Evaluation Plan update and indicators

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Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is a **pilot activity** for Interact, testing a new approach to our service delivery – and **whether it works for you**!

While you are here, you will be asked to **rate individual sessions** (in Whova) and to respond to a **4-question survey** at the end of each day.

Please share your feedback with us!
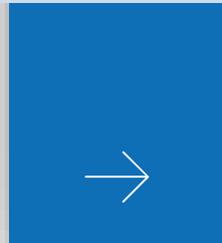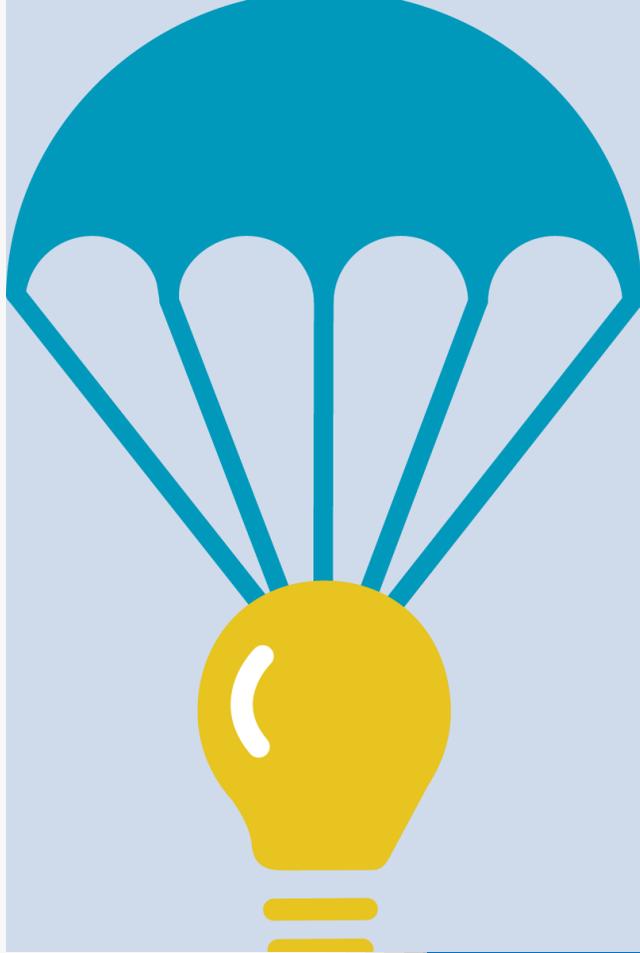
Objective of
the workshop

✓ This session picks up on **the key topics** and **challenges** of the evaluation plan. It will enable exchange on the **practical implementation** of the new requirements on monitoring and reporting.

✓ As to indicators we would like **to share approaches to the use of common indicators**, their **interpretation,** the **communication of indicators** to the projects, etc.

Evaluation Plan

What have we done so far….

Online, 25. 01.22

Let's get started: Evaluation Plan

Istanbul, 28.09.2022

Evaluation and indicators update

IKF, 24.5.2023

EP update and indicators

Supporting documents

Briefing Note Evaluation Plan,
Version 1, January 2022

Summary Evaluation and
Indicators Update
28 September 2022, Istanbul

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,
Brussels 08.07.2021

Evaluation Plan – Part 1

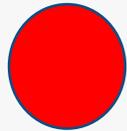| Part 1:	Objectives, coverage, coordination
The introduction clarifying the what/where and who. It should also provide an overview of the coordination mechanism and an initial reflection on the intended focus	- *Introduction to the plan setting out its main objectives;* - *Coverage and rationale: an explanation of which programme/s are covered by the plan and why* - *Analysis of relevant evidence in order to decide where the evaluation efforts should be most concentrated (previous evaluations)* - *Mechanisms between Managing Authorities (MA) for coordination and exchange on evaluations planned, evaluation findings, and methodologies.*

Evaluation Plan – Part 2

Part 2:	Evaluation framework
The evaluation function in a programme should have a clearly defined responsibility for designing and delivering the evaluation plan, and coordinating, monitoring, and promoting the quality of evaluation activities throughout the whole evaluation cycle;	• *Description of the evaluation process led by the MA (responsibilities of involved bodies: evaluation steering group (ESG), technical working groups, scientific or other expert academic input, monitoring committee (MC) etc.);* • *The involvement of other stakeholders within the framework of the MC or in specific working groups established by the MC;* • *The source of evaluation expertise (internal/ external/ mixed) and provisions ensuring the functional independence of evaluators from the authorities responsible for programme implementation;* • *Training programmes for MA and joint secretariat staff (JS) and eventually a wider audience (ESG, MC) dealing with evaluation (for example, seminars, workshops, self-study, and working with other evaluators);* • *A strategy to ensure use and communication of evaluations: how their findings will be followed up; how the evaluations will be made public and published; how they will be transmitted to the European Commission;* • *The overall budget for implementation of the plan subdivided between evaluations (covering the cost of evaluations, data collection, training etc.);*

Evaluation Plan – Part 3

Part 3:	Planned evaluations
It is the centerpiece of the Plan since it should provide an outline of the planned evaluations!	• *Subject and rationale, including the background, the coverage, the main approach (process or impact evaluation), and the main guiding evaluation questions.* • *Methods to be used and their data requirements:* • *Data availability:* • *Duration and a tentative date:* • *Estimated budget for each evaluation*

What parts of the EP do you find challenging?

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Lessons learned so far

Irina Ciocirlan	European Commission, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, DG REGIO
John Walsh	European Commission, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, DG REGIO

REGIO.B2: What are we looking for?

- ➢ Analysis of the available evidence to understand in which areas the evaluations should focus
- ➢ Exchange of best practices between programme authorities
- ➢ Clear identification and definition of roles for stakeholders
- ➢ Follow-up on the evaluation findings
- ➢ Training for the programme staff overseeing the evaluations

REGIO B2: What we have seen so far

❖ Not yet many EPs submitted in SFC2021
❖ Most of them have the minimum 2 evaluations required
❖ In some cases the estimated budget for the evaluations is missing
❖ It is very useful when data sources for the evaluations are clearly identified
❖ Strengthen the coordination with other programme authorities
❖ More details on how the evaluation findings are expected to be used in practice

Ideal Feature of the EP (1/5)

Stimulate the discussion in the evaluation steering group

Use of elements such as dedicated training sessions, gamification or broader involvement in focus groups; attractive blended learning design, etc.

Ideal Feature of the EP (2/5)

Impact evaluation: Build on the results of 14-20

Impact evaluation: start early with your impact evaluation by working on exemplary impact pathways informed by results, impact and achievements of projects from 14-20
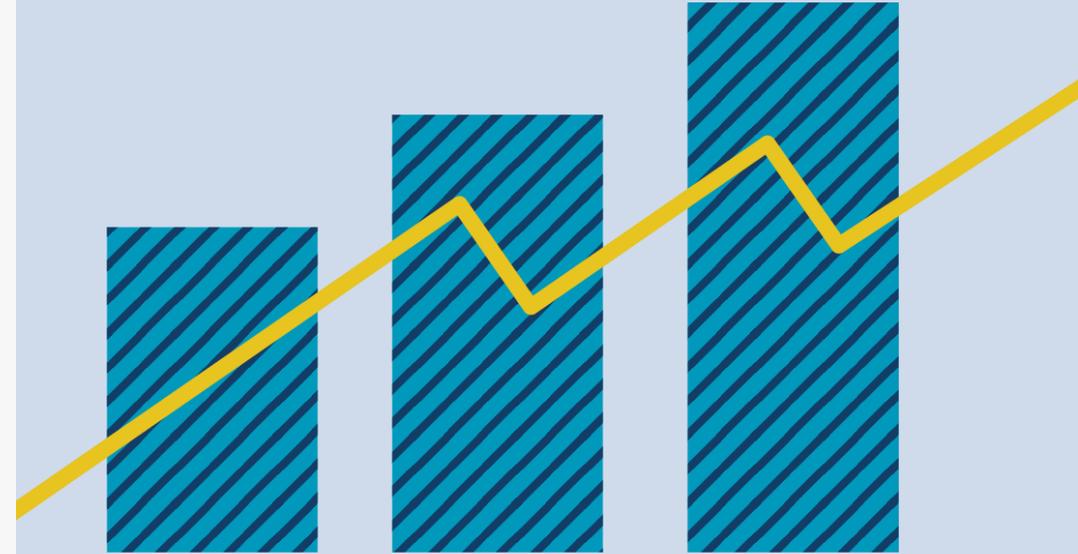
Ideal Feature of the EP (3/5)

Blending internal and external evaluation capacities

- **Operational**: Using external support to develop processes for regular & continuous evaluation of critical operational features: evt. use external facilitation for the sessions (internal QM)

- **Impact**: Use external support to develop impact pathways; regular internal evaluation of implementation progress along impact pathways sketched with external support.
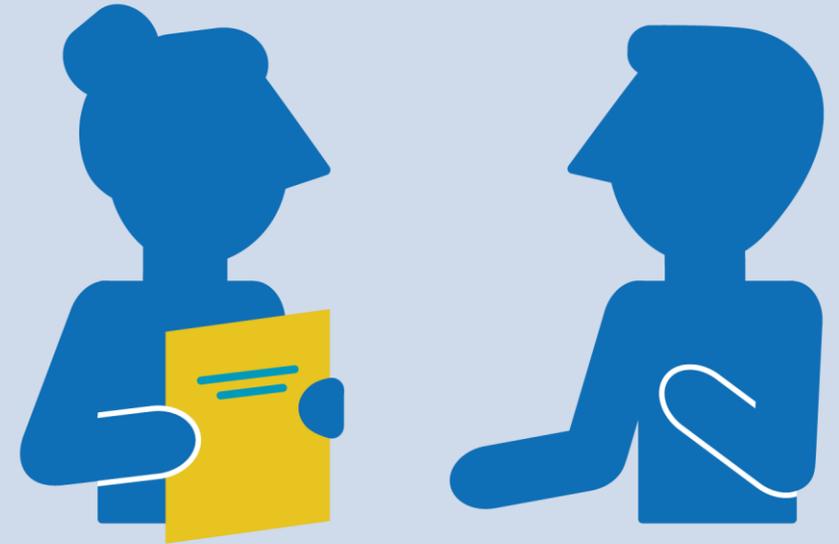
Ideal Feature of the EP (4/5)

Quality of deliverables

- Brainstorm with your communication team and anchor in ToRs: readable reports using illustrative examples, story-telling

- CAP-COM-EVAL: Develop up- and downstream (i.e. after evaluation report is available) activities in close contact with persons in charge of communication and capitalisation
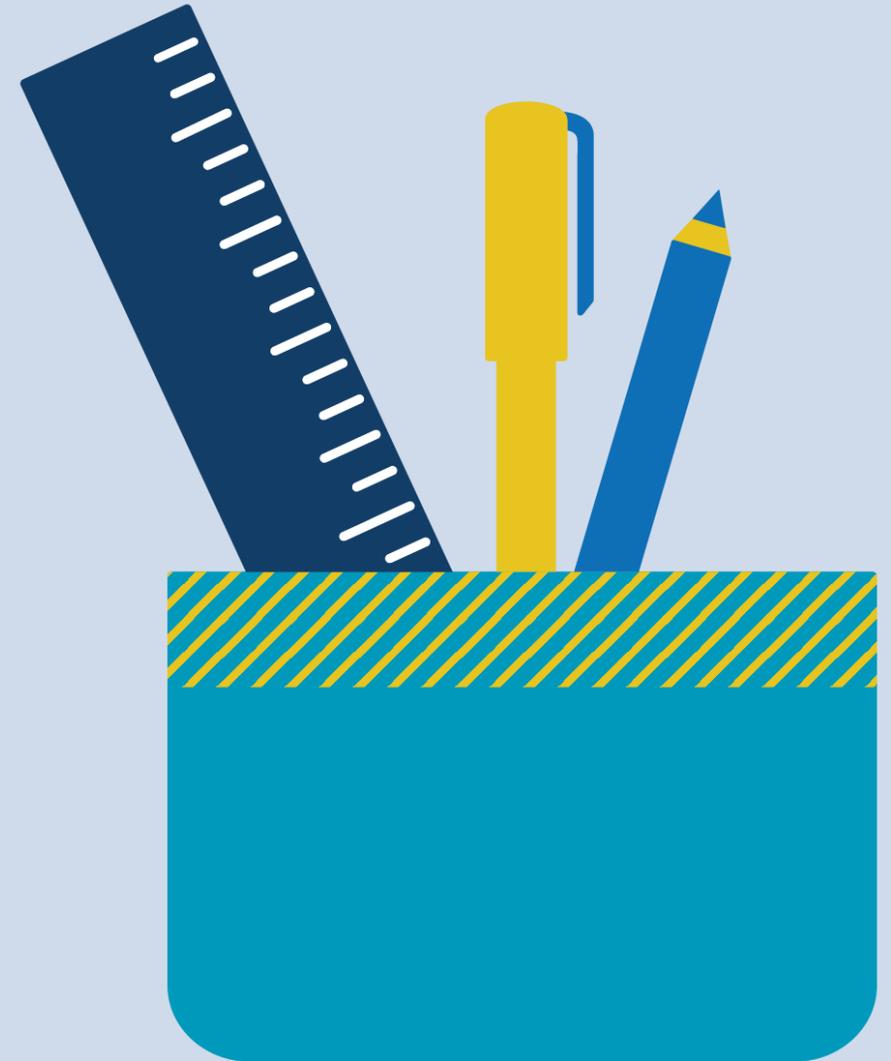
Ideal Feature of the EP (5/5)

Provisions for quality management (QM)

Examples of activities beyond ‚business as usual‘:

- Nominate quality manager and supporter from ESG for QM throughout the evaluation process

- Go back to Evaluation Plan annually – plan illustrative input from ESG to MC

- COM-CAP-EVAL; Ensure adequate communication activities; integrate and blend EVAL and CAP

- Ensure follow-up to recommendations

Indicators

Irina Ciocirlan	European Commission, Evaluation Unit, DG REGIO
John Walsh	European Commission, Evaluation Unit, DG REGIO

Major changes

- **More common output indicators**

- **New common result indicators**

- **More frequent reporting (x2 a year)**

- **Interreg Reg only obliges reporting on completed projects**

(NB potential delay vs IJG programmes will report on completed indicator values)

Use of common indicators 1/5
Common vs specific indicator overview

	Specific	Common	Grand Total	% specific	% common
OUTPUT	**49**	**1950**	**1999**	**2%**	**98%**
PO1 Smarter Europe	5	353	358	1%	99%
PO2 Greener Europe	7	744	751	1%	99%
PO3 Connected Europe	9	54	63	14%	86%
PO4 Social Europe	19	458	477	4%	96%
PO5 Europe closer to citizens		51	51	0%	100%
PO6 Interreg: Cooperation Governance	9	278	287	3%	97%
PO7 Interreg: Safer and more secure Europe		12	12	0%	100%
RESULT	**140**	**1281**	**1421**	**10%**	**90%**
PO1 Smarter Europe	21	199	220	10%	90%
PO2 Greener Europe	51	475	526	10%	90%
PO3 Connected Europe	7	39	46	15%	85%
PO4 Social Europe	37	336	373	10%	90%
PO5 Europe closer to citizens	2	23	25	8%	92%
PO6 Interreg: Cooperation Governance	22	198	220	10%	90%
PO7 Interreg: Safer and more secure Europe		11	11	0%	100%
Grand Total	**189**	**3231**	**3420**	**6%**	**94%**

Interreg and other common indicators = 3 231 uses = 94% of all indicators

Use of Interreg common indicators 2/5 Averge use of Interreg common indicators

	Count programmes	Average # output indicators	Average 3 result indicators
VI-A	62	18	13
VI-B	13	27	17
VI-C	3	3	1
VI-D	5	15	12
PEACE	1	22	17
Total	**84**	**19**	**13**
		1557	**1088**

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Use of Interreg common output indicators 3/5

indicator_short_name	measurement_unit	# common indicator uses	Sum of targets (2029)
RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	organisations	357	40,312
RCO116 Interreg: Jointly developed solutions	solutions	289	5,757
RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly	pilot action	278	7,073
RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed	strategy/action plan	268	4,969
RCO81 Interreg: Participation in joint actions across borders	participations	155	2,326,438
RCO85 Interreg: Participations in joint training schemes	participations	79	233,722
RCO115 Interreg: Public events across borders jointly organised	events	67	7,895
RCO117 Interreg: Solutions identified for legal/admin. obstacles	solutions	27	264
RCO90 Interreg: Projects for innovation networks across borders	projects	13	134
RCO82 Interreg: Participations in horizontal principles actions	participations	9	10,315
RCO86 Interreg: Joint administrative or legal agreements signed	legal or administrative agreement	6	65
RCO118 Interreg: Organisations cooperating for MLG of MRSs	organisations	4	218
RCO120 Interreg: Projects supporting urban-rural linkages	projects	4	33
Grand Total		1,556	

Use of Interreg common indicators 4/5

	Policy objective short name	# common indicator uses	Sum of targets (2029)
RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	PO1 Smarter Europe	51	4,978
	PO2 Greener Europe	117	8,874
	PO3 Connected Europe	8	446
	PO4 Social Europe	96	6,017
	PO5 Europe closer to citizens	4	449
	PO6 Interreg: Cooperation Governance	78	19,517
	PO7 Interreg: Safer and more secure Europe	3	31
Grand Total		357	40,312

REGIO B2: What we have seen so far

❖ No programme amendments for modification of the calculation methodology of indicators

❖ Programmes are designing and running their calls for projects – interpretation questions on common indicators

❖ Questions on when would be the right time for thinking about updating indicator targets

Let's discuss indicators...

Interpretation of indicators:
Are there still questions related the interpretation of indicators? Are there any challenges to communicate the indicators to projects?

Monitoring and reporting: Do you face any difficulties with the collection of data? When and how do you do the quality check?

Link SFC : Monitoring and reporting in JEMS and other monitoring systems

Indicators in Jems:

Programmes can in Jems V6:
- Setup indicators, as per regulation (using RCO/RCR codes)
- Split indicators further to make them more measurable
- Create additional indicators not linked to codes.
- Link multiple output - to result indicators (not vise versa).
- Applicants select indicators in the AF limited to the Specific Objective

In V7 (to be released end of June):
- Projects shall be able to report on indicators through project reports.
- Projects shall be able to self correct indicators in following reports

SFC & Jems:

- SFC currently provides import/upload of data (Jems can already facilitate excel exports).
- Not all programmes wish for full automation as they want to customize data before Jems reports to SFC.

Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

Log into the **Whova app,** go to the **relevant session**, and tell us what you think in the **session Q&A.**

You can also talk to us at the Conference Support stand in the networking area.

Main discussion points (1/4)

Evaluation plan

➢ Legal requirement is to submit to MC within one year of implementation. Submission of the EP to the EC is considered 'best practice'. There will not be an approval but suggestions for improvement from EC and EP will be included as part of their repository.
➢ Deciding on Evaluation questions is one of the more difficult aspects
➢ Most programmes use a similar approach of adapting the previous plan and adjusting timing of evaluations based on past experience

Main discussion points (2/4)

Challenges with the timing of the Impact evaluation

➢ Legislation allows for evaluation of activities from the previous period especially if impacts are seen in the next period and/or activities continue into the next period.
➢ Consider using indicators from the previous period in current evaluations.

Main discussion points (3/4)

Indicators

➢ Indicator target review can be considered at midterm including the review of methodology. Changes should be packaged with other programme modifications or targets can remain with an explanation of why there are huge variances

➢ Consider having a look to indicator targets from similar programmes

➢ Double counting: programmes should add clauses to indicate what has been done to reduce double counting at the level of the Specific Objectives

➢ Risks associated with target setting should be included in the methodology document.

➢ Attendance sheets and other means of verification should be collected

Main discussion points (3/4)

Reporting

➤ REGULATION (EU) 2021/1059 of 24 June 2021: Art 32: 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October of each year the values of output and result indicators for selected Interreg operations and **values achieved by finalised Interreg operations**. It is considered a minimum requirement to report completed operations, however - if you want - you can also report the values of the ongoing activities.

JEMS

➤ JEMS is working with programmes to automate reporting where this is possible. Programmes prefer to clean data before submitting so automatic extraction is not possible.

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:
Interact / Events / Interreg Knowledge Fair (23-25 May 2023)