

Public consultation of citizens and stakeholders in the Interreg MED area for the 2021-2027 Programme

Welcome to the public consultation on the Interreg MED 2021-2027 Programme.

We are shaping the Interreg Mediterranean (MED) Programme of the new period starting in 2021 and ending in 2027. For this reason, we need you, all current and potential Mediterranean stakeholders, to give your opinion on the different options to carry out the future Programme.

Your answers will provide with valuable insights and will help to define our priorities, types of projects, objectives to support and results to be achieved by 2027.

If you are learning about the programme for the first time, the Interreg MED Programme currently (in the period ending in 2020) gathers 13 European countries from the Northern shore of the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). Together, they are working and will continue working towards achieving an environmentally friendly economy and a Europe closer to its citizens.

For the moment, we cover 57 regions from 10 different EU countries and 3 candidate countries to the EU.

For the period 2021-2027, the European Commission projected a number of important changes in the way the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is designed and implemented, in particular in the Mediterranean area and in the current programme characteristics.

Keep in mind that transnational programmes focus in projects that cooperate by sharing experiences and best practices to provide solutions to common problems, influence the course of policies and ultimately to improve citizens' daily lives. Transnational programmes are not intended to commit the major investments or finance the infrastructure under the responsibility of regional or European programmes.

Take into account the EC general commitment to support "green policies" and its "MED 2021-2027 Orientation Paper", where maximum attention is paid to climate change topic. Don't overlook that, in the meantime, the health emergency COVID-19 has broken out, so the consequences of the pandemic are to be considered too.

Thank you for your participation. Completing this questionnaire will take you about 15 minutes. It is possible to interrupt the survey at any time and resume it later, following the instructions on the screen.

Link to the survey : <http://forum.interreg-med.eu/survey/index.php/947561?lang=en>

Who are you?

The results are anonymous. No personal or institutional data will be associated with the results.

The general data protection regulation (EU) 2016/679 which frames the public consultation applies, however information about the participating institutions is necessary to validate the representativeness of the types of actors and territories.

Type of stakeholder :

- 1) Natural person
- 2) Legal person :
 - Public
 - Private

Institution : *

If legal person > Name of the institution (in English) :

Website :

Country : *

Please select only one of the following proposals:

- Albania
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- France
- Greece
- Italia
- Malta
- Montenegro
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Other, please specify :

Region : *

Location : *

City :

Type of organisation : *

Please select only one of the following proposals:

- Local public authority
- Regional public authority
- National public authority
- Sectoral agency
- Infrastructure and (public) service provider
- Interest groups including NGOs
- Higher education and research
- Education/training centre and school
- Enterprise, except SME
- SME
- Business support organisation
- EGTC
- International organisation, EEIG
- General public
- Management bodies for European Programmes (MA, JS,...)
- Other, please specify :

Sector(s) of activity : *

Please select all that apply:

- Agriculture, fisheries and forestry
- Climate change and risk prevention
- SME competitiveness
- Research and innovation
- Arts, entertainment and recreation
- Education and training
- Low carbon economy
- Environment and resource efficiency
- Public administration
- Health and Social Services
- Information and communication technologies
- Competition policy
- Labour market and employment
- Transport and energy networks
- Social inclusion and equal opportunities
- Culture
- Tourism
- Other, please specify :

Keywords specific to your institution/organisation (in English): max 300 characters

Please write your answer(s) here:

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN?

I. Ranking of policy objectives

Please select the topics that you consider most important (themes-based from 1 to 4 and territorial-based number 5) for the Mediterranean and to which you wish to contribute, in the framework of transnational cooperation (**maximum 3 choices in descending order**):

Smarter Europe, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses

a Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change

a more Connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks

a more Social Europe, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare

a Europe closer to citizens, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

II. Ranking of specific objectives: what is a priority for the North Mediterranean area?

(NB. This list was proposed by the European Commission in May 2018 and is still under discussion).

(6 specific objectives maximum). They can be selected among different policy objectives) :

1. Policy Objective 1: Smarter Europe

'a smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation'

Specific objectives:

- (i) enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;
- (ii) reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments;
- (iii) enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs;
- (iv) developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship;

2. Policy Objective 2: Greener Europe

'a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management'

Specific objectives:

- (i) promoting energy efficiency measures;
- (ii) promoting renewable energy;
- (iii) developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level;
- (iv) promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience;
- (v) promoting sustainable water management;
- (vi) promoting the transition to a circular economy;
- (vii) enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution;

3. Policy Objective 3: More connected Europe

'a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity'

Specific objectives:

- (i) enhancing digital connectivity;
- (ii) developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T;
- (iii) developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility;
- (iv) promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility;

4. Policy Objective 4: More social Europe

'a more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights'

Specific objectives:

- (i) enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure;
- (ii) improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and life long learning through developing infrastructure;
- (iii) increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services;
- (iv) ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care;

5. Policy Objective 5: Europe closer to citizens

'a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives'

Specific objectives:

- (i) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in urban areas;
- (ii) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development.

III. Do you think that European Territorial Cooperation 21/27 can contribute to tackle the socio-economic consequences associated with Covid-19?

Yes

No

IV. Do you think that your entity will have enough resources to participate in the European Territorial Cooperation 21/27 despite possible COVID-19 consequences?

Yes

No

HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO THESE CHALLENGES?

1. Do you believe that the experience and results acquired by a state/territory should (if adaptable) be transferred and shared in order to avoid duplication of effort in the face of a same challenge?

- Yes
 No

If yes, how ? (Only one answer)

1. Exchange of statistical information
2. Joint pilot experiment
3. Methodology transfer
4. Small scale investment
5. Other, please specify:

2. Do you believe that transnational cooperation should focus on a territorial well-identified problem, or should it be rather general and transversal to the eligible geographical area looking for common large solutions?

- territorial
 Transversal
 Both territorial and transversal

3. Are you familiar with the Interreg European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes?

- Yes
 No

4. **If yes to question n°3**, have you been a partner in an Interreg project (cross-border, transnational or interregional)?

- Yes
 No

5. **If yes to question n°4**, have you already participated in the Interreg MED Programme?

- Yes 2007/13
 Yes 2014/20

6. **If yes to question n°5 MED 14/20**, do you think that the Interreg MED architecture (modular, horizontal and governance projects) has allowed a better synergy between projects?

Yes

No

Comment:

7. **If yes to question n°6**, to what extent the Interreg MED architecture has allowed a better synergy between projects?

very much

somewhat

little

Comment:

8. **If yes to question n°5 MED 14/20**, do you consider that the Interreg MED Programme should continue to propose types of activities of:

studies/Yes

testing/Yes

evaluation/Yes

transfer (capitalisation)/Yes

Small scale investment/Yes

Other, please specify :

9. **If yes to question n°5 MED 14/20**, do you think that the Interreg MED 21/27 Programme should target specific territories?

Yes

No

If so, please select a maximum of two choices:

Coastal territories

Urban territories

Rural territories

Mountain territories

Low populated territories

Island territories

Densely populated areas

10. **If yes to question n°5 MED 14/20**, do you think that the Interreg MED 21/27 Programme should also contribute to a better coordination with other Interreg programmes in the area for a better governance between the partner States and a reinforcement of the institutional capacity and efficiency of administrations and public services?

Yes

No

Neutral

Comment:

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11. In your opinion, which actor(s) are best suited to implement the objectives you have selected?

ALL

Please select at least 3 structures in order of importance:

- Local public authority
- Regional public authority
- National public authority
- Sectoral agency
- Infrastructure and (public) service provider
- Interest groups including NGOs
- Higher education and research
- Education/training centre and school
- Enterprise, except SME
- SME
- Business support organisation
- EGTC
- International organisation, EEIG
- General public
- Management bodies for European Programmes (MA, JS,...)
- Other, please specify :

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12. What results would reflect the success of such Interreg MED Programme objectives?

ALL

Please select up to 3 main results in order of importance:

- New knowledge or analysis (Achievements, such as studies and analysis, where the main purpose is to develop new knowledge regarding the programme area in the field tackled by the project).
- New ways of working (Change or significant improvement of working methods, skills, practices, procedures and structures).
- New clusters or networks (Establishment of new or empowerment of existing structures).
- Changes to policy (Mainstreaming of results into local/regional/European policies).
- Changes of public behaviour (Changes of public behaviour, where project targets public opinion / habits / way of life)
- Product or service (This group of achievements is focused on delivery of concrete outcomes, such as new services or products).
- New capacities (Improved capacities of key stakeholders or public servants).
- Job creation (The project implementation has led to the creation of new jobs. Those should have a medium to long-term perspective after the funding period.)

Other, please specify:

Increase institutional and governance capacities (inter-programme coordination)

The Interreg MED Programme could also put in place specific actions to improve Mediterranean cooperation and governance at a high institutional level.

13. In relation to the theme "governance", what are the main activities to be implemented for the Interreg MED area?

If yes question n°10 ONLY

Please select up to 3 proposals in order of importance:

- Organise seminars and stakeholder consultations for coordinated actions
- Developing an integrated approach to common problems in the Mediterranean Sea
- Harmonising legislation, data collection and study
- Develop common and coordinated roadmaps with other programmes and territories
- Put in place and/or share tools to facilitate coordination between authorities
- Strengthen networks among Mediterranean actors
- Facilitate the exchange and transfer of results for an implementation adapted to the different socio-economic contexts in all Mediterranean territories.
- Other, please specify :

14. In your opinion, which actor(s) are best suited to implement these activities?"

If yes question n°10 ONLY

Please select up to 3 most adequate organisations in order of importance:

- Local public authority
- Regional public authority
- National public authority
- Sectoral agency
- Infrastructure and (public) service provider
- Interest groups including NGOs
- Higher education and research
- Education/training centre and school
- Enterprise, except SME
- SME
- Business support organisation

- EGTC
- International organisation, EEIG
- General public
- Management bodies for European Programmes (MA, JS,...)
- Other, please specify :

15. What results would reflect the success of such activities?

If YES question n°10 ONLY

Please select up to 3 main results in order of importance:

- Implementation of a strategic action plan between the States concerned
- Signature of protocols and agreements (policy framework)
- Engaging national and regional actors in coordinated actions
- Transnational pilot projects (concrete actions)
- Adoption of common standards
- Drafting of a future Mediterranean regional macro strategy
- Other, please specify :

16. What type of action would be likely to contribute to mainstreaming (cooperation between Interreg MED and national, regional and thematic programmes)?

If YES question n°10 ONLY

Please select up to 2 main means in order of importance:

- The establishment of permanent coordination platforms/task forces (intersectoral and intra-governmental) with representatives and persons in charge of national (NOPs) and regional (ROPs) operational programmes, European Territorial Cooperation (ETC/IPA) and Neighbourhood (ENI/IPA) programmes.
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- The direct participation as partners of the sectoral managers of ERDF/IPA programmes and/or thematic programmes in the framework of ETC projects
- Participation in meetings of other ETC projects/programmes
- The creation of procedures and tools for the direct transmission of information and results between programmes (shared databases of a qualitative nature)
- Transfer of results in regional programmes
- Other, please specify :