

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

2018

**INTERREG V
INDIAN OCEAN PROGRAMME
2014-2020**

CCI 2014TC16 RFT N009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT	3
2. KEY OVERVIEW.....	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AXES	7
3.1 OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION	7
3.2 OUTPUT INDICATORS OF THE PROGRAM.....	14
3.3 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK	16
3.4 FINANCIAL DATA.....	17
4. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN	18
5. ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.....	20
5.1 INFORMATION CONCERNING SECTION A AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME'S OBJECTIVES	20
5.2. SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR PROMOTING EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND PROMOTING NON-DISCRIMINATION, IN PARTICULAR THOSE REGARDING ACCESS FOR DISABLED PERSONS.....	24
5.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	25
5.4. COMMUNICATION OF DATA ON SUPPORT MARKED OUT FOR OBJECTIVES LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE.....	25
5.5 ROLE PLAYED BY PARTNERS IN THE APPLICATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.....	26
6. COMPULSORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT	28
6.1 PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSESSMENT PLAN AND MONITORING OF RESULTS OF ASSESSMENTS	28
6.2 RESULTS OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES CONCERNING FUNDS, APPLIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY	28

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFTN009
Title	Indian Ocean
Version	2018.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	

2. KEY OVERVIEW

Approved in September 2015 and operational since July 2016, in 2018, the Interreg Indian Ocean programme was in its second year of programming.

2018 was satisfactory, both as regards the dynamics of programming of projects and the continued implementation by the governance bodies working with the partners in general and in close collaboration with Mayotte.

A - Sustained programming dynamics

The dynamics of programming are reflected in:

- the high number of pilot committees (13 committees in 2018, including one held in Mayotte in October 2018) ;
- the number of files programmed during the course of the year (50 operations selected in 2018).

Thus, on 31st December 2018, 127 projects were programmed, to the amount of €30.6 million in EU funds and a total eligible cost of €36.5 million (representing 49 % of the funding model).

The current level of certification (€8.87 million in certified ERDF funds) is already above the automatic de-commitment threshold for 2019, set at €5.87 million

These positive programming dynamics concern the two strands of the programme, which have registered an equivalent general level of programming :

- The cross-border strand (cooperation between Reunion and Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and the Comoros), with 72 operations, for a total eligible cost of €24.3 million (representing 49.8% of the initial funding model allocated to this strand);
- The transnational strand (cooperation between Reunion and/or Mayotte and Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Australia and the TAAF), with 55 operations for a total eligible cost of €12.3 million (representing 47.9% of the initial funding model allocated to this strand).

The deployment of a mechanism for application of the programme in Reunion and the partner countries, through international solidarity volunteers specifically responsible for giving assistance for mounting of Interreg projects, fully operational in 2018, has contributed to this result by proposing support for projects.

In addition, calls for projects were communicated with the aim of injecting dynamics into certain mechanisms (axis 8 aiming at development of the cultural heritage and axes 9 and 10 favouring mobility of young persons) and have contributed to increasing knowledge of the programme for project leaders.

To maintain the dynamics of programming within axes often requested and to take into consideration the difficulties encountered within other axes, a modification of the financing plan for the programme was proposed by the managing authority and validated by the monitoring

committee in November 2018. This modification of the Interreg programme was formally approved by the European Commission on 20th February 2019.

The details concerning programming of the 12 axes of the Interreg program are presented in section 3.1 of the present report. As a reminder and to facilitate reading of this section, the priorities of the programme are each divided into a cross-border strand (even-numbered) and transnational strand (odd-numbered).

B- Relations with partners participating in the programme

9 countries (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Mozambique, Australia, India, Tanzania and Kenya) are involved in projects supported by the programme, in partnership with the French territories of Reunion, Mayotte and the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF).

The countries most commonly involved in the Interreg programme are the IOC countries: Madagascar is participating in 66 projects, Mauritius in 62, Comoros in 51 et the Seychelles in 49.

As for the other partners of the programme, Mozambique is involved in 26 projects, Tanzania in 14, Australia in 11, India in 10 and Kenya in 8.

Following the signature of the memorandum of understanding of the framework agreement with the Seychelles in 2017, in November 2018, the Regional Council of Reunion inaugurated its branch in Victoria. At the end of 2018, the mechanism for providing support for companies and Interreg projects through the 4 branches of the Regional Council located in the IOC countries was thus operational.

Regarding the participation of Mayotte in the programme, it is reflected in the following figures:

- 22 projects involving Mayotte ;
- 3 are piloted by beneficiaries located in Mayotte, including two projects selected in 2018 and piloted by the professional agricultural high school in Coconi.

In addition, the participation of Mayotte is reflected in the important role it plays in the governance of the programme:

A monitoring committee was held in Mayotte on 10th October 2018;

- On this occasion, with the managing authority of the cross-border programme for Mayotte, Comoros and Madagascar, it was decided to set up a coordinating mechanism aimed at reinforcing exchange of information on operations or beneficiaries that may participate in both programs, thus encouraging concerted communication.

In 2019, two new pilot committees are to be held in Mayotte.

C- Implementation of the structures responsible for the programme

The end of 2018 was marked by two structuring events for the implementation of the programme:

- The third monitoring committee of the Interreg programme was held from 7th to 9th November 2018, enabling presentation of the state of progress of the programme in several stages: a technical meeting and visits of on-going projects: *Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques* - CIEP (International Centre for Pedagogical Studies), *Pôle de Protection des Plantes* (Plant Protection Centre) of the CIRAD, *Lycée agricole de Saint Joseph* (Agricultural high school in Saint-Joseph), plenary session in the presence of official representatives of partner countries (Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, India) and administrators from the Departmental and Regional Councils of Reunion and Mayotte, representatives of the French State, as well as local partners such as the Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture etc., the AFD (French Development Agency), etc.
- The second FED-FEDER coordinating committee was held on 9th November 2018, associating, in addition to the authorities of the Interreg programme, representatives from the IOC and the EU delegation in Mauritius. It took note of FED ERDF projects supported in 2018 and validated an initial list of FED ERDF projects to be supported in 2019.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AXES

3.1 Overview of implementation

Identifier	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of priority axes with regard to main developments, significant problems and measures taken to remedy these problems.
01	<p>Growing international potentials of research and technological innovation in the Indian Ocean Area / Cross border</p>	<p>With 12 operations programmed since 2016, for total eligible cost of €9,321,159.60, or 44% of the amount planned, axis 1 presents a satisfactory level of programming.</p> <p>The dynamics of the specific objective ‘Increasing the activity of research, development and innovation in common regarding shared issues’ are continuing, with 3 new operations programmed in 2018 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 research projects around health issues common to IOC countries : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIROPTERE, the aim of which is the characterisation of the diverse viruses present in bat colonies and the study of the temporal dynamics of viral transmission of these viruses; UV Indien, the aim of which is to measure and monitor the variability of UV rays in the western Indian Ocean by extending the instrumental observation network and setting up a database linked to a website. - The programming of the extension of the <i>Pôle de Protection des Plantes</i> - 3P (Plant Protection Unit) of the CIRAD, which, notably, includes construction of a bio-technological centre dedicated to research and experimentation in plant health. <p>Regarding the objective linked to promoting the findings and data resulting from research, it was the object of initial programming: the IOS NET project, the aim of which is the study of the solar potential and optimising intelligent solar energy systems within the IOC countries. The project is mobilising FED-ERDF co-funding, through the Renewable Energies programme of the IOC (11th FED).</p> <p>The modification of the Interreg programme has made it possible to take into consideration technological developments and abandon the planned financing of the satellite assisted environmental surveillance station for the Indian Ocean (SEAS-OI).</p>
02	<p>Growing international potentials of research and technological innovation in the Indian Ocean Area /</p>	<p>The transnational strand of axis 2 has registered sustained dynamics, with 54% of programming. Since 2016, 6 operations have been programmed, for a total eligible cost of €3,554,073.11.</p> <p>In 2018, a new operation was programmed, coming under Regional</p>

	Transnational	<p>Research Subsidies, making it possible to finance research carried out by Ph.D. students from partner universities or research structures in the Indian Ocean zone and continuing their thesis at the University of Reunion under co-supervision or a cooperation agreement. Following the selection process carried out by a scientific committee, 9 theses were selected for these doctoral grants. The partner universities and research structures are situated in the Comoros, Madagascar, Australia, Mauritius and India.</p> <p>During the modification of the Interreg program, the funds allocated to Axis 2 were increased in order to enable programming of new research projects within this transnational strand.</p>
03	Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the area / Cross border	<p>With 23 operations selected since 2016, for a total eligible cost of €3,018,085.93, axis 3 is dynamic, achieving a programming rate of 50%.</p> <p>9 new operations were programmed in 2018 within action file 3.1 'Support for development of the IOC economic space':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2018 actions under 3 recurring operations: the Indian Ocean Music Market (IO MMA), the support for governance of the programme of commercial capacity building for the Union of Indian Ocean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UCCIOI) and setting up relations between companies in the zone through the Export Club. In 2018, this action of the Export Club was carried out through the International Sustainable Development Conference, which was held over three days and brought together 270 participants. • The actions piloted by the decentralised branches of the Regional Council in the zone (Madagascar, Comoros and Mauritius), have contributed to developing and structuring exchanges between Reunion and its partners. • 2 actions in support of consular establishments: a study piloted by the Reunion Chamber of Trade and Crafts aimed at drawing up a business plan for the creation of an abattoir on the island of Rodrigues and the financing of a project manager for the Reunion Chamber of Commerce and Industry enabling the implementation of the UCCIOI programme. <p>Within action file 3.2 entitled 'Regional cooperation in the field of integrated development of rural economies', a project piloted by the Association ISOLIFE, aimed at developing organic market gardening in Mauritius and Reunion, was selected.</p>
04	Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the area / Transnational	<p>Axis 4 of the transnational strand has registered a high number of projects (21 projects since 2016), representing a total eligible cost of €3,408,857.38, for a programming rate of 48%.</p> <p>9 new operations were selected in 2018 :</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 projects aimed at developing the economic space of the Indian Ocean zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the transnational strand of the 2018 edition of the Indian Ocean Music Market (IOMMA), • recruitment of 2 International Business Volunteers (VIE) by the Indian Ocean Islands Ports Association (APIOI), • 2 files corresponding to the transnational strand of the International Sustainable Development Conference, organised by the Export Club, • the support programme for governance of the PRCC with the UCCIOI, • participation in this programme of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. - 3 support projects aimed at developing tourism also received support in 2018 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a pre-feasibility study for developing cruise tourism, piloted by the APIOI (Indian Ocean Ports Association), aimed at assessing market potential, infrastructure needs, as well as the marketing positioning of the islands in the Indian Ocean zone. • the 2018 programme of actions of the Vanilla Islands Organisation which includes, notably, setting up of actions to improve digital communication and visibility of the Vanilla Islands. • the continuity of the maritime cooperation project entitled ‘New initiative for surveillance of fisheries in the south-western Indian Ocean’ piloted by the TAAF. The project is complementary to EDF ERDF actions. Due to the transition between two EDF programmes in 2018 (end of the Smartfish programme and pending the Ecofish programme), the planned fisheries surveillance operation could not be carried out. It will be the object of deprogramming in 2019.
05	<p>Improving collective abilities of adaptation, prevention and risk management due to the climate change / Cross border</p>	<p>5 projects have been programmed since July 2016 within axis 5, for a total eligible cost of €4,457,738.29, representing a programming rate of 86%.</p> <p>3 projects were retained in 2018 within the measure aimed at reducing the impact of disasters and effects of climate change on the populations of the south-western Indian Ocean zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cross-border strand of the 2018 action programme of the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI) of the Red Cross includes, notably, actions favouring the integration of risk management within the national policies of countries, awareness actions for populations and human and technical preparedness to

		<p>take action in the event of crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 projects of the IRD (Research and Development Institute) and the University of Reunion within the ReNovRisk programme, carried out in partnership with Madagascar, studying the impact of cyclone risks in the Indian Ocean basin, on the spatial and economic levels. <p>In order to continue support for prevention and management of risks in IOC countries, during the modification of the programme, axis 5 benefited from an increase of the funding model.</p>
06	<p>Improving collective abilities of adaptation, prevention and risk management due to the climate change / Transnational</p>	<p>4 projects have been programmed since July 2016 within this axis, for a total eligible cost of €1,813,408.07, representing a rate of programming of 60%.</p> <p>2 projects were selected during 2018 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The transnational strand of the 2018 action programme of the PIROI within measure 6.1 relative to reducing the impact of disasters and the effects of climate change on the populations in the southwestern Indian Ocean zone. - A first file was programmed within measure 6.2 concerning cooperation actions around epidemiological and infectious risks: the project TIS (Sterile Insect Technique) AEDES OI piloted by the IRD. The project studies the feasibility of applying the sterile insect technique, developed by the IRD, in Reunion and in partner territories (Mauritius, Madagascar, Kenya and Mayotte). <p>In the absence of projects focusing on marine pollution, initially planned within axis 6, the managing authority reduced the amount of funds for this axis.</p>
07	<p>Strengthening capacities of understanding, enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the Indian Ocean Area /Cross border</p>	<p>4 projects have been programmed since July 2016 within axis 7, for total eligible cost of €1,326,499.33, or a programming rate of 40%.</p> <p>In 2018, two new projects were selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A collaborative project with Mauritius and Madagascar concerning cetaceans in the southern Indian Ocean, piloted by the association Globice and selected within the actions file entitled 'Networking and joint environmental enhancement and preventive actions for biodiversity within the IOC countries'. The project aims to reinforce knowledge of humpback whales and coastal dolphins in the Indian Ocean and to disseminate such knowledge during various events held (Reunion science festival, whale festival in Sainte-Marie island in Madagascar). - Support granted by the Regional Council of Reunion for the organisation of the 2nd edition of the World Humpback Whale Conference, in partnership with the Madagascan Association

		CétaMada.
08	Strengthening capacities of understanding and enhancement of the cultural heritage of the Indian Ocean Area/Transnational	<p>With 4 projects selected since programming started, and amounting to a total cost of €1,494,137.05, axis 8 achieved a programming rate of 50%.</p> <p>The dynamic character of programming was confirmed in 2018, with 3 new projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project for creating a historical Indian Ocean audio library was selected following a call for projects launched in 2018 within action file 8.2 focusing on cultural heritage. The project, which includes a study of popular and traditional musical forms and the creation of a digital regional platform aimed at their promotion, is piloted by the <i>Pôle Régional des Musiques actuelles</i> (Regional Contemporary Music pole). It involves partners from Reunion, Mayotte, Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, the Seychelles and Zanzibar (Tanzania). - 2 projects are programmed within measure 8.1 devoted to natural heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project concerning the preservation and observation of sea turtles, implemented by the <i>Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer</i> – IFREMER (French Institute for Research and Exploitation of the Sea) in partnership with Mayotte, the Seychelles and the TAAF. The project focuses on the study of the behaviour of sea turtles, using new marking techniques, with the aim of improving the sharing of information through the networking of actors working in the field. • A cooperation project concerning knowledge and observation of cetaceans, developed by the Association Globice, using a shared platform (FLUKEBOOK) and the management of the IndoCet consortium, which brings together the actors of the observation network.
09	Upgrading collective skills through the support of educational and exchange actions / Cross border	<p>With 22 projects selected since 2016, for a total eligible cost of €4,681,804.97 and a programming rate of 47%, the highly dynamic nature of axis 9 has been confirmed.</p> <p>In 2018, 6 new projects were programmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within mechanism 9.1 concerned with training, 4 projects focusing on training for agriculture were programmed, as a continuation of those organised in previous years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 projects piloted by the professional agricultural high school of Saint-Joseph are run in collaboration with the Regional Assembly of Rodrigues, leading to professional diplomas in agriculture in hot

		<p>climates in 2018. These training courses are part of the process of the opening of an agricultural school in the island of Rodrigues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cooperation projects within the network of Southern African-Indian Ocean professional agricultural establishments (REAP AAOI). These cooperative educational actions make it possible to develop exchanges of students, trainers and expertise between establishments belonging to the network. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One file was selected under measure 9.6 entitled ‘Mobility and professional integration programmes’. Implemented by the Departmental Council of Reunion, the project enables 14 young Reunionese jobseekers to work under a one or two-year contract in the field of the French language, in structures located in Madagascar and the Seychelles. 60 persons from the structures have also benefited from French as a Foreign Language (FLE) courses in Reunion. - A project aimed at reinforcing exchange of skills with countries within the cross-border strand, through the mechanism of International Solidarity Volunteers of the association <i>France Volontaires</i>, enables 8 international solidarity volunteers, including six new participants, to be made available for projects of a non-economic character. <p>Concerning the level of programming for this axis, the initial funding model was increased, to make it possible to continue supporting projects within secondary education, pedagogical cooperation or mobility programmes.</p>
10	<p>Upgrading collective skills through the support of educational and exchange actions / Transnational</p>	<p>With 12 projects implemented since 2016, for a total eligible cost of € 1,264,260.00, corresponding to a programming rate of 29%, the axis has registered a low level of programming dynamics.</p> <p>In 2018, 4 new projects were selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 projects piloted by the national public agricultural teaching and professional training establishment of in Mayotte, in support of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An exchange and professional mobility program for trainers and learners within the REAP AAOI network, with partners from Madagascar, Mauritius and the Comoros ; - Mobility for learners within the REAP AAOI network for various professional training courses; - A first file programmed within the measure concerning mobility and professional integration (10.4), which corresponds to the transnational strand of the mobility and exchange programme proposed by the Departmental Council of Reunion. 31 young Reunionese jobseekers have been able to benefit from a one or two-

		<p>year period of professional experience in Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya, working in the field of the French language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A project piloted by the <i>Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques</i> (CIEP) concerning the organisation of the University of French Language Professional Activity in the World, organised in October 2018 and which, for the first time, brought together actors working in the field of the French language and French language teaching in the Indian Ocean zone. <p>The difficulties encountered within this axis, notably due to the impossibility of financing projects with South Africa, necessitated a reduction of the initial funding model.</p>
11	<p>Technical assistance for the INTERREG program 2014-2020 / Cross border</p>	<p>Concerning the cross-border technical assistance strand, 6 projects linked to human resources have been programmed since 2016, for a total eligible cost of €1,461,680.46, representing 50% of the amount allocated to this axis.</p> <p>These files contribute to the objective of 'Reinforcing the management capacities of the programme within the cross-border strand', which enables the structures concerned (Regional Council of Reunion and AGILE) to undertake actions allocated to the managing authority or those entrusted to partner structures.</p> <p>In 2018, 3 new projects were selected in the field of human resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - covering the cost of staff mobilised by AGILE in 2018; - two other files concerning staff responsible for mounting, organising and piloting the Regional Council programme for 2018-2019, as well as the cross-cutting services such as the ERDF Support Pole for 2016-2017.
12	<p>Technical assistance for the INTERREG program 2014-2020 / Transnational</p>	<p>Within the transnational technical assistance strand, 8 projects were programmed for a total eligible cost of €740,155.71, representing 48% of the amount allocated to this axis.</p> <p>In 2018, 3 new projects linked to human resources were programmed. These concern the transnational strand of operations mobilising the above-mentioned human resources of the programme.</p>

3.2 Output indicators of the program

Axis	Identifying number	Indicator	Value targeted for 2023	Value programmed for 2017	Value completed for 2017	Value programmed for 2018	Value completed for 2018
1 - Growing international potentials of research and technological innovation in the Indian Ocean Area / Cross border	CO24	Research and innovation : number of new researchers in supported entities	40	18,33	0	17	7,95
	CO25	Research and innovation : number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	20	0	0	15,7	0
	CO42	Productive investment : number of research entities engaged in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	8	6	6	6	6
	CO26	Research and innovation : number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	16	0	0	0	0
2 - Growing international potentials of research and technological innovation in the Indian Ocean Area / Transnational	CO24	Research and innovation : number of new researchers in supported entities	9	3,64	0	6	3
	CO42	Productive investment : number of research entities engaged in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	7	3	3	4	4
	CO26	Research and innovation : number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	5	0	0	0	0
3 - Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the area / Cross border	IS03a	Number of actions facilitating the relations and trades between economic operators of the cooperation zone (congress, seminar, prospecting missions...)	100	27	19	70	51
4 - Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the area / Transnational	IS03b	Number of actions facilitating the relations and trades between economic operators of the cooperation zone	70	34	22	70	58
5 - Improving collective abilities of adaptation,	IS04a	Number of monitoring, information and prevention of	8	17	12	30	18

prevention and risk management due to the climate change / Cross border		natural risk adopted within COI						
6 - Improving collective abilities of adaptation, prevention and risk management due to the climate change / Transnational	IS04b	Number of monitoring, information and prevention of natural and environmental (pollution), sanitary risks	2	3	3	6	3	
7 - Strengthening capacities of understanding, preservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the Indian Ocean Area / Cross border	IS06a	Number of collective project about natural heritage conservation and enhancement	10	2	2	6	4	
8 - Strengthening capacities of understanding, preservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the Indian Ocean Area / Transnational	IS06b	Number of collective project about natural heritage conservation and enhancement	8	1	1	4	4	
9 - Upgrading collective skills through the support of educational and exchange actions / Cross border	CO46	Labour and training market : number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	1052	1157	746	1370	1093	
	CO43	Labour and training market : number of participating in cross-border mobility initiatives	235	64	42	84	70	
10 - Upgrading collective skills through the support of educational and exchange actions / Transnational	CO46	Labour and training market : number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	364	74	0	208	126	
	CO43	Labour and training market : number of participating in cross-border mobility initiatives	100	10	5	44	8	

3.3 Performance framework

Axis	Type of indicator	Identifying number	Indicator	Unité de mesure	Value targeted for 2018	Value targeted for 2023	Value completed for 2018	Observations
01	O	CO42	Productive investment : number of research entities engaged in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	5	8,00	6,00	
01	F	IF01	Financial indicator axis 1	Euros	5 338 236,00	21 352 943,00	420 289,47	
02	O	CO42	Productive investment : number of research entities engaged in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	5	7,00	4,00	
02	F	IF02	Financial indicator axis 2	Euros	1211765	6 558 825,00	36 000,00	
03	F	IF03	Financial indicator axis 3	Euros	597 647	5 976 473,00	1 387 740,93	
03	O	IS03a	Number of actions facilitating the relations and trades between economic operators of the cooperation zone (congress, seminar, prospecting missions...)	actions	15	100,00	51,00	
04	F	IF04	Financial indicator axis 4	Euros	717 647	7 176 471,00	1 140 099,63	
04	O	IS03b	Number of actions facilitating the relations and trades between economic operators of the cooperation zone (congress, seminar, prospecting missions...)	actions	11	70,00	58,00	
05	F	IF05	Financial indicator axis 5	Euros	1 104 706	5 182 353,00	2 279 421,17	
05	O	IS05a	Number of training sessions	sessions de formation	8	35,00	33,00	
06	F	IF06	Financial indicator axis 6	Euros	1 210 589	3 035 296,00	803 454,4	
06	O	IS05b	Number of training sessions	sessions de formation	3	8,00	6,00	
07	F	IF07	Financial indicator axis 7	Euros	425 294	3 335 295,00	406 245,00	
07	O	IS06a	Number of collective project about natural heritage conservation and enhancement	projets collaboratifs	1	10,00	4,00	
08	F	IF08	Financial indicator axis 8	Euros	218 824	2 958 824,00	72 888,6	
08	O	IS06b	Number of collective project about natural heritage conservation and enhancement	projets	1	8,00	4,00	
09	O	CO43	Labour and training market : number of participating in cross-border mobility initiatives	Persons	71	235,00	75,00	
09	F	IF09	Financial indicator axis 9	Euros	1 583 530	9 917 652,00	2 281 119,69	
10	O	CO46	Labour and training market : number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders l'emploi des jeunes, les possibilités éducatives et l'enseignement supérieur et professionnel par-delà les frontières	Persons	36	364,00	126,00	
10	F	IF10	Financial indicator axis 10	Euros	435 295	4 352 945,00	195 820,98	

3.4 Financial data

Priority axis	Funds	Calculation basis	Total funding (€)	Co-funding rate %	Total eligible expenditure of selected operations (€)	Proportion of total funding covered by selected operations (%)	Total public eligible expenditure of selected operations (€)	Total of eligible expenditure reported by the beneficiaries to the monitoring authority (€)	Proportion of total funding covered by eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries (%)	Number of selected operations	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2018 and certified to the Commission
01	ERDF	Public part	25 352 943,00	85,00	9 321 159,60	36,77%	9 321 159,60	2 567 564,45	10,13%	12	420 289,47
02	ERDF	Public part	6 058 825,00	85,00	3 554 073,11	58,66%	3 554 073,11	804 603,40	13,28%	6	36 000,00
03	ERDF	Public part	5 976 473,00	85,00	3 018 085,93	50,50%	2 787 027,13	1 452 577,89	24,30%	23	1 387 740,93
04	ERDF	Public part	7 176 471,00	85,00	3 408 857,38	47,50%	3 314 237,57	1 224 070,67	17,06%	21	1 140 099,63
05	ERDF	Public part	3 682 353,00	85,00	4 457 738,29	121,06%	4 449 738,29	1 904 761,30	51,73%	5	2 279 421,17
06	ERDF	Public part	4 035 296,00	85,00	1 813 408,07	44,94%	1 813 408,07	615 660,53	15,26%	4	803 454,40
07	ERDF	Public part	2 835 295,00	85,00	1 326 499,33	46,79%	1 326 499,33	325 935,21	11,50%	4	406 245,00
08	ERDF	Public part	1 458 824,00	85,00	1 494 137,05	102,42%	1 494 137,05	0,00	0,00%	4	72 888,60
09	ERDF	Public part	7 917 652,00	85,00	4 681 804,97	59,13%	4 681 804,97	2 677 839,64	33,82%	22	2 281 119,69
10	ERDF	Public part	5 352 945,00	85,00	1 264 260,00	23,62%	1 264 260,00	272 190,22	5,08%	12	195 820,98
11	ERDF	Public part	2 923 297,00	85,00	1 461 680,46	50,00%	1 461 680,46	1 205 168,08	41,23%	6	952 521,25
12	ERDF	Public part	1 532 453,00	85,00	740 155,71	48,30%	740 155,71	582 047,70	37,98%	8	464 342,25
Total	ERDF		74 302 827,00	85,00	36 541 859,90	49,18%	36 208 181,29	13 632 419,09	18,35%	127	10 439 943,41
Global total			74 302 827,00	85,00	36 541 859,90	49,18%	36 208 181,29	13 632 419,09	18,35%	127	10 439 943,41

4. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

As from 2017, low levels of programming were noted for certain mechanisms and axes of the Interreg programme, for various reasons: frameworks that were too restrictive, low level of mobilisation of persons piloting projects, absence of an agreement with South Africa, situations that have evolved since 2015 etc.

Consequently, several measures aimed at injecting new dynamics into these mechanisms, have been applied :

- Modifications of selection criteria

Actions to support processes aimed at developing and disseminating knowledge to increase competitiveness and sustainable development were considered as being too restrictive, since they were limited to projects having an economic impact. The managing authority proposed corrective measures to this issue, by opening out selection criteria to include projects aimed at developing data, expertise and skills for the benefit of public services within the framework of sustainable development. This modification of selection criteria was approved by the monitoring committee in December 2017.

The Departmental Council and the Prefecture of Mayotte also examined the selection criteria restricting the countries with which project leaders in Mayotte could propose projects within several action files of the programme. These geographical criteria were removed from the action files concerned during the 2018 session of the monitoring committee.

It is to be noted that simplified pricing mechanisms were introduced for most of the action files modified in December 2018.

- Reinforcing of the mechanism for organising and supporting project leaders

An organisational centre for the Interreg programme has been operational since March 2017, with two members of staff responsible, notably, for giving support to potential project leaders.

The Regional Council branches in Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles have been contributing to this support structure, thanks to 4 international solidarity volunteers responsible for giving support for drawing up Interreg projects. Initially trained by the managing authority, the volunteers took up their posts in 2017 in Comoros and Mauritius and in 2018 in Madagascar and the Seychelles.

- Setting up a triggering mechanism for Interreg projects using Regional Council internal funds

Validated in September 2017, this mechanism makes it possible to support preparation for Interreg projects and exchanges upstream, working with partners in the zone. This mechanism aims to open out the Interreg program to new project leaders. A call for projects was launched within this mechanism in October 2018 and 10 initial Interreg projects were retained.

- Modification of the programme

In order to counter the low level of programming within certain axes of the transnational strand, notably due to the lack of participation by South Africa, and to maintain the dynamic character of programming within other axes, as from July 2018, the managing authority carried out a modification of the programme's financing plan. Axes 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9 were increased by amounts of

between €500,000 and €2,000,000. Axes 1, 6 and 10 were decreased by amounts of between €1,000,000 and €4,000,000. These adjustments had to be proposed while respecting the initial amounts allocated to the cross-border strand on the one hand and the transnational strand on the other. These modifications to the financing plan led to adjustments of the intermediary and targeted values for certain indicators, including the performance framework. The modification, after exchanges with DG REGIO (General Directorate for Regional Policy), was validated by the November 2018 monitoring committee. The decision concerning modification to the programme was taken by the European Commission on 20th February 2019.

- Coordination with the Interreg Mayotte / Comoros / Madagascar programme

Following the start of selection of operations for the cross-border Interreg program in Mayotte, it was noted that the same project leaders are financed by the programme and by the Indian Ocean Interreg programme, for operations covering different geographical zones. The creation of mechanisms for sharing information between the managing authorities concerned (Prefecture of Mayotte for the Interreg cross-border programme for Mayotte and the Regional Council of Reunion for the Interreg Indian Ocean programme) was thus validated during the pilot committee held in Mayotte in October 2018. The decision was also taken to set up joint communication concerning the possibilities offered by the two Interreg programmes, aimed at project leaders in Mayotte. These mechanisms will be ~~will~~ fully defined and implemented in 2019.

5. ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Information concerning section A and achievement of the programme's objectives

Priority axis	01 - Increasing the international potential of research and innovation in the Indian Ocean /Cross-border
----------------------	---

Halfway through the program, a positive dynamics process has been triggered for achievement of objectives defined regarding research and innovation within the cross-border strand. Assessment of the achievement of the fixed objectives will only totally possible after completion of on-going research projects.

Concerning the first specific objectives within this axis, devoted to ‘Increasing research, development and innovation around shared issues within IOC countries’, the rate of achievement has been positive : 7 research projects are supported, focusing on issues shared between countries within countries in the zone, in the fields of agriculture, health, hazards and climate change.

Thus, the *Renovrisk-cyclones* project focuses on the meteorological and oceanographic impact of cyclones on territories in the southwestern Indian Ocean, from the present period up to 2100. In the context of climate change and while the models that have been developed on the international level do not make it possible to emit precise forecasts on the scale of the Indian Ocean, this project mobilises innovative tools (drones, trackers etc.), aimed at refining forecasts in the Indian Ocean.

In addition, the support given to these projects has made it possible to recruit new researchers, to the amount of 8 FTE, which represents a very positive level of achievement in the context of research in Reunion.

The second specific objective is entitled ‘Increasing number of projects exploiting the results of research, expertise and data issued by scientific and technical research centres for the benefit of the sustainable development of IOC countries’. The action file which lays out this objective was the object of a modification concerning its selection criteria at the end of 2017, with the aim of opening it out to new projects. A first project was selected in 2018. The IOS-NET project aims to study the potential of solar power, in order to optimise intelligent solar energy systems, notably photovoltaic, in IOC countries. The project, which also benefits from the support of the EDF, through the Renewable Energies programme of the IOC, will also make it possible, in the long run, to set up cooperation with companies that will use the data produced to optimise their photovoltaic installations.

Priority axis	02 - Increasing the international potential of research and innovation in the Indian Ocean /Transnational
----------------------	--

As for axis 1, it will only be possible to assess achievement of the defined objectives in the field of research and innovation within the transnational strand after completion of on-going projects.

The first specific objective of this axis ‘Increasing the activity of research, development and innovation around shared topics within countries in the Indian Ocean zone’ is reflected in the support for 4 research projects around issues in the fields of agriculture, health and climate change, on the transnational level. The funding for 11 PhD theses around topics of interest for the zone, within the framework of a co-supervision between the University of Reunion and research structures in partner countries also contributes to this objective.

The projects have also made it possible to recruit new researchers, to the amount of 3 FTE, for indicator CO24.

The second specific objective ‘Increasing the number of projects exploiting the results of research, expertise and data of scientific and technical research centres to the service of the sustainable development of the countries in the Indian Ocean zone’ has, so far, not registered any projects within the transnational strand.

Priority axis	03 - Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the Indian Ocean zone/Cross-border
----------------------	--

The specific objective of axis 3 is ‘Increasing the number of collaborative projects of an economic character between private actors in IOC countries’. To this aim, the Interreg programme encourages contacts between companies in IOC countries around shared topics of interest (renewable energy sources, food processing, African markets etc.) Consequently, with the support of the programme, an average of 138 companies per year have participated in actions of an international character (prospecting, participating in international fairs/ seminars etc.) (IR 03a).

51 actions performed have been listed under IS03, a number far higher than the intermediate value of this performance indicator.

The support given therefore makes it possible to contribute to the specific objective of this axis as regards competitiveness of Reunionese companies, by enabling them to open out and reinforce their exchanges with IOC partners.

Priority axis	04 - Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the Indian Ocean zone/ Transnational
----------------------	--

Axis 4 has the same objective of ‘Increasing the number of collaborative projects of an economic character between private actors’, on the wider Indian Ocean scale. Contacts between companies are thus also supported, with Mozambique, Kenya, la Tanzania and India.

Consequently, with the support of the programme, an average of 27 companies per year have participated in actions of an international character (prospecting, participating in international fairs/ seminars etc.) (IR 03a).

58 actions have been performed and 70 programmed under performance indicator IS03b : the final target has already been achieved regarding the number of operations programmed.

Priority axis	05 - Reinforcing the collective capacities for
----------------------	---

	adapting to climate change, prevention and management of risks/ Cross-border
--	---

The objective of axis 5 is ‘Improving the collective capacities for prevention and management of risks in the event of natural, health and environmental disasters in IOC countries’.

Preparing actors in partner countries for exceptional climatic events is a particularly important challenge for the island territories of the IOC, faced with the context of climate change. With 58 actors trained and/or interconnected in the field of management and prevention of risks (IR04a) in 2018, the Interreg program is contributing to this objective. 33 training sessions have been held (IS05a) since 2016, around different topics linked to risk management, which is far higher than the intermediate value set out for this indicator.

Through support given to forecasting the impact of such events and contribution to risk management plans with partner countries, the programme has also contributed to setting up 18 tools for surveillance, information and prevention of natural risks (IS04a). This value is higher than that set out for the end of the programme.

Priority axis	06 – Reinforcing the collective capacities for adapting to climate change, prevention and management of risks/ Transnational
----------------------	---

The same objective of ‘Improving the collective capacities for prevention and management of risks in the event of natural, health and environmental disasters’ is set out under axis 6, with the countries in the Indian Ocean zone.

46 actors from Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya were trained in the field of management and prevention of risks (IR04b) in 2018 and six training sessions organised since 2016 (IS05b).

3 tools for surveillance, information and prevention for countries in the Indian Ocean zone (IS04b) were set up, one more than the final value set out for this indicator.

Within this transnational strand, these results also include health risks, through the feasibility study of an innovative method for combating diseases transmitted by the Aedes mosquito (sterile insect technique) in Mayotte, Kenya and Tanzania.

Priority axis	07 - Reinforcing knowledge and development of the natural heritage of the Indian Ocean zone/Cross-border
----------------------	---

Within axis 7, the specific objective is ‘Reinforcing the development of the natural heritage in IOC countries’.

The creation of 21 supports (works, scientific reports, multilingual digital platforms etc.), enhancing the natural heritage of IOC countries and the result of collaborative projects (IR05a) is an indication of the contribution of the Interreg program to this objective.

The marine environment is particularly concerned, with 4 projects (IS O6a) on cetaceans (humpback whales and dolphins) supported, with the aim of improving knowledge of these species, disseminating the information among the public at large in the IOC countries, but also sharing knowledge between scientists and managers during the World Humpback Whale Congress held in Reunion in 2017.

Priority axis	08 - Reinforcing knowledge and enhancing the natural heritage of the Indian Ocean zone/ Transnational
----------------------	--

Within axis 8, the specific objective also includes cultural heritage: ‘Enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the Indian Ocean zone’. 3 supports (works, scientific reports, multilingual digital platforms etc.) enhancing the natural heritage of the Indian Ocean zone (IR05b) were developed to this aim.

The 4 projects supported within axis 8 (IS O6b) contribute to the protection and knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of the Indian Ocean zone.

In the field of biodiversity, marine fauna is targeted, through the development of a data platform on cetaceans and through increased knowledge of marine turtles in the context of a network of scientists working in the zone.

As regards the cultural heritage, two large-scale projects are being developed in partnership with countries in the zone: the Indian Ocean image library and sound library.

Priority axis	09 - Raising the level of collective skills through support for training and exchange actions / Cross-border
----------------------	---

The specific objective of axis 9 is ‘Raising the level of skills in IOC countries, through education and professional training, mobility and exchange of experiences’. The number of 42 persons who obtained a diploma, certificate or who followed professional training outside their country of origin (IR 06 a) during the year 2018 indicates the contribution made by the Interreg programme towards this objective.

In addition, 1.093 persons have participated in common educational and training programmes, coming under common indicator CO46, which is already close to the final value to be achieved by the end of the programme. The persons trained participated in cooperative agricultural education programmes piloted by the teaching establishments of Saint-Paul or Saint-Joseph, as well as projects in the fields of music and courses in the French language or pedagogical techniques organised by the CIEP.

70 persons took part in cross-border mobility initiatives, contributing to common indicator C043, applied in the context of performance. The participants are international solidarity volunteers made available to economic or non-economic institutions in partner countries for a period of 1 to 3 years, as well as young Reunionese jobseekers under a 1 to 2 year contract in the field of the French

language in countries in the zone, within the mobility and integration programme of the Departmental Council.

Priority axis	10 - Raising the level of collective skills through support for training and exchange actions / Transnational
----------------------	--

The same objective 'Raising the level of skills, through education and professional training, mobility and exchange of experiences' is applied within axis 10.

Operations supported in the fields of pedagogy and the French language in Mozambique, as well as agricultural cooperation training programs with educational establishments in Reunion and Mayotte have led to 126 participants achieving common indicator CO46, a value that is already above the intermediate value for this performance framework indicator.

Concerning the number of 8 participants involved in cross-border mobility actions (common indicator CO43), this number remains low in relation to the final target value since the number of international solidarity volunteers was lower than for the cross-border strand.

5.2. Specific measures for promoting equality between men and women and promoting non-discrimination, in particular those regarding access for disabled persons

The crosscutting principle of equality between men and women and non-discrimination towards disabled persons was integrated upstream when the Interreg programme was being set up. The instructing services of the managing authority are particularly vigilant when it comes to checking up on this principle, which is stated in all the programme's action files.

More particularly, actions within axis 1 and axis 2, when they concern funding for research programmes leading to recruitment of new researchers, are open to both men and women (regional research subsidy under measure 2.1, agronomic research programmes or shared issues). This consideration is, notably, illustrated through the principle of equity applied in the selection of Ph.D. theses which are the object of support through the regional research scholarship. Out of 9 theses presented, 4 female postgraduates received support during the 2017 session, programmed for 2018. The operations relative to training and mobility within axes 9 and 10 also illustrate the application of measures aimed as much at women as men. We can note, for example, the international solidarity volunteer mechanism, for which selection of candidates includes the criterion of gender equality and is carried out on the basis of skills, without any discrimination linked to gender.

In addition, consideration of accessibility for disabled persons is very high. The programmed operation to set up the 3P Pole of the CIRAD is compliant as regards accessibility, being an establishment that receives members of the public. The plans reflect an awareness of this issue: specially organised car parks and specific guides, information panels, adapted layout, width of doors, corridors and turning points and special safety zones in the event of fire.

Finally, two educational projects focus on integrating disabled children in schools. The PRISM project was set up by the CIEP in response to a request made by the Ministry of Education in Mauritius. The

training project concerning autistic children in Mauritius and the Seychelles, piloted by the ALEFPA, favours the diagnosis of autistic children and their educational integration. The project was developed during the national seminar on European territorial cooperation, held in Besançon on 4th December 2018.

5.3 Sustainable development

Sustainable development is an element highly taken into consideration within the strategy of the Interreg programme. Axes 7 and 8 reflect the objective and priority given to sustainable co-development, through actions focusing on protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage.

- Three projects were recently retained under action file 'Networking and joint actions aimed at development and prevention of environment and biodiversity in IOC countries' within axis 7, focusing on acquiring knowledge of marine mammals and disseminating the knowledge to the public at large. These actions are set up in the context of development of whale safari activities or coastal development, which are posing an ever-increasing threat to these marine species.
- A study focusing on whales, in partnership with Madagascar (*Cétamada* and *Mada Megafauna*) and Mauritius (*Mauritius Marine Conservation Society*), which includes a collaborative study of humpback whales and reinforcing knowledge of the four species of coastal dolphins encountered in the southern Indian Ocean.
- Phase 2 of a platform and entitled Flukebook, aimed at facilitating comparison of scientific data on whales and animating the Indocet network in order to carry out awareness actions.
- Support given to the Regional Council of Reunion for the 2nd International Humpback Whale Conference, enabling further knowledge and protection of the species.

In addition, a project on sea turtles, aimed at enhancing biodiversity, was selected for the transnational strand. The Indian Ocean Sea Turtle project, piloted by IFREMER (*Institut Français de Recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer*: French Institute for Research and Exploitation of the Sea) will make it possible to deploy the first network for observing movements of sea turtles on the scale of the Indian Ocean basin (Reunion, Mayotte, the Seychelles and the TAAF), by federating scientists in the zone. To date, there is little knowledge or data (spatio-temporal dynamics, habitat, migration, etc.) on the sea turtles, even though they figure on the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) red list of endangered species. They are the object of a National Action Plan piloted by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy. Interreg financing will make it possible to contribute to one of the research priorities of this project, which consists in identifying and studying the dynamics of use of functional habitats by sea turtles, in order to take the measures necessary for their protection.

5.4. Communication of data on support marked out for objectives linked to climate change

9,58% of the public funds programmed at the end of 2018 are considered as contributing to the objectives linked to climate change, in application of the methodology based on categories of action set out in the regulations on implementation (EU) 2015/2014.

The contribution mainly concerns axes 5 et 6, within which the following have been programmed:

- Action programmes of the PIROI aimed at mitigation of the effects of climate change affecting Indian Ocean countries, by preparing national authorities and populations at risk for natural disasters;
- The ReNovRisk programme, piloted by the University and the IRD (Research and Development Institute) which focuses on assessment of cyclone damage in order to improve preparation in the face of climate phenomena in a context of global warming leading to their intensification.

Other contributions, not covered by this methodology, have also been made, such as international solidarity volunteers acting within structures in partner countries and working towards reduction of climate change or mitigation of its effects (for example: an assistant project leader for sustainable development and climate change working within the IOC in Mauritius, support for renewable energy sources for the Seychelles Energy Commission (SEC), a head of research into adapting animal rearing systems to climate change by the CIRAD in Madagascar).

Can also be added research projects focusing on climate: *IOS net* studying the power of the sun, *UV Indien* on UV rays and *ReNovRisk cyclones*. The interest of the latter project lies in the fact that it develops precise models for forecasting precipitation and cyclones in the southwestern Indian Ocean, in order to apply measures for adapting to climate change.

5.5 Role played by partners in the application of the cooperation programme

The application, monitoring and assessment of the Interreg Indian Ocean program take place in a context of shared management implemented in Reunion for structural funds and investments as a whole. The partnership cell AGILE (*Agence de gestion des initiatives locales en matière européenne*: Agency for Managing Local European Projects) guarantees the involvement of partners in Reunion (Prefecture, Regional Council, Departmental Council) in the management of these funds. For the Indian Ocean Interreg programme, AGILE plays the role of joint secretariat and, in addition to the partnership of Reunion, associates the Prefecture and the Departmental Council of Mayotte.

- Participation of partners in the monthly pilot committee, responsible for selection of operations

The pilot committee consists of the local Reunion-Mayotte partnership, responsible for selecting operations co-financed by the Interreg programme. It also involves the Council for Culture, Education and the Environment (CCEE), the Economic Social and Environmental Council of Reunion (CESER) and the Economic Social and Environmental Council of Mayotte (CESEM) in its monthly meetings. To encourage the participation of Mayotte, a pilot committee was held there in October 2018.

- Participation of partners in the annual monitoring committee and in the FED ERDF consultative committee

The above-named partners, as well as the representatives of the town-council federations, Consular Chambers (Chambers of commerce and industry, Chambers of trade and crafts, agriculture, fishing

etc.) are members of the monitoring committee of the Indian Ocean Interreg program. Representatives of partner countries for the programme are also members. All the IOC countries (Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar) participated in the monitoring committee in November 2018.

In addition, the UE delegations from Mauritius and Madagascar (with competence for the Comoros) and the IOC, with the local Reunion-Mayotte partnership, make up the EDF-ERDF consultative committee. The committee meets each year before the monitoring committee and makes it possible to carry out an assessment of perspectives and EDF-ERDF coordination.

-Reinforced participation of partner States signatories of Interreg framework agreements with the managing authority

The partner States of the Interreg program were invited to reinforce their partnership with the managing authority through the signature of Interreg framework agreements. These agreements make it possible to define common priorities and mechanisms for implementing the Interreg program in the partner States. The Comoros, Mauritius and Madagascar signed these agreements in 2016 and 2017 and memorandum of understanding was signed with the Seychelles in 2017. The management and monitoring of the framework agreements are the responsibility of the Regional Council of Reunion branches in Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros and the Seychelles. Partner States signatories of the framework agreement with the managing authority thus have a framework making it possible to reinforce their involvement in the monitoring of the Indian Ocean Interreg programme.

6. COMPULSORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

6.1 Progress made in the implementation of the assessment plan and monitoring of results of assessments

In accordance with the revised agenda, it is planned to launch a thematic impact assessment during the second quarter of 2019.

The projected topics are those of axes 3,4, 9 and 10 of the programme, which have recorded a satisfying level of programming and thus a basis for the assessments which will be carried out.

These topics both for the cross-border and the transnational strands, concern the programme's actions in the following fields:

- Support for development of economic exchanges;
- Raising the level of collective skills through support for training actions.

6.2 Results of information and publicity measures concerning Funds, applied in accordance with the communication strategy

The communication strategy of the Indian Ocean Interreg V programme was validated during the first monitoring committee, held on 27th April 2016.

The strategy sets out an action plan in two stages:

- launch of the programme (April to July 2016)
- continuous communication around the program and targeted information aimed at potential project leaders (July 2016 to 2020)

During the second Interreg monitoring committee, on 1st December 2017, the partner countries asked the managing authority to reinforce communication around the Interreg programme.

This request was taken into consideration through the organisation of specific communication in the partner countries, notably through the Regional Council branches in these countries.

A. Signature communication around the Interreg programme

- Launch of the programme (2016)

The year 2016 was devoted to launching the program, with the organisation of the following events:

- A launching seminar for the first monitoring committee of the programme, in the presence of Mme Anderson Pench, head of the DG Régio, representatives from Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, India and the Seychelles and private and public actors from Reunion (April 2016),

- Signature of the framework agreement between the Regional Council of Reunion and Mauritius (October 2016),
- Signature of the framework agreement between the Regional Council of Reunion and the Comoros (November 2016).

For the different events, communications supports were created:

- Creation of a specific visual support for the Interreg Indian Ocean programme: slogan and logo,
- Design of kakemonos, banners, and tarpaulins set up on the site of events.

- Continuous communication and targeted information aimed at potential project leaders (2017-2020)

Communication actions aimed at enhancing European actions and continuing support for project leaders in their procedure of applying for subsidies. These included, notably:

- Updating the Internet page dedicated to the Interreg program on the website of the Regional Council of Reunion (<https://www.regionreunion.com/sites/interreg/>), and putting online action files, application forms and lists of beneficiaries (11,470 hits and 8,823 single visitors in 2018). As for the other European programs, these documents can also be consulted online on the website www.reunioneurope.org.
- Publishing of articles dedicated to regional cooperation and the Indian Ocean Interreg program in the Regional Council monthly magazine (321,000 copies distributed). 9 pages were published on these topics in 2018.
- In 2017, compiling of a practical Interreg guidebook aimed at potential project leaders to be disseminated during information sessions in Reunion, Mayotte and the partner countries.
- Putting online all events concerning the Interreg program and cooperation on the website www.regionreunion.com (5,929 hits and 5,189 single visitors for 2018).
- Publications on the Regional Council's Facebook page (a total of 27,965 persons informed).
- In 2018, the creation of an advertising spot presenting the Interreg programme, disseminated on social networks, the Regional Council website and OTV.

In 2018, the following events provided the opportunity to communicate on the Interreg programme, with the deployment of supports (kakemonos, banners, and tarpaulins) and the preparation of press files and/or press releases presenting the main lines of the programme:

- 3 years of existence of the Mauritius branch of the Regional Council of Reunion (March 2018)
- Inauguration of the economic bureau of the Regional Council of Reunion in Mozambique (July 2018)
- Signature of the declaration of intention between Mayotte and Reunion (October 2018)
- Inauguration of the Seychelles branch of the Regional Council of Reunion (October 2018)

In addition, two projects financed by the Indian Ocean Interreg programme were presented during the national seminar on European Territorial Cooperation organised by the General

Commissariat for Territorial and Regional Equality in France on 4th December 2018 in Besançon (a project concerning training on the subject of autism piloted by the ALEFPA and a research project on tropical cyclones directed by the University of Reunion).

- Call for projects

Three communication campaigns were launched around the call for projects and the programme's mechanisms:

- Support for collaborative projects for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Indian Ocean were the object of 2 calls for projects, with publications in the daily written press of Reunion and Mayotte and on the Internet, in 2016 (21st November to 31st December 2016) and in 2018 (15th January and 28th February 2018). 12 projects were proposed in response to the 2016 call for projects and 6 in response to the 2018 call for projects.
- Support for cooperative educational projects between educational establishments was the object of a call for projects using the same supports from 14th December 2017 to 28th February 2018. 10 proposals for projects were submitted in response to this call for projects.

B. Communication in the partner countries of the programme

- Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles

Information and communication around the Interreg programme are both implemented by the Regional Council branches in the partner countries signatories of the Interreg framework agreements with the managing authority (Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles).

- All the branches have benefited from the support of international solidarity volunteers, specifically responsible for providing support for drawing up Interreg files and information aimed at public and private actors.
- The branches participate in different events, during which they disseminate information on projects supported within the Interreg programme and the possibilities offered by the programme.
- The branches favour publicity around actions implemented through ERDF funds, in the written press and television.

In addition, the partner countries signatories of Interreg framework agreements receive an information bulletin presenting the projects selected. Five bulletins were issued in 2017 and 2018, to communicate information about the operations programmed.

- Mozambique

Specific communication was organised in Mozambique on the occasion of the inauguration of the Regional Council economic bureau in Maputo. A presentation session around the Interreg programme, aimed at potential public and private beneficiaries, was organised. For this event, presentation supports on the programme were created and disseminated in Portuguese.