

MAC 2021-2027

Cooperación Territorial

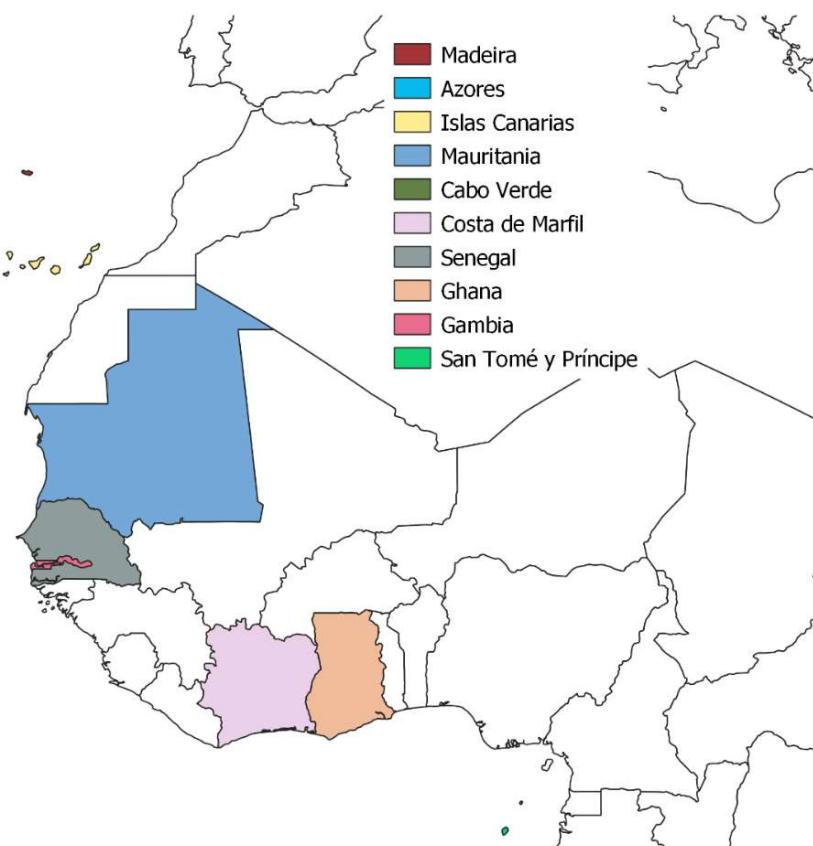


INTRODUCTION

The **increase in international interdependence** and the emergence of **global challenges** have **boosted the possibilities of regional cooperation and the strengthening of ties between the outermost regions and their neighbouring countries**, as a fundamental pillar of the EU strategy for the aforementioned regions.

Within the framework of the new **Interreg D** section, **MAC 2021-2027** maintains the primary goal of optimising the advantages arising from an integrated approach with regard to regional cooperation, gearing efforts, interests and shared values to the **economic revitalisation of the area, in particular through association in strategic sectors such as tourism and the green and blue economies, and the consolidation of a sustainable development model based on environmental protection and adaptation to climate change and risk management.**

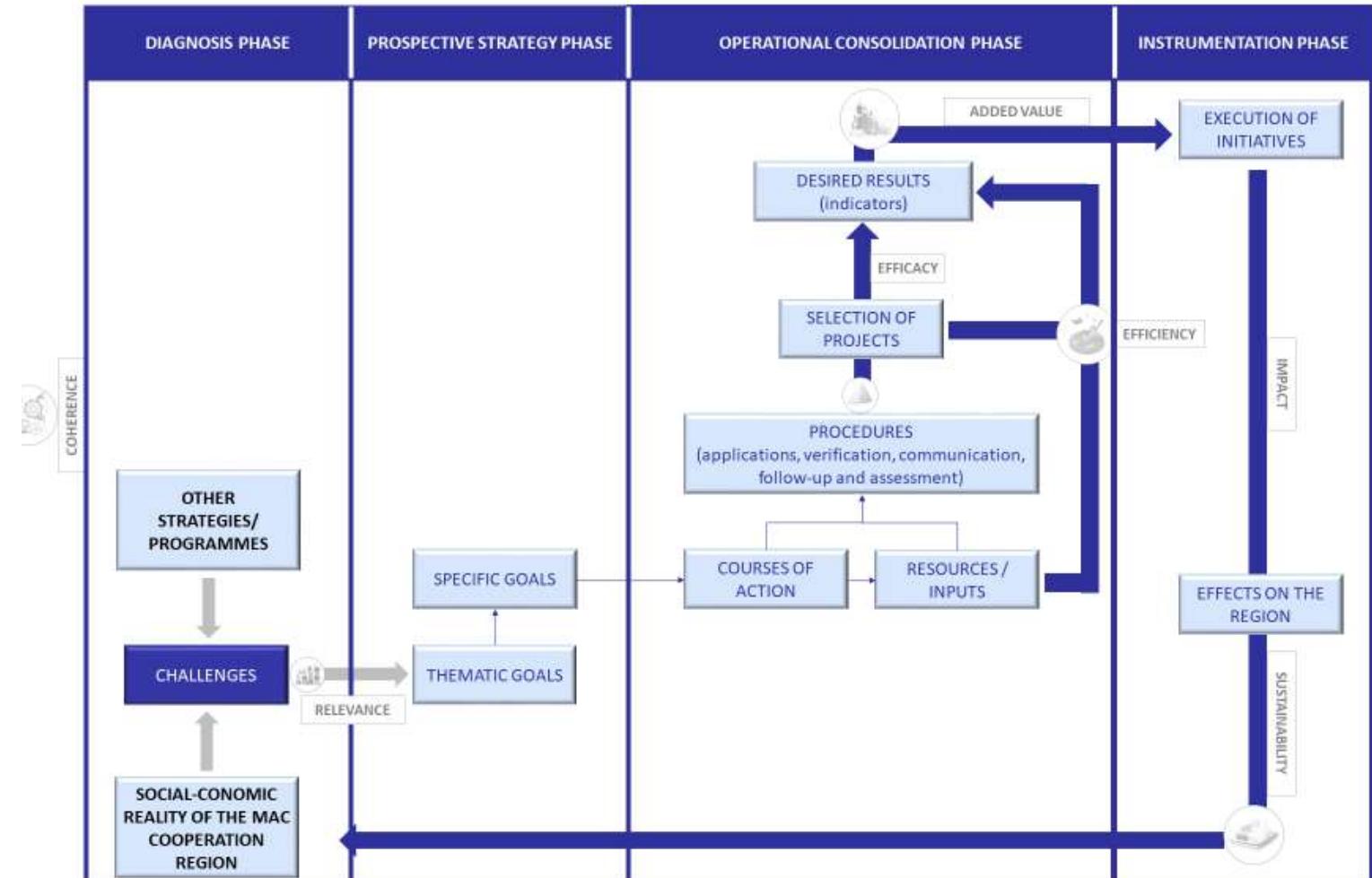
AREA OF INTERVENTION



The area of intervention is composed of the three European outermost regions of the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands and the Third Countries of Cape Verde, Senegal, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Gambia and São Tomé and Príncipe (five of which are part of ECOWAS).

PROGRAMMING PROCESS: THE INTERVENTION LOGIC

The contextual analysis conducted both from an internal and external perspective, including strategic contextualization, in addition to the lessons learned from the experience of previous MACs and other strategies and programmes have enabled us to identify the main challenges of the cooperation region comprising the basis on which the intervention logic of the Cooperation Programme lies.



JOINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE 1

To consolidate a sustainable development model that promotes recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and lays the foundations for sustained development in the medium term. This model is based on three fundamental pillars: economic, social and environmental, with a particular focus on the strategic sectors of tourism, the blue economy and the green economy.

CHALLENGE 2

To address the specific problems of the archipelago areas. The archipelagos of the Canary Islands, Azores, Madeira, Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe represent a functional area with a common multi-dimensional problem, particularly evident in the territorial sphere, but also present in the economic, social and environmental spheres. The common approach is a challenge in practice that will enable us to take advantage of the generation of synergies.

CHALLENGE 3

To capitalise on the results obtained through the transfer and reuse of the knowledge generated in order to ensure the sustainability of the projects and contribute to the major cooperation goals in these regions.

JOINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE 4

To promote coordination between MAC and the Multi-Year Indicative Programmes (MIPs) of the member third countries, with a view to identifying key areas of cooperation for the execution of projects of common interest.

CHALLENGE 5

To take advantage of the strategic positioning of the programme's member regions as a link between Africa, America and Europe, fostering the participation of regional companies in the markets through the use of joint capacities and opportunities for regional cooperation.

CHALLENGE 6

To increase and improve the intangible competitiveness factors of these regions, with a particular focus on applied research. Increased efforts in innovation and the greater participation of companies in R&D&I will boost the positioning of companies in the outermost regions and third countries in international markets.

JOINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE 7

Tourism is one of the fundamental pillars of the production structure of the Canary Islands, Madeira and Cape Verde, and registers a significant margin of growth in the Azores and other third countries. As such, the commitment to **sustainable and innovative tourism that addresses the associated problems of resource and energy management, and which is compatible with the use of the region's natural heritage** represents a challenge for the Programme.

CHALLENGE 8

To focus efforts on the **consolidation of the green economy and the blue economy from a broad perspective** and to protect biodiversity, to implement the circular economy and to promote renewable energy in line with the European Green Pact.

CHALLENGE 9

To address the challenges arising from climate change, given its particular incidence in the area of cooperation, and to increase efforts in the prevention and mitigation of its effects.

JOINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE 10

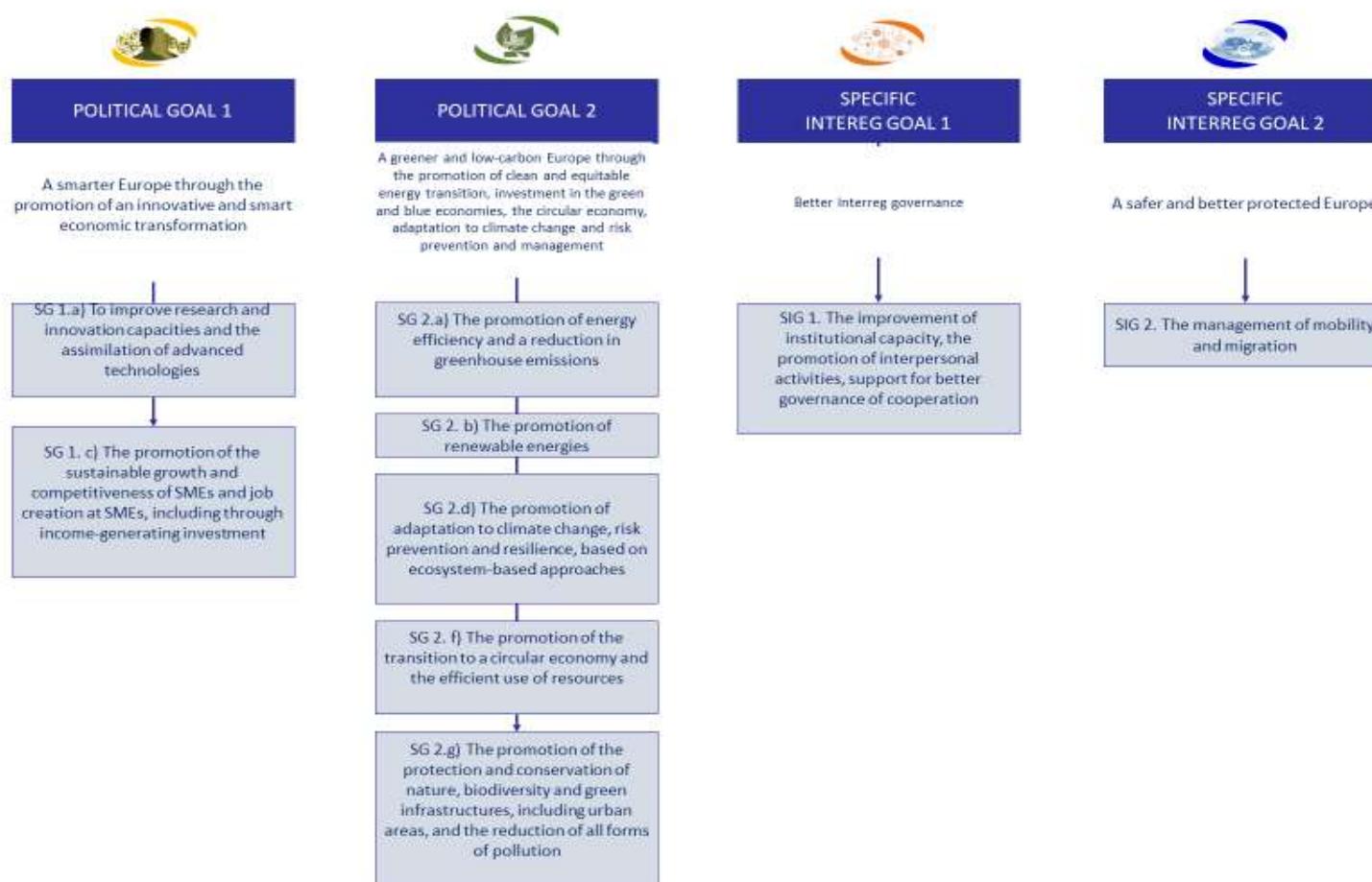
To take advantage of the potential of natural and cultural heritage for the development of economically sustainable activities, particularly within the scope of strategic sectors such as tourism and the green and blue economies.

CHALLENGE 11

To support the management of migration within the region, both at the origin and the destination and to help raise awareness of the migration phenomenon.



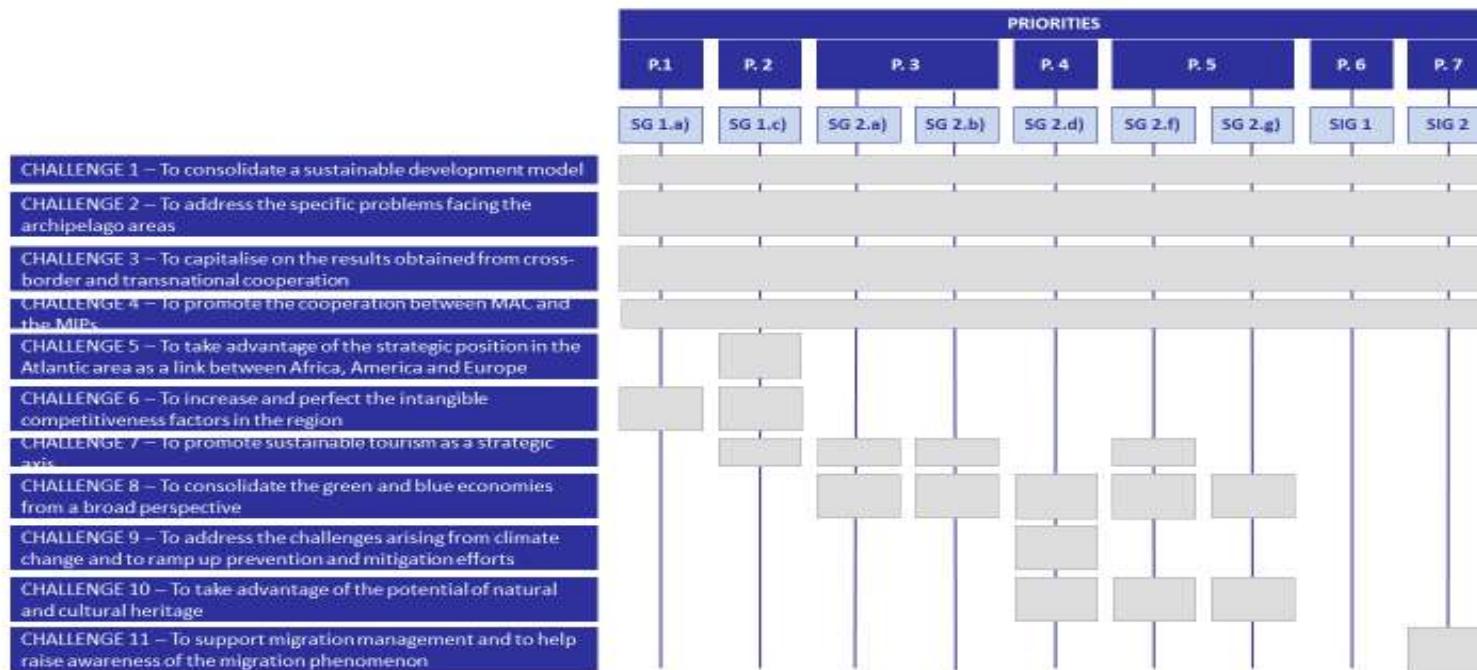
GOAL TREE





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JOINT CHALLENGES AND GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME



SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SG 1.a) To improve research and innovation capacities and the assimilation of advanced technologies



PG 1. A smarter Europe through the promotion of an innovative and smart economic transformation

P.1. To connect the needs of SMEs with research centres, to improve business competitiveness through the transfer of knowledge and innovation

JUSTIFICATION

- ↗ **WEAKNESS:** Insufficient efforts to invest in R&D and the predominance of activities of low technological intensity.
- ↗ **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** The history of projects associated with R&D&I in the Programme in the previous programming periods illustrates the notable interest among the potential beneficiaries as a whole if we take into account that there has been a considerable excess of demand.
- ↗ **TARGETED SOLUTION:** To strengthen the innovative potential of Macaronesia through applied, useful and practical research, geared to identifying and resolving joint problems, particularly in the areas of greatest interest to the Cooperation Area, such as tourism, marine resources and energy, among others, and within the priority scope of the Macaronesia transregional specialisation strategy.

COURSES OF ACTION

- ↗ Initiatives that promote joint projects between research centres and companies designed to generate areas for the exchange of technology between the research and innovation centres and the company and which promote the transfer of such technology from the laboratory to the market.
- ↗ Technology transfer initiatives between universities/research centres and companies in the strategic areas of RIS 3 in the regions, with a particular focus on increasing competitiveness, productivity and job creation.
- ↗ Initiatives that promote a knowledge-based transition towards a circular social-economic model.



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SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SG 1.c) The promotion of sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation at SMEs, including through income-generating investment



PG 1. A smarter Europe through the promotion of an innovative and smart economic transformation

P.2. To support SMEs in the transition towards a more innovative and digitised economy and to improve their competitiveness and positioning in regional, national and international markets

JUSTIFICATION

- + **WEAKNESS:** An under-industrialised economy with a notable dependence on tourism, a business sector with an excessive proportion of small companies and little focus on exports. All of this implies economic vulnerability, with high levels of social repercussions with regard to the current pandemic.
- + **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** Support for SMEs in innovation and internationalisation processes was significant between 2014 and 2020, which has led to the approval of a total of 28 projects, geared in particular to the provision of advanced services.
- + **TARGETED SOLUTION:** The promotion of business and institutional cooperation designed to boost the competitiveness and internationalisation of the production sector as a necessary means of sustaining and generating employment in the region.

COURSES OF ACTION

- + Awareness, guidance, mentoring and support activity for the productive sector in innovation processes.
- + Initiatives geared to the development of innovative applications using advanced digital technologies such as sensorisation, big data and artificial intelligence in measurement, management and decision-making.
- + Initiatives geared to increasing the capacity of SMEs and micro-enterprises, including those in traditional sectors, to innovate and assimilate key cross-cutting and enabling technologies.
- + Activities involving the generation and transfer of know-how in the management of technology-based companies, pilot experiences, creation of spin-off companies, etc.
- + Activities geared to boosting the participation of small companies in innovation projects, using tools and models adapted to their needs and capacities.
- + Support services for innovation and internationalisation.
- + The creation of public-private platforms to support SMEs.
- + The creation of joint marketing platforms to optimise processes and to reduce costs.



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SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SG 2.a) The promotion of energy efficiency and a reduction in greenhouse emissions



PG 2. A greener and low-carbon Europe through the promotion of clean and equitable energy transition, investment in the green and blue economies, the circular economy, adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management

P.3. The promotion of greater efficiency in energy consumption in the most important economic sectors of the area of cooperation, in addition to the development, transfer and testing of technological solutions in the field of renewable energy

JUSTIFICATION

- + **WEAKNESS:** A widespread increase in greenhouse gas emissions according to the most recent available data, with a clear scope for improvement in energy efficiency. The World Bank classifies this energy efficiency under the term “first fuel”, this being the lowest cost option to comply with the commitments related to climate change.
- + **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** Initiatives have been implemented in the field of scientific and technological development to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and boost the diversification of sources of energy supply.
- + **TARGETED SOLUTION:** The promotion of measures for energy efficiency that contribute to meeting the European Union’s climate goals, which include a target for a 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency in the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework.

COURSES OF ACTION

- + Activity geared to the implementation of products, processes and/or new technologies arising from research and innovation in energy efficiency resulting in greater efficiency in energy consumption in any sector, with a special focus on the tourism sector..
- + Action to support SMEs that have included energy efficiency measures in their activities and services.



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SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

OE.2.b) The promotion of renewable energies



PG 2. A greener and low-carbon Europe through the promotion of clean and equitable energy transition, investment in the green and blue economies, the circular economy, adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management

P.3. The promotion of greater efficiency in energy consumption in the most important economic sectors of the area of cooperation, in addition to the development, transfer and testing of technological solutions in the field of renewable energy

JUSTIFICATION

- + **WEAKNESS:** Most of the energy comes from the consumption of fossil resources, increasing external dependence on supply and aggravating climate change through the emission of greenhouse gases.
- + **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** Renewable energy has been one of the most focused upon areas in R+D+I within the framework of the 2014 - 2020 programme, as a priority area of RIS3.
- + **TARGETED SOLUTION:** To take advantage of natural and, in particular, marine resources for the production and use of renewable energies, thereby helping to achieve the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework goal of increasing the share of renewable energies by 32%.

COURSES OF ACTION

- + Initiatives geared to promoting the development, transfer and testing of technological solutions in the field of renewable energies, including feasibility studies, exchange of best practices/solutions between regions, practical demonstrations on the ground and pilot initiatives.
- + Initiatives designed to analyse the best alternatives for reducing the environmental impact caused by energy production and storage facilities, in addition to their feasibility in the regions.
- + Pilot initiatives related to decentralised energy production and self-consumption.



SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SG 2.d) The promotion of adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and resilience, based on ecosystem-based approaches



PG 2. A greener and low-carbon Europe through the promotion of clean and equitable energy transition, investment in the green and blue economies, the circular economy, adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management

P.4. To improve adaptation to climate change, to reinforce risk prevention and resilience to catastrophes

JUSTIFICATION

- + **WEAKNESS:** The negative impact of climate change (CC), associated with the increase in temperature, the change in wind patterns and the rise in sea levels, against which the efforts made so far have been insufficient. The scenario is inconsistent between the outermost regions and third countries.
- + **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** The efforts employed to optimise resources as a starting point for the joint planning of operations and a common response to emergency situations and climate change boast a consolidated and successful track record. Proof of this was the launch in 2014-2020 of 10 projects associated with climate change related risks and measures and 8 involving non-climate-related risks.
- + **TARGETED SOLUTION:** The promotion of initiatives geared to combatting climate change, as well as the prevention and management of natural risks, improving response capacity, minimising negative effects and reinforcing resilience, thereby helping to meet the goals defined in the European Green Deal.

COURSES OF ACTION

- + The creation of platforms for the exchange of information and knowledge on adaptation, resilience and governance.
- + The design and implementation of studies, strategies and plans for the prevention, mitigation, adaptation and management of climate change.
- + Joint initiatives of an experimental nature in sectors especially vulnerable to climate change (agriculture, tourism, forestry, etc.).
- + Initiatives designed to combat drought and to foster the efficient use of water resources.
- + Training, awareness-raising and public dissemination campaigns for climate action and the necessary mitigation and adaptation measures from the public and private spheres, promoting good practices in the advancement of climate action and ecological transition.
- + Initiatives to support the creation of sustainable communities and cities.
- + The creation of platforms for the exchange of information and knowledge on prevention, early detection, surveillance and risk management.
- + The creation and reinforcement of joint information, warning and catastrophe coordination systems and tools based on access to ICT, reinforcing control capacities in the area of civil protection.
- + Joint initiatives for the revitalisation and regeneration of regions affected by natural disasters.

SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SG 2.f) The promotion of the transition to a circular economy and the efficient use of resources



PG 2. A greener and low-carbon Europe through the promotion of clean and equitable energy transition, investment in the green and blue economies, the circular economy, adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management

P.5. Progress towards a circular socioeconomic model, promoting investment in the green and blue economies and the economic valorisation of natural heritage

JUSTIFICATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + WEAKNESS: Significant linearity of the economy, with a very small proportion of secondary materials and resources being injected back into the economy + PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: Several successful initiatives have been approved within the cooperation framework in Macaronesia (such as AD4MAC, ISLANDAP and ISLANDAP ADVANCED), which are designed to improve the circularity of the economy and thereby promote growth in GDP and the creation of jobs. + TARGETED SOLUTION: The promotion of the circularity of the economy by helping to adapt it to an ecological future, reinforcing the competitiveness of the cooperation area, protecting the environment and empowering consumers. To this end, initiatives in sectors such as electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, containers and packaging, plastics, textile products, construction and housing, and food (Green Deal) will be given priority. 	

COURSES OF ACTION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Initiatives to promote the sustainability of economic activities, with a special focus on the tourism, agri-food, fisheries and construction sectors. + Initiatives designed to help reduce the environmental impact of the tourism sector and implement the Circular Economy as a business concept, rendering circularity a factor of competitiveness. + Initiatives aimed at promoting innovative entrepreneurship and the execution of activities within the green sector, by identifying business models based on the circular economy and adapting existing companies to new business models based on the circular economy. + Training activities for employment in the green and blue economy sector. + Activities aimed at reducing the environmental cost of food production with regard to the use of water, energy and land. + Eco-innovative pilot initiatives and the exchange of experiences for the inter- and intra-sector cooperation of companies, including the production of new materials, eco-design, and the ability to treat waste with a view to reusing it. + Activity geared to studying the viability of achieving economies of scale among the members of the region in the area of waste management, within the framework of the current process involving the review of the legal framework on the transfer of waste (European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) 1013/2006 of 14 June 2006). + Initiatives designed to facilitate and promote the reincorporation of by-products into the market, such as the creation of a market for secondary raw materials among the partners in the region, as well as initiatives to promote the innovative use of by-products from the primary sector and the agri-food industry as raw materials for other sectors. + Action aimed at promoting responsible consumption, geared to the closure of cycles. 	

SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SG 2.g) The promotion of the protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructures, including urban areas, and the reduction of all forms of pollution



PG 2. A greener and low-carbon Europe through the promotion of clean and equitable energy transition, investment in the green and blue economies, the circular economy, adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management

P.5. Progress towards a circular socioeconomic model, promoting investment in the green and blue economies and the economic valorisation of natural heritage

JUSTIFICATION

- + **WEAKNESS:** The MAC region, with an abundant wealth of resources, needs to address the use and enjoyment thereof with a view to sustainability for future generations, which requires the valorisation of natural heritage, in particular with respect to the development of tourism.
- + **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** The conservation and protection of the environment and the promotion of the efficient use of resources has been a constant in the POMAC programme, which during the period 2014-2020 was specified in Priority Axis 4 (with 24.7% of ERDF aid) and, in particular in PI6d Protection and restoration of biodiversity and soil and the promotion of ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000 and ecological infrastructure.
- + **TARGETED SOLUTION:** To meet the challenge posed by the management of natural heritage as a key to sustainable economic development, particularly through the opportunities it provides to tourism, dealing with the economic and environmental difficulties in the development of integrated management models.

COURSES OF ACTION

- + The valorisation of natural assets to promote the generation of new sustainable activities, products and services, related to sustainable tourism, the blue and green economies, cultural and sports activities, ICT, etc.
- + Joint innovative demonstration and training activities for the sustainable maintenance of economic activities associated with natural heritage.
- + Improved planning for the optimisation of the public use of high natural value heritage.
- + Initiatives designed to increase the sustainable economic valorisation of the services associated with natural areas.

SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SIG 1. The improvement of institutional capacity, the promotion of interpersonal activities, support for better governance of cooperation



SIG 1. Better Interreg governance

P.6. To improve the governance of cooperation based on greater coordination and interrelations between European and African partners and initiatives designed to promote the capitalisation of accrued results

JUSTIFICATION

WEAKNESS: The challenge consisting of the effective and efficient governance of resources in the area to be revitalised takes on particularly significance with regard to opening the region up to new third partner countries. Added to this is the need to guarantee coordination between MAC and the programming of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

- + **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** The participation of third countries has been consolidated within the framework of POMAC 14-20, whereby the participation of these countries in projects amounted to 84.6% (104 compared to 30 in the 2007-2013 period) of those approved, 50% of which involved more than one third country.
- + **TARGETED SOLUTION:** To promote institutional cooperation as a means of facilitating management capacity and the full integration of third countries as a fundamental part of the programme, taking advantage of the experience gained between 2014 and 2020.

COURSES OF ACTION

- + Initiatives geared to promoting coordination between the ERDF and the NDICI throughout the entire process of programming, selecting projects of common interest and execution, including the search for complementary sources of financing.
- + Initiatives aimed at strengthening mutual trust, in particular through the promotion of interpersonal activities among young people.
- + Capitalisation initiatives to promote the transfer and reuse of the knowledge amassed over more than fifteen years of cooperation.
- + Acciones dirigidas a mejorar la capacidad institucional de las autoridades públicas y las partes interesadas para aplicar estrategias territoriales. Initiatives designed to enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities and interested parties for the implementation of regional strategies.
- + Initiatives geared to enhancing the governance of cooperation.

SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES OF ACTION

SIG 2. The management of mobility and migration



SIG 2. A safer and better protected Europe

P.7. To improve the management of migration at the origin and destination

JUSTIFICATION

- ✚ **WEAKNESS:** The mobility of people within the cooperation area is a necessity and a priority for the promotion of exchanges, the consolidation of ties and mutual trust. However, this organised mobility coexists with the growing movement of illegal migrants from the African continent to the EU, the Canary Islands being one of the regions in which they arrive. This creates difficulties for both the countries of origin and transit and the destination countries.
- ✚ **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** The possibility of addressing specific external cooperation issues such as security, the management of border crossings and migration is a new feature of the Interreg Specific Interreg Goals for the 2021-2027 period.
- ✚ **TARGETED SOLUTION:** To complement the initiatives executed within the framework of other European instruments, MAC will support the entities entrusted with the management of migration by facilitating reception at the border, and will help raise awareness of the migration phenomenon through campaigns and informative activities both at the origin and the destination.

COURSES OF ACTION

- ✚ Initiatives in the areas of migration management complementary to those executed within the framework of other programmes and projects such as the Migration and Asylum Fund or the European Social Fund, in particular those in relation to unaccompanied foreign minors (MENAs).
- ✚ Action to improve reception at the border.
- ✚ Dissemination and awareness activities.

