ENPI CBC MED PROGRAMME & MED PROGRAMME 

IN 10 KEY POINTS

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1 RATIONALE

According to Art.9.3 Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 ("ENPI Regulation"), programmes funded under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument shall be closely coordinated with trans-national cooperation programmes having a partially overlapping geographical coverage. This is the case of the EU Territorial Cooperation Programme (previously INTERREG) MED and the ENPI CBC (Cross-Border Cooperation) Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (ENPI CBC Med Programme), which include the implementation of activities in the Mediterranean area, concerning the same EU member States - and often the same eligible regions.

Therefore, the Liaison Office MED-ENPI CBC Med (LO), located in Valencia, will ensure such coordination between both programmes in order to develop synergies and to maximise their respective contribution and impact in the eligible territories.

For this reason and in order to inform on the specific features of both programmes and to steer potential beneficiaries towards one programme or the other, depending on their strategy and objectives, the LO has developed a brief and practical tool comparing the different nature of the EU Territorial Cooperation Programme MED and the ENPI CBC Med Programme, in 10 key points.

2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMMES AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme provides the framework for the implementation of cross border and cooperation activities in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (implemented by European Commission’s Directorates-General RELEX and AIDCO), complementing the efforts exerted within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, with the final aim of developing an area of peace, stability and prosperity and good neighbourliness involving EU Mediterranean Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries.

The general objective of the Programme is to contribute to promoting the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential.

MED Programme 2007-2013 provides, in the context of the European Territorial Cooperation (DG REGIO), the framework for the implementation of cooperation at the cross border, transnational and interregional level (previous INTERREG initiative), with the aim of strengthening economic and social cohesion, so as to favour a harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the Med area.

Based on the main orientations of Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas and the diagnosis of the needs of the MED space, the strategic objective for the Med programme is to make the whole Med space a territory able to match international concurrence in order to ensure a higher level of competitiveness, support territorial cohesion and actively intervene in favour of environmental protection.
For the Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme, regions of 14 different countries are eligible:

**EU Mediterranean Countries**
- **Cyprus:** the whole country
- **France:** Corse, Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence-Alpes-Côtes d’Azur
- **Greece:** Anatoliki Makedonia-Thráki, Kentríki Makédonia, Thessália, Ipeíros, Iónia Nisia, Dytikí Elláda, Sterea Elláda, Pelopónnisos, Attíki, Vóroio Aigaio, Nótoio Aigaio, Krití
- **Italy:** Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Lazio, Liburia, Puglia, Sardegna, Sicilia, Toscána
- **Malta:** the whole country
- **Portugal:** Algarve
- **Spain:** Andalucía, Cataluña, Comunidad Valenciana, Islas Baleares, Murcia, Ceuta, Melilla.

**Mediterranean Partner Countries** (those having signed the Financing Agreement with the European Commission by 31st December 2009)
- **Egypt:** Marsa Matruh, Al Iskandanyah, Al Buhayrah, Kafr ash Shaykh, Ad Daqahiliyyah, Dumyat, Ash, Sharqiyah, Al Isma’iliyyah, Bur Sa’id, Shamal Sina’
- **Israel:** the whole country
- **Jordan:** Irbid, Al-Balqa, Madaba, Al Karak, Al-Tafíla, Al-Aqaba
- **Lebanon:** the whole country
- **Palestinian Authority:** the whole country
- **Syria:** Latakia, Tartús
- **Tunisia:** Médenine, Béja, Mahdia, Monastir, Sousse, Nabeul, Ben Arous, Tunis, Ariana, Bizerte, Béja, Jendouba

**Participation of adjoining regions** may be allowed by the Joint Monitoring Committee on a case by case basis and up to 20% of the project total budget.

For the MED Programme, regions of 13 different countries are eligible:

**EU Countries**
- **Cyprus:** the whole country
- **France:** Corse, Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence-Alpes-Côtes d’Azur, Rhône-Alpes
- **Greece:** the whole country
- **Italy:** Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Lazio, Liburia, Puglia, Sardegna, Sicilia, Toscána, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lombardía, Marche, Molise, Umbria, Piemonte, Abruzzo, Veneto.
- **Malta:** the whole country
- **Portugal:** Algarve, Alentejo
- **Spain:** Andalucía, Cataluña, Comunidad Valenciana, Islas Baleares, Murcia, Ceuta, Melilla, Aragon.
- **Slovenia:** the whole country
- **United-Kingdom:** Gibraltar

**IPA Countries**
Beyond these regions, the participation of non eligible Med areas is possible but limited. They will participate with the Instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA): Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania.

Participation by partners located outside MED area may be allowed by the Monitoring Committee up to 20% of the ERDF total budget requested by the whole of the EU partners of a project. This expenditure must be targeted and must be for the benefit of the regions of the Med area.

As well, the ERDF may finance expenditure incurred in implementing operations or parts of operations on the territory of countries outside the European Community and up to 10% of the ERDF total budget requested by the whole of the partners EU of a project.

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1 Morocco has adhered to the Programme but has not signed the Financing Agreement with the European Commission. Algeria, Libya and the United Kingdom (Gibraltar) are eligible countries according to the ENPI CBC Strategy Paper but have not participated in the Programme. Turkey has requested not to be included anymore in the list of eligible territories, being a country in pre-accession phase to the EU.

2 The region of Shamal Sina’ will not participate for the time being in the Programme.
ENPI CBC MED

PROMOTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF TERRITORIES

- Support to innovation and research in the process of local development.
- Strengthening economic clusters creating synergies among potentials of the Mediterranean Sea Basin countries.
- Strengthening the national strategies of territorial planning by integrating the different levels, and promotion of balanced and sustainable socio-economic development.

Examples of possible actions:
- Networking of innovation and technology-transfer centres for the elaboration of joint projects.
- Joint strategies and services for the development of trans-Mediterranean economic clusters (agro-industry, textile, tourism, etc).
- Cooperation between institutions in charge of territorial planning (transports, coasts/irland, social and educational services).

MED

STRENGTHENING INNOVATION CAPACITIES

- Dissemination of innovative technologies and know-how.
- Strengthening strategic cooperation between economic development actors and public authorities

Examples of possible actions:
- Building transnational networks between organisations that support businesses, economic operators, chambers of commerce, clusters… to facilitate technology transfer as well as the dissemination of innovative practices and know-how.
- Support transnational initiatives that aim at encouraging sustainable development and modernisation, diversification and adaptation of traditional economic sectors of the Med area.

ENVIRONMENT

PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AT THE BASIN LEVEL

- Prevention and reduction of risk factors for the environment and enhancement of natural common heritage.
- Promotion of renewable energies use and improvement of energy efficiency contributing to addressing, among other challenges, climate change.

Examples of possible actions:
- Support for the reduction of marine pollution in port areas and drawing up of joint protocols for dealing with shipping damages.
- Conducting joint awareness and mobilising campaigns for people on common challenges related to the cooperation area and on the rational use of energy resource.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTION OF A SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Protection and enhancement of natural resources and heritage.
- Promotion of renewable energies and improvement of energy efficiency.
- Maritime risks prevention and strengthening of maritime safety.
- Prevention and fight against natural risks.

Examples of possible actions:
- Promotion of natural resources and heritage through transnational strategies of development for fragile areas, especially for sustainable tourism initiatives; support the implementation of integrated management strategies for coastal areas; elaboration of strategies to anticipate and adapt to climate changes.
- Creation and dissemination of innovative materials and production processes amongst public actors and businesses to reduce energy consumption.
- Supporting transnational joint actions for prevention, alert, interventions, control, management and risk monitoring in maritime transport and industrial activity.
- Implementing common tools to better observe, analyse and assess risks related to the development of human activities. Development and exchange of innovative practices for mitigation of these risks.
ENPI CBC MED

PROMOTION OF BETTER CONDITIONS AND MODALITIES FOR ENSURING THE MOBILITY OF PERSONS, GOODS AND CAPITALS

> Support to people flows among territories as a means of cultural, social and economic enrichment.
> Improvement of conditions and modalities of circulation of goods and capitals among the territories.

Examples of possible actions:
- Promoting information, education and awareness raising campaigns on migration and immigrants' rights, addressed to different target groups.
- Training activities for operators (productive sectors and public administrations) especially in relation to quality standards and health controls (agro-food).

MED

IMPROVEMENT OF MOBILITY AND OF TERRITORIAL ACCESSIBILITY

> Improvement of maritime accessibility and of transit capacities through multimodality and intermodality.
> Support to the use of information technologies for a better accessibility and territorial cooperation.

Examples of possible actions:
- Improving services to develop maritime highways and short sea shipping improving the accessibility of islands (information, adaptation of services, better management of passenger flows).
- Disseminate innovative tools allowing the development of online services and making easier the access to digital services in isolated territories and islands (financial services, information on transport services, public health, education, and leisure).

GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTION OF CULTURAL DIALOGUE AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

> Support to mobility, exchanges, training and professionalism of young people.
> Support to the artistic creativity in all its expressions to encourage dialogue among communities.
> Improvement of governance processes at local level.

Examples of possible actions:
- Promoting joint vocational training initiatives as well as joint university and post-graduate initiatives especially in basic economic sectors.
- Promoting joint pilot experiences in local participatory democracy involving young people.
- Promoting dialogue through initiatives of intercultural exchange among young emerging artists (painters, musicians, writers, actors).
- Setting up joint pilot initiatives at local level on participatory decision-making processes and inter institutional cooperation.

PROMOTION OF A POLYCENTRIC AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MED SPACE

> Coordination of development policies and improvement of territorial governance.
> Strengthening of identity and enhancement of cultural resources for a better integration of the Med space.

Examples of possible actions:
- Promoting transnational collaboration between different territorial systems to improve services networking and favour the setting up of common strategies (transports, territorial planning, sustainable tourism...).
- Supporting exchanges of tools and development of common strategies implementing innovative cultural services; promote cultural initiatives aiming to increase territorial economic attractiveness (e.g. business tourism, congress, trade fairs, conferences, festivals, thematic events,...).

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

> Equality of opportunity, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights.
> Environmental sustainability.
> Communication and visibility.
> Gender equality and non-discrimination.
> Sustainable development.
> Innovation.
ENPI CBC MED

The eligible actors - as identified by article 14 by the ENPI Regulation (EC) No. 1638/2006 – should have the technical, financial and administrative capacities to implement the cross-border activities and include – among others:

- International organisations.
- Local, regional and central administrations.
- Agencies and public bodies.
- Universities.
- Non-governmental organisations.
- Organisations representing economic and social interests.

Economic operators. Their participation is subject to the following limitations:

- The outputs of the project should not generate profit for the Applicant (Lead partner) and its partners.
- Project activities must not generate a competitive advantage and the gross amount of public funding granted does not exceed the thresholds set by the de minimis regime.

MED

The eligible actors according to MED Operational Programme and its Implementation Guide should have political and administrative competences and technical capacities to implement the actions required for the project. They are diversified according to the complexity of the activities to be carried out, and include – among others:

- European institutions. European Agencies cannot be beneficiaries. They can only participate to the MED Programme as associated partners.
- State administration.
- Local and regional authorities.
- Agencies and public bodies.
- Non governmental sector.

Economic Operators:

- An economic operator cannot be the Lead partner of the project and only can participate as beneficiary or associated partner, contributing to the implementation of the programme but won’t receive any ERDF financing.
- The participation of an « economic operator » as a beneficiary will have to guarantee the respect of competition rules.
- It is recommended that each project partner, having doubt on this issue, gets in touch with its own national contact point, in order to verify its status.
The maximum and minimum duration of the projects is specified in each call for proposals: it may nevertheless never exceed 48 months.

Actions must take place in one or more of the eligible territories or, in case of participation of partners from adjoining regions, in those areas provided that such activities are necessary for the success of the project and for the benefit of the Programme area.

In the framework of the first call for proposals on standard projects, in order to foster a real co-ownership of the Programme, at least 50% of the budgeted costs had to be dedicated to activities implemented in the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

The planned duration of an action may not exceed 36 months. Specific information will be included in each call for proposals. Actions must take place in the eligible territories. Please refer as well to the Programme Documents.

According to ERDF regulation, in the context of transnational cooperation and in duly justified cases, the ERDF may finance expenditure incurred by partners located outside the area participating in operations or implementing operations or parts of operations on the territory of countries outside the European Community. This expenditure must be targeted and must be for the benefit of the regions of the Med area.
7

KEY DOCUMENTS AND BASIC REGULATIONS

ENPI CBC MED KEY DOCUMENTS

> ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme.

BASIC REGULATIONS TO BE APPLIED TO THE ENPI CBC MED PROGRAMME


OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions (PRAG).

MED KEY DOCUMENTS

> MED Operational Programme
> Implementation Guide

BASIC STRUCTURAL FUNDS REGULATIONS TO BE APPLIED TO MED PROGRAMME


The ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme has a budget of €173.6 M for the 2007 – 2013 period. Total budget addressed to projects: € 156.2 M.

The EU contribution covers up to 90% of the project total eligible costs, while the remaining 10% have to be provided by the Applicant/partners as co-financing at project level.

The Beneficiary will receive an initial pre-financing installment of 80% of that part of the estimated budget for the first 12 months financed by the Joint Managing Authority and further pre-financing installments designed to normally cover the Beneficiary’s (Lead partner) financing needs for each twelve month period of implementation of the project.

**ELIGIBLE COSTS**

In order to be eligible, pursuant to article 14 of the Standard Grant Contract (General Conditions), costs must:
> be incurred during the implementation of the project;
> be indicated in the estimated overall budget of the project;
> must be necessary for the implementation of the project which is the subject of the grant;
> identifiable and verifiable;
> must be reasonable, justified and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

At project level, contributions in kind are not eligible.

The Med Programme has a global budget of €256.6 M for the 2007 – 2013 period, where the community contribution (ERDF) is €193.1 M. Total budget addressed to projects: € 181.5 M.

The ERDF contribution for each partner from the different Member States varies from 75% (partners from Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Italy, and Portugal) to 85% (partners from Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia) of eligible costs of the projects.

The required rate of the national public co-financing must correspond to the rate of participation of ERDF (for example: to 75% of ERDF corresponds 25% of national co-financing).

The ERDF contribution will be allocated for the reimbursement of eligible expenses, duly justified and certified.

**ELIGIBLE COSTS**

Pursuant to article 13 of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006, the relevant national rules agreed by the participating Member States in an Operational Programme under the European territorial cooperation objective shall apply to determine the eligibility of expenditure except where Community rules are laid down.

The rules of eligibility of the expenditures applicable to the operational programs concerned with the European territorial cooperation objective are fixed in articles 49 to 53 of the Regulation (EC) 1828/2006 and Commission Regulation (EC) 846/2009 of 1 September, specifying the implementation methods of regulations (EC) 1083/2006 and 1080/2006. Non eligible expenses for an ERDF contribution are specified in article 7 of the regulation (EC) 1080/2006.

**Eligibility of expenditures in IPA countries:** In addition to eligibility of expenditures pursuant to article 89 of EC regulation no 718/2007, applications must clearly distinguish between activities – and their costs – taking place on the EU side with ERDF funds and those taking place on the candidate/potential candidate side with IPA funds.
What can be funded by **ENPI CBC MED**?

- The cost of staff assigned to the project, corresponding to actual gross salaries including social security charges and other remuneration-related costs.
- Travel and subsistence costs for staff and other persons taking part in the project.
- Infrastructures, usually concerning small investments (the potential territorial impact will be assessed).
- Purchase or rental costs for equipment and supplies, specifically for the purposes of the project, and costs of services, provided they correspond to market rates.
- Cost of consumables.
- Indirect costs to cover the administrative overheads: a lump sum not exceeding 7% of the total amount of direct eligible costs may be claimed as indirect costs to cover the administrative overheads incurred by the Beneficiary for the project.
- Subcontracting expenditure.
- Costs deriving directly from the requirements of the Grant Contract, including financial service costs (in particular the cost of bank transfers and financial guarantees).
- Moreover, a contingency reserve not exceeding 5% of the eligible costs may be included in the budget of the Project. It can only be used with the prior written authorisation of the Joint Managing Authority.

What can be funded by **MED**?

- Project Preparatory costs are eligible (up to 30,000 €).
- Staff costs shouldn’t exceed 40% of the total eligible budget of the project.
- Management and coordination costs should not exceed 15% of the global budget.
- The Lead partner has the responsibility to distribute the funding among partners within one month maximum since the date the funds are received.
- One single partner must not concentrate more than 40% of the total budget of the project.
- One single country must not concentrate more than 50% of the total budget of the project.
- Durable goods.
- Consumable goods.
- Missions (travels and accommodation).
- Services (other than external expertise).
- External expertise (including travel and accommodation expenses) shouldn’t exceed 35% of the total eligible budget of the project.
- Promotion, information and publication.
- Duly justified overheads can be refunded until a maximum of 7% of the total eligible budget of the project.
- Other: Expenses other than those above-mentioned, inherent to the project, indicated in a detailed way in the budget.
- In kind contributions of public or private beneficiaries shall be eligible if they fulfil the following conditions:
  - They consist of the provision of land or real estate, equipment or raw materials, research or professional work or unpaid voluntary work.
  - Their value can be independently assessed and audited.
- Value Added Tax: The recoverable Value Added Tax is not eligible for a contribution from ERDF.
- Pre-financing possibility does not exist.
ENPI CBC MED

A. STANDARD PROJECTS – 1 step application procedure (“bottom up approach”)

They concern the 4 Priorities and 10 Measures identified in the Joint Operational Programme.

Ceilings of the project total budget: Min. € 500.000 Max: € 2.000.000
Partnership: Minimum of 3 partners representing at least 1 EU Mediterranean Country and 1 Mediterranean Partner Country

In the framework of Priority 4 (Promotion of cultural dialogue and local governance), in order to facilitate the participation of civil society and private sector to the Programme, the minimum ceiling of project proposals is reduced to € 200.000 for 50% of the budget allocated to this priority.

B. STRATEGIC PROJECTS – 2 step application procedure (“top down approach”)

Strategic projects focus on issues of strategic interest for the Mediterranean basin selected beforehand by the Joint Monitoring Committee, taking into account the main challenges of the cooperation area and the needs of the eligible territories.

Strategic projects should involve a minimum of 4 partners representing four different countries, of which at least one EU Mediterranean Country and one Mediterranean Partner Country.

Their budget range from a minimum of € 2 million up to a maximum of € 5 million. About € 37 million will be made available for this first call on strategic projects (second half 2010).

The operational phase of these projects should not exceed 48 months.

Specific information on each call for proposals and its deadline will be published on the programme website.

MED

A. CLASSIC PROJECTS – 2 step application procedure (“bottom up approach”)

They concern the 4 Priorities and 10 Objectives identified in the Operational Programme.

In the projects’ selection phase, an added value will be recognized to projects promoted by balanced partnerships. The partnership network should identify a Beneficiary (Lead Partner) responsible from a contractual point of view to the Managing Authority.

Ceilings of the total budget for project: Min. € 300.000 Max. € 2.000.000
Minimum number of EU countries represented within the partnership: 3

B. STRATEGIC PROJECTS – 1 step application procedure (“top down approach”)

For the programming period 2007-2013, specific themes are identified by the Monitoring Committee as being particularly important for all European regions of the Med space. Each call will focus on specific objectives of the programme. Strategic projects shall have a horizontal approach and should pay particular attention to the following issues:
1. Coherence with European, national and regional policies
2. Impact on the cooperation area
3. Strong and coherent partnerships
4. Sustainability of results

Each work package can be composed of 2 to 6 partners, up to a maximum of 20 partners, representing different EU member states/ IPA countries.

Their budget range from a minimum of € 3,5 million up to a maximum of 7,5 € million. About € 15 million will be made available for the first call on strategic projects (first half 2010).

The operational phase of these projects should not exceed 36 months.

Specific information on each call for proposals and its deadline will be published on the programme website.
10 CONTACTS

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