

Cooperation actions: How to bring down barriers to build sustainable partnerships among EU IJG Goal Managing Authorities - Palermo, 2-3 July

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The pioneer experience in 2014-2020 for the implementation of cooperation actions within the ERDF Basilicata Regional Programme

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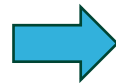


The case of Basilicata Region:

Call for selection of interregional and transnational cooperation projects pursuant to art. 96.3.d of the EU Regulation no. 1303/2013

All the steps we made to get to the call

The 2014-2020 ERDF Basilicata ROP approved by the European Commission provided for several cooperation actions and established some criteria for cooperation projects



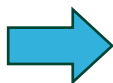
Specifically:

- Paragraph 4.4 of the Basilicata ERDF ROP established that «The Basilicata Region intends to use the possibility offered by art. 96.3 of EU Regulation no 1303/2013 to promote interregional and transnational actions»
- Paragraph 4.5 of the Basilicata ERDF ROP established that the Basilicata Region must take part in the EUSAIR Strategy defining the thematic links with the strategy and describing the contribution to MRS and SBS

22 March 2016: proposal of the President of the Basilicata Region



The Monitoring Committee of the 2014/2020 ERDF ROP approved specific selection criteria and eligibility requirements for cooperation actions



1. Level of cooperation achieved for the foreign partner
2. Contribution to one or more pillars of the EUSAIR strategy
3. Contribution to the achievement of one or more of the result indicators of the investment priorities of the ROP
4. Contribution to the achievement of the results of the RIS 3 Basilicata
5. Contribution to the strategy of one or more Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)

31 July 2018: Approval of the Regional Executive Council



The Regional Executive Council approved the Financial Plan, which allocated 3.384 mln EUR over 5 Axis to «cooperation actions». Cooperation actions have always been visible both in the ROP and in the Financial Plan

OP Priority Axes involved

The cooperation projects submitted had to be in line with the OP specific objectives and the relevant intervention field regarding the following Priority Axes (5 out of 9):

Priority Axes (Thematic Objective - TO)	16 Specific Objectives interested
1 - "Research, technological development and innovation" (TO 1)	2
4 - "Energy and urban mobility» (TO 4)	5
5 – "Environment protection and promotion of resource efficiency (TO6)	5
7 - "Social inclusion" (TO 8)	1
8 - "Enhancement of the education system" (TO 10)	2

6 November 2019: The Call was approved by the Regional Executive Council and published

PURPOSES OF ACTION LINES - BUDGET	POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES
<p>ACTION LINE «A» - Budget € 2 mln</p> <p>Creating new networks or strengthening existing networks with European partners to exchange good practices and Knowledge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and/or</p> <p>Favouring the participation of the regional research system in the European networks on research technological innovation and digitalization of the economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University • Public Research Centers • Health Agencies and Hospitals
<p>ACTION LINE «B» - Budget € 1.134 mln</p> <p>Improving strategies and plans on local development or developing new governance tools for regional and local administrative management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities and Bodies • Park Authorities • University • Regional Authority for waste and water resources • Health Agencies and Hospitals • Schools
<p>TOTAL BUDGET (€ 3.130 mln)</p>	

Maximum grant, Basilicata Region participation in the Partnership and Project duration

approved was equal to 100% of the eligible costs and, in any event, not higher than € 300,000.00

- The applicant Lead Partner could request the Basilicata Region (through its departments) to take part in the Partnership
- To this end, the call provided an additional amount that could be granted to cover the costs incurred by the Region Departments (on average € 20,000.00 for each project)
- Each project had a maximum duration of 24 months to complete the

Expenditure categories

- Preparation costs (max 4%)
- Staff costs (max 30% for Line A and 20% for 20% Line B)
- External expertise and services costs
- Equipment expenditure (15%)
- Travel and accommodation costs
- General operating expenditures (15% of Staff costs)
- Costs incurred by beneficiary partners inside and outside Basilicata Region and in any event within the EU are eligible (article 70, para. 2, of the EU Regulation n. 1303/2013)

(Obviously) The partner located in a EU Member State had to grant technical and financial contribution to the operation

Regional stakeholders engagement and support

Before the call
Interaction
with local
bodies and
beneficiaries

Dissemination
of the call on
the official
journal,
website and to
beneficiaries
(note and
presentation
event)

77 FAQ

Support to
beneficiaries
in the search
for partners



Simplification efforts for
the projects selected



The beneficiaries
appreciated the clarity and
completeness of the call,
the application form and
project template



- The potential LP had **6 Months to look for the partners** (originally 4, but the deadline for submission of the applications was postponed from the 31st March to the 1st June 2020 due to the COVID emergency)
- Some **forms and templates both in Italian and English** to help the Lead Partner to look for the key foreign partner (Memorandum of Understanding; Partnership Agreement)
- **Application Form and Templates** of the project proposal **easy to use** (3 optional work Packages: 1- Project management and coordination; 2- Communication ; 3 - Partnership development and project implementation)

All procedural documents related to the call (call, application form, selection criteria and FAQs) are available here (Italian):

<https://portalebandi.regione.basilicata.it/PortaleBandi/detail-bando-altri.jsp?id=6557>

The call and other relevant material are available here (English):

<https://europa.regione.basilicata.it/fesr/i-giornata-cooperazione-copy/>

Support to beneficiaries also through:

Periodic meetings to
assess implementation

Training on public
procurement
procedures

Team of 3 people to
support the
monitoring and
reporting phase

Checks on the project
changes

Focus on funded projects

Projects by Thematic Objectives

Project	TO	Budget (€)	%
N. 4	1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1.070.910	35%
N. 1	4 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy	300.000	10%
N. 5	6 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	1.474.300	48%
N. 1	10 - Investing in education, training and lifelong learning	239.000	8%

Focus on funded projects

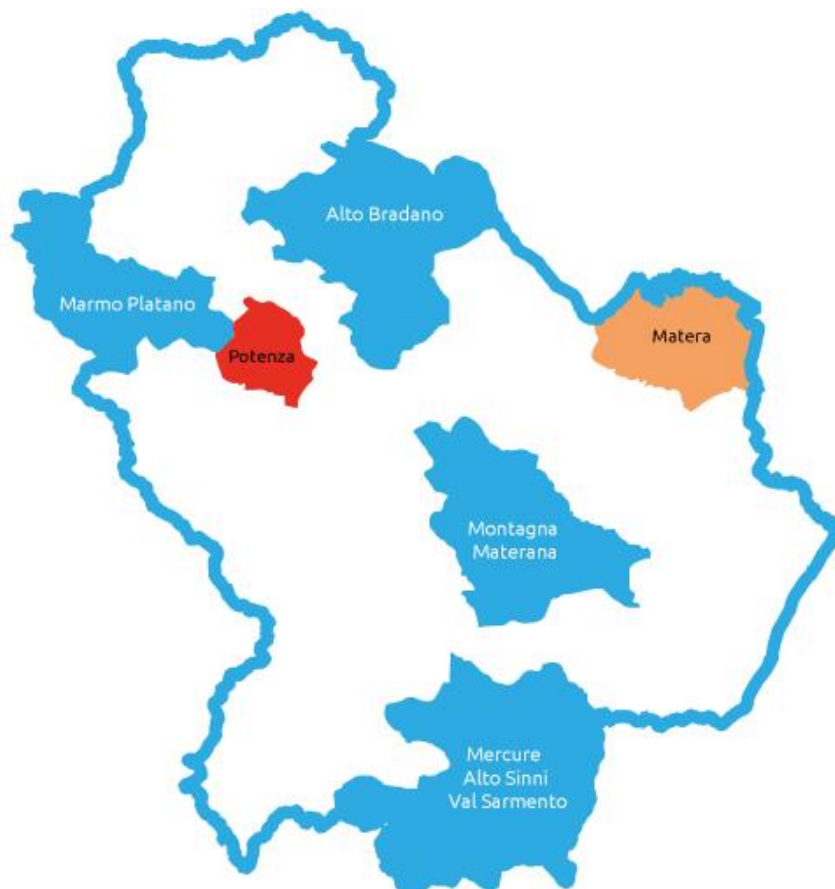
ACTION LINE «A» - Projects - Contribution to RIS 3 Basilicata

Project	RIS3	Budget (€)	%
N. 4	Bioeconomy	1.070.910	55%
N. 2	Cultural and creative industry	574.300	30%
N. 1	Energy	300.000	15%

ACTION LINE «B»- Projects - Contribution to Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)

Project	ITI urban/ territorial	Budget (€)	%
N. 2	ITI urban (City)	539.000	47%
N. 2	ITI Internal areas	600.000	53%

Integrated territorial investments (ITI) implemented under the ROP ERDF



- **2 Urban ITIs : Potenza and Matera**
- **1 Inland (rural) areas ITI :**
 - 42 out of 131 Municipalities
 - Extreme remote areas
 - High rate of depopulation and far away from primary services
- **Opportunity of cooperation**
- **Strengthen cooperation with organizations in the same region**



WHAT WORKED

- **Advantages for the region when opening up to transnational activities**
 - **Boosting local potential in the Research & Innovation sectors involved in the RIS3;**
 - **Helping local entities that didn't have suitable administrative capacities to participate in ETC programme calls, to create new interregional and transnational partnerships**
 - **Creation of a "bridge" between ECT/INTERREG and ROP**
 - **Innovative results and possibility of development of pilot projects**
- **Great attention to the call by partners both in Basilicata and Europe**
- **The call was considered a best practice related to the use of art. 96.3.d CPR – 2014-2020**

WHAT WAS A STRUGGLE

- **Definition of the rules for the beneficiaries of cooperation projects within the ROP ERDF Basilicata, by adapting those applicable to ETC/Interreg**
- **We put much effort into combining the EU regulation 1303/2013 and the ROPs management and control system with the rules provided under the procedure/reporting manuals of ETC/Interreg**

For more information:

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Thank you for your attention!