

Public notice 2/2019 “targeted call” for the presentation of co-operation projects with a “one step” procedure based on Priority axes I, II, III of the INTERREG V- A Italy-Malta programme

Approved by the Monitoring Committee on the 4th of April 2019



Art. - 1 Legal basis

- Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006;
- Regulation (EU) No. 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the “Investment for growth and jobs goal” and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006;
- Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial co-operation goal (ETC) to support co-operation between neighbouring regions to promote integrated regional development between neighbouring regions with land and sea borders in two or more Member States or between neighbouring regions in at least one Member State and a third country on the external borders of the Union other than those affected by the programmes under the external financing instruments of the Union;
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds;
- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid;
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 481/2014 of 4 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for co-operation programmes – articles 1-7;
- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, published in the OJUE L 187/1 on 26 June 2014;
- Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No. 1296/2013, (EU) No. 1301/2013, (EU) No. 1303/2013, (EU) No. 1304/2013, (EU) No. 1309/2013, (EU) No. 1316/2013, (EU) No. 223/2014, (EU) No. 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012;
- Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC Text with EEA relevance, published in the OJUE L 94/65 on 28 March 2014;

- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid, published in the OJUE L 352/1 on 24 December 2013;
- Decision of the European Commission C (2015) no. 7046 of 12 October 2015, with which the "INTERREG VA Italy Malta Cross-Border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020" was approved for the European structural intervention of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of the co-operation objective European territory in Italy and Malta (CCI: 2014TC16RFCB037);
- INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Co-operation Programme and in particular the articulation of the Axes with regard to financial allocations and physical advances as reported in the performance framework of the Priority Axes I, II and III;
- Resolution of the Government Council no. 246 of 5 July 2018 which definitively approves the Managing and Certification Authorities of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Co-operation Programme;
- DDG. no. 381/SV DRP of 27 July 2018 approving the "The functions and procedures in place for the Managing Authority and the Certification Authority (Si.Ge.Co.)", the "Guidelines on first level controls" together with its annexes and the "Reporting manual of the costs of the INTERREG VA Italy-Malta Co-operation Programme";
- DDG no. 346/A VII DRP of 11/07/28 approving the control Trails concerning Axes I, II, III and IV of the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta Programme;
- Law no. 241/1990 that establishes the general rules on administrative action, published in the Official Gazette of 18 August 1990 no. 192, coordinated and last updated by Legislative Decree of 16 June 2017, no. 104;
- Legislative Decree 18 April 2016 no. 50 (so-called "Procurement Code 2016") as amended, in G.U. (Official Gazette) no. 91 of 19/04/2016 s.o. no. 10, in force since 19/04/2016 which abrogated Legislative Decree no. 163 of 12 April 2006;
- CIPE Resolution no. 8, dated 28/1/2015, "Partnership agreement for the programming of the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014 – 2020" of acknowledgment, pursuant to the provisions of point 2 of the CIPE resolution no. 18/2014, of the Partnership Agreement approved on 29 October 2014 by the European Commission and concerning the programming of the European Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020, published in GURI General Series no. 94 of 23 April 2015;
- CIPE Resolution no. 10 of 28/1/2015 laying down the "definition of the national public co-financing criteria of the European programmes for the 2014-2020 programming period and related monitoring. Programming of the complementary interventions referred to in Article 1, paragraph 242 of Law no. 147/2013 provided for in the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement", published in GURI General Series no. 111 of May 15, 2015;
- Presidential Decree no 22 of 5 February 2018 - Regulation containing the criteria on the eligibility of expenditure for programmes co-financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for the programming period 2016/2014, published in the G.U.R.I. no. 71 of March 26, 2018;

Art. 2 – Definitions

AA	Audit Authority
AF	Application Form
Aid	Any measure that meets all the criteria set out in Article 107(1) of the Treaty;
Aid scheme	means any act on the basis of which, without further implementing measures being required, individual aid awards may be made to undertakings defined within the act in a general and abstract manner and any act on the basis of which aid which is not linked to a specific project may be granted to one or several undertakings for an indefinite period of time and/or for an indefinite amount;
AIR	Annual Implementation Report
CA	Certifying Authority
CP	Contact Point
CP	Co-operation Programme
EC	European Commission
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ETC	European territorial co-operation
EU	European Union
IAID	Internal Audit and Investigations Department
ICEP	Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning
IGRUE	<i>Ispettore Generale per I Rapporti con l'Unione Europea</i>
IP	Investment Priority
JS	Joint Secretariat
KETs	Key Enabling Technologies
LP	Lead Partner
MA	Management Authority
MC	Monitoring Committee
MFIN	Ministry for Finance
MNCA	Maltese National Coordination Authority
NC	National Contribution
New and innovative technologies	New and untested technologies compared to the state of the art in the relevant sector, which entail a risk of technological or industrial failure and do not consist of optimization or upgrading of an existing technology;
Organisation for Research and dissemination of knowledge	An entity (e.g. universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented real or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (established under private or public law) or source of financing, the main purpose of which is to carry out independent fundamental research activities, industrial research or experimental development or to ensure the broad dissemination of the results of these activities through the teaching, publication or transfer of knowledge. If this entity also carries out economic activities, the financing, costs and revenues of these economic activities must be accounted for separately. Enterprises that are able to exercise decisive influence on this entity, for example as shareholders or partners, cannot enjoy any preferential access to the results generated;

PA	Partnership Agreement
PP	Project Partner
R&D	Research and Development
RIS3	Malta's Research and Innovation Strategy
SC	Steering Committee
SI	System Information
Small and medium-sized enterprises or SMEs	Enterprises which meet the criteria set out in Annex I of Reg. 651/2014
SMEs	Small and medium sized enterprises: any entity engaged in an economic activity, regardless of its legal status (Reg. No. 651/2014, Annex I)
SO	Specific Objective
SRI3	<i>Strategia Regionale dell'Innovazione per la specializzazione intelligente</i>
Targeted call	Public notice aimed at acquiring timely, concrete project proposals in line with the "eligible action" and the "project purposes" envisaged by this notice;
TO	Thematic Objective
VAT	Value Added Tax
WP	Work Package

Art. 3 – Subject and financial allocations of the public notice

This “*public notice of selection of co-operation projects - one step procedure*” is aimed at acquiring **timely, concrete and feasible project proposals** based on the specific objectives 1.1, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 of the INTERREG V Programme - A Italy Malta - Axes I , II and III.

In line with the implementation strategy of the Co-operation Programme, the following priority Axes are listed below in line with their specific objectives and the eligible actions contributing to the achievement of the following general objective: “to **contribute to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth at cross-border level, aiding specialization in R&I sectors, fostering the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises, protecting the environment and promoting actions to mitigate climate change effects of and the natural and anthropic risks of the area**”.

- Priority Axis I **Promoting the smart and sustainable growth through research and innovation** aims to achieve the following specific objective:

1. To enhance the activities of innovation and research to improve the quality of life and the utilization of the cultural heritage.

- Priority Axis II **Promoting the competitiveness in the cross-border area** aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

2. To promote the creation and the enhancement of enterprises (micro, small and medium) in the intervention field of the cooperation area;

3. To promote the mobility of the workers in the cross-border area through the creation of operative networks.

- Priority Axis III **Protecting the environment and fostering an efficient use of resources** aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. To contribute towards the arrest of the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the area, maintain and reactivate the ecosystem and protected area;

2. To promote systemic actions and technologies able to mitigate the climate change effects and the natural and anthropic risks with a particular reference to the catastrophic from maritime risks.

On the basis of the results of public notice 01/2016 and also taking into account the decisions of the Monitoring Committee on 18 April 2018, the funds available for this public notice are **Euro 16,070,410** constituted by the Community public co-financing of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), equal to 85%, and the national contribution (NC), equal to 15%.

For the Italian public partners and bodies governed by public law, the NC is placed under the responsibility of the "*Fondo di Rotazione ex L. no. 183/1987*" and is guaranteed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance - *Ispettore Generale per I Rapporti con l'Unione Europea* (IGRUE) as a result of CIPE Resolution No. 10 of 28 January 2015.

For Italian private partners, the NC is to be guaranteed through funds from the partner itself or by other public body/ies.

For the Maltese public partners, the NC follows the provisions set forth in Circular no. 5/2014 of the MFIN. For private Maltese partners and bodies governed by public law, the NC is to be guaranteed through funds from the partner itself or by other public body/ies, should this be so endorsed.

The financial resources (ERDF and NC) made available by this Public notice for the selection of co-operation projects, are provided exclusively on a reimbursement basis for expenses actually incurred by the beneficiaries and considered eligible, in accordance with the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 481/2014 of 4 March 2014, by the competent bodies of the programme.

Therefore, it being understood that, even though in line with the provisions of paragraph 9.2 of the Programme Implementation Manual, an advance of resources is foreseen, each beneficiary (Lead Partner and Partner) will have to ensure – after the approval of the project proposal – the necessary resources for the launch of project activities.

Any delay on the part of the MA on the provision of the advance payment cannot in any way be attributed by the beneficiaries (Lead Partner and Partner) of the project towards justifying the delay or failure to achieve both the spending targets and the results and outputs identified in the Work packages stipulated by the Grant Agreement and the Partner Agreement.

Based on the needs of the programme to achieve the result indicators for each thematic objective, the following are listed for each Axis and specific objective: ERDF resources allocated for this public notice:

- **Priority Axis I:** Euro **3,400,000** (ERDF share) for Investment Priority 1.b - Specific objective 1.1;
- **Priority Axis II:** Euro **2,416,495** (ERDF share) for Investment Priority 8.e - Specific objective 2.2;
- **Priority Axis III:** Euro **8,455,063** (ERDF share) for Investment Priority 6.d - Specific objective 3.1;
- **Priority Axis III:** Euro **1,798,852** (ERDF share) for Investment Priority 5.b - Specific objective 3.2.

Art. 4 – Areas affected by the programme

The eligible area of the co-operation programme concerns the NUTS III territories referred to in the European Commission Implementing Decision of 16/06/2014. More specifically, the territory affected by the programme is:

For Italy

Sicily - NUTS 3 areas: Palermo, Trapani, Caltanissetta, Agrigento, Ragusa, Syracuse, Enna, Catania and Messina;

For Malta

Malta, Gozo and Comino.

In duly justified cases, the Programme may finance the implementation of operations or part of operations even outside the eligible areas of the Programme in accordance with the provisions of art. 20 of Regulation (EU) no. 1299/2013 (the total amount allocated to operations outside the eligible area must not exceed 20% of the ERDF resources dedicated to the project).

Art. 5 – Characteristics of co-operation projects

Each co-operation project must provide a package of actions, (timely, concrete and feasible), logically and coherently connected to one another, in order to allow full achievement of the programme output indicators identified for each eligible action of each specific objective as indicated in Art. 6 of this public notice.

Given that this public notice is a "targeted call" for the submission of co-operation projects with a "one step" procedure based on the Priority Axes I, II, III of the INTERREG V - A Italy Malta programme, it is specified that for each specific objective (1.1, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2), under penalty of exclusion of the proposal itself during the evaluation phase, the provisions contained in Art. 6 of this public notice under the headings "project purposes" and "project features" of each schedule must be adhered to.

Each co-operation project will be made up of partner beneficiaries and a lead partner beneficiary; the latter will represent the whole partnership vis-à-vis the MA and other programme authorities.

The general objective of the co-operation project will have to contribute directly to the achievement of the specific objective of the chosen Investment Priority, therefore the results of the project will have to be linked to the result indicators of the Programme. This mechanism of correlating the internal coherence of the project with the programme shall imply that the outputs foreseen by the project must be directly linked to the programme outputs.

In general, each co-operation project must ensure:

- 1) The coherence of the project with the programme strategy, the investment priority and the specific objective of the investment priority;
- 2) The coherence of the project with national and regional policies and the measures taken to create synergies and avoid overlapping;
- 3) The cross-border dimension and character of the project with partners who share common needs and objectives;
- 4) The innovative nature of the projects, their concrete specialization on KET (key enabling Technologies) and their impact in the medium to long term;
- 5) The coherence of the partnership, the relevance and competences of the partners in relation to the objectives of the project;
- 6) The relevance of the financial plan and the coherence of the budget with the objectives;
- 7) Visible, concrete and lasting results;
- 8) A financial allocation (ERDF + NC) between a minimum of € 500,000 and a maximum of € 4,000,000.00;
- 9) A maximum duration of 24 months for SO 1.1 and 2.2 and 30 months for SO 3.1 and 3.2.

Art. 6 – Actions and beneficiaries eligible for each specific Objective

Schedule 1	
Axis	I - Promoting the smart and sustainable growth through research and innovation
Investment Priority	1.b
Programme specific objective	1.1 – Enhance the activities of innovation and research to improve the quality of life and the utilization of the cultural heritage
Available financial allocations (ERDF)	Euro 3,400,000
Eligible actions	C - Interventions aimed at financing exchanges and mobility of researchers
Project purposes	<p>The co-operation projects to be selected within the scope of this specific objective are exclusively aimed at financing the provision of vouchers (individual grants) in favour of post-doctoral degree researchers (researchers, who have already obtained a doctorate degree), or who have at least four years of full-time research experience in order to support cross-border mobility in:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) SMEs in the territory of the co-operation area (Sicily and Malta). The mobility will aim to develop an “innovative and/or research project” within the thematic objectives of the axis (quality of life and citizens’ health, cultural heritage).</p>

	<p>b) Public and private research organizations in line with the provisions of Reg. (EU) 651/2014 or public administrations. The mobility will aim to develop an “innovative and/or research project”.</p> <p>Each "innovative project" and / or "research project" can be linked to the mobility of one or more researchers.</p> <p>The scientific-technological fields that are needed to be covered to develop this Axis are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of eco-products and/or services • biotechnologies for human health • Blue Growth • Home automation (domotics) and e-health services • Restoration, conservation, digitization and utilization of tangible and/or intangible cultural heritage <p>The amount of each voucher (individual grant) to be paid to the researchers - selected through a public procedure - is equivalent to (all-inclusive amount) 15,000 Euros for six months with the funds of the programme. It is confirmed that the beneficiaries could increase the amount through their own resources. The total number of vouchers that it is intended to secure with the financial resources of this specific objective cannot be less than 200 cross-border mobilities. The same person cannot be granted more than one mobility voucher for the purpose of this call.</p> <p>In order to receive the payment of the voucher (all-inclusive amount of € 15,000) for each researcher who has carried out cross-border mobility, the realization of the research project / innovative project must be proven by the beneficiary of the project. The mobility path must also be completed by the researcher. The MA will reduce the amount of the voucher, pro-rata, in case the mobility path will not be 100% completed. In the event that the mobility path do not reach at least 60% of the performance, the full amount of the voucher will not be recognized. In order to allow the recipients of cross-border mobility to carry out the course during the academic year, it will be the responsibility of the project beneficiaries to ensure payment of the voucher on a monthly basis.</p>
<p>Categories of eligible beneficiaries</p>	<p>The co-operation projects can be presented exclusively by the institutions indicated below, with administrative and operational headquarters in the area of the programme eligible territory (Sicily and Malta)</p> <p>For Italy, public and not public Universities recognized by the Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca with operational premises in Sicily. Telematic universities are not allowed.</p> <p>For Malta - the University of Malta or any other University, which is accredited and licensed to operate as such by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _Institutions that by virtue of Chapter 327 - Education Act, are considered as public self-accrediting institutions. These are listed in the First Schedule of Subsidiary Legislation 327.433, being the University of Malta, the Malta College of Arts, Sciences and Technology, and the Institute of Tourism Studies. <p>Telematic universities are not allowed.</p>

Project purposes	<p>The co-operation projects must be developed entirely into 3 Work Packages (WP) only, according to the following development logic:</p> <p><u>WP1 - Management and coordination</u></p> <p>WP1 must contain a description of how management will be carried out at a strategic and operational level within the project, with particular reference to the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. structure, responsibilities and procedures for the daily management and coordination of the project; 2. selection of researchers through an open call ; 3. communication within the partnership; 4. reporting and monitoring and evaluation procedures; 5. quality and risk management; 6. follow-up actions on the cross-border mobility (analysis of impacts, results and placement of researchers). <p>For this public notice, the <u>budget estimate for WP 1, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 19% of the total cost of the project.</u> The categories of expenditure that can be included in the scope of WP1 are exclusively the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff costs – amount calculated on a flat-rate basis equal to 15% of direct costs (“travel and subsistence expenses” and “costs for consultancy and external services”) other than staff costs of said operation (Article 19 of Regulation 1299/2013); ○ Office and administrative expenditure – amount calculated on the basis of a flat rate of 10% of staff costs (Article 68 para. 1 letter b Reg. 1303/2013); ○ Travel and subsistence expenses – amount calculated on the basis of real costs documented for the purposes of the project and whose total amount cannot exceed the maximum percentage of 1.40% of the total cost of the project; ○ Costs for external expertise and services – amount calculated on the basis of the real costs documented for the purposes of the first level checks (referred to in Article 125, paragraph 4, letter a) of Regulation (EU) no. 1303/2013 and Article 23, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) no. 1299/2013) <p><u>WP2 - Communication</u></p> <p>WP2 must contain the description of the communication activities within the project, with particular reference to the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. information and communication activities on the aims of the project; 2. information activities with the aim of publishing the public selection of researchers, the potential recipients of vouchers; 3. activities involving the project target groups; 4. dissemination activities of the project applied results, achieved in the field of cross-border mobility of researchers;
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	<p>5. capitalization activities about the results achieved with the aim of enabling the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta Programme to share these results and integrate them with the mainstream programmes being implemented in the programme area.</p> <p>For this public notice <u>the budget estimate of WP2, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 6.00% of the total cost of the project.</u> The categories of expenditure that can be included in WP2 are exclusively the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costs for external expertise and services - amount calculated on the basis of the real costs documented for communication purposes of the project ○ Equipment - amount calculated on the basis of the real costs documented for the purposes of the project (consumable material) whose total amount cannot exceed the maximum percentage of 15% of the amount allocated to WP2. <p>WP3 (T1) – Implementation (Cross-border mobility)</p> <p>WP3 must contain the description of the core activities of the project, namely the cross-border mobility by researchers through the provision of vouchers (individual grants)</p> <p>For this public notice, <u>the budget estimate of WP3, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 75% of the total cost of the project.</u> The categories of expenditure that can be included in WP3 are exclusively the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costs for external expertise and services - amount calculated on the basis of real costs documented for the core purposes of the project (€15,000 per voucher with a duration of 6 months)
Selection criteria	The selection criteria for the specific objective 1.1 are those set out in annex 1 of this public notice, which constitutes an integral part thereof.
Maximum duration of the whole project	24 months
Application form/application file	For the preparation of the project proposals based on the specific objective 1.1, the Application Form – Form Annex 1.a and Budget Annex 1.b Axis I of this notice, which constitutes an integral part thereof, must be used, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal.

Schedule 2	
Axis	II - Promote the competitiveness in the cross-border area
Investment Priority	8.e
Programme specific objective	2.2 - Promote mobility of workers in the cross-border area through the creation of operative networks
Available financial allocations (ERDF)	Euro 2,416,495
Eligible actions	B - Interventions aimed at financing cross-border mobility via the granting of a voucher
Project purposes	<p>The co-operation projects to be selected within the scope of this specific objective are aimed exclusively at financing the provision of vouchers for the activation of work placements, for youths and new graduates, at enterprises (micro, small and medium) operating in the sectors of the programme strategy (<i>environmental protection, quality of life and citizens' health</i>).</p> <p>The reference sectors, in which cross-border work placements/internship can be activated with the resources of this specific objective, are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue economy; • Health and quality of life (biotechnologies, nutrition and Mediterranean diet, services and networks for human health among others); • Social welfare standards; • Environment protection; • Services for sustainable tourism¹ <p>The recipients of cross-border work placements/internships activated with the resources of this specific objective, should be youths and newly high school graduates, being either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Jobseeker</u>: people who have never worked and who, at the same time, are looking for a job; • <u>Unemployed</u>: persons, who doesn't have any job at the time of reference and is actively looking for employment; • Disadvantaged persons, such as persons with disabilities recognised under national legislation, immigrants, drug addicts, ex-prison inmates etc., <p>The amount of each voucher to be granted to any of the target groups above - selected through an open procedure - is equivalent to 12,000 euros for six months with the funds of the programme. It is confirmed that the beneficiaries could increase the amount through their own resources. The total number of vouchers that it is intended to secure with the financial resources of this specific objective cannot be less than 100 cross-border mobilities. The same person cannot be granted more than one mobility voucher for the purpose of this call.</p>

¹ Please refer to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism

	<p>In order to receive the payment of the voucher (all-inclusive amount of € 12,000) for youths and new graduates who has carried out cross-border mobility, the realization of the work placements must be proven. The MA will reduce the amount of the voucher, pro-rata, in case the activation of work placements will not be 100% completed. In the event that the work placements do not reach at least 60% of the performance, the full amount of the voucher will not be recognized.</p> <p>In order to allow the recipients of cross-border mobility to carry out the work placements, it will be the responsibility of the project beneficiaries to ensure payment of the voucher on a monthly basis.</p>
<p>Categories of eligible beneficiaries</p>	<p>Co-operation projects can only be presented by the following categories of eligible subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical institutes of higher secondary education operating in the following sectors: economy, services and technology; o Istituti Tecnici Superiori - Higher Technical Institutes - recognized by current legislation o enterprises (including newly set-up SMEs) operating in the sectors of the programme strategy; o consortia/SME associations provided they have a legal personality; o recognized productive districts also established in the form of consortia and technology districts²; o Public administrations;
<p>Project features</p>	<p>The co-operation projects must be developed entirely within 3 Work Packages (WP) only, according to the following development logic:</p> <p>WP1 – Management and coordination</p> <p>WP1 must contain a description of how the management will be carried out at a strategic and operational level in the project with particular reference to the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. structure, responsibilities and procedures for the daily management and coordination of the project; 2. selection of recipients through open procedures;; 3. communication within the partnership; 4. reporting and monitoring and evaluation procedures; 5. quality and risk management; 6. follow-up actions on cross-border mobilities (analysis of the impacts, results and placement of recipients). <p>For this public notice, the budget estimate for <u>WP1, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 20% of the total cost of the project.</u> The categories of expenditure that can be included in the scope of WP1 are exclusively the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Staff costs – amount calculated on a flat-rate basis equal to 15% of direct costs (“travel and subsistence expenses” and “costs for consultancy and external services”) other than staff costs of said

² For Italian beneficiaries, only the recognized production districts can participate, in line with the Sicilian regional legislation of the sector (D.A. No. 1937/2 of 28/06/2016).

operation (Article 19 of Regulation 1299/2013);

- **Office and administrative expenditure** – amount calculated on the basis of a flat rate of 10% of staff costs (Article 68 para. 1 letter b Reg. 1303/2013);
- **Travel and subsistence expenses** – amount calculated on the basis of real costs documented for the purposes of the project and whose total amount cannot exceed the maximum percentage of 2.50% of the total cost of the project.
- **Costs for external expertise and services** – amount calculated on the basis of the real costs documented for the purposes of the first level checks (referred to in Article 125, paragraph 4, letter a), of Regulation (EU) no. 1303/2013 and Article 23, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) no. 1299/2013)

WP2 - Communication

WP2 must contain the description of the communication activities within the project, with particular reference to the following aspects:

1. information and communication activities on the aims of the project;
2. dissemination and promotion activities of the project initiative, aimed also at ensuring maximum publicity regarding the selection procedures for youths and new graduates, who will be the recipients of the vouchers;
3. activities involving the project target groups;
4. dissemination activities of the project results achieved in the context of cross-border mobility of youths and new graduates;
5. capitalization of the results obtained in order to allow the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme to share these results and integrate them in the mainstream programmes implemented in the programme area

The actions include also activities related to company tutoring, services that cover travel expenses (prepaid round-trip ticket for each participant to the work placement where the internship will be held) as well as accident insurance for workers (for the youths and new graduates - recipients of vouchers).

For this public notice, **the budget estimate for WP 2, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 38% of the total cost of the project.** The categories of expenditure that can be included in WP2 are exclusively the following:

- **Costs for external expertise and services** - amount calculated on the basis of the real costs documented for the communication purposes of the project.

WP3 (T1) - Implementation (Cross-border mobility)

WP3 must contain the description of the core activities of the project

	<p>namely the cross-border mobilities with the provision of a voucher to each youth and graduate;</p> <p>For this public notice, <u>the budget estimate of WP3, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 42% of the total cost of the project.</u> The categories of expenditure that can be included in the WP3 are exclusively the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costs for external expertise and services - amount calculated on the basis of real costs documented for the core purposes of the project (€12,000 per voucher with a duration of 6 months).
Lead in a Selection criteria	The selection criteria for the specific Objective 2.2 are those set out in Annex 1 of this public notice which forms an integral part thereof.
Maximum duration of the whole project	24 months
Application form/application file	For the preparation of the project proposals based on the specific objective 2.2, the Application Form – Form Annex 1.a and Budget Annex 1.b Axis II of this notice, which constitutes an integral part thereof, must be used, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal.

Schedule 3	
Axis	III – Protecting the environment and fostering an efficient use of resources
Investment Priority	6.d
Programme specific objective	3.1 - Contribute towards the arrest of the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the area, maintain and reactivate the ecosystem and protected area
Available financial allocations (ERDF)	Euro 8,455,063
Eligible actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A - Actions aimed at the protection of the land and marine biodiversity of the area and in the sites of the Natura 2000 network ○ B - Support the dissemination of knowledge and the utilization of the natural heritage (with particular attention to the land and marine ecosystems) through the creation of innovative services and/or systems and the utilization of advanced technologies.
Project purposes	<p>The co-operation projects to be selected within the scope of this specific objective are aimed at achieving only the programme output indicators listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3.1.1 Recovery and evaluation of the zones of the Natura 2000 network ○ 3.1.3 Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas <p>With reference to the <u>first indicator</u>, the types of project actions, that can be implemented by the beneficiaries of the area, are listed below as way of example, and not exhaustively:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-site timely activity of reclamation and/or enhancement

(valorisation) of areas belonging to the Natura 2000 network in Sicily and Malta;

2. Timely actions to reduce waste production and the negative impacts caused by anthropic actions in tourist destinations in the cross-border area characterized by a particularly fragile and sensitive ecosystem;
3. Maintain the public's right for access without danger to enjoy green and blue spaces particularly those falling within the Natura 2000 areas in Sicily and Malta. With regard to this activity, it will also be possible to remove or relocate structures, platforms, vehicles, barriers, buildings or objects from, and the planning of minor renovations of public-owned buildings in, the Natura 2000 areas in Sicily and in Malta to allow the provision of reception and information services as well and the very use of the area for conservation purposes. If the intention is to proceed with the renovation of public buildings, it will be necessary to attach to the project proposal the preliminary design duly accompanied by the necessary clearance (including those of an environmental nature) provided for by the Italian and Maltese national and European legislation.
4. Repopulation activities of indigenous species for the natural restoration of terrestrial and marine habitats.

Whereby European and national legislation, both Italian and Maltese, require the issuing of clearances for the implementation of the interventions envisaged by the project proposal, these must be acquired before the expiry of this public notice and annexed to the submitted project proposal.

With reference to the second indicator, the types of project actions, that can be implemented by the beneficiaries of the area, are listed below, by way of example and not exhaustively:

1. Timely actions for the enhancement of cross-border environmental information centres with the possibility of carrying out actions to restructure and/or improve the necessary locations and equipment necessary for the centre's operations. A Centre project proposal must necessarily also be accompanied by a General Utility plan showing how the Centre will be utilised by general visitors/citizens, schools, students and tourists for the purposes of the indicator 3.1.3 *Campaigns to raise awareness for the proper use of protected areas*. Projects should also focus on publicity and information.
2. Timely actions for the construction of observation points, approaches and small green infrastructures for didactic purposes (also with the use of ICT) to sensitize the population on the themes of natural pathways and the enhancement of the natural heritage of the cross-border area (geosites, parks, reserves, etc.)
3. Organization of cross-border competitions also through the "GAMING" approach within protected areas (terrestrial and

	<p>marine) in order to create events capable of sensitizing public opinion regarding the following themes: correct use of the sites and natural heritage characterized by particularly fragile and sensitive ecosystems, rules of behaviour for sustainable tourism(as per definition), respect of natural ecosystems and avoidance of all forms of pollution, recycling and reuse of materials, waste collection.</p> <p>Whereby European and national legislation, both Italian and Maltese, requires the issuance of clearances for the implementation of the interventions provided for in the project proposal, the latter must be acquired before the expiry of this notice and attached to the submitted project proposal.</p>
<p>Categories of eligible beneficiaries</p>	<p>Co-operation projects can only be presented by the following categories of eligible subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Public and private research organizations according to the provisions of Reg. (EU) 651/2014; o central, local and regional administrations; o specialized agencies and institutes of the state; o park entities, governmental entities responsible to care for the environment/ parks o professional and/or research associations, provided they have a legal personality, operating in the sectors of intervention of axis III.
<p>Project features</p>	<p>The co-operation projects must be developed entirely within a maximum of 6 Work Packages (WP) according to the following development logic:</p> <p>WP0 - Project preparation (optional)</p> <p>The activities aimed at drafting and submitting the application form can be included within this WP.</p> <p>The type of expenses eligible for the realization of WP0 is limited exclusively to “staff costs”, “travel and subsistence expenses” and “costs for external consultancies and services”.</p> <p>It is specified that the costs related to the preparation of the project, duly justified and documented, cannot exceed the total value of € 20,000.</p> <p>With reference to the eligibility of costs within WP0, please read the instructions in section 9.4.2. of the Programme Implementation Manual, related to this public notice.</p> <p>WP1 - Management and coordination</p> <p>WP1 must contain a description of how management will be carried out at a strategic and operational level in the project with particular reference to the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. structure, responsibilities and procedures for the daily management and coordination of the project; 2. communication within the partnership; 3. reporting and monitoring and evaluation procedures; 4. quality and risk management. <p>For this public notice, the budget estimate for WP1, under penalty of</p>

	<p><u>exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 20% of the total cost of the project.</u></p> <p>WP2 - Communication</p> <p>WP2 must contain the description of the communication activities within the project, with particular reference to the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. information and communication activities on the aims of the project; 2. activities involving the project target groups; 3. dissemination activities of the project results; 4. capitalization activities of the results obtained in order to allow the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme to share these results and integrate them with the mainstream programmes implemented in the programme area <p>For this public notice, <u>the budget estimate for WP2, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 19% of the total cost of the project.</u></p> <p>For the subsequent WPs - from WP3(T1) up to the maximum WP5(T1) - the partnership will be responsible for providing suitable logically connected activities for the development of the project activities according to the indications in paragraph 7.3 WORKPACKAGE, ACTIVITY, FINAL PRODUCT, OUTPUT, RESULT of the Programme Implementation Manual, related to this public notice.</p> <p>The categories of expenditure that can be included in the WPs - from WP3 (T1) up to the maximum WP5(T3) - are those listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o staff costs; o office and administrative expenditures; o travel and subsistence expenses; o costs for external expertise and services; o equipment costs; o Infrastructure costs (as per no 5 of Project Purposes above). <p>For more details about the eligible expenses and the categories of expenditure, please refer to paragraphs 9.4 and 9.5 of the Programme Implementation Manual related to this public notice.</p>
Selection criteria	The selection criteria for the Specific Objective 3.1 are those set out in annex 1 of this public notice, which forms an integral part thereof.
Maximum duration of the operation	30 months
Application form/application file	For the preparation of the project proposals based on the specific objective 3.1, the Application Form – Form Annex 1.a and Budget Annex 1.b Axis III of this notice, which constitutes an integral part thereof, must be used, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal.

Schedule 4	
Axis	III - Protecting the environment and fostering an efficient use of resources
Investment Priority	5.b
Programme specific objective	3.2 - Promote systemic actions and technologies able to mitigate the climate change effects and the natural and anthropogenic risks, with a particular reference to the catastrophic from maritime risks
Available financial allocations (ERDF)	Euro 1,798,852
Eligible actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A - Interventions to mitigate the effects of the climate change
Project purposes	<p>The co-operation projects to be selected within the scope of this specific objective are aimed at achieving the only output indicator of the programme listed below:</p> <p>3.2.1 Surface covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change</p> <p>The types of project actions, that can be implemented by the beneficiaries of the area are listed below, by way of example and not exhaustively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Concrete actions for the implementation of measures to mitigate the effects of climate change that have a strong cross-border impact. Specifically, the project actions will have to focus on the creation of "green infrastructures" or highly technological/effective devices designed for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including flooding; o Concrete actions for the creation of cross-border environmental observation and monitoring stations for the purposes of protecting against, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change for the entire area. ” <p>Where European and national legislation, both Italian and Maltese, requires the issuance of clearances (including environmental ones) for the implementation of the interventions provided for in the project proposal, these must be acquired before the expiry of this notice and attached to the submitted project proposal.</p>
Categories of eligible beneficiaries	<p>Co-operation projects can only be presented by the following categories of eligible subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Public and private research organizations in line with the provisions of Reg. (EU) 651/2014; o central, regional and local administrations; o port authorities and military authorities; o State agencies and institutions;
Project features	<p>The co-operation projects must be developed entirely within a maximum of 6 Work Packages (WPs) according to the following development logic:</p> <p style="background-color: #FFD700;"><u>WPO - Project preparation (optional)</u></p> <p>The activities aimed at drafting and submitting the application form can</p>

be included within this WP.

The type of expenses eligible for the realization of the WP0 is limited exclusively to "staff costs", "travel and subsistence expenses" and "costs for external consultancy and services".

It is specified that the costs related to the preparation of the project, duly justified and documented, cannot exceed the total value of € 20,000.

With reference to the eligibility of costs within the WP0, please read the instructions in section 9.4.2. of the Programme Implementation Manual related to this public notice.

WP1 - Management and coordination

WP1 must contain a description of how management will be carried out at a strategic and operational level in the project with particular reference to the following aspects:

1. structure, responsibilities and procedures for the daily management and coordination of the project;
2. communication within the partnership;
3. reporting and monitoring and evaluation procedures;
4. quality and risk management.

For this public notice, **the budget estimate for WP1, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 20% of the total cost of the project.**

WP2 - Communication

WP2 must contain the description of the communication activities within the project, with particular reference to the following aspects:

1. information and communication activities on the aims of the project;
2. activities involving the project target groups;
3. dissemination activities of the project results;
4. capitalization activities of the results obtained in order to allow the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme to share these results and integrate them with the mainstream programmes implemented in the programme area.

For this public notice, **the budget estimate for WP2, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal, shall not exceed the maximum percentage of 19% of the total cost of the project.**

For the subsequent WPs - from WP3(T1) up to the maximum WP5(T3) - the partnership will be responsible for providing suitable logically connected activities for the development of the project activities according to the indications in paragraph 7.3 WORKPACKAGE, ACTIVITY, FINAL PRODUCT, OUTPUT, RESULT of the Programme Implementation Manual related to this public notice.

The categories of expenditure that can be included in the WPs - from WP3(T1) up to the maximum WP5(T3) - are those listed below:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ staff costs ○ office and administrative expenditure ○ travel and living expenses ○ costs for external expertise and services; ○ equipment costs ○ Infrastructure costs <p>For more details about the eligible expenses and the categories of expenditure, please refer to paragraphs 9.4 and 9.5 of the Programme Implementation Manual related to this public notice.</p>
Selection criteria	The selection criteria for the Specific Objective 3.2 are those set out in annex 1 of this public notice, which forms an integral part thereof.
Maximum duration of the whole project	30 months
Application form/application file	For the preparation of the project proposals based on the specific objective 3.2, the Application Form – Form Annex 1.a and Budget Annex 1.b Axis III of this notice, which constitutes an integral part thereof, must be used, under penalty of exclusion of the project proposal.

Art. 7 – Types of eligible beneficiaries

Only and exclusively the subjects listed under the heading "Categories of eligible beneficiaries" in the schedules referred to in Article 6 for each specific objective can participate as beneficiaries of the projects.

For the purposes of eligibility for this call for applications for the selection of co-operation projects, these subjects must possess a **legal status** among those listed below:

- Public entities:
 - “Contracting authorities” within the meaning of Article 2(1), Number 1 of Directive 2014/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Bodies governed by public law pursuant to Article 2(1), Number 4 of Directive 2014/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Private bodies provided they have a legal personality.

Art. 8 – Selection criteria

The selection of co-operation projects will be carried out in compliance with the criteria and selection criteria set out in annexes 1,2,3,4 and 5 annexed to this Public Notice.

On the basis of the conditions of eligibility for financing envisaged by the selection criteria, each project proposal may be eligible for financing; eligible for financing under condition; admissible but not eligible for financing; rejected not eligible.

With reference to the 'condition' related to the project proposal "*eligible under condition*", it should be noted that such 'condition' may concern the possible reshaping of budgets, of activities or parts thereof, of output and/or result indicators, etc. These will be specified in the evaluation grids for each project proposal. The eventual presentation of the re-modelled project proposal, in line with the aforementioned conditions, will again be subject to evaluation.

With reference to the 'condition' related to the project proposal "*admissible but not eligible for financing*", it is to be noted that the same refers to the lack of sufficient financial resources at Programme Level for the realization of the project. In this regard, it is specified that the final rankings (Priority Axes I, II and III) will be valid for 24 months from the time of their publication and therefore the Monitoring Committee may allocate additional resources within those available in the programme, upon request by the Member States, for the possible financing of further project proposals occupying a favourable position in the ranking, according to the minimum admissibility score defined in the notice.

With reference to the condition of the project proposal "*rejected not eligible*", it is to be noted that the same refers to the minimum score below which no financing will be granted to the proposal, since the latter would be deemed not suitable.

The minimum score refers to:

- 95 points for the strategic evaluation criteria
- 80 points for the operational evaluation criteria

In the event that the project does not obtain the minimum score required for the "*strategic evaluation*", the same will be deemed immediately rejected and no "*operational evaluation*" will be carried out.

Art. 9 – Selection procedure

The selection of co-operation projects will be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the "*Selection criteria for operations - Public Notice no. 02/2019*" as listed under "Selection criteria" of the schedules referred to in Article 6 for each specific objective.

The selection procedure for the identification and approval of co-operation projects is divided into the following phases:

PHASE 1 - verification of formal admissibility requirements

The Joint Secretariat (JS) receives through the E-MS System the project proposals duly loaded by the potential leader beneficiaries by the expiry date established by this Public Notice and

starts the verification of the existence of the “*admissibility requirements*” established by the selection criteria. The JS then presents to the Steering Committee (SC) a list with the details of the project proposals considered as:

- a) *eligible for the next evaluation phase*
- b) *eligible after completion of the documentation, according to the specific cases defined in the Call*
- c) *ineligible for the assessment phase by providing the necessary reasons*

The SC verifies and approves the list with the related eligibility details of the project proposals provided by the JS and gives mandate to the Managing Authority (MA) to communicate to each lead beneficiary the results of the admissibility check.

No later than 15 calendar days after receiving the results of the admissibility check, the potential lead beneficiaries can submit to the MA, if necessary, counter-claims against the decisions of the SC. Such counter-claims must be made in a precise, concise manner and present arguments closely related to the reasons that led to the inadmissibility of the project proposal to the evaluation phase.

Within 15 calendar days, the SC reviews the counter-claims received and gives a mandate to the MA to respond to each potential lead beneficiary. It can change, if necessary, the list with the related eligibility details of the project proposals;

Duration of Phase 1: 70 calendar days

PHASE 2 - qualitative evaluation (strategic and operational evaluation of project proposals)

The JS carries out the “qualitative evaluation” of the project proposals considered eligible according to the “selection criteria” and then submits to the SC a proposed ranking list, with a list of the proposals divided by Priority Axis and by Investment Priority.

The SC checks the JS’s proposed ranking list, and prepares the final ranking list containing the list of project proposals divided by Priority Axis and Investment Priority, under one of the following financing eligibility conditions:

- a) *project eligible for financing*
- b) *project eligible for financing under conditions*
- c) *project eligible but not financed due to lack of financial resources*
- d) *rejected project not eligible*

The SC instructs the MA to notify the outcome of the evaluation to potential lead beneficiaries. No later than 15 calendar days after receiving the results of the qualitative assessment, the potential lead beneficiaries can submit to the MA, if necessary, counter-claims against the decisions of the JS. Such counter-claims must be made in a precise, concise

manner and present arguments closely related to the reasons that determined a negative score for the project proposal, non-financing and/or rejection.

Within 15 calendar days, the SC examines any counterclaims and gives a mandate to the MA to answer each potential lead beneficiary. It can change, if necessary, the list with the related financial eligibility details of the project proposals.

In the event that the members of the SC deem it appropriate, these counter-claims may be sent to the MC for its ultimate decision.

Following this, the SC proposes and transmits to the MC, for the subsequent decision, a final classification containing the list of project proposals divided by Priority Axis and by Investment Priority, under one of the above listed conditions of eligibility for financing.

Duration of Phase 2: 60 calendar days

PHASE 3: Having received the results of the evaluations carried out by the SC from the MA, the MC, proceeds to approve the rankings with the list of project proposals divided by Priority Axis and by Investment Priority, with the related conditions of eligibility for financing.

Duration of Phase 3: 15 working days

PHASE 4: Having received the results of the decision by the MC, the MA, takes note of this with a special decree to ratify the final ranking and notifies each lead beneficiary of the committed contextual expenditure while requesting the commencement date of the projects. Subsequently, it establishes the modalities and the timing for the signing of the Subsidy Contract, duly accompanied by the Partnership Agreement.

Duration of Phase 4: 30 working days

The final rankings (Priority Axes I, II and III) will be valid for 24 months from the time of publication.

The MC will be able to allocate additional resources, within those available in the programme, for the possible financing of further project proposals at the request of the Member States.

Art. 10 – Eligible expenses

With regards to the eligible expenses, please refer to the expenses identified in paragraph 9.4 of the “Programme Implementation Manual”, in compliance with the applicable legislation in force (Delegated Regulation (EU) 481/2014) and also with the specifications listed in Art. 6 of this public notice respectively for each specific objective under the heading “*Project features*”.

Art. 11 – Documentation and methods for presenting project proposals

The submission of project proposals must be made exclusively on-line through the e-MS platform, under penalty of exclusion from the procedure.

The application pack for the participation under this call should consist of the following documents:

1. **Application Form:** form (**Annex 1.a**) and budget (**Annex 1.b Axis I, II and III**). In particular having regard to Annex 1.a, please note that it is a template of the application form containing indications in order to allow potential beneficiaries to draft their project proposals. It is understood that the Application Form will be completed on-line via the e-MS system. Annex 1.b – Budget Axis I, II and III, compiled in all the sections, signed and stamped by the legal representative of the lead partner who takes care of the compilation and submission, must, instead, be inserted into the e-MS system in the "Attachments" section ".
2. **Letter of intent and co-financing lead/partners (Annex A)** duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the lead/project partners of the project proposal;
3. **Copy (front and back) of a valid identity document** belonging to the legal representative of the lead beneficiary and each project partner;
4. **Formal administrative act** (Decree, Decision, Resolution, formal letter, etc.) which approves the project proposal, highlighting the total budgetary amount for the implementation of the project activities of the whole partnership. This letter/administrative act should be endorsed by the legal representative of the lead partner.
5. **Any necessary clearances/permissions/authorizations** which verify readiness to develop the project proposal.

In case of participation of a private body and/or a "body governed by public law" (public equivalent entities) in line with the indications of paragraph 9.6.4 of the Manual for Programme Implementation, it shall be necessary to attach also the following documentation:

6. **Statute (or legally equivalent document) of the entity** (certified copy);
7. **Balance sheets and/or Management Accounts** for the last 2 financial years, approved by the entity;

All beneficiaries have also to fulfill and attach:

Declaration of State Aid (Annex C)

- o In case of answer "YES" to one or more questions posed in Annex C, the potential beneficiary is asked to complete the template "**Option between contribution under the system of exemption or de minimis (Annex C – Section 1)**". In case the potential beneficiary chooses the de minimis system, **Annex C – Section 2**

DE MINIMIS Declaration should also be compiled. In case the potential beneficiary (namely, SMEs as identified in annex 1 of the Reg. 651/2014) chooses the system of exemption, **ANNEX C - Section 3 - Declaration of incompatible aid should also be compiled.**

- In case of answer "NO" to all questions posed in Annex C, the potential beneficiary is asked to complete the template **"Option between contribution under the system of exemption or de minimis (Annex C - Section 1)"** and chooses "not applicable" option."

The Managing Authority will check the declarations made in Attachment C - Section 2 through the Registro Nazionale Aiuti (RNA).

In case the National Contribution (NC) for covering 15 % of the budget share of the private partner was guaranteed by another subject and not by the private partner themselves, the partner in question should also present the following document: **Letter of co-financing in favour of the private partner (Annex B)** duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the subject which is ensuring the NC of the private partner.

The procedure for the uploading of the project proposal into e-MS system is divided into the following phases:

PHASE 1 - Creation of the potential lead partner's account

Potential lead partners will have to register and activate their username and password through e-MS system clicking on the "Register" button in the login page and entering all requested data. The e-MS system is accessible by the following link: <https://ulysses.regione.sicilia.it/EMS-ITMAL>

The eMS will send a validation e-mail, which contains a validation link to the provided e-mail address. Clicking on this link validates the e-mail address in eMS. Afterwards, the user will be able to log into the system

The user creation can be done starting from the publication of the public notice on the Sicilian Regional Gazette (GURS) but not later than 45 calendar days following the same.

It is understood that the registration form will no longer be active from the 46th day starting from the date of publication of the notice on the Sicilian Regional Gazette (GURS).

PHASE 2 - Uploading of the project proposals into e-MS system.

The potential lead partners will have to fill out the project proposals on-line in the e-MS system by attaching in the "Attachments" section the scanned copy of the original documentation listed above, excluding Annex 1.a.

The appropriate guidelines will be available to allow all potential lead beneficiaries to access the platform and upload the project proposal.

The project proposals may be submitted starting from the publication of this public notice in the Official Gazette of the Region of Sicily (GURS) and the deadline of the Notice (60 calendar days after publication of this public notice in GURS). Where the sixtieth day coincides with a public holiday the deadline for the submission of the proposal will be the one that coincides with the first working day following the holiday.

Art. 12 – Protection of personal data and information on their treatment

The data acquired through this public notice, necessary for the preliminary investigation and evaluation of the project proposals, are processed by the Programme Management Authority (Presidency of the Sicilian Region - Regional Planning Department, P.zza Sturzo, 36 - 90100 Palermo) pursuant to art. 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. For this purpose it is brought to the attention of potential beneficiaries that the processing of personal data supplied by them, or otherwise acquired for this purpose, by the Programme Management Authority (Presidency of the Sicilian Region - Regional Planning Department) is aimed solely at the completion of the *de quo* procedure of this notice and will take place at Service V of the Department by authorized personnel, with the use of computerized procedures also, in ways and within the limits necessary to pursue the aforementioned purposes. The data will be stored in compliance with the conservation of administrative documentation. The Data Controller responsible for the processing of data is Dr. Gianpaolo Simone - responsible for Service V, with registered office in P.zza Sturzo, 36 – 90100 Palermo (pec: [REDACTED]; email: gsimone@regione.sicilia.it; telephone 091/7070036).

The provision of data is mandatory and the refusal to provide the same will make it impossible to fulfil the conditions inherent in the procedure. Personal data, with the exception of those which reveal the state of health, may be disseminated. Pursuant to the current provisions, the data will be disseminated, through publication, in the forms provided for by the relevant regulations, in compliance with the principles of relevance and non-excess. Personal data may be disclosed to other public and private subjects when this is required by law or Regulation. In the context of the procedure, only sensitive and judicial data that are indispensable for carrying out institutional activities will be processed. In some cases, the interested parties have the right to obtain from the Data Controller, access to personal data and carry out corrections or cancellations of the same or limit or oppose the processing of data that concerns them (Articles 15 *et seq.* of the Regulation).

Pursuant to art. 115 and of Annex XII of Regulation (EU) no. 1303/2013, the list of beneficiaries admitted to financing under the Programme, the reference to the approved projects and the amount of funds allocated are published on the Programme's website www.italiamalta.eu.

Art. 13 – Contacts

Responsible for the procedure of this public procedure is Dott.ssa Angela Sgadari – Director of the Sicilian Region Regional Planning Department asgadari@regione.sicilia.it - tel.: (+39) 091 7070254 - 7070186

Authorities contacts:

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Presidenza della Regione Siciliana [Presidency of the Sicilian Region]

Dipartimento Regionale della Programmazione [Programme Regional Department]

P.za Sturzo, 36 – 90139 Palermo

Telephone: (+39) 091.7070013/032

Fax: (+39) 091.7070273

Email: dipartimento.programmazione@regione.sicilia.it

Website: www.italiamalta.eu

MALTESE NATIONAL COORDINATION AUTHORITY

Ministry for European Affairs and Equality

Funds and Programmes Division

Triq-il Kukkanja, Santa Venera – Malta

Telephone: 00356 22001142

Fax: 00356 22001141

Email: fpd.meae@gov.mt; territorialcoop.fpd@gov.mt

Websites: www.eufunds.gov.mt; <http://www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt/>

Art. 14 – Competent jurisdiction

For any disputes arising from the application of this procedure, jurisdiction belongs to the ordinary magistrate of the Court of Palermo.

Art. 15 – Applicable rules and reference

All the provisions referred to in this public notice and in the Programme Implementation Manual apply to these proceedings and to the implementation phase of the project. For anything not expressly provided for in this public notice, reference should be made to current applicable Community, national and regional legislation.

Art. 16 – Annexes

To this public notice, for the presentation of co-operation projects valid according to priority Axes I, II, III of the INTERREG V – A Italy Malta programme, on the basis of the decisions made by MC, the following documents are attached, constituting an integral part of the public notice:

- Annex 1 – “Public Notice no. 02/2018 - Operations selection criteria” for specific Objective 1.1, 2.2, 3.2 and 3.2
- Annex 1.a – Application Form “budget” for submission of the project proposals to be financed under Specific Objectives 1.1, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 section;
- Annex 1.b – Application Form “budget” for submission of the project proposals to be financed under Axis I;
- Annex 1.b – Application Form “budget” for submission of the project proposals to be financed under Axis II;

- Annex 1.b – Application Form “budget” for submission of the project proposals to be financed under Axis III;
- Annex A - Letter of intent and co-financing lead/partners;
- Annex B - Letter of co-financing in favour of the private partner;
- Annex C - Declaration of State Aids and related sections 1, 2 and 3;
- Annex D - Programme Implementation Manual INTERREG V-A Italy Malta.