

# INTERREG V A Italy-Croatia CBC Programme

## **Calls for Strategic Project proposals** **Call announcement**

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## A. INTRODUCTION

The INTERREG V-A Italy – Croatia 2014 – 2020 Cooperation Programme (hereinafter Programme), set up in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) - one of the objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy - is launching a set of Calls for proposals for strategic projects and invites interested eligible applicants to submit project proposals. The detailed conditions for the strategic projects Calls for proposals can be found in the following documents, altogether referred to as “strategic projects Calls for proposals application package”, which constitute an integral part of this Call announcement and are available for download (as separate documents or as a single zipped file) from the Programme website [www.italy-croatia.eu](http://www.italy-croatia.eu):

- INTERREG V A Italy – Croatia cross-border Cooperation Programme adopted by the European Commission with Decision C(2015) 9342, later amended with: Decision C(2017) 3705, Decision C(2018) 1610 and Decision C (2019) 277.
- Call announcement.
- Call announcement annex 1: Strategic Themes Concepts.
- Factsheet nr. 1 "Introduction and Background".
- Factsheet nr. 2 "Project Generation".
- Factsheet nr. 3 "Project Development".
- Factsheet nr. 4 "Project Application".
- Factsheet nr. 5 "Project Selection" and Annexes - Selection criteria.
- Glossary.
- Application form off-line (for information purposes only).
- Budget tool off-line (for budget drafting supporting purpose).
- Lead partner declaration form and project partner declaration form.
- Template of subsidy contract.
- Template of partnership agreement (not binding).

Please note that also factsheet nr. 6 “Project Implementation”, factsheet nr. 7 “Project closure” and factsheet nr. 8 "Project Communication" should be taken into account as useful references for drafting the proposal.

This Call is open to strategic projects. As defined in the Programme, “strategic projects” will be characterized by:

- the principle of wide-area partnerships, i.e.: the involvement of a higher number of beneficiaries than the minimum eligible partnership requirement as set in the Cooperation Programme;

- width of the involved territories to ensure that greater Programme area population benefits from the achieved results;
- higher financial allocations than those foreseen for standard projects;
- specific and targeted institutional and technical skills and know how to ensure deeper/long-lasting impacts and benefits for the whole cooperation area.

The overall objective of the Programme is “to increase the prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible changes”.

The Programme will pursue its overall objective through the financial support granted to cross-border cooperation projects contributing to its specific objectives.

The Programme Priority Axes encompass a wide range of themes to be tackled through a wide array of instruments and possible actions, reflecting the diverse needs of the cooperation area. However, for this Call, a top-down approach was used to identify a number of themes considered strategic for the Programme area in terms of objectives, macro-activities and results to be achieved, also in order to fill the gaps in reaching the Programme outputs and expected targets whose achievement result to be incomplete considering the projects financed so far. Specific information on the expected results, indicative actions to be supported, output indicators to be fulfilled, indicative types of beneficiaries and target groups is available in Strategic Themes Concepts, annexed to this Call announcement.

## B. STRATEGIC THEMES

In compliance with the institutional top-down approach, a preparatory work has been carried out by the Monitoring Committee, through the establishment of dedicated Working Group and involving national authorities and relevant Institutions on both Member States. Starting from the recognition of the needs of strategic cross-border relevance stemming from the Programme area, in the preparatory phase of this Call for proposals, the strategic nature of the identified theme and the importance of giving a common and cross-border solution to the identified needs emerged.

As a result, **11 strategic themes** have been identified through an institutional top-down approach. All strategic themes are result-oriented and characterized by a place-based approach.

In terms of contents, the following themes represent the main challenges identified during the implementation of the Programme in order to achieve its objectives. The strategic themes are

indeed in line with the Programme intervention logic and EUSAIR compliance; moreover, in order to define the strategic themes, the gap between indicators covered by already financed Standard+ and Standard projects and targets set for the Programme have been considered.

For each defined strategic theme, the generation of project proposals stemming from a theme concept defined with an institutional top-down approach is expected; based on the relevance of the need and institutional and technical know how, also considered the links between the role of the two Countries compared to EUSAIR pillars were applicable, a correspondence within the theme and the leadership of the proposals to be expected has been also identified (see paragraph G) . The identified themes are the following:

PRIORITY AXIS	Specific Objective	Strategic Theme
1:Blue Innovation	1.1: Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area.	<b>1.1.1) Blue technology</b> - Developing innovative technologies for sustainability of Adriatic Sea.
2:Safety and resilience	2.1: Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects, in the cooperation area.	<b>2.1.1) Climate change adaptation</b> - Climate change data and modeling systems for knowledge and cooperation improvement for adaptation and mitigation strategies planning in urban coastal and marine environment.
	2.2: Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster.	<b>2.2.1) Flood risk</b> - Developed methods and tools to be used for managing flood risks and their related impact in Programme area. <b>2.2.2) Oil spills and other marine hazards, fire and earthquake</b> - Strengthening of preparedness and prevention of hazards.
3:Environment and cultural heritage	3.1: Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development.	<b>3.1.1) Coastal and inland tourism</b> - Smart specialization and improved quality in tourism for a green and sustainable development for Mediterranean islands, coastal and

		inland.
	3.2: Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity.	<p><b>3.2.1) Marine environment</b> - Improve the environmental quality conditions and biodiversity of coastal, marine, and inland waters and ecosystems consolidating sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches related to integrated monitoring, modeling systems and restoration.</p> <p><b>3.2.2) Fisheries and aquaculture</b> - Shared Governance of Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities as leverage to protect marine biodiversity resources in the Adriatic sea.</p>
	3.3: Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches.	<b>3.3.1) Marine Litter</b> - Shared actions and plans for integrated and cross-border management of the coastal and marine litter in a life cycle approach perspective.
4:Maritime transport	4.1: Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services and nodes by promoting multimodality in the Programme area.	<b>4.1.1) Maritime Transport</b> - Enhancing the environmental sustainability of port operations in the Programme Area.
		<b>4.1.2) Mobility of Passengers</b> - Multimodal transport solutions and services for fostering, supporting and promoting a new passenger sustainable mobility.
		<b>4.1.3) Nautical services</b> - Small ports as driver for improvement of maritime transport and sustainable development in the Adriatic area.

The strategic project proposals submitted by applicants shall be consistent with all the requirements set out in this Call and in the concerned Strategic Themes Concepts. All macro-activities listed in the concerned Strategic Theme Concept must be included in the strategic project proposal, that shall contribute to the achievement of the set output indicators. The project proposal shall foresee a clear contribution to the "expected outputs" mentioned in the concerned Strategic Theme Concept.

## C. AVAILABLE BUDGET

The Italy – Croatia Programme will allocate EUR 69.713.000,00 ERDF to the strategic project Calls for proposals, as follows:

Priority Axis (PA)	Specific Objective (S.O.)	Strategic theme	Maximum ERDF budget (Euro)
1	1.1	<b>1.1.1) Blue technology</b> - Developing innovative technologies for sustainability of Adriatic Sea.	<b>5.116.000,00</b>
2	2.1	<b>2.1.1) Climate change adaptation</b> – Climate change data and modeling systems for knowledge and cooperation improvement for adaptation and mitigation strategies planning in urban coastal and marine environment.	<b>7.500.000,00</b>
		<b>2.2.1) Flood risk</b> - Developed methods and tools to be used for managing flood risks and their related impact in Programme area.	<b>8.000.000,00</b>
	2.2	<b>2.2.2) Oil spills and other marine hazards, fire and earthquake</b> - Strengthening of preparedness and prevention of Hazards.	<b>14.029.000,00</b>
3	3.1	<b>3.1.1) Coastal and inland tourism</b> - Smart specialization and improved quality in tourism for a green and sustainable development for	<b>3.200.000,00</b>

		Mediterranean islands, coastal and inland.	
	3.2	<b>3.2.1) Marine environment</b> - Improve the environmental quality conditions and biodiversity of coastal, marine, and inland waters and ecosystems consolidating sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches related to integrated monitoring, modeling systems and restoration.	<b>4.945.000,00</b>
		<b>3.2.2) Fisheries and aquaculture</b> - Shared Governance of Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities as leverage to protect marine biodiversity resources in the Adriatic sea.	<b>4.945.000,00</b>
		<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3.1) Marine Litter</b> - Shared actions and plans for integrated and cross-border management of the coastal and marine litter in a life cycle approach perspective.
4	4.1	<b>4.1.1) Maritime Transport</b> - Enhancing the environmental sustainability of port operations in the Programme Area.	<b>6.071.000,00</b>
		<b>4.1.2) Mobility of Passengers</b> - Multimodal transport solutions and services for fostering, supporting and promoting a new passenger sustainable mobility.	<b>6.071.000,00</b>
		<b>4.1.3) Nautical services</b> - Small ports as driver for improvement of maritime transport and sustainable development in the Adriatic area.	<b>6.071.000,00</b>

Upon completion of the assessment, the submitted applications will be ranked separately by strategic themes, and will be co-financed according to the EU resources available for each strategic theme.

It is expected that 1 strategic project will be funded for each theme.



The above mentioned amounts are indicative, i.e. the total budget of the Call is subject to the availability of funds and will be revised if needed due to de-commitment or other reduction of the financial plan of the Programme. The Monitoring Committee of the Programme reserves the right not to commit all available resources depending on the quality and budget of submitted application.

## D.TIME SCHEDULE AND SUBMISSION

The opening period starts from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and ends on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 12 am CET.

The strategic project Calls for proposals will follow a single step procedure, i.e. full information on the objectives, macro-activities, budget, partnership and supporting documents will have to be submitted by the indicated deadline. Project proposals must be submitted in English language and only through the web-based electronic management and monitoring system (SIU) available at [www.italy-croatia.eu](http://www.italy-croatia.eu).

In case the SIU systems undergoes severe malfunctioning which prevents proper submission of the applications during the opening period of the strategic project Calls for proposals, the Managing Authority reserve the right to postpone the Call deadline of a number of days equal to the days of malfunctioning. Lead applicants need to be previously registered on the SIU, through the GUSI platform available on the Programme website to be able to create and submit valid application forms.

The lead applicant shall be in charge for the submission of the application on behalf of all the project partners.

The only valid application form will be the one created and submitted via the SIU.

Lead applicants are strongly recommended to proceed with the online registration at least 15 days before the Call deadline.

Full information on the application and selection procedure is detailed in the factsheets n. 4 "Project Application" and factsheet n. 5 "Project Selection".

## E. ADDRESSED AREA

The strategic project Calls for proposals is addressed to the whole Programme area, both in terms of partnership requirements and activities; specific territorial priorities are defined in the selection criteria and in the theme concepts. The Italy - Croatia Programme includes the following administrative units at the NUTS III level:

- in Italy - administrative units (province) of Teramo, Pescara, Chieti (Abruzzo), Campobasso (Molise), Brindisi, Lecce, Foggia, Bari, Barletta-Andria-Trani (Puglia), Venezia, Padova, Rovigo (Veneto), Pordenone, Udine, Gorizia, Trieste (Friuli Venezia Giulia), Ferrara, Ravenna, Forlì-Cesena, Rimini (Emilia Romagna), Pesaro e Urbino, Ancona, Macerata, Ascoli Piceno, Fermo (Marche);
- in Croatia - administrative units (županija) Primorsko-goranska, Ličko-senjska, Zadarska, Šibensko-kninska, Splitsko-dalmatinska, Istarska, Dubrovačko-neretvanska (Adriatic Croatia region), Karlovačka (Continental Croatia region).

Specific restrictions apply to art. 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal as partners located outside the Programme area are not eligible (exception in case of assimilated and associated partners, see paragraph F and factsheet n. 3 “Project Development”).

## F. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The following bodies are eligible as partners:

1. Public bodies (national, regional or local level) including associations constituted by one or several regional or local public authorities;
2. Bodies governed by public law and associations constituted by one or several bodies governed by public law, as defined in Article 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement, i.e. bodies that have all of the following characteristics:

- a. they are established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;
  - b. they have legal personality; and
  - c. they are financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law; or are subject to management supervision by those authorities or bodies; or have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law.
3. Private bodies, including private companies, having legal personality and being operational from at least 2 fiscal years at the time of submission of the candidature<sup>1</sup>;
  4. International organizations acting under the Italian or Croatian national law and having legal seat in Italy or Croatia and being operational from at least 2 fiscal years at the time of submission of the candidature.

The partners involved into strategic projects shall belong exclusively to the categories listed in the concerned theme concept. It is strongly recommended to involve in the partnership all indicated categories.

As a general principle, EU financing is provided to partners located in the Programme area, apart from exceptions as detailed in the present Call announcement as follows:

In order to overcome to the Programme geographical constraints, institutions (public bodies or bodies governed by public law established under the national law of Italy or Croatia) that are competent in their scope of action for all (e.g.: Ministries including their agencies) or part (e.g.: Regional governments including their agencies) of the eligible area or are anyhow relevant due to specific and exclusive thematic competence for the eligible area but which are located outside of it are considered as assimilated partners, with equal rights and obligations to applicants located within the Programme area. In case of Universities, as a general principle, they can be considered as assimilated partners if they have a branch in the eligible area and the activities are carried out by the branch; however, considered the specificity of the identified strategic themes, in duly justified cases based on competence in the scope, Universities can be considered as assimilated partners even if they do not have any branch in the Programme area.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that according to Section 2 of the Cooperation Programme the following restrictions apply for eligibility of private partners in PA1, PA2 and PA3:

- for PA1 and PA3 private bodies are eligible but enterprises are eligible only in case of SMEs as defined by EU recommendation 2003/361;
- for PA2 private bodies are eligible but enterprises are not eligible;
- for PA4 all private bodies are eligible including enterprises, irrespective of their size.

Each strategic project has to involve at least 3 Croatian and 3 Italian eligible partners (associated partners are not considered for the assessment of this requirement).

This Call allows associated partners to participate in projects.

Associated partners are key stakeholders that can be involved in a project without financially contributing to it and without receiving ERDF funding. All requirements regarding project partners applies also to associated partners; associated partners can also be located outside the Programme area if they fit within requirements of assimilated partners. To be considered eligible, the expenses of associated partners (only the costs of attending meetings) must be reported by a partner. The concerned costs shall be included in the project partner budget. Partners cannot delegate project activities to associated partners as they must not act as service providers.

Further details in terms of eligibility of partners can be found in the factsheet 3 “Project Development”.

## G. LEAD APPLICANTS

Only the following bodies located in Italy or Croatia shall be considered as eligible lead applicants:

- public bodies (national, regional or local level) including associations constituted by one or several regional or local public authorities;
- bodies governed by public law, including associations constituted by one or several bodies governed by public law;
- international organizations acting under the Italian or Croatian national law with legal seat in Italy or Croatia and being operational from at least 2 fiscal years at the time of submission of the candidature.
- Restrictions related to specific strategic themes are included in Annex “Strategic Themes Concepts”.

For the purpose to act as lead applicant, each institution shall be considered as a unique body, regardless its own organization. Therefore no distinction between departments/technical unit/etc will be taken into account. Moreover one body cannot be lead applicant in more than one strategic project proposal. If more than one proposal is submitted by the same lead applicant, all submitted proposals will be rejected.

As explained in paragraph B, in accordance with the institutional top-down approach for each strategic theme it has been defined, both on the basis of the relevance of the need and institutional and technical know how and taking into account the links between the role of the two Countries compared to EUSAIR pillars were relevant, if the leadership of the project proposal shall be Italian or Croatian.

- In coherence with this approach, projects stemming from the following strategic themes shall be led by a Croatian lead partner:

- 1.1.1: Blue technology - Developing innovative technologies for sustainability of Adriatic Sea.

- 2.2.1: Flood risk - Developed methods and tools to be used for managing flood risks and their related impact in Programme area.

- 2.2.2: Oil spills and other marine hazards, fire and earthquake - Strengthening of preparedness and prevention of hazards.

- 3.1.1: Coastal and inland tourism - Smart specialization and improved quality in tourism for a green and sustainable development for Mediterranean islands, coastal and inland.

- Projects stemming from the following strategic themes shall be led by an Italian lead partner:

- 2.1.1: Climate change adaptation – Climate change data and modeling systems for knowledge and cooperation improvement for adaptation and mitigation strategies planning in urban coastal and marine environment.

- 3.2.1: Marine environment - Improve the environmental quality conditions and biodiversity of coastal, marine, and inland waters and ecosystems consolidating sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches related to integrated monitoring, modelling systems and restoration.

- 3.2.2: Fisheries and aquaculture - Shared Governance of Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities as leverage to protect marine biodiversity resources in the Adriatic sea.

- 3.3.1: Marine Litter - Shared actions and plans for integrated and cross-border management of the coastal and marine litter in a life cycle approach perspective.

- 4.1.1: Maritime Transport - Enhancing the environmental sustainability of port operations in the Programme Area.

4.1.2: Mobility of Passengers - Multimodal transport solutions and services for fostering, supporting and promoting a new passenger sustainable mobility.

4.1.3: Nautical services - Small ports as driver for improvement of maritime transport and sustainable development in the Adriatic area.

## H. CO-FINANCING RATE AND ADVANCE PAYMENTS

The ERDF contribution of Italy – Croatia Programme will be limited to a co-financing rate equal to 85% of eligible costs for all partners. The share of expenditure (at least 15%) not covered by ERDF funds shall be ensured by national co-financing sources.

As stated in factsheet 3 (see paragraph F for reference), in-kind contributions are not eligible within the Programme, therefore their use as a source of co-financing is not permitted. Additional information is available in factsheet n. 3 “Project Development”.

It is possible for approved projects to receive an advance payment from the ERDF of 10% of the overall contribution. The advance payment will be conditional on the availability of ERDF funds following the EU reimbursement to Managing Authority and on any other further circumstances that may threaten the Programme sound financial management.

## I. PROJECT SIZE and BUDGET LINES

The financial size of the projects submitted within the framework of the Programme strategic project Calls for proposals shall be in line with the concerned strategic theme.

The ERDF contribution requested by each partner in the project proposal shall be not lower than EUR 100.000.

The following budget lines are eligible under this Call:

- preparation costs,
- staff,
- office and administration,
- travel and accommodation,

- external expertise and services,
- equipment,
- small scale infrastructures and construction works.

Project **preparation costs** are eligible up to **20.000 euro (ERDF and national co-financing included)**.

In case of:

- small scale infrastructures, construction works,
- activities likely to have a significant effect on “Natura 2000” sites,

all the necessary authorisations/assessments and permits have to be available at the moment of the application or at the latest within 1 month after the closure of the Call. In case authorisations/assessments and permits are not provided within such deadline, the project will be rejected unless the infrastructure/activity is not essential in which case the concerned activities and related budget will be cut.

## J. PROJECT DURATION

The project implementation shall not be longer than **36 months (for projects proposal with starting date no later than 01.01.2020)**; in any case the projects end date shall be 31.12.2022. at the latest.

Applicants shall indicate the start and end date in the application form, taking into account the necessary time for the assessment process and contracting procedures. The starting date indicated in the application form of approved operations cannot be prior to the application form submission and could be modified in agreement with the lead partner before the signature of the subsidy contract if deemed necessary by the Managing Authority. The time needed for project administrative and financial closure (max 6 months) shall be separately considered, i.e. added to the implementation period.

All project expenditure shall be reported by 30.06.2023 at the very latest.

## K. SELECTION PROCEDURE

As laid down by art. 12 of Regulation (UE) No. 1299/2013, the Monitoring Committee is in charge of the selection of the operations for funding. In order to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and rapidity to the selection process, applications for participating to the

selection are submitted through the SIU system and the assessment of the applications is performed by the Joint Secretariat under the responsibility of the Managing Authority. In order to ensure equal, fair and transparent approach, the project proposals are assessed according to a set of criteria and sub-criteria for the selection of the operations previously approved by the Monitoring Committee, according to the information included in the Cooperation Programme. The results of the assessment are reported in a project assessment grid to be prepared for supporting the Monitoring Committee decision. Any modification concerning the project proposal which might affect the assessment of submitted proposals should be communicated by the lead partner to the Managing Authority without delay.

The assessment of the applications is carried out in different steps:

1) **Admissibility check:**

the admissibility check is aimed at ensuring the respect of the minimum requirements of the application from a formal administrative perspective. It verifies the adequacy of application form submission.

Only those applications which successfully pass this check are allowed to progress to the eligibility check.

The verification of all the admissibility requirements is performed by the Joint Secretariat, with the support of some checks which are done automatically by the SIU system.

The Managing Authority is responsible of admissibility assessment outcomes, upon delegation of the Monitoring Committee.

Results of the admissibility check shall be communicated to the Monitoring Committee for information.

At the end of this step the list of validly submitted applications is published on the Programme website, while lead applicants of inadmissible applications shall be informed by the Managing Authority.

2) **Eligibility check:**

the eligibility check is aimed at ensuring the respect of the minimum compulsory requirements as regards to partnership (included the completeness of lead partner and project partners data/documents), duration, budget, specific theme, horizontal principles and cooperation. The eligibility check includes the verification of additional requirements per Specific Objective aimed at the respect of legislation, plans and Programmes which are thematically relevant.

All the eligibility criteria are knock-out criteria and the assessment is drawn on a yes/no basis. Only those applications which successfully pass this check are allowed to progress to the quality check.



Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat may contact the lead applicant if additional information is needed to clarify or demonstrate the fulfillment of some of the eligibility requirements; to this aim, the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat will give to the lead applicant specific instructions and deadlines.

The verification of all the requirements is performed by the Joint Secretariat, with some check which are done automatically by the SIU system.

Results of the eligibility check shall be communicated by the Managing Authority to the Monitoring Committee for approval.

All lead applicants shall be informed about the results of eligibility check.

### 3) **Quality check:**

Only those applications which have passed the admissibility and eligibility checks shall be assessed from a quality point of view.

The goal of the quality assessment is to provide the Monitoring Committee with an overall picture containing the relevant information in order to allow the approval of the ranking list.

The quality assessment shall be performed by the Joint Secretariat; the Managing Authority reserves the right to identify external experts to support this activity. As mentioned above, the assessment is performed according to a list of criteria and sub-criteria and their fulfillment by the project proposal. The quality assessment criteria are divided into three groups:

- **Overall strategic assessment criteria**

which are the same for all strategic themes and whose main aim is to assess the contribution of the project proposals to the Cooperation Programme objectives, outputs and results, horizontal principles and the relevance of the cross-border approach and of the partnership.

- **Operational assessment criteria**

whose main aim is to assess the viability and the feasibility of the proposed project, as well as its value for money in terms of resources used vs. foreseen achievements and communication items.

- **Strategic theme assessment criteria**

which are specific for each strategic theme and whose main aim is to assess to what extent the project proposals support the specific topics, macro-activities and expected

results as indicated in the Strategic Themes Concepts which form an integral part of the Call announcement.

There are some minimum quality thresholds to be reached for each group of quality criteria. Moreover an overall quality threshold is set (detailed information is available in factsheet n. 5 “Project Selection”).

One ranking list will be defined per each strategic theme and it will be subdivided in:

- applications above the minimum quality threshold and recommended for funding on the basis of the ERDF budget available for strategic theme;
- applications reaching the minimum quality threshold but without available funds;
- applications not reaching the minimum threshold for funding and not recommended for selection, unless none of the applications reaches the minimum threshold where the following paragraph is applied.

For each strategic theme, if none of the submitted proposals reaches the minimum threshold for being proposed for funding, the Monitoring Committee is duly informed about the weaknesses of the best scored proposal and may decide to give the mandate to the Joint Secretariat to set up a number of conditions to be cleared by the concerned lead applicant in a given timeframe. If necessary, the Joint Secretariat will provide technical assistance in order to improve the level of project quality. If clarification and needed improvements are not provided within the set deadline, the project will be proposed for Monitoring Committee decision ranked as application not reaching the minimum threshold for funding.

Detailed information on assessment criteria is available in factsheet n. 5 “Project Selection”.

#### 4) State Aid check:

Applications recommended for funding shall be assessed in order to verify the compliance of the proposal with the European State Aid legislation according to the *de minimis* rule (Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013, the Regulation (EU) No 360/2012 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid granted to undertakings providing services of general economic interest”) by the Member State of Italy, and to the “Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union” (2016/C 262/01).

The State aid assessment is carried out by Joint Secretariat; the Managing Authority reserves the right to identify external experts to support this activity.

At the end of the whole assessment procedure as approved by the Monitoring Committee, the ranking list of the assessed project proposals with evidence of financed projects shall be published on the Programme website. In line with Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 821/2014, the list of beneficiaries and the granted public contribution shall be published.

Only approved proposals will be offered to sign the subsidy contract with the Managing Authority.

## L. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND TIMING

The Call is governed by EU Regulations, the Cooperation Programme and the present document. Italian legal framework shall be applied wherever applicable.

The length in time of the selection procedure depends on the number of applications. It is estimated that the selected proposals will be contracted by the 1st quarter of 2020.

## M. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

More information regarding the Italy – Croatia Programme, conditions for the submission of project proposals, assessment of proposals, the application package as well as other relevant information is available at [www.italy-croatia.eu](http://www.italy-croatia.eu).

To contact the INTERREG V A Italy – Croatia CBC Programme Joint Secretariat:

c/o Veneto Region, Area for Human Capital, Culture and Programming of EU funds Directorate  
for Joint Programming Italy – Croatia - Joint Secretariat  
Dorsoduro 3494/a – 30123 Venice, Italy  
e-mail: [JS.Italy-Croatia@regione.veneto.it](mailto:JS.Italy-Croatia@regione.veneto.it) - website: [www.italy-croatia.eu](http://www.italy-croatia.eu)

c/o Joint Secretariat Branch Offices  
Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds  
Liburnska obala 6, 23000 Zadar - Croatia  
e-mail: [js.it-hr.branch-offices@mrrfeu.hr](mailto:js.it-hr.branch-offices@mrrfeu.hr)

## N. SUMMARY: MAIN CHARACTERISTICS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALL

Feature	Summary
<b>LP</b>	Public or public equivalent body included international organizations.
<b>Min. n. of Partners</b>	6 partners (at least 3 IT and 3 HR).
<b>Max duration</b>	36 months respecting the projects' end date 31.12.2022. at the latest.
<b>Priority Axes</b>	The Call is open for strategic themes identified for: PA1, PA2, PA3, PA4.
<b>Strategic themes</b>	<p>The strategic projects will be developed from 11 theme concepts (see annex 1):</p> <p>1.1.1: Blue technology - Developing innovative technologies for sustainability of Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>2.1.1: Climate change adaptation – Climate change data and modeling systems for knowledge and cooperation improvement for adaptation and mitigation strategies planning in urban coastal and marine environment.</p> <p>2.2.1: Flood risk - Developed methods and tools to be used for managing flood risks and their related impact in Programme area.</p> <p>2.2.2: Oil spills and other marine hazards, fire and earthquake - Strengthening of preparedness and prevention of hazards.</p> <p>3.1.1: Coastal and inland tourism - Smart specialization and improved quality in tourism for a green and sustainable development for Mediterranean islands, coastal and inland.</p>

	<p>3.2.1: Marine environment - Improve the environmental quality conditions and biodiversity of coastal, marine, and inland waters and ecosystems consolidating sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches related to integrated monitoring, modelling systems and restoration.</p> <p>3.2.2: Fisheries and aquaculture - Shared Governance of Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities as leverage to protect marine biodiversity resources in the Adriatic sea.</p> <p>3.3.1: Marine Litter - Shared actions and plans for integrated and cross-border management of the coastal and marine litter in a life cycle approach perspective.</p> <p>4.1.1: Maritime Transport - Enhancing the environmental sustainability of port operations in the Programme Area.</p> <p>4.1.2: Mobility of Passengers - Multimodal transport solutions and services for fostering, supporting and promoting a new passenger sustainable mobility.</p> <p>4.1.3: Nautical services - Small ports as driver for improvement of maritime transport and sustainable development in the Adriatic area.</p>
<p><b>ERDF contribution</b></p>	<p>In line with the amount set in C “Available Budget”</p>
<p><b>Min ERDF contribution per PP</b></p>	<p>100.000 euro</p>
<p><b>Budget lines</b></p>	<p>preparation costs, staff, office and administration, travel and accommodation, external expertise and services, equipment, small scale infrastructures and construction works.</p>