



European Territorial Cooperation

Work Package 11

*Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes
2007-2013, focusing on the European Regional
Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund
(CF)*

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Case study: Interreg IVA Saxony-Czech Republic

Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes
2007-2013, financed by the European Regional
Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF)
European Territorial Cooperation (Work Package 11)

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Executive Summary

The Saxony-Czech Republic cross-border cooperation 2007-2013 programme covers an area of 20.000 km², including part of the Saxony region on the German side and three bordering counties in North Bohemia in the Czech Republic. The area has 3.4 million inhabitants. Economic development is unbalanced, with a stronger economic situation on the German side. The history of cross-border cooperation between the two regions is relatively short but Euroregions had already been created in the 90s and played a role in the cooperation between municipalities located at the border. This is the first joint programme in the area: in the previous period, two programmes were running in parallel.

The programme benefitted from a large EU contribution of EUR 207.4 million, and was structured along the following 3 main priorities:

- Priority 1: Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area (the largest priority in budgetary terms)
- Priority 2: Economy and tourism development
- Priority 3: Improvement of nature and the environmental situation.

This case study focuses on the Capacity Building theme of the programme. It does not aim at providing a general overview of the programme.

Taking an extended, programme-specific, definition of Capacity Building, **the Saxony-Czech Republic programme has allocated EUR 34.25 million, i.e. 16.5% of its budget, to 34 projects (14% of projects) focusing on Capacity building.** Close to **half of this budget was spent on "Small Project Funds"** managed by the 4 Euroregions in the form of small grants (a maximum amount of EUR 22,500 could be granted by the Euroregions) to local actors gathered into citizen associations, municipalities, schools, cultural associations, and other local actors, for small projects fostering cross-border people-to-people information exchanges, communication and interaction. **The other half was spent principally on public services providers,** with an important focus on services delivered by municipalities, and especially fire rescue and public security services.

During the 2007-2013 period, the MA needed to create for the first time a programme with common structures and procedures and comply with the principle of the Lead Partner. The Managing Authority underlined that this represented a specific challenge in terms of learning curve for both the programming authorities and the beneficiaries.

Capacity building projects have taken place in the areas of land planning, culture, and heritage. The projects were geared towards developing cross-border cooperation, and developing capacity for future cooperation -, which is indeed an explicit objective of the Interreg Regulation. This is seen by MAs as a step to reach the expected benefits of such cooperation, such as, e.g. improving security in the cross-border area or more efficient land planning practices. Thus, the capacity building component of the programme was aimed at creating or improving conditions for cross-border cooperation and improve in the longer run the quality of public policies and services on both sides of the border.

The Interreg IV programme has helped to build the capacity to develop cross-border projects. **Learning to work together and developing a common language is a key achievement of the programme** according to interviewees. Small-scale people-to-people cooperation has been enhanced through a multitude of projects funded

under the Small Project Funds. Stakeholders on both sides of the border have climbed a learning curve in proposal preparation and in cross-border cooperation, since it was the first time that they have been required to prepare truly joint projects (compared to the previous Interreg periods).

However, there are signs that the cross-border dimension of this programme is still being developed. There are remnants from the past period where the programme worked in two separated strands (a Czech strand and a German strand). More specifically, 80% of projects under the Small Projects Funds were only funded by one side (Germany or Czech Republic).

Many projects would not have taken place without this source of funding. This is true notably for the projects under the Small Projects Funds: it is very unlikely that projects would have taken place without Interreg.

The projects under the Capacity Building addressed 3 types of cooperation barriers:

- 1) **The lack of knowledge of the neighbour: this barrier has been addressed** through several projects that helped to identify relevant partners and establish new contacts so as to improve possibilities for cooperation. The Small Project Funds played an important role in this respect, even if it is not possible to say that this barrier has been removed. A range of projects support activities that fall outside the normal mission, confined to national borders, of public organisations (municipalities, police services, schools): Interreg has contributed to tackling cross-border cooperation barriers in those cases.
- 2) **Language barriers** in the area: the programme has addressed them through some ad hoc actions, especially at school level.
- 3) **Differences in regulations, juridical systems and administrative approaches have been addressed, but not removed.** Several projects under the Capacity Building theme have precisely aimed at harmonising methods and techniques used in public services.

A fourth barrier also hamper cooperation in the zone, namely the unbalanced economic development on the two sides of the border, which makes it difficult to identify common challenges and complementarities to be addressed through CBC. In that context, capacity building projects may have contributed to facilitate the development of a better informed and joined vision.

Overall, the construction of a regional sense of belonging together has been reported as one of the main achievements of the programme.

Beneficiaries of the programme (under "capacity building" theme) are in their vast majority public actors or associations delivering services of general public interest: hence, the transfer of knowledge and capacity in the theme under investigation has mainly taken place between public actors as well as between small local organisations.

Cooperation tended to focus on individual learning rather than organizational learning, learning benefits tend to be restricted to project partners and do not extend to wider constituencies.

The future of learning mechanisms and cross-border cooperation practices varies from project to project, but remains dependent on further Interreg funding in most cases.

There are projects which have found mechanisms to ensure continuation of cooperation even after the end of the Interreg-supported project by ensuring commitment of partners to provide post-project funding. However, there are also many examples of Capacity Building projects which rather take the form of one-shot events. Since activities considered under the Capacity Building theme target public services activities, these are highly dependent on public funds; and as national money flows stop at the border, project partners see that it is the role of Interreg to cope with this situation. Hence the financing of projects cannot be ensured without further Interreg-type public funding.

The design of programme objectives has been coordinated with those of national and regional programmes: discussions during the preparation of the programme involved representatives from the national and regional authorities, thus supporting coordination between the objectives set for the various types of programme. Coordination mechanisms exist in two forms: the Managing Authority of the Interreg programme were represented in the monitoring committees for the Saxon ERDF and ESF programmes and the Saxon programmes share the same implementing Authority, the Sächsische Aufbaubank (SAB-Saxon Bank for reconstruction).

There is a good complementarity and division of work between the Interreg programme and the regional Convergence programme for Saxony. Those two programmes differ in several ways:

- First, in terms of size: the EU budget in the cross-border cooperation programme equals only 6.7% of the EU budget for the regional ERDF-programme.
- Second, the regional programme has as strong economic focus, which is only marginal in the cross-border cooperation programme. The former seeks to create and safeguard jobs (including in the field of R&D), to support company led R&D projects and to assist urban districts as part of an integrated urban development plan for durable development; the latter expresses its targets in terms of people involved in cross-border exchanges and cooperation, but not in terms of economic outputs.
- Third, a difference is that the cross-border programme (obviously) supports people-to-people interactions "at the border", notably through the Small Project Funds, which the regional programme does not support.

Two areas of overlap exist in terms of the content of the two programmes and the difference between the roles of the two programmes in this respect is unclear: Transport infrastructure; and Environment protection and flood prevention.

1. Introduction

This case study is part of the ex-post evaluation of all programmes in the period 2007-2013 aiming at promoting European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), also known as Interreg, in view of creating synergies and European value-added by eradicating internal borders and capitalizing on the existing assets of the whole territory of the Union. It is one amongst 9 case studies of programmes aiming at cross-border cooperation (Strand A of Interreg).

The purpose of the case study work in the overall evaluation is to deepen the analysis of the contribution of cross-border programmes to co-operation and to economic and social integration between European regions. This Task 2 of the overall evaluation is performed through a field analysis with a variety of programme stakeholders, which complements the first documentary analysis and the interview with the Managing Authority previously carried out in Task 1 of the evaluation.

This case study focuses on the capacity building theme of the programme.

1.1. Main features of the programme

The 2007-2013 Saxony-Czech Republic cross border cooperation programme covered an area of 20,000km², including part of the Saxony region on the German side and three bordering counties in North Bohemia in the Czech Republic¹ (Figure 1). The area had 3.4 million inhabitants, almost equally spread between the German and the Czech side.

Contextual conditions for cross-border cooperation in the area presented a mixed picture, with some favorable and some less favorable conditions (Table 1):

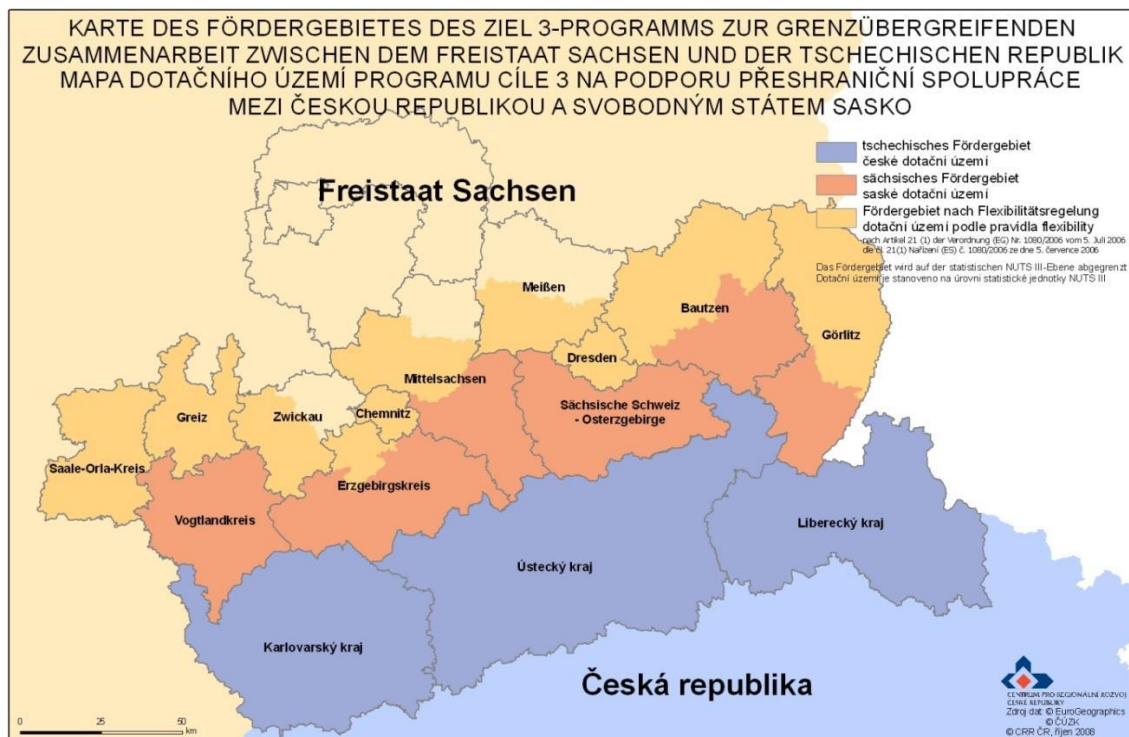
- The history of cross-border cooperation between the two regions is relatively young, although contacts had existed even during the Cold War period, since Saxony was part of the German Democratic Republic and thus not separated from its neighbor by the Iron Curtain. The Czech Republic entered the European Union in 2004, in the middle of the Interreg III period: the period covered by the Interreg IV programme is the first one where the two sides of the border act as equal partners for the whole duration of the programme. The Czech Republic joined the Schengen area in 2007. Hence there is a recent history of cooperating across borders, which means that efforts have to be made to bring partners together and create mutual trust. This has an impact on the programme, as shown in this report;
- Connectivity is good, with no major barriers to cross-border travel. However transport infrastructure is partly outdated and the increase in traffic is causing congestion problems;
- The area covered in the Czech Republic is less densely populated than the German side, and suffers from the decline of traditional industries and from outmigration to economically stronger regions: economic development is unbalanced, with stronger dynamism on the German side and higher presence

¹ In Germany: Vogtlandkreis, Aue-Schwarzenberg, Annaberg, Mittlerer Erzgebirgskreis, Freiberg, Weißeritzkreis, Sächsische Schweiz, Bautzen, Löbau-Zittau and Kreisfreie Stadt Plauen. In the Czech Republic: Karlovarský kraj, Ústecký kraj and Liberecký kraj.

of advanced companies and research institutions. Potential for knowledge-based development and technological activities is much higher on the German side;

- Both sides of the border include and share natural areas with high environmental value. The river Elbe flows through the two countries and this situation creates joint interests and needs, notably in flood protection;
- The Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture acts as the Managing Authority for the programme. Cooperation structures do exist to foster cooperation over the border, which means that cross-border cooperation is partly institutionalized in this area: Euroregions, gathering neighbouring municipalities on both sides of the border, were established in the early 90s, and currently 4 Euroregions are active on the programme's territory: Euro Region Elbe/Labe; Euroregion Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří; Euregio Egrensis; Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa.

Figure 1 : Map of the eligible area



Source: Saxony-Czech Republic Interreg IVA programme, Annual Report 2014.

The programme has got a large EU contribution of EUR 207.4 million, and was structured along 3 main priorities (Table 2).

Table 1 : Priority axes and budgets in Interreg IVA programme Saxony-Czech Republic

| Priority Axis | EU Investment | National Public Contribution | Total Public Contribution |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Priority 1 Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area | EUR 96.6 million | EUR 15.6 million | EUR 112.2 million |
| Priority 2 Economy and tourism development | EUR 62.2 million | EUR 10 million | EUR 72.2 million |
| Priority 3 Improvement of Nature and Environment | EUR 36.1 million | EUR 5.7 million | EUR 41.8 million |
| Technical Assistance | EUR 12.4 million | EUR 2.2 million | EUR 14.6 million |
| Total | EUR 207.4 million | EUR 33.5 million | EUR 240.9 million |

Source: Saxony-Czech Republic OP

Priority 1: Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area (46.6% of EU funding). The aim of this priority is:

- to improve the infrastructure;
- to cooperate in human resources, social development;
- to improve catastrophe prevention; and
- to develop small project funds.

Priority 2: Economy and tourism development (30% of EU funding). The aim of this priority is:

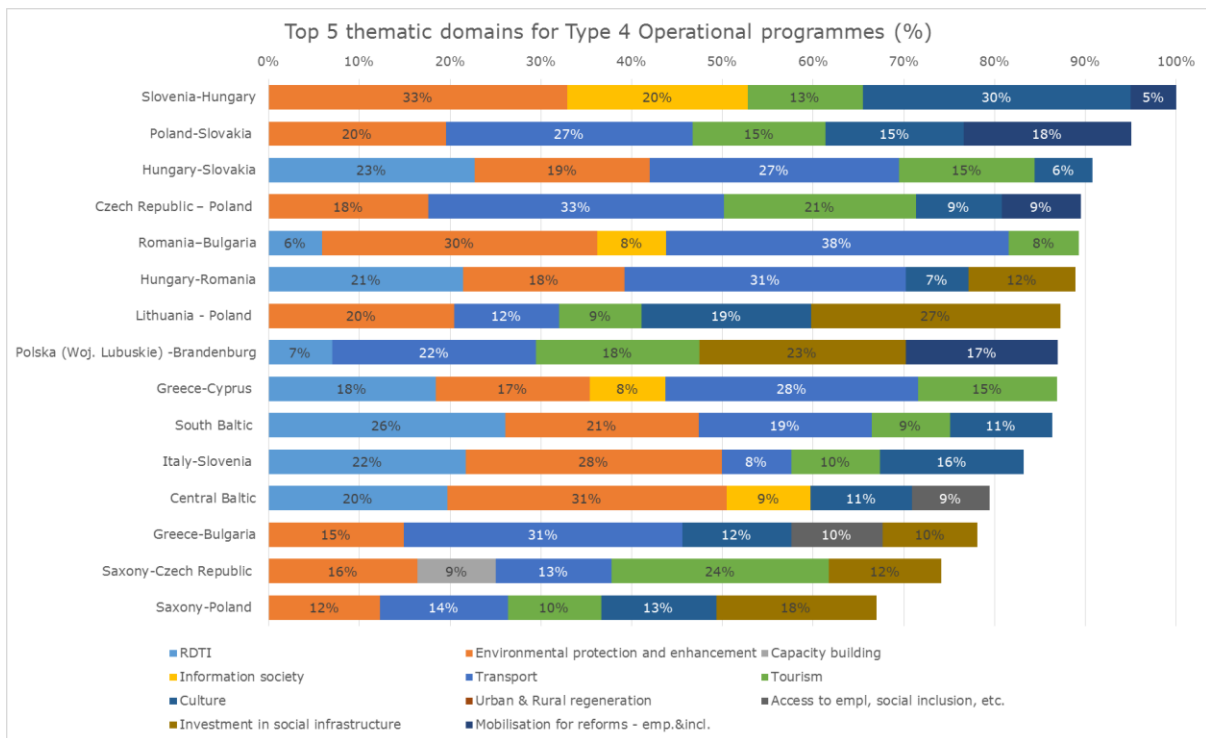
- to develop cross-border cooperation in economy and cross-border structures; and
- to cooperate and to develop economic, cross-border tourism structures.

Priority 3: Improvement of nature and the environmental situation (17.4% of EU funding). The aim of this priority is:

- to cooperate in climate change, nature protection, landscape protection and waste management; and
- to cooperate in flood protection, water management and water construction projects.

According to the coding system for interventions used by the European Commission, the programme **placed an important priority on "Capacity Building"**: it was the only programme amongst its category² for which the Capacity Building theme³ appears under the top five priorities. This theme accounted for 9% of allocated budgets (compared to an average of 2% for programmes in this category) (Figure 2).

Figure 2 : Thematic priorities for Type 4 programmes in Strand A



Source: ADE, based on "Final version of the database produced under the WP13 of ex-post evaluation ERDF 2007-2013, DB_WP13_july_BE"

1.2. Organization of the report

This report starts in Section 2 with the methodology adopted for the case study.

Section 3 is the core of the report. It is structured according to the evaluation questions as mentioned in the terms of reference (the order of the first two questions has been switched compared to the terms of reference), seen from the angle of the Capacity Building theme.. Each sub-section responds to each evaluation question in turn.

Section 3.1 assesses what has been delivered by the programme and its impacts. It also provides an analysis of resources spent and types of activities supported (evaluation question b).

Section 3.2 deals with impacts of the programme on cooperation practices in the area (evaluation question a).

² Type 4: Programmes with internal borders including New Member States and those with a low degree of cooperation at the start of the period.

³ Here the standardized EU coding system has been used and only code 81 is considered.

Section 3.3 appraises achievements in terms of learning and capacity and knowledge transferred (evaluation question c).

Section 3.4 discusses sustainability of cooperation and learning and the extent to which these achievements are dependent on EU funding sources (evaluation question d).

Section 3.5 discusses the issue of whether the projects would have happened without the existence of EU funding, if there were no prior CBC programmes (evaluation question e).

Section 3.6 assesses the quality of the programme's monitoring system (evaluation question f).

Section 3.7 investigates the value-added of the INTERACT programme to support implementation of this programme (evaluation question g).

Section 3.8 appraises the extent to which the objectives of this programme have been coordinated with those other regional and national programmes active on the same territory (evaluation question h).

Section 3.9 compares this programme with another programme in the mainstream of Cohesion policy – the Saxony Convergence programme in Germany - and discusses how the two programmes differ in practice (evaluation question i).

2. Methodology

The team has developed a methodology to address the evaluation questions.

A field visit of 5 days, from 7 to 11 September 2015, has taken place in order to collect additional documents and data and to interview the Managing Authority from the programme and from one ERDF programme, as well as some of the main stakeholders involved in implementation or as project beneficiaries. The selection of projects was carried out before the visit through an analysis of the projects database and documentation from the programme, with the help of the Managing Authority. The cooperation of the programme Secretariat has been very helpful to organize the schedule of visits and get the commitment of stakeholders. The full list of interviewees and of the field visits performed is displayed in [Annex 2](#).

3. Answers to the evaluation questions

This section responds to the evaluation questions listed in the introduction. Each subsection starts with the question copied from the terms of reference and then includes the analysis of the issue treated in the evaluation question.

3.1. Achievements and impacts of the programme

EVALUATION QUESTION

b) What has been delivered via co-operation, and what is its impact (e.g. in terms of R&D and innovation, enhanced administrative capacity, or better environmental status)?

3.1.1. What has been delivered via co-operation?

The Saxony-Czech Republic programme has funded 234 projects for a total planned EU budget of EUR 207.4 million⁴.

The **Capacity Building theme** is defined as follows by the European Commission:

*"Strengthening institutional capacity at national, regional and local level: mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and local level, capacity building in the delivery of policies and programmes"*⁵

According to this definition and the use of the EU coding system (as used in the introduction for comparative purposes between all programmes), the programme was one of the cross-border cooperation programmes that gave the highest priority to this theme when drawing the OP: EUR 18 million, or 8.6% of its budget, that is 30 or 12.5% of the projects funded by the programme (see list in [Annex 1](#)).

During interviews, the Managing Authority underlined that projects classified under the following heading should also be categorized under Capacity Building:

*"Promoting the development of partnerships, alliances and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders"*⁶

This concerns 4 projects, i.e. an additional 3.5% of the projects funded by the programme, representing EUR 13.6 million or 7.2% of the total budget allocation. Projects under this extended definition are only present under Priority 1 of the programme, "Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area".

Combining the two types of projects, **the Saxony-Czech Republic programme has allocated EUR 34.25 million, i.e. 16.5% of its budget, to 34 projects (14% of projects) directly⁷ focusing on Capacity building**, which is the focus of this evaluation case study (Table 2).

⁴ Budget spent according to Annual Report published in June 2015: EUR 202.8 million.

⁵ Code 81 in the Commission system of codes used for Cohesion policy.

⁶ Code 80 in the Commission system of codes used for Cohesion policy.

⁷ In practice, it can be argued that all projects of a programme contribute indirectly to raising capacity for cross-border cooperation: as a result of being involved in a project, partners learn to form partnerships and to cooperate across borders.

Table 2 : Interreg IVA programme Saxony-Czech Republic: Capacity Building interventions

| Intervention codes | Number of projects | Allocated Budget |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 80: Promoting the development of partnerships, alliances and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders | 4 | EUR 13.6 million |
| 81: Strengthening institutional capacity at national, regional and local level: mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and local level, capacity building in the delivery of policies and programmes | 30 | EUR 20.65 million |
| TOTAL Capacity Building | 34 | EUR 34.25 million |
| TOTAL programme | 238 | EUR 207.4 million |
| Share of Capacity Building in total programme | 14% | 16.5% |

Source: Saxony-Czech Republic programme Annual Report 2014 and projects database

A closer look at the projects shows that (full list in [Annex 1](#)):

- **41% of the budget devoted to capacity building activities was allocated to "Small Project Funds"**⁸. Those are envelopes of around EUR 3 million each, which are managed by the 4 Euroregions active in the programme area. In the framework of their mission of promoting cross-border cooperation at local level, they distribute small grants (a maximum amount of EUR 22,500 could be granted by the Euroregions) to local actors gathered into citizen associations, municipalities, schools, cultural associations, and other local actors for small projects fostering cross-border people-to-people information exchanges, communication and interaction.
- More than EUR 20 million was devoted **to strengthening institutional cross border capacities in terms of public policy formulation**, management and execution : the main fields covered were : (1) flood control⁹ (EUR 8.54 million), (2) rescue, civil protection and fire protection (EUR 6.9 million), (3) security (EUR 2.9 million) and joint spatial regional planning and development (Table 3).
- An important focus of the projects under code 81 was on **services delivered by municipalities**, and especially fire rescue and public security services (police, emergency services), the latter two accounting for 30% of the expenses dedicated to Capacity Building. This portion also supported

⁸ Figures in this report relate to allocated budgets, not spent budgets, which are not available at the time of writing.

⁹ Projects in this field have been partly implemented in order to repair the cross border damages caused by the floods of August 2010, as well as to promote flood prevention measures and activities. These projects have thus been allocated to the code 81 as part of the cross border crisis management, this thematic area having been included into the operational programme until 31/12/2011.

additional¹⁰ cross-border activities in the field of rescue, disaster and crisis management measures due to the floods which affected both countries in August 2010. According to the Managing Authority, under "security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection", the demand was so high for projects in the areas of fire protection, emergency services and civil protection that the programme management decided in 2009 to stop accepting such projects in order to hold funds for cross-border activities, notably in the fields of land planning, environment and human resources (the latter fields were promoted specifically as they did not receive enough demands for projects).

Table 3: Number of projects and budget delivered under each sub-theme (code 81)¹¹

| Priority 1: Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area | EU funding EUR million | Nbr of projects |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sub-priority 1: Cooperative improvement and demand-oriented development of infrastructure as well as cooperation in the field of regional planning and development | | |
| Action 7: cross border activities in spatial planning and cooperation between communities and regional development | 1.46 | 2 |
| Sub-priority 2: Cooperative actions in the field of human resources, socio-cultural development and partnership | | |
| Action 7: development of cross border partnerships | 0.96 | 3 |
| Sub-priority 3: Cooperation in the field of security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection | | |
| Action 1: security | 2.888 | 7 |
| Action 2: rescue, civil protection and fire protection | 6.802 | 7 |
| Sub-priority 5: Flood control | 8.54 | 11 |
| TOTAL projects funded under code 81 | 20.65 | 30 |

Source: Documentation from the programme

The use of "small projects funds" at such a scale is one of the specificities of the programme. Even if 80% of small projects have a "one-sided funding" character, the Managing Authority explains that these projects do also present a genuine cross-border character. The maximum grant for those projects, which should be joint projects shared and co-funded by the two parties, is EUR 22,500. However, projects which are not shared, i.e. where there is co-funding from one side only, are also accepted but in this case the maximum grant amount is EUR 15.000. Encouraged by the decrease of complexity in administration for the projects where only one country is

¹⁰ After the flooding of 2010, a change was made in the OP to shift funds towards intervention code 81 for the purpose of coping with this situation.

¹¹ All projects relevant to the Capacity Building theme belong to Priority 1 of the programme.

co-funding, many project promoters have chosen to request “one-sided” projects funded by one country only¹².

3.1.2. What is the impact of the programme?

During the 2007-2013 period, the MA needed to create for the first time a programme with common structures and procedures and comply with the principle of the Lead Partner. The Managing Authority underlined that this represented a specific challenge in terms of learning curve for both the programming authorities and the beneficiaries. In this context the programme aimed to attract projects with a cross-border dimension under the various themes of the OP.

By encouraging two main types of capacity building activities (“small project funds” and the strengthening of a more institutionalized cooperation), the programme has been looking for several results:

- On one hand, the main goals of the Small Projects Funds of the Euroregions (under code 80) were to create the capacity to build cooperation projects, on a small scale and focusing on citizens and local bodies, to remove cultural and language barriers and to establish the necessary networks, and interactions for further cross border cooperation.
- On the other hand, the development of joint projects by public service bodies helps to improve gradually the effectiveness and efficiency of public services, and the capacity to develop further cooperation among relevant authorities for establishing joint tools to reinforce policy/programme management on common grounds on both sides of the border, or even more by encouraging joint planning, joint strategies and effective joint management in various sectors.

For both components of the programme, building capacities at all relevant levels for establishing further and stronger cross border cooperation in the future was a clear expectation.

While it is difficult to get evidence to analyse how far the programme has reached the expected impacts, several elements are worthwhile mentioning.

The Managing Authority explains that the programme has been successful in terms of gathering projects under all foreseen action lines covering a large variety of activities. As mentioned above, efforts have been made to acquire projects for the “less successful” lines, in order to reach this goal. Thus the notion of programme success was linked to the idea of cross-border cooperation diffusing into many areas of public activity in the programme area, which was thought to provide pre-conditions for further cooperation.

The programme did not contain any specific indicator focusing on capacity-building, whether output, results or impact indicators. Table 4 shows output indicators extracted from a list of programme indicators, which may indirectly provide some positive insights into the achievements and results of the programme in terms of capacities to develop projects and joint actions including:

¹² This is the reason why, with a fixed budget, there are many more, and much smaller projects funded than expected from these funds (1.105 against 300, see section 3.1.1).

- The very high number of people and organisations having participated in joint projects under priority 1, in the various sub sectors (notably land planning, culture, heritage and education), compared to the initial targets.
- More specifically, more than 150,000 people instead of 10,000 were involved in joint projects funded under the small projects funds which gives an idea of the spread of those projects in the cross border zone.
- A very high degree of cooperation observed within the funded projects as 90% of the projects respond to the four criteria of cooperation: namely joint planning, joint implementation, joint financing and joint staffing.

Above the direct impact in terms of visibility and awareness of the cross border cooperation programme, learning effects benefiting the projects' participants were also identified as well as possible middle and long run impacts going far beyond the time horizon of the programme (especially when it comes to the younger part of the local population).

The funded projects have led to the creation of CB-exchange and networks on various topics and levels (citizens, project partners). The construction of a regional sense of belonging together has been reported as one of the main achievements of the Interreg programme (cfr one page fiche- evaluation of ETC – January 2016).

Table 4 : Results of Interreg IVA programme Saxony-Czech Republic in Capacity Building

| RESULT indicators, targets and values achieved | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------|---------|
| | Indicator | Target | Value | |
| Priority 1 Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area | Sub-priority 1 Improvement in cooperation and demand-driven establishment and expansion of infrastructure and cooperation in the field of regional planning and development | | | |
| | | Number of technical networks and systems | 4 | 13 |
| | | People participating in joint projects | 720 | 9,952 |
| | | Organizations participating in joint projects | 53 | 333 |
| | Sub-priority 2 Cooperative actions in the areas of human resources, socio-cultural development and partnership | | | |
| | | People participating in joint projects | 15,000 | 250,513 |
| | | Organizations participating in joint projects | 100 | 2,123 |
| | Sub-priority 3 Cooperation in the field of security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection | | | |
| | | People participating in joint projects | 5,000 | 7,514 |
| | | Organizations participating in joint projects | 80 | 192 |
| | Sub-priority 4 Common small projects fund | | | |
| | | People participating in joint projects | 10,000 | 151,149 |
| | Sub-priority 5 Measures to repair damage caused by the flood in August 2010, and promotion of preventive measures related to the flood | | | |

Source: Saxony-Czech Republic programme Annual Report 2014

**Box 1. Cooperation between fire brigades in border villages
Hřensko (Czech Republic) and Kirnitzschtal (Germany)**

For a long time, the fire brigades of the two border municipalities of Hřensko (Czech Republic) and Kirnitzschtal (Germany) have been cooperating together to

better address emergencies in their constituencies. With an EU grant of EUR 354,560, they were able to buy a very special high-tech vehicle: the Tatra 815-7. The 4 x 4 fire-fighting and rescue truck was previously designed for military uses as a high tech battlefield vehicle responding to NATO standards. Operating such a high-tech and reliable truck for a civilian goal makes interventions possible even in difficult terrain. The vehicle is the property of the municipality of Hřensko and an agreement has been made with the municipality of Kirnitzschtal for joint use. In this respect, a real impact in terms of cross-border capacities is generated when it comes to fighting forest fires on the other side of the border in an area difficult to access for the Saxon fire brigades. It seems very unlikely that national financial resources could have been mobilized for such tasks, also given the particularly high cost of this equipment. In addition to this equipment, the two fire brigades also implemented shared educational activities and exercises, which improved their skills and created a team spirit that is useful to reinforce cooperation in cross-border emergency situations.

It is expected that Interreg V will constitute an opportunity for the Kirnitzschtal fire brigade to acquire a vehicle for a complementary task (i.e. a specifically designed VW evacuation light truck).

However, the project does not collect indicators on the impact of this improved public service on citizens, nor on the value added of this specific vehicle compared to a traditional vehicle, nor on the intensity of joint use.

Source : Interview during programme evaluation and programme brochure

3.2. Impacts of the programme on cooperation

EVALUATION QUESTION

a) To what extent has co-operation been enhanced? What barriers to co-operation have been removed? What is the evidence for the contribution of Interreg programmes?

3.2.1 To what extent has co-operation been enhanced?

During the Interreg III period (which started before the Czech Republic was part of the European Union), cooperation between Saxony and the border area in the Czech Republic took place under two parallel programmes (Interreg III and the Phare programme for accession countries).

Through the Interreg IV programme, capacity has been built to develop cross-border projects: the availability of the programme helped to make people aware of the methods and challenges involved in developing joint cross-border projects. **Learning to work together and developing a common language was the most often cited achievement** of projects supported by Interreg IV Saxony-Czech Republic.

The Small Project Funds, as mentioned in section 3.1 are instruments directly targeting cross-border cooperation through a multitude of very small actions involving citizens and municipalities: small-scale people-to-people cooperation has been enhanced through these numerous projects.

According to the Managing Authority, the most important achievements of the programme are of a cultural or even psychological nature. In fact, the programme

contributed strongly to bringing people from both sides of the border some steps closer: *"The border is simply much more open than before"*.

The Capacity Building projects showed a tendency to fund infrastructure under cross-border cooperation projects. As mentioned in section 3.1, the programme was initially overcrowded by demands for infrastructure, such as roads, which are easier to prepare than projects fostering economic cooperation and environmental protection, which proved much more difficult to acquire. .

3.2.2 What barriers to co-operation have been removed?

The programme addressed four cooperation barriers. These barriers are mentioned to place the role of the Interreg programme in perspective and indicate the barriers that exist.

The first and most important barrier to cross-border cooperation is lack of knowledge of the neighbour: most of the projects funded by the programme had the objective to *"open minds to the neighbour"*. There are many examples of projects which helped to identify relevant partners, to establish new contacts, and to acquire a better understanding of conditions on the other side of the border to improve possibilities for cooperation.

The Small Project Funds were aimed at tackling this first barrier to cross-border cooperation, namely the lack of interest in the neighbour: through (in principle) easily accessible money, the multitude of small projects should aim at dismantling those first barriers. By their very existence, it is likely that some of those projects have certainly played a positive role in helping people living at the border to cross it more easily. On the other hand, the above discussion on the risk of "one-sided" projects being funded through this mechanism indicates that its potential is not being fully exploited.

Second, **language barriers are significant in the area:** the programme has addressed them through some actions, especially at school level, but this barrier still remains, especially on the German side (fewer Germans speak Czech than the reverse, and knowledge of English is not very widespread either).

Third, the **unbalanced economic development on the two sides of the border acts as a barrier to cross-border cooperation**, notably because expectations and perceived needs from the two sides of the border differ. It is difficult to provide concrete evidence that capacity building activities have contributed to alleviate such a barrier. It is nevertheless worthwhile mentioning that by encouraging joint activities at different levels, the capacity building component has also provided grounds to a better understanding of the common strengths and weaknesses as well as of the complementarities that may exist between both sides of the border.

Differences in regulations, juridical systems and administrative approaches are important barriers to cross-border cooperation which have been addressed. Several projects under the Capacity Building theme have aimed at harmonising methods and techniques used in public services (Box 2). Some differences are hard to solve via projects funded by the programme, as these find their roots in national legislations, on which local and regional actors have little power. For example, the difference in funding rules and in personnel status between German and Czech universities remains a barrier to collaboration (and sustainability of partnerships) (Box 3).

Box 2. Managing shared groundwater resources in the Czech-Saxony border area: the GRACE project

The GRACE project (Gemeinsam genutzte Grundwasserressourcen im tschechisch-sächsischen Grenzgebiet) aims at joining efforts of Water Companies across the German-Czech Republic border in order to acquire a better understanding of the status of and challenges for groundwater resources which extend beyond the administrative borders. The EU grant for this project amounts to EUR 763 434.

The ultimate aim of the project was to design a cross-border strategy for groundwater protection in the relevant cross-border territories. This included the development of models of groundwater flow and interactions with surface waters and studies on groundwater recharge in relation to climate change, in addition to a joint technical evaluation of data. In parallel, specialized workshops were organized and joint publications issued. The main benefit from the project was to harmonise definitions, methods and approaches in order to arrive at a common understanding and mapping of the situation. The project results serve as a basis for the designation of common groundwater bodies and management strategies under the EU Water Framework Directive. The results of this project have been taken up at the border between the Czech Republic and Austria.

Source : Focus group discussions during programme evaluation

Box 3. Memorial Landscapes in Dresden and Terezín

The Centre for Studies on Central Europe at the Technical University of Dresden has led the Interreg IVA project "Memorial Landscapes in Dresden and Terezín", in partnership with the city museum of Dresden, the laboratory for Media at the Technical University of Dresden and the University of Plzni in the Czech Republic.

The aim of this project is to develop a 3D visualization system of the places of Shoah remembrance in the two cities of Dresden and Terezín. The historical materials on people, buildings and places of Jewish life which are embedded in the city models of Dresden and Terezín are accessible through the 3D system at local information points in the two cities. The model allows for a retrospective look and makes the sites of Jewish life, as well as stages of persecution during the 30s and 40s, tangible in the city spaces. There is no system put in place to monitor the use of the 3D kiosks in either place.

While the project outcomes have taken place as planned with the installation of the 3D visualization systems, cooperation has been difficult due to the difference in prevailing rules at Czech and German universities. Administrative complexity, differences in rules for engaging personnel and unfamiliarity with managing external funding sources on the Czech side, along with budget constraints, prevent the Czech university from continuing such cooperation in the future.

Source : Interview during programme evaluation

3.2.3 What is the evidence for the contribution of Interreg programmes?

Since many projects funded by the programme are triggered by the availability of Interreg money, the contribution of the programme to addressing some cooperation barriers is clear: many cross-border activities exist because of these projects. In particular, the Small Project Funds support activities that are not under the normal mission of municipalities, so there is contribution of Interreg money to develop cooperative activities across borders.

This is also true in a domain that is often presented as a flagship for the programme - police services cooperation. Cross-border cooperation is not mainstreamed ("*this remains a small part of police's activity*") hence the contribution of Interreg is important for breaking down some cooperation barriers.

3.3. Impacts on learning, knowledge transfer and capacity building

EVALUATION QUESTION

c) What learning has been generated during the implementation of the CBC programme? Who has benefited? From which stakeholders to which other stakeholders has knowledge and capacity been transferred?

3.3.1 What learning has been generated during the implementation of the CBC programme?

Stakeholders on both sides of the border have climbed a learning curve in proposal preparation and in cross-border cooperation. Through the preparation and implementation of projects, trust has developed over time, and collaboration has become easier. Triggering the development of cross-border projects was the explicit purpose of the programme, so the existence of those projects has added to the capacity of actors to enter into such interactions. The presence of projects which consumed the programme's budget is taken as the indication that such cross-border cooperation has taken place.

3.3.2 Who has benefited?

Table 5 : Target groups for Capacity Building projects in Interreg IVA programme Saxony-Czech Republic

| Target group | Number of projects | Allocated Budget (thousands) | Share in budget allocated to capacity building |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Euroregions – Small Project Funds (code 80) | 4 ¹³ | EUR 13,600 | 40.0% |
| Fire brigades | 9 | EUR 6,994 | 20.4% |
| Public security services | 7 | EUR 2892 | 8.5% |
| Civic organisations | 3 | EUR 2,682 | 8.1% |
| Providers of services | 1 | EUR 2,332 | 7.1% |
| Public administrations | 3 | EUR 1,327 | 4.0% |
| Public services | 2 | EUR 821 | 2.5% |
| Health services | 1 | EUR 634 | 2.0% |
| Religious associations | 1 | EUR 220 | 0.7% |
| Social services | 1 | EUR 40 | 0.1% |
| TOTAL Capacity Building | | EUR 34.25 million | 100% |

Source: Saxony-Czech Republic programme Annual Report 2014 and own calculations

¹³ One project and one amendment per Euroregion.

Beneficiaries of the programme are in their vast majority public actors: municipalities, public services organisations, schools and Euroregions as groupings of municipalities. Associations delivering services of general public interest are also amongst the main beneficiaries of the programme.

In parallel, small grants distributed through “small projects funds” have involved 150.000 people gathered into citizen associations, municipalities, schools, cultural associations and other local actors.

Companies, and especially SMEs, which were targeted initially in the programme documents were not present as beneficiaries of the programme. According to the Managing Authority, extreme difficulties were encountered in trying to mobilise private companies on the Czech side of the border: companies are very small and traditional and not interested in taking part in such cooperation. The “public sector” focus of the programme was also not conducive to incorporating companies in projects.

Cooperation in the Capacity Building projects tended to **focus on individual learning rather than organizational learning**. For many projects visited during this evaluation, the cooperation had been enhanced between, but also limited to, the individuals involved in the project over its duration.

As expected with such types of programme, **beneficiaries were strictly located in the eligible area**. However, finding the “right” partners to ensure the success of a project demands some flexibility with respect to their location. Only few Capacity Building projects involved partners from outside the area on the grounds that their contribution was essential to reach the expected results. This concerns some projects that were targeting concrete results (e.g. in land planning) rather than cooperation per se “at the border”. The Managing Authority received demands by some project partners to adopt a more open view of localization in order to allow them to create the most relevant partnerships, i.e. **taking an open view of the territory, from a problem-oriented perspective**.

3.3.3. From which stakeholders to which other stakeholders has knowledge and capacity been transferred?

As mentioned above, the **transfer of knowledge and capacity in the theme under investigation (capacity building) has mainly taken place between public actors**.

3.4. Sustainability of learning and cooperation

EVALUATION QUESTION

d) What is the likely future for such learning mechanisms and co-operation? Will its sustainability depend on future EU financing?

3.4.1. What is the likely future for such learning mechanisms and co-operation?

The future of learning mechanisms and cross-border cooperation practices varies from project to project.

There are positive cases of interesting projects, such as Aquamundi (Box 4), which have found **mechanisms to ensure continuation of (at least some form of) cooperation even after the end of the Interreg-supported project, by ensuring the commitment of a partner to provide post-project funding** (in exchange for getting a laboratory funded through the project). However, the future of the initiative might face problems since language barriers have been provisionally addressed through the provision of interpreters. Hence cooperation could continue but in a modified and perhaps less ambitious form, since partners (schools) have so far not integrated this type of activity into their normal curriculum.

Another positive example is the case of the joint proposal by German and Czech actors for the inscription of a common remarkable area to the UNESCO World Heritage list (Box 5). The continuation of cooperation around this heritage site is very likely should the UNESCO proposal receive a positive response: being recognized by UNESCO means a declaration of permanent collaboration between the relevant authorities. Even in the case of a negative response, the work has created higher awareness on the Czech side that more efforts should go to heritage preservation in this area and this will reinforce the power of the local authorities towards national funding authorities.

There are many examples of Capacity Building projects which rather take the form of one-shot events, where continuation is not guaranteed after end of the Interreg project.

Box 4. AQUAMUNDI

The project Aquamundi is a cooperative project led by the Centre for the Environment in Dresden (an association with the aim of promoting environmental awareness), in partnership with the City water company in Dresden, on the German side, and a secondary school in Teplice and a local development agency in the Czech Republic.

The aim of the project was to promote cooperation between German and Czech primary and secondary schools around the theme of water protection. The activities consisted in exchanges between schools, where kids and teenagers spent one day in mixed groups in Germany to learn and experience scientific aspects of water at the laboratory of the Water company, and one day in the Czech Republic in activities based around societal issues linked to water. Interpreters were assigned to the activities in order to solve language barriers. Through such exchanges the young people were given the opportunity to use the other's language, overcome prejudices and consider the other young people as

neighbours rather than as foreigners. In total, 33 classes in each country took part in the exchanges, with each pupil involved in a two-day exchange. Indicators collected for the project measure number of schools and of pupils, but no impact indicators in the form of better language knowledge, implementation of follow-up initiatives, etc.

The EUR 1.3 million EU grant funded the laboratory on the German side and costs for schools exchange (travel, interpreters, staff to run the project, etc.).

At the end of the project, the Dresden Water company put a donation of EUR 8000 to support the continuation of some exchanges. Without such a contribution, the exchanges could not have continued as neither the Centre for environment nor the schools have the budget to fund these exchanges.

Source : Interview during programme evaluation

Box 5. Joint preparation of a proposal for inscription of the German-Czech mining region on the UNESCO World Heritage List

The Saxon government had, already at the end of the 90s, the plan to propose its Mining Cultural Landscape on the East of Saxony as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A study showed that, for this demand to be accepted, the proposal should encompass the whole site, which extends over border of the Czech Republic. Hence a project was developed by the two states to submit a proposal to UNESCO jointly.

This gave rise to two consecutive joint studies, both funded by Interreg IVA: a first study supported joint analyses of the heritage mining region, and a second one the joint preparation of the heavy dossier to be submitted to UNESCO. The work involved in-depth analyses and mapping of 85 "component parts" of the heritage region, which implied the preparation of a common vocabulary and methods to analyse the heritage, as the Czech and German traditions are different in this field. This Interreg-funded work helped the Czech county authorities, with the support of the Saxon region, to win the support of national authorities in Prague for the proposal.

The proposal has been submitted to UNESCO and awaits a decision in 2016. A positive response would result in a joint commitment to preserve this heritage by the two nations. Even in the case of a negative response, the important work done on the knowledge of the cross-border Ore Mountains mining region has created numerous cooperation links between administrations, local authorities, associations and researchers on the two sides of the border, as well as higher recognition of the importance of this heritage on the two sides of the border, which are likely to remain even if there is no UNESCO recognition. It will strengthen the position of the Czech county in applying to national funds for heritage conservation.

Source : Interview during programme evaluation

3.4.2. Will its sustainability depend on future EU financing?

As mentioned above, all activities considered under the Capacity Building theme targeted either public services (the vast majority) or services of public interest delivered by organisations which are themselves very dependent on public funds. The

programme had a strong focus on infrastructure and public services, which are funded by public money (Table 6). Thus their sustainability depends on public funds.

National money stops at the border and project partners consider it the role of Interreg to cope with this situation. In many projects visited during the evaluation, project partners stated that national or regional funding sources are not ready to adjust to the need to work across borders, even when evidenced by project results: e.g. in the GRACE project, it could be argued that it has been adequately demonstrated that national organizations should adjust to cope with "natural" cross-border phenomena such as ground water pollution crossing borders. However, this is not the case and Interreg is seen as needed to compensate for the lack of money to support the development of new methods that take this dimension into account (Box 2). Hence the financial sustainability of such projects cannot take place without further Interreg-type public funding.

Table 6 : Types of projects supported by Interreg IVA programme Saxony-Czech Republic

| Types of cross-border projects | Number |
|--|---------------|
| Common infrastructure | 156 |
| Joint public services | 23 |
| Improved access to transport routes, ICT networks and services | 9 |
| Joint environment management and protection | 50 |
| Total projects for the programme | 238 |

Source: Saxony-Czech Republic programme Annual Report 2014

3.5. Significance of Interreg programme

EVALUATION QUESTION

e) If there were no prior CBC programmes, would the projects co-financed through the programme have happened without the existence of EU funding?

For a portion of the projects, especially the “Small Funds” projects, it is very unlikely that projects funded through the Interreg programme would have taken place without this funding source: the interviews carried out during this evaluation indicate that **the availability of this type of funds generates the possibility to create this type of project.**

The lack of openness of mainstream programmes to the cross-border dimension, as discussed in section 3.4, gives confidence that certain types of projects would not have taken place without such dedicated source of funding (Box 6).

Box 6. Cooperation in land planning for cross-border forest management

The Technical University of Dresden, in cooperation with the Czech Academy of Sciences and the management bodies of the Natural Parks (Saxon Switzerland and Bohemian Switzerland), has led the project : “Spatial historical information as a basis for management and development planning natural forests in the Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland”.

Under the project, a specialized information system for the historical development of forests for protected area management has been created. The natural area crosses the national border but data is not harmonized and cannot be used jointly by Park managers. The new system creates material and geometric data, integrated into existing forest information systems (GIS) and Geographical forestry systems (FGIS). The aim is to provide authorities with historical data on forest and land evolution from the early 19th century in order to improve the performance of regional and transnational activities in the field of forest conservation.

The project leader states that without the programme, this project would not have taken place. It constitutes a good – even if atypical - example of cross-border intangible capacity building; the issue tackled is extremely complex and it has required considerable effort to get commitment from local authorities.

Source : Interview during programme evaluation

3.6. Quality of monitoring system

EVALUATION QUESTION

f) Which programmes have the best monitoring systems and which have the worst?

The programme's monitoring system (similarly to other programmes both Mainstream and ETC) was generally not designed to capture results at regional level in the 2007-2013 period ([Annex 3](#)). The indicator system mainly captured the number of projects and participants in projects. This limits the ability of understanding the effectiveness or the impact of the programme, its various priorities and sub-priorities.

The evaluation identified some important issues:

- Some of the result indicators were close to output indicators (e.g. number of km of roads built);
- The linkage between output and result indicators was not always clear (e.g. Priority 1, sub-priority 2 includes four types of cooperation in very different domains, but the result indicators gather together all these domains);
- Target values are in several cases wrongly estimated, especially for result indicators (e.g. the indicator "people participating in joint project in the field of climate, forests and nature conservation, landscape maintenance and waste management" has a target of 200 and an achieved value of 131 238).

It has to be noted that the requirements for reporting indicators has changed since the beginning of the programming period.

3.7. Value-added of INTERACT

EVALUATION QUESTION

g) What has been the added value of the INTERACT programme to the effective functioning of the CBC programme?

The Managing Authority sees the **availability of support given by INTERACT as a positive contribution to improve programme management**. However, they regret that, due to the fact that there was no official German participation in INTERACT, they have not been in a position to use this support (with some exceptions where back-door strategies could be employed). They welcome the change of situation at the start of the Interreg V period and intend to make use of this possibility.

The provision of workshops providing **platforms for interaction with other Managing Authorities and the translation of EU guidelines into operational tools for programme management** is seen as the major contribution expected from INTERACT.

Support from INTERACT **would be highly valued for the development of a monitoring system**: the Managing Authority acknowledged the deficits in the system for this programme (see section 3.6), but feels that they need support to evolve towards more outcome-oriented systems and that this support should notably come from the EU-level.

3.8. Coordination with national and regional programmes

EVALUATION QUESTION

h) To what extent were the programme objectives coordinated with those of national and regional programmes? Can synergies be objectively evaluated?

3.8.1. To what extent were the programme objectives coordinated with those of national and regional programmes?

The discussions during the preparation of the Interreg IVA Saxony-Czech Republic programme **involved a representative from the national and regional authorities** in charge of the programmes at play in the regions in the eligible areas. They brought their knowledge of the objectives and content of these programmes during the preparatory discussions.

Coordination mechanisms existed in two forms. First, the Managing Authority of the Interreg programme was represented on a continuous basis in the monitoring committees for the Saxon ERDF and ESF programmes. This allowed coordination at the implementation stage and the elimination of situations of double funding. Second, these Saxon programmes shared the same implementing authority, the Sächsische Aufbaubank (SAB-Saxon Bank for reconstruction), ensuring coordination at the funding stage.

3.9. Comparison with a regional programme

EVALUATION QUESTION

The contractor will compare for the theme of the case study the selected programmes with a programme financed from the national/regional ERDF budgets to understand the difference between the different programmes as regards their impact on the theme and on cooperation.

The regional programme "Convergence" for Saxony 2007-2013 has been selected to perform a comparison with the Interreg IVA Saxony-Czech Republic 2007-2013.

The Interreg programme differed from the regional Convergence programme for Saxony in several ways: in terms of size, focus and the nature of activities supported.

First, in terms of size: the most remarkable difference between the two programmes is budget size: EU contribution amounted to EUR 3,091 million for the Saxony regional programme, while the total budget for the Saxony-Czech Republic cross-border cooperation programme was EUR 207.4 million: the EU budget in **the cross-border cooperation programme equalled 6.7% of the EU budget for the regional ERDF-programme for Saxony** only (Table 8).

Second, in terms of focus: the Saxony regional programme was heavily focused on safeguarding and enhancing the competitiveness of the economy in Saxony through promoting innovation and improving the quality of infrastructure in Saxony with a view to upgrading its attractiveness for enterprises: *"the funds are to go towards areas in which the most extensive effects for growth and employment can be expected: innovation, research and education"* (website of the Ministry). This **economic focus of the regional programme was only marginal in the cross-border cooperation**

programme. Anticipated impacts differed also between the two programmes: the Saxony regional programme sought to create and safeguard jobs (including in the field of R&D), to support company led R&D projects and to assist urban districts as part of an integrated urban development plan for durable development. For its part, **the cross-border Saxony-Czech Republic programme expressed its targets in terms of people involved in cross-border exchanges and cooperation, but not in terms of economic outputs like the regional Saxony programme.**

Third, a difference was that **the cross-border programme (obviously) supported people-to-people interactions "at the border"**, notably through the Small Project Funds, which the regional programme did not support.

Two areas of overlap existed in terms of the content of the two programmes and the difference between the roles of the two programmes in this respect is unclear:

- Transport infrastructure: the regional programme supported the upgrading and rebuilding of all economic and important national roads and the stimulation of environmentally friendly forms of transport. The cross-border programme also supported the upgrading of roads at the border;
- Environment protection and flood prevention were supported by both programmes. The former area has not been very popular in the cross-border programme. Concerning the flood management related measures, the cross-border programme funded 3 cross-border projects in the field of flood control (priority axis 3, for a total amount of EUR 3.2 million). The programme has included more substantial projects under its priority axis 1 which were dedicated to the elimination of flood damages as a part of the cross border crisis management following the floods in August 2010.

Table 7 : Priority axes and budgets in Interreg IVA programme Saxony-Czech Republic and ERDF programme Saxony 2007-2013

| Priority Axis Interreg IVA | EU Investment Interreg IVA | Priority Axis ERDF Saxony | EU Investment ERDF Saxony |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Priority 1 Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area | EUR 96.6 million | Priority 1 Strengthening innovation, science and research | EUR 1,096.2 million |
| Priority 2 Economy and tourism development | EUR 62.2 million | Priority 2 Improving education infrastructure | EUR 235.7 million |
| Priority 3 Improvement of Nature and Environment | EUR 36.1 million | Priority 3 Increasing the competitiveness of the economy | EUR 600.6 million |
| | | Priority 4 Improving the transport infrastructure | EUR 555.5 million |
| | | Priority 5 Developing and improving infrastructure for a sustainable economic growth | EUR 559.3 million |
| Technical Assistance | EUR 12.4 million | Technical Assistance | EUR 44 million |
| Total | EUR 207.4 million | | EUR 3,091 million |

Sources: Saxony-Czech Republic OP and Saxony OP

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Annexes

ANNEX 1. Projects supported by Interreg IVA programme Saxony-Czech Republic in Capacity Building (code 81)

| EU funding | Project Name |
|---|---|
| Priority 1: Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area | |
| Sub-priority 1: Cooperative improvement and demand-oriented development of infrastructure as well as cooperation in the field of regional planning and development | |
| Action 7: cross border activities in spatial planning and cooperation between communities and regional development TOTAL: EUR 1.4m | |
| EUR 1.3m | CROSS-DATA: Joint data management for Land planning |
| EUR 160K | Strengthening cross-border cooperation in Euroregion Neisse |
| Sub-priority 2: Cooperative actions in the field of human resources, socio-cultural development and partnership | |
| Action 7: development of cross border partnerships TOTAL: EUR 960K | |
| EUR 702K | Development of cooperation between municipalities of Pottiga and Plesna |
| EUR 220K | Citizens make their social space above boundaries |
| EUR 40K | Cross-border cooperation in the field of food safety |
| Sub-priority 3: Cooperation in the field of security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection | |
| Action 1: security TOTAL: EUR 2.9m | |
| EUR 413K | Improving security in the border area (service DienstHundewesen) |
| EUR 496K | Improving security in the border area (fighting extremism) |
| EUR 247K | Improving security in the border area (protection / traffic police) |
| EUR 493K | Deepening collaboration in the field of combating crime |
| EUR 455K | Improving security in the border area (road traffic) |
| EUR 304K | Joint patrols under special conditions |
| EUR 480K | Prevention and investigation of the Vehicle and narcotics crime |

| Sub-priority 3: Cooperation in the field of security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection | |
|---|---|
| Action 2: rescue, civil protection and fire protection TOTAL: EUR 6.9m | |
| EUR 2.3m | Information and Decision support platform for large-scale emergencies (Cross-border coordination for Crisis Prevention and Emergency Management) |
| EUR 607K | Optimizing transboundary cooperation of the fire brigades Hradek and Zittau |
| EUR 1.3m | Security system and Assistance in the Euro region Neisse |
| EUR 281K | Common areas of fire protection Kalek and Rübenu |
| EUR 288K | Transboundary cooperation of Firemen Hřensko - Kirnitzschtal |
| EUR 1.4m | Fire and other safety for population in the region of Central Erzgebirge |
| EUR 634K | Creation of a training centre as the basis for a standardized cross-border Civil Protection, the Water Rescue the Red Cross, to ward off major disasters |
| Sub-priority 5: Flood control | |
| TOTAL EUR 8.5m | |
| EUR 2.2m | Reconstruction of border roads and bridges after the flood 2010 |
| EUR 1.2m | Together against the elements |
| EUR 1.3m | Chrastava, Skalice and Bertsdorf-Hörnitz - Fire Departments together against the forces of nature |
| EUR 829K | Flood protection and elimination of flood damage in Hrádek N.N. - Zittau |
| EUR 374K | Cross-border assets and preventive measures for the flood protection in common between the cities of Neustadt in Sachsen OT Rugiswalde and Velký Šenov |
| EUR 670K | Mutual assistance between firefighters Varnsdorf, Rumburk, Großschönau, Seiffhennersdorf |
| EUR 150K | Together against flood |
| EUR 709K | Optimizing collaboration of firefighters Commune Neukirch, City Wilthen and Obec Vilémov at cross-border crisis management, in particular the operational and preventive flood protection |
| EUR 311K | Cooperation in solving crisis situations on the Elbe in Saxon-Czech border area |
| EUR 593K | Realization of a joint system for the prevention of natural disasters in the municipalities Cunewalde and Křižany |
| EUR 234K | Transboundary cooperation in flood protection Chotyne - Hainewalde |

Source: Documentation from the programme. It has not been possible to obtain a description of these projects.

ANNEX 2. Programme of Interviews and Visits

April 2015: Phone interview **Alfons Weiss, Sächsischen Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft**, Managing Authority of Saxony-Czech Republic programme

Monday 7 September: Czech Republic

9:30am **Frau Hyskova**

Ústecký kraj - Velká hradební 48 - Ústí nad Labem

Tel: 0042 (0) 475 657 672 hyskova.b@kr-ustecky.cz

Project: Radregion Erzgebirge - Vernetzung der überregionalen Radrouten im böhmisch-deutschen Erzgebirge / 100126017

11:30am: **Herr Mgr. Adam Šrejber**

Ústecký kraj - Velká hradební 48 - Ústí nad Labem

Tel: 00420 475 657 286 srejber.a@kr-ustecky.cz

Project: Mitteleuropäische Kulturlandschaft Montanregion Erzgebirge/ Krušonoří - Weg zum UNESCO-Welterbe / 100042493

Tuesday 8 September: Germany

11:00am **Herr Sennewald**

Kultur aktiv e.V. - Bautzner Straße 49 Dresden

Tel: 0049 176 10073498 mirko.sennewald@kulturaktiv.org

Project: Cargo Gallery - Umbau eines ehemaligen Lastkahnens zu einem schwimmenden Kulturzentrum / 100146174

16:00pm **Frau Dr. Andrea Dietrich**

Staatliche Schlösser, Burgen und Gärten GmbH, Schloss Weesenstein Am Schloßberg 1 Müglitztal

Tel: 0049 35027 626130 Andrea.Dietrich@schloesserland-sachsen.de

Project: Schlossinterieurs in Sachsen und Böhmen - Recherche und Rekonstruktion des Schicksals der wertvollen Interieurbestände zweier Schlösser des Grenzraums / 100105487

Wednesday 9 September: Germany

09:30am **Herr Andreas Querfurth**

Umweltzentrum Dresden e.V. Schützengasse 16-18 Dresden

Tel: 0049 351 4943340 aq@uzdresden.de

Project: AQUAMUNDI / 100113057 - Bildungsangebote für weiterführende Schulen zum Thema Wasser

12:00am **Herr Prof. Dr. Elmar Csaplovics**

Technische Universität Dresden Helmholtzstrasse 10 Dresden

Tel: 0043 680 238 36 90 Elmar.Csaplovics@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

Project: Indikatoren zur Bewertung der Naturnähe

14:00am **Herr Prof. Dr. Walter Schmitz**

Technische Universität Dresden Strehleener Str. 24 Dresden

Tel: 0049 351 46337865 mez@tu-dresden.de

Project: Landschaft des Gedenkens. Dresden und Terezín als Erinnerungsorte der Shoah - 3D-Virtualisierung der Erinnerungslandschaft der böhmisch-sächsischen Grenzregion im Dritten Reich / 100110544

Thursday 10 September: Germany-Czech Republic

10:00am – 15:00 pm **Projects focus group**

Sächsische Aufbaubank Pirnaische Straße 9 Dresden

Participating projects and project leaders

- **Herr Rüdiger Kubsch** - EUROREGION ELBE/LABE. Tel 0049 351 49771011 Ruediger.Kubsch@euroregion-elbe-labe.de - Gemeinsamer Kleinprojektefonds der Euroregion Elbe/Labe / 100011261: Umsetzung des Kleinprojektefonds
- **Herr JUDr. Milan Babičik** - Policie České republiky, Krajské ředitelství policie Severočeského kraje - Tel: 00420 974423581 - krpulk.e.ef@pcr.cz - - Verbesserung der Sicherheit im sächsisch-tschechischen Grenzgebiet (durch Maßnahmen der Schutz- und erkehrspolizei) / 100013692: gemeinsame Kontrollen des Güterverkehrs und der Gefahrguttransporte sowie gemeinsames Lkw-Verwiegen auf der A17/D8 und Umleitungsstraßen
- **Frau Claudia Muntschick** -Stiftung Haus Schminke - -Tel: 0049 35858 62133 - claudia.muntschick@stiftung-hausschminke.eu - Topographie der Bauten der Moderne (TOPOMOMO) / 100114322: Entwicklung touristischer Angebote zur Architektur der klassischen Moderne im Grenzgebiet
- **Frau Ing. Marie Kalinová** - Výzkumný ústav vodohospodářský - Tel: 00420 2 20197213 - marie.kalinova@vuv.cz - Gemeinsam genutzte Grundwasserressourcen im tschechisch-sächsischen Grenzgebiet (GRACE) / 100091065: Grenzübergreifender Grundwasserschutz im Elbsand- steingebirge, in der Sächsisch-Böhmischen Schweiz und im Zittauer Gebirge

- **Frau Dr. Christiane Hemker** - Sächsisches Landesamt für Archäologie - Tel: 0049 351 8926673 - Christiane.Hemker@lfa.sachsen.de ArchaeoMontan / 100099134: Archäologische Ausgrabungen und Forschung zum mittelalterlichen Bergbau

16:30am **Frau Jaroslava Antonová**

Obec Hřensko o.č.p. 71 Hřensko

Tel: 00420 412 554 021 Antonova@hrensko.cz

Project: Aus der Mühle ins Blockhaus und zurück - Beseitigung von Hochwasserschäden und Schaffung neuer touristischer Angebote durch Sanierung der Außenanlagen der Neumannmühle und des Blockhauses in der Kamnitzklamm/ 100129539

Friday 11 September: Germany

10:00am **Frau Andrea Rauch**

Sächsischen Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft Archivstraße 1
Dresden

Tel: +49 351 564-2251 Andrea.Rauch@smul.sachsen.de

Managing Authority of the Saxony-Czech Republic programme

ANNEX 3 List of indicators for the programme

| OUTPUT indicators, targets and values achieved | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------|-------|
| | Indicator | Target | Value | |
| Priority 1 Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area | Sub-priority 1 Improvement in cooperation and demand-driven establishment and expansion of infrastructure and cooperation in the field of regional planning and development | | | |
| | | Number of projects improving transport infrastructure | 39 | 9 |
| | | Number of projects improving information society | 9 | 1 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in social infrastructure | 16 | 7 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in land planning | 4 | 5 |
| | Sub-priority 2 Cooperative actions in the areas of human resources, socio-cultural development and partnership | | | |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of education and knowledge transfer | 53 | 21 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of art and culture | 30 | 25 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of employment of youth and people with disabilities | 5 | 18 |
| | | Number of projects facilitating the development of partnership at all levels of society | 15 | 7 |
| | Sub-priority 3 Cooperation in the field of security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection | | | |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection | 40 | 24 |
| | Sub-priority 4 Common small projects fund | | | |
| | | Number of projects implemented through the small project funds | 300 | 1.105 |
| | Sub-priority 5 Measures to repair damage caused by the flood in August 2010, and promotion of preventive measures related to the flood | | | |
| | - | - | - | |
| Priority 2 Economy and tourism development | Sub-priority 1 Economic cooperation and development of cross-border economic structures | | | |
| | | Number of projects promoting economic cooperation | 20 | 3 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the fields of research and technology | 2 | 10 |
| | Sub-priority 2 Cooperation and development of cross-border structures for tourism | | | |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of tourism | 47 | 56 |
| Priority 3 Improvement of Nature and Environmental situation | Sub-priority 1 Cooperation in the areas of climate, forests and nature conservation, landscape maintenance and waste management | | | |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of environment and nature protection | 20 | 17 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of waste management | 2 | 1 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field environmental education | 15 | 21 |
| | Sub-priority 2 Cooperation in the areas of flood protection, water management, water conservation and protection of water bodies | | | |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the field of flood protection | 3 | 3 |
| | | Number of projects improving cooperation in the fields of water management, water conservation and protection of water bodies | 5 | 6 |

| RESULT indicators, targets and values achieved | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------|---------|
| | Indicator | Target | Value | |
| Priority 1 Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area | Sub-priority 1 Improvement in cooperation and demand-driven establishment and expansion of infrastructure and cooperation in the field of regional planning and development | | | |
| | | Kilometres of roads built | 30 km | 32.8 km |
| | | Number of technical networks and systems | 4 | 13 |
| | | Number of pilot projects and resulting concepts | 10 | 13 |
| | | People participating to joint projects | 720 | 9.952 |
| | | Organizations participating to joint projects | 53 | 333 |
| | Sub-priority 2 Cooperative actions in the areas of human resources, socio-cultural development and partnership | | | |
| | | People participating to joint projects | 15.000 | 250.513 |
| | | Organizations participating to joint projects | 100 | 2.123 |
| | Sub-priority 3 Cooperation in the field of security, rescue, civil protection and fire protection | | | |
| | | People participating to joint projects | 5.000 | 7.514 |
| | | Organizations participating to joint projects | 80 | 192 |
| | Sub-priority 4 Common small projects fund | | | |
| | | People participating to joint projects | 10.000 | 151.149 |
| | Sub-priority 5 Measures to repair damage caused by the flood in August 2010, and promotion of preventive measures related to the flood | | | |
| | | | | |
| Priority 2 Economy and tourism development | Sub-priority 1 Economic cooperation and development of cross-border economic structures | | | |
| | | Enterprises and organizations participating to joint projects | 40 | 1.732 |
| | | Common marketing strategies | 2 | 5 |
| | Sub-priority 2 Cooperation and development of cross-border structures for tourism | | | |
| | | Kilometres of touristic paths built | 5km | 70km |
| | | Networking and joint structures | 3 | 49 |
| | | Joint marketing concepts | 3 | 22 |
| Priority 3 Improvement of Nature and Environmental situation | Sub-priority 1 Cooperation in the areas of climate, forests and nature conservation, landscape maintenance and waste management | | | |
| | | Organizations participating to joint projects | 74 | 1.912 |
| | | People participating to joint projects | 200 | 131.238 |
| | Sub-priority 2 Cooperation in the areas of flood protection, water management, water conservation and protection of water bodies | | | |
| | | Users of water supply and disposal facilities established by projects | 300 | 3.450 |
| | | Contributions to joint action programs and management plans as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive | 5 | 20 |

Source: Saxony-Czech Republic programme Annual Report 2014

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