
METHODOLOGICAL PAPER ON INDICATORS

INTERREG PROGRAMME SLOVENIA-HUNGARY 2021-2027

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1. Introduction

Performance framework for the Interreg Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2021-2027 shall be set up in line with Article 16 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR). The performance framework shall consist of:

- a) output and result indicators linked to specific objectives set out in the Fund-specific Regulations selected for the programme;
- b) milestones to be achieved by the end of the year 2024 for output indicators; and
- c) targets to be achieved by the end of the year 2029 for output and result indicators.

Milestones and targets shall be established in relation to each specific objective of the programme. They will allow the European Commission and the Member States to measure progress of the programme towards the achievement of specific objectives.

The present document shall write down the criteria applied by selection of indicators; the data or evidence used, the data quality assurance and the calculation method; factors that may influence the achievement of the milestones and targets, how they were taken into account.

According to Article 16 of the CPR an indicator system in correlation with the programme strategy and its intervention logic needs to be established that defines the following for each of the selected Specific Objectives:

- Output indicators: measuring the specific deliverables of the interventions;
- Result indicators: measuring the effects of the interventions supported, with particular reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of infrastructure, thus, focusing on outcomes / intended change for beneficiaries.

In order to “contribute to measuring the overall performance of the funds”, the overall set of indicators should cover a large majority of the actions and budget allocated to the programme.

However, according to EC guidance, the programmes should select a limited number of output and result indicators which are widely relevant to the different actions and capture the most important intended outputs and results through monitoring. This should reflect and underline a focused approach of the Programme.

Programmes should preferably use the common indicators as defined in the ERDF/CF Regulation whenever appropriate and avoid using programme-specific indicators. Interreg Programmes should consider Interreg-specific common indicators, which are based on experience in 2014-2020 to capture the outputs and results of cooperation interventions, both in the Interreg Specific Objectives and across all other specific objectives programmed under Policy Objectives 1-5. These common indicators could be defined more narrowly than described in the guidance fiches, but not broader.

The progress and achievement of the indicators is collected at project level during reporting and monitored by the Managing Authority (MA) / Joint Secretariat (JS). The MA/JS reports these aggregated data twice a year (by 31 January and by 31 July) to the EC.

The main relevant regulatory documents taken into account during the preparation of the methodological paper for Interreg SI-AT programme are:

- Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (CPR) (Articles 16, 17 ,18);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (ERDF Regulation), Annex 1 (Indicators);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments Interreg Regulation (Articles 31, 32, 33, 34, 35);
- Commission Staff Working Document – Performance, monitoring and evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund in 2021-2027 SWD(2021) 198 final (the methodological descriptions of the common output and result indicators are set out in Annex 1 to this document).

2. Programme structure and intervention logic

In the preparation phase of the Interreg Programme (IP) Slovenia-Hungary 2021-2027 a territorial and socio-economic analysis has been carried out to create a solid basis of information on the thematic fields where cross-border cooperation may contribute most to overcome border obstacles and regional disparities. The analysis identified the main joint challenges, needs and potentials of the area, as well as strategically relevant fields of actions for cross-border cooperation with the potential to overcome border obstacles and territorial disparities, taking into account economic, social, environmental and other relevant aspects. The description of the challenges and needs is structured in compliance with the five ERDF Policy Objectives and the Interreg-specific objective 'Better cooperation governance'.

On basis of the situation analysis an Orientation Paper on Strategic Thematic Directions was elaborated that consisted of various analyses for justification of the selection of policy objectives (PO) and specific objectives (SO). The Orientation Paper took into consideration the following inputs:

- The questionnaire survey targeted a wide group of stakeholders, including local and regional decision makers, project applicants and beneficiaries of funded projects.
- The interviews basically focused on the key decision makers: staff of the programme management bodies, members of the Monitoring Committee and the Programme Task Force, representatives of some key sectoral public bodies operating in the border area.
- Analysis of previous projects (funded and ineligible) provided input whether there may be enough interest, a critical mass of projects in certain thematic areas.

The above-mentioned documents have been discussed by the Programming Task Force (PTF) when deciding on the finally selected POs and SOs. The defined priorities with their planned allocations are visible in Table 1.

PO	SO	Priority	Share	ERDF (EUR)	Total cost (EUR)
PO2	(vii) enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity	1. Green border region	30,00%	3 527 254,25	4 409 067,81
PO4	(vi) enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism	2. Inclusive border region based on sustainable tourism	55,00%	6 466 632,79	8 083 290,99
ISO1	(b) enhance efficient public administration	3. Cooperating border region	12,00%	1 410 901,70	1 763 627,13
	(c) build up mutual trust		3,00%	352 725,43	440 906,78
Total			100,00%	11 757 514,17	14 696 892,71

1. Table: Priorities and their financial allocation.

Source: own compilation based on PTF meeting discussion.

Finally altogether three priorities have been selected, one under PO2 (SO 2.7), another one under PO4 (SO 4.6), and under ISO1, with two actions. Selection of SO 2.7 (enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution) is justified by the high ratio of protected areas in the programme area. SO 4.6 (enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation) was selected due to the strong commitment of the border area towards development of green and sustainable tourism that has been supported in the previous two programming periods as well.

Under ISO1 (better cooperation governance) two actions have been selected. Action 1 (enhance efficient public administration) has been chosen in order to cover thematic areas of significant interest (as shown on questionnaires and the interviews) that have not been selected as separate SOs, and provide a possibility to enhance the thematic scope of cooperation in case of the Slovenia-Hungary border area. These thematic areas are the following:

- Low-carbon initiatives, inter alia, fostering renovation wave in public buildings and affordable utilisation of renewables, combating energy poverty for households, energy efficiency measures;
- Circular economy, with attention to business models, government policies and consumer habits;
- Education and labour market cooperation, employment, social integration of the youth, development of skills and communication;
- Social and health care, with particular attention to prevention and ageing population.

Action 2 (build up mutual trust) has been selected to support people-to-people cooperation in form of projects with limited financial volume. This action shall focus on the following thematic areas:

- cross-border cooperation in arts and culture;
- cross-border sport events (tournaments, festivities, camps);
- cultivation of traditions of minorities;
- promotion of trust and intercultural dialogue;
- promotion of cross-border inter-generational solidarity.

3. Applied principles for selection of indicators

When selecting the indicators to the single actions the following principles were taken into consideration:

- Establishing a clear logic between the possible project outputs, the output and the result indicators;
- As funding is limited, number of priorities is low, it is expected that the submitted and selected projects will be of diverse nature, indicators should be as universally applicable as possible, in order to be able to monitor programme performance;
- Due to the expected diversity of selected projects exclusively Interreg-specific common indicators with standardised definitions were selected;
- Ensuring that the selected indicators comply with RACER criteria (they are relevant, acceptable, credible, easy, robust);
- Indicator values should be possible for collection from reliable and available sources, from project reporting/monitoring, without creating an additional administrative burden either for beneficiaries or Programme administration.

Definition of the values of the single indicators has taken place based on the assessment of the number of projects, which are influenced by the following (see Table 1 for details):

- Funding allocated for the respective priorities and actions;
- Minimum and maximum project size defined;
- Expected average project size has been defined as arithmetic average of minimum and maximum project size;
- Expected number of projects, on basis of available funding and expected average project size.

4. Selected indicators

For monitoring the performance of the programme the indicators selected by priorities is shown in Table 2.

PO	SO	Priority	Output indicators	Result indicators
PO2	(vii) enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity	1. Green border region	RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
			RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	
			RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
PO4	(vi) enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism	2. Inclusive border region based on sustainable tourism	RCO116 Jointly developed solutions	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
			RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	
			RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
ISO1	(b) enhance efficient public administration	3. Cooperating border region Action 1	RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
			RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
	(c) build up mutual trust	3. Cooperating border region Action 2	RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
			RCO115 Public events across borders jointly organised	

2. Table. The selected output and result indicators.
 Source: own compilation based on draft Interreg Programme.

In tables 3 and 4 the applied output and result indicators are listed.

Output indicator	SO (priority)
RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	SO 2.7 (Priority 1) ISO 1b (Priority 3)
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	SO 2.7 (Priority 1) SO 4.6 (Priority 2)
RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	SO 2.7 (Priority 1) SO 4.6 (Priority 2) ISO 1b (Priority 3) ISO 1c (Priority 3)
RCO115 Public events across borders jointly organised	ISO 1c (Priority 3)
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions	SO 4.6 (Priority 2)

3. Table. Applied output indicators and the related SOs/priorities.
Source: own compilation based on draft Interreg Programme.

Result indicator	SO (priority)
RCR79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	SO 2.7 (Priority 1) ISO 1b (Priority 3)
RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	SO 2.7 (Priority 1) SO 4.6 (Priority 2) ISO 1b (Priority 3) ISO 1c (Priority 3)
RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	SO 4.6 (Priority 2)

4. Table: Applied result indicators and the related SOs/priorities.
Source: own compilation based on draft Interreg Programme

5. Description of the selected indicators

Indicator code	RCO83
Indicator name	Strategies and action plans jointly developed
Measurement unit	Strategy/action plan
SO (Priority)	SO 2.7 (Priority 1) ISO 1b (Priority 3)
Definition and concepts	<p>The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects. A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal-oriented process in protection of nature, biodiversity, green infrastructure and reduction of pollution (Priority 1), or in the thematic areas of public administration cooperation (Priority 3). An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organizations from both countries, in the drafting process. Strategy, on which the action plan is based, may come from other programmes (EU, national, regional, local) or from previous programming periods as well. Action plans are accepted also without a preliminary prepared strategy.</p>
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System).
Time measurement	During project implementation / upon project finalisation (final progress report).
Notes	Each project within Priority 1 should choose at least one output indicator from RCO83 or RCO84.
Examples	<p>In projects under SO 2.7 (Priority 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jointly developed strategies, action plans developed for nature and biodiversity protection. - Strategies and action plans on sustainable eco-system based water management elaborated, including cross-border water resource management plans, disaster management plans in the border area. - Joint cross-border spatial development strategies and plans elaborated. - Action plans for reduction of water and/or air pollution elaborated. <p>In projects under ISO 1b (Priority 3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint strategies and action plans for improving cross-border cooperation in the selected thematic areas (low-carbon initiatives,

	circular economy, education and labour market cooperation, social and health care).
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5. Table: RCO83 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

Indicator code	RCO84
Indicator name	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
Measurement unit	Pilot action
SO (Priority)	SO 2.7 (Priority 1), SO 4.6 (Priority 2)
Definition and concepts	<p>The indicator counts the pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or the transfer of practices. Pilot actions may be implemented parallel with the development of strategies and actions plans in Priority 1 referred under indicator RCO83 (Table 5). Successfully implemented pilot actions may become solutions in Priority 2 referred under indicator RCO116 (Table 7).</p> <p>In order to be counted by this indicator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the pilot action needs not only to be developed, but also implemented within the project; and - the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project. <p>Joint pilot action means involvement of organizations from both countries, that shall take place at least on one of the stages of implementation (design, implementation, testing etc.).</p>
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System).
Time measurement	During project implementation / upon project finalisation (final progress report).
Notes	<p>Each project within Priority 1 should choose at least one output indicator from RCO83 or RCO84.</p> <p>Projects under Priority 2 may choose this indicator, if relevant.</p>
Examples	<p>In projects under SO 2.7 (Priority 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jointly developed and parallel implemented pilot actions for improving biodiversity, cross-border ecological connectivity and green infrastructure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water quality revitalisation actions jointly or parallel implemented, for testing of strategies and action plans developed under the same priority. - Jointly designed and implemented actions for reduction of various forms of pollution (water, soil, air) in the border area. - Awareness raising actions implemented jointly or parallel about nature protection, biodiversity, disaster management and fight against various forms of pollution. <p>In projects under SO 4.6 (Priority 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jointly developed and parallel implemented pilot actions for development of joint tourism quality standards and joint tourism destination management models; - Jointly developed and implemented mapping of tourism services; - Jointly developed and implemented pilot actions for enhancement of cooperation between micro tourism destinations in a destination management system; - Jointly developed and implemented pilot actions with creative solutions (e.g. ICT) for attracting tourists and promotion; - Jointly developed and implemented pilot actions for human resource and capacity development (trainings, awareness raising) in the local tourism sector.
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6. Table: RCO84 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

Indicator code	RCO116
Indicator name	Jointly developed solutions
Measurement unit	Solution
SO (Priority)	SO 4.6 (Priority 2)
Definition and concepts	<p>The indicator counts the number of jointly developed solutions from joint pilot actions implemented by supported projects. In order to be counted in the indicator, an identified solution should include indications of the actions needed for it to be taken up or to be upscaled.</p> <p>A jointly developed solution implies the involvement of partners from both countries in the drafting and design process of the solution.</p>
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System).
Time measurement	During project implementation / upon project finalisation (final progress report).

Notes	Projects under Priority 2 may choose this indicator, if relevant.
Examples	<p>In projects under SO 4.6 (Priority 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solutions developed for joint tourism quality standards and joint tourism destination management models; - Joint solutions developed for mapping of tourism services; - Joint solutions developed for enhancement of cooperation between micro tourism destinations in a destination management system; - Jointly developed creative solutions (e.g. ICT) for attracting tourists and promotion; - Jointly developed solutions (trainings, awareness raising) for human resource and capacity development in the local tourism sector.

7. Table: RCO116 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

Indicator code	RCO87
Indicator name	Organisations cooperating across borders
Measurement unit	Organisation
SO (Priority)	SO 2.7 (Priority 1), SO 4.6 (Priority 2), ISO 1b (Priority 3, action 1), ISO 1c (Priority 3, action 2)
Definition and concepts	<p>The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities acting as project partners, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the application. Double counting of partners should be avoided at the level of specific objectives: a partner appearing as beneficiary in several projects in the same SO is counted as one organisation.</p> <p>Cooperating organisations include both public bodies (all priorities), private non-profit organisations (all priorities) and private for-profit companies in tourism projects (SMEs – Priority 2).</p> <p>Measurement of the indicator takes place upon project finalisation.</p>
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System).
Time measurement	Upon project finalisation (final progress report).
Notes	Each project under all priorities shall choose this indicator.
Examples	In projects under SO 2.7 (Priority 1):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisations cooperating in elaboration of cross-border studies, strategies, action plans for more effective preservation of natural assets, biodiversity, improvement of maintenance of natural assets; - Organisations cooperating in implementation of joint action plans contributing to protection of biodiversity, fostering joint water and disaster management and reduction of pollution. <p>In projects under SO 4.6 (Priority 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisations cooperating in establishment of joint tourism quality standards and joint tourism destination management models; - Organisations cooperating in implementing pilot actions and joint solutions for quality development of tourism attractions and connected tourism services. <p>In projects related to ISO1 (Priority 3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisations cooperating in legal and administrative cooperation according to the thematic focus (low-carbon initiatives, circular economy, education and labour market cooperation, social and health care); - Organisations cooperating in building up mutual trust and people-to-people actions according to the thematic focus (arts and culture, sport, tradition of minorities, trust and intercultural dialogue and intergenerational solidarity).
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8. Table: RCO87 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

Indicator code	RCO115
Indicator name	Public events across borders jointly organised
Measurement unit	Event
SO (Priority)	ISO 1c (Priority 3, action 2)
Definition and concepts	<p>The indicator counts the number of events organised across the border. Events should be organised jointly by the supported partners. The indicator counts the events, not the number of participations at the events.</p> <p>A public event across borders is understood as a joint action which has been advertised through relevant means, to the general public of the area covered by the programme.</p>

	A public event across borders should have participants from both partner countries.
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System).
Time measurement	During project implementation / upon project finalisation (final progress report).
Notes	Each project under Priority 3, action 2 shall choose this indicator.
Examples	In projects related to ISO 1c (Priority 3, action 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross-border cooperation events in arts and culture; - Cross-border sport events (tournaments, festivities, camps); - Cross-border events on cultivation of traditional of minorities, trust building and promotion of intercultural dialogue, inter-generational solidarity.

9. Table: RCO115 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

Indicator code	RCR79
Indicator name	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
Measurement unit	Strategy/action plan
SO (Priority)	SO 2.7 (Priority 1) ISO 1b (Priority 3)
Definition and concepts	The indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion. At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started. The organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project and may come from either side of the border. It is not necessary that all actions identified are taken-up for a strategy/action plan to be counted in this context. The value report should be equal to or less than the value for "RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed".
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System)
Time measurement	Up to one year after project completion.

Notes	Each project within Priority 1 having chosen RCO83 should choose this indicator.
Examples	<p>In projects under SO 2.7 (Priority 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jointly developed strategies, action plans adopted for nature and biodiversity protection. - Strategies and action plans adopted on sustainable eco-system based water management, including adopted cross-border water resource management and disaster management plans in the border area. - Joint cross-border spatial development strategies and plans adopted. - Action plans adopted for reduction of water and/or air pollution. <p>In projects under ISO 1b (Priority 3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint strategies and action plans adopted for improving cross-border cooperation in the selected thematic areas (low-carbon initiatives, circular economy, education and labour market cooperation, social and health care).

10. Table: RCR79 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

Indicator code	RCR104
Indicator name	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
Measurement unit	Solution
SO (Priority)	SO 4.6 (Priority 2)
Definition and concepts	The indicator counts the number of solutions, other than legal or administrative solutions, that are developed by supported projects and are taken up or upscaled during the implementation of the project or within one year after project completion. The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may or may not be a participant in the project. The uptake / up-scaling should be documented by the adopting organisations in, for instance, strategies, action plans etc.
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System)
Time measurement	During project implementation / up to one year after project completion.
Notes	Each project under Priority 2 having chosen the output indicator RCO116 should choose this result indicator.
Examples	In projects under SO 4.6 (Priority 2):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solutions developed for joint tourism quality standards and joint tourism destination management models taken-up; - Jointly developed solutions for mapping of tourism services taken-up and/or upscaled; - Jointly developed solutions for enhancement of cooperation between micro tourism destinations in a destination management system taken-up and/or upscaled; - Jointly developed creative solutions (e.g. ICT) for attracting tourists and promotion taken-up and/or upscaled; - Jointly developed solutions (trainings, awareness raising) for human resource and capacity development in the local tourism sector taken-up and/or upscaled.
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11. Table: RCR104 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

Indicator code	RCR84
Indicator name	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
Measurement unit	Organisation
SO (Priority)	SO 4.6 (Priority 2), ISO 1b (Priority 3, action 2)
Definition and concepts	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.
Data collection	MA monitoring system (Joint Electronic Monitoring System).
Time measurement	During project implementation / up to one year after project completion.
Notes	Each project under all priorities shall choose this indicator.
Examples	In projects under SO 2.7 (Priority 1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued cooperation of organisations after project completion in elaboration of cross-border studies, strategies, action plans for more effective preservation of natural assets, biodiversity, improvement of maintenance of natural assets;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued cooperation of organisations after project completion in implementation of joint action plans contributing to protection of biodiversity, fostering joint water and disaster management and reduction of pollution. <p>In projects under SO 4.6 (Priority 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued cooperation of organisations after project completion in establishment of joint tourism quality standards and joint tourism destination management models; - Continued cooperation of organisations after project completion in implementing pilot actions and joint solutions for quality development of tourism attractions and connected tourism services. <p>In projects related to ISO1 (Priority 3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued cooperation of organisations after project completion in legal and administrative cooperation according to the thematic focus (low-carbon initiatives, circular economy, education and labour market cooperation, social and health care); - Continued cooperation of organisations after project completion in building up mutual trust and people-to-people actions according to the thematic focus (arts and culture, sport, tradition of minorities, trust and intercultural dialogue and intergenerational solidarity).
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12. Table: RCR84 – tailored indicator definition sheet.

Source: on edition based on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2021)198 final.

6. Data collection and quality assurance

Main source of data will be the project application forms, the project progress reports and the data stored in the Joint Electronic Monitoring System (Jems), which – at the date of the present Methodological Paper – is under construction. The newly setup system shall provide the relevant data in various breakdowns enabling various analyses. It is important to set up a data collection system which poses the minimum additional burden on the beneficiaries and the programme implementation staff (JS).

Realistic definition of indicator values is a key step in project development phase. This shall be ensured in the following ways:

- Information of beneficiaries in the project design phase: guidelines for applicants should contain clear instructions and provide a common understanding about the logic of the monitoring framework, the indicator methodology and the measures of monitoring during project implementation and beyond (in case of results indicators).
- The programme bodies (MA/JS) should organise information events that provides also briefing about the indicator methodology, including Q&A sessions.
- Submitted and selected projects should undergo an ex-ante assessment, including a negotiation with the lead beneficiary to review the set indicator targets, doing the necessary adjustments before the subsidy contract is concluded.
- In the project implementation phase checks of project progress reports, including indicator values will be performed by the MA/JS, requesting the necessary evidence and background information. In addition to monitoring, the MA/JS will closely accompany partnerships during the entire project implementation (from contracting to closure) by means of real-time monitoring of the quality of outputs, regular exchanges with the project management teams and participation at project review meetings.
- During project implementation, in case of necessity, clear instructions should be provided on modification procedures (Programme Implementation Handbook). It is important to tackle the issues of unforeseen events with significant impact on project implementation, outputs and results, e.g. the Covid-19 pandemic and future possible similar events.

When drafting the methodological document it was ensured that the data underpinning the indicator baselines, milestones, and targets were taken from a reliable source (e.g. the monitoring system or official statistics). Whenever this was not the case, the necessary steps were taken to ensure the quality of the data.

8. Performance framework

8.1. Priority 1 – Green border region

Assumptions for the available funding, size of projects and the expected number of projects is shown in Table 13.

Priority	Share	ERDF (EUR)	Total cost (EUR)	Project min. (EUR)	Project max. (EUR)	Project size average (EUR)	Expected number of projects
1. Green border region	30,00%	3 527 254,25	4 409 067,81	150 000,00	1 000 000,00	575 000,00	8

13. Table: Priority 1 – assumptions for available funding, project size and expected number of projects. Source: own edition.

It is expected that altogether 8 projects will be selected for funding. The assumption is that 60% of the projects will have a strategy or action plan as output, therefore indicator RCO83 is set at 5. It is expected that altogether as many pilot actions will be carried out as many projects will be selected, so RCO84 output indicator is set at 8. It is also expected that the number of cooperating organisations will reach the double of the selected projects, however some partners may submit several projects, while some projects may involve more than two partners. Therefore, the indicator RCO87 is set at 16.

It is expected that more than half of the developed strategies and pilot actions will be taken up by the partner organisations, therefore result indicator RCR79 is set at 3. Also, it is expected that 10 out of the 16 cooperating organisations will continue the collaboration after the projects closure as well, hence indicator RCR84 is set at 10 (Table 14).

Priority	Expected number of projects	Output indicators	Output indicator values	Milestone (2024)	Result indicators	Result indicator values
1. Green border region	8	RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	5	2	RCR79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	3
		RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	8	1		
		RCO87 Organisations	16	0	RCR84 Organisations	10

		cooperating across borders			cooperating across borders after project completion	
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14. Table: Priority 1 – planned output and results indicator value.
Source: own edition.

8.2. Priority 2 - Inclusive border region based on sustainable tourism

Assumptions for the available funding, size of projects and the expected number of projects is shown in Table 15.

Priority	Share	ERDF (EUR)	Total cost (EUR)	Project min. (EUR)	Project max. (EUR)	Project size average (EUR)	Expected number of projects
2. Inclusive border region based on sustainable tourism	55,00%	6 466 632,79	8 083 290,99	200 000,00	1 200 000,00	700 000,00	12

15. Table: Priority 2 – assumptions for available funding, project size and expected number of projects.
Source: own edition.

It is expected that altogether 12 projects will be selected for funding. It is also expected that at least there will be as many pilot actions as projects selected, so indicator RCO84 is set at 12. It is also expected that 60% of these pilot actions will provide an output as 'solution', especially in case of some more innovative projects, while other pilot actions won't qualify this. Therefore, output indicator RCO116 is set at 7. The number of organisations cooperating is expected to reach the double of the number of implemented projects, however some partners may submit several projects, while – as it is common in case of tourism projects – some projects may involve more than two partners. Therefore, indicator RCO87 is set at 24.

It is expected that 60% of the newly developed solutions will be taken-up or upscaled after project completion, so results indicator RCR104 is set at 4. Approximately 60% of the cooperating organisations will continue their cooperation after project closure, so RCR84 is set at 14 (Table 16).

Priority	Expected number of projects	Output indicators	Output indicator values	Milestone (2024)	Result indicators	Result indicator values
2. Inclusive border region based on sustainable tourism	12	RCO116 Jointly developed solutions	7	0	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	4
		RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	12	2		
		RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	24	0	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	14

16. Table: Priority 2 – planned output and results indicator value.
Source: own edition.

8.3. Priority 3 – Cooperating border region

Assumptions for the available funding, size of projects and the expected number of projects is shown in Table 17.

Priority	Action	Share	ERDF (EUR)	Total cost (EUR)	Project min. (EUR)	Project max. (EUR)	Project size average (EUR)	Expected number of projects
3. Cooperating border region	1	12,00%	1 410 901,70	1 763 627,13	100 000,00	350 000,00	225 000,00	8
	2	3,00%	352 725,43	440 906,78	25 000,00	25 000,00	25 000,00	18

17. Table: Priority 2 – assumptions for available funding, project size and expected number of projects.
Source: own edition.

The two actions of Priority 3, due to their very different nature, should be treated separately.

In case of Action 1 (thematic cooperation projects) altogether 8 projects are expected to be funded. The number of organisations cooperating is expected to reach the double of the number of implemented projects, however, some organisations may be involved in multiple projects, while some projects may have more than two partners. Therefore, the output indicator RCO87 is set at 16. Approximately 60% of the cooperating organisations are expected to continue their cooperation after project closure, so result indicator RCR84 is set at 10.

As for Action 2 (people-to-people cooperation), with the fixed project size of 25 000 EUR 18 projects are expected. As selected projects may have only two partners, and some partners

may appear in multiple projects, the indicator RCO87 is set only at 26. Although most of the projects will focus on events (mostly one-off events, however some may have even more), exchange projects won't include them, so the output indicator RCO115 is set at 25. 50% of the cooperating organisations are expected to continue their cooperation after project closure, so the result indicator RCR84 is set at 13 (Table 18).

Priority	Action	Expected number of projects	Output indicators	Output indicator values	Milestone (2024)	Result indicators	Result indicator values
3. Cooperating border region	1	8	RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	4	0	RCR79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	2
			RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	16	0	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	10
	2	18	RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	26	0	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	13
			RCO115 Public events across borders jointly organised	25	4		

18. Table: Priority 3 – planned output and results indicator value.
 Source: own edition.

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