



7th Interreg Europe Programming Committee Meeting 16-17 December 2020

Online

Chaired by: Germany (DE)
Participants: See Participants' List (**Annex 01**).
Decision notes: Interreg Europe JS

1.	Welcome, opening and approval of the agenda
	<p>Chair welcomed all PC members and announced that the ETC regulation had been approved during COREPER II.</p> <p>Concerning the agenda, JS proposed adding 2 new items: 3b (Participation of outermost regions in the programme) and 8 (template for the PS agreement to the CP - for decision).</p> <p>Before deciding on the new agenda, EC presented item 3b as an opportunity to invite the PC to reflect on the possibility to facilitate the participation of outermost regions in the programme.</p> <p>Chair suggested to rename the additional agenda item into 'Information about the EC request of the EC on the participation of outermost regions' as there will be no decision taken.</p> <p>Decision: The agenda (Annex 02) was approved including items 3b and 8. There were no objections.</p>
2.	Presentation of new PC members
	New members from EC introduced themselves to the PC.
3.	Update programme preparation & post 2020 negotiations
	<p>3a - Update on programme preparation & post 2020 negotiations</p> <p>EC provided details on the adoption of the ETC regulation, confirming the allocation for the future programme will be very similar to the current programme allocation and explaining technical steps to be taken next.</p> <p>3b - Information about the request of the EC on the participation of Outermost Regions (OR)</p> <p>EC explained that OR were an important topic for the EC as they are an outpost of the EU facing specific challenges and their special status is also underlined in the Treaty. The president of the OR group had reached out to the EC to express the OR's strong wish to cooperate among themselves in the future programme.</p> <p>JS clarified that the programme through its contribution to the cohesion policy and focus on regions with territorial challenges is already fully open to OR. This is also reflected in projects. OR are</p>



	<p>already represented in 13 projects and one project (i.e. GROW RUP) is even exclusively dedicated to cooperation among ORs.</p> <p>The EC underlined that it would like to be a facilitator to encourage and promote the OR's participation in the future programme.</p> <p>The PC concluded that the Partner States are open to consider concrete proposals that are in line with the general programme principles as the programme progresses.</p>
4.	Update on SEA
	<p>The experts presented the scope and timeline of the SEA exercise. The presentation is available in Annex 03. JS confirmed that separate national SEA approvals are not required. The SEA is done at the programme level by MA/JS according to French law.</p>
5.	Cooperation Programme, Version 3 (CP V3): presentation
	<p>The experts presented the steps taken since the last meeting and the new elements in CP v3 to be discussed for preliminary approval under point 7 (Annex 04).</p>
6.	Proposed performance framework – presentation
	<p>JS presented a proposal for the performance framework of the new Cooperation Programme and opened the discussion for comments in view of preparing a final version to be approved at the next PC meeting early next year (Annex 05).</p>
7.	CP V3: preliminary approval
	<p>The experts proposed to follow a similar approach than in previous PC meetings for the approval of version 3. First, the new sections were presented and discussed one after the other. Then, the rest of the CP will be reviewed once more to check if there are any remaining comments. Finally, JS reminded that section 2.1.1.2 on indicators would be discussed in the next PC meeting with PS comments and EC feedback. The presentation is available in Annex 06.</p> <p>Section 2.1.1.4 -Territorial tools and section 2.1.1.5 - Financial instruments</p> <p>The experts presented the proposed wording for these sections. They highlighted that the programme will not directly use territorial tools or financial instruments. However, exchange on how to use these tools at regional policy level could be the subject of Interreg Europe types of action.</p> <p>The experts agreed to make the text clearer</p> <p>Chapter 4 - Programme partners involvement</p> <p>The experts presented the text.</p> <p>Other sections of the CP</p> <p>Chapter 1-Programme strategy</p> <p>The experts presented the comments received to improve the text in sections 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.5.</p> <p>Section 1.2.6 - Strategy of the programme</p>



	<p>The experts and JS recently realized that, with the current text of the CP, Interreg Europe can only support ‘thematic’ cooperation within the 5 policy objectives although the selection of ISO1 allows to go beyond this. Therefore, JS presented a proposal to introduce a new paragraph on page 17 about those projects that have no thematic focus but work on issues related to the ‘internal’ implementation of policies such as procurement, state aids, evaluation, territorial tools or financial instruments. These projects would refer to ISO1 as such and not to any of the Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Conclusion The experts will revise this part of the CP taking into consideration the different remarks. The paragraph on the ‘cross-cutting’ ISO objective’ will be introduced with the formulation agreed during the Committee. No specific percentage for these objectives will be defined.</p> <p>Chapter 2-Programme priorities Experts presented the comments received.</p> <p>Chapter 5-Communication The experts presented the feedback received and the proposed answer. JS also clarified that no further revisions are planned concerning the definition of the communication-oriented objective 3.</p> <p>Chapter 6-Implementing provisions and Chapter 7-Use of unit costs Experts presented the comments received on sections 6.1 to 6.3.</p> <p>Decision: Sections 2.1.1.4 and 2.1.1.5 as well as chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 are preliminarily approved with the integration of modifications as discussed.</p>
8.	Template “Agreement to the CP”
	<p>JS proposed to have a preliminary approval of the template of the “Agreement to the CP” so that Partner States can already forward it to their legal services, identify the signatory of the agreement and start the discussion about the information to be included in the FLC and GoA parts of the Agreement.</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <p>The PC agrees to the content of the preliminary template for the Agreement (Annex 07).</p> <p>The PC members will start identifying the relevant bodies to be indicated in the agreement as well as the person in charge of the signature.</p> <p>The references to Technical Assistance under Article 2 and Annex 2 of the Agreement will be discussed and agreed in a future PC meeting.</p>
9.	Timeline (update)
	<p>JS presented the provisional timeline for the next steps (Annex 08).</p> <p>After the PC meeting, Portugal (PT), acting as Chair in the first semester of 2021, will propose dates for the next MC/PC meetings to take place in the last week of February or first week of March and at the end of June for the following MC/PC (otherwise it would be in Slovenia). PT specified that based on the advice from the national health authorities, these would most probably still be online meetings. PT will also inform the JS about the names of the presidency representatives so that they can be circulated to the MC/PC members.</p>



	<p>Chair reminded the PC that the provisional timeline was ambitious, also taking into account that some of the Regulations may not be published before the second semester 2021.</p> <p>The EC indicated that it was possible to have an indication of the future budget of the programme (current budget + 5%) and to calculate the TA budget accordingly. The corresponding indicative amounts of the national contributions (based on the assumption of a 20% national co-financing rate) are attached in Annex 09.</p>
10.	Any other business
	<p>JS thanked the chair for the good work during this 13th German presidency. Chair also thanked the MC/PC members and the EC representatives and handed over the presidency to PT.</p>
	<p>End of Meeting</p> <p>NOTE: To ensure transparency of the programming committee meetings, the decision notes are published on the Interreg Europe's website. Annexes as mentioned in the notes can be requested by email: info@interregeurope.eu</p>