IPA III Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator code and name
IPA III RF 5.0.1.7: Number of strategies and action plans jointly developed

2. Technical details

OPSYS and Results Dashboard code: 260052.

Unit of measure: Number of (#)

Type of indicator: *Quantitative: Numeric; Actual (ex-post); Cumulative (not annual).*

Level of measurement: This is an **output** indicator. It may be used together with output indicator 5.0.1.6 *(Number of) Jointly developed solutions* (ERDF RCO 116). In this case it may be linked to outcome indicator 5.0.1.5 *(Number of) Solutions taken up of up-scaled by organisations* (ERDF RCR 104).

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 output indicators most commonly included in Interreg-IPA CBC, Interreg transnational and interregional programmes supported with IPA III funds. It is also included under several IPA-IPA CBC programmes as programme-specific indicator (under slightly different formulations).
- It is defined under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as the **Interreg-specific** Common Output Indicator **RCO 83**[2]. Its characteristics and intended use for

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[1] Annex to Commission implementing decision C(2021) 8914 final
[2] As defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Interreg-IPA CBC programmes are defined in Commission Staff working document (2021)198 final[3].

- To allow aggregation across programmes, the same definition should apply to IPA-IPA CBC programmes related programme-specific indicators, as relevant.

- **Chapter of the *Acquis*:** The indicator cuts across the EU A*cquis* chapters and political priorities

- 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 strategies/action plans jointly developed 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 strategies/action plans jointly developed 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).

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[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

[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.

– 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 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 strategies/action plans jointly developed**, 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 **joint strategies and action plans developed** by supported projects. A jointly developed **strategy** aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal-oriented process in a specific domain. An **action plan** translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.

- Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of **organisations from at least two participating countries** for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes (strands A, B, C as defined in the Interreg Regulation) in the drafting process of the strategy or action plan.

- For a project aiming to implement specific jointly developed strategies or action plans previously developed a different output indicator should be used.

Counting Guidance

- Possible double-counting: if a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives or priorities, it should only be counted once under the dominant one.

Quality Control Checklist

1. Has double counting been avoided as indicated in the Counting Guidance above?
2. Has the baseline and final target been encoded with the right dates?
3. Did you encode the latest current value available?
4. Did you use the comment box to inform on the values encoded?

6. Examples of calculations

- An Interreg-IPA CBC project aims to improve the protection of the population from border regions exposed to natural hazards, to reduce risks and prepare effective responses. This 2-year project is implemented in a cross-border partnership between regional councils and emergency services in two border regions.

- Together the project partners analyse the main risks and regional challenges faced, the capacities of their organisations and potential for synergies and complementarities among

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[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.

them. In year 1, they jointly develop and agree on an overall strategy for a more effective and coordinated response to natural hazards, defining common objectives, priorities and ways to achieve them. Based on this strategy, in year 2 they develop a specific joint action plan for emergency response to fires, describing the roles and responsibilities of each organisation, the steps to be taken and activities to be performed.

- In this example, the values are:
  - **Baseline** (at project start): 0
  - **Target** (after 24 months): 2 strategies/action plans jointly developed
  - **Current value** (after 12 months): 1 strategy/action plan jointly developed (*the overall strategy on effective and coordinated response*)
  - **Final value** (after 24 months): 2 strategies/action plans jointly developed (*the overall strategy on effective and coordinated response* + *the action plan on emergency response to fires*)

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:

- EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems (Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention)

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.

- Distinct monitoring systems apply to Interreg-IPA CBC, Interreg transnational and interregional programmes, implemented within ERDF/Interreg applicable framework, and IPA-IPA CBC programmes, implemented within the EU external actions/IPA applicable framework.

- For the **Interreg programmes**, following each programme rules, project lead beneficiaries report the data related to programme indicators into the programme electronic monitoring system, the data is then checked by the programme Joint Secretariat (JS). Based on the information from their monitoring system, the Managing Authorities report to DG Regio every 6 months (31 January and 31 July)[6] on the progress towards the indicator targets. The cohesion open data platform[7] presents for all

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

> programmes the monitoring data notified as programme managers report on implementation.
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> - For **IPA-IPA CBC programmes**, the data on programme indicators is reported by project lead beneficiaries on a quarterly basis into the common electronic regional monitoring system, then the values are checked and validated by each programme JTS. Programmes extract relevant data from this system for their annual reporting to DG NEAR. Aggregated information on indicators across programmes can be provided by the system.
> - 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.
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> This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:
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> - *IPA III via the Annual Report*

9. Other uses

IPA III RF 5.0.1.7 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