

Cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

This cooperation programme (CP) describes the context and priorities for maritime cross-border cooperation (CBC) between France, England, Belgium (Flanders) and the Netherlands for 2014-2020.

This programme enables regional and local stakeholders from four countries to exchange knowledge and experiences, to develop and implement pilot actions, to test the feasibility of new policies, products and services and to support investments. The programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

It is the successor of the INTERREG IVA 2 Seas Programme implemented during the period 2007-2013.

This first section of the CP provides an overview of the context of the programme in terms of regulations, territorial and policy needs and lessons learnt from the previous programme. It also presents the overall strategy and objectives of this CP.

In this programme, regions along the Southern North Sea and the Channel are encouraged to work together on joint development and implementation of policies and projects. The core geography of the eligible area includes both eligible and adjacent territories from the period 2007-2013. Besides, a few additional NUTS3 territories from the Netherlands and England are added (see map of eligible area in annex).

The programme was prepared in close cooperation with the neighbouring maritime cross-border CP between England and France called "France(Channel)-England" Programme. In particular, a joint situation analysis was carried out by external experts in the first Semester of 2013. It highlighted commonalities and differences between the two areas. As for the previous programming period 2007-2013, all English territories and several French territories belong to both programme areas.

Programme context

The cross-border cooperation strand is one of the instruments for the implementation of the EU's cohesion policy. With this policy, the EU pursues harmonious development across the Union by strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion to

stimulate growth in the EU regions. The policy aims primarily to reduce existing disparities between EU territories in terms of their economic and social development, and environmental sustainability, taking into account their specific territorial features and opportunities.

There is a great number of strategic documents addressing this programme area and reflecting on specific challenges and assets (e.g. Europe 2020 strategy, Territorial Agenda 2020, Common Strategic Framework, Partnership agreements between the EU and each MS, national and regional policies and strategies, etc.). However, for the 2014-2020 funding period, cohesion policy concentrates on supporting the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The development of the programme strategy simultaneously reflects the common needs of the programme area and the maritime nature of cross-border cooperation and supports the implementation of European priorities.

From Europe 2020 to Partnership agreements

Europe 2020 is the strategy to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. Europe 2020 is an agenda for the whole Union, taking into account Member States' different starting points, needs and specificities to promote growth for the whole EU. Europe 2020 has three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The Europe 2020 strategy, together with the Territorial Agenda 2020, which connects smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to territorial cohesion, provides the overall strategic framework for EU cohesion policy 2014-2020.

The regulatory framework for the cross-border CP is provided by the **regulations for cohesion policy 2014-2020**. These are accompanied by a **Common Strategic Framework (CSF)** setting out key actions to address EU priorities and giving guidance to ensure coordination between funds.

There are several common features in the position papers of the Commission Services for the four MS on the development of Partnership Agreement and ETC programmes for the period 2014-2020. However some clear specificity can also be observed as described below.

For France, thematic objectives selected under ETC programmes should reinforce those chosen for “Investments for growth and jobs” programmes in cross-border regions. In

particular, they should focus on the cross-border context of SMEs, transport and communications services, production and joint management of energy supply, protection of the environmental heritage, maritime economy, water and waste management and prevention of natural risks. ETC can be used to improve the overall consistency and coordination of policies and tools and will have an impact on the maritime economy and the marine environment across all the ETC programmes in which France is involved, in particular in Sea basins.

For The Netherlands, the European Commission points at the relevance of cross-border actions on research, technological development and innovation as well as investments in an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy. It also points at the importance of activities dealing with flood protection or coastal and marine pollution protection, albeit primarily in a transnational context. Other areas of relevance include cooperation in the area of labour market integration and participation as well as in cross-border healthcare provision. ETC programmes should mobilise the smart specialisation potential of cooperative cluster and should also contribute to leverage the maritime economic potential of the maritime border areas by bringing about cooperation synergies.

The country specific recommendations for Belgium include actions to promote business R&D investment, product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation and public services application, networking, clusters, open innovation through smart specialisation and cross border labour mobility. ETC could also help improve coherence, coordination and alignment of policies and instruments having an impact on Belgium maritime regions. In those areas, ETC actions could serve to unlock the potential of the blue economy and generating sustainable growth and new jobs in maritime sectors.

The country specific recommendations for the UK include increasing employability and reducing the risk of social exclusion through job creation and growth. There is a drive to promote R&D investment and the competitiveness of the business sector and to develop an environmentally friendly and resource-efficient economy. Specific priorities for ETC programmes are to foster innovation and eco-innovation, to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency and to improve environmental protection. ETC programmes will help to improve knowledge transfer and sharing of best practice between business, research and education and cross border cooperation will also contribute to the realisation of the UK's smart specialisation potential and particularly the economic potential of maritime border areas.

The potential thematic scope of the 2 Seas cross-border CP is provided by the 11 thematic objectives described in the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. At least 80% of ERDF intervention has to be focused on a maximum of four thematic objectives. A more result-oriented approach represents a key evolution in this new regulatory framework shifting monitoring to performance and tangible results.

According to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, on the basis of the CSF, each Member State prepared a Partnership Agreement that serves as a national framework for ensuring alignment of interventions with the EU2020. Thematic objectives, main desired results and areas of cooperation for all five EU funds have to be covered by the document.

The partnership agreement of each of the four Member States points out some key challenges that should be addressed through European territorial cooperation with the neighbouring countries.

For The Netherlands, the challenges are boosting an innovative business climate, transition to a low carbon economy and an environmentally friendly and resource efficient economy. Specifically for the Two Seas programme area the issue of climate adaptation is also mentioned as an area where cross-border cooperation has priority.

For France, the cross-border development strategies shall be reinforced or initiated as they constitute good experimental ways in terms of territorial governance to strengthen the integration between several Member States.

For Belgium/Flanders, the priority is aimed at the widest possible accession to the thematic objectives of the ERDF Programme for Flanders, and at focusing on the added value of cooperation around these priorities. It relates firstly the stimulation of technological development and innovation, the reinforcement of SMEs competitiveness and the promotion of the transition to a low-carbon economy. It can also address, depending on the specific characteristics and needs of the programme area, sustainable transport (and logistics), protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change.

The UK sees several broad challenges where ETC programmes could provide ‘value-for-money’ and deliver tangible and useful results. Economically, there are longer term structural challenges to ensure long-term economic competitiveness on a global scale whilst dealing with demographic change and inclusion. There are issues around the availability and security of energy, and a consequent opportunity to diversify the range and sources of energy supply – and potentially the exploitation of related new economic opportunities. There are also opportunities to drive eco-innovation, invest in natural assets, and use natural resources more efficiently and effectively to drive sustainable and resilient growth.

Marine and maritime dimension of cross-border cooperation

According to Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, maritime cross-border programmes, which are characterised by the presence of the sea in their geography, are established to tackle common challenges in the maritime region, exploit the potential of the border area and enhance the co-operation process in the cross-border region. The challenge these programmes face is promoting integration in spite of the maritime border. The maritime space is both a natural barrier and a link, and this impacts cross-border cooperation at all levels. The two principal obstacles to such cooperation usually relate to accessibility and the lack of a cross-border culture.

Although Member States are the leading stakeholders of maritime cooperation on topics related to the environment, shipping and safety, local maritime cooperation arrangements between coastal local authorities and communities have been emerging in Europe in recent years. Local maritime CBC can be defined as a relationship between border maritime local communities or authorities relating to joint activities. It includes a strong

“territorial” dimension which distinguishes it from CPs covering larger maritime spaces. The time factor (crossing time, but also frequency) is crucial in local maritime cooperation and the cost factor is often a higher handicap than on land borders. There are many potential topics of cooperation: maritime links, enhancement of ports and urban areas, economic development, tourism and cultural cooperation, protection of the marine environment, integrated coastal zone management, water management, etc.

As the Maritime Policy Green Paper was only published in 2006, maritime policy was not fully defined at the time the 2007-2013 Operational Programme was developed. As a result, it was difficult to link programme activities to a comprehensive framework of maritime priorities. By 2013 a marine and maritime policy framework had come into being at European level. These two dimensions are defined as follows:

- “*maritime*” is defined as human activities which take place in or on the sea area of a programme, take place on the coastlines and are influenced by the sea area of the programme or use/ depend upon the natural resources found within the sea area of a programme. For example: shipping, coastal tourism, shoreline and sea recreation, fishing, etc.
- “*marine*” relates to the natural features and resources of the sea within a programme area. For example: habitats and ecosystems, biodiversity (wildlife and marine species), estuaries, reefs, the seabed, mineral deposits, etc.

In that context, the strategic role and position of the Dover Strait / Pas de Calais Strait is key, implicitly evoked in the programme's name, being the link between the two seas. With the particular concentration of maritime and coastal activities, the strait is a genuine laboratory for implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Besides, the strait is also of paramount importance in its role of linking maritime and coastal zones with the hinterland of the programme partners, including by terrestrial transportation via the Channel tunnel notably.

The challenge for the 2 Seas programme is that marine and maritime issues are not the subject of a specific TO but rather should be seen as a cross-cutting issue when considering the 11 TOs. This creates the challenge of interpreting, prioritising and integrating the marine and maritime dimension in the choice of TOs for this programme.

Economic stakeholders in coastal areas are generally in a competitive situation. However, given the natural resources which are shared across maritime areas, cross-border cooperation may be relevant for topics such as fishing and fish-farming, logistics, tourism (pleasure-boating, cruises, coastal tourism, joint marketing, etc.) or the development of cross-border clusters based on marine resources.

Besides, the Programme will contribute to meet the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC within the following marine sub-regions the Greater North Sea, including the Kattegat, and the English Channel in terms of (a) protection and preservation of the marine environment (b) prevention and reduction of inputs in the marine environment. Due attention will be paid in particular to the ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, ensuring that the collective pressure of such activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good

environmental status and that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes is not compromised, while enabling the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations.

Needs and challenges of the area

This sub-section is based on a comprehensive territorial analysis and policy context analysis which was carried out by external experts in a joint approach with the France(Channel)-England programme. It was done for each of the first ten TOs of the regulatory framework. The data analysis was based on 47 indicators at NUTS2 or 3 level. The policy context analysis reviewed, where relevant, the main relevant policy documents at national, regional and local levels. The key messages from this analysis were structured around the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) components only for the four selected TOs. The extraction of joint needs and the political feasibility filter were applied later on in order to provide insight for the strategy.

The situation of the programme area in relation to Smart Growth

This pillar of the Europe 2020 Strategy is dedicated to developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation as drivers of future growth in Europe. This involves improving the quality of education, strengthening European research performance, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer throughout the Union, making full use of information and communication technologies and ensuring that innovative ideas can be turned into new products and services that create growth, quality jobs and help address European and global societal challenges.

The 2 Seas programme area benefits from the presence of regions with high innovation performance; however, this performance varies across Member States and regions involved in the programme. The Regional Innovation Scoreboard (2012) attributes the status of “Innovation leader” to a major part of the eligible regions (all Flemish and Dutch provinces except Zeeland, and all UK regions except Dorset and Somerset, Cornwall and Isle of Scilly and Devon). The classification of Zeeland and Nord-Pas-de-Calais among the “Moderate innovators” and of the remaining regions among the “Innovation followers” illustrates the diversity in terms of innovation performance.

The analysis of the situation of the programme area in relation to Smart Growth also highlighted some weaknesses and regional disparities that need to be tackled to improve research and innovation performance, notably in terms of investment in R&D and of commercialisation and valorisation of innovative ideas.

As far as the Europe 2020 strategy requirements for general expenditure on R&D is concerned, spending in the 2 Seas area as a whole is below the fixed target of 3% (2009). Only a few UK regions have already reached this percentage, whereas in some regions the rate of expenditure on R&D is less than 1%. The low performance of SMEs in terms of R&D also contributes to this situation, as SMEs account for a large share of the businesses in the area.

The cooperation area also presents a low number of patent applications per million inhabitants compared to the European average (2009), which is symptomatic of a relative lack of innovation dynamism as well as commercialisation of innovative ideas, generating growth.

The regular usage of Internet and the broadband penetration rate are however above EU average and particularly high in urban areas, which represents an advantage for the development of the smart economy.

Finally, a major threat is a relative dependency of the economy in the southern regions of the UK on maritime activities.

The territorial organisation is a major factor influencing the research and innovation pattern and performance since most regions in the programme area are close to a city. Additionally, large parts of the programme area are in close proximity to the capital cities of London, Amsterdam or Brussels. This provides access to a large knowledge market and offers opportunities e.g. for provision of sites for manufacturing.

The situation of the programme area in relation to Sustainable Growth

Sustainable growth refers to the challenge of building a resource efficient, sustainable and competitive economy, allowing the EU to prosper in a low-carbon, resource constrained world while preventing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of resources. Sustainable growth involves supporting European enterprises to take the lead in markets for green technologies as a means of ensuring resource efficiency throughout the economy.

One of the key challenges for the 2 Seas area is to accelerate the movement towards a low-carbon economy. The level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita is high, particularly in the Netherlands and Belgium which are lagging behind in relation to their EU2020 targets, as is France. Furthermore, in the Netherlands, Flanders and the UK the share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption is below 5%. Higher gains in energy efficiency still have to be achieved. The area is also characterised by a high level of CO₂ emissions derived from transport and by high levels of congestion on roads, around major populated areas.

The 2 Seas area has several environmental threats (effects of climate change such as the rise of sea level, fragmentation and deterioration of the landscape, loss of biodiversity, water pollution particularly in the estuaries, overexploitation of the fish stocks), particularly on the coasts. At the same time the area has high potential for the development of the green and blue economy: “Water and energy” and “Environmental technologies” are smart specialisation sectors for numerous programme areas, which should be favourable to the further development of innovative environmental technologies. There is also a high level of cooperation on marine and economic topics for example between ports and agro/fisheries sectors.

Finally, the area's rich cultural, natural and historical heritage can be a strong driver for the development of “green tourism”. However, this heritage is to a large extent threatened by human activities as well as by natural phenomena deriving from climate change. It is also worth noting that the rate of Natura 2000 areas within the 2 Seas territory remains rather low.

The different levels of territorial vulnerability to climate change in the programme area is an important aspect which has been included in the situation and SWOT analysis and hence in the formulation of needs. The vulnerability of coastal and inland areas varies due to different patterns in terms of adaptive capacity and regional exposure to coastal storm surge events. In particular environmental impacts will affect economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and energy. Moreover, the territorial structure has also an impact on accessibility patterns. Proximity to urban areas represents an advantage for small and second-tier cities in terms of access to services and infrastructure. From a European perspective most parts of the programme area have above average international and multimodal accessibility, and some areas in close proximity to Amsterdam, London or Brussels have very good accessibility.

The situation of the programme area in relation to Inclusive Growth

The Europe 2020 strategy aims to create a high-employment economy that delivers economic, social and territorial cohesion. This requires modernising employment, education and training policies to increase labour participation and reduce structural unemployment. Enabling people to acquire new skills to adapt to new conditions and potential career shifts will be key. A major effort will be needed to address the challenge of promoting a healthy and active ageing population to allow for social cohesion and higher productivity. Finally there is the need to combat poverty and social exclusion and reduce health inequalities.

In 2011, the average employment rate in the programme area lay above the EU27 average, but there is still room for improvement as the EU2020 targets have not been achieved yet. The situation differs from one region to another: in the Dutch and UK regions of the programme area (except Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and Kent), the EU2020 target for employment has been reached, while in other regions the rate varies between 62.8% (in Nord-Pas-de-Calais) and 75%. The Dutch and UK regions also present a higher employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 than the other parts of the area. The further development of cross-border commuting, facilitated by changes in working patterns, is also a tendency to be highlighted.

The situation for youth in terms of vocational inclusion is also better in the 2 Seas area than at European level. The youth unemployment rate (16,4% in the 2 Seas area) as well as the NEET-rate (13.9% in the area) are both below European average (respectively 21.4% and 17%).

The 2 Seas area is characterised by a lower share of population at risk-of-poverty than at European level, although that share is likely to have increased recently due to the effects of the economic crisis. Still, a significant share of population has to face such a situation in UK regions and some parts of France.

At territorial level, the different impact of the economic and social crisis (divergence between NUTS 3), and the consequent increased risk of poverty, increases territorial polarisation and provides a new challenge for the programme area. This territorial polarisation has a double dimension: across territories (urban, local and regional) and within them. The crisis has also an indirect impact because it has led to governments cuts which in turn have squeezed expenditure on education and public services in most countries.

Main needs and challenges for the cooperation area

The situation analysis establishes the current context in the programme and provides useful messages for the SWOT (see below).

For the extraction of the needs from the situation analysis, the selected methodological approach (Methodological note on the Two Seas Programme situation and SWOT analysis.(19/7/2013) was proposed by the Ex-Ante evaluators of the programme and is based on several combinations of the four outputs of the SWOT, according to the PEST approach (PEST is an acronym indicating: P for political factor, e.g. the set of formal and informal rules relevant in the implementation of programmes; E for economic factor, as the trend of territorial polarisation which affect the beneficiaries of the objectives of the programmes; S for social factors, related to the age structure and labour and population dynamics, T represents the technological factor).

From these combinations, the programme strategy can more easily ensure effective action if focused only on the needs for which change could be achieved through an intervention. In other words, the strategy concentrates on the ‘**obstacles**’ (*bottlenecks* deriving from the combination of strengths and threats) and ‘**potentials**’ (possible solutions deriving from the combination of future opportunities and present weaknesses) to maximise the efficiency of the programme. Finally, the needs identified in the previous step were filtered for their political feasibility. In this way, it was possible to identify the joint needs (obstacles and potentials) which are the most appropriate for the 2 Seas Programme.

Some keys lessons from this process:

The promotion of innovation and technological development and development of a strong knowledge economy are prerequisites of smart growth. A major challenge for the 2 Seas programme area is to strengthen the development of, and clustering in, strategic sectors to contribute to innovation capacity. There is also a need to refocus R&D activities on major societal challenges (climate change, ageing, etc.) thereby also contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth objectives.

The development of SMEs remains a crucial issue, the main needs being the promotion of R&D investments to stimulate innovation through more effective connections between SMEs and academia and investment in a highly skilled workforce. Creating a cross-border SME environment in order to support internationalisation and the emergence and take-up of new business ideas is also a challenge for growth and employment.

The promotion of sustainable growth and of a low carbon economy is closely linked to energy-efficiency and eco innovation. It is important to stimulate renewable energy generation both on land and offshore, to increase public and private take up of 'green' technologies and to stimulate energy efficiency. The 2 Seas area could also have the ambition to become a leader in marine renewable and hydrogen energy technology. The strategy for sustainable growth also implies strengthening environmental quality and protection, which can be achieved by climate-proof spatial planning, ICZM and integrated water management. In addition there is a need to develop innovative solutions to improve the areas' environmental and economic resilience.

In the field of social inclusion, needs relate to health care and demographic challenges (notably for the Dutch and French regions) and include development of new social services for local communities, and social innovation to improve service provision. These needs are closely interconnected to those identified under smart growth.

More detailed elements are described in the SWOT analysis below.

SWOT analysis

Thematic objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Strengths

- Five UK regions in the area have a general expenditure on R&D higher than the EU2020 target
- Above average employment in high tech sectors
- Stable-positive RIS performance over the years.
- Innovation leaders in UK, Flanders and Netherlands
- R&D performance is better than Europe and other CBC areas (high median value and presence of excellences)
- Social economy is flourishing in some countries (e.g. France)

Weaknesses

- Low average number of patent applications
- Low performance of SMEs in R&D
- Territorial polarisation
- Reduction of available resources for welfare
- Relatively high levels of risks poverty and exclusion
- Relatively low level of social innovation

Opportunities

- Refocusing R&D on major societal challenges
- Achieving critical mass for innovation in ‘niches’ like aqua culture, aerospace, boating
- Potential targeted innovation policy and cluster development in: logistics, transport (i.e. ship-ping) and ports; environmental & marine technology (“blue economy”) ; agro-food; life sciences & health ; communication, digital and creative industries.
- European policy and strategies (EU 2020 flagship initiatives, Smart specialization, Horizon 2020, e-health,...)
- New demand for social services and social enterprises on the borders (vulnerable groups, ecological disasters, ...)

Threats

- Continuing financial and economic crisis might lower public and private R&D spending
- Outsourcing of R&D to low cost countries
- Shortage of technical educated personnel
- Internal CBC competition in common areas of specialisation
- Demographic change / Risk of brain drain
- Social economy covers different realities in the four MS which may endanger the development of cooperation

Needs deriving from the SWOT components

- *Need to create critical mass in key R&D themes*
- *Need to secure availability of high-skilled human resources to strengthen development*
- *Need to tap into the innovative potential of clusters across the borders for smart specialisation and innovation*
- *Need to facilitate involvement of SMEs in international networks for research*
- *Need to support social innovation as a driver for welfare especially regarding ageing*
- *Need for development of new and innovative social services for local communities and vulnerable groups*

Thematic objective 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

Strengths

- Considerable potential for solar power generation

- Specific regional policy in place to reduce GHG emissions and achieve energy efficiency gains
- High regional attention for renewable power generation
- ‘Water and energy’ and ‘Environmental technologies’ are smart specialisation sectors for numerous local areas

Weaknesses

- High level of carbon emissions per capita in the Netherlands and Belgium (high carbon dependency)
- Renewable energy production behind schedule in all regions
- Energy efficiency gains in Netherlands low, Belgium lags behind on 2020 target
- France, Belgium and the Netherlands need to speed up the transition of their economies to low-carbon in order to meet their targets

Opportunities

- Development of offshore wind farms
- New forms of renewable, i.e. (high) potential for tidal energy, wave energy
- Emerging biotech and low-carbon technologies as smart specialisation sectors
- Greenhouse-gas reduction in agriculture
- CO2 reduction in urban areas and harbours
- Consumer activation on energy market and as prosumers
- Carbon capture and storage in exhausted oil and gas fields

Threats

- Low acceptance of decentralised energy production
- Drying oil and gas fields
- Low investment level due to economic situation

Needs deriving from the SWOT components

- *Need to reinforce public acceptance of renewable energy to support the desired smart specialisation in this area*
- *Need to increase the use of new renewable technologies for a less carbon dependent economy*
- *Need to support eco-innovation by SMEs as a driver for competitiveness*

Thematic objective 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Strengths

- Relatively high adaptive capacity with regard to climate change (low capacity only in Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset and in Nord- Pas de Calais)
- Important policy focus on GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy; other regional policy

Weaknesses

- High economic sensitivity to climate change
- High environmental sensitivity, especially in (almost all) Dutch regions and bordering regions in Flanders
- Highest negative potential impact of climate change (economic, cultural, environmental and physical) in (almost all) Dutch regions and Flanders.
- Highest risk on coastal flooding events in 2100 along Dutch and Flanders' coasts and Norfolk
- Relatively low capacity to adapt to climate change in some areas risk and coastal vulnerability

Opportunities

- Common information sharing environment between maritime authorities
- (Crossborder) Maritime spatial planning, including legislative measures and risk management policy)
- Collective mitigation measures to coastal erosion, depletion of marine resources
- Development of scenario planning for cross-border disasters
- Integrated management of coastal and cross-border environmental zones
- Moderate to serious drought and floods in some parts of the area

Threats

- Climate change, in particular the rise of sea levels, acidification, increasing water temperatures, and frequency of extreme weather events, is likely to alter marine ecosystems
- Low awareness of the impact and risks of climate change
- Increase of natural risks due to the effects of climate change
- Vulnerability to climate change (higher than EU27) in particular for some economic sectors (agriculture, forestry, tourism, energy sector) and in Flanders

Needs deriving from the SWOT components

- *Need to maintain and strengthen the adaptive capacity to climate change in a context characterised by risk of a likely increase in vulnerability to climate change*
- *Need to develop and apply new technologies and solutions for the environmental and economic resilience of the area*

Thematic objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Strengths

- Diverse natural and build environment
- Rich cultural, natural and historical heritage
- “Water and energy” and “Environmental technologies” are smart specialisation sectors for numerous programme areas
- Increasing trend in the volume of waste recycled
- Quality of bathing water significantly improved in most areas

Weaknesses

- Weak cooperation between ports on environmental issues?
- Coastal zones with high concentrations of sea pollution
- Estuaries with large biodiversity threatened by polluted river water and invasive species
- Low rate of Natura 2000 land surface (except IJmond en Haarlem and West-Vlaanderen)
- High pressure on landscape and nature; loss of biodiversity natural and cultural heritage
- Landscape fragmentation

Opportunities

- Increase cooperation for biodiversity protection and connection of natural habitats (on sea and land)
- Promote integrated management of coastal and cross-border environmental zones
- Develop resource-efficiency policies, and changing attitudes of economic stakeholders to more sustainable behaviour
- Strengthen the economy and environmental quality by developing the “Blue economy” and ‘green tourism’ + Blue growth
- Development of environmental technologies, resource efficient economy
- Promote sustainable agriculture and fisheries
- Network approaches, connecting Natura 2000 areas

Threats

- Effects of climate change, such as rising sea water level, on biodiversity, ecosystem services and economic activities (Climate change North Western Europe scenario (ESPON CLIMATE project))
- Increase of pollution, poor water quality, which can affect biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage, ecosystems

- Fresh water supply concerns, in particular in UK and Zeeland, South Zuid-Holland
- Increase of overexploited fish stocks
- (Air, water and noise) pollution affecting urban environment negatively

Needs deriving from the SWOT components

- *Need to address the potential risks to cross-border heritage brought on by climate change.*
- *Need to develop the build on the EU Blue Growth strategy to enhance cooperation between ports*
- *Need for protection of natural resources (biodiversity, landscape, nature)*

General indicators and context elements

Strengths

- Central location within Europe and included the economically important areas of the Randstad and the Flemish Diamond. Proximate to London and the German Ruhr-area (export)
- The area is one of the most populated areas of Europe (323 inhabitants p/km²) and its population grew over the last years
- Above EU-average GDP-levels in predominately urban areas
- High tourism capacity- levels in the UK-regions, average above EU-level

Weaknesses

- Share of older people higher than EU average, high old age dependency expected especially in the Northern French regions
- Areas of shrinkage and ageing in rural regions, as young people move to the urban areas
- Contrast in GDP-levels between urban and rural areas
- Negative migration balance in Southern Dutch Regions
- Decreasing tourism capacity in regions in the Netherlands

Opportunities

- Export-dependent regions (the Netherland, Flanders) can profit from economic recovery in German and world markets
- Growth tourism sector and tourism demand

Threats

- Low population growth in rural areas can lead to a loss of facilities and services
- Pressure of high population density on the environment, infrastructure and housing affordability
- Influence of financial crisis on GDP and GDP growth
- Declining government expenditure
- Ageing population leads to shortages in labour market, and pressure on social and medical services

Key lessons from INTERREG IVA 2 Seas

The INTERREG IVA 2 Seas programme was newly established in the period 2007-2013, based on a new approach introduced in ETC to support CBC in areas having maritime borders.

In the first years of this programming period, the 2 Seas programme had to create its implementation structures and arrangements from scratch and to establish its visibility and presence among the target groups of potential beneficiaries in the programme area. This meant the programme could not make a rolling start like other established ETC programmes. However, the 2 Seas programme quickly developed effective programme management and implementation structures and supported 86 cooperation projects involving over 550 partners from the 4 Member States.

Specific features that define the identity of the 2 Seas 2007-2013 programme are:

- The importance of the maritime dimension in terms of the quantity of projects (23 projects) and the volume of ERDF invested (46.1 M€ - 30% of overall ERDF allocation), with a particular focus on ports, the maritime economy and maritime heritage.
- The predominance of multilateral cooperation projects (75% of all projects involve 3 or 4 countries). This distinguishes the programme from other CBC programmes typically delivering bilateral cooperation.

Key lessons and findings based on the ongoing evaluation and thematic capitalisation:

- The programme strategy had a very wide thematic scope. For the follow-up programme over 2014-2020 a more focussed strategy is recommended to increase the coherence and aggregated impact of the programme in key topics of relevance for the programme area. Some elements were identified in view of defining a more focussed strategy:
 - build on the maritime dimension as the main thematic unique selling point of the programme, within thematic objectives chosen for the future strategy.
 - build on the multinational cooperation trend by strictly selecting and defining thematic objectives and investment priorities that are relevant for all or most of the countries - rather than aggregating the thematic preferences of the individual Member States.

- Based on the number of projects supported during the 2007-2013 period, and although the strongest demand was in favour of cultural and tourism projects, there was also a significant demand and potential for CBC on the following thematic priorities:
 - strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
 - promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;
 - promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

On the other hand, several themes that receive priority in the 2014-2020 cohesion policy framework were less frequently supported over 2007-2013:

- supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors;
- protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

In terms of maritime transport, there was a low demand because CBC cooperation did not fit the potential expectations from key stakeholders.

- The common priority between France(Channel)-England and 2 Seas OPs did not prove to be successful because of its very specific focus, its insertion in only one OP (Priority 4 of 2 Seas programme) and insufficient promotion by both programme bodies among potential beneficiaries.
- Strong coordination should be ensured in an early stage of the preparation process with overlapping/neighbouring ETC programmes, in particular with France(Channel)-England programme, to maximise thematic complementarity and to harmonise as much as possible the implementation provisions.
- The preparation of the follow-up programme should be based on a robust socio-economic diagnosis of cooperation needs, establishing closer links with regional/local public policies, especially those designed in the regional programmes and more strongly involving regional and local decision-makers in the consultation process of the future CBC programme.
- In addition to the regular open calls for proposals, the future programme could also consider more directive (top-down) methods to generate projects. It could for instance define targeted calls for proposals clearly specifying the expectations from programme bodies and their evolution over time in order to have a more direct influence on the emergence of certain projects or the development of certain thematic fields.
- As far as implementation procedures are concerned, the programme performed reasonably well even if room for improvements was identified in particular in terms of first level control, project reporting, communication on projects results and the monitoring system.

Overall, the 2 Seas programme has funded a large variety of projects, meaning that it remained complex to capture their impact and added value on the eligible area. There is also a lack of certainty over what happens after the EU funding, and on the take-up of project deliverables.

Due to these deficiencies, the 2 Seas programme developed several actions to help capitalise projects results at programme level, to demonstrate and disseminate the

aggregated achievements of the programme. In 2013, the programme launched a thematic cluster initiative, which enabled stakeholders from different 2 Seas projects to build a joint project to promote and build on their combined outputs and results. Results of these clusters were available over the course of 2014 and may give valuable input for any potential capitalisation work in the future. In any case, this aspect needs to be taken into account right from the start of the 2014-2020 programme.

The 2 Seas programme also launched a functional capitalisation process based on a thorough analysis of the INTERREG IVA 2 Seas management and control system. This aimed to generate concrete proposals in terms of simplification and improvement of future management and control systems (including tools, templates, rules, etc.).

Another crucial purpose of the functional capitalisation is to facilitate the harmonisation between the 2 Seas Programme and other neighbouring Programmes, particularly the France(Channel)-England Programme. This is a requirement of the EC following the decision to maintain two separate areas for the period 2014-2020.

Strategic framework

Developing a strategic framework is a process that involved programming stakeholders in vision-setting, i.e. setting a strategic framework for cooperation, for the programming area, in developing a comprehensive analysis of the programme area based on needs identification, in selecting objectives and priorities for cooperation, actions to be supported and in setting the set of indicators for the programme. The selection and non selection of thematic objectives among the list of 11 thematic objectives included in the regulation (EU) No1301/2013 is justified below.

Thematic concentration

The territorial analysis carried out above provided a ranking of needs in terms of potential added value for the Programme area based on the obstacles and the potential for each of the three pillars of Europe 2020 Strategy. MS representatives' preferences as described in their respective partnership agreement were also taken into consideration.

This double process resulted in the selection of the four following thematic objectives that are to be addressed by this CP for the period 2014-2020:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (TO1)
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (TO4)
- Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management (TO5)
- Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (TO6)

Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs (TO3) was also considered as a crucial objective, but MS decided to address it as a cross-cutting issue under each priority axis of the programme, by considering SMEs and their representatives as key target groups for any selected investment priority (IP). The same applies to the maritime and marine dimension which is tackled in a horizontal way in the programme. MS representatives deem that there are clear opportunities for maritime sectors and “blue growth” to be delivered under all selected TOs.

This selection of TOs, which corresponds to the three pillars of the Europe 2020 strategy, reflects both the thematic and territorial challenges of this maritime area.

The concentration principle is also applied at a lower level, namely at investment priority level and at the level of specific objectives and corresponding fields of actions to be supported. This focused approach is essential to make sure that it will be possible to measure tangible results on the ground for each of the selected result indicators.

Selection of investment priorities

Among all potential IPs included in the four selected TOs, four were chosen considering both the identified challenges and needs and shared preferences expressed by the MS. This selection process was carried out step by step by questioning how and under which themes certain challenges and needs could be best addressed in the CP. Based on the socio-economic analysis, there was a large consensus among MS representatives to select these four IPs either to highlight the overwhelming importance of some issues, such as IPs 1.b) and 4.f) or to make sure that the logic chain of the strategy is met, for instance by addressing adaptation to climate change (IP 5a). The detailed justification for their selection is included in sub-section 1.1.2. below.

They will allow the programme to respond to the thematic and territorial challenges of this area, in particular the need for increased competitiveness of the economies, the need for a greater adaptability of this maritime area to climate change and the need for social innovation in the area.

Justification for non selection of other TOs

- **TO n.2:** No sufficient common needs are identified to justify the adoption of TO n.2. In addition, a CBC programme is not appropriate to finance a heavy investment plan in terms of ICT infrastructure. Issues related to ICT could be better served in the context of other Thematic Objectives rather than stand alone.
- **TO n.3:** The main common issue regarding competitiveness of SME is the low performance of SMEs in R&D. This can be better tackled in TO n.1 through: the

creation of research networks (also related to Horizon 2020), the development of existing smart specialisation fields and clusters.

- **TO n.7:** The exclusion of TO n.7 is justified by the fact that there are insufficient common needs identified. On the contrary the area is one of the most accessible in Europe.
- **TO n.8:** The needs analysis and a general consensus among Member States would envisage TO n.8 as an ESF Programme specific priority. Although a feature of CBC could be the creation of a common labour market, labour market dynamics seem to be very different among the MS. TO n.8 could not be selected.
- **TO n.9** According to the policy documents analysed and to the debate in the programming phase, a high policy attention to inclusion can be recognized even if with different approaches among the four Member States. These latter relate to different specificities at national level regarding the interpretation of concepts such as inclusive growth, social inclusion, social economy and societal challenges. Considering that the programme will follow the quadruple helix paradigm, in particular in TO n.1. with the potential involvement of social enterprises, social innovation, foreseen in TO n.1, represented consequently the best way to find a common and complementary tool for the whole 2 Seas programme area, These elements justify that TO n.9 could not be selected as such in this programme context.
- **TO n.10 and n.11:** Since most of needs are related to the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty, particularly among marginalised communities, TO n.10 (Investing in education) seems to be indirectly relevant. TO n.11 (Enhancing institution capacity) seems to be rather a core mission of ETC and so too general and difficult to be justified through the identified needs.

Strategic objectives of cross-border cooperation

As stated in the EU regulation, a cross-border CP aims to tackle the common challenges and shared needs previously identified and exploit the untapped potential in the cross-border area, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purpose of the overall harmonious development of the Union. In other words, this programme contributes to the overall – economic, social / societal and territorial – cohesion of the EU by supporting cohesion among regions of the 2 Seas area.

Overall objective for 2 Seas area over 2014-2020:

To develop an innovative, knowledge and research-based, sustainable and inclusive 2 Seas area, where the natural resources are protected and the green economy is promoted

This overall objective is further developed into a number of specific objectives for this CP which are specified in the description of each Priority axis. These objectives specify more precisely the themes and fields of cooperation the programme will target and the changes it intends to produce on the ground by 2020.

As far as the intervention logic is concerned, and considering the solid experience gained during the programming period 2007-2013, the three types of results characteristic to ETC programmes, as listed below, are accounted for:

- *Integration related*: the change linked to the establishment and improvement of joint territorial governance mechanisms for common assets, achieving higher levels of cooperation maturity;
- *Investment related*: the change linked to delivering the socio-economic benefits for the cooperation area.
- *Performance related*: the change linked to improving the quality of policies and governance.

Approach to cross-border cooperation

The more results-driven approach required by the regulations generates a significant change, shifting monitoring towards performance and results. This revised approach means that cooperation projects have to have much better defined action plans and have to clearly contribute to the achievement of programme results, beyond the achievement of their own objectives.

As this CP does not have the scale and scope to remove unemployment, make Europe carbon-neutral, or end inequality, it focuses instead mainly, but not exclusively, on enabling wider joint solutions, through the following approaches:

- Delivery of new and enhanced products, for instance by getting better at commercialising research by linking universities and enterprise.
- Delivery of more efficient and effective services, for instance by finding ways to deliver more with less, especially whilst coping with wider demographic and environmental challenges.
- Delivering process improvements, for instance by increasing opportunities to learn, and to jointly test new ways of delivering, meaning that concrete pilot actions are strongly encouraged.

These more demanding approaches require more targeted ways to attract and select cooperation projects. Classical projects based on a bottom-up approach will probably not be sufficient to make sure that the ambitious results will be achieved.

Cross border cooperation partnerships

This CP is based on a maritime basin formed by the Channel and southern North Sea. This means that all cross-border cooperation projects requesting support from this CP

must bring together partners from the two sides of this maritime border. In practical terms this means that each project should have at least one partner from the UK side and at least one partner from one of the three countries on the mainland side of the programme area. In line with Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013, a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) could act as a sole beneficiary of the programme, provided its founding members include stakeholders from the UK and the continental side of the eligible area.

Moreover, selected operations will be strictly in line with the relevant EU, national and regional environmental legislations, such as, for instance, the Clean Air Quality Package adopted in late 2013, and corresponding successful partnerships will be notified of these obligations.

Maritime activities

At the level of the themes and activities supported, the maritime dimension of the area is included as a horizontal element in the programme. This means that within each of the priority axes of the programme projects addressing maritime issues can be supported. This identification of the programme’s maritime dimension and the definition of maritime activities does not mean that projects addressing other – non-maritime – issues are excluded from the programme. Such projects without a maritime dimension are also supported within the scope of the four thematic priority axes.

Overall, this CP still aims to create: common identity, integrated physical space, joint services and communities, solutions for common challenges, experimentation, ground for investments, improved policies and governance, etc

1.1.1bis Description of the expected impact of the operational programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy.

1.1.2 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation

Justification setting out the expected impact of the operational programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
01 - Strengthening research, technological	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher	<i>Innovation as a field of intervention is underpinned by 4 domains of potential in the area: the existence of common clusters across the</i>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
development and innovation	education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services	<p><i>borders for smart specialisation and innovation; the possibility of involvement of SMEs in international networks for research; the possibility of quadruple helix cooperation and technology transfer; the opportunity of social innovation as a driver for welfare.</i></p> <p><i>The CP can tackle the issues related to the need of critical mass in key R&D themes and availability of high-skilled human resources. It can be effective to respond to common need of exploiting the emergence of new ideas.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the IP is useful to develop some themes which are related to other TOs (2&3) but do not have sufficient “critical mass” to underpin the adoption of a specific IP. It represents also an opportunity to follow the high policy attention to inclusion themes. Social innovation is an opportunity to implement the EU Platform against unemployment, poverty & social exclusion.</i></p>
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies	<p><i>The 2 Seas area faces a number of shared challenges related to the low-carbon economy, which justify taking joint cross-border action. On the one hand there is a need and a potential to increase the use of new renewable technologies for a less carbon dependent economy. On the other hand there is a need (obstacle) in the area to reinforce public acceptance of renewable energy to support the desired smart specialisation in this area.</i></p> <p><i>The core focus shall be on the adoption of new technologies enabling the programme to make a contribution to the wider</i></p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
		<p><i>implementation of these technologies which have been identified as major common potential for the area. Furthermore, this IP is conceived as complementary to the activity of research and innovation which might have been addressed under IP 1.b in the field of low-carbon technologies.</i></p>
<p>05 - Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management</p>	<p>5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches</p>	<p><i>Climate change as an area for intervention is underpinned by a range of interlinked needs and potential in the area: although the area as a whole has a relatively high capacity to adapt to climate change, coastal areas are particularly vulnerable in all parts of the eligible area as they are prone to related risks that are likely to be increasing, such as coastal erosion or flooding. The area's cross-border heritage is also threatened by climate change. The area needs to maintain and strengthen its adaptive capacity to climate change in a context where there is a risk of an increase in vulnerability to climate change, in particular due to the reduction of public financing. Solutions for adaptation and protection of natural resources can be promoted at the CBC level, notably through mutual learning and improvement of ICZM practices. At the same time, there is a need to develop and apply new technologies and solutions for the area's environmental and economic resilience.</i></p>
<p>06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</p>	<p>6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors</p>	<p><i>A resource-efficient economy as a field of intervention is underpinned by 2 main areas of potential in the area: the existence of natural resources, with a particular focus on coastal and marine areas due to</i></p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
		<p><i>the shared asset of the sea, and the opportunity to develop an economy in a more sustainable way by reducing its environmental footprint. Its development also encompasses the opportunity to build on the EU Blue Growth strategy which provides room for cooperation among maritime stakeholders (e.g. ports).</i></p> <p><i>The CP can effectively tackle the issues related to a greener and circular economy by taking benefit from the area's assets and resources (water, soil, etc) and by promoting more resource-efficient economic activities (e.g. in sectors of transport, fisheries, tourism, etc.). The CP can be effective in facilitating the public-private collaborative process. The better use of existing processes and the development of new processes can be encouraged as drivers of growth within the area.</i></p>

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (i.e. Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Justification for the financial allocation of the REACT-EU additional resources to the ERDF, the ESF or the FEAD and how these resources target the geographic areas where they are most needed, taking into account the different regional needs and development levels in order to ensure that focus is maintained on less developed regions, in accordance with the objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion set out in Article 174 TFEU.

The overall programme budget is € 392 143 505 with an ERDF contribution of € 256 648 702 as detailed in section 3 of the CP.

The financial allocation to each of the four selected thematic objectives has been defined according to the following two key principles:

- Since the thematic concentration is high at the level of the Investment Priorities and considering also the limited number of specific objectives defined under the

Priority Axes of the programme, only a few potential thematic areas of cross-border cooperation are covered in this period 2014-2020. In this context, they do all appear as crucial for the future since they reflect clear common needs and have the potential to deliver progress on the ground, as validated by the ex ante evaluation.

- As a consequence, priority axis was therefore initially allocated 42% of the Programme budget. The importance of this axis was confirmed during the whole programming period as this initial strong allocation proved to be insufficient to cover the needs of the territories. Indeed, the Programme registered a high number of high-quality projects application in each and every call for proposals. Hence the need to increase the total budget of axis 1 now that the total budget of the Programme has been committed.
- When it comes to the other axes, axis 2 proved to be overbudgeted, whereas axis 3 proved to be underbudgeted. This confirmed the importance an axis focused on climate change adaptation, particularly when looking at the water related effects. The Programme proved to have the right scale for relevant organisations in order to concretely test new solutions on the ground and still have the sharing of expertise dimension typical of Interreg programmes.
- Lastly, axis 4 has since an uneven participation between the two specific objectives, with SO 4.2 (circular economy) showing more dynamism than SO 4.1. This was contrary to the initial assumption of an equal participation. It is to be noticed that axis 4 was initially proposed with a single SO and this was changed after a round of negotiation with the European Commission.

Priority axis 1: Technological and social innovation

Innovation and competitiveness are a major challenge for 2 Sea regions facing international competition. It contributes to boosting economic growth and job creation. In the context of a slow economic recovery in most regions at the time this programme was prepared, this thematic area was considered as the central issue for cross-border cooperation. The expectations from the MS are high on each of the three specific objectives defined under this Priority Axis.

This is reflected by an allocation of **47%** of the available ERDF budget to thematic objective 1.

Priority axis 2: Low carbon technologies

Low carbon economy is a key issue for sustainable territorial development in all parts of the programme area and for EU objectives (reduction of GHG, increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy). The programme partners see an important role for the 2 Seas programme to increase the adoption of low carbon technologies and invest in cross-border actions to pilot and roll out low carbon technologies in the 2 Seas area.

This is reflected by an allocation of **16%** of the available ERDF budget to thematic objective 4.

Priority axis 3: Adaptation to climate change

Adaptation and preparedness in response to the effects of climate change is an important challenge for the whole 2 Seas programme area. The area's maritime location makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change. But also in parts of the programme area located inland, action is needed to deal with the risks and consequences of climate change. The programme concentrates on cross-border cooperation actions linked to developing strategies and preparing actions to avoid and mitigate climate change effects. In addition, it intends to support pilot actions and small scale investments with cross-border relevance.

This is reflected by an allocation of **17 %** of the available ERDF budget to thematic objective 5.

Priority axis 4: Resource efficient economy

In the field of resource efficiency, the two key ambitions of smart and sustainable development meet up. The programme partners acknowledge the tremendous potential to develop new business opportunities and at the same time reduce the use of resources and the production of waste by focussing on eco-innovations, green technologies and a more efficient use of scarce resources. The programme aims to support cross-border actions that enhance the transition of the programme area to a more resource efficient future and that lead to concrete eco-innovations.

This is reflected by an allocation of **13 %** of the available ERDF budget to thematic objective 6.

Priority Axis 5: Technical assistance

The budget allocation amounts to **6%** (maximum % allowed by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 for ETC programmes)

The chosen distribution of financial resources is set to lead to an optimal concentration of resources in order to increase the impact and the effectiveness of cohesion policy within this cooperation area

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
1	121,429,705.00	47.31%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1.1 - Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation ▼ 1.2 - Increase the delivery of innovation in smart specialisation sectors ▼ 1.3 - Increase the development of social innovation applications in order to make more efficient and effective local services to address the key societal challenges in the 2 Seas area. 	[1.1, 1.2, 1.3]
2	41,890,425.00	16.32%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 2.1 - Increase the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in sectors that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions 	[2.1]
3	43,424,163.00	16.92%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 05 - Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 3.1 - Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects 	[3.1]
4	34,505,487.00	13.44%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 4.1 - Increase the adoption of new solutions for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials ▼ 4.2 - Increase the adoption of new circular economy solutions in the 2 Seas area 	[4.1, 4.2]
5	15,398,922.00	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 - Assist the generation of good-quality projects and ensure the effective contribution of selected operations to the achievements of programme specific objectives 5.2 - Ensure the smooth and effective management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme 	[5.1, 5.2]

2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not relevant

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
Title of the investment priority	Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1.1
Title of the specific objective	Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The improvement of framework conditions for delivering innovation is necessary to tackle the following challenges identified in the SWOT analysis of the Programme: increasing global competition, diminishing public resources and the risk of brain drain.</p> <p>The improved framework conditions for innovation will lead to increased capacities of 2 Seas stakeholders for technology transfer, for the development of clusters and of innovative companies to engage in international activities.</p> <p>The Programme will contribute to reinforce the framework conditions for delivering innovation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stimulating the cooperation of public and private stakeholders, civil society and research entities according to the “quadruple helix” paradigm; b) introducing and adopting common approaches, collaboration arrangements, joint structures and policy tools supporting capacity for delivering innovation. <p>Improved framework conditions are envisaged to benefit the key stakeholders of the innovation chain across the 2 Seas area in charge of developing and delivering innovation, in relation to smart specialisation.</p> <p>Projects will have to demonstrate their contribution to the reinforcement of the development and/or delivery of smart specialisation strategies.</p>
ID of the specific objective	1.2

Title of the specific objective	Increase the delivery of innovation in smart specialisation sectors
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The SO exploits the high potential for innovation of the 2 Seas area which is mainly related to existing clusters for smart specialisation, networks of research, possibility of high technology transfer.</p> <p>To fully take advantage of the potentials and enhance innovation delivery, the S.O supports a better exploitation of research outcomes for the development of new technologies, products and services generating an impact on key sectors of shared interest identified in smart specialisation strategies.</p> <p>Therefore, the Programme contributes to increase the delivery of technological innovation applications throughout the innovation chain by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enhancing technology transfer and uptake, in particular by SMEs, b) testing and developing pilot actions; c) promoting a closer, more effective and operational cooperation among the key stakeholders of innovation. <p>Competitiveness clusters, incubators, business sector stakeholders, regional authorities, chambers of commerce, research centres, technology parks and civil society will be among the expected beneficiaries to deliver this Specific Objective.</p> <p>This Specific Objective includes a focus on some smart specialisation sectors that are shared across the Programme area including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and ports;

ID of the specific objective	1.1
Title of the specific objective	Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental & marine technologies • Agro-food; • Life sciences & health; • Communication, digital and creative industries. • Manufacturing <p>The above should not however be considered exhaustive, as the Programme will be responsive to emerging needs according to developments within Smart Specialisation strategies.</p> <p>Key Enabling Technologies will be used where relevant to strengthen and improve the general performance (economic, environmental, social...) of these sectors.</p> <p>Projects supported under this S.O should fall between Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 3 and 7 in line with the scale adopted by the Horizon 2020 programme. This is without prejudice to projects submitted under S.O 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 which may also include some actions that deliver against TRL 6 and 7.</p>
ID of the specific objective	1.3
Title of the specific objective	Increase the development of social innovation applications in order to make more efficient and effective local services to address the key societal challenges in the 2 Seas area.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The development of social innovative applications is useful to tackle the challenges related to inclusion themes, and to promote more effective and efficient social support against unemployment, in particular for youth people, poverty and social exclusion.</p> <p>The development of social innovation will lead to an increased capacity in terms of efficiency and effectiveness of local services to address the key societal challenges in the 2 Seas area.</p>

ID of the specific objective	1.1
Title of the specific objective	Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation
	<p>The Programme will contribute to develop social innovation applications by: a) exploiting and adopting the results of research;</p> <p>b) promoting a closer, more effective and operational cooperation between the third sector and social enterprises, private and public sector.</p> <p>The change will benefit all the stakeholders of social and local services. Public stakeholders which are in charge of developing and delivering social innovation and welfare policies, business sector organisations, chambers of commerce, research centres, and more generally the civil society will be among the beneficiaries to deliver this Specific Objective.</p> <p>The target sectors are those related to some of the key societal challenges included in the programme Horizon 2020 as mentioned below, and, where pertinent, within the framework of the European Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, demographic change and well-being; • Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies; • Secure societies – protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		1.1 - Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.1	Average level of performance of the 2 Seas area with regards to the framework conditions for innovation	Number (scale from 1 to 5)	3.3	2014	3.47	Survey of regional experts	2018, 2020, 2023
Specific objective		1.2 - Increase the delivery of innovation in smart specialisation sectors					

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.2	Average level of performance of the 2 Seas area with regards to the delivery of innovation in smart specialisation sectors	Number (scale from 1 to 5)	3.7	2014	3,89	Survey of regional experts	2018, 2020, 2023

Specific objective		1.3 - Increase the development of social innovation applications in order to make more efficient and effective local services to address the key societal challenges in the 2 Seas area.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.3	Average level of performance of the 2 Seas area with regards to the development of social innovation applications	Number (scale from 1 to 5)	3.7	2014	4.07	Survey of regional experts	2018, 2020, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries TTT

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
<p>The Programme will support Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) projects (from here on 'projects') which allow organisations from the eligible area to work together on a common theme.</p> <p>There is no pre-determined typology of projects as in the previous programming period. The main reason relates to the fact that differentiated projects characteristics (in terms of key purpose, financial threshold, partnership size, etc.) may derive from specific types of calls for proposals launched during the programme duration in application of the flexibility principle, as stated in the sub-section concerning “<i>Guiding principles for selection of operations</i>”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Types of actions to be supported</i> 	

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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Generic types of actions of cross-border cooperation projects can relate to one or several of the following features:

1. **“Formulation”** which leads to the preparation of a policy document (e.g. common strategy, joint policy actions plan, common sectoral Programme, joint action protocol, common agreement etc.).
2. **“Establishment”** or the concrete set up of a network, facility, service (monitoring system, joint service provider, and collaborative platform).
3. **“Development”** - the systematic use of the knowledge or understanding gained from basic research directed toward the eventual production of useful materials, devices, processes, systems, or methods, including the design and development of prototypes and processes. This might include full-scale tests and experimentations.
4. **“Adoption”** or **“transfer”** of existing technological/ organisation/solutions in a specific field of application. This might include large scale tests and experimentations.
5. **“Prepare investment”** where, for example, the intervention will pave the way to new infrastructure or services, but not directly co-fund them (e.g. feasibility study, preparation of a technical study, Socio Economic Demand analysis, etc...).
6. **“Investment”** – projects may include material investments as part of their activities, provided that these investments demonstrate cross-border relevance and contribute to the objectives of the 2 Seas programme (e.g. purchase of equipment for pilot or demonstration purposes or realisation of physical infrastructure or e-infrastructure).

In general terms, a project's “main” objective will be derived directly from the programme Specific Objective, be tailored and put in the particular context by the project objectives, and on the basis of which it shall produce a “result”. In addition, **project outputs** will be strictly linked to the project specific objectives and logically linked to the project expected results. Project outputs will be consistent with programme actions, thus delivering against Programme output indicators.

Therefore, the projects contribution to the achievement of one of the Programme specific objectives (and its corresponding result indicator) shall be more direct and stronger than in the programming period 2007-2013.

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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• *Examples of actions to be supported*

Below is a list with examples of possible actions that could be part of projects supported under these specific objectives. Note that all actions shall always be based on cross-border cooperation.

Specific objective 1.1

FORMULATION:

- of common development strategies and joint policy action plans to support the innovation capacity of stakeholders

ESTABLISHMENT:

- of new cross-border networks and platforms bringing together clusters (promotion of inter-clustering) or groupings of centres of excellence, higher education institutions, SMEs and the civil society (quadruple helix), in particular on maritime-oriented issues
- of joint tools/services to improve framework conditions for delivering all forms of innovation at cross-border scale
- of joint funding scheme, joint crowd funding, etc. aiming at promoting any form of innovation within the area
- of pilot actions linking capabilities of several facilities by networking the partners of the quadruple helix

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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DEVELOPMENT:

- of support actions to SMEs to engage in innovation leading to increased activity on international markets.

Specific objective 1.2

DEVELOPMENT:

- of technological and applied research, in particular based on the application and use of Key Enabling Technologies
- of early product validation actions, in particular based on the application and use of Key Enabling Technologies
- of demonstration projects and pilots testing innovative technologies, products, processes and services, in particular by SMEs

PREPARE FOR INVESTMENTS:

- for the joint economic exploitation of new ideas of products, services and processes

INVESTMENT:

- in small-scale physical infrastructure or e-infrastructure related to technological innovation deriving from a preparation stage jointly designed

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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and carried out by cross-border partnerships

Specific objective 1.3

DEVELOPMENT:

- of pilot actions for the use of social innovation platforms and observatories (e.g. Social Innovation Europe Initiative)

ADOPTION:

- of new joint solutions based on research to deliver innovative social services

PREPARE FOR INVESTMENTS:

- Prepare for investments for the joint economic exploitation of new ideas of products, services and processes

INVESTMENTS:

- in small-scale physical infrastructure (e.g. equipment) or e-infrastructure related to social innovation deriving from a preparation stage jointly

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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designed and carried out by cross-border partnerships

- *Expected contribution of actions to the specific objectives*

For the Specific Objective 1.1., the actions described above will enable stakeholders in the 2 Seas area to set the framework conditions for delivering innovation in areas related to the development and delivery of smart specialisation, which is of major interest in all the 2 Seas regions due to the ever increasing competitive environment. The identity and the specificities of this area in terms of innovation will be reinforced.

The planned actions will lead to increased capacities for technology transfer, development of cross-border clusters and increased capacities of innovative companies to engage in international activities.

They will constitute a strong incentive to stakeholders involved in the quadruple-helix to create the conditions, and to set up partnerships and consortium, to deliver the results planned under the specific objectives 1.2. and 1.3. In other words, they represent a strong requisite for the successful implementation of the two other specific objectives under Priority Axis 1.

For the Specific Objective 1.2., the actions described above shall not only bring together stakeholders from the different countries to work on innovation aspects of shared interest, but also to develop very tangible actions throughout the innovation chain in sectors of shared crossborder interest identified in smart specialisation strategies. The technology transfer and uptake by SMEs in particular is expected to play a crucial role in this process, although it may be challenging on some thematic areas on which competition is very high within the 2 Seas area. Preparation for investments and actual investments will be encouraged and shall give substance to the intended results.

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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For the Specific Objective 1.3., the actions described above will give a special emphasis on the innovative side of social inclusion. They cover a wide range of possibilities from delivery mechanisms, the testing and adoption of new joint solutions to the financing of investments, and where joint research activities will be the basis for some of these actions.

- **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries are the stakeholders that receive financial support from the programme. As a general rule, the beneficiaries that will be eligible for support from this programme can be public bodies, public equivalent bodies and private bodies.

For this Priority axis the main categories of beneficiaries include:

- Local, regional and national authorities and their affiliated bodies
- Universities and research centres
- Small and medium sized enterprises and organisations representing SMEs
- Social enterprises and non-for-profit organisations
- Incubators
- Innovation agencies, intermediary bodies in charge of innovation and economic development
- Regional development agencies, Chamber of Commerce
- Cluster organisations
- Business support centres and agencies, technology intermediary and technology/knowledge transfer institutions

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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- **Specific territories targeted**

Supported projects can be implemented throughout the entire 2 Seas Programme cooperation area

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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CBC projects will be selected through regular open calls for proposals which may address the full thematic scope of any or all SOs.

Compared to the period 2007-2013, several modifications are taken into account when designing the procedures for selecting operations.

1) Considering the result-oriented approach of this period, the MC will specify in the terms of reference (ToR) of the different calls the types of actions that need to be supported over the period 2014-2020 in order to reach the intended change on the ground by 2023.

2) The ToR of the successive calls will make reference as where possible to lessons learnt from projects in CBC programmes during the period 2007-2013 (mainly 2 Seas and FCE Programmes), and progressively from those fully implemented over 2014-2020, in order to specify the expectations for

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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new projects.

3) Programme authorities may also issue targeted calls focusing on certain key aspects of the SOs. The focus of these targeted calls may, for example, be on:

- Supporting strategic decisions by the MC
- Strengthening the contribution of projects to CP performance
- Reinforcing PAs where very few, or no, projects have been supported by previous open calls
- Supporting and strengthening capitalisation actions where relevant.

The ToR for such targeted calls may specify the type of activity and/or deliverables to be achieved by these targeted projects (and/or other requirements), allowing the CP to steer the nature of cooperation and promote certain types of cross-border activities

Projects primarily contribute to the intended result of one SO, although there may be synergies with themes covered by other SOs.

The following key principles also inform project selection decisions:

- Cross-border added value - projects should demonstrate how CBC adds value to regional, national, inter regional and transnational approaches considering that the thematic-oriented approach chosen in the 2 Seas CP is to a large extent similar to the one at other geographical scales. In the specific case of investments, the selection criteria will set extra requirements in order to provide evidence that they are of real cross-border interest (e.g. criteria related to the shared use of the equipment/small-scale infrastructure, or to the impact of transfer of know-how).
- Results based approach - projects should demonstrate how they will concretely affect expected change and contribute to the achievement of the

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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CP results.

- Sectoral approach - projects should demonstrate a clear link where relevant with the targeted sectors under some of the SOs. Further details concerning the way this issue is addressed will be specified in the selection criteria.
- Contribution to horizontal principles defined at EU level (see Section 8),

All types of projects included in this CP relate to actions jointly developed by partners from at least two of the four participating MS, including necessarily from the UK.

Although not a research-oriented programme, applied research projects are welcome provided they are in line with the quadruple-helix approach.

Besides, where assistance is granted from the Funds to a large enterprise, the MA shall assure itself that the financial contribution from the Funds does not result in a substantial loss of jobs in existing locations within the EU.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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Not relevant

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
<i>Not relevant</i>	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.1.1	Number of joint strategies and action plans developed to improve the framework conditions for innovation	Number	10.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
1.2.1	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented related to the delivery of technological innovation	Number	84.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
1.3.1	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented related to the development of social innovation applications	Number	140.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
1.1.2	Number of networks and structures established or enlarged to improve the framework conditions for innovation	Number	5.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
1.2.2	Number of small scale physical or e-infrastructures/equipments related to the delivery of technological innovation partly or entirely supported by the operations	Number	48.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
1.3.2	Number of small scale physical or e-infrastructures/equipments related to the development of social innovation applications partly or entirely supported by the operations	Number	28.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
1.1.3	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established to improve the framework conditions for innovation	Number	38.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border,	Enterprises	18.00	Programme monitoring	Annual

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
	transnational or interregional research projects				
CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	44.00	Programme monitoring	Annual

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
1	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 1	€	20 231 815	186,814,931.00	Programme monitoring	
1.2.1	O	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented related to the delivery of technological innovation	Number	0	84.00	Programme Monitoring System	
1.3.1	I	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies of selected operations related to the development of social innovation applications	Number	47	140.00	Programme monitoring	
1.3.1	O	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented related to the development of social innovation applications	Number	0	140.00	Programme Monitoring System	
1.1.3	I	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) to improve the framework conditions for innovation of selected operations	Number	13	38.00	Programme Monitoring System	
1.1.3	O	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established to improve the framework conditions for innovation	Number	0	38.00	Programme Monitoring System	
1.2.1	I	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies of selected operations related to the delivery of technological innovation	Number	28	84.00	Programme Monitoring	

Priority axis			1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION				
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						System	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

In line with the EC guidance fiche on performance framework review and reserve in 2014-2020, the selected output indicators relate to operations representing the majority of resources allocated to this Priority axis, and more specifically one for each of the three specific objectives. Like for any other output indicator, their calculation is based on the relative weight of the type of activities which it covers in the achievement of the intended result and on unit costs based on past experience (operations selected as part of 2 Seas operational programme 2007-2013).

Considering the increased requirements of the result-oriented approach, the application process is now based on several steps that will take a longer time, with more uncertainty as far as the strong contribution of applications to the achievement of the specific objectives is concerned. As there will be no fully implemented operations by the end of 2018, a key implementation step is used. These key implementation steps will ensure that target values are achieved by 2023. The milestone set for this key implementation step refers to the number of outputs expected to be generated by operations selected by the end of 2018. The ratio used to calculate the milestone values is also based on the experience of the 2007-2013 programming period (further information can be found in the methodological note).

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis		1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
Code		Amount (€)

Priority axis	1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	14,571,564.60
061. Research and innovation activities in private research centres including networking	14,571,564.60
062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	14,571,564.60
064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)	14,571,564.60
065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change	14,571,564.60
112. Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest	48,571,882.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	121,429,705.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	69,214,931.85
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	40,071,802.65
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	12,142,970.50

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	121,429,705.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
<i>All planned actions are described under Priority axis 5 – Technical assistance</i>	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not relevant

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4f
Title of the investment priority	Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.1
Title of the specific objective	Increase the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in sectors that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	Increasing the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications is useful to tackle the identified needs in the 2 Seas area of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, exploiting the potential of new renewable technologies and reinforcing their

ID of the specific objective	2.1
Title of the specific objective	Increase the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in sectors that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
	<p>public acceptance.</p> <p>An increased adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications shall reduce carbon dependency and GHG emissions in the 2 Seas area.</p> <p>In this context, to enhance the uptake of innovative low-carbon technologies, the Programme will contribute by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enhancing the uptake of state-of-the art solutions; b) testing and demonstration of these technologies and applications to pave the way for their wider uptake; c) promoting a closer, more effective and operational cooperation of businesses, knowledge institutes and public sector <p>Businesses, research institutes, knowledge institutes and public sector and relevant entities and stakeholders that can directly benefit from the improved services and conditions as well as from new economic opportunities will be among the expected beneficiaries.</p> <p>This Specific Objective will be targeting sectors shared across the Programme area that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions,in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energies • Transport

ID of the specific objective	2.1
Title of the specific objective	Increase the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in sectors that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Manufacturing industries • Building <p>Particular attention will be given to cooperation that builds on the specific potential related to the coastal/maritime location of the 2 Seas area.</p> <p>This Specific Objective focuses on the adoption of low carbon technologies; therefore it will not support research and development activities (which fall under the S.O 1.2).</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		2.1 - Increase the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in sectors that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.1	Average level of performance of the 2 Seas area with regards to the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications	Number (scale from 1 to 5)	4.06	2014	4.47	Survey of regional experts	2018, 2020, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiariesTTT

Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Types of actions to be supported</i> 	

The types of actions that may be supported are similar to the generic types of actions listed under Priority axis 1 above.

- *Examples of actions to be supported*

Below is a list with examples of possible actions that could be part of projects supported under this specific objective. Note that all actions shall always be based on cross-border cooperation.

DEVELOPMENT:

- of comparative pilots actions to test and demonstrate innovative low-carbon technologies and applications

ADOPTION:

- by stakeholders of low-carbon technologies to increase the use of energy from renewable sources. These could include in particular technologies linked to marine or maritime sources
- by stakeholders at different territorial and administrative level of identical or similar innovative low-carbon technologies to reduce their CO2 emissions

PREPARE FOR INVESTMENTS:

- in the further roll-out of low-carbon technologies

INVESTMENTS:

- in low carbon technologies, for instance to enable demonstrations of innovative low-carbon applications, or to realise innovative small-scale infrastructures for renewable energy generation, production and distribution.

- *Expected contribution of actions to the specific objective*

The actions described above will enable stakeholders in the 2 Seas area to get access to state-of-the-art low-carbon technology that is being developed, tested and implemented by their peers in other countries in the programme area. Working in interdisciplinary cross-border partnerships will enable partners to prepare and realise the application or innovative technologies faster and more efficiently, by creating more critical mass and by tapping into expertise from different countries. Cross-border actions to demonstrate new technologies and applications will also increase the awareness and knowledge of wider target groups in the 2 Seas of the possibilities and benefits of these new approaches. All this will contribute to the specific objective of increasing the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in the 2 Seas area, both within and beyond the cross-border project partnerships.

- *Main target groups and types of beneficiaries*

The beneficiaries are the partners that receive financial support from the Programme. As a general rule, the beneficiaries that will be eligible for support from this Programme can be public bodies, public equivalent bodies and private bodies.

Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>For this specific objective the main categories of beneficiaries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local, regional and national authorities and their affiliated bodies • Universities and research centres • Public and private energy suppliers • Companies, in particular small and medium sized enterprises developing low-carbon technology • Economic operators (energy, building, transport, logistics, fisheries, ports...) • Energy agencies, and non-governmental bodies acting in support of the transition to a low-carbon economy • Non-for-profit organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Specific territories targeted</i> <p>Supported projects can be implemented throughout the entire 2 Seas Programme cooperation area</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<i>Guiding principles similar as those described under Priority Axis 1</i>	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
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Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<i>Not relevant</i>	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<i>Not relevant</i>	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.1	Number of solutions (methods/ tools/services) established to increase the adoption of low carbon technologies	Number	46.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
2.2	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented related to the adoption of low-carbon technologies	Number	22.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual
2.3	Number of small scale physical or e-infrastructures/equipments related to the adoption of low carbon technologies partly or entirely supported by the operations	Number	6.00	Programme Monitoring System	Annual

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 2	€	9 634 197	64,446,807.00	Programme monitoring	
2.1	O	Number of solutions (methods/ tools/services) established to increase the	Number	0	46.00	Programme	

Priority axis		2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		adoption of low carbon technologies				Monitoring System	
2.1	I	Number of solutions (methods/ tools/services) of selected operations to increase the adoption of low carbon technologies	Number	22	46.00	Programme Monitoring System	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

In line with the EC guidance fiche on performance framework review and reserve in 2014-2020, the selected output indicators relate to operations representing the majority of resources allocated to this Priority axis, and more specifically one for each of the three specific objectives. Like for any other output indicator, their calculation is based on the relative weight of the type of activities which it covers in the achievement of the intended result and on unit costs based on past experience (operations selected as part of 2 Seas Operational Programme 2007-2013).

Considering the increased requirements of the result-oriented approach, the application process is now based on several steps that will take a longer time, with more uncertainty as far as the strong contribution of applications to the achievement of the specific objectives is concerned. As there will be no fully implemented operations by the end of 2018, a key implementation step is used. These key implementation steps will ensure that target values are achieved by 2023. The milestone set for this key implementation step refers to the number of outputs expected to be generated by operations selected by the end of 2018. The ratio used to calculate the milestone values is also based on the experience of the 2007-2013 programming period (further information can be found in the methodological note).

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES
Code	Amount (€)
013. Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures	13,963,475.00
023. Environmental measures aimed at reducing and / or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions (including treatment and storage of methane gas and composting)	13,963,475.00
065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change	13,963,475.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	41,890,425.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES
Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	23,877,542.25
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	13,823,840.25
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	4,189,042.50

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	41,890,425.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES
<i>All planned actions are described under Priority axis 5 – Technical assistance</i>	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not relevant

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	5a
Title of the investment priority	Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.1
Title of the specific objective	Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	Increasing the ecosystem-based adaptation capacity to climate change and associated effects is particularly important in the 2 Seas area, which is particularly prone to the risks and effects of climate change, in a context of potentially increasing

ID of the specific objective	3.1
Title of the specific objective	Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects
	<p>vulnerability and reducing public resources.</p> <p>The main expected effects of climate change for which this Specific Objective aims to develop the area's adaptation capacity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea level rise, • Flooding (in both coastal and hinterland areas), • Accelerated coastal erosion, • Acidification of the marine waters • Increasing water temperatures • Increased occurrence of heavy rainfall and severe droughts <p>An increased adaption capacity to climate change and its above mentioned effects shall reduce damage to, and increase resilience of, the built environment and other infrastructures. It will decrease future pressure on water resources, result in better and more robust flood and coastal defences, protect biodiversity and decrease the vulnerability of ecosystems in order to increase ecosystem resilience and enable ecosystem-based adaptation.</p> <p>In this context, the Programme will contribute by:</p> <p>a) increasing awareness on the potential consequences of climate change;</p> <p>b) enabling stakeholders in the area to develop a collective approach which will be integrated into spatial planning (notably of coastal areas and including marine spatial planning) and (innovative) solutions for environmental and economic resilience and</p>

ID of the specific objective	3.1
Title of the specific objective	Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects
	<p>integrated management of coastal zones (ICZM);</p> <p>c) improving the coherence and coordination between adaptation strategies and actions, and the mechanisms for the crossborder exchange of information and data related to climate change expected effects.</p> <p>Local and regional authorities, environmental agencies, emergency services and coast guard centres, universities and research centres and local communities will be among the beneficiaries.</p> <p>This Specific Objective aims at increasing the adoption of solutions for ecosystem adaptation to climate change, therefore it will not support research and development (which fall under the S.O 1.2).</p> <p>The Specific Objective shows a strong territorial dimension notably for coastal areas. A particular attention will be given to the most vulnerable sectors and those likely to be affected by stronger impacts.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		3.1 - Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3.1	Average level of performance of the 2 Seas area with regards to the adaptation capacity to climate change and its water-related effects	Number (scale from 1 to 5)	3.76	2014	3.95	Survey of regional experts	2018, 2020, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiariesTTT

Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
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- **Types of actions to be supported**

The types of actions that may be supported are similar to the generic types of actions listed under Priority axis 1 above.

- **Examples of actions to be supported**

Below is a list with examples of possible actions that could be part of projects supported under this specific objective. Note that all actions shall always be based on cross-border cooperation.

FORMULATION:

- of common strategies, protocols and action plans to optimise ICZM practices in the maritime basin complementary to those developed by national authorities, and in line with the framework of the Integrated Maritime Policy and in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (aligned with the Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning in Europe)

ESTABLISHMENT:

- of common awareness-raising campaigns aiming at creating the conditions and support for local communities to take local preparedness and adaptation measures
- of joint measures (e.g. infrastructure planning tools) integrated tools and technical solutions (e.g. soil management, coastal defence lines or concepts (e.g. managed realignment)) aiming at protecting built-up areas (e.g. urban areas) and coast lines against erosion/flooding through the

Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
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promotion and implementation of nature and ecosystem-based solutions

- of joint measures (e.g. protection programmes, monitoring tools) which address biodiversity loss and climate change in an integrated manner to fully exploit co-benefits and avoid ecosystem feedback issues that could accelerate global warming
- of better coordinated collective emergency planning and preparedness for flooding (water management, flood risk techniques, awareness-raising on flood)
- of systematic data exchange systems and crossborder coordinated monitoring systems, e.g. impacts of climate change on eco-systems and biodiversity and transformation of the coastline, etc.

PREPARE INVESTMENT:

- in measures to prevent climate change effects (e.g. potential flood risks), by means of joint actions that could include design of solutions or cost-benefit analyses, notably through the promotion and implementation of nature-based solutions.

INVESTMENT:

- in small scale technical solutions such as coastal defence lines or concepts (e.g. managed realignment) and flood protection, notably through the promotion and implementation of nature-based solutions.

- *Expected contribution of actions to the specific objectives*

Cross-border cooperation actions as described above will allow the responsible public authorities in the 2 Seas area to respond more effectively to the effects of climate change. By working together and integrating expertise from different parts of the 2 Seas areas they will be able to design more

Investment priority

5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches

adequate ecosystem-based strategies to prevent and remediate negative effects of climate change.

They will be able to plan and prepare protective measures in their territories based on state of the art knowledge and invest in small scale measures that make parts of their territories better protected against possible effects of climate change such as flooding.

Joint actions are also more effective when it comes to raising awareness among local authorities, businesses and the public, and stimulating and supporting them to take the measures within their capacity to prevent and mitigate climate change effects by using ecosystem-based as well as nature-based solutions.

These actions will enable the Programme to contribute to deliver against the specific objective to increase the capacities of the 2 Seas area's public and private stakeholders to adapt to the expected harmful effects of climate change.

- **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries are the stakeholders that receive financial support from the programme.

As a general rule, the beneficiaries that will be eligible for support from this programme can be public bodies, public equivalent bodies and private bodies.

For this specific objective the main categories of beneficiaries include:

- Local, regional and national authorities and their affiliated bodies
- Universities and research centres

Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental agencies • Organisations involved in water management and coastal zone management • Organisations involved in managing natural areas and protected areas • Non-for-profit organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Specific territories targeted</u> <p>This specific objective targets coastal zones and other parts of the cross-border area vulnerable to flooding and other effects of climate change.</p> <p>It concerns mainly the coastline, estuaries, river catchments and coastal wetlands and environment under pressure by land uses, sea pollution, marine areas intensively used by shipping, offshore drilling and wind parks.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
<p><i>Guiding principles similar as those described under Priority Axis 1</i></p> <p>Moreover, in terms of external coherence, all selected operations will be in line where relevant with the EU Floods directive, River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans.</p> <p><i>NB. The final paragraph related to potential assistance granted from the Funds to a large enterprise does not apply for this Priority Axis 3.</i></p>	

Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
<i>Not relevant</i>	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
<i>Not relevant</i>	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3.1	Number of strategies and action plans developed to improve the adaptation capacity to climate change and its water-related effects	Number	18.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
3.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established to improve the adaptation capacity to climate change and its water-related effects	Number	58.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
3.3	Number of small scale physical or e-infrastructures/equipments related to adaptation capacity to climate change and its water-related effects partly or entirely supported by the operations	Number	9.00	Programme monitoring	Annual

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis	3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
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ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
3	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 3	€	7 225 648	66,806,405.00	Programme monitoring	
3.2	O	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established to improve the adaptation capacity to climate change and its water-related effects	Number	0	58.00	Programme monitoring	
3.2	I	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) of selected operations to improve the adaptation capacity to climate change	Number	19	58.00	Programme Monitoring System	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

In line with the EC guidance fiche on performance framework review and reserve in 2014-2020, the selected output indicators relate to operations representing the majority of resources allocated to this Priority axis, and more specifically one for each of the three specific objectives. Like for any other output indicator, their calculation is based on the relative weight of the type of activities which it covers in the achievement of the intended result and on unit costs based on past experience (operations selected as part of 2 Seas operational programme 2007-2013).

Considering the increased requirements of the result-oriented approach, the application process is now based on several steps that will take a longer time, with more uncertainty as far as the strong contribution of applications to the achievement of the specific objectives is concerned. As there will be no fully implemented operations by the end of 2018, a key implementation step is used. These key implementation steps will ensure that target values are achieved by 2023. The milestone set for this key implementation step refers to the number of outputs expected to be generated by operations selected by the end of 2018. The ratio used to calculate the milestone values is also based on the experience of the 2007-2013 programming period (further information can be found in the methodological note).

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
Code	Amount (€)
087. Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks e.g. erosion, fires, flooding, storms and drought, including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures	43,424,163.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	43,424,163.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	24,751,772.91
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	14,329,973.79
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	4,342,416.30

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	43,424,163.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
<i>All planned actions are described under Priority axis 5 – Technical assistance</i>	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not relevant

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6g
Title of the investment priority	Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	4.1
Title of the specific objective	Increase the adoption of new solutions for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	Achieving an increased adoption of new solutions for a more resource-efficient economy requires the reinforcement of the institutional framework conditions and the capacity of business, public bodies and other stakeholders in society to adopt new

ID of the specific objective	4.1
Title of the specific objective	Increase the adoption of new solutions for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials
	<p>models and approaches.</p> <p>This specific objective responds to the identified need of the 2 Seas area to develop resource-efficiency policies and change attitudes of economic stakeholders to more sustainable behaviour in order to decrease the use of the following natural resources and materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and Soil • Minerals and metals • Water • Marine resources <p>The Programme will contribute to this Specific Objective by adopting and implementing collaborative approaches, structures and policy tools for the more efficient use of the natural resources and materials listed above.</p> <p>Considering the maritime nature of the programme area, this Specific Objective will pay particular attention to the opportunities connected to the EU Blue Growth strategy which provides room for cooperation among maritime stakeholders in a context of lack of sufficient public resources.</p> <p>Policy-makers and economic actors in charge of developing and implementing resource efficient policies, strategies and business models are among the expected beneficiaries.</p> <p>This Specific Objective will not support research and development (which fall under the S.O 1.2).</p>

ID of the specific objective	4.2
Title of the specific objective	Increase the adoption of new circular economy solutions in the 2 Seas area
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Achieving an increased adoption of new solutions for a circular economy requires the reinforcement of the institutional framework conditions and the capacity of business, public bodies and other stakeholders in society to adopt new models and approaches. These shall boost recycling and prevent the loss of valuable material, showing how new models, eco-design and industrial symbiosis can move the 2 Seas area towards zero-waste.</p> <p>This specific objective responds to the identified need of the 2 Seas area to develop resource-efficiency policies and change attitudes of economic stakeholders to more sustainable behaviour.</p> <p>The Programme will contribute to this Specific Objective by adopting and implementing collaborative approaches, structures and policy tools in order to facilitate the transition towards a circular economy.</p> <p>Policy-makers and economic actors in charge of developing and implementing circular economy policies, strategies and business models are among the expected beneficiaries. This Specific Objective focuses on the adoption of circular economy solutions across all sectors relevant to the 2 Seas area.</p> <p>This Specific Objective focuses on the adoption of new circular economy solutions; therefore it will not support research and development activities (which fall under the S.O 1.2).</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		4.1 - Increase the adoption of new solutions for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4.1	Average level of performance of the 2 Seas area with regards to the adoption of new solutions for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number (scale from 1 to 5)	3.37	2014	3.71	Survey of regional experts	2018, 2020, 2023

Specific objective		4.2 - Increase the adoption of new circular economy solutions in the 2 Seas area					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4.2	Average level of performance of the 2 Seas area with regards to the adoption of new circular-economy solutions	Number (scale from 1 to 5)	3.38	2014	3.72	Survey of regional experts	2018, 2020, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries TTT

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
<p>• Types of actions to be supported</p> <p>The types of actions that may be supported are similar to the generic types of actions listed under Priority axis 1 above.</p> <p>• Examples of actions to be supported</p> <p>Below is a list with examples of possible actions that could be part of projects supported under this specific objective. Note that all actions shall always be based on cross-border cooperation.</p> <p><u>Specific Objective 4.1:</u></p> <p><i>FORMULATION</i></p> <p>• of approaches (protocols, tools) for green public procurement (GPP) to promote the efficient use of natural resources and materials</p>	

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
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- of common agreements and joint action protocols between stakeholders for more sustainable and resource-efficient activities

ESTABLISHMENT

- of collaborative platforms and services towards the key economic stakeholders to strengthen a more resource-efficient economy

ADOPTION

- of new technological solutions that reduce the use of natural resources and raw materials resources and encourage bio-based products
- by economic stakeholders in the maritime sector (e.g. ports) of green technologies to increase resource efficiency, for instance by reduction of waste flows or increasing recycling of shipping-related waste

INVESTMENT

- in support of the application of more resource efficient solutions, for instance as part of cross-border pilot initiatives to mplement nature-based and green technology solutions

Specific Objective 4.2:

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
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FORMULATION

- of approaches (protocols, tools) for green public procurement (GPP), in order to limit the outflow of wastes to ecosystems and optimize recycling.

ESTABLISHMENT

- of collaborative platforms and services towards the key economic stakeholders to strengthen a circular economy (promoting waste management at cluster level)
- of joint programmes and pilot actions to introduce the concept of the circular economy to companies,

ADOPTION

- of new technological solutions for recycling notably through the promotion and implementation of nature-based solutions;

INVESTMENT

- in support of the application of more resource efficient solutions, for instance as part of cross-border pilot initiatives to improve recycling of waste material notably through the promotion and implementation of nature-based solutions.

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
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- ***Expected contribution of actions to the specific objectives***

The above cross-border actions above will enable stakeholders throughout the 2 Seas area to work with peers from different countries, and possibly even different sectors, to identify, adapt and apply policies and business models that lead to a more efficient use of resources and a stronger use of circular economy solutions.

- **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries are the stakeholders that receive financial support from the programme. The beneficiaries that will be eligible for support from this programme can be public and private bodies.

For this specific objective the main categories of beneficiaries include:

- Local, regional and national authorities and their affiliated bodies
- Universities and research centres
- Small and medium sized enterprises and organisations representing SMEs
- Social enterprises and non-for-profit organisations
- Regional development agencies, Chamber of Commerce
- Cluster organisations

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific territories targeted <p>Supported projects can be implemented throughout the entire 2 Seas Programme cooperation area</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
<p><i>Guiding principles similar as those described under Priority Axis 1</i></p> <p><i>NB. The final paragraph related to potential assistance granted from the Funds to a large enterprise does not apply for this Priority Axis 4.</i></p>	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
<p><i>Not relevant</i></p>	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
<p><i>Not relevant</i></p>	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4.1.1	Number of strategies and action plans developed for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	3.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
4.1.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	11.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
4.1.3	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	3.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
4.1.4	Number of small scale physical or e-infrastructures/equipments, partly or entirely supported by the operations, related to a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	2.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
4.2.1	Number of strategies and action plans developed for a more circular economy	Number	8.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
4.2.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more circular economy	Number	34.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
4.2.3	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented for a more circular economy	Number	9.00	Programme monitoring	Annual
4.2.4	Number of small scale physical or e-infrastructures/equipments related to a more circular economy partly or entirely supported by the operations	Number	5.00	Programme monitoring	Annual

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
4	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 4	€	8 189 068	53,085,364.00	Programme monitoring	
4.1.2	I	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	11	11.00	Programme monitoring	
4.1.2	O	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	0	11.00	Programme monitoring	
4.2.2	I	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more circular	Number	11	34.00	Programme	

Priority axis		4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		economy				monitoring	
4.2.2	O	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more circular economy	Number	0	34.00	Programme monitoring	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

In line with the EC guidance fiche on performance framework review and reserve in 2014-2020, the selected output indicators relate to operations representing the majority of resources allocated to this Priority axis, and more specifically one for each of the three specific objectives. Like for any other output indicator, their calculation is based on the relative weight of the type of activities which it covers in the achievement of the intended result and on unit costs based on past experience (operations selected as part of 2 Seas operational programme 2007-2013).

Considering the increased requirements of the result-oriented approach, the application process is now based on several steps that will take a longer time, with more uncertainty as far as the strong contribution of applications to the achievement of the specific objectives is concerned. As there will be no fully implemented operations by the end of 2018, a key implementation step is used. These key implementation steps will ensure that target values are achieved by 2023. The milestone set for this key implementation step refers to the number of outputs expected to be generated by operations selected by the end of 2018. The ratio used to calculate the milestone values is also based on the experience of the 2007-2013 programming period (further information can be found in the methodological note).

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY
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Priority axis	4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY
Code	Amount (€)
017. Household waste management (including minimisation, sorting, recycling measures)	11,501,829.00
062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	11,501,829.00
069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	11,501,829.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	34,505,487.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY
Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	19,668,127.59
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	11,386,810.71
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	3,450,548.70

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	34,505,487.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY
<i>All planned actions are described under Priority axis 5 – Technical assistance</i>	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID	5
Title	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The entire priority axis is dedicated to technical assistance supported under REACT-EU

2.B.2 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.1	Assist the generation of good-quality projects and ensure the effective contribution of selected operations to the achievements of programme specific objectives	<p>This specific objective aims to provide effective processes for project generation and selection of operations that lead to a manageable numbers of applications of good quality and programme relevance.</p> <p>To bring about this result, adequate support is provided to potential applicants, thanks to dedicated JS staff and the network of territorial facilitators on the ground in the four countries that implements animation measures.</p> <p>In order to achieve the intended results on the ground by the end of the programming period, pro-active actions are taken to increase the number of operations with tangible deliveries and with concrete contribution to the achievement of programme objectives. In this respect, the role of territorial facilitators is crucial in terms of identification and support to relevant stakeholders.</p>

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		5.1 - Assist the generation of good-quality projects and ensure the effective contribution of selected operations to the achievements of programme specific objectives					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
5.1	Satisfaction of Programme beneficiaries about Programme assistance with regard to the generation of projects	Degree of satisfaction of beneficiaries (scale 1 to 5)	4.1	2014	Increase	Closure reports of selected operations	2019 - 2023

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.2	Ensure the smooth and effective management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme	<p>This specific objective aims to provide a smooth and effective management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme in order to secure its performance by achieving the target values of the selected output indicators as well as avoiding any financial decommitment. The high quality standard in terms of programme management and monitoring demonstrated in the previous period is maintained to ensure that this goal can be fulfilled.</p> <p>The Programme sets up and follows a monitoring and evaluation framework as well as a risk management strategy to ensure that the result-oriented approach is embedded throughout Programme implementation and that the European Commission is provided with due evidence of tangible changes on the ground in 2019 and at the end of the programming period.</p> <p>A management and control system also provides adequate insight in the regularity and quality of the supported actions with as little administrative burden to beneficiaries and programme bodies as possible. This contributes to assuring that the outputs and results of supported actions are relevant and also ensures the proper use of community funding distributed by the programme.</p>

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		5.2 - Ensure the smooth and effective management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
5.2	Satisfaction of Programme beneficiaries about Programme management with regard to project implementation	Degree of satisfaction of beneficiaries (scale 1 to 5)	3.9	2014	Increase	Closure reports of selected operations	2019 - 2023

2.B.5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.5.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	5 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types of actions to be supported <p>Developing the following list of actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upstream actions to attract relevant potential stakeholders in cooperation projects• Administrative, financial and content-related advice and support to potential applicants• Evaluation of applications, preparation of approval decisions and contracting of approved projects• Monitoring and control of selected operations and the programme as a whole• Capitalisation and dissemination of the results of the programme• Implementing the financial management of the programme• Preparation and support to the Monitoring Committee• Organisation of meetings and events for applicants, partners, auditors, experts, Members States and others to inform and exchange about aspects of the programme <p>Among the tasks co-financed by technical assistance, some of them will be directly used for the enhancement of the administration capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of the programme, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop upstream actions to attract relevant potential stakeholders	

- Provide administrative, financial and content-related advise to applicants
- Provide pre-submission support to potential applicants

Several tools will support these objectives, such as:

- an internal contact database that covers all programme themes from the start of the programme
- an online project development tool to help organisations finding cross-border partners, dedicated programme events (e.g. cooperation fair) where relevant stakeholders can meet in relation to project development.

Projects applicants in the first years of the programming period are invited to take into due consideration where relevant the lessons drawn from the thematic clusters and capitalisation activities undertaken during the period 2007-2013.

The implementation of these tasks is set to involve expenditure in relation to staff from the Joint Secretariat and the territorial facilitators, office costs, external expertise, equipment, website design and maintenance, printing and translations, etc.

Technical assistance funding shall also be used to support the Managing Authority in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation with the definition and the implementation of effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified, as foreseen by article 125 of Regulation

Priority axis	5 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
<p>(EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected contribution to the corresponding specific objective <p>This priority addresses activities necessary for the effective and smooth management and implementation of the programme. It focuses on developing the administrative capacity of beneficiaries, public authorities and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>This essentially means support to a competent and efficient day-to-day implementation structure that manages the flow of information between the bodies involved, prepares the decision making, and oversees the information collected and its use in the programme management. Technical assistance will basically support the implementation of tasks by the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat, as well as territorial facilitation.</p> <p>Supporting applicants with pro-active project development, delivery and monitoring helps to improve the quality and effectiveness of interventions on the ground and thereby contributes to the effective implementation of the programme as a whole. Effective financial management and monitoring and programme governance are prerequisites of successful programme delivery.</p>	

2.B.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

Table 11: Output indicators

Priority axis		5 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE		
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data
5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	Number	31.00	Programme Monitoring System
5.1.2	Number of cross-border applications submitted to the Programme	Number	307.00	Programme Monitoring System
5.1.3	Number of cross-border cooperation operations selected	Number	133.00	Programme Monitoring System
5.1.4	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number		Programme monitoring system
5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	Number	931.00	Programme Monitoring System
5.2.2	ERDF decommitted from the Programme	€	0.00	Programme Monitoring System

2.B.6 Categories of intervention

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 12-14: Categories of intervention

Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	5 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Code	Amount (€)
121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	14,388,922.00
122. Evaluation and studies	350,000.00
123. Information and communication	660,000.00

Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	5 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Code	Amount (€)
01.Non-repayable grant	15,398,922.00

Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	5 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Code	Amount (€)
07.Not applicable	15,398,922.00

3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in €)

Table 15

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
ERDF	0.00	31,317,456.00	26,544,105.00	48,230,482.00	49,195,092.00	50,178,993.00	51,182,574.00			256,648,702.00
Total	0.00	31,317,456.00	26,544,105.00	48,230,482.00	49,195,092.00	50,178,993.00	51,182,574.00	0.00	0.00	256,648,702.00

3.2.A Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in €)

Table 16: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	100% CO-FINANCING RATE FOR ACCOUNTING YEAR 2020-2021 (3)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)				Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
1	ERDF	Total	121,429,705.00	65,385,226.00	58,846,704.00	6,538,522.00	186,814,931.00	64.9999999197%		0	0
2	ERDF	Total	41,890,425.00	22,556,382.00	21,428,563.00	1,127,819.00	64,446,807.00	65.0000006983%		0	0
3	ERDF	Total	43,424,163.00	23,382,242.00	22,213,130.00	1,169,112.00	66,806,405.00	64.9999996258%		0	0
4	ERDF	Total	34,505,487.00	18,579,877.00	17,650,883.00	928,994.00	53,085,364.00	65.0000007535%		0	0
5	ERDF	Public	15,398,922.00	5,591,075.00	5,591,075.00		20,989,997.00	73.3631453116%		0	0
Total	ERDF		256,648,702.00	135,494,802.00	125,730,355.00	9,764,447.00	392,143,504.00	65.4476484711%			
Grand total			256,648,702.00	135,494,802.00	125,730,355.00	9,764,447.00	392,143,504.00	65.4476484711%		0	0

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

(3) By ticking the box the Member State requests to apply, pursuant to Article 25a(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, a co-financing rate of 100% to expenditure declared in payment applications during the accounting year starting on 1 July 2020 and ending on 30 June 2021 for all /some of the priority axes of the operational programme.

3.2.B Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

Table 17

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
1	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	121,429,705.00	65,385,226.00	186,814,931.00
2	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	41,890,425.00	22,556,382.00	64,446,807.00
3	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	43,424,163.00	23,382,242.00	66,806,405.00
4	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	34,505,487.00	18,579,877.00	53,085,364.00
Total without REACT-EU		241,249,780.00	129,903,727.00	371,153,507.00
Total REACT-EU		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		241,249,780.00	129,903,727.00	371,153,507.00

Table 18: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
1	14,571,564.60	5.68%
2	41,890,425.00	16.32%
3	43,424,163.00	16.92%
4	4,600,731.60	1.79%
Total	104,486,884.20	40.71%

4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

The main needs, bottlenecks and potentials to be addressed are described under Section 1 of this Programme. In this respect, the strategy focuses on the ‘obstacles’ (*bottlenecks* deriving from the combination of strengths and threats) and ‘potentials’ (possible solutions deriving from the combination of future opportunities and present weaknesses) to maximise the efficiency of the programme.

Territorial organisation and dynamics have been fully analysed, as already illustrated in Section 1 in the report on the situation and SWOT analysis and the methodological note of the ex-ante evaluators

In particular, concerning territorial organisation, the proximity to big cities, infrastructures and markets have been considered for the research and innovation performance. Territorial differences (e.g. between coastal and inland areas) have been taken into account to assess the environmental impacts and the vulnerability to climate change. Moreover, the uneven impact of economic crisis at local and regional, also highlighted by the DG Regio Economic and Social Cohesion report, has been considered to map the new challenges of territorial polarisation and to design the actions and objectives of the CP.

Considering the above, the use of specific instruments related to integrated approaches, in particular community-led local development instruments, does not appear appropriate for the achievement of the specific objectives within this cross-border cooperation area for the following reasons:

- the size of projects partnerships and their geographical representativeness within the eligible area calls into question the relevance of local development groups and the establishment of dedicated strategies
- the local territorial dimension of most of the selected thematic objectives is relatively low

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

No community-led local development is planned under the CP

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the ERDF support for these actions

No action for sustainable urban development is planned under the CP

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF support

Indicative amount of ERDF support (€) without REACT-EU
0.00

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

No integrated territorial investments are planned under the CP

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total	0.00

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant

Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)

(Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional and sea basin strategies)

In November 2011, a communication from the European Commission (EC) in response to a request from the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament established a maritime strategy for growth and jobs to develop for the Atlantic Ocean area. This strategy falls within the scope of the EU integrated maritime policy, which aims to coordinate all EU policies with a maritime dimension to ensure environmental sustainability and the quality of living conditions in coastal regions while promoting the growth potential of maritime industries.

The area related to the Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Area encompasses the coasts, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States - including France and the United Kingdom, as well as international waters fall within the strategy's scope.

The 2 Seas eligible area overlaps with this Atlantic area only for a minor part of the territory, being on the other hand more oriented to the North Sea area (notably coastal zones of Netherlands, Flanders and South-East England do not belong to the Atlantic area).

The strategy for the Atlantic area emphasizes in particular the great potential for 'blue growth' existing in this area, especially in terms of renewable energy, raw materials, food security, etc.

Nevertheless, there are some common concerns and challenges. Thus, the future 2 Seas programme strategy addresses a certain number of issues which are central to the Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Area (e.g. blue growth, regional clustering of maritime activities, renewable marine energy, sustainable marine biotechnology, integrated management of coastal zones and also better addressing some societal challenges) and will therefore to some extent contribute to the achievement of the strategy's objectives in these thematic areas.

The CP can contribute to the Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area on some key thematic areas, such as:

- Implementing the ecosystem approach (management of human activities that must deliver healthy and productive ecosystem) through an operational and / or strategic relation.;
- Reducing Europe's carbon footprint.
- Promoting a sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic seafloor's natural resources, through a strategic and / operational relation for all the SOs.

- Providing an improvement in the capacity to react to emergencies and risks associated to climate change.
- Promoting a socially inclusive growth,

It has to be mentioned that there is a separate coordination mechanism for the Atlantic Strategy ("The Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan") launched by DG MARE in 2014 to which the 2 Seas programme will contribute where relevant.

Coordination will be ensured through exchange of information between the Managing authority, with the assistance of the Joint Secretariat and the facilitation network, and the focal points set up within each participating MS in the Atlantic Strategy, where relevant. This exchange of information shall lead to a better consideration of the key thematic areas identified under the sub-section 4.4 in particular in the definition of calls for proposals and in the selection of operations where appropriate.

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 21: Programme authorities

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
Managing authority	Conseil Régional Hauts-de-France	M. Xavier Bertrand	151, avenue du Président Hoover - 59555 Lille Cedex - France	gilles.grienbaum@hautsdefrance.fr
Certifying authority	Provinciebedrijf Oost-Vlaanderen	Marie-Paule BOONE	Woodrow Wilsonplein 2 Vierde verdieping – lokaal 417 9000 Gent	marie-paule.boone@oost-vlaanderen.be
Audit authority	Commission Interministérielle de Coordination des Contrôles des actions cofinancées par les Fonds structurels (CICC)	Mme Martine MARIGEAUD	5 Place des Vins de France 75012 PARIS France	martine.marigeaud@finances.gouv.fr

The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:

- the Managing authority
 the Certifying authority

Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Auditdienst Rijk (ADR)	Mr. J.N.H.M (Jan) Durenkamp	Korte Voorhout 7, 2511 CW Den Haag	m.l.a.witte@minfin.nl
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Flemish Audit authority for European Structural Funds	Tony Mortier	Koning Albert II laan 35 bus 12 1030 Brussel	william.noppe@vlaanderen.be
Body or bodies	Government	Jane George	Government	kevin.keltie@giaa.gov.uk

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Internal Audit Agency (GIAA)		t Internal Audit Agency 1 Horse Guards London SW1A 2HQ	
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Région Hauts-de-France	Touhami GHERISSI	151 Avenue du Président Hoover 59555 LILLE CEDEX	touhami.gherissi@hautsdefrance.fr
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Agentschap innoveren en ondernemen	David Grzegorzewski	Koning Albert II laan 35 bus 12 1030 Brussel	david.grzegorzewski@vlaio.be
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Department for Communities and Local GOvernment	Sam Lucas	1 st Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1 P 4DF	sam.lucas@communities.gsi.gov.uk
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Ministerie van Economische Zaken, Directie RRE	Felix Netten	Prins Clauslaan 8, 2595 AJ Den Haag	f.p.netten@minezk.nl
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Région Hauts-de-France	Amandine DUPONT	151 Avenue du Président Hoover 59555 LILLE CEDEX	amandine.dupont@hautsdefrance.fr

5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

For the implementation of the programme and in compliance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the Managing Authority (MA), the Monitoring Committee (MC) and where appropriate the Audit Authority (AA) are assisted by a Joint Secretariat (JS) to carry out their respective functions.

Arrangements are already in place at the time of programme submission because implementation arrangements are based on the 2007-2013 programming period. The JS is set up after consultation with the MS under the legal responsibility of the MA and is funded from Technical Assistant (TA) budget. The JS is supervised by the MA

Joint Secretariat location: Lille (France)

Joint Secretariat host institution: European Economic Interest Group (EEIG) GECOTTI (France)

The EEIG-GECOTTI, body established by the Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais and Région Wallonie (BE), is the legal employer of the JS team.

The JS will become fully operational as soon as the CP is approved by the EC and the Technical Assistance (TA) budget has been approved by the MC.

5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

The following paragraphs provide a brief description of the arrangements for the management and control of the 2 Seas cross-border CP. The arrangements described here will be further detailed and formalised in a separate management and control system description.

5.3.1. Joint implementation structure of the programme

The 2 Seas CP 2014-2020 shall be implemented through the following main implementation structures: a Managing Authority, a Certifying Authority, a Joint Secretariat, a Monitoring Committee, an Audit Authority, a Group of Auditors.

- **Role and tasks of the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat**

With decision of 28 February 2013, the four MS designated the Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais (France) to act as Managing Authority (MA) as defined in Article 123 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The MA, assisted by the Joint Secretariat (JS), is responsible for managing the CP in accordance with the principle of sound financial management as described in Article 125 of Regulation (UE) No 1303/2013 and Article 23 of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

The JS assists the Programme authorities referred above in 5.2 in carrying out their respective functions and especially:

- to prepare, implement and follow-up decisions of the MC, to organise the MC meetings;
- to liaise with the implementing authorities and the EC, to ensure that the relevant implementation reports and any other relevant information is made available to them;
- to cooperate with organisations, institutions and networks relevant for the objectives of the programme;
- to distribute information and publicise the programme, its various components and its projects, including running a programme website and undertaking programme dissemination ;

- to draw up and implement the Programme communication strategy;
 - to draw up and implement the Programme evaluation plan;
 - to establish a programme database and project online monitoring system to provide data in computerised form necessary for the monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit;
 - to develop for approval by the MC a transparent selection procedure, selection criteria, terms of reference for the calls for applications, application pack including funding rules;
 - to manage the project application process for all projects, including providing information and advice to applicants (e.g. by means of an applicants' pack), checking, assessing applications on the basis of approved criteria and procedure, and informing partners on MC recommendations and decisions;
 - to assist and organise activities to support project generation and development;
 - to monitor commitments and payments of ERDF funds at CP level by categories of intervention;
 - to provide advice and assistance to projects regarding implementation of activities and financial administration;
 - to monitor progress made by projects through collecting and checking reports, monitoring outputs, results and financial implementation;
 - to ensure that payments to projects are made within the agreed timeframe;
 - to support the MA in setting up a coherent programme management and control system ensuring the legality, regularity of declared expenditure and the respect of the principle of sound financial management and liaise with first level controllers designated by the programme partner states to carry out the verifications pursuant to Article 23 (4) of the ETC regulation (EU) No 1299/2013;
 - to support the MA in drawing up the management declaration of assurance on the functioning of the management control system;
 - when necessary to support the MA in managing the TA budget (accounting, procurement, payments, reporting);
 - to fulfil the usual work of a programme JS, i.e. organisation of meetings, preparation of documents, drafting of minutes, etc.;
 - to liaise with the body carrying out the functions of the CA and to make all relevant data available to them;
 - to support the AA and the GoA: organisation and following up of meetings, following up of members' lists, following the procurement procedure for the externalisation of audits, ensure a good communication flow between the audit authority, the group of auditors members, audited projects and the external audit firm, making relevant data available to these actors to allow for a smooth implementation of their tasks;
 - to undertake any other necessary tasks as required by the Programme authorities and in line with the applicable regulatory framework.
- **Role and tasks of the Certifying Authority**

The Certifying Authority (CA) will act in compliance with the provisions of Article 126 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

A specific agreement will be signed between the MA and CA highlighting the provisions to be fulfilled in order to ensure a sound and effective delivery of the tasks foreseen by

article 126 of the CPR. Further details about the operational procedures to be followed by the CA will be included in a separate guidance as well as in the management and control system description.

The CA shall also ensure that amounts recovered will be repaid to the general budget of the Union prior to the closure of the CP by deducting them from the following statement of expenditure.

- **Role and tasks of the Audit Authority**

According to Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the Audit Authority (AA) is located in the same MS of the MA. In compliance with the administrative provisions in France for the audit of actions co-financed by the European Structural Funds, the “*Commission Interministérielle de Coordination des Contrôles des Opérations co-financées par les Fonds Européens*” (CICC) will act as AA and carry out the functions provided for in Article 127 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Based on article 127 of the Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, the AA will ensure that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of the management and control system of the operational programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure.

The AA will, within eight months of adoption of the CP, prepare an audit strategy for performance of audits in compliance with the provisions set by Article 127.4. The AA will submit the audit strategy to the Commission upon request.

In line with the provisions set by Article 127.5, the AA will draw up:

1. an audit opinion
2. a control report setting out the main findings of the audits carried out in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 127.

The control report under point (b) will set out any deficiencies found in the management and control system and any corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken.

The models for the audit strategy, the audit opinion and the annual control report, as well as the methodology for the sampling method will strictly stick to those defined in implementing acts adopted by the Commission in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 150(2).

The AA could also be invited to participate in programme strategic meetings, especially MC meetings, in order to promote information share (for example about AA and GoA work) and to provide a better understanding of the auditors’ view on the programme.

• **Role and tasks of the Group of Auditors**

In accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the MS agree that the AA will not be authorised to carry out directly the audit functions in the whole territory of the programme. As a consequence of this, the AA will be assisted by a Group of Auditors (GoA) composed of a representative of each MS participating in the CP carrying out the functions provided for in Article 127 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Each MS shall be responsible for the audits carried out on its territory.

As a consequence, the representatives have to be entitled to participate in decision-making within the GoA on behalf of the respective MS and be from a unit independent from the MC members, the controllers designated according to Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and any project's activities and finances. The auditors will be functionally independent of controllers who carry out verifications under Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

The GoA shall be set up within three months of the decision approving the CP. It will be chaired by the AA. The GoA will draw up and approve its own rules of procedure during its first meeting.

• **Role and tasks of the Monitoring Committee**

According to Article 47 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, within three months of the date of notification of the decision adopting a programme, the MS will set up a committee to monitor implementation of the CP, in agreement with the Managing Authority. The Monitoring Committee (MC) will draw up and adopt its rules of procedure during its first MC meeting.

The MC shall undertake the tasks foreseen by Article 49 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The MC will also examine and approve:

- the methodology and criteria for selection of operations, and the eligibility rules before the launch of each call for proposals;
- the annual and final implementation reports;
- the progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to findings of evaluations;
- the implementation of the communication strategy;
- the actions to promote equality between men and women, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons;
- the actions to promote sustainable development.

Additionally, according to Article 12.1. of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, operations under CPs shall be selected by a monitoring committee as referred to in Article 47 of

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The MC may meet in a smaller group (e.g. strategic task force) from the four national delegations on an ad hoc basis to discuss about specific issues impacting the Programme at strategic level and thus make proposals for the approval of the Monitoring Committee in areas as for instances recommendations on concept notes, payments interruptions, evaluation, actions to ensure compliance with the Performance Framework. In such cases a clear mandate, the transparency of proceedings and the reporting to the Monitoring Committee will be ensured. Moreover, a representative from the European Commission will be invited to participate in an advisory capacity in the strategic task force meetings.

Every MS is free to decide its representatives in the MC and related sub-groups. MS should involve partners in the preparatory meetings, in particular through their participation in coordination committees at national level organised in the participating MS.

The MC will manage the selection of projects during its plenary meetings. It could be envisaged that the proceedings are split into two sessions: strategic issues and projects decision.

The MC will also validate the management and control system description that will form the basis for the designation of authorities according to Article 124 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

With regard to the tasks of the MC, it will be ensured that decisions of the MC will be free from bias and must not be influenced by partial personal and/or organisational interest of any of the individual members of this committee. The MC will set out the details of this procedure in the MC Rules of Procedure.

5.3.2. Organisation of the assessment and selection of operations

Applicants will be offered a gradual system in view of submitting a full application form as part of calls for proposals as mentioned under 2.A.6.2. The terms of reference as well as the details of the application package and selection procedure will be made available to the public.

This system is intended to rationalise the time and energy on both sides (applicants and programme bodies) and to ensure that submitted applications will be as much as possible in line with 2 Seas programme result-orientation, expectations and higher requirements for 2014-2020.

During the development of their project, applicants will be required to submit a Concept Note prior to the submission of the Application Form (AF).

The Concept Note allows MS to have an overall strategic vision and strategic steering of the programme development. Although no decision is made by the MS at this stage, the

recommendations should be clear enough to help project applicants decide whether or not it is worth developing a full Application Form.

All project applications are submitted to the JS and are made available to the members of the MC

The JS and the MS checks the eligibility and admissibility of applications for funding in particular checking compliance with applicable Regulations and any specific programme rules.

The JS organises the assessment of these applications based on the quality criteria approved by the MC.

The five processes of the project selection phase are:

- Quality assessment of concept note
- MS consolidation on concept notes
- Eligibility and admissibility assessment of application forms
- Quality assessment of application forms
- Decision process and notification on application forms

For each application for funding, a single assessment report is drafted. The application is assessed against several categories of selection criteria which will be as much as possible in line with the standardized format proposed by INTERACT as part of the Harmonised Implementation Tools working group. These criteria fall into several categories (formal, strategic-related, implementation-related, etc.)

The project selection criteria will be set out in detail in a separate document, and will be adopted by the MC during its first meeting. They will be included in the information and funding request document/packs sent to potential applicants and will be taken into account in evaluation.

All assessment reports are submitted to the MC for its final decision.

In order to avoid any weakness in the decision process (e.g. referral back due to technical issues and potential conflict of interest issues), the following aspects will be clearly defined before the selection of the first operations:

- Selection criteria
- Perimeter of a conflict of interest
- Intervention of external experts, where relevant.

Project lead applicants are informed in writing about the reasons why an application was not eligible or approved.

5.3.3. Arrangements for the examination of complaints

Any questions in relation to the assessments will be examined and answered by the MA/JS. If needed, remaining complaints will be examined and answered jointly by the chair of the MC and the MA/JS. The chair may decide to refer back a complaint to the MC, should s/he judge it necessary. An overview of complaints examined and answered by the chair of the MC and MA/JS will be provided to the MC in the following meeting.

The same complaint procedure as described above may also apply to other stages of the project implementation controlled by programme bodies.

If deemed necessary, the MC may also decide to set up a separate Complaint Panel, with specific rules of procedures and representatives.

Further details about the Programme arrangements for the examinations of complaints will be provided in the management and control system description.

5.3.4. Procedure for the signature of the document setting out the conditions of support “subsidy contract”

Following the decision of the MC for project-related expenditure, the MA will use a standard form of subsidy contract and lays down further details concerning the responsibilities and liabilities of the beneficiaries. The subsidy contract is signed by the Managing Authority (MA) and the project lead beneficiary (hereinafter referred to as Lead Partner or LP).

In cases where the MA exercise its right to interrupt the subsidy contract, all MS will be informed prior to such decision and given the possibility to provide their opinions following the partnership principle between both sides. The MC will be formally informed of the interruption of a subsidy contract during the following meeting.

The MA shall ensure that the subsidy contracts clearly states that the LP and the project partners (hereinafter referred to as PP) will produce all documents, provide necessary information and give access to their business premises to any authorised body of the EU, the MS or to the AA, the CA, the MA or JS for control and audit purposes in compliance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The subsidy contracts make reference to the control systems set up by the MS in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

5.3.5. Projects implementing and reporting provisions

Once approved by the MC, projects will be assisted and monitored by Technical Assistance in order to successfully deliver in line with the performance requirements.

Approved projects will set up a monitoring plan to identify the key moments of their implementation as well as to set up their reporting schedule.

A system of ongoing and preventative monitoring shall be put in place. In case of deviations from the foreseen plan, measures may be put in place to ensure the projects performance as well as to minimize the impact at Programme level.

In compliance with the Lead Partner principle, beneficiaries will be entitled to report, in specific financial claims, the expenditure checked by their first level controllers. They will also be asked to regularly report on the activities incurred from the approval of the project to its closure.

Projects will also be required to comply with the applicable EU, national and Programme regulations concerning the eligibility of expenditure and specific fields such as public procurement, communication, durability, state aids.

Further details about the processes and procedures in place are provided in the management and control system description as well as in the Programme Manual.

5.3.6 Financial control of beneficiaries

In accordance with Article 23 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and considering that the MA cannot carry out verifications under Article 125 (4) (a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 throughout the whole programme area, each MS designates the bodies or persons ('controller(s)') responsible for carrying out such verifications in relation to beneficiaries on its territory.

The MS, represented by their respective national authority, shall be strongly involved in the designation, but also the training and evaluation of the first level controllers. The JS assists the MS in the training.

Each MS submits also to the MA a detailed description of the control system set up using the form provided by the MA/JS. The full description will be included in the description of the management and control system or in a specific document in accordance with Article 52 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. When assessing this document the AA is authorized to request complementary information from the MS.

The MS shall without delay inform the MA of any changes of responsible body and the control system set up.

The cost for these verifications will be either carried by the MS or by the beneficiaries. In the latter case, these costs can in principle be considered eligible for an ERDF-reimbursement and thus reported within the project.

In order to ensure coherence among controllers from all countries participating in the programme, standard documents (such as standard control confirmation, control reports incl. checklist) will be decided by the MC and used as minimum requirements across all MS.

With regard to TA, concerning expenditure managed by the GECOTTI, the MA ensures that the expenditure is certified in line with the control set up by the French MS. Concerning the expenditure of territorial facilitation managed by the host organisations, the expenditure will be certified in line with the control system set up by each MS.

Each MS shall put in place adequate measure to check the quality of their first level control systems. The result of any these verifications of the proper functioning of the first level control system carried out by the MS shall be communicated to the MA/JS for coordination purposes (and follow-up action if necessary).

Additionally, quality controls will also be performed by the CA and MA in order to make sure that the whole system is reliable. The Managing Authority will also define and implement effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified, as foreseen by article 125 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Further details are provided in the management and control system description.

The MA/JS will also inform the MS of the results and follow-up of any checks carried out by other programme bodies or the EC or European Court of Auditors.

5.3.7. Mobilisation and circulation of financial flows

The contribution of the various partners to the financing of the programme

The CA administers the ERDF funding of the programme as well as the national contributions to the Technical Assistance (TA) budget which amounts to € 20 989 997. Separate accounts will be set up within 3 months after the approval of the operational programme: one for TA contributions and one for the ERDF funding.

Each MS will transfer its TA contribution in several instalments in line with the provisions set in the agreement signed by each MS.

Main stages of Community funding from the MA/CA to the Lead Partners

All projects have to be pre-financed by the project partners. The Lead Partner (LP) collects the certified declarations of expenditure of all project partners and makes a claim for reimbursement to the CA.

Pursuant to Article 21 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Article 132 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the CA undertakes the payment of the ERDF contribution to the LPs, on the basis of an order of payment issued by the MA. The CA ensures that the LPs receive payment in full and as quickly as possible, i.e. within 6 weeks on average after approval of the reports by the MA/JS provided that the funds are made available by the EC. No unjustified deduction, retention or further specific charges which would reduce the amount of the payment shall be made. It is up to the LPs to forward the ERDF contribution to the PPs as set out in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

5.3.8. Coordination among the members of the group of auditors and implementation of audits

Beyond the information provided in sub-section 5.3.1. above, the AA, in agreement with the GoA (and the MC for the budgetary provisions) may decide to contract an external audit firm for the implementation of the audits of projects. The result of such checks and controls will be sent to the MA/JS for coordination purposes and the MC will be informed of the results of the audit work and necessary follow-up. The coordination among the members of the GoA with regard to the above will be formalised in the rules of procedure of the GoA, in the audit strategy and in the management and control system description.

5.3.9. Programme monitoring

The monitoring of this CP will provide information on the implementation at any given time. It will cover financial issues and achieved results considering the targets fixed for the different milestones in the performance framework.

Monitoring will encourage high quality, effective implementation by monitoring the progress of the projects against the goals and intended results of the programme. Monitoring will be mainly based on regular reports from the projects and on regular meetings between projects and JS staff. A preventive approach will also be implemented in order to secure as much as possible the sound and smooth implementation of projects activities.

The monitoring system will provide the information as required in the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, in particular under Article 50.

In its Section 2, the current CP document specifies a set of indicators for monitoring and evaluating its progress. They relate directly to the different specific objectives of the programme. In particular, results indicators are the cornerstone of the performance analysis of the programme. They relate to parts of the intended results that can be captured.

Projects will be obliged to report regularly on the effects and tangible results achieved by the cooperation actions developed by the partnerships. They will be required in these progress reports to provide strong evidence of tangible effects of their actions, and in the

end of the real contribution to output indicators and more globally to the intended results of the relevant specific objective.

The JS will collect and compile the data stemming from these progress reports in order to allow for conclusions on the programme level. The MA will use this documentation – together with additional information on the financial implementation – to draft the Annual and Final Reports and submit them to the MC. The MA will be responsible for implementing this whole system.

5.3.10. Annual and final implementation reports

In accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 1299/2013, by 31 May 2016 and by the same date of each subsequent year until and including 2023, the managing authority shall submit to the Commission an annual implementation report in accordance with Article 50(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The implementation report submitted in 2016 shall cover the financial years 2014 and 2015, as well as the period between the starting date for eligibility of expenditure and 31 December 2013.

For the reports submitted in 2017 and 2019, the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 shall be 30 June.

Annual implementation reports will set out information on:

1. implementation of the CP in accordance with Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013;
2. where appropriate, progress in preparation and implementation of major projects and joint action plans.

The annual implementation reports submitted in 2017 and 2019 shall set out and assess the information required under Articles 50(4) and (5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 respectively and the information set out in paragraph 2 of this Article together with the following information:

1. progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations;
2. the results of the information and publicity measures carried out under the communication strategy;
3. the involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CP.

The annual implementation reports submitted in 2017 and 2019 may, subject to the content and objectives of each CP, set out information on and assess the following:

1. progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the CP;
2. progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF;
3. where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies;
4. the specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of gender perspective in the CP and operations;
5. actions taken to promote sustainable development;
6. progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation.

The annual and final implementation reports shall be drawn up following models adopted by the EC by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 150(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The MA will submit to the EC each year from 2016 until and including 2023, an annual report on implementation of the programme in the previous financial year

They will be approved by the MC before they are sent out to the EC.

Annual implementation reports will set out information on implementation of the programme and its priorities by reference to the financial data, common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values, including changes in the value of result indicators, and, beginning from the annual implementation report to be submitted in 2017, the milestones defined in the performance framework. The data transmitted shall relate to values for indicators for fully activities and also, where possible, having regard to the stage of implementation, for more recently selected operations.

They will also set out a synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, any issue which affect the performance of the programme, and the measures taken.

The annual implementation report submitted in 2019 and the final implementation report will include additionally information on and assess progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme and its contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

5.3.11. Evaluation

The programme has been subject to an ex-ante evaluation of independent evaluators with the aim of improving the overall quality of the programme and to optimise the allocation of budgetary resources and the quantification of target values in the performance framework.

The recommendations of this evaluation have been taken into account during the drafting of this programme, as described in Annex 1 of the current document.

In accordance with Articles 56 and 114 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the MA will draw up an evaluation plan for the programme. The evaluation plan will be submitted to the MC no later than one year after the adoption of the programme.

One or several evaluations will be carried out to assess effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme on the basis of the evaluation plan and in coherence also with what is proposed in the SEA report, and that each evaluation is subject to appropriate follow-up in accordance with the Fund-specific rules. At least once during the programming period, according to Article 56 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, an evaluation shall assess how support from the ESI Funds has contributed to the objectives for each priority. All evaluations will be examined by the monitoring committee and sent to the Commission. Due attention will be paid to horizontal principles.

In addition, a capitalisation process will be part and parcel of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework that the Programme will define and launch in the early stage of its implementation. Due attention will be paid to the importance of better capturing the durability, follow-up and uptake of project outputs and results to demonstrate how the Programme has contributed to the change in the area, but also to provide evidence that concretely demonstrates how the territories are benefitting from the Programme intervention.

MA will submit to the Commission a report summarising the findings of evaluations carried out during the programming period, including an assessment of the main outputs and results of the programme, providing comments on the reported information.

5.3.12. The computerised exchange of data

In accordance with Article 72 of Regulation (UE) No 1303/2013, the computerized system for the management and monitoring of programme and project data will be set up no later than 31 December 2015.

Online project reporting system will also be set up in compliance with the requirements set out in Article 112 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. This system will allow all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and the MA, CA, AA to be carried out by means of electronic data exchange systems. The system will facilitate interoperability and allow for the beneficiaries to submit all information as referred to in Article 112 only once.

The development of the programme's computerized system will take into consideration the database developed in the context of the predecessor programme.

5.3.13. Communication strategy, publicity and information

In line with Article 116 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the communication strategy will be submitted to the monitoring committee for approval in accordance with point (d) of Article 110(2) no later than six months after the adoption of the operational programme or programmes concerned.

The MA will inform the monitoring committee at least once a year on the progress in the implementation of the communication strategy as referred to in point (c) of Article 110(1) and on its analysis of the results as well as on the planned information and communication activities to be carried out in the following year.

The MA will designate one person to be responsible for information and communication at CP level and shall inform the EC of those designated. This person shall participate in any network(s) set up by the EC to exchange on the results of the implementation of the communication strategy, as per Article 117(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The interaction between the person(s) responsible for information and communication at programme level and in each MS will be defined in the communication strategy.

The communication strategy will be implemented by the communication team in the JS, under the direction of the programme director and the MAy. It will work in partnership with the MS and other bodies identified in Annex XII of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. In particular, the programme MS will support the communication activities through providing, where necessary, national specific information including on potential beneficiaries; providing a point of contact for potential applicants; ensuring wide dissemination of programme information; organising national events.

A budget for the implementation of the communication strategy will be made available as part of the programme's budget for TA, in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

The communication strategy aims in particular to inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under this CP and to publicise to citizens the role and achievements of cohesion policy, through information and communication actions on the results and impacts of the programmes and projects. It will take into consideration the elements detailed in Annex XII of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

To ensure transparency in the support of the funds, a list of projects with at least the information set out in Annex XII (1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 will be published on the programme website, updated at least every six months, and exportable in a format which allows the data to be sorted, searched, extracted, compared and easily published on the internet.

5.4 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

5.4.1. Reduction and recovery of payments from beneficiaries

The MA shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the project via the LP. PPs shall repay the LP of any amounts unduly paid. The MA shall also recover funds from the LP (and the LP from the PP) following a termination of the subsidy contract in full or in part based on the conditions defined in it.

If the LP does not succeed in securing repayment from another PP or if the MA does not succeed in securing repayment from the LP or sole beneficiary, the MS, depending on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is located or, in the case of an EGTC, is registered, will reimburse the MA any amounts unduly paid to that beneficiary based on Article 27 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

Details on the procedure will be included in the description of the management and control system to be established in accordance with Article 72 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. In parallel to / after reimbursement of the irrecoverable amount by the MS to the MA, the MS holds the right to secure repayment from the PP or sole beneficiary located on its territory, if necessary through legal action. For this purpose the MA and the LP shall assign their rights arising from the subsidy contract and the partnership agreement to the MS in question.

The MA shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the general budget of the Union in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States as laid down in the CP, in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

With regard to financial irregularities being the subject of a EC decision on the basis of Articles 144 to 147 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, financial consequences for the Member States are laid down in the section “liabilities and irregularities” below. Any related exchange of correspondence between the EC and a MS will be copied to the MA/JS. The latter will inform the CA and the AA/GoA where relevant.

5.4.2. Liabilities and irregularities

The MS will bear liability in connection with the use of the programme ERDF funding as follows:

- for project-related expenditure granted to PPs located on its territory, liability will be born individually by each MS;
- in case of a systemic irregularity or financial correction (the latter decided by the EC), the MS will bear the financial consequences in proportion to the relevant irregularity detected on the respective MS territory. Where the systemic irregularity or financial correction cannot be linked to a specific MS territory, the

MS shall be responsible in proportion to the ERDF contribution paid to the respective national PPs involved;

- for the technical assistance expenditure:
 - Each MS will bear joint liability proportionally to their respective share in the technical assistance budget, for consequences of any decision supported by MS; MS decisions are stated in each committee's decision notes.
 - In case of technical assistance budget directly managed by a MS, this MS will bear full liability for this expenditure.
 - In case of technical assistance budget managed by the MA/GECOTTI, the MA bears full liability for this expenditure as it is linked to the GECOTTI through a contract.
 - If the MA/JS, the CA or any MS becomes aware of irregularities, it shall without any delay inform the liable MS or the MA/JS. The latter will ensure the transmission of information to the CA and AA/GoA, where relevant.

In compliance with Article 143 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, each MS is responsible for reporting irregularities committed by beneficiaries located on its territory to the EC and at the same time to the MA. Each MS shall keep the EC as well as the MA informed of any progress of related administrative and legal proceedings. The MA will ensure the transmission of information to the CA and AA.

If the MS does not comply with its duties arising from these provisions, the MA is entitled to suspend payments to all PPs located on the territory of this MS.

5.5 Use of the Euro (where appropriate)

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

In accordance with (b) of Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, and by way of derogation from Article 133 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro shall be converted into euro by the beneficiaries in the month during which expenditure was submitted for verification to the managing authority or the controller in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

5.6 Involvement of partners

Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the monitoring committee

5.6.1. Summary of the process of the preparation of the CP, with a specific focus on partnership, including:

- Authority which has coordinated the preparation of the OP and the public institutions directly involved in this process

The programme preparation process took place during more than two years starting in June 12 with the setting up of the Programme Preparation Group (PPG) for the preparation of the CP and closed in Sept. 14 with the submission for the EC adoption of the final draft of the programme approved by the participating MS.

The decision to establish a PPG was taken during the 8th PMC meeting on 16 April 12 in Lille by the 2 Seas MS in order to lead the preparation process of the future programme. During its first meeting held on the June 1st 12 in Lille, internal rules of procedure setting up the composition, the mission and the decision-making system were adopted (maximum of a maximum of five representatives from each country involved in the future INTERREG VA 2 Seas Programme, representatives of the EC, of the MA and JTS).

The 2 Seas JTS has been assigned the role of the Secretariat of the PPG.

The drafting process was carried out by an external consortium of consultancies selected in May 13 through a public tender in the framework of the TA budget of 2 Seas OP 2007-2013.

Beyond the compulsory independent ex-ante evaluation and the strategic environmental evaluation, the PPG decided to subcontract to external experts specific tasks, namely the situation and SWOT analysis, which were jointly carried out with the FCE programme in order to highlight commonalities and differences.

The PMC of the 2 Seas programme 2007-2013 launched a call for applications towards institutions willing to act as the future MA: the procedure was closed the 16/05/12 with the appointment of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region as the MA of the programme 2014-2020.

In total, 25 PPG meetings took place during the whole preparation process. Key documents were available in the three languages of the programme, in particular for the two rounds of consultation.

- Description of the involvement of the partners

For the preparation of the 2 Seas programme, partners have been involved through three consultation processes.

The first consultation was a restricted one targeted at key stakeholders in the four MS. It took place in Nov. and in Dec. 13.

The first strand of this consultation was the organisation of one stakeholders' consultation event in every MS (except in the UK where two events were organised considering the wide geographical scope). In total, around 70 people attended these events, as follows:

UK (Winchester) 26/11/13 => 7

UK (London) 05/12/13 => 21

NL (Amsterdam) 12/12/13 => 18

BE/Flanders (Brussels) 16/12/13 => 8

FR (Lille) 18/12/13 => 14

The second strand of this consultation was the preparation of an online survey targeting around 200 key stakeholders in the four MS. The response rate was 48%.

The second consultation was the formal public consultation which ran from Feb. 10th 14 to May 12th 14 based on a document including the draft strategy and indications of financial matters, namely the provisional total ERDF budget and its breakdown per Priority axis.

Additionally, the SEA Directive (42/2001/CEE) requires that environmental authorities and the public are consulted as part of the SEA process. A specific consultation was launched on 28th April and ended up on 28th May 14. This consultation allowed gathering Environmental Authorities opinions, in particular from Nord-Pas de Calais and Picardy prefectures, as well as comments from two other organisations (based, respectively, in Belgium and England). These observations were taken into due consideration where relevant in the Environmental report and in the CP.

- ***Selection modalities of the partners***

As set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, relevant stakeholders located within the eligible area were engaged in the CP preparation. The programme has ensured that the principles of openness and accountability, effectiveness and coherence have been applied when consulting its stakeholders.

The notification about the first survey was sent out by e-mail to around 200 people as part of the restricted consultation. The announcement of the launch of the public consultation was sent by e-mails to 5500 contacts.

The draft CP was put online on the websites of the INTERREG IVA 2 Seas programme, the MA of the 2 Seas programme and the programme national authorities.

- ***List of the partners involved***

General statistic data and representativeness

The number of contributors compared to the density of population per MS showed that all countries were fairly represented.

Types of structures represented: For the public consultation, the most represented structures by decreasing order were:

- Local authorities
- University/ research institutes
- Regional authorities
- Organisations representing the business community
- Social-related organisations

More detailed lists of participants and respondents are included in sub-section 9.3.

- ***Actions taken to facilitate a wide involvement and an active participation of the partners, including in terms of accessibility***

For the restricted consultation, the MS representatives provided a list of key stakeholders covering their whole territory.

The 2 Seas CP informed partners about the launch of the public consultation process on its website and national authorities informed relevant stakeholders in their respective country.

The announcement text included a short explanatory note and the link to the Programme website for access to the consultation.

- ***Main added value of the partnership in the preparation of the CP, in particular instances where the strategic choices have been significantly influenced by partners***

In the preparation of the CP, the main added value of partners was to give their view on the relevance and clearness of the selected specific objectives, of the intended results on the ground by 2020 and of the type of actions to be supported in order to meet these objectives.

Overall, they confirmed the orientation taken by PPG members even if a few respondents expressed some concern about the limited scope for CBC, the lack of integrated approach

and the potential difficulties to have enough relevant cooperation projects on some selected topics.

- *Main results of the consultation with partners, including significant concerns, comments and recommendations raised by multiple partners.*

Restricted consultation

- Key lessons from the online survey:

The SOs were considered to be largely consistent with needs (> 80% for all SOs). It was slightly higher for SO 1.2. and SO 2.1. and slightly lower for SO 1.1. and SO 3.1. The picture was only slightly less positive when it came to looking at whether intended results are realistic, in particular for SOs 1.1., 1.3. and 3.1. The majority of respondents (between 70% and 85% depending on the SO) considered that cooperation projects could be generated on each of the SOs. Finally, there was a slightly less favourable picture when it comes to looking at the types of actions, probably due to the new character of some topics and the lack of more traditional issues for CBC among public institutions.

- Key lessons drawn from the stakeholders' engagement events

In all MS, the overall strategy was considered sufficiently clear and relevant. However, some participants expressed concern or raised questions about:

- a lack of reference to the labour market (workers mobility) and to education to a lesser extent.
- the role and ways to better engage SMEs need to be further detailed

Public consultation

Contributions were received from 150 respondents. Globally, quantitative data showed that respondents were rather positive with the proposed strategy, objectives and types of actions to be supported. Remarks and comments were taken into consideration by PPG members during the meeting held on May 22nd 14. A few of them led to some fine-tuning of the strategy.

Geographical coverage of respondents was rather well balanced, even if the Dutch participation was lower. Public bodies were largely represented with almost 100 responses but economic and social organisations were also quite active with 40 responses. Only two responses were received from National Authorities.

The overall strategy was deemed relevant for 62% of the respondents, and partly relevant for 36% of them. More in details, SOs 2.1. and 3.1. were considered slightly more relevant while SOs 1.1. and 1.2 were deemed slightly less relevant. Globally, examples

of actions to be supported met respondents' expectations, partly for 36% to 49% and fully for 21% to 28% depending on the SO. Only a limited number of respondents (5% on average) considered that it did not meet their expectations, because probably it is out of their thematic scope for some of them.

Qualitative comments related mainly to the need to have clear rules for the direct involvement of SMEs given rules on State aid, procurement and Intellectual property, the need to alleviate the administrative burden and to provide strong support to applicants.

About the clearness and relevance of the proposed strategy of the CP and its overall objective, some respondents were pleased with the strong emphasis on innovation and green activities while others lamented that the EU is losing commitment of local authorities/communities. However, under Priority axis1, targeted sectors need to be clarified according to several respondents.

Social innovation and social challenges (health, ageing, etc.) were not sufficiently described compared to other selected thematic areas. Several respondents deemed that TO No 6 is not sufficiently taken on board in its various components, in particular IPs 6c) and 6d).

Maritime and marine issues were considered in distinct manners: some respondents appreciated its horizontal dimension. For others, it is not sufficiently reflected in the priorities description.

Globally, several respondents lamented the restricted scope of eligible thematic areas, limiting mechanically the possibilities for cooperation. They also expressed their fear of higher competition among programmes in Europe addressing the same issues. Some of them lamented that there was not enough reference to shared needs, objectives and common procedures with the FCE programme.

About the degree of relevance for CBC of each of the chosen specific objectives under the four selected priority axes, respondents mentioned that:

- Strong guidance and support to applicants would be needed to achieve the targeted objectives.
- Some sectors are not at all or not clearly targeted: tourism, culture, heritage, health, forest, mobility/transport, training and apprenticeship services, regeneration, etc.
- Need to mention river catchments as they play a key role in both the adaptation to climate change and a resource-efficient economy.

A few additional actions and proposals were to some extent in line with the content of selected SOs, in particular the need to highlight (youth) unemployment as a societal challenge.

In terms of implementing provisions, the administrative workload shall be lower, more streamlined and with consistent rules across the different ETC programmes. Regarding application procedures, respondents mentioned the need to provide information sessions as early as possible and to give clear instructions for applicants and fair conditions to apply.

Discussion among MS representatives led to several amendments in the CP, such as: under Sections 1 and 2, a clearer reference is put on unemployment, in particular youth unemployment, as a major challenge for the cooperation area. Under Priority Axis 4, in the section on “Specific territories targeted”, a reference is made to river catchments. Under several priorities, a higher attention is put on the simplification of procedures for submitting applications and for the implementation of selected operations.

5.6.2. Description of how the relevant partners referred in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 will be involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CP.

During the implementation of the programme, active participation from the all types of relevant partners will be sought.

Firstly, it is carried out through the governance of the programme. Indeed, the MC of the 2 Seas Programme is set to bring together representatives from both national and regional/local levels from the participating countries, where appropriate. In addition, an even broader involvement of the regional and local level, as well as economic, research and social partners and non-governmental organisations, represented where relevant by umbrella organisations, is ensured through a national group established in all participating countries according to their own procedures. This national group may cover issues going beyond 2 Seas issues and may even deal at a higher level for cohesion policy in general.

Each national head of delegation informs the MA/JS about the setting up of a national group.

Secondly, involvement of partners is ensured through the evaluation framework of the CP. Already during the preparation of the programme, key stakeholders were involved in order to establish the programme result indicators baselines. These stakeholders are set to be involved during the implementation of the CP in order to capture the evolution of these baselines.

In general, the evaluation plan ensures their involvement whenever appropriate, notably, for instance, through the use of surveys, workshops and other participative tools, in order to inform the strategic steering of the MC.

Finally, their involvement is foreseen in the programmes events, both directly and through the use of participative tools.

In practical terms, programme authorities could take advantage of the consultation methodologies and tools used in the programme preparation phase and re-use or adapt them during the implementation phase.

The Channel Islands will be associated where possible with an observer status, in particular in selected operations.

6. COORDINATION

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the EIB, taking into account the provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF appropriations for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination in the use of these resources

- Coordination with the other ESI Funds (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD, EMFF), particularly in relation to programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal

Coordination with the intervention of European structural and investment funds is necessary, in particular with the programmes developed under the “Investment for Growth and Jobs” goal.

This coordination should be allowed through the increased vigilance of the 2 Seas programme Monitoring committee. In order to ensure coordination with its peer organisations in other ESI-funds related programmes, the Monitoring committee will take into account measures and priorities that are endorsed in regional operational programmes. To this end, dialogue and information exchange will be promoted between the 2 Seas programme national authorities and regional authorities responsible for the implementation of regional operational programmes.

Considering that the selected Investment Priorities within this CP are chosen by numerous regions within the eligible area under their “Investment for growth and jobs” goal programme, MS representatives will ensure that relevant coherence and complementarity exist between selected operations by the 2 Seas CP and those under ERDF-funded regional programmes and, if relevant, support the transfer of results from the 2 Seas programme to these programmes.

More specifically, the mechanisms for coordination are described in the Partnership Agreement of each of the MS which are part of the Programme.

With regards to the coordination between different funds and transfer of results, there are regular national meetings (from 2 meetings per year in the Netherlands and France to 2 meetings per week in Flanders). In some cases, the same authorities and even the same teams are in charge of both ERDF and ETC programmes (as it is the case of Flanders). A UK-wide group has been set up and amongst its tasks is the consideration of alignment between the ESI Funds at UK-level. Co-ordination between the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal and ETC goal will be overseen and facilitated by a cross-UK ETC Board chaired by DCLG. Furthermore regular meetings will also be held between national and regional partners as part of a wider stakeholder involvement in the 2 Seas Programme

governance to inform the member state position vis-a-vis developments in the Programme and its projects including the coordination and transfer of results between funding streams across the 2 Seas area in the UK.

Finally, the Programme Territorial Facilitation Network can be used to inform and eventually redirect beneficiaries to different funding streams when it comes to projects' generation.

- **Coordination with other European territorial cooperation (ETC) programmes**

The Managing authority will make sure that the 2 Seas CP is implemented in close coordination with the various European programmes within the cross-border cooperation area, especially with regard to the other cross-border programmes which partly overlap the 2 Seas programme area: the France-Wallonia-Flanders programme, the Flanders-Netherlands programme and more particularly the France (Channel) - England programme.

Due attention shall be given to the coordination with the France (Channel) - England (FCE) programme, as their programme areas partly overlap (in UK the eligible areas for both programmes are the same) and both programmes share several common features.

For the preparation of the new EU 2014-2020 funding period, a further reinforcement of cooperation links between the 2 Seas and the FCE programmes is essential in order to progress towards a more integrated approach. To this end, the member states of both programmes initiated the development of a joint situation and SWOT analysis for the territory encompassing both eligible areas. Though the two programmes still present some disparities between their respective territories, they also share commonalities and distinguish themselves from other cross-border programmes notably through a strong focus on the maritime dimension and on the projects that aim to overcome the maritime border.

Evaluation work of the previous programming period has highlighted that coordination, articulation between strategies and harmonisation of processes is a necessity for these two programmes, in order to avoid competition and to enhance synergies between them. This could be achieved through closer links between the different Joint Secretariats, and in particular through:

- regular informal groups to promote information exchange (for coordination and the sharing of best practices in programme management, or content issues),
- the elaboration of common tools for programme implementation.

Considering the selected IPs under the FCE programme (1b, 4f, 6c, 6d, 9b), the thematic areas in which a stronger coordination will be most relevant are:

- innovation (implementation of the triple helix/quadruple helix models), and in particular in the field of social innovation (cf. priority axis 1 of both programmes)
- development of the blue economy (cf. priority axes 2 and 4 of both programmes)
- development of resource-efficiency policies (cf. priority axis 4 of both programmes - though the selected IPs are not identical)

Concerning the France-Wallonia-Flanders programme, areas where articulation is more necessary include:

- innovation (support of cross-border R&I collaborations, environmental technologies)
- management of natural risks, emergency situations
- social enterprises

The CBC programme Flanders Netherlands has selected common IPs with the 2 Seas programme which are 1b, 4f and 6g. Others IPs has been also selected (1a, 4b, 4c, 6d, 6f, 8e). Thematic fields where coordination could be interesting include:

- innovation
- Low carbon technologies
- Resources efficiency

Strong coordination with transnational CPs should also be sought, particularly linked to the maritime dimension, and notably the North-West Europe (NWE) programme. This programme has selected two of the IPs also selected in 2 Seas Programme, namely IP 1b and IP 4f. The same applies to the North Sea programme which selected several IPs, namely 1b, 4f, 5a and 6g, which are in common with those under 2 Seas programme.

Areas in which complementarities between both cooperation levels should be exploited are:

- innovation, the objective of NWE in this field of cooperation being the enhancement of transnational innovation capacity (e.g. involvement of cross-border clusters in transnational networks)
- the increase of uptake of low carbon technologies
- the promotion of green technologies (promotion of innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency)

Complementarity between this 2 Seas CP and transnational programmes should thus be developed, as cooperation within the transnational strand should strengthen cooperation at a larger scale, by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development. This complementarity will be ensured by the Managing Authorities responsible for the funds management through their involvement, when relevant, in programmes' Steering and Programming Committees. The designation of the Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais (NPDC) as MA of the 2 Seas programme, of the North-West Europe transnational CP,

and of the INTERREG EUROPE programme will facilitate a consistent approach and implementation between these three programmes.

MS representatives also involved in these three programmes, but also in other overlapping ETC programmes such as the North Sea programme, will play an active role in the coordination between these programmes and beyond with other ESI funds.

Beyond the common branding of the ETC programmes, links between the communication strategies of the different programmes will be strengthened in particular thanks to regular contacts between the communication officers of these programmes.

In addition, project applicants to the programme will be asked to include information on the past, the current and anticipated EU support and to indicate how coordination with activities of other programmes will be achieved, especially to avoid overlaps between 2 Seas projects and similar projects in the other CPs. This will apply in particular to beneficiaries of several CPs overlapping the 2 Seas eligible area during the programming period 2007-2013 as they can draw valuable lessons from their different involvements.

- **Coordination with other Union instruments (Horizon 2020, LIFE, the Connecting Europe Facility, COSME, Erasmus for All, Asylum and Migration Fund, Programme for Social Change and Innovation etc.**

In order to optimise the use of EU funds, an appropriate coordination will also be carefully checked with other EU programmes addressing issues close to the thematic areas selected under 2 Seas programme, notably related to innovation, technological development, (with Horizon 2020), or resource-efficient economy (with LIFE Environment strand) and adaptation to climate change (with LIFE Climate Action strand). Some coordination with the COSME 2014-2020 programme would also be relevant as it addresses research and innovation area towards the Enterprise Europe Network.

Coordination will be ensured through exchange of information between the Managing authority, with the assistance of the Joint Secretariat, and the agencies responsible for the implementation of these programmes. This exchange of information should also include the potential redirection of project applicants towards a more suitable programme, where appropriate.

As much as possible, the MA may consider the following activities:

- Sign-posting pre-information regarding future Horizon 2020 and other calls
- Spreading information about calls: feedbacks from information events and assistance in participation to info days on calls
- Promotion of local academia-industry cooperation and their cross-border networking

In addition project applicants to the 2 seas programme will be asked to include information on the past, the current and the anticipated EU support and to indicate how coordination with activities of other programmes will be achieved, especially to avoid overlaps between 2 Seas projects and similar projects in the other mainstream programmes as well as under other EU programmes.

In case of intention to apply Art. 65(11) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 for combining ESIF with Horizon 2020 grants in the same project, the system of conditional commitment of funding will be applied, including the development of standard letters for conditional commitment of ESIF (DG RTD, ENTR and CNECT will propose examples) that can be systematically provided to prove the financial viability of a project proposal as regards the ESIF co-funded expenditure items/parts.

- Coordination with CEF, ENI, IPA and EDF

Not applicable under this CP

- Coordination with relevant national funding instruments that contribute to the same or similar objectives as the CP or complement its interventions

MC members will ensure on a continuous basis where relevant the coordination with national funding instruments that contribute to the same or similar objectives as the CP or it complement its intervention. In principle, there is no specific national fund targeted at the same or similar purpose as 2 Seas.

- Coordination with European Investment Bank (EIB)

Programme bodies do not plan to resort to the European Investment Bank for the implementation of selected operations. However, they will look into it in case concrete possibilities arise.

7. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce the administrative burden.

- **Assessment of the administrative burden of beneficiaries**

The ongoing evaluation of the 2 Seas 2007-2013 programme looked into the experiences and perceptions of project beneficiaries regarding the administrative burden connected to participating in the programme. The evaluation identified the administrative workload could be reduced in several areas.

It includes:

- Simplification and streamlining of the application process, for instance by making the application form more user friendly (avoiding repetitive questions, being less restrictive on text limitations, using more appropriate software) and introducing on-line application forms
- Providing more support and expertise to applicants and beneficiaries on complex regulatory matters and programme requirements- such as state aid, procurement – to avoid complications for projects and programme.
- Simplifying and streamlining reporting, for instance by ensuring better and more harmonised competences of first level controllers, introducing alternative or variable reporting periods, introducing a progress report ‘light’, by making the progress report more user friendly (simplified questions, being less restrictive on text limitations, using more appropriate software, on-line reporting) and by alleviating the procedure for major modifications

- **Main actions planned to reduce the administrative burden of 2 Seas CP**

At the end of the 2007-2013 period, the programme authorities of the 2 Seas programme (Member States, Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat) launched a ‘functional capitalisation’ process. This process aimed to lay the foundations for the management system of the 2 Seas 2014-2020 programme. It was based on a joint assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the programme implementation modalities, while taking into account the new regulatory context and the desire to simplify rules and procedures, improve internal processes and harmonise approaches with neighbouring programmes. The specific work carried out by the MS also contributed to the whole process.

The integration of harmonised implementation tools (HIT) developed by INTERACT and the simplification measures from the regulatory framework is due to ease the tasks of project management, allowing the partnership to dedicate the bulk of their energy and time on the cooperation content.

The 2 Seas MA will also harmonise where possible implementation tools and principles among the three CPs under its responsibility (2 Seas, North West Europe and INTERREG EUROPE), further adding to the simplification of project administration for beneficiaries. Moreover, relevant lessons will be drawn from

the close collaborative work undertaken with nearby regional programmes as part of “Regional North-West” HIT group.

On this basis, simplification is considered as the driving force of any action in the future. The 2 Seas programme will reduce the burden to a minimum and will use simplified cost options where relevant in accordance with Article 67 (simplified costs option) and Article 68 (flat-rate calculation of office and administrative costs) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 as well as the implementation of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 481/2014. In this context, key lessons from the exchange of good practice in Europe will be taken into due consideration.

Finally, certain documents submitted by project applicants may be requested only in English where possible.

- **e-Cohesion**

The Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 122.3) states that at the latest by the end of 2015 programmes should ensure that all data exchanges between beneficiaries and programme authorities can be carried out electronically. More precisely the e-Cohesion initiative for the structural funds sets the following requirements for electronic data exchange in the 2014-2020 period:

- Beneficiaries do not have to enter the same data more than once in the system.
- Interoperability is guaranteed, which means that data entered by beneficiaries is shared between different bodies within the same operational programme.
- The electronic audit trail complies with relevant articles (namely Articles 122 and 140) under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 as well as with any national requirements on the availability of documents.
- The system for electronic data exchange guarantees data integrity and confidentiality, authentication of the sender and storage in compliance with defined retention rules (Article 140 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

The electronic data exchange system operated under 2 Seas CP already largely complied with these norms. The 2 Seas CP will continue to operate fully in line with these principles from the start of the programme period.

8. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

8.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

Sustainable development is one of the main pillars of the CP. The programme supports several Priority Axes and specific objectives that focus fully on sustainable development, notably: Low-carbon technologies (Priority 2/Specific Objective 2.1), Adaptation to climate change (Priority 3/Specific Objective 3.1) and Resource efficiency (Priority 4/ Specific Objectives 4.1).

Under these specific objectives the programme will support cooperation projects that have as their primary aim to improve the sustainable development of the eligible area,, addressing topics such as the reduction of air pollution where relevant.

Project promoters will have to clearly demonstrate in their application that the proposed activities will contribute in concrete terms to the sustainable development of their regions. Applicants that fail to demonstrate this clear contribution to improving sustainable development in the area will not be selected. During the selection process, the conformity with the relevant EU, national and regional environmental legislation will be checked.

The other Priority Axis of the programme deals with Innovation (Priority 1) and does not directly focus on sustainable development issues. However, it is quite likely that projects supported under this priority will also address aspects of sustainable development in their activities. This may for instance be the case for innovation-related projects that focus on capacities and skills for eco-innovation. Projects promoters under this Priority Axis will be invited to explain in their application how their project will comply with and possibly even strengthen sustainable development. At the end of the project the partners will be asked to report how their project activities and outputs actually contributed to this horizontal principle.

This principle will be taken into consideration in the set of selection criteria.

8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The 2 Seas programme does not intend to develop specific actions uniquely aimed at the promotion of equal opportunities and the prevention of discrimination. The reason that this horizontal principle is not proactively supported primarily lies in the limited thematic scope of the programme strategy adopted.

The specific objectives of the programme cover thematic areas that have no direct link to the horizontal principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. However, some projects co-financed under the specific objective 1.3, related to social innovation, may have positive effects in terms of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

Project applicants will be invited to explain in their application how their project could support equal opportunities and non-discrimination. At the end of their project, partners will be requested to report how their project activities and outputs actually contributed to this horizontal principle.

This principle will be taken into consideration in the set of selection criteria.

8.3 Equality between men and women

Description of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

The horizontal principle of gender equality is not considered to be a primary focus of the 2 Seas programme. As with the previous point, the reason for this lies in the nature of the thematic programme strategy.

The specific objectives of the programme cover thematic areas that have no direct link to the horizontal principle of gender equality.

However, project applicants will be invited to explain in their application how their project could strengthen gender equality. At the end of their project, partners will be requested to report how their project activities and outputs actually contributed to this horizontal principle.

This principle will be taken into consideration in the set of selection criteria.

9. SEPERATE ELEMENTS

9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

Table 23: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification / submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axes / Investment priorities
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9.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme

Table 24: Performance framework (summary table)

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION	1	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 1	€	20 231 815	186,814,931.00
2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES	2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 2	€	9 634 197	64,446,807.00
3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE	3	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 3	€	7 225 648	66,806,405.00
4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY	4	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority for Priority axis 4	€	8 189 068	53,085,364.00
1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION	1.3.1	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies of selected operations related to the development of social innovation applications	Number	47	140.00
4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY	4.1.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	11	11.00
4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY	4.2.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more circular economy	Number	11	34.00
1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION	1.1.3	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) to improve the framework conditions for innovation of selected operations	Number	13	38.00
1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION	1.2.1	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies of selected operations related to the delivery of technological innovation	Number	28	84.00
2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES	2.1	Number of solutions (methods/ tools/services) of selected operations to increase the adoption of low carbon technologies	Number	22	46.00
3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE	3.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) of selected operations to improve the adaptation capacity to climate change	Number	19	58.00
1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION	1.2.1	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented related to the delivery of technological innovation	Number	0	84.00
1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION	1.3.1	Number of tests, pilots, demonstration actions and feasibility studies implemented related to the development of social innovation applications	Number	0	140.00
2 - LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES	2.1	Number of solutions (methods/ tools/services) established to increase the adoption of low carbon technologies	Number	0	46.00
3 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE	3.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established to improve the adaptation capacity to climate change and its water-related effects	Number	0	58.00
4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY	4.1.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials	Number	0	11.00
4 - RESSOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY	4.2.2	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established for a more circular economy	Number	0	34.00

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1 - TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION	1.1.3	Number of solutions (methods/tools/services) established to improve the framework conditions for innovation	Number	0	38.00

9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

Lists of participants to restricted consultation and respondents to public consultation attached in a separate document.

9.4 Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources

Not applicable

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	03-Jun-2015		Ares(2021)7815790	1_EN_ACT_part1_v6 1_EN_annexe_acte_autonome_part1_v1 2_EN_annexe_acte_autonome_part1_v1	17-Dec-2021	n002rha7

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	1.2	27-Apr-2015		Ares(2015)1827616	Citizens' summary	29-Apr-2015	nedreica
SEA Environmental report	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.2	27-Apr-2015		Ares(2015)1827616	SEA Environmental report	29-Apr-2015	nedreica
Map of Interreg 2 Seas 2014 2020	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	1.2	27-Apr-2015		Ares(2015)1827616	Map of Interreg 2 Seas 2014 2020	29-Apr-2015	nedreica
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	2.0	03-Jun-2015		Ares(2021)7815790	1_EN_ACT_part1_v6 1_EN_annexe_acte_autonome_part1_v1 2_EN_annexe_acte_autonome_part1_v1	17-Dec-2021	n002rha7
Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFCB038 2.0	Snapshot of data before send	2.0	17-Dec-2021		Ares(2021)7815790	Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFCB038 2.0 fr	17-Dec-2021	n002rha7

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version has been validated.