



## Interreg Europe Annual Implementation Report 2017

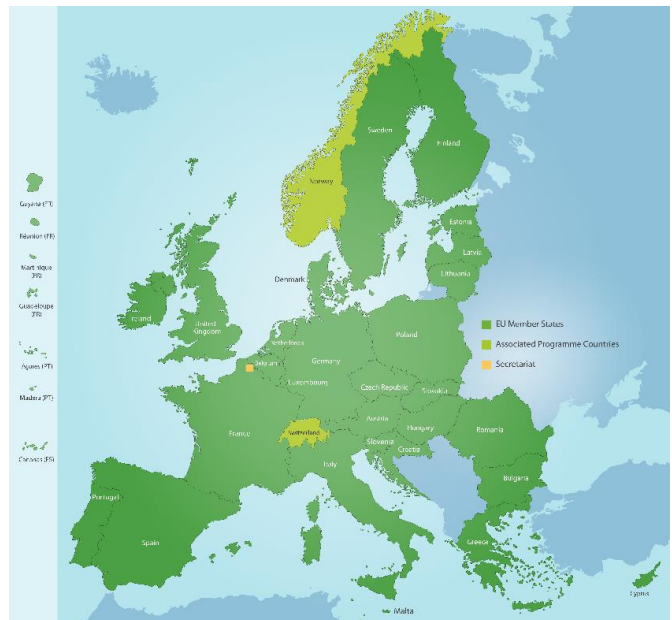
# CITIZEN SUMMARY

This is a brief summary of a report on the programme implementation for 2017. It presents several programme highlights from that year.

### What we do

The European Union works on reducing differences in the levels of development, growth and quality of life among European regions. Cooperation and exchange of experience and good practice with funds managed by European territorial cooperation programmes is a way to do it.

Interreg Europe is a programme helping public authorities across Europe develop and deliver better policy. With €359 million from the European Regional Development Fund for 2014-2020 plus Norwegian and Swiss national funding, it supports policy learning among institutions from 30 countries (EU28, Norway and Switzerland). The funds help policymakers find inspiration on how to improve strategies for their own citizens, either in cooperation projects or the Policy Learning Platform.



### Four topics in two policy learning actions

**Interregional cooperation projects** are for organisations from different European regions to work together on a shared policy issue for 3 to 5 years. An action plan for each region ensures that the lessons learnt in the project turn to action. Regional partners monitor implementation of the action plans.

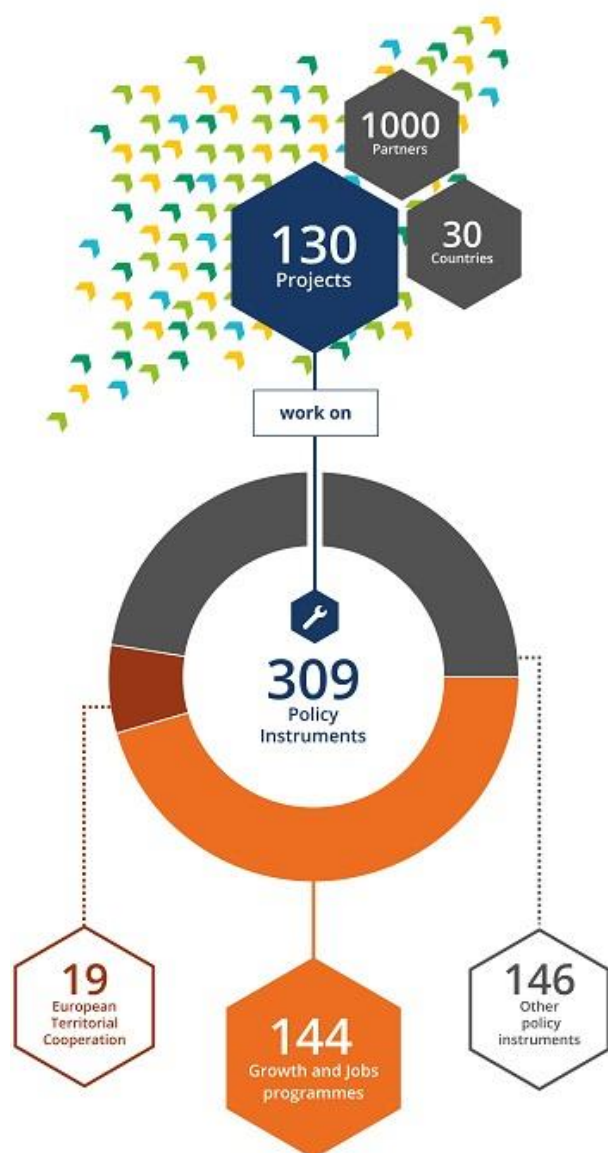
**Policy Learning Platform** opens up the programme’s knowledge to all project partners and also regional policymakers and stakeholders outside the cooperation projects. It is a community of peers and a space for continuous policy learning in the four topics covered by Interreg Europe.





## 2017 highlights

Year 2017 was busy for the programme with supporting and monitoring the 130 projects approved in the first two calls, the launch and assessment of the third call for project proposals, and further development of the Policy Learning Platform services and of the online monitoring system (iOLF).



Over 1000 partners in 130 Interreg Europe projects started or continued working on 309 policy instruments all over Europe in 2017. 144 of them represent the Growth and Jobs programmes, 46% of all those approved by the European Commission. 19 are European territorial cooperation programmes and 146 other local, regional or national policy instruments. The project partners exchanged smart and sustainable solutions developed and tested in other partner regions in order to transfer those solutions into their own policies and strategies.

Overall, Structural Funds programmes represented well over 50% of the policy instruments addressed by the approved projects in all topics. In research and innovation projects, the Structural Funds programmes represented 88% of all policy instruments addressed; in SME competitiveness projects, the share was 86%; in low carbon economy projects, it was 75%; and in the environment and energy efficiency projects, it was 74%. Such a concentration of the projects on the Structural Funds programmes promises improved use of the funds once the projects have their action plans implemented.

A new set of projects was in the making in 2017. The third call for project proposals ran from 1 March to 30 June 2017. 234 submitted project proposals received the eligibility

check first. 171 eligible proposals then kept the joint secretariat of the programme busy assessing their content and relevance to the programme. Before the end of the year, 57 projects were suggested for the last step of assessment – checking the operational quality of the proposals.

The Policy Learning Platform expert team started offering their policy learning services in 2017. Members of the Interreg Europe online community were invited to upgrade to the Platform membership. Over 60 articles and 30 policy briefs provided expert insight into the four topics of the programme. The good practice database started gathering information about the smart and sustainable solutions developed not only in the project partner regions. A validation system for the submitted good practices by the Platform experts was put in place. The European Week of Regions and Cities gave the programme a chance to record close to 40 good practice



stories, now available at the programme's YouTube channel. Four thematic and four networking events, organised by the Platform, gave the running projects and all interested organisations the chance to start building synergies.

The programme is committed to simplifying procedures both for the applicants and the beneficiaries. In 2017, the online system for submitting applications and for monitoring the finances and activities of approved projects saw further developments. For applicants, the systems further limited errors in submitting applications. For beneficiaries, the system was further developed to help them and their first level controllers work on the progress reports online and submit them electronically to the secretariat. Conclusion of the designation process of the managing authority and the certifying authority in 2017 allowed the secretariat to proceed with the project costs reimbursements.

The programme communication activities in 2017 had again mainly the value and benefit for the applicants and project beneficiaries in mind. Programme and national events provided information on the third call and facilitated partner search. Online events and webinars welcomed large numbers of participants and offered series of trainings and question & answer sessions on various topics both to project partners and potential applicants. The programme regularly featured running projects' highlights on the programme website and in the newsletter. Evaluations of all activities asked the participants or experts to suggest further improvements.

## Solutions for better regional policies

More than 1 000 partner organisations from 221 European regions were involved in 130 projects running in 2017. Citizens from those regions are soon to benefit from the results of the projects. Some projects already have information to share about the results of their work. Design4Innovation project inspired policymakers from Latvia in their development of the design strategy. Workshops in Bruges and Thessaloniki presented approaches and tools to conduct an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Design Ecosystem in Latvia. The analysis shaped the new 'Design for Latvia 2020', launched on 6 September 2017 by the Ministries of Culture and Economy. The lead partner of HoCare project, Nicosia Development Agency from Cyprus, has made first steps towards using the funds under the operational programme 'Competitiveness and Sustainable Development' 2014-2020, their selected policy instrument. A new project to be implemented by the Ministry of Health will transfer a good practice called 'e-Care', shared by the Slovenian project partner.

## For more information

The latest programme news and details on activities can be found on the programme website:

[www.interregeurope.eu](http://www.interregeurope.eu)

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

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

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<b>IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>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) .....</b>	<b>4</b>
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. ....	4
<b>3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION .....	7
3.2 COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....	10
PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	10
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 1.1A .....	10
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 1.1A.1.1 .....	11
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 1.1B .....	12
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 1.1B.1.2 .....	13
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 2.3D .....	14
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 2.3D.2.1 .....	15
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 3.4E .....	16
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 3.4E.3.1 .....	17
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 4.6C .....	18
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 4.6C.4.1 .....	19
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 4.6G .....	20
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 4.6G.4.2 .....	21
PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	22
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	22
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 5.5.1 .....	23
3.3 TABLE 3: INFORMATION ON THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS DEFINED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK .....	24
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA .....	25
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL .....	25
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) .....	26
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION .....	27
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA .....	28
(1) ERDF SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME. ....	28
<b>4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN .....</b>	<b>31</b>
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN .....	31
(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. ....	33
<b>6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>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) .....</b>	<b>36</b>
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS .....	36
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS .....	36
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM .....	36
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME .....	36
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS .....	37
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP) .....	38
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM .....	39

## **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.**

2017 was as active as 2016 in terms of the programme's implementation with the monitoring of the 130 projects approved in the first two calls, development of the Policy Learning Platform, and the launch and assessment of the third call for proposals.

The sixth monitoring committee of the year took place on 21 March in Valetta (MT). It was an opportunity for the Partner States to approve the strategic cooperation agreement between the Committee of the Regions and the Interreg Europe programme. The agreement mainly consisted in formalising existing cooperation which existed for many years, in particular in the fields of communication and policy learning.

The third call for proposals with the terms of reference approved at the end of 2016 was launched on 1 March. It was promoted during the second edition of the 'Europe, let's cooperate!' forum organised in Malta on 22 and 23 March. 355 participants came to Malta and 578 joined the event's online version on 31 March. The event presented the main features of the programme and facilitated partner search for the third call. Four site visits to project partners in Malta presented the project cooperation to the participants.

Assistance to applicants was ensured by the joint secretariat (JS), supported by the national points of contact. Lead applicant workshops took place during the event in Malta. A number of online assistance tools were put in place: weekly question & answer sessions with JS staff; a webinar week for applicants with four sessions on the main elements of an application form. The project idea form integrated into the website allowed applicants to request feedback on their idea from the joint secretariat in a written form, via skype or by phone. 94 potential applicants were advised on their project idea that way. A partner search tool was available on the website, as well as a 'self-assessment tool' on a project idea. Points of contact in Interreg Europe Partner States promoted the programme's call through information events, website updates, newspaper adverts and at one-to-one meetings.

The third call closed on 30 June 2017. In total, 234 applications were received during the call. 171 of them were eligible for quality assessment (73%). Despite extensive communication on the importance and means to achieve eligibility, the ineligibility rate did not decrease. Due to the number of submitted applications and the workload in the JS limiting the capacity of the assessors, the quality assessment of the proposals carried out in two steps (strategic and operational) required more time than expected. The decision on the third call was postponed from December 2017 to March 2018. Yet, the written procedure for the approval of the strategic assessment was launched before the end of 2017. Out of 171 eligible applications, only 57 were recommended for the operational assessment. The longer duration of the third call giving applicants more time for the project preparation did not turn into higher quality applications, a disappointing result of the call's length adjustment.

The seventh monitoring committee was held on 12-13 December in Tallinn (EE). It was dedicated to the update on the assessment of the third call, on the monitoring of running projects, on the Platform activities, on the upcoming programme evaluation in 2018. The fourth call for proposals possible scenarios were discussed.

Concerning the Policy Learning Platform the following was achieved in 2017:

- An up and running online Platform featuring the following four services for all policymakers in Europe:
  - A community of more than 12,000 policymakers for online and offline learning activities
  - A knowledge hub with over 30 policy briefs illustrating the results of the Interreg Europe projects and over 60 articles on the EU policy trends covering all thematic areas
  - An expert helpdesk offering access to policy advice and support through peer reviews
  - A good practice database with expert-validated practices from Interreg Europe projects and beyond
- Organisation of thematic workshops with the Interreg Europe projects on Sustainable transport (26/06); Health and wellbeing (28/06); Circular economy (29/07); and SME internationalisation (30/07), all hosted by the Committee of the Regions
- Good practice database workshop and Story-telling studio during the EWRC in Brussels (10-12/10) followed by a dedicated webinar with the Stories of the Regions as recorded during the EWRC.
- Policy learning events in Seville on resource and energy efficiency (17-18/10) and in Milan on research and innovation and SME competitiveness (19-20/10) with more than 200 participants.
- Participation in thematic events of other relevant EU platforms and programmes.
- A detailed implementation manual setting all internal procedures and methodologies.

The points of contact promoted the Platform services and encouraged relevant stakeholders to join the Platform community.

Summary of the main implementation activities of the programme in 2017:

- Two monitoring committee meetings (21 March in Valletta, MT; 12-13 December in Tallinn, EE)
- Third call for proposals open: 1 March – 30 June
- Third call assistance to applicants: 1 March – 15 June
- 37 national and regional information events and seminars organised by Interreg Europe points of contact
- Lead applicant workshops (Valletta, MT)
- 32 webinars organised (15 for applicants, 11 for project partners, six for programme partners)

- 94 applicants advised on their project idea

Few programme output indicators can be completed for this report. When it comes to programme result indicators, it is too early.

As anticipated in the 2016 report, the development of the Policy Learning Platform (PLP) was the major issue faced by the programme in 2017. Already at the end of 2016, the lead contractor in charge of the Platform implementation was notified of severe underperformance in terms of production and quality. As a solution the lead contractor recruited a PLP project manager and a Web manager for the Platform. That improved the overall situation but not to the point of ensuring a satisfactory performance of the Platform. In agreement with the monitoring committee, the MA/JS proposed significant changes in the way the Platform was to be managed in the second year (from 2018 on). The main change consisted in a recruitment of a full permanent management team partly based at the JS premises in Lille. The new management structure is expected to improve the services offered by the Platform in 2018.

Beyond that issue, the programme also closely monitored the following areas which remained challenging:

- Reaching and mobilising the ‘managing authorities’ target group;
- The managing authority and certifying authority designation process and its impact on the timing for the submission of the first interim payment claim;
- The new requirements for the annual closure of accounts, especially the treatment and deduction of irregularities and its impact on the programme monitoring system.



### 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>As far as the projects under priority axis 1 are concerned, 40 projects in total were running in 2017: 21 from the first call and 19 from the second. Majority of the projects (33 out of 40) were approved under specific objective 1(b). The first call projects started their activities in April 2016 with the first progress report submitted in January 2017. The second call projects started their activities in early 2017.</p> <p>Priority axis 1 has the highest number of running projects in the programme. That reflects high interest of regions from the EU, Norway and Switzerland in the topic. Many look for exchanging experience on how to implement their smart specialisation strategies. Interreg Europe was actively promoted through a speech and a stand at the Smart Regions 2.0 conference in Helsinki on 1-2 June 2017.</p> <p>The first contract for the implementation of the Policy Learning Platform ran from the beginning of 2016 until January 2018. Among the activities carried out under priority axis 1 in 2017 was publishing of 16 articles and 8 policy briefs on the programme website (e.g. ‘Clusters in support of Smart Specialisation Policy implementation). A thematic workshop with 21 participants from Interreg Europe projects took place on 28 June dedicated to ‘Investing in health and wellbeing’. A combined networking event (priority axes 1 and 2) with 100 participants took place on 19-20 October in Milan. The Platform was also presented at key events such as the Smart Regions 2.0 Conference in Helsinki.</p>
2	Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	<p>As far as projects in priority axis 2 are concerned, a total of 33 projects were running in 2017: 17 projects from the first call and 16 from the second. The first call projects started their activities in April 2016 with the first progress report submitted in January 2017. The second call projects started their activities in early 2017.</p> <p>Interest in the priority axis 2 is high and the implementation is according to the plan. 25% of the funds committed after two calls went to the projects in that priority. The projects focus on a wide range of topics covered under the axis from SME internationalisation, entrepreneurship, innovation capacity of SMEs to access to finance.</p> <p>Opportunities offered by the second priority axis of the programme were promoted at different thematic events such as the EURADA conference in November 2017.</p> <p>The first contract for the implementation of the Policy Learning Platform ran from the beginning of 2016 until January 2018. Among the activities carried out under priority axis 2 in 2017 was publishing of 10 articles and 7</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>policy briefs on the programme website (e.g. ‘Access to finance for innovative SMEs’). A thematic workshop with 33 participants from Interreg Europe projects took place on 30 June dedicated to ‘SME internationalisation’. A combined networking event (priority axes 1 and 2) with 100 participants took place on 19-20 October. The Platform was presented at key events such as the conference on the ‘Internationalisation policies for a future oriented regional manufacturing sector’ in Shannon on 11-14 June.</p>
3	Low Carbon Economy	<p>As far as projects under priority axis 3 are concerned, 31 projects were running in 2017: 15 from the first call and 16 from the second.</p> <p>The projects under this priority focus mainly on energy efficiency (11) and mobility (14). Only one project focuses on renewable energies. That follows the trend from the previous programming period, in which energy efficiency was more popular among projects than renewable energies.</p> <p>Opportunities offered by priority axis 3 of the programme were promoted at different thematic events such as at an informal Energy and Managing Authorities (EMA) Network event.</p> <p>The first contract for the implementation of the Policy Learning Platform ran from the beginning of 2016 until January 2018. Among the activities carried out under priority 3 in 2017 was publishing of 18 articles and 5 policy briefs on the programme website (e.g. ‘Energy Efficiency in Buildings’). A thematic workshop with 24 participants from Interreg Europe projects took place on 26 June dedicated to ‘Sustainable urban mobility planning’. A combined networking event (priority axes 3 and 4) with 159 participants took place on 17-18 October in Seville. The Platform was presented at key events such as the ‘Civitas Forum 2017’ in Torres Vedras.</p>
4	Environment and Resource Efficiency	<p>As far as projects under priority axis 4 are concerned, a total 26 projects were running in 2017: 11 from the first call and 15 from the second. A similar number of projects were approved under the two investment priorities: 14 under ‘natural and cultural heritage’ and 12 under ‘resource efficiency’.</p> <p>A lesson learnt from the previous years is that applications submitted under this priority show overall a lower quality compared to those submitted under other priorities. As a result, priority axis 4 had the lowest number of approved projects in 2017. In the perspective of the third call for proposals, the programme decided to implement targeted actions to promote priority axis 4. For instance, thanks to discussions with DG Environment, Interreg Europe joined the ENEA network and participated in two ENEA network meetings (on 31/01 and 25/10) with the programme features and its first call presentations.</p> <p>The first contract for the implementation of the Policy Learning Platform ran from the beginning of 2016 until January 2018. Among the activities carried out under priority 4 in 2017 was publishing of 22 articles and 10 policy</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>briefs on the programme website (e.g. ‘Sustainable management of bio-waste’). A thematic workshop with 29 participants from Interreg Europe projects took place on 29 June dedicated to ‘Circular economy: a necessity and transformative opportunity for cities and regions in Europe’. A combined networking event (priority axes 3 and 4) with 159 participants took place on 17-18 October in Seville. The Platform was presented at key events such as the European Network of Environment and Managing Authorities (ENEA-MA) on 31 March in Brussels.</p>
5	Technical Assistance	<p>In 2017, the technical assistance focused on the monitoring of the 130 projects approved in the first two calls, the launch and assessment of the third call, on further developments of the online monitoring system, and on the finalisation of the designation process of the managing and certifying authorities.</p> <p>The programme organised its annual event in Malta to promote the third call for proposals and help applicants comply with the programme requirements. National points of contact held information events for the third call applicants. The joint secretariat trained second call projects on the EU and programme requirements through a communication and finance seminars. The programme organised workshops during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels.</p> <p>The managing authority and the joint secretariat worked on the finalisation of the management and control system description following the designation audit. The report from the French Independent Audit Body on the designation was received in July 2017. The managing and certifying authorities were formally designated by the French Prime Minister in August.</p> <p>The joint secretariat continued working on developing the online monitoring system.</p> <p>The programme launched a tender procedure for the externalisation of the audit work and selected and contracted the audit company to support the audit authority in its tasks for the 2014-2020 period (especially for the audit of operations, system audits and audits of accounts).</p>

### 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	2017	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	76.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§ 6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There is one project approved under investment priority 1a that will end its phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	76.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,000.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§ 6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There is one project approved under investment priority 1a that will end its phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,000.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	7.00	0.00	Registered Platform (PLP) users are located in 81% of all European regions (NUTS2). The current approach, however, does not differentiate between thematic interest and member groups and/or functions. Consequently, PLP members who do not represent any NUTS2 region are also counted (examples: EC representatives, programme staff, thematic experts, consultants), thus limiting the information value of the provided figure. For coming reporting periods, the calculation methodology will be revised, ensuring that solely the representatives of European NUTS2 regions (regional authorities and related bodies) will be considered and their thematic interest will be identified.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	7.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	10.00	3.00	1 thematic workshop with the Interreg Europe projects hosted by the Committee of the Regions: TO1: Health and wellbeing (28/06); 1 back-to-back networking event held in Milan for TO1 and TO3 (19-20 October); 1 event in 2016
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	10.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	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	2017 Total	2017 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	2.62		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the Platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	3,500,000.00	2014	48,000,000.00	3,500,000.00		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the Platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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		2.62	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	3,500,000.00		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

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	154.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 11 projects approved under investment priority 1b that will end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	154.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	2,000.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 11 projects approved under investment priority 1b that will end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	2,000.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	18.00	0.00	Registered Platform (PLP) users are located in 81% of all European regions (NUTS2). The current approach, however, does not differentiate between thematic interest and member groups and/or functions. Consequently, PLP members who do not represent any NUTS2 region are also counted (examples: EC representatives, programme staff, thematic experts, consultants), thus limiting the information value of the provided figure. For coming reporting periods, the calculation methodology will be revised, ensuring that solely the representatives of European NUTS2 regions (regional authorities and related bodies) will be considered and their thematic interest will be identified.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	18.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	18.00	3.00	1 thematic workshop with the Interreg Europe projects hosted by the Committee of the Regions on TO1: Innovation in Health (28/06); 1 back-to-back networking event held in Milan for TO1 and TO3 (19-20 October); 1 event in 2016
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	18.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	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
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	2017 Total	2017 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	3.66		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	3,500,000.00	2014	144,000,000.00	3,500,000.00		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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		3.66	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	3,500,000.00		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**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 4 projects approved under investment priority 3d that will end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 4 projects approved under investment priority 3d that will end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	0.00	Registered Platform (PLP) users are located in 81% of all European regions (NUTS2). The current approach, however, does not differentiate between thematic interest and member groups and/or functions. Consequently, PLP members who do not represent any NUTS2 region are also counted (examples: EC representatives, programme staff, thematic experts, consultants), thus limiting the information value of the provided figure. For coming reporting periods, the calculation methodology will be revised, ensuring that solely the representatives of European NUTS2 regions (regional authorities and related bodies) will be considered and that their thematic interest will be identified.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	3.00	1 back-to-back networking event held in Milan for TO1 and TO3 (19-20/10); 1 thematic workshop with the Interreg Europe projects hosted by the Committee of the Regions on TO3 SME internationalisation (30/07); 1 event in 2016
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	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	2017 Total	2017 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	1.83		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the first survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	0.00	2014	192,000,000.00	0.00		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the first survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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		1.83	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	0.00		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	2017	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 9 projects approved under investment priority 4e that end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 9 projects approved under investment priority 4e that end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	0.00	Registered Platform (PLP) users are located in 81% of all European regions (NUTS2). The current approach, however, does not differentiate between thematic interest and member groups and/or functions. Consequently, PLP members who do not represent any NUTS2 region are also counted (examples: EC representatives, programme staff, thematic experts, consultants), thus limiting the information value of the provided figure. For coming reporting periods, the calculation methodology will be revised, ensuring that solely the representatives of European NUTS2 regions (regional authorities and related bodies) will be considered and their thematic interest will be identified.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	3.00	1 thematic workshop with the Interreg Europe projects hosted by the Committee of the Regions on TO4 Sustainable transport (26/06); 1 back-to-back networking event held in Seville for TO4 and TO6 (17-18/10); 1 event in 2016
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	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	2017 Total	2017 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	1.31		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the first survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	13,000,000.00	2014	192,000,000.00	13,000,000.00		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the first survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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		1.31	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	13,000,000.00		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**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 4 projects approved under investment priority 6c that end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 4 projects approved under investment priority 6c that end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	0.00	Registered Platform (PLP) users are located in 81% of all European regions (NUTS2). The current approach, however, does not differentiate between thematic interest and member groups and/or functions. Consequently, PLP members who do not represent any NUTS2 region are also counted (examples: EC representatives, programme staff, thematic experts, consultants), thus limiting the information value of the provided figure. For coming reporting periods, the calculation methodology will be revised, ensuring that solely the representatives of European NUTS2 regions (regional authorities and related bodies) will be considered and their thematic interest will be identified.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	3.00	1 back-to-back networking event held in Seville for TO4 and TO6 (17-18/10); 1 thematic workshop with the Interreg Europe projects hosted by the Committee of the Regions on TO4 Sustainable transport (26/06); 1 event in 2016
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	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	2017 Total	2017 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	1.57		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	19,000,000.00	2014	96,000,000.00	19,000,000.00		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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		1.57	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	19,000,000.00		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	2017	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 2 projects approved under investment priority 6g that end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	0.00	In accordance with the programme manual (§6.2.4), approved projects will report on the number of action plans developed at the end of phase 1. There are 2 projects approved under investment priority 6g that end their phase 1 in 2018. Therefore, first data on this indicator will be available for reporting in AIR 2018.
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	0.00	Registered Platform (PLP) users are located in 81% of all European regions (NUTS2). The current approach, however, does not differentiate between thematic interest and member groups and/or functions. Consequently, PLP members who do not represent any NUTS2 region are also counted (examples: EC representatives, programme staff, thematic experts, consultants), thus limiting the information value of the provided figure. For coming reporting periods, the calculation methodology will be revised, ensuring that solely the representatives of European NUTS2 regions (regional authorities and related bodies) will be considered and their thematic interest will be identified.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	3.00	1 back-to-back networking event held in Seville for TO4 and TO6 (17-18/10); 1 thematic workshop with the Interreg Europe projects hosted by the Committee of the Regions on TO6 Circular economy (29/07); 1 event in 2016
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	0.00	No forecast available for 2017.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	1.00	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	2017 Total	2017 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	0.52		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the first survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	19,000,000.00	2014	96,000,000.00	19,000,000.00		At this stage of the programme implementation, it is still too early to report achievements on this indicator. In accordance with the cooperation programme, the first survey addressed to Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes will be launched in 2018. Neither the projects nor the platform could report policy changes in 2017 although more and more projects were able to report interesting policy developments.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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		0.52	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	19,000,000.00		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	2017	Observations
F	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	Number	200.00	130.00	In total, 130 projects were approved during the first two calls for proposals.
S	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	Number	200.00	100.00	The initial forecast for 2017 was 100 approved projects in two calls. (50 in 2016)
F	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Number	200.00	4.00	Since 2016, the joint secretariat participated physically in the kick-off meetings of three projects (Beyond EDP, iEER and MOLOC) and in a joint event concerning three projects (SOCIAL SEEDS, RAISE and SOCENT SPA). In addition, the joint secretariat participated remotely through telephone/ video-conference or skype in 24 kick-off events of projects.
S	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Number	200.00	0.00	Initially, no visits were envisaged before final conferences of projects. No final conferences of projects have been held yet.
F	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	Number/month	15,000.00	43,984.50	The programme website hosts websites of all project 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	7.00	2 Monitoring Committee meetings were held in 2015, 3 in 2016 and 2 in 2017.
S	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number	14.00	6.00	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		26.00	
S	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		26.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	130.00	0.00	0.00
S	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	50.00	0.00	0.00
F	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	3.00	0.00	0.00
S	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	28,539.00	10,221.00	0.00
S	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
F	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	5.00	2.00	0.00
S	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	4.00	2.00	0.00
F	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	26.50	0.00	0.00
S	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	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	2017 Total	2017 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	0.00		Interreg Europe programme was approved on 11 June 2015 – projects and the Platform started their activities in 2016 only, so it is too early to report on this indicator.
TA2	Share (%) of total programme ERDF budget decommitted	%	0.00	2013	0.00	0.00		Interreg Europe programme was approved on 11 June 2015. The first decommitment target will therefore be in December 2018.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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		0.00	
TA2	Share (%) of total programme ERDF budget decommitted	0.00		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	2017	Observations
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,686.00	7,930,413.25	
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	0.00	
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	6,407,602.74	
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	0.00	
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	5,639,967.06	
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	0.00	
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	4,418,668.62	
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2016	2015	2014
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR			
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number			
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR			
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number			
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR			
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number			
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR			
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number			

### 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	71,889,900.25	72.36%	70,215,221.75	10,556,375.58	10.63%	41
2	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	54,979,915.25	55.34%	53,800,422.25	7,893,764.20	7.95%	34
3	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	52,698,645.25	53.05%	51,926,607.25	7,352,388.54	7.40%	32
4	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	43,468,621.25	43.76%	42,800,992.50	5,656,160.97	5.69%	27
5	ERDF	Public	28,931,099.00	74.52	28,931,099.00	100.00%	28,931,099.00	5,652,889.49	19.54%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>426,309,618.00</b>	<b>84.29</b>	<b>251,968,181.00</b>	<b>59.10%</b>	<b>247,674,342.75</b>	<b>37,111,578.78</b>	<b>8.71%</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>426,309,618.00</b>	<b>84.29</b>	<b>251,968,181.00</b>	<b>59.10%</b>	<b>247,674,342.75</b>	<b>37,111,578.78</b>	<b>8.71%</b>	<b>135</b>

**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)**

In 2017, 10 interregional projects with a total of 11 partners from Norway, two of them being lead partners, were monitored by the joint secretariat. A total amount of EUR 1,196,158 of Norwegian funding was committed in 2016 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. In 2017, EUR 199,904.63 of Norwegian contribution was paid by the Certifying Authority to those projects.

Regarding Switzerland, as the third call projects were only approved in 2018, in 2017, there was still only one interregional project with one Swiss partner, with a total budget of EUR 393,920. 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, only at their own cost. So far, one approved project currently involves one partner from another third country. This partner is from Albania with a total budget of EUR 5,965.

In 2017 the Platform activities with a total expenditure of EUR 404,317 also benefited from a contribution from Norway (EUR 3,250.97) and Switzerland (EUR 3,391.53).

In 2017, Norway and Switzerland also participated in the technical assistance expenditure of the Interreg Europe programme with a contribution of EUR 27,948.36 and EUR 13, 974.24 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	71,889,900.25	70,215,221.75	10,556,375.58	41
2	ERDF	096	01	07	07	03		24	FR30	54,979,915.25	53,800,422.25	7,893,764.20	34
3	ERDF	096	01	07	07	04		24	FR30	52,698,645.25	51,926,607.25	7,352,388.54	32
4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	06		24	FR30	43,468,621.25	42,800,992.50	5,656,160.97	27
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	FR30	25,969,277.60	25,969,277.60	4,974,781.56	1
5	ERDF	122	01	07	07			24	FR30	424,656.71	424,656.71	0.00	1
5	ERDF	123	01	07	07			24	FR30	2,537,164.69	2,537,164.69	678,107.93	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

According to the evaluation plan, there was no major programme evaluation foreseen in 2017. The programme worked on the terms of reference for the operational and impact evaluations to be launched in 2018. Moreover, the programme decided to get some insight into the impact of projects funded by INTERREG IVC, the programme's predecessor. The evaluation results will be reported in the annual implementation report 2018.

Regarding the Policy Learning Platform, due to the complex inception and first implementation phase, there were delays in the design and development of the Platform website and consequently in the provision of services. As a result, several monitoring activities had to be postponed or could be only implemented to a limited extent. In the first Platform evaluation report, the following indicators were provided: Number of policy learning events (online and offline) organised by the Policy Learning Platform: 6; Number of participants in the policy learning events (online and offline) organised by the Policy Learning Platform: 513; Share of all European regions (NUTS2) register to Policy Learning Platform (%): 81; Monthly average number of sessions to Policy Learning Platform website pages: 1,800.

The evaluation of the programme's communication strategy is part of the operational evaluation to be carried out in 2018 and submitted with the annual implementation report in 2019.

The programme continuously evaluates each communication action and monitors the reach to target groups and key indicators. For example, two separate evaluations after the partner search events in March (in Malta and online) showed very high satisfaction. The event in Malta met expectations of 98% of the respondents. 81% of the online event respondents rated their experience from the event between 4 and 5 (with 5 for 'excellent'). The response rate for the event in Malta was 14% (51 responses from 18 countries) and 7% for the online event (42 responses from 15 countries), rates within the range expected in surveys launched online.

In April 2017, the communication unit ran a brief survey to see how the awareness level about the programme operations developed. The survey was open for one month and gathered 60 replies (51% of them representing managing authorities of structural funds programmes; 67% representing public authorities). The low response rate was likely caused by other surveys targeting the same group open at the same time. 86% of replies stated 'Yes' to having knowledge about the programme operations, projects or the Platform. It suggests a slight increase from the 82% present selecting 'Yes' in the baseline survey ran in 2015. The awareness survey in 2017 identified further need to spread information about the good practices collected by the programme. The survey included a question on preferred channels of communication and the preference for emails, website and online videos was reflected in the programme communication activities implemented after the survey.

The communication unit of the programme had an audit of the Interreg Europe website done before the end of 2017. An external provider assessed the overall experience of people navigating the website mainly focussing on how easy it was. The audit evaluated

the website technical performance and accessibility, the traffic and navigation, overall user-friendliness, and included 12 one-hour interviews with diverse website users performing specific tasks for potential applicants, current project implementers or the programme points of contact.

The audit concluded that users found the Interreg Europe website pretty and modern and they appreciated it. All user-test participants found the information they were looking for. No major errors were found. The audit suggested that the programme should improve further the menu structure and behaviour to further simplify navigation; reorganise the web content and wording of some categories; improve feedback and error management; remove systemic redirection to search pages; and simplify search filter options. Suggested improvements were incorporated in the work plan of the communication unit regarding further web developments.



## 5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

In 2017, the programme strived to address the challenges identified in the previous years to avoid that major issues affect its performance. The following elements should be highlighted:

- Financial challenges

While the projects' financial reporting had been simplified (see section 11.2), on the programme management side, regulatory requirements remained heavy. Notably, in 2017 the programme faced the following challenges:

- As explained in the AIR 2016, the designation process was longer than expected and could only be finalised in August 2017. As a result, the programme had to close again the accounting year with EUR 0, only because of the late designation. However, the first interim payment claim with reported costs could be submitted immediately after the last payment claim of the accounting year and two other interim payment claims could be submitted in the following months. Therefore, for 2017, the programme reported to the EC 34,539,551.59 of eligible expenditure corresponding to 8.10% of the programme total budget.
- Understanding the new requirements of the annual closure of accounts and reflecting on the impact on the online monitoring system especially regarding the correction of irregularities occurring at different stages remained a challenge that emerged in 2016 and the joint secretariat continued to reflect upon this complex question in 2017.
- The general financial reporting requirements at programme level (financial data, payment forecasts, AIR, annual accounts) being quite heavy, several staff members needed to work on those tasks and that reduced the capacity of the joint secretariat to assist and monitor approved projects.
- The requirements of e-cohesion also required a lot of work to be ready for the reporting of projects directly in the online monitoring system. The programme nevertheless managed to allow the first call and second call projects to report their costs electronically without delays. In addition, the electronic submission of partners' reports helped smoothing the management verifications done by the first level controllers avoiding delays for partners in reporting to the programme and being paid. The electronic submission and exchange of data also allowed the programme authorities to comply with the 90 days deadline for payments to projects.

As highlighted in section 2, another major issue faced during 2017 was the underperformance of the Platform experts. At the end of 2016, the lead contractor in charge of the Platform implementation was already notified of severe underperformance in terms of production and quality. The solution found was to recruit a PLP project manager and a Web manager at the level of the lead contractor. These measures have improved the situation but not to the point of ensuring a satisfactory performance of the PLP. Therefore and in agreement with the monitoring committee, the MA/JS have proposed significant changes in the way the PLP would be managed in the second year.

The main change was related to the recruitment of a full permanent management team partly based at the JS premises in Lille. This new management structure should hopefully lead to an improvement in the services offered by the Platform in 2018.

**(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.**

As highlighted above in section 2 OVERVIEW, due to the underrepresentation of projects and low quality of applications under the investment priorities 6c and 6g, the programme implemented a special targeted campaign during the third call for project proposals aimed at attracting more and higher quality applications under the two priorities.

## **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**

N/A

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

N/A

## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

N/A

**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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