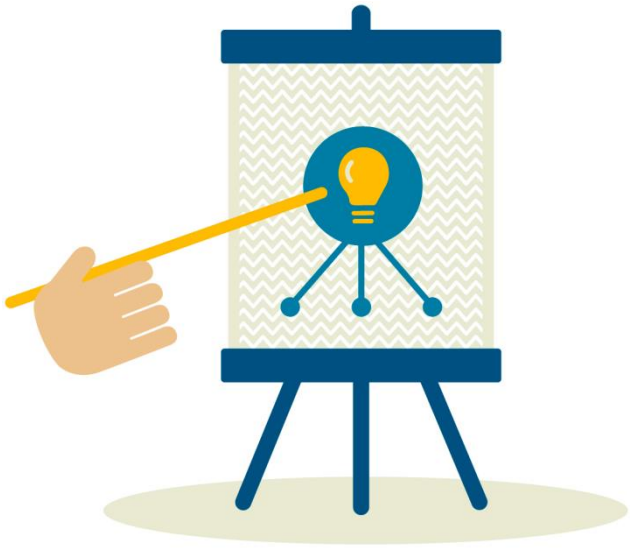
Developing common indicators for Interreg post-2020

14 May 2019 I Leuven, Belgium



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Agenda

Welcome and introduction , *Interact*

DG REGIO work on post 2020 indicators: Indicators and their definition , *Violeta Piculescu, Evaluation Unit, DG Regio*

Introduction to the guidance document on indicators and their definition of the Cohesion policy; *Interact*

Discussion of the available list of indicators, *Interact*

Territorial effects of TN cooperation and their measurability, *Sina Redlich ((BBSR) and Daniel Zwicker-Schwarm (University St. Gallen)*

Next steps and wrap up

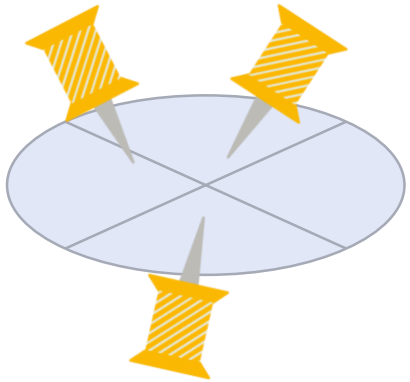
> An indicator is an observed value of a variable, or in other words “a sign of a presence or absence of the concept being studied …”
>
> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indicator_(statistics

Please define either an indicator on output or result
It could be a quantitative or a qualitative one ….

Taking a look at the following picture!

Draft output and result indicators

- Annex 1 to the draft ERDF Regulation



Steps until today

- Mandate of Interact to support and inform the discussion process on the Common Indicators for Interreg as included in Annex 1 to the Draft ERDF Regulation
- Technical meeting with DG Regio and programme representatives based on first draft explanatory fiche on February 19-20 in Vienna
- Consideration of comments and revision of fiche as well as proposed revisions to some of the indicators
- Collection of comments from participants based on the revised fiche and the provisionally revised set of indicators
- Today‘s meeting!
- Presentation of revised list to the Council on May 27

The proposed set of common indicators

The proposed set of Common Indicators:

- Has been developed as a common denominator of most frequently used programme-specific indicators
- Should be easily understood
- Aims for improved coverage of Interreg (target is 70%)

It is not:

- A coherent and consistent systemic approach (which would most probably fail to cover a significant range of programmes)

Draft provisions on indicators – 1/2

Draft Interreg Regulation - Article 33

1. Common output and common result indicators, as set out in Annex [I] to Regulation (EU) [new ERDF], and, where necessary, programme-specific output and result indicators shall be used in accordance with Article [12(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR], and point (d)(ii) of Article 17(3) and point (b) of Article 31(2) of this Regulation.

2. For output indicators, baselines shall be set at zero. The milestones set for 2024 and targets set for 2029 shall be cumulative.

Draft provisions – 2/2

Draft CPR – Article 12(1)

Performance framework in order to monitor and evaluate performance – including output and result indicators linked to specific objectives

Article 17 (4) e (ii) - Content of Interreg programmes

Output and result indicators at level of specific objectives

Article 31 - Transmission of data

a. *the number of selected Interreg operations, their total eligible cost, the contribution from the respective Interreg fund and the total eligible expenditure declared by the partners to the managing authority, all broken down by types of intervention;*

b. *the values of output and result indicators for selected Interreg operations and values achieved by Interreg operations.*

*Frequency per year **COM**: 6x; **EP** a) =3x; b) 1x; **MS**: a) 4x; b) 2x*

Proposals to the approach

Issue	Comments
Making the thematic aspect explicit	**E.g. Participants in joint actions across borders promoting policy objective X** In our view that would run against the intent to establish ‚horizontal' Interreg indicators. It is covered by the combined use of Interreg indicators with indication of the specific objective / indicators on policy objectives
Highlighting the territorial dimension	**E.g. cooperation between types of regions** It is meant as a rather general set of indicators indicating achievements of Interreg to various stakeholders (these are rather generic indicators). The indicator set cannot cover specific interests such as to highlight specific features of territorial development in depth and detail. But such rather specific data analysis should be possible from data in the monitoring systems

Technical comments

Issue	Comments
Monitoring results after project end?	How to do it efficiently? Option for substantiated forecast as discussed in February?
Absolute vs. relative results	Indicators meant to inform a broader public may not be best suited to serve internal monitoring purposes
Overlaps between indicators	RCO 96 in RCO84B; RCO 82 in RCO 81 ...) Proposal to introduce levels of detail (systemic approach) but given the chosen approach it is rather the issue to develop demarcation lines in definitions
Implications for reporting of fully or partially implemented projects	Raised e.g. in conjunction with RCO 83 on *Joint strategies/ action plans developed* (formerly implemented in definition)

Terminology, definitions

Issue	Comment / explanatory remark
Term ‚across borders'	Yes, the term is intended to cover corss-border, transnational as well as interregional cooperation
Term ‚joint'	When is something joint? All partners involved? This has also implications for counting e.g. in case of joint strategies – if 3 cities produce jointly 3 strategies – is it 1 or 3)
Rules for counting	E.g. RCO 84: 1 project = 1 case or 1 project = x cases depending on the number of partners implementing a jointly developed solution etc.? Same question for RCR 85 on legal or administrative obstacles alleviated or resolved E.g. RCO 85: 1 person attending several training in different fields offered by one project?
Specification of measurements	E.g. from what level of involvement to count a person as participant or a legal agreement).. WS at a later stage?
Glossary	Might be good to specify in which ways the definitions should be extended (further WS at a later stage?)

Double counting

‚Rules for counting' will be required in several cases butthere are further aspects related to counting and double counting ...

Counting ...	**Proposed ways to address / resolve double counting ...**
Participants	▪ To be eliminated at project level; ▪ no need for programmes to eliminate it across projects
Organisations	▪ Eliminate double counting at project level ▪ Elimination at programme level is cumbersome but should be done (in order to have correct ‚basic' figures on numbers of institutions cooperating in the frame of the programme ...)
Population benefitting from ...	Frequent in RCRs for policy objectves (e.g. PO 2 RCR 96) ▪ To be solved at programme level ▪ Adequate routines in reporting and supportive features in the Monitoring System would help to reduce the work burden for ‚filtering'

Common output indicators (RCO)		Common result indictor (RCR)	
RCO81	Participants in joint actions across borders	RCR85	Participants in joint actions across borders after project completion
RCO81B	Participants in large events across borders	RCR85	
RCO82	Participants in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion	RCR85	
RCO83	Joint strategies/ action plans developed	RCR79	Joint strategies/ action plan taken up by organisations
RCO84	Joint pilot actions implemented in projects	RCR80	Solutions of joint pilot actions taken up or upscaled by organisations
RCO84B	Solutions developed through joint pilot actions	RCR80 RCR84	
RCO85	Participants in joint training schemes	RCR81	Participants completing joint training schemes
RCO86	Joint legal or administrative agreements signed	RCR82	Legal or administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved
		RCR83	Persons covered by joint agreements signed
RCO96	Solutions for legal or administrative obstacles across border identified	RCR82	Legal or administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved
RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
DELETE RCO88	Stakeholders/ institutions with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders		
RCO89	Organisations cooporating Organizations cooperating for the the multi-level governance of macroregional strategies		
RCO90	Projects for innovation networks/ clusters across borders		
		DELETE RCR86	Stakeholders/ institutions with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders

Links RCO -> RCR

RCO81 Participants in cross-border mobility initiatives

RCO81 (revised): Participants in joint actions across borders

RCO81B (new indicator): Participants in large events across borders

RCO82 Participants in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion

-> RCR85 Participants in joint actions 6-12 months after project completion

-> RCR85 (revised): Participants in joint actions across borders after project completion

RCO 81	Participants in cross-border mobility initiatives Participants in joint actions across borders
Definition Concept	*The indicator counts the number of participants in joint actions across borders implemented in the supported projects. Cross-border joint actions could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits, small scale event organized with partners across borders. Participants include individuals (e.g citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, trainees, public officials etc). An individual should be counted once if participating in several joint actions organised by the same project.*
Issues addressed	▪ Demarcation line to indicator on large events ▪ Understanding of term 'joint' (organised by? Participants?) ▪ Counting!* ▪ Means to aggregate quite heterogeneous types of participants

* Recurring issues

RCO 81B	Participants in large events across borders NEW INDICATOR PROPOSED - PROVISIONAL
Definition Concept	*Participants in large events organized across borders by the supported projects.*
Issues addressed	▪ Definition of large? ▪ Add term 'public' ▪ Rather count events than participants ▪ If participants - how to provide a sound estimate (counting in most cases being impossible)?

RCO 82	Participants in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion
Definition Concept	*Participants refer to individuals. Organizations and institutions should be counted in RCO87.*
Issues addressed	▪ Demarcation line to / overlap with RCO 81 B and RCO 85 ▪ When does it count as an action dedicated to one of the principles mentioned? ▪ Level of involvement in order to count as participant

RCR 85	Participants in joint actions 6-12 months after project completion Participants in joint actions across borders after project completion
Definition Concept	*Number of participants in joint actions across borders organised after project completion as a continuation of cooperation.*
Issues addressed	▪ How to monitor / verify after project completion? Actual monitoring or estimate? ▪ Forecast at the time of completion?

Links RCO -> RCR

RCO 83 Joint strategies/ action plans developed or implemented

RCO 83 (revised): Joint strategies/ action plans developed

-> RCR 79 Joint strategies /action plans taken up by organisations at/ after project completion

-> RCR 79 (revised): Joint strategies /action plans taken up by organisations

RCO 83	Joint strategies/ action plans developed or implemented Joint strategies/ action plans developed
Definition Concept	*The number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects.*
Issues addressed	▪ Separate indicators for strategies and joint action plans? (since it is understood as a ‚conditional' sequencing of steps) ▪ Rules for counting required

RCR 79	Joint strategies /action plans taken up by organisations at/ after project completion Joint strategies /action plans taken up by organisations
Definition Concept	*Number of joint strategies or action plans adopted and implemented by organisations after project completion.*
Issues addressed	▪ Harmonise terminology (taken up / adopted / implemented ▪ Proposal to extend the definition – also uptake during project possible ▪ How to monitor / verify after project completion? Actual monitoring or estimate?

Links RCO -> RCR

RCO 84 Joint pilot activities implemented in projects

RCO 84 (revised): Joint pilot actions implemented in projects

RCO 84 B (new)Solutions developed through joint pilot actions

-> RCR 80 Joint pilot activities taken up or up-scaled by organisations at/ after project completion

-> RCR 80 (revised): Solutions of joint pilot actions taken up or upscaled by organisations

RCO 84	Joint pilot activities implemented in projects Joint pilot actions implemented in projects
Definition Concept	*Number of test cases implemented by supported projects.*
Issues addressed	▪ Term ‚test case' used in the definition; better ‚new actions tested'? ▪ Definition of term ‚joint' ▪ Rules for counting? (1 project = 1 case or 1 project = x cases? ▪ Proposed definition: *Number of pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects*

RCO 84B new	Solutions developed through joint pilot actions
Definition Concept	*Number of solutions developed through joint pilot actions across borders* *Number of solutions developed through joing pilot actions across borders* *The indicator is a proxy measure of cooperation in terms of solutions developed through the implementation of pilot actions for innovative tools in supported projects across borders*
Issues addressed	▪ Overlaps with RCO 84; is it required if RCO 84 & RCO 96 are kept? ▪ Omit last sentence in underlying definition and concepts – otherwise it overlaps with RCO 84 ▪ Rather jointly developed solutions; really useful things in cooperation are often not innovative … ▪ Definition of term ‚joint‘

RCR 80	Joint pilot activities taken up or up-scaled by organisations at/ after project completion Solutions of joint pilot actions taken up or upscaled by organisations
Definition Concept	*Number of solutions developed through pilot actions, and which are adopted or upscaled after project completion.*
Issues addressed	▪ Many different terms used in the definition give room for interpretation ▪ Proposed definition: *Solutions coming from joint pilot actions that are finally adopted by organisations* ▪ Demarcation lines to RCO 84 and RCO 84B? ▪ Add link to RCO 84B ▪ How to monitor / verify after project completion? Actual monitoring or estimate? ▪ Rules for counting?

Links RCO -> RCR

RCO 85 Participants in joint training schemes

RCO 85 (revised): Participants in joint training schemes

-> RCR 81 Participants completing joint training schemes

RCO 85	Participants in joint training schemes Participants in joint training schemes
Definition Concept	*Number of participants in joint training schemes organised by supported projects.*
Issues addressed	▪ Difficult to contain the issue of double counting ▪ Added-value compared to RCO 81 (Participants in joint actions across borders)? Proposal that in case of overlaps with RCO 81 or 82 the RCO 85 should have priority since it is more specific ▪ Difference to RCR 81 might be difficult for beneficiaries (aversion against reading …) ▪ Better to count training schemes or training days? ▪ Relevance of persons attending training ▪ Definition of term ‘joint’ / ‘jointly organised’?

RCR 81	Participants completing joint training schemes
Definition Concept	Number of participants completing joint training schemes organised by supported projects.
Issues addressed	▪ Doubt if it is a useful result indicator ▪ Hardly any difference to RCO 85 ▪ Instead of ‚completing' better ‚having completed' ▪ Proposed definition: *Participants having completed joint training schemes with enhanced capacity based on a certificate received*

Links RCO -> RCR

RCO 96 Legal or administrative obstacles identified
RCO 96 (revised): Solutions for legal or administrative obstacles across border identified

RCO 86 Joint legal or administrative agreements signed
RCO 86 (revised): Joint legal or administrative agreements signed

-> RCR 82 Legal or administrative obstacles addressed or alleviated
-> RCR 82 (revised): Legal or administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved
-> RCR83 Persons covered by joint agreements signed
-> RCO86 to be removed: Stakeholders/ institutions with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders)

RCO 96	Legal or administrative obstacles identified
Definition Concept	*Number of legal / administrative obstacles defined and documented by supported projects.*
Issues addressed	Issues are the same as discussed in February: ▪ Better definition e.g. ‚obstacles to cooperation‘ ▪ Connection to ‚agreements‘ as measurement unit and reference to RCO 86 is not evident respectively requires explanation ▪ Counting obstacles in a TN context ▪ No clear definition what has been achieved (identification as output; no contribution in case obstacle identified in previous project?) ▪ RCO 86 better to capture the related phenomena

RCO 86	Joint legal or administrative agreements signed Joint legal or administrative agreements signed
Definition Concept	*Number of legal / administrative agreements signed in the context of supported projects.* *The indicator is a proxy measure of cooperation in terms of concerted administrative or regulatory action across borders.*
Issues addressed	▪ Definition of agreement in order to avoid inflation of agreements reached – legally binding ones or also letters of Intent (LoI) or Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) –often lacking clear pathways to action …. ▪ Would be a RCR ▪ Proposed alternative wording in the definition: *joint legal or administrative agreements enhancing the cooperation.* ▪ Potential overlaps with RCO 86 and RCO 96

RCR 82	Legal or administrative obstacles addressed or alleviated Legal or administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved
Definition Concept	*Number of legal / administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved based on solutions identified by the supported projects.*
Issues addressed	▪ How to monitor or verify results after project completion? Forecast? ▪ Rules for counting ▪ Rather RCO; specification would be important

RCR 83	Persons covered by joint agreements signed
Definition Concept	*The indicator counts the number of potential beneficiaries of the opportunities provided by joint agreements signed.* *The indicator reflects the number of potential beneficiaries within the scope of the joint agreements signed* *The indicator counts the number of persons who could potentially benefit from the opportunities/ services established by the joint agreements signed in the context of the supported projects. In line with the corresponding output indicator RCO86, the joint agreement signed should refer to cross-border obstacles. For a given NUTS3 region, the number of potential beneficiaries cannot be higher than the population of the region.* *Use with other common output indicators: RCO86*
Issues addressed	▪ Not all important agreements address human beings (e.g. biodiversity) ´and quantity does not necessarily mean quality ▪ Counting! ▪ Relevance to capture results of Interreg?

Links RCO -> RCR

RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders
RCO 87 (revised): Organisations cooperating across borders

->RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders 6-12 months after project completion
->RCR 84 (revised): Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion

RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders
Definition Concept	*Number of organisations cooperating across borders* *The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations are legal entities including project partners and associated organizations, as mentioned in the grant agreement of the application. Organisations cooperating formally in small projects (for instance under a Small Project Fund) are also counted. .*
Issues addressed	▪ Add avoidance of double counting ▪ Associated organisations in or out? (part of formal cooperation?)

RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders 6-12 months after project completion Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
Definition Concept	*Number of organisations continuing the cooperation for at least one year after project completion.* *The indicator is a proxy for continuing cooperation among organisations across borders*
Issues addressed	▪ Verification after project completion? Otherwise no difference to RCO 87 ▪ Cooperation more a means than an end ▪ What if a cooperation continued but at a low level? Definition of a red tape until which cooperation counts … ▪ Wish to share ideas on how to collect evidence

RCO 88 Projects across national borders for peer-learning to enhance cooperation activities

RCO 88 INDICATOR PROPOSED TO BE REMOVED - PROVISIONAL

RCO89 Projects across borders to improve multi-level governance

RCO89 (revised): Organizations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies

RCO 90Projects across national borders leading to networks/ clusters

RCO 90 (revised): Projects for innovation networks/ clusters across borders

RCR 86 Stakeholders/ institutions with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders

RCR 86 INDICATOR PROPOSED TO BE REMOVED - PROVISIONAL

RCO 88 DELETE	~~Projects across national borders for peer-learning to enhance cooperation activities~~
Definition Concept	*Number of projects aiming at capitalisation of good practices* *The indicator counts the number of projects aiming at capitalisation of good practices identified through cooperation activities. Peer-learning activities could involve more than one of the following activities: policy learning events, exchange activities, interregional cooperation for joint analysis, case studies, peer reviews, study visits, partnering etc. Cooperation activities in networks or clusters for enterprise innovation should be included in RCO90.*
Major reasons for deletion	▪ Overlaps with RCO 84 on joint pilot actions implemented in projects
Issues addressed	▪ Indicator for capitalisation would be good – use definition as name ▪ Request to keep it since it is a key issue for interregional cooperation (IRC)

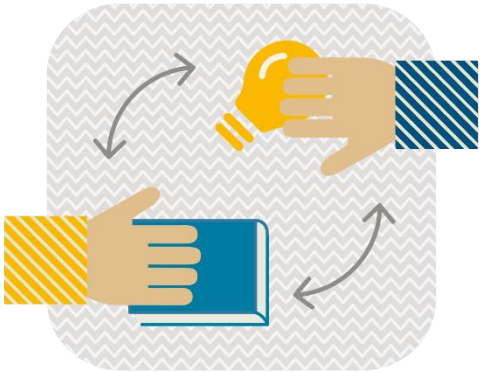
RCO89	Projects across borders to improve multi-level governance Organizations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies
Definition Concept	*Number of organizations cooperating for the implementation of macro-regional strategies.* *Involvement of organisations in the multi-level governance for macro-regional strategies.*
Issues addressed	▪ Clear demarcation line to RCO 87 on organisations cooperating across borders required ▪ Clear definition of levels of cooperation and mutli-level governance (MLG) required ▪ So far no projects would fit under that …

RCO 90	Projects across national borders leading to networks/ clusters Projects for innovation networks/ clusters across borders
Definition Concept	*Number of projects creating or enhancing clusters and networks for enterprise innovation across borders.* *Measure of the support provided to new or existing networks and clusters aiming at strengthening growth and competition through innovation in enterprises across borders. Number of projects creating or enhancing cross-border clusters and networks for enterprise innovation across borders*
Issues addressed	▪ Rather thematic compared to other RCOs; good to have innovation networks and clusters in one indicator? ▪ Better to count networks / clusters than projects? ▪ What to do about networks of mainly public innovation players – networks for enterprise innovation sufficiently open?

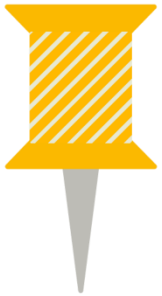
RCR 86 DELETE	~~Stakeholders/ institutions with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders~~
Definition Concept	*The number of stakeholders with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders* *The indicator counts the number of stakeholders which develop/ enhance their cooperation capacity through joint actions across borders developed in the context of supported projects. Stakeholders include organisations such as institutions, enterprises, NGOs etc, and should be involved in the supported project.*
Major reasons for deletion	▪ Overlaps with RCO 84 on joint pilot actions implemented in projects ▪ Indication of low uptake due to inherent difficulties to measure
Issues addressed	▪ At least one indicator one ‚increased capacity' would be good (e.g. for IRC …) ▪ Several requests to keep it

Would you like to?

Join a working process on programme-specific indicators with the aim to join forces and align across programmes?



Upcoming events



Next events

- Project monitoring and reporting: so far, so good!?, 27 - 28 June2019, Vilnius, Lithuania

- EVAL-CAP-COM, 5-6 November, Budapest, Hungary

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

www.interact-eu.net