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# Main features of the first call for proposals

Interreg NEXT MED – October 2023

#everythingMEDpossible



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DE SARDIGNA  
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AQABA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY



**Disclaimer:** the following presentation contains the main features of the first call for proposals.

Specific rules on the participation, evaluation and all technical aspects will be **contained in the Guidelines for Applicants** when the call is launched.



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# The first call for proposals at a glance

## Key facts and figures

- Open to the **4 Programme Priorities** and **9 Programme Specific Objectives**;
- EU funds allocated: **€ 103.633.273,00** (financial allocation per specific objective);
- **Up to 89%** of projects total costs covered by the EU contribution;
- **Minimum** contribution at project level: **11%** of the total costs;
- **3 types of projects**: Thematic, Youth-oriented and Governance;
- **Minimum 3** different participating countries in partnerships;
- **At least 1 Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC)** and **1 European Union Member Country (EUMC)** in partnerships.

**A proposal shall refer to one Specific Objective only**



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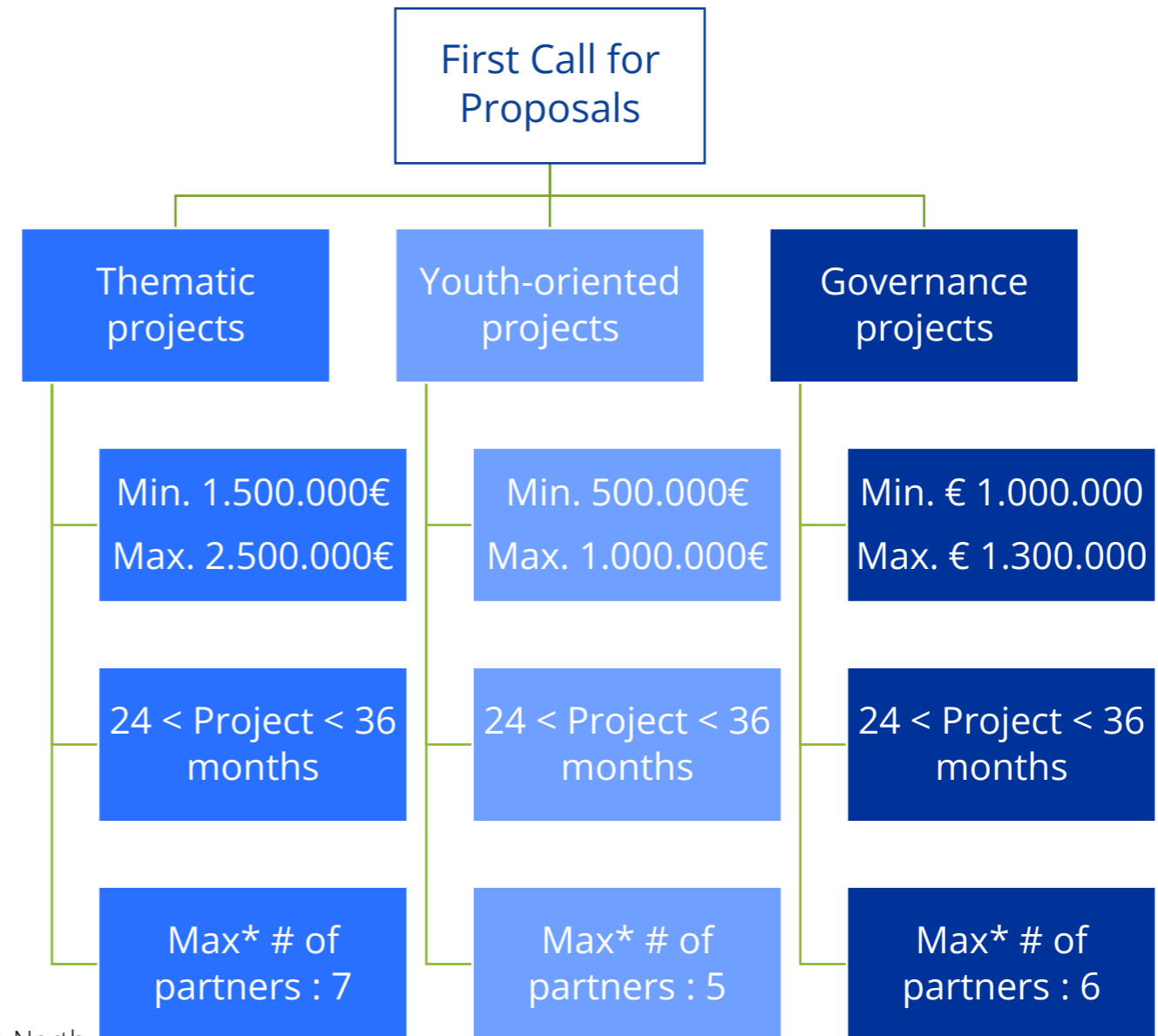


# The first call for proposals: main features

Financial dimension and duration

**Thematic** and **youth-oriented** projects are open to all specific objectives except specific objective 4.1 (Governance)

**Governance** projects are open to specific Objective 4.1 only



\* Recommended maximum number of partners and recommended well-balanced partnership North-South and East-West Mediterranean



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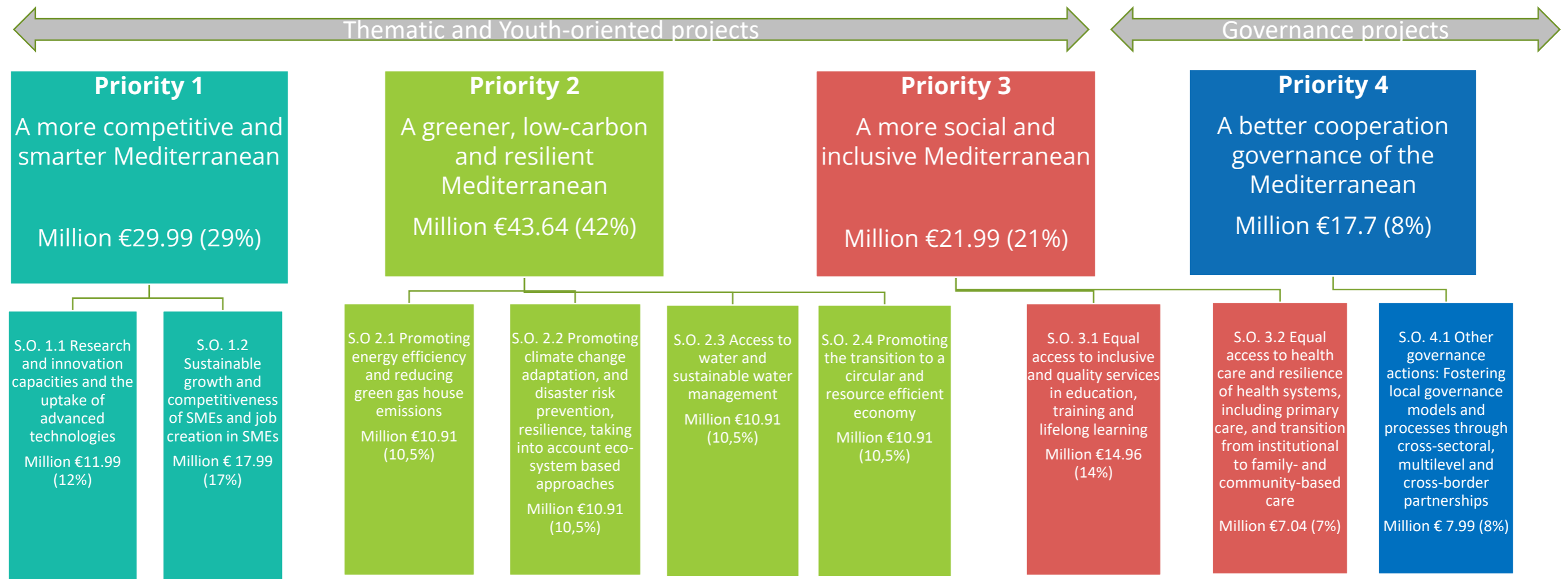
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# The first call for proposals: main features

## Financial allocation by Programme Specific Objective



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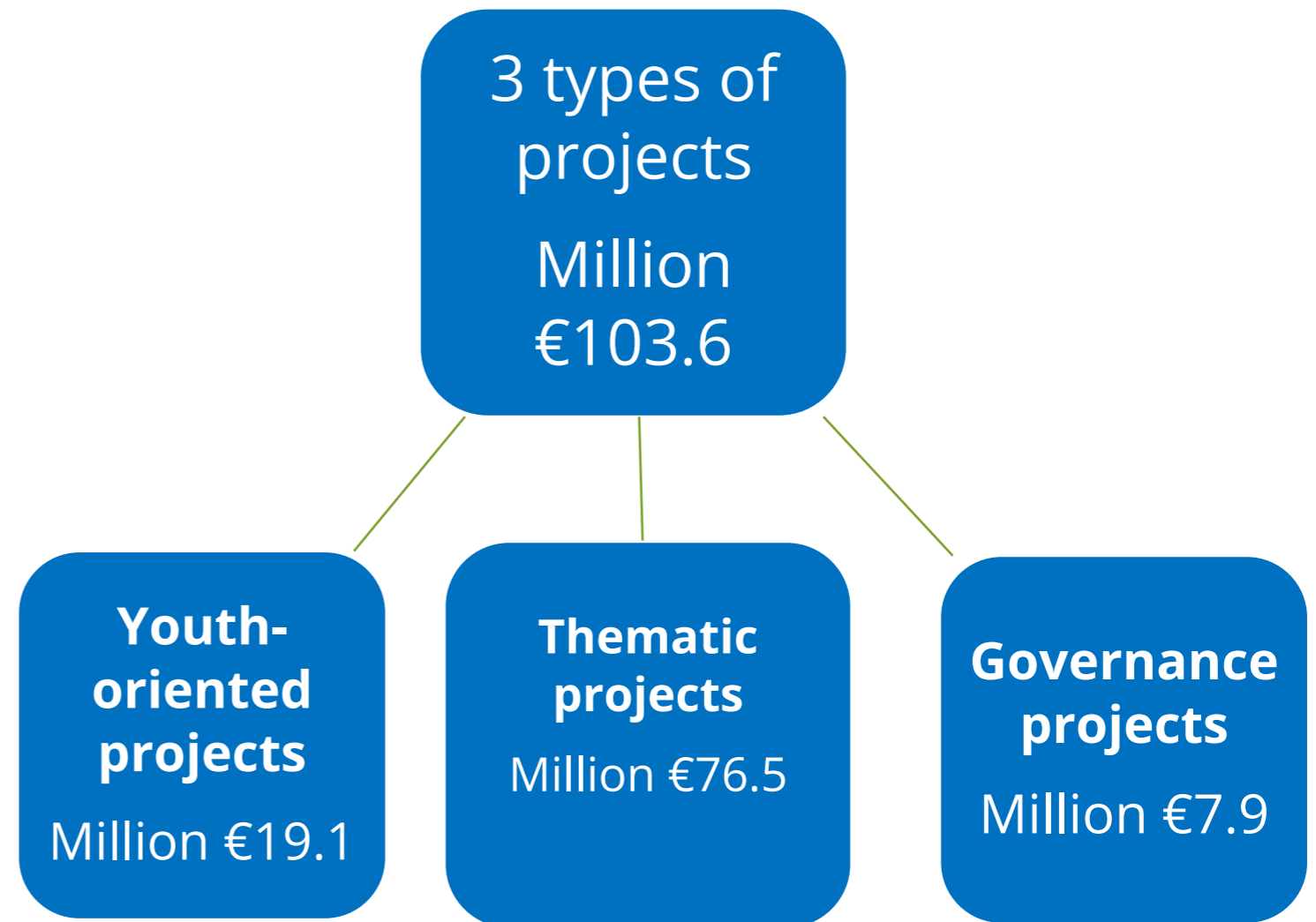


# The first call for proposals: main features

## Three types of projects

Three different categories of projects, each with a set of specific features

- **Youth-oriented** projects as a major innovation in the Interreg NEXT MED strategy (within priorities 1, 2 and 3);
- **Thematic projects** in the continuity of the ENI CBC MED standard and strategic thematic projects (within priorities 1, 2 and 3);
- **Governance projects** to better connect public authorities, local stakeholders and citizens (priority 4).



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*Types of projects and Total EU contribution available*



# Type of projects

Focus on thematic projects

- Can be submitted under Priorities 1, 2, and 3 ;
- Significant **demonstration** and **pilot** dimension;
- **Scale-up of already developed solutions** should be considered ;
- **Avoid**, as much as possible, to “reinvent the wheel” and **start from scratch**;
- **Link with existing** results and knowledge;
- Achieve an **impact** at different levels, including **technical, societal** and **regulatory**.

The **focus** of thematic projects is on the **operational phase**  
including pilots and experiments on the ground



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# Type of projects

Focus on youth-oriented projects

- Can be submitted under Priorities 1, 2, and 3 ;
- **20% of the budget** of Priorities 1,2 and 3 is allocated to youth-oriented projects;
- Aim to **enable young people to take action** in Interreg NEXT MED Programme through their participation in the design and implementation of the projects;
- All proposals shall have the scope to **deliver mainly for young people**;
- **Meet at least one of the two** following criteria:

Partnership including **at least 2** organisations whose **majority of staff** involved in the management is **aged 18-30**

And  
/ Or

Partnership including **at least 2** organisations whose **core mission\*** is to work **for the benefit of young people**



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\*Demonstrating **at least two years** of experience from the date of the launching of the call in leading or participating in projects addressing Youth with similar managed budget as for the share of the requested grant





# Type of projects

## Focus on governance projects

- Can be submitted under **Priority 4 only** ;
- Will **improve** the **capacities of public authorities** and **other stakeholders** to **design** and effectively **deliver public services** that aim at the **socio-economic** and **environmental well-being** of **citizens** and **places**, specifically on a local scale;
- Focus on the development of **local governance models** and **processes** that strengthen cross-sector and multilevel partnership;
- Will **address** issues of interest at local level-for like the **provision of services** or **development of strategies/local policies** in the fields of health, education, mobility, employment, social inclusion, waste management, energy efficiency, urban development, etc.;
- Will promote **common** methodologies and tools, **share** best practices, data and results, and will create **transnational frameworks** to facilitate **exchange** of knowledge and collective action **across borders** among groups of stakeholders from different countries.

The ultimate goal is the implementation of transnational cooperation projects that **engage citizens, local stakeholders** and **public authorities** in the delivery of **quality public services**



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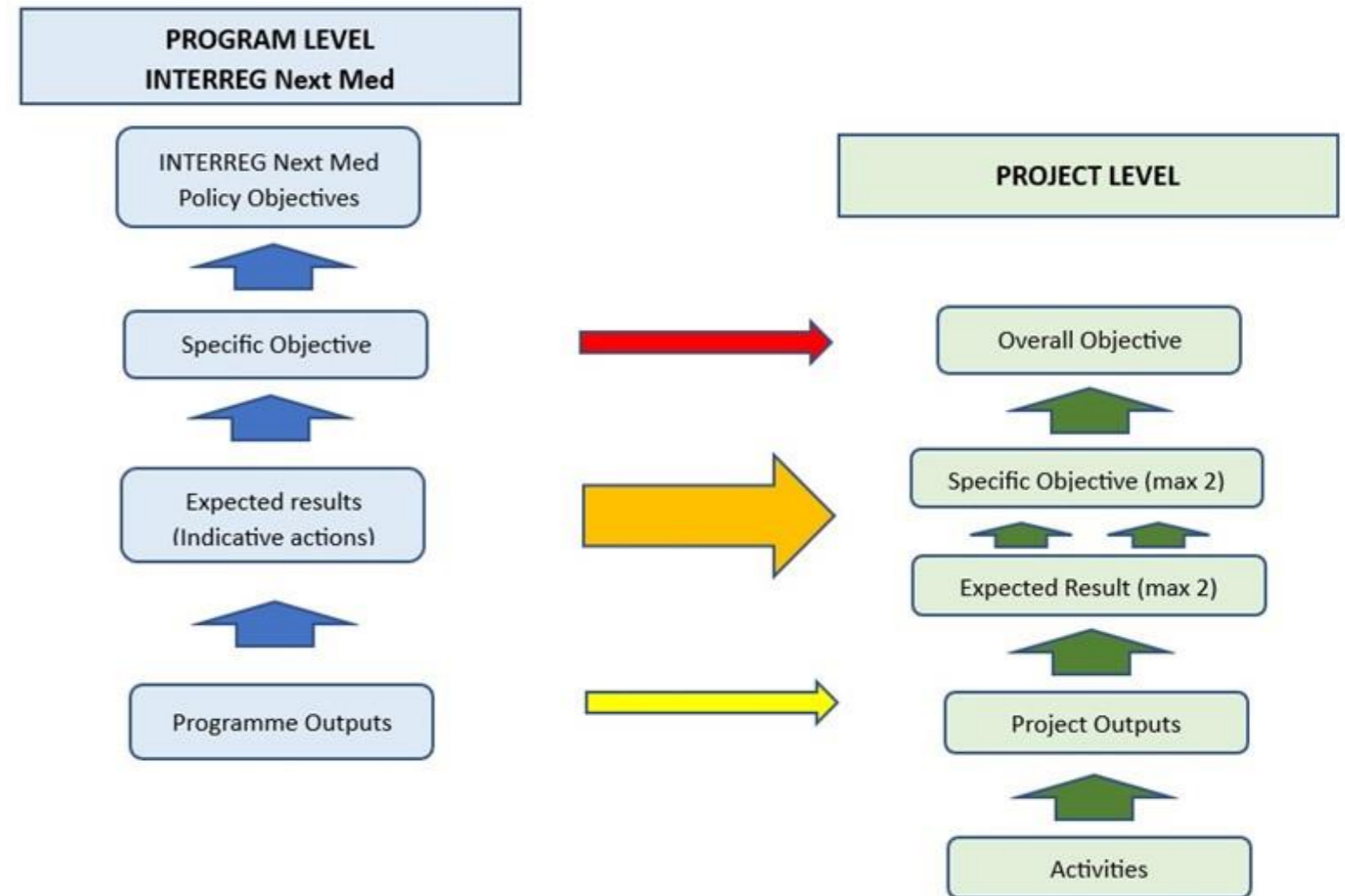
# The first call for proposals: main features

## The Intervention Logic – Logical framework

The Logical framework is designed **to match** the project's objectives, results and outputs **with the strategy of Interreg NEXT MED Programme;**

Interreg NEXT MED projects will have a clear **result-oriented approach;**

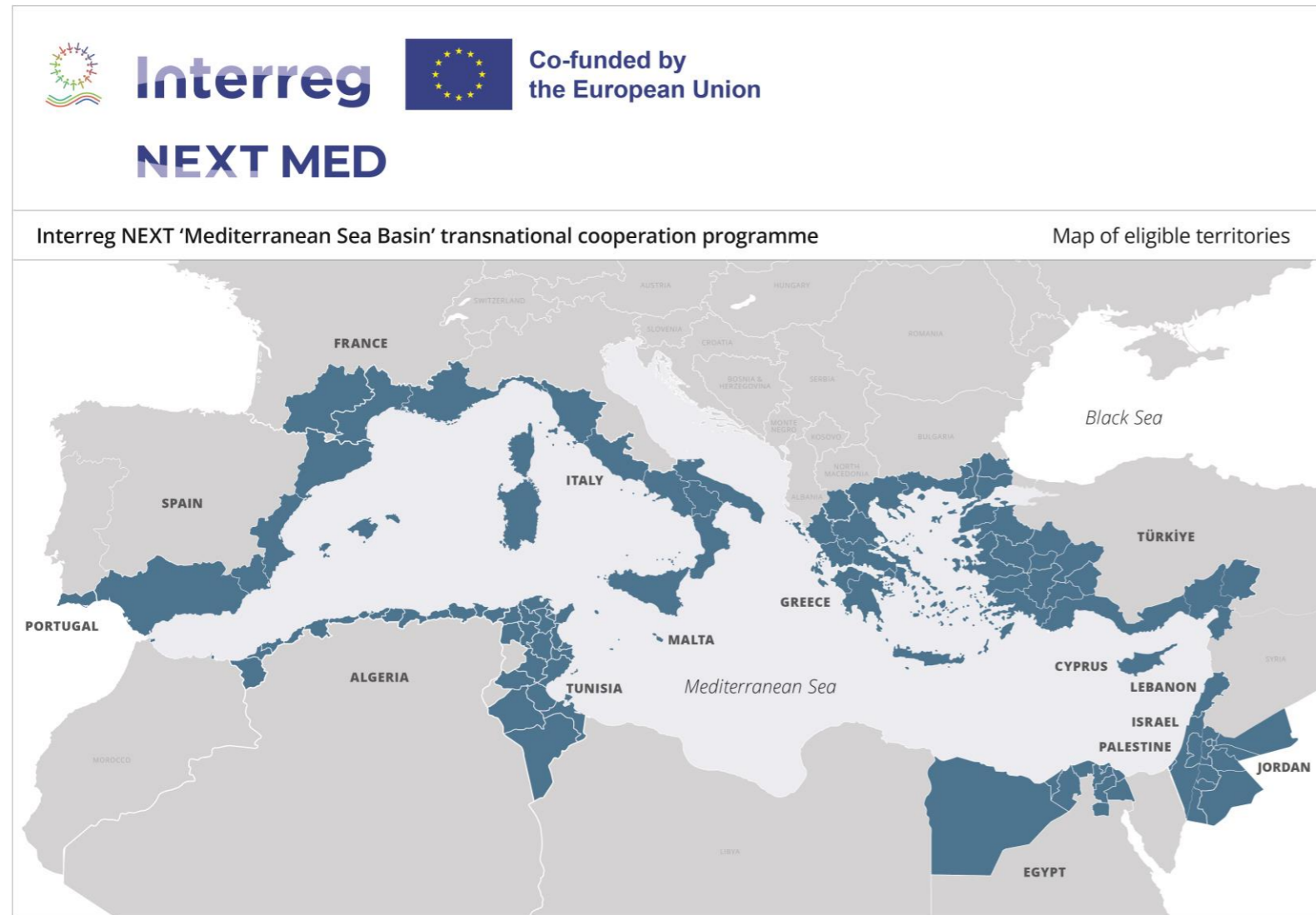
A good Logical framework is the best **roadmap** for project implementation.



From activities to the overall objective, the **main focus is on the long-term change** that the projects must aim at!



# Eligible territories



## 15 participating\* countries:

- **Mediterranean Partner Countries:** Algeria, Egypt, Israël, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Türkiye
- **EU Mediterranean Countries:** Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain

90+ eligible territories

200+ million people live in the cooperation area

\*Eligibility of Mediterranean Partner Countries partner countries to be confirmed upon signature of a financial agreement with the European Commission



# The first call for proposals

Eligibility of applicants and partners (*non exhaustive list*)

Participation is allowed for legal entities (not physical persons) with legal status of:

- **Public bodies** (national and local administrations, other public bodies);
- **Bodies governed by public law\***;
- **Private Bodies** (enterprises, NGOs, associations and other no profit organisations, etc.);
- **International Organisations** (with limitations) set up by intergovernmental agreements and accepting specific programme obligations through a specific declaration to be submitted.

The applicant and the partners shall be **legally registered** in the **eligible territories** since **at least two years from the launching date of this first call!**



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\*As defined by art. 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU (in MPCs those obliged to follow national rules - check with National Contact Points)



# The first call for proposals

## Eligibility of territories - activities

- **General rule:** project activities must be implemented in eligible territories of the countries represented **in the partnership**.
- Exceptions for geographical activities implementation: specific activities outside the eligible area may be included, provided that their **added value** to the Programme area is well **justified**. Their eligibility will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.



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# The first call for proposals

## Specific requirements

### Conditions to be met:

- The same organisation can apply **only once as Applicant under each Specific Objective;**
- **No limitation** applies for the participation **at partner level;**
- The same organization **cannot be awarded\*** more than **2 grants as Lead Partner** under this call for proposals.

In case an organisation participates in more than one 1 project as Applicant under the same Specific Objective, **all concerned projects submitted under that Specific Objective will be rejected!**



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\*In case more than two proposals from the same Applicant are preselected according to the rules for this call, only the two best ranked proposals will be retained in the list to be financed



# The first call for proposals

## Specific financial requirements

- When preparing the budget, **at least 50%** of the project total eligible costs shall be dedicated **to activities** to be **implemented in the Mediterranean Partner Countries territories.**

The criterion is fulfilled in the following cases:

At **least 50%** of the project total eligible costs is allocated **to the partners from the Mediterranean Partner Countries**

or

In case the financial allocation to partners from Mediterranean Partner Countries is lower than 50%, **the difference up to the minimum of 50%** shall be justified by **activities implemented by the EU Applicant and/or partner/s and/or International Organisations in the Mediterranean Partner Countries**



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# The first call for proposals

Indicative timetable and main reference documents

**Publication:** the call is expected to be launched by **mid November 2023 (provided that the first Financing Agreement has been signed)**

Main available reference documents to be read when starting to prepare a proposal:

- **Programme Document** containing the Programme strategy
- **Guide on project preparation** with some tips and recommendations for drafting a competitive proposal;
- **Performance Framework Methodology Paper** approved with the Programme Document containing the indicators, type of interventions, list of potential activities and target values.







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# Stay in touch

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