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European Union
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Development Fund

Monitoring Report FLA

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11 October 2022 □ Information seminar in Athens

Action 1 – Bando Turismo & Attrattività II (*Tourism & Attractiveness*)

The Action

- INVALIS project aims to improve the policy instrument searching for opportunities for funding new projects related to the contrast of IAS and for the safeguard and protection of the local biodiversity.
- In this context, projects for improving the ecological connections between touristic areas are considered a priority and they are supported.
- Favouring the ecotourism can help generate funding needed to cover important management costs in protected areas and it has been long promoted for its importance in supporting both biodiversity conservation and economic development.
- Supporting Lombardy Region in the definition of the renewed call for tender “Turismo& Attrattività II” (Tourisms & Attractivities) by introducing financing measures that provide support for the realization or renovation of structures and facilities or complementary units related to touristic activities.
- Candidate projects are evaluated on different perspectives and compared on a score of maximum 30 points. Among these, 5 points of the score could be dedicated to social and environmental sustainability objectives such as the use of certified local plants which could improve the ecological connection between natural areas already present and the local fauna.
- In this call, FLA suggested using local plant species in the renovation process of touristic outdoor structures. This apparently simple concept has two important goals:
 - to improve the environment and the local fauna and, indirectly, to contrast IAS.
- The general ecological concept behind this suggestion is that if an ecosystem has a high native biodiversity, IAS are less likely to colonise it.

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Players involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lombardy Foundation for the Environment ● Regional government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Managing Authority ROP ERDF 2014-2020 ○ Environmental Authority POR ERDF 2014-2020 of the Lombardy Region
Timeframe	<p>Publication on Lombardy Region official Gazette: 10.07.2020</p> <p>Open window for candidacy: 21.07.2020-15.10.2020</p> <p>Monitoring up to 2023.</p>
Funding support	<p>The regional financial support covers a maximum of 50% of the total eligible costs of proposed interventions (with a minimum total eligible investment of not less than 80.000,00 euro and a maximum total eligible investment of not more than 200.000,00 euro).</p> <p>Total financial allocation is 17.000.000,00 €</p>
Funding sources	<p>ROP ERDF 2014-2020 – Priority Axis III - Action 3.b.2.3</p>

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The monitoring process could be scheduled as it follows:

- Validate the publication on the Region Lombardy Official Gazette of the call including the sustainability criteria (July 2020).
- Evaluation of effectiveness of the financing measure “Turismo e Attrattività II”, belonging to ROP ERDF 2014-2020 – Priority Axis III- Action 3.b.2.3 Increased tourism sustainability: strengthening tourist SMEs with strategies.
- Accepted projects dedicated to favoring the local biodiversity using certified plants species for the environmental restoration in tourism facilities.

Main indicators:

- N° of candidate projects which included environmental sustainability objectives as part of their goals.
- N° of projects awarded with 1 to 5 sustainability evaluation points with focus on use of native plant species for the requalification of the environment surrounding the touristic facilities as part of their goals.
- Amount of financial support granted to SMEs selected for receiving the funding.

The **monitoring activity** has allowed to assess the main impact of the policy instrument **obtaining the following results:**

- overall participation to the call 362 applications;
- 184 applications approved and financed for total financing of 22.301.451,03€;
- about 20 (11%) of projects approved and financed include elements for the protection of biodiversity, the inclusion of elements for the protection of native flora and the reduction of alien species, as part of more general investments related to touristic infrastructures (hotel, camping) for a total financing of about 2.979.144,25€ .
- *please keep in mind that this amount represents the total financing including all possible investments related to the tourism sector and not only on preserving biodiversity and protection of native species, for example: water saving, energy efficiency, implementation of green infrastructures, restructuring of the building and so on).*

Example of financed projects

*With regard to landscape insertion and biodiversity, an important planting intervention of over 1400 herbaceous, shrubby and arboreal species will be carried out to allow a better landscape mitigation of the structure and reinforce the natural ecosystem, favoring the increase of biodiversity and ecological corridors. The latter elements considered of priority importance by the Natura 2000 Network for the refuge and feeding of wildlife, in particular of small mammals and birdlife. Among the species of greatest naturalistic value subject to planting are *Castanea sativa*, *Quercus pubescens*, *Ostrya carpinifolia*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Cornus mas*, macrophytic coenoses chosen from the list of native species of the Lombard mesophilic forest, natural habitat in which the estate is inserted.*



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Thank you!

•Questions
welcome