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# 3rd Call for Proposals

Thematic focus of the targeted Call

Infodays in Šibenik, Rijeka, Ravenna, Brindisi | 14, 15, 21, 23 May 2025

**Venezia, 4 Giugno 2025**

[www.italy-croatia.eu](http://www.italy-croatia.eu)



## Why a thematic focus?

- ✓ As we have limited resources, we must target **only specific themes**, for more impact
- ✓ Topics not fully covered in previous calls
- ✓ Based on a gaps analysis
- ✓ Additional points for proposals, covering **precisely & consistently**





## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

When evaluating project proposals, Programme assessors will **prioritise** those focusing on the specific actions identified in Annex 1 "Thematic focus".

Proposals may address **other activities** described in the Programme Intervention Logic, but they will not be prioritised unless aligned with Annex 1.

Projects should:

- Test **innovative** solutions and services
- Originate from **cross-border** needs
- Develop joint strategies, pilots, governance structures
- **Capitalise** previous project results



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# **PRIORITY ACTIONS**

## **SO 1.1**

# **STANDARD PROJECTS**



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## CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

Facilitating researcher mobility via cooperation **agreements** between universities and research institutions.

Setting up joint/shared research **scholarships** to attract international talent.

Creating a supportive ecosystem for researchers to collaborate and share knowledge across borders.

## ICT SERVICES FOR SMEs

Improving cross-border access to research and advanced technologies by establishing collaborative **platforms**.

Developing **ICT services** and web/cloud facilities for SMEs, including training programs.

Supporting SMEs in adopting **new technologies** to enhance their competitiveness.

## BLUE INNOVATION

Conducting joint research on emerging **market demands** in the blue economy, focusing on sustainable practices.

**Attracting** public/private **investments** to support innovative projects in the blue economy.

Increasing **private sector** researcher involvement through collaborative research programmes.

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# **PRIORITY ACTIONS**

## **SO 2.1**

### **STANDARD PROJECTS**



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*EMERGENCIES*

Develop **joint rescue plans** with **NGOs** and authorities

Set up mechanisms for reporting **equipment needs**

*SCHOOLS*

Support cross-border **student and teacher exchanges**

Co-develop climate **adaptation school projects**

*FIRST AID*

Create agreements for **mutual emergency supply**

Align **logistics** for faster first-phase response

*RESILIENT SITES*

Assess climate risks for **heritage sites**

Integrate risk reduction into **local plans**

*ADAPTATION*

Promote **community-led adaptation actions**

Raise **awareness** on ecosystem changes

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# **PRIORITY ACTIONS**

## **SO 2.2**

# **STANDARD PROJECTS**



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Act. INDICATORS

Developing **homogenous indicators** through the exchange and comparison of existing good practices in order to **harmonize data collection** and monitoring systems

Act. MSPs/ICMs

Providing new tools for the **integrated management of sea, coast and river** environment and of cross-border natural resources (i.e., coordinated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM))

Act. GREEN ICT

Designing **integrated policies** aimed at limiting the anthropogenic pressure on coastal and inner regions including green ports, by adopting innovative technologies/procedures/processes **by the use of ICT tools** (including pollution monitoring, handling meteorological data, etc) and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture models



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**PRIORITY ACTIONS**

**SO 2.2**

**SSP PROJECTS**

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### Act. Digital

Extending the use of **digital solutions** to **evaluate ecosystem services** especially in the sea basins

### Act. OECMs

Supporting **feasibility studies** for setting up **cross-border protected marine areas** and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

### Act. MSPs/ICMs

Providing **new tools for the integrated management of sea, coast and river environment** and of cross-border natural resources (i.e., coordinated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM))



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# PRIORITY ACTIONS

## SO 3.1

# STANDARD PROJECTS

## Priority 3. Sustainable maritime and multimodal transport

### TRANSPORT (CYBER) SECURITY

Establishing action plans and common standards to manage **physical and cybersecurity** of freight and passengers' transport

**ICT solutions** including web-based tools

### PORTS CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**circular economy approach** in the management of the ports

**Innovative solutions**

### CYCLE ROUTES / INTERMODALITY

**cycle routes** of macro-regional relevance

testing **new services** to encourage **intermodality**  
(bike/ train/ ferry/ tram/ bus/ plane)

### GREEN DATA

**joint monitoring and data analysis**

cross border policies on **greener maritime routes** and **sea pollution reduction**



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# PRIORITY ACTIONS

## SO 4.1

# STANDARD PROJECTS



## Priority 4. Culture and tourism for sustainable development

### *CULTURE*

Strengthen cultural venues as multidisciplinary hubs by boosting their positive impact on the economy and tourism

Engage private investors to support the financial self-sufficiency of the sites

Implement revenue-generating activities

### *TOURISM*

Foster agreements between tourist operators of the coastal and the inner areas

Develop joint, sustainable and innovative tourism packages and routes

Engage local residents in the design and follow-up of tourism activities

### *JOBS*

Promote the testing of social economy initiatives

Create resilient, inclusive, and stable jobs (incl. vulnerable)

Develop accessible and motivating career opportunities for diverse profiles

### *PERIPHERIES*

Promote sustainable tourism in remote areas

Support local experiences, slow mobility, new routes based on local culture, and services from creative industries

Use circular economy approach



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**PRIORITY ACTIONS**

**SO 4.1**

**SSP PROJECTS**



## Priority 4. Culture and tourism for sustainable development

### DIGITAL CULTURE

Support cross-border sharing of expertise and best practices on the digitalisation of cultural heritage

Develop joint innovative solutions for cultural engagement

Use of technologies such as AI

### CREATIVE

Developing and testing new digital tools/innovative solutions

Promote and enhance the tourism potential of coastal and inland areas

Active participation of cultural and creative industries



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# THEMES

## SO 5.1

# STANDARD PROJECTS



## Standard projects | THEMES

### 1. Cross-border **Data**

*Digitalisation and cooperation of public administrations such as promotion of the interoperability of data structures and sources from public and private stakeholders in order to improve cross-border service delivery*

### 2. Cross-border **Cybersecurity**

*Cybersecurity, digital right protection and AI application in public administration, protection of intellectual property rights, safety in digital identity and transactions, also through capacity building actions for public administration, etc*

### 3. Cross-border **Risks**

*Risk management/Civil protection CB collaboration. Investigating obstacles and proposing solutions for mutual cooperation between Italian and Croatian entities in case of natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.) and first aid*

### 4. Cross-border **Sea**

*Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime spatial planning. Obstacles investigation and propose solutions to collaboration between Italy and Croatia*

### 5. Cross-border **Language**

*Addressing language barriers and promoting cross-border multilingualism to help border citizens and for the benefit of businesses*





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## Standard projects | INDICATIVE ACTIONS

### 1. Cross-border Data

Harmonising and interconnecting data sources to enable seamless sharing of relevant information

Developing common data standards and protocols

Developing cross-border digital platforms for data sharing

Encouraging public-private partnerships to develop solutions for data interoperability

### 2. Cross-border Cybersecurity

Organising cybersecurity training and awareness programs

Organising workshops, seminars and campaigns on Intellectual Property Rights.

Developing AI-Powered solutions for public services

Developing and implementing secure digital systems

### 3. Cross-border Risks

Identifying obstacles and proposing solutions for cross-border natural disaster response

Joint risk assessment and mapping

Developing cross-border emergency response protocols.

Creating early warning and communication systems





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## Standard projects | INDICATIVE ACTIONS

### 4. Cross-border Sea

Mapping and comparative analysis

Engaging different stakeholders to identify practical obstacles and cooperation needs

Implementing joint pilot actions

Co-creating models for sustainable use of marine space, considering biodiversity, fisheries, tourism, and shipping

### 5. Cross-border Language

Organising language training programmes

Organising cross-border exchanges for youth and professionals

Organising joint events and cultural festivals

Creating bilingual tools to support SMEs in cross-border business



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**PRIORITY ACTIONS**

**SO 5.1**

**SSP PROJECTS**



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## Small-scale projects | INDICATIVE ACTIONS

### 1. Cross-border Obstacles

Organising joint workshops for cross-border stakeholders to identify and discuss common challenges

Conducting workshops on understanding and navigating cross-border legal frameworks

Developing campaigns to raise awareness of obstacles in cross-border cooperation and their impact.

Organising a joint event focused on maritime governance to build networks for dialogue

### 2. Cross-border Blue Obstacles

Analysing the legal frameworks and administrative processes in both countries

Collaborating with legal experts to draft guidelines for harmonising legal and administrative processes

Stakeholder consultations in the fields of risk management, fisheries and aquaculture, and Maritime Spatial Planning

### 3. Cross-border ICT

Developing a digital tool that links specific legal and administrative barriers to their corresponding solutions.

Creating a database with policy recommendations for legislative or administrative changes to improve cross-border cooperation

Creating a repository of best practices where obstacles in relevant sectors were overcome through legal or administrative reforms



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### **Veneto Region**

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