

# ETC PROJECTS FOR AND WITH WOMEN

Report n.1 – March 2021



#### WHY ETC REPORTS

The European Territorial Cooperation is implemented in our country through 19 operational programs which, in addition to the economic dimension of expenditure, also represent a collective impetus to create networks, understand contexts and develop solutions in a dialogue between States, territories, companies and institutions that represents a heritage that deserves to be known and valued.

From this premise, the idea of the ETC Reports was born: an opportunity to show what is happening within the projects and how this capital of knowledge can be put at the service of our country.

#### Paolo Galletta

Office 6 Director Co-financed territorial cooperation operational programs, international activity, bilateral cooperation.



March 8<sup>th</sup> always recalls attention on women. It is an opportunity that this year we take to highlight how the ETC in Italy contributes to the European Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025 and what the European territorial cooperation programs have done and can do with and for women in Italy.

It is an analysis that stops at the collection of some emblematic projects and which, however, wants to thank the entire universe of women who work within the Managing Authorities, in the Secretariats, in the Task Forces for the new 2021-2027 programs and in the National Committees. It is an army — not even too silent - which carries on with conviction the values of European territorial cooperation and grasps, with reference to the daily process of building a Europe beyond borders, the still unexplored spaces of imagination (for Aristotle, a form of movement connected to the senses but not limited or conditioned by them, distinct from intellect and opinion, and capable of composing images both in relation to objects present to the senses, and by constructing them freely without immediate reference to the objects themselves).

In the spirit of the **historical tradition of March 8th**, this collection celebrates the work done (even with sacrifice), together with the ability to set goals of greater freedom, respect and equality starting from learning from one's mistakes. As for the **mimosa**, chosen as a symbol of Women's Day, it can be seen as a flower that blooms early, costs little and suggests the fullness of spring to come. Happy March 8th to everyone!



Data used in this report is taken from the Smart CTE (Smart ETC) analysis that supported the drafting of the Annual Report on the Implementation of the ETC in Italy 2020 and takes into account the reports sent by the aforementioned ETC programs.

#### FRAMEWORK AND TOOLS

The ETC and the European strategy for gender equality page 5

#### WOMEN WHO CONTRIBUTE

Some reference projects page 15

#### **WOMEN WHO WORK**

Some ETC projects on entrepreneurship, skills and flexibility page 19

#### **WOMEN AND THE CHALLENGES OF TIMES**

Conciliation, violence, migration, COVID and climate page 23

#### **WOMEN AND FUTURE**

Innovation, governance, sustainability *page 27* 

# CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT







### "In its actions the Union aims to eliminate inequalities, as well as to promote equality, between men and women."

Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

The promotion of equity between men and women is a Union duty, in all the activities under its jurisdiction in virtue of Treaties. Gender equality is a core value of the EU, a fundamental right and a key principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights<sup>1</sup>. It reflects our identity and is also a prerequisite for an innovative, competitive and prosperous European economy. In business, politics and society as a whole, we can only reach our full potential by using all our talents and diversity. Gender equality increases jobs and productivity<sup>2</sup>: it is therefore a potential that must be exploited as we move towards green and digital transitions and face demographic challenges.

The European Union is at the forefront of the world for gender equality: 14 of the top 20 countries in the world for the implementation of gender equality are EU Member States. Thanks to solid legislation and jurisprudence on equal treatment, efforts undertaken to integrate the gender perspective in different policy areas and legislation aimed at addressing specific inequalities, the EU has made immense progress on gender equality in recent decades.

However, no Member State has achieved full gender equality and progress is slow. In the 2019 EU Gender Equality Index, Member States averaged 67.4 points out of 100, improving the score from 2005 to today by just 5.4 points<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>In particular, for the implementation of the sustainable development goal no. 5 on gender equality, according to the EM2030 SDG Gender Index 2019: https://data.em2030.org/em2030-sdq-qender-index/



<sup>1</sup> https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/social-summit-european-pillar-social-rights-booklet it.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> By 2050, improving gender equality is expected to lead to an increase in EU GDP per capita of between 6,1 and 9,6%, corresponding to an increase from EUR 1,95 to 3,15 trillion: <a href="https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/economic-and-financial-affairs/economic-benefits-gender-equality">https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/economic-and-financial-affairs/economic-benefits-gender-equality</a>.



33% of women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence



22% of women in the EU have experienced violence by their partner



55% of women in the EU have experienced sexual harassment, and a woman is more likely to be sexually harassed online than men



On average, the hourly wage of women in the EU is 16% lower than that of men



Only 67% of women in the EU are in employment, compared to 78% of men



On average, women's pensions are 30,1% lower than men's



75% of unpaid care and domestic work is done by women



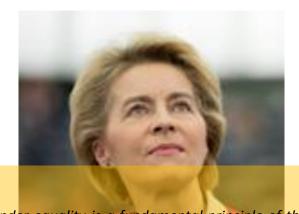
Only 7,5% of the chairmen of the boards of directors and 7,7% of the managing directors are women



Only 22% of the programmers involved in artificial intelligence are represented by women



39% of the Members of the European Parliament are women



Gender equality is a fundamental principle of the European Union, but not yet a reality. In business, politics and society as a whole, we can only reach our full potential by using all our talents and diversity. Using only half the population, half the ideas and half the energy is not enough.

President Ursula von der Leyen





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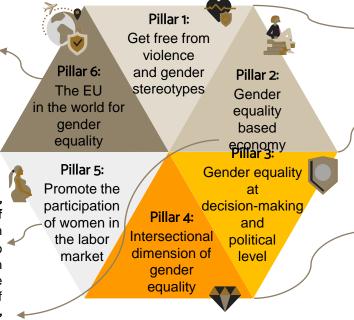
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The Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 - COM (2020) 1524 - sets a vision and sets policy goals and actions to make concrete progress on gender equality in Europe and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategy is divided into 6 pillars which are the basis from which the scheme for reading the ETC progress and projects in Italy was built.

The ENI MED program, the Italy Tunisia program, the Italy Albania Montenegro program are just some of the examples external cross-border cooperation with IPA and ENI countries in which the European approach to equal opportunities been the subject of comparison and co-planning with other parts of the world.

Social innovation, female startups, new dimensions of general services of common interest have been by ETC projects to declined strengthen the economy based on gender equality and promote the labor and social inclusion of women. including migrants, promoting professional qualification and conciliation.



Several training courses developed by ETC projects have created common foundations for education in non-violence and against gender stereotypes.

Many funded projects - for example those supported by the URBACT and INTERREG EUROPE programs - have worked on governance models to strengthen the presence of women.

Some programs - i.e., CENTRAL EUROPE - have introduced gender assessment as a self-assessment tool and the Annual Implementation Report of the program contains a "dashboard of incidence on equal opportunities between men and women" which looks at all the axes of the program.

<sup>4</sup> https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN

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# GENDER EQUALITY AS A TRANSVERSAL PRIORITY IN PROGRAMS



All ETC programs indicate equality between women and men as a horizontal priority and all project application forms have sections specifically dedicated to explaining the implications and approaches in terms of gender equality of the projects. Unfortunately, this dimension should be investigated to a greater extent than is currently being done, both in the monitoring phase and in the evaluation phase.

<u>A useful starting point:</u> il <u>Project Desk for Equal Opportunities</u>
<u>Step 4. Project assessment | European Institute for Gender Equality (europa.eu)</u>

#### SPECIFIC PROJECTS



Few programs have funded specific projects dedicated to women (for example the FEMINA, GENDERED LANDSCAPE, ICONWOMEN projects) but several projects have made clear a gender perspective even in non-gender-related projects.

A useful starting point the Gender-sensitive financial agreement

Tool 7: Defining gender-sensitive project selection criteria | European Institute for Gender Equality (europa.eu)

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN THE EQUALITY PERSPECTIVE



Few programs have focused on the impact in terms of gender equality, although the models and tools have been codified through some dedicated Interreg projects (for example, the FEMINA and MARIE projects funded by the Interreg Europe Program).

A useful starting point the Checklist and evaluation questions for the evaluator

Steps to integrate a gender perspective in M&E processes | European Institute for Gender Equality (europa.eu)

# PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMS

In application of the European Code of Conduct for Partnership, each Program is invited to take into account women as key stakeholders. In this sense, the link with the National and Regional Commissions for Equal Opportunities should be strengthened, but also specific investments should be made on the communication strategies of the Program.

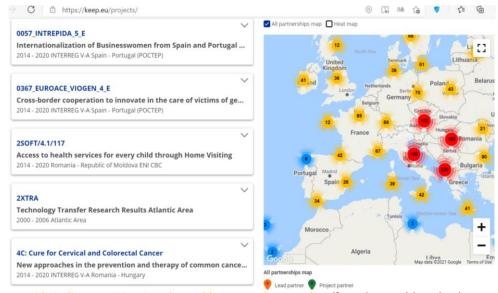
<u>A useful starting point:</u> Enhance the contribution of women in projects with <u>dedicated communication initiatives</u>

<u>International Women's Day: highlighting the role of women in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation | ENI CBC Med</u>





# **Projects**



In the Keep.eu database there are 123 projects with Italian participation that address gender equality (found searching the keywords "gender", "women", "female") out of a total of 4227 projects surveyed in the last three programming cycles with Italian Lead Partner or Partner. This is still a very low percentage (2,9% of total projects), albeit slightly increasing, considering the trend of this percentage over the three programming cycles. The Italian percentage is however slightly higher than the European average (2,6%). In any case, the total 639 projects in the Keep database are an excellent source of inspiration and a solid starting point.







On the 8th of June, the Plastic Busters MPAs team celebrated the World Oceans Day and reminded everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life. This year, the Focus was on Gender and Oceans, an experituality to explore the gender dimension of humanishing?

Plastic Busters MPAs paid tribute to 7 dedicated and passionate wo working in the field of marine research and Mediterranean Marine Protected Acoust management within the acoust of the project.

It is essential to transfer and exchange knowledge

the oceans are a common reserve of planet Earth



Among the beautiful initiatives, the HIDDEN TREASURES initiative of the Italia Francia Marittimo program which listens to the women who participated in the projects and the MED PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs project which celebrates the women of the project on the

celebrated-the-world-oceans-day-and-paid-tribute-to-the-projects-women/



Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale

Interreg 📰

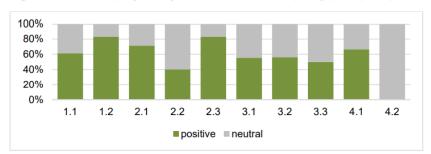


#### Incorporation of the equality between men and women in funded projects

In application forms, 61% of approved projects deemed their project to have a positive effect on the equality between men and women, while the remaining share anticipated the effect to be neutral. This is the case mostly for projects under SO 1.2, SO 2.3, as well as for SO 2.1, SO 4.1 and SO 1.1.

In the Annual Implementation Report 2016, in particular, the STREFOWA project was deemed to be relevant for gender equality.





Source: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE application forms of selected projects. Own calculation.

Few of the operational and impact assessment reports of ETC programs. An easily replicable model is the one adopted by CENTRAL EUROPE which in its annual reports highlights for each specific objective the contribution of projects to the principle of equal opportunities.



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#### GOOD PRACTICES DATABASE





The Good Practices Database is developed following the methodology of WOMEN IN BUSINESS project for analyzing, selecting, describing and evaluating of Good Practices (GPs).

WOMEN IN BUSINESS aims to develop, through a mutual learning process, innovative training models which will be the main tool for fostering young women entrepreneurship (YWE) and will be the main part of the Women Entrepreneurship Centers. On the other hand, the validated GPs will serve as a ground for development of the Policy Agenda with policy recommendations.

#### WOMEN-PULS

Women Enhancing Public Sector

In other ETC programs - such as the CBC Austria Hungary program and the TN DANUBE program - the model followed by Austria is interesting as, through two dedicated projects, it connects women at the top of public administration and companies by creating platforms for the construction of policies in a gender perspective. This is a practice that could also be an inspiration for some strategic projects that aim to strengthen and innovate the governance systems in the programs in which Italy participates (i.e., AlpGov, EUSAIR Facility Point, Panoramed). It is also interesting to note how the model for selecting good practices of the WOMEN IN BUSINESS project has become the system basis for collecting and monitoring good practices at the level of the entire program.



Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale







Women, leaders of **Euro-Mediterranean cooperation** 

#IWD2021

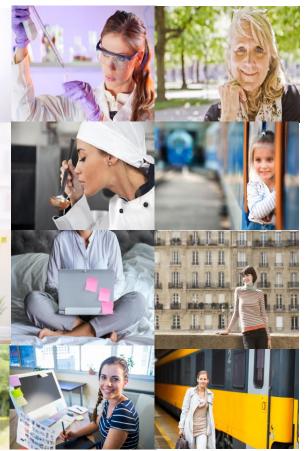
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# WOMEN WHO





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The project focuses on two European regions (Valencia, Spain and Sicily, Italy) and two MENA areas (Béja and Médenine in Tunisia and Palestine), identified as suitable for the implementation and enhancement of a sustainable value model in the agri-food sector: rural social innovation (RSI) that respects women and their needs. RSI redefines the boundaries between organizations and the community, addressing wider social challenges by seeking economic, social and environmental sustainability, balancing tradition and innovation, and explicitly



The INNOVAGROWOMED project aims to promote the participation and entrepreneurship of female work, exploiting the potential of the agri-food sector - an industry closely linked to the cultural identity of the Mediterranean region - and showing a significant level of untapped potential in terms of innovation and growth. While countries such as Spain and Italy have relatively high levels of growth in the agri-food sector, even if, with very low levels of female participation, MENA agricultural activity is still fragmented and with a low female employment rate at the local level.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



InnovAgroWoMed | ENI CBC Med





The use of the Hackathon to put women on stage and legitimize them is one of the STREFOWA project inspiring solutions. The Hackathon is an event in which, for various reasons, experts from different sectors participate for a short time (usually two days, hardly more than a week) and meet to develop proposals aimed at solving the problem the event promoters submit them. The typical development of a hackathon involves the choice of a theme or a project, the subdivision of the participants into teams and tables, and, at the end, the choice of the best project as for the opinion of a panel of experts.



The STREFOWA project funded by the CENTRAL EUROPE program has placed women at the center of a system of participation extended to schools, large retailers and the tourism sector, using them as agents for defining transversal models for reducing food waste.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION





STREFOWA #reducefoodwaste in the Central Europe - Interreg (interreg-central.eu)

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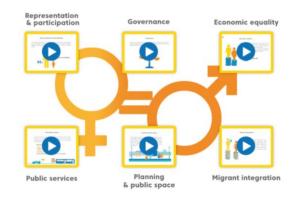


Coesione Territoriai

- A toolbox for the six critical areas in the governance of a womenfriendly city full of ideas and solutions that can be applied across the board
- The ten actions towards gender equality that can also be used as a checklist at program and cross-cutting policies level



#### **URBACT Gender Equal Cities**



# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



https://urbact.eu/gender-equal-cities



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It is a replicable model of cross-border social voucher that helps the reconciliation between life-time and work-time and helps to define a series of sectoral policies - for example those for tourism and transport - in terms of gender/family friendness.



The EFP-EUREGIO FAMILY PASS project focuses on strategies in support of women and the family by integrating in a single card for Tyrol, Alto Adige and Trentino interventions in the field of social security and services for children, through initiatives aimed at guaranteeing families access to recreational facilities, mobility services, purchases, etc. In the framework of the EuregioFamilyPass project, shared approaches are developed in order to further strengthen family policies, merging existing family card systems into a single EuregioFamilyPass that will allow Euregio families to access concessions and further services throughout the euro-regional territory. This will increase the mobility of families, making national and regional borders virtually irrelevant.



#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

/euregiofamilypass.asp



LUDED:

http://www.europaregion.info/it

- A map to create new tourist offers by focusing on female knowledge and know-how
- An accompanying path to develop skills and opportunities for women who want to set up on their own



The HAMLET project aims to enhance craftsmanship and connect artisan and entrepreneur women for the development of a new experiential and sustainable tourism model.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



Home | HAMLET (italy-albania-montenegro.eu)





- Among the objectives of the project there is the need to make various territorial contexts equal, transferring the know-how from the most innovative and more experienced regions to the "lagging" ones. The result will therefore be the creation of an innovative exportable model for the creation of innovative startups with a social vocation also in other areas not involved in the project.
- The project will also define a Learning Process, a learning process to transfer the Business Model to the other partner countries, thus strengthening the skills of women who want to launch innovative startups with a social vocation in the environmental field.



The BEGIN project, funded by the ADRION program, was launched to define a common Business Model to be used in partner countries for the creation of social startups. New companies must be innovative and have as their core business the social and labor inclusion of disadvantaged people, such as disabled, unemployed, women, young people, former prisoners and former drug addicts.

The heart of the project is to engage women in activities aimed at safeguarding and protecting the environment, improving the area for the benefit not only of tourists but also of the entire local community. Skills and competences.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION







**PROJECT** 

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#### SOLUTIONS THAT INSPIRE

- The signing of the European Charter for the equality of women and men in local life by the largest number of cross-border communities with a shared action plan
- Prevention paths to improve health care and social support for women in rural and mountain areas with awareness campaigns for health workers on the women needs and in particular on the issues of violence and harassment
- A professional and certified training to validate the experience acquired in the field of care, to allow women with a dependent to recognize their level of experience and thus offer them new opportunities on the labor market
- Operate at the level of Italian, French and European institutions for the social. professional and economic recognition of the status of family members who take care of the elderly



Statistically, the female population is at the forefront of caring for loved ones who need daily care. The PROSOL FEMMES project is part of the Integrated Thematic Project-PITEM PROSOL funded by the Interreg ALCOTRA program. The partnership identified a general problem concerning isolation in rural and mountain areas, the negative impact on the health of the patients, the difficulty of articulating family and professional life and the problems of integration or reintegration of women.

The Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur has been verv committed to equality between women and men since 2012, the year in which it signed the European Charter for equality between women and men in local life. A Mission was also created. dedicated to gender equality and women's rights. For its part, the Liguria Region, partner of this project, actively participated in the drafting of this European Charter.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



DONNE | Alcotra (interreg-alcotra.eu)





- Common guidelines for intercultural communication and relationship as well as medical techniques for the treatment of women victims of FGM and FM. The guidelines will be based on already consolidated good practices, on the exchange of experiences between operators and on the new sexual and reproductive health index developed with the results of the research/action.
- Training of health workers in communication, intercultural relationships and medical techniques to be adopted with patients who are victims of FGM and FM. Training for intercultural mediators and creation of new mediators capable of interpreting the needs of integration between communities and hospital institutions for a health



The program area is experiencing an increase in the number of migrants from Middle Eastern countries and Africa due to its proximity to the "Balkan route". The INTEGRA project intends to tackle a subject that has been little explored so far: the protection of the sexual and reproductive health of migrant women from cultures with a strong patriarchal imprint. The strengths of the project are the interdisciplinary approach, which sees the collaboration of universities, health structures and local associations, and the possibility of transferring good practices to address a phenomenon that involves the entire program area, resulting relatively new for Slovenian structures.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



INTEGRA | Italia Slovenia (ita-slo.eu)





- The project will implement a United Nations-backed "Green Entrepreneurship Standard" that will standardize the support inputs needed to generate successful initiatives and give them a quality label for better access to finance and markets.
- In the field, the project trains women to do green business also with a microcredit system and the development of a network of investors, activating an impact finance model.



The GIMED project funded by the ENI CBC MED program focuses on women to develop business opportunities and also share an integrated model of services and financing solutions with the southern shore of the Mediterranean.

The development of a green economy in the Mediterranean area to combat environmental degradation represents a great opportunity for job creation, especially for young graduates and women who are three times less likely to be employed than men. Strengthening green entrepreneurship is a recognized solution, although green initiatives face a complex set of challenges, including limited access to finance, underdeveloped markets and fragmented support from industry stakeholders.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION









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- "Donne in Quota" (women in quota) route to encourage the strengthening of female representation in the governance bodies of technology companies
- "STEM Talents" model to support the approach of women to scientific and technological disciplines to undertake professional and entrepreneurial paths in the high technology sector

Network of female mentors to support the creation of female tech



The FEMINA project, funded by the INTERREG EUROPE program, is to improve the ability to mainstream operational integrate into programs a series of solutions that enhance and strengthen the role of women in companies and technology clusters.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



http://www.interregeurope.eu/FEMINA/



Using gender equality as a key to designing more sustainable smart urban mobility solutions together with a series of solutions (for example, the accessibility of toilets and family rooms) to make city streets more in line with the needs of women. The study used is available here:

https://en.trivector.se/sustainable-transport/gender-equality-in-thetransport-sector-can-decrease-emissions-with-29-per-cent/

Rethinking urban spaces in a gender key through a guide that can link https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/urbactgenderequalcities-edition-pages-web.pdf



The THRIVING STREETS project financed by the URBACT program and coordinated by the City of Parma is responsible for defining sustainable mobility models for the future of cities. In collaboration with other networks (for example, the GENDERED LANDSCAPES network) the project has developed new solutions that put women and the gender perspective at the center of an overall process of rethinking urban spaces and models for the future of mobility.

#### FOR FURTHER **INFORMATION**



https://urbact.eu/thriving-streets





- Addressing smart specialization strategies also in terms of gendered innovation
- Integrate the gender perspective also in projects that create transnational/cross-border networks of incubators/accelerators and business services



The ICON WOM-EN project funded by the Greece Italy program aims to strengthen the connections between companies and female talents in the areas of smart specialization strategies, favoring the enhancement of the role of women in entrepreneurial discovery processes European value chains related technologies.

# INFORMATION







https://greece-italy.eu/rlb-fundedprojects/icon-women/







**EXCEED** 

#### **SOLUTIONS THAT INSPIRE**

- The extensive use of Art-based training as an evolution of the social theater that also gives operators in the entertainment sector opportunities to restart in a new context, bent by COVID
- Integrate the gender perspective in participatory planning processes of public policies through the use of artistic workshops



The D.E.A project: funded by the ITALIA SVIZZERA program looks to performing arts as a key to overcoming gender stereotypes and creating more inclusive societies.

DEA goes beyond the concept of entertainment intended for artistic practices and offers dance, music and theater courses in the form of personal services, which are integrated into professional paths and community performance events; carries out participatory planning processes, managerial mentoring and professional coaching actions, creates a social network for the use of the services offered by Start-ups and the Swiss network, involving policy makers, stakeholders, operators, families and users.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION







https://www.idearti.eu/diversita-arti-97



Information on the activities for the ETC of the Agency for Territorial Cohesion are available at the following link:

https://www.agenziacoesione.gov.it/lacoesione/le-politiche-di-coesione-in-italia-2014-2020/la-cooperazione-territoriale-europea/

The Annual Report on the implementation of the ETC in Italy is available at the following link:

https://www.agenziacoesione.gov.it/lacoesione/le-politiche-di-coesione-in-italia-2014-2020/la-cooperazione-territoriale-europea/relazione-annuale-cte



