

# IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL

## PART A

### IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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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.**

### **2.1 The second year of implementation**

2017 was the second year of implementation of Interact III and the first year with all four Interact Offices (IOs) on board from the beginning and contributing to delivering the annual work plan. Despite of staffing challenges in the first half of the year, service delivery gathered momentum during the year, resulting in significantly higher performance – in terms of outputs – compared to 2016. Regarding the quality of services, the overall event satisfaction rate increased slightly from 2016, reaching the highest value since 2011. On overall, we believe the programme is on the right track to achieve its objectives and to keep delivering added value to the Interreg community.

### **2.2. Staffing situation**

Interact's main resource and its key to success is the Interact team. Therefore the staffing situation of the IOs and MA/IS is crucial to ensure successful and efficient service delivery to the Interreg community.

The most significant staff changes in 2017 again concerned IO Valencia: in the first half of the year the office finally reached its full headcount by hiring six new colleagues and remained stable for the rest of the year. Please see the main staff changes in 2017 as well as the staffing situation at the end of the year in annexe 1.

### **2.3. Reflection on the performance framework**

#### **2.3.1. Priority axis 1 service delivery**

##### *Performance*

Interact made significant progress towards its targets in 2017 in all four of its output indicators:

1. Number of events. The 2017 achievement of 103 is only slightly lower than the time-proportional average necessary to reach the 2023 target (111,25), and significantly higher than the annual average necessary to meet the 2018 milestone (65,67).
2. Number of participants to interact events. Events organised by Interact in 2017 managed to attract a total of 2037 participants from different target groups. This figure is significantly higher than the time-proportional figures necessary to reach the 2018 milestone and the 2023 target (979 and 1655, respectively). Please note that only participants of events organised by Interact are included in this figure (thus the audience reached in supporting external stakeholders' events is not counted) and that events organised for the general public, i.e. Interact EC Day local events are not reflected either.

3. Number of tools. The 2017 achievement is 61,5, much higher than the time-proportional figure necessary to reach the target (31).
4. Financial indicator: defined as ‘amount of certified expenditure of the priority axis allocation’, the achievement for 2016 is EUR 4,418,415.

Based on the above figures – and the outputs planned in the 2018 work plan – we remain confident that the performance of the programme will be sufficient to exceed the 2018 milestones and to reach the targets set for the programming period.

#### *Quality and use of services*

Interact reached the highest event satisfaction rate so far in 2017. For more information, please see section 3.1.1 and the result indicators.

#### **2.3.2. Priority axis 2 technical assistance**

The cooperation programme document identifies the below output indicators for priority axis 2 Technical assistance:

1. Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings. Achievement in 2017: 2 (as usual, 2 MC meetings took place).
2. Joint Annual Work Plan approved. Achievement in 2017: 1. The MC approved the 2018 JAWP in November 2017.
3. External interim programme evaluation carried out. Achievement: 0. No evaluations were carried out in 2017, even though the preparations for launching the first 3 evaluations started.
4. Progress reports of the IOs. Achievement: 9. The IOs submitted in total 11 reports in 2017, out of which the MA verified 9 within the year.
5. Annual Implementation Report. Achievement in 2017: 1. The MC approved the 2016 annual report in a written procedure on 28 June 2017.
6. For more information on TA activities, please see section 3.1.2.

#### **2.4. Programme finances**

In 2017, and also cumulatively until 31 Dec. 2017, 25 payment claims in the total amount of EUR 4,705,908.70 (EUR 4,000,022.29 ERDF and EUR 705,886.41 national contribution) were approved and paid to the beneficiaries by Certifying Authority (CA). The final level of spending based on declared expenditure to the European Commission (EC), as of 31 Dec. 2017, amounted to EUR 4,682,094.37 (EUR 3,979,780.16 ERDF and EUR 702,314.21 national contribution), i.e. 10.10% of the total allocation.

##### **2.4.1 Payments received from the EC**

In 2017 the amount of EUR 246,203.72 was received as annual pre-financing payment on the account of the CA, after the offset due to not cleared amount of previous annual pre-financing payment (EUR 787,851.88).

The total spending declared to the EC within payment claims (of which one as the final interim payment claim and two as the interim payment claims) in 2017 amounted to EUR 4,682,094.37 (EUR 3,979,780.16 ERDF and EUR 702,314.21 national contribution). Payments received under the mentioned interim payment claims in 2017

amounted to EUR 2,565,206.50 from ERDF.  
Cumulatively, the EC paid the total amount of EUR 4,781,039.92 (of which EUR 2,215,833.42 as pre-financing) for Interact III.

#### **2.4.2 National contributions received**

In 2017 the amount of EUR 678,522.69 was paid by the participating countries as national contribution. Cumulatively, for the current programming period the programme received EUR 4,345,348.74 in form of national contribution (i.e. 62.51% of the total allocation). For more details see annexe 2.

#### **2.4.3 Interests**

In the period from 1 Jan. till 31 Dec. 2017 interests in the amount of EUR 66.02 accumulated on the Interact III bank account. Cumulatively, for the current programming period, interests amounted to EUR 127.37 and they will be used for the programme financing.

#### **2.4.5 Certification**

In 2017 there were 2 certifying verifications realized at the level of Managing Authority (MA) for Interact III on projects:

1. No. 3150200001 „MA – Technical assistance“ implemented by the MA as beneficiary.
2. No. 3150100003 implemented by beneficiary IO Viborg.

A verified sample of expenditures amounted to EUR 579,044.63, i.e. 8.72% of the total amount of submitted payment applications and 100% of the total amount of verified payment applications.

Non-eligible expenditures calculated in the amount of EUR 23,814.33 related mainly to violation of the public procurement rules. The irregularities were withdrawn from the final interim payment claim to the EC for the third accounting year.

Within the certifying verifications, non-compliance of the four eyes principle as part of the financial control of the application for a payment was also identified. These findings remained open at the end 2017.

#### **2.4.6 Irregularities and financial corrections**

In the period from 1 Jan. till 31 Dec. 2017 irregularities in the amount of EUR 23,814.33, of which EUR 20,242.17 ERDF, were deducted in requests for payment to the EC (EUR 14,347.87 under priority 1 and EUR 9,466.46 under priority 2).

### 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	<p>3.1.1. PA1 Service delivery</p> <p>Implementation of the 2017 JAWP and 2018 work planning</p> <p>In the first year with all four IOs fully on board, based on the 2017 JAWP Interact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- delivered 79 events;</li><li>- provided support to external events (i.e. events organised by other stakeholders) in 37 instances;</li><li>- delivered 77 tools; and</li><li>- continued operating 15 online discussion platforms and started 2 new ones</li></ul>

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>for the benefit of the Interreg community.</p> <p>Please note that the above ‘natural’ numbers (i.e. plain number of outputs delivered) do not necessarily correspond to the ‘weighed’ output indicators presented in the previous section, as the latter figures are established taking into account the resources used to deliver the outputs concerned (thus the weighed indicator value of an output can be lower or higher than 1, based on the resources used).</p> <p>For more information on service delivery, please see the below annexes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annexe 3: List of 2017 Interact outputs in chronological order</li> <li>- Annexe 4: List of 2017 Interact outputs by MTS</li> <li>- Annexe 5: Summary of implementation of MTSs in 2017</li> <li>- Annexe 6: List of European Cooperation Day events organised in 2017.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the 2017 event evaluation outcomes, the overall satisfaction rate with Interact events is 4.41 (on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is means very low and 5 means very high satisfaction). This figure is higher than the 2016 average (4.34) as well as all the annual averages of the previous programming period, representing an all time high for Interact. For details, please see Annexe 7.</p>



ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>Interact launched a survey on the use of and satisfaction with its services in March 2018 to supply data for its result indicators. Please see the results under section 3.2.</p>
2	Technical Assistance	<p>The following is an outline of the work carried out under the TA priority in 2017, per main area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maintaining and updating different programme-level regulatory documents: several guidance documents were updated, including 1) the Methodological guideline of the Interact MA for national control, irregularities, archiving and bank accounts (v2.1 is applicable from 5 May 2017), 2) Internal manual of the MA (v2.1 was applicable from 2 May), 3) Internal manual of the Interact Secretariat (IS, v1.2 was applicable from 2 May and v1.3 from 15 September 2017, 4) Guidance for Slovak national controllers.</li> <li>- The MC approved the reallocation of EUR 165.321 from the budget IO Valencia to the other three IOs in order to reimburse their expenditures incurred in implementing activities taken over from Valencia in 2016. The modification of the subsidy contracts was still underway at the end of 2017.</li> <li>- Designation audit: the designation audit started in May 2016 was finally closed on 7 March 2017 with the follow-up audit launched on 25 April. Based on the unqualified audit opinion after the follow-up audit, Interact was eventually designated in May 2017. There were two audits of operations carried out in 2017, one at MA and one at IO Viborg. Another system audit started on 5 December.</li> <li>- Annual reporting: The MC approved the 2016 annual report in a written procedure on 28 June</li> </ul>

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>and the MA submitted it to the EC on 30 June 2017. The EC accepted the report on 28 August.</p> <p>- Verifying requests for payment (RfPs) of Interact beneficiaries: Processing of rRfPs of the MA and IS continued in 2017 and the first report of an IO was submitted in February. In total the MA processed 35 RfPs until the end of the year. 31 were approved and 4 rejected.</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 - 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 - 1.11e**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	1	Number of events	Number	890.00	171.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	1	Number of events	Number	890.00		No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
F	2	Number of tools	Number	250.00	90.50	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	2	Number of tools	Number	250.00		No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
F	3	Participants to INTERACT events	Number	13,240.00	3,699.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	3	Participants to INTERACT events	Number	13,240.00		No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
F	4	Financial	EURO	43,100,133.00	4,418,415.00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.
S	4	Financial	EURO	43,100,133.00		No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	1	Number of events	68.00	0.00	0.00
S	1	Number of events		0.00	0.00
F	2	Number of tools	29.00	0.00	0.00
S	2	Number of tools		0.00	0.00
F	3	Participants to INTERACT events	1,662.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Participants to INTERACT events		0.00	0.00
F	4	Financial	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	4	Financial		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 - 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.

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1 / 11e / 1.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 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		4,07/5,00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015 (comment from the previous report).  According to section 2.A.5. of the cooperation programme document, result indicators are to be reported every two years, thus next in the report covering 2017.
1.1/2	% of ETC programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the management and control capacity of	% of programmes	80%	2013	increase		100%	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015 (comment from the previous report).  According to section 2.A.5. of the cooperation programme document, result indicators are to be reported every two years,

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
	ETC programmes							thus next in the report covering 2017.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	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 applicable		Not applicable		Not applicable
1.1/2	% of ETC programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the management and control capacity of ETC programmes		Not applicable		Not applicable		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	1.2 - 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.

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1 / 11e / 1.2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 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		4,20/5,00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015 (comment from the previous report).  According to section 2.A.5. of the cooperation programme document, result indicators are to be reported every two years, thus next in the report covering 2017.
1.2/2	% of ETC programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating	% of programmes	80%	2013	Increase		94%	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015 (comment from the previous report).  According to section 2.A.5. of the cooperation programme document, result indicators are to be reported every two years, thus next in the report covering 2017.

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
	programme results							

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	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		Not applicable		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		Not applicable		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.

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1 / 11e / 1.3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 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		3,91/5,00	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015 (comment from the previous report).  According to section 2.A.5. of the cooperation programme document, result indicators are to be reported every two years, thus next in the report covering 2017.
1.3/2	% of programmes using INTERACT products and services aimed at improving the	% of programmes	80%	2013	Increase		60%	No service delivery activities took place in 2014-2015 (comment from the previous report).

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
	cooperation management capacity to implement innovative approaches							According to section 2.A.5. of the cooperation programme document, result indicators are to be reported every two years, thus next in the report covering 2017.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	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		Not applicable		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		Not applicable		Not applicable

## Priority axes for technical assistance

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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	14.00	5.00	
S	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	14.00		
F	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved	Number	7.00	3.00	The first Joint Annual Work Plan of the programme for the year 2016 was only approved in January 2016. The 2017 Joint Annual Work Plan was approved in December 2016.
S	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved	Number	7.00		
F	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out	Number	1.00	0.00	Programme evaluations haven't yet started. Please see sections 4 Synthesis of evaluations and 10.1 Evaluation plan.
S	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out	Number	1.00		
F	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices	Number	70.00	9.00	Interact Offices submitted their first progress reports in 2017.
S	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices	Number	70.00		
F	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report	Number	9.00	2.00	The annual implementation report covering 2014 and 2015 was submitted to the European Commission on 30 May 2016 and the 2016 report on 30 June 2017.

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
S	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report	Number	9.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings	3.00	1.00	0.00
S	2.1/1	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings			
F	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved	2.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1/2	Joint Annual Work Plan approved		0.00	0.00
F	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1/3	External interim programme evaluation carried out		0.00	0.00
F	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1/4	Progress/activity reports of the INTERACT Offices		0.00	0.00
F	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1/5	Annual Implementation Report		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 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	2.1 - Effective implementation of the cooperation programme

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.2.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
0	not applicable	no	0.00	0	0.00			

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
0	not applicable						

### 3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
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ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
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### 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	43,100,133.00	100.00%	36,635,113.00	4,418,414.00	10.25%	5
2	ERDF	Public	3,244,096.00	85.00	3,244,096.00	100.00%	2,757,481.00	268,386.00	8.27%	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>46,344,229.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>46,344,229.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>39,392,594.00</b>	<b>4,686,800.00</b>	<b>10.11%</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>46,344,229.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>46,344,229.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>39,392,594.00</b>	<b>4,686,800.00</b>	<b>10.11%</b>	<b>9</b>

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

Interact makes use of financial contribution from third countries in the form of national co-financing of Norway and Switzerland, the two non-EU Member States participating in the programme. Their total national contribution amounts to EUR 79,500.00 (1.14% of total national contributions) and EUR 66,030.00 (0.95%), respectively and is handled together with the contribution of the 28 EU Member States (EUR 6,951,631.00).

The Managing Authority in each year requests the participating countries to transfer their national contribution for the year concerned based on the annual tranches set out in the Article 8 agreements.

- Norway paid its contribution in full (EUR 79,500.00) in 2015.
- Until the end of 2017, Switzerland transferred in total EUR 37,732.00 (four annual tranches of EUR 9,433.00 for the years 2014-2017).

National contributions transferred by the participating countries are administered by the CA and used to reimburse the national part (15.00%) of certified expenditures of PA1 and PA2 beneficiaries based on their requests for payment.

For more information on national contributions, please see annexe 2 National contributions received until 31 December 2017.



**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		24	SK	43,100,133.00	36,635,113.00	4,418,414.00	5
2	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	SK	3,244,096.00	2,757,481.00	268,386.00	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)
Events organised outside the EU part of the programme area in 2017	0.00		0.00	

**(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

### 4.1. Development and approval of the evaluation plan

Interact developed its evaluation plan between January and May 2016. The development process was led by the MA and Interact's Quality and Evaluation Manager (based in IO Viborg), but Interact MC representatives (of Luxembourg and Latvia), the Evaluation unit of DG REGIO and Interact staff members, especially members of the internal Quality Group also took part in the process.

The MC approved the evaluation plan at its second meeting (18-19 May 2016, Luxembourg) and the MA sent the final document to the European Commission on 20 July 2016.

### 4.2. State of play of evaluations

The evaluation plan foresees launching three evaluations in 2018:

- Impact evaluation of five projects implemented by Interact. This evaluation aims at capturing the impact of five long-term Interact projects, overarching INTERACT II and Interact III: harmonised implementation tools (HIT), the electronic Monitoring System (eMS), KEEP, harmonised Interreg branding and Interact support to the implementation of macro-regional strategies. The main question to be answered by the evaluation is “How Interact has contributed to Interreg programmes – and, in case of macro-regional strategies, other stakeholders – being better off and to improving/changing practises”. Since this evaluation is to be implemented by external evaluator, the terms of reference (ToR) was elaborated in 2017, submitted to the MC and approved at the fifth MC meeting (14-15 November 2017, Malta). The call for tenders was launched in March 2018 with contracting foreseen for May-June 2018 and the final report is expected to be available in June 2019.
- Operational evaluation. This evaluation is to answer two main questions: “Is programme implementation well on track to achieve programme objectives?” and “Is the programme management system designed and used in an effective and efficient way in order to allow reaching the programme objectives?” This evaluation is also to be carried out by an external evaluator. The ToR was drafted in 2017 and launching of the tendering process is expected in 2018 with the evaluation report being available in 2019.
- Operational evaluation of the communication strategy. The focus is on capturing the progress in implementing the communication strategy and achievement of the communication objectives. The ToR was drafted in 2017 and launching of the tendering process is expected in 2018 with the evaluation report being available in 2019.

In line with the above, *no evaluation took place in 2017 and thus no evaluation findings can be reported.*

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

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

Programme performance measured in the number of outputs significantly increased in 2017 compared to the previous year, thanks to the fact that both main barriers reported for 2016 was largely gone in 2017:

- as all four offices, including IO Valencia, were able to contribute to delivering the annual work plan from the beginning of the year; and
- the designation exercise was completed in May 2017.

However, following the lengthy designation audit, the AA launched a new system audit still before the end of the year. It has to be noted that mandatory audits put a relatively much higher burden on the programme bodies (especially on the MA but also on the IS) of smaller programmes like Interact because of the limited human resources available. We are convinced that a simpler and proportionate designation process and system of audits could highly contribute to a smoother and more efficient programme implementation, thereby pointing towards result orientation.

**(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.**

Not applicable for 2017.

## **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 costs eligible	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Investment priorities	Axis/	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	Ma

(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**

Not applicable for Interact.

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

Not applicable for Interact.



## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable for Interact.

**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**

Not applicable for Interact.

**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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Not applicable for 2017.

Priority axis	2 - Technical Assistance
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Not applicable for 2017.

**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

Not applicable for 2017.

**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

Not applicable for 2017.

**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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Not applicable for Interact.

**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

Not applicable for 2017.



**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**

Not applicable for 2017.

**10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy**

Not applicable for 2017.

**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**

Not applicable for Interact.

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

Not applicable for 2017.

### 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:

Not applicable for 2017.

- 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**

Not applicable for Interact.

### **13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

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

Not applicable for 2017.

**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).

Not applicable for 2017.



## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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**Latest validation results**

<b>Severity</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Message</b>
Info		Implementation report version has been validated