

# **EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION**

## **COOPERATION PROGRAMME Interreg VB SOUTHWEST EUROPE**

**Adopted by EC 15/02/2017**

CCI	2014TC16RFTN007
Title	Programme Interreg VB Southwest Europe
Version	1.2
First year	2014
Last year	2023
Eligible from	01/01/2014
Eligible until	31/12/2023
EC decision number	C(2017) 1174 final
EC decision date	15/02/2017
MS amending decision number	
MS amending decision date	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
NUTS regions covered by the cooperation programme	<p><b>SPAIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES11 Galicia</li> <li>ES12 Principado de Asturias</li> <li>ES13 Cantabria</li> <li>ES21 País vasco</li> <li>ES22 Comunidad Foral de Navarra</li> <li>ES23 La Rioja</li> <li>ES24 Aragón</li> <li>ES30 Comunidad de Madrid</li> <li>ES41 Castilla y León</li> <li>ES42 Castilla-La Mancha</li> <li>ES43 Extremadura</li> <li>ES51 Cataluña</li> <li>ES52 Comunidad Valenciana</li> <li>ES53 Islas Baleares</li> <li>ES61 Andalucía</li> <li>ES62 Región de Murcia</li> <li>ES63 Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta</li> <li>ES64 Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla</li> </ul> <p><b>FRANCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR53 Poitou-Charentes</li> <li>FR61 Aquitaine</li> <li>FR62 Midi-Pyrénées</li> <li>FR63 Limousin</li> <li>FR72 Auvergne</li> <li>FR81 Languedoc-Roussillon</li> </ul> <p><b>PORTUGAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PT11 Norte</li> <li>PT15 Algarve</li> <li>PT16 Centro (PT)</li> <li>PT17 Lisboa</li> <li>PT18 Alentejo</li> </ul> <p><b>UNITED KINGDOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UKZZ UNITED KINGDOM (Gibraltar)</li> </ul> <p><b>PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AND Andorra (Andorra)</li> </ul>

## TABLE OF CONTENT

SECTION 1 .....	8
Strategy for the Cooperation Programme’s contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of economic, social, and territorial cohesion .....	8
1.1. Strategy for the Operational Programme’s contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achieving of economic, social, and territorial cohesion .....	9
1.1.1. Description of the cooperation programme’s strategy to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achieving of economic, social, and territorial cohesion. ....	9
1.1.2. Justification of the selection of the thematic objectives and the corresponding investment priorities, taking into consideration the association agreement, based on the analysis of the needs in the programme area as a whole and on the strategy adopted as a response to these needs, including if appropriate the links that are missing in the cross-border infrastructures, and taking into account ex ante assessment.....	21
1.2. Justification for the financial allocation .....	23
SECTION 2 PRIORITY AXES.....	30
2.A. Descriptions of the priority axes other than technical assistance .....	31
2.A.1. Priority axis 1: promoting research, technological development, and innovation .....	31
2.A.2. Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable) (axis 1) .....	31
2.A.3. Fund and calculation basis for Union support.....	31
2.A.4. Investment Priority 1b.....	31
2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (IP 1b).....	32
2.A.6. Actions to be supported under the investment priority (IP 1b).....	35
2.A.6.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 1b).....	35
2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 1b).....	39
2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 1b) .....	39
2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 1b) .....	39
2.A.6.5. Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 1b) .....	39
2.A.7. Performance framework (axis 1).....	40
2.A.8. Categories of intervention .....	41
2.A.9. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 1) .....	42

2.A.1.	Priority axis 2: promoting the competitiveness and internationalization of the SMEs of Southwest Europe	43
2.A.2.	Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable) (axis 2)	43
2.A.3.	Fund and calculation basis for Union support (axis 2)	43
2.A.4.	Investment Priority 3a (IP 3a)	43
2.A.5.	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (IP 3a)	43
2.A.6.	Actions to be supported under the investment priority (IP 3a)	45
2.A.6.1.	A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 3a)	45
2.A.6.2.	Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 3a)	47
2.A.6.3.	Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 3a)	47
2.A.6.4.	Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 3a)	48
2.A.6.5.	Output indicators (by priority of investment) (IP 3a)	48
2.A.7.	Investment priority 3b (IP 3b)	48
2.A.8.	Specific objects corresponding to the investment priority and results expected (IP 3b)	48
2.A.9.	Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 3b)	50
2.A.9.1.	A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 3b)	50
2.A.9.2.	Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 3b)	51
2.A.9.3.	Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 3b)	52
2.A.9.4.	Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 3b)	52
2.A.9.5.	Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 3b)	52
2.A.10.	Performance framework (axis 2)	52
2.A.11.	Intervention categories (axis 2)	53
2.A.12.	A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 2)	54
2.A.1.	<b>PRIORITY AXIS 3: CONTRIBUTING TO A HIGHER EFFICIENCY OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES</b>	<b>55</b>
2.A.2.	Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (axis 3)	55
2.A.3.	Fund and calculation basis for the Union support	55
2.A.4.	Investment priority 4c (IP 4c)	55
2.A.5.	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and the results expected (IP 4c)	55
2.A.6.	Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 4c)	57

2.A.6.1.	A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 4c) .....	57
2.A.6.2.	Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 4c) .....	62
2.A.6.3.	Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (axis 3) .....	62
2.A.6.4.	Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (axis 3).....	62
2.A.6.5.	Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 4c).....	62
2.A.7.	Performance framework (axis 3).....	63
2.A.8.	Categories of intervention (axis 3) .....	64
2.A.9.	A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 3) .....	65
2.A.1.	PRIORITY AXIS 4: PREVENT AND MANAGE RISKS MORE EFFICIENTLY .....	66
2.A.2.	Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where appropriate) (axis 4) .....	66
2.A.3.	Fund and calculation basis for the Union support (axis 4) .....	66
2.A.4.	Investment priority 5b (IP 5b) .....	66
2.A.5.	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and the results expected (IP 5b) ..	66
2.A.6.	Actions to be financed within the framework of investment priority (IP 5b) .....	68
2.A.6.1.	A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 5b).....	68
2.A.6.2.	Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 5b).....	70
2.A.6.3.	Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (axis4) .....	71
2.A.6.4.	Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (axis 4).....	71
2.A.6.5.	Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 5b) .....	71
2.A.7.	Performance framework (axis 4).....	72
2.A.8.	Categories of intervention (axis 4) .....	72
2.A.9.	A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 4) .....	74
2.A.1.	PRIORITY AXIS 5: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES	75
2.A.2.	Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where appropriate) (axis 5) .....	75
2.A.3.	Fund and calculation basis for Union support (axis 5) .....	75
2.A.4.	Investment priority 6c (IP 6c).....	75
2.A.5.	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and the results expected (IP 6c) ..	75

2.A.6.	Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 6c) .....	77
2.A.6.1.	A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 6c) .....	77
2.A.6.2.	Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 6c) .....	79
2.A.6.3.	Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (axis 5) .....	80
2.A.6.4.	Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (axis 5).....	80
2.A.6.5.	Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 6c).....	80
2.A.4.	Investment priority 6d .....	81
2.A.5.	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (IP 6d).....	81
2.A.6.	Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 6d).....	82
2.A.6.1.	A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 6d).....	82
2.A.6.2.	Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 6d).....	85
2.A.6.3.	Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 6d).....	86
2.A.6.4.	Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 6d) .....	86
2.A.6.5.	Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 6d) .....	86
2.A.7.	Performance framework (axis 5).....	87
2.A.8.	Categories of intervention (axis 5) .....	88
2.A.9.	A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 5) .....	89
2.B.	Description of the priority axis for technical assistance .....	90
2.B.1.	PRIORITY AXIS 6: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	90
2.B.2.	FUND AND CALCULATION BASIS FOR UNION SUPPORT (axis 6) .....	90
2.B.3.	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS (axis 6) .....	90
2.B.4.	RESULT INDICATORS (axis 6) .....	91
2.B.5.	ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED AND THEIR EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	91
2.B.6.	CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION (axis 6) .....	93
SECTION 3 FINANCING PLAN .....		95
3.1.	Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in EUR) .....	96
3.2.	Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in EUR).....	97
3.2.B.	Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective.....	100
SECTION 4 INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT .....		101
4.1.	Community-led local development.....	102

4.2. Integrated actions for sustainable urban development.....	102
4.3. Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) .....	103
4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies .....	103
SECTION 5 IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME .....	107
5.1. Relevant authorities and bodies .....	108
5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat .....	109
5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements .....	111
5.4. Appointment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission. ....	124
5.5. Use of the euro .....	125
5.6. Involvement of partners .....	125
SECTION 6 COORDINATION.....	127
SECTION 7 REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES .....	131
SECTION 8 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES .....	135
8.1. Sustainable development.....	136
8.2. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination .....	137
8.3. Equality between men and women .....	138
SECTION 9 SEPARATE ELEMENTS .....	140
9.1. Major projects to be implemented during the programming period .....	141
9.2. Performance framework of the cooperation programme .....	141
9.3. Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme .....	142
9.4. Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources.....	144

## **SECTION 1**

**Strategy for the Cooperation Programme's contribution to the Union strategy  
for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of  
economic, social, and territorial cohesion**



## **1.1. Strategy for the Operational Programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achieving of economic, social, and territorial cohesion**

### **1.1.1. Description of the cooperation programme's strategy to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achieving of economic, social, and territorial cohesion.**

The Southwest Europe Cooperation Programme (INTERREG V-B SUDOE) is developed based on the "Europe 2020" Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, which contributes to the achievement of greater economic, social and territorial cohesion. The Programme has accumulated the experience of the four previous generations of programmes, which means that it has wide experience and knowledge of the territory, its actors and the understanding of the development modes of its projects.

The strategy of the INTERREG VB SUDOE programme is built on the basis of the following group of main elements:

- Territorial (socioeconomic) diagnosis of the eligible area.
- Analysis of the complementarity of the actions with the regional programmes in each of the NUTS 2 regions, with the interregional programmes, as well as transnational and cross-border cooperation that partially operate in the eligible territory.
- The proposals for intervention linked to the Partnership Agreements of the four participating Member States.
- The capitalisation of the results of the previous programming periods, in particular of the period 2007-2013, identifying the strategic guidelines and best practices that should be maintained or enhanced throughout the programming period.
- The participative process established with the agents of the territory, in particular of the surveys carried out in 2012 and 2013 (on the type of potential actions and the systems for initiating them) by the managing authority and the national authorities in their respective territories.
- The Logical Framework result of agreements between the participating States.

The final version of the Programmes will take into account the specific relevant recommendations for each State and those adopted in the European Semester 2014 frame, according with the art. 96 (2a) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

According with the strategic and the community law frame, the strategy of the transnational SUDOE programme 2014-2020 devotes special attention to the development of actions for a smart, sustainable, inclusive growth as a key element to achieve greater economic and territorial cohesion, building on the experience gained and the poles of regional development and innovation that have developed in recent years.

Finally, it should be emphasised that the Programme INTERREG V-B SUDOE puts its faith in the concentration of financial resources in two essential principles:

- **Competitiveness**, by means of the support of the common agreed development of knowledge production centres and their application in SMEs.
- **Sustainability** of the growth of the SUDOE space, by supporting projects linked to:
  - The preservation and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage
  - The prevention of natural risks
  - Energy efficient actions

The logic of intervention of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme is summarized in the following five steps:

- A brief **synthesis of the** socioeconomic, environmental, and territorial **diagnosis** of the SUDOE space.
- Identification of the main **threats** and **opportunities**.
- Analysis of the **experience of capitalization** in the period 2007-2013, identifying its strategic guidelines and best practices learned that should be maintained and promoted during the new programming period.
- Definition of the **principles and premises** on which the intervention logic of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme.
- **Justification for the selection of thematic objectives** and investment priorities.

### Characterisation of the SUDOE cooperation space

From a **demographic and territorial** point of view the SUDOE space is characterised by the coastal-inland pairing. There is therefore an initial differentiation between the areas on or near the coast (which have the largest population density and most of the metropolitan

centres such as Lisbon, Oporto, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao, and Bordeaux) and the inland areas, which contain most of the rural spaces in the territory (such as Auvergne in France; Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, and Aragón in Spain; and the Centre and the Alentejo in Portugal), which have a low population density and an ageing population and in which average-sized or small towns predominate. Madrid and Toulouse are the two exceptions of major metropolitan areas in the interior areas of the SUDOE territory.



In **economic terms**, the SUDOE space (in particular in the peninsular regions of Portugal and Spain) has been particularly affected by the negative effects of the European economic and financial crisis. This is reflected in negative figures (or close to zero) for economic growth in the bulk of the regions in recent years, and in the stagnation (or even reversion) of the process of convergence with European averages (in terms of the GNP *per capita*).

The main negative effect of the crisis on the population has been the sharp increase in unemployment in general throughout the SUDOE space. Unemployment can be considered to

be one of the main social and economic challenges of this cooperation space. It has greatly affected Portugal and especially Spain, where regions such as Andalusia, Extremadura, and Castilla-La Mancha have recorded exponential growth to attain very high levels of unemployment (34.6%, 33%, 28.5%, respectively), which is well above the SUDOE average (17%) or the European average (10.4%). For their part, the French regions of the SUDOE territory have the lowest unemployment rates (Limousin with 7.2% and Midi-Pyrénées and Poitou-Charentes with 8.8%) and in Gibraltar at less than 3%.

However, there are also peninsular regions in the SUDOE space that have shown themselves to be more resilient to these effects of the crisis (the Basque Country and Navarra in Spain, Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées in France and Gibraltar in the United Kingdom). These are regions that have demonstrated strong economic, industrial and scientific dynamism, as can be seen in rates of unemployment which are lower than the average of the SUDOE space, as well as higher levels of R & D, and some of the best economic indicators.

Regarding the European average, the **economic structure** of the SUDOE space *in relation to the European average* is characterised by the greater relative participation of the primary and service sectors in the contribution to the GNP and employment. By contrast, there is less relative participation of the industrial sector in the GNP and the employment of the SUDOE territory regarding the European average. These indicators are coherent with the SUDOE characteristic rurality of SUDOE, especially in inland areas.

Moreover, this productive structure of the transnational space is almost exclusively to be found in SMEs (which represent 95% of the total number of existing companies). They are mainly devoted to the service sector (between 75% and 80% of the total) and are highly relevant in the generating of employment. SMEs for their part have a limited capacity for innovation and for penetrating foreign markets. In addition, they are more vulnerable to the growing problems of financial liquidity owing to the difficulties of access to credit and financing that have existed since the start of the crisis.

Despite everything, there are regions in the SUDOE space that occupy prominent positions and even are European leaders in terms of industrial production in specific sectors, which is the case of Midi-Pyrénées (the aeronautical and aerospace industry), the northern region of Portugal (textiles and footwear), and Navarra (renewable energies). These regions are capable of acting as specialised development and traction poles for the remainder of the SUDOE regions.

Industrial production is based on the one hand on business cooperation in the form of clusters, specialised associations of professionals and companies, and poles of competitiveness and of excellence. For instance, this is the case of the energy production of Navarra (with the *Cluster Solar de Navarra* and leading companies), of the automotive industry in the Basque Country (ACICAE), of the health industry in Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées (the Cancer-Bio-Health pole), etc.

Moreover, this production is also based on high-value or intensive knowledge activities; this aspect leads to high investment in R&D in the regions where these sectors are located.

Although the average level of spending on R&D of the SUDOE space as a whole is still well below the European average, significant progress has been made in recent years. The regions of Midi-Pyrénées, Languedoc-Roussillon, Lisbon, Navarra, and the Basque Country are far above the respective national and European average levels of spending on R&D, and are relatively close to achieving the goal established in the “Europe 2020” strategy (an investment of 3% of the GNP on innovation).

Other characteristics of innovation in the SUDOE space that should be highlighted are:

- The leading regions on a transnational level are those that also lead private investment in R&D (Midi-Pyrénées, the Basque Country, and Navarra);
- The weight of public participation in investment in R&D is relatively greater in the Spanish regions (especially in Madrid, Extremadura, and Catalonia regions);
- The component of spending on R&D by universities acquires greater relevance in the Portuguese regions (such as the North and the Alentejo).

The diagnosis carried out revealed the existence of a direct link between the highest innovating capacity and that of the transfer of knowledge, on the one hand, and the highest economic dynamism, a greater mobility, and the best employment figures on the other.

R+D investments by the universities (upper learning centres) have a less variability than the private sector in the SUDOE regions. In general terms, investments by the university system are relatively more important in the cases of a weaker participation of the private sector. This fact must be taken into account for the planning and incentive of the actions of the Programme.

From an **environmental** point of view the SUDOE space is characterised by its great ecological, climatic, and territorial diversity, which gives it many advantages for the carrying out of activities connected with conservation and the environmental and tourist promotion of the territory. The SUDOE space has a large part of his territory included in Natura 2000 Network (over 20% of the total surface area). This must be taken into account. It is a weak territory because of it is facing threats deriving from urban growth and an increasing population, pollution, and agricultural overexploitation, and also natural recurrent risks common to the transnational area (fires, earthquakes, drought, erosion, desertification, and floods).

Initiatives to improve the conservation of the natural habitats and the Natura 2000 sites are very heterogeneous and not well distributed in the South West space. The challenge is to exchange management systems already proved about population increasing of awareness, information to the users of the spaces and to the professionals (farmers, forestry experts, tourism actors ...) in order to improve their practices for a better respect of the environment.

The cooperation space has a number of registered as natural and cultural heritage spaces, with a special remark to the UNESCO sites and other classified sites.

In general, the quality of water in the SUDOE space is good. However, although in general, the transnational space holds large water reserves especially in France (for instance in the Auvergne), they are highly localised and specific rather than of a general nature. Over most of

the territory the SUDOE space is characterised by a scarcity of water and cyclical difficulties in guaranteeing supply to the population, agriculture, or industry.

This situation is becoming more and more frequent in the southern area of the cooperation space, where problems of desertification and soil erosion are increasing. Two thirds of the surface area of Spain (with the exception of the Atlantic/Cantabrian strip and the valleys of the major river basins) are thus characterised by arid or semi-arid areas or have low humidity. In Portugal the inland areas of Alentejo and Algarve are at high risk of drought and desertification. As a result of the large variability of climates (Ocean, Mediterranean, continental, transitional and mountain), the SUDOE territory simultaneously faces risks of droughts, fires and floods.

As a result, action in relation to water resources represents one of the major challenges in terms of action on natural risks in the SUDOE space.

The areas of influence of the major river basins of the Iberian Peninsula (Duero, Tajo, Ebro, and Guadiana) are the most affected by the risk of flooding as well as Languedoc-Roussillon and Poitou-Charentes in France. In addition, mountain areas are likely to experience flooding during the seasons of heavy rain or thaws.

In addition, climatic changes can have a considerable effect on the whole of the SUDOE space albeit in different ways. In Portugal a greater impact from floods is expected as a result of the concentration of precipitation in winter and the increasing frequency of heavy rainfall together with the degradation of the quality of the water, especially in the Alentejo and the Algarve owing to the increased temperatures and reduced rainfall. Surveys of the European Environmental Agency about the potential impact at European level show the high risk of the littoral areas as well as those in the south of the continent, areas with water deficits. In Spain a greater impact is anticipated in the peninsular southeast (less precipitation), the Guadiana basin, the Ebro valley, and the archipelago of the Balearics to add to the already considerable water problems. In the SUDOE region of France winters with heavy rainfall are expected in the west and hotter summers in the Mediterranean area.

The SUDOE space has ample capabilities to may become, in the mid-term, a European point of reference on the application of renewable energy in the final consumption of energy by both homes and industry. Owing to its natural characteristics the space has a diversified energy mix in clean sources such as solar, wind, hydraulic and biomass energy. Spain and Portugal are leaders in terms of renewable energy, while the French regions included in the SUDOE space are the main contributors to the production of renewable energy in France. The challenge is to increase cooperation among the SUDOE regions in the application of the different types of renewable energy. Efficiency energy in public buildings and homes are a priority concerning the importance of these sectors in the global energy consumption.

In terms of **accessibility and transport**, the SUDOE space has a good development, although it is still necessary to encourage intermodal connections (the intermodality of transport systems) and to improve land communications between frontier zones of Spain and Portugal.

The multimodal accessibility index of the territories of the SUDOE area is lower than the European Union average apart from certain coastal areas of the Mediterranean and the

Atlantic. These multimodal access limitations are more acute in particular in inland border areas of Spain and Portugal, especially in the Alto Trás-os-Montes/Zamora and Beira Interior Sul/Salamanca frontier areas and in the Pyrenees.

In general the SUDOE regions have good density indexes for infrastructures and overland communication, such as main roads and major railway lines. They also enjoy good connections with the main commercial ports on both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic coasts, which are now affected by regional policies and programmes. Mobility still remains difficult in certain areas, above all in the northeast frontier zones between Portugal and Spain and between Spain and France, which is the result of the scarcity in the crossing points and the complexity of the geography of the territory.

In the **field of education** it was found that most areas in the SUDOE territory, with Spain and France in the lead, have achieved the goal of the 2020 Europe strategy of 40% of the population aged between 30 and 34 having higher education qualifications by 2020. Portugal at 27.2% lags behind the European average of 35.8%. In general the regions with greater economic dynamism and better economic indicators constitute formative structures with good levels of higher education, although this does not go far enough. Examples of this situation are regions such as the Basque Country (61.3% of the population aged between 30 and 34 with higher education studies), Midi-Pyrénées (54%), Asturias (50.4%), Navarra (50.1%), and Madrid (49.4%). In the case of Portugal the regions in the North of the country and Lisbon have the best figures (with 32% and 28.7% respectively), although they are still below the European average (35.8%).

On the other hand, as far as the school dropout rate is concerned the SUDOE space is still a long way off the 2020 Europe strategy goal of 10%. The levels of some Spanish and Portuguese regions are certainly alarming, being at around 40% or even higher, such as Ceuta, the Balearic Islands, and Murcia in Spain; or the Northern region and the Algarve in Portugal. In contrast, the French regions of Midi-Pyrénées and Aquitaine have already reached the Europe 2020 goal of a school dropout rate of less than 10%.

### **Challenges and opportunities of the SUDOE space as regards the “Europe 2020” strategy**

The promotion of smart growth, in the form of fomenting an economy based on knowledge and innovation and also on the capacity to transfer and absorb this knowledge, is a priority challenge for the SUDOE space for the 2014-2020 period. The current context shows that significant progress has been made in this field regarding the start of the previous programming period. The Programme has made a great contribution in recent years by strengthening its strategy for the R&D+i sector; this needs to be consolidated, capitalised on, and promoted for the 2014-2020 period.

Specifically, through transnational cooperation, the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme can contribute to reducing the asymmetries that persist in this field between the different regions of the SUDOE space, in particular the high level of unemployment, especially among young people under 30.

The SUDOE space is composed of regions with an industrial structure which is organized and dynamic based on clusters and innovation poles and that have the capacity for generating added value to the industrial production and profitability of R&D investment in innovative products and services for the market. This scenario means that some regions of the SUDOE space stand out in some sectors and are ready to assume a leading role at a European level in certain sectors (renewable energies, the aerospace industry, the automotive supplier industry, textiles, and footwear, for example).

Promoting the economy based on knowledge and innovation in the SUDOE space also implies stimulating social cohesion and the integrating growth of the regions included in the cooperation area. Therefore, one of the main challenges of the SUDOE space is promoting the creation of employment by the actors involved, taking into account the following parameters: the scarcity of means that the programme has to focus on a challenge of this magnitude; the existence of initiatives at regional, national and community level to directly address the aspects of employment and unemployment; direct support measures in favour of job creation. The activities of the Programme should be based on the structures, means and existing expertise and promote networking in an enhanced way, as well as continuously adapting to the needs of SMEs.

The “Europe 2020” strategy also encourages models of sustainable growth by means of a low-carbon economy that is efficient in its use of resources, protects the environment, mitigates its impact, and manages the associated risks. Owing to its endogenous characteristics and the potential of its territory and its socioeconomic dynamics, the sustainable aspect of growth represents an opportunity for relative specialisation and differentiation of the SUDOE space on a European level.

Finally, the wealth of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the territory, particularly manifested in the wide coverage of the Natura 2000 network, represent a major challenge in terms of prevention and management of the manmade or natural risks.

### **The experience of the 2007-2013 Programme**

A brief analysis of the SUDOE programme for this earlier period will allow the drawing of relevant and useful conclusions that have been a basement in the preparation of the programme for the 2014-2020 period.

In this context it must firstly be emphasised that as a result of the intermediate evaluation of the Programme the second part of the period was financially reprogrammed. The reality of the modalities of cooperation, the results of the different existing themes, and the commitment of the Programme toward a concentration of resources to gain greater visibility and more notable effects, have led to a reformulation of the effort and the budget in the first two axes of the Programme:



1. Promoting of **innovation** and the constitution of stable technological cooperation networks;
2. Improving sustainability for the protection and conservation of the **environment** and the natural surroundings of the SUDOE space.

The reprogramming was justified by the increased capacity of financial absorption achieved by these two axes for the Programme, and the recognition of the greater impact of the projects carried out in the field of innovation and environment at the time of responding to the problems and needs.

The implementation data of the SUDOE 2007-2013 programming confirmed the importance given in effect to Priority 1 (The promotion of innovation and the constitution of stable technological cooperation networks), which absorbed nearly 50% of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aid approved and of the total number of the approved projects.

For its part environmental cooperation represented 30% of the number of projects and of the ERDF aid approved between 2007 and 2013. This axis spread the investment out more on specific themes, with risk prevention (8% of the total ERDF aid approved), energy efficiency, water management and distribution, and the protection of biodiversity (with 5% each) being the main themes approved.

In short, although the fields of R&D+i and the environment include different types of operations, they are those in which the greatest and most noticeable impact has been obtained from the financing granted by the Programme. Furthermore, they are also the thematic fields in which the beneficiaries perceive more directly the importance of the aid given by cooperation mechanisms similar to SUDOE.

### Principles and premises

The set of principles applicable to the preparation of programmes and regional cooperation, such as the SUDOE space, is defined essentially by the Common Strategic Framework (CSF), the European Territorial Agenda and Regulations (EU) No. 1303/2013, No. 1301/2013 and No. 1299/2013.

An initial principle that stands out (essentially in the CSF and in the Territorial Agenda of the European Union) is that of the **joint and integrated management** of natural resources, of biodiversity, of natural risks, of adaptation to climatic change, and of the heritage and cultural values of the cooperation space.

A second principle, which is also included in the CSF, quoted is that of **smart interconnections**, based on the encouragement of cooperation between companies, research centres and higher education institutions, and the supporting of innovative groups, centres of expertise, and business incubators, together with the supporting of good transnational practices of smart specialisation strategies and the qualitative improvement of methods and management and planning tools in the environmental sector.

A third relevant principle considered is that of the generating of sufficient critical mass by means of cooperation and the shared use of infrastructures, equipment, and services.

These principles, together with the current socioeconomic and territorial context of the SUDOE space, the challenges and opportunities of the 2020 Europe strategy, and also the experience of the programming of previous periods, generate a series of premises that have served as sources for the drawing up of the intervention logic of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme.

✓ **The concentration of investments** – taking into account the challenge of smart specialisation, it is considered that the INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme should concentrate its efforts on areas and sectors in which the territory has competitive advantages and endogenous potential, either because of its intrinsic characteristics or because of the productive structure of the cooperation area.

✓ **The fight against asymmetries** – the SUDOE space includes regions with very different levels of economic and industrial development, of scientific and technological production, and of labour qualifications and employability, among other asymmetries. The INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme expounds the encouraging of the rapprochement between these regions so as to facilitate the exchanging of experiences and the learning of good practices, and also the making of their contribution to the search for solutions to these imbalances.

✓ **The capitalisation of results from previous programming periods, in particular those of 2007-2013** – during the previous period the SUDOE programme already included guidance on specialisation and thematic concentration and on resources through two main themes – *innovation* and *environment*. As has been explained, this concentration was based on the results and the impact of the developed projects, and also in the challenges and needs of the SUDOE space in these fields (the largest number of projects, the best structured, and the greatest assimilation of the ERDF). For 2014-2020 it has been considered beneficial to continue with the tendency of this line of specialisation, going more deeply into the development of areas of cooperation that have been shown to be successful, and putting faith in new cooperation areas allowed in the regulations, such as the competitiveness of SMEs which will allow the strengthening of competitiveness actions. These actions also reinforce the need indicated in the diagnosis to act on the labour market and the economic sectors in the interest of economic reactivation as a means to help to end the crisis that has had such a negative effect on the cooperation area.

**The selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities**

Taking into account the above principles and premises, a total of 5 thematic objectives/priority axes were chosen in two general intervention areas as summarized in the table below:

<p><b>Intervention Area 1</b>  <b>Smart Development</b></p>	<p><b>Intervention Area 2</b>  <b>Sustainable Development</b></p>
---	---

Axis 1 – OT1: Promoting research, technological development, and innovation

- IP 1b

*Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies*

Axis 2 - TO3: Improving the competitiveness of SMEs

- IP 3a

*Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators*

- IP 3b

*Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation*

Axis 3 - TO4: Encouraging the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors

- IP 4c

*Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector*

Axis 4 - TO5: Encouraging adaptation to climatic change and risk prevention and management

- IP 5b

*Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems*

Axis 5 - TO6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources

- IP 6c

*Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.*

- IP 6d

*Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure.*

A brief justification is given below for the selection of each of the thematic objectives and their respective investment priorities:

With respect **TO1 (IP 1b)**, the objective aims to correct the imbalances between regions in terms of investment in R&D+i through the strengthening of networks in sectors of excellence identified in the framework of RIS3 strategies.

The projects developed in the 2007-2013 programming period have created networks of cooperation and excellence in R&D+i that have enabled scientific, technological and educational institutions in the region to achieve research results with high added value at regional and European level.

The selection of **TO3 (IP 3a and 3b)** is justified because the fomenting of an economy concentrating on knowledge and innovation must, of necessity, be associated with the strengthening of the productive structure of the SUDOE space. In this field, the transnational space is faced with the challenge of increasing the resilience of its business fabric. The productive structure of the SUDOE space is essentially based on SMEs, which generate and absorb the highest percentage of employment and concentrate on the service sector and on traditional activities aimed at the home market, with limited innovation capacities and with difficulties in obtaining financing. The investment priorities selected aim to help improve the conditions of the context in which companies operate, strengthening institutions, services, and mechanisms supporting their development and internationalisation.

The intrinsic connection between the challenges and opportunities posed under these two thematic objectives justifies the focus on coordinated of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE in a large area of intervention with a unique approach to innovation.

The selection of **TO4 (IP 4c)**, is mainly justified due to the buildings mean near a half of all the energy consumption and it is the origin of 1/3 of the greenhouse gases; therefore, the energy refurbishment in buildings and houses may have a remarkable impact. This priority is part of the axes developed in the partnership agreements of the 4 member States. It is also justified by the capacity of the SUDOE space to generate renewable energy whose consumption by public infrastructure and buildings should result in improved energy efficiency and consolidation of an economic development model based on green and ecological growth. The construction sector has an important role in SUDOE, especially in Spain with a higher level than the European average (6.3% in Europe and 9.04% of the GNP in SUDOE). This activities were especially influenced by the economic crisis loosing around 1 million employments between 2009 and 2011. The specialists association for an improvement of the energy efficiency politics is one of the measures currently running for the revitalisation of the economy of the area.

The selection of **TO5 (IP 5b)** is justified by the geographical characteristics of the SUDOE space whose territory is faces natural risks already present and other potential risks resulting from the impact of climate change. These risks are associated with the scarcity of water resources and high temporal and spatial variability of rainfall which favours the intensification of drought conditions, forest fires, desertification, soil erosion and cyclical flooding.

With regard to the strategies developed at the regional and national level in the field of risk management, transnational cooperation give an appreciable added value in terms of improving the efficiency of the methodological and technological solutions provided. The development of strategies, methods and of common coordination activities is more effective than a set of specific and individual actions.

The selection of **TO6 (IP 6c and 6d)** is largely justified by the existence of extensive forest areas, natural spaces, protected areas, etc. that need more exigent intervention methods if they are to guarantee their resilience regarding natural risks and those created by man (acting as a complement to OT5). Moreover, the SUDOE space has a marked rurality, a great biodiversity, and an extremely rich natural and cultural heritage that needs not only to be protected but also to be encouraged as to making use of it and contributing to local development in a sustainable manner. The A network for experimentation and capitalisation of innovative methods for management and conservation of the spaces may contribute to a high improvement of the strategies of the pertinent local stakeholders.

### 1.1.2. Justification of the selection of the thematic objectives and the corresponding investment priorities, taking into consideration the association agreement, based on the analysis of the needs in the programme area as a whole and on the strategy adopted as a response to these needs, including if appropriate the links that are missing in the cross-border infrastructures, and taking into account ex ante assessment

**Table 1: Justification for the selection of the thematic objectives and investment priorities**

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
TO1 – Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Capitalising on the results obtained during the 2007-2013 period;</li> <li>✓ Closing the gap between the SUDOE area and the more innovative and technologically developed regions in Europe;</li> <li>✓ Encouraging the participation of private actors in R&amp;D+i;</li> <li>✓ Encouraging innovation as an added value and a basis for work on-line and for smart specialisation;</li> <li>✓ Promoting conditions for research of excellence.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
	product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies.	
TO3 – Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Facilitating the creation of an environment favouring the exploitation, development, and consolidation of new business ideas;</li> <li>✓ Encouraging the creation of skills (the search for more efficient and effective solutions) for supporting SMEs;</li> <li>✓ Strengthening and articulating the services and institutions supporting the companies;</li> <li>✓ Contributing towards strengthening sustainability and the strength (financial and non-financial) of SMEs.</li> </ul>
TO3 – Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Creating conditions for facilitating the internationalisation of SMEs;</li> <li>✓ Facilitating the development of new approaches, instruments, and strategies that facilitate SME access to foreign markets;</li> <li>✓ Encouraging business and institutional cooperation as an instrument supporting the internationalisation of SMEs.</li> </ul>
TO4 – Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Buildings and houses are the first source of energy consumption;</li> <li>✓ Great growth potential in the renewable energy sector;</li> <li>✓ The arising of poles of excellence that will allow an economic development model based on green, ecological and energy growth;</li> <li>✓ The growing tendency to produce and consume renewable energy all over the Space;</li> <li>✓ Reduced public spending on environmental protection;</li> <li>✓ Need to create awareness of the actors, including the private ones, and share best practices and innovative solutions in energy efficiency in buildings, as well as in the consumption of renewable energy.</li> <li>✓ Encourage cooperation to improve the national and regional mechanisms to reduce the energy consumption or increasing the use of renewable energy sources in the buildings, and strengthen the urban strategies integrated into energy efficiency, developed in the regional ERDF programmes.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
TO5 – Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The geographic situation and fragile natural surroundings, with real risks associated with the effects of climatic change;</li> <li>✓ Intense natural risks associated with the scarcity of water resources and their management in a space of great geographical diversity; great seasonal and spatial variations in precipitation depending on the climatic area, which periodically generates by areas drought, fires, desertification, and floods;</li> <li>✓ Extensive forest areas, including those belonging to <i>Natura 2000</i>, which need intervention to guarantee their resilience with regard to natural risks;</li> <li>✓ Constant expansion of arid areas and those with a high risk of desertification in the southern part of the SUDOE space, combined with periods of intense precipitation and extraordinary flows from the basins.</li> </ul>
TO6 – Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ High environmental quality and diversity both geographical and climatic and ecological;</li> <li>✓ Great economic potential in the exploitation of natural resources;</li> <li>✓ Competitive advantages for tourist development thanks to the environmental and ecological diversity and the quality of the cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
TO6 – Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through <i>Natura 2000</i> , and green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ High environmental quality and diversity both geographical and climatic and ecological;</li> <li>✓ Extensive territory within <i>Natura 2000</i>;</li> <li>✓ Maximum investment in environmental protection by sectors specialising in biodiversity protection;</li> <li>✓ Reduced public spending on environmental protection.</li> </ul>

## 1.2. Justification for the financial allocation

The financial allocation for the various priority axes, thematic objectives, and investment priorities has taken the following premises into consideration:

- ✓ The operating of the Programme and the financial allocation of the previous period (2007-2013), and also 2000-2006 period and in particular the reprogramming of funds that has essentially boosted investment in operations related to innovation and the protection of the environment.

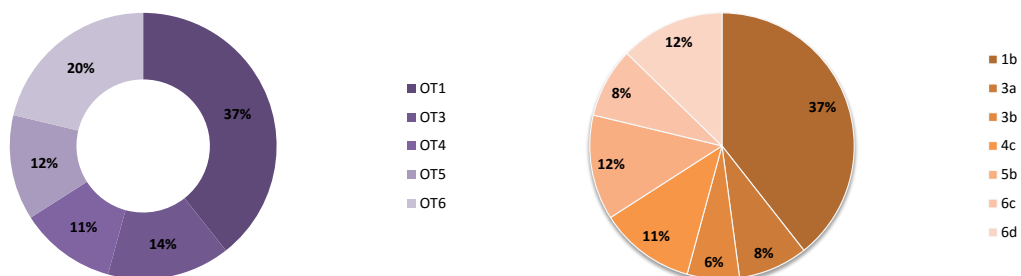
- ✓ The current socioeconomic and territorial context of the SUDOE space and its potential risks associated with the protection and highlighting of the natural heritage and the mitigation of associated risks, with the consolidation of networks and results of research of excellence and with the vulnerability of SMEs and their effects on the creation of employment.
- ✓ The possibilities for action set out by the Partnership Agreements of each of the participating States, paying special attention on common interest transnational actions with the greatest knock-on effect.

According to the above premises, the distribution of the budget between the six priority areas of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme has been agreed as follows:

- ✓ 37% for priority axis 1 –TO1 IP 1b
- ✓ 14% for priority axis 2 –TO3 IP 3a and 3b
- ✓ 11% for priority axis 3 –TO4 IP 4c
- ✓ 12% for priority axis 4 –TO5 IP 5b
- ✓ 20% for priority axis 5 –TO6 IP 6c and 6d
- ✓ 6% for the technical assistance axis

Of the ERDF 106.810.523 euro, the programme concentrates its intervention in the fields linked to innovation and environment, representing 57% of the total ERDF budget. This concentration of resources, in line with the goals established for the period 2014-2020, is consistent with the reprogramming of the 2007-2013 Programme that had already considered these fields of action as the priority for the SUDOE space for a transnational cooperation programme. In this sense, the financial commitment to these two fields is fully justified by both the lessons learned from the experience, as well as the analysis of the diagnosis made, and opportunities for intervention through the ERDF cooperation programme.

The following figures show the distribution of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme budget between the various thematic objectives and the different investment priorities:





- This financial allocation reflects the desire to concentrate resources on a knowledge and innovation economy (Axis 1 - TO1 IP 1b) strengthening the cooperation networks of the SUDOE space and enhancing research investment in priority sectors. Innovation is directly linked to the competitiveness of the territory that directly develops axis 2 (TO3 IP 3a and 3b) through interventions to improve the conditions for the development of SMEs.
- In the environmental field, developed through the IP 6c and 6d (Axis 5), investment is focused on the reinforcement of the capacities of action in promotion and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage, and the improvement of the quality of ecological habitats and endangered species, contributing to the economic development of the territory and the activities linked to the green economy in the territory.
- The promotion of the energy efficiency is targeted through the axis 3 (TO4 IP 4c) by bringing together in collaboration the leaders SUDOE in certain technologies and energy systems. Concerning the financial capacities of the Programme, the investment priority is focused on the efficiency, not taking into account energy production or distribution.
- The Programme allocates 12% of the resources, through the axis 4 (TO5 IP 5b), to the prevention of risks, given the level of vulnerability of the territory to a number of risks that are common and are frequent (fire, drought, desertification, floods). The sharing of intervention work methodologies represents an added value with respect to the individual actions of each state or region.

**Table 2: Presentation of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme**

Priority axis	ERDF support(EUR)	Proportion (%) of total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Output indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (when appropriate)	IPA (when appropriate)				
1	39,519,894	37%			01 Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector (...)	1b_1 Strengthening the Synergic and networking operation of R+i at a transnational level in the specific SUDOЕ sectors as from smart specialisation	1b_11
							1b_2 Developing dissemination of applied research related to essential facilitating technologies	1b_21
2	14,953,473	14%			03 Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	3a Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	3a_1 Developing capacities for the improvement of the environment of SMEs in the SUDOЕ space	3a_11

Priority axis	ERDF support(EUR)	Proportion (%) of total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Output indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (when appropriate)	IPA (when appropriate)				
						3b Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation	3b_1 Improvement and increasing of the possibilities for the internationalisation of SMEs	3b_11
3	11,749,158	11%			04 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4c Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector through the transnational cooperation	4c_1 Improving energy efficiency policies and the use of sources of renewable energies in public buildings and housing through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation	4c_11

Priority axis	ERDF support(EUR)	Proportion (%) of total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Output indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (when appropriate)	IPA (when appropriate)				
4	12,817,263	12%			05 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	5b Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems	5b_1 Improving the coordination and effectiveness of prevention, disasters management and rehabilitation tools of damaged areas	5b_11
5	21,362,105	20%			06 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6c Promoting protection and promotion natural and cultural common heritage in a sustainable development logic.	6c_1 Improving management methods of the common natural and cultural heritage through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation	6c_11

Priority axis	ERDF support(EUR)	Proportion (%) of total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Output indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (when appropriate)	IPA (when appropriate)				
						6d Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	6d_1 Reinforcing the cooperation of the SUDOE stakeholders of the natural sites through the development and the use of joint methods	6d_11
6	6.408.631	6%			12 Technical assistance			12_11

## SECTION 2 PRIORITY AXES

## 2.A. Descriptions of the priority axes other than technical assistance

2.A.5. Priority axis 1: promoting research, technological development, and innovation

2.A.6. Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable) (axis 1)

*Not applicable*

2.A.7. Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.8. Investment Priority 1b

*Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies*

## 2.A.9. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (IP 1b)

**Specific Objective 1b\_1: Strengthening the synergic and networking operation of R+i at a transnational level in the specific SUDOE sectors as from smart specialisation**

### **Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support**

This specific objective proposes the strengthening and maintenance of networks, partnerships, and other forms of cooperation aimed at R&D+i processes, together with going more deeply into the synergies between the actors involved in these processes and the support of public policies to encourage innovation within the SUDOE space.

This process should lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness in the activities of R+i developed to achieve a critical mass, as well as qualitative changes in the economic fabric of the SUDOE space. As a result, it seeks to promote research excellence, innovation, value-added production and smart specialization in the SUDOE space.

This objective is also that the synergistic and network functioning results, from an organizational point of view, in the creation of new collaboration models, to increase the degree of maturation of the cooperation networks of R&D+i institutions in the SUDOE space, through the improvement of links with the local and regional productive system and promoting a greater territorial impact of the actions financed in the scope of this objective. In addition, the intention is to increase the level of participation of R&D+i institutions and SMEs in research and innovation initiatives relevant at European level and contributing to the excellence in Research in the SUDOE space.

The active and efficient involvement of SMEs, which represent practically the entirety of the productive fabric of the SUDOE space, is a relevant element for the success of this specific objective. This involvement would improve the level of collaboration in activities of R&D+i activities and would contribute to a greater level of private investment in R&D+i and improved levels of the transfer of technology to the market.

This specific objective encourages the investment in R&D+i in order for a better improvement of the endogenous resources and the competitive advantages of the SUDOE space. For this reason it is suggested that networking should impact primarily on sectors within the regional strategies of smart specialisation that are identified as being relevant to the SUDOE space. In order to do so the idea is to support the regions by strengthening the connection and cooperation between different strategies of smart specialisation.



Finally, the networking should contribute to a greater rapprochement of the innovation indicators between the different regions of the SUDOE Space.

**Table 3: Programme specific results indicators (by specific objectives) (IP 1b EO1)**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1b_11	Collaboration Networks developing transnational activities of R&D+i activities of in the priority sectors of the SUDOE space	% of networks in relation to the total No. of networks established in the SUDOE space	88%	2015	To be defined after the application of survey of a representative sample of identified networks	Statistical data of R&D+i collaboration networks (clusters, competitiveness poles, etc.) at national and regional level + survey	2018, 2020, 2023

**Specific objective 1b\_2: Developing dissemination of applied research related to essential facilitating technologies**

**Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support**

This objective proposes to go more deeply into the processes of transferring technology to the market, notably applied research related to key enabling technologies (KET) by facilitating their use in the areas most relevant to the SUDOE space.

Finally, and closely related to the previous specific objective, investment in R&D+i related to the KETs of the relevant sectors will be promoted, thereby contributing to a more balanced development between regions of the SUDOE space. This involves bringing regions with a modest innovating profile closer to more innovative areas and strengthening the leading innovating regions and the knowledge and technology hubs.

**Table 4: Programme specific result indicators (by specific objective) (IP1b EO2)**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1b_21	New technologies applied in the SUDOE space	% research centres and enterprises with capacity to apply them in their activities	32%	2015	Defined after calculation of the baseline	Surveys of relevant agencies and beneficiaries	2018, 2020, 2023

## 2.A.10. Actions to be supported under the investment priority (IP 1b)

### 2.A.10.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 1b)

For guidance, the programme has identified as a priority the following sectors in the field of actions to be carried out for the period 2014-2020, without detriment to the fact that the projects may also be working in other sectors and paying special attention to projects integrating actions in favour of the eco-innovation.

- Aerospace and aviation
- Automotive industry
- Water resources (technologies for an efficient management, potential development or economic activities, smart distribution systems, quality control, irrigation systems, supply, etc.)
- Environmental services (management and risk protection and biodiversity) and energy (production technologies, distribution and storage from renewable sources), air quality and emissions control
- Tourism
- Biotechnology and health (including the biomedical and pharmaceutical industry)
- Agribusiness and timber
- Creative industries (including cultural industries)
- Textiles, clothing and footwear; industrial technologies (processes, equipment, machinery and components)
- Information technology and telecommunications (including electronics and computers)

Under **specific objective 1b\_1 on synergic and networking operation**, the following types of action are proposed:

- **The creation or consolidation of collaboration platforms**

This includes support for the creation, consolidation, or expansion of research consortiums, clusters, campuses of excellence, and poles of competitiveness. Among

other initiatives, this category includes activities such as strategic and design, the identification and selection of partners, the formalisation of platforms, the definition of results and impacts, the designing and implementation of research agendas, internationalisation plans, and strategies for seeking funds. As a guideline, an approach is proposed concentrating on key sectors that have already been mentioned, which are the result of the diagnosis of the SUDOE space or smart specialisation strategies (whether regional or national).

- **Increasing participation in European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) and European Technological Platforms (ETP)**

Support will be given to companies and other actors of the R&D+i system of the regions involved in the SUDOE space in activities encouraging their participation in European structures such as the EIP or ETP. Activities are included such as the setting in motion of the specific internationalisation agendas of these actors, attendance at European events, participation in projects, etc.

Projects will be restrictedly able to integrate mobility specific actions by the experts located in the SUDOE space (researchers, engineers, etc)

- **Coordination between the regional smart specialisation strategies**

This category will assess actions of networking and benchmarking, together with the exchanging of good practices between the working groups and groups supporting the drawing up of the smart specialisation strategies of each region (NUTS2 level) of the SUDOE space. It also includes the designing of joint action plans in order to address transnational challenges common to the regions involved.

- **Developing models for transferring technology, of innovation management, and of open innovation**

This category includes strategic and design, the implementation, consolidation, expansion, and/or internationalisation of structures such as Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP), the Société de l'Accélération de Transfer de Technologies (SATT), Company Accelerators, Business Incubators, and Living Labs, among others. It also includes projects of the coordination, grouping, and strengthening of spin-offs and start-up firms and also the experimentation and exchanging of good practices in the use of crowdsourcing models in innovation processes.

**Results expected:** With the action is the achieving of greater coordination between the R&D+i actors (*operating in a network*), based on the setting up of more flexible and competitive cooperation models (*synergic operation*) and concentrating on the selection of research agendas and the corresponding financial effort (*smart specialisation*).

**Beneficiaries:** Potential beneficiaries include the main actors of the scientific and technological system: universities, research centres, technological centres, science and technology parks, clusters, and other business associations. It also includes companies, with special emphasis given to SMEs, and governmental and regional institutions related to R&D+i, in particular smart specialisation strategies.

**Geographical range:** The action categories proposed cover the whole of the SUDOE space without any particular region being specified.

**Under specific objective 1b\_2 on the encouraging of applied research and its dissemination relating to essential facilitating technologies,** the following action categories are proposed:

- **Consolidation of value chains in the field of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs)**

Key Enabling Technologies (KET) are intensive cross-cutting technologies in capital and knowledge, associated with a high degree of research and development, which have rapid integrated innovation cycles, with high investment needs and highly qualified job applicants. The six technologies include: Nanotechnology, Micro-nanoelectronics, advanced materials, Photonics, Industrial biotechnology, advanced production systems.

This action category proposes the strengthening of value chains in different productive fields by means of the application of KETs. The whole of the chain will be affected, ranging from research, the development of products or processes, and demonstration to competitive manufacturing. In order to do so different actors from different regions of the SUDOE space will be involved; they will be supported in the internationalisation of their activities, bilateral contacts (*matchmaking*) between local R&D+i actors, the identification of synergies and/or complementary aspects between them, and the exploitation of spill-over.

- **Developing pilot actions and multi-KET demonstration projects at a transnational level**

This category aims to contribute to technological validation and demonstration and exploitation of research results in the areas defined as priority. The carrying out of pilot actions, demonstration projects, or prototyping are some examples of the initiatives to be supported. It is important to point out that “cross fertilisation” initiatives involving different KETs and their applications will be assessed.

- **Dissemination of KET technologies at a company level and other R&D+i infrastructure**

In this area the following types of action will be supported: dissemination and awareness activities, seminars on KETs and their applications and benefits; transnational projects for transferring good practices for exchanging experiences and the deployment of cooperation in the field of research and the application of KETs; and bilateral transnational or international programmes so as to encourage the marketing of KETs and their introduction onto the market.

- **Application of innovation in order to improve environmental protection**

This category includes applied research activities, the carrying out of pilot activities, and experimenting with new products, environmental services (management and risk and biodiversity protection, and solutions with the aim of strengthening environmental protection in the SUDOE space. The initiatives set in motion as part of this category will include fields such as water resources (technologies for efficient management, developing the potential for saving, smart distribution systems, quality monitoring, irrigation or supply systems, etc.), solid urban waste (technologies for controlling pollution, exploitation for energy purposes, etc.) and soils (systems for monitoring and controlling nutrients, risk prediction, etc.) and the eco-innovation.

**Results expected:** This specific objective will operate as a complement to that of Horizon 2020, promoting a sectoral and territorial approach (related to KETs and their application to relevant sectors for the SUDOE space) and affecting the advanced nodes of technological development (such as the demonstration of products or competitive manufacturing – action categories 2 and 4). Likewise, it is noteworthy for the development of networks and collaboration structures between R&D+i actors around KETs (action categories 1 and 3), which can subsequently seek financing under the calls of Horizon 2020.

**Beneficiaries:** These categories are aimed at all transnational R&D+i actors and are particularly applicable to those with greater potential for contributing to the integration of value chains and to the generating of complementary aspects and synergies at a transnational level (enterprises, especially SMEs, as well as clusters, networks, or research consortiums).

**Geographical range:** The action categories proposed cover the whole of the SUDOE space without any particular region being specified.

#### 2.A.10.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 1b).

In the case of investment priority 1b, the guidelines proposed for the selection of operations relate to that expounded in each specific objective and include:

- 1. Diversity of type of regions involved:** Priority will be given to projects carried out by partnerships and consortiums making up a set of different actors belonging to regions with a different level of technological development (reflected through its indicators).
- 2. Selectivity of the investment:** Operations concentrating on previously identified sectors of activity that are relevant to the SUDOE space will be considered to have priority.
- 3. Added value at a regional, transnational, and European level:** The operations must demonstrate the impact of the activities and their results must be obtained within the regions involved. Moreover, the progress achieved must contribute to the scope of the goals of the 2020 Europe strategy and to the challenges and objectives of the emblematic initiative that is the Union of Innovation.

#### 2.A.10.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 1b)

*Not Applicable*

#### 2.A.10.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 1b)

*Not Applicable*

#### 2.A.10.5. Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 1b)

**Table 5: Common and programme specific output indicators (IP 1b)**

## 2.A.11. Performance framework (axis 1)

Identification	Indicator (name of the indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO41	Number of companies participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	No. of companies	300	Progress reports on the projects	Annual
CO42	Number of research centres taking part in cross-border, transnational and interregional research projects	No. of research centres	300	Progress reports on the projects	Annual

**Table 6 - Performance framework of the priority axis (axis 1)**

Priority Axis	Indicator type	Identification	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Axis 1	Financial	OI_11	Certified expenses of Axis 1	EUR	6,323,183	52,693,191	Monitoring software application	
Axis 1	Output	CO41	Number of companies participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	No. of companies	99	300	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation
Axis 1	Output	CO42	Number of research centres taking part in cross-border, transnational and interregional research projects	No. of research centres	99	300	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation



## 2.A.12. Categories of intervention

<b>Table 7: Dimension 1. Intervention field (axis 1)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 1	060 R&D activities in public centres and competence centres, including networking	23,391,504
Priority Axis 1	061 research and innovation activities in private centres, including networking	4,272,421
Priority Axis 1	062 Technology transfer and university-business cooperation, especially for the benefit of SMEs	11,855,968

<b>Table 8: Dimension 2. Form of finance (axis 1)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 1	01 Non-repayable grant	39,519,894

<b>Table 9: Dimension 3. Territory type (axis 1)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 1	07 Not Applicable	39,519,894

<b>Table 10: Dimension 6. Territorial delivery mechanisms (axis 1)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>

Priority Axis 1	07 Not Applicable	39,519,894
-----------------	-------------------	------------

2.A.13. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 1)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.1. Priority axis 2: promoting the competitiveness and internationalization of the SMEs of Southwest Europe

2.A.2. Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable) (axis 2)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.3. Fund and calculation basis for Union support (axis 2)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.4. Investment Priority 3a (IP 3a)

*Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators*

2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (IP 3a)

**Specific Objective 3a\_1: Developing capacities for the improvement of the environment of SMEs in the SUDOE space**

**Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support**

SMEs represent the vast majority of the business fabric of the SUDOE space and are also one of the most important sources of employment. However, they are also more vulnerable to the effects of the economic crisis that is affecting most of the regions of

the SUDOE space. In this general companies of this size are facing different challenges that make it more difficult for them to be competitive in a context of reduced investment and consumption, such as that deriving from limited access to credit, a low innovation capacity, and difficulties in seeking foreign markets, among others.

This specific objective proposes to promote the creation of capacities and the search for more efficient and more effective transnational solutions in order to support SMEs for their specific needs, designing actions to help to strengthen sustainability (both financial and non-financial) within the SUDOE space.

This developing of capacities essentially involves working with the institutions and services that support business development. This means firstly facilitating the creation of a favourable atmosphere for the exploitation, development, and consolidation of new business ideas. In this context what is proposed is the strengthening and articulating of services and institutions for supporting SMEs so that they can give more efficient, coordinated, close, and innovative responses to face the reality and the challenges of SMEs in the SUDOE territory. In order to do so, the first two action types proposed in this specific objective are included, i.e. the perfecting of support institutions and the developing of new and innovative services to support business development.

In the same way, this development of capacities also implies creating conditions that help to promote business development in its strict sense by means of the exploitation of business ideas in strategic sectors that are relevant to the economy of the SUDOE space and that contribute towards greater integration in value chains at a transnational level. In order to achieve this challenge, the objective of this third action type is the promotion of entrepreneurship in proposed key sectors in the SUDOE space in this specific objective.

Finally, this development of capacities also implies concentrating on the resolving of specific problems that SMEs must face in their process of business development, such as the search for and access to financing. In this field the transnational dimension allows the development of joint initiatives and the addressing of these aspects in a coordinated manner, together with the dissemination of information and the rapprochement of SMEs and investors. These activities are part of the fourth action category proposed for this specific objective.

**Table 11: Programme specific result indicators (by specific objectives) (IP 3a)**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3a_11	Development of the entrepreneurial environment in the SUDOE space	% of regions which have improved	100	2015	To be defined after definition of the baseline	Surveys to regional administration services in charge	2018, 2020, 2023

## 2.A.6. Actions to be supported under the investment priority (IP 3a)

2.A.6.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 3a)

- **Strengthening business support institutions**

The objective of this type is to promote excellence in the action and management of the business support institutions of the SUDOE space, such as business incubators, business accelerators, technological parks, traders' associations, industrial associations, offices supporting entrepreneurs, etc., giving them a greater response capacity to the demands and needs of SMEs.

In this field it will be possible to encourage support for initiatives to improve operation and internal processes, such as the certification of business support institutions, staff qualification initiatives, live-in and training programmes for managers of these institutions, or benchmarking initiatives together with the incorporating of experiences supporting the institutional strength of these organisations.

- **The development of new and innovating services to support business development**

This type of action concentrates on the services provided by the support institutions for business development (and not on the institutions as such, which will be directly benefited by type 1).

It aims to encourage innovation applied to the services supporting business development, creating new services or perfecting/consolidating services that already exist in such a way that the support for SMEs is more effective and more efficient.

In this field initiatives are suggested such as the development of technological surveillance services (the identification and dissemination of information and opportunities related to R&D+i, technological development and ICTs, etc.), the creation of regional networks to support enterprise under a logic of proximity services, the development of business accelerators, or the exchanging of good business support practices on a transnational level or the actions linked to the simplification of trade (products regulations, electronic brochures, agreements and procurement, electronic procurement, service to the client, process control methods, commercial procedures, wrapping, labelling, stocks, transport, definition, monitoring, etc.

- **Promoting enterprise in key sectors**

This type aims to give more direct support to the launching of new business ideas in relevant sectors for the SUDOE space, including services and technical specialised support for newly created companies in these sectors.

This typology includes the most relevant sectors in the SUDOE space, in particular those identified within the logic of smart specialisation and the promotion of KETs which were previously mentioned in priority access 1.

Within the field of this action category initiatives are proposed such as advice for new start-up firms and spin-offs, the drawing up and implementing of common plans (business, investment, and marketing), strategic planning, and coaching and mentoring.

- **Support for finance information activities**

This type encourages the carrying out of actions to make it easier for SMEs to become familiar with and to access the financial instruments available, both within the framework of the European Union (such as the COSME programmes and the *SME Instrument* of *Horizon2020*) and also in the same way in each of the countries and regions that are members of the SUDOE space.

**Expected results:** The implementation of this specific objective will help on the one hand to make it easier for SMEs to access existing services to support business development

in the SUDOE space, and on the other hand to refine these same services (i.e. to improve their capacity to attend demands from SMEs in an effective and efficient manner).

Likewise, this specific objective can help to improve the resilience capacity of SMEs and therefore to strengthen their response strategies and mechanisms with a view to future economic crises.

The actions developed will have to demonstrate their degree of coordination with national and regional policies, their complementarity and added value.

**Beneficiaries:** In particular public and private institutions supporting the creation and expansion of companies, such as business incubators and accelerators, business parks, technological parks, etc.; banks and other public or private institutions with the capacity to provide finance; and sectorial representation structures such as industrial associations and business associations.

**Geographical range:** The action types cover the whole of the SUDOE space without any particular region being specified.

#### 2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 3a)

- **Geographical range:** This investment priority does not contemplate specific territorial approaches aimed at regions in the SUDOE space.
- **Sectoral priority:** Priority will be given to projects related to relevant sectors within the SUDOE space and those intensive in knowledge and technological application, and/or those considered a priority in the field of the smart specialisation strategies of the regions involved.
- **Impact on the territory:** Priority will be given to projects favouring the making use of the endogenous resources of the territories involved.

#### 2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 3a)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 3a)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.6.5. Output indicators (by priority of investment) (IP 3a)

**Table 12: Common and programme specific output indicators (IP 3a)**

Identification	Indicator (name of the indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI_22	Business development systems created or supported by the SUDOE	No. of services	33	Progress reports on the projects	Annual
CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	No. of enterprises	1,100	Progress reports on the projects	Annual
CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	No. of enterprises	1,100	Progress reports on the projects	Annual

2.A.4. Investment priority 3b (IP 3b)

***Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation***

2.A.5. Specific objects corresponding to the investment priority and results expected (IP 3b).

**Specific Objective 3b\_1: Improving and increasing the internationalisation of SMEs**

**Results that the Member States seek to achieve with the Union support**



In general the SMEs of the SUDOE space concentrate their strategic priorities on their respective home markets (regional or national). However, despite their special vulnerability, the current context of the economic crisis means that a necessary strategy in order to survive is that of expanding to foreign markets.

In order to do so, SMEs encounter numerous and important difficulties to access and consolidate their position in international markets owing to their own limitations, which include in particular those of a financial nature or pertaining to human resources or from a lack of knowledge of the markets or of the support instruments available. These limitations are aggravated by the crisis situation and by the complexity of the procedures associated with internationalisation.

This objective to support the internationalisation of SMEs requires the creation of conditions that contribute to the achieving of this goal by means of the development of new approaches, instruments, and strategies that facilitate access to and the consolidation of the position of SMEs in foreign markets.

The action types proposed take these challenges into account and intervene in various phases of the internationalisation process.

By action types the first stresses the creation and consolidation of networks and support services for internationalisation, notably encouraging cooperation between SMEs.

The second type stresses support services related to international promotion, in particular the development and internationalisation of business cooperation models.

The approach of this specific objective is that of relevant sectors within the SUDOE space related to KETs and priority sectors identified by means of smart specialisation strategies with a high potential growth in their internationalization process.

**Table 13: Indicators of specific results of the programme (by specific objectives) (IP 3b)**

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3b_11	Improvement of the conditions for the internationalisation of the SME in the SUDOE space	% of regions which have improved	100	2015	To be defined after calculation of the baseline	Surveys to regional administration services in charge	2018, 2020, 2023

## 2.A.6. Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 3b)

2.A.6.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 3b).

- **Creation and consolidation of internationalisation support services and networks**

The operations to be financed must encourage/facilitate the international promotion of the SMEs of the SUDOE as an essential premise for generating business and for a consolidated and sustainable international presence. This is expected to have a special impact on cooperation between SMEs as a support mechanism.

This type includes actions such as the development/consolidation/expansion of associations of companies, joint international marketing operations, the dissemination of market information, and marketplace and market intelligence initiatives, among others.

- **Support for the development and internationalisation of inter-business cooperation models**

The approach of this type is the promotion of the development and internationalisation of cooperation models between companies with the objective of encouraging more efficient support for international markets, generating new business opportunities for companies and strengthening their value chains in relevant sectors at a transnational level.

The operations to be financed may affect various phases of the evolution of initiatives of cooperation between companies, from their incorporation to their internationalisation and including for instance their consolidation, expansion, and certification.

Among other initiatives that can be grouped in this field the following stand out: the consolidation/expansion such as the actions linked to the simplification of trade (international regulations for products, international selling brochures, electronic

procurement, international procurement as well as import-export procedures and transport).

Among other initiatives that can be grouped in this field the following stand out: the creation/consolidation/expansion of thematic networks or of networks of excellence, the involvement of companies of the SUDOE space in these networks, initiatives of mediation and connection brokerage and networking initiatives, and capacity building.

**Results expected:** The implementation of this specific objective will contribute on the one hand to make the support and consolidation of the SMEs of the SUDOE space on international markets more efficient (i.e. so as to produce relevant results that last over time) and on the other to generate more suitable models (based on cooperation between companies with the support of institutions and services that are better prepared for this challenge). The developed actions will have to demonstrate their degree of coordination with the national and regional policies, their complementarity and their added value.

**Beneficiaries:** Institutions supporting internationalisation such as chambers of commerce, international business centres, business and commercial associations, public institutions, incubators of exporting companies, and clusters, among others.

**Geographical range:** The action types proposed cover the whole of the SUDOE space without any particular region being specified.

#### 2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 3b)

For investment priority 3b the guidelines for the selection of operations include:

- 1. Market diversification:** operations that propose to work on new markets for the companies involved will be given priority, together with those designed to consolidate markets by means of initiatives considering this phase in the internationalisation process.
- 2. Strategic sectors:** priority will be given to operations relating to sectors identified as relevant within the SUDOE space and related to KETs or sectors identified as having priority under the smart specialisation strategies of the regions of the SUDOE space, without detriment to the possibility of approving operations in other sectors.
- 3. Exporting knowledge-intensive goods or services:** priority will be given to operations related to the exporting of knowledge-intensive goods or services with a

high potential for technological development and innovation, and which may give added value to the trading and export volume of the companies involved.

### 2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 3b)

*Not Applicable*

### 2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 3b)

*Not Applicable*

### 2.A.6.5. Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 3b)

**Table 14: Common and programme specific output indicators (IP 3b)**

Identification	Indicator (name of the indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI_23	Internationalisation services created or supported by the SUDOE	No. of services	22	Progress reports on the projects	Annual
CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	No. of enterprises	1,100	Progress reports on the projects	Annual
CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	No. of enterprises	1,100	Progress reports on the projects	Annual

### 2.A.7. Performance framework (axis 2)

**Table 15 - Performance framework of the priority axis (axis 2)**

Priority Axis	Indicator type	Identification	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Axis 2	Financial	OI_21	Certified expenses of Axis 2	EUR	1,827,903	19,937,964	Monitoring software application	
Axis 2	Output	OI_22	Business development services created or supported by SUDOE	No. of services	9	33	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation
Axis 2	Output	OI_23	Internationalization Services created or supported by SUDOE	No. of services	6	22	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation

## 2.A.8. Intervention categories (axis 2)

Priority Axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority Axis 2	063 Support frameworks and enterprise networks, especially for the benefit of SMEs	2,841,159
Priority Axis 2	066 Advanced support services to SMEs and SME groupings (including support for start-ups and spin-offs)	6,056,157
Priority Axis 2	067 Business Development of SMEs, support for entrepreneurship and incubation (including support for start-ups and spin-offs)	6,056,157

Adopted version  
18/06/2015

<b>Table 17: Dimension 2. Form of finance (axis 2)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 2	01 Non-repayable grant	14,953,473

<b>Table 18: Dimension 3. Territory type (axis 2)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 2	07 Not Applicable	14,953,473

<b>Table 19: Dimension 6. Mechanisms of territorial application (axis 2)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 2	07 Not Applicable	14,953,473

2.A.9. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 2)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.1. PRIORITY AXIS 3: CONTRIBUTING TO A HIGHER EFFICIENCY OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

2.A.2. Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (axis 3)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.3. Fund and calculation basis for the Union support

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.4. Investment priority 4c (IP 4c)

***Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector***

2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and the results expected (IP 4c)

**Specific Objective 4c\_1: Improving energy efficiency policies and the use of renewable energy sources in public buildings and housing through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation**

**Results that the Member States seek to achieve with the Union support**

The strategy of the SUDOE programme on energy consists of helping by means of transnational cooperation to improve national and regional devices that tend to reduce the energy bill, the improvement of energy efficiency and that fight against greenhouse gas emissions, making use of the green economy potential. This specific objective concentrates on improving energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in public buildings and in housing. In this domain, the Programme propose to encourage a stronger capitalization of initiatives and resources among the stakeholders of the territory, the sharing of knowledge and practices, and the dissemination to local political people in charge in order to strengthen the efficiency of national and regional strategies and encourage the sharing of innovative methods.

Energy efficiency, especially in construction, is the first axis of action in the process of change towards a low-carbon economy. The construction sector represents almost half of the energy consumed and is equally the origin of almost a third of greenhouse gas emissions. A considerable amount of energy is saved by the restoration of buildings and homes that need improvement thanks to the capacities of managers of housing pools or from the administrations in cooperation with the sector stakeholders (laboratories and research centres, industries, building companies), as well as the improvement of observation and knowledge of the consumption and uses.

The second action axis concentrates on the use of local renewable energy in public buildings and in housing pools whenever this is possible. The diagnosis indicates that the SUDOE is in a good position to use renewable energy (wind, solar, or biomass energy), which despite the variable level of development between the regions, or from one source of energy or another, could help to meet the increased demand for energy. It is therefore necessary to raise the awareness of actors with different levels of responsibility of the need to make use of renewable energy sources, and also to assess the viability of energy distribution strategies to include local sources of renewable energy.

For these two action lines, technical knowledge will be shared as well as the technical competences of the local stakeholders, in order to identify and networking some strategies with a level of innovation and transferability making possible a high improvement in national and regional strategies. The participation of key stakeholders will be promoted as well as the application of actions of relevant scale in the sector, to achieve this objective.

The expected results from transnational cooperation on energy efficiency and renewable energy must allow the contributing of novel solutions to increase the use of renewable energy, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to achieve the highly efficient energy consumption of public buildings and housing. These solutions could be



better financed through regional programmes, owing to which one of the expected results of this investment priority will be the strengthening of the strategies drawn up for the ERDF regional programmes. Moreover, the programme will target public actors who are major planners in the housing sector. In this sense its operations will serve as an example of good practices and can catalyse ways of setting these measures in motion in the private sector.

**Table 20: Indicators of specific results of the programme (by specific objectives) (IP 4c)**

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4c_11	Percentage of actors in the energy efficiency sector involved in transnational cooperation projects	%	19%	2015	To be defined in the survey of 2015	Surveys to relevant agencies	2018, 2020, 2023

## 2.A.6. Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 4c)

2.A.6.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 4c).

The actions arising under this specific objective are aligned with the results expected for this investment priority and are divided into 6 main functional types:

- **Stimulating the transferring of innovation and its assessment and application.**

It is a case of encouraging cooperation between the key actors in the sector (innovation centres and specialised clusters, public managers, and companies) and in the transferring of technologies and their application, together with the assessment of research and innovation in the field of energy efficiency. In order to do so, whenever possible the use of renewable energy in public buildings and the housing sector will be promoted.

The diagnosis identifies the need to stimulate technology and the transfer of knowledge concerning low-carbon emissions in sectors with high energy consumption and in particular in sustainable construction. Likewise it reminds us of the need to create a critical mass for setting in motion low-carbon technologies so as to contribute to the European Union 2020 sustainable growth objectives.

The importance of innovation must be stressed as a priority to public bodies and those administering housing pools (offices for managing the latter, for example) and also to companies from various professional sectors (construction, town planning, architecture, energy...). These groups are at the extreme end of the innovation cycle and in many cases represent operations that are highly experimental.

The programme will promote actions on a transnational scale of application and which place on the market solutions arising from R&D+i in collaboration on energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, eco-construction, and any other sector devoted to improving the efficiency of energy consumption in construction and its ecological footprint. In order to do so the participation of SMEs will be stimulated and networks and initiatives will be set up to promote the grouping of companies.

By way of an example the dissemination of results of research, studies, and collaborations designed to set innovation in motion within the framework of energy efficiency in buildings are noteworthy as they favour the development of territorial energy actions and adapted to the environment in specific areas. These action will have to show a high capability of transferability.

The actions will be designed to the dissemination of new energy solutions with an integrated approach, including the stimulation of capitalisation and cooperation between the regional programmes, Horizon 2020, Cooperation, and ERDF programmes eligible in the SUDOE area. Training and qualification will also be promoted, particularly that of professionals (creative workers, architecture, town planners, fitters, students) of the energy sector and of that of construction, restoration, and maintenance.

- **Promoting the modification of the behaviour of decision-makers, economic actors, and the general public.**

It is proposed to develop information and awareness actions aimed at reducing and making more efficient energy consumption in public buildings involving a large number of different actors (national authorities, associations, promoters, companies, inhabitants). The SUDOE space is characterized by common climatic difficulties, and construction patterns and heterogeneous uses in the regions. Sharing these practices through transnational cooperation may provide a real added value to improve the awareness about the energy efficiency and the implemented practices.

The programme will promote action in common with the aim of involving in particular the following agents:

- National authorities responsible for drawing up common regulations and/or investment or energy restoration programmes for public buildings so as to increase their energy efficiency.
- Administrations and public bodies that promote housing development and construction and which have the capacity to give the specifications a more ecological touch and reduce their energy bill for construction and restoration modes.
- Developers and companies taking part in the construction, restoration, and insulation of buildings and in those domains where qualification and experience contribute with a high added value to improve the effectiveness of the investments.
- Owners and tenants of buildings and homes, in collaboration with others actors of this sector, to the extent that they significantly influence decision making for a reduction of energy consumption; therefore, it is considers necessary to do awareness campaigns aimed at these actors.

- **Observation and analysis tools.**

It is necessary to promote the observation and analysis of the impact of the solutions, strategies, and behaviour that aim to favour the capitalisation of these experiences within the SUDOE space and to improve the harmonisation of the interventions. In particular, the task of raising the awareness of the population or of the decision-makers will require tools of observation capable of measure the expenses of the different sources of consumption (heating, hot water). These elements will serve as an incentive to better adapt the technologies applied to the needs of the inhabitants. In order to do so, projects such as transnational observatories favour the comparison of consumers, their behaviour, management methods, the technologies used, the energy saved, etc.

- **Support for energy saving projects in public buildings and homes.**

The programme aims to support collaboration between public actors and local and national authorities in order to promote greater energy efficiency for public buildings (construction or renovation of quality of LCB type (Low Consumption Buildings), street lighting, improved heating and ventilation, the monitoring of energy consumption, studies and diagnosis) as well as the improving of the efficiency of computer systems and their regulations. The objective of the joint operations will be aimed at estimating the use of local resources from the SUDOE space to favour the consumption of biomaterials and products deriving from recycling for the construction/restoration or insulation.

Adopted version  
18/06/2015

The programme will promote actions of accompaniment both concerning strategic planning and management and the setting up of accompaniment operations for lessors and tenants (in terms of uses, the modification of behaviour, etc.). In particular the programme will be able to support initiatives for improving energy efficiency established within the framework of integrated urban projects but exchanging working methodologies, dissemination and knowledge improvement, training of local stakeholders and awareness of public concerned, etc.

In this field, the regions of the SUDOE space develop investment programmes, in particular in urban areas. In order to do so cooperation must improve the coordination of regional strategies and the efficiency of the investments programmed in other settings and in particular by means of the regional ERDF programmes through the exchanging of knowledge, the capitalisation of experiences, common experimentation, and the carrying out of pilot tests with a demonstrational effect.

Moreover, the solutions developed and shared in the cooperation framework must be set in motion within the framework of the regional ERDF programmes, especially by means of integrated urban strategies supported by these programmes.

By way of example the following proposals stand out:

- The carrying out of pilot renovation actions that allow the demonstration of the viability of the application of innovations in the field of energy efficiency in buildings and also in structuring (strategic) projects such as those of transnational observatories. This type of action must include specific criteria such as a limited number of operations (depending on the technical specifications), a minimum number of regions involved, and the presence of key actors. The projects developed must have a strong demonstrational capacity and a significant interest at a transnational level in such a way that the results can be transferred to other areas of the SUDOE space and to other cooperation spaces demonstrating the strong added value that is provided by cooperation. The investments or tasks must be promoted within the framework of pilot actions.
- Actions that aim to improve knowledge of the needs of renovation/adaptation, management training, and also the starting up of operations and planning. In certain aspects the projects may develop (by means of exchanges) actions of identification and capitalisation, practices, and studies, the interest of which is not merely local or regional. These activities will be used to support the definition of the setting up of global strategies for the reduction of energy consumption.
- Common actions for strengthening capacities and pooling and creating networks of skills, together with transnational platforms of strategic support aimed at research into operative solutions. These activities will be carried out with the aim of accompanying the public authorities in their projects and actions of the management of restoration and energy optimisation.

- The creation of joint/shared tools for the observation of energy consumption, the assessment of the energy saving from restoration operations, the mobilisation of the population, or actions allowing the reduction of energy expenses, for example by using ICTs.
- **Actions in favour of the improved use of renewable energy sources in buildings and housing**  
The programme will support initiatives promoting or increasing the use of renewable energy sources in buildings. Cooperation must allow the drawing up and socialization of sustainable management plans or of practical solutions for the constant availability of local renewable energy sources. Moreover, it will promote experimentation on the viability of energy distribution strategies integrating local renewable energy sources, especially by means of the transfer, dissemination, and capitalisation of results.

**Results expected:** Improving the efficiency of national and regional policies about renovation and thermal restoration plans and of the use of renewable energy in public buildings and housing, which in turn lead to greater efficiency in energy consumption.

**Beneficiaries:**

- Public bodies: national, regional, or local authorities and their groupings including the transnational scale; public establishments and bodies managing pools of social housing (HLM offices for example), energy and environmental services; environmental agencies; universities, research institutions, and technological centres.
- Economic operators and companies: specialists from various professional sectors (construction, town planning, architecture, energy...), consular chambers, professional associations, and certification and control bodies.
- Clusters and poles of competitiveness specialising in energy and ICTs applied to building, eco-construction, ecological engineering, etc.

**Geographical range:** No specific territorial approach for the application of these types is proposed. A strong participation of actors from metropolitan areas and those of urban renovation is recommended.

#### 2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 4c)

For investment priority 4c the guidelines proposed for the selection of operations are in line with that proposed in each specific objective and include:

1. The innovations, research, and technologies set in motion at a local level must be in keeping with national innovation strategies and smart specialisation strategies.
2. Priority will be given to any action designed to promote energy efficiency in public infrastructures and in housing, in particular qualitative aspects of innovative solutions for owners and managers of public buildings. Likewise, those operations contained in the framework of integrated urban projects including those relating to the urban axis of the regional OPs will also be given priority, with the aim of improving their efficiency, creating synergies, and facilitating the capitalisation of results between programmes.
3. The participation of companies (SMEs) will be promoted together with that of their groupings and public or private managers of social housing pools, or those located in quarters given priority by national policies of social cohesion.

#### 2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (axis 3)

*Not Applicable*

#### 2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (axis 3)

*Not Applicable*

#### 2.A.6.5. Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 4c)

**Table 21: Common and programme specific output indicators (IP 4c)**

Identification	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI_32	Number of pilot actions developed for improving the energy efficiency of buildings	No.	12	Progress reports on the projects	Annual
OI_33	Number of tools and services developed for the improvement of the energy efficiency in buildings	No.	20	Progress reports on the projects	Annual

## 2.A.7. Performance framework (axis 3)

**Table 22 - Performance framework of the priority axis (axis 3)**

Priority Axis	Indicator type	Identification	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Axis 3	Financial	OI_31	Certified expenses of Axis 3	EUR	1,879,865	15,665,543	Monitoring software application	
Axis 3	Output	OI_32	Number of pilot actions developed for improving the energy efficiency of buildings	No.	30	85	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation
Axis 3	Output	OI_33	Number of tools and services developed for the improvement of the energy efficiency in buildings	No.	4	20	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation

## 2.A.8. Categories of intervention (axis 3)

<b>Table 23: Dimension 1. Intervention field (axis 3)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 3	013 Renewal of the energy efficiency of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and support measures	5,874,579
Priority Axis 3	014 Renewal of the energy efficiency of existing buildings, demonstration projects and support measures	5,874,579

<b>Table 24: Dimension 2. Form of finance (axis 3)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 3	01 Non-repayable grant	11,749,158

<b>Table 25: Dimension 3. Territory type (axis 3)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 3	07 Not Applicable	11,749,158

<b>Table 26: Dimension 6. Mechanisms of territorial application (axis 3)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 3	07 Not Applicable	11,749,158



2.A.9. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 3)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.1. PRIORITY AXIS 4: PREVENT AND MANAGE RISKS MORE EFFICIENTLY

2.A.2. Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where appropriate) (axis 4)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.3. Fund and calculation basis for the Union support (axis 4)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.4. Investment priority 5b (IP 5b)

**Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems**

2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and the results expected (IP 5b)

**Specific Objective 5b\_1: Improving the coordination and effectiveness of prevention, disasters management and rehabilitation tools of damaged areas**

**Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support**

This specific objective concentrates on supporting operations on risk prevention and emergency action in the event of catastrophes that must be implemented by the territorial actors, in the stages of prevention, management and performance.

The objective aims at improving the efficiency of methods and tools for management by the local stakeholders through a more important capitalization and the dissemination of the technological or organizational innovations at a significant territorial scale.

The impact of natural risks tends to have consequence that go beyond geographical-administrative limits. In the European southwest these common natural risks are linked specially to climate and they are worse with the climate change: drought, desertification, soil erosion, forest fires, floods or cyclical submersions.

Technological risks also represent a growing threat. For this variable the objective consists of supporting the development of management tools for technological risks and inform and aware about the nature of these risks. It also consists of detecting and reducing, future and present risks with a higher impact on the territory in order to minimise or neutralize the negative effects of these risks.

The development of the actions described in a cooperative environment makes it possible to improve the knowledge, the development of protocols for working together, transfer of good practices and joint problem solving. Attention will also be given to the development of joint action plans in the event of natural disasters, such as emergency plans, which have an impact on a significant part of the SUDOE territory requiring interventions of transnational co-ordination.

Consequently, this specific objective affects the development of new tools which are more advanced and accurate than existing ones in order to provide a more accurate foresight and faster common responses to crisis situations and substantial response relying on the substantial added value of cooperation, including civil protection.

The idea is also to invigorate the business sector, in particular that of SMEs, by the generating of new opportunities deriving from the need for new management of ecosystems, water management, the application of new innovative material, management of the supply chains.

**Table 27: Programme specific result indicators (by specific objective) (IP 5b)**

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
5b_11	Percentage of territory covered by transnational risk prevention and	%	52%	2015	Increase of expected results according to the	Surveys to national and regional risk prevention agencies, civil	2018, 2020, 2023

Adopted version  
18/06/2015

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
	management tools				survey of 2015	protection services	

## 2.A.6. Actions to be financed within the framework of investment priority (IP 5b)

2.A.6.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 5b)

The type of actions that can be carried out are the followings:

- **Emergency plans**

Common experimentation actions, capitalization actions and dissemination of methods and results in emergency plans before the natural risks shared by the member States: drought, floods, forest fires, pollution.

- **Early warning systems**

Early warning systems allow progress in the implementation of safety devices against the threat of natural disasters such as floods, periods of drought or continuous rain, periods of intense heat, or on the contrary periods of intense cold.

Prediction systems are extremely useful for this purpose and are the first of the examples of possible action to be carried out. Warning systems for flooding and strong winds or storms; those measuring the degradation of soil layers; and those measuring the pollution of groundwater and surface water and their amount and availability are crucial in order to maintain the quality of life of the population.

Actions will be incorporated that affect the capitalization of successful experiences related to techniques and methodologies to train and communicate in crisis situations.

These models must provide a significant improvement in the capacity of public bodies and the citizens to respond to natural and technological risks.

Other examples of warning systems are those of the analysis of meteorological behaviour and phenomena that allow major climatic threats to be anticipated earlier and earlier, which means that the effects of these catastrophes can be prevented or at least reduced.

- **Development of transnational risk management tools**

Risk management tools include a series of varied elements that allow the obtaining of efficient forecast and prevention systems when associated. Risk is an element that can be quantified and therefore needs forecasting and monitoring in order to propose suitable solutions adapted to each case, both in the field of natural risks and in that of technological risks.

The development of more advanced systems such as geographical information systems (GIS). These elements, even if they are not strictly a prevention tool, are very useful for the development and the improvement of emergency plans and action on the spot.

Optimisation tools and tools for pooling the techniques and methodologies of the emergency plans together with early warning devices must have detailed knowledge of the terrain and in general as much information as possible so as to be able to act promptly and efficiently. A good example is that of forest fires in which knowledge of the terrain is essential when establishing the intervention strategy. Likewise, knowledge of the current and former courses of rivers, especially in mountain areas, is essential in the prevention of possible floods owing to sporadic rises of the water level and the avoiding of settlements in very dangerous areas.

Transnational partnerships developing at a significant scale and if possible in an integrated way actions and tools helping to make decisions over cartography in vulnerable areas will be supported; geographic information systems (with a number of available data justifying); conceptualisation and design of methods and ways of work and common intervention; definition and prevision of the risks; detection of risks in hydrographical subjects; evaluation of the sanitary, environmental, economic and social consequences; prevention, alarm and management of risks linked to transport systems and logistic systems.

- **Tools and methodologies for the regeneration of soil damaged by natural disasters**

In the SUDOE space soils are potentially affected by the consequences of natural disasters such as the loss of the most fertile layers due to floods or erosion and also as a result of poor soil management deriving from subsequent intervention in the face of these natural disasters. Capitalization, common experimentation and dissemination of tools and methods in a transnational frame will allow to improve the treatment of the affected soils.

**Results expected:** qualitative improvement of regional and national policies in prevention plans and catastrophes management, as well as early detection tools, to develop in a more integrated and homogeneous response before catastrophes.

**Beneficiaries:**

- Public bodies: national, regional, and local authorities; development agencies; environmental services; units specialising in risk management; town and territorial planning units; environmental agencies; meteorological institutes and similar bodies; nature reserves (regional, national); and civil defence authorities.
- Business associations or companies specialising in territorial diagnosis; impact analysis; territorial assessments; analysis of damage, etc.; associations or clusters specialising in the sectors most affected by the main natural or technological risks; and research institutions.

**Geographical range:** No specific territorial approach is proposed

## 2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 5b)

For investment priority 5b the guidelines proposed for the selection of operations are the following:

1. Natural spaces, urban and rural areas: priority is given to prevention actions for natural protected areas and urban and rural spaces with a high degree of natural and population sensitivity that comply with common risk management criteria and similar interventions in the States.
2. Risks going beyond a regional or national impact: priority will be given to actions that go beyond a mere regional or national impact in which without cooperation it is not possible to intervene concerning the risk in an efficient and effective manner. In

other words priority will be given to projects on risks with external effects that extend well beyond the frontier and require joint intervention measures to guarantee their success.

3. Priority will be given to interventions addressing basic inter-sectoral and trans-regional problems.
4. Projects showing a high capacity of demonstration and transferability to other areas of the SUDOIE space and other cooperation spaces will be encouraged.
5. Actions involving the civil population and citizen participation both from the point of view of planning and risk detection and also in aspects of natural and technological catastrophes together with apprenticeship and preventive training.

2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (axis4)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (axis 4)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.6.5. Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 5b)

**Table 28: Common and programme specific output indicators (IP 5b)**

Identification	Indicator (name of the indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI_42	Population benefitting from transnational measures of protection against natural risks	No. of people	13,500,000	Progress reports on the projects	Annual
OI_43	Number of strategies or transnational action plans developed for risk prevention and management	No. of strategies	12	Progress reports on the projects	Annual

## 2.A.7. Performance framework (axis 4)

**Table 29 - Performance framework of the priority axis (axis 4)**

Priority Axis	Indicator type	Identification	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Axis 4	Financial	OI_41	Certified expenses of Axis 4	EUR	2,050,762	17,089,684	Monitoring software application	
Axis 4	Output	OI_42	Population that benefits from the measures of protection against natural risks	No. of persons	3,378,708	13,500,000	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation
Axis 4	Output	OI_43	Number of strategies or transnational action plans developed for risk prevention and management	No. of strategies	3	12	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation

## 2.A.8. Categories of intervention (axis 4)

**Table 30: Dimension 1. Intervention field (axis 4)**



Priority Axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority Axis 4	087 Measures to adapt to climate change and prevention and management of climate-related risks, such as erosion, fires, floods, storms and droughts, including awareness raising, civil protection and infrastructure systems	9,612,947
Priority Axis 4	088 Prevention and management of natural disasters unrelated to climate (such as earthquakes) and risks related to human activities (such as technological accidents) including awareness, civil protection and infrastructure systems and disaster management.	3,204,316

**Table 7: Dimension 31. Form of finance (axis 4)**

Priority Axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority Axis 4	01 Non-repayable grant	12,817,263

**Table 8: Dimension 32. Territory type (axis 4)**

Priority Axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority Axis 4	07 Not Applicable	12,817,263

**Table 9: Dimension 33. Mechanisms of territorial application (axis 4)**

Priority Axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority Axis 4	07 Not Applicable	12,817,263

2.A.9. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 4)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.1. PRIORITY AXIS 5: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

2.A.2. Justification of the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where appropriate) (axis 5)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.3. Fund and calculation basis for Union support (axis 5)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.4. Investment priority 6c (IP 6c)

*Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage*

2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and the results expected (IP 6c).

**Specific Objective 6c\_1: Improving management methods of the common natural and cultural heritage through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation**

**Results that the member States seek to achieve with Union support**

The diagnosis points out the need to reduce human activity in regions characterised by a large number of cultural and environmental resources and which at the same time are subjected to great anthropic pressure. In parallel, the diagnosis also highlights the

importance of the tourism sector and natural and cultural heritage for the economic development the SUDOE space.

Through this specific objective the programme promotes the development of actions to promote the protection and appreciation of cultural and natural heritage of the SUDOE space, by:

- Reducing the impact of human activity on the cultural and natural heritage,
- The adoption of measures of environmental awareness in tourist areas and in the activities related to forestry and agriculture,
- The capitalization and dissemination of innovative practices for restoration and valorisation of the heritage

In this way, the programme seeks to contribute to the economic development of the territory by encouraging the protection of cultural and natural heritage and promoting solutions aimed at reducing conflicts over the uses.

The most significant results expected are the development of sustainable strategies and management plans for natural resources or those of tourism and the increasing of the economic value of natural and cultural spaces.

**Table 34: Programme specific result indicators (by specific objective) (IP 6c)**

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6c_11	Percentage of natural and heritage sites within sustainable development transnational strategies	% of places	20%	2015	Increase according to the results expected in the 2015 survey	national and regional services	2018, 2020, 2023

## 2.A.6. Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 6c)

- 2.A.6.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, when appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 6c)

The different types of actions are the following:

- Encouraging sustainable development and environmental impact mitigation strategies in tourist areas and the economic exploitation of natural areas (forests, agricultural areas, water supply ...).

It includes the development, implementation, dissemination of results of sustainable tourism strategies and sustainable management plans for resources including actions designed to mitigate the impact of human activities (water consumption, energy consumption, territorial consumption, conflicts of use).

It will also promote the establishing or strengthening of the agreements entered into so as to set up solutions that take into account sustainable development, the improving of systems of governance, the adaptation of the territorial strategies of the development and mobilisation of policy-makers, technical operators, and users. In particular the following actions are promoted: the identification of practices, transnational analyses between different comparable geographical sectors, public consultation processes, and the establishing of strategies and action plans. The development of touristic activity should take into account the European Directives, in particular, the Directive for bath waters as well as measures to be adopted for the reduction of existing impacts (i.e. reduction of floods due to heavy rains).

- Actions designed to improve knowledge of the common cultural and natural heritage and the economic potential of natural areas.

This includes drawing up inventories, the exchanging of information, the carrying out of studies, an environmental and heritage assessment and a diagnosis, and the creation of scale observatories of the SUDOE.

- Actions to create and promote internationally recognised tourist products from the natural and cultural heritage

The following types of actions are particularly valued:

- Advocacy, communication and marketing of common touristic products based on the natural and cultural heritage that promote the growth of the green economy through the eco-innovation, eco-effectiveness or eco-tourism.
- Development of a tourism that integrates the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage and to limit dependence or the impact of the seasonal effect.
- Pilot actions aimed at valuating and restoring and preserving the heritage, historical monuments (in particular, UNESCO sites), countryside (including agricultural produce), natural sites recognized (large sites, natural parks, nature reserves, etc.) or in areas with a wealth of fauna or flora, with the aim of increasing the economic value of tourist destinations and enhancing the visibility and strengthening the identity of the SUDOE space.

The planned actions are aimed at the key actors in the cultural heritage, environmental and tourism sector, in particular, authorities (local, regional and even national with administrative responsibility for the heritage), environmental and tourism services and on the other hand those responsible for the economic development of the territory at the regional level as development agencies and economic operators.

- **Actions of the economic valuation of products resulting from the exploitation of forests and natural resources.**

Woodlands and agricultural land cover a large part of the SUDOE area and play an important role in the economic and environmental matters of the territory. Forest and agro-food activities represent specific strengths that should be reinforced by cooperation. To do this, the programme aims to develop the following types of actions:

- Innovative pilot projects that promote the enhancement and rational use of land resources (water, fish farming, forestry, home gardening, genetic, minerals, etc.) and its recycling to limit waste generation (including the use of derivatives treatments, emissions of air pollution and contamination of soil and water).
- The creation of transnational activities as designations of origin, networks, etc., that encourage the development of local resources.
- Promoting the use of local resources in construction, energy, food, etc. including agricultural and forest waste products.

The actions could affect the entire value chain (from production to the market) to encourage the development and improvement of practices and techniques related to agriculture and forestry, and the economic recovery of waste. For large projects, priority will be given to those activities whose impact goes beyond simply regional/national level and their effective implementation requires transnational cooperation.

**Results expected:** Joint actions at transnational level shall develop transferable solutions in order to reduce the impact of human activities on the cultural and natural heritage together with awareness of environmental obligations in tourist areas; restoring and enhancing the heritage and improving the capacities of the actors to develop innovative practices, and increasing the frequency of visits to natural and cultural locations outside the high season.

#### **Beneficiaries**

- Public bodies: national, regional, and local authorities and their groupings including the transnational scale (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, EGTC), networks of parks, nature reserves, associations, and tourist sites; public management establishments (natural parks, nature reserves); economic, environmental, and tourist development services; development agencies, universities, and research institutions; and local and regional development agencies.
- Specialists in tourism, environmental sector, improvement of local and regional development.

**Geographical range:** No specific territorial approach is proposed for the application of these types. The participation of actors from emblematic and tourist natural areas of the SUDOE space, together with from territories with a high level of the historical and cultural heritage, is recommended.

#### **2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 6c)**

For investment priority 6c the guidelines proposed for the selection of operations are the following:

1. The operations will be in keeping with regional and inter-regional strategies and will be classified as integrated management actions. In order to achieve this they will be aided by the participation of the public authorities and of actors with the capacity of deploying the results of the projects on a large scale.

2. The actions will be aimed at the areas that are most fragile owing to man’s activities and at the major locations of the SUDOE that are noteworthy for their cultural and natural heritage and their attractions in general.
3. The projects to be carried out must have a strong demonstrative capacity and be of significant interest at a transnational level, in such a way that the results can be transferred to other areas of the SUDOE space and to other cooperation spaces, demonstrating the strong added value provided by cooperation in its development.
4. The actions shall encourage the sustainable development, the preservation and reduction of the anthropic activities.
5. The actions of promotion, branding, marketing, etc. must be consistent with the territorial and national strategies.

2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (axis 5)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (axis 5)

*Not Applicable*

2.A.6.5. Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 6c)

**Table 35: Common and programme specific output indicators (IP 6c)**

Identification	Indicator (name of the indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI_52	Number of sites supported/valued that are part of sustainable development management processes or processes for the preservation of the environment and the mitigation of the effect of human activities.	No. of sites	50	Progress reports on the projects	Annual



#### 2.A.4. Investment priority 6d

*Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure*

#### 2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (IP 6d).

**Specific Objective 6d\_1: Reinforcing the cooperation of the SUDOE stakeholders of the natural sites through the development and the use of joint methods.**

##### **Results that the Member States seek to achieve with the Union support**

This objective seeks to reinforce the capacity of the managers of natural sites to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems by providing the services that can serve as a source of job creation.

In order to do so, the setting up of joint strategies for the protection and restoration of ecosystems as well as actions of the conservation, management, and highlighting from a transnational perspective of the various natural areas of the SUDOE space (mountain areas and nature reserves, rivers, lagoons and their surrounding areas, among others) are essential to implement a sustainable development policy in the medium and long term. In the same way, actions of communication and awareness to the population and the responsible people allow the latter to be raised in favour of the protection and conservation of the environment.

Two types of results are anticipated: on the one hand, an improvement of the consideration of the ecological quality of the spaces, habitats, and emblematic and threatened species by means of capitalization and the carrying out of demonstration actions of conditioning and development, together with territorial planning, and on the other improved operation of the ecological systems and the services carried out in the natural areas in the medium and long term.

This investment priority can contribute in particular to the following:

- The maintenance of ecosystems, the protection and restoration of the natural environment or semi-natural urban, peri-urban, rural, or coastal environments,

as well as the conservation of the quality of landscapes and natural spaces as a factor of the attractiveness of the territory.

- The possibility of taking into account in the planning documents a firm bid for ecological continuity with the aim of developing a sustainable vision of the conditioning of the territory, together with the concerted management of natural areas and resources (water, timber/forestry products, soils, etc.).

In brief, the objective in the domain of the Programme is to strengthen the effectiveness of the strategies and the methodologies of intervention in management and conservation of the ecosystems.

**Table 36: Programme specific result indicators (by specific objective) (IP 6d)**

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6d_11	Percentage of protected sites involved in transnational strategies	% protected sites	5%	2015	Increase according to the results expected in the 2015 survey	Surveys and data from national and regional services in charge	2018, 2020, 2023

## 2.A.6. Actions to be financed within the framework of the investment priority (IP 6d)

- 2.A.6.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries (IP 6d).

Improve the state of biodiversity and the actions of transnational cooperation carried out in the ecosystem requires the development of activities for the exchange of knowledge and practices aimed at improving the effectiveness of the national, regional or local investment and management mode. The Programme shall contribute to this objective through the capitalization and the experimentation of innovative solutions of a strong transfer capability, the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of transnational partnership in this domain.

Adopted version  
18/06/2015

Actions must also determine the most effective measures to be undertaken to achieve the goal of preserving and promoting the biodiversity of the natural environment and its contribution to the promotion of a green economy making simpler its dissemination.

The different types of action proposed are as follows:

- **The defining and setting up of joint strategies for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and the integrated management of resources and natural areas**

The programme will promote in particular the carrying out of management plans for protected spaces with the objective of fitting the interventions within a concerted field. It will also promote the drawing up of planning documents and the carrying out of innovative actions to protect and preserve natural spaces and protected species and habitats, together with measures for addressing the problems of erosion, desertification, deforestation, and the organic matter present in the soil. The actions may include natural environments located in urban and peri-urban areas.

Likewise, the actions to be carried out will stress exchange and cooperation, encouraging the coordination of the actors and the strengthening of their capacities together with the pooling of knowledge so as to achieve the rational use of natural resources, especially water. In order to do so the promoting of integrated management and governance strategies is anticipated, which contributes towards the fight against pollution in the aquatic medium, the improving of the quality of the water resources, and the encouraging of agricultural practices favouring the preservation and reclaiming of wetlands, river basins. The awareness of the stakeholders with capacity to decide is a way to increase the effectiveness of the strategies and the territorial adaptation of tested solutions.

- **Improving knowledge**

The programme will support cooperation, the exchanging of experiences, capitalization of best practices, and the carrying out of studies with an interest that is not merely restricted to the local framework. The objective is to contribute to improve the level of protection and the state of preservation of the natural land, aquatic, and maritime habitat, together with protected natural spaces and sites of special interest, and also to improve knowledge and management. The Programme may also support actions allowing the comparing of the regulations and the levels of quality of the resources as well as transnational observatories.

- **The creation of tools for joint/shared work**

The creation of these tools is anticipated for encouraging the observation and follow-up of natural spaces and of species, together with the carrying out of actions of environmental impact that allow the reducing of the ecological footprint. Transnational cooperation must generate critical mass in the production of these tools and allow the sharing of resources and skills, models, products, and operative solutions. As a result of their development, this will allow the improving of methods and strategies for the management of natural areas, the restoration of ecosystems, and the treatment of water and soil pollution in different areas of the SUDOE space.

- **The conditioning of pilot projects or the carrying out of tasks of ecological engineering designed to establish a network of ecological continuity (green and blue section), including urban and peri-urban areas.**

The following actions are proposed:

- Deletion or upgrading of obstacles to ecological continuity,
- Restoration of the ecological sustainability of the water course,
- Restoration and management of degraded environments to re-establish the functioning of ecosystems and the ecological continuity (humid areas, ecological corridors, and biodiversity reserves, etc.),
- Actions in the field of management and restoration of the ecological infrastructures necessary for the sustainable development of protected environments or identified within the planning and ecological coherence documents.

These action with a demonstration role shall prove the transfer capacity. For that, they shall include stakeholders and responsible for management, planning, and to present measures and methods to have an effective transfer.

**Results expected:** qualitative improvement of the management systems and strategies to preserve the ecological quality of the habitats and emblematic and threatened species in territorial planning, and the improvement of ecological operation and of the services carried out in natural areas.

## Beneficiaries

- Public bodies: national, regional, and local authorities and their groupings including the transnational scale (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, EGTC), networks of parks, nature reserves, associations, and tourist sites; public management establishments (nature reserves, management trade unions); economic, environmental, and tourist development services; development agencies, universities, and research institutions; and regional and local development agencies.
- Economic actors, and associations, specialists in the tourism sector, the environment, the improvement of local and territorial development, agricultural trade associations and livestock breeders, chambers of commerce, industry and navigation.

**Geographical range:** No specific territorial area is proposed for the application of these types. The strong participation of actors from emblematic natural areas of the SUDOE space is recommended.

#### 2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations (IP 6d)

For investment priority 6d, the specific criteria proposed are the following:

1. The operations will be in keeping with regional and inter-regional strategies and will be classified as integrated management actions. In order to achieve this they will be aided by the participation of the public authorities and of actors with the capacity of deploying the results of the projects on a large scale.
2. Natural spaces of the RED NATURA 2000 or included in areas of protection or high ecological quality (Natural parks, nature reserves and natural built-up areas) and which are of high ecological, environmental, and landscape quality or which are emblematic in the SUDOE space.
3. In wide-ranging projects priority will be given to activities with an impact that goes beyond a regional and national scale and which cannot be carried out efficiently unless they are applied in an environment of cooperation. In other words, projects needing collaboration to guarantee their success stand out, such as transnational observatories that must be limited to increase their impact and visibility.

4. The projects to be developed must have a strong demonstrative capacity and be of significant interest at a transnational level so that the results can be transferred to other areas of the SUDOE spaces and to other cooperation spaces, thus demonstrating the strong added value provided by cooperation. Priority will be given to interventions addressing new and/or emblematic problems that are inter-sectorial and shared on a transnational scale.

The actions about the sea or littoral sites, benefiting from funding of other programmes of transnational cooperation (MED or Atlantic Space) are more adapted to these programmes; these actions will be able to be supported when being cooperation between Atlantic and Mediterranean basins.

The exact selection modes will be defined in the order of publication of the anticipated call for projects.

#### 2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (IP 6d)

*Not Applicable*

#### 2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (IP 6d)

*Not Applicable*

#### 2.A.6.5. Output indicators (by investment priorities) (IP 6d)

**Table 37: Common and programme specific output indicators (IP 6d)**

Identification	Indicator (name of the indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI_53	Number of tools and models developed for improving knowledge and the management and ecological quality of the spaces of the SUDOE	No. of tools	12	Progress reports on projects	Annual

## 2.A.7. Performance framework (axis 5)

**Table 38 - Performance framework of the priority axis (axis 5)**

Priority Axis	Indicator type	Identification	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Axis 5	Financial	OI_51	Certified expenses of Axis 5	EUR	3,417,937	28,482,806	Monitoring software application	
Axis 5	Output	OI_52	Number of sites supported/recovered enrolled in management processes for sustainable development or preservation of the environment and mitigating the impact of human activities.	No. of sites	15	50	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation
Axis 5	Output	OI_53	Number of tools and models developed for improving knowledge management and the ecological quality of SUDOE spaces	No. of tools	4	12	Project progress reports	The indicator covers more than 50% of the financial allocation

## 2.A.8. Categories of intervention (axis 5)

<b>Table 39: Dimension 1. Intervention field (axis 5)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 5	085 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature conservation and environmental infrastructure	10,681,053
Priority Axis 5	091 Development and promotion of tourism potential of natural areas	5,340,526
Priority Axis 5	094 protection, development and promotion of cultural and public heritage assets	5,340,526

<b>Table 40: Dimension 2. Form of finance (axis 5)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 5	01 01 Non-repayable grant	21,362,105

<b>Table 41: Dimension 3. Territory type (axis 5)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 5	07 Not Applicable	21,362,105

<b>Table 42: Dimension 6. Mechanisms of territorial application (axis 5)</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Priority Axis 5	07 Not Applicable	21,362,105



2.A.9. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate) (axis 5)

*Not Applicable*

## 2.B. Description of the priority axis for technical assistance

### 2.B.5. PRIORITY AXIS 6: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Priority axis

Identification of the priority axis	6
Title of the priority axis	Technical Assistance

### 2.B.6. FUND AND CALCULATION BASIS FOR UNION SUPPORT (axis 6)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

### 2.B.7. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS (axis 6)

Identification	
Specific objective	Ensure proper implementation of the Programme
Results that Member States wish to achieve with the help of the Union <sup>1</sup>	Not applicable (art. 96.2c ii of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

<sup>1</sup> Necessary when the Union support for technical assistance in the program exceeds EUR 15 million.

## 2.B.8. RESULT INDICATORS (axis 6)

**Table 43: Programme specific result indicators**

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
	Not appropriate	Not appropriate			Not applicable (art. 96.2c ii of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)	Not applicable (art. 96.2c ii of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)	

## 2.B.9. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED AND THEIR EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### 2.B.5.1. Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis) (axis 6)

The objective of the use of Technical Assistance (TA) is to ensure the proper implementation of the Programme.

Within the tasks of the TA is included the preparation of documents for preparation and management of the Programme, the administration of the same, the monitoring and control, evaluation, actions of information and communication, the different levels of control and improvement of the institutional capacity of the partnership programme, among other actions.

In addition, the TA will deal with the recruitment and retention of the staff of the Joint Secretariat and the personnel assigned by the Managing Authority (MA). Furthermore, it includes the costs associated with the activity of the staff, such as the office and

administration costs of the headquarters of the Joint Secretariat and of the MA, travel costs, etc.,

In the same way, including the costs of the National Authorities staff and the staff involved in the appraisal of the projects, travel costs of the personnel attending Selection and Monitoring Committees, and the costs of the organization of the events and meetings of the Programme.

The INTERREG V-B SUDOE will use the computer application already developed in the period 2007-2013, which has been improved on over the previous period and to which the partners of the programme will have access. The application will also be linked to the IT system of the Certifying Authority (CA).

The programme evaluations will be carried out in accordance with the required regulatory requirements and depending on the plan of action described in the Evaluation Plan that will be developed by the MA and submitted to the Monitoring Committee for approval. Any future contracts will comply with rules of public procurement rules in force at each moment.

The TA may also fund the costs of fees and travel for experts when they are requested by the Monitoring Committee, for the implementation and support of certain specialized activities. The contracting of experts will comply with rules of public procurement rules in force at each moment.

A fundamental role in the TA to attend to the beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of the Programme. For this reason, periodically workshops, seminars, conferences, meetings, etc. will be held in the different participating States to encourage the beneficiaries and resolve doubts, as well as to inform and foment participation in the Programme.

Thus, communication actions are one of the priority activities, particularly in the launch phases of calls and communicating the results of the programme. Actions, materials, events, etc. and employees will serve to inform potential beneficiaries of participation and funding possibilities offered by the programme and how the programme and the ERDF funding affect the territory.

The MA will prepare a guide of the Description of the Management and Control Systems for the SUDOE programme. The established control system will be described in detail and how the funding of the TA contributes to different levels of control and audits (second-level checks).

## 2.B.5.2. Indicators of productivity which is expected to contribute to the results (by Axis priority) (axis 6)

**Table 44: Common and programme specific output indicators (axis 6)**

Identification	Indicator (name of the indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data
OI62	Committee meetings held to monitor the programme	No.	10	Joint Secretariat
OI_63	Number of communication and dissemination actions developed	No.	9	Joint Secretariat
OI_64	Number of transnational events	No.	9	Joint Secretariat
OI_65	Number of tools put at disposal of the projects and beneficiaries	No.	11	Joint Secretariat

## 2.B.10. CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION (axis 6)

**Table 45: Dimension 1. Intervention field (axis 6)**

Priority Axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
6 Technical Assistance	121 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	4,592,852
6 Technical Assistance	122 Evaluation and Studies	1,281,726
6 Technical Assistance	123 Information and communication	534,053

**Table 46: Dimension 2. Form of finance (axis 6)**

Priority Axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
6 Technical Assistance	01 Non-repayable grant	6,408,631

**Table 47: Dimension 3. Territory type (axis 6)**

<i>Priority Axis</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Amount (EUR)</i>
6 Technical Assistance	07 Not applicable	6,408,631

## SECTION 3 FINANCING PLAN

### 3.1. Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in EUR)

**Table 48**

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
ERDF		13,033,513	11,046,968	20,072,273	20,473,719	20,883,193	21,300,857	106,810,523
IPA amounts (where applicable)								
ENI amounts (where applicable)								
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,033,513</b>	<b>11,046,968</b>	<b>20,072,273</b>	<b>20,473,719</b>	<b>20,883,193</b>	<b>21,300,857</b>	<b>106,810,523</b>



### 3.2. Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in EUR)

**Table 49: Financing plan**

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=((a)/€	For information	
					National funding ©	Public National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
Priority axis 1	ERDF	Total eligible cost	39,519,893	13,173,298	10,538,638	2,634,660	52,693,191	75%		
	IPA	-								
	ENI	-								
Priority axis 2	ERDF	Total eligible cost	14,953.473	4,984,491	3,987,593	996,898	19,937,964	75%		
	IPA	-								
	ENI	-								
Priority axis 3	ERDF	Total eligible cost	11,749,158	3,916,386	3,133,109	783,277	15,665,544	75%		
	IPA	-								

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart			Total funding (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=((a)/€)	For information	
					National funding ©	Public	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
	ENI	-									
<i>Priority axis 4</i>	ERDF	Total eligible cost	12,817,263	4,272,421	3,417,937	854,484	17,089,684	75%			
	IPA	-									
	ENI	-									
<i>Priority axis 5</i>	ERDF	Total eligible cost	21,362,105	7,120,702	5,696,562	1,424,140	28,482,807	75%			
	IPA	-									
	ENI	-									
<i>Priority axis 6(TA)</i>	ERDF	Total eligible cost	6,408,631	1,602,158	1,602,158		8,010,789	80%			
	IPA	-									
	ENI	-									
<b>Total</b>	ERDF	Total eligible cost	<b>106,810,523</b>	<b>35.069,456</b>	<b>28,375,996</b>	<b>6,693,460</b>	<b>141,879,979</b>				

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart			Total funding (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=((a)/€)	For information	
					National funding ©	Public funding	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
	IPA	-									
	ENI	-									
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total all Funds</b>	<b>Total eligible cost</b>	<b>106,810,523</b>	<b>35,069,456</b>	<b>28,375,996</b>	<b>6,693,460</b>	<b>141,879,979</b>				

### 3.2.B. Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

**Table 50 –Breakdown of financing plan by priority axis and thematic objective**

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Unión support	National counterpart	Total funding
AXIS 1	TO 1	39,519,893	13,173,298	52,693,191
AXIS 2	TO 3	14,953,473	4,984,491	19,937,960
AXIS 3	TO 4	11,749,158	3,916,386	15,665,544
AXIS 4	TO 5	12,817,263	4,272,421	17,089,684
AXIS 5	TO 6	21,362,105	7,120,702	28,482,807
AXIS 6	TA	6,408,631	1,602,158	8,010,789
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>106,810,523</b>	<b>35,069,456</b>	<b>141,879,979</b>

**Table 51 –Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives**

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (in EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
<b>AXIS 3</b>	11,749,158.00	11.00%
<b>AXIS 4</b>	10,894,673.40	10.20%
<b>AXIS 5</b>	4,272,421.20	4.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,916,252.60</b>	<b>25.20%</b>

## **SECTION 4 INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The European southwest territory is mainly characterized by a large urban networks well as the predominance of rural or intermediate spaces with a low or very low population density. With the exception of Madrid and Toulouse, the metropolitan area is mainly concentrated in the Atlantic and Mediterranean littoral areas, the medium-size cities, in the center, which assure the links with innovation and competitiveness of the territories.

These lacks of territorial continuity, in particular in the center, the absence of structured cooperation networks between urban or rural territories, and the existence or arising of maritime strategies (and transnational programmes with specific support for coast areas) advice , in the SUDOE frame, to propose a transversal approach of the territorial development. It should consist of grouping the territories in common challenges, by means of thematic approaches.

For urban areas, metropolis and medium-size cities (with no exception), the programme encourages specifically the support for interconnecting knowledge points, connecting the local economic stakeholders, around regional specialization approaches. The challenges linked to the quality of life and a more efficient use of resources are also a mean to reinforce the territorial cohesion between metropolis themselves, and between metropolis and other territories with a lower level of urbanization. The support of strategies for energy efficiency and risks management are in these cohesion vectors not integrated areas from a geographic point of view. Finally, the adopted strategy for the sustainable economic development based on the improvement of conservation practices (sustainable management of resources, renewable energy solutions, biodiversity development, etc.) and valorization of the resources (tourism in particular) are a keystone to respond in a territorial way to the global challenge.

#### **4.1. Community-led local development**

*Not Applicable*

#### **4.2. Integrated actions for sustainable urban development**

No transnational urban integrated space, not being covered by other near transnational programmes, is identified to be able to benefit from integrated actions for sustainable urban development.

Urban spaces in the eligible regions will be able to be supported depending on the specifications of the calls for projects and eligibility criteria, of each of the priority axes.

**Table 52: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development - indicative amounts of ERDF support**

Fund	Indicative amounts of ERDF support (EUR)
ERDF	

### 4.3. Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)

The 5 States integrated in the geography of the programme do not have frontiers beyond the spaces already covered by other cooperation programmes (cross-border programmes) which seem more appropriate to support an integrated plan like ITI. The INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme encourages the support of cooperations beyond the bilateral frame.

For these reasons, and paying attention to the fact that territorial development is taken into account in a transversal way through all the priority axe, the programme will not select the implementation of it is for the 2014-2020 period.

**Table 53: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)**

Priority axis	Inficative financial allocation (Union support) ( EUR)
ERDF	

### 4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies

The challenges described in the diagnosis of the cooperation space drive to a concentration of the interventions in innovation and competitiveness as well as the sustainable development of the territory. These subjects are shared by the regions concerned by the Atlantic strategy and by those of the Mediterranean basin.

Being theses basins integrated in the limits of transnational programmes such as Atlantic Space or MED, and the need to a higher effectiveness and complementarity in the

investments of the European programmes, the real added value of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme is, according to its financial capacity, in its potential contribution to a crossed capitalization of the experiences implemented in these areas.

Concerning the Atlantic Strategy, this contribution shall be applied in an effective way in the frame of the four intervention priorities, as follows:

Within the framework of the Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area (*Atlantic Strategy*) there are four intervention priorities:

Priorities and objectives of the Atlantic Strategy	Specific Objectives of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme
<b>Priority 1: Promote entrepreneurship and innovation.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sharing knowledge between higher education agencies, companies and research centres.</li> <li>• enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacities in the maritime economy of the Atlantic area.</li> <li>• fostering adaptation and diversification of economic activities by promoting the potential of the Atlantic area.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TO1-IP 1b</b></p> <p>SO1: Strengthening the Synergic and networking operation of R+i at a transnational level in the specific SUDOE sectors as from smart specialisation.</p> <p>SO2: Developing dissemination of applied research related to essential facilitating technologies.</p> <p><b>TO3-IP3a &amp; 3b</b></p> <p>SO3: Developing capacities for the improvement of the environment of SMEs in the SUDOE space</p> <p>SO4: Improvement and increasing of the possibilities for the internationalization of SMEs</p>
<b>Priority 2: Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving maritime safety and security.</li> </ul>	<b>TO5-IP5b</b>



Priorities and objectives of the Atlantic Strategy	Specific Objectives of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones.</li> <li>• sustainable management of marine resources.</li> <li>• exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment.</li> </ul>	SO6: Improving the coordination and effectiveness of prevention, disasters management and rehabilitation tools of damaged areas.
	<b>TO6-IP6c &amp; 6d</b>
	SO7: Improving management methods of the common natural and cultural heritage through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation.  SO8: Preserving and restoring the biodiversity of natural locations of the SUDOE with the aim of maintaining the ecological quality of the spaces, wellbeing, and the quality of life.
<b>Priority 3: Improve accessibility and connectivity.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promoting cooperation between ports.</li> </ul>	-
<b>Priority 4: Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fostering better knowledge of social challenges in the Atlantic area.</li> <li>• preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<b>TO6-IP6c</b>
	SO7: Improving the economic importance of the common natural and cultural heritage that can be highlighted with sustainable development logic.

Within these intervention axes there are shared actions like those linked to the “blue economy” which were already developed in SUDOE during the 2007-2013 period (i.e. availability of high quality food from the sea, networking of river and sea cities for an integrated development) have like objective to be encouraged and/or shared at the same time that participating in specific actions of the maritime strategies.

SUDOE will take part in the management and monitoring mechanisms implemented by the bodies in charge of the implementation of the Atlantic Strategy, through the dialogue and interchanges of information of the Presidencies and/or Authorities of both programmes.



## **SECTION 5 IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

## 5.1. Relevant authorities and bodies

**Table 54: Programme authorities**

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Managing Authority	Dirección General de Economía y Asuntos Europeos Consejería de Economía, Hacienda y Empleo Gobierno de Cantabria	Consejero
Certifying authority	Sub-Dirección General de Certificación y Pagos, Dirección General de Fondos Comunitarios del Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas de España	Sub-Director General
Audit authority	Intervención General de la Administración del Estado (IGAE), Spain	Interventor General de la Administración del Estado

**The body to which payments will be made by the European Commission is:**

<input type="checkbox"/> the managing authority	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the certifying authority	

**Table 55: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks**

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	In Spain: Dirección General de Fondos Comunitarios. Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas	Dirección General de Fondos Comunitarios

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
	In France: Préfecture de Région Midi-Pyrénées	Préfet de la Région Midi-Pyrénées
	In Portugal: Agência para o Desenvolvimento e Coesão, IP	President
	In United Kingdom (Gibraltar): Office of the Chief Secretary, HM, Government of Gibraltar No. 6 Convent Place, Gibraltar	Chief Secretary
	Principality of Andorra: Ministeri de Finances. Departament d'Intervenció General	Interventora General
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Intervención General de la Administración del Estado (IGAE), Spain	Interventor General de la Administración del Estado

## 5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

According to the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the Programme shall lay down the procedure for setting up the joint secretariat (art. 8.4.a.iv).

The Managing Authority and the National Authorities taking into account the correct management of the 2007-2013 Programme with a Joint Secretariat have agreed not to largely modify the current structure. The managing Authority will ensure the capacity and merit values will be present along the selection process, with the consultation and opinion of the member States and the third countries participating in the cooperation programme.

The joint secretariat will be under the responsibility of the Managing Authority (MA), managed by a Director and will be settled in Santander (España). The joint secretariat will assist the MA, the CA, the Monitoring Committee, the Selection Committee and the National Authorities and, in the terms to be agreed, the Audit Authority to develop its main functions.

### Main functions:

The general functions of the secretariat are listed in the paragraph 2 of the art. 23 of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013. They include the provision of information to the potential beneficiaries about the funding opportunities by the Programme, as well as the assistance to the implementation of the projects. Specifically, the joint secretariat:

- Assures, in a transnational level, , the coordination, the monitoring and the promotion of the activities of the Programme.
- Provides technical support for the preparation of meetings and for the venues of the Programme (Monitoring Committees, Transnational Conferences, transnational working groups, etc.).
- Receives the project proposals from the beneficiaries (through the lead beneficiary), verify the admisibility of the proposals, carry out the administrative assessment of the proposals in collaboration with the Member States, and paying special attention to put in place of the admisibility and selection criteria; finally, the joint secretariat write up the assessment reports.
- Centralises the information about the physical and financial projects and Programme implementation, and is in charge of the transmission to the Programme Authorities.
- Assures the record of the aproved operations about their implementation ans monitoring in an informatic database.
- Checks the requests for payments made by the lead beneficiary, In accordance with the distribution of roles with the National Authorities in control; it prepares the requests for payments to be sent out by the Managing Authority to the Certification Authority.
- Is responsible for the implementation of the tasks of information, advertising and communication of the Programme, in particular the general communication of the programme and the information and dissemination of the calls for projects in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Monitoring Committee and the instructions of the MA.
- Finally, the joint secretariat will be able to run all the tasks which can be entrusted by the Monitoring or Selection Committees, as well as by the MA.

The joint secretariat will engage the required qualified staff to implement its described duties, and it will be managed by a Director. The staff will be selected through an open procedure evaluation capacities and merits. The representants of the Member States and Third Countries participating in the cooperation programme will be consulted

during the whole selection process of the candidancies, as well as about any internal change in the joint secretariat.

The costs of the joint secretariat will be funded by the budget of the Technical Assistance.

### **5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements**

#### *a) General principles*

Member States are committed to the adoption of appropriate measures to ensure the establishment and operation of their management and control systems with the aim of providing evidence and guarantees on the legal and regular use of the Structural Funds. In accordance with article 72 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, the management and control systems shall:

- Describe the functions of each agency to participate in the management and control and assign roles of each organism.
- Observe the principle of separation of functions between these organisms and within each one of them.
- Establish procedures to ensure the accuracy and regularity of the expenditure declared.
- Have computer systems for accounting, storage and transmission of financial data and the data on indicators, and for monitoring and reporting.
- Have reporting and monitoring systems and when a responsible agency entrusted with implementation of tasks to another agency.
- Establish measures to audit the operation of the own management and control systems.
- Have in place systems and procedures to ensure an adequate audit trail.
- Take the necessary measures to prevent, detect and correct irregularities, including fraud, and recover the amounts paid, along with the potential interest on late payments.

According to the article. 21 Of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 member States participating in a programme of cooperation must designate, for the purposes of art.

Adopted version  
18/06/2015

123 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, a single management authority, for the purposes of art. 123 (2) of the Regulation, a single certifying authority; and for the purposes of the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Regulation, a single audit authority. The managing authority and the audit authority shall be located in the same Member State.

*b) Brief Description of the authorities of the programme and their functions*

**b.1.) Managing Authority (MA):**

The MA is in charge of the management of the Programme in accordance with the art. 23 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 of European Territorial Cooperation, without prejudice to the provisions of art. 125 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of Common Provisions, and in accordance with the principle of good financial management. In particular, the MA prepares and submits it to the Commission, after its approval by the Monitoring Committee (MC) the annual execution reports and final. It provides information to the rest of authorities and agencies of the Programme, as well as beneficiaries. It also provides the registration and storage of data related to each operation in regard to the monitoring, assessment, financial management checks and audits. The functions of the MA are described in the art. 23 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 of European Territorial Cooperation, whose first paragraph refers to the provisions in art. 125 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of Common Provisions, namely:

As regards the management of the Programme:

- Support the work of the monitoring committee referred to in Article 47 and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the operational programme in achieving its objectives, financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones;
- Draw up and, after approval by the monitoring committee, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports referred to in Article 50;
- Make available to intermediate bodies and beneficiaries information that is relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;
- Establish a system to record and store in computerized form data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit, including data on individual participants in operations, where applicable;

As regards the selection of operations:



- Draw up and, once approved, apply appropriate selection procedures and criteria that i) ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the specific objectives and results of the relevant priority, ii) are non-discriminatory and transparent and iii) take into account the general principles set out in Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.
- Ensure that a selected operation falls within the scope of the Fund or Funds concerned and can be attributed to a category of intervention.
- Ensure that the beneficiary is provided with a document setting out the conditions for support for each operation including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered under the operation, the financing plan, and the time-limit for execution;
- Satisfy itself that the beneficiary has the administrative, financial and operational capacity to fulfil the conditions referred to in point (c) before approval of the operation;
- Satisfy itself that, where the operation has started before the submission of an application for funding to the managing authority, applicable law relevant for the operation has been complied with;
- Ensure that operations selected for support from the Funds or the EMFF do not include activities which were part of an operation which has been or should have been subject to a procedure of recovery in accordance with Article 71 following the relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area;

As regards the financial management and control of the Programme, the managing authority shall:

- Ensure that beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;
- Put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified;
- Set up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of point (g) of Article 72;

- Draw up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in points (a) and (b) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.

The Joint Secretariat will depend on the MA, whose main functions and activities have been developed in the previous paragraph (5.2).

#### **b.2.) Certification Authority (CA):**

According to the art. 126 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of Common Provisions, the CA is responsible for drawing up and submitting payment applications to the Commission, and certifying that they result from reliable accounting systems, are based on verifiable supporting documents and have been subject to verifications by the managing authority. Together with this main function, the CA should:

- Drawing up the accounts referred to in point (a) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;
- Certifying the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable law and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the programme and complying with applicable law;
- Ensuring that there is a system which records and stores, in computerised form, accounting records for each operation, and which supports all the data required for drawing up payment applications and accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation or programme;
- Ensuring, for the purposes of drawing up and submitting payment applications, that it has received adequate information from the managing authority on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure;
- Taking account when drawing up and submitting payment applications of the results of all audits carried out by, or under the responsibility of, the audit authority;
- Maintaining, in a computerised form, accounting records of expenditure declared to the Commission and of the corresponding public contribution paid to beneficiaries;
- Keeping an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts

recovered shall be repaid to the budget of the Union prior to the closure of the programme by deducting them from the subsequent statement of expenditure.

Moreover, in accordance with paragraph 2 of art. 21 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013, the certifying authority shall receive the payments made by the Commission and shall, as a general rule, make payments to the beneficiaries, in accordance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

According to the dispositions of the art. 134 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, the amount of the initial pre-funding is paid by tranches. The Certification authority will use the received pre-funding to cover the first expenses by the beneficiaries of the programme. Initially, the pre-funding will be used for the technical assistance operation and, later, the operations of the other axes. This pre-funding will be paid according to the permissions of the Monitoring Committee in the frame of the calls for projects of the programme.

No payment application for the axes 1 to 5 will be submitted before the modification of the programme will be ready. This modification will consist of the introduction of the reference values and the expected values for the result indicators, according to the date to be obtained at the end of the development of the action plan.

### **b.3.) Audit Authority (AA):**

The AA, exercised by the *Intervención General de la Administración del Estado* (IGAE) of Spain (Spanish National Court of Auditors), participates in the management and control system of the Programme. The AA monitors that the controls for the management and control systems are made. The functions of the AA are described in the article. 127 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, supplemented by the provisions of the art. 25 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 of European Territorial Cooperation.

The IGAE will work closely with the Group of Auditors of the Programme. This Group shall be composed of representatives of the participating States with responsibility in this matter. The Panel shall be constituted within a maximum period of three months from the date of the Decision by approving the programme of cooperation. The Group is chaired by the IGAE and shall draw up its own rules of procedure with the rules of operation.

Among the main functions of the AA, the followings are highlighted:

- The AA shall ensure that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of the management and control system of the Programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure. The declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and, as a general rule, on statistical sampling methods. In such cases, the size of the sample shall

be sufficient to enable the audit authority to draw up a valid audit opinion in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.

The non-statistical sample method shall cover a minimum of 5 % of operations for which expenditure has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year and 10% of the expenditure which has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year.

- Where audits are carried out by a body other than the audit authority, the AA shall ensure that any such body has the necessary functional independence.
- The audit authority shall ensure that audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards.
- The AA shall, within eight months of adoption of the Programme, prepare an audit strategy for performance of audits.
- The AA shall draw up: an audit opinion in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- Finally, the AA shall draw up a control report setting out the main findings of the audits carried out in accordance with paragraph 1, including findings with regard to deficiencies found in the management and control systems, and the proposed and implemented corrective actions.

#### **b.4.) National Authorities (NA):**

The participation of each Member State in the SUDOE Programme is done through the **National Authorities (NA)** which are elected by the competent authorities of each Member State. The representatives of the AB are members of the MC and serve as points of contact of the Programme in their respective countries.

Each Member State, as well as Andorra, shall designate its corresponding National Authority within a maximum period of one month from the date of notification of the Decision of the Commission by approving the programme, without prejudice to specific national provisions on this designation. This designation shall be communicated to the Managing Authority in that period.

In line with what is stated in the articles 122 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 and the art. 23 Of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013, the main tasks of the national authorities shall be the following:

- Ensure that systems were established for the management and control of the Programme in accordance with the arts. 72, 73 and 74 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.
- Prevent, detect and correct irregularities, and to recover any amounts paid, together with the corresponding interest on late payment.
- Designate the agency or person responsible for carrying out the checks with respect to the beneficiaries of their territory.
- Ensure that the expenditure of a beneficiary can be verified in a period of three months from the date of submission of the documents on the part of the beneficiary concerned.
- Be responsible for the checks carried out in their territory.
- *Co-assess* the candidacies of projects along with the joint Secretariat.
- Contribute to the animation of the Programme, to the information of the beneficiaries and the coordination of the regional and local authorities, in collaboration with the MA.

#### **b.5.) Monitoring Committee (MC):**

The **Monitoring Committee** is chaired on an annually rotating basis by each member State of the Programme.

The meetings and decisions of the Monitoring Committee are prepared together with the MA and the national authorities in charge of the Programme in each participating State. Decisions will be made on the basis of consensus. If necessary, decisions can be taken through written consultation directed to the member States in accordance with the conditions defined in the internal regulation of the MC.

The MC performs a follow-up to the implementation of the Programme and the progress toward the achievement of its objectives. The MC examines in detail the issues that affect the development of the Programme. It is consulted and decides on any modification of the programme that you can propose the MA.

The general functions of the MC are regulated in the arts. 49 And 110 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. These general functions are likely to materialise, in the case of SUDOE Programme, mainly on the following aspects:

- Consider and approve the criteria for the selection of the operations subject to financing in a period of six months from the approval of the Programme, and approval of any revisions to these criteria in accordance with the needs of the programming.

- Adoption of the calendar calls for projects.
- Approval of the creation of a Selection Committee.
- Periodic analysis, meet at least once a year, of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Programme, in accordance with the documentation submitted by the MA.
- Examination of the results of the implementation, in particular, the achievement of the objectives set out in each priority axis and the assessments referred to in the article. 114 Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.
- Consider and approve the annual execution reports and final art. 14 Of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.
- Receive the annual report of control and any relevant comments that the Commission would be able to perform after the consideration of that report or relative to that part of the same.
- Propose to the MA any revision or review of the programme that would enable them to achieve the objectives of the Funds, or improve their management, including financial.
- Consider and approve any proposal to amend the contents of the Decision of the Commission on the contribution of the ERDF.

The MC shall draw up its own rules of operation in accordance with the institutional, legal and financial framework of the member States participating in the programme and adopted after consultation and agreement with the MA.

The MC will have the power to constitute Thematic Groups of transnational which may involve representatives of the relevant bodies for each one of the priorities of the programme, with the objective to accompany in their development and contributing to the evaluation process.

#### **b.6.) Selection Committee (SC):**

The MC has delegated in the Selection Committee (SC) the selection of operations. The SC will be established formally in the first meeting of the MC. Without prejudice to the general rules of eligibility specified in the arts. 18-20 Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013, the MC will define the selection criteria and the rules of eligibility for the Programme as a whole. Decisions shall be taken by consensus.

The general functions of the SC are as follows:

- Select the projects, on the basis of the selection criteria defined by the Monitoring Committee, and taking into account the financial allocations set forth in the Programme.
- Decide on changes to the projects, within the limits of their powers, previously established by the Monitoring Committee.
- Propose to the Monitoring Committee for the modifications of the Programme as it deems necessary.

*c) Programme monitoring system*

The programme monitoring system is supported by the Monitoring Committee described above. Along with the MA, will conduct a follow-on programme based on financial indicators, productivity and result of the Programme, and, in particular, the indicators of the framework of programme performance. The indicators, whenever practicable, will be broken down between women and men.

In turn, the implementation reports are the follow-up paper that will be the main programme. According to the art. 14 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013, before the May 31 of 2016 and of the same date each year thereafter until 2023 including, the MA shall submit to the Commission an annual implementation report in accordance with paragraph 1 of the art. 50 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. The report to be submitted in 2016 will include the financial years 2014 and 2015 as well as, in his case, the period between the start date for eligibility of costs and the December 31 2013.

*d) Organization of the operations selection phase*

The MA, in accordance with instructions from the MC, will be responsible for the launch of the calls, by publishing on the web of the Programme. National Authorities shall carry out measures to promote and provide information on its own territory with the support of the Joint Secretariat. At the start of the Programme, the MC will adopt an indicative timetable for the calls of the Programme.

In general, the calls will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will consist of a nomination and simplified, the second, final selection, which will contain the complete form of candidacy. Only those projects whose candidacy simplified meets the criteria set out may go to the second phase. The MA shall draw up a document with the selection criteria in both phases to publish, with the approval of the MC, for each call. In accordance with the commitment to reduce the administrative burden will be reduced, to the extent possible, the request for information in paper format.

The Monitoring Committee may also decide, depending on the needs of the programme, the realization of calls for specific projects or thematic, and directed to profiles of beneficiaries or specific types of projects, in a phase or two.

The regulatory framework and calls for the aid, developed by the joint Secretariat, shall be subject to approval by the MC at the start of the Programme. The regulatory basis or calls include the regulatory instructions for the formalisation of the projects, as well as the indications relating to the selection criteria, in the development process of the projects. The Guide will be available in digital format in the web SUDOE.

*e) Control system of the Programme*

Each Member State will put in place a system of control that allows for the verification of the delivery of the products and services that are the subject of financing, the validity of the expenditure declared by the beneficiaries of its territory and the conformity of these costs, and operations in accordance with the rules and national community.

The national authorities responsible for the programme in each Member State will be in charge of regulatory functions in the organization of the controls and the verification of the reality of the costs as stated in art. 23.4 Of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013. They will assure the respect for the European regulations about public procurement, in particular, the Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC; b) Directives 2014/23/EU and 2014/24/EU once transposed by the Member State; c) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC; and d) general principles of the Treaty about public procurement.

There will be **first level control decentralized level in Portugal, Spain and France, and centralised control system in the UK (Gibraltar)**. Member States shall designate those responsible for responsible for verifying the legality and regularity of the expenditure declared by each of the beneficiaries who are involved in an operation.

On the assumption that the verification of the supply of goods and services co-financed can be carried out only in respect of the entire operation, the verification shall be the responsible for the control of the Member State where is located the principal beneficiary or the MA. Member States shall ensure that the validation of the spending by those responsible for the control is carried out is a maximum period of three months.

Implementation of the first level control system

A spending ends its validation process when it has passed the so-called "first level control", responsibility of States and designed by these. The first level control can be based on a *centralized* system or on a *decentralized* system. Regardless of the system



used, the first level control will be carried out in a comprehensive manner, on 100% of the expenditure declared by the recipients.

- In a system of centralized first level control, a public body, normally a dependent unit of the agency formally holds the function of the National Authority, is responsible for carrying out the necessary checks that allow you to validate the expenditure. This is the case of the United Kingdom (Gibraltar).
- In a **decentralized first level control**, each beneficiary will propose his controller to his National Authority. This controller shall be independent with regard to the beneficiary.

The decentralized system implies that, prior to the process of validation of the expenditure, the beneficiaries shall propose a First Level Controller, which must be authorized by the National Assembly of the State where you locate the beneficiary. Each State will provide to the beneficiaries the instructions and tasks that must meet each First level controller. In this sheet of tasks to be performed, will be specified by the scope of the verifications to be carried out. The sheet of assignments may be consulted through computer application programme.

Each State can establish specific requirements to be met by the selected controller. These requirements may also be consulted through computer application programme.

The modalities for the selection of the controller of first level, per Member State, shall be defined in the description of the management and control systems.

- f) Computerized accounting systems, storage and transmission of financial data and data on the indicators as well as the monitoring and reporting of the information.*

In accordance with paragraph 3 of art.122 Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, Member States shall ensure that no later than 31 December 2015, all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and a managing authority, a certifying authority, an audit authority and intermediate bodies can be carried out by means of electronic data exchange systems, in the terms of subparagraph (d) of the article. 72 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of Common Provisions.

The INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme will use a single computer system management, network connected with the whole management actors and with the beneficiaries of the projects, and different levels of access to information. This system has been developed in the framework of the 2007-2013 SUDOE Programme and will continue to be used by providing adaptations and improvements to the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme 2014-2020.

Esta herramienta permitirá realizar el seguimiento y la gestión, de acuerdo con una base de datos común actualizada a tiempo real, del conjunto de los proyectos desde la presentación de las candidaturas hasta el seguimiento de las diferentes etapas de la vida del proyecto hasta su cierre definitivo. Constituye una herramienta de gestión y seguimiento de las operaciones, de análisis y de evaluación de los proyectos, así como una herramienta de control.

This tool will allow us to perform the monitoring and management, in accordance with a common database updated in real time, of all the projects from the submission of nominations to the follow-up of the different stages of the life of the project until its final closure. It is a tool for management and monitoring of the operations, analysis and evaluation of projects, as well as a tool of control.

In addition, thanks to the monitoring of the indicators, it is constituted as a key element of the device for monitoring and evaluation of the Programme.

The computer system of the MA will be linked to the computer system of the CA.

*g) Systems and procedures that guarantee an adequate audit trail.*

The computerised system for monitoring allows you to perform the traceability and verification of all phases of the operations from the presentation of the candidature of the project until the administrative closure of the same in the case of be approved.

The document of start-up and implementation of the Programme, placed at the disposal of the beneficiaries, will describe all the documents relating to the expenditure, the checks and audits that are required to ensure an adequate audit trail, the manner in which must be classified and how much time must be preserved for the financial control and the audits.

*h) Evaluation system of the Programme*

The Programme will continue the provisions laid down in the arts. 56 and 114 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 on evaluation procedures during the entire programming period. For this reason, the MA will develop an evaluation plan of the same which will be submitted to the MC no later than one year after the adoption of the Programme.

In general terms, and in accordance with the regulatory requirement, the evaluation system shall have as its principal object the improvement of the quality, effectiveness and helping to measure the impact of the aid of the ERDF in the Programme. Chapter II of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 sets different phases in the system of evaluation:

the art. 55 Refers to the *ex ante* evaluation. Member States have carried out the assessment in parallel with the development of the current programme. This assessment has been carried out under the responsibility of a working group created *ad hoc* in charge of the preparation of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme, in which have been attended by both the MA and the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) and the member States.

The *ex ante evaluation* has analyzed the following points:

- Strategy of the programme
- Indicator system, monitoring and evaluation
- Consistency of the financial allocations
- Contribution to the Europe2020 Strategy
- Strategic Environmental Assessment

In the rest of the programming period the Programme will be subject to the provisions of the Evaluation Plan, always keeping in mind that, at least once during the entire period of programming should be evaluated how the aid of the ERDF has contributed to the objectives of each priority. Evaluations, reviewed and approved by the MC must be submitted to the European Commission.

Not later than December 31 2022 the managing authority shall submit a report to the European Commission, which summarize the conclusions of the evaluations conducted during the period of programming and the productivity and main results of the Programme, as well as comments on the information communicated.

*i) Information and communication system of the Programme*

The arts. 115 and 116 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 describe the responsibility of the MA in the development of a communication strategy of the Programme, which will take into account the magnitude and scope of the Programme, in accordance with the application of the principle of proportionality.

The communication strategy shall be submitted to the monitoring committee for approval no later than six months after the adoption of the cooperation programme by the Commission.

The MA, in coordination with the Joint Secretariat, shall designate a person responsible for communication of the Programme as a part of the staff of the Secretariat. The MA, in relation with the NA, you must establish a communication strategy of the programme

throughout the SUDOE territory, to ensure a wide communication and knowledge of the Programme, the available information, events, acts of communication, etc.

The MA will inform the MC, at least once a year, of the progress in the implementation of the communication strategy of the programme and the results obtained, as well as the actions to be carried out within the next year. The MC may issue an opinion on the future activities to be carried out.

#### **5.4. Appointment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission.**

Art. 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 sets out the basic principles for the recovery of funds. The Managing Authority shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead or sole beneficiary. Beneficiaries shall repay to the lead beneficiary any amounts unduly paid.

If the lead beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from other beneficiaries or if the managing authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead or sole beneficiary, the Member State or third country on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is located or, in the case of an EGTC, is registered shall reimburse the managing authority any amounts unduly paid to that beneficiary. In anticipation of this, at the time of the conclusion of the contract of aid, the Managing Authority and the main beneficiary empower the Member State through an assignment of rights the prerogative to initiate the refund before the beneficiary concerned by putting into place the enforceable procedures established for recovery. The managing authority shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the general budget of the Union, in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States as laid down in the cooperation programme.

In regard to technical assistance, Member States will share the possible corrections in terms of its contribution to the total budget for technical assistance. In the case of systemic errors related to the technical assistance, the responsibility shall apply to the State agency that the host has committed those errors in the expenditure for the technical assistance.

Paragraph 2 of the article. 122 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2014 defines that the Member States shall prevent, detect and correct irregularities and shall recover amounts unduly paid, together with any interest on late payments. They shall notify the Commission of irregularities that exceed EUR 10 000 in contribution from the Funds and

shall keep it informed of significant progress in related administrative and legal proceedings.

In accordance with article 126 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, the Certifying Authority shall take care of the amounts recovered shall be repaid to the budget of the Union prior to the closure of the operational programme by deducting them from the subsequent statement of expenditure.

In accordance with paragraph 2 of the art. 143 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, in the case of individual or systemic irregularities, or financial corrections to flat-rate imposed by the European Commission, the division of responsibilities between States will be in proportion to the irregularities in the partners in each State. In the event that the irregularity or financial correction may not be linked to any State, the division of responsibilities will be distributed in proportion to the expenditure certified by the project partners affected

## **5.5. Use of the euro**

The Programme welcomes to the provisions of subparagraph (a) of the article 28 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 which provides that " by way of derogation from Article 133 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro shall be converted into euro by the beneficiaries using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission in the month during which that expenditure was: a) incurred."

The conversion shall be verified by the MA or by the driver of the Member State or third country in which the location of the recipient.

## **5.6. Involvement of partners**

According to the article 5 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 on the Association and the multi-level governance, the authorities of the Programme have been performances of mobilization of the partnership and potential beneficiaries in the design phase of the Programme and in the definition of priorities and actions for the potential new Programme 2014-2020. On the one hand, the national authorities represent the Member States involved in the SUDOE programme and have secured the role of coordination and point of contact and animation toward the regional and local authorities in each country, they have been able to make contributions in the construction phase of the strategy and priorities.

On the other hand, the main actors of the space SUDOE have been consulted by surveys of the NA or of the same Programme. The survey of the Programme was open from the 23 September 2013 until 30 October 2013) not only to the former and current recipients of projects but to any citizen who has been able to consult the web page SUDOE, where there was a specific paragraph with a link to a questionnaire on line in three languages (Spanish, French and Portuguese).

In the final stage of preparation, the Programme has been subjected to public consultation to all its citizens during a month, from 23 June 2014 until 23 July 2014. In this period the citizens and institutions that have been considered relevant, have been able to issue their contributions to improve the draft Programme through the Programme web site. The National Authorities, for their part, have made actions of dissemination of this public space of consultation to amplify the scope.

Finally, the partnership has a special participation via the Monitoring Committee throughout the programming period as well as through the national authorities of the Programme. The relevant public authorities, the economic and social partnership, the relevant agencies that represent the civil society, including environmental and equal opportunities, will be involved throughout the development of the Programme, in accordance with arts. 5 and 48 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

After the analysis of the authorities of the programme, the comments of the public consultation did not implied an essential revision of the programme.

## SECTION 6 COORDINATION

The coordination of the programme with other funds of the European Union are working on the territory SUDOE is a concern of the partnership programme to optimize the financial resources available. This coordination is carried out in different complementary ways, depending on the powers and functions of each member of the partnership:

The **Managing Authority**, along with the **Joint Secretariat**, ensure coordination, either through its own staff, but through the consultations that you can make to the National Authorities of the Programme or to other authorities of management.

In the light of the priorities of investment selected, special attention should be given in terms of coordination with programmes such as the national and regional ERDF, Horizon2020 and other innovation initiatives, LIFE+, COSME, as well as with the territorial cooperation programmes operating in the territory eligible: Atlantic Area, MED, POCTEFA or POCTEP. The MA will maintain regular contacts with other MA in the cases of doubts with regard to projects in the stages of assessment or monitoring.

Recipients must give an exhaustive account of the funded projects in which they participate in the programmes mentioned above.

In the case of the capitalization projects or transfer of knowledge and of results, from other areas of cooperation, the MA will ask for information and opinion to the bodies responsible for the management of the programmes that come from the results, to validate the information provided by the candidates of the projects.

**Member States** have in their own countries of mechanisms for coordination of funds, in the form of working groups (France, Portugal), Coordination Committee of the Funds (Spain) or of the Secretariat of the European Union Programs-EUPS (Gibraltar).

Additionally, in the case of Spain, the administrative units that administer the programmes of growth and employment objectives and of territorial cooperation are the same, which ensures the coordination and the establishment of synergies and self-awareness among both objectives.

In the cases of France and Portugal, the association agreements provide for the establishment of specific working groups during the programming period to ensure coordination and the knowledge of actions between the various programmes. These working groups will allow you to associate to the authorities responsible for the management of the programmes at national, regional and territorial cooperation, as well as to the authorities involved in the macro regional strategies and maritime basins, around thematics.

This dynamic of work helps to strengthen the coherence to the types of actions that could be worked out in several programmes or financed by several funds.



The **Monitoring and Selection Committees** may request specific reports on projects before the selection, to make sure that there are no overlaps with other programmes or funds.

The choice of objectives and priorities of the Programme has been carried out taking into account the priorities set by the Association Agreements of the States participating in the Programme. It has been considered, equally, the key elements that emanate from the regional and national programmes of the investment objective for growth and employment. It has analyzed the elements of **complementarity and coordination among the different programmes and SUDOE**.

On the other hand, in coordination with other Funds, the SUDOE programme is not particularly linked to scheduled performances in European Social Fund (ESF), by which the coordination with the ESF programmes in the territory will be less systematic than in the case of the ERDF. Efforts will be made, however, it is a coordination with the multiregional programmes of each participating Member State, with the aim to keep you informed to the Programme on the lines of action are being developed. It is hoped, also, that the national authorities will be able to perform, along with the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat, a follow-up in their respective territories.

In the case of other funds, such as EAFRD or FEMP, while the Programme does not directly address proceedings relating to fishing or agriculture, conflicts can occur in the implementation of the projects in the rural areas. In all these cases it will be reviewed, with particular attention to the added value of cooperation in these project applications, during the assessment phase, and in monitoring the quality of the project, if approved by the Selection Committee. These issues can be reflected particularly in nominations of projects relating to TO6, about natural and cultural heritage, including very specific actions on the territory, as well as TO4 and TO5. This attention is to be carried out also with other environmental initiatives such as the LIFE.

A special interest will be given in the analysis of the application forms of projects concerning the TO1 and TO3 (axes 1 and 2 of the programme), to ensure coordination and avoid duplication with other programmes and initiatives of innovation, especially, the 2020 Programme or the programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and SME (COSME), the Fund Marie Skłodowska-Curie; the public-private associations as well as import-export and transit procedures (joint planning initiatives, ERA-NET, Initiatives art. 185); public-private associations (Initiatives art. 187); Actions in the frame of the part III bis of Horizon 2020 about the dissemination of the excellence and extension of the participation, in particular “Teaming”, “Twinning” and “ERA Carnes” (only for Portuguese regions). In the preparation phase of the programme has been put together this concern. In this sense, during the assessment stage, the project must show the

implementation of the results on the territory SUDOE, not in a generic way; that is to say, the programme seeks to obtain a tangible result which may impact directly in the cooperation area and may respond to the needs and challenges identified by a good adaptation to them, regardless of their potential for replication and transfer to other spaces or sectors.

In the case of TO3, the assessment services will revise the national and regional programmes, as well as the COSME Programme and assess the added value of the actions of the candidates in a field of transnational cooperation.

As regards the TO4, TO5 and TO6 (axes 3, 4 and 5), the Programme must take into account the possible actions with the beneficiaries participating in other programmes such as the LIFE+, as pointed out above. It will be necessary, in addition, to check the complementarity and coherence of the types of programmed actions with ERDF national or regional programmes including these TO in his strategy.

In addition to the coordination of the funds of the common strategic frame, the programme will assure the complementarity and articulation of the LIFE programme, in particular, with the integrated projects in the nature, biodiversity, water, waste,, air and adaptation to climate change fields.. On the one hand, this coordination could be implemented thanks to funding actions in complementarity with integrated projects of the LIFE programme. On the other hand, the programme could promote the use of solutions, methods and approaches previously validated by LIFE, such as investments in ecological infrastructures, energy efficiency, ecological innovation, solutions based on ecosystems, the adoption of innovative technologies of these domains. The plans, programmes or sectorial strategies (including priority actions tables, basin hydrological plans, waste management plans, climate change reduction plans or the strategies to be adapted to climate change) will be a coordination scheme.

**SECTION 7 REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR  
BENEFICIARIES**

## **Procedures and guidelines**

In accordance with the European and national legislation, the Programme will develop the rules for the functioning of its management and control systems. In the period 2007-2013, the start-up of established procedures do not entailed great difficulties. However, in spite of the improvements introduced over the period to reduce the time limits, both in the validation system of expenses such as payment to the beneficiaries, the organs of management estimated that there is still room for improvement. Therefore, be continued and will accentuate the effort in this line, to further streamline these processes in the period 2014-2020. These issues were discussed by the Working Group responsible for the drafting of the Programme, which unanimously decided to implement new processes, in particular to expedite payments to beneficiaries of the projects. In this sense it was agreed the direct payment of the amounts from the ERDF Certifying Authority to the beneficiaries, without previously the aid is paid to the beneficiary main ERDF. This measure will improve the payment terms of the beneficiaries, will reduce transaction costs for the projects, and will result in a better financial transparency.

### **Simplification of the application form and requests for information**

In the period 2007-2013, notices envisaged a selection in two phases. In each one of them, the beneficiaries had to submit the nomination form to complete. In order to reduce the administrative burden of compliance of the nomination form, in response to the objective of the cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020 results-oriented, the calls will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will consist of a nomination and simplified, the second, final selection, will contain the complete form of candidacy. Only those projects whose simplified application form comply with the established criteria may proceed to the second phase.

The use of a call in two phases as described above allows easing the burden on the translation of the documents. The "concept note" or simplified application form must be translated into all languages of the beneficiaries in order to facilitate the assessment by the evaluators. In addition, it will be taken into account if the translation of nominations to all the languages of the Programme, in the second phase, should not be entirely but only on the key parts of the candidacy file.

### **Simplification of the rules on eligibility of costs**

The implementation of articles 18 and 19 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 (ETC) allows to set additional eligibility rules for expenditure for the cooperation programme as a whole in addition to those already established in the Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 481/2014 of the Commission. This faculty can be harnessed to contribute the simplification of procedures relating to the verification of the eligibility of costs claimed by the beneficiaries of the projects.

A first simplification lies in the decline in the number of different types of expenditure: in the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme 2007-2013 there were 10 types of expenditure in force; in 2014-2020 the programme will have only 5 types of expenditure in accordance with the Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 481/2014 of the Commission.

In addition, the bodies responsible for the management of the programme go to work to analyze the possibilities to implement a simplified system of costs that would not require beneficiaries to submit as many documents as evidence of the spending in the previous planning periods. This would allow, also, reducing the time needed for the administrative management and the supervisory system, in particular, the first level control.

The programme will assess the possibilities for implementation of these modalities of simplified costs.

### **Improvement of the working tools: standard documents and computer system**

During the period 2007-2013, we have implemented a computer application developed "to measure" of the SUDOE programme. All the stages of the projects and the Programme have been conducted exclusively through this tool available in French, Spanish and Portuguese: submission of the application forms, assessment of the application forms, financial activities of the projects and technical assistance, controls and audits, and implementation of all the administrative and technical tasks.

The computerisation of the management of projects and the programme has allowed:

- ✓ Achieve a high level of dematerialization by consolidating the traceability of the implementation processes and to safeguard their documentation.
- ✓ Gain in effectiveness and time in real-time monitoring of the financial performance of the projects.
- ✓ Achieve a security on the reliability of data and a limitation of the errors.

This application was the subject of an audit by the Audit Authority, who emphasized the reliability of the system that was implemented.

Therefore, with the dematerialization initiated in the period 2007-2013, the Programme will continue on this line according to the following guiding principles:

- Once-data-entry: once a beneficiary has entered a data in the computer application, he will not need to re-enter it at the following processes.
- Quick access to the information/documentation: work improved the ergonomics of the computer application with the existing order allow more direct access to the documentation. In the tasks relating to the certification of expenses, it will be proposed store the documentation relating to the partnership thus avoiding to each beneficiary have to climb the same documentation (supporting documents of the meetings, products, etc. ).
- Improvement for the completion of documents: will be provided, to the extent possible, drop-down menus proposing predefined responses in all phases of the project, extending the system auto-fill in the fields of information and verification of the inserted data in order to minimize the errors.

In addition to these guiding principles, based on the technical possibilities and legal of each Member State, the Programme will ensure the implementation of the electronic signature in order to obtain a complete dematerialization of the processes.

Finally, in order to facilitate the task of the potential beneficiaries of the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme eligible also to other programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation, the Programme will use in considered pertinent and possible, the documents models developed by the INTERACT programme.

## SECTION 8 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

## 8.1. Sustainable development

Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of Common Provisions noted that "the objectives of the EIE Funds shall be pursued in accordance with the principle of sustainable development and with the promotion on the part of the Union of the goal of conservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, as stated in the article 11 and article 191, paragraph 1, of the TFUE, taking into account the principle of "polluter pays"; and "The member States and the Commission shall ensure that in the preparation and execution of the programmes and association agreements promote the requirements of environmental protection, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation to the same, the biodiversity, resilience to disasters and the prevention and risk management".

The ex ante assessment and the strategic environmental assessment of the Programme provide the necessary elements to ensure that the SUDOIE programme maintains a respect for the principle of sustainable development and contributes to its compliance.

The programme will encourage the contribution to the improvement of the air quality, in particular, in urban areas, taking into account the objectives of the European regulations about the air quality 18 December 2013 and the Directive 2008/50/EC. There is a direct correlation between the alteration of the climatic variables and the increase of greenhouse effects corresponding 98% to the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O

The investment priorities and the specific objectives of the Programme are in a sustainable development logic for the cooperation area. They link the innovation and PME strengthening actions with sustainable environment and sustainable energy development. Therefore, sustainable development is encouraged by the integration of the main variables which, from a cooperation point of view, may contribute to economic, environmental and social development of the territory and its people, in a sustainable way.

In the calls it will impact on the orientation of the nominations to a logic of sustainable development, so that within the results to be achieved are can have a positive response to the contribution of each project/operation to the general principle of sustainability of development. In this sense, a candidacy that present significant effects of negative impact on the environment should integrate countervailing measures or may be rejected by the Selection Committee if the compensatory measures proposed are judged not adapted with respect to the likely impact on the environment.

Although the programme does not give priority maritime action, included mainly in the MED and Atlantic Spaces cooperation areas, with the exception of the actions putting together cooperation between Atlantic and Mediterranean basins, will take into account the Barcelona Convention and the Directive of Waters and Waste.

The calls for projects will be done according to the environmental European, national and regional regulation, as well as the green public procurement and the environmental



criteria in all the axes. The projects with certificates such as ISO 14001 will enjoy advantages during the selection process.

Finally, with conformity of art. 55.4 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, the *ex ante* evaluation included a specific part about the needs about strategic environmental assessment defined in the Directive 2001/42/EC. The Managing Authority made a consultation with the environmental authorities of the 4 Member States (between May and July 2014) about the pertinence report of the strategic environmental assessment and the draft of the programme (available in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English). As a consequence of the consultation the 4 Environmental Authorities said that for the regions of the Southwest, the INTERREG V-B SUDOE programme would not produce remarkable incidences in the Environment. Thus, it has not been necessary to implement an Ordinary Strategic Environmental Assessment. The main reason used by the Environmental Authorities is that the Programmes will fund immaterial actions and that encourages the application of specific actions for the Environment. This process is described in detail in the chapter 6 of the *ex ante* evaluation.

## **8.2. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**

The Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of Common Provisions, points out in his article. 7, Second paragraph, that "Member States and the Commission shall take appropriate measures to avoid any discrimination on grounds of sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation and implementation of the programmes. In particular, during the preparation and implementation of the programmes will be taken into account accessibility for persons with disabilities."

The Programme, since its stage of development, takes into account the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination and has developed a set of working principles during all phases of the Programme, to be implemented by the partnership and the rest of the actors, in particular:

- Development of clear objectives and indicators relevant with regard to equality and non-discrimination, as far as practicable from the point of view of the typologies of selected performances. This monitoring may be carried out in such a way as to complement the established indicators at the level of priority investment and specific objective by the structures for the management of the Programme.
- The implementation of an integrated approach to equality in the cross-application of the selection of project applications to prevent or compensate for the disadvantages or situations of discrimination that still exist, and the takes into consideration and systematic cross of the elements of equality and non-discrimination.

- Promotion of access, in particular, digital, or functional, of the Programme materials to people who have greater difficulties for their consultation.

### 8.3. Equality between men and women

The Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of Common Provisions, points out in his article. 7, First paragraph, that "*Member States and the Commission shall ensure that are taken into account and promote equality between men and women and the gender mainstreaming throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including what refers to the monitoring, reporting and evaluation.*"

Treatment of the principle of equality between women and men will be treated in together with the cross-cutting principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. Actions carried out will have an impact on the three aspects of joint and coordinated manner, strengthening, according to the target audience, one aspect or another.

In this way, specific actions to implement overlap in their approach and structure with the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, but with certain nuances that enhance the principle of equality women-men, as detailed below:

- Revision to that all the indicators, in that it is practicable, have a breakdown by sex. This level of disaggregation will take place in all the phases of the Programme and in the candidacies of the projects.
- Revision of the computer system has already launched in the period 2007-2013 to analyze whether it is possible to continue to deepen in the registration of data by gender, the introduction or review of specific sections, etc. so that gain visibility, particularly in the public part toward the beneficiaries and the general public.
- The Programme will take into account the need for ongoing formation of their partnership in the area of equal opportunities between women and men and encourage the participation of management personnel and instruction in actions of education and training in the field throughout the programming period.
- Encourage the participation of the institutions or agencies dedicated to the promotion of equality between women and men within the structures of the Programme and, in your case, keep informed to these agencies on the development of the programme, so that they can comment.
- Promote the use of a non-sexist language, in particular, the actions of information, advertising and communication of the Programme.



## SECTION 9 SEPARATE ELEMENTS

## 9.1. Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

*Not Applicable.*

## 9.2. Performance framework of the cooperation programme

**Table 56: Performance framework (summary table)**

Priority axis	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
Axis 1	Certified expenses of priority axis 1	EUR	6,323,183	52,693,191
Axis 1	Companies cooperating with research institutions in research projects funded by SUDOE	Number of companies	99	300
Axis 1	Research centers involved in transnational research projects	Number of research centres	99	300
Axis 2	Certified expenses of priority axis 2	EUR	2,392,556	19,937,964
Axis 2	Business development services created or supported by SUDOE	Number of services	9	33
Axis 2	Internationalization Services created or supported by SUDOE	Number of services	6	22
Axis 3	Certified expenses of priority axis 3	EUR	1,879,865	15,665,544
Axis 3	Number of pilot actions and strategies developed for the improvement of the energy efficiency of the buildings	Number	3	12
Axis 3	Number of tools and services developed for the improvement of the energy efficiency in buildings	Number	5	20

Adopted version  
18/06/2015

Priority axis	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
Axis 4	Certified expenses of priority axis 4	EUR	2,050,762	17,089,684
Axis 4	Population that benefits from the measures of protection against natural risks	Number of persons	3,378,708	13,500,000
Axis 4	Number of transnational strategies or actions plans developed for the risk prevention and management	Number of strategies	3	12
Axis 5	Certified expenses of priority axis 5	EUR	3,417,937	28,482,807
Axis 5	Number of sites supported/recovered enrolled in management processes for sustainable development or preservation of the environment and mitigating the impact of human activities.	Number of sites	15	50
Axis 5	Number of tools and models developed for improving knowledge management and the ecological quality of SUDOE spaces	Number of tools	4	12

### 9.3. Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

According to the art. 5 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 on the Association and the multi-level governance, the authorities of the Programme have done actions for the mobilization of the partnership and potential beneficiaries during the preparation phase of the Programme and the definition of priorities and actions for the potential new Programme 2014-2020. On the one hand, the national authorities represent the Member States involved in the SUDOE programme and have secured the role of coordination and point of contact and animation toward the regional and local

authorities in each country; they have been able to make contributions in the construction phase of the strategy and priorities.

On the other hand, the main actors of the SUDOE space have been consulted by NA or Programme surveys. The survey of the Programme was open from the 23 September 2013 until 30 October 2013 not only to the former and current Programme projects but to all citizens entering the SUDOE web site. There was a specific part with a link to a questionnaire on line in three languages (English, French and Portuguese).

In the final stage of preparation, the Programme has been subjected to public consultation to all its citizens during a month, from 23 June 2014 until 23 July 2014. In this period the citizens and institutions that have been considered relevant, have been able to issue their contributions to improve the draft Programme through the Programme web site. The National Authorities, for their part, have made actions of dissemination of this public space of consultation to amplify the scope.

29 comments to the Programme were received and analyzed:

Institution	State	Institution	State
Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)	ES	Diputación de La Coruña	ES
Câmara Municipal Águeda	PT	AZTI Tecnalia - Marine Research Division	ES
Nuevas Tecnologías Forestales, SL	ES	Communauté d'agglomération du Grand Cahors	FR
Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil.	PT	Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio de Andalucía	ES
Centro Operativo e de Tecnologia de Regadio	PT	Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos	PT
Agência para o Desenvolvimento das Indústrias Criativas	PT	Sociedad Iberica de Ictiologia	ES
EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE Atlantic European Regional Office – EFIATLANTIC	FR	Instituto de Ecología Acuática de la Universidad de Girona	ES
Association des Chambres d'Agriculture de l'Arc Atlantique	FR	Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medioambiente - Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima - Dirección General de Recursos pesqueros y Acuicultura	ES
Área Internacional SURGENIA, Centro Tecnológico Andaluz de Diseño	ES	Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional de Lisboa e Vale de Tejo	PT
Aerospace Valley	FR	Município do Fundão	PT
RNAE - Associação das Agências de Energia e Ambiente (Rede Nacional)	PT	Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, ICNF	PT
UPC-Barcelona TECH - Departament Urbanisme i Ordenació del Territori	ES	Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa - Centro de Oceanografia	PT
Instituto de Tecnología Cerámica - Centro de Soporte a la Innovación	ES	Laboratoire GET - Géosciences et Environnement de Toulouse	FR

Institution	State	Institution	State
UICN Centro de Cooperación del Mediterráneo - Departamento Desarrollo Corporativo	ES	Private citizen	FR
Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía, S.A.	ES		

The comments have been analyzed by the working group and they have been incorporated into the programme in the cases of improvement of the quality and focus of the measures provided for in the Programme

Finally, the partnership has a special participation via the Monitoring Committee throughout the programming period as well as through the national authorities of the Programme. The relevant public authorities, the economic and social partnership, the relevant agencies that represent the civil society, including environmental and equal opportunities, will be involved throughout the development of the Programme, in accordance with arts. 5 and 48 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

**9.4. Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources**

*Not Applicable.*