Questions asked during the webinar on 2021-27 programming vol. 3
16 June 2021, Webex

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I. Horizontal and other principles

Treatment of horizontal principles in programming (EMPL - Maeva Roulette, 03 **-** Boryana Spasova on gender equality, Dora Krumova on other ERDF-related)

1. Is it possible to laid down commitment on 1) do not harm principle 2), charter on human rights and 3) gender equality only within the PA and not, to develop/repeat it once again in every program?
   Answer: [11:05]

2. projects working to enhance women's entrepreneurship, motivated by economic growth arguments/untapped potential in the economy, can they be viewed as gender targeting?
   Answer: Yes. [11:08]

3. Could You please develop more on difference between gender targeting and gender mainstreaming ? what is the difference , what should be highlighted ?
   Answer: [11:08]

4. The difference between code 01 (gender targeted) and code 02 (gender mainstreaming) is not very clear. Could you please elaborate more on this?
   Answer:
   Gender mainstreaming:
   gender sensitive ex ante assessment of the operations to be supported (calls for proposals), clear criteria to ensure gender equality, involvement of partners responsible for gender equality in the monitoring committee.

   Gender targeting - some examples are provided below:
   - Specific actions to promote reconciliation between work and private life: A specific action could aim at ensuring access to good quality and affordable child care facilities, out of school care or care for dependent persons, including the elderly, thorough investment in sustainable care services (ERDF for the support of infrastructure investments). Another specific action could look at innovative ways of work organisation, including flexible working arrangements allowing people to combine informal care duties with work.
   - Specific actions to qualify men and women for non-traditional jobs: Attracting men into female-dominated professions - attracting women into male-dominated professions

- Specific actions aiming at facilitating career progression of women into management: Targeted training of high-potential women

5. During the presentation on the general principles: (gender equality), if I am not wrong, you mentioned a relationship between Technical Assistance and gender-related issues. Is it so? Could you provide additional information on this?
   Answer: [11:11]

6. In case of research, development and innovation program (ERDF) how can be applied the gender principal?
   Answer: [11:13]

7. I would ask you how to cope in practice with Table 8: Dimension 7. We are OP aiming at competitiveness and we plan e.g. to give a bonus points for projects in R&I that have gender equal team. But it is not an obligatory condition for project. Can we use 40% coefficient?
   Answer: [11:15]

8. Thank you for the answer on accessibility for disabled people in broadband operations. The broadband was given as an example, but my question is this: if a specific objective has no direct connection with the final beneficiaries (e.g. water management), how can the UNCRPD implementation horizontal enabling condition be ensured? By what types of operations?
   Answer: [11:34]

Do no significant harm' principle (G1 - Mate Tas)

9. If the programm have SEA and every project is a subject of EIA is there a need to justify a consideration of the principle as well?
   Answer: [11:16]

10. On DNSH principle: it is still unclear if MSs should submit some kind of DNSH assessment with the programmes (separately or in the SEAs), or should MSs provide these assessments only if specifically asked by the Commission?
    Answer: [11:18]

11. How do we do the assessment of actions to check the compliance with the DNSH? Where in the programme document would we include the results of such assessment? We have already finalised our SEA. Also RRF-assesment may not work for us. Meaning: assessment already done in RRF may not be suitable
    Answer: [11:19]

12. If the SEA assessment says it-s ok, no need to go further. It is enough to be mentioned in the OP? I mean that the authority responsible with the SEA assessment made the analyse and decide that SEA is not applying the the OP, than is sufficient to say there is no DNSH?
Answer: [11:21]

13. what do you mean by "FCA"?
Answer: SEA [11:25]

14. where can I find the technical RRF guidance for assessment DNSH principle?
Answer: [11:25]

Climate and biodiversity targets (G1- Mate Tas)

15. Biodiversity target tracking: When will the tracking coefficients be available for MSs? Do these coefficients and tracking have to be included in the programmes? Or when and how should MSs report these expenditures?
Answer: [11:22]

16. Is climate proofing and energy efficiency principle considered as horizontal principle under HP Sustainable development?
Answer: [11:24]

17. When will the climate proofing guidance available for MSs

    Answer in the chat: The climate proofing guidance (including the translations) is ready, but as it refers to the CPR we need to have the final version to have the references right. It will be published after the CPR is published.

18. Is the achievement of biodiversity targets legally binding (as for climate targets)? Which article in the CPR?

    Answer in the chat: It is not legally binding. In the CPR recital (11) mentions the objective, but there is no dedicated article on this

Accessibility (EMPL - Ima Placencia, Andrea Leruste)

Partnership principle (02 - Witold Willak)

19. What is considered as appropriate amount for capacity building of social partners and NGOs?
Answer: [11:30]

II. Outstanding programming and template-related issues, Part I

Justification of the form of support (B3 - Jonathan Dennes)

20. Can you give us more details referring to grant support measures dedicated to energy efficiency measures in historic buildings?
Answer: [12:30]

    Answer in the chat: For historic buildings, if the cost saving would be marginal compared to the cost of investment, setting up a financial instrument might have disproportionately high administrative cost. So, we could accept (with justification) using only grants here.

21. Can be considered as a "combination of form of supports" the opening of procedure" by the Managing authority for both the beneficiaries of grant and for the Financial intermediate (to provide the FIs to the same beneficiaries)?
Answer: [12:32]

22. What is the limit (in years) for payback period to say the investment is "financially viable" according to the EC? Comment: Final wording of art. 58 (2) CPR states: *"Financial instruments shall provide support to final recipients only for investments in both tangible and intangible assets as well as working capital* ***expected to be financially viable and which do not find sufficient funding from market sources."*** In addition, we understand this as a possibility to consider, not a binding rule. In brief, the most important element for selection the right form of support is a market situation (market failures), then investment needs and preferences of target groups, lessons learnt from past experience etc. Last but not least, we need to take into account ambitious EU goals. According to our analysis of market situation, representatives of companies state that the expected payback period is between 3-5 years. If longer, they usually will not implement a project (with individual exceptions according to the nature of the investment – e.g. case of strategic development plans). And according to our calculations of type projects, grants usually and naturally have a lower payback period than FIs. And this is usually an incentive for companies to implement a project. But I can agree that using FIs helps to motivate recipients to successfully finish the project and to be more efficient.
Answer: [12:44]

23. What will be the conditions for combining grant with financial instrument within one operation in case of 2 different EU sources of support: eg. grant from JTF and loan from Invest EU (2nd pillar of Just Transition Mechanism).
Answer: [12:40]

    Answer in the chat: Provisions of Article 63(9) CPR apply for such situation

Categorisation and performance (B2 - Caterina Scarpa, John Walsh, Peter Takacs on territorial dimension)

24. The local needs define the choice of intervention field in case of territorial instruments. Could you confirm that the financial allocation per intervention field in the programming phase could be considered only indicative and that it could be adjusted in the implementation phase. Would a programme amendment be required if the real needs in the territorial strategies defer from the size of the allocation for a certain intervention in the programme?
Answer: [12:35]

25. Are there output- AND result indicators for every single operation/action necessary or just for the specific target? Or are either output- or result indicators okay?
Answer: [12:36]

Answer in the chat: Formally the regulation requires both output and result indicators by Specific objective. The obligation is not expressed by operation. As far as possible the common / specific indicators chosen will cover a high proportion of actions financed.

26. If we understood the presentation well, we could now use any common indicator in any of the CP? Is that true? If true, what is the current function of the asterisk in ANNEX I of the ERDF regulation?
Answer: [12:38]

27. to categorisation:[could you confirm that] the breakdown by the category of regions of the target values of the indicators in the programme will not be obligatory, namely it will be necessary only if applicable and when it is feasible. In case of some indicators, it will not be feasible nor sensible to break them into category of regions, e.g. when the indicator relates to one single IT system to be implemented in the whole country or where the indicator relates to the number of standards to be implemented in a given country in all public employment services, both programming and monitoring (art. 42 of the CPR) of such indicators should not require a breakdown by category of region.
Answer: [12:41]

28. Which Intervention Field should be used for the Interreg Specific Objective? Will there be specific IF's or we choose from the general list?
Answered in the chat: All intervention fields are available to be used under Interreg

29. Is it mandatory for each specific objective to have at least one output and at least one result indicator? Would it be acceptable if the specific objective is relevant for 2 priorities of the programme, and for one priority there are one output and one result indicators, but for the other priority there is only an output indicator, because the result indicators identified in the regulation are not suitable for the measures
Answered in the chat: In abstract it is difficult to answer this question without the context. Our initial answer is yes - it is obligatory. Each specific obj. is linked to a priority. A Specific objective may be used in more than one priority. But each use is a

separate specific objective and therefore needs outputs + results. They should discuss with their geographic correspondent in REGIO/EMPL

30. When should be reported the result indicator as fulfilled in/for the program? Infrastructure projects last a long time

    Answered in the chat. The indicator description (draft SWD Annex 1 forthcoming) describes the expectations on the timing of measurement for each indicator - normally at physical completion or within 1 year.

Transfers (B1 - Blazej Gorgol)

31. **BG**: Is the use of JTF resources for technical assistance for the purposes of ERDF priorities (under the same programme) considered a transfer?
    Answer: [12:40]

    Answer in the chat: No, it is not a transfer (they are still JTF resources)

III. Outstanding programming and template-related issues, Part II

Thematic concentration (B1 - Blazej Gorgol)

32. Is the requirement for programming of urban mobility under a separate priority obligatory only for the purposes of calculation of thematic concentration or it is a general requirement? Can urban mobility measures be programmed in an integrated territorial priority under PO5?
    Answer: [14:41]

33. Urban earmarking(8%): could you give an example of which policy objectives and specific objectives could contribute to it?

    Answer in the chat: In principle, all specific objective can contribute to reaching urban earmarking

Technical Assistance (B1 - Blazej Gorgol + E1 Ieva CERNIUTE)

34. Does MS have to choose common indicators for the TA or use only programme specific indicators? What should be put in the column "ID" in the table on output indicators? Concerning Technical assistance output indicators in 2021-2027 Programmes in Table 2 "Output indicators", column 4 requires ID [5] number, and as for the other indicators there are defined RCO: REGIO Common Output and result Indicators and ID numbers in ANNEX I COMMON OUTPUT AND RESULT INDICATORS FOR ERDF AND THE COHESION FUND - ARTICLE 8(1), what ID must be defined for TA output indicators in

table 2, given that such are not pointed out in the ANNEX 1.
Answer: [14:42]

35. we would like to see a concrete example on how the flat rate TA will be calculated for small programmes (below 50 millions EU contribution) as they will get an additional amount of 500.000 EUR on top of the flat rate, how this will be calculated concretely and how TA will be paid.
    Answer: [14:44]
36. Could you please repeat where we could find the definition of "notional amounts"?
    Answer: [14:45]

37. please elaborate as to what will happen if the forecasted conditions and results do not materialise, will a full audit occur then to ascertain if partial results are acceptable? How is the situation ameliorated?
    Answer: [14:43]

38. We planned to use a flat rate for TA. Where in the Programme this has to be considered? I Can't find any table 11.

    Answer in the chat: Table 11 of programme template (Annex V, CPR) - adjusted to flat rate TA. The table is in the financial section of a template - 3.6

39. FNLC TA - is TA basing on financing not linked to costs approach to be treated as additional to flat rate or real costs TA?

    Answer in the chat: Yes

40. 1) Can you give an example of some actions not linked to costs for TA of a MS?
    2) What is the understanding of a "standard" TA, as far as for the next period the TA has to support mainly strategical actions, especially a horizontal TA programme? BG: The Programme in question is for Technical Assistance only
    Answer: [14:45]

41. Considering technical assistance and the relationship between EC and MS, could the application of the flat rate reimbursement option be inefficient in case of programmes that show a slow absorption capacity? If a programme spends too little in the first years, it means it will be reimbursed accordingly by the EC, which in turn means that might not have enough financial resources to reimburse its technical assistance costs… Is that so?
    Answer: [14:51]

OSI (A2 - Slaven Klicek, 02 - Monika Tchavdarova)

42. this is a big job for a beneficiary in terms of communication - can the beneficiary refuse to be a part of it? what is the procedure or formalities between the managing authority and the beneficiary in this case?
    Answer: [14:47]

43. We have a question about Appendix 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable. Could You please give us some practical examples?
    Answer: [14:50]

44. operation of strategic importance: is it mandatory at least one operation of strategic importance per SO?
    Answer: [14:49]

    Answer in the chat: No, just a recommendation.

45. Could you please specify what is the legal basis that makes it mandatory to have at least one operation of strategic importance in each programm? We did not have the same understanding of article 22.3
    Answer: [14:49]

46. We have a question about Appendix 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable. Could You please give us some practical examples?
    Answer: [14:50]

IV. Outstanding programming and template-related issues, Part III

Roadmaps on ACB (E1, Ann-Kerstin Myleus, Ieva Cerniute)

47. What types of support to administrative capacity building of partners is acceptable? For example, can the costs of a policy officer for an NGO be supported?
    Answer: [15:52]
48. **1)** Could you please give examples of programme' actions for general and specific capacity building of social partners and civil society organizations to ensure their active involvement in the way the EU funds are planned, invested and monitored?
    2) What type of measures/actions are considered as being reasonable and eligible at horizontal level? The programme in question is for Technical Assistance only, based on real costs.
    Answer: [15:52]

49. Which type of technical assistance is more suitable for covering ACB roadmap's activities - real cost TA or financing not linked to costs TA? What percentage of TA should be allocated to ACB roadmap's activities and viewed as best practise from EC's side?

Answer: [15:55]

50. Which methods, reports and tools will be used from Commission's side to monitor the progress of ACB roadmap's implementation?
Answer: [15:56]

Cooperation under mainstream programmes (D1, Jean-Pierre Halkin)

51. Embedding Cooperation: Is it possible to have a concrete example?
Answer: [15:57]

52. Cooperation in mainstream programmes: what are the demarcations, differences between for example a regional operational programme and a transnational, cross-border one if both have to describe the interregional, cross-border and transnational actions?Cooperation in mainstream programmes(II) please provide few examples
Answer: [15:57]

53. In case of priority covering territories in different categories of regions once we calculate the co-financing rate for that priority and have it approved be the COM, - in what situations it would be necessary to review that co-fin rate?
Answer: [16:01]

SFC & other (02 - Monika Tchavdarova, 03 - Peter Takacs for territorial aspects)

54. I have a technical question related to the SFC platform as so far nobody has been able to answer us. We would like to know if charts and diagrams are allowed in the system or not (in the main section). Second question, when it will be available so that we can submit the programme?
Answer: [16:16]

55. Could you be more specific about when will be SFC open for different types of documents (Programmes, Interreg Programme...)?
Answer: [16:15]

56. could you please clarify whether we understood it well - will there be a module in the SFC to send the programmes informally to the ES services (before official submission via SFC on the formal template)?
Answer: [16:14]

57. you limited the number of characters on SFC but mentioned annexes : the aim of the Commission is to limit the OPs and to make them easier to read and understand for beneficiaries and not to multiply the documents and annexes ?
Answer: [16:16]

V. Implementation issues

Communication (A2 - Gianluca Comuniello)

58. Must the programme website be a site specifically dedicated to the programme? or can it be a part of a larger website?
    Answer: [16:40]

    Answer in the chat: It should be either a website or a section of a larger website. The important thing to bear in mind it is that it needs to have all the features foreseen in the regulation. This requirement is in the transparency section of the regulation, so the website has to be something easy to find

Monitoring committee set up (02 - Monika Tchavdarova)

59. What if certain partners (e.g. economic and social partners) prefer not to have a vote (but prefer to be a passive member - informed but not actively participating, with all the responsibility that comes with it)
    Answer: [16:42]

60. In the Greek case the enabling conditions have been worked and coordinated at national / central level and texts will be forwarded to all programmes in order to fill the relevant table. How the MC will examine at programme level their ongoing fulfilment?
    Answer: [16:43]

61. Is it obligatory to send all selection criteria to EC or does it has to be sent by request? And - 15 days before the documents are send to members of MC or 15 days prior to the meeting? Thank you
    Answer: [16:45]