

Key info

After more than two years of intense preparation, representatives from the 4 Member States participating in the 2 Seas Programme have agreed upon a joint strategy for the 2 Seas area. This document intends to briefly present the context of the new programming period, as well as the 2 Seas Programme strategy for the 2014 – 2020 programming period.

I. New EU Policy framework 2014 - 2020: essentials to know!

Before presenting the new strategy, it is important to briefly explain the new EU policy framework in which the 2014 – 2020 Programme will be implemented. Along with the new programming period, new principles and a new approach have emerged, of which future beneficiaries need to be well aware. The key principles for the 2014 – 2020 programming period are the following:

A. Thematic concentration

For the upcoming programming period, the European Institutions have decided to streamline funding to target a fewer number of relevant themes. It is expected that this **increased thematic concentration** will reinforce the impact of EU funding to contribute to the **delivery of the EU 2020 strategy**, and notably towards more **smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**.

The Programme Authorities have chosen **4 'thematic objectives'** amongst the 11 defined by the European Union, and **1 'investment priority'** related to each objective.

This choice was made on the basis of a thorough situation analysis looking at the Programme area and its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. As well as statistical information, the relevant policy documents of each Member State were also taken into account. The work has led to the definition of **common needs, challenges and opportunities** for the Programme area which have in turn fed the development of the Programme strategy.

In the Programme strategy, the thematic objectives have been articulated into **4 priority axes** and **7 Specific objectives**.

B. Result orientation

For each of the 7 Specific Objectives, the Programme authorities have defined **expected results** that the Programme needs to achieve **by 2023**. These envisaged results will have to be delivered through good quality projects that achieve their own results, which in turn fit with the Programme ones.

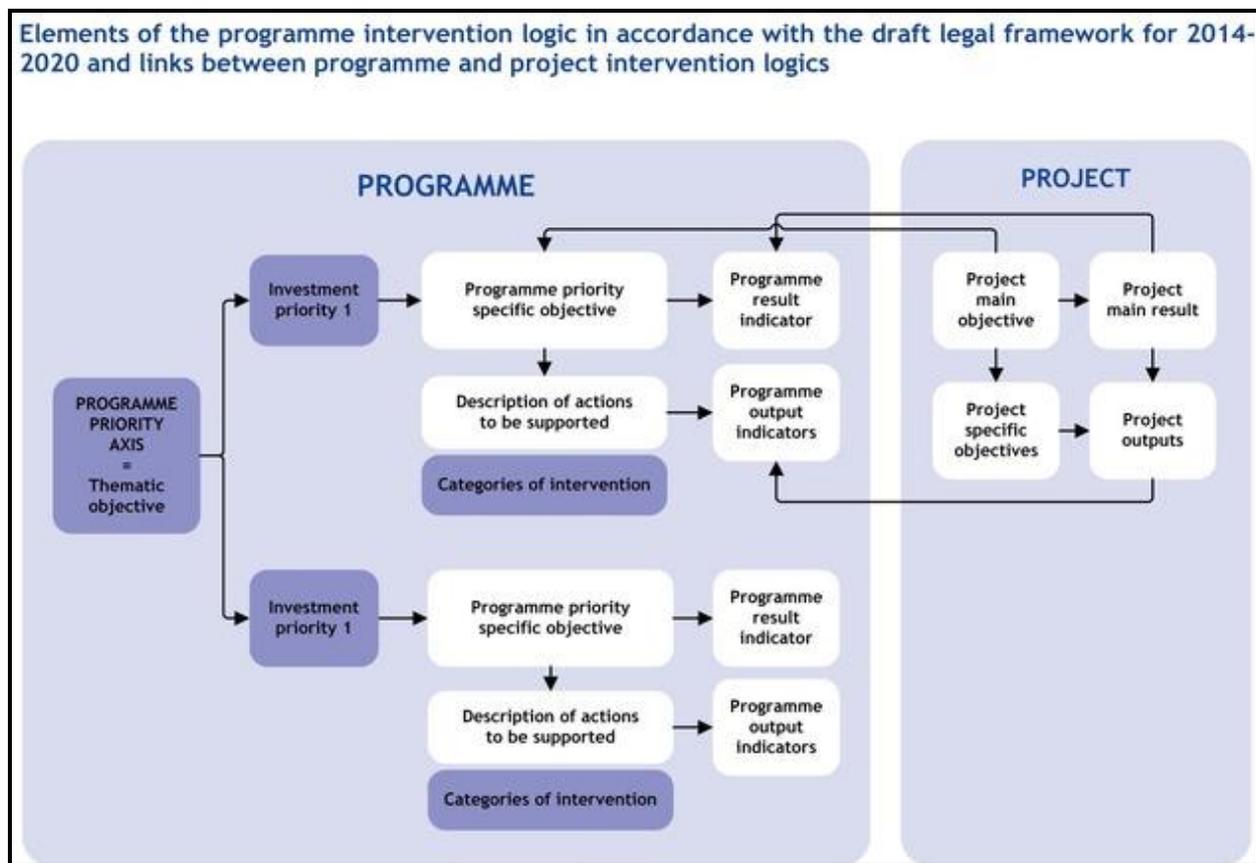
Project applications will therefore need to ensure strong links with the Programme strategy in order to demonstrate their contribution to achieving the expected Programme results and, ultimately, the EU 2020 targets.

C. Intervention logic

The new Programme thematic concentration and result orientation are both reflected in the **Programme and project intervention logics**. The Programme has established both **output and result indicators** for each adopted Specific Objective and defined milestones and target values to be reached.

Projects will have to demonstrate in their proposal, how they will be contributing to achieving both types of indicators by clearly linking their foreseen outputs and results to a corresponding indicator under that Specific Objectives. Both kinds of **intervention logics (Programme and project) are therefore intrinsically intertwined**.

In order to be able to assess and measure a project’s contribution to the achievement of the Programme strategy, the project needs to establish an intervention logic that mirrors the one at Programme level.



Programme and project intervention logic – INTERACT, 2012

D. Performance framework

The European Commission will monitor that the 2 Seas Programme delivers the expected results through a performance framework that includes **milestones** and target values for Programme output indicators.

On this basis, if the Programme underperforms, the European Commission may decide to interrupt or cut ERDF funding.

That is why, considering that the Programme and project **intervention logics are intrinsically intertwined**, projects need to deliver also according to plan to ensure programme performance.

II. INTERREG 2 Seas Programme 2014 – 2020: essentials to know!

A. The 2 Seas eligible area:

The 2 Seas area covers the **coastal regions of 4 EU Member states** along the Southern North Sea and the Channel: England, Belgium (Flanders), France (Northern France) and the Netherlands. The eligible zone goes all the way from Cornwall to Norfolk in the UK and stretches from the Picardie Coast to Texel Island on the continental side.

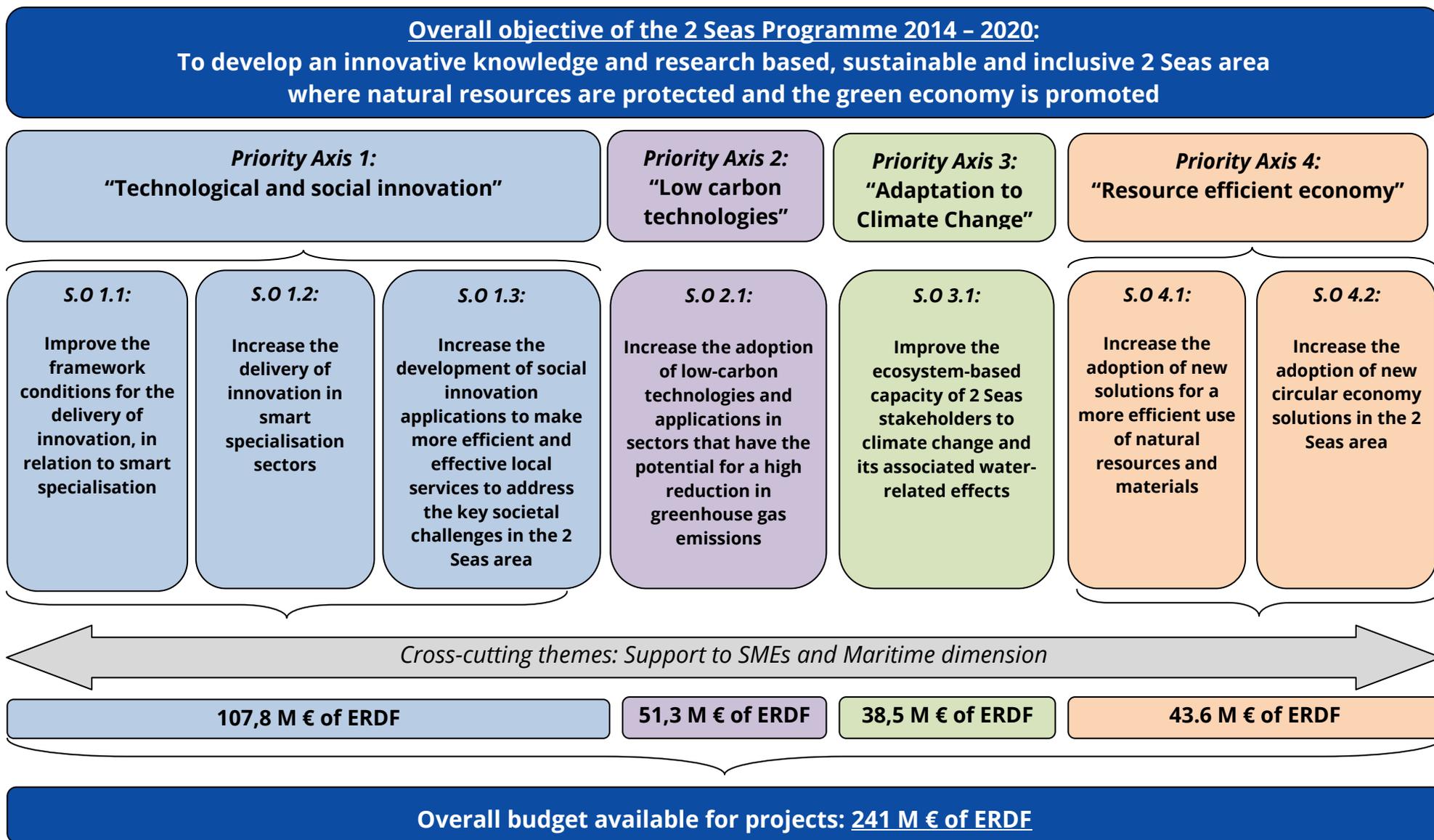
In the 2014 – 2020 programming period, the 2 Seas Programme welcomes new eligible areas in the Netherlands (coastal areas up to Kop Van Noord-Holland) and in England (Swindon and Peterborough).



B. Who can participate?

Any organisation located within the eligible area can submit a project under any specific objective: public bodies, public equivalent bodies and private bodies. All projects have as a main goal to 'overcome' the maritime border and should therefore be composed of at least one English partner.

C. Overview of the 2 Seas Programme strategy



D. Budget and co-financing rate

The overall budget for the Programme is 392 M€ with an ERDF contribution of 256 M€.

Projects can expect an **ERDF contribution of 60 %** but this may vary during the course of the Programme life. For each Call for Proposals, the co-financing rate will be indicated in the Terms of Reference of the Call, which will be published on the Programme website.

E. Typology of actions

Examples of possible actions that could be supported under the different Specific Objectives are provided below. You will see that these examples of cross-border cooperation projects can relate to one or several of the following features:

- a) **"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.).
- b) **"Establishment"** or the concrete set up of a network, facility, service (monitoring system, joint service provider, and collaborative platform).
- c) **"Development"** - the systematic use of the knowledge or understanding gained from basic research directed towards 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.
- d) **"Adoption"** or "transfer" of existing technological/organisation/solutions in a specific field of application. This might include large scale tests and experimentations.
- e) **"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...).
- f) **"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).

For more information, and to download the Cooperation Programme submitted to the European Commission at the end of April 2015, please visit:

<http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/2014-2020>

III. Detailed description per Priority Axis and related Specific Objectives:

A. Detailed description of Priority Axis 1 - Specific Objective 1.1:

	<p align="center"><u>Results that Member States seek to achieve:</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Examples of possible actions that could be supported:</u></p>
<p>Specific Objective 1.1:</p> <p>Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation</p>	<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> <p>a) stimulating the cooperation of public and private stakeholders, civil society and research entities according to the “quadruple helix” paradigm;</p> <p>b) introducing and adopting common approaches, collaboration arrangements, joint structures and policy tools supporting capacity for delivering innovation.</p> <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>	<p><u>FORMULATION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of common development strategies and joint policy action plans to support the innovation capacity of stakeholders <p><u>ESTABLISHMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 <p><u>DEVELOPMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of support actions to SMEs to engage in innovation leading to increased activity on international markets.

B. Detailed description of Priority Axis 1 - Specific Objective 1.2:

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Results that Member States seek to achieve:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Examples of possible actions that could be supported:</u></p>
<p><u>Specific Objective 1.2:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Increase the delivery of innovation in smart specialisation sectors</p>	<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> <p>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> <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; • 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</p>	<p><u>DEVELOPMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 <p><u>PREPARE FOR INVESTMENTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ for the joint economic exploitation of new ideas of products, services and processes <p><u>INVESTMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in small-scale physical infrastructure or e-infrastructure related to technological innovation deriving from a preparation stage jointly designed and carried out by cross-border partnerships

	<p>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>	
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C. Detailed description of Priority Axis 1 - Specific Objective 1.3:

	<p align="center"><u>Results that Member States seek to achieve:</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Examples of possible actions that could be supported:</u></p>
<p><u>Specific Objective 1.3:</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<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> <p>The Programme will contribute to develop social innovation applications by: a) exploiting and adopting the results of research; 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. 	<p><u>DEVELOPMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of pilot actions for the use of social innovation platforms and observatories (e.g. Social Innovation Europe Initiative) <p><u>ADOPTION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of new joint solutions based on research to deliver innovative social services <p><u>PREPARE FOR INVESTMENTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ for the joint economic exploitation of new ideas of products, services and processes <p><u>INVESTMENTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in small-scale physical infrastructure (e.g. equipment) or e-infrastructure related to social innovation deriving from a preparation stage jointly designed and carried out by cross-border partnerships

D. Detailed description of Priority Axis 2 - Specific Objective 2.1:

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Results that Member States seek to achieve:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Examples of possible actions that could be supported:</u></p>
<p>Specific Objective 2.1:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Increase the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in sectors that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>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 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> enhancing the uptake of state-of-the art solutions; testing and demonstration of these technologies and applications to pave the way for their wider uptake; 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 Agriculture Manufacturing industries 	<p><u>DEVELOPMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of comparative pilots actions to test and demonstrate innovative low-carbon technologies and applications <p><u>ADOPTION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p><u>PREPARE FOR INVESTMENTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the further roll-out of low-carbon technologies <p><u>INVESTMENTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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>	
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E. Detailed description of Priority Axis 3 - Specific Objective 3.1:

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Results that Member States seek to achieve:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Examples of possible actions that could be supported:</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Specific Objective 3.1:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects</p>	<p>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 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) increasing awareness on the potential consequences of climate change; 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 integrated management of coastal zones (ICZM); c) improving the coherence and coordination between adaptation strategies 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FORMULATION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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) <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ESTABLISHMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 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

	<p>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>	<p>feedback issues that could accelerate global warming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. <p><u>PREPARE INVESTMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. <p><u>INVESTMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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.
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F. Detailed description of Priority Axis 4 - Specific Objective 4.1:

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Results that Member States seek to achieve:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Examples of possible actions that could be supported:</u></p>
<p><u>Specific Objective 4.1:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Increase the adoption of new solutions for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials</p>	<p>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 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>	<p><u>FORMULATION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of approaches (protocols, tools) for green public procurement (GPP) to promote the efficient use of natural resources and materials ✓ of common agreements and joint action protocols between stakeholders for more sustainable and resource-efficient activities <p><u>ESTABLISHMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of collaborative platforms and services towards the key economic stakeholders to strengthen a more resource-efficient economy <p><u>ADOPTION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 <p><u>INVESTMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in support of the application of more resource efficient solutions, for instance as part of cross-border pilot initiatives to implement nature-based and green technology solutions

G. Detailed description of Priority Axis 4 - Specific Objective 4.2:

	<p align="center"><u>Results that Member States seek to achieve:</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Examples of possible actions that could be supported:</u></p>
<p><u>Specific objective 4.2:</u></p> <p>Increase the adoption of new circular economy solutions in the 2 Seas area</p>	<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>	<p><u>FORMULATION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of approaches (protocols, tools) for green public procurement (GPP), in order to limit the outflow of wastes to ecosystems and optimize recycling. <p><u>ESTABLISHMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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, <p><u>ADOPTION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of new technological solutions for recycling notably through the promotion and implementation of nature-based solutions; <p><u>INVESTMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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.