



1st Interreg Europe Monitoring Committee Meeting Tuesday, 16 June 2015

Tallink Hotel
Riga

Chaired by: Ms Ilze Krieva & Ms Iruma Kravale (LV)
Participants: See Participants' List (see annex 01).
Decision notes: INTERREG IVC JTS

1 Welcome, Opening and approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2 Presentation of the new PC/MC members

New members were introduced from Belgium Wallonia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Sweden.

3 Update on programme development

- Human resources (MA/JTS)

MA updated the committee on the results of the selection of the Interreg Europe director. The JS left the room during this presentation.

MA presented the new structure (see annex 02) of the Interreg Europe secretariat and asked for the Committee's support for this structure.

UK requested time to look at the new organigram since it had not been provided with the supporting documents.

Upon the **Chair's** request the organigram was printed and circulated so that any questions could be treated during the meeting to allow the secretariat to commence its work.

- Presentation certifying authority

MA introduced the new body acting as certifying authority, the Province of East Flanders (BE). Marie-Paule Boone from this organisation presented the structure, experience and functions of this body (see annex 03).

- Results of baseline survey



JS presented the results of the baseline survey which had been carried out to define the baseline value of the indicators for the cooperation programme (see annex 04).

- Programme approval

JS summarised the modifications made to the cooperation programme for it to be approved, as technical or factual modifications, and more content-related ones, related to joint activities and policy learning platforms.

- Set-up MC

Given the EC approval of the Interreg Europe programme 11 June 2015, the Chair established the Interreg Europe monitoring Committee by asking the delegates to confirm that they were mandated to represent their country at the first Interreg Europe monitoring committee. As no comments or objections were raised the monitoring committee was constituted.

4 Interreg Europe graphic identity presentation

JS presented the graphic identity of Interreg Europe – (see annex 05).

5 Platforms – Update on the procurement procedure

The JS provided an overview on the current state of play of the launching of the procurement procedures for the platforms (see annex 06).

Several meetings with the managing authority, the EC (DG Regio, DG Environment and DG Research) and an external communication company were organised in order to get legal, content and technical advice.

Decision:

To allocate a budget of €50,000 for legal expertise to accompany the tendering process and agree on the indicatively revised calendar.

6 Update on information campaign & assistance to applicants

The **JS** gave an overview on the information campaign and presented the updated figures and statistics on the project ideas received so far (see annex 07).

The **JS** briefly reminded the rationale of the letter of support (see annex 08).

7 MC Rules of procedure

JS showed to the PS the latest changes in the rules of procedures (see annex 09).

Decision:

The Partner States approved in consensus the MC Rules of procedure, including the changes for Article 4 (8) decided during the meeting.

8 Programme manual (updated version)

The **JS** presented the final editorial changes in the programme manual (see annex 10).

Decision:

The Partner States approved the programme manual and gave a mandate to the JS to do necessary editorial changes for the publishing (see annex 11).



9 Approval of the first call for proposals and its application pack

Upon request of some Partner States to provide more time for submission of an application, it was proposed to open the call longer. At the same time the **EC** pointed out that the longer the call would be open, the later the second call for proposal could be launched. A compromise proposal was made to open the call modestly longer, i.e. until 31 July 2015.

Decision:

The Partner States approved the first call for proposal and its application pack. The call would be open from 22 June to 31 July 2015.

10 TA budget 2015

The **JS** proposed a TA budget of €405,000 for the period September to December 2015 (see annex 12). Considering that it still seems to be possible to finance preparation activities for the new programme from the old programme's budget and that there is still some IVC TA budget available, the JS proposed to still use the remaining IVC TA budget to finance Interreg Europe preparation activities up to the monitoring commission decision of the first projects in 2015, i.e. The end of the year (based on official communication from the EC, see annex 13). It would also help to avoid the parallel management of two TA budgets.

Decision:

- **The Partner States approved a TA budget of €405,000 for the period September to December 2015 and proposed to the INTERREG IVC monitoring committee to still use the remaining IVC TA budget to finance Interreg Europe preparation activities until the decision of the first projects, i.e. until the end of 2015.**
- **For NCP activities, all concerned Partner States, except Greece, agree to a direct reimbursement for the NCP activities. For Greece a deduction will be made.**

11 AOB

(NB: this point was included in the MC meeting for INTERREG IVC, but for consistency reasons, the information relevant for Interreg Europe is mentioned here)

The **JS** presented the updated timeline (see annex 14), including the upcoming event 25 years Interreg and the topics to be discussed at the next MC meeting. Several Partner States highlighted the very tight schedule for the meeting and suggested to agree as much as possible in writing on issues where this is useful. The JS agreed to take this into consideration during preparation of the next meeting.