

Atlantic Area
Transnational Cooperation Programme
Managing Authority

Screening-Out Decision
Pursuant to art 3 of the SEA Directive

21 October 2015,

Upon completion of the consultation process carried out by the Managing Authority and directed at the relevant authorities of the five programme member states in France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom, it was concluded that the Programme had no significant effects on the environment, therefore ending the Strategic Environmental Assessment process in each member state, and that it was not necessary to move to the last phase of the assessment process.

This decision is based on the following elements:

The effects on the environment and the environmental objectives of the European Union by the Cooperation Programme are limited by the type of actions implemented, the thematic and territorial specificity and financial dimension.

In any case, it is not expected those actions to be negative and their impact will always come up indirectly and marginally, but they are much more relevant in those actions focusing on environmental aspects as a central theme.

The general conclusion is a weak relevance of the expected effects and the consideration of potential determinants limited to two specific areas amongst the criteria to determine the significance of the likely significance of the effects on the environment set out in *Annex II of Directive 2001/42/EEC*:

- ✓ The fact that the Programme fixes a framework for the approval of projects. In this respect, however, the projects will be approved in calls, which will determine the conditions of access, in addition to the particular type of projects that, by their nature, are only marginally subject to an *Environmental Impact Assessment*.
- ✓ Potential effects on areas and landscapes with recognized protection extent.

More specifically, in Axis 1, the particular characteristics to the planned actions type, the presence of public research and innovation institutions (which has been constant throughout history and is expected to remain for the next programming period) and the high level of control and environmental management in public and in private innovation centres allow to assess as “reduced” the direct environmental risk.

In turn, Axis 2 presents mostly positive effects, standing out the reduction of fossil fuel consumption, which is generator of greenhouse gases emission (GHG), and therefore responsible for climate change. The Specific Objective of Axis 3 has a positive impact on a wide range of environmental issues, though in marginal and timely manner, with a localized impact on the territory and no cumulative effects.

The expected effects of Axis 4 actions will have a particular impact on the natural and cultural heritage, although the impact will be of a particular nature (associated with specific actions), as well as indirect and small sized (proportional in all cases to the financial dimension of the co-financed actions).

Consequently, and in accordance with the provisions of *Article 3 of Directive 2001/42/EC*, it can be concluded that the Transnational Cooperation Programme of the Atlantic Area 2014-2020 has no significant negative effects on the environment.

To the extent that the OP is not expected to generate significant environmental impacts or that strongly influence the surrounding environment, it is not considered significant to raise preventive measures. However, in order to promote the achievement of the potential positive effects and eliminate the potential negative effects that a project could generate in a timely manner, it is recommended to incorporate elements of environmental integration to select the operations for each call.

Managing Authority of the Atlantic Area Programme

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