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## Ex-Ante Evaluation

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L'Europe en Méditerranée  
Europe in the Mediterranean

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### **Summary of the regulatory framework**

*Cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 programming period must be strongly orientated towards results in order to contribute to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Europe 2020 strategy). To this end the regulation increases the importance of well-designed programmes taking into account European, national and regional needs, and focused on the results they want to achieve.*

*The role of the ex-ante evaluation is thus reinforced in the new programming period. It should ensure that cooperation programmes clearly organise their intervention logic and can demonstrate their contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy. It should also help to set up functioning monitoring systems which meet evaluation requirements. Its recommendations should be clear, evidence-based and adapted to the particular needs of each programme.*

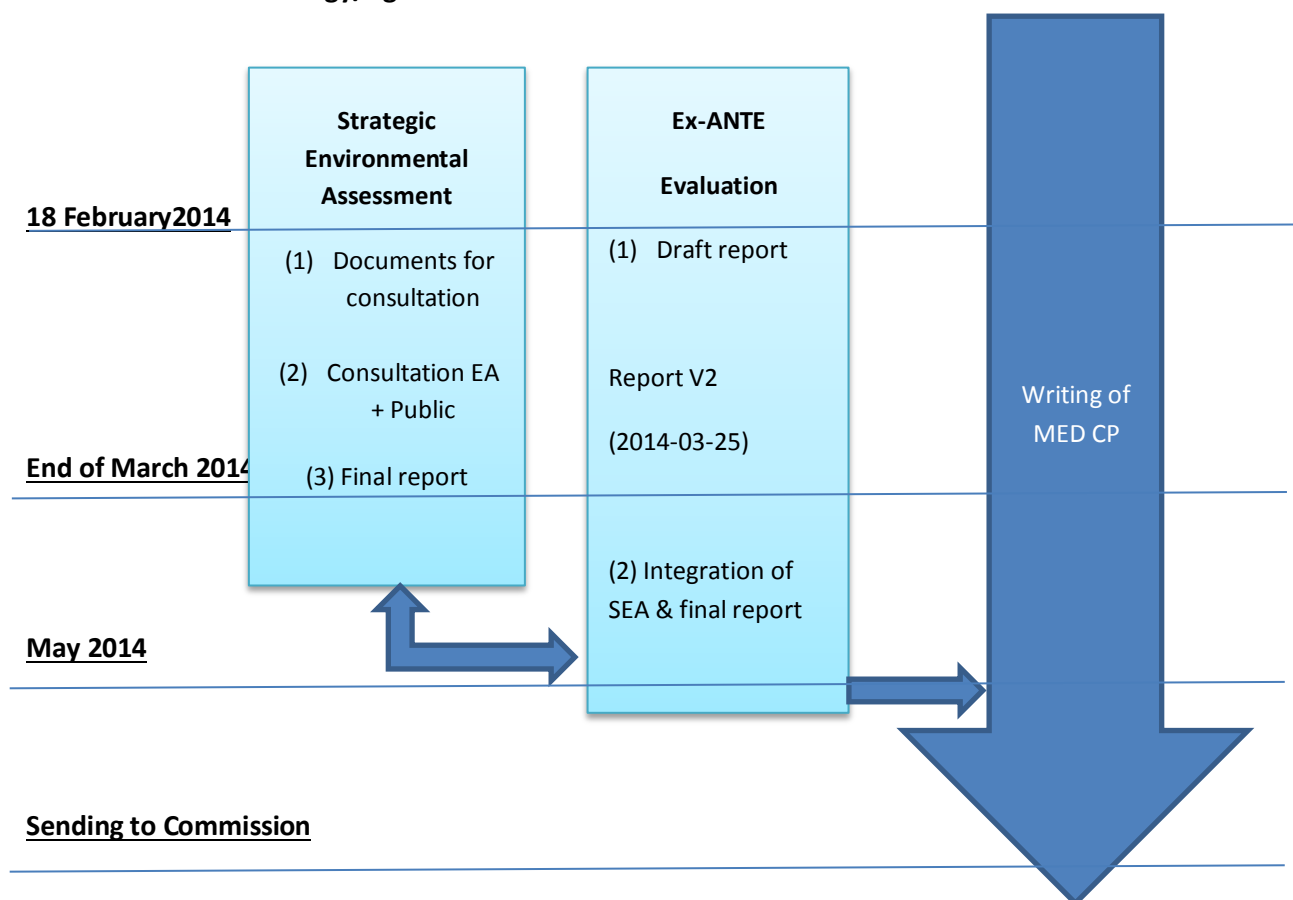
*Where specific needs arise, the Commission encourages the future managing authority to ask the ex-ante evaluators to look at points other than those mentioned in this guidance. The ex-ante evaluation should be seen as a useful supporting process and advice from the evaluators should be fully considered. However, the ultimate responsibility for the design of an effective operational programme rests with the future managing authority.*

*Article 55(3) of the Common Provisions Regulation lists different elements of the operational and cooperation programmes which must be appraised by the ex-ante evaluations.*

*The tasks of an ex-ante evaluation are grouped into five components:*

- 1. Programme strategy*
- 2. Indicators, monitoring and evaluation*
- 3. Consistency of financial allocations*
- 4. Contribution to Europe 2020 strategy*
- 5. Strategic Environmental Assessment*

## Reminder on methodology/Agenda



## Sending to Commission

Ex ante evaluation works, as well as environmental strategic evaluation works, have been undertaken from September 2013 to June 2014

Dates	Events	Deliverables Ex Ante/SEA	CP Versions
September 24, 2013	Task Force Athens	Methodology presentation	CP version of August 26
December 12, 2013	Task Force Marseilles	Consultation of the partnership	CP version of November 27
February 18, 2014	Task Force Marseilles	V1 Ex Ante/ ESE	CP version of December 20
April 9-10, 2014	Task Force Aix en-Provence	V2 Ex Ante/ ESE	CP version of February 25 & version released for the consultation of March 2014
June 4-5, 2014	Task Force Ljubljana	Draft final version	CP version of the 30 of April 2014

Along with the different CP versions, the evaluators have also used the numerous versions of the logical framework, produced and modified during the meetings.

Several bilateral meetings, between the evaluation team, the expert in charge of the CP drafting, and the programme authorities took place during the 8 months of the works.

Phone calls and emails have been exchanged with some programme partners, when necessary.

### CONSISTENCY OF PROGRAMME'S OBJECTIVES

MED cooperation programme (CP) 2014-2020 must deal, even more than previous programmes, with an important contradiction: match thematic objectives with:

- One of the wider cooperation areas in Europe. The cooperation area is extended to various regions (Midi-Pyrénées (FR), Lisbon (PT), Val d'Aosta (IT)) and a new Member State (Croatia)
- Local needs and orientations of mainstream national and regional programmes
- A decreased gap between projects' ambitions and feasibility of activities within the programme's framework (constraints related to budget, agenda, partnership)

The MED programme supports policy areas already addressed by other European programmes. MED cooperation area also includes areas covered by other transnational and cross-border cooperation programmes<sup>1</sup>.

Current conditions for programme design, as defined by the European Commission, don't allow defining a precise and proper articulation with programmes addressing different (mainstream OPs) or similar (ETC programmes) territorial scales.

In order to evaluate the consistency of programme's objectives, we have selected 5 questions from the Ex Ante EC guidance document.

- **What is the added value of MED transnational cooperation?**

The huge number of programmed projects (150), as well as the various shapes of calls for projects (standard projects, strategic projects, targeted & capitalisation calls), allow the MED programme to benefit from a significant feed-back in this field. The quality of works conducted by the MED partnership, together with the continuous assessment of projects' outputs, strengthens the visibility of MED 2007-2013's results.

Assessed results could demonstrate that the programme represents, for several target groups, a first step towards a cooperation approach concretely issued from an innovation process. The pooling of results shall be further maintained in order to strengthen this added value.

Deepening this knowledge of results must be continued by using a more territorial perspective, i.e. by complementing the analysis with an impact evaluation for each territory addressed by the programme's actions. This orientation should be realised by improving the knowledge of mainstream OPs of all supported regions.

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<sup>1</sup> 14 Interreg programmes

MED Member States share an important number of challenges, some of them being directly related to the sea. These challenges are well represented in 2014-2020 programme's objectives. Therefore, it will be necessary to link this strategy with other international initiatives such as the Action Plan for the Mediterranean (APM), in particular considering the Plan Bleu.

Other specific challenges related to big urban centres, predominantly remote rural areas and mountains shall be further detailed in calls for projects in order to improve the added-value of cooperation.

- **Which correspondence between programme's objectives and diagnosis / SWOT analysis?**

Selected objectives are coherent with elements mentioned in the diagnosis and the SWOT analysis. Setting up more complete knowledge databases will be necessary during the programme's implementation period. Some specific objectives for Axes 2 (low carbon economy) and 3 (environment) must be capable to rely on more important technical data. To do so, a capitalisation / pooling approach should be undertaken during this programming period.

- **Is the level of concentration of ERDF coherent with implementation capacities?**

The proposed level of concentration is generally coherent with implementation capacities and resources in terms of management and coordination, mainly regarding axes 1 and 2.

Axis 3 covers a huge potential field of action. Regarding expected results, relationships between programme's authorities and transnational partnership shall be reinforced. Attention must be paid to target groups so as to match challenges and needs (CPR - Art. 11).

Axis 4 will also require an important joint work of programme bodies, as well as dialogue with other European and international programmes (e.g. in the fields of maritime pollution and risks)

- **Are choices consistent with other challenges and available information?**

These choices are based on data known since the previous programme (cf § 1), a good level of exchange between programme partners and an important and efficient work of programme authorities with long experience.

However, available information issued from other sources than the programme must be strengthened, where specific objectives (SO) directly match approaches conducted simultaneously by European and international programmes.

For instance, Axis 3, which integrates sustainable tourism issues, corresponds to an initiative of the Plan Bleu 2013-2015: *The Plan Bleu starts an operational phase for 2013-2015, within the project « Contributing to the creation of an environment that encourages the improvement of the sustainability of Tourism in Mediterranean areas (TOTEM) », conducted with pilot touristic sites.*

Regarding ERDF regulation and Partnership Agreement sent by France on 2013/12/31, no discrepancies with the selection of CP's objectives in their current version can be observed.

- **Is information missing to justify the strategy?**

The Axis 4 – Mediterranean governance, very important to balance the programme, wasn't initially based on a strategic justification comprised in the CP, as it is for other axes. It results from a specific choice of the programme aiming at undertaking projects contributing to the emergence of a macro-regional strategy. It has to be noticed that despite important initiatives taking place in the cooperation area, a MED macro-regional strategy doesn't exist yet.

- **Is the diagnosis having led to the selection of objectives shared?**

The diagnosis is shared. It is strengthened by the Strategic Environmental Assessment and its associated consultations, addressing both general public and national authorities.

#### **Synthesis of questions on consistency**

Initial Evaluation questions	Synthesis	Comments following the TF of the 18 <sup>th</sup> of February and the CP's last version
Added value of MED transnational cooperation	+	The positioning regarding regional OPs relies on final selection of strategic objectives and by the programme's partnership (Member States)
Correspondence between objectives and diagnosis / SWOT	+	From a general point of view, correspondence is good. The deficit of diagnosis regarding axes 2 and 3 has been resolved to some extent by the additional elements of the environmental assessment.
ERDF Concentration	+	Good concentration, especially for axes 1, 2 and 4.
Correspondence with other challenges	+	Good correspondence with 2007-2013 feedback (Capitalisation, Evaluations, Results analysis).
Missing elements	+/-	Axis 4: This axis was not submitted to a specific analysis in the initial strategy, but is result from a shared choice.
Shared diagnosis	+	TF works ensured the shared character of the diagnosis

## INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COHERENCE

### Internal coherence:

#### **General comment:**

Choices made for Investment priorities (IP) and specific objectives (SO) result from 4 types of data:

- Strong cross-cutting orientation towards green growth and blue growth. This strategy is clearly confirmed in every choice made within the programme.
- Continuation and deepening of topics strongly contributing to the development of the cooperation area. These topics have already been successful in the current programming period (e.g. innovation, energies).
- The choice to concentrate programme resources on specific target groups or territories (e.g. urban mobility thematic – Axis 3). The numerous calls for projects 2007-2013 (targeted and strategic calls) allowed to assess and experiment new ways of conducting cooperation and partnerships.
- New orientations focusing on new topics (e.g. sustainable tourism) or strategies (TO11 – Governance), adopted to favour macro-regional approaches and pooling of results on certain main topics and needs in the Mediterranean.

**Analysis of choices made to answer the needs of the cooperation area and the demands in terms of concentration for 2014-2020 MED programme.**

		Main topic <i>Orientation: green and blue growth</i>	Main topic <i>Continuation of MED main topics (experience 2007-2013)</i>	Main topic <i>Target groups and territories</i>	Main topic <i>Orientation: new or «strategic»</i>
Axis1	1.1 Innovation				
Axis 2	2.1 Energy efficiency				
	2.2 Energy mix integrated strategy				
	2.3 Low-carbon Transport				
Axis 3	3.1 Natural and cultural heritage				
	3.2 Biodiversity NATURA 2000				
Axe 4	4.1 Governance				

High degree of coherence    Average degree of coherence

## Analysis of coherence between axes

### Coherence and programme management.

The level of coherence between axes is relatively high despite concentration-related requirements that impose a more precise targeting than during the previous programming periods. In the previous programmes, only calls for projects could target project types, specific territories or target groups. An important gap was therefore observed when comparing projects' outputs and the programmes objectives. Some projects could fall under several thematic priorities.

The new articulation between proposed orientations should reduce this gap. To the contrary, outputs of projects under a given strategic objective will be much differentiated. This new situation must be taken into account by the programme authorities. Project selection and monitoring procedures will be less homogeneous and more technical.

### Coherence and expected results.

Specific objectives may require different levels of involvement from beneficiaries.

- Axes and specific objectives corresponding to a **support approach**: e.g. regarding **innovation** (SO 1.1) or **natural and cultural heritage** (including **tourism**) (SO 3.1). These sectors are eligible to regional OPs and the MED specific contribution mainly addresses orientation towards green growth and transnational approaches.
- Axes and specific objectives coming under a **pilot approach**: e.g. SO 2.2 (energy mix strategies) or SO 2.3 (low carbon transport systems).
- Axes and specific objectives coming under a **structuring approach**: e.g. SO 4.1 Governance, whose purpose is to develop macro-regional strategies on topics specific to the cooperation area.

## Analysis of internal coherence within each axis

**Axis 1:** No coherence issue within this axis. Synergies could be found with SO 2.1 "Energies" and SO 2.2 "Integrated strategies". These two topics also address, partly, enterprises.

**Axis 2:** The dividing line between the three priorities (SO 2.1+2.2+2.3) is consistent with very different operational objectives and target-groups. Results can be used for a joint capitalisation approach. Specific objective SO 2.1 (energy mix strategies) is very important for the MED cooperation area, as ERDF regional OPs mainly support the development of wide-scale technical solutions, not adapted to specific territories (islands, mountains, etc.)

**Axis 3:** The dividing line between the two priorities (SO 3.1 and 3.2) is consistent with the choice of very different topics: natural and cultural heritage and biodiversity. The operational description of this last topic isn't detailed enough for an evaluation of internal coherence (expected results, indicators...).

**Axis 4:** Governance. Good coherence of the axis that strongly complements previous specific objectives. Indicators are particularly important in this case, as they will help defining the efficiency of such an approach.

Evaluation questions	Synthesis	Comments following the TF of the 18 <sup>th</sup> of February and the CP last version
Articulation Axis 1	+	Synergies between this TO and IP 4c and 4e could be detailed if necessary
Articulation Axis 2	+/-	Dividing line between the three priorities is relevant, but still needs to be enhanced when drafting calls for proposals, and to address clearly identified target groups
Articulation Axis 3	+/-	Dividing line between the two priorities is relevant, but still needs to be enhanced when drafting calls for proposals. Target groups should be better defined.
Articulation Axis 4	+	Complementarity with other priorities is clearly defined. Calls for projects should focus on eligibility criteria that will justify territorial added-value.
Contribution of the projects targeted by the SOs	+	Efficiency is well defined as dividing lines between TOs are clear enough.

## External coherence

### **Territorial background**

MED cooperation area covers 10 cross-border and 4 transnational cooperation programme areas, the Interreg Europe programme and a cooperation programme with the Southern shore of the Mediterranean (CBC MED).

A Mediterranean macro-strategy hasn't been defined yet, although important initiatives exist in this field:

- The European Commission adopted on December 3, 2012, a communication entitled "A Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas"
- **Communication from the Commission released on November 11, 2009 - Towards an Integrated Maritime Policy for better governance in the Mediterranean [COM(2009) 466 final]**

*The strategy adopted by the European Commission in November 2009 meets different maritime challenges (security, fisheries, aquaculture, environmental protection, climate change, etc.) facing the Mediterranean basin. It is based on improving governance of maritime affairs which should balance economic development with protection of the environment. The success of this strategy requires enhanced cooperation with the third countries concerned.*

- European Parliament: report on the evolution of EU macro-regional strategies: present practice and future prospects, especially in the Mediterranean (2011/2179(INI))
- The Plan Bleu: <http://planbleu.org/en> and more generally the Mediterranean Action Plan <http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?lang=en>.

### **In conclusion:**

- **Regarding cross-border cooperation**, few elements so far illustrate coherence. Collection of information (e.g. databases) should at a minima be operated and made available for programme managers.
- **Regarding international initiatives on the Mediterranean and other initiatives related to macro-regional strategies**: these important programmes provide opportunities for the MED programme. They aggregate analysis and data that fully complement MED 2014-2020 orientations towards Green Growth and Blue Growth.  
For instance, links must be organised between these programmes and projects programmed within the TO 11 (governance). At MED programme's scale, cooperation can be proposed to favour the building of a macro-regional knowledge basis.

### European thematic programmes (except ETC)

All MED proposals are exposed to a risk of **overlapping**<sup>2</sup> with several other European instruments and programmes (beyond territorial cooperation), mainly as a result of thematic concentration of EU 2020 strategy. In positive terms, it is an **opportunity to complement** structuring projects considered able, to resort to several financial instruments to cover various actions of a same project during the *programming period*.

### Regional and national programmes

Convergence with European regional policies is partly ensured by the fact that compliance with EU2020 Strategy is required for all interventions. Nevertheless, a region-by-region analysis would be necessary. Data cannot be collected within the timeframe of the preparation of MED 2014-2020.

An inventory of the main orientations of regional programmes could be gradually initiated at least regarding ERDF and ESF. This database would be useful for managers of both regional and cooperation programmes.

### In conclusion:

General orientations and thematic objectives selected by MED CP 2014-2020 ensure for the most part a good consistency with regional, national and European policies, due to:

- Convergence of orientations with EU2020 strategy, common to all programmes, as well as diagnosis elements shared by all programmes regarding common challenges of the cooperation area
- An effort to concentrate MED specific objectives towards more targeted topics, territories and specific publics than in the previous programmes. As a consequence, the programme complements regional and national policies (e.g. energies).

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<sup>2</sup> Benchmarking analysis MED February 2013

- a programme focusing on approaches in which investment part is very low and where effort is rather oriented towards exchange and pooling of “good practices”.

**Level of convergence or complementarity:** very important, important, average

	SO	ETC Programmes	European thematic programmes	Regional & National policies	Other initiatives & programmes (e.g. Mediterranean Action Plan, of which Plan Bleu,)
Axis1	1.1 Innovation				
Axis 2	2.1 Energy efficiency				
	2.2 Energy mix integrated strategy				
	2.3 Low-carbon Transport				
Axis 3	3.1 Natural and cultural heritage				
	3.2 Biodiversity NATURA 2000				
Axe 4	4.1 Governance				

Evaluation questions	Synthesis	Comments following the last CP version.
Coherence with interregional and transnational instruments (ETC)	+	Further analysis should be made regarding availability of information
Coherence with regional instruments	+/-	Keep taking into account this issue in the strategic developments during the implementation phase
Influence of other instruments on results	+/-	New justifications should be added if necessary during the implementation phase
Contribution of MED to macro-regional challenges	+	Strategic positioning should be completed, and possible synergies with ongoing approaches regarding the Mediterranean (e.g. Plan Bleu) should be sought.

## COHERENCE OF THE STRATEGY WITH THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PREVIOUS PROGRAMMES

In addition to the elements described in the previous chapters on the choices made for the 2014-2020 period. These choices can be put into perspective with the 2007-2013 and 2000-2006 programming periods.

The two sources used for this comparison are: (1) ex-post evaluations of the 2000-2006 ETC programming and (2) the in-itinere evaluation of the 2007-2013 MED programme.

	Synthesis the general evaluation 2000-2006	Appraisal of the in-itinere evaluation and achievements of the 2007-2013 programme	Consideration in the 2014-2020 CP
1	<i>The variable quality of the initial diagnosis of needs and issues may be a handicap for measuring the impact of the projects</i>	<i>The diagnosis of the 2007-2013 OP is complete, but far removed from the operational objectives of the classic calls for projects for example.</i>	The diagnosis of the CP is complete regarding the cooperation area, but it does not target certain orientations of the programme (Blue and Green Growth).
2	<i>Programme objectives are frequently over-optimistic</i>	<i>The MED OP is still an excessively generalised document, insufficiently linked to project results.</i>	Thematic concentration realised by the CP should foster a better adequacy between the CP's orientations and expected results.
3	<i>The scanty financial levers fail to facilitate the visibility of the impacts</i>	<i>Standard projects occasionally have too many partners, which diminishes the impact of the finance provided. Strategic projects have budgets which should allow better impact measurement in this field.</i>	A more precise targeting of the budget towards each of the specific objective (axes 1 and 2) should contribute to a better readability of the results. The precision of calls for projects and above all of expected deliverables will complete this scheme.
4	<i>Interaction between programmes is limited</i>	<i>A procedure has been initiated with the ENPI MED programme, INTERACT and the Pre-Accession Assistance (IAP) countries. A document has been produced to compare MED/ENPI and MED.</i>	Section 6 of the CP (Coordination) shows that interactions are taken into account in a better way. No permanent mechanism on this topic has been forecast so far.
5	<i>Strand B programmes have not achieved the progress expected in comparison with the previous programme period due to continuing administrative complexity.</i>	<i>The general regulatory framework remains complex, particularly due to the different certification methods in each Member State. There has been very significant progress in the general management of the programme and its projects by the JTS/MA in comparison with the previous period.</i>	Section 7 of the programme plans major administrative modifications and simplifications, e.g. the pursuit of the dematerialisation process and the transition to electronic signature planned after 2015. The common system of certification of expenses proposed during the previous period is no longer considered.

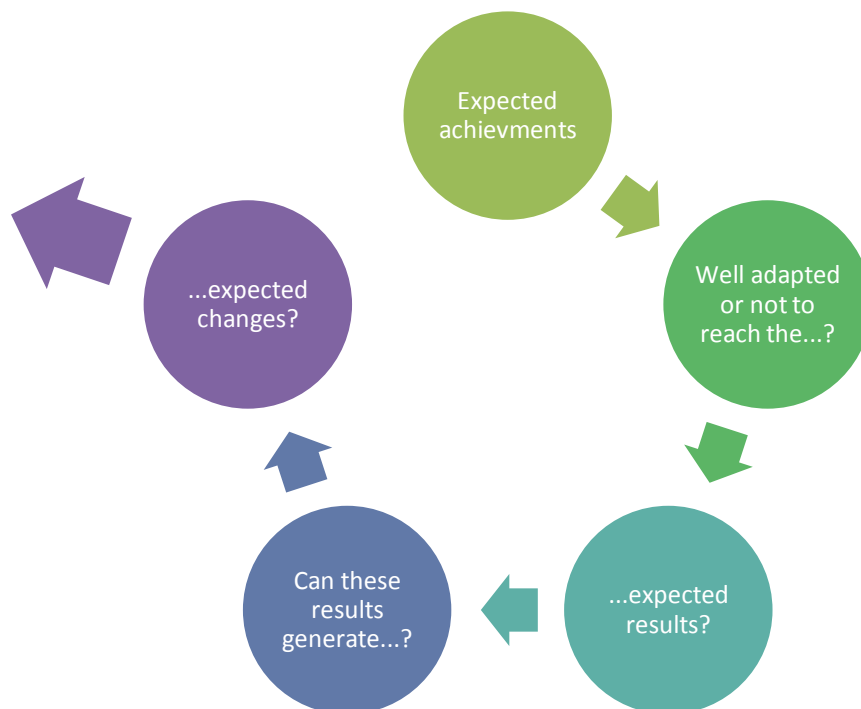
	Synthesis the general evaluation 2000-2006	Appraisal of the in-itinere evaluation and achievements of the 2007-2013 programme	Consideration in the 2014-2020 CP
6	<i>Preparation must begin for cooperation programmes after 2013, particularly for those which still do not have a territorial development scheme.</i>	<i>A specific call for projects has been planned in this area. The JTS/MA have undertaken a specific work to link evaluation and capitalisation approaches.</i>	The partnership process for the drafting of the CP took place during the whole year 2013 and the first semester 2014. Evaluation and capitalisation works of the 2007-2013 programme allowed choosing orientations based on real achievements.
7	<i>Public sector and semi-public bodies on various levels in the authorities must be involved, but also private sector and civil society players.</i>	<i>The Partnership of Strategic Projects partially addresses this need. There are few civil society players in the programme as a whole.</i>	No opening of the partnership was noted during the CP's drafting. A public consultation on the CP's priorities - alongside with the SEA's public consultation - and the « on-line » release of the works, have been realised.
8	<i>The level of integration already achieved by the programme should be taken into account and ways should be found to improve it.</i>	<i>This objective should be taken into account in the course of capitalisation, along with the approach of pooling results to serve as a basis for the future programme.</i>	Several precisions are added in the CP, in order to make mandatory the consideration of previous works. This objective will have to be strengthened in the calls for projects.
9	<i>Transnational programmes should also complete their evaluations by introducing qualitative &amp; quantitative empirical research instruments allowing practices and intrinsic cooperation problems to be taken into account on an ongoing basis.</i>	<i>The informal "new programme" working group has proposed to set up an "feedback" working group to apply a "case study-type" method during the coming months.</i>	The works realised in the framework of the capitalisation process partially satisfy this expectation.
10	<i>In future, the process of creating joint programme governance systems will remain as a search for practical solutions in compliance with the legal and regulatory arrangements in force in each programme area.</i>	<i>Strategic Project implementation works represent an experiment in shared governance. The MA/JTS, currently included in the PACA Region departments, is in charge of organising general programme governance.</i>	The works realised in the framework of the capitalisation process partially satisfy this expectation. The CP propose in the section 5 (5.6.2) a better participation of the MED partnership in the programme's implementation and governance processes.

	Synthesis the general evaluation 2000-2006	Appraisal of the in-itinere evaluation and achievements of the 2007-2013 programme	Consideration in the 2014-2020 CP
11	<i>More active and sustainable trans-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation processes should be established to yield more specific and tangible effects on socio-economic development</i>	<i>The partnership structure of projects in the cooperation area does not yet involve many European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (GECTs) The declared requirements of the results of strategic projects should contribute to improving the situation.</i>	The axis 4 of the programme aims to provide sustainable cooperation in the fields considered as strategic for the cooperation area.

## LINK BETWEEN SUPPORTED ACTIONS, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

It consists in a general analysis of the feasibility of proposals. The ex-ante comments address both possible further precisions to add to the CP, as well as future implementation documents.

Analysing the **logical linking** (causal links) **between objectives, types of proposed actions and expected results or changes** is the main aim of the approach. This analysis of the intervention logic must also check that the **expected achievements** will lead to the changes (or results) expected (Guidance document on ex ante evaluation).



Intervention logic Specific Objectives and justification	Ex-ante analysis and comments	Types of actions and expected results	Ex-ante analysis and comments
<p><b>SO 1.1 :</b> <i>To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area</i></p>		<p><b><u>1/ Designing common approaches and strategies at transnational level :</u></b>  <b><u>2/ Pilot demonstration activities</u></b>  <b><u>3/ Transfer, dissemination, capitalisation:</u></b></p>	
<p><i>The specific objective targets to improve innovation capacities of public and private actors involved in green and blue growth sectors, creative industries and social economy through stronger transnational cooperation and better connections between actors of the quadruple helix (research bodies, businesses, public authorities, civil society).</i></p> <p><i>The objective is especially to improve empowerment of these actors with, within and between existing clusters, economic sectors and networks.</i></p>	<p>This priority's justification shall be pursued in calls for projects' terms of reference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for a definition of enterprises and organisations corresponding to criteria of creative industries of « blue and green » sectors</li> <li>- Idem for social innovation</li> </ul> <p>Dividing line between R&amp;D projects and other projects shall be further detailed in the calls for proposals</p>	<p><i>For this specific objective, the main change sought is to improve the innovation framework conditions, strengthen and empower <b>innovation clusters and networks</b>, in particular in their transnational dimension, in the field of <b>green and blue growth, creative industries and social innovations</b> (connection between clusters, between research and SMEs, between research and public administration, between SMEs and clusters; support to living labs; mobilisation of end users (businesses or consumers)...).</i></p> <p><i>It includes the evolution of existing clusters and networks, with increasing partnerships or increasing share / transfer of innovation between actors of the quadruple helix. In a general way, a specific attention will be paid to the promotion of eco-innovations aiming to promote sustainable development principles (smart use of resources, reduction of environmental impact of activities, etc.).</i></p>	<p>The definition of the types of action is very precise and can be used for calls for projects.</p> <p>The first type of action should be limited in quantity as well in financial allocation in order to avoid duplication with already available works.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> This priority is very well defined, in compliance with the programme's objectives and conditionality for its implementation includes guarantees for a good level of feasibility.</p>			

Intervention logic Specific Objectives and justification	Ex-ante analysis and comments	Types of actions and expected results	Ex-ante analysis and comments
<p><b>SO 2.1 To raise capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level</b></p>		<p><b><u>1/ Designing common approaches and strategies at transnational level :</u></b>  <b><u>2/ Pilot demonstration activities</u></b>  <b><u>3/ Transfer, dissemination, capitalisation:</u></b></p>	
<p><i>The specific objective targets to improve innovation capacities of public and private actors involved in green and blue growth sectors, creative industries and social economy through stronger transnational cooperation and better connections between actors of the quadruple helix (research bodies, businesses, public authorities, civil society). The objective is especially to improve empowerment of these actors with, within and between existing clusters, economic sectors and networks.</i></p>	<p>Justifications allow defining the dividing line with regional OPs which all handle this specific topic.</p> <p>The remaining difficulty will be to justify the transnational added value for each project.</p>	<p>The main change sought for this specific objective is an increase of the capacity of owners and managers of public buildings to elaborate and implement energy efficiency practices.</p> <p>The MED programme will be especially focused on the way energy efficiency innovative solutions are promoted, disseminated and adopted by public buildings owners, managers and end users.</p> <p>It includes the mobilisation of bodies in charge of public or public owned buildings, of housing and construction, of end-users, the dissemination of innovative systems, awareness raising and information activities, the use of carbon footprint tools, collective actions with quantitative objectives regarding the management of energy consumption, etc.</p> <p><i>Projects shall ensure coherence and complementarity with ERDF regional and national OPs and/or other relevant plans, taking into account on-going actions and, if relevant, supporting the transfer of results from the MED programmes to these programmes.</i></p>	<p>Definition of pilots (type 2) and dissemination of results (type 3) may be monitored with easily identifiable criteria, issued from previous programme's experience.</p> <p>Type 1 actions rest on elements that will require priori definition work in terms of monitoring.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> The dividing line with regional OPs is clearly defined. Criteria for transnational added-value of programmed operations should be defined on the basis of capitalisation process issued from 2007-2013 projects</p>			

Intervention logic Specific Objectives and justification	Ex-ante analysis and comments	Types of actions and expected results	Ex-ante analysis and comments
<p><b>2.2 To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in MED territories</b></p> <p><b>2.3 To increase capacity to use existing low carbon transport systems and multimodal connections among them</b></p>		<p><b><u>1/ Designing common approaches and strategies at transnational level :</u></b></p> <p><b><u>2/ Pilot demonstration activities</u></b></p> <p><b><u>3/ Transfer, dissemination, capitalisation:</u></b></p>	
<p><b>2.2 The specific objective is to increase the share of renewable energy sources in local/territorial energy mix strategies taking into account the specificities and diversity of MED territories.</b></p> <p><b>2.3 The specific objective is to increase the use of sustainable transport systems by developing connectivity and low-carbon mobility plans and implementing rail and sea services and applications for passengers and freight in the MED territories. Actions will have to pay a specific attention to the different categories of end users (taking into account the specific needs, economic, social and geographical situations).</b></p>	<p>The priority gathers different categories of projects and target groups. Each type of project is detailed in the justification chapter.</p> <p>These target groups and the boundaries of eligible actions shall be carefully specified in the calls for projects, particularly regarding transport.</p>	<p>2.2 For this specific objective, the main change sought is an increased development of local renewable energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans of MED territories and the strengthening of such strategies, taking into account territorial specificities.</p> <p><b>Smart cities</b> approach will be supported especially regarding energy management systems and the adaptation between energy production and consumption.</p> <p><b>Blue energy</b> sources represent important development perspectives at territorial level and will be supported in energy mix strategies (especially biomass and micro-algae). Forest biomass and agriculture biomass (including agriculture waste) constitute also significant green energy sources to be developed in MED regions.</p> <p><i>Projects shall ensure coherence and complementarity with ERDF regional and national programmes and/or other relevant regional/local plans, taking into account on-going actions and, if relevant, supporting the transfer of results from the MED programmes to these programmes.</i></p> <p><b>2.3 Enlarged capacity to use low carbon transport systems in MED regions</b></p>	<p>Added-value of supported actions will lie on the part represented by concrete and field actions (type 2) as well as on projects' partnerships.</p> <p>Participation of local actors as direct beneficiaries will be necessary.</p> <p>As actions often consist in pilots, a multi-level partnership will be necessary in order to guarantee the sustainability of actions.</p> <p>If not, results may be limited to definition of models potentially non-applicable or non-applied.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> The priority is very selective; it should favour experimentations useful for the cooperation area.</p> <p>Conditions for territorial added-value must be defined in the calls for projects for type 2 actions (pilot demonstration activities)</p>			

Intervention logic Specific Objectives and justification	Ex-ante analysis and comments	Types of actions and expected results	Ex-ante analysis and comments
<p><b>3.1 To enhance sustainable development policies for more efficient valorisation of natural resources and cultural heritage in coastal and adjacent maritime areas</b></p>		<p><u><b>Indicative types of actions</b></u>  <b>1. Knowledge management</b>  <b>2. Networking and strategy building</b></p>	
<p><i>The specific objective is to enhance sustainable development policies and increase the coordination of strategies between territories at interregional and transnational level to better protect and valorise natural and cultural heritage in coastal and maritime adjacent areas.</i></p>	<p>Clear and precise justification for the objective but no dividing line nor synergy demonstrated with other cooperation programmes covering the MED area (while synergy is included in the result indicator).  The specific objective define a territorial and thematic boundary in compliance with 2020 strategy</p>	<p>For this specific objective, the main change sought is an <b>improvement of strategies, policies and plans for a more efficient valorisation of natural resources and cultural heritage in coastal and maritime areas</b>. It includes improvement of coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning, the adaptation of public policies, economic activities and planning tools, a better cooperation between stakeholders, coordinated actions between public authorities of different MED territories, an increase of transnational and interregional cooperation and action plans, an increase of the number of regions involved in such strategies.</p>	<p>Diversity of possible types of actions should be further specified, between projects with research objectives (studies) and projects conducted by operators directly responsible for risk mitigation.  Partnership should be precised in order to ensure feasibility of actions included in the projects. A multilevel partnership can ensure this feasibility.</p> <p>The expected results do not precise if a differentiation will be made between operational projects and research projects.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> The priority corresponds to a major need for the cooperation area. Synergies with SO 4.1 governance could be found. The important diversity of types of projects and situations gathered in this priority represents an important difficulty for the definition of indicators.</p>			

Intervention logic Specific Objectives and justification	Ex-ante analysis and comments	Types of actions and expected results	Ex-ante analysis and comments
<p><b>3.2 To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas</b></p>		<p><b><u>Indicative types of actions</u></b>  <b><u>1/ Designing common approaches and strategies at transnational level</u></b>  <b><u>2/ Pilot demonstration activities</u></b>  <b><u>3/ Transfer, dissemination and capitalisation activities</u></b></p>	
<p><b><i>The specific objective is to adapt and improve protection measures in order to decrease threats to coastal and marine ecosystems. It includes a better integration of protected areas in regional development strategies and more intensive cooperation between MED regions (exchange of information, strategies, regulations...). This shall be done in close coordination with the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework directive and in cooperation with the Barcelona Convention is needed.</i></b></p>	<p>The objective remains very open even if geographical characteristics are precised.</p>	<p>For this specific objective, the main change sought is a strengthening of the management and of the cooperation between protected areas in order to increase their capacities to improve for instance water management, fight against invasive species and monitoring of fishing and tourism activities.</p>	<p>The proposed types of actions open wide opportunities for potential beneficiaries. The selective aspects of projects, if desired, should be strongly specified in the call for proposals (see type of actions).</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> The feasibility of this priority is ensured by a wide range of possible themes and actors acting in this field. Specific expectations regarding research projects and operational projects could be further précised, as well as the transnational added-value due to the possible complementarity with other European programmes.</p>			

Intervention logic Specific Objectives and justification	Ex-ante analysis and comments	Types of actions and expected results	Ex-ante analysis and comments
<p><b>4.1 To support the process of developing multilateral coordination frameworks and strengthening the existing ones in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges</b></p>		<p><b><u>Indicative types of actions</u></b>  <b><u>1. Knowledge management</u></b>  <b><u>2. Networking and strategy building</u></b></p>	
<p><b><i>The specific objective is to develop the cooperation process and agreements by strengthening on-going initiatives and strategies at macro regional and sea basin level on issues of Mediterranean and European importance. This process will include authorities of all eligible participating countries and will necessitate multilevel discussion processes involving local, regional and national authorities.</i></b></p>	<p>The justification of the priority serves as strategy as there is no feedback for this priority in the previous programmes</p> <p>The objective must remain open to address priority's expectations, and particularly supports the emergence of new approaches.</p>	<p>For this specific objective, the main change sought is the setting up of a governance process between all participating countries. This shall take into account cooperation initiatives already launched or tested in the different intervention fields of the MED programme. A specific attention should be paid to economic and environmental issues, with the promotion of sustainable Mediterranean development (Axis 2 and 3 of the CP).</p> <p>The main result will be the setting up of planned cooperation measures between participating countries. It will include discussion and exchange processes, multilateral cooperation platforms, definition of objectives, of a strategy and of an action plan for the implementation of shared measures. Possibilities to connect with mainstream programmes implemented in MED regions are vitally important.</p>	<p>The priority shows an important potential in terms of feasibility. It will be necessary to set up specific communication for this type of projects in order to precise the programme's expectations.</p> <p>A co-building process between beneficiaries and the programme's partnership will be necessary to avoid too many applications too distant from expected results.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions:</b> This priority is innovative and ambitious for this programme. Ensuring success of this approach can serve as a general indication on the added-value of cooperation.</p> <p>Cooperation approaches under this priority will have diverse objectives and agendas. Intermediary indicators should be defined to measure acquired progress at the end of the programming period.</p>			

## Compared analysis of the level of ex-ante feasibility of priorities of the MED CP 2014-2020

	SO	+ 2 criteria to precise	2 criteria to precise	1 criterion to precise	All criteria presents
Axis1	1.1 Innovation				
Axis 2	2.1 Energy				
	2.2 low carbon integrated strategy				
	2.3 Low-carbon Transport				
Axis 3	3.1 <i>Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources</i>				
	3.2 Biodiversity				
Axis 4	4.1 Governance				

### List of criteria:

### Definition for ex-ante analysis

<b>Precise indicator</b>	Indicator to be precised if not representative enough of expected results, or in contradiction with an EC recommendation
<b>Dividing line to define</b>	Can address all types of national, regional or European programmes and policies.
<b>Precise target-group or territory</b>	Target-groups or territories can be targeted at the priority level or later on, during calls.
<b>Clarification between research oriented projects and field projects</b>	Expected results depend a lot on this clarification.
<b>Correspondence with identified needs</b>	Matching a need strongly present is a prior criterion for success of a priority. Mainly for new priorities.
<b>Experience acquired during the previous programming period</b>	Capitalisation and analysis works issued from 2007-2013 programming period can be used as feasibility criteria.
<b>Horizon 2020 and EC regulations</b>	Correspondence with 2020 orientations and compliance with regulation.

Intentionally, the criterion of budget allocation for each priority hasn't been taken into account at this stage.

### **Sustainable development:**

In terms of sustainable development, the following elements are to be taken into account:

- The programme doesn't include infrastructure projects. A part of the supported approaches may generate over time investments related to infrastructures or buildings. Terms of reference of call for projects shall, as mentioned in the CP, take into account eco-conditional recommendations.
- One of the programme's priorities provides an opportunity for projects searching for sustainable energy solutions in buildings. Guarantees for integration of all applicable regulations and standards should be integrated in implementation documents.
- Other priorities of the programme (Axes 2 & 3) integrate in their objectives sustainable development criteria. All eligible actions will be oriented towards compliance with these rules in this field.
- Regarding implementation, the programme foresees recommendations in terms of reference of calls for projects:

*Whether projects are directly concerned by sustainable development issues or not, they are invited to take specific measures to reduce the impact of projects implementation on the environment. This can include for example:*

- *use of video conference to reduce travelling*
- *publications on FSC-certified paper*
- *use of "green public procurement" procedures and innovative public procurement*
- *use of short supply chains in the implementation of projects activities*
- *raising awareness of partners, beneficiaries and target groups on sustainability issues*
- *Promotion of activities with limited use of energy and natural resources*

### **Equal opportunities for men and women and prevention of discriminations**

Regarding equal opportunities for men and women, the programme doesn't foresee specific priorities. Priority 1 – Innovation can include, according to the programme, social innovation, including in this field.

These criteria will be directly integrated in calls for projects and selection process of application forms, programme and project evaluations shall apply criteria allowing classification in these fields.

For projects integrating directly these objectives, a way to measure progress in the targeted domain will be proposed.

**In terms of compliance:**

Propositions of V2 of the CP are in compliance with the 3 regulatory sources mentioned as reference (p. 126) for equal opportunities and against discriminations:

- *Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - TITLE I: COMMON PROVISIONS - Article 3 (ex Article 2 TEU), Official Journal 115, 09/05/2008 P. 0017 - 0017*
- *Article 8, Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, Official Journal of the European Union C 83/49 of 30.3.2010.*
- *Article 7,CPR, COM(2011) 615 final/2, Brussels, 14.3.2012, p. 34*

*And with regulations related to sustainable development: The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) states: "Member States and the Commission shall ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management are promoted in the preparation and implementation of Partnership Agreements and programmes." (art.8).*

**Reminder of the ex-Ante evaluation's EC guidance document:** *With the increased focus on results in the programming period 2014-2020, the identification of indicators and the arrangements for monitoring and data collection gain an increased importance. In particular, the evaluators should verify that result indicators reflect the most significant intended effects of the programme priorities.*

*Result indicators provide information on the progress towards the change that the programme intends to bring to the Member State or the region. Each priority axis should include at least one result indicator. To be relevant, these indicators need to be responsive to the policy<sup>5</sup>, i.e. their value should be influenced in as direct way as possible by the actions funded under the priority axis. Please note that responsiveness to policy largely depends on the quality of the intervention logic. Result indicators should cover the most important intended change.*

*Output indicators measure what is directly produced/supplied through the implementation of the supported operations. The evaluators should assess if the output indicators are relevant to the actions to be supported and if the intended output is likely to contribute to the change in the result indicators. Note for the ERDF, that the indicator type "number of projects" used in the current period was dropped from the list of common indicators as it does not actually measure an output (which could lead to results): the evaluator should verify that this kind of indicator is not selected for ERDF programmes.*

*The Commission recommends that the ex-ante evaluation also assesses the robustness of the selected programme-specific result indicators and their statistical validation. An indicator is robust if its value cannot unduly be influenced by outliers or extreme values.*

*In the case when indicator values are collected by means of surveys, the representativeness of samples should be statistically validated. The evaluators may analyse whether the future managing authority can benefit from the support of an internal or external statistical expertise on which to rely, for example to design a survey to establish baseline or achievement values.*

*They may also check whether the data sources for result indicators are identified and verify whether they are publicly available, i.e. the baselines, target values and definitions of the indicators should be made public. These requirements are amongst the quality criteria set out for result indicators in CPR, annex IV.*

### General remarks regarding the choice of indicators

- Targeting of the programme regarding axis 2, and partially axis 3, leads to a specific difficulty as the programme's support falls within a continuous process (renewable energies, sustainable transports...) while financial support is targeted on a few specific outputs and elements of each project. As a consequence, measuring this paradox does not refer to the direct effects of an investment, but to effects that can be qualified as "side-effects".

In this situation, the available databases will not be completed at the beginning of the programme, and a special effort shall be made during the implementation process to document the indicators in a relevant way. The relevance of the chosen indicators will strongly depend on the direct link between the indicator and the "relevance" of the defined target value.

The elements needed to draft such a data repository are mostly available in recent works on these topics (energetic efficiency, tourism impacts, sustainable qualification of areas...) or in territorialised analysis (ESPON, Plan bleu, etc.)
- For axis 1, no specific difficulties, as the topic of intervention (related to SMEs) relies on important experiences in this field, as well as on a good availability of target values. Here the relevance rests mainly in the measure of the transnational added value of the financed activities.
- Regarding axis 4, as specified in the CP's chapter on justification of priorities, there is no basis directly linked with the measurable effects of the proposed interventions. Beyond the result indicator that should be unique, we suggest the use of a multiple indicator for the implementation of this axis, i.e. aggregating several sub-indicators contributing to the same expected impact. This multiple indicator would be documented with qualitative elements, but also with specific quantitative ones.

The risk to consider the activities of axis 4 as scarcely measurable because of its specificity has to be avoided.
- At this stage of the choice of result and outputs indicators, direct or indirect references to the notion of territorial added-value remain limited.

	Reminder on results indicators
<b>SO 1.1</b>	Share of innovative clusters (i.e. including RDI activities) involved in transnational activities concerning key sectors of the MED area
<b>SO 2.1</b>	Share of regional and sub-regional energy efficiency action plans including initiatives for public building stock
<b>SO 2.2</b>	Share of renewable energy from local sources, in energy mix of MED remote areas
<b>SO 2.3</b>	Share of urban plans/strategies which include low carbon transport and multimodal connections soft actions
<b>SO 3.1</b>	Share of integrated regional development strategies applying sustainable management objectives for cultural and natural heritage sites
<b>SO 3.2</b>	Share of protected areas meeting their conservation goals and objectives (thanks to their improved management)
<b>SO 4.1</b>	Number of joint thematic action plans allowing to implement coordinated strategic operations <sup>3</sup> .

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<sup>3</sup> Such as depollution of coasts, fight against sea litter, wastewater management, integrated coastal zone management plans, maritime spatial planning.

**First analysis of the level of relevance of results indicators realised from 5 evaluation questions.**

	Axis 1	Axis 3			Axis 3		Axis 4
		2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	
<i>The questions are directly issued from the ex-ante evaluation guidance document.</i>	Share of innovative clusters (i.e. including RDI activities) involved in transnational activities concerning key sectors of the MED area	Share of regional and sub-regional energy efficiency action plans including initiatives for public building stock	Share of renewable energy from local sources, in energy mix of MED remote areas	Share of urban plans/strategies which include low carbon transport and multimodal connections soft actions	Share of integrated regional development strategies applying sustainable management objectives for cultural and natural heritage sites	Share of protected areas meeting their conservation goals and objectives (thanks to their improved management)	Number of joint thematic action plans allowing to implement coordinated strategic operations <sup>4</sup>
Result indicators provide information on the progress towards the progress realized.							
Be responsive to the policy, i.e. their value should be influenced in as direct way as possible by the actions funded under the priority axis							
Intermediate steps	n. d.	n. d.	n. d.	n. d.	n. d.	n. d.	n. d.
Robustness of the selected programme-specific result indicators and their statistical validation							n. d.
Complementarity and consistency of results and outputs indicators.							

Level of relevance

Strong	
Average	
Weak	
n.d Not documented at this stage	

<sup>4</sup> Such as depollution of coasts, fight against sea litter, wastewater management, integrated coastal zone management plans, maritime spatial planning

**Comments, strengths / weaknesses of indicators:**

The level of consistency between results and outputs indicators is high. This element is determining for the relevance of the chosen results indicators.

Results indicators for Axis 2 and SO 3.1 cover general references such as the % of plans and programmes. However, the addressed regions are already covered by programmes, charters and labels related to the Programme's themes, in most cases and particularly regarding SO 2.1 and 2.3. The quantitative measure on the impact of the programme will therefore remain difficult to assess.

Only specifications issued from outputs indicators ensure the relevance of the system.

Indicators fact sheets have to specify this complementarity. The use of multiple indicators remains a possible option.

### ***Reminder on the ex-ante evaluation guidance document***

*In some cases, baselines will not be readily available and data to establish the baseline will need to be collected. When deemed necessary by the programmer, the Commission recommends that the ex ante evaluators precise the sources and methods for informing indicators.*

### **General comments regarding output indicators and the information system**

The output indicators can be categorised according to 3 types:

**Indicators based on quantitative data directly related to projects' progress (% or number of ?).** The information can be collected thanks to a database, built at the beginning of the programme.

**Indicators based on qualitative data measurable thanks to the analysis of projects results (e.g. SO 2.2; Number of strategies to develop energy consumption management plans for public buildings).**

This type of indicators will require:

- Prior definition of the measure unity (e.g. « model »)
- In each project, a qualitative analysis on the input of the « model » experienced, compared to the current approaches in the field. This categorisation will need the implementation of a reference framework for each associated SO.

**Indicators using elements that are not directly linked to the projects, but to contextual elements (e.g. SO 2.2; Number of regions and sub-regions engaged ...)**

These indicators are important, as they aim to measure the input of the programme compared to the general context of the concerned regions. They will need to be completed by a prior analysis in order to be efficient. In this chosen example, all the regions of the cooperation area are committed, due to the orientations of the 2020 strategy regarding an energy efficiency approach.

As a consequence, the indicator could focus on the contribution of the project through its results and contribution to the national strategy. A complementary work will be needed in order to implement this indicator.

It should be noted that, at this stage of the programme drafting, **milestones** are not defined<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> «When we talk of « milestone » we refer to an intermediate target value established to reach the specific objective of a priority, and that expresses the expected results towards the target values established for the end of the period » (annex I of RPDC).

### Analysis table of input indicators and basis of calculation

<b>Promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&amp;D centres and higher education (...)</b>						<b>Analysis of input indicators</b>	<b>Assessment of target values and strength of indicators</b> (collect of data to update indicators)
ID	Output Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting		
PI 1.b SO 1.1	Number of operational instruments to favour innovation of SMEs	Experiences	70	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Indicators that need methodological precision	No basis for data sources at this stage
	% of expenses declared to the EC	Percentage	100%	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicators	
	Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises		Programme monitoring tools	Annually		
	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	4.000	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable indicator	A methodological clarification is needed
	Number of transnational innovation clusters supported	Clusters	10	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	

<b>Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories, cities, islands and remote areas</b> <b>Supporting energy efficiency and smart energy management and the use of renewable energy in public infrastructure, including public building, and in the housing sector</b>						Analysis of input indicators	Assessment of target values and strength of indicators  (collect of data to update indicators)
ID	Output Indicator	Measurement unit	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting		
PI 4.c SO 2.1	Number of available planning tools to manage energy consumption in public buildings	Tools	13	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable indicator	
PI 4.c SO 2.2	% of expenses declared to the EC	Percentage	100	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Number of strategies to develop energy consumption management plans for public buildings	Models	13	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition of « model ». The use of a specific analyse could be necessary.
	Number of targets participating in capacity raising activities on energy efficiency	Participants	570	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition of « participants »
	Number of regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in developing energy efficiency plans/strategies	Territories	208	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Uncertain indicator in terms of comparative measures (all regions have at least one energy strategy)	

<b>Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures</b>						<b>Analysis of input indicators</b>	<b>Assessment of target values and strength of indicators</b> (collect of data to update indicators)
ID	Output Indicator	Measurement unit	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting		
PI 4.e SO 2.2	Number of planning tools to develop energy plans including local RES	Tools	13	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition of "tools"
	% of expenses declared to the EC	Percentage	100	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Population of islands covered by plans	Population	15% de la population	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Population of other remote areas covered by plans	Population	5-10%	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable indicator	By definition, the values will be weak as they deal with « remote regions ».
	Number of models to develop action plans including local RES in energy mix	Models	13	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition of « model ». The use of a specific analysis could be necessary.
	Number of regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in increasing share of local RES in energy mix	Territories	208	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable indicator	
PI 4.e SO 2.3	Number of ICT available to foster the use of LC transport solutions, including multimodal ones	Tools	6	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	% of expenses declared to the EC	Percentage	100	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Number of models to develop urban plans including low carbon	Models	7	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition of « model ». The use of a specific

	transport and multimodal connections soft actions						analysis could be necessary.
	Number of pilot actions implemented to foster the use of LC transports	Pilots	12	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition « pilot » The use of a specific analysis could be necessary.
	Population involved in awareness raising activities	Population		Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Number of urban areas engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in developing urban plans/strategies including low carbon transport and multimodal connections soft actions	Territories		Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Uncertain indicator in terms of comparative measures.	

<b>Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b>						<b>Analysis of input indicators</b>	<b>Assessment of target values and strength of indicators</b> (collect of data to update indicators)
ID	Output Indicator	Measurement unit	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting		
PI 6.c SO 3.1	Number of cultural and natural heritage sites covered by sustainable tourism evaluation tool	Sites	272	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	The use of a specific analysis could be necessary.
	% of expenses declared to the EC	Percentage	100%	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Number of territorial authorities participating in supported transnational joint projects to mitigate natural aleas and threats	Territories	140	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Number of planning tools on sustainable tourism policies in the Mediterranean OR Number of planning tools for better protection of natural and cultural heritage	Tools	7 ou 15	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition « tools » The use of a specific analysis could be necessary.
	Number of strategies applying sustainable management criteria	Strategies	22	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	Need for a prior definition « strategy » The use of a specific analysis could be necessary.
	Number of regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing regional development strategies respectful of cultural and natural heritage	Territories	280	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Uncertain indicator in terms of comparative measures. (all regions have developed this kind of plans)	

<b>Protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures</b>						<b>Analysis of input indicators</b>	<b>Assessment of target values and strength of indicators</b> (collect of data to update indicators)
<b>ID</b>	<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target Value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of Data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>		
PI 6.d SO 3.2	Number of joint governance plans	Plans	80	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	The use of a specific analysis could be necessary
	% of expenses declared to the EC	Percentage	100%	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Surface of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	1.250.000	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	The use of a specific analysis could be necessary
	Number of protected areas engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing management strategies	Areas	50	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Uncertain indicator in terms of comparative measures. (all the regions have developed this kind of plans)	

<b>Enhancing Mediterranean Governance</b>						<b>Analysis of input indicators</b>	<b>Assessment of target values and strength of indicators</b> (collect of data to update indicators)
ID			Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting		
PI 11 SO 4.1	Number of stakeholders (structures) involved in supported initiatives (per category representing public and private stakeholders)	Organisations	1.200	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	% of expenses declared to the EC	Percentage	100	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	
	Number of thematic transnational joint action plans (on themes covered by other SO)	Action plans	3	Programme monitoring tools	Annually	Suitable and relevant indicator	The use of a specific analysis could be necessary

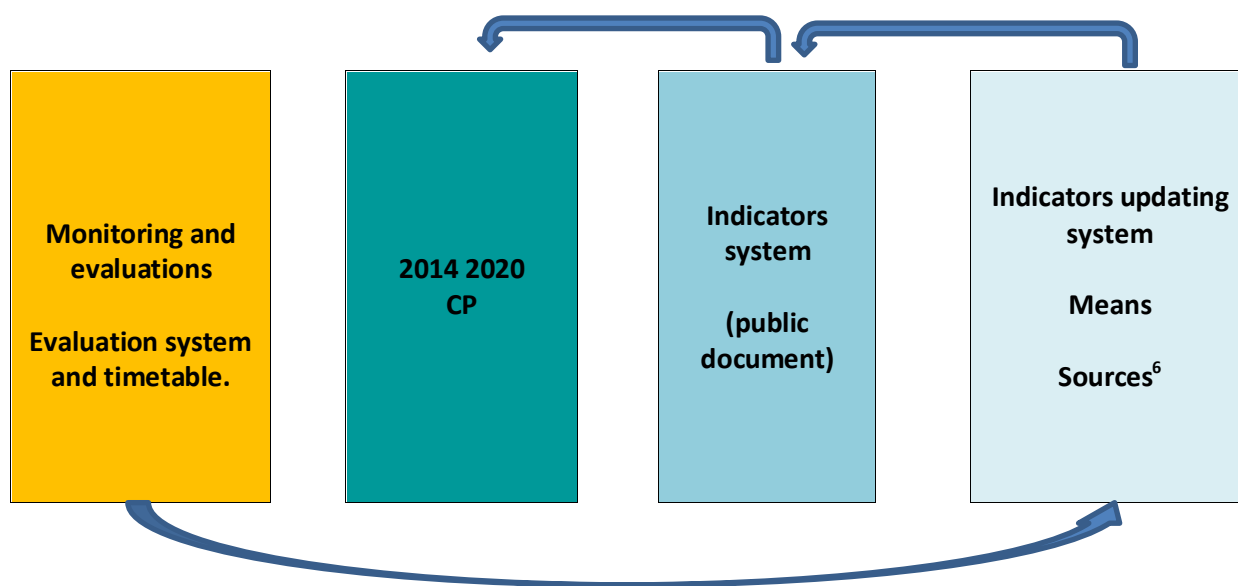
## ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY, DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE AND EVALUATION

All required elements to proceed to this part of the analysis are not issued from the CP.

The level of information required implies a specific work between the evaluator and the staff responsible for the programme.

This chapter will be completed when the elements needed for the final report will be available. If the mechanism is not completed when the CP is submitted, the type of process that will be implemented will be however mentioned.

**The following table is a summary diagram of requirements, in term of indicators updating and monitoring/evaluation of the programme.**



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<sup>6</sup> Ex ante evaluators must verify that processes will be implemented in order to guarantee the quality of data, e.g. defining precisely the content and the source of each indicator in a guidance document.

**As an example**, the indicators chosen by the 2014-2020 MED programme can use several sources of information.

Output indicators (previous chapter)	Example	Type of method for data collection	Prior work
<b>Indicators based on quantitative data directly related to projects progress.</b>	% or number of.	Technical database built with reference values confronted with projects results	Data collection and representative set of studies existing in the addressed fields.
<b>Indicators based on qualitative data measurable thanks to the analysis of projects results.</b>	Number of « models »	Definition of a reference framework through internal or external expertise.	
<b>Indicators using elements that are not directly linked to the projects, but to contextual elements</b>	Number of regions concerned by...	Database allowing a comparative analysis between projects results and evaluation processes within the cooperation area.	

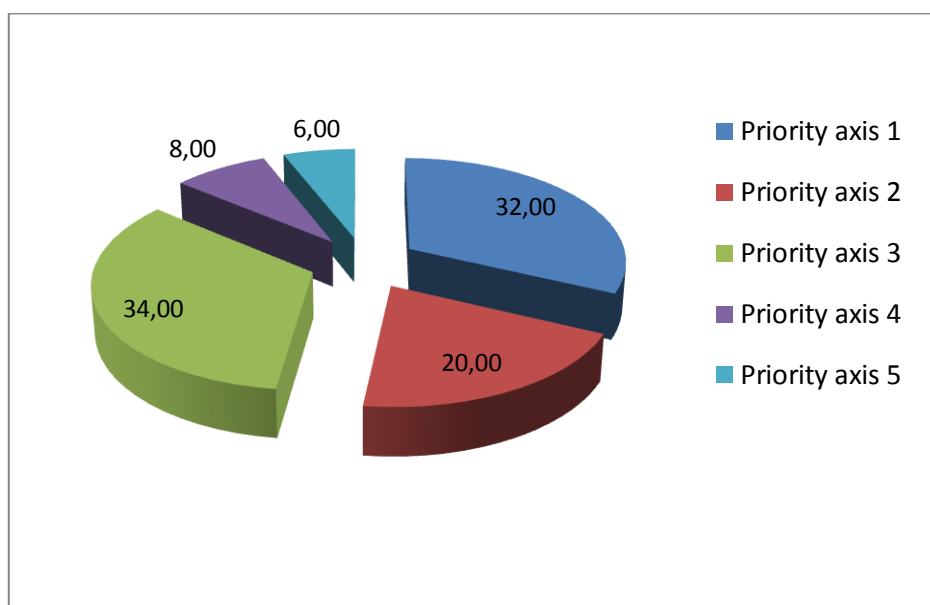


Mechanism and resources for the implementation of this mechanism.

## CONSISTENCY OF FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS

### Current indicative financial allocation

Proposal for the budget allocation per Priority Axis	M€	%
Priority Axis 1: Innovation capacity	71.778.794	32,00
Priority Axis 2: Low-carbon economy	44.861.746	20,00
Priority Axis 3: Environment	76.264.969	34,00
Priority Axis 4: Enhancing Mediterranean coordination	17.944.699	8,00
Technical assistance	13.458.524	6,00
	<b>224.308.732</b>	<b>100</b>



### Ex-ante analysis of financial allocation:

We will successively take again each evaluation question and the answer that can be done at this stage of the programme's evaluation.

**(1) Financial allocations are concentrated on the most important objectives addressing challenges and needs**

They are for Axis 1 Innovation (32%), that is considered as strategic by the programme, and for Axis 3 Environment (34%) that addresses a major orientation of the programme and where needs are considered as very important by both CP's diagnosis and SWOT.

**(2) Appraise the consistency of the allocations looking at the identified challenges and needs that informed the objectives**

Basis that have allowed the budget breakdown proposal at this stage are:

- Elements from the diagnosis
- Data generated by evaluation, result analysis and capitalisation processes realised during the 2007-2013 period
- Elements issued from financial evaluation of 2007-2013 programme (by category of project)
- Task force's works.

In order to put into perspective the financial breakdown together with the expected results and the result indicators as mentioned in the intervention logic, we can notice that the Axis 3 Environment, with the bigger allocation, comprises support modes and target groups that should be further defined regarding the territorial added value while drafting calls for proposals, in order to limit overlapping with other European programmes.

Financial allocations comply with expectations and specifications described in the chapter section 1.1.2 of the CP.

**Guidance document, p. 17:** *The evaluators should appraise the "contribution of the programme to the Europe 2020 strategy, having regard to the selected thematic objectives and priorities, taking into account national and regional needs" (Article 48(3)(a) CPR). In addition to verifying the consistency of the programme with the Europe 2020 strategy, the intervention logic and the intended results, the evaluators should assess to what extent the programme is likely to contribute to the strategy's objectives and targets.*

The appraisal of the contribution of the programme should be expressed in accordance with the five quantitative targets fixed in the EU2020 strategy, as described here below:

Topic	Target
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed</li> </ul>
<b>R&amp;D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3% of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&amp;D</li> </ul>
<b>Climate change and energy sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990</li> <li>○ 20% of energy from renewables</li> <li>○ 20% increase in energy efficiency</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10%</li> <li>○ At least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education</li> </ul>
<b>Fighting poverty and social exclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At least 20 million fewer people with or at risk of poverty and social exclusion</li> </ul>

This approach is not realistic as MED specific contribution cannot be assessed in direct quantitative terms, as well as all ETC programmes; the ETC contribution complements national and regional programmes using ESI funding, and ETC doesn't support big investments and infrastructures.

Therefore, the MED contribution to EU2020 strategy will be identified through the programme's intervention logic, starting from the main findings of the strategic diagnosis and SWOT analysis, and ending with the description of activities foreseen under each priority axis (and specific objectives included in each axis).

The coherence of the programme (and diagnosis) are also analysed through their compliance to the following set of documents:

- EU2020 documentation
- Common Strategic Framework 2014 to 2020
- Territorial agenda of the European Union 2020
- European thematic strategies relevant for the MED space, such as blue growth / maritime integrated management, energy, water... papers.
- National position papers related to MED Member States (ETC sections)
- Partnership agreements of MED Member States (chapters regarding ETC)

Coherence with mainstream regional and national programmes is analysed within the "external coherence" chapter.

Coherence with horizontal principles such as sustainable development and equal opportunities is analysed within the chapter dedicated to Section 8 of the programme.

**The MED programme and strategic diagnosis mainly comply with the objectives of EU2020 strategy, as illustrated in the following analysis. However, some improvements can be sought mainly regarding:**

- **The coherence with national papers related to EU2020 strategy (EC position papers / partnership agreements – ETC sections). Coherence with mainstream regional programmes, to which the programme often refers, could also be further described, but as the programme comprises a geographical area of 57 regions, a global coherence analysis at national level could be considered as sufficient, considering that a checking of complementarity with regional programmes will be realised in the projects' selection process, and that all regional programmes will mainly focus (80%) on investments linked to TO1 to 4.**
- **The justification of the programme's strategy when it doesn't follow diagnosis/SWOT recommendations, e.g. regarding TO3 (competitiveness of SMEs) and TO 5 (climate change / risk prevention)**

### **1) Strategic diagnosis and SWOT analysis:**

The diagnosis clearly builds its analysis in line with the three pillars of EU2020 strategy (smart, sustainable and inclusive growth) and the 11 thematic objectives (TO) listed by EC regulation.

It identifies 6 TO of major interest to position MED programme's strategy, after having excluded "inclusive TOs" for justified reasons (ERDF funding, priorities already dealt with by cross-border programmes or ERDF...).

	<b>MED fundamental strategy</b>	<b>Smart growth positioning</b>	<b>Sustainable growth positioning</b>
1) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1b		
4) Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (for integrated management of MED cities)		
6) Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	All PI		
11) Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration			
3) Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs		3a, 3b	
5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management:			5a, 5b

*Source : MED diagnosis final report, 2013-08-30*

TO2 (ICT) and TO10 (competences / training) are considered as topics of interest for the programme, but that should be treated as cross-cutting issues, included as horizontal principles in other TOs.

TO3 and TO5 are considered as important, but not fundamental. The programme could add these TOs if a clear smart (TO3) or sustainable (TO5) growth orientation is sought by the programme's partnership.

The programme has followed diagnosis / SWOT orientations by selecting all "fundamental" TOs.

**TO10 has been undertaken through the inclusion of social economy in targeted sectors within TO1.**

**TO3's targeting on SMEs has been clearly included within TO1, by including this group as a major target**, as reflected in the choice of the result indicator (% of SMEs), justified by the fact that measuring SMEs progress relevantly illustrates the achievement of the programme's specific objective.

TO5 was firstly included as a specific objective (SO) dedicated to risk management in coastal areas within PI 6c, but further to a recommendation of the European Commission, the "risk topic" was included as a cross-cutting condition included in a new SO dedicated to integrated management of natural and cultural heritage, and mainly focusing on sustainable tourism. **The justification of this evolution can be further developed in order to set up clearly the position of the programme between the PI6c and PI 5b.**

TO6 is only partly included in the programme, considering the analysis made in the diagnosis, which highlights strategic priorities related to **waste and water management**. These priorities are not directly addressed by the programme. **Further justification on this choice is expected in Sections 1 (chapter 1.1.1.4.g and 1.1.2) and 2 (chapter 2.A.1. on Priority axis 3**

## 2) Correspondence with strategic priorities of EU2020 and associated strategic papers and directives

The selection of TO 1, 4, 6 and 11 is relevant considering EU2020 objectives, Annex 2 of CSF working document and Territorial Agenda 2020 regarding ETC.

The following table displays how the programme takes into account the strategic position of these documents in each selected SO. Further analysis including national positions (partnership agreements / sections related to ETC) on ETC could be usefully added to the justification of MED position, mainly in the section 6 dedicated to coordination with other funds and initiatives.

Axis	PI	SO	Contribution EU2020	Comments
1	1b	1.1: To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area	Yes	Cluster approach aligned with EU papers Targeting of SMEs / innovation coherent
2	4c	2.1: To raise capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level	Yes	Targeting on public building OK Territorial targeting could be welcome (e.g. urban areas)
2	4e	2.2: To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in MED territories	Yes	Targeting on islands and remote areas OK Focus on local energy sources OK
2	4e	2.3: To increase capacity to use existing low carbon transport systems and multimodal connections among them	Yes	Targeting OK. Focus on urban areas would better comply with EU expectations in the wording of the PI
3	6c	3.1: To enhance sustainable development policies for more efficient valorisation of natural resources and cultural heritage in coastal and adjacent maritime areas	Yes	Focus on tourism OK. Clear positioning on the place of risks in the SO would be welcome
3	6d	3.2: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas	Yes	Targeting OK. Focus on coastal areas would better comply with strategic papers on ICZM and Mediterranean sea basin integrated management.
4	11	4.1: To support the process of developing multilateral coordination frameworks and strengthening the existing ones in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges	Yes	Targeting OK, in line with EU Position on sea basin and macro-regional strategies.

**Specific territories:** As mentioned in the diagnosis, **islands** are clearly targeted within the PI 4e (SO on renewable energies), as well as **urban integrated development**, partly covered by one SO on low carbon transport system. A complementary target is selected within the PI 4e (renewables): remote areas. **Another important focus could be made on coastal areas, mainly within Axis 3 (TO 6)** in order to ensure a better coordination between MED axes, as the programme clearly target blue growth as a key sector for the MED area in Axis 1 (PI 1b) and therefore in Axis 4 (TO11), and in compliance with strategic EU documents on integrated maritime spatial planning and sea basin strategies. It was present in the former versions of the CP, and the concentration process finally excluded this specific positioning in Axis 3 of the programme. **If this target is not to be addressed anymore by the programme, further justification should be provided.**

### 3) Concentration: evolution since the beginning of the programme's drafting process

A significant effort regarding concentration has been made since the first draft of the CP (V0), reducing the number of TO and PI addressed by the programme, as showed in the table below. This concentration also reflects a clearer and tighter scope of intervention for the selected SOs of the programme.

Deadline of validation	TF Sept2013	TF Dec2013	TF Feb2014	TF Apr2014
CP Version	V0	V1	V2	V3
Concentration	6 TO and 8 PI: 1b, 4c, 4e, 6c, 11 and to add 5b, 6d, 7c priorities to be submitted to the consultation	4 TO and 6 PI: 1b, 4c, 4e, 6c, 6d, 11. 2 SO for PI 4e and 6c	4 OT and 6 PI: 1b, 4c, 4e, 6c, 6d, 11. Limitation of 6c to 1 SO covering sustainable management and including risk and tourism issues through integrated approaches	Same as February TF Clarification of PI 6c (risks + tourism), better integrated in a concept of integrated management
Ex-ante comments	Too wide, and basis for discussion limited to strategy section (section 2 less developed)	Section 2 better developed, reduction of TO from 6 to 4, but with inclusion of other TO in the description of several SO (TO5 in SO linked to PI 6c, TO7 partially included in SO linked to PI 4e)	Better concentration in terms of targeting of programme's SO (e.g. limitation to public buildings in PI 4c) Efforts still to be made regarding PI 4e (limitation to urban transports?) The notion of ICZM disappears in PI 6c.	In order to obtain measurable targets and results, further efforts are expected mainly regarding axis 2.

Reminder of the guideline: P27 point 4

*The European Commission needs the following information. The programming authority submits this information: either in a separate document annexed to the ex ante evaluation or incorporated in a specific part of the ex ante evaluation:*

- *A non-technical summary of the information provided in the environmental report, as foreseen by Annex I(j) of the Directive;*
- *The description of the measures decided concerning monitoring foreseen in Articles 9(1)(c) and 10 (monitoring);*
- *Information on the consultations with the public and the environmental authorities concerned (Article 6 of the Directive);*
- *A summary of how environmental considerations and the opinions expressed have been taken into account.*

### State of the environment in the territories covered by the programme and existing problems

Wide and quite diversified, the MED cooperation is considerably heterogeneous. Nevertheless, the different regions covered by the programme also present common characteristics; and therefore allow pointing out major trends regarding environmental issues.

Generally speaking, MED territories are relatively densely populated, more particularly as regards coastline and important urban centres, putting aside sparsely populated rural areas.

From an economic point of view, tourism is a major challenge for the MED area, due to its exceptional natural and cultural heritage. Agriculture and fishery sectors are also quite dynamic. A dense industrial fabric in coastlines and large floodplains completes this economic picture. Different activities related to these sectors, along with an important demography, create pressures on environmental resources (water, air, soil, biodiversity, etc.) of the area. In terms of demands; these pressures have an impact on the quality of resources (pollutions), but represent also a potential source of significant hazards (shortage and drought, erosion, fires). These effects are moreover worsened by climate change that affects all the area (increase of average temperatures and decrease of rainfalls).

Regarding energies, consumption, even still in the European average, remains quite high, and fossil energy (petrol, coal and gas) still dominates energy supply in MED countries. Transition to energy mix and renewable energies production is not increasing sufficiently regarding sustainable development strategies.

**Air pollution:** between 1990 and 2009, greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel keep increasing in most Mediterranean countries, in spite of a slowing this last decade. Presence of polluting industries and increasing use of terrestrial transport (above all: individual vehicles), but also maritime transport, are the main causes of this evolution.

**Soil quality:** amongst all types of territories, coastal soil quality is particularly threatened in the MED area. Coastline stability is affected by the increase of artificial structures, both within water catchment areas and along coastline. Coastline is furthermore impacted by erosion, partially controlled by seawalls. From a general point of view, the soil in the MED area is impacted by and intensive and non-sustainable use (over-use of good quality soil in an arid environment).

**Water quality:** On the whole, the evolution in water demand is alarming in the Mediterranean because of scarcity of the resource. The share of water for agriculture remains high; and summer tourism also represents a main pressure on the coastline. The resort to efficient water sanitation (waste water treatment plants) is not systematic in MED main cities, which worsens land-based pollution around the coasts. Moreover, organic matter in coastal and marine waters originates mostly from urban/domestic and industrial wastewater entering marine waters through direct point-

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<sup>7</sup> Extract from the non technical summary.

source discharges or through rivers. Sea water quality is also impacted by maritime transport (tourism, freight), but also by punctual pollutions (discharge of hydrocarbons).

**Biodiversity:** if the Mediterranean climate allows the existence of a very rich biodiversity, terrestrial and marine, the numerous pressures issued from human activities remain threatening for numerous species. Regarding marine biodiversity, this phenomenon can be observed in particular with fish fauna, quite diversified; even if fish stock levels are generally declining. Of the 900 or so known fish species, approximately 100 are commercially exploited. The globally dry climate of the MED area, worsened by climate change during these last decades, is also threatening biodiversity, e.g. Mediterranean forest facing increased fire hazard. Indeed, the MED area covers European territories most affected by this risk.

### Assessment of potential effects of the MED programme on environment

The following analysis presents the likely significant effects of the programme on environment. It emphasizes a substantial range of uncertainty, as the Operational Programme only defines the framework and type of actions and/or projects supported by the programme. The implementation of the action plan, the nature and scope of projects that will be effectively supported are not yet known. Analysis is thus focusing here on an estimate of potential and non-quantifiable impacts. The effectiveness of these potential risks will depend on the orientations followed by the projects, but also on external forces.

**The objective of this report is therefore to carry out a strategic and qualitative assessment of potential effects of the programme, and to highlight items requiring particular attention.**

The analysis of impacts on environment is based on a synoptic grid of questions; that will show, for each action, positive as well as negative effects on environment.

On October 24, 2013, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a general action programme regarding environment and covering the period up to December 31, 2020, called «Seventh EU Environment Action Programme ». This plan is based on a list of priority objectives.<sup>8</sup>

The assessment of potential impacts on environment, through its main tool - a question grid -, is built using these objectives as an intervention logic.

The list of questions is not exhaustive<sup>9</sup>. Many topics, yet part of environmental issues, are not addressed: for instance no question addresses hazardous substances, or natural predators' management.

By contrast, the main environmental issues are addressed: biodiversity, water, air, soil, climate as well as issues related to human health and well-being.

Above all, the list of questions covers the issues identified as being the main challenges (regarding sustainable growth) faced by the MED area in the CP diagnosis.

Answers to these questions allowed us to describe the likely impacts of programme's actions, regarding their **nature**.

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<sup>8</sup> Listed in the full report

<sup>9</sup> Presented in annex 1

Moreover, this estimation was completed by assumptions on each potential impact<sup>10</sup>:

*With which **probability** may this impact occur?*

*If it happened, would the impact be **frequent** and/or occur in numerous areas? (Frequency throughout space and/or time)*

*If it happened, would it **last** on a long-term or short-term?*

*If it happened, would the impact be **reversible** (or not)?*

*If it happened would the impact have **cross-border** effects? (We are talking here of the borders of the MED area)*

**Detailed analysis grids as well as complete comments are available in the full report and its annexes.**

#### IMPACTS ANALYSIS: SYNTHESIS

The following table enumerates the potential impacts ratings regarding the nature of incidence<sup>11</sup>. This counting is not mathematically weighted by the other elements of evaluation.

Axes and actions priorities		Positive impact	Negative impact	Neutral impact	Mixed impact	Lack of rating
Axis 1	TO 1 – IP 1b « Innovation »	10	2	5	9	0
Axis 2	TO 4 – IP 4c « Better management of Energy in public buildings »	4	0	20	2	0
	TO 4 – IP 4e 1 « Share of renewable energy in the primary energy production »	9	5	7	5	0
	TO 4 – IP 4e 2 « Low carbon transports »	7	0	14	5	0
Axis 3	TO 6 – IP 6c « Sustainable development policies in coastal and coastline areas »	13	0	9	1	3
	TO 6 – IP 6d « Biodiversity and natural ecosystems »	12	0	14	0	0
<b>Sub-total (without TO 11)</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>
Axis 4	TO 11 – « MED Governance »	2	0	0	0	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>

It appears that:

- Only few measures are judged completely negative, regarding their impacts on the environment.

<sup>10</sup> The grading scale is presented in annex 2

<sup>11</sup> Detailed grids, per SO, are to be found in Annexes

- Concerning the “mixed” or “contrasted” ratings: they concern mostly the objective related to innovation, then, in a lesser extent, SOs related to energy mix strategies and to low carbon transports.
- Regarding measures from axes 2 and 3, the share of “neutral” impacts is rather high: fields of actions are well targeted.
- Thematic Objective 11’ drafting (axis 4) is particularly wide. Without more (environmental) targeting, we could not rate many potential impacts.

Moreover, the deeper analysis of the most probable impacts gives more understanding elements:

- There is no very probable (VP) negative incidence.
- Only one “mixed” incidence is considered as “very probable”.
- There is no issue on which would cumulate only negative impacts. On the contrary, there is one issue for which “contrasted” ratings are not counterbalanced by positively rated measures: it concerns the **waste production issue**.
- Issues for which several positive incidences (probable and very probable) cumulate are the following :
  - **Water resources withdrawals**
  - **Continental water quality**
  - **Domestic energy efficiency (including buildings)**
  - **Increase of the renewable energies share in the primary energy production**
  - **Energy efficiency for the productive sector**
  - **Urban planning sustainability.**

## OUTLINE PER PRIORITY AXIS

### Axis 1: Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth

The programme aims at strengthening innovation capacities, in the sectors covered by « green » and « blue » growth.

Potential impacts on the environment are widely **indirect** (*impact of the activities developed thanks to innovation support*) and will probably take place with a time delay.

Potential impacts are mainly rated positive or mixed, with several items requiring vigilance:

-The development of **certain Blue Growth-related activities**, which could induce harmful impacts on the environment, for example cruise (including new harbours), but also the construction and exploitation of energy producing facilities or the development of fishery and aquaculture. Other Blue Growth-related activities have not been taken into account in this assessment<sup>12</sup> but their evolution could also produce negative environmental effects (e.g.: shipbuilding, short sea shipping).

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<sup>12</sup> Se reporter au rapport complet, pages 50 et 51

- The development of **ICT**, due to the complexity of IT waste recovery.
- The development of **biomass-based energy**, which has already given birth to a reflection on land usage as well as on the use of land for non-agricultural purposes (as well as research on second and third-generation biofuels).

### **Axis 2: Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories; cities, islands and remote areas**

Axis 2 combines, on the one hand, measures targeting the reduction of the society's demand for energy (buildings' energy efficiency and sustainable low-carbon transports), and, on the other hand, actions aiming to develop the supply of renewable energy. Axis 2 is thus consistent and rather well-targeted.

Items requiring specific attention are the following:

- All methods for producing renewable energy are not equivalent**, as far as their potential effects on environment are concerned. Whatever the choice of energy to study and develop is, the implementation of production facilities would induce impacts, even at a very local scale (during works, then during exploitation phases). Potential negative impacts must be taken into account, in particular during the projects selection phase, as well as in the impact studies prior to the deployment of pilot demonstration activities.
- Interconnection of transports and optimisation of existing networks have very positive leverage effects. But the development of **coastal accessibility by boat**, if not avoidable, has to be studied thoroughly, because the effects of maritime transports are rated rather negatively.

### **Axis 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources**

Axis 3 gathers measures targeting the protection of MED area's natural heritage, and the strengthening of development strategies which would integrate human pressures (among which tourism) as well as natural hazards.

Potential effects are rated positive.

### **Axis 4: A shared Mediterranean Sea**

For most of investment priorities, the programme's impact is positive regarding the consolidation of MED knowledge database that will support environmental policies of the MED area. Moreover, the programme advocates quite efficiently in favour of integration and consistency of environmental dimension in the building up of policies.

The Specific Objective 4 (« **To support the process of strengthening and developing multilateral coordination frameworks in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges** ») therefore presents a very positive impact. Nevertheless, the qualification of impacts is only based on cross-cutting criteria, as the definition of the SO is rather open.

A narrower targeting of actions would allow a more thorough evaluation.

## DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES TO AVOID, REDUCE AND COMPENSATE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAMME ON THE ENVIRONMENT

### Cross-cutting measures:

The section 8 of the programme (« horizontal principles») underlines the importance of criteria regarding sustainable growth in **the project selection process**.

But in the drafting of the « guiding principles for the selection of operations », for each priority axis, quality criteria should precise the “effects in the mid-term” notion, and include **the direct and indirect effects on environment**.

Moreover, the dedicated chapter in the application forms already constitutes an interesting tool for the **prior environmental assessment of projects**.

The programme indicates that “A special eye (will be) kept to project proposals giving clear measurable output indicators on environmental issues (where applicable according to the objectives of the project)”. Project partners could present a **Logical Framework**, in their applications.

Typical structure of a Logframe Matrix (source: EuropeAid<sup>13</sup>)

Project Description	Indicators	Source of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Overall Objective</b> – The project's contribution to policy or programme objectives (impact)	How the OO is to be measured including Quantity, Quality, Time?	How will the information be collected, when and by whom?	
<b>Purpose</b> – Direct benefits to the target group(s)	How the Purpose is to be measured including Quantity, Quality, Time	As above	If the Purpose is achieved, what assumptions must hold true to achieve the OO?
<b>Results</b> – Tangible products or services delivered by the project	How the results are to be measured including Quantity, Quality, Time	As above	If Results are achieved, what assumptions must hold true to achieve the Purpose?
<b>Activities</b> – Tasks that have to be undertaken to deliver the desired results			If Activities are completed, what assumptions must hold true to deliver the results?

This logical framework should identify, per project, its **environmental objectives (overall objectives and purposes)**.

The programme could thus impose that the following issues appear in the analysis led by the project partner:

- Contribution to efficiency in the use of resources (e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy use, reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, efficient water supply, waste-water treatment and water reuse, sustainable land use, waste management and recycling etc.)
- Contribution to the development of green infrastructures
- Contribution to sustainable integrated urban and regional development
- Contribution to better awareness for the adaptation to climate change and risk prevention
- Promotion of employment opportunities, education, training and support services in the context of environment protection and sustainable development.

<sup>13</sup> European Commission (2004). Aid Delivery Methods. Volume 1: Project Cycle Management Guidelines.

The programme could also impose that the applications integrate **environmental impact indicator(s)**, defined in respect to the environmental objectives of the programme. These indicators would then be common to all projects.

Furthermore, in case of **pilot demonstration activities' launchings/deployments**, each project should present a **prior study for environmental impacts**. This impact assessment shall study, in particular, how the project localisation is related to protection areas classified in respect to environmental regulations.

#### **Concerning Natura 2000 sites:**

The « Habitats » Directive describes the required impacts assessment measures when a Natura 2000 site may be affected.

##### *Article 6*

*(...)*

*Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.*

*4. If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.*

##### *Article 7*

*Obligations arising under Article 6 (2), (3) and (4) of this Directive shall replace any obligations arising under the first sentence of Article 4 (4) of Directive 79/409/EEC in respect of areas classified pursuant to Article 4 (1) or similarly recognized under Article 4 (2) thereof, as from the date of implementation of this Directive or the date of classification or recognition by a Member State under Directive 79/409/EEC, where the latter date is later.*

For the purposes of Article 6 assessments, Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of Community importance under the habitats directive, or classified as special protection areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive<sup>14</sup>. The European Commission released an interpretation document<sup>15</sup>. This document makes clear that where a project is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site, it is also likely that both an Article 6 assessment and an EIA (in accordance with Directive 85/337/CE, 97/1/CEE, Directive 2003/35/EC et Directive 2009/31/EC) will be necessary<sup>16</sup>.

Moreover, in case of the use of **public procurements** (especially for **works**), the payers shall use the tools offered by respective national procurement regulations in order to select offers which would minimize the environmental effects of (construction) works: mobility plans, noise and odour pollution prevention plans, waste prevention and treatment plans, grey waters treatment, in particular.

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<sup>14</sup> European Commission, Environment DG (November 2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/13/CEE

<sup>15</sup> « Managing Natura 2000 sites : The provisions of article 6 of the « Habitats » Directive 92/43/CEE »

<sup>16</sup> European Commission, Environment DG (November 2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/13/CEE

**Objective « To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area »:**

**Reinforce the “eco-targeting” of innovation-related projects.** Innovation related to Blue Growth should be explicitly directed towards projects aiming to develop eco-friendly solutions (eco-management, eco-design, decrease of carbon print foot, production and exploitation processes sustainability, etc.). What is at stake is to eco-condition the purpose of the innovation and not only the cooperation project in itself.

**The concept of eco-innovation could thus appear explicitly in the detailed drafting of the specific objective, and in the expected results drafting, as well.**

**Objective « To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in specific MED territories »:**

The particular points to consider, which have been described in the previous chapter, underline the potential negative impacts of energy production facilities and/or infrastructures, regarding several environment dimensions<sup>17</sup>. Preventive measures described above (*cross-cutting measures*) apply particularly well to that field of actions.

Moreover, in the description of the « *types and examples of actions and expected contribution to the specific objectives* », the **assessment of potential environmental impacts** for energy mixes **should be more explicitly integrated to the strategy (models, plans ...) and feasibility studies.**

Furthermore, studies concerning forest and/or agricultural **biomass** should include comparisons between different generation of solutions (e.g.: log vs pellet).

Finally, in addition to studies related to energy production, attention could be paid to **energy transportation and distribution** modes (e.g.: underground networks or not, integration of undersea networks)

**Objective « To increase capacity to use existing low carbon transport systems and multimodal connections among them »:**

The particular points to consider, which have been described in the previous chapter, underline the potential negative impacts of the maritime accessibility development, especially regarding marine water quality, marine habitats integrity and air pollution.

Regarding maritime transports: the development of accessibility on peripheral and touristic cities/sites could be more explicitly **conditioned par the concomitant deployment of « green-shipping » solutions** (direct measures, like the use of new technologies, or indirect ones, like the development of new management modes for loading or for energy on-board). The development of maritime transport could also be fostered in the only cases, like **isles**, where this solution is much less avoidable compared to continental areas.

Furthermore, in town, transport optimisation is major for carrying out a sustainable urban planning. One has nevertheless to remain vigilant concerning the estimate for behaviour adaptation time. The **transition and adaptation period** to new mobility plans has to be integrated into diagnoses, especially regarding possible GHG impacts (traffic jams...).

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<sup>17</sup> Detailed grids are available in the full report annexes

**Other objectives** *(To raise capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level, To enhance sustainable development policies for more efficient valorisation of natural resources and cultural heritage in coastal and adjacent maritime areas, To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas, To support the process of strengthening and developing multilateral coordination frameworks in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges) : no proposal for dedicated corrective measures.*

*This report does not introduce alternative solutions: mitigation measures have indeed been proposed for the main potential negative effects that have been outlined in the previous detailed assessment*

## PROPOSED MONITORING MEASURES

*According to the guideline of the European Commission, the monitoring system presents the following items (non-comprehensive list)<sup>18</sup>:*

- *Monitoring covers in principle the **environmental effects included in the environmental report**. It may, however, focus on some environmental effects or include additional aspects which were not apparent.*
- *It is useful to identify and select the environmental information which is necessary for monitoring the relevant environmental effects. Environmental effects may also be indirectly monitored through the monitoring of the causes of the effects. **Indicators** or a **set of questions** may provide a framework which helps to identify the relevant environmental information. They also help to condense environmental data to understandable information.*
- *Sources of environmental information can be found **at project level**. Environmental information at project level addresses pressure factors and environmental effects. **General environmental monitoring** systems provide environmental data detecting changes in the environment. These data help to verify the achievement of environmental objectives and targets, but they allow only to a limited extent the changes in the environment to be attributed to the implementation of the plan or programme.*
- *Monitoring can be integrated in the **planning system**. Efficient monitoring demands a determination of the responsible authority/ies, as well as the time and frequency of monitoring measures. Monitoring arrangements should also include the **evaluation of the environmental information**.*
- *It may be useful to determine **criteria which trigger the consideration of remedial action**. Remedial action can be undertaken on planning level and implementation level.*

Regardless of the monitoring measures frequency, a **mid-term review** will be necessary to assess the relevance and the efficiency of the monitoring system.

This monitoring will contribute to thinking on the programme efficiency, and to anticipating its **ex-post assessment**, by preparing it during the programme development. This will ease an assessment execution, as fast as possible, and, in the same time, the drafting of the potential next programme, 2021-2028.

The following tables propose a set of indicators aiming to monitor the projects impacts. These indicators correspond to the environmental themes for which negative effect (- or -/o) have been assessed with a “P” probability.

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<sup>18</sup> Implementation of directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment

Thematic	Noise and odour pollution
Type of indicator	environmental impact monitoring
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Noise source mapping</b>
Definition	Strategic noise mapping, according to the Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise
Source	members states and/or cities above 100 000 inhabitants
Comment	A strategic noise mapping enables to assess globally the exposure to noise, in an area submitted to different noise sources, as well as to establish overall forecasts for the zone. This mapping would enable to assess <b>the evolution of the number of zones where the sound levels cross legal thresholds</b> , <u>without</u> then <u>with</u> the implementation of projects financed with the OP.

Thematic	Noise and odour pollution
Type of indicator	environmental impact monitoring
Indicator	Number of complaints for noise / odour
Definition	-
Source	member states and project
Comment	Number of complaints, <b><u>before, during and after</u></b> the implementation of new production plants for renewable energy.

Thematic	Space consumption
Type of indicator	environmental impact monitoring
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Area of artificial surfaces / non-artificial</b>
Definition	Urban fabric, Industrial, commercial and transport units, Mine, dump and construction sites, Artificial, non-agricultural vegetated areas.
Source	Project
Comment	Estimate for artificial surfaces, in the frame of the projects: analysis <u>with</u> and <u>without</u> the project.

Thematic	Soils Erosion
Type of indicator	environmental impact monitoring
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Area of impervious surfaces</b>
Definition	Surfaces covered permanently with an artificial paving material, or compacted enough, especially for roads or buildings constructions.
Source	Project
Comment	Estimate for the pavement: monitoring before and after the projects implementation.

Thematic	Waste
Type of indicator	environmental impact monitoring
Indicator	<b>Tonnes of domestic waste per inhabitant</b> <b>Tonnes of industrial waste</b> <b>Tonnes of hazardous waste</b>
Definition	Per year and per municipality : measurement of collected tonnes
Source	Municipalities responsible for collecting waste de la collecte de déchets ménagers. Projects.
Comment	Weighting quantities of waste, in order to assess their evolution and geographic distribution

Thematic	Waste
<b>Type of indicator</b>	<b>environmental impact monitoring</b>
Indicator	Share of works engaged in the frame of a project, financed with the OP, which integrate one environmental issue relating to waste management.
Definition	-
Source	Projects.
Comment	-

Have been received: a total of 30 participations (7 answers were completed, 23 uncompleted).  
Certain questions of the consultation were not at all replied to.

After an analysis of all answers, they have been classified into 3 categories:

A: Those which have induced a modification of the assessment report.

B: Those which have not been integrated into the SEA, even if they were relevant, because they addressed PO choices.

C: Those which have not been integrated into the SEA, because the topic was already discussed in the assessment.

**Note: the answers are listed in the following tables list; they are quoted in their original language.  
A translation is proposed below the table.**

**SECTION 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment and description of the initial status of the environment.**

1/ Do you have any comments (objection, additional comments) on the drivers of the MED area (chapter 5 of the report)	
thematic : [Main economic activities]	
Except tourism, agriculture and fisheries we consider other drivers like education	C
Except tourism, agriculture and fisheries we consider other drivers like aquaculture, recreational activities and maritime activities	C
thematic : [Remarkable heritage]	
Except landscape it is important to consider the protected areas and their ecosystems	A
[Other comments]	
<b>Remarque valable pour toute la partie 5 . L'état initial gagnerait à être davantage conclusif, à hiérarchiser les enjeux/constats et à faire un lien avec les résultats des précédents programmes européens.</b>	B

**Translation: « This remark concerns the whole Chapter 5. The initial status would be improved if it was more conclusive, if it prioritized issues and findings and if it established a link with the previous European Programmes results.»**

2/ Do you have any comments (objection, additional comments) on the pressures of the MED area (chapter 5 of the report)	
thematic : [Soil occupation & artificialisation]	
<i>This pressure may focus not only on urbanisation but also on open coastal areas</i>	C
<i>This pressure may focus also on open coastal areas</i>	
thematic : [Pressure on forests]	
<i>This pressure is focusing only on forests instead on biodiversity which is broader</i>	A

3/ Do you have any comments (objection, additional comments) on the description of the characteristics of the environment (chapter 5 of the report)	
thematic : [Biodiversity]	
<i>This may include coastal and marine ecosystems</i>	C
<i>This characteristic may include as well the coastal ecosystems</i>	
[Other comments]	
<i>Add climate change and energy</i>	C
<i>Another characteristic of the environment that is important is climate</i>	

## **SECTION 2: impacts on the environment identified in the report**

1/ Investment priority 1b, Specific Objective: "To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area"	
[Likely environmental effects]	
Effects from blue biotechnology have not been assessed	<b>A</b>
[Corrective measures]	
No corrective measures have been identified	<b>C</b>
[Other comments]	
Remarques applicables à toute la partie 6 : Les axes retenus dans le PO mériteraient d'être justifiés, notamment au regard du diagnostic mais également des plans précédents. Les méthodes de notations au sein des grilles d'analyses croisées nécessiteraient d'être explicitées, ainsi que le lien avec les questionnements retenus. Les conclusions relatives aux résultats obtenus sont très généralistes et le rapport gagnerait à les illustrer par des réponses plus concrètes.	B : concerning axes choice. A : concerning the request for explanations concerning the cross-analysis tables. C : concerning the request for more concrete answers.
The activities at mature stage (p.50) may be include in the MED Programme	<b>C</b>

**Translation: « These remarks concern the whole Chapter 6: Axes retained in the OP would deserve to be justified, especially in regards to the diagnosis, but also to previous plans. Rating methods within the cross-analysis grids would need to be explained, as well as the link with the retained questions. The conclusions related to the obtained results are very general and the report would be improved if they were illustrated with more concrete answers.»**

3/Investment priority 4e, Specific Objective: "To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in MED territories"	
[Corrective measures]	
No corrective measures have been identified	<b>C</b>

4/ Investment priority 4e, Specific Objective: "To increase capacity to use existing low carbon transport systems and multimodal connections among them"	
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[Likely environmental effects]	
<i>The impacts of access to low carbon maritime public transport are not well defined</i>	A : The chapter related to Maritime Transports has been enriched with additional information. Unfortunately, due to the lack of data aiming particularly public maritime transports we were not able complete the assessment.

8/ Implementation: Do you have any comments on the potential environmental impacts of the implementation strategies described in the OP (draft version)	
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<i>Aucun indicateur n'est proposé à ce stade alors qu'ils devraient être définis au sein de l'évaluation environnementale</i>	A
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**Translation: « No indicator has been proposed at this stage, whereas they should be defined in the Environmental Assessment.»**

9/ Articulation (between MED and other national/European funds and instruments): do you think that the coordination strategy described in the OP (draft version) takes into account the other national/European funds existing on the environment sufficiently ?	
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<i>L'évaluation environnementale ne décrit pas le lien du PO MED avec les autres instruments européens. La partie 3 laisse entendre que la mise en œuvre du programme veillera à cette articulation. L'articulation devrait cependant être traitée en amont.</i>	A
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**Translation: « The Environmental assessment does not describe the link between the MED OP and the other European tools. The Chapter 3 implies that the implementation of the Programme will ensure this linkage. This linkage should nevertheless be treated in advance.»**

## 2.1 Public Consultation

Out of a total of 345 participations: 78 answers were completed, 267 uncompleted.  
Certain public authorities have also participated.

After an analysis of all answers, they have been classified into 3 categories:

A: Those which induced a modification of the assessment report.

B: Those which have not been integrated into the SEA, even if they were relevant, because they concerned PO choices.

C: Those which have not been integrated into the SEA, because the topic was already discussed in the assessment.

1/ Do you have any comments (objection, additional comments) on the description of the initial status of the environment (chapter 5 of the report)	
[Biodiversity and natural resources]	
<i>Marine Biodiversity is weakly evaluated but presents major consequences for the economic sector</i>	<b>C</b>
[Risks]	
<i>Are limited. Earthquakes-Tsunami are not included even id it is the most crusila risk in MED region</i>	<b>A</b>
<i>Drough risks are insufficiently explored/presented</i>	<b>A</b>
[Other comments]	
<i>Natural HAZASRS are very important issue in MED area and is missing</i>	<b>A</b>
<i>The data provided as the basis for discussion is in sme cases severely outdates as it referes to 2004 publications. This may</i>	These data have not been identified in the report.
<i>For coherence with other territorial cohesion related policy documents, the terminology "territorial capital" could be introduced. Essentially this identifies the existing rich heritage - environmental, cultural, etc.</i>	<b>B</b>
2/ Do you have any comments (objection, additional comments) on the potential significant impact in the environment of the MED programme (chapter 6)	
[To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area]	
<i>define the sectors</i>	<b>B</b>
[To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in MED territories]	
<i>Il conviendrait de comparer les incidences de la production renouvelable avec les incidences de production conventionnelle.</i>	<b>B</b>

Translation: « It would be relevant to compare the impacts of renewable production with the impacts of conventional production. »

3/ Do you have any comments (objection, additional comments) on the recommendations to improve environmental impacts of the MED programme (chapter 7)	
[To raise capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level]	
<i>Etant donné qu'aucune incidence négative n'est identifiée sur ces activités, pourquoi demander des études d'incidences environnementales préalables aux opérations pilotes ? Celles-ci sont inutiles.</i>	<b>B</b>
[To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in MED territories]	
<i>Les études d'incidences environnementales sont réglementaires et obligatoires pour les projets de production d'énergie renouvelables, lorsqu'elles sont pertinentes. En effet, les différentes technologies ne sont pas équivalentes, et donc, les études préalables ne sont permanentes que dans quelques cas. Par ailleurs, les études d'utilisation de la biomasse sont déjà bien connues en Europe. Il n'est pas utiles de les renouveler.</i>	<b>C</b>
To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas	
<i>Apart from protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, the programme needs also to take in account wider biodiversity objectives and their importance for the landscape.</i>	<b>B</b>
<i>We should preserve strictly the obligations undertaken by NATURA and prevent flexible policies and private interests that could even lead to the gradual declassification of such protected areas</i>	This expresses an opinion. It does seem necessary to integrate it into the report.

**Translations:**

**1/« As no negative impact has been identified for these activities, why ask environmental impact studies before pilot operations? Those are useless.»**

**2/« Studies for environmental impacts are regulatory and compulsory for renewable energy production projects, when they are relevant. Indeed, different technologies are not equivalent, and, thus, preliminary studies are permanent only in a few cases. On the other hand, studies for biomass use are already well known in Europe. It not useful to renew them.»**

4/ Do you have any comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment in general	
<i>It is important to ensure that projects coming forward under particular objectives, mainly T01 and T04 do not prejudice the implementation of other important environmental objectives such as those on biodiversity and eco-systems. The recommendations in the Environmental Report should be taken forward in the revision and implementation of the programme including those on pre-environmental assessment of projects. Subsequent detailed environmental assessments may also be required once the details of individual proposals are available at a later stage.</i>	<b>C</b>

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE OPERATIONNAL PROGRAMME HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Recommendations, suggestions		
Basis= SEA report V2 (as of the 12th of March 2014): this version was released for the consultations and included proposals for mitigations measures	Insertion in the successive CP versions	Final recommendations (Concerning the CP and/or its implementation, Calls for projects, ...)
<p>Complete the projects quality criteria mentioned in the « guiding principles for the selection of operations »:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- direct and indirect effects on the environment</li> <li>- mid-term effects</li> </ul>	<p><b>YES</b>, in the CP version V4, as released on April 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-quality criteria for projects selection mention « the attention paid to mid and long-term direct and indirect environmental effects of the project ». (pages 50, 58)</li> <li>-« When relevant, additional requirements will be included in the terms of reference of the calls for projects, especially regarding environmental issues” (pages 50, 58, 67, 77, 84, 92)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: in the PO version V3« bis » as of the 25th of March, the phrase concerning the attention paid to mid and long-term direct and indirect environmental effects of the project was present on pages 69, 78, 86 and 93, as well, but has disappeared afterwards.</i></p>	<p>It is indeed necessary that judgment criteria for projects quality are available for all potential partners and appear explicitly in the Terms of Reference.</p>
Require from project partners that they present a Logical Framework, in which they should identify the environmental objectives of the projects	<b>Not directly integrated</b>	The request for a logical framework could be introduced in the methodology for Projects Calls.
Require from project partner that their applications integrate environmental impact indicators	<b>Not directly integrated</b>	

Recommendations, suggestions		
Basis= SEA report V2 (as of the 12th of March 2014): this version was released for the consultations and included proposals for mitigations measures	Insertion in the successive CP versions	Final recommendations (Concerning the CP and/or its implementation, Calls for projects, ...)
In case of pilot demonstration activities launchings / deployments: prior study of environmental impacts	<p><b>Not directly integrated:</b> no systematic request for a prior incidence assessment;</p> <p><i>Note : the following phrase was present in the PO version V3« bis » as of the 25th of March (page 69), but it has disappeared since: «In the case of projects focused on the promotion of renewable energy, strategic studies or feasibility studies will have to include an analysis of the environmental impact of energy mix development. »</i></p>	
Public procurements: implement rating tools allowing to select offers which would minimize the operations impacts	<b>Not directly integrated</b>	<p>The section 8 mentions the use of green public procurement procedures (page 140). Nevertheless, the stake is well beyond the use of paperless procedures: it is about developing tender modes which would allow to select the best bidder offers as far as environment respect is concerned.</p>
SO 1 : reinforce eco-targeting of projects related to innovation	<p><b>YES</b> (in the CP version V3 bis as of the 25th of March, page 43 and in the V4 version as of the 30th of April, page 46)</p> <p>« In a general way, a specific attention will be paid to the promotion of eco-innovations aiming to promote sustainable development principles (smart use of resources, reduction of environmental impact of activities, etc.).»</p>	<p>It would be decisive for SO 1 related projects that their « eco innovative » characteristic appears among the selection criteria, in the Terms of Reference.</p>

Recommendations, suggestions		
Basis= SEA report V2 (as of the 12th of March 2014): this version was released for the consultations and included proposals for mitigations measures	Insertion in the successive CP versions	Final recommendations (Concerning the CP and/or its implementation, Calls for projects, ...)
SO 2.2 : explicitly integrate the assessment of potential environmental impacts into strategy and feasibility studies	<b>Not directly integrated</b> <i>Note : the following phrase was present in the CP version V3« bis » as of the 25th of March (page 69), but it has disappeared since: « In the case of projects focused on the promotion of renewable energy, strategic studies or feasibility studies will have to include an analysis of the environmental impact of energy mix development. Where relevant, projects will have to take into account impact of modes of transport and modes of distribution of energy».</i>	
SO 2.2 : pay attention to energy transportation and distribution modes		
SO 2.2 : include comparisons between different generation of solutions into studies concerning forest and/or agricultural biomass	<b>Not directly integrated</b> <i>Note: the following phrase was present in the CP version V3« bis » as of the 25th of March (page 69), but it has disappeared since: « In the case of projects focused on the promotion of biomass, projects will have to include a comparison between the different types of solutions (wood, granules...).».</i>	The calls for projects can develop the content of the requested comparisons: beyond the production technical issues, it would be relevant to address concerns related to chains and supply channels, for each studied solution.
SO 2.3 : condition the development of maritime transport to the deployment of greenshipping solutions	<b>Not directly integrated</b> <i>Note: the following phrase was present in the CP version V3« bis » as of the 25th of March (page 69), but it has disappeared since: “In the case of projects focused on transports, applicants will have to pay attention to the potential impact of the development of infrastructures, of new types of transports or of the increase of flows on the environment (impact on water quality, soil, natural habitats and air pollution...)”.</i>	The PO indicates (page 62) that « it will focus on <b>soft measures related to transport policy building</b> , as well as transport procedural, technology and organizational innovations”: concerning maritime transport, calls for projects could link systematically the deployment of such innovations and eco-orientate them explicitly.

Recommendations, suggestions	Insertion in the successive CP versions	Final recommendations (Concerning the CP and/or its implementation, Calls for projects, ...)
Basis= SEA report V2 (as of the 12th of March 2014): this version was released for the consultations and included proposals for <u>mitigations measures</u>		
SO 2.3 : target isles for the development of maritime transport	<b>Not directly integrated</b>	
SO 2.3 : in multimodal studies, pay attention to transition periods	<b>Not directly integrated</b>	

## CONSIDERATION OF THE EX ANTE RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to complete the evaluation works, this chapter aims to meet the requirements of the ex-ante evaluation guidance document, by measuring the degree of consideration of the recommendations and suggestions made by the evaluator along the delivery of the successive CP versions.

At this stage, the draft CP answers almost all remarks produced since the beginning of the evaluation process.

The evaluation team integrated the complexity of the choices that the programme partnership had to make, as well as the limits of the ex-ante exercise, e.g. the constraint regarding concentration, that imposes more targeted choices compared to the previous programming period. These more targeted choices de facto requires more precisions.

All the precisions being sometimes not developed enough in the programme, we suggest in the right column of the following table some « final recommendations » that could be repeated at a later stage, and by 2020, in the implementation and evaluation phases of the programme.

Ex Ante recommendations & suggestions (V1, V2 and final)	Consideration within the CP successive version.	Comments	Final recommendations (For the CP and/or the implementation of the programme, calls for projects...)
<b>The strategy</b> of the programme and the choice regarding the priorities strongly integrate the requirements of <b>concentration</b> of 2014-2020 programmes, as well as the orientations of the <b>2020 strategy</b> . Regarding the justification of these choices, elements such as diagnosis and SWOT analysis appear to be insufficient to some extent. Regarding the programme implementation, other data should be used, in particular the data available issued from other programmes covering the Mediterranean area (MAP Mediterranean Action Plan incl. the Plan Bleu, etc.)	The last CP version underlines the need to enlarge the documentary basis on which the programme must be based on (Green and Blue Growth), especially for the implementation (section 3)	The concentration of the programme towards specific objectives is a requirement of the 2014-2020 ETC programming process. It is also a choice of the partnership. The drafting's timeframe of the programme could not allow targeting the diagnosis to that extent.	<p>The implementation procedures will have to overcome this gap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet conditions regarding indicators.</li> <li>• Closer ties between MED and the programmes covering the Mediterranean area (for instance the Blue Plan / MAP) are necessary in order to reach the strategic objectives of the programmes, particularly when referring to a macro-regional strategy.</li> </ul> <p>A mechanism of permanent partnership with these programmes could be organised in order to complete at least a joint database.</p>

Recommendations, suggestions Ex Ante (draft V1, V2 and final)	Consideration within the CP successive version.	Comments	Final recommendations (For the CP and/or the implementation of the programme, calls for projects...)
<b>Dividing lines</b> and complementarities between MED and other programmes are difficult to establish given the geographical coverage of the programme, more particularly with regional policies. This element is important regarding most targeted (energies, low carbon transport) and most open priorities such as biodiversity. These information elements can be useful for the assessment of applications and the evaluation of the programmes impacts.	The CP's last version integrates this remark (section 6). To some extent, the CP relies on the in itinere evaluation works, which had analysed overlaps between MED and all other European programmes.	Recommendations were taken into account in a satisfying way, through precisions added in the CP (section 6). This information is limited, due to the fact that the main programmes covering the MED cooperation area are under drafting.	A specific work with the programme partners could be engaged during the 2014-2020 period. This element could be integrated as an objective for future in itinere evaluations.
The <b>logic intervention</b> of the programme allows a general analysis of the feasibility of the proposed axes and specific objectives. Axis 3's targeting appears in sufficient for certain actions.	Complements have been added in the intervention logic, in particular regarding indicators. Two SOs have been gathered in the axis 3.	Recommendations were taken into account in a satisfying way, with precisions added in the intervention strategy for axes 1 and 2. Some elements still need to be detailed, as SO 3.1 covers (too) much different topics.	The readability of the programme is satisfying as a whole. The axis 3 will need some clarifications concerning the feasibility of sustainable tourism and risks projects, as these topics represent two major stakes for the cooperation area. This clarification can be specified in calls for projects and through the programme communication activities.
Elements still to be precised: <b>the expected share of SOs open to research projects and the share of actions more operational.</b>	Each SO can be oriented towards 3 types of actions : Studies, Pilot actions, or Capitalisation projects	This option can possibly lead to projects of various natures, which represents a main opportunity. It is also a risk, as each topic does not have the same needs e.g. in terms of studies or pilot actions	The results achieved for each cooperation topic will depend on the precisions that will be added on this point, and on the budgetary balance that will be operated between these different types of actions

Recommendations, suggestions Ex Ante (draft V1, V2 and final)	Consideration within the CP successive version.	Comments	Final recommendations (For the CP and/or the implementation of the programme, calls for projects...)
<b>The axis 4 « governance »</b> includes a specific strategic dimension. Precisions could be added on types of actions and expected form of results in order to ease its implementation.		Recommendations were taken into account in a satisfying way, through precisions added in the intervention strategy, with outputs indicators and types of actions.	Elements still to be detailed in calls for projects: the form of results
<p>The new requirements in terms of indicators for the 2014-2020 period rely on a good balance between the definition of expected results and the selected indicators. At this stage of the programme, some priorities don't define enough their targets. As a consequence, the expected results are rather « open », and measuring their coherence with indicators remains difficult. Precisions could be added in this field.</p> <p>The reference situation for indicators shall be further precised.</p>	Recommendations related to indicators have been integrated in successive CP versions.	Indicators are consistent with selected strategic objectives	Programme's expectations regarding indicators must be a part of communication actions prior to the launching of calls for projects. New rules for collecting data to update indicators must be defined in the calls' specifications.
<b>Implementation, monitoring, evaluation</b>	Information concerning this chapter are partly included in the CP, and will be subjected to a specific work, between the evaluator and the programme authorities in order to be integrated in the relevant sections.		