

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION GOAL
PART A**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

In 2020, the programme faced an unprecedented crisis due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Travelling and physical meetings stopped, which had a direct impact on the implementation of the programme's implementation. All activities had to be moved online. The projects and the Policy Learning Platform (PLP) adapted well and continued the exchange of experience among EU regions. They turned out to be resilient under these challenging circumstances. In parallel, the programme adopted a series of measures to further ease the implementation of the 258 running projects.

The programme implementation continued successfully. The programme will reach and even exceed most of its targets by 2023, as the 2020 updated impact evaluation confirmed. The evaluation's goal was to update the evaluation from 2018 and inform the last phase of the present programme and the future programme preparation. The 2018 operational evaluation had no significant findings, so the 2020 update focused mainly on the impact evaluation. The evaluation's conclusions were all positive. The report highlighted the programme's good performance and provided recommendations for the 2021-2027 programming.

With all ERDF budget committed to the operations (258 projects, PLP), 2020 was also the year when the first projects closed (31 1st call projects). By the end of 2020, the consolidated projects' achievements were the following:

- Activities: the projects organised 10,660 policy learning events and identified 3,684 good practices. Over 13,000 people declared that they increased their professional capacity thanks to their involvement in the cooperation projects. 1,026 action plans were developed by projects from 1st, 2nd and 3rd call. 26 pilot actions were approved by the monitoring committee in 2020 (79 pilot actions since the programme start).
- Results: projects influenced 549 policy instruments, including 324 Structural Funds operational programmes. The financial impact of this influence exceeds the ERDF budget allocated to Interreg Europe; it is currently estimated at MEUR 975 (including MEUR 849 of ERDF). This funding was mobilised to finance activities inspired by the projects' exchange of experience. These results show how Interreg Europe directly contributes to a more efficient implementation of the Cohesion Policy. The programme website presents many specific project results (www.interregeurope.eu/projectresults).

In 2020, good performance of PLP was confirmed. The PLP implementation continued well despite COVID-19 challenges. In fact, the challenges turned into opportunities for testing the services online (peer reviews, matchmaking sessions) and improving thematic online discussions and webinars. The PLP also proposed specific COVID-19-related content – good practices, webinars, publications. Key PLP activities in 2020 were:

- 891 good practices validated for the database
- Expert support by 40 written policy-help-desk replies, 13 peer reviews, 2 matchmaking sessions
- 17 policy briefs, 77 policy articles
- 23 thematic events, 2 EURegionsWeek sessions

In financial management, the programme exceeded by 100% the cumulative decommitment target for 2020 with 180 MEUR ERDF requested from the Commission by December 2020. COVID-19 and the limits on travel did not significantly impact the programme spending. Projects adapted to the online environment and continued their activities. They kept reporting costs to the programme but at a lower level. To manage the risk of

programme underspending due to the projects and ease their recovery from the COVID-19 crisis at the same time, the programme decided on a new call in 2021 (see 14th MC below).

The second level audit campaign in 2020 concerned 18 partners from 9 projects and the technical assistance expenditure. It resulted in EUR 1,209 of ineligible expenditure and an extrapolated error rate of 0.10%. It again confirmed good functioning of the management and control system. The audit of accounts also did not detect any issue in the annual accounts 2019/2020.

In programme management, 3 online monitoring committee (MC) meetings took place in 2020. The MC meetings update Partner States on: operations' implementation, communication activities, audit and finance matters. Beyond these, the MC discussed other programme issues:

- 12th MC meeting on 10 June approved a series of measures to help projects face the COVID-19 crisis
- 13th MC meeting on 29 September approved the final report of the update evaluation
- 14th MC meeting on 16 December decided on a strategy to further help projects facing the crisis and also address the risk of underspending at the programme level. The Partner States decided to organise a call for additional activities open to the approved projects in early 2021.

2020 was also dedicated to the preparation of the 2021-2027 programme. In total, 6 programming committee (PC) meetings and 1 ad-hoc took place:

- 2nd PC meeting in Brussels on 5 March confirmed the Hauts-de-France Region as the future programme's managing authority. The programming expert were introduced to the Partner States. They organised the first PC debate to prepare version 1 of the future cooperation programme (CP).
- 3rd PC meeting online on 10 June gave a preliminary approval to CP version 1. The programming experts also started the consultation process to prepare CP version 2.
- 4th PC meeting on 30 September discussed CP version 2 prepared during summer, when the Partner States shared their preferences on the project features, target groups and selection of operations in a survey. The PC gave preliminary approval to several parts of CP version 2 but asked for further simplification of the two project phases.
- 5th PC meeting on 4 November gave a preliminary approval to an updated version of CP version 2. Following HIT and JEMS developments, the MA/JS realised that the Interact system would not match the Interreg Europe needs and asked the PC for approval to develop its own monitoring system. But written procedure on this point was rejected by one Partner State.
- Ad-hoc PC meeting on 19 November took place to unblock the situation. The PC was exclusively dedicated to the monitoring system issue. No consensus was found but the Partner States agreed to a tender launch for an IT company to work on the monitoring system. A decision on the monitoring system was postponed to 2021 when the IT company is selected and could share expert opinion on the subject.
- 6th PC meeting on 16 December was dedicated to the preliminary approval of CP version 3.

The communication played an important role in 2020, mainly in the programme's adaptation to COVID-19. Through online events, website, active social media presence, and contribution of the Partner State's points of contact, the projects received timely guidance and help. The programme results were presented in a publication prepared for the 30 Years of Interreg. Cooperation with other programmes and partners (EC, CoR) played an important role in the new programme preparation.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Research, Technological Development and Innovation	<p>In 2020, 65 projects were running under PA1. As initially forecasted in the cooperation programme, majority of projects (53) were approved under specific objective 1(b) and only 12 under specific objective 1(a). By December 2020, 12 projects (10 from 1st call and 2 from 2nd call) were either closed or under closure. Projects under PA1 organised 3,055 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 935 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 3,536 people and developed 316 action plans. In terms of results, they demonstrated 172 policy changes (including 125 related to Structural Funds programmes) with a financial impact estimated at MEUR 216 (including MEUR 189 of ERDF). Full details can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and the programme website.</p> <p>The collaboration with JRC in Seville continued. Interreg Europe was invited to speak at the S3 workshop on smart grids in February. Reciprocally, experts of the S3 platform also contributed to three PLP events related to innovation strategies. Finally, a joint workshop on ‘RIS3 in lagging behind regions’ took place during the EURegionsWeek in October.</p> <p>The main PLP activities were: publication of 3 policy briefs, 7 articles and 8 stories; assessment of 139 good practices and validation of 113 for the database; organisation of 2 online discussions, 3 webinars and 2 peer reviews on ports logistics for the Region Hauts de France (FR) and on S3 and EDP for the County of Vestland (NO); a session on ‘e-buses: from procurement to deployment’ took place during the EURegionsWeek.</p>
2	Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	<p>In 2020, 66 projects were running under PA2. By December 2020, 7 projects (3 from 1st call and and 4 from 2nd call) were either closed or under closure. Projects under PA2 organised 2,970 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 1,066 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 3,090 people and developed 267 action plans. In terms of results, the projects demonstrated 129 policy changes (including 82 related to Structural Funds programmes) with a financial impact estimated at MEUR 291 (including MEUR 279 of ERDF). Full details on these policy changes can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and in the result section of the programme website.</p> <p>The main PLP activities were: publication of 3 policy briefs, 5 articles and 11 stories; assessment of 284 good practices and validation of 228 in the database; organisation of 2 online discussions, 2 webinars and 4 peer reviews on Artificial Intelligence for SMEs for aws Vienna (AT), on support to SME competitiveness for the county of Karlovac (HR), on talent attraction and retention for Region Catalonia (ES) and on agroforestry and digitalisation for SMEs for Aragon Region (ES); a session on ‘Reuse and repair in a circular economy’ took place during the EURegionsWeek.</p>
3	Low Carbon Economy	<p>In 2020, 60 projects were running under PA3. By December 2020, 9 projects (7 from the 1st call and 2 from the 2nd call) were either closed or under closure. Projects under PA3 organised 2,283 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 792 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 3,707 people and developed 237 action plans. In terms of results, the projects demonstrated 103 policy changes (including 69 related to Structural Funds programmes) with a financial impact estimated at MEUR 361 (including MEUR 285 of ERDF). The LOWCARBO project plays an important part in this with an amount of MEUR 165 influenced on a grant scheme of the Hungarian OP</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>programme (EDIOP-4). Full details can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and the programme website.</p> <p>Concerning PLP, PA3 is the best performing priority thanks to the quality of the thematic experts. Main PLP activities were: publication of 5 policy briefs, 10 articles and 17 stories; assessment of 178 good practices and validation of 170 in the database; organisation of 3 online discussions, 5 webinars and 3 peer reviews on post-lignite economy for Stara Zagora county (BG), on urban transport logistics for City of Warsaw (PL) and on transition to clean energy for the Region of Western Macedonia (EL); a session on ‘e-buses: from procurement to deployment’ took place during the EURegionsWeek. The programme also participated in the meeting organised by the Energy and Managing Authorities network.</p>
4	Environment and Resource Efficiency	<p>In 2020, 67 projects were running approved under PA4. It is therefore the priority with the highest number of projects (thanks to results of the 4th call). By December 2020, 8 projects (5 from the 1st call and 3 from 2nd calls) were either closed or under closure. Projects under PA4 organised 2,352 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 891 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 2,688 people and developed 206 action plans. In terms of results, they demonstrated an influence on 145 policy changes (including 48 Structural Funds programmes) with a total financial impact estimated at MEUR 106 (including MEUR 95 of ERDF). Full details can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and the programme website.</p> <p>The PLP performance under PA4 improved both in terms of quantity and quality thanks to the selection of new thematic experts. The main activities were: publication of 6 policy briefs, 9 articles and 10 stories; assessment of 394 good practices and validation of 380 in the database; organisation of 3 online thematic discussions, 4 webinars and 2 online matchmaking session. In addition, 4 peer reviews were organised on circular economy for Warminsko-Mazurskie (PL), on waste management strategy for Kosice self-governing region (SK), on waste management strategy for City of Burgas (BG) and on Management of Natura2000 sites for NaturePark Our (LU). A session on ‘Reuse and repair in a circular economy’ took place during the EURegionsWeek. PLP was also actively involved in initiatives such as the European Network of Environment and Managing Authorities (ENEA-MA).</p>
5	Technical Assistance	<p>Despite the COVID19 crisis, the programme managed to continue monitoring the 258 running projects, organising communication activities and the audit activities necessary for the closure of the annual accounts (see section 2 for information on the audits and their results). This was possible notably thanks to effective teleworking arrangements and the organisation of monitoring and programming committees online.</p> <p>The programme annual event was also held online. It was the occasion to present the results of the interregional cooperation so far and outline the state of play of the preparation and expected features of the future programme.</p> <p>Before that, the programme had organised a reporting seminar for the 4th call projects in January 2020 in Budapest. This seminar provided partners with guidance and tips on how to successfully implement their projects, communicate on their activities and results, and report to the programme according to EU and programme rules. Several webinars were also organised for all running projects in 2020.</p> <p>In addition, the programme actively participated in the EURegionsWeek and in the promotion of the 30 years of Interreg and produced a publication on project results.</p> <p>Finally, the programme continued the preparation of the future programme with the Partner States and the external experts</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		selected for the drafting of the new programme.

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Research, Technological Development and Innovation
Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	76.00	57.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	76.00	76.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 1a is 79.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,000.00	510.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,000.00	1,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority 1a is 1,335.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	7.00	49.00	142 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. The significant increase compared to previous years (19% were reported in 2019) can be explained through the improvement of the PLP monitoring system. Thanks to this improvement, it is possible for the first time to get a more accurate estimation taking into consideration the following two criteria of the registration data: 1/ being a regional public authority and 2/ being a Managing Authority of Structural Funds. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 1; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	7.00	7.00	No forecast available per year.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	10.00	10.00	Several events organised by the PLP in thematic objective 1 are open to projects from both investment priorities 1a and 1b. This is the reason why the same events can be reported under these investment priorities. So far the following events were organised: 1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 3 events in 2018; 2 events in 2019 (details available in previous reports) 1 webinar on Centres of Competences (25/09/20) 1 peer review on ports logistics (26-27/11/20)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	10.00	10.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	46.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	76.00	76.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	274.00	58.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	19.00	9.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	8.00	7.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - Research, Technological Development and Innovation
Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Specific objective	1.1 - Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, in the field of research and innovation infrastructure and capacities, notably in the framework of Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1a.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	% of all Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes	2.62	2014	8.00	9.67		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 19 individual programmes: 10 as baseline and 9 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects' results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated 23 policy changes on 17 Structural Funds programmes since a few of these changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OPs of Czech Republic, Finland and Romania, ROP of Emilia Romagna and Lodzkie). All details of these results are available on iDB. In total, 36 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes in Europe) were therefore influenced by Interreg Europe.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	3,500,000.00	2014	48,000,000.00	24,500,000.00		This indicator is based on two different sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 10.5: 3.5 as baseline and 7 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme this investment priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 14.5 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 24.5 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	8.33		7.00		2.62		2.62	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	21,600,000.00		21,300,000.00		3,500,000.00		3,500,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	2.62		2.62	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	3,500,000.00		3,500,000.00	

Priority axis	1 - Research, Technological Development and Innovation
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	154.00	259.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	154.00	154.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 1b is 375.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	2,000.00	3,026.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	2,000.00	2,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 5,763.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	18.00	48.00	138 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. The significant increase compared to previous years (24% were reported in 2019) can be explained through the improvement of the PLP monitoring system. Thanks to this improvement, it is possible for the first time to get a more accurate estimation taking into consideration the following two criteria of the registration data: 1/ being a regional public authority and 2/ being a Managing Authority of Structural Funds. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 1; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	18.00	18.00	No forecast available.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	18.00	19.00	Several PLP events in thematic objective 1 are open to projects from both 1a and 1b. That is why the same events can be reported under these investment priorities. So far the following took place: 1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 4 events in 2018; 6 events in 2019 (details available in previous reports) 1 webinar on "Mission-oriented innovation" (21/02/2020) 1 webinar on "Public procurement for innovation" (16/06/2020) 1 online discussion on "AI in health" (16/07/2020) 1 online discussion on "European value chains" (23/07/2020) 1 peer review on "S3 and EDP – County of Vestland (NO)" (15-16/09/2020) 1 EURegionsWeek on "e-buses: from procurement to deployment" (14/10/2020)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	18.00	18.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	234.00	74.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	154.00	154.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,808.00	788.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	24.00	28.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	13.00	8.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - Research, Technological Development and Innovation
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
Specific objective	1.2 - Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, that support the delivery of innovation by actors in regional innovation chains in areas of "smart specialisation" and innovation opportunity.

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	% of all Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes	3.66	2014	25.00	21.78		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 27 individual programmes: 14 as baseline and 13 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated 102 policy changes on 54 Structural Funds programmes since a significant number of changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OP of AT, CZ, FI, HU, LV, LT, RO, SI and ROP in EL, IE, IT, NL, PL, ES). In total, 81 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	3,500,000.00	2014	144,000,000.00	278,500,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 103.5: 3.5 as baseline and 100 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 175 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 278.5 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	19.08		12.56		3.66		3.66	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	146,300,000.00		119,224,000.00		3,500,000.00		3,500,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	3.66		3.66	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	3,500,000.00		3,500,000.00	

Priority axis	2 - Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.3d

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	267.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	230.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 3d is 447.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	3,090.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	3,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 6,993.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	47.00	136 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. The significant increase compared to previous years (19% were reported in 2019) can be explained through the improvement of the PLP monitoring system. Thanks to this improvement, it is possible for the first time to get a more accurate estimation taking into consideration the following two criteria of the registration data: 1/ being a regional public authority and 2/ being a Managing Authority of Structural Funds. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 2; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	25.00	No forecast available per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	21.00	1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 2 events in 2018; 7 events in 2019 (details available in previous reports) 1 peer review on "AI for SMEs – aws Vienna" (28-29/01/2020) 1 peer review on "Support to SME competitiveness – county of Karlovac (HR)" (12-13/02/2020) 1 webinar on "social entrepreneurship" (21/02/2020) 1 webinar on "building resilient regional economies" (19/06/2020) 1 peer review on "talent attraction and retention for Region Catalonia (ES)" (30/06/2020) 1 online discussion on "digitalisation of traditional sectors" (15/09/2020) 1 peer review on "agroforestry and digitalisation for SMEs for Aragon Region (ES)" (15/09/2020) 1 EURegionsWeek session "Reuse and repair in a circular economy" (13/10/2020) 1 online discussion on "retooling economic development and the cultural sector after the pandemic" (17/11/2020)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	28.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	226.00	58.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	230.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	2,267.00	433.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	25.00	26.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	12.00	7.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Specific objective	2.1 - Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop and achieve growth and engage in innovation.

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.3d.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	% of all Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes	1.83	2014	33.00	17.47		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 15 individual programmes: 7 as baseline and 8 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated 82 policy changes on 50 Structural Funds programmes since a significant number of changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OP of FI, HU, LT, RO, SI and ROP of Brandenburg in DE, Western Macedonian and Central Macedonia in EL, Emilia Romagna in IT, Malopolska, Podkarpackie, Slaskie, Wielkopolskie in PL). In total, 65 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	0.00	2014	192,000,000.00	279,700,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of EUR 268,850: 0 as baseline and 268,500 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 279,5 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 279.7 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	13.70		9.42		1.83		1.83	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	89,500,000.00		24,268,850.00		0.00		0.00	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	1.83		1.83	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	0.00		0.00	

Priority axis	3 - Low Carbon Economy
Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.4e

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	237.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	230.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 4e is 387.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	3,707.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	3,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 7,153.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	46.00	133 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. The significant increase compared to previous years (22% were reported in 2019) can be explained through the improvement of the PLP monitoring system. Thanks to this improvement, it is possible for the first time to get a more accurate estimation taking into consideration the following two criteria of the registration data: 1/ being a regional public authority and 2/ being a Managing Authority of Structural Funds. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. The level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 3; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	25.00	No forecast set per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	28.00	1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 5 events in 2018; 8 events in 2019 (details available in previous reports) 1 peer review on "post-lignite economy for Stara Zagora county (BG)" (26-27/02/2020) 1 online discussion on "traffic calming" (11/03/2020) 1 webinar on "open data" (29/04/2020) 1 webinar on "biogas" (15/05/2020) 1 online discussion on "financing biogas" (15/06/2020) 1 webinar on "cycling for tourism" (30/06/2020) 1 online discussion on "public transport" (07/07/2020) 1 webinar on "energy efficiency in social housing" (28/09/2020) 1 peer review on "urban transport logistics for City of Warsaw (PL)" (29/09/2020) 1 EURegionsWeek session on "e-buses: from procurement to deployment" (14/10/2020) 1 webinar on "behaviour change for sustainable mobility" (01/12/2020) 1 peer review on transition to clean energy for Region Western Macedonia (EL) (26/10/2020)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	28.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	202.00	69.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	230.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	2,642.00	1,208.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	22.00	24.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	16.00	8.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Low Carbon Economy
Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures
Specific objective	3.1 - Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy, notably in the framework of Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.4e.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	% of all Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes	1.31	2014	33.00	13.98		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 8 individual programmes: 5 as baseline and 3 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated 69 policy changes on 44 Structural Funds programmes since a significant number of changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OP of BG, CZ, HU, LT, MT, RO and ROP of Analucia and Extramadura in ES, Crete in EL, Lazio and Emilia Romagna in IT, South Netherlands in NL Azores in PT). In total, 52 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	13,000,000.00	2014	192,000,000.00	299,500,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 14.6: 13 as baseline and 1.6 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 284.9 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 299.5 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	12.09		7.59		1.31		1.31	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	229,100,000.00		202,667,000.00		13,000,000.00		13,000,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	1.31		1.31	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	13,000,000.00		13,000,000.00	

Priority axis	4 - Environment and Resource Efficiency
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4.6c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	124.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	115.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 6c is 221.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	1,508.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	1,500.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 3,464.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	45.00	131 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. The significant increase compared to previous years (27% were reported in 2019) can be explained through the improvement of the PLP monitoring system. Thanks to this improvement, it is possible for the first time to get a more accurate estimation taking into consideration the following two criteria of the registration data: 1/ being a regional public authority and 2/ being a Managing Authority of Structural Funds. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 4; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	12.00	No forecast available per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	14.00	1 event in 2016; 1 events in 2017; 3 events in 2018; 4 events in 2019 (details available in previous reports) 1 online discussion on "digital tools for cultural heritage" (18/06/2020) 1 webinar on "cycling for tourism" (30/06/2020) 1 online discussion on "tourism and CCI" (23/07/2020) 1 webinar on "better regional policies to protect and restore nature" (20/10/2020) 1 peer review on Management of Natura2000 sites for Nature Park Our (LU) (04/03/2020)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	14.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	86.00	37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	115.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	822.00	272.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	27.00	18.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	9.00	6.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	4 - Environment and Resource Efficiency
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	4.1 - Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, in the field of the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage.

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.6c.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	% of all Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes	1.57	2014	16.00	8.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 11 individual programmes: 6 as baseline and 5 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated 21 policy changes on 19 Structural Funds programmes since few changes are related to the same programmes (i.e.ROP of Puglia influenced twice and ROP of Basque Country influenced three times). In total, 30 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	19,000,000.00	2014	96,000,000.00	94,100,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 61.3: 19 as baseline and 42.3 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 32.8 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 94.1 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	6.45		3.66		1.57		1.57	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	84,300,000.00		62,582,000.00		19,000,000.00		19,000,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	1.57		1.57	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	19,000,000.00		19,000,000.00	

Priority axis	4 - Environment and Resource Efficiency
Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4.6g

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	82.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	115.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 6g is 206.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	1,180.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	1,500.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 3,358.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	49.00	141 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. The significant increase compared to previous years (25% were reported in 2019) can be explained through the improvement of the PLP monitoring system. Thanks to this improvement, it is possible for the first time to get a more accurate estimation taking into consideration the following two criteria of the registration data: 1/ being a regional public authority and 2/ being a Managing Authority of Structural Funds. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 4; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	12.00	No forecast available per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	17.00	1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 1 event in 2018; 4 events in 2019 (details available in previous reports) 1 webinar on "biogas" (15/05/2020) 1 online discussion on "financing biogas" (15/06/2020) 1 matchmaking session "ITI for circular economy for Kosice Self-governing region (SK)" (23/06/2020) 1 webinar on "green public procurement" (25/06/2020) 1 matchmaking session "use of Structural Funds for circular economy for Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodship (PL)" (10/09/2020) 1 peer review "circular economy for Warminsko-Mazurskie (PL)" (15/09/2020) 1 EURegionsWeek "Reuse and repair in a circular economy" (13/10/2020) 1 peer review "waste management strategy for Kosice self-governing region (SK)" (14/10/2020) 1 peer review "waste management strategy for City of Burgas (BG)" (02/12/2020)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	14.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	74.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	115.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	645.00	132.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	25.00	11.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	8.00	5.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	4 - Environment and Resource Efficiency
Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
Specific objective	4.2 - Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, aimed at increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and environmental performance management.

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.6g.4.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	% of all Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes	0.52	2014	16.00	5.91		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 4 individual programmes: 2 as baseline and 2 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated 27 policy changes on 18 Structural Funds programmes since a few changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OP of FI, HU, RO, SI and ROP of Central Macedonia in DE, Adalucia in ES). In total, 22 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	19,000,000.00	2014	96,000,000.00	81,300,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 19: 19 as baseline and 0 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 62.3 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 81.3 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	4.83		2.87		0.52		0.52	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	44,800,000.00		20,500,000.00		19,000,000.00		19,000,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	0.52		0.52	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	19,000,000.00		19,000,000.00	

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 5.Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	Number	200.00	258.00	In total, 258 interregional projects were approved during the four calls for proposals.
S	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	Number	200.00	200.00	The initial forecast was 200 approved projects in four calls (50 projects per call on average)
F	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Number	200.00	258.00	In addition to the participation in overall 180 kick-off meetings, project events and final conference reported last years , in 2020, the JS participated in 50 additional final conferences of projects (49 online and 1 in Brussels) and organised 28 mid-term reviews for projects approaching the end of phase 1 (25 online and 3 through physical meetings).
S	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Number	200.00	200.00	Initially, it was not envisaged that the JS would participate in other project events than the final conferences (of 200 projects). Mid-term reviews were introduced later on in the programme implementation. This new feature appeared important considering the longer duration of projects and the need to discuss phase 2 before its start. By the end of 2020, the JS participated in 68 project final conferences.
F	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	Number/month	15,000.00	58,983.00	The programme website hosts websites of all projects after their approval. Visits (Sessions in Google Analytics terms) at the project pages generate traffic at the programme website too, which helps the programme reach well beyond the initial target.
S	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	Number/month	15,000.00	15,000.00	The initial forecast for the programme website traffic (number of visits/sessions) was 15,000.
F	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number	14.00	14.00	2 monitoring committee meetings were held in 2015, 3 in 2016, 2 in 2017, 2 in 2018, 2 in 2019, and 3 in 2020.
S	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number	14.00	12.00	The initial forecast was counting with two monitoring committee meetings per year.
F	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		29.00	One additional policy officer and one additional finance officer positions were created in 2019 to allow the JS to monitor 258 projects (instead of 200 initially expected).
S	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		27.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	258.00	184.00	130.00	130.00	0.00	0.00
S	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	200.00	150.00	100.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
F	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	180.00	82.00	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
S	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
F	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	51,395.00	51,131.00	43,984.50	28,539.00	10,221.00	0.00
S	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
F	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	11.00	9.00	7.00	5.00	2.00	0.00
S	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	0.00
F	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	29.00	27.00	26.00	26.50	0.00	0.00
S	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	27.00	27.00	26.00	26.50	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.1 - To maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the management and implementation of the INTERREG EUROPE Programme.

Table 1: Result indicators - 5.5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
TA1	Share (%) of all supported operations (projects and platforms) that is implemented successfully, demonstrated by the achievement of planned outputs.	%	0.00	2013	90.00	99.00		Similarly to 2020, the achievement of the planned outputs by projects is almost 100% when considering the core deliverables (i.e. action plans developed). By December 2020, 1,026 action plans were developed which represents around 99% of the expected actions plans to be produced by projects at this stage of the programme's implementation. As far as the PLP is concerned, the delivery of the core outputs was fully on track. As reflected under each investment priority, the core outputs related to policy learning events organised were delivered and the expected number of events organised was even exceeded due to the move to online activities. Since projects represent 96% of the operations' budget, the percentage reported under TA1 reflects the performance at projects' level.
TA2	Share (%) of total programme ERDF budget decommitted	%	0.00	2013	0.00	0.00		The programme met its decommitment target in 2020. The target was again even exceeded (by 100%).

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
TA1	Share (%) of all supported operations (projects and platforms) that is implemented successfully, demonstrated by the achievement of planned outputs.	99.00		95.80		0.00		0.00	
TA2	Share (%) of total programme ERDF budget decommitted	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
TA1	Share (%) of all supported operations (projects and platforms) that is implemented successfully, demonstrated by the achievement of planned outputs.	0.00		0.00	
TA2	Share (%) of total programme ERDF budget decommitted	0.00		0.00	

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2020	Observations
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,686.00	52,026,440.00	
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	316.00	
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	42,230,071.00	
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	267.00	
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	38,817,930.00	
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	237.00	
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	37,125,469.72	
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	206.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	37,060,130.33	21,697,135.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	280.00	86.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	28,322,810.16	15,868,428.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	226.00	58.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	27,153,179.22	15,649,393.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	202.00	69.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	23,490,209.54	11,715,689.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	160.00	61.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Total	99,344,632.00	85.00	105,104,617.25	105.80%	102,462,363.50	65,546,283.97	65.98%	66
2	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	99,232,814.25	99.89%	96,645,280.65	54,081,340.53	54.44%	67
3	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	92,825,183.25	93.44%	91,573,573.70	50,186,034.32	50.52%	61
4	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	100,478,822.25	101.14%	98,546,332.50	48,499,410.51	48.82%	68
5	ERDF	Public	28,931,099.00	74.52	28,931,099.00	100.00%	28,931,099.00	16,027,120.08	55.40%	1
Total	ERDF		426,309,618.00	84.29	426,572,536.00	100.06%	418,158,649.35	234,340,189.41	54.97%	263
Grand total			426,309,618.00	84.29	426,572,536.00	100.06%	418,158,649.35	234,340,189.41	54.97%	263

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

Since the last report, no new projects were approved and the overall situation related to third country participation remains the same. A total of 18 interregional projects includes 20 partners from Norway (5 of them being lead partners). A total amount of EUR 2,140,237 of Norwegian funding is committed to those projects. The Norwegian funding for the projects is directly managed by the programme authorities. It is paid by the certifying authority to the lead partners of the concerned projects together with the ERDF contribution. By the end of 2020, EUR 1,223,272 of Norwegian funding was paid by the certifying authority to those projects.

Regarding Switzerland, there are 3 projects involving 3 Swiss partners with a total budget of EUR 1,000,872. The contribution from Switzerland is allocated and paid directly by the Swiss authorities to Swiss partners.

It is also possible for partners from other third countries to participate in the projects. However, this participation is possible only at their own cost. There is only one approved project, PASSAGE, which involves one partner from another third country: the Regional Council of Vlora from Albania with a total budget of EUR 5,965.

In 2020, the Platform (PLP) activities with a total expenditure of EUR 1,063,446 also benefited from a contribution from Norway (EUR 8,550) and Switzerland (EUR 8,920).

In 2020, Norway and Switzerland also participated in the technical assistance expenditure of the Interreg Europe programme (EUR 3,564,970) with a contribution of EUR 29,129 and EUR 14,564 respectively.

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	096	01	07	07	01		24	FR30	105,104,617.25	102,462,363.50	65,546,283.97	66
2	ERDF	096	01	07	07	03		24	FR30	99,232,814.25	96,645,280.65	54,081,340.53	67
3	ERDF	096	01	07	07	04		24	FR30	92,825,183.25	91,573,573.70	50,186,034.32	61
4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	06		24	FR30	100,478,822.25	98,546,332.50	48,499,410.51	68
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	FR30	26,074,469.03	26,074,469.03	14,254,736.60	1
5	ERDF	122	01	07	07			24	FR30	400,036.08	400,036.08	193,558.20	1
5	ERDF	123	01	07	07			24	FR30	2,456,593.89	2,456,593.89	1,578,825.28	1

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
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(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The Interreg Europe evaluation plan, approved in February 2016 by the programme's monitoring committee, includes a main mid-term evaluation in 2018 and a lighter update evaluation in 2020. This plan was updated twice in December 2017 and in December 2019 to better reflect the exact timing and content of the evaluations to be carried out.

Considering that the 2018 operational evaluation did not lead to any significant findings, the 2020 exercise was mainly relevant for updating the impact evaluation while the operational aspect was limited to the production of recommendations for the next programming period. The terms of reference for the 2020 update evaluation were approved in December 2019 during the 11th MC meeting in Helsinki. The nature of the services procured for the 2020 evaluation was not different from the services procured in 2018. For this reasons and in compliance with the French legal requirements, the same experts responsible for the 2018 evaluation were contracted in February 2020.

The objectives of the 2020 evaluation can be summarised as follows:

1/ Concerning the impact evaluation

The updated analysis focused on the projects' results and the Platform performance. Taking into consideration the recommendations of the mid-term impact evaluation, the first and main objective of the 2020 evaluation is to 'reassess' the impact of the programme and in particular:

- the effectiveness of projects and their contribution to achieving the six specific objectives of Interreg Europe,
- the effectiveness of the Policy Learning Platform and its possible contribution to reaching the objectives of Interreg Europe (in particular through its more elaborated services like peer reviews).

Based on the outcomes of this analysis, the second objective was to provide recommendations in relation to the current programme but also to the post 2020 period. For the current programme, the evaluators investigated whether any measures could still be envisaged for increasing the impact of the running operations. For the 2021-2027 period, the evaluators provided a series of recommendations in relation to the strategy of a future programme.

2/ Concerning the operational evaluation

The objective of the 2020 operational evaluation is to produce recommendations for a possible future programme (2021-2027). Taking into consideration the results of the mid-term operational evaluation, the experts investigated whether the way the programme is currently organised should be adapted in the future in particular in the following areas:

- management and steering,
- support to operations,

- programme communication strategy

The evaluation was carried out between February and June 2020. It used different tools such as surveys, desk research and analysis of programme's statistics and data mainly coming from the electronic monitoring system (iDB).

An interim report was presented in June while the final report was shared early August with Partner States who had the possibility to indicate their comments. In September, the evaluators presented their findings to the Interreg Europe monitoring committee, who approved the final evaluation report (available on the programme website).

This second external evaluation confirmed the **excellent performance** of the programme both in operational terms and in terms of impact. When it comes to the impact, the evaluators concluded that the programme would meet and even exceed most of its initial objectives:

- As of October 2020, projects have already demonstrated **433** regional development improvements as a direct result of their cooperation.
- **716 million euros** of local, regional or national funds had been mobilised to implement these improvements in the regions, which is well on track towards the target of 1.3 billion euros to be mobilised by the end of the programme in 2023. It demonstrates a high added-value and leverage effect of Interreg Europe, which represents only 0.001% of the cohesion policy with its current budget of 359 million but has already turned 1 euro invested in cooperation into **2 euros** of local, regional or national funds invested for better policy measures.
- Interreg Europe also contributed to better delivering RIS3 and promoting smart growth as well as to the Europe 2020 priorities on inclusive and sustainable growth.

In particular, the final report stated the following concerning the operations performance:

“The **effectiveness evaluation of Interreg Europe projects** has shown that the performance to date, both in terms of outputs and results, is considerable and largely on track. The contribution of the projects' current achievements to the Interreg Europe target values for 2023 is already substantial, so it can be assumed that in most cases they will be over-achieved at the end of the programme period.”

“The **effectiveness evaluation of the Policy Learning Platform (PLP)** showed that the second pillar of Interreg Europe is gradually reaching the expected "cruising speed" in a number of its increasingly differentiated fields of activity. This diversification of services is, incidentally, one of the most defining features characterising the more recent PLP implementation phase.”

As a result of the impact evaluation, the experts provided a list of recommendations, mainly for the future programme. These recommendations were discussed first by the Monitoring Committee during the approval of the final report. Some of these recommendations also fed in the work of the programming experts and were integrated in the preparation of the 2021-2027 Interreg Europe programme discussed within the Programming Committee. Among the most meaningful recommendations for the programming

process, the following 5 recommendations should be highlighted:

- The approach for project-level cooperation in the period 2021-2027 should foresee a more intense and also structured policy learning process during the phase 2 of projects (if maintained) and also apply suitable indicators for capturing the resulting capacity increase of persons and organisations.
- The question of continuing the current focus on Structural Funds programmes in the period 2021-2027 through the application of the 50% rule should be discussed and decided by the Partner States, though carefully weighing up the associated advantages and disadvantages.
- For future cooperation projects, the direct involvement as a partner of the organisation being responsible for the addressed policy instruments should be mandatory. In addition, future projects should continue their regular regional/local interaction in stakeholder groups during phase 2 (if maintained) and receive appropriate funding for this purpose.
- The Interreg Europe programme for 2021-2027 should only use programme-specific output and result indicators, preferably those from the period 2014-2020.
- The Interreg Europe programme for 2021-2027 should carry out a profound revision of its current set of indicators used for monitoring outputs and results of the PLP. Aside from reducing the overall number of indicators to be used in the future, also the content of indicators should be adapted. This is particularly relevant for result indicators.

The results of the operational update evaluation were also positive.

- The programme management was considered by the experts as ‘highly professional and rather exhaustive in the way the programme steers and manages its tasks’. While this ensured an efficient implementation of the programme, it also goes with the risk of overloading the MA/JS staff and with less proactive role for the community including MC members.
- Concerning the programme’s support to operations, the experts concluded that it works effectively and efficiently’ and that ‘projects highly appreciate’ this support.
- The final report also highlighted the positive aim of developing an agile approach for the Platform implementation even if this is challenging in the current legal framework.
- When it comes to the communication, the experts stated that the programme ‘communicates actively and widely’. Among their findings was that ‘given diverse target groups and expectations, the programme’s strategy to employ a wide range of different communication tools appears meaningful’ and ‘the programme’s communication tools developed during the present period (e.g. on-line tools, hosting projects’ websites) should be kept for the future.’ Regarding social media, the evaluation stated that ‘Interreg Europe is very active in the field of digital and social media communication,’ and recommended further development and emphasis on that field in the years to come. Another improvement is needed regarding communication indicators (for the programme, projects, and the Policy Learning Platform) which need streamlining and more coherence across the different aspects of the programme implementation.

Apart from the update evaluation of the programme, regular internal evaluations and monitoring of tasks took place, especially regarding the communication activities linked to the project assistance, overall programme information dissemination, and the Policy Learning Platform events.

The COVID-19 crisis affected the programme communication. The programme’s reacted as flexibly as possible. The projects needed more programme support in their implementation challenged by the

pandemic. The programme organised 7 webinars and 2 workshops for projects to assist them. In total, close to 2,000 project partners joined the events and, according to evaluation surveys, the events met expectations between 93 and 100% of the evaluation respondents.

The programme continued communication on the results. The annual event presenting the success stories of the programme moved online and attracted over 1,000 registrations. In the end, over 550 people joined the event with a satisfaction of 85% of evaluation respondents. The programme prepared a publication about the projects' results, an activity contributing to the 30 Years of Interreg initiative, and presented it during an event with close to 100 participants. Their expectations were met by 95%.

The interest in the Policy Learning Platform significantly increased in 2020 compared to 2019. For example, the number of community members reached over 20,000 and the average number of participants in the thematic online events doubled. The satisfaction rate of the evaluation respondents remained high, in particular for the targeted and personalised services (96% satisfaction for peer review participants).

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
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5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

- COVID-19 crisis

The main difficulty encountered in 2020 was the COVID-19 outbreak. With the impossibility to travel and meet physically, the crisis had a direct impact on the implementation of the programme and its operations. All activities had to be moved online. The projects and PLP developed innovative measures to continue fostering exchange of experience among EU regions. They turned out to be particularly resilient under these challenging circumstances.

At the crisis' onset, as an immediate reaction the programme started applying the existing measure for requesting an extension of the project's duration (as planned in the programme manual) in a more flexible way. Each project's situation was assessed individually, and the flexibility was granted according to the different calls and projects' durations. However, it became quickly evident that this existing measure would not be sufficient to tackle this unprecedented situation.

The MA/JS therefore worked on other solutions. As a result, in June 2020 the MC approved a series of additional measures to further ease the projects' implementation. Six measures introduced additional flexibility in relation to the extension of the project duration (or the duration of phase 1, depending on the case), the support to move activities online, or the an easier implementation of pilot actions (also possible in phase 1). Another five measures were related to the possibility to carry out additional activities (within the limit of the approved project budget). From September on, projects were able to apply these measures. The details of these 11 measures are available on the programme's website.

At the end of 2020, it was clear that the COVID-19 crisis would increase the risk of underspending at the programme level. On the other hand, thanks to the reactivity of the programme and flexibility demonstrated by the projects and the PLP, the exchange of experience and policy learning could be maintained through online means. It did not replace the face-to-face exchanges but some projects have already reported that the on-line tools allowed them to have more regular and sometimes even more intense cooperation with their partners. It is however too early to say whether the COVID-19 crisis will also impact the results achieved by the projects which were directly impacted (mainly 3rd and 4th call projects).

- PLP implementation

When it comes to the PLP implementation and as already mentioned in the 2019 report, a particularly challenging situation arose mid-2019 when the MA/JS were informed about the financial difficulties of the lead contractor company, INNO TSD, due to the insolvency of its mother company in Germany. In the second part of 2019 and first part of 2020, the MA/JS had to work intensively on finding appropriate solutions to ensure the continuation of the PLP services and at the same time to minimise the financial risks for the programme. The situation was finally solved when the lead contractor company, INNO TSD, was bought in June 2020 by a French consultancy company GAC Group, which specialised in innovation performance. This takeover was smooth and did not impact the delivery of PLP services in 2020.

The fourth subsequent contract was also prepared during the summer and finally signed in autumn. Different

lessons learnt from the previous years were taken on board to increase the flexibility and smoothen the PLP implementation even more.

- Financial challenges

In 2020, the programme faced negative interest charged on the programme accounts for the first time. This led to an increased complex administrative work for the certifying authority (CA) as the banks were charging negative interest on the CA accounts without dividing them by programme (the CA works for 5 Interreg programmes and the Urban Innovation Actions initiative). It also created new financial charges for the programme and questions about the eligibility of this new cost under the technical assistance budget had to be checked with the Commission. The programme authorities took measures to limit as much as possible the negative interest, in particular:

- The CA compared and tried to negotiate bank's conditions. For a few months, funds were even transferred to a new bank which did not charge negative interest yet (until this bank also started charging negative interest).
- The JS and the CA kept following closely the programme cashflow in order to submit regular interim payment claims to the EC as often as needed to ensure payment of projects within the regulatory 90 days. Finally, since January 2021, the programme continues to prepare interim payment claims when needed but the CA submits them in several smaller payment claims in order to limit the amounts received and held on the accounts.

Regarding the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the finances of the programme, the measures mentioned at the beginning of this section ensured that the projects could continue their activities and limit their underspending. On the programme side, the programme has now taken measures to limit the programme underspending with the launch of a call for additional activities in the first semester 2021.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

The programme's implementation is smooth. A significant number of the targets have already been reached. As confirmed by the update evaluation, most of the programme targets will be reached or even exceeded by 2023.

- Project outputs

In terms of outputs, the progress towards the final targets set for 2023 in the programme's performance framework is good.

With all priorities combined, 57% of projects ready to develop action plans delivered 1,026 of them, already exceeding the programme target set at 920. This is mainly due to the fact that the programme supports a higher number of projects (258) than set as a programme target (200).

Based on the exchange of good practices and knowledge, 13,212 people declared that they had increased their professional capacity in the field of the project's work. This also already exceeds the programme target (12,000).

All running projects have also organised a total number of 10,660 policy learning events so far (including both interregional events and local stakeholder group meetings) and identified 3,684 good practices.

- Project results

By the end of 2020, all projects combined achieved 549 policy changes, 324 of which were in Structural Funds programmes.

The amount of local, regional and national funding influenced directly by the projects reaches MEUR 975, including MEUR 849 of Structural Funds. This exceeds the programme target of MEUR 768.

Full details about the policy changes can be found in the programme monitoring system (iDB) in particular in the 'Policy Instruments Results' table. They are also published on the programme website under the 'results' section. The results are collected through the regular project reports. It should be highlighted that each policy change reported by a project is carefully checked by the JS policy officer in charge of the project.

- Policy learning platform outputs

By 2020, the Platform organized 109 policy learning thematic events. This indicates that the programme target will be reached by 2023 (112).

The aggregate share of NUTS2 regions represented in the online community of the programme, which makes

the project knowledge and services of the Policy Learning Platform accessible, is over 90%.

- Technical assistance targets

The programme approved and supports 258 projects, which exceeds the programme target of 200.

The programme already carried out 258 project visits, online or in-person, which exceeds the programme target of 200.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Research, Technological Development and Innovation
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Priority axis	2 - Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
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Priority axis	3 - Low Carbon Economy
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Priority axis	4 - Environment and Resource Efficiency
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Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
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9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

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9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

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9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
3	31,560,095.25	37.38%
Total	31,560,095.25	8.78%

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9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

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**10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4),
SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

**10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of
evaluations**

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Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

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11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

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11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

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11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Interreg Europe is potentially related to the development of macro-regional strategy or sea basin strategies in two ways. First, macro-regional strategies are often funded by local, regional or national programmes (including mainstream programmes) which are at the heart of the exchange of experience supported by Interreg Europe. Second, Interreg Europe can capitalise on ETC programmes including transnational cooperation programmes. Despite this potential, the programme contribution to MRS remained very limited. On the project side, there was no demand for such cooperation. Only the policy learning platform participated in January 2019 in the Interact event called "New directions for macro-regions: unlocking innovation capacity and performance". This was an opportunity for the PLP to promote its services and explain how Interreg Europe can help public authorities to increase their capacity in the field of innovation policies.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

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13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN
— PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

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DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Interreg Europe Annual Implementation Report 2020 - Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	23-Jun-2021			Annual Implementation Report 2020 - Citizens' summary		

