

ANNEX 1 : CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The Cooperation Programme between Italy and Slovenia has the objective to *promote innovation, sustainability and cross border governance to create a more competitive, cohesive and liveable area*. The total Programme budget is EUR 92.588.181,00, with EUR 77.929.954,00 from the European Regional Development Fund and EUR 14.658.227,00 as National counterpart (public and private). In 2019, the Programme committed all its funds (99,7% rate). Updated results show that the Programme in 2019 achieved 39% of spending as well met the EU expectations on level of financial performance.

During 2019, the Programme managed a total number of **44 running projects** (27 standard approved in 2016, 10 strategic approved in 2018, 5 projects of technical assistance approved in 2018 and 2 I.T.I. approved in 2016). All those projects have proceeded in 2019 with a smooth implementation and according to a regular progress both from activity and financial point of view. It has to be noticed that during 2019 8 of the standard projects came to an end.

Also, another main effort of the Programme in 2019 was launching the **targeted Call for standard projects** for a total ERDF allocation of EUR 11.745.958,92. The call was addressed to approve projects contributing to lagging-behind Programme performance indicators.

By the end of 2019, 16 standard projects were approved for financing involving 94 project partners for a total ERDF amount of EUR 11.209.171,95. Pre-contractual check procedure allowed the signature of 2 Subsidy Contracts, while the others, still ongoing, shifted the formalization of the contracts to 2020. It is worth to underline that all new projects will start their implementation activities in 2020.

In 2019 were also approved residuals allocation to 4 running projects under Priority Axis 2 for ERDF EUR 275.312,24 to implement **additional activities** to contribute to lagging behind indicator 2.1.1. and for communication and capitalization (CAP&COM actions).

Along the indications of the European Commission, a strong effort engaged the Programme in a huge **work on communication and capitalization** in order to involve beneficiaries but also for awareness raising of the general public on the EU funding and results. On this respect, an annual event was organized in Stanjel in June with roundtables on health and cultural heritage which involved 100 attendees. A concrete follow-up of the Annual Event was a joint conference of health-sector-projects in Izola in October that brought in one voice the need to continue to cooperate in this field also in the future programming period 2021-27. The European Cooperation Day was celebrated in September with a guided tour for 253 attendees to Regional Park Škocjan Caves which foresaw also bicycle tours and workshops for children exploiting projects outputs and interactive tools. Many other workshops infodays and events were organized throughout the whole Programme area, in Slovenia, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto to support beneficiaries and promote Programme progress.

The Programme was awarded the workshop “Interreg Italy-Slovenia CAP & COM pilot actions to foster a greener Europe” within the European Week of Regions and Cities 2019 in October in Brussels. Not least, the Programme promoted in international context in many occasions its unique experience of EGTC managing I.T.I. projects - single experience throughout Europe.

Year-round, the general public was reached by the Programme on Programme and projects’ results throughout different communication channels (Programme website, social media like twitter (@InterregITASLO) and websites of Programme Partners (Slovenia, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia Region websites).

By joining the **European Initiative “AEBR - Interreg volunteer youth”** in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps, the Programme hosted six young volunteers on a rotational basis of six months each, giving a job opportunity to youth working in planning and organizing communication and information activities for the Programme. This experience favoured the entry of some of them in the labour market.

Also the preparation for the programming cooperation period 2021-2027 is under way.