



Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale

# VIRTUAL SEMINAR: COVID19 - CHALENGES FACED AND EMMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BORDER TERRITORIES

Filippo Giabbani

Italy - France Maritime Cooperation Program Managing Authority

04 April 2022



#### Italy – France Maritime Cooperation Program Managing Authority (MA)

- The MA is responsible for managing the cooperation program according to the EU law and carrying out all the activities aimed at ensuring an efficient and effective implementation of the Program and cooperation projects, such as (non-exhaustive list):
  - Program preparation/drafting for approval by the EU Commission;
  - Support to the Monitoring Committee/Task Force;
  - Drafting of all relevant documents (e.g. Manuals, calls for proposals, catalogues and studies, etc.);
  - Monitoring and support of projects/beneficiaries;
  - Communication and capitalization activities, stakeholders involvement and external relations;
  - Managinng of the IT system...
- The MA is an organism established within the International Activities and Investments Attraction Department Directorate for Territorial Competitiveness and Managing Authority of the Region of Tuscany Administration.
- According to the EU law, the MA is supported by a Joint Secretariat in the implementation of its duties and responsabilities.



#### Italy – France Maritime 2014 -2020 Cooperation Program



The 2014-2020 Interreg Italy-France Maritime Program is a **cross-border** program co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of the **European Territorial Cooperation** (Interreg/ETC).

The Program aims to achieve the objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy in the central-northern Mediterranean area, promoting **smart**, **sustainable and inclusive growth** taking into consideration the problems of **marine**, **coastal and island areas**, but also addresses inland areas, with specific risks of isolation.

The main objective is to help **strengthen cross-border cooperation** between the designated territories to make this area a **competitive**, **sustainable and inclusive area** in the European and Mediterranean landscape.

- 2 States (Italy and France), 5 Regions
- 6,5 million people in the cooperation area
- Almost 200 millions euros of total budget
- 122 projects financed
- 819 partner beneficiaries

-3

#### **The Program and Covid-19**



Our Priority: ensure the continuation of funded projects during the Covid-19 emergency. How? According to the provisions of the European Commission (Regulation (EU) 2020/460) targeting investments in the health systems of the Member States and/or in other sectors of their economies in response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Programme Managing Authority implemented specific measures addressing Beneficiaries' needs.

#### Know

Covid-survey

Ongoing relations with the Beneficiaries (E-mails, remote meetings, videocalls)

#### Inform

Program website (specific section)

COVID-FAQ

#### Act

Support projects to "stay alive" in the emergency period! With special measures



#### The "Covid-reaction" measures at a glance

1- Rescheduling measures for projects and calls for tenders

2- Administrative measures

Covidoriented

3 - Measures to improve the financial liquidity of the projects

4- Support measures for the Beneficiaries



#### 1- "Rescheduling" measures (Projects)

#### COVID-oriented "Conversion plans" for all ongoing projects

Incentive to digitization (through the admissibility of special equipment)

Covidoriented

Possibility of rescheduling contents, deadlines and methods of carrying out activities in compliance with the approved objectives. Evaluation of the economies of the project and channelling towards performing activities / partners

Contribution to emergency sectors linked to the priority supply chains of the Program

#### 2- Rescheduling measures (Calls)



Call contents adaptation to the pandemic context Support to SMEs towards interventions in the scientific and health fields and / or complementary to these; support for the tourism supply chains and the blue and green economy

Covidoriented

Activities aimed at security in the port area, in particular for the traffic of passengers and goods (intelligent services, infomobility, etc.)

Enhancement of each product aimed at increasing digitization

#### **3- Administrative measures**



Simplification of expense reporting methods

Eligibility of expenses for activities not carried out due to force majeure

Covidoriented

Exceptions to certain obligations that have become impracticable during the emergency period (e.g. stamping; photos; handwritten signatures)

Travel, events.

#### 4- Measures to improve liquidity



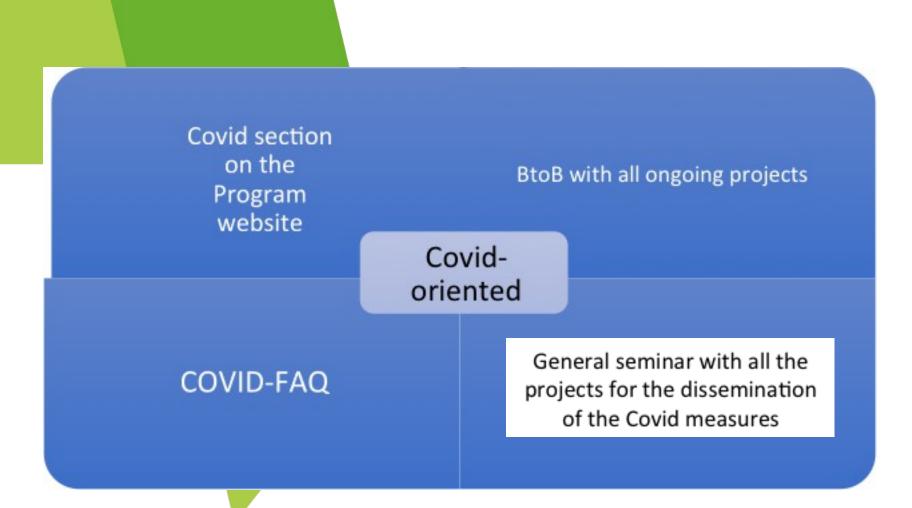
Immediate repayment of 80% of the amount requested by the beneficiaries through the Intermediate reimbursement requests

Possibility of further reimbursement request for closing projects

Covidoriented

#### 5- Assistance measures for beneficiaries





### Last but not least... the #MarittimoChallenge



The Programme launched the
#MarittimoChallenge (March 2020), a
communication game-campaign with the
primary objective of strengthening relationships,
even informal ones, with the beneficiaries, in a
period that forced everybody to remain
physically further away.







## Covid and sustainable tourism

- Bulding on the regional experience "Vetrina Toscana", the Project Smart Destination replicated a similar paradigm in a cross border dimension
- Reinforcement of "Data interoperability" among tourist operators.
- Link to the Project: http://interregmaritime.eu/it/web/smartdestinati on/progetto







Filippo Giabbani – Italy/France Maritime Managing Authority

Mail: marittimo1420@regione.toscana.it

Number: +39 055 438 2577

Thank you!