizontal principles results is based on the following questions

- Has the principle of equality of opportunity been taken into account?
- Are the planned measures adequate to promote non-discrimination?
- Are the planned measures adequate to promote sustainable development requirements?
- Are there specific objectives or actions taking into account resource efficiency?
- Are there specific objectives or actions taking into account climate change mitigation and adaptation?
- Are there specific objectives or actions taking into account disaster resilience and risk prevention and management?
- Does the programme adequately translate the regulatory principle on partnership and multilevel governance into its own contest?

1.5.b *Assessment*

The assessment is summarized in the following table at SO level, considering in particular the Section 2 of the CP describing the results to be achieved and the actions per each SO and the Section 6 'Horizontal principles'. The relation between the SO and the principle has been categorized as follows:

- Direct (DI), when the SO and/or some activities clearly foresee the promotion of the horizontal principle.

⁴ CPR, Art.55(3)(l,m)

- Indirect (IND), when, even if no action foresees the promotion of the horizontal principle, this is taken into account with an explicit reference in the selection criteria;
- Neutral (N), when there is no relation between the SO and the horizontal principle;

The following table illustrates the analysis.

Table 1-6 Horizontal principles matrix analysis

PA	IP	Specific objective	Horizontal principles			
			Equality of opportunity	Non discrimination	Equality between men and women	Sustainable development
1	<i>1b</i>	<i>SO 1.1</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>IND</i>
2	<i>4f</i>	<i>SO 2.1</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>DI</i>
	<i>5b</i>	<i>SO 2.2</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>IND</i>
3	<i>6c</i>	<i>SO 3.1</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>DI</i>
	<i>6d</i>	<i>SO 3.2</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>DI</i>
	<i>6f</i>	<i>SO 3.3</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>DI</i>
4	<i>7c</i>	<i>SO 4.1</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>DI</i>

1.5.c Findings

The analysis shows that

- the principle of sustainable development is considered as one of the main pillars of the implementation of the CP. This has a different impact across the axes:
 - SOs 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1 directly contribute to sustainable development through actions which foresee affecting positively the environmental sustainability of the area.
- As regards ‘equal opportunities’, ‘non-discrimination’ and ‘equality between men and women’, the planned interventions are not expected to have a direct impact on those horizontal principles; however, as stated under CP section 8, the programme implementation arrangements (e.g. selection criteria, monitoring arrangements) shall be organised by taking into consideration both the ‘equal opportunities’, ‘non-discrimination’ and ‘equality between men and women’.

- The principle of partnership and multilevel governance was respected. Analysis of the Section 5.6 which describes the modality of involvement of the partners shows that:
 - a Task Force (TF) was set up to lead the preparation process of the future programme which was composed of national and regional representatives of both participating countries and one representative of the European Commission.
 - An online consultation was organised through surveys involving more than 250 stakeholders indicated by the TF members and national and regional authorities involved in the programme.
 - The stakeholders events organised in Trieste and Split.

2. Appraisal of the indicators and of the Programme arrangements for monitoring and evaluation (WP 2)

The programming period 2014-2020 is characterised by an increased focus on results and this is translated in an increased attention on the identification of an appropriate indicator system and of adequate arrangements for monitoring and data collection.

The ex-ante evaluation of the Italy-Croatia Programme is expected to address a large number of evaluation questions related to:

- the Programme indicator system (relevance and clarity of the proposed programme indicators; relevance and clarity of the quantified baselines and target values; suitability of the milestones);
- the Programme arrangements for monitoring and evaluation (measurability of indicators, suitability of procedures; adequacy of human and administrative capacity).

2.1 APPRAISAL OF THE PROGRAMME INDICATOR SYSTEM

2.1.a Methodological approach

This section provides an assessment of the output and result indicators proposed by the programme. The assessment is based on the following distinction between output and result indicators:

- Outputs are the direct products of programmes and they are linked to activities. They are intended to contribute to the results. The baseline for programme output indicators is always zero. To define output indicators, programmes should first look at and select from the common output indicators (annexed to the ETC-Regulation) as

and when applicable. Where these cannot cover the scope of programme activities, programme -specific output indicators should be developed.

- Results are defined as the measurable dimension of the desired change i.e. the specific dimension of well-being and progress for people intended to be brought by the designed interventions. The contribution of other factors affecting this change is also taken into consideration. Result indicators, in turn, are variables that provide information on specific aspects of this result that lend themselves to be measured (either in qualitative or quantitative terms). In other words, programme result indicators should cover a dimension of the result which programme interventions could influence and which can be measured and captured. Furthermore, a result indicator should show what the situation is like when the programme starts (i.e. show why interventions are needed) and how the situation evolves as the Programme progresses.

According to Article 55 of the reg. 1303/2013 the appraisal of the indicators' system focuses on the following aspects: relevance and clarity of the proposed programme indicators; quantified baseline and target values and suitability of milestones. Ex-ante evaluators have used the SMART methodology, which is based on the following five criteria:

- **Specific indicator**, if it measures the relevant change at the specific objective level;
- **Measurable indicator**, if it is possible to measure the baseline, the target and, if necessary, the milestones;
- **Attainable indicator**, if it is possible to achieve the target;
- **Relevant indicator**, if it measures the contribution to the change at a priority axis and programme level;
- **Time – bound**, if the indicator is available and updated in different periods.

This chapter provides the appraisal of the programme indicators' system and the suitability of milestones of the performance framework.

Table 2-1 Proposed result and output indicators

RESULT	SO 1.1	EPO applications <u>Source:</u> Eurostat - Patent applications to the EPO by priority year by NUTS 3 regions (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/data/database)
	SO 2.1	Inhabitants benefiting from planning of adaptation measures <u>Source:</u> specific questionnaire
	SO 2.2	Inhabitants benefiting from risk management coordinated measures <u>Source:</u> specific questionnaire
	SO 3.1	Seasonality in tourism in the programme area <u>Source:</u> regional statistical agencies

	SO 3.2	Conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in programme area <u>Source:</u> Standard Data Form for Natura 2000 network (http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/natura-6)
	SO 3.3	Quality level of coastal bathing waters (according to the dir. 2006/7/CE) (Number) <u>Source:</u> European Environment Agency - Data on Bathing Water Directive (http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/bathing-water-directive-status-of-bathing-water-7)
	SO 4.1	Goods transported by maritime mode <u>Source:</u> EUROSTAT – Maritime transport goods per country and main ports (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/transport/data/database)
OUTPUT	SO 1.1	(1.1) Enterprises receiving non-financial support
		(1.2) Enterprises receiving grants
		(1.3) Research institutions participating in cross-border, trans-national or interregional research projects
		(1.4) Participants to training activities
	SO 2.1	(2.1) Climate change monitoring systems put in operation
		(2.2) Plans of adaptation measures put in place
	SO 2.2	(2.3) Risk management measures operative
		(2.4) People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness
	SO 3.1	(3.1) Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted
		(3.2) Actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism)
		(3.3) Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g. to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place
		(3.4) Number of actors with ecolabel/green certification
	SO 3.2	(3.5) Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status
		(3.6) Monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place
		(3.7) Restoration actions supporting endangered species
		(3.8) Integrated management systems (sea, coastal and river environment) put in place
	SO 3.3	(3.9) Environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented
		(3.10) Knowledge systems put in place
	SO 4.1	(4.1) Improved multimodal transport services
		(4.2) New links established
(4.3) Harmonized services for passengers put in place		

2.1.b Result indicators' assessment

Smart analysis of result indicators

The SMART analysis of the set of result indicators is summarised in the following table.

	SO 1.1	SO 2.1	SO 2.2	SO 3.1	SO 3.2	SO 3.3	SO 4.1
S (the indicator is specific to the change of the SO)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
M (the indicator is measurable)	😊	😊	😊	😐	😊	😊	😊
A (the target value is achievable)	😊	😐	😐	😐	😊	😊	😊
R (the indicator is relevant, it contributes to the change of the priority axis)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
T (the indicator is time-bound)	😊	😐	😐	😐	😊	😊	😊
CLE (the definition and the direction of change is clear)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
A (Av=available indicator or ad hoc indicator)	Av	ad hoc	ad hoc	ad hoc	Av	Av	Av
R (the methodology of construction is defined and sound)	😊	😐	😐	😊	😊	😊	😊
Number of indicators (Max.2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Legend: 😊 indicates the CP fulfils the criteria of assessment; 😐 indicates that the CP complies partially with criteria of assessment; 😐 indicates that the CP does not comply with the criteria of assessment; '?' indicates that the information currently provided in the CP does not allow carrying out the assessment

The analysis shows:

- the proposed indicators are coherent with the specific objectives;
- the proposed indicators are measurable and consistent with the respective priority axes;

However, the analysis also shows that:

- due to the lack of baselines and targets, the indicators 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1 cannot be considered as achievable and time-bound.
- Moreover, the information provided in the CP does not offer a clear understanding on the methodology that will be adopted for collecting information. From the evaluator's perspective indicators 1.1, 3.2, and 3.3 and 4.1 are supposed to be fed with the data regularly provided by European/national or regional institutions, while indicators 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1 are supposed to be fed with quantitative data provided by the competent national or regional authorities.

The ex-ante evaluator recommends to elaborate an additional note in particular by providing precise information on the expected timing for collecting result indicators baselines and targets as well as on the methodology that shall be adopted for defining both (baselines and targets).

Consistent with the requirement of the regulation, the programme does not foresee any result indicator for the TA axis.

2.1.c Output indicators' assessment

Smart analysis of output indicators

The SMART analysis of the set of result indicators is summarised in the following table.

	SO 1.1				SO 2.1		SO 2.2		SO 3.1				SO 3.2				SO 3.3		SO 4.1		
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.10	4.1	4.2	4.3
S (the indicator is specific to the actions of the SO)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
M (the indicator is measurable)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
A (the target value is achievable)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
R (the indicator is coherent with the change of the SO and priority axis)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
T (the indicator is time-bound)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
CLE (the definition is clear)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😐	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Common indicator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Legend: 😊 indicates the CP fulfills the criteria of assessment; 😐 indicates that the CP complies partially with criteria of assessment; 😞 indicates that the CP does not comply with the criteria of assessment; '?' indicates that the information currently provided in the CP does not allow carrying out the assessment

The analysis shows that:

- the proposed output indicators are in general measurable, specific to the foreseen actions and relevant to the change of the SO;
- the proposed indicators are generally time-bound, however it is important to underline that a large group of them are more levelled on project's results, than on project outputs (in particular indicators 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3, 3.4, , 4.1, 4.3) and in this

sense it presents potential risks related to the timing of achievements of the expected targets (timing issue).

- the most part of the proposed output indicators are mainly “fed” by data provided by the beneficiaries. This implies, for the programme monitoring system, the need to verify and control the data provided by the beneficiaries; in this sense it is recommended to provide beneficiaries with adequate definitions of all programme specific output indicators and in particular of what is meant by:
 - Environmental friendly technological solutions implemented (indicator 3.9);
 - Improved multimodal transport services (indicator 4.1);
 - Number of new links established (indicator 4.2);
- having in mind that information on the type of project partners will be directly elaborated by the programme monitoring system, while data on the target groups are supposed to be provided by project partners, from the ex-ante evaluator’s perspective it appears recommendable:
 - to clarify if 4.2 refers maritime/road/multimodal links.

2.1.d Milestones’ assessment

The following table shows the performance framework of the CP

Table 2-2 Performance framework

Priority axis	Indicator Type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1	Financial	Financial	EUR	2.416.286,60	24.162.866,00
	Output	Research institutions participating in cross-border/transnational or interregional research projects	Number	2	10
		Participants to training activities	Number	40	120
2	Financial	Financial	EUR	2.567.304	51.346.091,00
	Key implementation step	No of operations approved	Number	7	15

	Key implementation step	No of call for tenders finalized by the operations for the purchasing of monitoring tools finalized	Number	3	7
3	Financial	Financial	EUR	4.933.251	70.475.027,00
	Output	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	Number	4	20
	Output	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g. to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place	Number	4	10
	Output	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status		1	6
	Output	Number of knowledge systems put in place		1	3
4	Financial	Financial	EUR	2.164.590	43.291.802,00
	Output	Improved multimodal transport services	Number	3	5
	Output	Harmonized services for passengers put in place	Number	1	4

The analysis, based on the methodological indications of the Guidance of DG Regio on the Performance Framework, on the Annex II of the reg. 1303/2013 and on the qualitative information on the performance framework presented in the CP, shows that:

- the performance framework is established for each priority, with the priority axis n.5 on technical assistance excluded;
- the performance framework indicates the priority and the unit of measurement;
- the output indicators selected for the performance framework assure to cover more than 50% of the allocation of the SOs as demonstrated by the fact that each of them covers the largest part of the example of actions proposed for the SO (see annex VI).

2.1.e Findings

Result indicators:

- All indicators are coherent with the specific objectives, measurable and consistent with the respective priority axes;
- Being the targets and baselines not defined, the indicators 2.1, 2.2 and 3.3 cannot be considered as achievable and time-bound;
- the information provided in the CP does not offer a clear understanding on the methodology that will be adopted for collecting information.
- The ex-ante evaluators recommend to elaborate an additional note in particular by providing precise information on the expected timing for collecting result indicators baselines and targets as well as on the methodology that shall be adopted for defining both (baselines and targets).

Output indicators:

- the proposed output indicators are in general measurable, specific to the foreseen actions and relevant to the change of the SO;
- the proposed indicators are generally time-bound, however it is important to underline that a large group of them are more levelled on project's results, than on project outputs and this can determine potential risks related to the timing of achievements of the expected targets (timing issue).
- The most part of the proposed output indicators are mainly "fed" by data provided by the beneficiaries. This implies, for the programme monitoring system, the need to verify and control the data provided by the beneficiaries; in this sense it is recommended to provide beneficiaries with adequate definitions of all programme specific output indicators.

Milestones:

- the performance framework is established for each priority, with the priority axis n.5 on technical assistance excluded;
- the performance framework indicates the priority and the unit of measurement;
- the output indicators selected for the performance framework assure to cover more than 50% of the allocation of the SOs as demonstrated by the fact that each of them covers the largest part of the example of actions proposed for the SO (see annex VI).

2.2 PROGRAMME LEVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING/DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION

This chapter assesses the suitability of the procedures for monitoring the programme and for collecting the data necessary to carry out evaluations (reg. 1303/2013 (art. 55 (j)). The ex-ante evaluator:

- Describes synthetically the lessons learnt from the previous programming period and illustrates to what extent the CP is designed to take them into account;
- Suggests different scenarios on the possible structure of the system of monitoring and evaluation, which will be defined in the evaluation plan.

2.2.a *Lessons learnt from 2007-2013*

Being a brand new programme, in the case of the Italy-Croatia Programme, the evaluator cannot pave their analysis on the lessons learnt during the previous programming period (e.g. by using information provided on 2007-2013 AIRs or evaluation reports). To overcome this difficulty the evaluators have:

- Adapted to the specific context of the Italy-Croatia cooperation the general lessons emerged at European level regarding the implementation of monitoring and evaluation activities in the ETC context. Main source of information at this regards are the data on the 2007-2013 ETC AIRs collected in the context of the DG Regio 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation on data collection (WPO)⁵, the various analysis produced by Interact⁶, as well as the general experience of the evaluators regarding the implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes⁷.
- Made reference to the specific requirements in terms of monitoring and evaluation established for the 2014-2020 period.

The assessment is focused on the following dimensions:

- Use of indicators;
- Monitoring system;
- Involvement of the stakeholders;

⁵ t33 was lead partner of the consortium in charge of the WPO

⁶ See Interact '*Capturing the impact of territorial cooperation*'

⁷ t33 is in charge of the on-going evaluation of the 2007-2013 Alcotra programme

- Evaluation plan.

The table below offers a synthesis of the proposals on those topics coming from the above mentioned different sources.

	Lessons from 2007-2013 and specific 2014-2020 challenges	CP arrangements and evaluators comments
Use of indicators	<p>The ex-post evaluation on the data collection highlights the difficulties faced by the 2007-2013 ETC programmes in selecting and using core indicators.</p> <p>Moreover in several cases the on-going evaluations of ETC programmes often have highlighted the presence of system of indicators not always effective in capturing and measuring the changes produced by the programmes (see Interact typology exercise)</p>	<p>Output and result indicators are described under section 2 of the CP.</p> <p>No specific information is provided on the flow of information between project partners and programme authorities but it is reasonable to expect that the data relating to the project achievements is included within Project Progress reports elaborated by the beneficiaries. Data will be subsequently compiled by the Joint Secretariat to establish holistic Programme information and the used by the Managing Authority in conjunction with relevant financial data to form the basis of the Annual Programme Reports</p>
Monitoring system	<p>The 2014-2020 period poses new challenges into the programme monitoring systems. Programmes in fact, should be capable to monitor the following dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at programme level: efficiency, effectiveness and impact at project level: quality of the implementation, results and added values 	<p>Under section 2, the description of the expected results for the TA axis makes clear the intention of the programme to assure sound and efficient reporting procedures.</p> <p>The evaluator recommends the programme authorities to pay particular attention in the elaboration of the application forms and progress reports structures in order to assure that since the beginning the programme is capable to collect all relevant information.</p>
Involvement of the stakeholders		<p>Some of the proposed result indicators adopted shall imply the need to collect data from the competent regional and national authorities.</p> <p>The evaluators recommend to provide further information on the specific authorities that shall be involved and on the timing on their involvement (e.g. on the additional explanatory note on the indicator system)</p>
Evaluation plan	<p>The evaluation plan needs to be submitted to the PC within 1 year from the approval of the CP.</p> <p>The evaluation plan shall define</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What to evaluate: definition of the evaluation questions. 2) When to evaluate: hypothesis of the timing. 3) How to evaluate: what approach (e.g. theory based) 	<p>Among the type of actions foreseen under the TA axis, also the <i>Drafting and implementing the programme evaluation plan</i>.</p> <p>The evaluator underlines the relevance of this step, the definition of the key evaluation questions as well as of the timing and type of evaluation activities has consequences on the monitoring system in terms of information and data that the programme should be capable to collect from beneficiaries</p>

2.2.b Findings

On the basis of the previous analysis and in relation with the previous examined aspects, the ex-ante evaluator proposes the following findings and recommendations.

Use of indicators: the CP proposes a monitoring system based on output and result indicators. According to the ex-ante evaluator, the main challenges come from:

- The capacity of the programme to set up flexible monitoring procedures, but also to assure an effective control of the data provided by the beneficiaries;
- the capacity of the programme to manage and appropriately use this amount of information for the evaluation. This could require some adaptations in terms of available expertise;
- the modalities of use of information in order to provide “early warning” which appear of particular relevance due to the performance framework.

Involvement of the stakeholders, according to the ex-ante evaluator,

- The full involvement of specific key stakeholders (regional and national authorities) in construction of the result indicator system and in future activities is a key condition for assuring the effective implementation of the programme. However at the moment it is not possible to assess the modalities for their involvement.

Evaluation planning: the ex-ante evaluator

- Considers it very important that the programme bodies are aware of the need to measure and report the results of the programme. As a matter of fact, the evaluation plan will be submitted to the monitoring committee no later than one year after the adoption of the operational programme (art.114 reg 1303/2013).

Based on the above findings, the ex-ante evaluator proposes the following recommendations:

- It is necessary to design standardised procedures for monitoring result indicators and for the impact evaluation in order to reduce the burden for stakeholders and to capitalise from the activities already carried out for setting the baseline;
- The evaluation plan should clearly tackle the new challenges of the result-oriented approach;
- The evaluation plan should confirm this approach and ensure the involvement of key stakeholders whenever appropriate in surveys, workshops, other tools;
- In order to improve the organisation of the monitoring and evaluation system, it would be important and useful to:

- promote an increased focus on the project level, which will allow building a coherent system from project to programme level and will provide useful information for the evaluation;
- Set a programme “intelligence” able to provide “early warning” and “justification” in case of possible failures and to reach “on time”;
- Clearly define the roles and logically link the bodies, steps and mechanisms of the monitoring and evaluation system. This will allow building systems of information capable of feeding monitoring, performance and evaluation and “correlating” the strategy of the programme with the indicators’ system.
- Take in consideration the possibility to organise part of the evaluation at project level, combining both a top-down and bottom-up approach.

3. Evaluation of the consistency of financial allocations

The Article 92 (2) of the CPR specifies the global resources which are available for budgetary commitment from the Funds for the ETC goal (2.75% or a total). Article 4 (1) (b) of the ETC Regulation sets out the share and amount dedicated to all cross-border cooperation programmes, i.e. a 74.05% or a total of EUR 6.626.631.760.

Against this background, the current chapter appraises the consistency of the allocation of the budgetary resources under the Italy-Croatia programme. The appraisal of the consistency of financial allocations will be based on the following two evaluation questions:

- Do the financial allocations concentrate on the most important objectives in line with the identified challenges and needs and with the concentration requirements set out in the Regulations (Article 16 of the CPR)?
- Are the financial allocations to each priority axis and to categories of interventions consistent looking at the identified challenges and needs that informed the objectives as well as at the planned actions?

The appraisal is based on the information contained in sections 1.2, 2 and 3 of the CP.

3.1 COMPLIANCE WITH THE EU REGULATIONS

According to Article 8 (2) (d) (ii) of the ETC Regulation, the Programme should develop a table for the whole programming period, for the cooperation programme and for each priority axis, the amount of the total financial appropriation of the ERDF support and the national co-financing. In case the national co-financing is made up of public and private co-financing, the table shall give the indicative breakdown between the public and private components as well. The financing plan is given in the tables 15, 16 and 17 of the CP, following and meeting the requirements set out by the aforementioned Regulation Article.

For the 2014-2020 period there is a total of € 201.357.219 of ERDF. This ERDF funding is allocated to five priority axes (including TA) and 4 TOs.

According to the Article 6 (1) of the ETC Regulation, 80% of the ERDF Funding should be allocated to a maximum of four TOs, which are outlined in the Article 9 of the CPR. Taking into account that the Italy-Croatia programme has chosen only four out of eleven TOs, it is evident that the distribution of funding presented above meets the regulatory requirements.

Considering that the funding allocation is distributed to four thematic objectives, then it can be concluded that the Italy-Croatia programme complies entirely with the requirements that are set in the ETC Regulations.

3.2 CONCENTRATION ON THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

This sub-section aims to verify whether the financial resources are adequately distributed among the Programme objectives. The Programme foresees an amount of total budget equivalent to € 236.890.846, € 201.357.219 of which from the ERDF.

94% of ERDF funding available for the programme is distributed among the first four priority axes: the remaining 6% is allocated to the Technical Assistance axis. More precisely the ERDF is distributed as follow:

- € 24.162.866 (equivalent to 12 % of the total ERDF budget) for the SO 1.1 of the axis 1 'Blue Innovation';
- € 51.346.091 (equivalent to the 25,5% of the total ERDF budget) for the SOs 2.1 and 2.2 of the axis 2 'Safety and resilience';
- € 70.475.027 (equivalent to the 35% of the total ERDF budget) for the 3 SOs of the axis 3 'Environment and cultural heritage';
- € 43.291.802 (equivalent to the 21,5% of the total ERDF budget) for the SO 4.1 of the axis 4 'Maritime Transport'
- € 12.081.433 (equivalent to the 6% of the total ERDF budget) for the Technical Assistance Priority Axis.

Considering the number of SOs, the SO 4.1 appears as the most relevant with an attribution of 21,5% of the total ERDF budget.

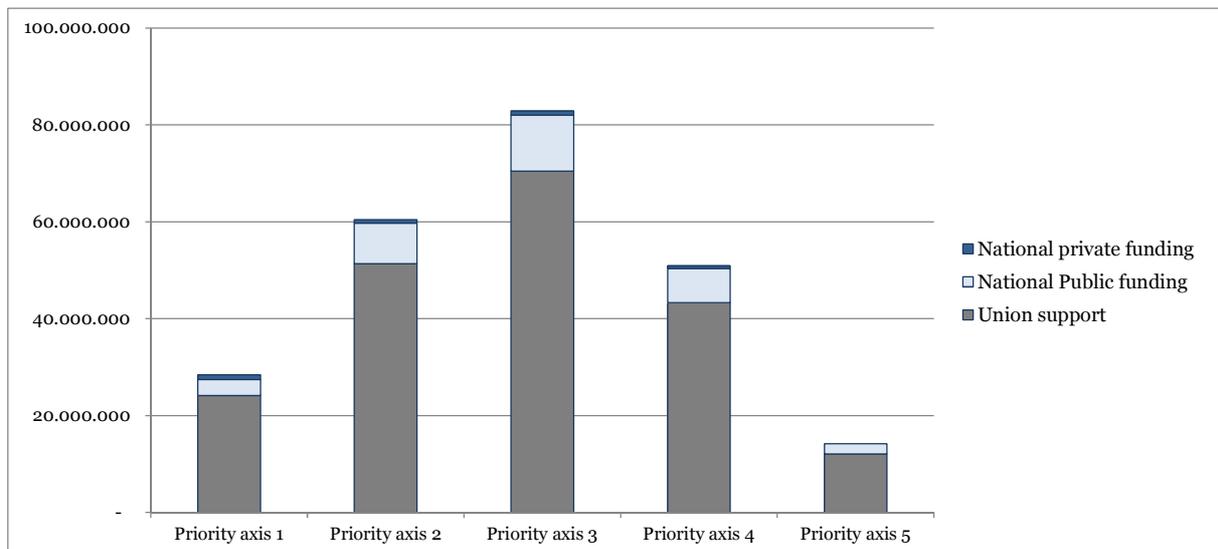
Taking into account the relation between the identified challenges and the proposed SOs presented in the Table 1-2, the analysis shows that:

- Sustainable growth challenges are tackled in particular by axes 2, 3 and 4 and that approximately 90% of the ERDF is allocated to respond to the identified challenges related to the sustainable growth;
- Smart growth challenges are in particular tackled by SO 1.1 (12% of the ERDF budget);

The different share of the ERDF funding available among the four priority axes is coherent with the challenges and needs underpinning the Programme strategy and with the political will and the expectations expressed by the TF.

Concerning the distribution of the programme budget among the different sources (ERDF, national public funding, national private funding) the first four priority axes foresee an equal distribution (see Figure 3-1): 85% from the ERDF, 13,7% from national public funds and 1,3% from national private funds. In total the programme foresees the collection of a total amount of national private budget of € 3.120.000. The proposed ERDF co-financing rate is consistent with the requirements of the regulation and shall guarantee to the programme a good capacity to attract beneficiaries.

Figure 3-1 Distribution of the programme budget (ERDF and national co-financing)



3.3 FINDINGS

The analysis shows that:

- the Italy-Croatia Programme complies entirely with the requirements that are set in the ETC Regulations.

- The different share of the ERDF funding available among the four priority axis is coherent with the challenges and needs underpinning the Programme strategy and with the political will and the expectations expressed by the TF.
- The proposed ERDF co-financing rate is consistent with the requirements of the regulation and shall guarantee to the programme a good capacity to attract beneficiaries.

4. Evaluation of the contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy

Europe 2020 is the EU's growth Strategy that aims at moving beyond the crisis and creating the conditions for a more competitive economy. The strategy sets a number of priorities with headline targets and flagship initiatives for the member states. There are three interrelated priorities of the strategy:

- Smart Growth: developing an economy based on education, knowledge and innovation;
- Sustainable Growth: promoting of a more efficient, greener and low-carbon economy;
- Inclusive Growth: fostering a high-employment economy, delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The ETC programmes should implement the overall goals of the strategy on a regional level and thus by adapting their priority axes and specific objectives to the Strategy. The Italy-Croatia programme aims at harnessing the potential of cross-border cooperation to contribute to the balanced and sustainable development of the cooperation area.

Whereas previous chapters (see Consistency analysis) have shown correspondence of the identified challenges and needs with the Europe 2020 Strategy, this chapter focuses on analysing how the Programmes' specific objectives correspond and contribute to Europe 2020 Strategy. The analysis of the Europe 2020 priorities and the priority axes shows the relationship of the programme objectives to the Strategy's headline targets.

Considering the overall relationship of the programme with the Europe 2020 priorities, the programme shows a rather direct contribution to the smart and sustainable growth priority. As regards inclusive growth priority instead, no direct contribution is expected by the programme. None of the specific objectives or priority axes of the programme is in conflict with the EU 2020 priorities, they are generally coherent with the EU 2020 priorities and share a complementary relation.

The analysis presented in the table below allows to identify the expected potential contribution of the Italy-Croatia Programme's specific objectives to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Table 4-1 Contribution of the CP to Europe 2020 Strategy

	Headline targets	SO 1.1	SO 2.1	SO 2.2	SO 3.1	SO 3.2	SO 3.3	SO 4.1
Smart Growth	75% of the 20-64 year-old population to be employed	(o)						
	3% of the EU's Gross Domestic Product to be invested in R&D	+++	(o)	(o)	(o)	+	+	+
Sustainable Growth	20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions	+	++	+	+	+	++	+
	20% of energy from renewable sources	+	+	+	+	(o)	+	++
	20% increase in energy efficiency	+	+	+	+	(o)	+	++
Inclusive Growth	At least 40% of 30-34 year-old population completing third level education	(o)						
	At least 20 million fewer people in or at-risk-of-poverty and social exclusion	(o)						

Contribution high-low: +++, ++, + (o) → no to minor contribution

Main remarks on the contribution of the Italy -Croatia Programme's specific objectives to the Europe 2020 Strategy:

- Priority Axis 1 of the programme focuses on the enhancement of the framework conditions for innovation which can allow to produce a direct contribution to the Europe 2020 objective of Smart Growth.
- Priority Axis 2 aims at improving the safety and resilience of the programme area by enhancing the implementation of climate change adaptation measures and promoting joint actions for risk management in the area. In this sense it is expected that the

financed actions under this PA will contribute to the sustainable growth targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency.

- Priority Axis 3 of the programme is focused on protecting the natural and cultural heritage in the area by using innovative technologies and approaches, and making them a leverage for economic and territorial development. The actions financed under this PA are expected to contribute slightly to the smart growth target of investing more in R&D and mostly to the sustainable growth targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency and use of energy from renewable resources.
- Priority Axis 4 is focused on improving the maritime and coastal transport services by developing environment-friendly and low carbon transport systems. In this sense, the actions financed under this PA are expected to contribute mainly to the sustainable growth targets such as the reduction of gas emissions, use of energy from renewable resources and increase of energy efficiency.

5. Adequacy of human resources, administrative capacity and measures planned to reduce administrative burden

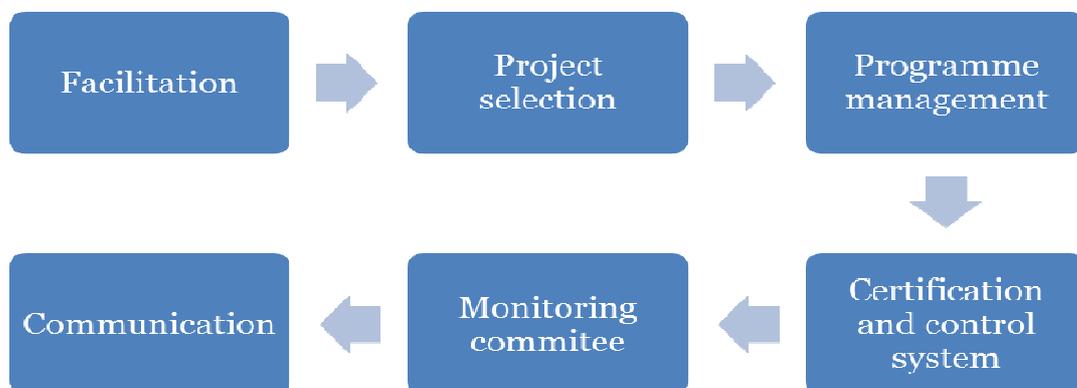
5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

5.1.a Methodological approach

This chapter assesses the adequacy of human resources and administrative capacity for management of the programme (reg. 1303/2013 (art. 55 (i)) and the adequacy of the measures planned to reduce the administrative burdens. The appraisal is conducted by:

- Describing the main aspects related to the administrative capacity and administrative burdens, with a focus on the following functions: expenditure Certification, Control system, Monitoring Committee, Territorial Facilitation, Publicity;
- Verifying if the human resources and administrative capacities are proportionate and adequate to the needs of programme management and delivery and to ensure limited burdens for the beneficiaries.

Figure 5-1 Administrative capacity: analysed elements



5.1.b Assessment

The following table reports the main contributions from the on-going evaluation on the main themes related to administrative capacity and adequacy of human resources.

Table 5-1 Assessment of the human resources and administrative capacity

FACILITATION	
Arrangements foreseen by the CP	Section 5.3 states that: The JS shall assist to the beneficiaries as first contact point for information about the programme to potential beneficiaries and then to beneficiaries during the implementation of the projects. In order to assure specific support in particular to the Croatian potential partners, the set-up of a specific Croatian Help Desk was discussed during the July 2015 TF.
Assessment of the impact on the administrative capacity and on administrative burdens for the beneficiaries	JS will be asked to enhance the territorial linkages with the programme. Being the programme brand new, the role of the territorial facilitators is particularly relevant, in this sense the evaluators underline the importance to dispose of adequate human resources in terms of numbers and competences. The adoption of the 2-steps selection approach represents a solution which certainly facilitates the participation of the interested beneficiaries.



PROJECT SELECTION	
Arrangements foreseen by the CP	The CP details the specific arrangements which will be adopted in the selection phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two categories of projects are foreseen (standard and strategic); • Different modalities (e.g.: one- two steps call, targeted calls, etc.) for submission of the project proposals will be established according to the specificity of the call • The assessment of the project proposal will be the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee. In the evaluation process the monitoring committee will be supported by the JS and by external experts. • Once the project is approved, the MA will ensure pre-financing to the beneficiaries which will be paid out up to 10% depending on the availability of the ERDF funds.
Assessment of the impact on the administrative capacity and on administrative burdens for the beneficiaries	Consistent with the 2014-2020 approach the new programme foresees a focalized strategy (only four TOs selected) which is supposed to facilitate the set-up of clear and objective selection criteria (by avoiding the risk of covering an excessive number of themes which makes the assessment procedure more difficult. In the evaluator's perspective, the assurance of a pre-financing as well as the possibility to adopt a 2-steps selection procedures, can surely facilitate the participation of the interested beneficiaries (reduction of potential burdens in the initial phases of the project development), but can also determine consequences in terms of work required to the JS. In this sense it is important that the JS disposes of adequate human resources in order to guarantee a fast and efficient formal assessment of the received proposal and to assure the efficient control and management of the financial flows due to the pre-financing.



PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	
Arrangements foreseen by the CP	<p>Section 5.1 indicates the Managing Authority at the premises of Veneto Region, which consequently will be responsible for managing and implementing the cooperation programme. In carrying out its functions, the MA will be assisted by the JS, in particular with regards to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secretary services and administrative activities; • day-to-day management and implementation of the programme; • drafting and implementing the communication; • preparing all the documents for submission of the project proposals; • receiving the project proposals and coordinating the assessment process; • presenting the results of the assessment process to the monitoring committee; • updating information on monitoring system, at programme and project level; • drawing up reports on the implementation of the programme. <p>No clear information is provided in the CP regarding the MA and JS in terms of staff members; during the July 2015 TF the hypothesis of a JS composed by 16 members was discussed.</p>
Assessment of the impact on the administrative capacity and on administrative burdens for the beneficiaries	<p>Also considering that the programme structures are new, it is particularly important that they dispose of adequate human resources, both in terms of competences and number of staff members.</p>



CERTIFICATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM	
Arrangements foreseen by the CP	<p>Section 5.3 states that: <i>each Member State participating to the Programme will be set in place a control system able to ensure the delivery of the necessary financial verification of co-financed products and services, the correspondent delivery of outputs and the adoption of proportionate anti-fraud measures</i></p>
Assessment of the impact on the administrative capacity and on administrative burdens for the beneficiaries	<p>Double checks and differences in the two national systems are particularly burdensome for the less-experienced ones and small size organisations. On the other hand, increase of budgetary constraint in public administration could hinder the capacity of the control system and of the administrative bodies.</p> <p>In this sense, the capacity of the programme to guarantee sound and efficient control procedures represent one of the most important elements in order to assure the efficient implementation of the programme. From the information provided in the CP it emerges that the programme authorities are aware of the potential risks and are committed to organise specific training sessions and coordination meetings in order to ensure a smooth functioning of the control system.</p>



MONITORING COMMITTEE	
Arrangements foreseen by the CP	<p>The rules defined in CP section 5.3 assure a strong involvement of the partnership with both Italian and Croatian partners represented. Moreover, as a title of consultative bodies, each Member State may organise its national committee.</p> <p>The information provided in the CP regarding the role and functions of the MC respond to the main regulative requirements.</p>
Assessment of the impact on the administrative capacity and on administrative burdens for the beneficiaries	<p>The MC is called to strategically guide the programme implementation. In this sense, this strategic role, demands skills and ability to foster a proactive role of the MS. In particular, the ex-ante evaluators underline the importance to assure the proactive role of the country representatives in the definition of the evaluation plan (definition of the evaluation questions).</p>



COMMUNICATION	
Arrangements foreseen by the CP	<p>Section 5.3 states that a communication strategy will be submitted no later than 6 months after the adoption of the programme.</p> <p>The strategy will be valid for the whole programming period, complemented by annual work plans.</p> <p>The aim of the communication strategy is dual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to inform potential applicants about founding opportunities under the cooperation programme • to communicate progress and achievements of the programme to the general public
Assessment of the impact on the administrative capacity and on administrative burdens for the beneficiaries	<p>Due to the new technologies and modalities of communication, on the one hand, and the new features of 2014+ programme, appropriate skills and capacities will be required from the MA and JS.</p>

5.1.c Findings

For each aspect of the assessment, the ex-ante evaluator drafts a list of findings and suggestions for the 2014-2020 period. In particular the evaluator underlines that:

- Following the indications from the DG Regio study of 2012 carried by t33/SWECO⁸, the new certification procedure will comport an increase of complexity for certain aspects (e.g. rolling closures).
- The JS will face specific challenges in particular related to activities regarding monitoring and evaluation.
- At project level, a sound and efficient control system is the key requirement for limiting the administrative burdens for the beneficiaries.
- From the information provided in the CP it emerges that the programme authorities are committed to solutions that are supposed to limit the administrative burdens towards beneficiaries.

Having in mind the above findings and the fact of having a brand new programme management structure (both MA and JS) some recommendations are provided below:

- Foresee specific training activities in order to support the staff in charge of the management of the programme (formal training, workshops, exchanges of professional experience shall be organised).
- Carefully assess the number of human resources needed to effectively carry out the different tasks required.
- Clearly define the different tasks of the two bodies (MA and JTS) and the roles and responsibilities of the staff.

⁸ DG Regio 2012 (t33/SWECO) Measuring the impact of changing regulatory requirements to administrative cost and administrative burden of managing EU Structural Funds

6. Summary of the SEA

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is finalized to the assessment likely environmental effects of the Italy-Croatia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 through adequate measures. The SEA, in parallel with Programming and Ex-ante evaluation, is carried out in 4 steps: scoping or preliminary activities, environmental reporting (included a context analysis, an environmental assessment of key effects and impacts, the proposal of mitigation actions and the definition of a monitoring system), a public consultation and a decision making.

6.1 THE PRELIMINARY SCOPING PHASE

The preliminary “scoping phase” is principally aimed to define the scope and the level of detail of the information to consider for the evaluation activities development as setting the perimeter of the evaluation.

A preliminary report (Scoping Report) prepared by the evaluator has been the basis for the consultation with the Environmental Authorities. This report included a brief presentation of the Programme, a proposal of environmental issues, indicators and objectives, a description of the methodology, a presentation of the public consultation process and details on the documents and information sources used. The Scoping phase has taken place in September 2014. The suggestions expressed by environmental authorities during the scoping phase have been used to improve the environmental context indicators, the relevant environmental objectives for the cooperation area and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental report.

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND ASSESSMENT

The Environmental Report is integral to the Programme and its entire elaboration and approval process. According to Article 5(1) of the Directive 42/2001/EC, the Environmental Report has to identify, describe and assess the “likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the

objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme”. The contents included in the Environmental Report of the CBC area are compliant with Annex I of the Directive.

The assessment follows the SEA Directive methodological prescriptions. First of all, the analyses refer to the Italy-Croatia Programme area. In the assessment procedure, the relevant environmental objectives and related indicators identified during a preliminary scoping phase have been used. They represent the basis for the description of the environment’s state and its development trends in the programme’s area as well as for the assessment of likely significant effects of the programme on the environment.

Analysis of the environmental effects has three main steps. Firstly, environmental objectives in the area were matched with the proposed Specific Objectives (SOs) and actions planned by the Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme. SOs with potential positive or negative effects on an environmental objective were then identified. Secondly, SEA experts estimated the effect’s intensity according to a scale of significance. Thirdly, the information was reorganised to assess the cumulative and cross-border effects of each action planned by the CBC Programme. Measures to mitigate possible negative effects or to orientate the Programme to sustainability have been proposed. A synthetic description of the assessed effects and of the proposed measure is presented below.

The environmental assessment revealed that the Italy-Croatia CBC Programme has overall positive effects on environmental issues. Negative (not certain) effects have been pointed out following a precautionary approach for action on tourism (for the pressure on natural resources coming from an increment of tourist flows) and on cross border mobility (especially on marine ecosystems for the intensification of maritime traffic). This few negative effects can be avoided with the mitigation measure proposed in the SEA.

During the SEA procedure, different alternative scenarios were considered. Analysis shows that the current strategy proposed for public consultation must be considered as a good alternative compared to other Programme options discussed during the preparation phase, because it represents a compromise between the needs of the CBC area and the environmental performance of the Programme.

6.3 CONSULTATION AND MONITORING

SEA procedure includes a consultation phase for environmental issues in which stakeholders and the general public will be involved. Suggestions collected during consultations will be taken into account in the final Programme version. This phase has been carried out on the OP (draft of July 2015) and on the ER from the 7 August to the 7 October 2015. Environmental Authorities from Italy and Croatia have presented comments, observations and opinion on the CP and on the ER. The ER has been update in accordance with the observation received. In addition, some of the suggestion obtained during the consultation phase have been included in the CP.

In accordance with Article 9(1) and Article 10 of SEA directive “Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and Programmes [...]” .

The monitoring part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment aims at setting the adequate framework for an effective follow up of unforeseen changes in the environment arising from the Programme implementation. “Monitoring allows the actual effects of the plan to be tested against those predicted in the SEA and helps to ensure that problems which arise during implementation, whether or not they were originally foreseen, can be identified and future predictions made more accurately.”

The proposed monitoring system of the CBC Programme includes:

- the monitoring system (structure and functioning) to be implemented in the Programme implementation phase;
- the list of environmental indicators to include in the monitoring system of environmental effects, with targets set out to reach the environmental objectives of the area;
- the authorities to involve in the monitoring system e.g. national or regional Environmental Authorities.

The monitoring system would be improved following the indication of the public consultation and in accordance with the modification to the Programme.

Annexes

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ANNEX II –CONSISTENCY WITH THE NATIONAL DOCUMENTS

Table 0-1 Consistency between CP needs and the Council Recommendations + Commission Assessment of Italian NRP

Needs IT – HR CP		References in the Council Recommendations (1) Commission Assessment of the Italian NRP 2014 (2)	Consistency
Smart Growth	Need 1: increase the level of competitiveness on international markets of SMEs by fostering sound mechanisms of innovation and creating a critical mass through cooperation	(1) p.3 : The Commission's analysis leads it to conclude that Italy is experiencing excessive macroeconomic imbalances, which require specific monitoring and strong policy action. In particular, the persistently high level of the public debt coupled with weak external competitiveness on account of sluggish productivity growth.	
		(2) -	
	Need 2: The cooperation between the innovation players in fields of relevant sectors of the blue economy shall be enhanced	(1) -	
		(2): p.25 low research and innovation capability contribute to maintaining Italy's specialisation in low-technology products and weigh on growth potential and external competitiveness.	
	Need 3: Secure availability of high-skilled human resources in key economic sectors to strengthen development patterns	(1) -	
		(2) p. 36: lack of human resources in the public administration is identified as one of the main, though not the only one, reason for the existing weaknesses with the risk that, at operational level, additional recruitment might, in the end, be seen as the only and easier solution to the problem.	
	Need 4: Facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research	(1) -	
		(2) -	
S	Need 5: The area shows evident potentials for blue	(1) -	

growth	(2) p 15: The study also finds scope for removing environmental harmful subsidies, in particular: the preferential treatment of company cars; the reduced rates for gas oil used in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and aquaculture; and the fuel exemptions for the transportation of goods and passengers along national waterways and within EU waters.	
Need 7: There is a need to decrease road traffic congestion in urban areas especially along the coast, pressured by seasonal tourism	(2) Infrastructure bottlenecks hamper the proper functioning of energy market	
Need 8: Adaptive capacity shall be improved due to higher impact of climate change, especially in the vulnerable marine and coastal parts of the cooperation area	(1)-	
	(2)-	
Need 9: Adriatic basin calls for cross border actions in the field of risk prevention and management	(1)-	
	(2)-	
Need 10: Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions	(1)-	
	(2)-	
Need 11: Common characteristics of cultural heritage and shared marine natural resources can support a higher quality tourism if tackled in a sustainable way	(1)-	
	(2)-	
Need 12: There is potential for more systemic, integrated and efficient maritime connections from/to the eligible territories and between them	(1)-	
	(2) p.29: In maritime concessions, their long duration (also due to repeated extensions) limit consumer choices and increase the cost of services. Also affecting tourism, exceptions to the recent liberalisation of tourist guide services continue to restrict competition.	
Need 13: There is potential for additional cooperation between ports ensuring integrating information (ICT) and ticketing (passengers transport)	(1)-	
	(2) p.28: Weak management and lack of interconnections at ports hamper Italy's trade potential. Italy's trade would greatly benefit from better ports. The lack of intermodal connections with the hinterland remains one of the major causes of inefficiency. Furthermore, lengthy and costly	

		administrative and customs procedures, insufficient coordination and strategic planning of port development also affect their functioning.	
Inclusive Growth	Need 14: Concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area	(1)-	
		(2) p.41: The employment rate was 61.2 % in 2011, 61 % in 2012 and 59.8 % in 2013. No progress has been achieved towards meeting the target.	
	Need 15: Potential for an increase of the specialization of the workforce in specific sectors of the blue economy in which the area has competitive advantage	(1) p.5 Measures aimed at fostering job creation in the short term need to be complemented with measures addressing segmentation.	
		(2) p.21: The very low take-up of apprenticeship contracts prompted the government to relax some of its requirements.	
	Need 16: Support “brain circulation” amongst research institutes/academies and companies as a condition for developing cooperation in the field of blue technologies	(1)-	
Need 17: Specific training to human resources employed in the tourism sector can increase the quality of services offered raising awareness of the added value of a sustainable approach	(1)-		
	(2) p. 19: Italy was also recommended to strengthen vocational education and training, improve career and counselling services for tertiary students, step up efforts to prevent early school leaving and improve school quality and outcomes		

Consistent
Some consistency
Neutral
In contrast

Table 0-2 Consistency between the CP needs and the Italian National Reform Programme

	Needs IT – HR CP	References in the Italian National Reform Programme	Consistency
Smart Growth	Need 1: increase the level of competitiveness on international markets of SMEs by fostering found mechanisms of innovation and creating a critical mass through cooperation	p. 21: EU funds will be used for boosting the country’s competitiveness, especially through greater innovation and internationalisation of SMEs, and to sustain employment, without overlooking the social cohesion challenges.	
	Need 2: The cooperation between the innovation players in fields of relevant sectors of the blue economy shall be enhanced	p.58: National funds appropriated by the 2014 Stability Law (budget) have been earmarked for essential services; while the Regions will allocate EU 2014-2020 funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) for rural agriculture and the EMFF for maritime affairs and fisheries.	
	Need 3: Secure availability of high-skilled human resources in key economic sectors to strengthen development patterns	p. 134: Hiring of Italian or foreign very high-skilled researchers and technologists by research institutions supervised by MIUR. All this is possible thanks to a € 106 million appropriation from the Ordinary Fund for Financing Entities (FOE <i>Fondo ordinario di finanziamento degli Enti</i>) and the increase in human resources assigned to research activities.	
	Need 4: Facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research	p.62: Completing the privatisation programme is essential for its contribution to a balanced budget, but above all to restore greater efficiency and competitiveness to the economy and promote the development of the capital market by strengthening stock markets and the internationalisation of SMEs.	
	Need 5: The area shows evident potentials for blue growth	-	
	Need 6: There is a need to decrease road traffic congestion in urban areas especially along the coast, pressured by seasonal tourism	p. 53: Implementation of the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Plan to optimise logistics, ensure safety of citizens while driving (e-call), provide traffic information to users and streamline of routes.	

	Need 7: Adaptive capacity shall be improved due to the higher impact of climate change especially in the vulnerable marine and coastal parts of the cooperation area	p. 124: Different climate change adaptive measures undertaken by the government are listed	
	Need 8: Adriatic basin calls for cross border actions in the field of risk prevention and management	-	
	Need 9: Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions	-	
	Need 10: Common characteristics of cultural heritage and shared marine natural resources can support a higher quality tourism if tackled in a sustainable way	p.58: The strategy's two-fold objective is to bring the quantity and quality of education, health, and transport services (citizenship objective) up to standard and to promote development projects that value the natural beauty and cultural heritage of these areas, including by developing local supply chains (market objective).	
	Need 11: There is potential for more systemic, integrated and efficient maritime connections from/to the eligible territories and between them	p.114: enhance the infrastructural capacity focusing on energy interconnections, the intermodal transport and Telecoms	
	Need 12: There is potential for additional cooperation between ports ensuring integrating information (ICT) and ticketing (passengers transport)	p.52: Reorganise the entire port industry to boost its competitiveness and challenge the big ports of Northern Europe.	
Inclusive Growth	Need 13: Concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area	p 131: The current employment rate in Italy is 59.8% (2013) while the employment rate target for 2020 is 67-69% and for the medium term is 63%.	
	Need 14: Potential for an increase of the specialization of the workforce in specific sectors of the blue economy in which the area has competitive advantage	p.113: Criteria for innovative start-ups have been simplified.(...)the minimum share of spending for research and development has been reduced from 20 per cent to 15 per cent. In addition, these start-up regulations have been extended to businesses with two-thirds of their workforce made up of people with a master's degree as well as companies who are holders of propriety software registered with the copyright society	
	Need 15: Support "brain circulation" amongst research institutes/academies and companies as a condition for developing cooperation in the field of blue technologies		

	<p>Need 16: Specific training to human resources employed in the tourism sector can increase the quality of services offered raising awareness of the added value of a sustainable approach</p>	<p>p.74: To bolster school-to-work programmes, various provisions have designed, including: <i>i)</i> work-orientation initiatives in the final year of lower secondary school and during all years of upper secondary school; <i>ii)</i> school-to-work programmes for the final two years of upper secondary school; and <i>iii)</i> incentives for universities that partner with businesses for training assignments related to university studies, thereby promoting university-work transitions and facilitating contact between businesses and graduates</p>	
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	Consistent
	Some consistency
	Neutral
	In contrast

Table 0-3 Consistency between the CP needs and the Italian Partnership Agreement

Needs IT – HR CP	References in the Italian Partnership Agreement	Consistency
Need 1: Increase the level of competitiveness on international markets of SMEs by fostering found mechanisms of innovation and creating a critical mass through cooperation	Action 3.3.1 The capacity to adapt to the market, the attractiveness for potential investors, of the vital entrepreneurial systems territorially delimited.	
Need 2: The cooperation between the innovation players in fields of relevant sectors of the blue economy shall be enhanced	Action 1.1.1 Support for research projects of enterprises incorporating the use of researchers (PhD and graduates with technical and scientific profiles) at the companies themselves	
Need 3: Secure availability of high-skilled human resources in key economic sectors to strengthen development patterns	Action 1.5.2 Support for research infrastructures considered critical / crucial for national and trans-European	
Need 4: Facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research	Action 1.1.4 Support for the activities of collaborative R & D for the development of new sustainable technologies, new products and services.	
Need 5: The area shows evident potentials for blue growth	Action 1.1.3 Support for the economic enhancement of innovation through experimentation and adoption of innovative processes, products and forms of organization, as well as through the financing of industrialization of research results	
	Action 4.4.1 Promotion of energy efficiency through district heating and cooling and the installation of cogeneration and trigeneration	
Need 6: There is a need to decrease road traffic congestion in urban areas especially along the coast, pressured by seasonal tourism	Action 7.3.3 Creating platforms and intelligent info-mobility tools to monitor and manage traffic flows of goods and passengers	
Need 7: Adaptive capacity shall be improved due to the higher impact of climate change especially in the vulnerable marine and coastal parts of the cooperation area	Action 5.3.2 Interventions of micro zoning and of seismic safety of strategic buildings and public detections located in areas most at risk.	
Need 8: Adriatic basin calls for cross border actions in the field of risk prevention and management	Action 5.1.1 Interventions for the establishment of safety measures and for increasing resilience of infrastructures in territories most threatened by hydro-geological and coastal erosion risks Action 5.1.4 Integration and development of prevention systems, also through early warning interoperable mechanisms and digital networks Action 5.2.1 Interventions aimed at managing water resources, included the	

	management of fertilizers and pesticides	
Need 9: Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions	<p>Action 6.5.8 Supporting the adoption of preservation and management measures based on ecosystems, the limitation of the impact of fishery on the marine environment, the innovation connected to the preservation of marine biological resources</p> <p>Action 6.5.6 Supporting the concurrent implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy with particular regard to the promotion of the protection of the marine environment and to the support to joint maritime surveillance</p> <p>Action 6.5.1 Actions foreseen by Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAF) and by management plans of the Natura 2000 network</p>	
Need 10: Common characteristics of cultural heritage and shared marine natural resources can support a higher quality tourism if tackled in a sustainable way	<p>Action 6.6.1 Interventions aimed at protecting and improving strategic natural areas (land and marine protected areas) able to strengthen and promote development processes.</p> <p>Action 6.8.3 Support the integrated use of natural and cultural resources and the promotion of tourist destinations.</p>	
Need 11: There is potential for more systemic, integrated and efficient maritime connections from/to the eligible territories and between them	Action 7.2.2 Strengthen port and inter-port infrastructures and equipments of regional interest, their adaptation to the best environmental, energetic and operational standards included, and strengthen the integration between ports and inner port areas	
Need 12: There is potential for additional cooperation between ports ensuring integrating information (ICT) and ticketing (passengers transport)	Action 7.2.1 Strengthen port and inter-port infrastructures and equipments (with Port Authorities) of national interest, their adaptation to the best environmental, energetic and operational standards included. Strengthen motorways of the sea for Ro-Ro both on Adriatic and Tyrrhenian routes in order to improve the competitiveness of the maritime transport sector.	
Need 13: Concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area	Action 8.1.2 Recruitment incentives and other policy measures for active inclusion in the labor market situations of national importance in connection with the regions concerned	
Need 14: Potential for an increase of the specialization of the workforce in specific sectors of the blue economy in which the area has competitive advantage	Action 8.1.1 Active policy measures, including apprenticeships, recruitment incentives, training and other integration / education / training / work measures, actions of professional mobility, with particular attention to areas that offer the greatest growth potential (primarily in the context of: green economy, blue economy, human services, health and social services , enhancement of cultural and environment heritage, ICT).	
Need 15: Support “brain circulation” amongst	Action 8.4.1 Apprenticeship courses of higher education and research and	

research institutes/academies and companies as a condition for developing cooperation in the field of blue technologies	information campaigns for the promotion of the same among young people, educational institutions and enterprises, and other alternating forms between higher education, work and research.	
Need 16: Specific training to human resources employed in the tourism sector can increase the quality of the services offered	Action 8.1.5 Actions to strengthen human resources in the enterprises through incentives for qualified staff	

	Consistent
	Some consistency
	Neutral
	In contrast

Table 0-4 Consistency between the CP needs and challenges and the Croatian National Reform Programme

Challenges and needs identified in Croatia's NRP	Consistency with CP needs/challenges
High decrease in economic activity	
The real decrease of gross value added was caused by the decrease in construction, the processing industry, as well as mining and extraction	
The average survey unemployment rate amounted to 17.2% in 2013	
Decline in exports	
The increase of loans to the central government recorded the biggest increase, while loans to other sectors remained almost unchanged.	
Unfavourable conditions on the labour market	
Insolvency and long-term account blocking of business entities	
Need to improve institutional framework for fiscal policy management	
Tackle grey economy	
Restructuring and increased efficiency of public companies	
Accelerate reform of the pension and healthcare system	
Mitigating the impacts the economic crisis has had on the labour market, preserving jobs, increasing labour market flexibility	
Further reduction of the indebtedness level for the corporate sector	
Further market liberalisation and enhancement of business environment	
Modernisation of mechanisms of public administration operation towards the business sector	

	Consistent
	Some consistency
	Neutral
	In contrast

Table 0-5 Consistency between the CP needs and challenges and the European Council recommendations for the Croatian NRP

Challenges and needs identified in the EC specific recommendations	Consistency with CP challenges/needs
Sizeable external liabilities, declining export performance, highly leveraged firms and fast-increasing general government debt, all within a context of low growth and poor adjustment capacity	
Weaknesses in budgetary planning, effective control over expenditure and consistent application of budgetary constraints	
The pace and extent of convergence of pensions under special schemes towards general rules are slow and overall progress is limited	
Ineffective monitoring and implementation capacities in both hospitals and central government	
Long-term care is characterised by dispersed services between the health and the social welfare systems, low coverage rates and formal care, high costs of provision and long waiting lists.	
Employment and activity rates are amongst the lowest in the EU, and are particularly low for young people and older people	
The proportion of persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion has increased in recent years and is significantly above the EU average	
Current regulatory framework for doing business in Croatia imposes a high burden on businesses, including lack of legal certainty, non-transparent decision- making in particular at local level, and numerous para-fiscal charges	
Weak governance negatively affects state-owned or state-controlled companies while the implementation of the new strategy for the management of public assets and enterprises has encountered delays.	
Effectiveness of the justice system, judicial proceedings in litigious civil, commercial and administrative cases are unduly long, particularly in first instance	

	Consistent
	Some consistency
	Neutral
	In contrast

Table o-6 Consistency between CP needs and challenges and the European Commission Assessment of the Croatian NRP

Assessment of Croatia's NRP and CP for accompanying the specific recommendations- Identified needs and challenges	Consistency with CP needs/challenges
The conditions for access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises in Croatia have deteriorated	
Limited availability of alternative funding sources such as private equity and venture capital	
Employment and activity rates are among the lowest in the EU, and are particularly low for young people and older people	
Weak export competitiveness and poor export performance	
Poor business environment and a malfunctioning labour market	
Energy-saving opportunities remain largely untapped across all sectors. The coverage of advanced metering systems is still very limited, leading to elevated energy consumption in buildings	
Croatia's carbon intensity is almost twice as high as the EU average despite the decrease of greenhouse gas emissions by 14 % in 2005.	
Preventing and reducing waste generation, together with the necessary increase in reuse and recycling	
The main weaknesses of the Croatian transport system are the imbalance between modes of transport in favour of the least environmentally friendly – road	
Rehabilitation of the rail infrastructure network is a major challenge	
Rail access to major shipment points, such as industrial sites, ports, and inland ports, and safety at level crossings ('distributed projects') require specific attention	
The modal shift in the transport sector from road to rail and other cleaner transport modes is lagging behind	
The connection of the land transport network with inland waterways (Danube, Sava) and with maritime ports is also underdeveloped	
Croatia's research and innovation capacity is constrained by limited public funding, low quality of the public research system, weak commercialisation, and a venture capital market too shallow to provide funding for risk investment	
There has been no progress towards encouraging the commercialisation of research results and transfer of technology	

	Consistent
	Some consistency
	Neutral
	In contrast

Table 0-7 Consistency between the CP needs and challenges and the Croatian Partnership Agreement

Partnership Agreement identified needs and challenges	Consistency with CP needs/ challenges
R&D	
Croatia is inefficient at turning R&D investments into patentable results and economic value	
Croatia has a low share of labour force dedicated to R&D activities	
The private sector is technologically weak, resulting mainly from the low volume and low investments into R&D of the private businesses	
Furthermore, collaborations between the private and public sector R&D actors are few and insufficient	
The Croatian economy is dominated by low and medium low technology sectors and production	
Weak governance of the national innovation system and lack of an integrated policy framework for research and innovation embedded in Croatia's mainstream development strategies	
SME	
Unfavorable business environment and restrictive product market policies discouraging business development and competitiveness	
The investment climate will need to increase in order to stimulate productivity growth	
The skills mismatches and skill shortages (especially related to high and specialized skills) on the labour market are particularly affecting businesses	
The largest gap between inclination towards self-employment and probability of self-employment	
Access to all forms of finance for SMEs, particularly access to capital for start-up technology based businesses, is limited.	
The narrow base of exportable goods that is hindering abroad diversification and sustained growth of Croatia's exports	
At present business support organisations provide general and low value added support services and advice to entrepreneurs	
ICT	
The number and density of broadband connections is unevenly distributed across the Croatian territory	
ICT literacy of individuals is low in Croatia	
The level of provision and use of e-public services is relatively low	
A significant number of households, public administration and judiciary institutions, businesses, educational, healthcare and cultural	

institutions and other entities do not or are not able to join networks, access the data and exchange the information, to provide and to receive services	
Energy and environment	
The largest sectoral contributors to the final energy consumption are the households/services (mainly buildings including public sector) with 49% share and transport	
Extremely low share of RES sources other than hydro power plants in the electricity production (1.7%)	
Administrative capacities for energy planning and management are weak	
Croatia is considered highly sensitive in terms of climate change impacts	
Waste management Croatia recorded lower per capita municipal waste generation than is the EU27 average	
The public water system in Croatia is encountering extremely high losses	
Weak and underdeveloped capacities at all levels in terms of number of employees, organizational issues, technical equipment and modernization	
Transport	
Railways are an underdeveloped form of transport.	
A network of secondary roads that are far below technical standards	
Croatia has a low share of environment friendly transport	
Need to develop intelligent, sustainable and integrated low carbon public transport and urban and suburban mobility systems	
Insufficient accessibility and low connectivity of islands in the context of suburban and daily migration areas	
Labour market	
The situation and trends on the Croatian labour market are severely unfavourable	
The level of self-employment remains low	
Women, young people and the elderly are particularly underrepresented in the labour market.	
Maritime, fisheries and related coastal development	
The average age of Croatian fishing fleet is more than 30 years, but it is not equally distributed among all fleet segment	
Need for adoption of new technologies, new product development, diversification and introduction of a system of marking,	

development of high value products	
Closer cooperation with scientific institutions and support of RDI in the sector	
Need for improving the system of spatial planning especially in terms of integrated coastal zone management	
Investment in establishing new, developing the existing aquaculture farms through introduction of new species, diversification of product range, but also the diversification of revenue and adding value to primary products	
Further improvement of the existing ports, landing sites, shelters, facilities and product storage	
Importance of inspection and control measures, as well as data collection in fisheries	
Need to further development of the organization of the sector (i.e. association in aquaculture and fisheries and producer organizations), which would allow them to act together at all levels	
 Consistent	
 Some consistency	
 Neutral	
 In contrast	

ANNEX III – COHERENCE BETWEEN THE TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS /SWOT TABLES/ IDENTIFIED NEEDS-CHALLENGES

Table o-8 Coherence between SWOT items and information provided in the territorial analysis

		SWOT items	Reference in the territorial analysis (CP annex)
Smart Growth	Strengths	Existing institutional setup for R&D	Yes
		Strong assets in identified blue economy sector	Yes
		Tradition and experience in shipbuilding	Yes
		Strong tradition and experience in fisheries with positive impact on national exports and employment in local communities	Yes, but data on employment are only at Nuts 1 level; this implies that the item is by the 28000 persons employed in Italy at national level (which includes other sea basins)
		SME sector density	Yes
	Weaknesses	Low level of competitiveness on international markets especially in traditional sectors and decrease of GDP	Yes, but no clear reference to the fact that traditional sectors are suffering more than others
		Programme area GDP at 67% of EU28 with Croatian area at 42% of Italian	Yes
		GERD below EU28 (2.07%): Italy – 1.27%, Croatia 0.75% with high disparities among the regions	Yes
		No. of EPO patents below EU28, especially low on Croatian side	Yes
		Weak cooperation of scientific and real sector, especially SMEs	Yes
	Opportunities	EU policies which fund cooperation between R&D institution and SMEs	No
		Available innovative sustainable technologies for the fishing sector	No
		Role of ICT in SME innovation, e-business growth, improved access to information and education in remote/rural areas.	Yes
		Aquaculture and shellfish farming as growing sectors	Yes
		Blue economy recognized by the EU policies and strategies as a key sector	Blue Growth strategy is mentioned
	Threats	Continuous economic crisis (also affecting manufacturing)	Reference to the current crisis
		Difficulties SMEs are facing in accessing financial instruments such as credits	Yes
		Lack of interest of entrepreneurs for R&D and innovation	Yes, reference to the low level of R&D investment
		Continuous lack of investment of SMEs in innovation in the programme area	Yes, reference to the low level of R&D investment
Continuous lack of competitiveness of companies in shipbuilding		Partial: see reference to the current policies of state aid	
Competition among stakeholders of the coastal area in key sectors as fishing, tourism		No	
Global competition on traditional manufacturing sectors and on tourism sectors		Yes	
Sustainable growth	Strengths	Favourable conditions for RES from solar and wind energy	Yes
		NATURA 2000 sites and other protected areas potential for tourism	Yes
		Rich cultural heritage as a potential for territorial development and growth	Yes
		Good quality of air and water	No
		Adriatic sea offers good quality of water in relation to Mediterranean context	No, only the Croatian part (see weakness: existing pollution of the Adriatic Sea)
		Programme area/both countries participating in common and globally uniform ballast water management (BWM) approach.	Yes

	Weaknesses	Lack of low carbon development strategies and actions aiming at Kyoto protocol targets	Yes
		Dependence on energy sources from abroad/import of gas and oil	Yes
		Limited funding and unused capacities of RES	Yes, but it is explicitly mentioned only in the case of wind energy
		Existing of various forms of pollution and litter in the Adriatic Sea	Yes
		Seasonality of tourism and lack of sustainable solutions in some fields of touristic activity	Yes
		Inefficient and fragmented waste management system	Yes, but no available evidences on the variability in waste management at Nuts 2 level
	Opportunities	Further preservation of biodiversity	Yes
		Potential for joint capacity in management of coastal and marine resources	Yes
		Joint risk management and prevention of damage caused by natural disasters	Yes
	Threats	Continuous pollution of the Adriatic Sea due to increased anthropic pressure	Yes
		Growing trend of climate change effects and natural disasters in the programme area	Yes
		Increase of the Adriatic sea level forecasted	No
Inclusive growth	Strengths	Tradition of mobility of workforce Croatia – Italy in programme area	Yes, under the sustainable transport section
		Strong network of educational institutions including universities	Yes
		Good accessibility to education and training	Yes
		Good experiences and long tradition of cooperation among local and regional governments in programme area	Yes
	Weaknesses	High unemployment rates in programme territory – higher in Croatia	Yes
		Youth as especially vulnerable unemployed group	Yes
		Education system does not match labour market needs	Yes, but only as one of the cause of long terms unemployment (not in the sub-section 'Education')
		Low rates of workforce with higher education	Yes, see table 47, but no explicit reference in the text
		Low level of adults attending LLL	Yes
		Increased % of population in risk of poverty in programme area	No, the only data refer to Nuts 1
	Opportunities	Good opportunities for and tradition in self-employment, especially in Italy	Yes, but the text refers only to Italy
		Improved mobility of workforce in programme area	Yes (see reference to the Agenda for new skills)
		Specialization of workforce for specific business niches in Blue Growth	No
	Threats	Growing trend in number of students exiting education process in Italy despite the fact that unemployment rates by education attainment are showing highest employment rates among persons with high/higher education	No
		Continuous growth of unemployed due to economic crisis	No
		Lack of responsiveness of educational sector to change and modernization	No
		Continuous growth of population in risk of poverty	No (the item appears redundant with the above mentioned weakness 'Increased % of population in risk of poverty in programme area')

Table o-9 Smart growth SWOT table: check of the needs extraction

SWOT items		Identified needs/challenges				
		1	2	3	4	5
Strengths	Existing institutional setup for R&D	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Strong assets in identified blue economy sector	✓				
	Tradition and experience in shipbuilding	✓	✓			✓
	Strong tradition and experience in fisheries with positive impact on national exports and employment in local communities	✓	✓			✓
	SME sector density	✓	✓		✓	✓
Weaknesses	Low level of competitiveness on international markets especially in traditional sectors and decrease of GDP	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Programme area GDP at 67% of EU28 with Croatian area at 42% of Italian	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	GERD below EU28 (2.07%): Italy – 1.27%, Croatia 0.75% with high disparities among the regions	✓	✓		✓	✓
	No. of EPO patents below EU28, especially low on Croatian side	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Weak cooperation of scientific and real sector, especially SMEs	✓	✓		✓	✓
Opportunities	EU policies which fund cooperation between R&D institution and SMEs	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Available innovative sustainable technologies for the fishing sector	✓	✓			✓
	Role of ICT in SME innovation, e-business growth, improved access to information and education in remote/rural areas.	✓	✓			✓
	Aquaculture and shellfish farming as growing sectors					✓
	Blue economy recognized by the EU policies and strategies as a key sector		✓			✓
Threats	Continuous economic crisis (also affecting manufacturing)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Difficulties SMEs are facing in accessing financial instruments such as credits	✓			✓	✓
	Lack of interest of entrepreneurs for R&D and innovation	✓	✓		✓	
	Continuous lack of investment of SMEs in innovation in the programme area	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Continuous lack of competitiveness of companies in shipbuilding	✓				✓
	Competition among stakeholders of the coastal area in key sectors as fishing, tourism					✓
	Global competition on traditional manufacturing sectors and on tourism sectors	✓	✓			

Legend: need/challenge

1. increase the level of competitiveness on international markets of SMEs by fostering found mechanisms of innovation and creating a critical mass through cooperation
2. the cooperation between the innovation players in fields of relevant sectors of the blue economy shall be enhanced
3. secure availability of high-skilled human resources in key economic sectors to strengthen development patterns
4. facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research
5. potentials for blue growth

Table o-10 Sustainable growth SWOT table: check of the needs' extraction

SWOT items		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Strengths	<i>Favourable conditions for RES from solar and wind energy</i>							
	<i>NATURA 2000 sites and other protected areas potential for tourism</i>	√						
	<i>Rich cultural heritage as a potential for territorial development and growth</i>	√	√					
	<i>Good quality of air and water</i>	√	√					
	<i>Adriatic sea offers good quality of water in relation to Mediterranean context</i>	√	√					
	<i>Programme area/both countries participating in common and globally uniform ballast water management (BWM) approach.</i>	√	√					
Weaknesses	<i>Lack of low carbon development strategies and actions aiming at Kyoto protocol targets</i>			√				
	<i>Dependence on energy sources from abroad/import of gas and oil</i>							
	<i>Limited funding and unused capacities of RES</i>							
	<i>Existing of various forms of pollution and litter in the Adriatic Sea</i>	√	√					
	<i>Seasonality of tourism and lack of sustainable solutions in some fields of touristic activity</i>	√	√				√	
	<i>Inefficient and fragmented waste management system</i>	√	√					
	<i>Traffic congestions in some parts of the area caused by seasonal tourism flows</i>				√	√	√	√
Opportunities	<i>Further preservation of biodiversity</i>	√	√					
	<i>Potential for joint capacity in management of coastal and marine resources</i>	√	√	√				
	<i>Joint risk management and prevention of damage caused by natural disasters</i>	√	√	√	√			
Threats	<i>Continuous pollution of the Adriatic Sea due to increased anthropic pressure</i>	√	√					
	<i>Growing trend of climate change effects and natural disasters in the programme area</i>	√	√	√				
	<i>Increase of the Adriatic sea level forecasted</i>	√	√	√				

Legend: need/challenge

<i>Common characteristics of cultural heritage and shared marine natural resources can support a higher quality tourism if tackled in a sustainable way</i>
6.
7. <i>Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions</i>
8. <i>Adaptive capacity shall be improved due to the higher impact of climate change, especially in the vulnerable marine and coastal parts of the cooperation area</i>
9. <i>Adriatic basin calls for cross border actions in the field of risk prevention and management</i>
10. <i>There is need to decrease road traffic congestion in urban areas especially along the coast, pressured by seasonal tourism</i>
11. <i>There is potential for more systemic, integrated and efficient maritime connections from/to the eligible territories and between them</i>
12. <i>There is potential for additional cooperation between ports ensuring integrating information (ICT) and ticketing (passengers transport)</i>

Table 0-11 Inclusive growth SWOT table: check of needs' extraction

SWOT items		Identified needs/challenges			
		13	14	15	16
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Tradition of mobility of workforce Croatia – Italy in programme area</i>	✓	✓	✓	
	<i>Strong network of educational institutions including universities</i>		✓	✓	
	<i>Good accessibility to education and training</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Good experiences and long tradition of cooperation among local and regional governments in programming area</i>	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Weaknesses</i>	<i>High unemployment rates in programme territory – higher in Croatia</i>	✓	✓		
	<i>Youth as especially vulnerable unemployed group</i>	✓			
	<i>Education system does not match labour market needs</i>	✓	✓		✓
	<i>Low rates of workforce with higher education</i>	✓			
	<i>Low level of adults attending LLL</i>	✓	✓		
	<i>Increased % of population in risk of poverty in programme area</i>	✓			
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Good opportunities for and tradition in self-employment, especially in Italy</i>	✓			
	<i>Improved mobility of workforce in programme area</i>	✓			
	<i>Specialization of workforce for specific business niches in Blue Growth</i>	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Threats</i>	<i>Growing trend in number of students exiting education process in Italy despite the fact that unemployment rates by education attainment are showing highest employment rates among persons with high/higher education</i>	✓			
	<i>Continuous growth of unemployed due to economic crisis</i>	✓			✓
	<i>Lack of responsiveness of educational sector to change and modernization</i>	✓			✓
	<i>Continuous growth of population in risk of poverty</i>	✓			

Legend: need/challenge

13. Concentrate efforts for raising employment rate of the cooperation area
14. Potential for an increase of the specialization of the workforce in specific sectors of the blue economy in which the area has competitive advantage
15. Support “brain circulation” amongst research institutes/academies and companies as a condition for developing cooperation in the field of blue technologies
16. Specific training to human resources employed in the tourism sector can increase the quality of services offered raising awareness of the added value of a sustainable approach

ANNEX IV – EXTERNAL COHERENCE

Table 0-12 External coherence between the CP Specific Objectives and the Italian Partnership Agreement / ERDF Ops

Relevant National Strategies	SO 1.1	SO 2.1 SO 2.2	SO 3.1 SO 3.2 SO 3.3	SO 4.1
Partnership Agreement 2014 - 2020				
Increase innovation activity in the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Strengthen the regional and national innovation system	S	N	S	S
Promoting new markets for innovation	S	N	N	N
Increase the incidence of innovative-oriented specializations in the knowledge intensive sector	S	N	N	N
Reduce hydrological risk and coastal erosion	N	S	S	S
Reduce fire and seismic risk	N	S	N	N
Improving conditions and standards of supply and use of heritage in the areas of natural attraction through the integrated enhancement of resources and territorial jurisdictions	N	N	S	S
Improving conditions and standards of supply and use of cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, in the areas of attraction through the integrated enhancement of resources and territorial jurisdictions	N	N	S	N
Competitive repositioning of touristic destinations	N	S	S	S
Contribute to halt the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, also linked to the rural landscape and maintain and restore ecosystem services	N	S	S	S
Strengthening competitiveness, working conditions and technological innovation in fishing enterprises	S	N	S	S
Increase the competitiveness of the port and inter-port system	N	N	N	S
ERDF Abruzzo Region 2014 - 2020				
Increase the innovation activity of the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Reduce the hydrological risk and coastal erosion	N	S	S	S
Improve the conditions and standards of supply and use of natural heritage in the areas of natural attraction	N	S	S	N
Competitive repositioning of tourist destinations	N	S	S	N
Contribute to halt the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, also linked to the rural landscape and maintain and restore ecosystem services	N	S	S	N
Reduction of the digital divides in the territories, and the spread of connectivity in ultra-wideband	S	N	N	N
Support for the integrated use of cultural and natural resources and the promotion of tourist destinations	N	S	S	N
Development and productive employment in local areas affected by widespread crisis of production activities	N	N	N	N
Reducing energy consumption in buildings public buildings, residential and non-residential buildings, and integration of renewable sources	N	N	N	N
ERDF Apulia Region 2014 - 2020				
Increase the innovation activity of the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Promoting new markets for innovation	S	N	N	N
Reduce the hydrological risk and coastal erosion	N	S	S	S

Reduce fire risk and seismic risk on the regional territory	N	S	S	N
Improve the conditions and standards of supply and use of natural heritage in the areas of natural attraction	N	S	S	N
Competitive repositioning of tourist destinations	N	S	S	S
Contribute to halt the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, also linked to the rural landscape and maintain and restore ecosystem services.	N	S	S	N
Increase the competitiveness of the port and freight system	S	N	N	S
Increase the competitiveness of the port and inter-port system	S	N	N	S
ERDF Emilia Romagna Region 2014 - 2020				
Increase the innovation activity of the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Improve the conditions and standards of supply and use of natural heritage in the areas of natural attraction	N	N	S	N
Strengthening the national and regional innovation system and by increasing cooperation between companies and research facilities and their expansion	S	N	N	N
Increase the level of internationalization of the production systems	S	N	N	S
Competitive repositioning of the tourist destinations	N	N	S	S
Strengthening of the citizens and businesses demand of ICT in terms of usage of online services, digital inclusion and participation in network	S	N	N	N
Increased sustainable mobility in urban areas	N	N	N	S
Reducing energy consumption in buildings public buildings, residential and non-residential buildings, and integration of renewable sources	S	N	N	N
ERDF Friuli Venezia Giulia Region 2014 - 2020				
Increase the innovation activity in the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Increase the incidence of innovative-oriented specializations in the knowledge intensive sector	S	N	N	N
Increase the innovative specializations in the knowledge intensive application parameters	S	N	N	N
Increase sustainable mobility in urban areas	N	N	N	S
Competitive repositioning of the tourist destinations	N	N	S	S
Support the integrated use of cultural and natural resources and the promotion of tourist destinations	N	S	S	N
ERDF Marche Region 2014 - 2020				
Increase the innovation activity of the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Enhance new markets for innovation	S	N	N	N
Increase the incidence of innovative-oriented specializations in the knowledge intensive sector	S	N	N	N
Reduce hydrological risk and coastal erosion	N	S	S	S
Improve the conditions and standards of supply and use of natural heritage in the areas of natural attraction	N	S	S	S
Competitive repositioning of tourist destinations	N	S	S	S
Contribute to halt the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, also linked to the rural landscape and maintain and restore ecosystem services	N	S	S	N
Strengthening of the regional system, and increase the collaboration between companies / business networks and research facilities, and their expanding	N	N	N	N
Digitalization of administrative processes and diffusion of fully digital interoperable services to the PA, citizens and businesses	S	N	N	N

Improving access to finance	N	N	N	N
ERDF Molise Region 2014 - 2020				
Increase the innovation activity of the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Strengthening the regional innovation system	S	N	N	N
Increase the incidence of innovative-oriented specializations in the knowledge intensive sector	S	N	N	N
Improve the conditions and standards of supply and use of natural heritage in the areas of natural attraction	N	S	S	S
Competitive repositioning of tourist destinations	N	S	S	S
Increase employment of young people	N	N	N	N
Facilitate the integration and employment of long-term unemployed and those with greater difficulties in the labor, as well as the support of people at risk of long-term unemployment	N	N	N	N
Improve the efficiency and quality of services at work	N	N	N	N
Reducing poverty, social exclusion and promoting social innovation	N	N	N	N
ERDF Veneto Region 2014 - 2020				
Increase the innovation activity in the enterprises	S	N	N	N
Increase the incidence of innovative-oriented specializations in the knowledge intensive sector	S	N	N	N
Reduce hydrological risk	N	S	S	S
Reduce seismic risk	N	S	N	N
Consolidation, modernization and diversification of the local production systems	S	N	N	N
Increase sustainable mobility in urban areas	N	N	N	S
Reduce the number of Families with special fragile social and economic conditions housing problems	N	N	N	N

Table 0-13 Coherence between the CP Specific Objectives and Croatian relevant national strategies

Relevant National Strategies	SO 1.1	SO 2.1 SO 2.2	SO 3.1 SO 3.2 SO 3.3	SO 4.1
Partnership Agreement 2014 - 2020				
Promote research excellence	S	S	S	S
Improve science-industry collaboration and technology transfer	S	N	N	N
Stimulate business R&D and innovation and the creation and growth of knowledge-based start-ups	S	N	N	N
Improve the governance of science, research and innovation policies in order to increase the impact of public expenditure in R&D	S	N	N	N
Improve the system for planning and implementation of climate change measures	S	S	N	N
Determine and implement adequate climate change adaptation measure in most effected economic sectors and territories	N	S	N	N
Reduce the damages from the natural disaster	S	S	S	N
Improve the system for prevention and management of risks and technical and natural disasters	S	S	S	N
Promote waste management system in accordance with the waste hierarchy	S	S	S	S
Reduce environmental risks from inadequate waste disposal and management	N	S	S	S
Achieve and maintain good status of all water bodies	S	N	S	S
Ensure efficient managements and use of the water resources	S	N	S	S
Enhanced system of natural and cultural heritage preservation and its sustainable usage	S	S	S	N
Ensure protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services it provides thus securing long term sustainable management of nature	N	N	S	S
Improve the overall governance and capacities in the environmental sector	S	S	S	N
Continuing modernisation of the railway network	S	S	S	S
Development of intermodal services	S	N	N	S
Improving urban transport services and the quality of travel in urban agglomerations	S	N	N	S
Better transport connections provided to major ports in Croatia	S	N	N	S
Improving connectivity to/and from inhabited islands	S	N	S	S
Increase transport flows on IWW through improvement of port infrastructure and improved navigability	S	N	N	S
National Innovation Strategy 2013-2020				
Fostering innovation potential of the business sector and creating the innovation supportive environment	S	S	N	S
Increasing the knowledge circulation and interaction between the industry and academic institutions	S	S	S	S
Strengthening the capacities of research institutions for innovation and technology transfer	S	S	S	S
Empowering human resources for innovation	S	S	S	N
Strategy for Entrepreneurship Development 2013-2020				
Enhancing SMEs economic performance	S	N	N	N
Better access to finance	N	N	N	N
Promotion of entrepreneurship	S	S	N	N
Strengthening entrepreneurial skills	S	N	N	N
Improving entrepreneurial activity	S	N	N	N

Relevant National Strategies	SO 1.1	SO 2.1 SO 2.2	SO 3.1 SO 3.2 SO 3.3	SO 4.1
National Education, Science and Technology Strategy				
Promoting and strengthening life-long learning education	N	N	N	N
Increasing overall quality of pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary education	N	N	N	N
Establishing environment that will allow better cooperation between scientific and private sector	S	S	S	N
The Strategy of Conservation, Protection and Sustainable Economic Use of Cultural Heritage 2011-2015				
Increase efficiency and success of cultural heritage protection policy for its sustainable use	N	N	S	N
Increase income from sustainable usage of cultural heritage	N	N	S	S
Awareness raising on importance of cultural heritage and its sustainable usage	N	N	S	N
National Rural Development Programme (Draft, 2014 – 2020)				
Strengthening sustainable agricultural practices	N	S	S	N
Increasing knowledge on new technologies, information exchange and promoting cooperation and collaboration through agricultural clusters	S	S	S	N
Promoting diversification of agricultural production	S	N	S	N
Strengthening competitiveness and productivity of food processing industry	S	N	N	S
National Strategy of Maritime Development and Integrated Maritime Policy (2014-2020)				
Sustainable development and competitiveness of maritime economy in the maritime and coastal transport services, port infrastructure and port services, education and working and living conditions of sea-men	S	N	N	S
Safe and sustainable maritime transport, infrastructure and maritime area	N	N	N	S
Strategy for Tourism Development 2014-2020				
Marketing	S	N	S	N
Development of Tourist offer	N	N	S	S
Investments	N	S	N	S
Development of human potentials	N	N	S	S
Strategy of Transport Development 2014-2030 (Draft)				
Enhancing transport connectivity and coordination with neighbouring countries	S	S	S	S
Improving transport accessibility between large distances within Croatia	N	N	N	S
Improving regional transport connections and strengthening territorial cohesion	S	S	N	S
Improvement of accessibility in cargo transport in Croatia	N	S	N	S
Improving transport system in terms of organization and operational management aiming to ensure efficiency and sustainability of the system	S	S	N	S
National Energy Strategy				
Establishing balance between safety of energy supply, competitiveness and environmental protection	S	S	S	S
Sustainable development of energy sector	S	S	S	N
Climate change mitigation through greater reliance on renewable energy sources	N	S	S	N
National Environmental Protection Strategy and Environmental Action Plan (2002)				
Preserving and improving quality of water, air and soil	N	N	S	S
Maintaining current biological diversity	N	S	S	N
Preserving natural values, especially protected natural areas	N	S	S	S

Relevant National Strategies	SO 1.1	SO 2.1 SO 2.2	SO 3.1 SO 3.2 SO 3.3	SO 4.1
Nautical Tourism Development Strategy 2009-2019				
Sustainable resource use and management	N	S	S	S
Reviewing physical-planning documents aiming at the realisation of moderate construction scenario of new reception capacities	N	N	N	N
Increasing reception capacities through rehabilitation, reconstruction and renewal of existing ports	N	N	N	S
Setting up surveillance and management maritime navigation system	N	N	N	S
Equipping vessels and nautical ports with devices and equipment for the protection of marine waters from pollution and supervision of those vessels and ports	N	N	N	S
Setting up integral management for nautical tourism system	N	N	S	S
Administrative procedure simplification and legislation harmonisation	N	N	S	N
Development of nautical tourism clusters	S	N	S	S
Stimulating upgrading of the existing and the construction of new repair and service centres	S	N	N	N
Emerging technology and environmental standard use	S	S	S	S
Setting up continuous education system for participants in nautical tourism	N	N	S	N
Smart Specialisation Strategy 2014-2020				
Developing competitive clusters in priority sectors which, amongst all, include food processing industry and wood processing industry	S	S	S	N
Establishing highly technological industry network	S	S	S	N
Strengthening competitive advantage of the priority economic sectors with most potential for generating innovation and value added	S	N	S	S
Operational Programme European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014 - 2020				
Innovation	S	S	S	S
Partnership between fisherman and scientists	S	S	S	S
Implementation of local development strategies	N	N	N	N
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	N	S	S	S
Support to system of allocation of fishing opportunities	S	N	S	N
Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species	N	S	S	N
Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes in the framework of sustainable fishing activities	N	N	S	S
Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	S	N	N	S
Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture	S	N	S	N
Diversification and new forms of income	S	N	N	N
Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs	S	S	N	S
Production and marketing plans	S	N	N	N
Data collection	S	S	N	N
Inland fishing; the management, restoration and monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites which are affected by fishing activities	N	S	S	N

Relevant National Strategies	SO 1.1	SO 2.1 SO 2.2	SO 3.1 SO 3.2 SO 3.3	SO 4.1
OP Competitiveness and Cohesion				
1.2.1 Increased R&D&I activities of enterprises	S	N	N	S
1.2.2 R&D&I activities of business sector increased through creation of favourable innovation environment	S	N	S	S
1.2.3 Social changes improving communities' quality of life introduced	N	N	N	N
3.4.1 Improvement of SMEs' business performance and growth	S	N	N	N
3.4.2 Improvement of SMEs innovativeness	S	S	S	N
4.b.1 Increasing energy efficiency and use of RES in manufacturing industries	S	S	S	N
4.b.2 Increasing energy efficiency and use of RES in private service sector (tourism, and trade)	S	S	N	S
4.c.1 Reduction of energy consumption of the public sector buildings	S	S	S	N
4.c.2 Reduction of energy consumption of the residential buildings	S	S	N	N
4.c.3 Improvement of the efficiency of the district heating system	S	S	S	N
4.c.4 Improvement of the efficiency of the public lighting system	S	S	N	S
5.a.1 Establishment of the system for climate change monitoring, forecasting and planning of climate change adaptation measures	N	S	S	N
5.b.1 Increasing capacities and equipping for risk management on the national and regional level	S	S	S	N
6.c.1 Enhancing protection and management of cultural heritage for development of tourism and other economic activities	S	N	S	S
6.c.2 Increasing attractiveness and sustainable usage of natural heritage	S	S	S	S
7.b.1 Enhanced regional mobility and connectivity through upgrading regional roads and elimination of major bottlenecks	S	S	S	S
7.i.1 Improved territorial cohesion, connectivity and accessibility of islands	S	S	N	S
7.i.2 Developing intelligent, sustainable and integrated low-carbon urban public transport	S	S	N	S
The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity (2008)				
Preserving and improving existing landscape and biological diversity	N	N	S	S
Integration of biodiversity concerns into all economic activities on all levels	N	S	S	S
Setting up information and systems for monitoring biodiversity rate	S	S	S	N
Strengthening education and raising awareness on biological diversity	N	N	S	N

Weighting:

S – synergy;

N – neutrality;

C - contrast

Table 0-14 Coherence between the CP Specific Objectives and the EU Strategies and Programmes

EU Strategies/ Programmes	SO 1.1	SO 2.1	SO 2.2	SO 3.1	SO 3.2	SO 3.3	SO 4.1
HORIZON 2020							
Excellent sciences	S	N	N	N	N	S	S
Industrial leadership	S	N	N	N	N	S	S
Societal challenges	S	S	N	S	S	S	S
COSME 2014 - 2020							
Access to finance	S	S	N	N	N	N	N
Access to markets	S	N	N	N	N	N	S
Creating better framework conditions for competitiveness	S	N	N	S	N	N	S
Encouraging entrepreneurship	S	N	N	S	N	S	S
Blue growth Communication							
Blue energy	S	N	N	N	N	S	S
Aquaculture	S	N	N	N	S	S	S
Marine, coastal and cruise tourism	S	N	S	S	S	S	S
Marine mineral resources	S	N	N	N	S	S	N
Blue biotechnology	S	N	N	N	S	S	N
National Roma Strategy							
<i>Education</i> : ensure that all Roma children complete at least primary school and have access to quality education	N	N	N	S	N	N	N
<i>Employment</i> : reduce the employment gap between Roma and the rest of the population	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Healthcare</i> : reduce the gap in the health status between the Roma and the rest of the population	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Housing and essential services</i> : close the gap between the share of Roma with access to housing and to public utilities and that of the rest of the population	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
EUSAIR							
Blue growth	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Connecting the region	N	S	S	N	N	N	S
Environmental quality	S	N	S	S	S	S	S
Sustainable tourism	S	N	N	S	N	N	S
EUSALP							
To improve the competitiveness, prosperity and cohesion of the Alpine Region	S	N	N	S	N	S	N
To ensure accessibility and connectivity for all the inhabitants of the Alpine Region	S	N	S	S	N	S	S
To make the Alpine Region´s environmentally sustainable and attractive	N	N	S	S	S	S	N

ANNEX V – ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERVENTION LOGIC

Table 0-15 Intervention logic SO 1.1

Elements of the strategy		“if-then”	Assumptions	Assessment
Specific Objective (SO)	(IP 1b) Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area	→	Assumption: the SO responds to the identified needs. Needs: section 2.A.5: <i>The preparatory phase for the programme pinpointed the challenges that the programme will address: a need to enhance the cooperation between innovation players in the fields of relevant sectors of the blue economy, a need to secure availability of high-skilled human resources in key economic sectors to strengthen development patterns, a need to increase the level of competitiveness on international markets of SMEs by fostering sound mechanisms of innovation and creating a critical mass through cooperation, a need to facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research, a need to exploit the blue growth potential of the area.</i>	Ok: the SO is coherent with the identified needs, however : 1) the wording adopted in the Section 2 for describing the key challenges and needs is only partially coherent with the key challenges identified in section 1 2) Bearing in mind the limited financial ‘weight’ of the programme external factors can heavily influence the achievement of the targeted result
Result indicator	EPO applications.	↕	Assumption: the indicator is coherent with the SO (it allows its measurement)	Ok, but it does not measure specifically the EPO applications in the sectors of blue economy
Expected result (at programme level)	Section 2.A.5 <i>For the specific objective 1.1, the main change sought is to increase the effectiveness of the innovation activities in the relevant fields of blue economy, by enhancing the transfer of knowledge in between the enterprises, R&D centres, higher education and the public sector (...)</i>	↕	Assumption: the SO is coherent with the expected results	Ok: the SO is coherent with the expected results.
Expected programme impact (programme contribution)	Section 2.A.5 <i>(...)improving the performance of the programme area in the field of innovation by establishing and developing mechanisms which may contribute to a better exploitation of the existing potential.</i>	↕	Assumption: the expected impact is coherent with the expected results	Ok, the programme contribution is coherent with the SO and with expected result, however, the net contribution of the programme (impact) may be limited compared to the influence of other external factors
Output indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enterprises receiving non-financial support • number of enterprises receiving grants • research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects • participants to training activities 	↕	Assumptions: (1) the expected outputs are coherent with the expected actions ; (2) the expected outputs induce effects coherent with the expected programme impact	Ok see annex VI
Type of actions (projects could deliver)	Section 2.A.6.1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint development of supply chains by investing in research and innovation; • Establishment of cross-border clusters; • Joint development of links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education, which shall facilitate the transfer of knowledge in between them, shall disseminate the results of previous 	↕	Assumption: the indicative examples of actions are coherent with the expected beneficiaries Section 2.A.6.1 (target groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local, regional and national public authorities</i> • <i>The private sector, including SMEs</i> 	Ok

	<p>initiatives in the field of R&D and shall facilitate the development of new initiatives in this field;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint development of human capital, increasing skills regarding novel technologies (e.g. eco-innovation, low-carbon technologies, ICT, key enabling technologies, etc.), common development of innovative products, services or processes particularly for SMEs; • Joint design / testing of innovative processes in relevant sectors of blue economy including aquaculture and sustainable fisheries with special reference to species, management techniques and breeding, fish welfare and disease control, seafood processing also to reduce the environmental impact of these activities; • Joint development and piloting of eco-innovative tools and processes in the blue economy relevant sectors; • Joint development and piloting of social innovation actions in the blue economy relevant sectors including awareness raising actions about social innovation opportunities and challenges (i.e. e-health, education, digital divide, start up, labour market change, intellectual property rights); • Joint actions aimed at fostering the access to financing for R&D activities through trainings, information, awareness raising campaigns related to different opportunities; • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Business support organisations</i> • <i>Social enterprises, NGOs and labour</i> • <i>Universities and research institutes</i> • <i>Innovation and technology transfer agencies</i> 	
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Table 0-16 Intervention logic SO 2.1

Elements of the strategy		"if-then"	Assumptions	Assessment
Specific Objective (SO)	(IP 5a) Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects in the cooperation area	→	Assumption: the SO responds to the identified needs. Needs: section 2.A.5: <i>The preparatory phase for the programme pinpointed only one challenge that the programme will address. This is the need to improve the adaptive capacity due to higher impact of the climate change, especially in the vulnerable marine and coastal parts of the cooperation area</i>	Ok: the SO is coherent with the identified needs, however: 1) the wording adopted in the Section 2 for describing the key challenges and needs is only partially coherent with the key challenges identified in section 1
Result indicator	Inhabitants benefiting from planning of adaptation measures	↕	Assumption: the indicator is coherent with the SO (it allows its measurement)	Ok
Expected result (at programme level)	Section 2.A.5 <i>The SO 2.1 aims at improving the climate change monitoring and planning of measures for strengthening the adaptation capacity of the region while increasing the resilience of the territory including its natural environment.</i>	↕	Assumption: the SO is coherent with the expected results	Ok: the SO is coherent with the expected results. However, in it is focused only on monitoring and planning of adaptation measures.
Expected programme impact (programme contribution)	Section 2.A.5 <i>Actions will support an increased preparedness for, and resilience to, climate change and associated phenomena in the cooperation area.(...) There will be improved mechanisms for the exchange of information and enhanced coordination of adaptive actions and plans through harmonization of data and procedures</i>	↕	Assumption: the expected impact is coherent with the expected result	Ok, the programme contribution is coherent with the SO and with expected result, however given the ambitious SO, the net contribution of the programme (impact) may be limited
Output indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> climate change monitoring systems put in operation; plans of adaptation measures put in place 	↕	Assumptions: (1) the expected outputs are coherent with the expected actions ; (2) the expected outputs induce effects coherent with the expected programme impact	Ok see annex VI
Type of actions (projects could deliver)	Section 2.A.6.1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adoption of downscaled (Italy-Croatia area) climate data for better assessing local impacts and selecting adaptation strategies; setting up of common/ integrated/ harmonized monitoring and observing systems, model, spatial data infrastructures to improve the assessment and forecast capabilities, support the planning and design phase, promote the resilience to climate change; strengthening the capacity of public sector to develop and implement innovative services, incentives and financing schemes for increasing resilience to climate change; elaboration of strategic planning, action plans and other instruments for climate change adaptation. . 	↕	Assumption: the indicative examples of actions are coherent with the expected beneficiaries Section 2.A.6.1 (target groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Local, regional and national public authorities and related entities</i> <i>Regional development agencies and regional associations</i> <i>NGOs</i> <i>Higher education and research centres</i> 	Ok

Table 0-17 Intervention logic SO 2.2

Elements of the strategy		"if-then"	Assumptions	Assessment
Specific Objective (SO)	(IP 5b) Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster	→	Assumption: the SO responds to the identified needs. Needs: section 2.A.5: <i>This specific objective is designed to meet only one challenge identified by the analysis of the area: a need for cross-border actions in the field of risk prevention and management</i>	Ok: the SO is coherent with the identified needs, however: 1) the wording adopted in the Section 2 for describing the key challenges and needs is only partially coherent with the key challenges identified in section 1 2) Bearing in mind the financial 'weight' of the programme the SO appears ambitious
Result indicator	Inhabitants benefiting from risk management coordinated measures	↕	Assumption: the indicator is coherent with the SO (it allows its measurement)	Ok
Expected result (at programme level)	Section 2.A.5: "SO 2.2 puts broader emphasis on specific risks and the development of disaster management systems highlighting the need for furthering the capacity of recovery of the area while minimising damages."	↕	Assumption: the SO is coherent with the expected results	Ok
Expected programme impact (programme contribution)	Section 1 (p.17) "(...) stimulate the local authorities, businesses and the public to take the measures within their capacity to properly respond to natural and man-made disasters. (...) joint approaches could be adopted for the development of the disaster management system through strengthening administrative and technical capacities, raising awareness, educating, equipping and preparing population and rescue teams and strive towards sustainable development"	↕	Assumption: the expected impact is coherent with the expected result	Ok, the programme contribution is coherent with the SO and with expected result, however given the ambitious SO, the net contribution of the programme (impact) may be limited
Output indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> risk management measures operative; people reached by initiatives for increasing awareness 	↕	Assumptions: (1) the expected outputs are coherent with the expected actions ; (2) the expected outputs induce effects coherent with the expected programme impact	Ok see annex VI
Type of actions (projects could deliver)	Section 2.A.6.1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishment of better coordinated collective emergency planning and preparedness for flooding (water management, flood risk techniques, etc.) and other risks (i.e. fire, oil spill, etc.); joint development and implementation of awareness rising actions in the society (i.e. schools, citizen) and governance instruments; setting up of common framework/models/tools and pilot actions to promote the reduction of environmental risks and more coordinated/harmonized management of the emergencies; development or improvement of existing early warning and decision making support systems addressing oil spill disasters with coordinated contingency plans at 	↕	Assumption: the indicative examples of actions are coherent with the expected beneficiaries Section 2.A.6.1 (target groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional and national public authorities and related entities Regional development agencies and regional associations NGOs Universities / research institutes and training centres 	Ok

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cross-border regional scale joint development of tools/methods for improvement of mapping and identification of oil spills disasters 		
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Table 0-18 Intervention logic SO 3.1

<i>Elements of the strategy</i>		<i>“if-then”</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
Specific Objective (SO)	(IP 6c) Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development	→	Assumption: the SO responds to the identified needs. Needs: section 2.A.5: Common characteristics of cultural heritage and shared marine natural resources can support a higher quality tourism if tackled in a sustainable way	Ok: the SO is coherent with the identified needs, however the wording adopted in the Section 2 for describing the key challenges and needs is only partially coherent with the key challenges identified in section 1
Result indicator	Seasonality in tourism in the programme area	↕	Assumption: the indicator is defined by making reference to Regulation EU 629/2011 and it allows to measure the change brought by the SO	Ok, but the baseline and the target value of the indicator still have to be determined
Expected result (at programme level)	Section 2.A.5: “The SO 3.1 aims at reaching a higher level of sustainable economic and territorial development by exploiting the potentials of the natural assets and cultural while preserving and increasing their value”	↕	Assumption: the SO is coherent with the expected results	Ok
Expected programme impact (programme contribution)	Section 2.A.5: “(…) valorise and preserve the rich cultural heritage deeply permeating the area, not only in the form of historical artefacts but also traditions and folklore which link the two coasts of the Adriatic sea. (...) stimulate innovative initiatives (ICT, creative industries, smart tools, services for target group carrying special needs, etc.) that are able to generate added value in the sustainable management of natural and cultural resources of the entire territory.	↕	Assumption: the expected impact is coherent with the expected result	Ok, the programme contribution is coherent with the SO and with expected result, however given the ambitious SO, the net contribution of the programme (impact) may be limited
Output indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cultural and natural heritage sites promoted actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism) natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g. to disabled tourists, virtual tourists etc.) in place number of actors with ecolabel/green certification 	↕	Assumptions: (1) the expected outputs are coherent with the expected actions ; (2) the expected outputs induce effects coherent with the expected programme impact	Ok see annex VI

<p>Type of actions (projects could deliver)</p>	<p>Section 2.A.6.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of cross-border cluster of sustainable products typical of the area; • development of marketing/ commercialization programmes for common and sustainable Adriatic products integrating territorial services and piloting matchmaking actions (common branding included); • support the valorisation of rural and minor natural – cultural sites by enhancing the linkage with cruise and nautical / boat tourism; • development / enhancement of tourism itineraries link to common thematic destinations also to reduce pressure on main sites; • support to cooperation actions for enhancing human resources in the field of sustainable tourism, natural and cultural heritage awareness and valorisation; • development of cooperation strategies for management of preservation and valorisation of natural and cultural heritage (also by reducing human pressure and seasonalization); • support for knowledge and the usability of the cultural and natural heritage destinations by all types of visitors including people with disabilities, improving accessibility, information, and sustainability awareness, smart use of ICT; • protection and promotion of common cultural heritage by analysis, digitalization, archiving and data sharing (i.e. virtual museum) • protection and promotion of old crafts and tradition (e.g. historical boats sector) by mean of training and awareness raising actions • enhancing the cultural heritage through research activities and restoration of quality 		<p>Assumption: the indicative examples of actions are coherent with the expected beneficiaries</p> <p>Section 2.A.6.1 (target groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local, regional and national public authorities</i> • <i>Regional development and innovation agencies</i> • <i>enterprises (in particular SMEs within the cultural and creative industry as well as the environmental and tourism sector)</i> • <i>Associations and NGOs</i> • <i>Research centres, universities and knowledge transfer organisations</i> 	<div style="background-color: #92d050; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Ok</div>
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Table 0-19 Intervention logic SO 3.2

Elements of the strategy		"if-then"	Assumptions	Assessment
Specific Objective (SO)	(IP 6d) Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity	→	Assumption: the SO responds to the identified needs. Needs: Coastal and marine resources represent assets that shall be tackled by joint actions	Ok: the SO is coherent with the identified needs, however: 1) the wording adopted in the Section 2 for describing the key challenges and needs is only partially coherent with the key challenges identified in section 1 2) Bearing in mind the financial 'weight' of the programme the SO appears ambitious
Result indicator	Conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in programme area	↕	Assumption: the indicator is coherent with the SO (it allows its measurement)	Ok
Expected result (at programme level)	Section 2.A.5: “(…) For the SO 3.2, the main change sought is a strengthening of the management and protection of ecosystems and the cooperation between public actors/ managers of the protected areas in order to increase environmental benefits and to provide economic and employment opportunities. Furthermore an increase of the systematic monitoring will be pursued by the SO.”	↕	Assumption: the SO is coherent with the expected results	Ok
Expected programme impact (programme contribution)	Section 2.A.5: “(…)improved cooperation at a cross-border level with more efficient share of knowledge and better synergies and improve awareness and protection of fragile areas and species.”	↕	Assumption: the expected impact is coherent with the expected result	Ok, the programme contribution is coherent with the SO and with expected result, however given the ambitious SO, the net contribution of the programme (impact) may be limited
Output indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place restoration actions supporting endangered species integrated management systems (sea, coastal and river environment) put in place 	↕	Assumptions: (1) the expected outputs are coherent with the expected actions ; (2) the expected outputs induce effects coherent with the expected programme impact	Ok see annex VI
Type of actions (projects could deliver)	Section 2.A.6.1 (examples of actions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of models for monitoring of the species and testing of models of sustainable fisheries for their protection; analysis of feasibility for setting up CB protected marine areas; development of innovative models and systems for increase the marine environment knowledge also through establishment of common platform for marine research, survey habitat-biodiversity 	↕	Assumption: the indicative examples of actions are coherent with the expected beneficiaries Section 2.A.6.1 (target groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional and national public authorities Park management/ forest management bodies Regional development and innovation agencies 	Ok

	<p>mapping, networking to gather and process data related to the sustainable development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of tools for integrated management of the sea, coastal and river environment and of cross-border natural resources (i.e. coordinated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)); • actions aimed at reducing and preventing the environmental risk of introduction of alien species due to the ballast water discharge; • joint piloting of restoration actions for specific endangered species in the Adriatic basin • joint development of tools/ methods for degraded, damaged, destroyed habitats restoration (coastal dunes etc.) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Associations and NGOs</i> • <i>Universities, education and training organisations and research institutes</i> 	
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Table 0-20 Intervention logic SO 3.3

Elements of the strategy		"if-then"	Assumptions	Assessment
Specific Objective (SO)	(IP 6f) Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches	→	Assumption: the SO responds to the identified needs. Needs: <i>There is need to enhance cooperation between the innovation players in fields of relevant sectors of blue economy</i>	Ok: the SO is coherent with the identified needs, however: 1) the wording adopted in the Section 2 for describing the key challenges and needs is only partially coherent with the key challenges identified in section 1 2) Bearing in mind the financial 'weight' of the programme the SO appears ambitious
Result indicator	Quality of coastal Bathing waters (according to the dir. 2006/7/CE)	↕	Assumption: the indicator clearly defines how it will measure the quality of coastal bathing waters.	Ok
Expected result (at programme level)	Section 2.A.5: "For this specific objective 3.3, the main change sought is an improvement of the quality of the water of the sea by using innovative technologies in waste management and treatment as well as new integrated approaches in facing several problems, including the emerging issue of marine litter".	↕	Assumption: the SO is coherent with the expected results	Ok, however, the SO is considered as a mean to achieve more general results.
Expected programme impact (programme contribution)	Section 2.A.5: "The CBC Programme will support more intensive and effective cooperation among various local stakeholders and managers responsible for sites/ activities potentially pollution generating".	↕	Assumption: the expected impact is coherent with the expected result	Ok, the programme contribution is coherent with the SO and with expected result, however given the ambitious SO, the net contribution of the programme (impact) may be limited
Output indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented knowledge systems put in place 	↕	Assumptions: (1) the expected outputs are coherent with the expected actions ; (2) the expected outputs induce effects coherent with the expected programme impact	Ok see annex VI
Type of actions (projects could deliver)	Section 2.A.6.1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementing innovative common spatial information systems on ecosystem components and human uses and activities; actions aimed at using green technologies for reducing and preventing all possible kinds of pollution deriving from transport and port activities support cooperation among different sectors for the development of new possibilities of recycling marine litter and development of a CB strategy to assess, prevent and reduce marine litter pollution in the area promoting joint innovative solutions for the protection and efficient use of water resources pilot actions for implementation of technologies aimed at contrasting marine debris (radar, sensor platform, managing of multispectral data, solutions to prevent marine debris) 	↕	Assumption: the indicative examples of actions are coherent with the expected beneficiaries Section 2.A.6.1 (target groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional and national public authorities Regional development and innovation agencies Associations and NGOs Universities, research institutes and training organisations 	Ok

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• transfer of knowledge and exchange of experience on innovative (green) technologies solutions to improve efforts of different actors in protecting the water, air and soil, contingency planning and promoting the resources efficiency			
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Table 0-21 Intervention logic SO 4.1

Elements of the strategy		"if-then"	Assumptions	Assessment
Specific Objective (SO)	(IP 7c) Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services	→	Assumption: the SO responds to the identified needs. Needs: <i>the SO will meet the following challenges and opportunities identified in its preparation phase: there is potential for more systemic, integrated and efficient maritime connections from/to the eligible territories and between them; There is potential for additional cooperation between ports ensuring integrated information (ICT) and ticketing (passengers transport).</i>	Ok: the SO is coherent with the identified needs, however: 1) the wording adopted in the Section 2 for describing the key challenges and needs is only partially coherent with the key challenges identified in section 1 2) the SO contains more than one objective and the goal is not clearly identified
Result indicator	Goods transported by maritime mode	↕	Assumption: the indicator does measure the change in multimodality.	Ok
Expected result (at programme level)	Section 2.A.5: “(…) the SO 4.1 aims at improving the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services.”	↕	Assumption: the SO is coherent with the expected results	Ok, however, the SO is considered as a mean to achieve more general results.
Expected programme impact (programme contribution)	Section 2.A.5: (…)The development of new traffic should be directed towards the use of vessels using compatible energy sources (such as methane), the adoption of ICT systems to perform embarking and disembarking of passengers in vessel traffic management and implementation of e-ticket (electronic ticketing) systems and electronic traffic management to ensure a more efficient development of traffic in the area.	↕	Assumption: the expected impact is coherent with the expected result	Ok
Output indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved multimodal transport services new links established harmonized services for passengers put in place 	↕	Assumptions: (1) the expected outputs are coherent with the expected actions ; (2) the expected outputs induce effects coherent with the expected programme impact	Ok
Type of actions (projects could deliver)	Section 2.A.6.1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of short sea shipping and maritime transport services through piloting CB routes (passengers, ferry connection between ports and their connections to hinterland) Enhancing coordination between regional airports of the area for exploiting synergies and complementarities and promote multimodality, in order to improve their environmental performance Harmonization of administrative procedures and Improvement of port quality management system for freight and passengers transport ensuring connections with internal nodes and the logistic system Green upgrading of the logistic system linked with maritime transport sector Improving multi modal (rail, road, sea) transport systems through innovative solutions (ITS) including the promotion of pilot rail services in connection with ports. The investments in road 	↕	Assumption: the indicative examples of actions are coherent with the expected beneficiaries Section 2.A.6.1 (target groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local, regional and national public authorities regional development and innovation agencies enterprises, transport associations and operators including operators of multimodal logistics hubs and infrastructure providers NGOs Universities, education centres and training organisations 	Ok

	<p>infrastructure are not eligible under this specific objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote mobility concepts for harmonizing the development of passenger services (i.e. e-mobility, soft mobility, etc.)• Support the creation of a common vessel traffic centre for monitoring the vessel traffic within the cooperation area aimed at safeguarding environment			
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ANNEX VI – COHERENCE BETWEEN INDICATIVE ACTIONS AND OUTPUT INDICATORS

SO 1.1	Research institutions participating in cross-border / transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	Participants to training activities
Joint development of supply chains by investing in research and innovation;	✓	✓		
Establishment of cross-border clusters;	✓	✓	✓	
Joint development of links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education which shall facilitate the transfer of knowledge in between them, shall disseminate the results of previous initiatives in the field of R&D and shall facilitate the development of new initiatives in this field;	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joint development of human capital, increasing skills regarding novel technologies, innovative products, services or processes particularly for SMEs;	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joint development and piloting of social innovation actions in the blue economy relevant sectors including awareness raising actions about social innovation opportunities and challenges (i.e. e-health, education, digital divide, start up, labour market change, intellectual property rights);	✓	✓	✓	
Joint actions aimed at improving the access to financing for R&D activities through trainings, information, awareness raising campaigns related to different opportunities;	✓	✓		✓
Joint design / testing of innovative processes in the relevant sectors of blue economy including aquaculture with special reference to species, management techniques and breeding, fish welfare and disease control, seafood processing also to reduce the environmental impact of these activities;	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joint development and piloting of eco-innovative tools and processes in the blue economy relevant sectors	✓	✓	✓	
SO 2.1	Climate change monitoring systems put in operation	Plans of adaptation measures put in place		
Strengthening the capacity of public sector to develop and implement innovative services, incentives and financing schemes for increasing resilience to climate change;			✓	
Elaboration of strategic planning, action plans and other instruments for climate change adaptation on marine and coastal areas;	✓		✓	
Setting up of common/ integrated/ harmonized monitoring and	✓		✓	

observing systems, model, spatial data infrastructures to improve the assessment and forecast capabilities, support the planning and design phase, promote the resilience to climate change				
Adoption of downscaled (Italy-Croatia area) climate data for better assessing local impacts and selecting adaptation strategies;				✓
SO 2.2	Risk management measures operative		People reached by initiatives for increasing awareness	
establishment of better coordinated collective emergency planning and preparedness for flooding (water management, flood risk techniques, etc.) and other risks (i.e. fire, oil spill, etc.);	✓		✓	
setting up of common framework/models/tools and pilot actions to promote the reduction of environmental risks and more coordinated/ harmonized management of the emergencies;	✓		✓	
addressing oil spill disasters with coordinated contingency plans at cross border scale	✓			
development or improvement of existing early warning and decision making support systems	✓			
joint development and implementation of awareness rising actions in the society (i.e. schools, citizen) and governance instruments;			✓	
joint development of tools/methods for improvement of mapping and identification of oil spills disasters			✓	
SO 3.1	Actors involved in actions aimed at promoting natural and cultural heritage (including typical products, joint branding and tourism);	Natural and cultural heritage destinations with improved accessibilities (e.g.: to	Cultural and natural heritage sites promoted	Actors with ecolabel/green certification
Development of cross border cluster of sustainable products typical of the area;	✓		✓	✓
Development / enhancement of less targeted tourism itineraries link to common thematic destinations also to reduce pressure on main sites;		✓	✓	
Enhancing the cultural heritage through research activities and restoration of quality sites for territorial development	✓		✓	
Development of marketing/commercialization programmes for common and sustainable Adriatic products integrating territorial services and piloting matchmaking actions (common branding included);	✓	✓		✓
Support the valorization of rural and minor natural – cultural sites by enhancing the linkage with nautical/ boat tourism;	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support to cooperation actions for enhancing human resources in the field of sustainable tourism, cultural heritage awareness and valorisation;	✓	✓	✓	

Development of cooperation strategies for management of preservation and valorisation of natural and cultural heritage (also by reducing human pressure and seasonalization);	✓	✓	✓	
Support for knowledge and the usability of the cultural and natural heritage destinations by all types of visitors including people with disabilities, improving accessibility, information, and sustainability awareness, smart use of ICT;	✓	✓	✓	
Protection and promotion of common cultural heritage by analysis, digitalization, archiving and data sharing (i.e. virtual museum)	✓		✓	
Protection and promotion of old crafts and tradition (e.g. historical boats sector) by mean of training and awareness raising actions	✓		✓	

SO 3.2	Natural ecosystems supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Restoration actions supporting endangered species	Monitoring systems and data collections for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems put in place	Integrated management systems (sea, coastal, and river environment) put in place
Development of models for monitoring of the species and testing of models of sustainable fisheries for their protection;	✓		✓	
Analysis of feasibility for setting up CB protected marine areas;	✓		✓	✓
Development of innovative models and systems for increasing the marine environment knowledge also through establishment of common platform for marine research, survey habitat-biodiversity mapping, networking to gather and process data related to the sustainable development;	✓		✓	✓
Joint piloting of restoration actions for specific endangered species in the Adriatic basin.	✓	✓		
Development of tools for integrated management of the sea, coastal and river environment and of cross-border natural resources (i.e. coordinated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM));			✓	✓
Actions aimed at reducing and preventing the environmental risk of introduction of alien species due to the ballast water discharge;			✓	
Joint development of tools/ methods for degraded, damaged, destroyed habitats restoration (coastal dunes etc.)	✓		✓	

SO 3.3	Knowledge systems, put in place	Environmental friendly technological solutions (and approaches) implemented
Transfer of knowledge and exchange of experience on innovative (green) technology solutions to improve efforts of different actors in protecting the water, contingency planning and promoting the resource efficiency	✓	

Actions aimed at using green technologies for reducing and preventing all possible kinds of pollution deriving from transport and port activities			✓
Implementing innovative common spatial information systems on ecosystem components and human uses and activities;	✓		
Pilot actions for implementation of technologies aimed at contrasting marine debris (radar, sensor platform, managing of multispectral data, solutions to prevent marine debris)			✓
Support cooperation among different sectors for the development of new possibilities of recycling marine litter and development of a CB strategy to assess, prevent and reduce marine litter pollution in the area			✓
Promoting joint innovative solutions for the protection and efficient use of water resources			✓
SO 4.1	Improved multimodal transport services	New links established	Harmonized services for passengers put in place
Promotion of short sea shipping and maritime transport services through piloting CB routes (passengers, ferry connection between ports and their connections to hinterland)	✓	✓	✓
Enhancing coordination between regional airports of the area for exploiting synergies and complementarities and promote multimodality, in order to improve their environmental performance	✓		
Harmonization of administrative procedures and Improvement of port quality management system for freight and passengers transport ensuring connections with internal nodes and the logistic system			
Promote mobility concepts for harmonizing the development of ports passenger services (e-mobility)			✓
Support the creation of a common vessel traffic centre for monitoring the vessel traffic within the cooperation area aimed at safeguarding environment			✓
Improving multi modal (rail, road, sea) transport systems through innovative solutions (ITS) including the promotion of pilot rail services in connection with ports. The investments I road infrastructure are not eligible under this specific objective	✓		
Green upgrading of the logistic system linked with maritime transport sector			