

1. Name of indicator
(Number of) Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (Ind. 5.0.1.1)
2. Associated IPA III Programming Framework Window and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programming, Primary SDG and Wider Thematic Linkages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This indicator is included in IPA Results Framework for its relevance to Window 5 Territorial and cross-border cooperation of IPA III Programming Framework¹, as it is one of the outcome indicators most commonly included in Interreg-IPA CBC and Interreg/Interreg NEXT transnational programmes supported with IPA III funds. • It is an Interreg-specific indicator of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): Common Result Indicator RCR 84². Its characteristics and intended use under the ERDF are defined in Commission Staff working document (2021)198 final³. • It can also be relevant to other Windows of IPA III Programming Framework, in particular Window 2 Good governance, EU Acquis alignment, Good neighbourly relations and Strategic communication, Thematic Priority 3 Good neighbourly relations and reconciliations. • Chapter of the Acquis: The indicator cuts across the EU Acquis chapters and political priorities. • It can be linked to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 Partnerships for the goals
3. Technical Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisations counted in this indicator are the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are the legal entities that were formally involved in project implementation, including project partners and associated organisations, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the application. Organisations that cooperated formally in small projects (for instance under a Small Project Fund) are also counted. • The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project. • This is an outcome indicator. It may be used together with output indicator 2.3.1.1 <i>Number of organisations participating in cross-border networks/partnerships formed</i>, which is related to ERDF Common Output Indicator RCO 87 <i>Organisations cooperating across borders</i>.
4. Rationale (including policy priorities and links to this indicator)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned under Window 5 of IPA III Programming Framework (p.56), the <i>European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) provides the necessary framework for implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors across Europe and external borders</i>. The strategic objectives of cooperation between Member States, IPA III beneficiaries and/or Partner Countries covered by the NDICI-GE regulation is notably to reinforce the cross-border relations (including through people-to-people cooperation) and enhance effective coordination of regional and urban multilateral, regional and bilateral policies at the level of the concerned partners.

¹ Annex to Commission implementing decision C(2021) 8914 final

² As defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

³ Commission Staff working document on *Performance, monitoring and evaluation of the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund in 2021-2027* SWD(2021) 198 final

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window 2 Thematic Priority 3 <i>Good neighbourly relations and reconciliation</i> targets support to actions that contribute to confidence building, social cohesion and strengthening neighbourly relations.
5. Level of disaggregation and other reporting requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This indicator could be disaggregated by type of organisation (NGO, local government...).
6. Data Sources (including issues on different definitions by source and level of availability of the data)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the framework of CBC/transnational programmes the indicator value will be monitored and reported by lead beneficiaries, based on their contractual obligations, checked by the Joint Technical Secretariats and included in the Managing Authorities monitoring system. After project completion data collection may be carried out via a survey. • As for all ERDF indicators, progress towards the indicator targets should be reported by the Interreg-IPA CBC and Interreg/Interreg NEXT transnational programmes to DG Regio every 6 months (31 January and 31 July)⁴. The cohesion open data platform⁵ will present for all Interreg programmes the monitoring data notified as programme managers report on implementation. • DG NEAR can use the aggregated data from the relevant (IPA-supported) Interreg programmes for its reporting and communication.
7. Data calculation (including any assumptions made)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unit of measurement is: Number of (#) organisations (cooperating across borders after project completion). • The time measurement achieved is during project implementation and/or up to one year after project completion. • At programme level, double counting of the same organisation should be avoided at the level of project partners and associated organisations. • Values at intervention level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baseline: 0 at project start ○ Target: Total number of organisations expected to be cooperating across borders after project completion ○ Current values are cumulative, except if otherwise requested by the programme.
8. Worked example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Interreg-IPA CBC project aims to reduce pollution on a cross-border lake and its shores, focusing on the prevention and reduction of litter. The environmental issue is perceived by the project partners as requiring a long-lasting cooperation, so they have described in their application their willingness to formally engage to continue cooperation after the end of the project. • This 2-year project is implemented in cross-border partnership between 4 project partners: a lead beneficiary (an environmental NGO in region X) and three beneficiaries (a regional authority in region X, an environmental NGO and a local authority in region Y). • However, in the second year of project implementation, local elections change the political priorities of the local authority in region Y, and the environment is not perceived as a key topic of interest anymore. The local authority will respect its contractual commitment as project beneficiary within the existing project until its completion, but it is not willing to engage for follow-up environmental cross-border actions and therefore it will not sign the foreseen long-lasting cooperation agreement with the other partners. • The other 3 partners are still committed and they sign by the end of the project an agreement to continue environmental cross-border cooperation after project completion.

⁴ As provided for in Staff working document SWD (2021) 198 final

⁵ <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>

- In this example, the values are:
 - **Baseline** (at project start): 0
 - **Target** (after 24 months): 4 organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (*the 4 organisations formally involved in project implementation, expected to sign a long-lasting cooperation agreement*).
 - **Final value** (after 24 months): 3 organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (*the 3 organisations formally involved in project implementation that actually signed the long-lasting cooperation agreement*). The final value is below the target.

9. Is it used by another organisation or in the framework of international initiatives, conventions, etc? If so, which?

N/A

10. Other issues

None

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