

Welcome

Indicators **in action**/3

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23.10.2024

Interact



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Interreg

Objectives



- Establish a shared understanding regarding the definition, interpretation, and application of Interreg common indicators, in particular the most popular seven.
- Discuss other common indicators and programme specific indicators.
- Summarise our findings, so that we can draft a report with key messages.

Let's agree on a few rules

- ❖ Be active – share your experience with the colleagues;
- ❖ Be curious and patient with the colleagues;
- ❖ There is no right or wrong approach; and
- ❖ All questions and inputs are relevant for the group discussion;
- ❖ Let's respect each other: those in the room and those online



Agenda/ day one

01

Introduction

02

**The process, what we
have done so far**

03

**The most popular 7
and feedback
survey**

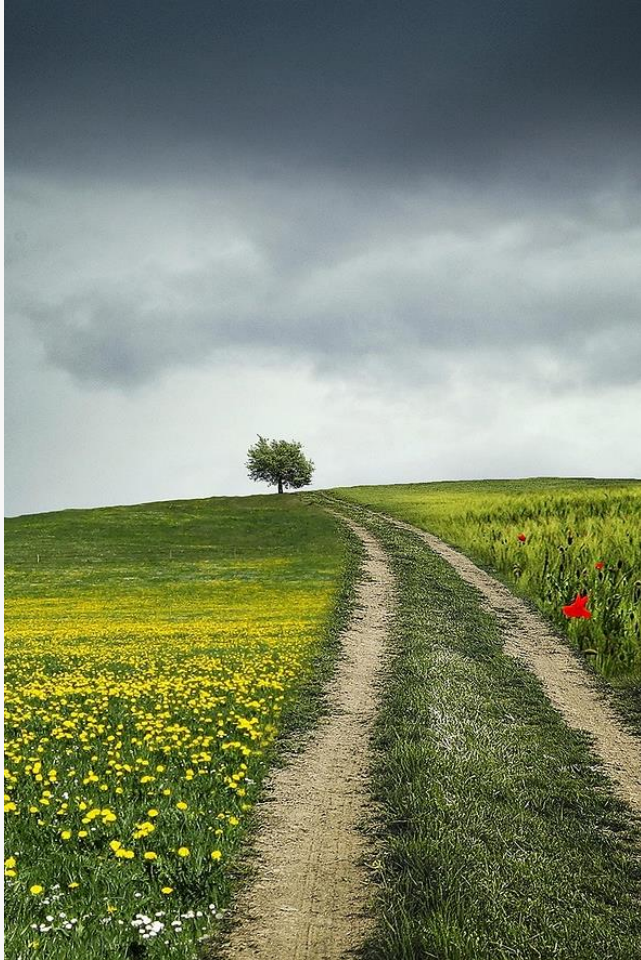
Energiser

Toss the ball and find out from your colleague:

What is your favourite:

- colour,
- book,
- food,
- number,
- city,
- music,
- ...





The process



Indicator stocktaking

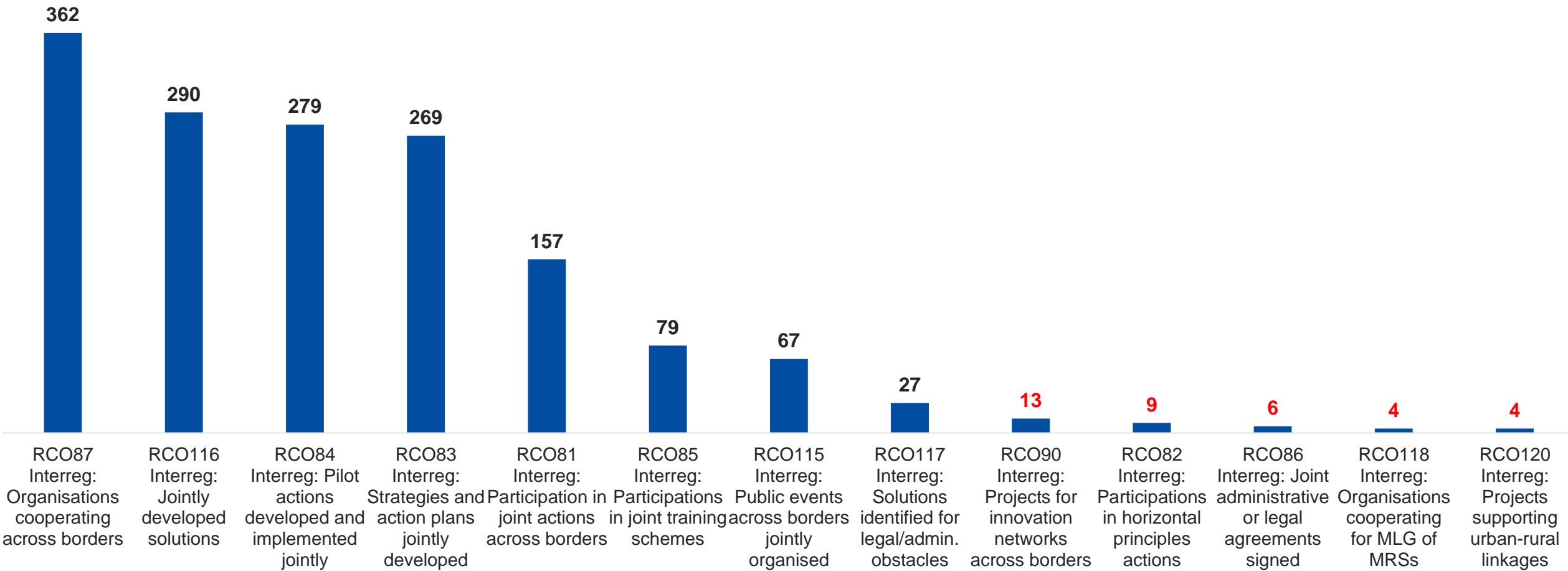
Background

- Goal: Develop a user-friendly, effective system that balances specificity and flexibility, refining definitions and addressing shortcomings for better monitoring of results.
- Purpose: Provide feedback to the Commission for drafting the future legal package (expected mid-2025).
- Objective: Review and decide which indicators to retain, modify, delete, or add for the post-2027 period.
- Key Focus:
 - Evaluate current indicators, highlight successes and challenges.
 - Next step: discuss how Financing Not Linked to Cost (FNLC) and performance-based approaches may impact indicator use.

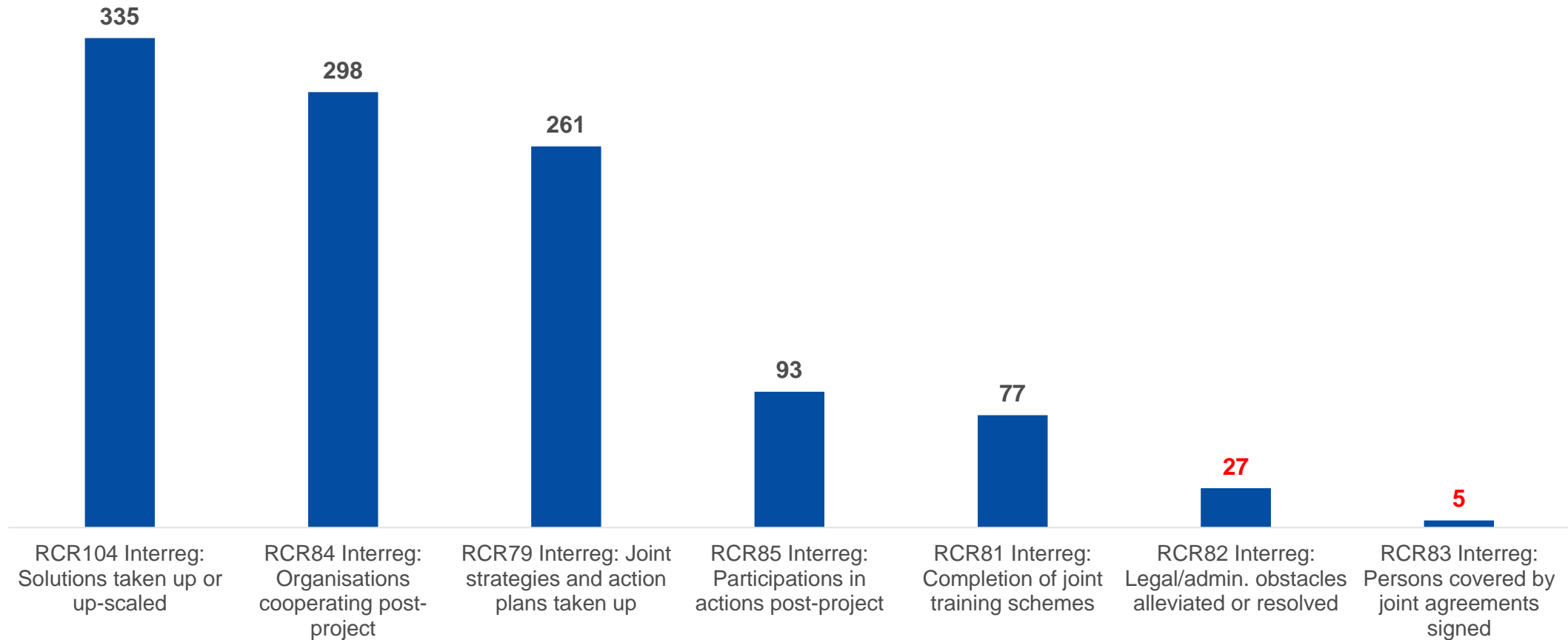
The uptake of the **Interreg** common indicators...

Row Labels	PO1 Smarter Europe	PO2 Greener Europe	PO3 Connected Europe	PO4 Social Europe	PO5 Europe closer to citizens	PO6 Interreg: Cooperation Governance	PO7 Interreg: Safer and more secure Europe	Grand Total
OUTPUT	204	630	41	378	17	282	14	1566
RCO115 Interreg: Public events across borders jointly organised	2	26	1	13		25		67
RCO116 Interreg: Jointly developed solutions	47	130	9	68	5	31		290
RCO117 Interreg: Solutions identified for legal/admin. obstacles		1	2	4		20		27
RCO118 Interreg: Organisations cooperating for MLG of MRSs						4		4
RCO120 Interreg: Projects supporting urban-rural linkages		1	1	1		1		4
RCO81 Interreg: Participation in joint actions across borders	9	61	1	34		48	4	157
RCO82 Interreg: Participations in horizontal principles actions				8		1		9
RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed	26	130	12	53	3	43	2	269
RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly	49	149	6	54	4	17		279
RCO85 Interreg: Participations in joint training schemes	7	15	1	46		8	2	79
RCO86 Interreg: Joint administrative or legal agreements signed					1	4	1	6
RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	51	117	8	97	4	80	5	362
RCO90 Interreg: Projects for innovation networks across borders	13							13
RESULT	137	416	31	284	14	201	13	1096
RCR104 Interreg: Solutions taken up or up-scaled	58	156	11	73	5	32		335
RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up	27	128	11	52	3	38	2	261
RCR81 Interreg: Completion of joint training schemes	7	14		46		8	2	77
RCR82 Interreg: Legal/admin. obstacles alleviated or resolved		1	2	4		20		27
RCR83 Interreg: Persons covered by joint agreements signed					1	3	1	5
RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project	38	85	7	86	5	72	5	298
RCR85 Interreg: Participations in actions post-project	7	32		23		28	3	93
Grand Total	341	1046	72	662	31	483	27	2662

Use of Interreg common **output** indicators



Use of Interreg common **result** indicators



Dotting exercise on RCOs – IKF Riga, March 2024

Interreg Indicators	Result dotting	Uptake by programmes	Comment
RCO115: Public events across borders jointly organized	I ■■■ ■■■	67	Priority
RCO116: Jointly developed solutions	■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■	290	Top priority for discussion!
RCO117: Solutions for legal / administrative obstacles	I ■■■ ■■■	27	Obstacles key policy issue?
RCO118: Organisations cooperating for MLG of MRSs	- -	4	Low priority
RCO120: Projects supporting urban-rural linkages	■■■ ■■■	4	Low priority – cancel?
RCO82: Participations in horizontal principles actions	■■■ ■■■ I	9	Low priority – cancel?
RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed	■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■	269	High uptake but all clear?!
RCO84: Pilot actions developed & implemented jointly	■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ I	279	Top priority!
RCO85: Participations in joint training schemes	■■■ II ■■■ II	79	Priority
RCO86: Joint administrative or legal agreements signed	■■■ ■■■ I	6	Low priority – cancel?
RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders	■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■	362	Top priority!
RCO90: Projects for innovation networks across borders	■■■ ■■■	13	Low priority

Dotting exercise on RCRs – IKF Riga, March 2024

Interreg Indicator	Result dotting	Uptake by programmes	Comment
RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled	(12) 	335	Top priority!
RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up	 	261	Top priority!
RCR81: Completion of joint training schemes	 	77	Priority but less need for discussion
RCR82: Legal / administrative obstacles alleviated or resolved	 	27	Low priority
RCR83: Persons covered by joint agreements signed	 	5	Low priority – cancel?
RCR84: Organisations cooperating post-project	 	298	Top priority!
RCR 85: Participation in actions post-project		93	Priority

March-June

- Establish an informal working group on indicators.
- Present the indicator fiche to gather feedback from group members (online event, 15 May 2024).
- Collect and analyse feedback on the seven most widely used common indicators, as well as any additional suggested indicators.

Programme	Name
	Strand (A, B, C, D)
Description	Indicator Code
	Indicator Name
Indicator used	SO: please list all SOs, where you use this indicator
Programming	Definition: which definition did you use internally?
	Interpretation: how did you interpret the indicator? Any difficulties with the definition?
	Assumptions: what key assumptions (per SOs) did you use for calculating the target? How did you calculate it?
	Calculation issues when programming and setting targets: what were the challenges you are facing with the calculations and target setting (per SOs)?
Guidance to applicants	Interpretation: Do applicants raise any interpretation difficulties?
	Calculation issues when guiding applicants: do you face any challenges with the applicants?
Contracting	Frequent need to amend/ change applicants' targets: did you often need to change the target values provided by the applicants?
Project monitoring	Clear-cut and valid evidence for delivery of output / result: did you manage to define the evidence for the output and result delivery? Does it work in practice?
	Establish a firm validation system: was it easy/difficult to establish a validation system? Why?
	Counting or double-counting issues: Do you face any difficulties with the counting? Which one? Why?
Communication on results	Use in communication on programme achievements among programme stakeholders: how do you communicate the programme achievements?
Any proposed amendments	If you think the indicator needs to be amended, please indicate what should be changed?
Additional comments	What else would you like to mention about this indicator?

Thank you for filling in the fiche

- ABH
- Alpine Space
- Atlantic Area
- BSR
- Central Europe
- CZ-PL
- Danube
- DE-NL
- EE-LV
- Euro MED
- HU-HR
- HU-SK
- HU-SR
- Interreg Europe
- IPA BG-SR
- IT-HR
- Next Black Sea Basin
- Next HUSKOUA
- NEXT ROMD
- NEXT ROUA
- NSR
- Peace
- RO-BG
- RO-SR
- Saxony – PL
- South Baltic



The popular 7

Common output indicators

RCO116: Jointly developed solutions

RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly

RCO87: Organizations cooperating across borders

RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed

Discussed in the event "Indicators in action" on 24.6.2024

Discussed in the event "Indicators in action/2" on 4.10.2024

Common result indicators

RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled

RCR79: Joint strategies and action plans taken up

RCR84: Organizations cooperating post-project

Programme specific indicators

PSI: Organisations with increased institutional capacities due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders

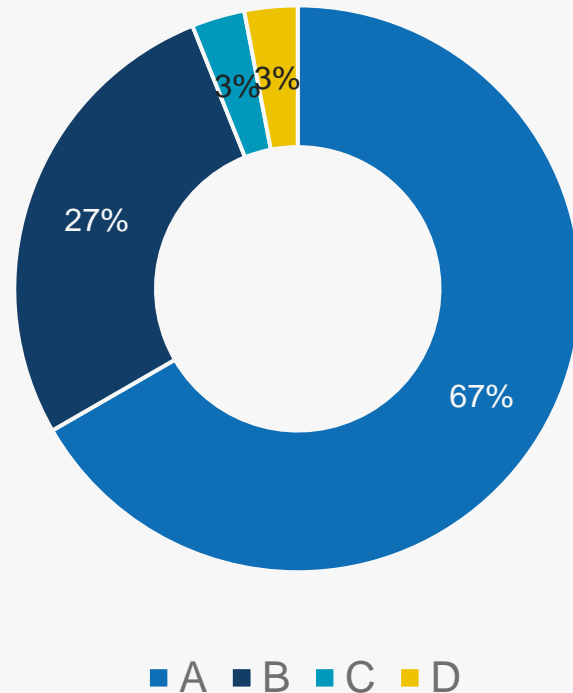


Survey

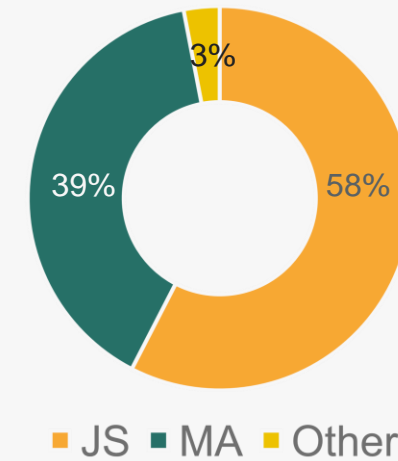


Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

Which Interreg strand do you represent?

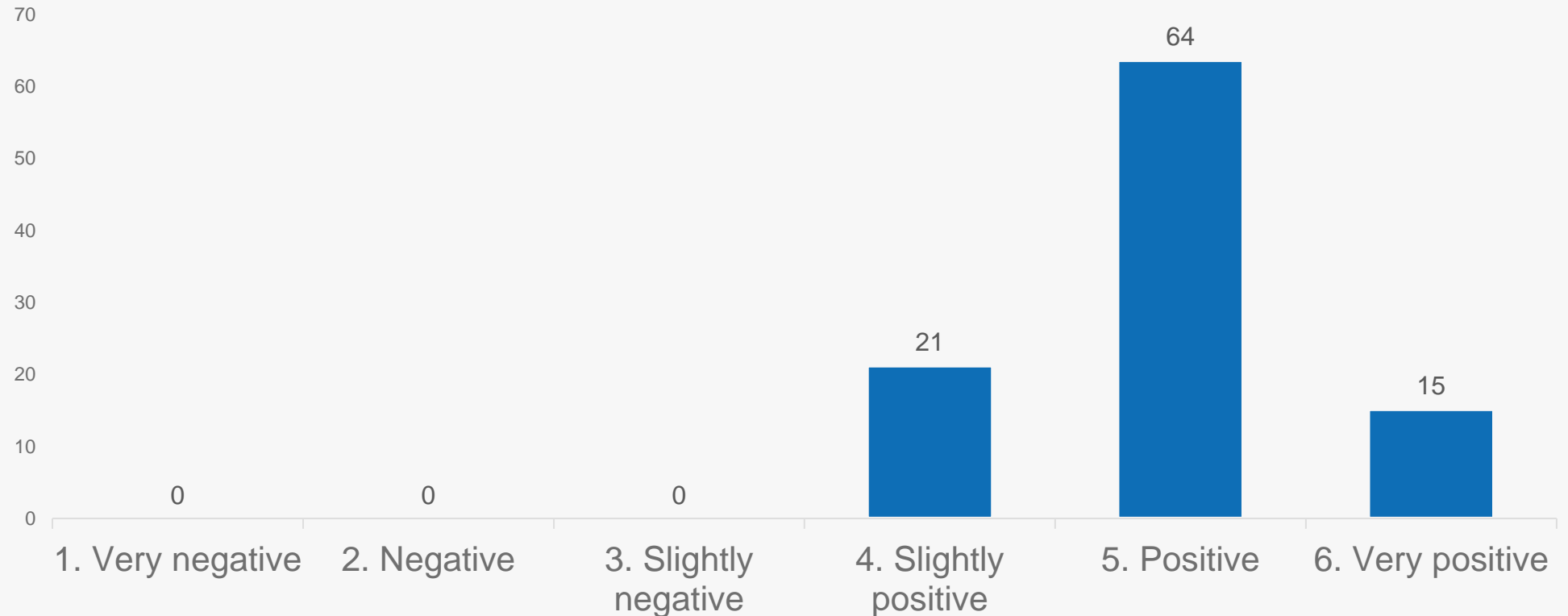


What is your role?



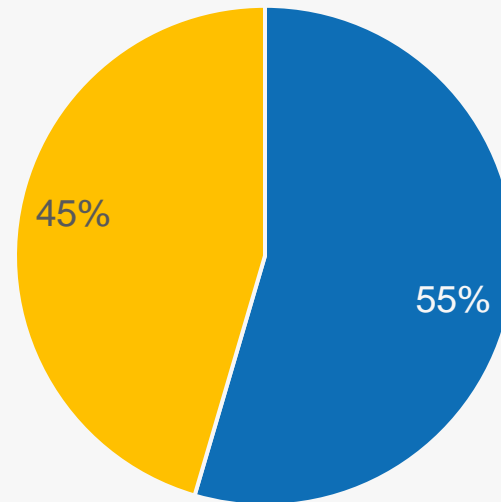
Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

What is your opinion on the extended list of common indicators for 2021-2027, compared with previous programming periods? (%)



Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

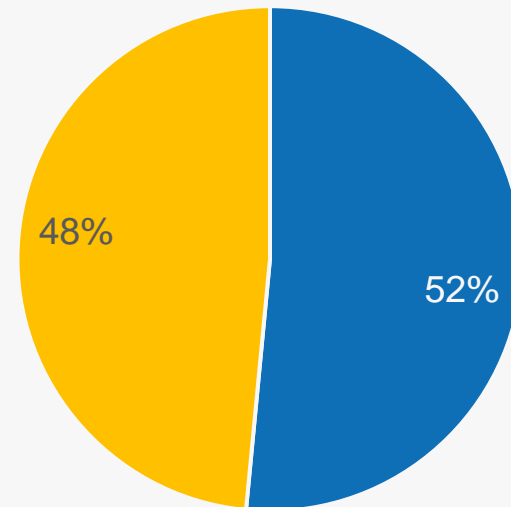
Has your programme opted for ERDF/mainstream common indicators in addition to Interreg-specific common indicators?



■ Yes ■ No

Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

Are there any major operations/outputs/results in your programmes not covered by Interreg common indicators?



■ Yes ■ No

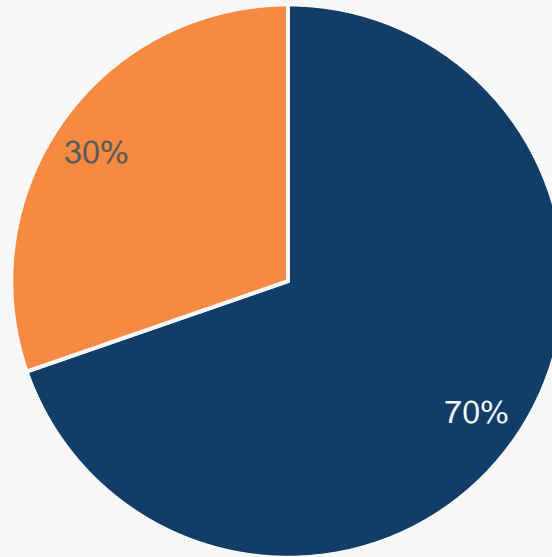
Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

For which stakeholders are the indicators most useful? (%)



Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

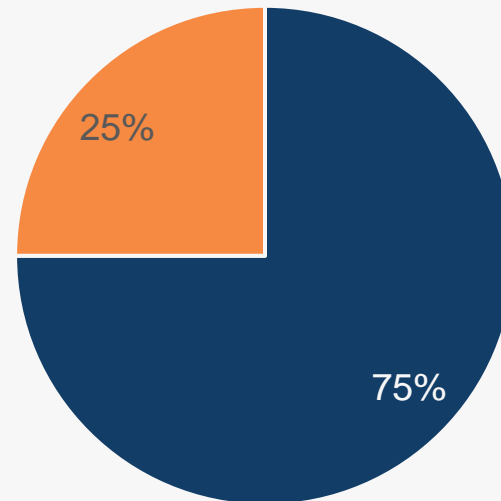
In general, did you encounter any challenges with the selected indicators?



■ Yes ■ No

Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

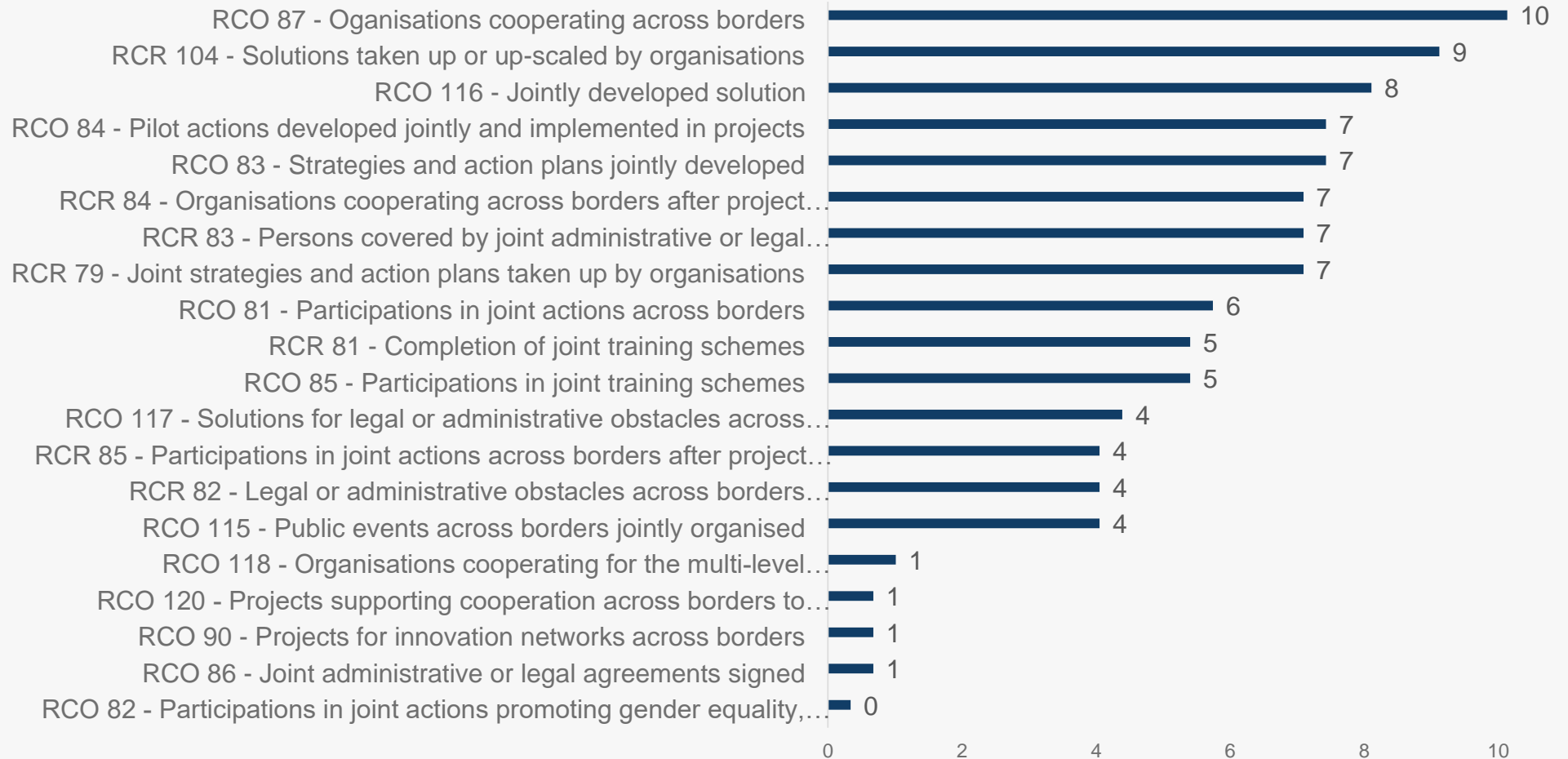
Did you find it easy to find indicator pairs you are using with a direct quantitative link between output (=RCO) and result (=RCR)?



■ Yes ■ No

Survey results: 2021-2027 Interreg common indicators review

*Which Interreg common indicators do you use in your programmes?
(%)*



Key suggestions for improving the current common indicators from the survey responses ^{1/2}

- **Clearer guidance and definitions:** the need for more precise definitions and guidance, with examples to clarify the logical link between project deliverables, outputs, and results.
- **Improved numbering system:** current numbering system confusing: revising it to make it more transparent and logical, particularly to align output and result indicators.
- **Clarification of indicator measurement:** clearer instructions on what and how to measure, e.g. capacity building and double-counting issues (e.g., RCO81); post-project result indicators (such as RCR84)
- **Flexibility for programme-specific indicators:** allowing programme-specific indicators to supplement common indicators

Key suggestions for improving the current common indicators from the survey responses ^{2/2}

- **Elimination of double counting:** systemic approaches to avoid this at both the programme and specific objective levels (e.g. RCO87 and RCR84)
- **Review of timeframes:** revisiting the timeframes for measuring results, particularly post-project
- **Simplifying and improving relevance:** indicators should be less normative and more content- and purpose-oriented, allowing for greater flexibility in addressing different project types and programme needs.
- **Platform for exchange:** a platform for regular exchanges on indicator interpretations and guidance to ensure consistent application across programmes.

The main challenges encountered with Interreg common indicators during the programming stage

Despite some challenges the indicators in this programming period were easier to handle than in previous periods.

- **Setting target values:** indicator differed from the previous funding period; balance between realistic and achievable targets (underestimation or overestimation)
- **Complexity in selecting indicators**
- **Indicator definitions:** misunderstandings among project applicants and beneficiaries
- **Sector-specific challenges:** especially those involving infrastructure (common indicators were more suited to "soft" activities and didn't fully capture the specificity of their projects)
- **Internal discussions and clarifications:** agreeing on a shared understanding of the indicators, which required discussions to narrow and redefine their scope.
- **Lack of prior experience:** For new indicators, there was little past experience to rely on, making it difficult to estimate realistic targets.

The main challenges encountered with Interreg common indicators: guidance to applicants

Clearer definitions and a better alignment between project and programme logic are necessary to improve applicant understanding of the indicators.

- **Complexity and misunderstanding:** Applicants struggled to understand the logic behind some indicators (differentiating between similar indicators, RCO/ RCR)
- **Explanation of indicator definitions:** definitions were hard to communicate clearly, leading to confusion (misunderstanding of key concepts, e.g. activities-deliverables-outputs-results).
- **Guidance documents and resources:** many programmes developed comprehensive manuals, fact sheets, and conducted webinars to clarify indicators but inconsistencies still occurred during the application phase, requiring corrections during contracting.
- **Applicant mindset:** technical language and complexity of reporting requirements
- **Tailored support:** pre-application consultations and simplified methodologies to help applicants set realistic targets, but further clarification were often needed.

The main challenges encountered with Interreg common indicators: contracting phase

While the contracting phase focused primarily on ensuring the accuracy of indicator targets, the complexity of some indicators required ongoing clarification and adjustments.

- **Clarifying and adjusting targets**
- **Ensuring consistency and alignment:** A consultation process before finalizing contracts helped align project targets with the programme's guidelines, ensuring realistic and coherent indicators.
- **Time-consuming corrections**
- **Supporting documents and guidance:** "Notes on indicators" were generally effective in ensuring a smoother contracting process.
- **No major challenges:** as adjustments or corrections to indicators were usually made during the earlier application phases.

The main challenges encountered with Interreg common indicators: project monitoring

The key challenges include ensuring clarity and alignment in definitions, addressing timing issues, mitigating external risks for result indicators, and developing effective monitoring and reporting systems.

- **Beneficiaries often struggle to grasp the logical connections** between project activities and indicators, complicating the monitoring of achievements.
- Ensuring that **reported results align with indicator definitions** poses a challenge, requiring careful oversight.
- **Data: Insufficient data and experience** hinder effective assessment, complexities in preventing **double counting** of outputs, **lack of a unified validation system** for reporting; some programmes are developing tools for better consistency.
- **Still early** to anticipate some challenges
- **Quality control** measures after progress reports are submitted are essential but still need refinement to ensure accuracy in reporting achievements

The main challenges encountered with Interreg common indicators: communicating results

- **Abstract indicators:** Common indicators often focus on cooperation and strategies, making them less engaging for the general public; Concrete examples are preferred.
- Indicators need **quantitative and qualitative project results for effective communication.**
- Current indicators do not directly address communication, hindering clear information presentation (**missing communication-focused indicators**)
- While indicators provide quantitative data, **qualitative elements are crucial for conveying impacts.**
- **Many projects are still in early phases**, limiting assessment of communication effectiveness.

The main challenges encountered with Interreg common indicators: audit

- Auditors often **concentrate on compliance** with abstract rules, lacking contextual understanding of projects.
- Many programmes have not yet undergone audits -> **limited experience**
- **No significant problems** have emerged to date; however, future challenges are anticipated.
- Explaining to the Audit Authority that **results monitoring occurs only post-project completion** can be complex.
- Clarifying that reporting achievements is a collective **responsibility of project partnerships**, rather than individual partners, poses challenges, especially concerning specific indicators like institutional capacity building.

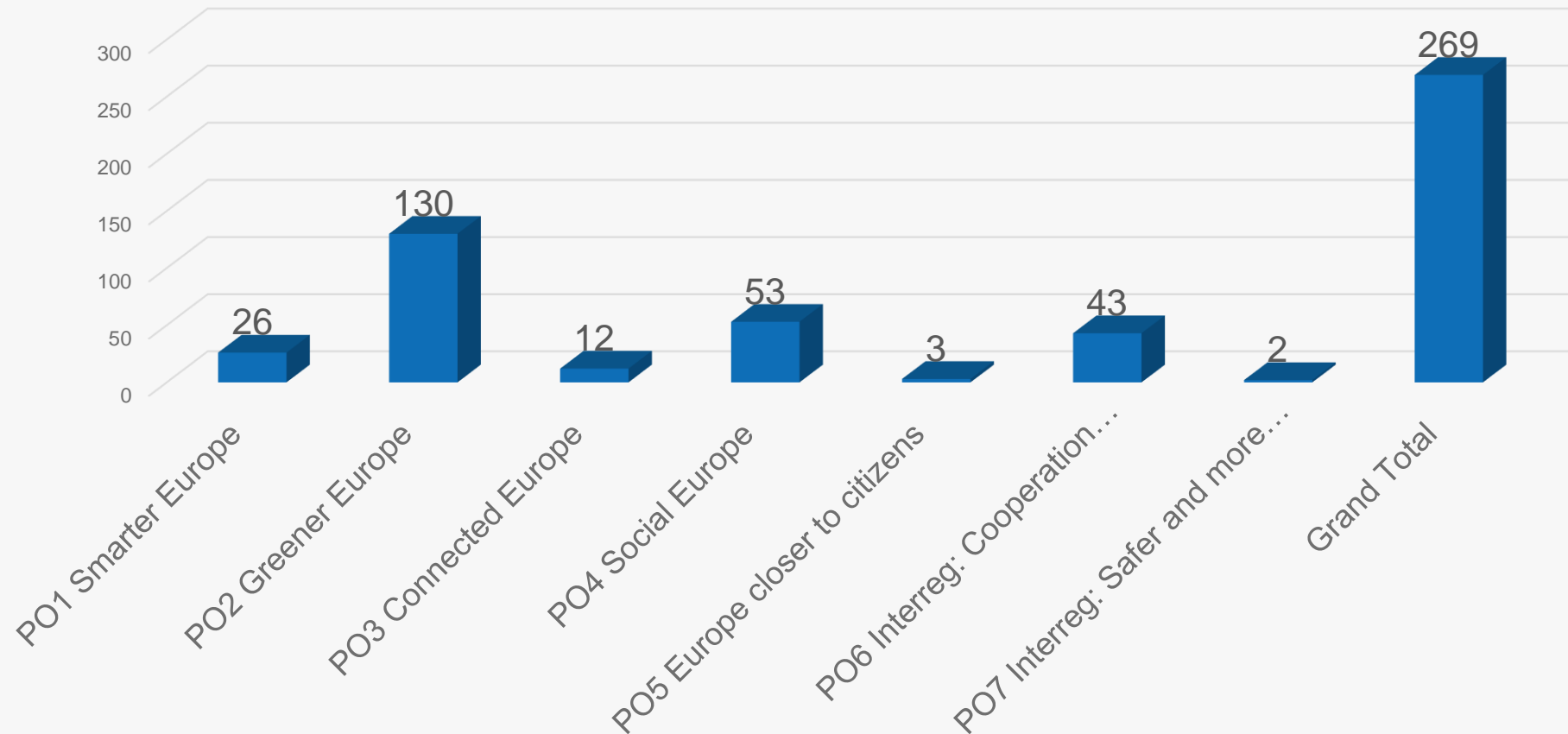


Discussion of the common indicators



RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 1/11

RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed



RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 2/11

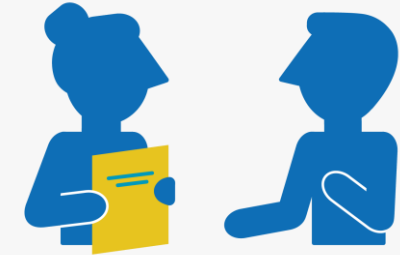
Programming	In use for (10): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOs: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3.1, 4.2, 4.9 (PEACE+), ISO1, ISO2, all [CE, DRP (except for ISO1)]
Definition & interpretation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More precise explanation of key terms (i.a. linking it to MRS dimension) or to SO theme (3) • Handling if several topics covered (relate to 'dominant one') (3) • Clarification regarding 'jointly developed' (drafted together) (3) • Action plan also on basis of an already existing strategy (4)
Calculation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on data from 2014-2020 (average project budget, cost per strategy etc.) • Assumption on strategies per project (either general or differentiated per SO)
Challenges with target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimations of type of output (if several RCOs on offer), cost per output and success rate per project and first time of perceived as challenging • First time small-scale projects in TN programmes
Reasons for not using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice of RCO 116 (solutions) as more open option covering also this (1) • Not showing the investment component (2) • Notion of 'joint' in TN context (1)
Guidance to applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority encountered no difficulties up to now
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion with other documents such as guidelines (1) • Counting format: rather count as one with regional specifications instead of several regional ones (1)
Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases target revision necessary but not considered a major issue by the majority
Project monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some programmes provide clear-cut definition about the character of the expected output
Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme introduced internal benchmarking system and coordination procedure (1)
Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either no difficulties (5) or too early to say (4) • Need for clear demarcation line to RCO 116 (1)

RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 3/11

Communication on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eventually not suitable for direct communication with national policy-makers: owing to negative connotation of terms 'strategy' and 'action plans' perceived as risk (1)
Any proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider that that revision/ update of existing strategies to be considered under this indicator • Rename the indicator to something like 'Jointly developed and utilized evidence and placed-based tools for territorial development' or similar variations (1) • Link it to a result indicator measuring the implementation of the strategy or action plan by the partners who developed it; follow-up to the strategy/action plan over a reasonable period of time after the end of the project or even during the implementation period of a longer-term project (1)
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The indicator does not capture other type of strategis documents such as master plans (in environment sector it is more common to develop master plans compared to strategies)/ policy papers etc. and there is no other Interreg common output indicator that can be used (1) • Opting for strategies as target unit alone may prioritize quantity over quality (1)
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit for wide uptake and wide coverage: used across POs 1, 2, 3 and 4, ISOs • Some clarifications to EC definition putting it in context of programme / SO • Target setting based on 2014-20 • No major difficulties in verification of outputs expected • For counting: half expects / experienced no difficulties, for half too early

RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 4/11

Main discussion points



- Broad uptake across POs 1, 2, 3, 4, and ISOs.
- There is a need for some clarifications to the EC definition to better contextualize it within specific programmes and strategic objectives.
- Target setting is based on data from 2014-2020 period.
- No major challenges expected in relation to the verification, though ease of counting varies. (Half of the programmes foresee no difficulties, the other half find it too early to determine)

-> Point to reflect on: Strategies and action plans might be considered rather an interim deliverable than a result

RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 5/11

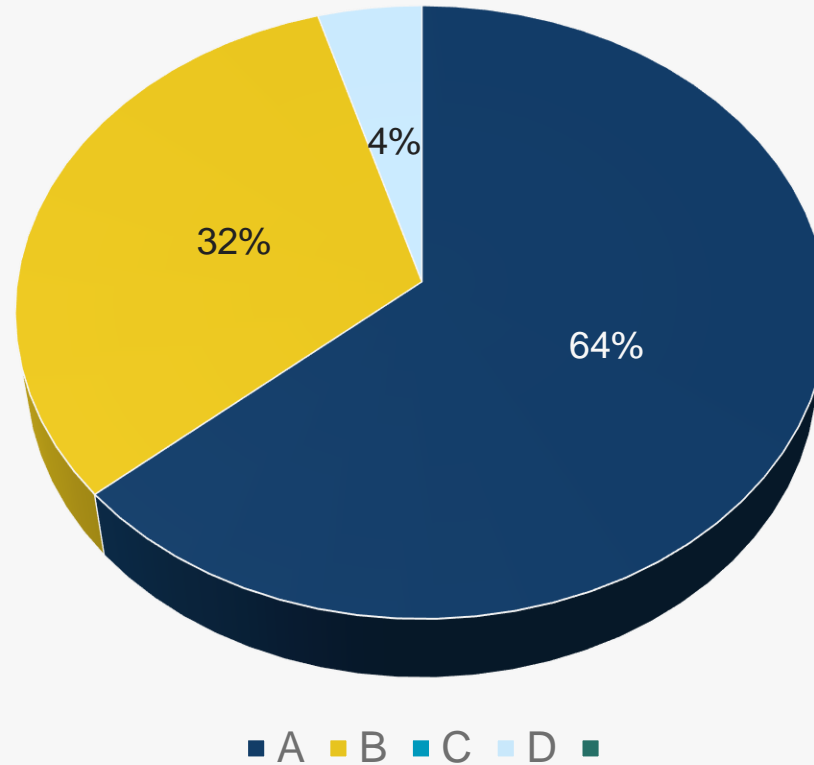
Conclusion and possible further actions



- Suitable for various programmes, adaptable across different policy objectives.
- Key focus areas:
 - Clarify definitions to fit specific contexts.
 - Set realistic targets using previous data.
- Future discussions:
 - Standardize definitions and approaches for counting and verification.
 - Ensure consistency across programmes.
- Shared understanding needed:
 - What qualifies as strategies and action plans.
 - How to adjust existing strategies for specific territories (CBC) or multiple territories (TNC).

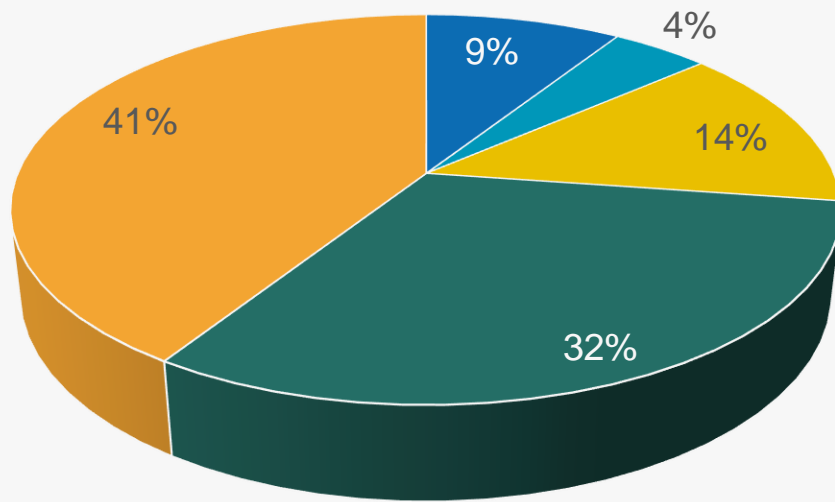
RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 6/11

Programmes strand



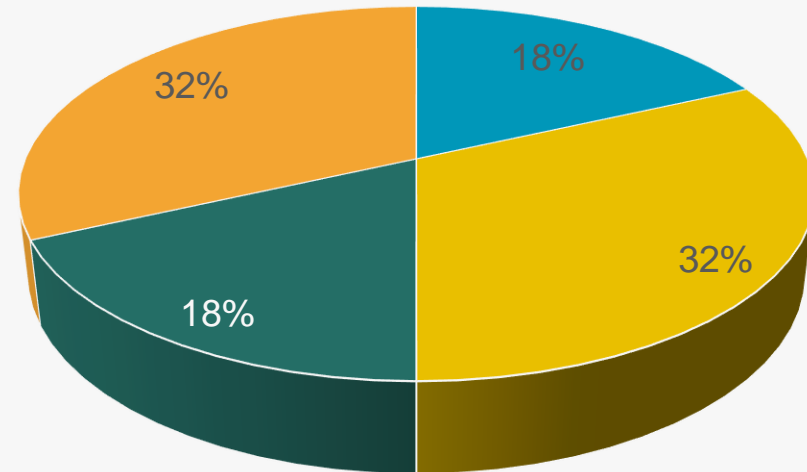
RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 7/11

Relevance: Does the indicator measure relevant outputs/results of the actions financed by the programme?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

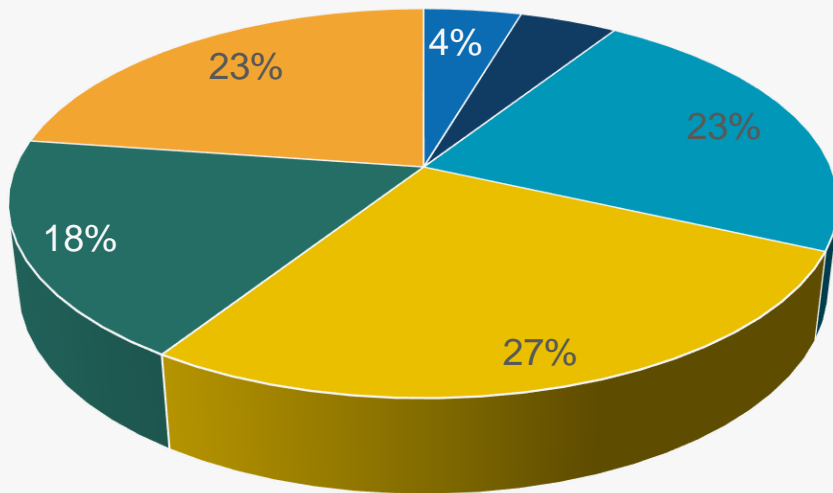
Acceptability: Do stakeholders readily accept to measure the indicator? And are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the indicator clear?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

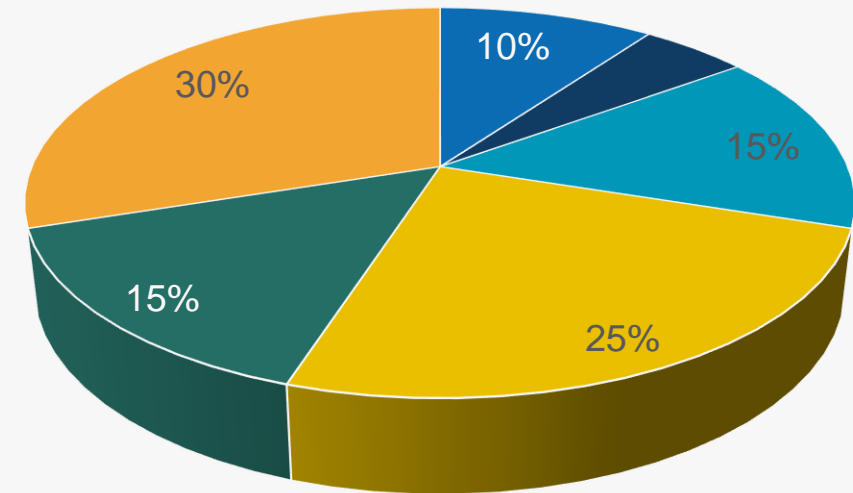
RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 8/11

Clarity: To your knowledge, is the indicator unambiguous and easy to interpret by the project beneficiaries?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

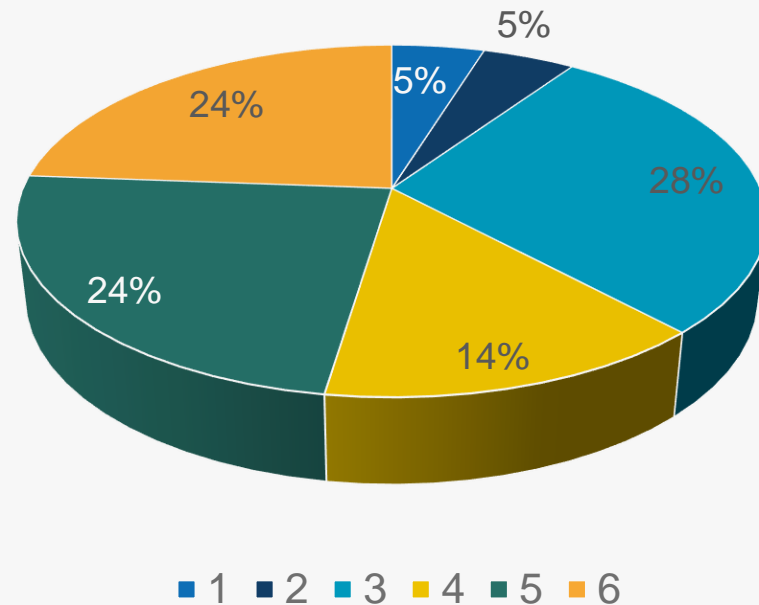
Ease of use: Is the indicator easy to monitor?
Are there any problems with reporting the indicator?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

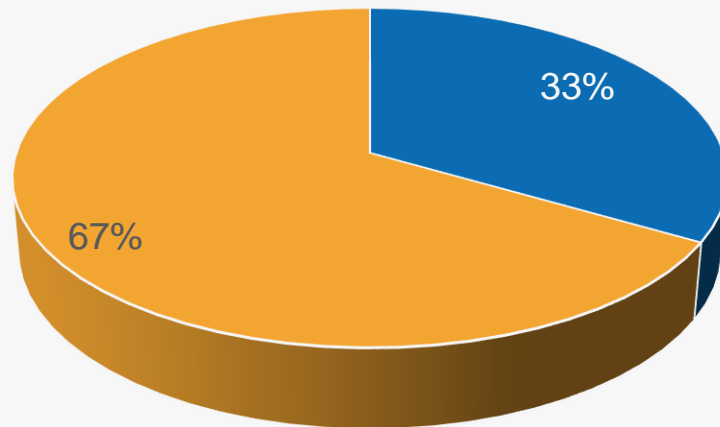
RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 9/11

Robustness: Is the indicator robust against manipulation, i.e. is the use of the indicator likely to distort behaviour (over/underreporting)?



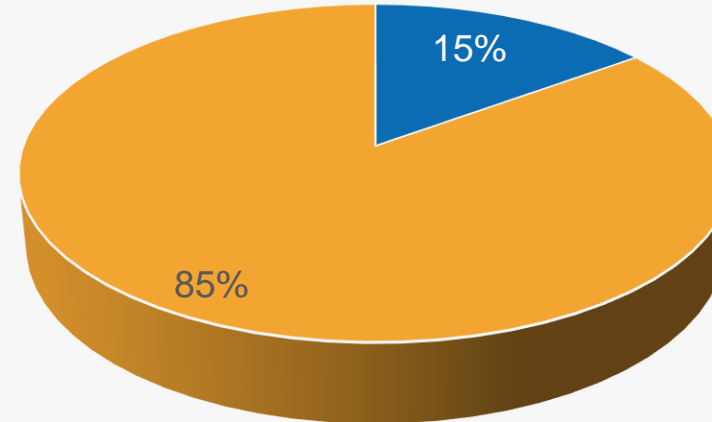
RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed - 10/11

Is the indicator used in all specific objectives? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

Did you use unit costs when calculating the indicator target? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

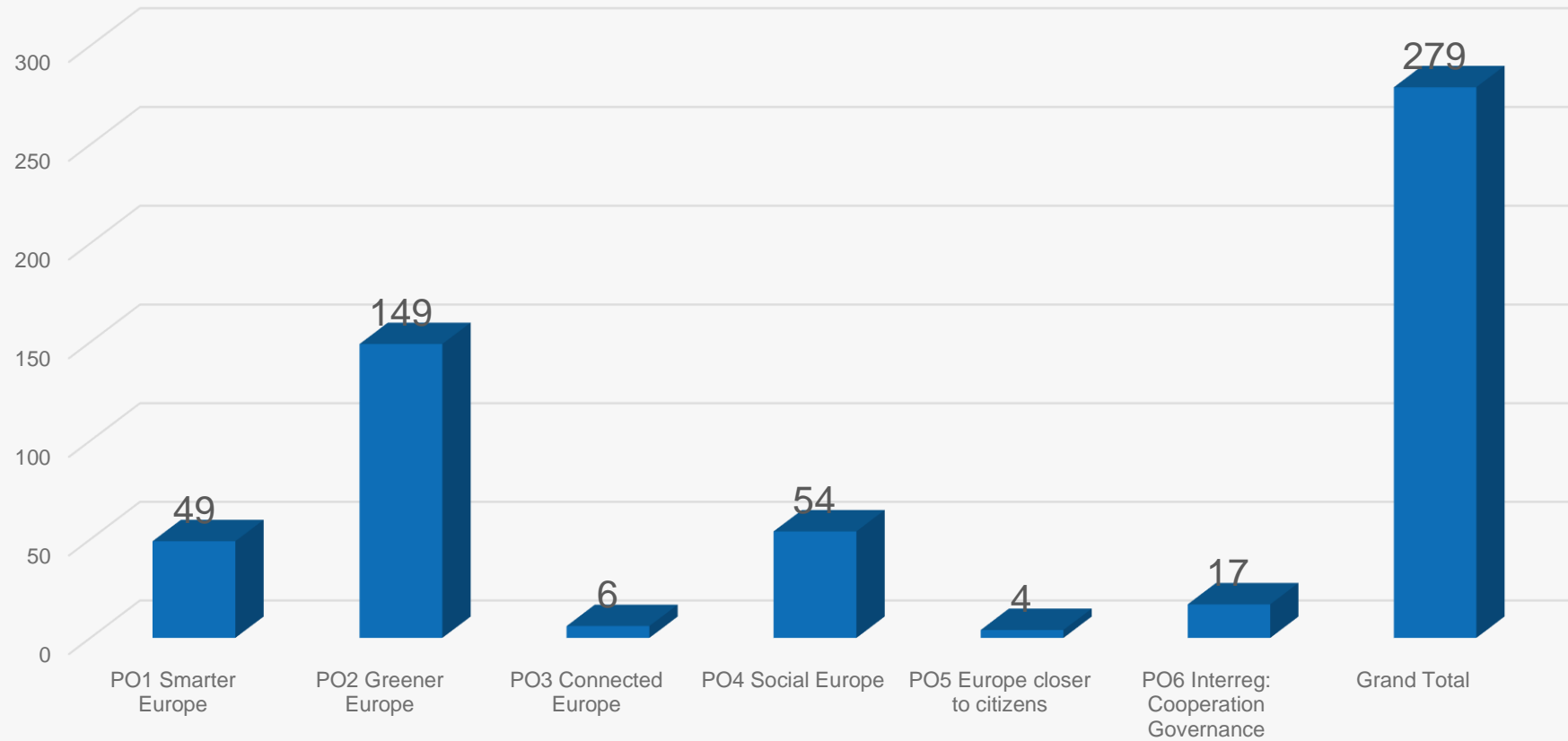
RCO83: Strategies & action plans jointly developed

The results of the Slido voting - 11/11



RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 1/11

RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly



RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 2/11

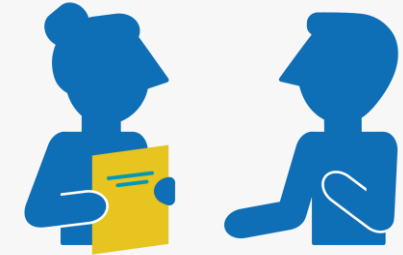
Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In use for (19 out 22): 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2., 2.3, 2.4, 2.5., 2.6, 2.7, 2.8.,3.1, 3.2., 4.1., 4.2, 4.6, ISO1
Definition & interpretation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many programmes adhered to the official definition provided by the EC staff working document A few programmes made minor adaptations to reflect specific objectives (SOs) or internal requirements from the 2014-2020 period Several programmes provided detailed clarifications on what constitutes a pilot action
Calculation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes often relied on assumptions and professional judgement due to the lack of concrete data. This included estimating targets based on previous projects, historical data, and expectations at the programming stage.
Challenges with target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some programmes faced challenges due to the late start of the programme, the introduction of new elements (e.g., PO5, direct support to SMEs), and the unreliability of targets from previous periods. Several programmes reported no specific challenges or found the process straightforward
Reasons for not using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> did not fit in IL due to a diversified budget, thematic focus, infrastructure components, and time constraints, this was challenging for social innovation projects
Guidance to applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant interpretation issues because of proactive guidance (resolved through existing guidance documents, factsheets, and explanatory sessions) Applicants misunderstood how to count pilot actions, such as assuming multiple counts for the same tool tested in different areas or confusing small-scale investments with pilot actions.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many programmes indicated they had not faced significant challenges with applicants regarding calculation issues Some programmes did encounter specific challenges, such as clarifying whether to count pilot actions based on the number of territories/sites or the distinct characteristics of the pilot actions

RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 3/11

Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to amend or change applicants' targets limited due to projects being in early stages or ongoing without significant issues • Some programmes mentioned that adjustments to target values were necessary during the contracting phase, especially when applicants had misinterpreted or incorrectly set their targets initially. • Through clear communication and guidance during the contracting phase, adjustments were easily managed
Project monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes are generally at an early stage • Several programmes have prepared templates, methodologies, and guidance documents for monitoring indicators.
Establish a validation system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT platforms that evolved from previous programming periods to facilitate reporting and assessment • The practical implementation and effectiveness of these validation systems will be assessed with the submission of final progress reports, typically due in early 2025. • Some programmes are still in preparation or early stages stage
Counting or double-counting issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of programmes have not encountered difficulties with counting or double-counting pilot actions so far (still early or awaiting the first project reports for submission)
Communication on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many programmes emphasize communicating achievements through project stories and qualitative evidence of benefits to target groups • Utilization of Communication Channels (as social media, publications, events, and dedicated sections on programme websites)
Any proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many programmes see no need for amendments to the indicator. • Indicator definitions satisfactory - no urgent or widespread calls for amendments. Ensure on clarity in interpretation and possibly refining common practices related to target setting and reporting
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCO84 is generally perceived positively as a clear and practical measure of project outputs • There was a specific suggestion to consider linking RCO84 with other related indicators like RCO116 and RCR104

RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 4/11

Main discussion points



- Varying methods used to count this indicator across Interreg programmes.
 - Some count the number of times the same pilot action is tested in various territories.
 - Others count the pilot action only once it is developed.
- Some make a distinction based on context/territory - adjusted approaches
- Suggestions to link RCO84 with related indicators RCO116 and RCO104 to enhance coherence and impact across different project stages and activities.

RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 5/11

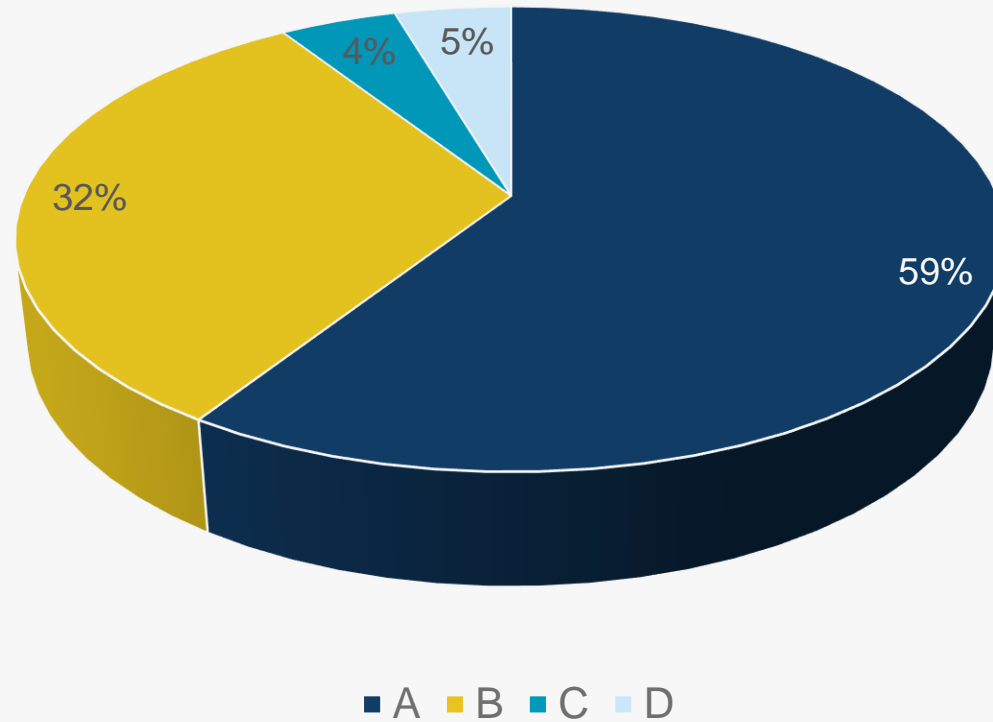
Conclusion and further actions



- RCO84 is generally viewed positively as a clear and practical project output measure.
- Need for a more coherent and standardized approach to counting pilot actions.
- Further discussions are required to simplify and harmonize current counting practices.
- Revisit quantitative links between RCO84, RCO116, and RCO104 for transparency and coherence.
- Consider a shared understanding of the relationship between pilot actions and solutions:
 - A successful pilot action could lead to a solution.
 - A solution found could be turned into a pilot action.
- Alignment of terminology across programmes could be beneficial.

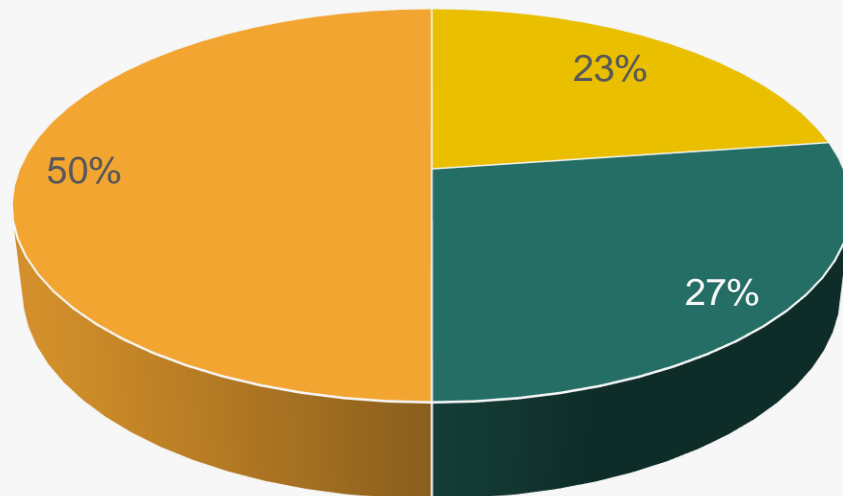
RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 6/11

Programmes strand



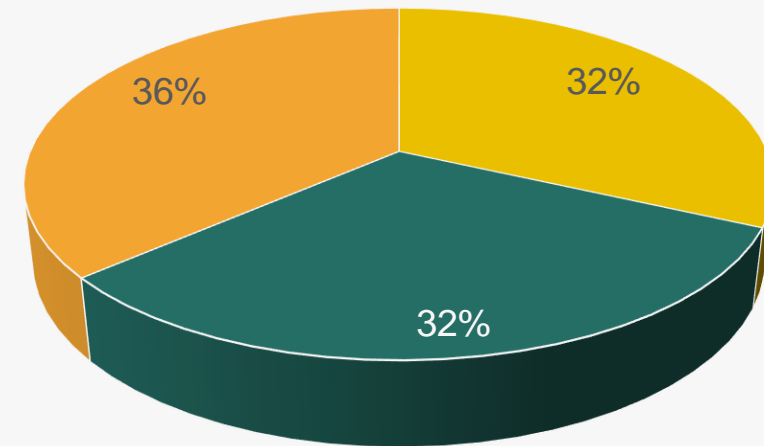
RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 7/11

Relevance: Does the indicator measure relevant outputs/results of the actions financed by the programme?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

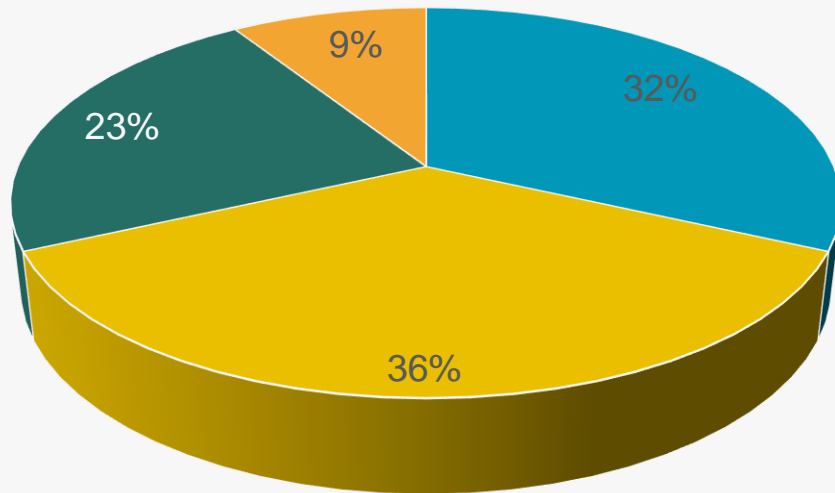
Acceptability: Do stakeholders readily accept to measure the indicator? And are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the indicator clear?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

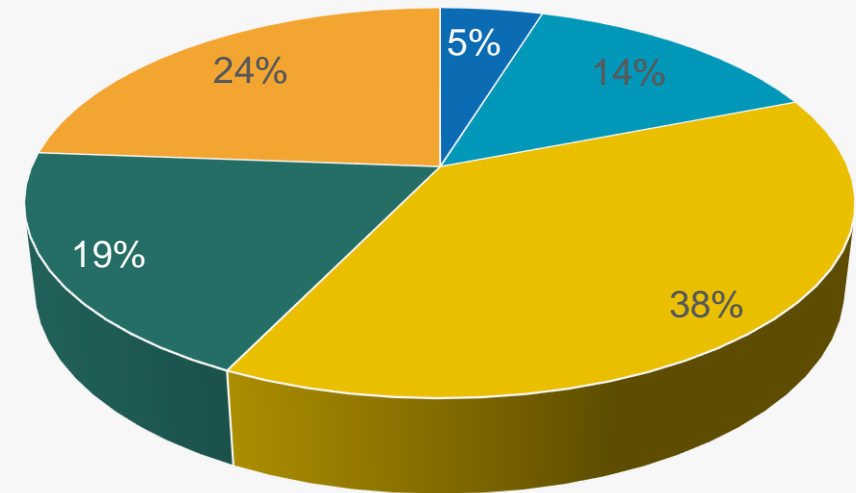
RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 8/11

Clarity: To your knowledge, is the indicator unambiguous and easy to interpret by the project beneficiaries?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

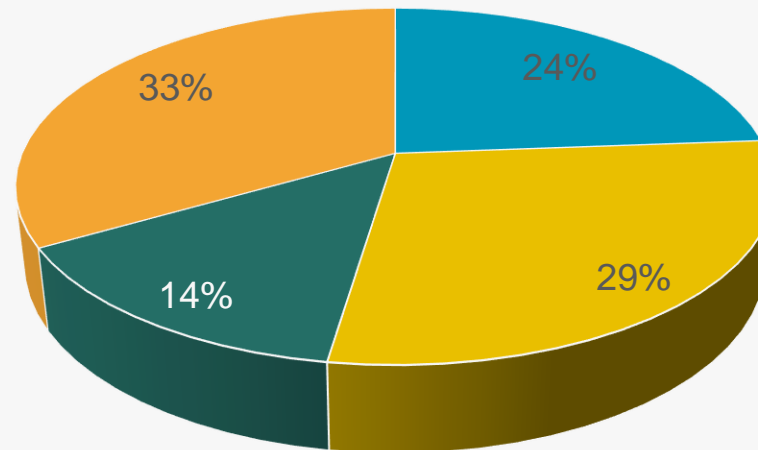
Ease of use: Is the indicator easy to monitor?
Are there any problems with reporting the indicator?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly - 9/11

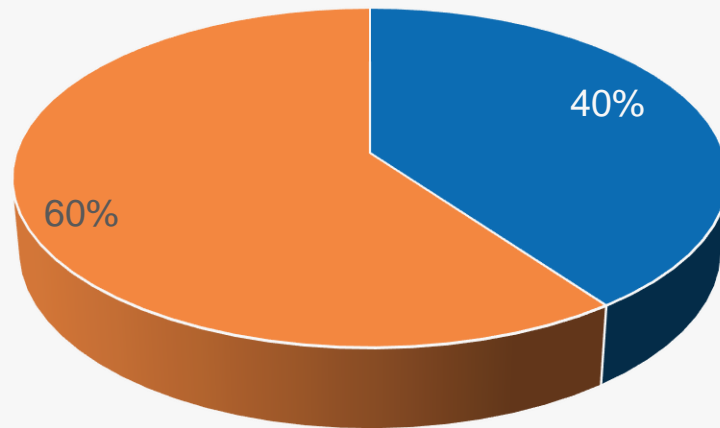
Robustness: Is the indicator robust against manipulation, i.e. is the use of the indicator likely to distort behaviour (over/underreporting)?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

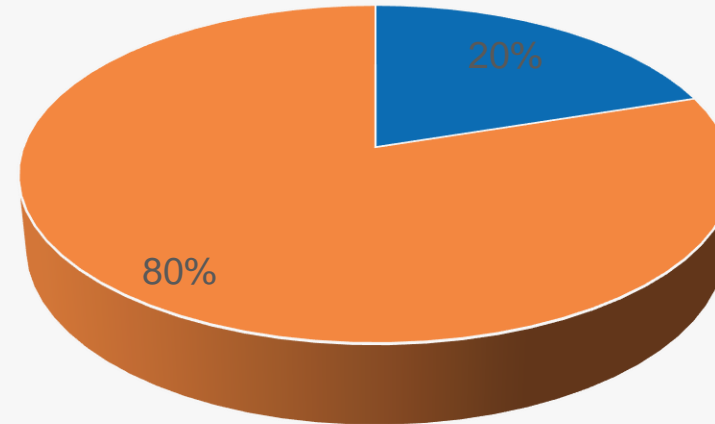
RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly-10/11

Is the indicator used in all specific objectives? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

Did you use unit costs when calculating the indicator target? (Y/N)



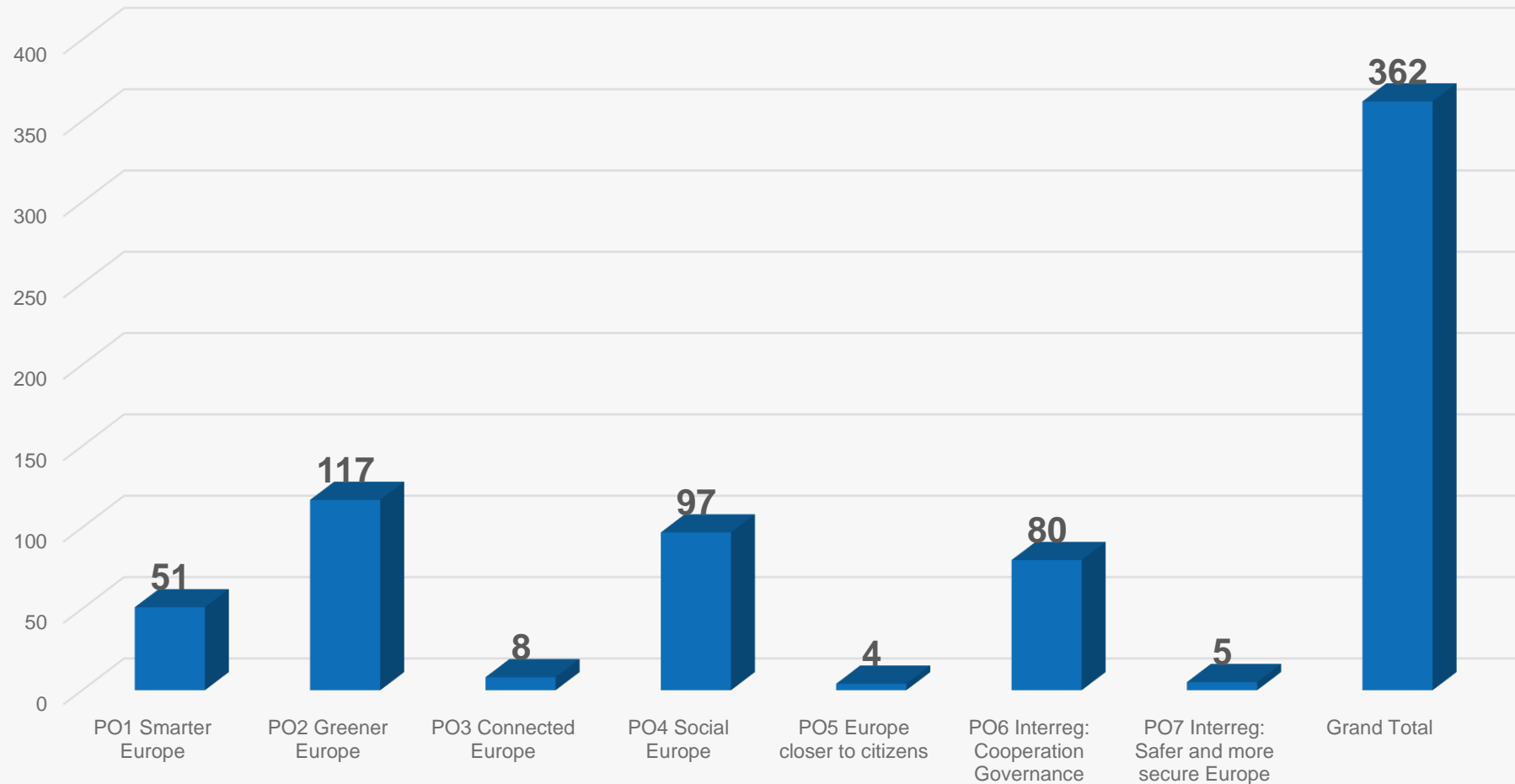
■ Yes ■ No

RCO84: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly: The results of the Slido voting - 11/11



RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 1/11

RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders



RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 2/11

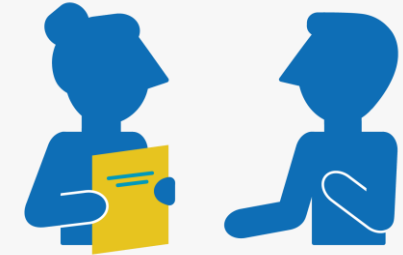
Programming	In use for (23 out of 27): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOs: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 3.2, 4.1, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1, ISO 1, all (4)
Definition & interpretation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of EC definition (9); no difficulties with interpretation (9) • More precise explanation what to do if organisations drops out (1) • Narrower definition (without associated) (3); those in partnership agreement (1) • Explanation on role of associated organisations (1); wider approach based on stakeholders (1) • Quality requirement: Intent to start sustainable cooperation must be clear (1); clarification regarding expectations related to active involvement (1)
Calculation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on data from 2014-2020 (average budget & partner numbers (3; 4; 8; 9; 15 up to 28) per project, average cost for participation in a project etc.) • Assumption: 70% of unique organisations (1); in other cases 80% (2) – considering evt. double counting
Challenges with target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No particular challenges (9) • Considering the avoidance of double counting in calculations (4) • Estimations for newly introduced small-scale projects (1)
Reasons for not using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to keep the overall no of indicators used very low & RCO87 does not capture the actions listed for each specific objective (1) • RCO87 does not capture the unique characteristics of Interreg (1) • N/A (2)
Guidance to applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No difficulties encountered up to now (11) • Too early to say (3)
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes other organisations beyond partnership & associated counted (2) • Identifying legal entities that count as organisation (1) • Handling of participation in several projects (1)
Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No challenges (6) • Revision in few cases (6) (reasons see under challenges in guidance to applicants) • Many revisions required (1) • Too early to say (2)

RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 3/11

Project monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet any reports received - too early to say (7) • No particular problem (2)
Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signature of partnership agreement (PA) as key evidence (3); FA as key evidence (1) • System description is work in progress (3); methodology on all indicators developed (1) • Clearance procedure for indicators values in place (1) • Easily validated (1)
Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge: Avoiding / high risk of double counting (6); necessitates decision under which SO to count (3) • Too early to say (5) • No difficulties up to now (5) • Recommendation for beneficiaries to use unique identifier available in monitoring system (1) • Considering evt. own calculation system next to JeMS (1)
Communication on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented on website and during programme events (2) • Used since number achieved is quite impressive (1) • Aggregation per SO (1) • Outputs are used more in "storytelling" during the project implementation (1) • Maybe best communicating no of organisations taking part in cooperation and supplement it with some testimonials reflecting on cooperation, i.e. not on the project topic but on the added value of cooperation
Any proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check double counting at SO not at programme level (4) • Rename highlighting Interreg achievements: 'No of partnerships established to enhance the European territorial cooperation.' • Pair it with indicator that says more on implementation (1); skip it for lack of AV beyond partner count (1)
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit for wide uptake and wide coverage: used across all POs and ISOs • Eliminating / avoiding double counting is perceived as a challenge by visible no of programmes

RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 4/11

Main discussion points



- High uptake of the indicator, with minimal interpretation issues, but some concerns about counting organizations that drop out.
- Programmes relied on previous data, no major difficulties with the calculation and target setting, only **double counting of organisations** was a common issue.
- Challenges in identifying the legal identities of organizations that participated in several projects, complicating tracking and verification.
- Quantity is measured, but suggestions were made to add indicators for cooperation quality.

RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 5/11

Conclusion and further actions

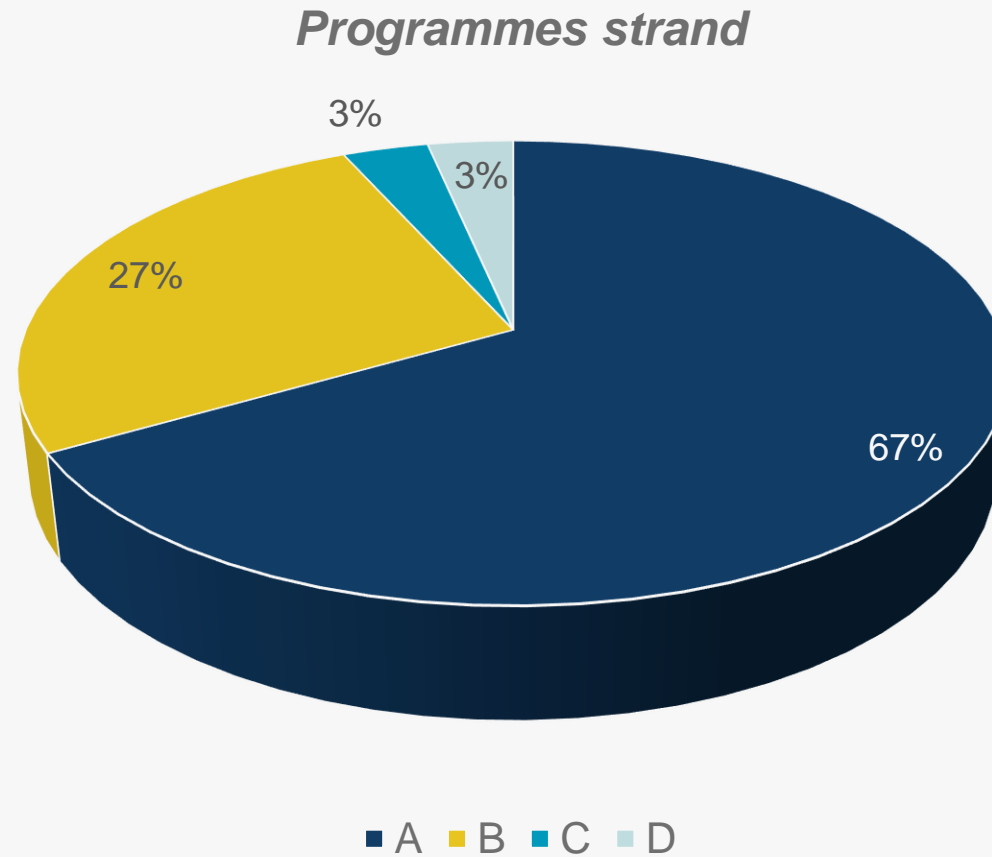


- RCO87 is vital for measuring cross-border cooperation but faces challenges like double counting and unclear definitions.

Recommended Actions:

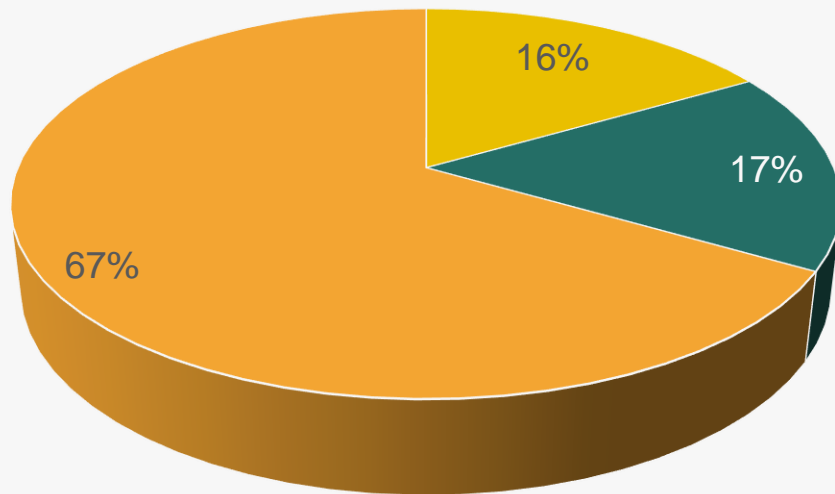
- Standardize definitions for "organizations cooperating across borders."
- Provide clear guidelines on counting, especially for multi-project organizations.
- Explore the use of unique identifiers for better tracking (e.g. in JEMS).
- Balance quantitative reporting with qualitative assessments to capture cooperation quality.

RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 6/7



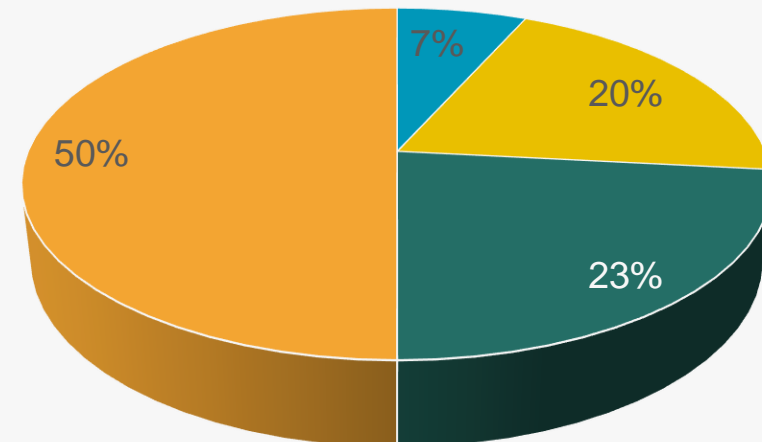
RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 7/11

Relevance: Does the indicator measure relevant outputs/results of the actions financed by the programme?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

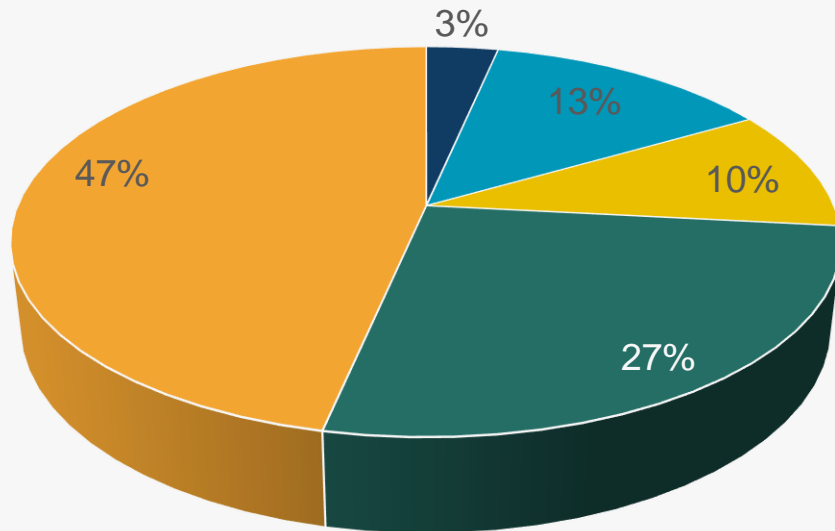
Acceptability: Do stakeholders readily accept to measure the indicator? And are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the indicator clear?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

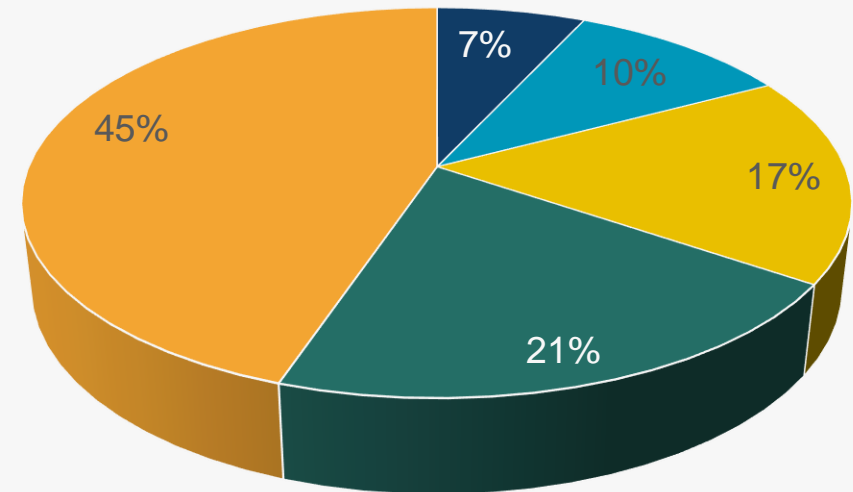
RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 8/11

Clarity: To your knowledge, is the indicator unambiguous and easy to interpret by the project beneficiaries?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

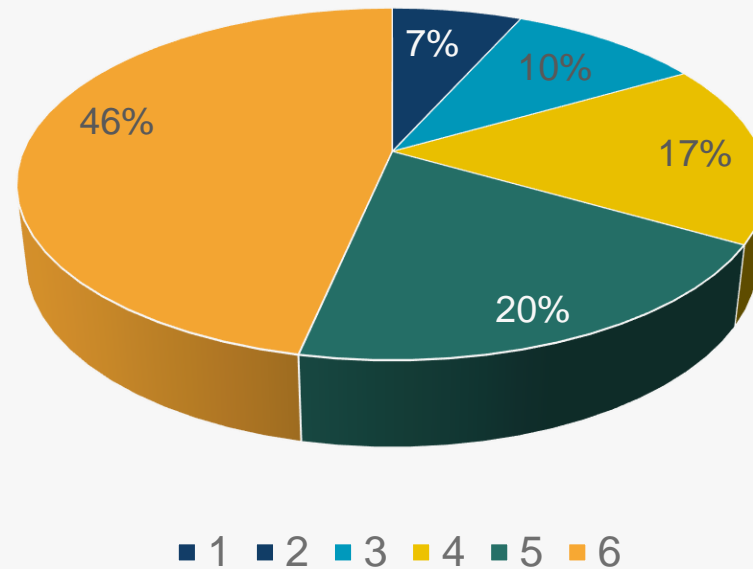
Ease of use: Is the indicator easy to monitor? Are there any problems with reporting the indicator?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

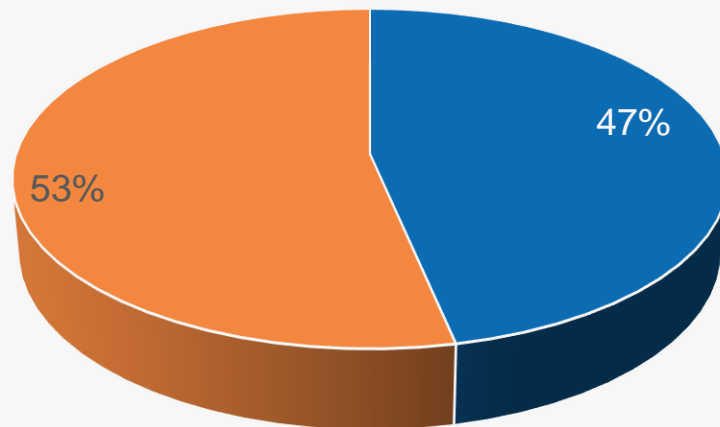
RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders 9/11

Robustness: Is the indicator robust against manipulation, i.e. is the use of the indicator likely to distort behaviour (over/underreporting)?



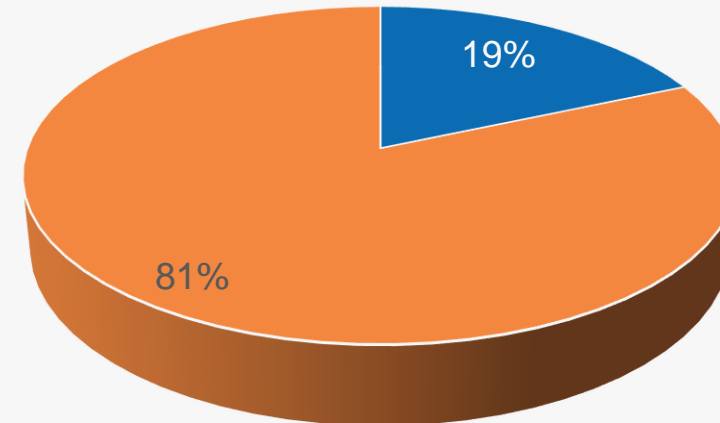
RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders - 10/11

Is the indicator used in all specific objectives? (Y/N)



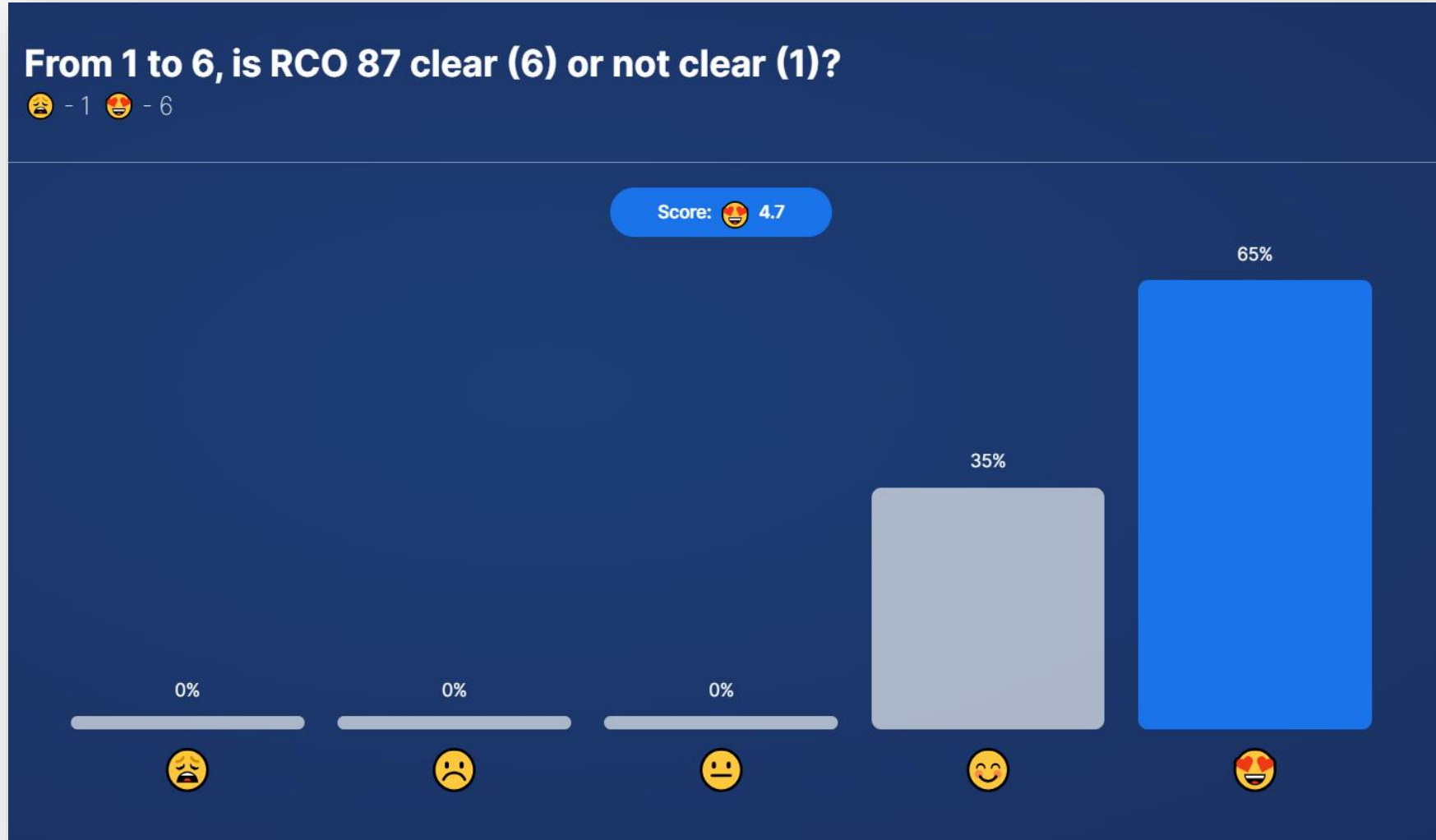
■ Yes ■ No

Did you use unit costs when calculating the indicator target? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders: The results of the Slido voting - 11/11



RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 1/11

RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 2/11

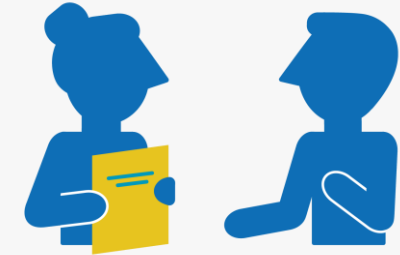
Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely used in PO1 + PO2 and sometimes in PO4, PO5 and ISO 6.1
Definition & interpretation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following SWD definition, sometimes with SO specific elements (N=12/23) No specific difficulties (N=8/23)
Calculation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target values based on budget available, expected average cost per project and assumptions on number of solutions per project In most programmes each project is assumed to generate at least 1 solution (as high as 4 per project in 1 programme.)
Challenges with target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/12 reported no specific difficulties, used past monitoring data and adapted it.
Reasons for not using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking solutions with previous joint actions seen as restrictive (N=9/23) Preference for other indicators (RCO84, RCO117, RCO87)
Guidance to applicants	
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 programmes report no specific difficulties (yet) or describe their indicator factsheets Other programmes report issues with lack of common understanding of "solutions" or disinterest of projects generally
Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six programme reported some or a significant need to revisit the projects' proposed target setting linked to the use of this indicator

RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 3/11

Project monitoring	
Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 programmes reported no experience to date or that validation systems are still being established • 6 programmes described (some in detail) the evidence required for validation
Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six programmes reported some or a significant need to revisit the projects' proposed target setting linked to the use of this indicator; • Need to distinguish confusion between pilot actions vs solutions (1), and not linked to administrative and legal obstacles (2).
Communication on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most communication will focus on the project specific thematic narratives and achievements as these are more easily understood • Indicators will be used by SO and to report to Monitoring Committees
Any proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most replies were silent, waiting for more practical experience or expressed a preference to keep it as is. • One programme proposed differentiation based on type of solution (IT, governance, territorial development,) • Need for a clearer definition regarding the connection between RCO84 and RCO116
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 programmes replied: • 1 programme suggests breaking link with RCO84; another programme suggests the reverse. • "A very concrete indicator, showing that tangible things are done in CBC".
Conclusion	

RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 4/11

Main discussion points



- Widely used in Priority 1 & 2; less in Priorities 4, 5, and Interreg Objective 6.1. Most programmes follow the definition.
- Targets are based on budgets; most programmes expect 1-4 solutions per project. No major issues in setting targets.
- Concerns over restrictive definitions and confusion between "pilot actions" and "solutions."
- Some programmes face challenges; clarification on what qualifies as a solution is needed.
- Difficulties in conveying "jointly developed solutions";
- Focus on Joint Development: Cross-border collaboration is key to the indicator's success.

RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 5/11

Conclusion and further actions



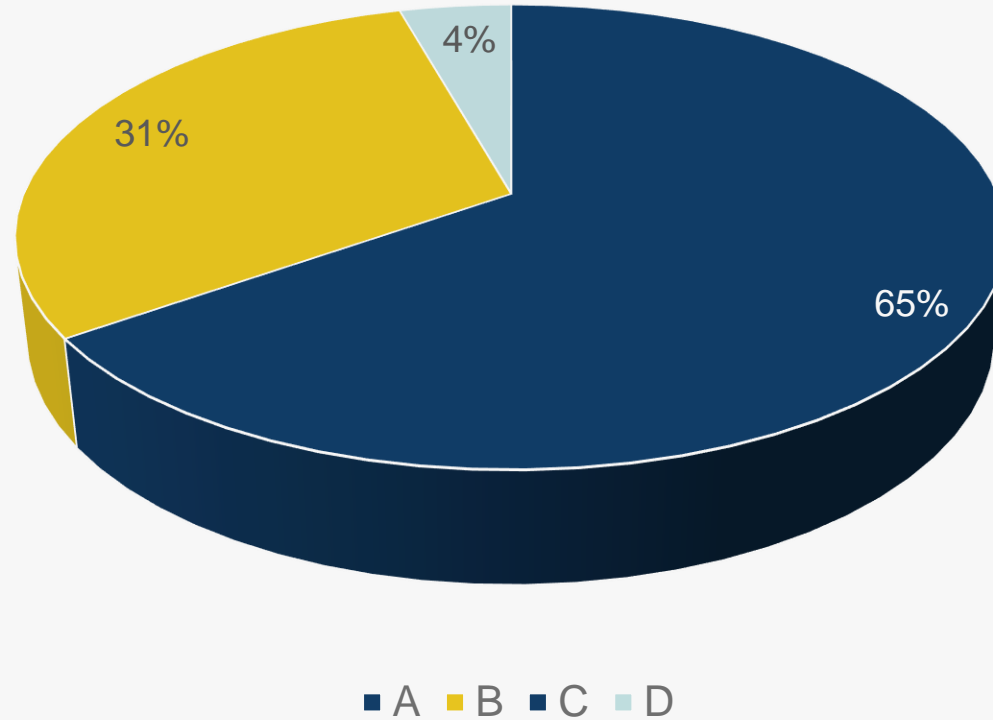
While RCO116 is widely adopted, challenges remain in defining and communicating "jointly developed solutions" clearly.

The following actions are recommended:

- Further clarify the distinction between pilot actions and jointly developed solutions to avoid confusion.
- Simplify the communication of the indicator's impact by developing standard types of solutions and using clear, relatable examples (storytelling).
- Establish clearer guidelines on evidence collection for validating the indicator's values, including concrete examples of acceptable documentation.
- **Retain the broad definition of "jointly developed solutions"** to capture the diverse nature of projects, while ensuring a focus on the collaborative nature of solutions.

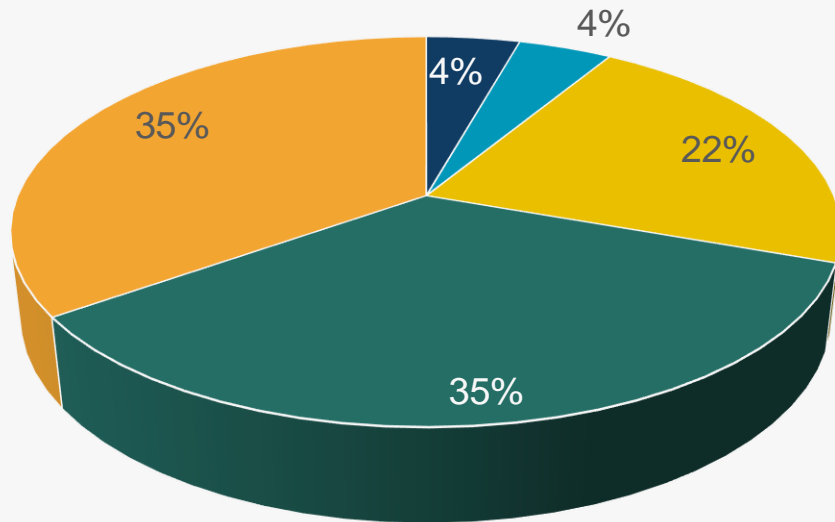
RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 6/11

Programmes strand



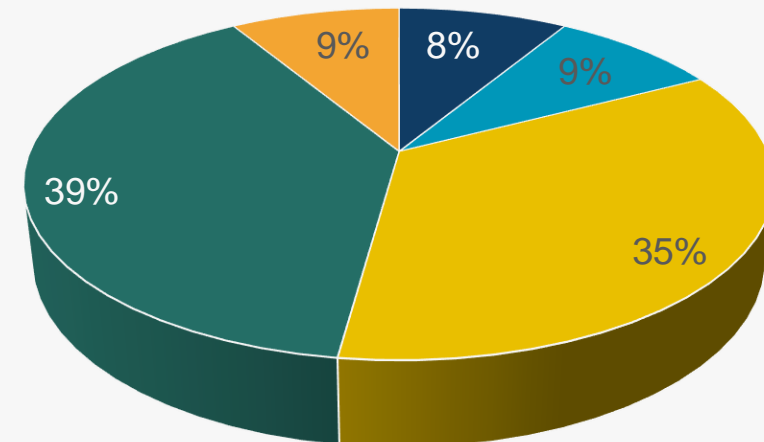
RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 7/11

Relevance: Does the indicator measure relevant outputs/results of the actions financed by the programme?



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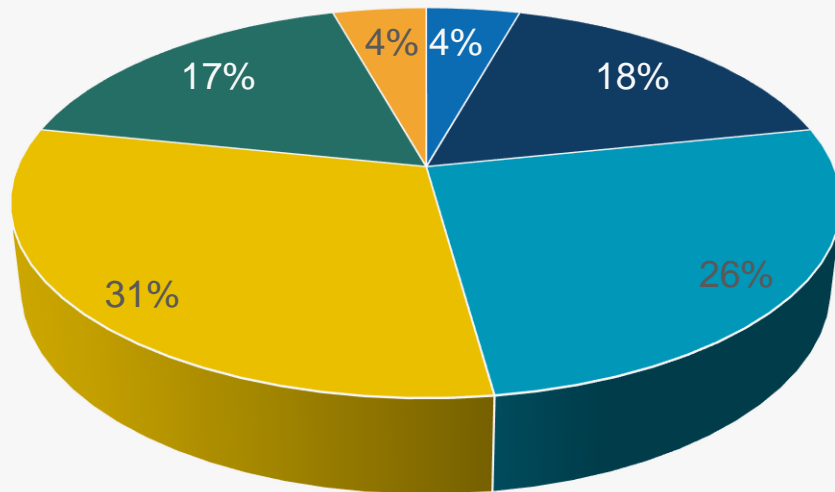
Acceptability: Do stakeholders readily accept to measure the indicator? And are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the indicator clear?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

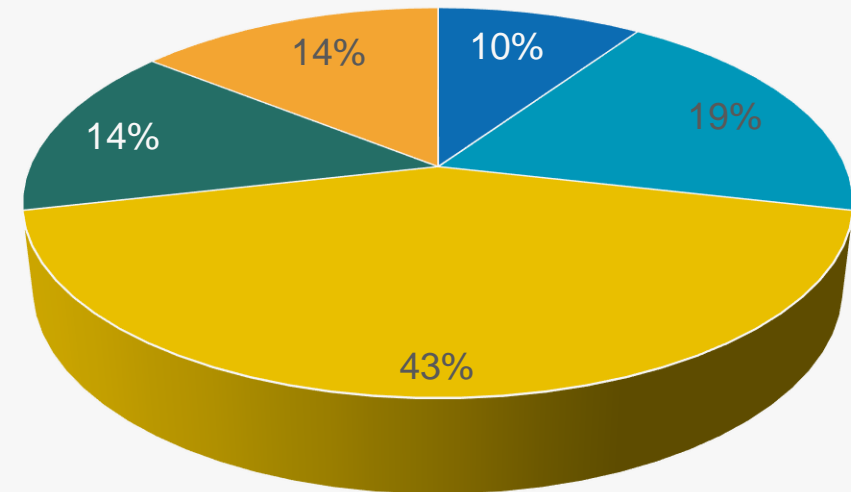
RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 8/11

Clarity: To your knowledge, is the indicator unambiguous and easy to interpret by the project beneficiaries?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

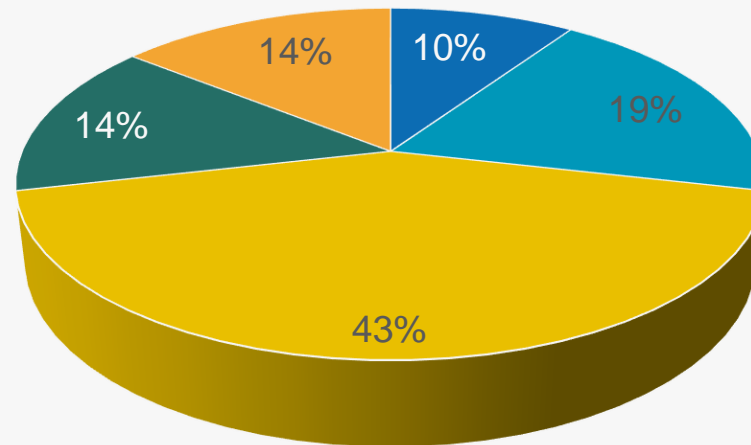
Ease of use: Is the indicator easy to monitor?
Are there any problems with reporting the indicator?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 9/11

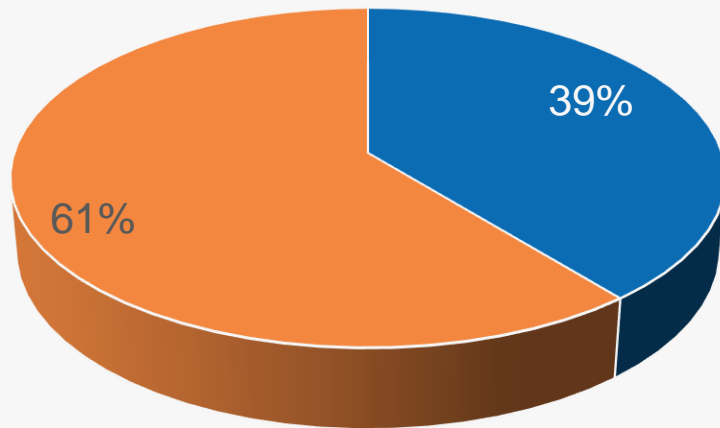
Robustness: Is the indicator robust against manipulation, i.e. is the use of the indicator likely to distort behaviour (over/underreporting)?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

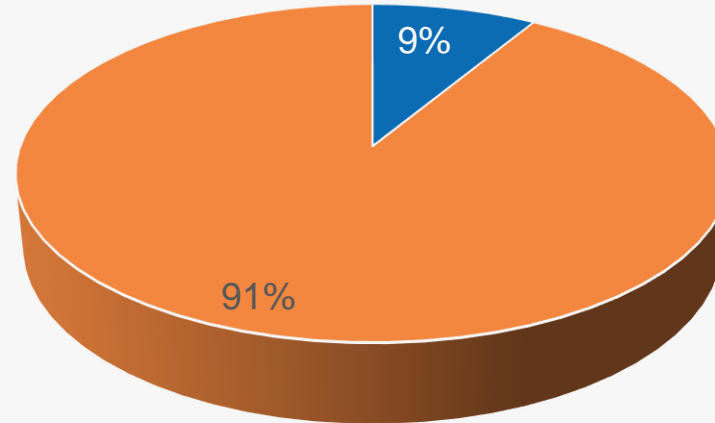
RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 10/11

Is the indicator used in all specific objectives? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

Did you use unit costs when calculating the indicator target? (Y/N)

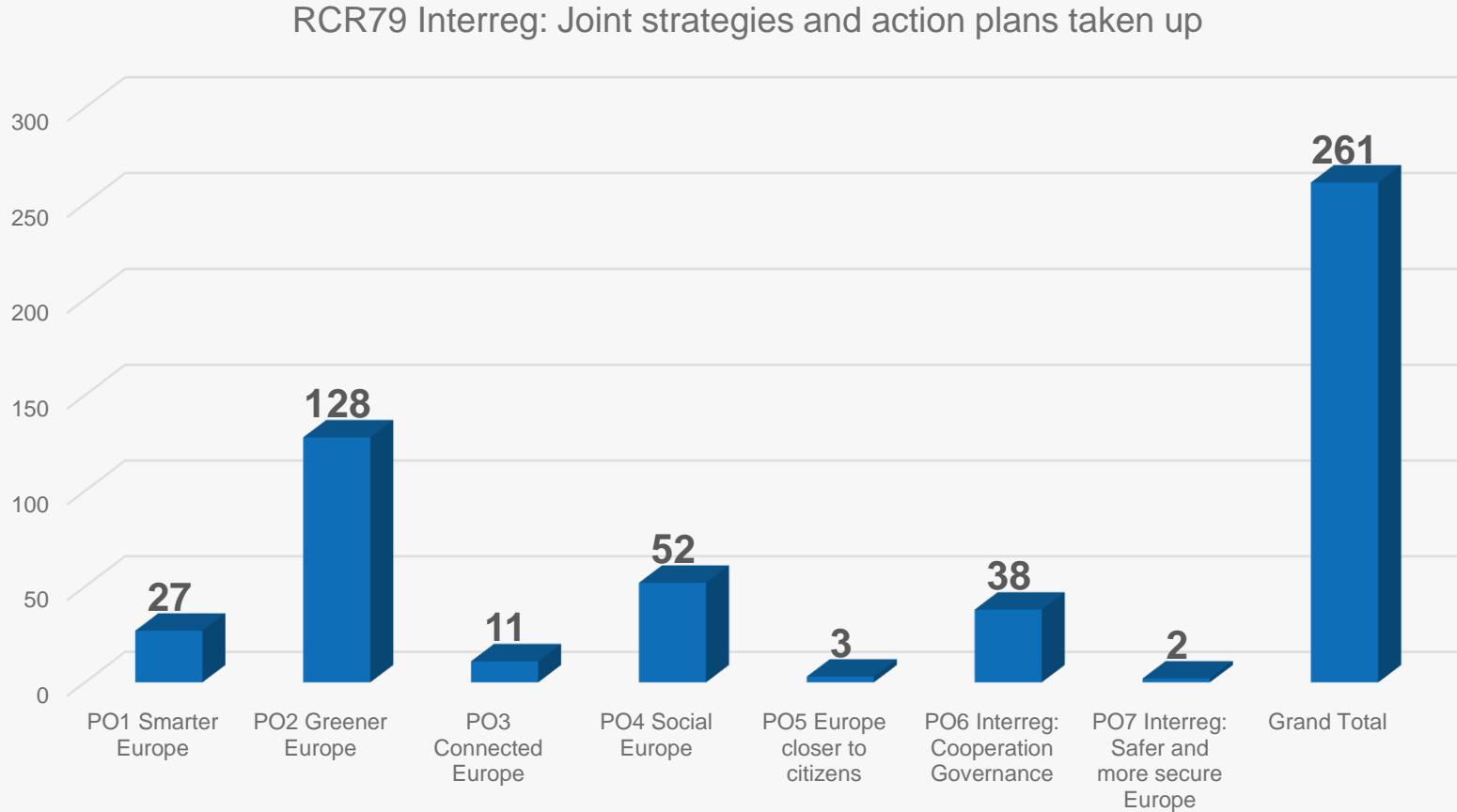


■ Yes ■ No

RCO116: Jointly developed solutions - 11/11



RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 1/11



RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 2/11

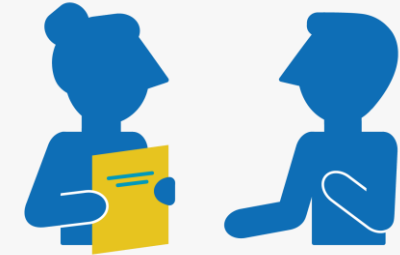
Programming	In use for (19): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOs: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 (8), 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 (5), 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.6, 4.9 (PEACE+), ISO1, ISO2, ISO6.2, ISO6.3, ISO6.6, all
Definition & interpretation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several programmes reported no difficulties encountered, in part because there is a clear link to the output indicator RCO83 (6) • Practical definition of 'taken up' (1) • Definition of 'strategy' and 'action plan' (1)
Calculation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on data from 2014-2020 (3) • Linked to targets for RCO83 (1:0.5 (4), 1:0.75, 1:0.8, 1:1 (2)) • No differentiation by PO/SO; number of results is the same and defined by per M EUR allocated.
Challenges with target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of 2014-2020 data was noted by some programmes as not being very reliable, e.g. due to final 14-20 data not being available when targets were set. • Target setting challenging due to interpretation issues making estimation challenging (3)
Reasons for not using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator too broad/abstract and programme wanted to take a more focused approach (3) • Focus on tangible actions prioritized (e.g. pilot actions) over tools/documents (enablers) (5) • RCO116 seen as already covering this indicator (programme assumes that any solutions produced should also be taken up) • RCR 104 chosen instead
Guidance to applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interpretation (8) or calculation (9) issues encountered so far
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some clarification needed around interpretation of e.g. 'take up' (3) and output-result link (1)

RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 3/11

Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No particular challenges/very minor issues (6) or too early to tell (4)
Project monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too early to assess (6)
Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific platform/tool created and in use (3) Platform/tool adapted from 2014-2020 (2) and requires higher effort (1) No particular challenges (3) or too early to tell (3) Systems designed to avoid double counting (1) and have multiple verifications (1)
Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No particular challenges (3) or too early to tell (4) Double counting an issue due to design of data systems (1) Strategies/communication in place to avoid double counting issues (2)
Communication on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too early to reflect on experience (4) Communication on results via e.g. website (5), events/campaigns (3), newsletters (2).
Any proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count # of institutions adopting the strategy/action plan (1) / need to better measure the implementation of the strategy (2) Drop the indicator and use RCR104 with RCO83 instead (1)
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambiguity around time frame (post- project completion) makes data collection difficult; what is the duration for a strategy to be 'taken up'? (2)
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fit for wide uptake and wide coverage: used across POs 1,2, 3, 4 and ISOs Some clarifications for EC definition on time frame/measurement of 'taken up' Target setting often linked to RCO83 or based on 2014-2020 No major difficulties in verification of outputs expected, but too early to tell For counting: 30% experienced no difficulties, 40% too early to tell

RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 4/11

Main discussion points



- The indicator is broadly applicable and effective in guiding programmes, especially in PO1 and PO2, where it helps measure the uptake of strategies. Its link with R83 simplifies its use, leading to wider adoption.
- Unclear definitions of the terms "taken up," "strategy," and "action plan." The complexity in interpreting these terms has created inconsistencies in their application.
- There were mixed opinions on the interpretation of the RCR79 indicator (for some too broad or abstract, others appreciated the flexibility it provides)
- Some programmes have chosen to use different indicators, such as RCO116 or RCO104, which they feel are better suited to capturing the results of their projects.
- Need for more precise guidance on interpreting the indicators, particularly regarding the concept of "take up."
- Some suggestions included shifting the focus from counting strategies to counting the number of institutions adopting these strategies.

RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 5/11

Conclusion and further actions



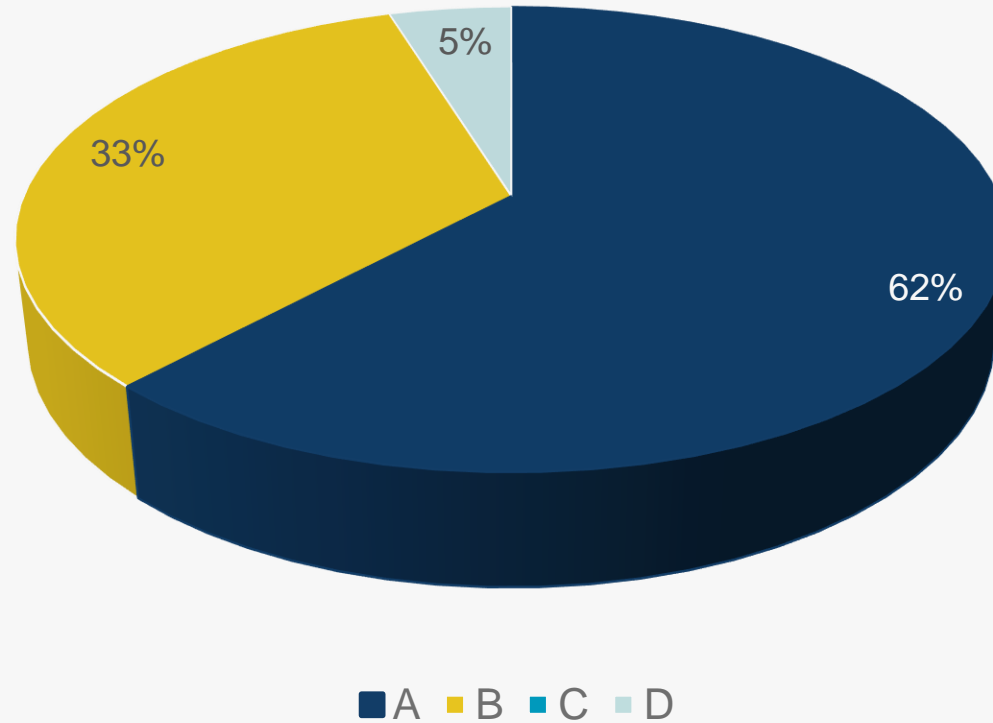
The RCR79 indicator has proven useful across various CBC programmes but would benefit from clearer definitions, improved data reliability, and more specific guidance on its application. Flexibility in interpretation is valuable, but consistency in understanding is needed to enhance the indicator's effectiveness.

The following actions are recommended:

- More guidance is required to provide clarity on these terms, ensuring that they are uniformly understood across different regions and programmes "taken up," "strategy," and "action plan."
- More guidance is required on how to interpret and apply RCR79, particularly focusing on the concept of "take up."

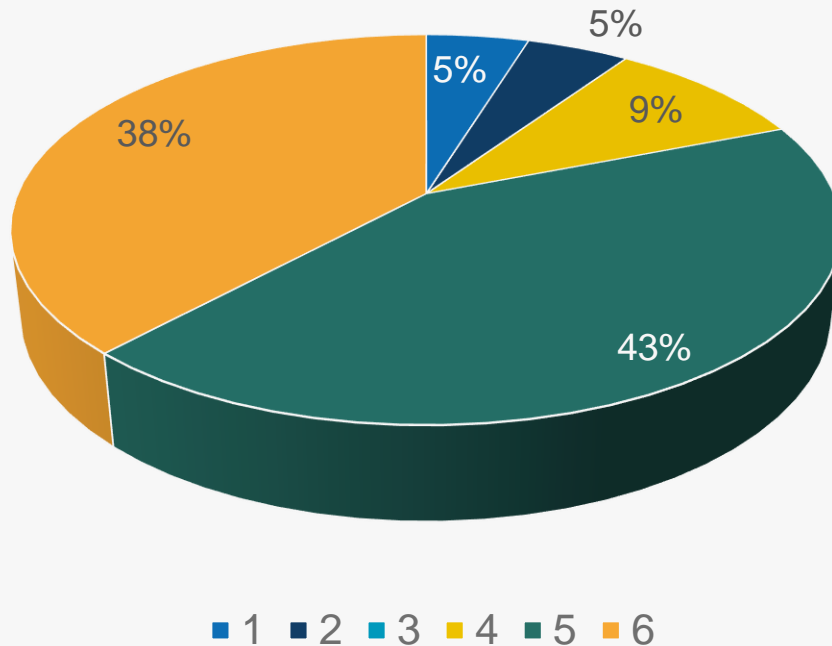
RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 6/11

Programmes strand

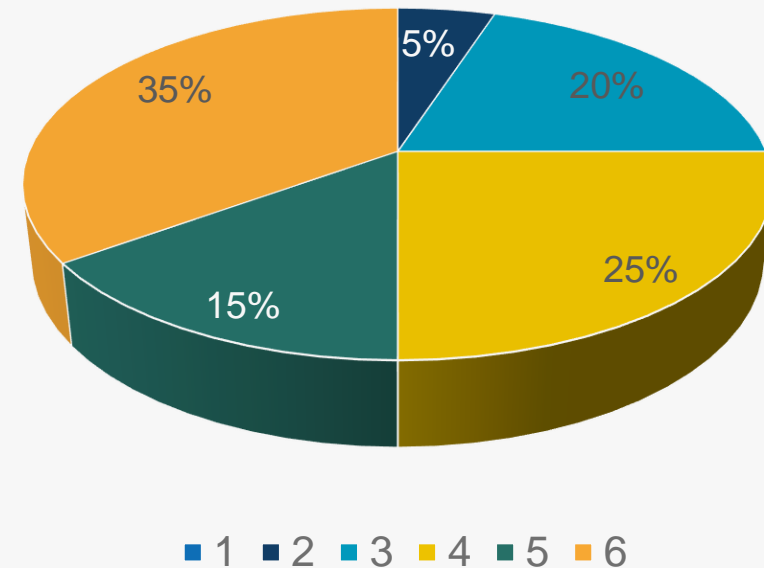


RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 7/11

Relevance: Does the indicator measure relevant outputs/results of the actions financed by the programme?

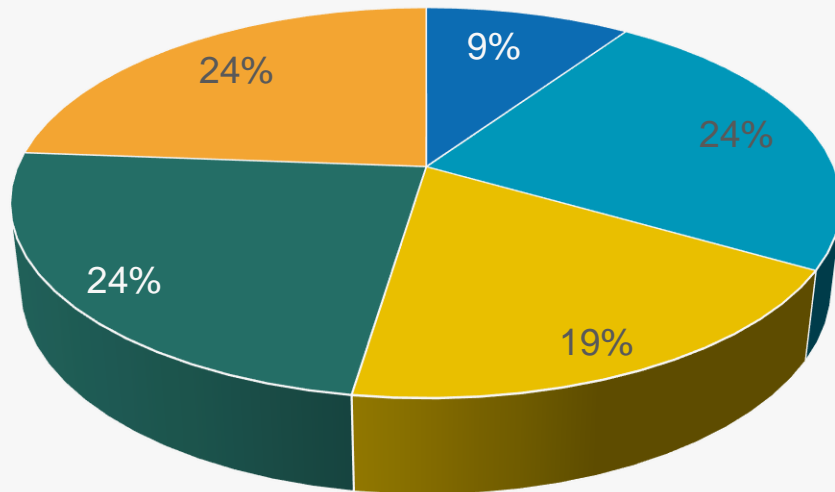


Acceptability: Do stakeholders readily accept to measure the indicator? And are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the indicator clear?



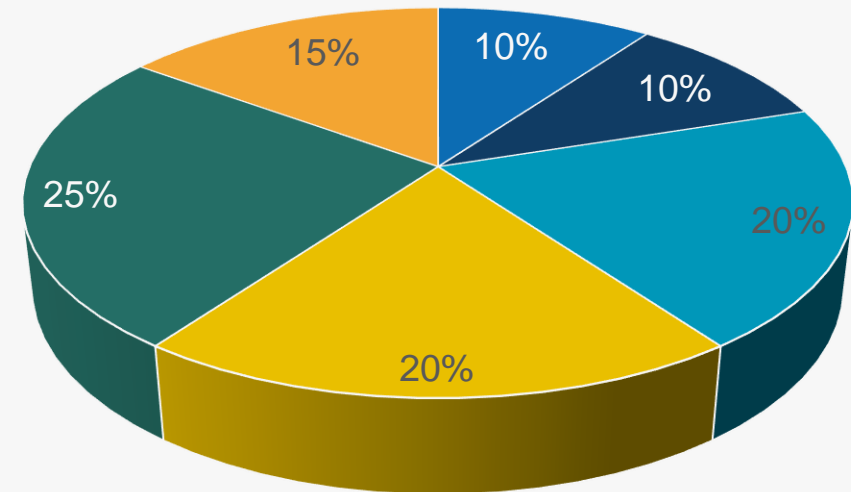
RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 8/11

Clarity: To your knowledge, is the indicator unambiguous and easy to interpret by the project beneficiaries?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

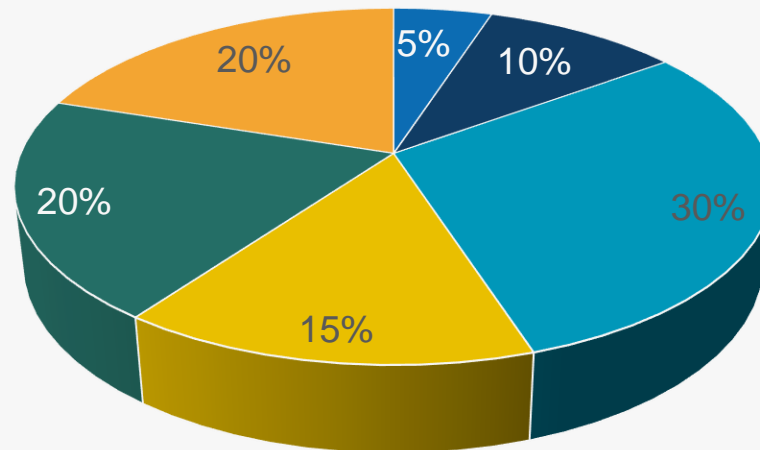
Ease of use: Is the indicator easy to monitor?
Are there any problems with reporting the indicator?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 9/11

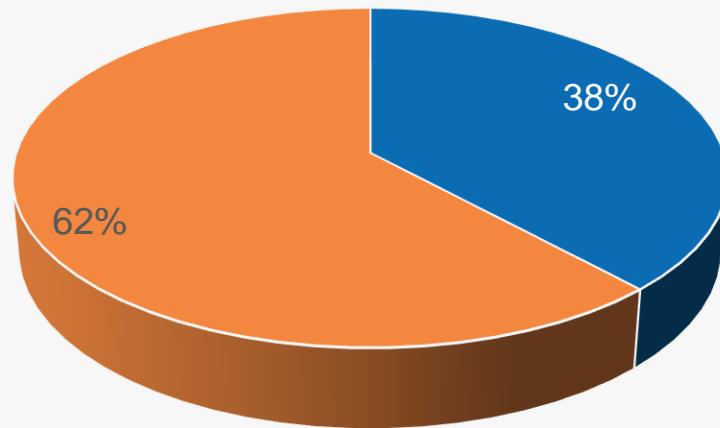
Robustness: Is the indicator robust against manipulation, i.e. is the use of the indicator likely to distort behaviour (over/underreporting)?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

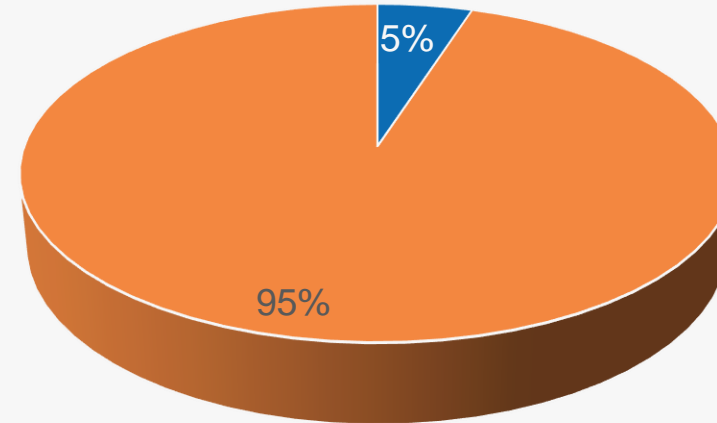
RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 10/11

Is the indicator used in all specific objectives? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

Did you use unit costs when calculating the indicator target? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

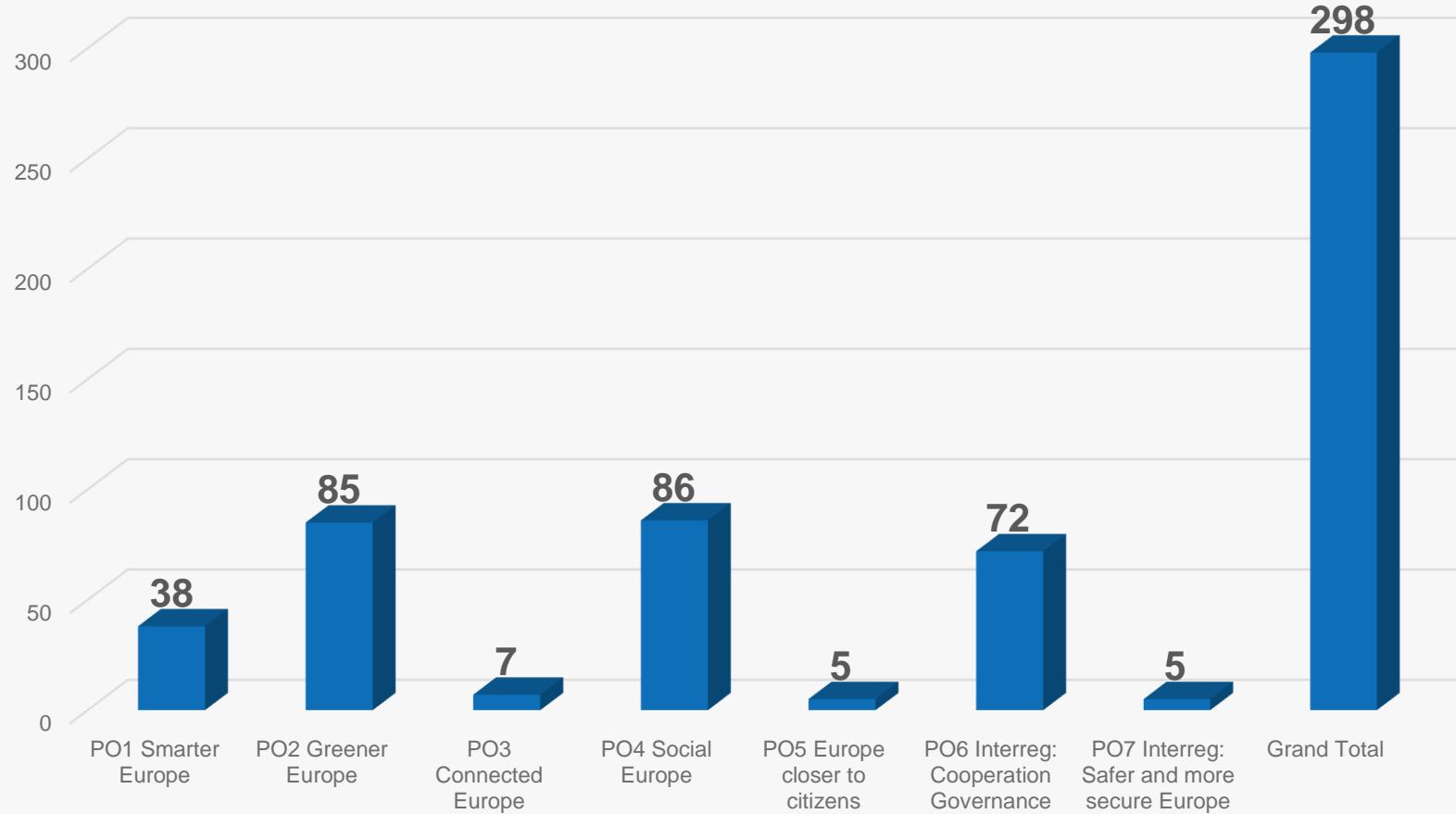
RCR79: Joint strategies & action plans taken up 11/11

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RCR84: Organisations cooperating post-project 1/11

RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project



RCR84: Organisations cooperating post-project 2/11

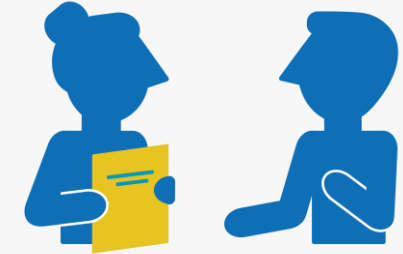
Programming	In use for (19): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOs: ISO 1 (9), ISO 2 (1), all SOs (3), 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6 (5)
Definition & interpretation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of EC definition acc. to fiche (10) • Clarification on type of document expected (3) • Clarification that sustained cooperation without formal agreement is o.k. • Contextualised for EUSDR (1) • Clarification: link to RCO 87 (4), specific expectation regarding scope, time frame and evidence of cooperation (4)
Calculation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-defined ratio (percentage) between RCO 87 and this RCR – (range from 1:1; 1:0.8; 1:0.7 1:0.5; 1:0.4 with 0.5 (50%) being quite popular) (6) • Based on data from 2014-2020 (average project budget, cost per strategy etc.) (2) • Concise calculation based on scope of support for MRS (2)
Challenges with target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority saw no particular difficulties (9) • Estimations perceived as challenging (2)
Reasons for not using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not capture the actions listed for each specific objective (1) • Not adapted to the IE rationale (1) • Due to technical reasons related to data collection after project completion (1) • Not used. We have paired the output indicator organisations cooperating across borders with the programme-specific indicator on organisations with increased institutional capacity (1)
Guidance to applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority encountered no difficulties up to now (8) • Too early to say (2)
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns related to formalised cooperation raised (not related to indicator as such) (1) • Sometimes additional organisations counted (beyond LP + PPs) (1)
Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too early to say (3) • In few cases target revision (2) • In several cases revision required (1)

RCR84: Organisations cooperating post-project 3/11

Project monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too early to say (3) • Too early but not expecting difficulties (3)
Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No difficulties (3) • Programme uses specific guidance document and/or monitoring tools (2) • Specific document in development (3)
Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same risk for double counting as for RCO 87; handled at programme level (3) • Too early to say (3) • Specific explanation for beneficiaries provided (1) • Encouraging beneficiaries to use identification code in monitoring system enabling automated checks (1) • No challenges expected owing to small number of projects in related PO/ISO (1)
Communication on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly communicated to MC and in various channels (8) • Part of MRS support monitoring – not widely communicated as such (1) • Too early to say (3)
Any proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor developments up to one year after the project end does not seem to be necessary as per definition the project is able to report on the planned cooperation upon completion (3) • Proposed to count informal cooperation too (1) • Proposed to consider double counting at SO level instead of programme level (3) • Renaming it into 'No of joint initiatives successfully implemented as a result of established partnerships'
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited added value compared to RCO 87 (1) • Better instead of focusing only on quantitative achievement to look into substance, pass the "aim for high, but it's o.k. to fail" approach if explanation for failure is provided.
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid uptake across the POs; very often used for ISO 1 • Frequently used in par together with RCO 87 (as planned) – but wide range in ratios pre-set by the programmes • Eliminating double counting perceived as extra burden for programmes • No other major difficulties experienced / expected in use

RCR84: Organisations cooperating post-project 4/11

Main discussion points



- Many programmes adopted the indicator, but some avoided it due to limited relevance or post-project data collection burdens.
- Post-project Cooperation: Varied approaches to documentation; some programmes avoid formal agreements, others align with macro-regional strategies.
- Estimation of Cooperation: Around 50% of organizations are expected to continue collaboration post-project in some programmes.
- Mixed experiences with data collection: some found it manageable, while others faced challenges.
- Proposals for Improvement: Rename the indicator to reflect partnership quality and emphasize qualitative outcomes.
- Some programmes implemented unique identifiers to avoid double counting

RCR84: Organisations cooperating post-project 5/11

Conclusion and further actions



RCR84 is useful for tracking post-project cooperation, but challenges remain with documentation, data collection, and double counting.

Recommended Actions:

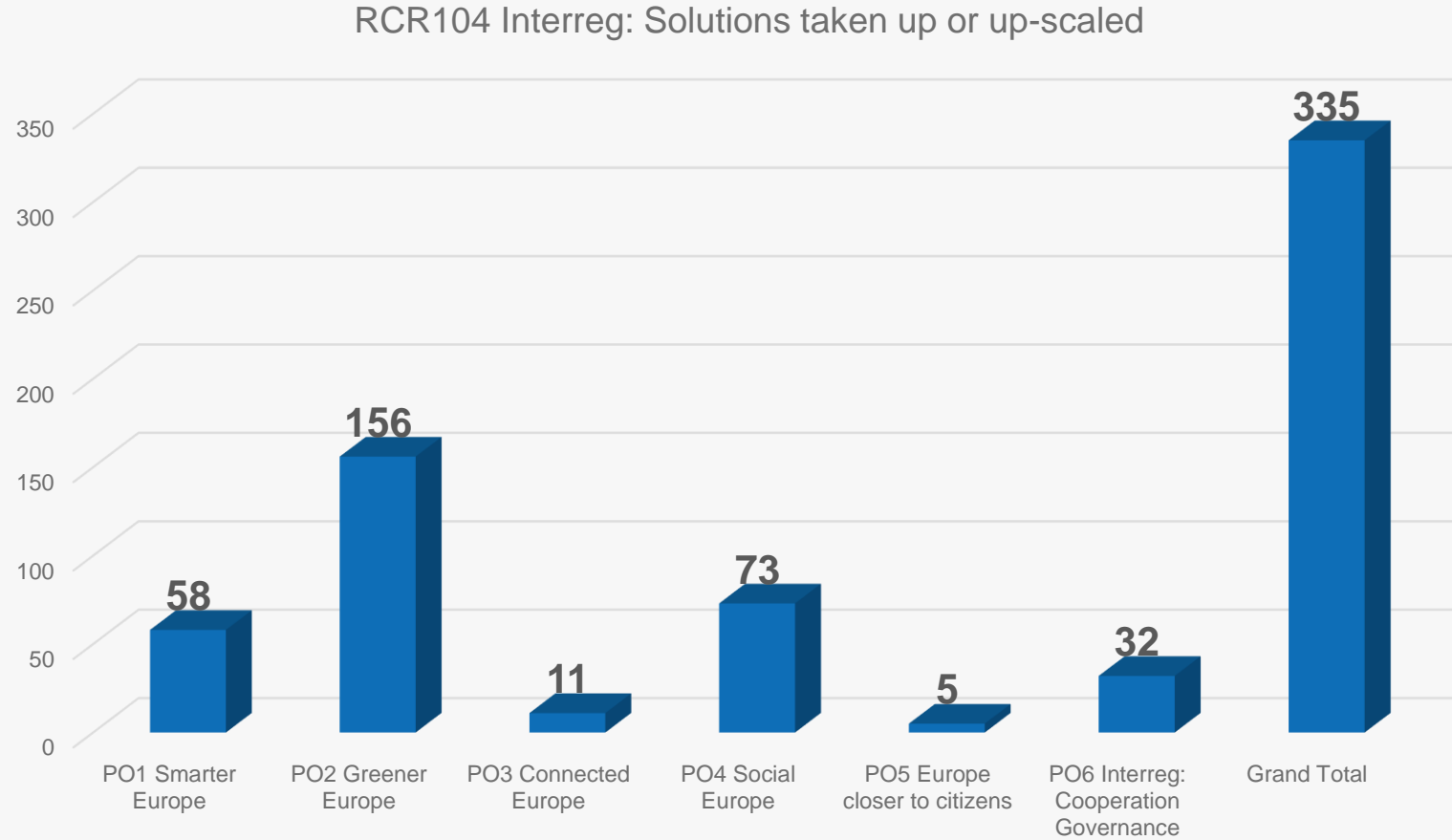
- Standardise how to count organizations, especially in multiple projects, to prevent double counting.
- Provide clear requirements for post-project cooperation documentation, allowing alternatives to formal agreements.
- Simplify data collection: Encourage pre-project agreements and flexible timing to ease the data collection process.

RCR84: Organisations cooperating post-project 11/11

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RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 1/11



RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 2/11

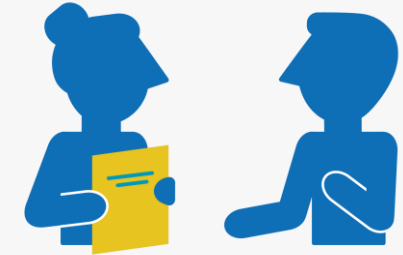
Programming	In use for (21): SOs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4., 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 4.6, 5.2, ISO1, all (4),
Definition & interpretation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on terms 'taken-up or up-scaled (4) - e.g. organisation not using it before or expanding its use ... • Definition what 'solution means (1) • Clarification that organisation adopting does not have to be PP (1) • Specific sub-components related to 1) SSPs and regular projects • Hint to corresponding RCO 84 (4) or RCO 116 (1) • No difficulties /easy to understand (9)
Calculation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based mainly on data from 2014-2020 – average project size and numbers (2) • Link to targets for RCO 84 or 116 (1:1 or 1:0.5) (8) or RCO 87 (1:0.3) (1) • Generic assumptions such as 1 per project and 20% of small-scale projects (SSPs) (3)
Challenges with target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimations perceived as challenging (4) – in particular for new elements such as SSPs (1) • Not perceived as challenging (9)
Reasons for not using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of the programme, a diversified budget, most SOs with an infrastructure component (i.e. hard investment projects), time pressure, N+3 (no time to launch one call for pilot actions/solutions than another for the uptake/up-scale in a programme period) (1) • RCR does not match RCO 116 – specific RI has been developed (1)
Guidance to applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No difficulties up to now (6) • For some difficult to switch to take-up and/or up-scaling – they stick to detailing output (2) or think it is automatically met (1) • Difficulties similar as for RCO 116
Calculation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No or minor difficulties (10) • Some projects counted organisations instead of solutions (1) • Some use same as for RCO 116 – perceived as overly optimistic
Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No particular challenges or minor ones (6) • Revision of linked RCO leads to revision of RCR (2), other problems encountered (3)

RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 3/11

Project monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific template on follow-up for applicants provided (1) • Specific instructions for applicants per indicator (1) • Durability visit (1) • Too early to say (5)
Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No difficulties (6) and clear-cut criteria developed (4) • Quantitative indicators bear the risk of 'achievements on paper' instead of actual achievements (1)
Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too early to say (9) • No difficulties or not expected (5) • No issues due to clear link to RCO (1)
Communication on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate per OS used in communication (1) • Long-term use could be presented through testimonials (1)
Any proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring developments up to one year after the project completion is not feasible, therefore we would suggest removing from the definition the reference to this time-frame (1) • It would make more sense to count the number of institutions which are taking up the solutions than the uptake of the solution as such (1) • Rather counting number of scale-ups than of solutions; This adjustment would ensure that the project will focus not only on developing solutions but also on promoting them. Multiple counting would be possible (1)
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete indicator, showing that tangible things are done in cross-border cooperation (1)
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit for wide uptake and wide coverage: used across POs 1,2, 3 and 4, 5 and ISOs • Some clarifications to EC definition putting it in context of programme / SO • Target setting based on 2014-20 and link to corresponding RCOs (84, 116) • No major difficulties in verification of outputs expected • For counting: one quarter expects / experienced no difficulties, for three quarters too early

RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 4/11

Main discussion points



- Discussion on whether to count only the solutions adopted or also the number of organizations adopting them; the latter could reflect a higher turnout, especially in transnational programmes.
- Emphasis on how adopting solutions enhances organizational capacities. Some programmes use a specific indicator for capacity building, which may complicate choices for applicants and management.
- Some programmes view increased capacity as essential for achieving outcomes indicated by RCR 104.

RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 5/11



Conclusion and further actions

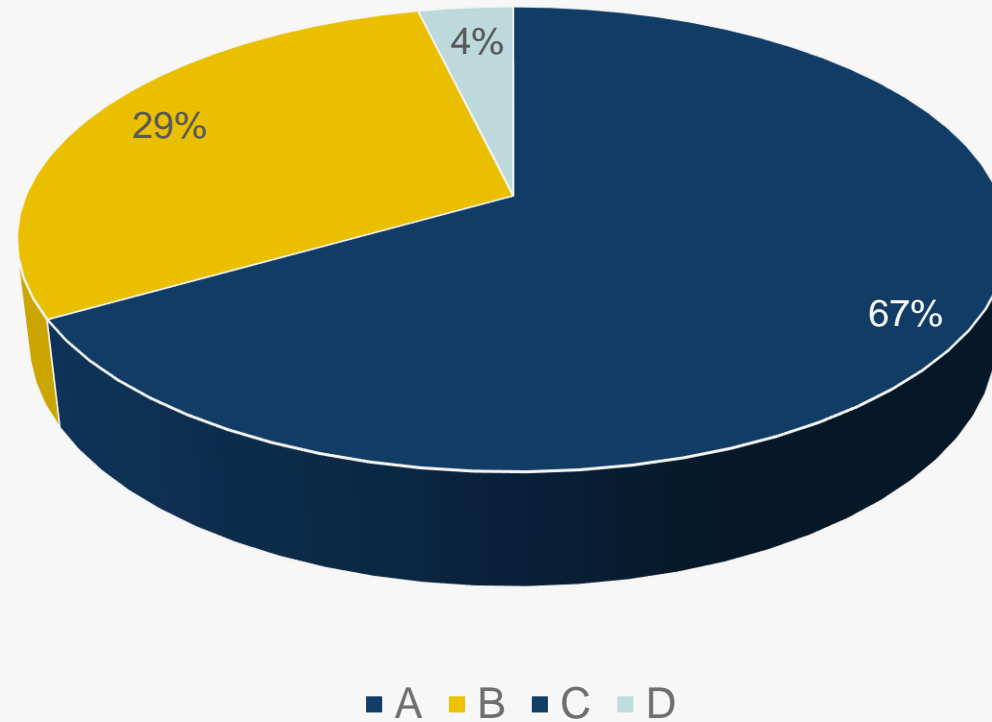
- Suitable for broad uptake across multiple policy objectives and ISOs, but requires clarifications to the EC definition for specific contexts.
- Target setting based on 2014-2020 data; quantitative links to RCOs (84 and 116) vary widely across programmes.
- No major difficulties expected related to the verification of outputs

Recommended Actions:

- Maintain flexibility in Interreg indicators.
- Simplify and harmonize their application.
- Develop clearer intervention logic to encompass activities, indicators, and pathways for better capturing quality and impact.

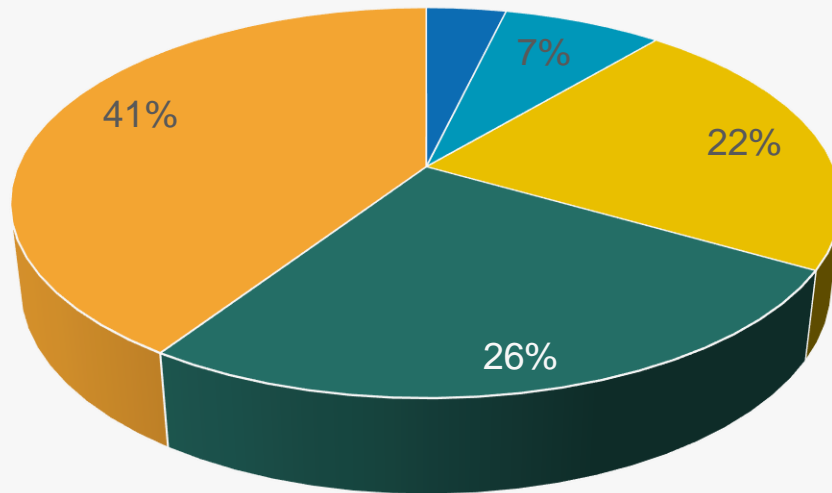
RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 6/11

Programmes strand



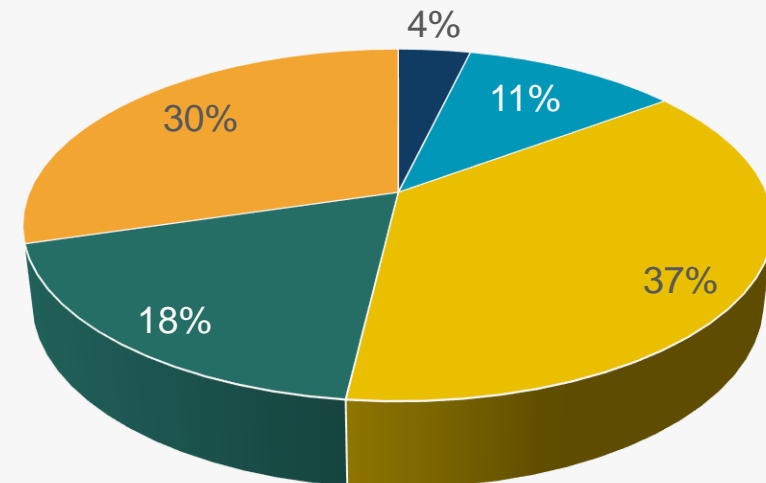
RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 7/11

Relevance: Does the indicator measure relevant outputs/results of the actions financed by the programme?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

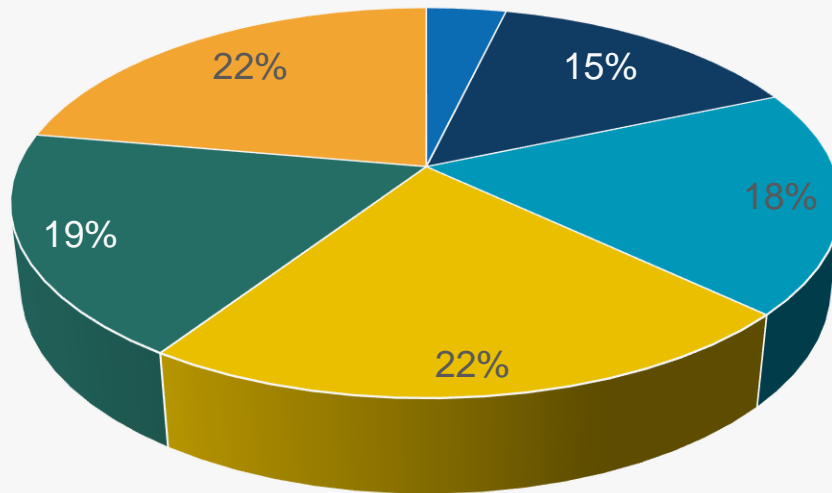
Acceptability: Do stakeholders readily accept to measure the indicator? And are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the indicator clear?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

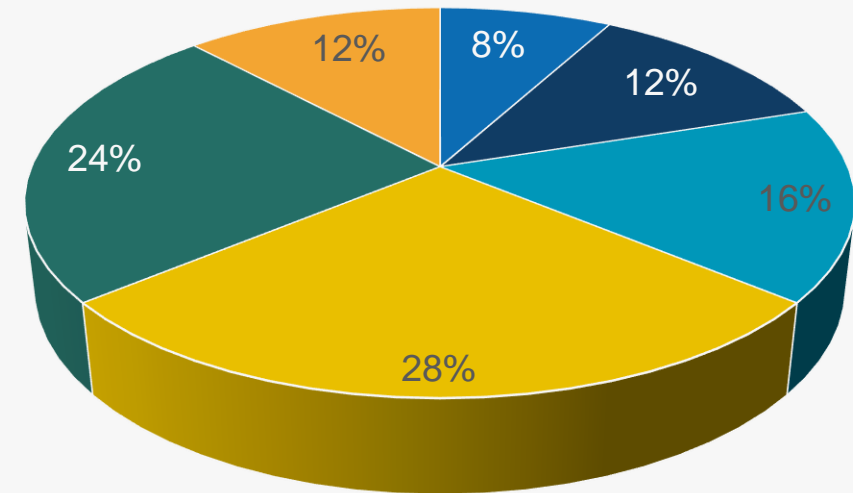
RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 8/11

Clarity: To your knowledge, is the indicator unambiguous and easy to interpret by the project beneficiaries?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

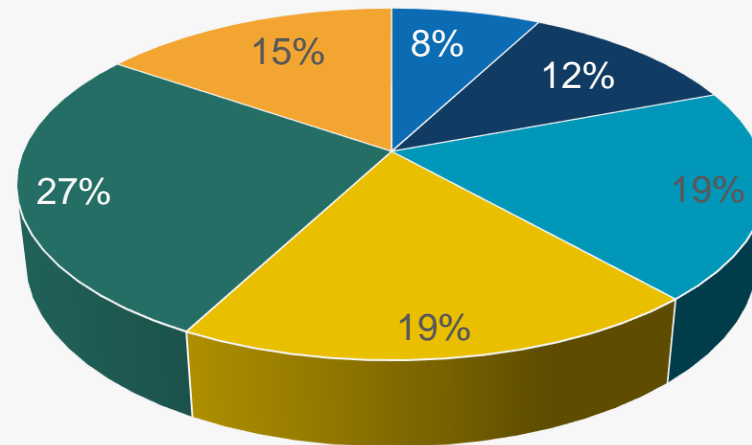
Ease of use: Is the indicator easy to monitor?
Are there any problems with reporting the indicator?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 9/11

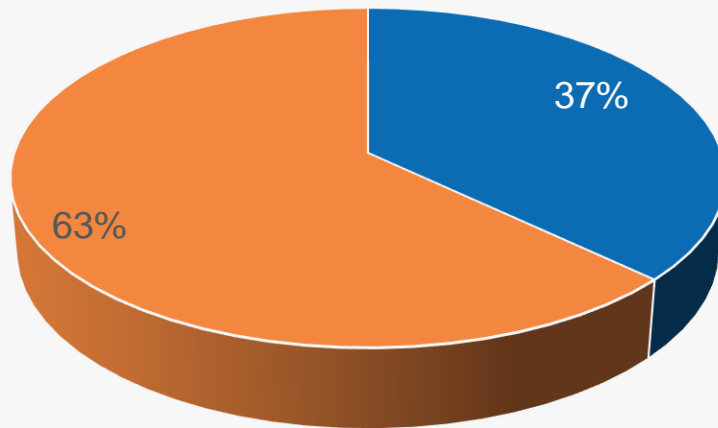
Robustness: Is the indicator robust against manipulation, i.e. is the use of the indicator likely to distort behaviour (over/underreporting)?



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6

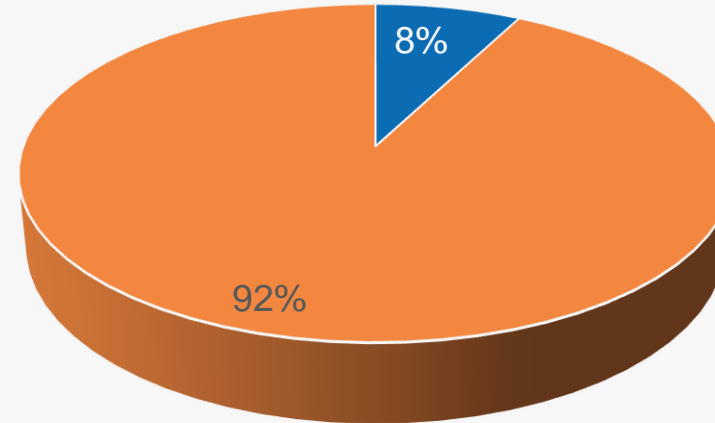
RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 10/11

Is the indicator used in all specific objectives? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

Did you use unit costs when calculating the indicator target? (Y/N)



■ Yes ■ No

RCR104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled 11/11

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Comfort Break

Group work / Break out rooms

Select one of the four groups focused on the most popular indicators (rated 1-3 in previous Slido exercises).

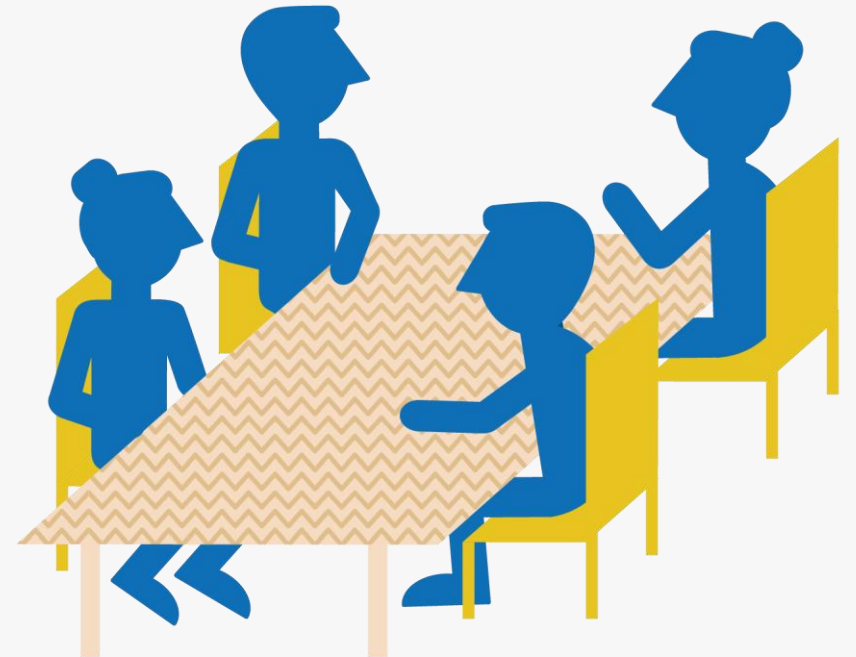
Questions to discuss in the groups:

- Select a rapporteur
- Why did you rate the indicator 1-3?
- What improvements can be made?

For those not discussing the popular 7 indicators (group 5):

- What further activities would you like from Interact related to indicators?

Feedback 3-4 main messages to the group by the rapporteur



Which of these common indicators would you like to discuss in the future...

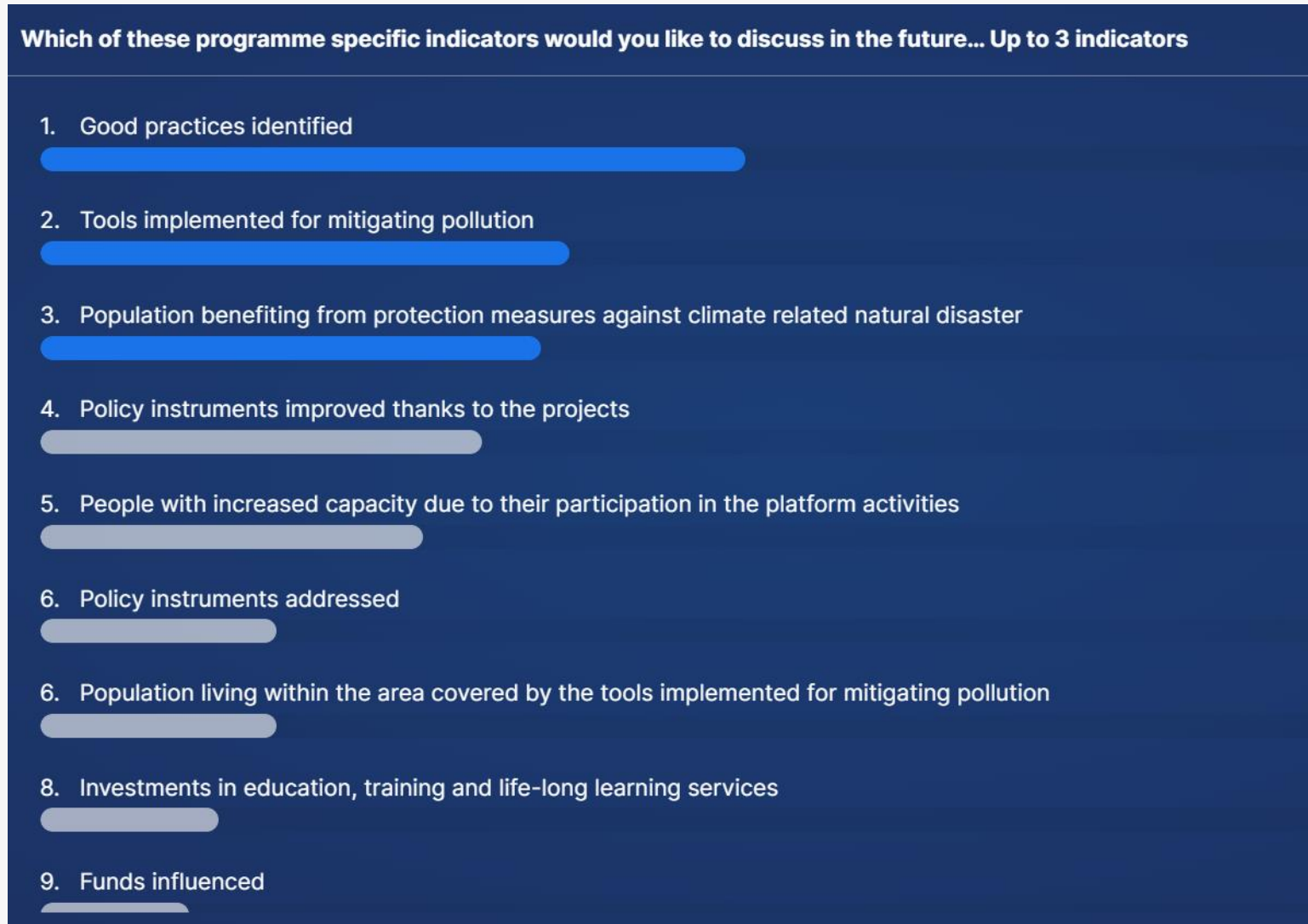
Common output indicators

- RCO 07 - Research organizations participating in joint research projects
- RCO 76 - Integrated projects for territorial development
- RCO 81 - Participations in joint actions across borders
- RCO 82 - Participations in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion
- RCO 85 - Participations in joint training schemes
- RCO 115 - Public events across borders jointly organised
- RCO117 - Solutions identified for legal/admin. obstacles
- RCO118 - Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of MRS
- RCO120 - Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages

Common result indicators

- RCR 82 - Legal or administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved

Which of these common indicators would you like to discuss in the future? The results of the Slido voting





Wrap up day 1

