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Interreg NEXT MED Programme Contributing to Sustainable Blue Economy

*20th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy
Brussels, 14-15 October, 2026*

#everythingMEDpossible



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA
DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA
DELLA SARDEGNA



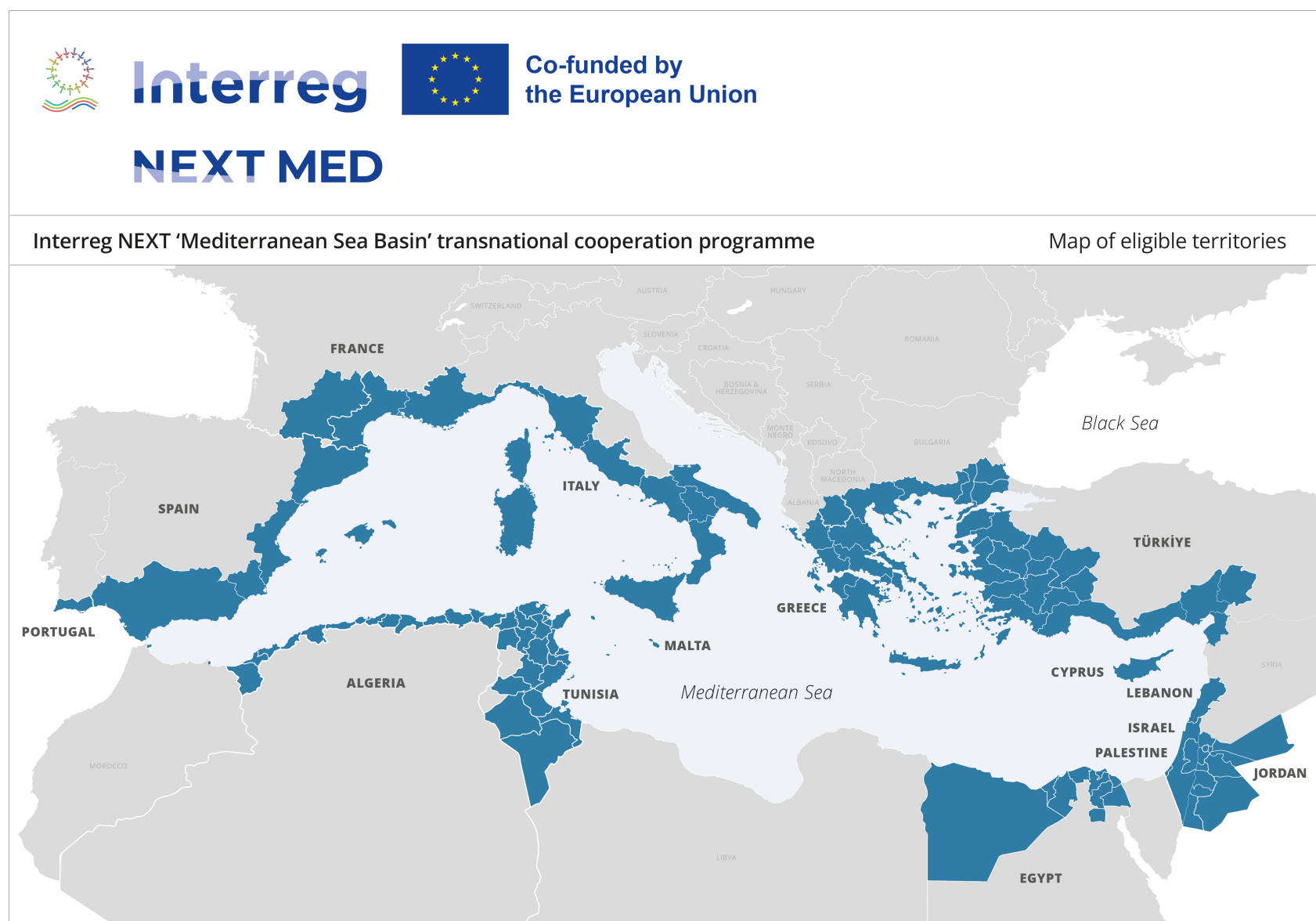
GENERALITAT
VALENCIANA
Presidencia



سلطة منطقة
الاقبال الاقتصادية الخاصة
AQABA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY



Working together across borders



15 participating
countries (Algeria, Cyprus,
Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy,
Lebanon, Jordan, Malta, Palestine,
Portugal, Spain, Tunisia)

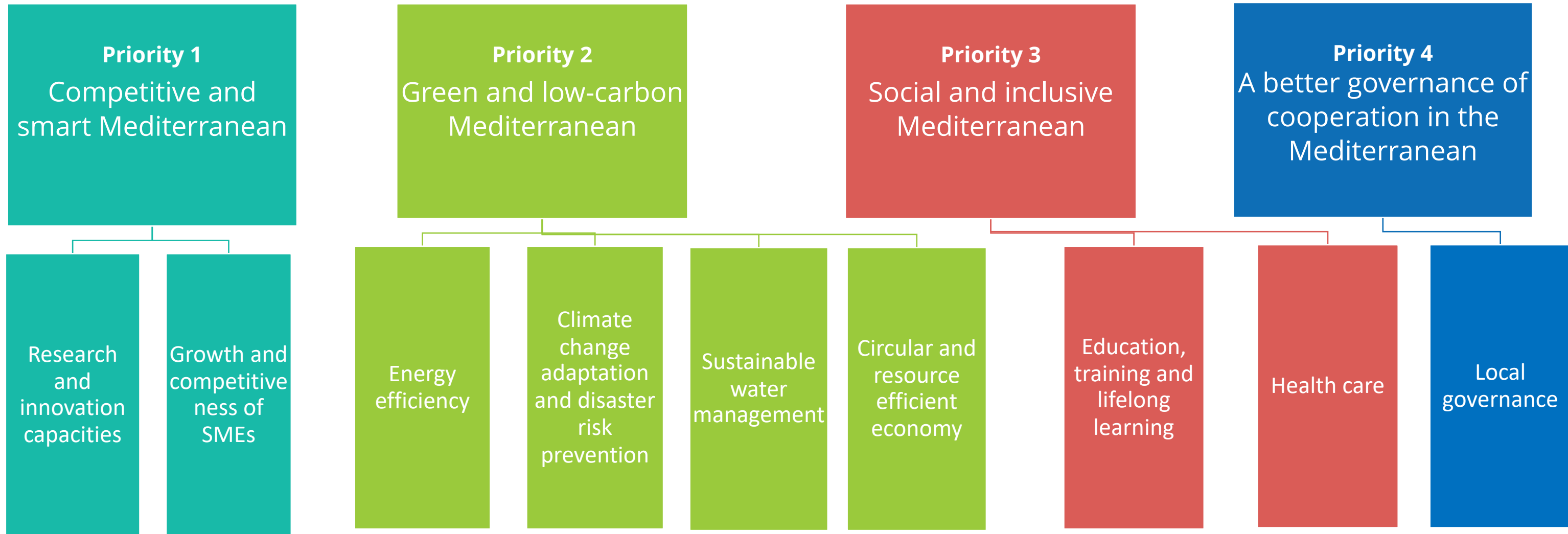
100+ territories

200+ million people live
in the cooperation area

EU financial
contribution: **€263** mil.



Priorities and Specific Objectives



Delivering for the Mediterranean

108
funded projects

715
Organizations
involved

€231
million
EU funds awarded

€260
million
Total value of funded
projects



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59 projects approved under the first call

4 projects linked to the Blue Economy

GreenMedPorts : energy efficiency in Ports

MEDJICARP : ocean observation and risk prevention

MEDPROACT : coastal ecosystems resilience

SHARE4MED : protection and restoration of the health of the ocean through governance cooperation

+ projects on Tourism SMEs and the Hospitality Industry



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Blue Economy in the Interreg NEXT MED Green Transition projects (5 projects)

Contributing to the green transition of the Mediterranean Blue Economy:

- Innovation for Marine Conservation
- Adventure Tourism
- Green and Blue Nature based solutions
- Circular economy of fish-based bioproducts
- Skills and training in the aquaculture sector



Project example: GREENFISH: GReen frontiErs in innovativE sustaiNable FISH-based bioproducts

€ 3 Million EU Contribution



Increasing relevance at policy level

- 5 Interreg NEXT MED projects included in the Action Plan of the **New Pact for the Mediterranean**
- A strong partnership with the **Union for the Mediterranean** (MoU)
- Participation at UN Climate Change Conference “**COP31**” - Antalya, Türkiye (November 2026)
- Synergies with the main Strategies and Policy initiatives: initiative; **Ocean Pact; Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2026-2035** and **WestMed initiative** (Steering Committee observer)



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Mediterranean Multi Programme Mechanism (MMM)



**10 Interreg Programmes involved
24 countries in the Mediterranean**

- Interreg Italy-Croatia
- Interreg Euro-MED
- Interreg NEXT MED
- Interreg Italy-France Maritime
- Interreg Greece-Cyprus
- Interreg Italy-Malta
- Interreg Italy-Tunisia
- Interreg Italy-Slovenia
- Interreg IPA South Adriatic
- Interreg IPA ADRION



Key achievements

Coordinated call for sustainable tourism projects: common Terms of Reference and database of outputs to be capitalised on across the 10 participating Interreg Programmes

Mediterranean Peer Learning Visits: ongoing projects to exchange knowledge and transfer solutions among partners from the from the 10 MMM programmes



Third call for proposals – Sustainable Tourism

4 MMM topics matching 6 Interreg NEXT MED Specific Objectives

TOPICS OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE	MATCHING PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Innovative and smart tourism products	• 1.1 Research and innovation capacities • 1.2 Competitiveness of SMEs and job creation
Tourism and green transition	• 2.2 Climate change adaptation • 2.4 Circular and resource efficient economy
Social dimension of tourism (employment and upskilling) / inclusive and accessible tourism	3.1 Education, training and lifelong learning
Shared and strategic governance of the tourism offer	4.1 Local governance models and processes



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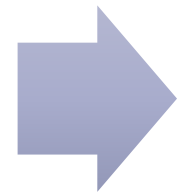
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The capitalisation approach

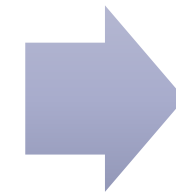
Reuse of existing solutions

- Projects shall build on at least one output developed under another MMM Programme, **different from Interreg NEXT MED**, and included in the common database of outputs **(MANDATORY)**
- Use of outputs not included in the MMM database can be considered if **relevance is demonstrated**



Capitalisation pathway

- **Transfer**: replicate an existing solution in a new geographical context
- **Adaptation**: adjust solution to local needs and conditions
- **Testing**: pilot and validate the adapted solution
- **Scaling-up**: amplify impact and long-term uptake



Key drivers

- Transfer outputs to **new geographical areas** and **new users** not originally addressed
- Focus on **limited number** of outputs
- Foster transfer/scaling up from CROSS-BORDER to TRANSNATIONAL dimension



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Interreg Post-27 programming period

Indicative timeline for preparation process



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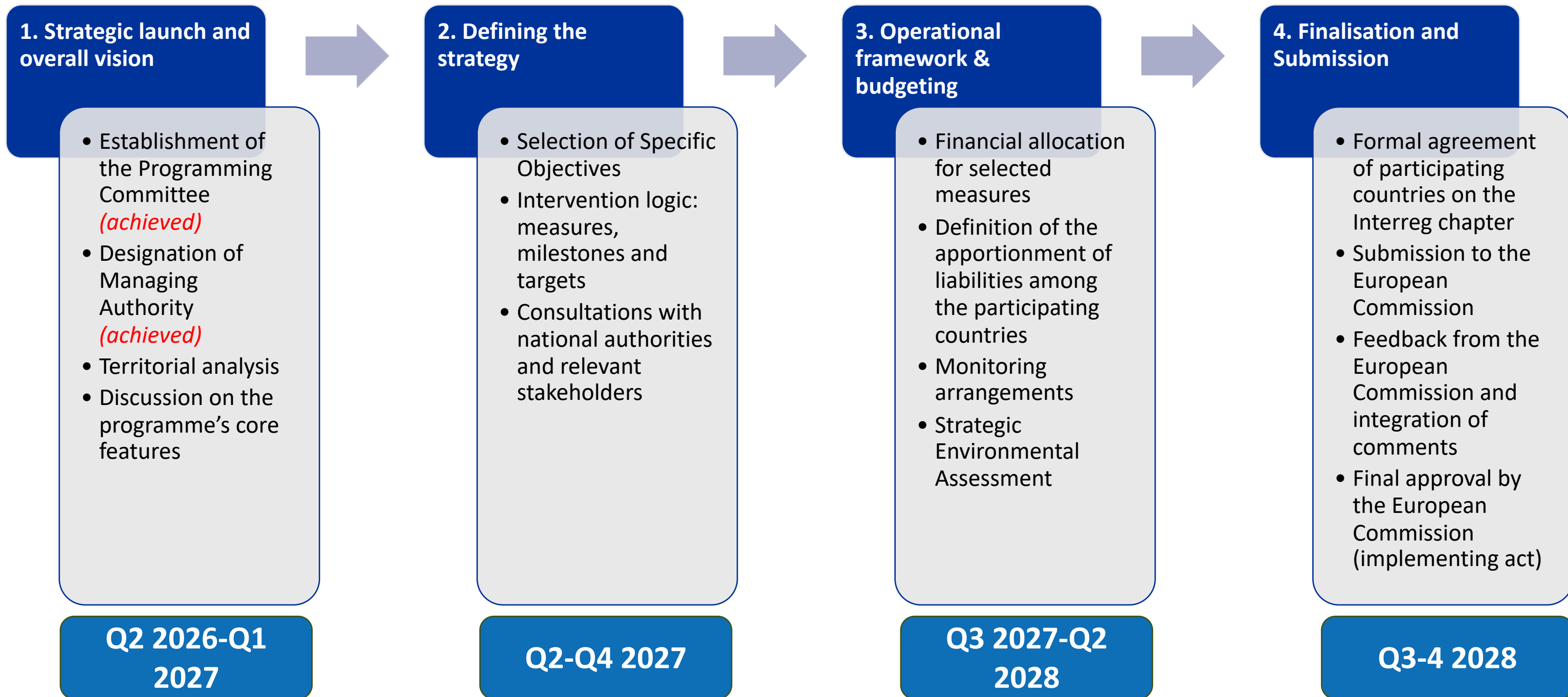
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Indicative phases of the programming process and timeline (based on Interact suggestion)



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Thank you

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