

EVALUATION ON THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN ITALY AND SLOVENIA

2ndTHEMATIC REPORT

Development of joint projects regarding environmental sustainability and measure the upper degree of attractiveness of the area and valorization of territory thanks to the interventions cofinanced by the Italy-Slovenia Interreg cooperation Programme.

Areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods, in consideration of new priorities across Europe, such as the European Green Deal

Authors:
Anuška MFARREJ ŠTOKA
Sergio VASARRI

V3, June2021

INDEX OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION: OBJECTIVE, SCOPE AND FORESEEN TIMELINE	4
1.1 Topics and Evaluation Questions	4
1.2 Methodologies	6
2. THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL	7
3. ANALYSIS ON THE INTERREG ITALY-SLOVENIA 2014-20 PROGRAMME	9
3.1 The Programme area	9
3.2 The Natural capital of the Programme area, risks deriving from climate change and measures on national and regional level	9
3.3 Local authorities in Programme area already taking actions	12
3.4 The application of the European Green Deal targets and the economy outlook	13
4. INTERREG ITALY-SLOVENIA EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL RELATED PROJECTS	15
4.1 Classification of projects under four of the 2021-27 policy objectives	15
4.2 Classification of projects according to European Green Deal policy areas	17
1. POLICY AREA CLIMATE ACTION	17
2. POLICY AREA CLEAN ENERGY	17
3. POLICY AREASUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY	18
4. POLICY AREABUILDING AND RESTRUCTURING	18
5. POLICY AREA SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY	18
6. POLICY AREAS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FROM FARM TO FORK	19
7. POLICY AREA BIODIVERSITY	20
8. POLICY AREA ELIMINATING POLLUTION	20
9. CONCLUSIONS ON ALL EGD POLICY AREAS	20
4.3 Analysis of projects based on PA level	21
Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA1	22

Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA2	23
Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA3	25
Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA4	29
Resume on all Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA	31
5. ANALYSIS OF EXAMPLES FROM OTHER TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES, MRS, PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESI FUNDS IN ORDER TO PROPOSE POTENTIAL SYNERGIES	33
5.1 European Green Deal in the Interreg Europe Programme	33
5.2 Relevant Examples from EUSAIR macro-regional strategy and Interreg Adrion	33
5.3 Relevant Examples from EUSALP and Interreg Alpine Space Programme	35
5.4 Relevant Examples from EUSDR macro regional strategy	38
5.5 Other Relevant Examples (ESI projects and others)	38
6. CONCLUSIONS	39
ANNEX 1	46
Table: EGD Policy objective targets, separated by category to be used for the gap analysis	46 46
ANNEX 2	48
Non è stata trovata alcuna voce d'indic	

Second Thematic Report

1. Introduction: objective, scope and foreseen timeline

Table 1- Recap of the scope of the Second Thematic Report

Product	Thematic Report “2020/21”
Legal reference	EU Green Deal valid for the programming period 2021-2027 Other documentation on capitalization of experiences of the 2014-20 programming period and orientations for the post-2020 period
Content	Development of joint projects regarding environmental sustainability and measure the upper degree of attractiveness of the area and valorization of territory thanks to the interventions cofinanced by the Programme. Areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods, in consideration of new priorities across Europe, such as the EU Green Deal.
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - desk-research - analysis of indicators - consultation with beneficiaries - interviews - focus group - network analysis - nominal group technique - counterfactual analysis - gap analysis
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data from monitoring system - qualitative information on the implementation of the projects and Programme - info on projects from the Programme website - info on projects from the project lead partners - info on projects project results and achieved indicators and invested funds from JS staff
Timeline	Deadline for submission: By 31 July 2021

1.1 Topics and Evaluation Questions

The Second Thematic Report is devoted to an overall assessment of joint projects funded by the Programme with reference to environmental sustainability and support to greater attractiveness and valorization of the territory. Projects that have environmental sustainability and sustainable development as their common thread can represent reference models for future programming and implementation activities in the Program area in consideration of new priorities across Europe, such as the EU Green Deal.

The Thematic Report must focus on which projects financed by the Programme may have the relevant characteristics for the purposes of the evaluation goals, the distinctive elements of the

governance of these projects, the impact on the attractiveness and enhancement of the territory. Focus that must necessarily start from the consideration and analysis of the output indicators of the priorities that supported the aforementioned projects.

Evaluation questions are displayed in the following table.

Table2: Evaluation Questions

Priority Axis	Specific Objective	Evaluation questions
PA1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.	Strengthen the cooperation among key actors to promote the knowledge transfer and innovative activities in key sectors of the area	How can the project bridge the passage from the current to the next Programming period? Which are the areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods for the projects under this Specific Objective, in consideration of new priorities across Europe, such as the EU Green Deal.
PA2: Cooperating for implementation of low carbon strategies and action plans	2.1 Promotion of implementation of strategies and action plans to promote energy efficiency and to improve territorial capacities for joint low-carbon mobility planning	How did the CP contribute to increase the level of knowledge and experiences exchange concerning the planning, financing and implementing of emissions reduction ? To what extent has the CP supported the adoption of shared strategies for emissions reduction and green energies supply , involving public and private actors? How did the CP increase the adoption of shared models of urban smart mobility , involving public and private actors? To what extent has the CP raised awareness on energy saving and new mobility models (including lifestyle choices)?
PA3: Protecting and promoting natural and cultural resources	3.1 Conserving, protecting, restoring and developing natural and cultural heritage	How did the CP support the adoption of shared strategies, plans and tools related to conservation and protection of natural resources and habitats? What integrated projects and tools were put in place to target protected and environmentally highly valuable areas?
	3.2 Enhance the integrated management of ecosystems for a sustainable development of the territory	What progress was made towards the implementation of actions promoting better coordination and interaction among stakeholders? To what extent did the CP promote the capitalization of past experiences and the exchange of best practices ? To what extent did the CP support the implementation of innovative initiatives to stimulate a sustainable economic development and job opportunities?

	3.3 Development and the testing of innovative environmental friendly technologies for the improvement of waste and water management	To what extent did the CP support the adoption of shared strategies for the improvement of common resources management? To what extent did the CP strengthens the promotion of sustainable and responsible awareness and behaviors?
PA4: Enhancing capacity building and cross border governance	4.1 Strengthen the institutional cooperation capacity through mobilizing public authorities and key actors of the Programme area for planning joint solutions to common challenges	Support from the CP to the implementation of capacity building actions aimed at development of structures, systems and tools? Have shared processes concerning regulatory frameworks, functional networks, common structures, coordination of policies and investments, governance models been developed? Support from the CP to the implementation of capacity building actions addressing the human potential and its training?

The Thematic Report will be delivered according to the following timeline:

Table 3: Thematic Report Timeline

Period/deadline	Task
November-December 2020	Implementation of the methodological note
January-April 2021	Data collection/interviews and analysis
April 2021	Submission of a first draft report
July 2021	Submission of the final consolidated report

1.2 Methodologies

Data analysis and outcomes of previous Reports (First and Second Extensive Evaluation Reports, First Thematic Report) and MA/JS analyses will be considered, the EU Green Deal valid for the programming period 2021-2027 and other documentation on capitalisation of experiences of the 2014-20 programming period and orientations for the post-2020 period will be used as well as numerous examples from the Interreg transnational programmes and macro-regional strategies covering the entire Programme area.

2. The European Green Deal

The European Green Deal (EGD) is an integral part of the European Commission (EC) strategy for implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals¹, as well as the other priorities announced in the President Von der Leyen's political guidelines. More in detail, based on the information published by the EC, the European Green Deal announced by the EC in December 2019 amounts to an unprecedented attempt at the level of the European Union to foster the **transition towards the common goal of a climate-neutral economy** by reducing carbon emissions by at least 50% by the year 2030 (and towards 55%) and achieving carbon neutrality by the year 2050.² The EC built its work programme through the concept of **environmental re-orientation** of EU activities in areas identified as leading actions of the EGD Communication such as climate ambition, clean affordable and secure energy, industrial strategy for a clean and circular economy, sustainable and smart mobility, agriculture and fisheries, biodiversity, zero pollution and toxic-free environment, mainstreaming sustainability, trade and foreign policy and the European Climate Pact.³ Based on the concepts of sustainability and protection of the **EU's natural capital**, its objective is to transform the EU by 2050 to the state "fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource efficient and competitive economy".⁴

The EGD, among others, has a "zero pollution objective", the revision of emission standards for vehicles, investments in the rail sector, the placing of a million e-battery recharging points around Europe. In total, according to the Commission, at least 25% of the EU budget would ultimately have to be devoted to ecological transition.⁵

The EGD will have to be **equally implemented in urban and rural areas**.

The Policy areas (and related targets) of the Green Deal are the following:

- 1.1 Climate Action (Climate targets for 2030 and 2050);
- 1.2 Clean Energy (To provide clean, accessible and safe energy);
- 1.3 Sustainable industry (Mobilize industry for a circular economy);
- 1.4 Building and Renovating (Build and renovate in an efficient way);
- 1.5 Sustainable mobility (Accelerate the change towards inter-connected and soft mobility);
- 1.6 From farm to fork
- 1.7 Biodiversity (To preserve and restore ecosystems and biodiversity);

¹https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

²https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en#documents

³https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en#actions

⁴ More details also in <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12027-020-00637-3#Fn8>

⁵ Le Monde: "Climat, agriculture, transports... Le « green deal » tous azimuts de la Commission européenne" from 11/12/2019

- 1.8 Eliminating Pollution (Target zero pollution and decrease of toxic emissions);
- 1.9 Sustainable agriculture.

More details on each EGD target are available in Annex 1.⁶

In the next chapters, the two policy areas “From Farm to Fork” and “sustainable agriculture” were merged in this Thematic Report because of their common features.

The EGD should impact the entire legislative and regulatory approach of the European Union in all sectors towards an ecological, just and inclusive transition.

Research and innovation are playing an important role for each element of the EGD and they will be central in the industrial strategy for a clean and circular economy. In early 2020, the European Commission adopted the EU Industrial Strategy to lead the both transitions: towards climate neutrality and to digital leadership. The policy framework for the EGD represents a new form of mission-oriented policy making.

On national and regional level, according to the competences, policymakers will be required to pursue the concretization of the EGD with new policy tools. However, there are currently no clear recommendations on how the strategies will be delivered at the regional level, for example there is an important gap given that there is no direct reference to the smart specialization strategies as a possible delivery channel. There is therefore clearly an opportunity for regional authorities to foresee their “territorial contribution” in the 2021-27 programming period.⁷

In relation to the above, the analysis will focus on INTERREG Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020 projects that worked in the EGD targets and topics. To that aim the results of those projects will be analyzed and counter-checked towards the EGD priorities for the new programming period 2021-27, both towards the targets as from the point of view of the achievement of results on each PA level (in two sub-sections of Chapter 4).

Given the horizontal dimension and financial implications of the EGD, it needs to be kept in mind that the **environmental protection** becomes in the new Programming period relevant on different levels, it can be considered of “**multidimensional relevance**”.

⁶https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en#policy-areas

⁷<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/8381/the-european-green-deal-and-covid-19-implications-for-research-and-innovation/>

3. Analysis on the Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-20 Programme

3.1 The Programme area

The programme area of the Italy-Slovenia cross-border cooperation programme covers five NUTS 3 regions in Italy. Its centres are the cities of Venice, Udine, Pordenone, Gorizia and Trieste. There are also five NUTS 3 regions in Slovenia (Primorsko-notranjska, Osrednjeslovenska, Gorenjska, Obalno-kraška and Goriška). Its centres are Postojna, Ljubljana, Kranj, the conurbation of Koper-Izola-Piran and the towns and cities of Sežana, Nova Gorica, Tolmin and Kobarid. The land border between Italy and Slovenia is relatively short with 232 km but much diversified with mountains, plains and coastal zones. The natural landscapes are much diversified and so is the density of the population. The area covers two river-systems which are tributary to the Adriatic river basin, one of them is cross-border (Vipava and Soča/Isonzo).

The programme area is located in the zone where the Alpine region meets the Mediterranean climate. The Programme area covers more than 320 Km of coast on the Adriatic Sea basin and more widely in the Mediterranean Sea basin, a small part of which is located in Slovenia. Given the links between the EGD and industry, it is worth deepening the two aspects of environment and economy.

3.2 The Natural capital of the Programme area, risks deriving from climate change and measures on national and regional level

The Natural capital of the Programme area comprises Alpine and Alpine foothills landscapes, hilly and high and low plain landscapes, river basins, lagoon and coastal landscapes, the unique Karst landscapes. There are plenty of natural resources, but also the need to take actions for protection and preservation due to hydrogeological and seismic risks, as well as the risk of subsidence and coastal erosion, all due to climate change.

The Programme area can list a remarkable number of natural parks and protected areas: National and Regional Parks, Marine protected areas, Nature (Municipal, State and Regional) Reserves, according to the national and IUCN classification system. There are two parks related to sea natural resources and six to other landscapes. Among those on the sea: the National Marine Protected Area of Miramare (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve) and the Strunjan Reserve (in Obalno-kraška region). Other protected areas are: the Triglav National Park (located in the statistical regions of Gorenjska and Goriška), the Friuli Dolomites, the Julian Prealps (in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region), the Sile

River (in the Venice Metropolitan City), the Škocjan Caves Regional Park listed on UNESCO as well as Ramsar Convention List of wetlands (in Obalno-kraška region) and the Notranjska Regional Park. The Triglav National Park and the Julian Prealps also form a UNESCO area of “The Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve” and a cross-border ecoregion. There are also two Geoparks: a Karst Geopark (in creation)⁸, and the Geopark Idrija. In addition to those already mentioned explicitly, Friuli Venezia Giulia can list two natural parks, fifteen reserves, more than thirty biotopes and sixty-three sites Natura 2000, covering 19% of the regional territory. Similarly, in the Metropolitan City of Venice we can count a regional park and 32 Natura 2000 sites (24% of the total provincial area). Slovenia has a relatively high proportion of NATURA 2000 sites at national level (37% of the entire country), its programme area reaches with 41 % even a higher percentage. There are also over 300 protected areas of various protection regimes, over 1.500 natural value sites and 8.415 caves - all protected as natural sites.

Among them there are many rivers, the main river systems are the cross-border one of Isonzo/Soča and others like: the Vipava and the Sile. In addition to that, many lagoons natural areas, from the wide Lagoon of Venice system, the Mort and Eraclea Lagoon in Venice metropolitan City, the Marano and Grado Lagoon in Friuli Venezia Giulia, and the Stjuža in Slovenia.

The Eurostat data shows that the share of forests is 44.9% for FVG, 24.5 % for Veneto and 67.7% for Zahodna Slovenija. This data clearly shows that deforestation is not a prominent issue for the main part of the programme area. However, it has to be pointed out that in the last decade forests were heavily impacted by extreme weather events (e.g. ice-breaks, droughts and wildfires, etc.) clearly indicating their vulnerability to climate change and supporting expectations that tree species-composition of forests is likely to undergo an important change in coming decades. Thus, significantly impacting one of the most important natural resources of the programme area.

Deriving from the above info, from the environmental point of view, the Programme area is rich in natural resources that are an asset for development but will at the same time be subject to climate change impacts. The Programme area is facing common challenges in the field of climate change, pursuing global sustainable development objectives. The variety of climatic zones within the area - from the Alps to the Mediterranean - boosts those challenges and the need to find specific effective countermeasures. Main objectives are: emissions reduction, renewable energy

⁸<https://www.ita-slo.eu/en/geokarst>

production, energy efficiency, lower consumption by transports and buildings development and use of green technologies, tailor-made actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

In 2015, all United Nations Member States (Italy and Slovenia too) approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The document entails 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Both countries have a high score in year 2020, Slovenia ranks 12th with a score of 79,8 and Italy ranks 30th with a score of 77,07 out of 162. Both countries urgently need to take up climate change action⁹. Following the UN agreements on climate change and EU strategies, all EU countries have to prepare and adopt a 10-year integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). The document contains a national agenda of each EU Member State for energy efficiency, renewable energy, reduction of emissions, interconnections and R&I. Both Italy and Slovenia have submitted the final versions of their NECP¹⁰. Main elements of these climate plans envisage the reduction of fossil energy sources in traffic, industry, households and agriculture (e.g. heating renovation of buildings, strengthening environmental friendly production processes, increasing the attractiveness and thus the share of public transport systems, sustainable forestry), the promotion of renewable energy (solar, geothermal, wind, biomass) and the protection of biodiversity and habitats. Important in all CO₂ reduction plans are also measures for increasing the awareness about these thematic in the population and R&D activities. Strategies are also dealing with actions that are helping to better adapt the various sectors of society and economy to the undergoing and upcoming inevitable effects of climate change. Main focuses that are also relevant for the region are e.g. regarding the management of surface and underground waters, flood risk prevention, measures for maintaining and improving biodiversity, adaptation of agricultural crops and forest management, disaster prevention and response measures and support of sustainable tourism and diversification in tourism, many of them under the umbrella concept of circular economy.

Climate change is still affecting the Programme area, in terms of global warming and increasing average temperature, vulnerability to floods and natural disasters, showing the need for further interventions in the fields of energy, transport, water management, soil consumption, forest management and natural risks prevention, in a long term perspective.

⁹<https://dashboards.sdindex.org/rankings>; <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/SVN>, <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/ITA>

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/implementation-eu-countries/energy-and-climate-governance-and-reporting/national-energy-and-climate-plans_en

As a matter of fact, annual average temperatures in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto show an increase between +1 °C and + 2 °C in last 50 years, accelerating after 1991. Since year 2000, average temperature in the regional lowlands have never get back to 13 °C, while in 2015 five heat waves were registered, and maximum temperatures exceeded 40 °C.¹¹ In Slovenia the temperature should rise up by 1,7 °C but there should also be significant changes in the amount of rainfall, water-flow in rivers and water reserves. The quantity of rainfall and the rise in air temperatures will also impact the level and raise the sea in the Northern Adriatic.¹²

The latest data on GHGs emissions provided by European Environment Agency (EEA) and Eurostat (published October 2020, situation in 2018) confirm that both Italy (-17.9%) and Slovenia (-7.2%) are reducing emissions compared to 2005 level, but still not reaching the -20% target set for 2020 by the EU Climate and Energy Package.

The increase in the share of renewables is essential to reach the EU climate and energy goals. The EU target is to reach 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 and at least 32% by 2030: Italy has reached its national 2020 target, although its share is below the EU average 20%. Slovenia has not yet reached its national 2020 target (-3.9 pp), however with a national share above the EU average 20%.

3.3 Local authorities in Programme area already taking actions

At the local level, 75 out of the 259 municipalities of the Italian side territorially involved in the Programme are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (29%), with an absolute preeminence in the NUTS 3 area of Udine (25 municipalities) and Pordenone (24 municipalities), and a relative one in the NUTS 3 area of Trieste (50%) and Pordenone again (49%), Venezia and Meolo in the metropolitan area of Venice. Many Slovenian municipalities are also signatories, the majority is located in Gorenjska region, but there are also others, among which Idrija, Ajdovščina, Pivka and the three urban municipalities of Koper, Nova Gorica and Ljubljana.¹³

Furthermore, many municipalities in the programme area have already taken measures for greening in the urban areas (more green and recreational areas, more soft mobility and other measures)

¹¹ARPA FVG, 2018, Studio conoscitivo dei cambiamenti climatici e di alcuni loro impatti in Friuli Venezia Giulia, https://www.meteo.fvg.it/clima/clima_fvg/03_cambiamenti_climatici/01_REPORT_cambiamenti_climatici_e_impatti_per_il_FVG/impattiC-CinFVG_marzo2018.pdf.

¹²https://meteo.arso.gov.si/uploads/probase/www/climate/text/sl/publications/OPS21_Porocilo.pdf

¹³For detailed information on the status of single municipalities, please consult: <https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/about/covenant-community/signatories.html>

to fight climate change and improve the quality of life. Still, there is insufficient use of public transport.

3.4 The application of the European Green Deal targets and the economy outlook

Circular economy has potential in supporting bottom-up approaches in designing and implementing material flow in loops that are terminating at local or regional level (i.e. waste of one industry is material for another, leading in reduced pressure on natural resources, etc.). The Government of Slovenia has declared circular economy and green development as Slovenia's strategic objectives and adopted the Framework Programme for the Transition to a Green Economy in 2016.¹⁴ Furthermore, a Roadmap towards Circular Economy in Slovenia was prepared in 2018. In Slovenia, Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership Circular economy connects business sector, educational and research institutions, NGOs and other partners into new value chains. Such partnerships focus on sustainable energy, biomass and alternative raw materials, secondary raw materials, functional materials, processes and technologies, and circular business models. Several attempts were also made to introduce circular economy practices into tourism.

EU Directives on Circular economy have been transposed in the Italian legal system through Legislative Decree no. 116/2020, mainly focused on waste reduction and recycling. It has been anticipated by Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Law No. 34/2017, that enforces the regional waste management system emphasizing reuse, restore and recycling besides of the reduction in waste production, introduces a regional forum on circular economy composed by experts and stakeholders, and enhances the practice of Green Public procurement.

From the economic point of view, the Programme areas is not far from EU standards, the Italian side being slightly above the EU average of GDP per capita and the Slovenian side being slightly below. Similarly, the situation of labor market, as regards employment, unemployment and long-term unemployment rates, is also close to the overall EU average¹⁵.

The Italian and Slovenian economies have been hardly hit by the European economic crisis of 2008-2009 but the situation has since then changed, with the economy growing favorably across all sectors since then but with a new negative effect of the pandemic in 2020.

¹⁴https://www.greencycle.si/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/opzg_akcijski_nacrt_in_nacrt_aktivnosti.pdf

¹⁵BorderOrientationPaperItaly-Slovenia, EU DG REGIO 2019

Both in Slovenia and in Italy the pandemic and the consequent lockdowns of many sectors of economic activity have had a considerable impact on the regional labor market. The sharp decline in economic activity has involved numerous sectors of industry and services, has discouraged participation to the labor market, causing a contraction in the rate of activity.

Referring to OECD data, for Italy, after falling sharply in 2020, GDP is projected to expand by 4.3% in 2021 and 3.2% in 2022. Lockdowns and uncertainty are weighing on activity, although government support has mitigated the effects on firms and households. Substantial job creation, especially for the low-skilled labor, women and youth, will return to pre-pandemic dimension only in 2022¹⁶.

OECD data for Slovenia tells that GDP is set to fall by 7.5% in 2020 and grow by 4.3% in 2021 as the effects of the pandemic will continue to disturb economic activity until at least late-2021. From then until the end of the projection horizon in 2022, investment and exports will be the main engines of growth thanks to higher demand in trading partner countries¹⁷.

The Programme area has a big potential to apply EGD targets and approaching the EGD topics. In the following parts of the thematic report, the specific targets of the EGD will be presented and analyzed in relation to projects approved in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-20 Programme. Furthermore, because the Programme area is belonging to other transnational cooperation areas and two macro-regional strategies, examples on EGD and EGD-related projects from those areas will be presented and compared with the topics covered in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme.

¹⁶OECD Italy Economic Snapshot, Economic Forecast Summary

¹⁷ OECD Slovenia Economic Snapshot, Economic Forecast Summary and https://www.umar.gov.si/napovedi/vmesne- napovedi/napoved/news/zimska- napoved- gospodarskih- gibanj-2020/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=75ecd4358ad4adc85080ae59b3ac9f1f

4. Interreg Italy-Slovenia European Green Deal related projects

4.1 Classification of projects under four of the 2021-27 policy objectives

The main goals of this report is to identify areas of continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods considering the projects the territory activated and their consistency with new priorities across Europe, such as the EGD.

Therefore, it is worth analyzing the projects implemented under the Programme in order to identify the aspects of interest in terms of continuity and coherence, also in order to detect any gaps and to identify potentials for capitalization.

55 projects were approved in the 2014-20 programming period in the Italy-Slovenia Interreg cross-border cooperation programme. Only those projects that are directly linked with the EGD policy areas were considered in this thematic report, hence 34 projects are going to be analyzed more in detail in the chapters of this report and in the annexes. The projects that are not going to be analyzed in detail were in line with the objectives of the 2014-20 programme but were more related to healthcare, social and governance issues that are not that much covered by the EGD policy areas.

Based on the outcomes of the Analysis on 2014-2020 project applications through the concept of functional areas, carried out in 2020 by the MA, the following scheme sums up the contribution of 2014-2020 projects to the different themes foreseen in the Programme strategy. Most of them are in line with the new framework for the 2021-2027 period. Proceeding by topic, there is also the possibility to follow the subdivision on topics covered by the European Green Deal objectives. The below table has been developed for the purpose of programming the new 2021-27 Interreg Italy-Slovenia cooperation programme.

Table 4: 2014-2020 Financed Projects per Sector

	1. HEALTH	2. R&D	3. AGRI-FOOD	4. ENERGY SAVING/WATER/CO ₂ EMISSION REDUCTION /CLIMATE CHANGES	5. PROTECTION OF NATURAL HABITATS AND OF BIODIVERSITY/ SUSTAINABILITY AND RECYCLING	6. TOURISM AND LOCAL PROMOTION	7. SOCIAL INCLUSION/ADMINISTRATIVE-PA/SCHOOL AND WORK ORGANIZATION
N. of Standard projects	9	4	0	8	13	1	8
Financial allocation	€ 7.872.540,75 (20,63%)	€ 3.719.235,77 (9,75%)	€ 0 (0%)	€ 8.280.241,15 (21,70%)	€ 11.132.821,87 (29,17%)	€ 1.093.887,10 (2,87%)	€ 6.062.628,64 (15,89%)
N. of strategic projects	0	2	0	1	4	2	1
Financial allocation	0%	22,59%)	0%	€ 3.499.779,57 (13,19%)	€ 9.990.678,00 (37,64%)	€ 4.655.001,43 (17,54%)	€ 2.399.999,98 (9,04%)
N. of ITI projects	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Financial allocation	€ 4.250.000,00 (50%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	€ 4.250.000,00 (50%)	0%
TOTAL FINANCIAL ALLOCATION IN M€	€ 12.122.540,75	€ 9.715.236,39	€ 0	€ 11.780.020,72	€ 21.123.499,87	€ 9.998.888,53	€ 8.462.628,62
TOTAL FINANCIAL ALLOCATION IN %	16,56%	13,27%	0%	16,09%	28,86%	13,66%	11,56%

Useful indications on main topics for cooperation in the Italy-Slovenia area came from the interviews, stakeholder consultation that was carried out in the year 2020, other intense activity carried out, in spite of the sanitary crisis, by the Programme authorities in the year 2020 with three Analysis papers and inputs stemming from the stakeholders on the territory of the Programme area being prepared in the year 2020 and 2021.

Many projects encompassing ICT, digitalization, creative industries, and entrepreneurship have been supported in the two previous programming periods but there is still space for an upgrade that will consider the priorities set by the EC for innovation and linking them with the opportunities given by the Green Deal orientations. There is the need to foster the transition to a circular and green economy and the creation of regional value chains supporting clusters and industrial/research districts.

Based on the activities for the preparation of the programme, in the previous two programming periods, there were significant efforts to develop mobility solutions, both in terms of better links in infrastructure as in intermodality of transport. There is still the need to better harmonize the schedules of public transport on a cross-border level (timing and availability). The cooperation potentials are still present in soft mobility: there are still possibilities to develop on-demand micro-mobility on a cross-border level and other green solutions focusing mainly on the railway links

and increasing the network of biking routes in the Karst, in the programme coastal area and over all the territories.

Efforts should continue with projects that will consider also the effect and necessary mitigation measures for climate change and projects that focus on sustainable development, taking into account the Green Deal priorities.

4.2 Classification of projects according to European Green Deal policy areas

To verify which are the areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods, the approved projects were linked with the EGD targets. As highlighted above 34 projects out of 55 projects funded in the Programme were selected to cross EGD targets and were subdivided according to the cited EU Green Deal main policy areas, into eight groups. The targets are listed in separate sub-chapters in the following sections of this report and in an overview table concerning each policy objective and target of the EGD in Annex 1. A supporting explanatory table on Italy-Slovenia projects and their results is presented in Annex 2 and then resumed in the section on Priority Axes. Additional tables are provided here below at the end of sub-chapters 4.2 and 4.3.

1. POLICY AREA CLIMATE ACTION

The projects SECAP and SUSGRAPE correspond to the above mentioned policy area. Both are mentioned also in relation to other EGD policy areas.

2. POLICY AREA CLEAN ENERGY

The three projects approved under this topic are related to climate change and energy efficiency. These projects are: SECAP, LightingSolutions and Energy Care. The first project is related to climate change adaptation measures, the following two are dedicated to energy efficiency. From the latter, one tackles the topic of energy efficient lighting of public buildings, the other energy efficiency of public buildings and sustainable mobility.

Comparing the topics tackled to those foreseen by the EGD, we can see that the topic of renewable energies, in particular the one of **renewable sources of energy is not yet covered, as well as the topic of energy storage or hydrogen applications.**

3. POLICY AREASUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

In total five projects were approved under this topic. These projects are: RETRACKING (related to circular economy), DuraSoft (focusing on sustainable final products and services), MERLINcv and TRAIN (working on digital transformation and big data in diseases) and GREENHULL (on green technologies). They tackle different aspects of applications in industry and circular economy, from the general point of view to more precise applications in: final products and services, digital transformation and green technology.

Compared to other topics that can be tackled under this theme within the EGD targets, there still seems to be a lot of space to deal with the **recycling of raw materials, digital transformation (AI, 5G, cloud, edge computing, internet) and support to transport, natural resources and energy management**. There is also potential to tackle green public procurement that was not particularly explored in the 2014-2020 programming period.

4. POLICY AREABUILDING AND RESTRUCTURING

There seem not to be many projects related to topics of:

- renewal of public and private buildings to reduce energy consumption;
- specifically renovation of public social housing, schools and hospitals.

But there is the project LightingSolutions, dedicated to energy efficiency and already mentioned also under the EGD target “Clean, secure and accessible energy”. It needs to be mentioned that actors from the Programme area have strongly participated in Alpine Space Programme projects that were tackling the two topics on Building and Restructuring. These could nevertheless be a potential for future synergies and capitalizations. More information is available under the section dedicated to the Alpine Space Programme and the EUSALP macro-regional strategy.

5. POLICY AREA SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

In total six projects were approved under this topic. They tackle different aspects of applications in interconnected and soft mobility, from more general approach, to specific applications in alternatives to current mobility habits, multimodal mobility and institutional cooperation. More specifically: the project CLEAN BERTH worked on cross-border institutional cooperation for ports environmental sustainability and energy efficiency; the projects MUSE and MOBITour focused on alternatives to current mobility habits; and the projects InterbikeII, CROSSMOBY and FORTIS dealt with multimodal mobility. The majority of projects were approved under the sub-topics on alternatives to current mobility habits and multimodal mobility.

The project WalkofPeace needs to be mentioned because of its many activities, in line with the European Green Deal objectives and related to better accessibility, and also because it got the award of best Interreg project of year 2020 on Europe-wide level.

Comparing the topics tackled to targets foreseen by the EGD, there were no specific projects dedicated to **public charging and refueling points** and none dedicated to **air transport** but it needs to be mentioned that those topics were extensively tackled in respectively the Alpine Space Programme projects and in Adrion Programme projects, hence there are perhaps potentials for synergies and capitalization. More information is provided in the sections dedicated to the two Programmes towards the end of this report.

6. POLICY AREAS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FROM FARM TO FORK

The two policy areas were merged in this Thematic Report because of their common features. Sustainable agriculture, being part of the Common Agriculture Policy, will be further funded via national and regional funds for the agriculture sector. In total five projects were approved under this topic. These are the following: MEDS GARDEN, one project on green agri-food (BlueGrass), two on protection and preservation of biodiversity and innovation (BEE-DIVERSITY and FishAgro-Tech), two on sustainable farming practices and ICT (AGROTOUR2 and SUSGRAPE) and one on sustainable agriculture in an overall perspective of cooperation between protected areas in the cross-border area in order to increase environmental protection (GREVISLIN). They tackle different aspects of applications in farming and food, from the general preservation of typical regional products to green agri-food, protection and preservation of biodiversity, sustainable farming practices and ICT. The majority of projects were approved under the last two sub-topics.

Compared to the targets mentioned in the EGD, there are still opportunities for the players in the **food value chain** because new technologies and scientific breakthroughs, combined with increased public awareness and demand for sustainable food, will benefit all stakeholders. **Efforts to tackle climate change and protect the environment should also be encouraged.** In line with strategic national plans, the Programme should strive to increase the use of sustainable practices such as preserving farming, precision farming, organic farming, agroecology, agro-forestry etc. even though this will be tackled also on regional and national level in the agriculture sector.

For the reduction of waste, the project BioApp (best practice on decreased use of plastics in food, cosmetics and biomedical industry) can be mentioned.

In the new Programming period 2021-27 an increased level of ambition to significantly reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides, as well as the use of fertilizers and antibiotics could be applied. The Farm to Fork strategy could also contribute to achieving a circular economy by reducing the **environmental impact of the food processing and retail sectors** by acting on transport, storage, packaging and waste. These could be interesting for the Programme if applied on cross-border level.

7. POLICY AREA BIODIVERSITY

In total seven projects were approved under this topic. These are: Tretamare and Acquavitis (working on ecosystems), the project NAT2CARE (focusing on Natura 2000 coverage), the project ECOSMART (dealing with Ecosystem services), three projects dealing with green infrastructure (GREVISLIN, ENGREEN and ISONZO-SOČA ITI project) and GEOKARST dealing with the establishment of a cross-border geopark in the Karst area. They tackle different aspects of applications in preserving biodiversity, from the focus on ecosystems, on Natura 2000 areas, on ecosystem services and green infrastructures. The majority of projects were focusing on the latter and ecosystems.

Compared to the list of themes under the targets in biodiversity in the EGD, there still seems to be space to tackle two wide topics like: **forestation and sustainable blue economy**.

8. POLICY AREA ELIMINATING POLLUTION

The three projects approved were focusing mainly on ground and surface waters, preserving the biodiversity in river systems, wetlands and estuaries and preventing and limiting damage that could be caused by floods. These are the strategic project GREVISLIN, VISFRIM and the ITI project Isonzo-Soča.

9. CONCLUSIONS ON ALL EGD POLICY AREAS

Compared to the targets mentioned in the EGD, **there is potentially the possibility to tackle also other topics on environment protection, more related to toxin-free environment**. There are multiple actions possible, from **prevention of pollution as well as cleaning and remediation activities**, even though this will be tackled also on regional and national level in the relevant related sectors. **The activities fighting pollution can focus on air, water, soil and even consumer products, provided they have a cross-border impact**.

Table 5: Identified interesting topics for future projects in relation to EGD Policy areas and targets

Resume on interesting topics that could be further developed in new Programming period, relation to EGD targets (gap analysis)	
EGD targets	Interesting topics
General focus, all EGD policy areas and targets	Environment protection as counter-action on climate change negative impacts. Actions fighting pollution (air, water, soil and even focus on consumer products), provided there is a cross-border impact.
Policy Area (PA) Clean Energy	-Renewable sources of energy -Energy storage -Hydrogen applications
PA Sustainable Industry	-Recycling of raw materials -Digital transformation applications (AI, 5G, cloud, edge computing, internet) and support to transport, natural resources and energy management.
PA Building and Restructuring	- Renewal of public and private buildings to reduce energy consumption. - Specifically renovation of public social housing ¹⁸ , schools and hospitals.
PA Sustainable mobility	Public charging and refueling points
PA Farm to Fork and Sustainable Agriculture	-Use of sustainable practices such as precision farming, organic farming, agroecology, agro-forestry. -Environmental impact of the food processing and retail sectors by acting on transport, storage, packaging and waste, provided there is a cross-border impact.
PA Biodiversity	-Sustainable Blue economy -(Ri) Forestation issues and those related to wood-related activities
PA Pollution reduction	Prevention and remediation activities

Source: Elaboration, based on approved projects in 2014-2020 programming period

4.3 Analysis of projects based on PA level

Going back to the main questions of this thematic report, mentioned in the introductory part, the results obtained so-far by the projects in the Programme can be a good basis for synergies and capitalization in the new programming period. The information is stemming from the Annex 1 of the document “Towards Context Analysis 2021-2027: first Impact Assessment of Projects financed by Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020”. All of the below mentioned projects are those related to EGD targets, the projects that do not fit under those targets will not be mentioned. Furthermore,

¹⁸Public housing was one of the future common topics for the area of Gorizia-Nova Gorica-Šempeter Vrtojba during the seminar held by ESPON in 2018, event “New thinking on functional urban areas, polycentric territorial structures and cross border collaboration: contributions from ESPON research(<https://www.espon.eu/nova-gorica>).

it needs to be mentioned that all three Analyses delivered by the MA and JS during 2020 were taken into consideration.

Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA1

Stemming from the descriptions available on the Programme website and the Analyses delivered by the MA and JS during 2020, the areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods for the projects under this Specific Objective, in consideration of new priorities across Europe, such as the EGD are the following: machine learning, solutions on Big data use and innovation (like in the standard project TRAIN), ICT solutions and innovation even in traditional sectors (as in projects FishAgroTech and SUSGRAPE), bioeconomy/ circular economy/ innovation lab to market/ zero-waste (as in project BioApp), innovative technologies to improve the durability of traditional wooden structures (foreseen in the project DuraSoft), developing ecosystem value chains (like in the strategic project DIVA).

Table 6: Relevant results, in line with policy areas of the EGD, from Priority Axes 1 of the Programme

PA 1	
Project	Topic
TRAIN	Machine learning, solutions on Big data use and innovation
FishAgroTech and SUSGRAPE	ICT solutions and innovation even in traditional sectors
DuraSoft	Innovative technologies to improve the durability of traditional wooden structures
DIVA	Developing ecosystem value chains
BioApp	Open innovation platform to transform food waste and other natural biopolymers resources into circular applications for biodegradable and zero-waste food packaging, cosmetics and biomedical treatments.

Going back to the main question related to this PA in the introductory part of this Thematic report, the areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods for

the projects, in consideration of new EGD priorities, are represented by the five projects mentioned in the above table. There is still a lot of possibilities to develop machine learning, big data solutions, apply ICT technologies and innovation also in the new programming period.

Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA2

Concerning the PA2, the projects contributed to:

- a) increase the level of knowledge and experiences exchange concerning the planning, financing and implementing of emissions reduction by creating a data collection and elaboration of scenarios (done in the strategic project SECAP) and guidelines for public administrations and the cross-border Action Plan (prepared in the standard project MUSE).
- b) the adoption of shared strategies for emissions reduction and green energies supply, involving public and private actors with the infrastructural interventions in Koper, Trieste and San Donà di Piave (within the project Energy Care); a digital platform to share info on tourist routes/itineraries and public transport and sustainable mobility services (created within the project MobiTour) and the many solutions for sustainable transport by bus on cross-border level between Koper-Grado-Cormons, with bikes and on the Lemene river, via maritime transport between Bibione and Caorle (within Interbikell).
- c) the adoption of shared models of urban smart mobility, involving public and private actors with the ITI Isonzo-Soča project and others, like the definition of the cycle path in San Donà di Piave and the pedibus in Koper (within the project Energy Care), the solar-panneled e-bike deposit in Grosuplje and two charging stations (set up in the standard project MUSE), 5 park & drive pilot systems to promote sustainable mobility (within the standard project MobiTour), as well as additional bike and bus solutions pilot applications (from the strategic project CrossMobi).
- d) raised awareness on energy saving and new mobility models (including lifestyle choices) by the ITI Isonzo-Soča project and many of the above mentioned ones.

Table 7: Relevant results, in line with policy areas of the EGD, from Priority Axes 2 of the Programme

PA 2	
Project	Topic
SECAP	Increase the level of knowledge and experiences exchange concerning the planning, financing and implementing of emissions reduction by creating a data collection and elaboration of scenarios
MUSE	Guidelines for public administrations and the cross-border Action Plan.
Energy Care	The adoption of shared strategies for emissions reduction and green energies supply, involving public and private actors with the infrastructural interventions in Koper, Trieste and San Donà di Piave.
MobiTour	A digital platform to share info on tourist routes/itineraries and public transport and sustainable mobility services.
InterBikell	Many solutions for sustainable transport by bus on cross-border level between Koper-Grado-Cormons, with bikes and on the Lemene river, via maritime transport between Bibione and Caorle, new boat connections, but not across the border due to legislation obstacles.
Energy Care	The adoption of shared models of urban smart mobility, involving public and private actors with the ITI Isonzo-Soča project and others, like the definition of the cycle path in San Donà di Piave and the pedibus in Koper.
MUSE	The solar-panneled e-bike deposit in Grosuplje and two charging stations.
MobiTour	5 park & drive pilot systems to promote sustainable mobility
CrossMobY	Bike and bus solutions pilot applications
ITI Isonzo-Soča project and many of the above mentioned ones.	Raised awareness on energy saving and new mobility models (including lifestyle choices).

Going back to the main question related to this PA in the introductory part of this Thematic report:

- the CP contributed to increase the level of knowledge and experiences exchange concerning the planning, financing and implementing of emissions reduction with all the 10 projects mentioned in the above table and mainly with the SECAP project.
- the CP supported the adoption of shared strategies for emissions reduction with all the 10 projects mentioned in the above table and green energies supply, involving public and private actors mainly with the project Energy Care and MUSE.
- the CP increased the adoption of shared models of urban smart mobility, involving public and private actors mainly with projects CrossMoby, Interbike II and MobiTour.
- the CP raised awareness on energy saving and new mobility models (including lifestyle choices) mainly in Energy Care and CrossMoby projects.

Details on the mentioned projects are presented in the Annex 2 of this Thematic report.

Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA3

Concerning the PA3, there is a distribution in three fields. In the field of “Conserving, protecting, restoring and developing natural and cultural heritage”, the projects contributed to:

a) support the adoption of shared strategies, plans and tools related to conservation and protection of natural resources and habitats with the following dealing with investments for innovative marketing products, developing technical-specialist content for the enhancement of cultural heritage and first systematic marketing actions (in the strategic project MERLINcv) and valorizing historic and cultural sites under a common brand,¹⁹ cross-border management and marketing plan, promotion, cross-border research (results - database of WWI fallen soldiers will be presented online, exhibition about the soldiers-artists will be presented in video format - so both digitalized versions), trainings and workshops for different target groups and WWI topics, cross-border Walk of Peace tourism packages/product, 2 new multi-media centres (Sabotin, San Dona di Piave) and renovation of the center in Kobarid (in the project WALKofPEACE).

¹⁹On the website there is detailed information and many digital materials (approximately 430 WWI sites from Ljubljana to Venezia accessible in digitalized format: photos, videos, panoramas, air-photos, promotional films, info about the each of the trail, different experiences and programmes for tourists etc.). More information is available on the project website: www.thewalkofpeace.com

b) put in place integrated projects and tools to target protected and environmentally highly valuable areas, these are the following with the awareness rising activities for children, students, technicians and professionals from the agriculture world, tour operators and tourists (in the standard project MEDS GARDEN).

Within the same PA3, secondly, in the field of “Enhancing integrated management of ecosystems for a sustainable development of the territory”, the projects contributed to:

a) the implementation of actions promoting better coordination and interaction among stakeholders by implementing bee monitoring to preserve biodiversity (in the standard project BEE-DIVERSITY), management of marine habitats with high ecological value (foreseen in the standard project Tretamare), activities for the restoration and conservation of cross-border Natura 2000 areas (standard project NAT2CARE).

b) promote the capitalization of past experiences and the exchange of best practices with sustainable development of agriculture and tourism with the e-Karst application for vineyard monitoring (standard project AGROTOUR2), managing water-related risks for the Vipava river basin and other trans-boundary river basins (like in the strategic project VisFrIm), also WALKofPEACE is one of the best practices of capitalization, recognized as best Interreg project in Europe in 2020.

c) support the implementation of innovative initiatives to stimulate a sustainable economic development and job opportunities by creating green infrastructure and regional pilot projects (as in strategic project GREVISLIN), supporting actions for improvement of the ecological status of the Corno river and Isonzo/Soča river mouth in the Adriatic (standard project CONA).

In the PA3, lastly, in the field of “Development and the testing of innovative environmental friendly technologies for the improvement of waste and water management”, the projects contributed to:

a) the implementation of capacity building actions aimed at development of structures, systems and tools with the creation of a new management model that includes ICT applications and traceability of Reinforced Fiber Composites (from the standard project RETRACKING), the development of a pilot underwater cleaning system and a modular wastewater treatment plant (as foreseen in the standard project GreenHull) and the monitoring of water-stress, water cycle and irrigation in viticulture (as in the standard project Aquavitis), two pilot installations and testing of aquaponics (in the standard project BlueGrass).

b) have shared processes concerning regulatory frameworks, functional networks, common structures, coordination of policies and investments, governance models been developed with the ITI projects and the CROSSITSAFER project. More information on the latter is presented in the table in the Annex 2.

For the implementation of capacity building actions addressing the human potential and its training please see the comment on projects focusing on trainings and education.

Table 8: Relevant results, in line with policy areas of the EGD, from Priority Axes 3 of the Programme

PA 3	
Project	Topic
3.1 Field of “Conserving, protecting, restoring and developing natural and cultural heritage”	
MERLINcv	Support the adoption of shared strategies, plans and tools related to conservation and protection of natural resources and habitats with the following dealing with investments for innovative marketing products, developing technical-specialist content for the enhancement of cultural heritage and first systematic marketing actions.
WALKofPEACE	Valorizing historic and cultural sites of World War I. Developing heritage via digitalization and trainings as well as common branding and marketing actions.
MEDS GARDEN	Put in place integrated projects and tools to target protected and environmentally highly valuable areas, these are the following with the awareness rising activities for children, students, technicians and professionals from the agriculture world, tour operators and tourists.
3.2 Field of “Enhancing integrated management of ecosystems for a sustainable development of the territory”,	
BEE-DIVERSITY	Implementation of actions promoting better coordination and interaction among stakeholders by implementing bee monitoring to preserve biodiversity.
TRETAMARE	Management of marine habitats with high ecological value.
NAT2CARE	Activities for the restoration and conservation of cross-border Natura 2000 areas.

AGROTOUR2	Promote the capitalization of past experiences and the exchange of best practices with sustainable development of agriculture and tourism with the e-Karst application for vineyard monitoring.
VisFrIm	Managing water-related risks for the Vipava river basin and other trans-boundary river basins.
Grevislin	Support the implementation of innovative initiatives to stimulate a sustainable economic development and job opportunities by creating green infrastructure and regional pilot projects.
CONA	Supporting actions for improvement of the ecological status of the Corno river and Isonzo/Soča river mouth in the Adriatic.
3.3 Field of “Development and the testing of innovative environmental friendly technologies for the improvement of waste and water management”	
RETRACKING	The implementation of capacity building actions aimed at development of structures, systems and tools with the creation of a new management model that includes ICT applications and traceability of Reinforced Fiber Composites (from the standard project).
GreenHull	The development of a pilot underwater cleaning system and a modular wastewater treatment plant.
Aquavitis	The monitoring of water-stress, water cycle and irrigation in viticulture.
BlueGrass	Two pilot installations and testing of aquaponics
ITI project Isonzo-Soča	Have shared processes concerning regulatory frameworks, functional networks, common structures, coordination of policies and investments, governance models.

Going back to the main question related to this PA in the introductory part of this Thematic report we will subdivide the conclusions in the different fields.

Concerning the field 3.1, the CP supported the adoption of shared strategies, plans and tools related to conservation and protection of natural resources and habitats with three projects mentioned in the above table that were focusing on integrated shared strategies, plans and tools with

a large public (target groups include, for all 3 projects: children, students, technicians and professionals, tour operators, tourists and local inhabitants).

Concerning the field 3.2, progress was made towards the implementation of actions promoting better coordination and interaction among stakeholders with all seven projects in this field. The capitalization of past experiences and the exchange of best practices was taking place in the project AgroTour2, the other six projects can be considered innovative initiatives to stimulate a sustainable economic development and job opportunities.

Lastly, concerning the field 3.3, the CP supported the adoption of shared strategies for the improvement of common resources management with the six projects listed in the above table. The projects also strengthened the promotion of sustainable and responsible awareness and behaviors with their communication activities.

Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA4

With the regard to PA4, the Interreg Italy-Slovenia projects contributed to:

- a) the implementation of capacity building actions aimed at development of structures, systems and tools supporting the creation of a Geopark in the Karst area (standard project GeoKarst).
- b) have shared processes concerning regulatory frameworks, functional networks, common structures, coordination of policies and investments, governance models been developed with in institutional cooperation for environmental sustainability and energy efficiency (foreseen in the standard project CLEAN BERTH). and in institutional cooperation through innovative solutions in public transport and civil motorization procedures (foreseen in the standard project FORTIS)
- c) the implementation of capacity building actions addressing the human potential and its training, as mentioned already above under capacity building and structures, here as well by supporting the creation of a Geopark in the Karst area (standard project GeoKarst) and with the training actions also the project WALKofPEACE. For the implementation of capacity building actions addressing the human potential and its training please see the comment on projects focusing on trainings and education.

Table 9: Relevant results, in line with policy areas of the EGD, from Priority Axes 4 of the Programme

PA 4	
Project	Topic
GeoKarst	The implementation of capacity building actions aimed at development of structures, systems and tools supporting the creation of a Geopark in the Karst area. The implementation of capacity building actions addressing the human potential and its training.
WALKofPEACE	Apart from other actions, here relevant again, for the implementation of capacity building actions addressing the human potential and its training.
CLEAN BERTH	Shared processes concerning regulatory frameworks, functional networks, common structures, coordination of policies and investments, governance models developed through institutional cooperation for environmental sustainability and energy efficiency of ports.
FORTIS	Institutional cooperation through innovative solutions in public transport and civil motorization procedures.
CROSSIT SAFER	Institutional cooperation in the field of civil protection.

Going back to the main questions related to this PA in the introductory part of this Thematic report, the CP supported the implementation of capacity building actions aimed at development of structures, systems and tools with the five projects mentioned in the above table. The GeoKarst and WALKofPEACE projects are those mainly focusing on capacity building whereas CLEAN BERTH is focusing on shared processes. Other projects, mainly those that developed cross-border agreements and protocols, were focusing on: regulatory frameworks, functional networks, common structures, coordination of policies and investments and governance models. One of those is also the project CROSSIT SAFER. Capacity building actions addressing the human potential and its training were mainly tackled in the WALKofPEACE and GeoKarst projects.

Resume on all Interreg Italy-Slovenia PA

The main structures, systems and tools referring to EGD targets are pedestrian, biking trails, bike storage facilities and systems to support e-biking and public transport, land-sea-river public or public/private transport solutions, energy saving tools and procedures, pilot applications in energy saving-usage of renewable energy sources-saving energy in public buildings and lighting, ICT tools, R&D applications, several maps, Apps and platforms.

The most developed regulatory frameworks, functional networks, common structures referring to EGD targets are those created by the ITI project Isonzo-Soča and the main policies and investments and governance models are those created by the ITI project Isonzo-Soča, but according to the recent ESPON study on Quality of life in the urban area of Gorizia/Nova Gorica and Šempeter, there is a lack of currently available statistics and environmental accounting frameworks.²⁰

The main capacity building actions referring to EGD targets are those related to protection of the environment and enhancement of cultural heritage through cultural paths, digitalization, trainings, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, actions to preserve and promote Natura 2000 areas, marine and terrestrial habitats, green infrastructures, water management (river management, rainfall monitoring, use of water in agriculture).

Another topic were measures to tackle natural emergencies. These are also in line with EGD objectives because of the increased risks for extreme weather and natural events due to climate change. In this sense, under the PA4, the project CROSSIT SAFER was implemented to plan joint solutions through coordinated measures of prevention, preparedness and response to natural emergencies. The result was a shared protocol and several coordinated actions with the civil protection representatives. More details about this project are presented in the table in the Annex 2.

The actions focusing on the training were very wide and not necessarily only focusing on EGD topics. GREVISLIN project, in the perspective of supporting long-term pilot implementation of strategic planning and development as well as protection of green infrastructure and ecosystem services and the introduction of cross-border monitoring of water status, had a strong focus on awareness-raising and training target groups.

²⁰ ESPON QoL – Quality of Life Measurements and Methodology, Applied Research, Final Report, 30/10/2020, ESPON Programme publication.

It is worth mentioning other two specific projects: CB-WBL (concentrating more on vocational training) and EDUKA2 (focusing on schools and universities and cross-border governance of education). This is why it was easier to find examples on governance and concrete applications but more difficult to find examples on EGD related trainings in Programme projects from the 2014-20 programming period.

5. Analysis of examples from other Transnational cooperation programmes, MRS, projects funded by ESI funds in order to propose potential synergies

5.1 European Green Deal in the Interreg Europe Programme

Interreg Europe prepared an analysis on the EGD and, in autumn 2020, published also specific guidance for Green Deal projects.²¹ Their approach is rather wide because of the desired link between the application of EGD objectives in regional development policies and in particular in smart specialization strategies, although there is no obligation to link the smart specialization strategies and EGD. This will automatically reflect in the new generation of Interreg Europe projects. Apart from the general guidance, there is an interesting example of the reflection on Innovation and Research after the Covid sanitary crisis²² and many projects addressing the EGD targets implemented in the 2014-20 programming period.

5.2 Relevant Examples from EUSAIR macro-regional strategy and Interreg Adrion

More details about 2014-20 Adrion Programme projects, related to the EGD target to “Accelerate Change towards Interconnected and Soft Mobility” are presented here below.

The Adrion Programme SUPAIR23 project supported port authorities in the implementation of low-carbon and multimodal transport and mobility solutions within a macro-regional context. The partnership comprised 7 ports of the Adriatic-Ionian region (namely Trieste, Venice, Koper, Bar, Durres, Thessaloniki and Piraeus). SUPAIR established a network of ADRION low-carbon ports committed to exchange on good practices regarding soft and hard environment-friendly solutions for a greener, safer and more efficient transport system.

Additionally, in the Adrion Programme the projects from the period 2014-20 were grouped in thematic clusters. The reasons were manifold and presented on the dedicated programme website page.²⁴ This was done, in short, to:

²¹Source: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/7333/european-green-deal-the-essentials/>

²² <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/8381/the-european-green-deal-and-covid-19-implications-for-research-and-innovation/>

²³ <https://supair.adrioninterreg.eu>

²⁴Source : <https://www.adrioninterreg.eu/index.php/adrion-thematic-clusters-2/>

- Support the creation of added value for the projects and the Programme by increasing synergies between projects;
- Help the development of **thematic analysis** in the Adrion Programme;
- Help increase the **promotion of the projects** in a more strategic way in the Adrion Programme.

Five thematic clusters (TC) were created:

- 1) TC on Blue Growth and Related Smart Growth,
- 2) TC towards sustainability in cultural and natural tourism destinations,
- 3) TC on Coastal and Marine Environment management,
- 4) TC on Urban and Interurban Low Carbon Intermodal Mobility for Passengers,
- 5) TC on Integrated Multimodal Sustainable Water and Land Transport.

From the above, the theme covered by the first thematic cluster, on **Blue Growth and Related Smart Growth** is the one least tackled in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme and there could be potentials for synergies.

Since the process of embedding has been developed quite a lot in the EUSAIR macro-regional strategy and the flagship projects have been prepared, these are good examples to be considered in relation with the targets of the EGD and the identification of any areas of potential synergies. Below, the list of the EUSAIR Flagship projects, as comparison with the previously mentioned Interreg Italy-Slovenia projects.

Table 10: EUSAIR Flagship projects, elaboration based on EUSAIR website

EUSAIR PILLAR	FLAGSHIP PROJECTS
Pillar 1- Blue Growth	a) Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue-bio technologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy b) Promoting sustainability, diversification and competitiveness in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (...) c) Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services
Pillar 2 - Subgroup Transport	The Adriatic Ionian multi-modal corridors
Pillar 2 - Subgroup Energy Networks	a) Power networks and market for a green Adriatic-Ionian region b) Integrated natural gas corridors and market for a green Adriatic-Ionian region c) Development and operation of logistics for direct LNG use as a clean fuel for the Adriatic-Ionian region

Pillar 3 - Environmental quality	a) Development and implementation of Adriatic-Ionian region sub/regional oil-spill contingency plan b) Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems c) Promotion of sustainable growth of the Adriatic-Ionian region by implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning
Pillar 4 - Sustainable Tourism	a) Development of the network of sustainable tourism businesses and clusters & Green mapping for the Adriatic-Ionian region to support micro and small enterprises b) R&D for improvement of SME performance and growth differentiation c) Training and skills in the field of tourism businesses (vocational and entrepreneurial skills) d) Expanding the tourism season to all year e) Development of sustainable and thematic cultural routes/ connecting cultural routes in EUSAIR

There were already examples of collaboration: the Interreg Italy-Slovenia **project CrossMoby was labelled by EUSAIR**. There could be more in the next years. Given the fact that there were many projects in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-20 programming period focusing on the topics comparable to Pillar 2 and 3 of the EUSAIR macro-regional strategy, the possibility is to create synergies with the Flagship projects for those two Pillars. Another possibility is to better explore synergies with the Pillar 1 and Pillar 4 Flagship project topics on Blue Growth and Sustainable Tourism. Especially the latter is interesting in the scope of **new sustainable tourism projects in the 2021-27 programming period in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme**.

5.3 Relevant Examples from EUSALP and Interreg Alpine Space Programme

There are links to projects related to EGD policy areas of “Building and Restructuring” and “Sustainable Mobility”.

To be more precise, partners from the Italy Slovenia Programme area participated in the 2014-20 Alpine Space Programme projects on Building and Restructuring:

- The Alpine Space project CESBA-ALPS²⁵ had Regione Veneto and E-Zavod from Slovenia as project partners, the CESBA association from Voralberg in Austria developed the project CESBA Alps and disseminated the results via its international network. The goal of CESBA was to facilitate the diffusion and adoption of sustainable built environment principles among all the stakeholders through the use of harmonized assessment systems in the whole life cycle of the built environment. This project was a capitalization of three previous

²⁵<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/cesba-alps/en/cesba>

projects on passive (public and private) buildings that were implemented in the 2007-13 programming period (in which the Soča Valley Development centre was participating).

- The Alpine Space project the 4BEES²⁶ is partly related to energy efficiency and partly to buildings, partners from Eastern Slovenia were involved, THE4BEES focused on the behavioral changes of users in public buildings needed to achieve reduction of energy consumption. Such changes should be originated by the use of innovative ICT applications developed by the project partnership. Those applications were used by the target groups in the demonstration sites (schools, houses, factories) to encourage behavioral changes for energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction.

Partners from the Italy-Slovenia Programme area participated in the 2014-20 Alpine Space Programme projects on the target to “Accelerate Change towards Interconnected and Soft Mobility”:

- The Alpine Space project eMOTICON²⁷ had partners from Veneto (namely Veneto Strade) and Slovenia (Soča Valley Development centre and BSC business support centre) and several relevant national and local public authorities from Italy and Slovenia involved as observers, the objective of the project was to develop an e-Mobility Transnational strategy and to foresee the possibility to have as many charging stations for e-vehicles as possible.
- The Alpine Space project e-SMART²⁸ had partners from Veneto (Veneto Strade) and Slovenia (BSC business support center and the Slovenian Automotive Cluster), the objective of the project was to establish an e-Mobility Smart Grid for passengers and last mile freight transport.

In the Alpine Space Programme a review on projects relating to the EGD was carried out between the end of year 2020 and beginning of year 2021, at the moment of preparation of this thematic report four projects have already been selected, two on Topic 1 and two on Topic 2.²⁹ The details are presented here below.

From Topic 1 “Decarbonising the alpine region (energy transition and cleaner mobility)” the project **ASTUS** (focusing on low carbon action plan in terms of spatial planning and sustainable mobility) and **LINKINGAlps** (that produced a journey planner as a result of its activities, to achieve the harmonization of travel services and make it more attractive for passengers to switch to public

²⁶<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/thefourbees/en/home>

²⁷<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/e-moticon/en/home>

²⁸<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/e-smart/en/home>

²⁹Source : Exchanges on Alpine Space Green Deal projects with the Joint Secretariat, April 2021

transport). On Topic 2 “Preserving biodiversity and improving risk management”, **AlpBioNet2030** (with its output: jecami.eu) is in line with the EGD objectives, as well as **Rock the Alps** project (that produced an interesting toolbox and map).

The information available since the end of 2020 on the Programme website is adding some more examples³⁰.

Concerning sustainable mobility, the projects **SaMBa** and **MELINDA** are representative too, because of their focus on the passengers’ behavior by examining how people can be motivated to switch to sustainable means of transport. SaMBa focused on doing so through “soft measures”. With the help of a tracking app (similar to fitness apps), reward and pricing principles motivated the users to change mobility habits. Also with the help of an app, MELINDA aimed to promote low-carbon mobility behaviors. By suggesting alternative modes of transport, people got encouraged to make greater use of sustainable mobility options.

Two Alpine Space projects already contributed directly to also to the topic of circular economy: **GREENCYCLE** and **CYRCULAR 4.0**. The first one developed a circular economy system for partner cities in the Alpine Space intending to harmonize their existing low-carbon strategies whereas the second one focused on advancing the digitalization process in small and medium enterprises facilitating their transition to a circular economy.

Also in the field of clean energy solutions, two projects have been put forward: **AlpGrid** and **BB-clean**. The first one aimed to improve the sustainability and resilience of the Alpine energy supply, which is fragile due to natural hazards by implementing micro-grids. The second one aimed to improve energy efficiency, focusing on the efficient use of local and affordable biomass in domestic heating systems.

From the above, it seems that similar topics have been dealt with. In the previous sections of this report other solutions related to **sustainable electric mobility** and sustainable **renovations of public and private buildings** have been mentioned. Those could perhaps be better examples for potential synergies, related to the targets of the EGD.

³⁰Source: <https://interreg.eu/interreg-highlights/regions/the-european-green-deal-going-local-in-the-alpine-space/>

5.4 Relevant Examples from EUSDR macro regional strategy

Related to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, to which only the Slovenian territory of the cross-border programme pertains, two projects can be cited:

- **Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe³¹**: it supported the governments of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine in the development of drought management policies and plans. The objective of the project was to build capacity of stakeholders at different levels for proactive integrated drought management approach and tests innovative approaches for future drought management plans.
- **DAREnet - Danube river region Resilience Exchange network³²**: The project built a multi-disciplinary community of practitioners, operating in a network of civil protection organizations, and supported by a broad range of stakeholders to foster synergies, innovation and its uptake.

Considering the above, it is interesting to observe that the **topic of “drought” and lack of water resources has been put forward**. It is quite an important topic touching various economic sectors from industry to agriculture and certainly affecting also daily life of the households. Measures for more efficient use and availability of water resources should be considered in future Interreg Italy-Slovenia projects.

To complement the info on valorization of cultural heritage and accessibility, we would like to mention also that the Soča Valley Development center from Tolmin (Slovenia) implemented an interesting project co-funded by the Interreg Danube transnational Programme related to cultural trails (NETWORLD).³³

5.5 Other Relevant Examples (ESI projects and others)

The other relevant examples and potentials will stem also from the regional smart specialization strategies and from the innovative projects funded under thematic programmes of the EU. An

³¹ <https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/projects-and-initiatives/> and <https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/bulletin/integrated-drought-management-central-and-eastern-europe>

³² <https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/projects-and-initiatives/> and <http://darenetproject.eu>

³³ <https://www.prc.si/mednarodni-projekti/networld>

interesting potential stems from the specialization strategies of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto Region and Slovenia. They are currently under revision for the programming period 2021-2027 but being close to the topics of the EGD (agri-food, ICT, Creative industries, Logistics, Health, Sustainable Tourism), they are an interesting example of common topics of interest that could spark shared projects focusing on the EGD targets.

An interesting project to mention is the project CAB that analyzed the three smart specialization strategies of the territories covered by the Programme area and its results could be an input for further development of harmonized topics and implementation of EGD objectives.

6. Conclusions

The issue that will certainly need to be considered is the **possibility to implement fully the EGD in the period after the COVID sanitary crisis**. All cooperation programmes will be affected. A first analysis was made in Interreg Europe, especially considering the effects in the field of innovation.³⁴In the media, questions appear about prioritization of the EGD compared to other issues that will have to be solved in the economy after the end of the COVID sanitary crisis. It is unclear if the EGD will manage to remain the number one priority of the European Commission. The fight against the health and economic ravages of the Covid-19 epidemic might supplant the priority of the EGD and rather orient funds towards recovery and greater resilience measures.³⁵

In programming terms the EGD priorities will certainly be inserted in the new generation of 2021-27 funding instruments, including the cross-border cooperation. **The prevention of negative climate change effects and climate change adaptation measures are one of the two mega-trends (with the digitalization) that apply to the new 2021-27 programming period**. It is already clear that the EGD impact will not come out of the exercise of launching a new programming period and dealing with the post-COVIDperiod unscathed.

From the point of view of the gap analysis for the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme, there are several potentials of application of the EGD targets in the new programming period.

³⁴Source : <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/8381/the-european-green-deal-and-covid-19-implications-for-research-and-innovation/>

³⁵Le Monde: « Le coronavirus met le Green Deal européen à l'épreuve » https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2020/04/16/le-green-deal-europeen-a-l-epreuve-du-coronavirus_6036728_3210.html

Apart from the examples that were already mentioned under the single topics, in particular those under the target of “Building and restructuring” and “Accelerating change towards interconnected and soft mobility”, there are relevant examples in transnational cooperation programmes, macro-regional strategies and ESI projects. These show a potential for future synergies and capitalization. From the point of view of the Programme projects, a lot has been done in the previous programming periods in various standard and strategic projects. From the point of view of the policy cycle approach (applied mainly in transnational Interreg Programmes like Interreg Europe, MED and Alpine Space)³⁶, all policy cycle activities have been tackled. Going back concretely to the three typologies of the projects in the policy cycle, as presented in the Alpine Space Programme Handbook,³⁷ we can talk about:

- a) projects with a focus on **strategic policy development** (these focus on rather general analytical and research activities, awareness rising; results expected from this type of projects relate to policy analysis, agenda setting and strategy development);
- b) projects with a focus on **explorative and piloting activities** (these work in a defined thematic strategy and have a focus on the development of new tools or methodologies; results expected from this type of projects are very specific to the thematic field and still represent an important input towards a mature policy);
- c) projects with a focus on **policy implementation** (these aim to improve and develop existing policies with instruments ready for implementation; results expected from these projects are very concrete and also support future policy development).

Taking into account the long-term cooperation within the Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme, it would be important, in the new programming period 2021-27, **to have more projects focusing on policy implementation**, especially in those topics that have already been tackled in previous programming periods by projects working on policy development and on piloting activities (to have more projects from the above mentioned group(c) and less from group(a)and (b)).³⁸ **The territories would benefit from concrete application of valuable solutions that have been developed**

³⁶ <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/32250248/policy-cycle-alpine-space-programme>

³⁷ https://www.alpine-space.eu/project-management/project-implementation-handbook/0.0_factsheet_quality_requirements_and_contents_v2.pdf

³⁸ Please note that the letters correspond to the three categories of projects from the POLICY CYCLE (as previously explained in this page: a) policy development, b) piloting activities, c) policy implementation.

in the projects in the past programming periods. In these sense the different competent authorities have been involved either in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia project partnerships or as associated partners and **any upscaling in the future should strive to overcome any barrier to concrete implementation of previously tested solutions.**

Among Programme indicators, specifically those related to governance, some EGD governance agreements are mentioned, like the solutions provided by SECNET, HARMO-DATA, GEOKARST, FORTIS, CLEAN BERTH and ITI PROJECTS towards indicator 4.1.1 and SECNET, HARMO-DATA, GEOKARST, FORTIS, CLEAN BERTH, CROSSIT SAFER and ITI projects towards indicator 4.1.2.³⁹

Table 11: Table of recommendations

Project topics	
POLICY AREA CLIMATE CHANGE	Further solutions based on the already existing projects or new ones.
POLICY AREA CLEAN ENERGY	Comparing the topics tackled to those foreseen by the EGD, we can see that the topic of renewable energies, in particular the one of renewable sources of energy is not yet covered, as well as the topic of energy storage or hydrogen applications.
POLICY AREA SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY	Compared to other topics that can be tackled under this theme within the EGD targets, there still seems to be a lot of space to deal with the recycling of raw materials, digital transformation (AI, 5G, cloud, edge computing, internet) and support to transport, natural resources and energy management. There is also potential to tackle green public procurement that was not particularly explored in the 2014-2020 programming period.
POLICY AREA BUILDING AND RESTRUCTURING	It needs to be mentioned that actors from the Programme area have strongly participated in Alpine Space Programme projects that were tackling the two topics on Building and Restructuring. These could nevertheless

³⁹ Please note that only the 34 projects corresponding to EGD directly were taken into account, the indicators contain data also on other projects.

	<p>be a potential for future synergies and capitalizations. More information is available under the section dedicated to the Alpine Space Programme and the EUSALP macro-regional strategy.</p>
POLICY AREA SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY	<p>Comparing the topics tackled to targets foreseen by the EGD, there were no specific projects dedicated to public charging and refueling points and none dedicated to air transport but it needs to be mentioned that those topics were extensively tackled respectively in the Alpine Space Programme projects and in AdrionProgramme projects, hence there are perhaps potentials for synergies and capitalization. More information is provided in the sections dedicated to the two Programmes towards the end of this report.</p>
POLICY AREA FARM TO FORK AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	<p>Compared to the targets mentioned in the EGD, there are still opportunities for the players in the food value chain because new technologies and scientific breakthroughs, combined with increased public awareness and demand for sustainable food, will benefit all stakeholders. Efforts to tackle climate change and protect the environment should also be encouraged. In line with strategic national plans, the Programme should strive to increase the use of sustainable practices such as preserving farming, precision farming, organic farming, agroecology, agro-forestry etc. even though this will be tackled also on regional and national level in the agriculture sector.</p>
POLICY AREA BIODIVERSITY	<p>Compared to the list of themes under the targets in biodiversity in the EGD, there still seems to be space to tackle two wide topics: forestation and sustainable blue economy.</p>
POLICY AREA POLLUTION REDUCTION	<p>Further solutions based on the already existing projects or new ones.</p>

Project focus and size	
Preference for the new programming period 2021-27	Projects focusing on policy implementation with concrete application on the territory and positive impact on the quality of life of the inhabitants.

The above issues on the policy cycle approach can also be combined with the foreseen change in size of the projects for the new programming period. There could be the possibility to modulate also the size of the projects depending on their focus, giving for example more funds to those **projects focusing on policy implementation**, in line with solutions adopted in transnational programmes.

SOURCES

Analysis 0 - Crossing Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020 Evidences into 2021-2027 Perspective, MA and JS, 2020

Analysis 1 (Annex 1 mainly) - Towards Context Analysis 2021-2027: first Impact Assessment of Projects financed by Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020 , version 4/2020, MA and JS, 2020

Stato dell'arte dei progetti finanziati dal Programma di Cooperazione Interreg V-A Italia Slovenia 2014-2020, Dicembre 2020, MA and JS, 2021

OECD Sustainable development report:
<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>
<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/SVN>
<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/ITA>

Climate change, https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/implementation-eu-countries/energy-and-climate-governance-and-reporting/national-energy-and-climate-plans_en

ARPA FVG, 2018, Studio conoscitivo dei cambiamenti climatici e di alcuni loro impatti in Friuli Venezia Giulia, https://www.meteo.fvg.it/clima/clima_fvg/03_cambiamenti_climatici/01_REPORT_cambiamenti_climatici_e_impatti_per_il_FVG/impattiCCinFVG_marzo2018.pdf.

ARSO data, https://meteo.arso.gov.si/uploads/probase/www/climate/text/sl/publications/OPS21_Porocilo.pdf
Covenant of mayors
<https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/about/covenant-community/signatories.html>

Circular economy in Slovenia, https://www.greencycle.si/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/opzg_akcijski_nacrt_in_nacrt_aktivnosti.pdf

Border Orientation Paper Italy-Slovenia, EU DG REGIO 2019

OECD Italy Economic Snapshot, Economic Forecast Summary

OECD Slovenia Economic Snapshot, Economic Forecast Summary and

Economic forecast for Slovenia, https://www.umar.gov.si/napovedi/vmesne-napovedi/napoved/news/zimska-napoved-gospodarskih-gibanj-2020/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontrol%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=75ecd4358ad4adc85080ae59b3ac9f1f

POLICY CYCLE IN THE Alpine Space Programme: https://www.alpine-space.eu/project-management/project-implementation-handbook/0.0_factsheet_quality_requirements_and_contents_v2.pdf

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/7333/european-green-deal-the-essentials/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/8381/the-european-green-deal-and-covid-19-implications-for-research-and-innovation/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/8381/the-european-green-deal-and-covid-19-implications-for-research-and-innovation/>

<https://interreg.eu/interreg-highlights/regions/the-european-green-deal-going-local-in-the-alpine-space/>

Exchanges on Alpine Space Green Deal projects with the Joint Secretariat, April 2021

EUSALP macro-regional strategy - <https://www.alpine-region.eu>

EUSAIR macro-regional strategy - <https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu>

<https://interreg-med.eu/fr/>

<https://www.adrioninterreg.eu>

<https://www.alpine-space.eu>

ANNEX 1

**Table: EGD Policy objective targets,
separated by category to be used for the gap analysis**

Policy Objectives and targets	
1. Policy objective « CLIMATE ACTION »	
Climate change prevention measures	
Climate change mitigation measures	
Climate change adaptation measures	
2. Policy objective “CLEAN ENERGY”, CLEAN, SECURE AND ACCESSIBLE ENERGY	
Renewable energy sources (wind energy)	
Energy efficiency	
Stock of CO ₂ , hydrogen	
3. Policy objective “SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY”, INDUSTRY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY	
Recycling of raw materials (e.g. packaging, vehicles, construction remains and batteries)	
Sustainable final products and services	
Digital transformation of industrial sector and other sectors (AI, 5G, cloud, edge computing and Internet) e.g. support to transport, natural resources and energy management	
De-carbonizing of key sectors, such as metal/ chemical/textile/plastics/electronics and construction sector	
Green public procurement in the public and private sector	
4. Policy objective « BUILDING AND RESTRUCTURING »	
Renewal of public and private buildings to reduce energy consumption	
More specifically renovation of public social housing, schools, hospitals because the generated economies could be reinvested in training and public health.	
5. Policy objective “SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY”, ACCELERATE CHANGE TOWARDS INTERCONNECTED AND SOFT MOBILITY	
Provide the citizens with cheaper, accessible, healthier and cleaner alternatives to their current mobility habits	
Road, rail, air and inland waterway transport will all have to contribute to the reduction of emissions	
Automated and connected multimodal mobility will play an increasing role, along with digitalization-enabled intelligent traffic management systems	
In parallel, the EU should increase the production and deployment of sustainable alternative fuels for transport. By 2025, around 1 million public charging and refueling stations will be needed for the 13 million zero- and low-emission vehicles expected on European roads. The Commission will support the deployment of public charging and refueling points where persistent gaps exist, in particular for long distance travel and in less densely populated areas	
Necessary changes in maritime and air transport: in relation to maritime transport, including to regulate the access of the most polluting ships to EU ports and to oblige berthed ships to use shore-side electricity. Likewise, air quality should be improved around airports by addressing pollutant emissions from aircraft and airport operations.	
6. Policy objectives “FROM FARM TO FORK (AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE)”	
European food is famous for being safe, nutritious and of high quality. It should now also become the global standard for sustainability. Although the transition to more sustainable systems has begun, feeding a rapidly growing world population remains a challenge with current production patterns. Food production still causes air, water and soil pollution, contributes to biodiversity loss and climate change, and consumes excessive amounts of natural resources, while an important part of food is wasted. At the same time, low-quality diets contribute to obesity and diseases such as cancer.	

There are new opportunities for all players in the food value chain. New technologies and scientific breakthroughs, combined with increased public awareness and demand for sustainable food, will benefit all stakeholders.	
European farmers and fishermen are key to managing the transition. The strategy will strengthen their efforts to tackle climate change, protect the environment and preserve biodiversity.	
The Commission will ensure that the strategic national plans are assessed against sound climate and environmental criteria. These plans should lead to the use of sustainable practices, such as precision farming, organic farming, agroecology, agro-forestry, and stricter standards for animal welfare.	
Strategic plans will need to reflect an increased level of ambition to significantly reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides, as well as the use of fertilizers and antibiotics.	
The Farm to Fork strategy will also contribute to achieving a circular economy. It will aim to reduce the environmental impact of the food processing and retail sectors by intervening on transport, storage, packaging and food waste.	
7. Policy objective « BIODIVERSITY », PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY	
Ecosystems provide essential services such as food, fresh water, clean air and shelter. They mitigate the natural disasters, pests and diseases and help regulate the climate.	Corresponding to Climate change mitigation
Ecosystem services	
Objectives: increased area coverage (terrestrial and marine) rich in protected biodiversity built on the Natura 2000 network. Member States should also strengthen cross-border cooperation to protect and restore in areas covered by the Natura 2000 network more effectively. The strategy on biodiversity will also include proposals to green European cities and increase biodiversity in urban spaces.	
Preserve and restore the natural capital of Europe. The "From farm to fork" strategy, outlined above, will address the use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture. Moreover, the Commission will also support more connected and well-managed marine protected areas.	
The EU forest area needs to improve, both in terms of quality and quantity. The new EU forest strategy will have effective afforestation as key objectives, forest conservation and restoration in Europe, to help increase the absorption of CO ₂ , reduce the incidence and extent of forest fires and promote the bio-economy, in full respect for ecological principles favorable to biodiversity.	Corresponding to Green Growth
A sustainable "blue economy" will have to play a central role in relieving the multiple demands on the resources of the EU territory and addressing change climatic. The role of the oceans in mitigation and adaptation to change climate is increasingly recognized. The sector can contribute by improving the use of aquatic and marine resources and, for example, promoting the production and use of new ones sources of protein that can relieve pressure on farmland.	Corresponding to Blue Growth
8. Policy objective "ELIMINATING POLLUTION", A ZERO POLLUTION AMBITION FOR A TOXIC-FREE ENVIRONMENT	
Creating a toxic-free environment requires multiple actions to prevent generation of pollution, as well as measures to clean and remedy it. To protect European citizens and ecosystems, the EU must monitor, report, prevent and pose remedy pollution from air, water, soil and consumer products in a better way.	
The natural functions of ground and surface waters must be restored. This it is essential to preserve and restore biodiversity in lakes, rivers, wetlands and estuaries and to prevent and limit damage caused by floods.	

ANNEX 2

Table of correspondence between EGD targets and Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-21 projects

The 34 selected projects (only a part of all projects approved and funded in the Programme) were subdivided, according to the previously cited EU Green Deal main targets, into eight groups. The guiding principles are detailed in the Table in Annex 1. The main source of information on the project is the Analysis 1 (Annex 1 mainly) - Towards Context Analysis 2021-2027: first Impact Assessment of Projects financed by Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020.

55 projects were approved in the 2014-20 programming period in the Italy-Slovenia Interreg cross-border cooperation programme. Only those projects that are directly linked with the EGD policy areas were considered in this thematic report, hence 34 projects are going to be analyzed more in detail in the chapters of this report and in the annexes. The projects that are not going to be analyzed in detail were in line with the objectives of the 2014-20 programme but were more related to healthcare, social and governance issues that are not that much covered by the EGD policy areas. Many of those were already analyzed in the Thematic Report on ITI projects that was submitted in the year 2020. This year, for the thematic report on the Green Deal, a choice had to be made, to allow more focused analysis and present details on capitalization potentials.

Some projects have been mentioned more than once, if they are relevant for more policy areas.

EGD	Relation	Project	Activities	Some relevant results
1. CLIMATE ACTION	Directly connected with the topic	PA2 - SECAP: Supporting energy and climate adaptation policies STRATEGIC PROJECT	Support for energy and climate adaptation policies (transition of several SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) to APSECs (Action Plan for Sustainable Energy and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection and elaboration of the scenarios envisaged by the project First public event held in Trieste in May2019 with attendance of the EC's Joint Research Centre and of the Covenant of Mayors Approval of a shared methodology for the selection of the Italian

			Climate); pilot actions for a APSECs adapted to local needs, small infrastructure investments to monitor emissions into the atmosphere and energy consumption)	and Slovenian pilot Municipalities with which to collaborate for the adoption of the respective SECAPs Preparatory work and operational support measures started for the elaboration of the SECAPs to the Municipalities for mitigation actions (Help desk, workshop, coaching)
	More related to Climate change adaptation	PA1 - SUSGRAPE : Promoting sustainable viticulture through ICT in the Ita-Slo cross-border areas STANDARD PROJECT	See below (Farm to Fork)	See below
	Directly connected with the topic	PA4 - CROSSIT SAFER : Cross-border cooperation between Slovenia and Italy for a safer region STRATEGIC PROJECT	To strengthen institutional cooperation in the field of civil protection, a cross-border protocol is planned to be signed for the harmonisation of measures in the event of natural emergencies, the coordination of interventions according to cross-border standard operational joint rescue and risk management procedures, and better coordination in joint civil protection training programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting on cross-border protocols • Meeting focused on the guidelines for emergency mapping • 2 Meetings on unmanned aircraft • All partners performed all the necessary activities with the aim of creating a common cross-border protocol • In order to strengthen cross-border collaboration, data exchanged for the assessment of seismic risk and fire risk • In progress the creation of common cartographic layers • Organisation of exercises for Civil Protection Units • Public awareness raising activities
2. CLEAN, SECURE AND ACCESSIBLE ENERGY	Directly connected with the topic	PA2 - SECAP : Supporting energy and climate adaptation policies STRATEGIC PROJECT	See above, first line of this table	See above
	More related to the sub-topic of Energy Efficiency	PA2 - LightingSolutions : Innovative solutions for the energy efficient lighting of public buildings STANDARD PROJECT	Innovative solutions for energy efficient lighting of public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment management for the pilot activities • Implementation of additional activities and CAP & COM pilot actions involvement • Partners aware on completing remaining activities to complete the project. (two have already completed planned activities to reduce annual primary energy consumption in public buildings, two are

				still finalizing their activities).
	More related to the sub-topic of Energy Efficiency	PA2- Energy Care : Energy efficiency of public buildings and sustainable mobility with community engagement STANDARD PROJECT	Energy efficiency of public residential and school buildings and sustainable mobility with community involvement (promotion of sustainable mobility in urban and peripheral areas, innovative participatory actions in the territories of Trieste, San Donà di Piave and Koper, energy saving to contrast energy poverty in the Programme area, construction of a new cycle/pedestrian path)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 3 pilot areas, participative activities involving the residents have been concluded Definition of the project for the cycle path (San Donà di Piave) and for the pedibus line (Koper) In Trieste the PonzianaLAB is active as an Infopoint dedicated to the project open to the public Environmental awareness-raising meetings with citizens Infrastructural interventions in Koper, Trieste and San Donà have been concluded CAP & COM pilot actions involvement and project communication activity were intense
3. INDUSTRY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY	Directly connected with the topic	PA3 - RETRACKING : Towards the circular economy: traceability of manufactured products made from Fibre-Reinforced Composites (FRC) STANDARD PROJECT	The project intended to develop an innovative management strategy for the recovery of FRC waste, based on the analysis and registration of materials and traceability of “secondary raw material”, as well as testing of innovative technologies for waste management, creating the conditions for moving from a linear economy to the circular economy.	Creation of a new management model for the recovery, treatment and transformation of Reinforced Fiber Composites, thanks (1) to a pilot plant capable of recycling production waste and scraps, and to produce new 100% recyclable products from secondary raw materials, and (2) to an ICT platform for process management enabling the traceability of new products marked with RFID and the management of the life cycle of new products
	Related to Sustainable final products and services	PA1 - DuraSoft : Innovative technologies to improve the durability of traditional wooden structures in socio-ecologically sensitive environments STANDARD PROJECT	Innovative technologies to improve the durability of traditional wooden structures in sensitive environment	The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in March 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period. Details on the types and quantities of materials to be tested and to be analyzed have been agreed. The production of finished materials is subject to the availability of some raw materials and products which has presently

				been greatly reduced. The Kick-off meeting has been adapted to the online mode.
	Related to Digital transformation	PA3 - MERLIN cv: Multisensorial experiences linked to the castles and villas of the cross-border region for excellence in tourism STRATEGIC PROJECT	Multisensorial experiences linked to the castles and villas of the cross-border area (increasing recognition of the cross-border tourist region, enhancing the value of its cultural, natural and gastronomic heritage, development of innovative thematic tourism products, creation of a web and mobile application database for tourist itineraries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments for innovative marketing products • technical-specialist content based on scientific conference and content to be developed for the enhancement of cultural heritage • The first systematic marketing actions were carried out (on social networks, important portals such as that of the broadcaster RTV SLO and print media - the project was presented in the Platinum magazine, attached every week to the newspaper Il Sole 24 Ore) • Preparation of the reports as basis for investments • Harmonization of criteria for creating a virtual platform for excellence in tourism for promotion and dissemination of project results
	Related to Sustainable final products and services	PA1 - BioApp : Trans-regional platform for the transfer of technological biopolymers from research to the market STANDARD PROJECT	Trans-regional platform for the transfer of technological biopolymers from research to the market (cooperation research organizations / economic stakeholders, development of pilot technologies and commercial initiatives for innovative biopolymers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various biopolymer materials have been developed and their use in food, cosmetic and biomedical industries have been reported. • The online BioApp platform has brought many stakeholders into efficient communication by carrying out the technology transfer from the laboratory to the market. • The cooperation will be active after the end of the project, also with new start-ups, to facilitate the transfer of pilot technologies on advanced biopolymers developed by BioApp project to various sectors.
	Related to Digital transformation	PA3 WALKofPEACE : First World War heritage STRATEGIC PROJECT	The sustainable development of First World War heritage between the Alps and the Adriatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of the "Walk of Peace" brand, • Extension of the "Walk of Peace" path - which now includes 400 km from the Alps to the Adriatic and which will be suitably signposted within the start of the tourist season • Restoration of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Javorca completed • Creation of a new interactive web page www.thewalkofpeace.com • Implementation of researches and investments on the heritage of the World War I

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of events that attracted people from the entire Program area (concert for peace, held in Kobarid in August 2019 dedicated to the memory of all the victims of WWI and for the value of peace for modern generations; cross-border conference "Why the path of peace" held in Nova Gorica late November 2019)
	Related to Digital transformation	PA1 TRAIN: Big Data and disease models: a cross-border platform of validated kits for the biotech industry STANDARD PROJECT	Big data and disease models: cross-border platform of kits validated for industry (cooperation among research institutes/universities/companies for innovation in biomedical research sector in cell biology and large-volume data analysis, for cardiological and inflammatory diseases)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks to the project, 'high-throughput screening' with 'machine learning' and 'big data' processing were combined to improve the diagnosis and therapy of various pathologies; Essays have been developed to be used in kits for the detection of any contaminants in foods and in the study of in vitro disease models; Numerous collaborations have been activated with companies aimed at the transfer of knowledge; A virtual reality experience has been developed to represent what has been achieved by the TRAIN project.
	Related to Green Technology	PA3- GREENHULL: Green technologies for ecological cleaning of biological incrustation on hulls in the Upper Adriatic STANDARD PROJECT	Green technologies for ecological cleaning of biological incrustation on hulls in the Upper Adriatic (improve environmental protection by developing solutions for effective cross-border management of marine waste water and hazardous waste generated; 2 pilot will be developed, tested and applied to control, monitor and manage the waste for conservation of the marine environment)	<p>The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in March 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial activities relate to the analysis of European and national Italian and Slovenian legislation for the sector. A pilot underwater cleaning system and a modular wastewater treatment plant are foreseen. Activities on the field are also planned.
		PA1-NUVOLAK2: Innovative marketing tools STANDARD PROJECT	Innovative marketing tools for the global competitiveness of the SMEs in the cross-border area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mikrobiz.net platform has been updated and enhanced with new tools: new approach for brand development, a benchmarking tool, a database of institutions and mentors. 50 innovative SME practices and 2 SME-friendly-contexts were examined Most of the morning coffees (INNOtalk) and blog posts have been completed, exceeding 3000 likes

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FestINNO event was held, the third edition of which, as well as the remaining events and workshops, will be held online in 2020 (http://www.inno.si).
		PA1 - CAB : Cross-border business accelerator for intelligent specialization strategies STANDARD PROJECT	Cross-border business accelerator for intelligent specialization strategies (promotion of investments in the development of new products and innovative services and transfer of technologies from R&D centers to SMEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the acceleration model developed by the CAB project, project partners successfully implemented the “Crossborder acceleration programme” (pilot action) Thanks to the two calls promoted by the 3 “CAB Points”, 20 companies (15 start-ups and 5 SMEs) were given access to the combined cross-border package - online and on site for a value of € 200,000 € Over 40 mentor-team combinations in Slovenia and Italy, activated for the development and “Go to market” of the selected projects Published 1 Compendium with the results of research on business acceleration. The final “CAB-EXPO” event was held in 2019, in Venice
4. BUILDING AND RESTRUCTURING	More related to the sub-topic of Energy Efficiency	PA2 - LightingSolutions : Innovative solutions for the energy efficient lighting of public buildings STANDARD PROJECT	See above, in this table	See above, in this table
5. ACCELERATE CHANGE TOWARDS INTERCONNECTED AND SOFT MOBILITY	Directly connected with the topic	PA4 - CLEAN BERTH : Cross-border institutional cooperation for ports environmental sustainability and energy efficiency STANDARD PROJECT	Cross-border institutional cooperation for environmental sustainability and energy efficiency of ports	The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in March 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period.
	Related to Alternative to current mobility habits	PA2 - MUSE : Cross-border collaboration for Energetically efficient Sustainable University Mobility	Cross-border collaboration for energy efficient sustainable university mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for Public Administrations and the Cross-border Action Plan drawn up The “MUSE Winter School” organized by the LP in Bohinj (January 2020) with participation of mobility experts, university students

		STANDARD PROJECT		and stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot projects under way: a secure solar-panelled e-bike deposit inaugurated in Grosuplje in June 2019; two photovoltaic stations for charging electric vehicles (Trieste, December 2019 and Roveredo in Piano, February 2020)
	Related to Alternative to current mobility habits	PA2 - MOBITour : Sustainable mobility of cross-border coastal and hinterland tourist area STANDARD PROJECT	Sustainable mobility of coastal tourist areas and the cross-border hinterland (definition of 3 UPSM - urban plans for sustainable mobility (Lignano, Caorle, Piran); implementation of 5 'park & drive' pilot systems (electric vehicles, electrical pillars) and 2 sustainable mobility plans (Park Škocjanskejame and Kobilarna Lipica)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project, which envisages the creation of 5 "park and drive" pilot systems to promote sustainable mobility, has reached the final stage. • 19 vehicle charging stations were positioned and 6 electric cars, 1 minivan and 366 bicycles were purchased • a digital platform was created for sharing information on tourist routes/itineraries, public transport and sustainable mobility services (www.crossmobility.eu) • CAP & COM pilot actions involvement
	Related to multimodal mobility	PA2 - InterBike II : Development of multimodal connections along the Adriabike cycling path STANDARD PROJECT	Development of multimodal connections along the Adriabike cycle path from Kranjska Gora to Ravenna (promotion of cycling for sustainable daily mobility and for tourist, creation of 4 multimodal transport service points for bikes, buses and boats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During summer 2018 and 2019, the bus service with bike transport between Koper/ Capodistria, Grado and Cormons was tested • Boat and bicycle service was introduced along the Lemene river • The maritime service between Bibione and Caorle was active • A new cycling route platform developed in western Slovenia • A new section of the cycle path planned in Hrvatini • In the Eastern Veneto, electric charging stations planned and set up
	Related to multimodal mobility	PA2 - CrossMoby : Crossborder integrated transport planning and intermodal passenger transport services STRATEGIC PROJECT	Mobility planning and sustainable, cross-border and passenger transport services, in the pursuit of intermodality (coordinated planning of sustainable mobility, experimentation of cross-border rail services for passengers of public transport along the Venice-Trieste-Ljubljana axis, a cross-border strategic action plan on sustainable mobility based on the	<p>After the reactivation of the Udine-Trieste- Ljubljana cross-border railway link, the CROSSMOBY project also launched the following PILOT ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an analysis for a cross-border strategic reference framework, • the creation of a stakeholders platform for dialogue and cross-border planning, • a study on sustainable urban mobility, • a project on traffic monitoring. <p>Furthermore, a call for a bike sharing service was published at the railway stations between the Municipalities of Divača, Hrpelje-Kozina, Komen and</p>

			already existing SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans) methodology applied to a limited number of pilot projects)	Sežana and a call for a maritime passenger service on the Ankaran-Koper-Izola-Piran line. The new Bovec-Kranjska Gora bus line was established for months of July and August and a shuttle service on the Julian Alps path on the occasion of the European Mobility Week.
	Related to multimodal mobility	PA4 - FORTIS : Strengthening institutional cooperation in the cross-border area through innovative solutions in public transport and civil motorization procedures STANDARD PROJECT	Strengthening institutional cooperation in the cross-border area through innovative solutions in public transport and civil motorization procedures (the project intends to promote institutional cooperation for improving cross-border public transport services in favor of sustainable and efficient mobility and promoting the harmonization of the civil motorization procedures).	The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in March 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership defined a roadmap and the ways to dialogue with stakeholders. • Technical activities will start with the assessment of the needs for cross-border public transport connections. • The results of this analysis will serve to correctly target pilot activities aimed at improving existing connections and proposing new ones. • Partners also discussed about which actors to be involved in the round table on civil motorization
6. FROM FARM TO FORK AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	Directly connected with the topic	PA3 - MEDS GARDEN : An indigenous Mediterranean Garden and culinary art for the preservation of the typical regional identity STANDARD PROJECT	The project aims at the development, conservation and attractiveness of the cultural landscape, also through an innovative educational tourism related to native plants, local cuisine and products of the northern Adriatic.	Five Mediterranean Gardens have been opened to the public, three in Slovenia (Purissima - Škofije, Boršt and Bertoki) and two in Italy (Orto del Brenta - Mira and Friûli- Pordenone); Gardens - open to the public upon notification of the visit - offer training, teaching, courses, cooking workshops and guided tours for visitors of various target groups: children, students, technicians and professionals from the agricultural world, tour operators and tourists.
	Related to Green Agri-Food	PA3 - BlueGrass : To promote the development of a green agri-food industry through the introduction of the aquaponics STANDARD PROJECT	The project aims at launching a market analysis to assess territorial interest/needs of aquaponics products, testing 2 pilot installations; involving farmers, breeders and researchers; increasing consumer awareness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer demand for aquaponics products were evaluated • Two working groups established for collecting recommendations for implementation of two pilot plants • Two pilot plants started in Koper and in Porcia (inaugurated in December 2018) and used throughout 2019 to define production management and monitoring models and to study their sustainability • The systems hosted training and distribution activities targeting breeders, farmers, schools and purchasing groups • An intense social activity was conducted on FB and Instagram and the results were presented at the international aquaculture and vertical farming fair aquafarm / novel farm 2020.

	Related to Protection and preservation of biodiversity	PA3 - BEE-DIVERSITY : Biodiversity improvement through innovative ecosystem management and bee monitoring STANDARD PROJECT	Biodiversity improvement through innovative ecosystem management and bee monitoring (for an innovative cross-border system for the improvement and monitoring of biodiversity)	<p>The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in February 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period.</p> <p>The project is in the initial phase: the operating protocols are being defined aimed at identifying the different study areas and within them the identification of the objectives. An evaluation on which is the best technological solution for the detection of data supplied by beekeeping stations is underway (one proposal is to use the Melixa system already in use at Veneto Agricoltura, which guarantees a high quality of data). The project kick-off event took place in March 2020 online.</p>
	Related to Protection and preservation of biodiversity and innovation	PA1 - FishAgroTech : Agriculture/Fisheries: Cross-border investment and innovation STANDARD PROJECT	Fishing - agriculture: cross border participation and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concluded the mapping of needs for innovation expressed by fisheries - aquaculture and agriculture sectors companies and identified possible practical technological innovative solutions • Companies, organizations, institutions, promoters and developers of innovation have been involved at cross-border level through seminars, B2B - R2B events and individual meetings • Cross-border pilot actions implemented
	Related to Sustainable farming practices and ICT	PA3- AGROTOUR2 : Biodiversity improvement through innovative ecosystem management and bee monitoring STANDARD PROJECT	Sustainable development of agriculture and tourism in the cross-border karst region (implementation of the e-Karst application for monitoring the condition of vineyards, optimization of wine and ham production processes, creation of new itineraries along with promotion of local products)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final phase of the project involved the setting up of the Center for the promotion of typical local products with a wine cellar of regional wines in the Štanjel Castle • Irrigation tests were conducted in two vineyards to assess the cost-benefit ratio • Updates to the e-Karst application (https://e-karst.eu) were developed to monitor agro-meteorological parameters and wine-growing technologies as well as to optimize and standardize technologies in the production of Terrano wine on the cross-border karst territory • Monitoring of the quality of the Karst raw ham ("Kraški pršut"), produced from exemplary indigenous-bred-pigs • Electronic mapping of thematic itineraries and drafting of two brochures highlighting project results in relation to the improvement of the quality of Terrano wine and of Karst raw ham ("Kraški pršut") and tourist activity on the Karst

	Related to Sustainable farming practices and ICT	PA1 - SUSGRAPE : Promoting sustainable viticulture through ICT in the Ita-Slo cross-border areas STANDARD PROJECT	Promoting sustainable viticulture through ICT in the ita-slo cross-border areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project created a Decision Support System (DSS) with the activation of 42 monitoring stations and of the WiForAgriSUSGRAPE web platform. The platform displays phytopathological forecasting models against late blight and hatred for the areas of the Collio and the Slovenian coast, and tests on output in 4 experimental vineyards A microbiomic study on vine leaves was carried out to screen the bacterial collection
7. PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY	Related to ecosystems preservation	PA3 - TRETAMARE : Trezze, Tegnue and marine environments of the upper Adriatic: management proposals STANDARD PROJECT	Management proposals of marine environments of the upper Adriatic (for an integrated management plan of marine habitats with high ecological value)	<p>The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in February 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period.</p> <p>The first contacts with the Public Administrations were also started and the study on the state of affairs of the ManagementPlansoftheN2Kareainvolved in the project is being finalized</p>
		PA3 - AQUAVITIS : Innovative solutions for the efficient use of water in cross-border viticulture STANDARD PROJECT	Development and testing of joint innovative technologies and solutions for the efficient use of water resources, risk planning, associated with extreme events, to face climate change, exchange of experiences between research centres and grapevines companies in order to implement effective economic management models	<p>The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in January 2020, The initial press conference was held in February 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 meetings among project partners occurred to define the conceptual design and framework of the Acquavitits online platform, as well as the method of data acquisition. Vineyards for monitoring water stress have been selected. Monitoring of the water cycle began and rainwater collectors were installed in 6 vineyards in the cross-border area (Vipava valley, Karst area, Friuli) a series of irrigation and soil tillage experiments aimed at obtaining better soil waterretention and better grape quality are being prepared
	Related to Natura 2000 coverage	PA3 - NAT2CARE : Engagement of Citizens for the Restoration and Conservation of cross-border Natura 2000 areas STANDARD PROJECT	Nat2Care focuses on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the Natura 2000 areas of the mountain territory in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia. It envisages exchange of information and development of common methodologies for the management of species and habitats;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing and fine-tuning cross-border monitoring focusing on the rock ptarmigan and the Alpine longhorn beetle Initiatives for active management of habitats Collection of data for the evaluation of the ecosystem services Involved more than 2,000people Awareness raising activities to improve knowledge and conservation of the Natura 2000 areas of the cross-borderarea

			evaluation of ecosystem services; awareness raising for stakeholders, citizens and young generation on natural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of common monitoring protocols for fauna (large carnivores, ungulates, avifauna and alpine rosalia) and periglacial flora. Pilot actions have been carried out for the management of significant habitats and defined methodologies for assessing ecosystem services. • The information awareness activities involved around 4,000 people, especially young people
	Related to Green infrastructure	PA3 - GREVISLIN : Green infrastructures for the conservation and improvement of the condition of habitats and protected species along the rivers STRATEGIC PROJECT	Creation of green infrastructures in NATURA 2000 in the Isonzo area, activation of pilot activities, identification of best practices for awareness raising for local communities, agricultural operators and visitors with regard to the efficiency of ecosystem services, clear long-term strategy in the integrated management of green infrastructures and of the ecosystems for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventories of the mapping of green infrastructure zones in the cross-border area • Monitoring of the basins of Isonzo, Vipava and Livenza rivers as for surface waters and fish communities • Harmonization of Slovenian and Italian methodologies for assessing the state of the waters • First collection of data on common pests in agriculture with the aim to create a virtual model of an intelligent farm • Seminars organized and training for farmers and students started to promote the use of sustainable agricultural practices • A system of pest control stations is also underway in the Vipacco river valley • In the municipality of Postojna, a pedestrian walkway was inaugurated near the Pivka river
	Related to Green infrastructure	PA3 - ENGREEN : Strengthening of green infrastructures in IT-SI cross-border environment ISONZO/SOČA STANDARD PROJECT	Strengthening of green infrastructures to guarantee a good state of conservation of protected species	The project is in the initial implementation phase, the project started in April 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic period.
	Related to Green infrastructure	ISONZO-SOČA I.T.I. project	Construction, in Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba, of a cross-border network of cycle and pedestrian paths along the Isonzo river and along the State border connecting Solkan to Šempeter-Vrtojba and Miren. Infrastructural works to improve the usability of the area by citizens and tourists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works of Lot 1 "Vrtojba recreational area" completed • Work on Lot 2 "Isonzo walkway at Solkan" completed in 2020 • "Realization of a cycle route along the state border" is currently underway and will be completed by 2022

	Related to Green infrastructure	WALKofPEACE	See explanation in previous sections of the table	See explanation in previous sections of the table
	Related to ecosystems preservation	PA 4 - GeoKarst: Establishment of the cross-border geopark on the Karst STANDARD PROJECT	Establishment of the cross-border geopark on the Karst	The project is in the initial implementation phase, during COVID-19 pandemic period. The expected results in this phase include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Act establishing the cross-border geopark of the Classic Karst - Greater consistency and coordination in the management of the area in order to increase the intensity of cooperation
8. ZERO POLLUTION AMBITION FOR A TOXIC-FREE ENVIRONMENT (WATER, AIR, SOIL)	Related to Ground Waters	PA3 - VISFRIM: Vipava/Vipacco and Other Transboundary River Basins Flood Risk Management STATEGIC PROJECT	Water-related risk management for the Vipava river basin and other cross-border basins (joint measures of mitigation of hydro-geological risk due to urbanisation and climate change in the international basins of the Isonzo and Vipacco rivers and in the inter-regional basin of the Lemene river , shared data and development of models for simulating flooding; green IT tools to promote active participation of citizens; environmental monitoring and small structural works with low environmental impact; methodologies and operational technological tools for the implementation of the existing flood risk management plans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection harmonization and sharing of environmental data and studies concerning floods, Data have been used for development of shared hydrological and hydraulic models for the Lemene basin, through which simulations of alluvial processes can be carried out for assessing water-related hazards • Within Lemene basin two new hydrometric stations have been installed • Some Slovenian municipalities published public procurement procedures for the construction of the structural investments envisaged in the project (three construction sites are currently active)
	Related to Ground Waters	PA3 - CONA: The improvement of the ecological status of the Corno river and the Isonzo river mouth in the Adriatic STANDARD PROJECT	Improvement of the ecological state of the Corno river and the area of the mouth of the Isonzo river in the Adriatic - Cona area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, partners completed almost all planned activities • Improvement of the chemical and physical condition of the waters • Preparation of the design for revitalisation of the flow of the Koren creek • Application for online data monitoring from all weather stations is

				<p>available on the Nova Gorica school center website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Mlinčeknavodo - Water mill” competition held for primary schools • Secondary school students performed analyses on the flow of the Korencreek • Production of project documentation for the reconstruction of lightening discharges along the Corno in Italy • Proposal of measures for sustainable regulation (green infrastructure) along the Corno in Slovenia. • Meteorological stations built and currently connected to the SCADA system for the Nova Gorica wastewater treatment plant. • The CNS system was extended to manage and contain the first wave of precipitation in the Corno stream. • In the coming year, partners will complete the investment work in the cross-border area
--	--	--	--	--