



Second Interreg Europe Monitoring Committee Meeting

17 September 2015

Hotel Parc Bellevue
5 avenue Marie-Thérèse
2132 Luxembourg

Chaired by: Sabine Stölb (LU)

Participants: See Participants' List (Annex 01).

Decision notes: Interreg Europe JS

1. **Welcome, Opening and approval of the agenda**

The Chair welcomed the committee members. As SK could not be present they had delegated their mandate to CZ.

The meeting agenda was approved.

It was requested that the seating arrangement would be changed to u-shape for the next meeting as not all delegates could see well. The proposal was accepted.

2. **Presentation of the new MC members**

New members from **IT** and **EL** were presented.

3. **Update on programme development**

The **JS** informed that the annual report was approved.

4. **Overview first call of proposal and reflection on possible second call 2016**

The **JS** presented an overview of the first call (see annex 02). In addition to suggested dates for the next call. Furthermore, the idea was presented to limit the number of submissions per call (accepting



applications until the maximum number is reached). This would ease the planning for the assessment process and would give the possibility to announce early regular calls. The Chair invited Partner States to reflect on this point but to discuss it at the next meeting.

Decision

- The JS will provide a table for comments to improve the application pack. The revised application pack will be approved at the next monitoring committee.
- The next monitoring committee will take place on 19/20 January in the Netherlands.
- The second call will be open from 5/04/2016-13/05/2016.
- Proposals as to how and if to change the administration of calls, like a limitation of the number of submissions, will be discussed at the next committee meeting and will not affect the second call.

5. INTERREG IVC Thematic programme capitalisation

Evaluation

The JS presented the results of the thematic programme capitalisation impact evaluation (see annex 03).

Lessons learnt from Capitalisation – Opportunities under SMEs Competitiveness Objective

This was followed by a presentation by **Séverine Ouvry** (Capitalisation Expert on SMEs Competitiveness) reflecting on the outcomes of the capitalisation results with a focus on the innovation capacity of SMEs (see annex 04) in view of the concerned platform in Interreg Europe. The expert also presented the analysis of the Operational Programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs with a focus on investment priority 3d.

6. Platforms – Update on the procurement procedure

The JS presented the latest developments and timeline for the publication of the tender for the policy learning platforms (see annex 05).

Decision

- Partner states are invited to provide comments on the terms of reference via a shared document from 21 September to 02 October 2015
- The final terms of reference will be decided by the Partner States in a written procedure from 12-30 October 2015.



7. Communication strategy

The **JS** presented the communication strategy and explained how the comments submitted by partner states prior to the meeting were taken into consideration. A preview of the new Interreg Europe website was also given (see Annex 06).

Finally it was clarified that the communication strategy was an internal working document intended to cover the programme lifetime and not for public dissemination; the approach to develop three different documents was adopted in order to identify in detail the different target groups and specific actions, as well as allow easier internal administration (e.g. different officers dealing with each strategy).

Decision

- Partner states can comment further on the strategy until 25 September
- The communication strategy will be decided by written procedure launched 10 October, ending on 30 October.

8. Management and control system description and designation process

The **JS** presented an update on the management and control system description and designation process, as well as details about the procedure for the recovery of irregularities (see Annex 07).

In the presentation, JS indicated that three first level control descriptions were still missing. Since there was no possibility for partial designation, no designation would be done before all partner states provide the first level control descriptions. Without designation, the programme would not be in a position to certify expenditure to the EC and could quickly reach a situation where the projects could not be reimbursed.

It was agreed that the MA would send an official reminder to the partner states for which the first level control description was missing. **Chair** asked the MA to ensure that such a letter would be sent shortly.

Recovery of irregularities

The **JS** presented the procedure for the recovery of irregularities. In the note sent out with the supporting documents of the MC meeting, it had been indicated that irregularities which the MA or the lead partner could not recover from a project partner, should be reimbursed by the partner state to the programme within one month. During the meeting, the JS proposed a reimbursement within two months due comments received from some partner states before the meeting.

Decision

- The UK will be able to send comments by 25/09/2015. JS will send a revised proposal for the recovery procedure for further comments by all partner states by 2/10/2015 and the final



procedure will be submitted to the MC members for their approval in written procedure from 30 October to 20 November 2015.

9. Subsidy Contract and Partnership Agreement

The **JS** presented the modifications made to the subsidy contract following the comments received from the Partner States (See Annex 08).

Decision

- JS will send the documents (revised if needed) for comments by all partner states. The final documents will be decided by the MC by written procedure from 30 October to 20 November 2015.

10. First level control documents

The **JS** presented the modifications made in the different first level control templates, following the comments received from the partner states before the meeting (see Annex 09). The **JS** also clarified that the format of the first level control documents would be finalised at a later stage (as they need to be integrated into the programme online system). The decision of the MC therefore only concerned the content of these documents.

Decision

- All first level control documents were approved, subject to confirmation from the UK (to be provided by 25/09/2015).¹

11. AOB

▪ National point of contacts reimbursements

JS informed the MC about the update of the procedure for the reimbursement of national point of contact activities following the discussion of the last MC meeting. Contrary to what was agreed in the previous MC meeting, all partner states, having opted for a CP budget, would now have two options: Either

- the NCP costs' reimbursement and the payment of the national TA contribution are handled independently: in this case the partner state chooses to indicate their national account for the

¹ By 25/09/2015 no further comments were received from the UK. All first level control documents are therefore considered to be approved.



reimbursement of national points of contact costs and pays the full national TA contribution to the programme account.

Or

- the reported NCP costs are deducted from the TA invoice: The PS indicates the TA programme account for the reimbursement of the reported national points of contact costs and then pays a reduced national TA contribution amount to the programme account.

- **Timeline**

JS presented the timeline / deadlines agreed during the meeting for each point (Annex 10)

NOTE : To ensure transparency of the Monitoring 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