IPA III Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator code and name

IPA III RF 5.0.1.9: Number of cultural and tourism sites supported

2. Technical details

OPSYS and Results Dashboard code: 260080.

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 linked to outcome indicator 5.0.1.8 *Number of visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported* (ERDF Common Result Indicator RCR 77).

Disaggregation: No particular disaggregation is foreseen other than that which may be required by a Managing Authority

DAC sector codes: 33210

Main associated SDG: **SDG 8** *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*

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: none.

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]. It is one of the output indicators most commonly included in Interreg-IPA CBC programmes, as well as often included under 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 77**[2]. Its characteristics and intended use for 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.

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[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

- This indicator could also be relevant for interventions under other Windows, in particular under **Window 2** *Good governance, EU Acquis alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication*, **Window 3** *Green agenda and sustainable connectivity* and **Window 4** *Competitiveness and inclusive growth.*

- **Chapter of the *Acquis*:** The indicator cuts across several chapters of the EU A*cquis*, in particular Chapter 26 *Education and culture* and Chapter 27 *Environment.*

- *'Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage'* is Thematic Priority 5 under Window 5 of IPA III Programming Framework, and part of the thematic cluster on '*Improved business environment and competitiveness'*. The promotion of cultural heritage is also included under the related ERDF Priority Objective 5 of a '*Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives'*.

- The promotion of the diversity of culture and of inter-cultural dialogue is foreseen as a vector of social cohesion, peaceful relations as well as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development under Window 2 Thematic Priority 3 *Good neighbourly relations and reconciliations*. Support to the culture sector is also seen as contributing to the economic development under Window 4.

- Nature protection is described under Window 3 as contributing to tourism development.

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 cultural/tourism sites supported 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 cultural/tourism sites supported 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

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[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.

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 cultural/tourism sites supported** , 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 cultural and tourism sites supported by the projects. The tourism sites supported can be natural heritage sites.

- The cultural and tourism sites supported may be already existing prior to the project, or newly created within the project.

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-IPA CBC project implemented in partnership between 3 municipalities and an agency for regional development aims to promote regional tourism through the development of cross-border tourism routes and the upgrading of several sites of touristic interest. The latter includes:
  - the modernisation of a historical museum (creation of an interactive exhibition),
  - the renovation of a cultural center,
  - the restoration of the house of a famous poetess to transform it into a new touristic site,
  - the creation of a pedestrian touristic alley with information boards and relaxation areas next to a historical religious building.

- The modernisation of the historical museum is completed in year 1, while the other outputs are completed towards the end of year 2.

- In this example, the values are:
  - **Baseline** (at project start): 0
  - **Target** (after 24 months): 4 cultural and tourism sites supported
  - **Current value** (after 12 months): 1 cultural and tourism site supported (*the historical museum*)

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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.

o **Final value** (after 24 months): 4 cultural and tourism sites supported.

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 programmes, implemented within ERDF/Interreg applicable framework, and IPA-IPA CBC programmes, implemented within the EU external actions/IPA applicable framework.

- For the **Interreg-IPA CBC 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 programmes the monitoring data notified as programme managers report on implementation.

- 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.

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

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

- *IPA III via the Annual Report*

9. Other uses

IPA III RF 5.0.1.9 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.