UNIONE EUROPEA
FondoEuropeodiSviluppoRegionale

INFRASTRUTTURE eRETI

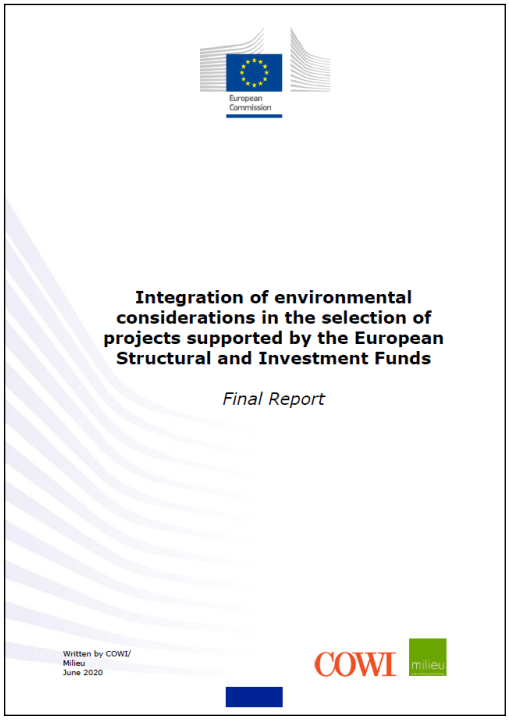
Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti

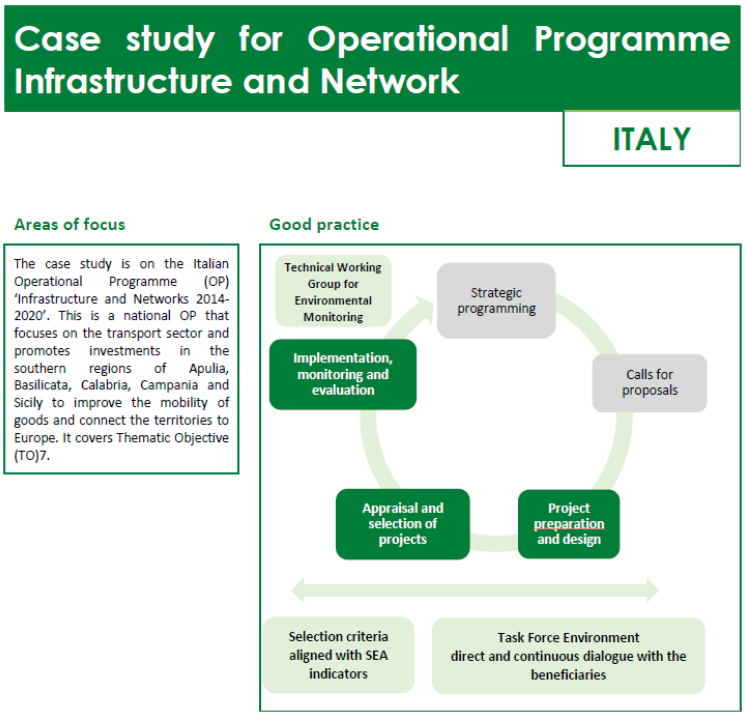
LA COMMISSIONE EUROPEA RICONOSCE IL GRANDE VALORE ATTRIBUITO ALL'AMBIENTE DAL PON INFRASTRUTTURE E RETI 2014/2020

Integration of environmental considerations in the selection of projects supported by the European structural and investment funds

Novembre 2020 - L'esperienza del PON IeR è stata riconosciuta dalla Commissione Europea come una delle buone prassi a livello europeo per l'integrazione degli aspetti ambientali nei Programmi Operativi.

Il riconoscimento è avvenuto a seguito di uno studio sull'integrazione delle tematiche ambientali nella selezione degli interventi finanziati con Fondi SIE, svolto nel corso del 2019 dalle Società COWI A/S e Milieu SPRL per conto della Commissione Europea, al quale ha fatto seguito la pubblicazione di un rapporto dal titolo "***Integration of environmental considerations in the selection of projects supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds***", disponibile sul sito ufficiale dell'Unione Europea al link https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/25295fb0-c577-11ea-b3a4-01aa75ed71a1.





Il caso di studio del PON IeR è stato scelto sulla base di una prima selezione di qualità effettuata da parte dei membri dello "European Network of Environmental Authorities (ENEA)-MA" e altri portatori di interesse, che ha individuato 28 Programmi Europei, all'interno dei quali sono stati poi ulteriormente selezionati i 12 Programmi Operativi considerati come buone prassi a livello europeo per il tema in esame.

Al caso di studio del PON IeR è dedicata una specifica sezione del rapporto ma l'esperienza del Programma è citata diffusamente nel documento, per fornire esempi pratici e virtuosi e raccomandazioni alle Autorità di Gestione dei Programmi finanziati con Fondi SIE, con particolare riguardo:

- alla costituzione di un Tavolo Tecnico per il Monitoraggio Ambientale del Programma, in cui sono coinvolti il Ministero dell'Ambiente, il Ministero dei Beni Culturali, l'ISPRA e l'Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale;
- alla presenza di una Task Force di esperti in materia ambientale, dedicata al monitoraggio ambientale del Programma, a garanzia della piena attuazione della procedura di VAS anche in fase di attuazione
- al coinvolgimento attivo dell'AdG, di tutte le assistenze tecniche e dei beneficiari nell'analisi delle tematiche ambientali e nell'integrazione tra monitoraggio fisico, finanziario e procedurale e monitoraggio ambientale.

For the **Italian OP Infrastructure and Networks**, the application form contains an environmental section with detailed instructions on the type of information required, including the description of potentially significant negative environmental effects and potential positive effects of the proposed intervention (see **Box 11**) Specific instructions to the applicants can be found in the case study in Annex III).

Box 11 Environmental information required in the application form in the Italian OP Infrastructure and Networks

- What type of environmental assessments have already been carried out on the project (EIA, EIA screening, appropriate assessment)?
- Territorial and environmental information:
  - Project area affected by hydrogeological restrictions;
  - Project area affected by landscape restrictions;
  - Project area overlapping with protected natural areas;
  - Project area overlapping with Natura 2000 network;
  - Project area characterised by hydro-geological risk and risk of coastal erosion;
  - Project area that involves agricultural, natural or semi-natural or otherwise non-anthropised areas.
- Short description of the potentially significant negative environmental effects (specifying any mitigation measures, monitoring activities and any expected compensation measures, indicating references to the supporting documents that must be attached) on the following environmental aspects:
  - Atmosphere;
  - Climate;
  - Hydrosphere;
  - Soil and subsoil;
  - Biodiversity;

  - Waste;
  - Noise;
  - Non-ionising radiation;
  - Landscape and cultural heritage;
  - Urban environment;
  - Other.
- Potential positive effects of the proposed intervention (in the same categories as for the negative environmental effects above).
- Energy efficiency, containment of energy consumption and other environmental measures, including:
  - Use of energy from renewable sources;
  - Use of telematics management systems for the reduction of consumption;
  - Adoption of GPP practices;

Source: *Case study on the OP Infrastructure and Networks, Italy*.

Box 34 Environmental monitoring for Italy's OP Infrastructure and Network

To verify the contribution to the achievement of environmental sustainability objectives and detect potential negative environmental effects, the implementation of the Programme is accompanied by a specific **environmental monitoring activity** and by the preparation of an annual monitoring report[78]. Environmental monitoring, which is the direct responsibility of the MA, supported by the Task Force Environment (see **Box 21** above), verifies the adherence of the interventions to the environmental criteria.

The monitoring methodology was defined in an **'Environmental Monitoring Plan'**[79], taking into account the environmental sustainability goals and the relevant indicators. The following good practices are identified:

A **'Technical Working Group for Environmental Monitoring'** was established to supervise the activities and results of the environmental monitoring. The Working Group is composed of representatives of MIT (Ministry of Transport), MATTM (General Directorate for Sustainable Development – DG SVI, and General Directorate for Environmental Assessments and Authorisations - DVA), MiBACT (Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism), ISPRA and the Agency for Territorial Cohesion. The Working Group has a fundamental role in environmental monitoring activities, specifically sharing methodological aspects and validating the evaluation process for the Programme. Both the Environmental Monitoring Plan and the Environmental Monitoring Report are submitted to the Working Group prior to their adoption by the MA.

The work of the Task Force Environment contributed to modifying the **agreement between the beneficiary and the MA** to include the obligation for beneficiaries to provide the documentation required for the application of the environmental indicators to carry out the SEA monitoring (pursuant to Article 18 of Legislative Decree 152/2006). The Task Force organises meetings with the beneficiaries to share specific technical information to facilitate its work in environmental monitoring. When the monitoring agreement is being drafted, the Task Force assists the beneficiary in compiling the environmental technical sheet.

The environmental monitoring system was recently integrated into the **information system of the Programme**, allowing the sharing and full integration of all available information. During the last meeting of the Monitoring Committee (in Taranto in June 2019[80]), the new environmental monitoring section of the physical, procedural and financial monitoring system of the Programme was presented. The new section of the information system allows environmental information to be consulted at both project and programme scale. A **WebGIS service** has been developed for a quick visualisation of the location and characteristics of the interventions financed by the OP. It allows spatial analysis to be carried out not only by those directly involved in the management of the OP but also by citizens[81] with a direct access on the institutional website of the OP.

The Task Force participates in **training on OP monitoring**, organised by the technical assistance team of the MIT, presenting the OP Information System and, in particular, the section dedicated to environmental monitoring and the loading of environmental data to populate environmental indicators.

Source: *Case study on the OP Infrastructure and Network, Italy*.