

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

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	1
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
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS.....	7
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
4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS.....	29
5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN.....	33
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	33
(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.	35
6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	37
7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	38
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).....	39
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS	39
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS.....	39
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM	39
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME	39
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS	40
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP)	41
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM	42
9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	43
9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	43

9.2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND TO PROMOTE NON-DISCRIMINATION, IN PARTICULAR ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THE INTEGRATION OF THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (D) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	44
9.3.SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (E) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	45
9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	46
9.5 ROLE OF PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1, (C) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	47
10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013	48
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS	48
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY	50
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	51
11.1. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME	51
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE ERDF	52
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE)	53
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION	54
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	55
14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	56
DOCUMENTS.....	57
LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS.....	58

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.

At the beginning of 2021, Interreg Europe faced two major challenges. First, the COVID-19 crisis continued to significantly impact the activities of the programme. Despite the success of the measures taken in 2020, many projects (from 1st and 2nd call) had no chance to apply these measures due to their advanced stage of implementation. Second, it became clear that, without any additional measures, the programme would face a high level of underspending at the end of its implementation. The closure of projects revealed a spending rate of 90% and the sanitary crisis did not help in ensuring normal spending.

To face these challenges, the programme launched a call for additional activities. The call's objective was to further help projects face the crisis and deal with its consequences. Even if this call was open to all 258 projects of the 2014-2020 period, it was mainly relevant for the first and second call projects which could not benefit from the measures adopted in 2020.

The call ran from 1 April until 2 July 2021. It was a success with a total of 78 approved applications (24 under TO1, 17 under TO3, 22 under TO4 and 15 under TO6). It allowed the programme to commit an additional ERDF budget of MEUR 21.3 (and 93,000 Norwegian funds). Projects from the 1st and 2nd calls represented the majority of these applications (40 and 34 projects respectively).

2021 was also the year when the possibility to request pilot actions ended. 48 new pilot actions were approved in the course of the year. In total, the programme has approved 130 pilot actions from 27 Partner States (37 under TO1, 20 under TO3, 35 under TO4 and 38 under TO6) for a total ERDF budget of MEUR 6.

The programme implementation continued successfully. Interreg Europe will reach and even exceed most of its targets by 2023. In 2021, a total of 129 projects (out of 258) were closed or under closure. By the end of 2021, the consolidated projects' achievements were the following:

- Activities: the projects organised 13,177 policy learning events and identified 4,781 good practices. Over 16,600 people declared that they increased their professional capacity thanks to their involvement in the cooperation projects. 1,164 action plans were developed by projects from 1st, 2nd and 3rd calls.
- Results: a total of 841 policy improvements were demonstrated by projects. More than half of these improvements (466) occurred within Structural Funds programmes. The financial impact of this influence exceeds the ERDF budget allocated to Interreg Europe; it is currently estimated at MEUR 1,270 (including MEUR 1,055 of ERDF). This funding was mobilised to finance activities inspired by the projects' exchange of experience. These results show how Interreg Europe directly contributes to a more efficient implementation of the Cohesion Policy. The programme website presents many specific project results (www.interregeurope.eu/project-results).

The Policy Learning Platform (PLP) implementation went also smoothly in 2021 with a high variety of activities organised. Key PLP activities in 2021 were:

- 497 good practices validated for the database
- Expert support by 10 peer reviews, 7 matchmaking sessions and 67 policy helpdesk replies
- 14 policy briefs, 21 policy articles and 29 stories with projects' good practices

- 61 thematic events, 17 participations in other thematic networks or project events

In terms of financial management, the programme exceeded by 55% the cumulative decommitment target for 2021 with MEUR 236 of ERDF requested from the Commission by December 2021.

In 2021, 24 partners from 12 projects and the technical assistance expenditure were audited. This second level audit campaign resulted in EUR 4,942 of ineligible expenditure and an extrapolated error rate of 0.22%. The audit of accounts did not detect any issue in the annual accounts 2020/ 2021. The good functioning of the management and control system was therefore again confirmed.

In terms of programme management, two online monitoring committee (MC) meetings took place in the first semester. A third hybrid meeting was organised in Bled (SI) in December 2021. These meetings were an opportunity to update Partner States on operations' implementation, communication activities, audit and finance matters. Moreover, at the 15th MC meeting on 24 February, the Partner States approved the application pack for the call for additional activities and the technical assistance budget (actual expenditure for 2020 and provisional for 2021).

The preparation of the 2021-2027 programme continued smoothly in 2021 with the approval of the final version of the Cooperation Programme before summer. In total, five programming committee (PC) meetings took place:

- During the 8th PC online meeting on 24 February, version 4 of the cooperation programme (CP) was discussed and approved. The draft performance framework was also presented for the first time. Further to the confirmation of the French authorities, the SEA process was also stopped.
- The 9th PC online meeting on 27 May was dedicated to approving two points: the programme financing plan including the TA budget and the 2021-2027 monitoring system.
- The agenda of the 10th PC online meeting on 23 June included various issues. It started with the presentation of the public consultation's results. The performance framework was also updated following the comments from DG REGIO evaluation unit. This led to the approval of the final version of the CP which took into consideration these different inputs (i.e., from the public consultation and EC informal consultation). The Partner States' agreement was also approved during the meeting. Last but not least, the detailed requirements and financial rules of the future programme were discussed for the first time.
- During the 11th PC online meeting on 19 October, decisions were made on these requirements and financial rules. The first version of the programme manual was also presented and approved.
- The 12th MC hybrid meeting was organised in Bled on 15 and 16 December. It was mainly dedicated to approving version 2 of the programme manual and terms of reference of the first call for proposals.

Communication in 2021 focused mainly on the dissemination of the programme achievements and the 2021-2027 programme preparation.

- The achievements were shared at events organised by the programme or the Partner State's points of contact, and at thematic events (EU Regions Week, EU Green Week, EUSEW, etc.). The programme website, monthly and thematic newsletters, and social media channels presented the success stories about projects and their good practices.
- In preparation for the 2021-2027 programming period, Interreg Europe worked with other programmes and partners (Interact, DG REGIO) on the harmonised Interreg branding for 2021-2027. The 2021-2027 programme was launched online on 24-25 November (1,603 participants). The new website was under

construction. Points of contact in six Partner States held first information events about the new programme.

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>A total of 65 projects are approved under PA1. As initially forecasted in the cooperation programme, majority of projects (53) were approved under specific objective 1(b) and only 12 under specific objective 1(a).</p> <p>By December 2021, all first and second call projects (40 in total) were either closed or under closure. Projects under PA1 organised 3,693 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 1,122 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 3,929 people and developed 330 action plans. In terms of results, they demonstrated 269 policy changes (including 179 related to Structural Funds programmes) with a financial impact estimated at MEUR 372 (including MEUR 310 of ERDF). Full details can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and the programme website.</p> <p>In 2021 the main PLP activities were: publication of 3 policy briefs, 5 articles and 5 stories; assessment of 103 good practices and validation of 74 for the database (10 still under assessment); organisation of 6 online discussions, 2 webinars, 4 workshops and 3 peer reviews for Executive Agency OP SESG at the Ministry of Education and Science (BG) on Technology transfer in CoC, for Szombathely (HU) on economic diversification and digitalisation, for Zagorje (HR) on innovation strategy and 1 matchmaking on REACT-EU for Hauts de France; a webinar for Outermost regions was also organised covering all topics. In addition the PLP was actively involved in events of different relevant initiatives such as REInA (Rural European Innovation Area), AER - Creating Effective Innovation Ecosystems, SAPHIRE - health projects, EURegions Week 2021 - Next2Met session, Region Galicia RIS3 strategy, ECCP.</p>
2	Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	<p>A total of 66 projects are approved under PA2. By December 2021, all first and second call projects (33 in total) were either closed or under closure. Projects under PA2 organised 3,533 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 1,361 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 4,405 people and developed 351 action plans. In terms of results, the projects demonstrated 177 policy changes (including 110 related to Structural Funds programmes) with a financial impact estimated at MEUR 294 (including MEUR 267 of ERDF). This amount of SF influenced has decreased compared to the 2020 report due to the correction of results which were wrongly validated by the programme. Full details on these policy changes can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and in the result section of the programme website.</p> <p>In 2021, the main PLP activities were: publication of 4 policy briefs, 5 articles and 7 stories; assessment of 164 good practices and validation of 116 in the database (19 still under assessment); organisation of 1 online discussion, 6 webinars, 3 workshops and 3 peer reviews for Hessen (DE) on Digital transformation in SMEs, for City of Tartu (EE) on greentech and cleantech accelerator programmes, for Region Sud (FR) on young entrepreneurs and 2 matchmakings for Upper Silesia for Entrepreneurship and Development and for Lublin (PL) on tech park; a webinar for Outermost regions was also organised covering all topics. In addition the PLP was actively involved in events of different relevant initiatives such as REVES: social economy stimulating communities, European Social Economy Regions, EAfA-CoR event.</p>
3	Low Carbon Economy	<p>A total of 60 projects are approved under PA3. By December 2021, all first and second call projects (31 in total) were</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>either closed or under closure. Projects under PA3 organised 2,802 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 1,006 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 4,533 people and developed 250 action plans. In terms of results, the projects demonstrated 174 policy changes (including 93 related to Structural Funds programmes) with a financial impact estimated at MEUR 447 (including MEUR 337 of ERDF). The LOWCARBO project plays an important part in this with an amount of MEUR 165 influenced on a grant scheme of the Hungarian OP programme (EDIOP-4). Full details can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and the programme website.</p> <p>In 2021, the main PLP activities were: publication of 3 policy briefs, 4 articles and 6 stories; assessment of 127 good practices and validation of 111 in the database (16 still under assessment); organisation of 1 online discussion, 12 webinars, 1 e-workshop and 1 peer review for Kilkenny (IE) on cycling mobility and 3 matchmakings for Western Macedonia on energy efficiency, for the port of Tenerife (ES) on CO2 emissions from port operations, for North West development agency (RO) on e-buses; a webinar for Outermost regions was also organised covering all topics. In addition the PLP was actively involved in events of different relevant initiatives such as POWERTY seminar, Energy and Managing Authorities network, Green Cities Forum. The PLP also supported the project e-SMARTEC with their session at EURegionsWeek 2021.</p>
4	Environment and Resource Efficiency	<p>A total of 67 projects are approved approved under PA4. It is therefore the priority with the highest number of projects (thanks to results of the 4th call). By December 2021, all first and second call projects (26 in total) were either closed or under closure. Projects under PA4 organised 3,149 policy learning events (including stakeholder meetings) and identified 1,292 good practices. They contributed to the increased capacity of 3,814 people and developed 233 action plans. In terms of results, they demonstrated an influence on 221 policy changes (including 84 Structural Funds programmes) with a total financial impact estimated at MEUR 155 (including MEUR 140 of ERDF). Full details can be found in the monitoring system (iDB) and the programme website.</p> <p>In 2021, the main PLP activities were: publication of 4 policy briefs, 7 articles and 11 stories; assessment of 267 good practices and validation of 196 in the database (59 still under assessment); organisation of 1 online discussion, 4 webinars, 1 e-workshop and 1 policy learning event for Alentejo region. In addition, 3 peer reviews for City of Antwerp (BE) on fortress heritage, for City of Greifswald (DE) on landfills, for Region Central Macedonia (EL) on circular economy in the textile sector and 1 matchmaking City of Burgas (BG) on waste management; a webinar for Outermost regions was also organised covering all topics. In addition the PLP was actively involved in events of different relevant initiatives such as Aqua Publica Europea and European Network of Environment and Managing Authorities (ENEA-MA).</p>
5	Technical Assistance	<p>Despite the COVID19 crisis, the programme continued monitoring the 258 running projects, organising communication activities as well as audit activities necessary for the closure of the annual accounts (see section 2 for more information on audits). The organisation of monitoring and programming committees were held online or in a hybrid format (in December 2021).</p> <p>The programme annual event was also again held online. It was the occasion to take stock of the results of the programme 2014-2021 and launch the new programme by presenting its features and the topics covered. The Policy Learning Platform's services were also promoted during this event.</p> <p>In 2021, the programme also organised an online workshop on "online project's activities". This workshop gave Interreg</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>Europe projects the opportunity to discuss and share experience in running project activities online.</p> <p>In addition, the programme actively participated in the EURegionsWeek with a stand and an interactive exhibitor's pitch entitled "Road to resilient regions: tips for cooperation" in October 2021.</p> <p>Finally, the programme finalised the drafting of the future programme with the Partner States and the external experts selected for this drafting, and started to prepare the first call for project proposals of the new programme.</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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	76.00	57.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	76.00	76.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 1a is 79.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,000.00	564.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,000.00	1,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority 1a is 1,335.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	7.00	53.00	154 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 1; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	7.00	7.00	No forecast available per year.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	10.00	17.00	Several events organised by the PLP in thematic objective 1 are open to projects from both investment priorities 1a and 1b. This is the reason why the same events can be reported under these investment priorities. So far the following events were organised: 1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 3 events in 2018; 2 events in 2019, 2 events in 2020 (details available in previous reports). In 2021 2 online discussions on Fablab and maker spaces (02/03) and European industrial strategy (16/12); 2 webinars on Innovation in rural areas (15/07) and for Outermost regions (17/06); 2 e-workshops on Grand societal challenges (08/09) and Industry 4.0 infrastructure (04/11); 1 peer review for Executive Agency OP SESG, Ministry of Education and Science (BG) on Technology transfer in CoC (14/12)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	10.00	10.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	57.00	46.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	76.00	76.00	76.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	510.00	274.00	58.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	49.00	19.00	9.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	7.00	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	10.00	8.00	7.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1a.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 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	10.75		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 19 individual programmes: 10 as baseline and 9 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects' results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated 30 policy changes on 21 Structural Funds programmes since a few of these changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OPs of Czech Republic, Finland, Romania and UK, ROP of Emilia Romagna). All details of these results are available on iDB. In total, 40 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes in Europe) were therefore influenced by Interreg Europe.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	3,500,000.00	2014	48,000,000.00	38,500,000.00		This indicator is based on two different sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 10.5: 3.5 as baseline and 7 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme this investment priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 28 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 38.5 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	9.67		8.33		7.00		2.62	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	24,500,000.00		21,600,000.00		21,300,000.00		3,500,000.00	

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, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	154.00	273.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	154.00	154.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 1b is 375.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	2,000.00	3,365.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	2,000.00	2,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 5,763.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	18.00	52.00	151 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 1; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	18.00	18.00	No forecast available.
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	18.00	30.00	Several PLP events in thematic objective 1 are open to projects from both 1a and 1b. That is why the same events can be reported under these investment priorities. So far the following took place: 1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 4 events in 2018; 6 events in 2019, 6 events in 2020 (details available in previous reports). In 2021 4 online discussions on Urban-rural innovation, From S3 to S4+, Innovation vouchers and Universities & business collaboration; 2 webinars on Digital innovation ecosystems (25/02) and for Outermost regions (17/06); 2 workshops on University-industry collaboration (11/03) and Clusters (10/12); 2 peer reviews for Szombathely (HU) on Economic diversification and digitalisation (29/06) and for Zagorje (HR) on innovation strategy (06/07); 1 matchmaking for Hauts de France on REACT-EU for (FR) (14/10)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	18.00	18.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	259.00	234.00	74.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	154.00	154.00	154.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	3,026.00	1,808.00	788.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	48.00	24.00	28.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	19.00	13.00	8.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 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	26.88		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 27 individual programmes: 14 as baseline and 13 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated 149 policy changes on 73 Structural Funds programmes since a significant number of changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OP of AT, CZ, FI, HU, LV, LT, RO, SI and ROP in EL, IE, IT, NL, PL, ES). In total, 100 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	3,500,000.00	2014	144,000,000.00	386,100,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 103.5: 3.5 as baseline and 100 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2020, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 282.6 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 386,1 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	21.78		19.08		12.56		3.66	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	278,500,000.00		146,300,000.00		119,224,000.00		3,500,000.00	

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	2021	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	351.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	230.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 3d is 447.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	4,405.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	3,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 6,993.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	52.00	151 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 2; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	25.00	No forecast available per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	37.00	1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 2 events in 2018; 7 events in 2019, 9 events in 2020 (details available in previous reports). In 2021 7 webinars on Cross sectoral cluster cooperation, Circular economy, Workplace training, Collaborative and open innovation, Entrepreneurial spirit, Sustainable tourism, and for Outermost regions; 3 workshops on From start up to scale up, Impact investing with Agorada, and SME digitalisation; 3 peer reviews for Hessen (DE) on Digital transformation in SMEs (17/03), for City of Tartu (EE) on greentech and cleantech accelerator programmes (29/06), for Region Sud (FR) on young entrepreneurs (07/12); 1 online discussion on SME internationalisation (20/05); 2 matchmakings for Upper Silesia (PL) for Entrepreneurship and Development (13/09), for Lublin (PL) on tech park (13/12)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	28.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	267.00	226.00	58.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	230.00	230.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	3,090.00	2,267.00	433.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	47.00	25.00	26.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	21.00	12.00	7.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.3d.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 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	20.96		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 15 individual programmes: 7 as baseline and 8 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated 110 policy changes on 63 Structural Funds programmes since a significant number of changes are related to the same programmes (e.g., OP of BG, FI, HU, LT, RO, SI and ROP of Brandenburg in DE, Western Macedonian and Central Macedonia in EL, Emilia Romagna, Molise, Veneto in IT, Malopolska, Podkarpackie, Slaskie, Wielkopolskie in PL). In total, 78 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	0.00	2014	192,000,000.00	267,200,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of EUR 268,850: 0 as baseline and 268,500 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 267 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). This amount is reduced compared to 2020 since 70 MEUR were wrongly validated in the past in the Soical Seeds project. This mistake is now corrected. In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 267.2 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	17.47		13.70		9.42		1.83	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	279,700,000.00		89,500,000.00		24,268,850.00		0.00	

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	2021	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	250.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	230.00	230.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 4e is 387.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	4,533.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	3,000.00	3,000.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 7,153.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	51.00	147 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. The level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 3; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	25.00	25.00	No forecast set per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	47.00	1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 5 events in 2018; 8 events in 2019, 12 events in 2020 (details available in previous reports). In 2021 5 webinars on Cycling cities (planning, infrastructure, behaviors, cargo bikes, cost benefits bikes versus cars); 3 webinars on E-mobility (Clean public transport, Charging infrastructure, Integrating e-mobility into territorial planning); 5 webinars on Green transition - EU recovery fund, Urban freight logistics, Skills for energy transition, Low carbon strategies, and for Outermost regions; 3 matchmakings for Western Macedonia (EL) on energy efficiency, for the Tenerife port (ES) on CO2 emissions, for the Northwest development agency (RO) on E-buses; 1 discussion on e-mobility projects cluster meeting (19/05); 1 e-workshop on Sustainable energy in SMEs (24/06); 1 peer review for Kilkenny (IE) on cycling mobility (03/11)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	28.00	28.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	237.00	202.00	69.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	230.00	230.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	3,707.00	2,642.00	1,208.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	46.00	22.00	24.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	28.00	16.00	8.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.4e.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 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	17.20		Indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the survey results sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 8 individual programmes: 5 as baseline and 3 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated 93 policy changes on 56 Structural Funds programmes since a significant number of changes are related to the same programmes (e.g., OP of BG, CZ, FI, HR, HU, LT, MT, RO, SI, SK, and ROP of Andalusia and Extremadura in ES, Southern and Eastern in IE, Crete in EL, Lazio and Emilia Romagna in IT, South Netherlands in NL, North, Centro and Azores in PT). In total, 64 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	13,000,000.00	2014	192,000,000.00	352,000,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 14.6: 13 as baseline and 1.6 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 337.4 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 352 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	13.98		12.09		7.59		1.31	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	299,500,000.00		229,100,000.00		202,667,000.00		13,000,000.00	

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	140.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	115.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 6c is 221.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	2,264.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	1,500.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 3,464.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	50.00	144 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 4; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	12.00	No forecast available per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	21.00	1 event in 2016; 1 events in 2017; 3 events in 2018; 4 events in 2019, 5 events in 2020 (details available in previous reports). In 2021 1 e-workshop on Living rivers (27/05); 4 webinars on EU Green Week - Marine Litter (03/06), on Knowledge of the Seas (with INTERACT) (05/10), on cultural heritage in mountain areas (09/11), for Outermost regions (17/06); 1 policy learning event for Alentejo region (19/10); 1 peer review for City of Antwerp (BE) on fortress heritage (16/11)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	14.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	124.00	86.00	37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	115.00	115.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,508.00	822.00	272.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	45.00	27.00	18.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	14.00	9.00	6.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.6c.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 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	11.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 11 individual programmes: 6 as baseline and 5 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated 41 policy changes on 30 Structural Funds programmes since few changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OP of HU and LV, ROP of Central Macedonia in EL, Molise, Veneto and Lombardy in IT, Castile and Leon and Basque Country in ES). In total, 41 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	19,000,000.00	2014	96,000,000.00	108,700,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 61.3: 19 as baseline and 42.3 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 47.4 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 108.7 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	8.00		6.45		3.66		1.57	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	94,100,000.00		84,300,000.00		62,582,000.00		19,000,000.00	

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	2021	Observations
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	93.00	
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	115.00	115.00	No forecast is available per year but the total number forecast by all projects approved under investment priority 6g is 206.
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	1,550.00	
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	Number	1,500.00	1,500.00	No forecast available per year but the total number forecast for all projects approved under investment priority is 3,358.
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	53.00	153 out of the 290 NUTS 2 regions registered on the Policy Learning Platform have expressed interest in this investment priority. This achievement exceeds by far the target value which was clearly under estimated. This level of achievement can be explained by the high number of partners (including regional public authorities) involved in projects of priority axis 4; most of them being also members of the platform.
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	%	12.00	12.00	No forecast available per year
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	23.00	1 event in 2016; 2 events in 2017; 1 event in 2018; 4 events in 2019, 9 events in 2020 (details available in previous reports). In 2021 1 online discussion on community brainstorming - water management (23/02); 2 webinars on Water reuse and waste water (09/03), and for Outermost regions (17/06); 1 matchmaking for City of Burgas (BG) on waste management - PAYT (Pay As You Throw) (22/06); 2 peer reviews for City of Greifswald (DE) on landfills (01/07), and for Region Central Macedonia (EL) on circular economy in the textile sector (28/09)
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	Number	14.00	14.00	No forecast is available per year per investment priority.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of Action Plans developed	82.00	74.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of Action Plans developed	115.00	115.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,180.00	645.00	132.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	49.00	25.00	11.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Share of all European regions' (NUTS 2) registered to the Policy Learning Platform	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	17.00	8.00	5.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Number of policy learning events organised by the Policy Learning Platform	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.6g.4.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 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	8.60		This indicator is based on 2 sources. First, in compliance with the Cooperation Programme, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of 4 individual programmes: 2 as baseline and 2 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated 43 policy changes on 28 Structural Funds programmes since a few changes are related to the same programmes (i.e. OP of FI, HU, RO, SI and ROP of Central Macedonia and Crete in EL, Andalusia in ES, Lombardia in IT). In total, 32 programmes (out of 372 SF programmes) were therefore influenced.
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	EUR	19,000,000.00	2014	96,000,000.00	111,600,000.00		This indicator is based on 2 sources of information. First, it includes the results of the surveys sent to all managing authorities in 2014, 2018 and 2020 (total of MEUR 19: 19 as baseline and 0 influenced by Interreg Europe). As agreed by the monitoring committee in 2018, this indicator also includes the projects results validated by the programme under this investment priority. By December 2021, the projects demonstrated an additional amount influenced estimated at MEUR 92.6 (details of this amount are available in iDB under the 'Policy Instruments Results' table). In total for this investment priority, an amount of MEUR 111.6 was therefore influenced by the programme.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1	Share of Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes where measures inspired by INTERREG EUROPE were implemented	5.91		4.83		2.87		0.52	
2	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and ETC) influenced by INTERREG EUROPE	81,300,000.00		44,800,000.00		20,500,000.00		19,000,000.00	

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	2021	Observations
F	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	Number	200.00	258.00	In total, 258 interregional projects were approved during the four calls for proposals.
S	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	Number	200.00	200.00	The initial forecast was 200 approved projects in four calls (50 projects per call on average)
F	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Number	200.00	359.00	In addition to the participation in 258 kick-off meetings, project events and final conferences reported last years , in 2021, the JS participated in 58 additional final conferences of projects (mostly online and a few onsite or in an hybrid format) and organised 43 online mid-term reviews for projects approaching the end of phase 1.
S	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Number	200.00	200.00	Initially, it was not envisaged that the JS would participate in other project events than the final conferences (of 200 projects). Mid-term reviews were introduced later on in the programme implementation. This new feature appeared important considering the longer duration of projects and the need to discuss phase 2 before its start. By the end of 2021, the JS participated in 125 project final conferences.
F	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	Number/month	15,000.00	73,290.00	The programme website hosts websites of all projects after their approval. Visits (Sessions in Google Analytics terms) at the project pages generate traffic at the programme website too, which helps the programme reach well beyond the initial target.
S	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	Number/month	15,000.00	15,000.00	The initial forecast for the programme website traffic (number of visits/sessions) was 15,000.
F	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number	14.00	17.00	2 monitoring committee meetings were held in 2015, 3 in 2016, 2 in 2017, 2 in 2018, 2 in 2019, 3 in 2020 and 3 in 2021
S	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number	14.00	14.00	The initial forecast was counting with two monitoring committee meetings per year.
F	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		29.00	One additional policy officer and one additional finance officer positions were created in 2019 to allow the JS to monitor 258 projects (instead of 200 initially expected).
S	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		27.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	258.00	258.00	184.00	130.00	130.00	0.00	0.00
S	5	No of Interregional Cooperation Projects approved	200.00	200.00	150.00	100.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
F	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	258.00	180.00	82.00	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
S	6	No of project visits and participations in project events by JS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
F	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	58,983.00	51,395.00	51,131.00	43,984.50	28,539.00	10,221.00	0.00
S	7	Average no. of visits to programme website	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
F	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	14.00	11.00	9.00	7.00	5.00	2.00	0.00
S	8	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	0.00
F	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	29.00	29.00	27.00	26.00	26.50	0.00	0.00
S	9	No of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	27.00	27.00	27.00	26.00	26.50	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 5.5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
TA1	Share (%) of all supported operations (projects and platforms) that is implemented successfully, demonstrated by the achievement of planned outputs.	%	0.00	2013	90.00	99.00		Similarly to 2021, the achievement of the planned outputs by projects is almost 100% when considering the core deliverables (i.e. action plans developed). By December 2021, 1,164 action plans were developed which represents around 99% of the expected actions plans to be produced by projects at this stage of the programme's implementation. As far as the PLP is concerned, the delivery of the core outputs was fully on track. As reflected under each investment priority, the core outputs related to policy learning events organised were delivered and the expected number of events organised was even exceeded due to the move to online activities. Since projects represent 96% of the operations' budget, the percentage reported under TA1 reflects the performance at projects' level.
TA2	Share (%) of total programme ERDF budget decommitted	%	0.00	2013	0.00	0.00		The programme met its decommitment target in 2021. The target was again exceeded (by 55%).

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
TA1	Share (%) of all supported operations (projects and platforms) that is implemented successfully, demonstrated by the achievement of planned outputs.	99.00		99.00		95.80		0.00	
TA2	Share (%) of total programme ERDF budget decommitted	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	

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	2021	Observations
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,686.00	63,496,952.71	
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	330.00	
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	55,637,166.45	
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	351.00	
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	51,210,605.73	
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	250.00	
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	11,000,000	84,441,685.00	52,374,866.69	
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	70	230.00	233.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	52,026,440.00	37,060,130.33	21,697,135.22	0.00	0.00
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	316.00	280.00	86.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	42,230,071.00	28,322,810.16	15,868,428.36	0.00	0.00
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	267.00	226.00	58.00	0.00	0.00
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	38,817,930.00	27,153,179.22	15,649,393.39	0.00	0.00
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	237.00	202.00	69.00	0.00	0.00
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	37,125,469.72	23,490,209.54	11,715,689.00	0.00	0.00
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	206.00	160.00	61.00	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00	0.00
1	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00	0.00
2	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00	0.00
2	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00	0.00
3	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00	0.00
3	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00	0.00
4	F	1	Amount of financial resources spent	EUR	0.00	0.00
4	O	1	Number of Action Plans developed	Number	0.00	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

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

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Total	99,344,632.00	85.00	111,393,421.25	112.13%	108,643,705.00	80,340,684.27	80.87%	66
2	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	102,322,768.25	103.00%	99,758,385.65	73,334,318.88	73.82%	67
3	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	98,630,653.25	99.28%	97,288,276.20	65,803,096.08	66.24%	61
4	ERDF	Total	99,344,629.00	85.00	103,911,796.25	104.60%	101,971,182.25	68,131,577.59	68.58%	68
5	ERDF	Public	28,931,099.00	74.52	28,931,099.00	100.00%	28,931,099.00	19,436,199.88	67.18%	1
Total	ERDF		426,309,618.00	84.29	445,189,738.00	104.43%	436,592,648.10	307,045,876.70	72.02%	263
Grand total			426,309,618.00	84.29	445,189,738.00	104.43%	436,592,648.10	307,045,876.70	72.02%	263

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

Since the last report, no new projects were approved and the overall situation related to third country participation remains the same. A total of 18 interregional projects include 20 partners from Norway (5 of them being lead partners). A total amount of EUR 2,079,908.50 of Norwegian funding is committed to these projects. The Norwegian funding for the projects is directly managed by the programme authorities. It is paid by the certifying authority to the lead partners of the concerned projects together with the ERDF contribution. By the end of 2021, EUR 1,518,219 of Norwegian funding was paid by the certifying authority to those projects.

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

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

In 2021, the Platform (PLP) activities also benefited from a contribution from Norway (EUR 10,716) and Switzerland (EUR 11,179) to its total annual expenditure (EUR 1,332,730).

In 2021, Norway and Switzerland also participated in the technical assistance expenditure of the Interreg Europe programme (EUR 3,882,150) with a contribution of EUR 31,721 and EUR 15,860 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	111,393,421.25	108,643,705.00	80,340,684.27	66
2	ERDF	096	01	07	07	03		24	FR30	102,322,768.25	99,758,385.65	73,334,318.88	67
3	ERDF	096	01	07	07	04		24	FR30	98,630,653.25	97,288,276.20	65,803,096.08	61
4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	06		24	FR30	103,911,796.25	101,971,182.25	68,131,577.59	68
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	FR30	26,074,469.03	26,074,469.03	17,353,693.10	1
5	ERDF	122	01	07	07			24	FR30	400,036.08	400,036.08	322,972.34	1
5	ERDF	123	01	01	07			24	FR30	2,456,593.89	2,456,593.89	1,759,534.44	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

No new programme evaluation took place in 2021.

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

The 2018 evaluation conclusions were positive. As far as the impact evaluation was concerned, the report concluded that project achievement of outputs and results was "*considerable and also largely on track*". *The evaluation of the Policy Learning Platform (PLP) shows that the implementation of this second pillar of Interreg Europe is gradually reaching the expected "cruising speed"*. The operational evaluation showed that "*the management and operational level of the current Interreg Europe programme works fine and is evolving and growing with its tasks*".

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

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

1/ Concerning the impact evaluation

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

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

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

2/ Concerning the operational evaluation

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

- management and steering,
- support to operations,
- programme communication strategy

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

An interim report was presented in June while the final report was shared early August with Partner States who had the possibility to indicate their comments. In September 2020, the evaluators presented their findings to the Interreg Europe monitoring committee, who approved the final evaluation report (available on the programme website).

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

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

- The approach for project-level cooperation in the period 2021-2027 foresees the possibility to continue the policy learning process during phase 2 of projects (now called follow-up phase). Indicators for capturing the resulting capacity increase of people and organisations are also present in the new performance framework.
- The requirement to focus on Structural Funds programmes in the period 2021-2027 will be continued although less restrictive (at least one policy instrument addressed in a project should be an Investment for jobs and growth goal programme).
- For future cooperation projects, the requirement to involve the policy-responsible authorities as partners is reinforced. In addition, future projects will be able to continue the activities with their stakeholders in the follow-up phase.
- The Interreg Europe programme for 2021-2027 will primarily use programme-specific output and result indicators, building on the experience gained from the period 2014-2020. However, whenever possible, indicators defined by the Commission were also adopted.
- For 2021-2027, the Interreg Europe programme carried out a revision of its indicators used for

monitoring outputs and results of the Policy Learning Platform. Aside from reducing the overall number of indicators to be used, the content and nature of the indicators was also adapted.

The results of the operational update evaluation were also positive.

- The programme management was considered by the experts as ‘highly professional and rather exhaustive in the way the programme steers and manages its tasks’.
- Concerning the programme’s support to operations, the experts concluded that it works effectively and efficiently’ and that ‘projects highly appreciate’ this support.
- The final report also highlighted the positive aim of developing an agile approach for the Platform implementation even if this is challenging in the current legal framework.
- When it comes to the communication, the experts stated that the programme ‘communicates actively and widely’.

The programme carries out regular internal evaluations and monitoring of tasks, especially regarding the communication activities linked to the project assistance, overall programme information dissemination, and the Policy Learning Platform events.

Due to the continued COVID-19 crisis, the programme communication activities stayed largely online in 2021. The programme continued supporting the projects. Two webinars provided guidance on pilot actions, and facilitated the exchange of experience among project partners on how to run project activities online. In total, 500 project partners joined the two events and, according to the evaluation surveys, the events met expectations between 98 and 100% of the evaluation respondents.

The programme continued communicating on the results. The programme joined thematic and other partner events organised by the European Commission, Committee of the Regions and other Interreg programmes.

The online annual event in November 2021 also presented the success stories of the programme and mainly focused on the information about the new 2021-2027 programme. Over 1,600 people joined the event with a satisfaction of 8.9 (out of 10) - from a post-event survey score.

The interest in the programme and its Policy Learning Platform continued to increase in 2021. The number of Interreg Europe community members reached 24,000. The average number of participants in the thematic online events increased by more than 30%. The satisfaction rate of the evaluation respondents remained high (82% for all services), in particular for the targeted and personalised services (98% satisfaction for peer review participants). These targeted services offered more added value to the beneficiaries, when compared to more traditional forms of capitalisation presented in the knowledge hub in the form of thematic publications. In particular, the peer reviews were acknowledged by the participants as a ‘landmark of excellence, paving the way for impacting the policymaking processes’ in their regions.

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

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

COVID-19 crisis

The programme continued to face the COVID-19 crisis. The Policy Learning Platform (PLP) continued organising its activities online. Even if this was sometimes challenging for the most elaborated services like the peer reviews where meetings in-person were essential, the online format appeared successful for other meetings. This was reflected in a significant increase in the number of participants (i.e., the average number of participants in 2021 reached 100 while for physical meetings the participation rarely exceeded 50).

The projects continued benefiting from the different measures taken in 2020, as published on the programme website. These measures were a mix between additional flexibility in the way to implement the project (e.g., extension of duration) and possibility to organise additional activities. These measures were successful since projects continued reporting good progress in their implementation and in the achievements of their objectives.

Risk of underspending

In 2021, it was confirmed that the COVID-19 crisis will increase the risk of underspending at programme level.

- Although the MC decided in the context of the 4th call to commit 105% of the budget available for projects, the actual commitment rate at the end of 2020 was already back to 99.8%.
- The statistics available for the first closed projects indicated a spending rate of 90% (between the initial budget before the mid-term budget review and final spending). However, thanks to the budget revision carried out at the mid-term review, the spending rate of these projects was expected to reach 98%. At the same time, it means that for third and fourth call projects, which have not had their mid-term review yet, up to 10% could remain unspent.
- After further analysis, it was also clear that the total PLP budget would not be fully used due to the initial difficulties faced in its first years of implementation.
- The COVID-19 crisis had a direct impact on the projects' capacity to use their budget in particular when it comes to the travel and accommodation costs. No physical meetings could be organised over a long period of time. The measures approved in 2020 were not sufficient to compensate the financial consequence of the crisis on projects.

Based on these considerations, the monitoring committee decided in February 2021 to launch a call restricted to all approved projects for additional activities in order to face the COVID-19 crisis. This measure was very successful. Additional activities were approved for 78 projects representing a total additional ERDF budget of 21.3 MEUR (and 93,000 Norwegian funds).

PLP implementation

All financial difficulties faced by the PLP implementation as explained in previous reports are now solved with the new lead contractor company (GAC Group). The implementation of the fourth subsequent contract went

therefore smoothly throughout 2021.

Financial challenges

In 2021, the programme continued to face negative interest charged on the programme accounts by the Certifying Authority (CA) bank.

In order to limit the negative interest on the programme's account while at the same time ensuring that projects were paid within the regulatory 90 days deadline, the CA and JS continued to monitor closely the cash flow available on the programme accounts. In addition, in 2021, more frequent but smaller interim payment claims were submitted to the EC in order to limit the amounts received and held on the CA accounts at any one time.

The balance of negative and positive interest (from previous years) up to the end of 2021 amounts to more than 50K EUR of negative interest.

Although the eligibility of negative interest under the technical assistance budget was confirmed (as bank charges linked to the administration of the bank accounts), they created an additional financial charge for the programme. As a result, the monitoring committee of the Interreg Europe programme decided to write again to the EC on 30 June 2021 about this financial challenge faced by several ETC programmes asking the EC to explore with the European Central Bank how EU-funds managed under shared management could be exempted from negative interest.

(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.

Despite the difficulties described in the previous section, the overall programme's implementation remained smooth in 2021. A significant number of the targets were already reached. As confirmed by the update evaluation, most of the programme targets would be reached or even exceeded by 2023.

Project outputs

In terms of outputs, the progress towards the final targets set for 2023 in the programme's performance framework is excellent. In fact, most of the target values are already exceeded. It can be explained mainly by the fact that the programme supports a higher number of projects (258) than set as a programme target (200).

With all priorities combined, the number of action plans developed (1,164) already exceeds the programme target set at 920. Based on the exchange of good practices and knowledge, 16,681 people declared that they had increased their professional capacity in the field of the project's work. This also exceeds the programme target (12,000). All running projects have also organised a total number of 13,177 policy learning events so far (including both interregional events and local stakeholder group meetings) and identified 4,781 good practices.

Project results

By the end of 2021, all projects achieved 841 policy improvements, 466 of which were in Structural Funds programmes.

The amount of local, regional and national funding influenced directly by the projects reaches MEUR 1,270, including MEUR 1,055 of Structural Funds. This exceeds the programme target of MEUR 768.

Full details about the policy changes can be found in the programme monitoring system (iDB) in particular in the 'Policy Instruments Results' table. They are also published on the programme website under the 'results' section. The results are collected through the regular project reports. It should be highlighted that all results (policy improvements and funds influenced) reported by a project is very carefully checked by the JS policy officer in charge of the project according to an internal checklist. Only the results complying with a set of conditions (i.e., Is the improvement clear? Did it occur already? Can it be attributed to the project activities?) are validated. In many cases, this is not the case and the lead partner is asked to remove the information from the progress report.

Policy learning platform outputs

By 2021, the Platform organized 170 policy learning thematic events. The programme target by 2023 (112) is already exceeded.

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

the project knowledge and services of the Policy Learning Platform accessible, is over 99%.

Technical assistance targets

The programme approved and committed funds to 258 projects, which exceeds the programme target of 200.

The programme staff participated in 359 project events/ mid-term reviews by the end of 2021 (online or in-person) which exceeds the programme target of 200 project visits.

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

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

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

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

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

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

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

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

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

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
3	33,533,925.84	39.71%
Total	33,533,925.84	9.33%

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

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

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

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DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Interreg Europe AIR 2021 Citizens summary	Citizens' summary	30-May-2022			Interreg Europe AIR 2021 Citizens summary		

Severity	Code	Message
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 757.14% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1a, indicator: 3, year: 2021. Please check.