

STATEMENT OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERREG V INDIAN OCEAN PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEE 7TH DECEMBER 2021

CCI 2014TC16RFTN009



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1. Decisions of the Interreg Monitoring Committee of 7th December 2021

1.1 State of progress of the Interreg Indian Ocean programme

The committee noted the progress made by the programme, notably characterised by a rate of programming of 99 % and a certification rate of 38 % as on 31/10/2021. The automatic decommitment on 31/12/2021 will be crossed after the December appeal for funds.

The committee is informed of the strains that the health crisis has put on the dynamics of the programme ; since March 2020 air links difficulties in the Indian Ocean has severely constrained implementation of cooperation projects.

In 2022 programming and certification efforts will continue but the results will be strengthening linked to the health crisis evolution and the travel restrictions in the Indian Ocean.

1.2 Changes in the Interreg V Indian Ocean Programme

The committee approved the modification of the financing plan and indicators of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme.

The adjusted programme will be officially forwarded to the European Commission for approval.

1.3 Update on assessments and communication of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme

The committee noted the thematic evaluations of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme carried out respectively in 2020 and 2021.

Evaluation reports will be officially sent to the European commission.

The committee also noted communication actions carried out in 2021, with increased involvement of the Indian Ocean Interreg programme in national and european communication campaigns.

1.4 Preparation of the *Interreg VI Indien Ocean programme (2021-2027)*

The committee noted the work on the Interreg VI programme carried out since march 2020 especially the consultations organized with local partners and third party states. These consultations have made it possible to obtain 9 third party states agreements to take part in the next Interreg programme (Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania, Maldives, Australia and India). In addition, positive responses from the Departmental Council of Mayotte, the IOC and the TAAF were received.

The committee noted the schedule for further work with expected approval in the second half of 2022. In addition, discussions will continue with third party states to draw up new framework agreements with the Regional Council of Reunion.

The committee noted the will of the Departmental Council of Mayotte to establish consultations for liaison with the Interreg Mozambique Channel.



INTERREG MONITORING COMMITTEE

ANNEX 1 :

Presentation support

INTERREG Monitoring Committee

Plenary session



7th DECEMBER 2021

AGENDA

Interreg V Indian Ocean programme 2014-2020

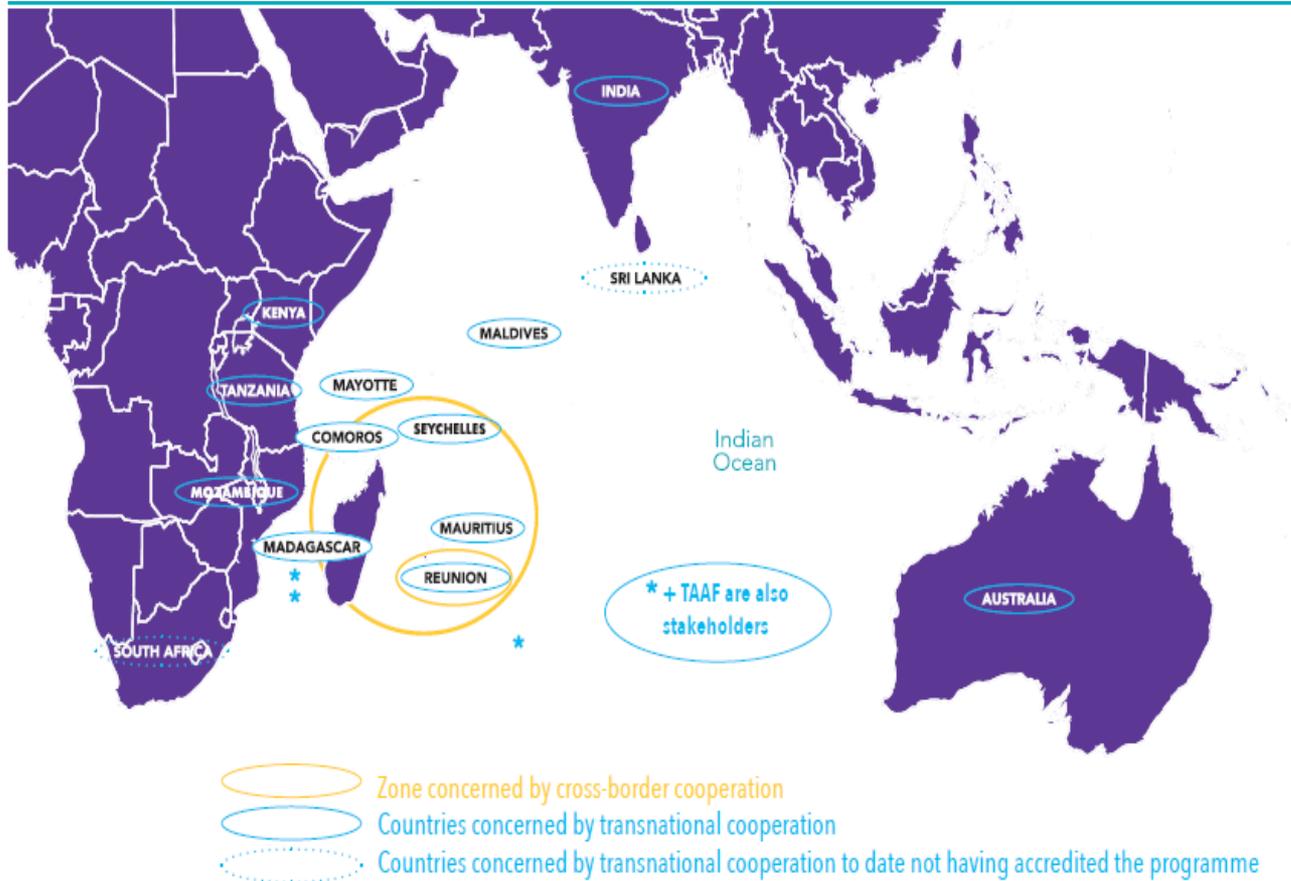
1. Implementation dynamics of the Interreg Indian Ocean programme
2. Changes in the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme
3. Communication and evaluation of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme

Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme 2021-2027

4. Preparation of the 2021-2027 programme

1- Implementation dynamics of the programme

Presentation of the Interreg V IO programme



The programme

- 11 third-party countries
- Région Réunion managing authority
- **€74.3 M total budget :**
 - ✓ €63.2 M ERDF (EU)
 - ✓ €11.1 M national counterpart
- **2 strands**
 - ✓ Cross-border €41.4 M
 - ✓ Transnational €21.8 M

Implementation of the Interreg V IO programme

Programme adopted in September 2015, first projects programmed in July 2016, high programming dynamics in 2017 and 2018

First funding amendment in early 2019 to maintain the programming dynamics

Impact of the health crisis in en 2020-21 on the implementation of programmed projects, due to the long period of closure of regional air transport

Second amendment of the financing plan in December 2021 to consider this particular context

Overview of progress - programming

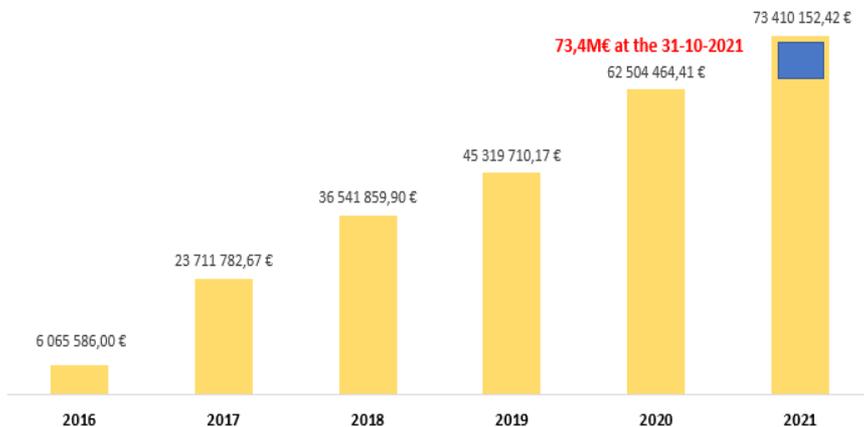
PROGRAMMING

- 229 supported projects
- Total amount : €73.4 M, representing 99% of the model

FORECASTS BY THE END OF 2021

- 12 projects in the progress of being approved, for a total eligible cost of €1.7M, i.e 101 % of the budget

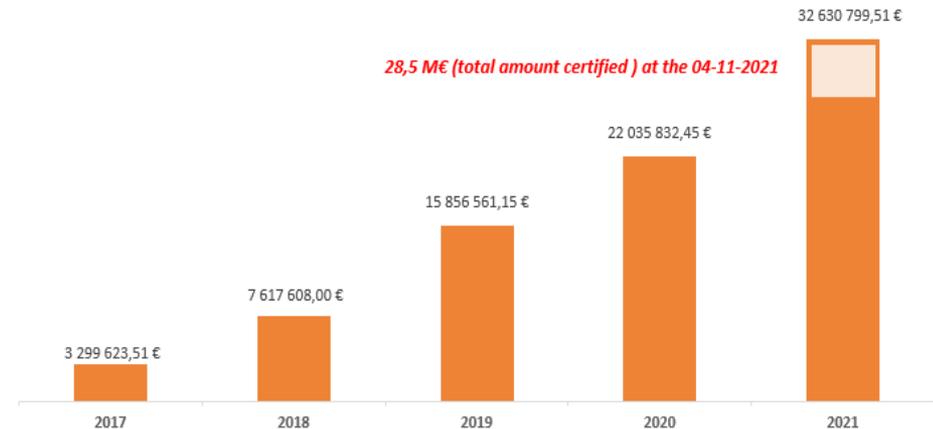
Evolution of programming since the beginning of the program
(total cumulated eligible cost)



CERTIFICATION

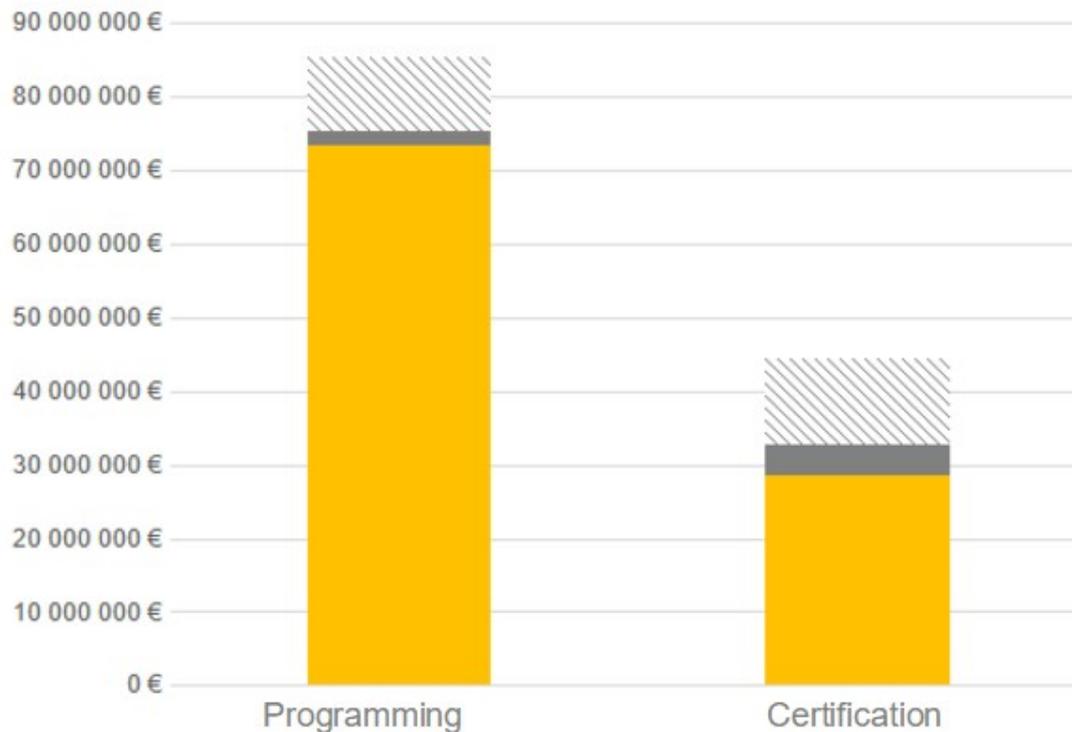
- Total amount : €28.5 M, representing 38% of the model
- FORECAST BY THE END OF 2021
- Significant effort to certify in the second half of 2021, which should allow us to cross the OD threshold with an advance of €1.2 M
- Call for funds on December 17 and 18, 2021

Evolution of certification since the beginning of the program
(total cumulated cost)



Forecast for 2022

2022 programming and certification forecast (total amount)



➤ Programming objective of €10 M in 2022 to reach a programming rate of 115%

€11.6 M certification objective to cross the 2022 OD threshold (€ 37.7 M/€ 44.3 M total cost)

- Implementation of a monitoring of the certifications of each office from the end of 2021
- Priority to the mobilization of partners (forwarding of supporting documents) and the certification of expenditure

Persistence of the health crisis – programme only with third countries and projects heavily dependent on air transport

Involvement of the partner countries

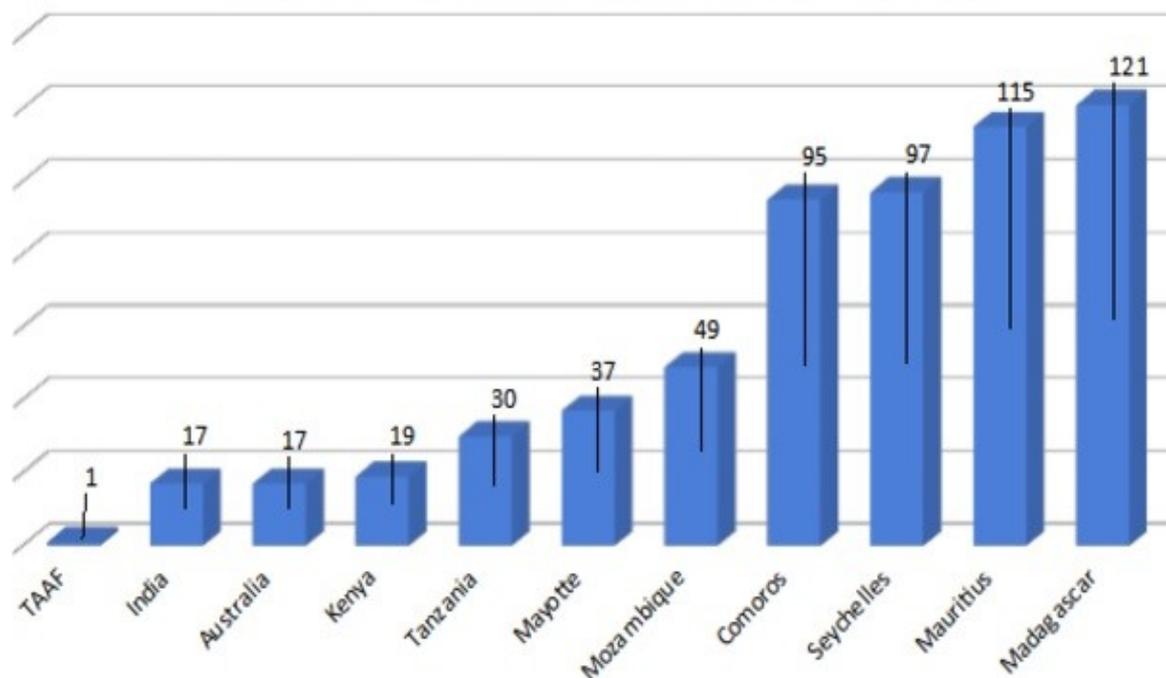
CROSS-BORDER STRAND

- 131 projects
- Total amount : €48.2 M, representing 99% of the model dedicated to this strand

TRANSNATIONAL STRAND

- 98 projects
- Total amount : €24.9 M, representing 98% of the model dedicated to this strand

Number of projects programmed as on 31/10/2021
by country and territory participating in the programme



EDF-ERDF coordination

- **New in 2021** : EDF funding granted directly to PIROI and CIRAD, for operators also supported by the ERDF Interreg on joint projects
- **The need** to define more detailed coordination procedures, at processing and payment of the projects
- **However** the opportunity to mobilize these funds for additional expenses (INTERREG IO does not support expenses directly incurred by foreign partners due to the complexity of the audit rules)

Elements from the technical meeting

Comments on programme progress	Details provided by the managing authority
<p>The Commission asks to specify the articulation between the EAFRD and the INTERREG programme in terms of agricultural cooperation (research and training).</p> <p>It also asked for clarification on the distinction between the European Erasmus programme and the REUNION project carried by the University on axis 10.</p>	<p>In terms of mobility and training, INTERREG finances projects with a regional dimension carried out in partnership with research and training structures in the Indian Ocean (division lines indicated in section 6 "Coordination" of the OP adopted in 2015).</p> <p>The EAFRD only finances the training of active farmers, and INTERREG IO only finances people in initial and vocational training.</p> <p>The REUNION project is carried out in partnership with universities in the area, implies a reciprocity of exchanges (entry and exit of teachers and students), and is an initiative specific to Reunion Island.</p>

**Film illustrating the
projects supported by the
Interreg V Indian Ocean
programme (5 min)**

2- Changes in the programme

Change of the financing plan

	Model V2 (public expenditure)	Remaining planned on 31/12/2023	Proposed modifications	Model V3 (public expenditure)
Axis 1 : Research CB	21 352 943 €	1 833 094 €		21 352 943 €
Axis 2 : Research TN	6 558 825 €	1 329 100 €	- 800 000 €	5 758 825 €
Axis 3 : Economic development CB	5 976 473 €	- 460 363 €	+ 800 000 €	6 776 473 €
Axis 4 : Economic development TN	7 176 471 €	212 252 €	+ 300 000 €	7 476 471 €
Axis 5 : Risk management CB	5 182 353 €	241 543 €		5 182 353 €
Axis 6 : Risk management TN	3 035 296 €	-1 158 969 €	+ 1 400 000 €	4 435 296 €
Axis 7 : Natural heritage CB	3 335 295 €	1 051 966 €		3 335 295 €
Axis 8 : Natural and cultural heritage TN	2 958 824 €	- 4 540 €	+ 500 000 €	3 458 824 €
Axis 9 : Training CB	9 917 652 €	2 221 533 €	- 800 000 €	9 117 652 €
Axis 10 : Training TN	4 352 945 €	1 746 862 €	- 1 400 000 €	2 952 945 €
TOTAL	63 157 387 €			63 157 387 €

Changes in indicators (1/2)

Axes	Codes	Indicators	Target value 2023	New target value 2023
2	CO24	Number of new researchers in supported entities / TN	9	7
	CO42	Number of research institutions participating in transnational research projects / TN	7	6
3	IS03a	Number of actions facilitating contacts and exchanges between economic operators / CB	100	115
4	IS03b	Number of actions facilitating contacts and exchanges between economic operators / TN	70	75
8	IS06b	Number of collaborative projects for the preservation and promotion of natural heritage / TN	8	10
9	CO43	Number of participants in corss-border mobility initiatives / CB	235	215
10	CO43	Number of participants in corss-border mobility initiatives / CB	100	68

Elements from the technical meeting

Comments on the programme change

The European Commission reminds that the indicators must represent at least 50% of the amount of each axis.

For axis 6, it will be necessary to verify if the previous indicators are still enough to cover the majority of the expenses of the axis.

Details provided by the managing authority

After verification, and on the basis of the latest budget forecast transmitted by PIROI, in November 2021, the contribution of the INTERREG programme to this infrastructure would be 2.3M€, or 52% of the amount of the axis.

Therefore, a new indicator is proposed, inspired by those included in the 2021-2027 regulations (and in particular the RCO024)

- Value of investments in new disaster response systems (m² built)

3- Communication and evaluation of the programme

Actions of communication (1/2)

NEWS

- * Interreg Youth Volunteer
- * Interreg Annual Event in Bruxelles (7 and 8 octobre 2021)

CREATIONS

- Articles in the regional council's newspaper
- Newsletters for the partner countries
- Testimonial videos
- Redesign of the website dedicated page

BROADCAST

- Website : www.regionreunion.com
- Regional council's newspaper : publication of articles on the programming and the supported projects
- Social media and O'TV :
- Réseaux sociaux et O'TV : testimonial videos, communication dedicated to the « Joli Mois de l'Europe »
- Public consultation : preparation of the new programme
- Airplane screen: replay of the motion design video of the Interreg programme



Actions of communication (2/2)

At national and european levels

Communication campaign
'Inclusive youth' : postcards on
the PAREO project (IRD)



Campaign of joint articles
transnational strand



Campaign Europe in my Regions : video
on the Indian Ocean sound library
(PRMA)

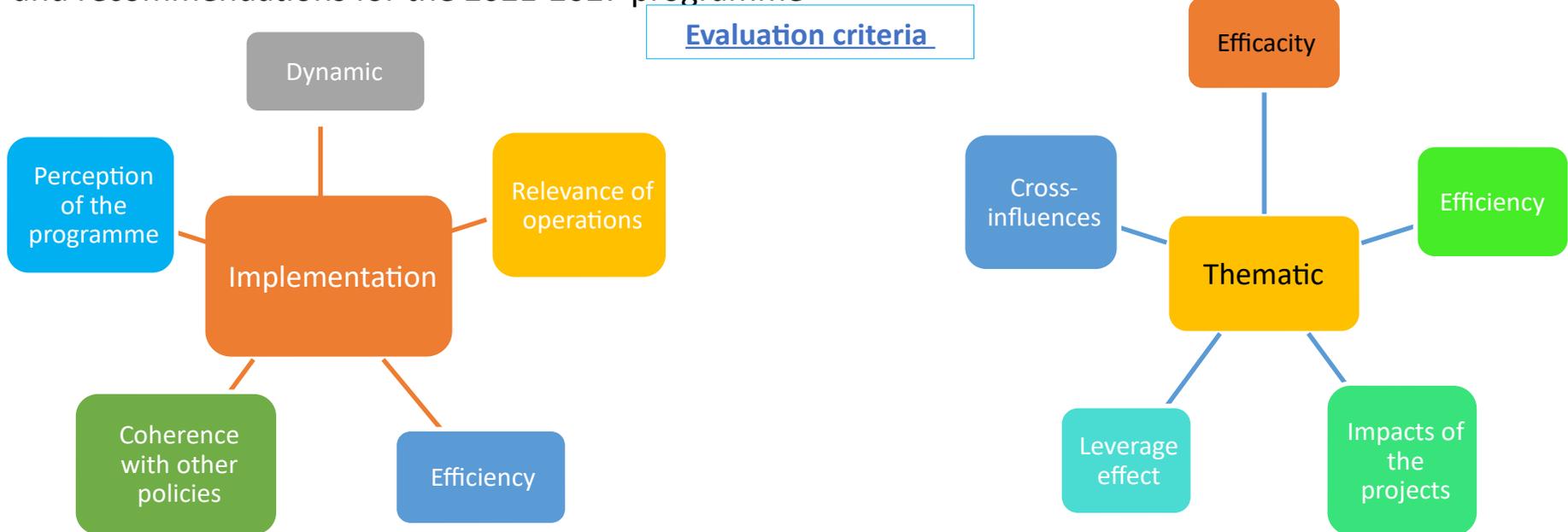


Evaluations in 2020 - 2021

In 2020 : the managing authority conducted programme evaluations in 2020-2021

- Evaluation of the implementation of the programme (lot 1)
- Thematic evaluation (lot 2)

-> **objectives** : to measure the effects of the current programme and formulate ideas for improvement and recommendations for the 2021-2027 programme



Recommendations for the next programming period

6 actions identified :

- **Strengthen the dynamics of cooperation** and the involvement of strategic and operational partners

- **Strengthen communication** on the programme and its successes to the general public, sponsors and partners

- **Undertake and strengthen efforts to link** INTERREG, AFD and the future EDF funding

- Undertake efforts **to ensure optimal programming and certification**

- **Strengthen cooperation within projects** to encourage more fluid and sustainable partnerships

- **Promote the opening of the programme to new types of cooperation**

Elements from the technical meeting

Comments on communication and evaluations

The Commission notices the participation of the INTERREG V Indian Ocean programme in national and European communication actions. It stresses that communication will become even more important in the next programming period.

It requests that the evaluation reports be sent via FCS.

Details provided by the managing authority

Documents will be submitted via FCS under "Evaluation" by the end of 2021.

4- Preparation of the Interreg 2021-2027 programme

Regulatory context - ETC

Draft regulation
on European
territorial
cooperation
(ETC)
published in
May 2018

European
Parliament and
Council
negotiations
from 2019 to
2020 - health
crisis context

Adoption of
CTE regulation
(n°2021/1059)
on June 24,
2021

Implementing
acts specifying
the amounts
and perimeters
still to be
approved

Preparatory work for Interreg VI Indian Ocean

Consultation with partner countries strategy July 7 to August 15, 2020

Consultation with partner countries on the programme V2 23 November to 15 December 2020

Consultation with partner countries diagnosis 2 to 31 May 2020

Transmission to EC 7 July 2021

Written consultation V2 23 Nov. to 15 Dec 2020

Presentation V1 seminar October 12, 2020

Collection of projects 2 to 23 July 2020

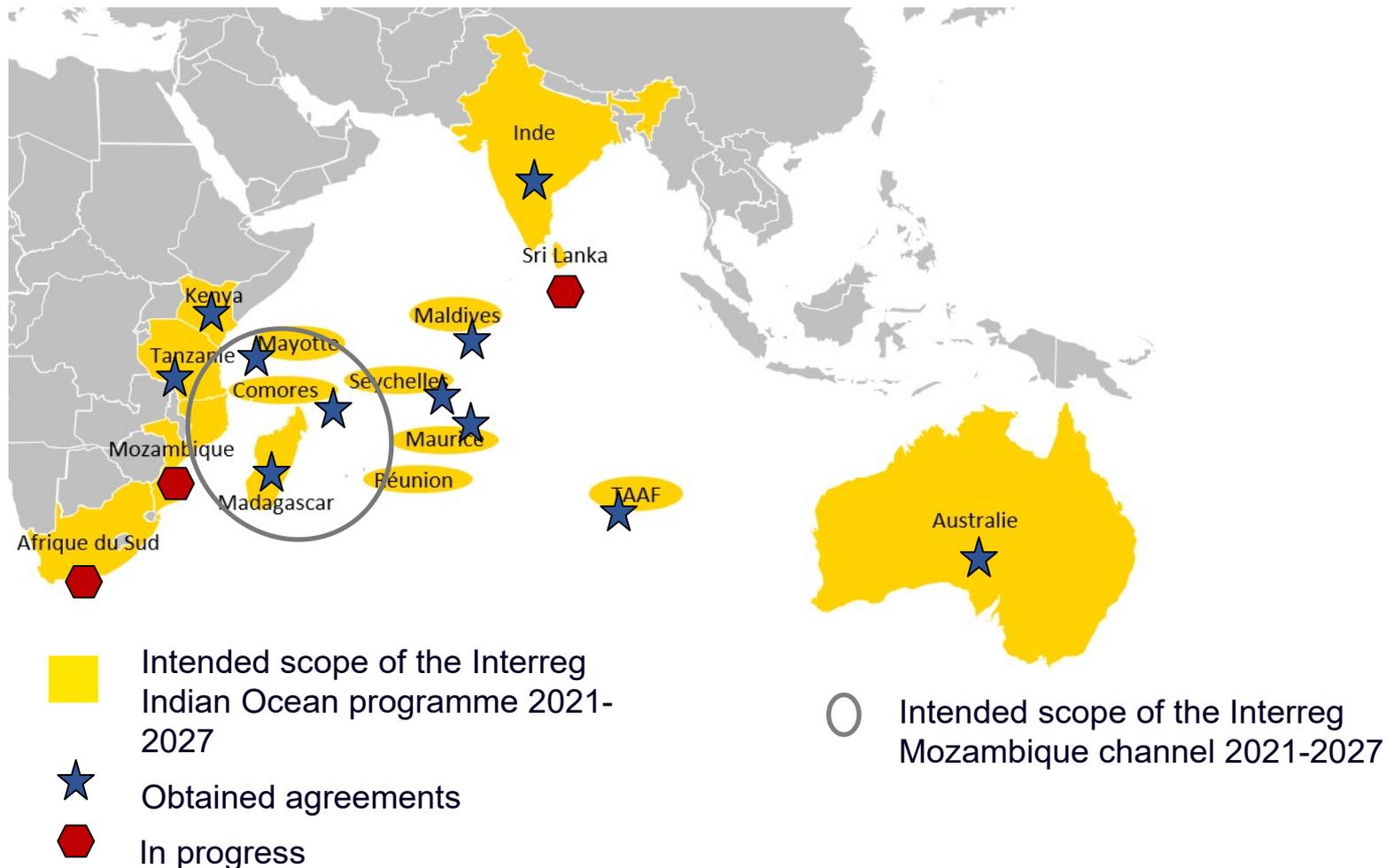
Strategy seminar July 1, 2020

Diagnostic workshop 27 to 30 April 2020

Diagnostic consultation 2 to 27 March 2020

Presentation schedule and methodology IMC Dec. 2019

Signing agreements and steps in progress



Provisional model

	Strategic objectives EU 		
<i>Priority 1 : support collaborative research and economic cooperation</i>	OS1 – A smarter Europe 	26 335 450 €	47 %
<i>Priority 2 : strengthen the resilience and sustainable development of territories</i>	OS 2 – A greener Europe 	12 482 385 €	22,3 %
Priority 3 : strengthen skills, culture and tourism in favor of economic and social development	OS4 – A more social Europe 	15 284 379 €	27,3 %
<i>Priority 4 : strengthen cooperation governance in the Indian Ocean</i>	IS01 – A better governance for cooperation 	1 925 000 €	3,4 %
Technical assistance		6 225 245 €	
	TOTAL	62 252 459 €	

Next steps

Signing of new
framework agreements
for 2022-2027

Exchanges with
partner countries on
priorities and means

Definition of a specific
articulation with
Mayotte

Validation of selection criteria
October or November 2022

Estimated adoption of the programme
July or August 2022

Formal transmission of the programme
January or February 2022

Informal consultation by the European
Commission **since July 2021 / awaiting comments
from the Commission**

Elements from the technical meeting

Comments on the preparation of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme

The Commission will provide its written comments on the V3 that was sent in July 2021. It draws the MA's attention to 3 points:

- A better consideration of the European Green Pact
- Strengthened synergies with EU external policy instruments
- A consideration to the coordination of INTERREG with other EU programmes in Reunion (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD), and with the INTERREG Mozambique channel programme

Details provided by the managing authority

The Managing Authority will take into account the comments received from the Commission in the final version of the programme.

➤ Thank you for your attention