

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFIR002
Title	INTERACT
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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.

Implementation of the Interact III 2014-2020 cooperation programme (Interact) only started on on 1 January 2016, therefore in the years 2014-2015 no service delivery activities were carried out and no expenditure was incurred (in line with the acknowledgement of the INTERACT II 2007-2013 Monitoring Committee on the separation of the expenditures between the two programmes made at its 15th meeting on 21 May 2015 in Florence, Italy, according to Article 59 of the CPR).

In 2015 advance payments in the total amount of EUR 787,851.88, representing 2% of the total allocation of the Programme, were paid by the European Commission. In the period from 1 January 2014 till 31 December 2015 the amount of EUR 1,907,765.15 was paid by the participating countries as national contributions.

Following the adoption of the programme on 13 August 2015, the first meeting of the Interact III Monitoring Committee took place on 28-29 October 2015 in Riga, Latvia (still financed under the INTERACT II programme). At the meeting, several key Interact III documents were approved:

- Rules of procedure of the Monitoring Committee;
- Multi Annual Work Programme (version 0);
- Programme Guide (version 1.0);
- Programme-level rules on eligibility of expenditure;
- Communication Strategy;
- Financial allocation for priority axis 1 Service Delivery and priority axis 2 Technical Assistance;
- Subsidy contract template.

Three out of the four subsidy contracts (for the implementation of Interact Offices Turku, Viborg and Vienna) were also concluded between the Managing Authority and the respective hosting organisations before the end of 2015. (The fourth subsidy contract, for the implementation of Interact Office Valencia was only signed at the beginning of 2016).

At the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic acting as the Certifying Authority two audits were performed by national audit and control bodies, which were focused on:

- *Designation procedure of the Certifying Authority for programming period 2014-2020;*
- *Verification of designation criteria devoted to accounting system for*

programming period 2014-2020.

Findings from the audits were unsystematic and non-financial, mostly with low or mid materiality. The Certifying Authority has adopted necessary corrective measures. The group of auditors informed that the Certifying Authority is in compliance with the designation criteria related to the internal control environment, risk management and management and control of operations. (The designation audit of the Managing Authority started in 2016).

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	Service Delivery	Implementation of the programme only started on 1 January 2016 therefore no activities were financed by Interact III 2014-2020 in the years 2014-2015.
2	Technical Assistance	Implementation of the programme only started on 1 January 2016. However, the first meeting of the Interact III Monitoring Committee took place on 28-29 October 2015 in Riga, Latvia, still financed under the INTERACT II programme. At the meeting, several key Interact III documents were approved: Rules of procedure of the Monitoring Committee, Multi Annual Work Programme (version 0), Programme Guide (version 1.0), Programme-level rules on eligibility of expenditure, Communication Strategy, Financial allocation for priority axis 1 Service Delivery and priority axis 2 Technical Assistance, Subsidy contract template. Subsidy contracts for the implementation of Interact Offices Turku, Viborg and Vienna were also concluded.

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 - Service Delivery
Investment priority	11e - Promoting the exchange of experience in order to reinforce the effectiveness of territorial cooperation programmes and actions as well as the use of EGTCs pursuant to point (3)(c) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2015	Observations
F	1	Number of events	Number	890.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	1	Number of events	Number	890.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
F	2	Number of tools	Number	250.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	2	Number of tools	Number	250.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
F	3	Participants to INTERACT events	Number	13,240.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	3	Participants to INTERACT events	Number	13,240.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
F	4	Financial	EURO	43,100,133.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	4	Financial	EURO	43,100,133.00	0.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014
F	1	Number of events	0.00
S	1	Number of events	0.00
F	2	Number of tools	0.00
S	2	Number of tools	0.00
F	3	Participants to INTERACT events	0.00
S	3	Participants to INTERACT events	0.00
F	4	Financial	0.00
S	4	Financial	0.00

Table 1: Result indicators

Priority axis	1 - Service Delivery
Investment priority	11e - Promoting the exchange of experience in order to reinforce the effectiveness of territorial cooperation programmes and actions as well as the use of EGTCs pursuant to point (3)(c) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific objective	1.1 - To improve management and control capacity of ETC programmes. The aim is to contribute to an efficient and effective implementation of ETC programmes, addressing also the shift towards more simplified and standardised programme management. Management is to be understood in a broad sense and covers all aspects of the life cycle of ETC programmes: from the programming phase to the closure, including all programme and project management issues as well as finance, control and communication.

w	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	Observations
1.1/1	Satisfaction level of ETC programmes with INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the management and control capacity of ETC programmes	Number	4,19/5,00	2013	increase		Not applicabe	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
1.1/2	% of ETC programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the management and	% of programmes	80%	2013	increase		Not applicabe	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.

w	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	Observations
	control capacity of ETC programmes							

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1/1	Satisfaction level of ETC programmes with INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the management and control capacity of ETC programmes		Not applicabe
1.1/2	% of ETC programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the management and control capacity of ETC programmes		Not applicabe

Priority axis	1 - Service Delivery
Investment priority	11e - Promoting the exchange of experience in order to reinforce the effectiveness of territorial cooperation programmes and actions as well as the use of EGTCs pursuant to point (3)(c) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific objective	1.2 - To improve the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating the programme results. Smooth implementation of ETC programmes in regards to the thematic concentration and the focus on results. In addition, the effects of ETC on Cohesion Policy should be more clearly identified. Increased visibility of ETC as a whole, on the basis of the results achieved. Increased networking, also at a strategic level.

w	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	Observations
1.2/1	Satisfaction level of ETC programmes with INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating programme results	Number	4,19/5,00	2013	Increase		Not applicable	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
1.2/2	% of ETC programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating programme results	% of programmes	80%	2013	Increase		Not applicable	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2/1	Satisfaction level of ETC programmes with INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating programme results		Not applicable
1.2/2	% of ETC programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating programme results		Not applicable

Priority axis	1 - Service Delivery
Investment priority	11e - Promoting the exchange of experience in order to reinforce the effectiveness of territorial cooperation programmes and actions as well as the use of EGTCs pursuant to point (3)(c) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific objective	1.3 - To improve the cooperation management capacity to implement innovative approaches (EGTC, Revolving Funds, MRSs, Article 96, ITI, etc.). New mechanisms have emerged over time to simplify cooperation, make it more sustainable, effective and appealing for new partners. INTERACT III shall enhance this, in identifying and sharing innovative practices. Cooperation in objective 1, Integrated Territorial Investment, Community-Led Local Development, Revolving Funds, and EGTCs are only some of the tools.

w	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	Observations
1.3/1	Satisfaction level of programmes with INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the cooperation management capacity to implement innovative approaches	Number	4,19/5,00	2013	Increase		Not applicable	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
1.3/2	% of programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the cooperation	% of programmes	80%	2013	Increase		Not applicable	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.

w	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	Observations
	management capacity to implement innovative approaches							

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.3/1	Satisfaction level of programmes with INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the cooperation management capacity to implement innovative approaches		Not applicable
1.3/2	% of programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the cooperation management capacity to implement innovative approaches		Not applicable

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	2 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2015	Observations
F	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	14.00	1.00	
S	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	14.00		
F	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved	Number	7.00	0.00	The first Joint Annual Work Plan of the programme for the year 2016 was only approved in January 2016.
S	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved	Number	7.00	0.00	
F	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out	Number	1.00	0.00	
S	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out	Number	1.00	0.00	
F	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices	Number	70.00	0.00	
S	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices	Number	70.00	0.00	
F	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report	Number	9.00	0.00	
S	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report	Number	9.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014
F	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings	0.00
S	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings	
F	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved	0.00
S	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved	0.00
F	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out	0.00
S	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out	0.00
F	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices	0.00
S	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices	0.00
F	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report	0.00
S	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report	0.00

Table 1: Result indicators

Priority axis	2 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	2.1 - Effective implementation of the cooperation programme

w	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	Observations
0	not applicable	no	0.00	0	0.00			

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
0	not applicable		

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	Public	43,100,133.00	85.00	36,635,113.00	85.00%	43,100,133.00	0.00	0.00%	5
2	ERDF	Public	3,244,096.00	85.00	2,757,481.00	85.00%	3,224,096.00	0.00	0.00%	4
Total	ERDF		46,344,229.00	85.00	39,392,594.00	85.00%	46,324,229.00	0.00	0.00%	9
Grand total			46,344,229.00	85.00	39,392,594.00	85.00%	46,324,229.00	0.00	0.00%	9

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)

No expenditures were incurred in the years 2014-2015 therefore no use of national contribution of Norway and Switzerland was made.

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	11				43,100,133.00	36,635,113.00	0.00	5
2	ERDF	121	01	07	07	11				3,244,096.00	2,757,481.00	0.00	4

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

The findings of the ex-ante evaluation with responses of the Managing Authority are available in Annex 1 of the adopted cooperation programme document. No other programme evaluation was carried out in the years 2014-2015.

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

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

Not applicable (no service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015).

(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.

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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)

Where the managing authority decided to use the financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report

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

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

(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).

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable (the cooperation programme does not foresee implementation of Joint Action Plans).

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 - Service Delivery
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Priority axis	2 - 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)

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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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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 implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including 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)

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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
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