IPA III Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator code and name
IPA III RF 5.0.1.5: (Number of) Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
2. Technical details
OPSYS and Results Dashboard code: 260048.
Unit of measure: Number of (#)
Type of indicator: *Quantitative: Numeric; Actual (ex-post); Cumulative (not annual).*
Level of measurement: This is an **outcome** indicator. It may be linked to output indicator 5.0.1.6 *(Number of) Jointly developed solutions*, which corresponds to ERDF Common Output Indicator RCO 116.
Disaggregation: No particular disaggregation is foreseen other than that which may be required by a Managing Authority.
DAC sector codes: 15110; 15111; 15112; 15113; 15114; 15125; 15130; 15142; 15150; 15151; 15152;15153; 15160; 15170; 15180; 15190
Main associated SDG: **SDG 17** *Partnerships for the goals*.
Other associated SDGs: n/a .
Associated IPA III Level 1 indicator: • Attitudes on regional cooperation and EU integration (source: Regional Cooperation Council's Balkan Barometer) (Ind. 2.3.1, same indicator presented under Window 2 – TP3).
Associated IPA III Level 3 indicators: • Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance qualifying as ODA.
3. Policy context and Rationale
• This indicator is included in IPA Results Framework for its relevance to **Window 5** *Territorial and cross-border cooperation* of IPA III Programming Framework[1], 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 104[2]**. Its characteristics and intended use are defined in Commission Staff working document (2021)198 final[3]. • **Chapter of the *Acquis*:** The indicator cuts across the EU A*cquis* chapters and political priorities.

[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

- As mentioned under Window 5 of IPA III Programming Framework (p.56), the *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*.
- 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 and enhance effective coordination of regional and urban multilateral, regional and bilateral policies at the level of the concerned partners.
- The partnerships between local authorities and the public, private and community sectors aim to create an environment conducive to sustainable socio-economic environment and/or reconciliation.

4. Values to report

All of the following values must be determined according to the definitions provided in Section 5 below.

- **Reporting values in the logframe:**
  - **Baseline value**: The value assumed by the indicator at time t0, against which progress will be assessed.
  - **Reporting of current value** is done at least once a year: actual latest value on the total number of solutions by the time of reporting and according to the applicable definitions provided in section 5 of the note. Values will be reported cumulatively across the whole implementation period.
  - **Final target value**: estimated total number of solutions by the target year and according to the applicable definitions provided in section 5 of the note.
- **Intermediate targets (milestones).** A tool has been developed in OPSYS to automate the generation of intermediate targets[4].
  - For outputs, the intermediate targets are generated using a linear interpolation between the baseline and target values because it is assumed that outputs materialise sooner and more progressively over implementation (than outcomes).
  - For outcomes, the expected progression over the course of implementation will vary across interventions. During the creation of a logframe, the expected outcome profile must be selected (OPSYS offers four options[5]) and this selection triggers the generation of intermediate targets for all 30 June and 31 December dates between the baseline and target dates for all output and outcome quantitative indicators. All automatically generated intermediate targets values and dates can be subsequently

[4] This has been done in the framework of the **Intervention Performance Assessment.** Two composite indicators have been developed to provide an overall assessment of an intervention's current implementation and future prospects. These scores will be calculated for all NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.

- The **implementation score** reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness already achieved by the intervention. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided by the logframe data, if sufficiently available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- The **risk score** reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability to be achieved by the intervention in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational manager's responses to questions in a survey.

[5] a. Constant: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. Accelerating: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. At the end: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. None of the above.

modified by the Operational Manager or the Implementing Partner with the approval of the Operational Manager.

5. Calculation of values

The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the **Number of solutions taken-up or up-scaled by organisations**, using the Technical Definitions and Counting Guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the Quality Control Checklist below.

Technical Definitions

- The indicator counts the number of **solutions** (other than legal or administrative solutions) that are jointly developed by supported projects and **are taken up or up-scaled during the implementation of the project or within one year after project completion**. A jointly developed solution implies the involvement of organisations from **at least two participating countries** for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes in the drafting and design process of the solution.
- The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project **may or may not be a participant in the project**.
- The uptake / up-scaling **should be documented** by the adopting organisations in, for instance, strategies, action plans etc.

Counting Guidance

- Each solution taken up or up-scaled by the organisations shall be counted only once (no matter how many organisations take up/up-scale the solution nor how many times the solution is taken up/up-scaled).

Quality Control Checklist

1. Has the baseline and final target been encoded with the right dates?
2. Did you encode the latest current value available?
3. Did you use the comment box to inform on the values encoded?

6. Examples of calculations

- A 2-year Interreg transnational project involving 5 local authorities (including IPA beneficiaries) aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by applying innovative mobility solutions in the local public transport systems. The project partners jointly analyse the common problems and possibilities and identify three potential alternative transport solutions, which are tested by project partners in their areas as pilot actions. Two of the three potential solutions are validated through the pilot actions as being feasible and applicable in other areas as well, and relevant recommendations are developed for these two solutions to be taken up.
- By the end of the project, 2 of the project partners have already integrated one of the validated solutions into their local mobility plan, while the other solution requires further consultations at local authority level to reach a consensus on a revised strategy to provide mobility services. Within the year following project completion, 4 of the local authorities have integrated at least one of the solutions jointly developed into their mobility strategies or plans, and 2 have taken up both solutions.
- In this example, the values are:
  - **Baseline** (at project start): 0

- **Target** (after 36 months – 1 year after project completion): 2 solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
- **Current value** (after 24 months – at project completion): 1 solution taken up or up-scaled by organisations
- **Final value** (after 36 months – 1 year after project completion): 2 solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations

7. Data sources and issues

Data sources in the logframe:

- Data for this indicator must derive directly from the intervention, i.e. intervention internal monitoring and reporting systems from implementing organisations (e.g. governments, international organisations, non-state actors).
- Other possible sources include studies carried out in the framework of the interventions and external monitoring and/or evaluation reports.

Data source categories specified in OPSYS: n/a.

8. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

Who is responsible for collecting and reporting the data?

- The implementing partner (i.e. the entity responsible for delivering the results) will need to ensure the counting starts at the lowest level of intervention and is reported upwards and aggregated for the entire intervention in the framework of regular monitoring and reporting systems.
- In the framework of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes the indicator value will be monitored and reported by lead beneficiaries, based on their contractual obligations, checked by the Joint 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)[6]. The cohesion open data platform[7] will present for all Interreg programmes the monitoring data notified as programme managers report on implementation.

It is then the responsibility of DG NEAR to centrally receive and verify data for this indicator from all relevant interventions and to eventually ensure aggregation within and across all IPA Beneficiaries.

This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:

- *IPA III via the Annual Report*

[6] As provided for in Staff working document SWD (2021) 198 final
[7] https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/

9. Other uses
IPA III RF 5.0.1.5 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators: • IPA III RF Window 5: Territorial and cross border cooperation (IPA III W5) For more information, see: Predefined indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)
10. Other issues
None.