Interreg VI-A IPA Programme Croatia – Serbia 2021-2027

About the Programme

2nd Call for Proposals Information Workshops

Programme Facts

Interreg — Co-funded by the European Union

IPA Croatia – Serbia

The European Union promotes cooperation between regions and countries through the **European Territorial Cooperation** (ETC)

In the framework of ETC in the 2021-2027 perspective, there are almost 100 **Interreg Programmes**, out of which 10 Interreg **IPA** Programmes

The Interreg VI-A IPA Programme **Croatia - Serbia** belongs to the cross-border strand (A) of Interreg and is supported by ERDF/IPA III funds

The new Interreg Programme (2021-2027) was **approved by the European Commission on 3 Nov 2022** and continues the successful cooperation of the two countries in 2014-2020

Total Programme Allocation: **EUR 45.037.241,00**
Including 10% flat rate for Techical assistance

85% of EU funding: EUR 38.281.653,00

15% of national co-financing: EUR 6.755.588,00

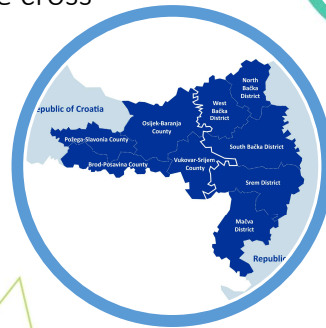Total EU funding available for projects: EUR 34.801.503,00

Main Programme Goals

Strategic Programme objective is the sustainable development of the Programme area through **smart, green and innovative** projects.
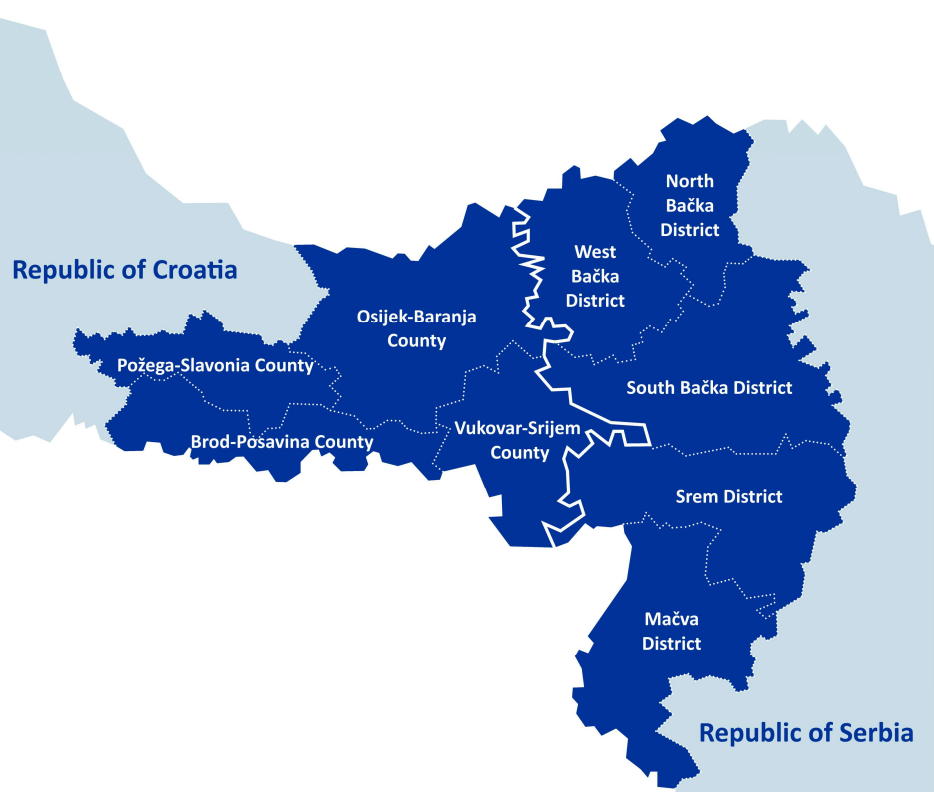
The **Programme mission**, beside strengthening the social, economic and territorial development of the cross-border area, is to encourage and support cross-border cooperation to make the area more resilient to common challenges.

Based on **lessons learnt in the 2014-2020 period**, the Programme will continue to tackle joint challenges, by providing resources and building the capacities of stakeholders to develop new solutions benefiting the cross-border region.

Emphasis on: cross-border solutions, cooperation and sharing of knowledge and experience

Programme Area

- Remains the same as in the 2014-2020 period
- Covers 25.505 km^2 and 2,1 million people
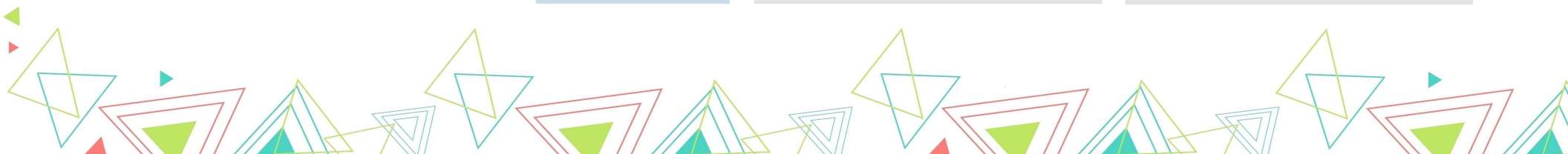- Includes the following regions in the cross-border area:

Republic of Croatia

North Bačka District

West Bačka District

Osijek-Baranja County

Požega-Slavonia County

South Bačka District

Brod-Posavina County

Vukovar-Srijem County

Srem District

Mačva District

Republic of Serbia

4 Counties in Croatia	5 Districts in Serbia
Osijek – Baranja Vukovar – Srijem Brod – Posavina Požega – Slavonia	North Bačka West Bačka South Bačka Srem Mačva

Interreg
Co-funded by the European Union

IPA Croatia – Serbia

PO1 Smarter Europe
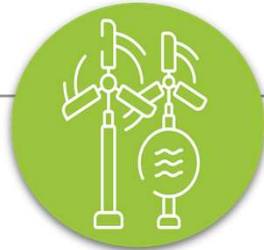
PO2 Greener Europe

PO4 Social Europe

Programme Thematic Priorities

Priority 1

Cooperating for smarter programme area

19% of EU Funds Allocated
EUR 6.612.285

Priority 2

Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient programme area

45% of EU Funds Allocated
EUR 15.660.677

Priority 3

Cooperating for healthier and more inclusive programme area

20% of EU Funds Allocated
EUR 6.960.301

Priority 4

Cooperating for more sustainable and socially innovative tourism and culture

16% of EU Funds Allocated
EUR 5.568.240

Programme Specific Objectives (2nd CfP)

Priority 1
Cooperating for smarter programme area

- SO 1.1. Developing and enhancing **research and innovation** capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

Priority 2
Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient programme area

- SO 2.2. Promoting **renewable energy** in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein

Priority 3
Cooperating for healthier and more inclusive programme area

- SO 4.5. Ensuring **equal access to health care** and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care

Priority 4
Cooperating for more sustainable and socially innovative tourism and culture

- SO 4.6. Enhancing the **role of culture and sustainable tourism** in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Where we are with Programme implementation

- **1st Open Call for Proposals** – submissions from 12 May 2023 until 4 September 2023
- 98 applications received – 342 Applicants – EUR 80 mil. of EU funds requested
- 25 standard and small scale projects selected and contracted + 2 strategic projects (OSIs)
- Success rate of the 1st Call for Proposals **- 25.5%** (projects selected/submitted proposals)
- Contracted amount (1st Call for Proposals+OSI) – EUR **24,9** mil. of EU funds
- A total of **88** project partners (including LPs) – 44 from Croatia and 44 from Serbia
- High rate of 'newcomers' – 41 out of 88 PPs (46%)
- In September 2024 two **implementation workshops** held (in Novi Sad and Osijek)
- Project Implementation Manual and other guidance docs published on Programme website

2nd Call for Proposals is launched!

Research and innovation

Renewable energy

Health and social care

Tourism and culture

Programme Indicators

The impact of the Programme on solving the territorial challenges in the Programme area, is measured through a set of **indicators:**

- **Output indicators** – measuring the direct outcomes of the interventions (*project outputs*)
- **Result indicators** – measuring the lasting effects of the interventions on the targeted area (*project results*)

All Programme indicators have a final target to be reached by the end of 2029.

The selection of Progamme indicators depends on the Specific Objective targeted by the proposal.

<u>Important!</u>

Project outputs/results and Programme output/result indicators should have the <u>same measurement unit</u>.

Each project output should have its own **title, description and target value**, even if more than one project output is connected to the same programme output indicator in JEMS system. The description field needs to be clearly and concisely filled-in, since it is limited to 500 characters with spaces (for outputs) and 1.000 (for results).

NEW in 2021-2027: **Programme result indicators** are directly linked to the chosen Programme output indicators, and need to be <u>selected</u> by the project, correctly <u>quantified</u>, <u>monitored</u> and <u>reported on</u>.
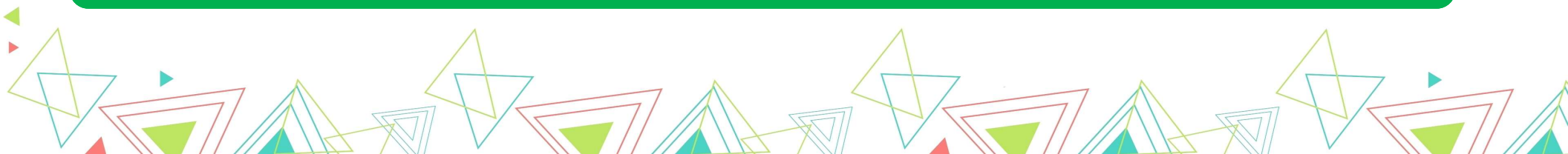
Mandatory and Optional Indicators per SO

SO1.1. Research and innovation

Mandatory output indicators:
RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
Optional output indicator:
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions
Mandatory result indicators:
RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion
RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations

SO2.2. Renewable energy

Mandatory output indicators:
RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions
Mandatory result indicator:
RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations

SO4.5. Healthcare

Mandatory output indicators:
RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions
RCO85 Participations in joint training schemes
Mandatory result indicators:
RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion
RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations
RCR81 Completion of joint training schemes

SO4.6. Sustainable tourism and culture

Mandatory output indicators:
RCO 77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported
RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders

Mandatory result indicators:
RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported
RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion

Important note from the Quality Assessment Grid of the 2nd CfP:
If the project does not contribute to the mandatory programme's output/s and/or result/s indicators it will be automatically assessed with NO GO for the Project Intervention Logic, which also means that it will not be further assessed for the Operational Criteria.

Programme/Project Intervention Logic
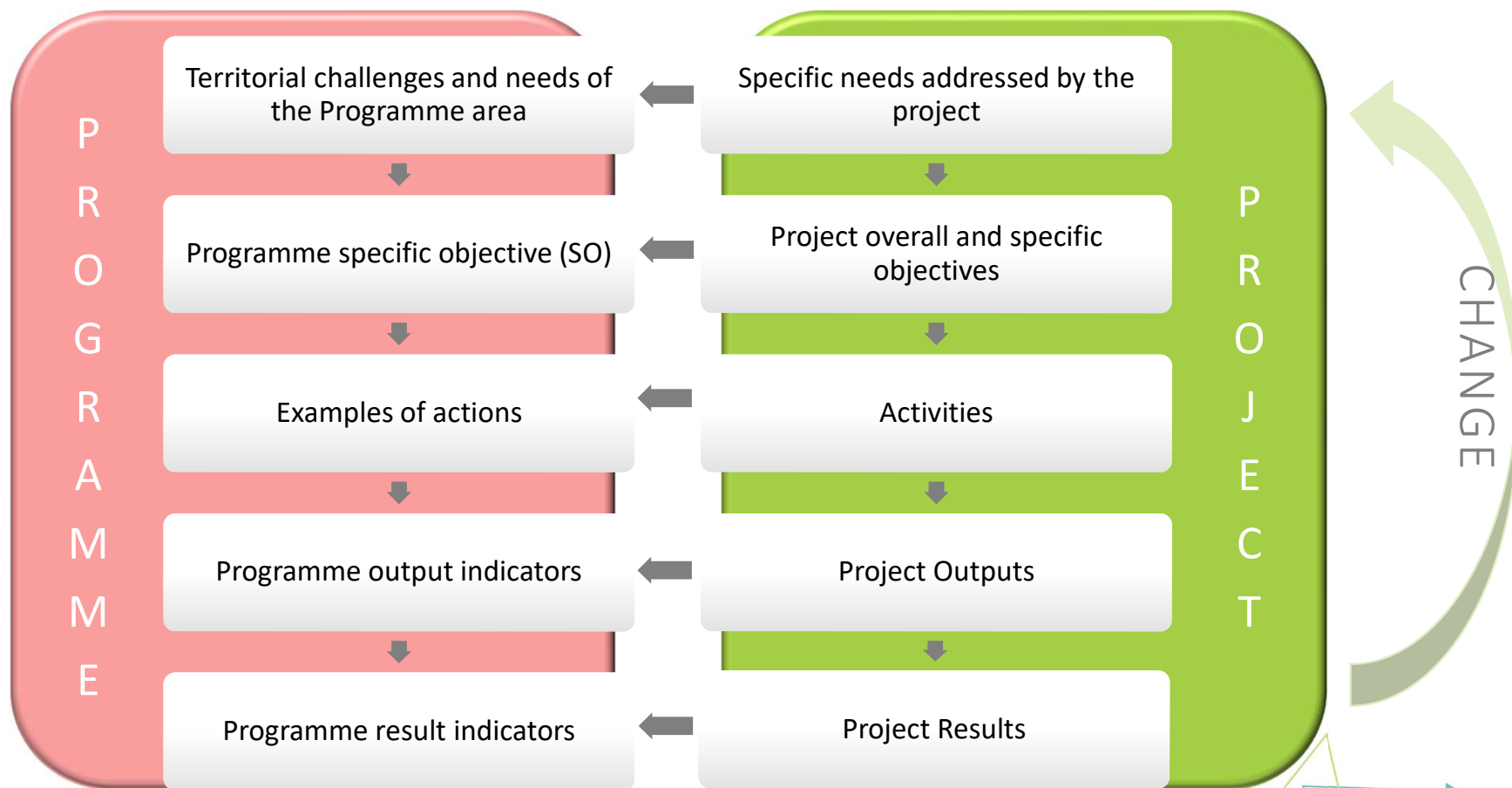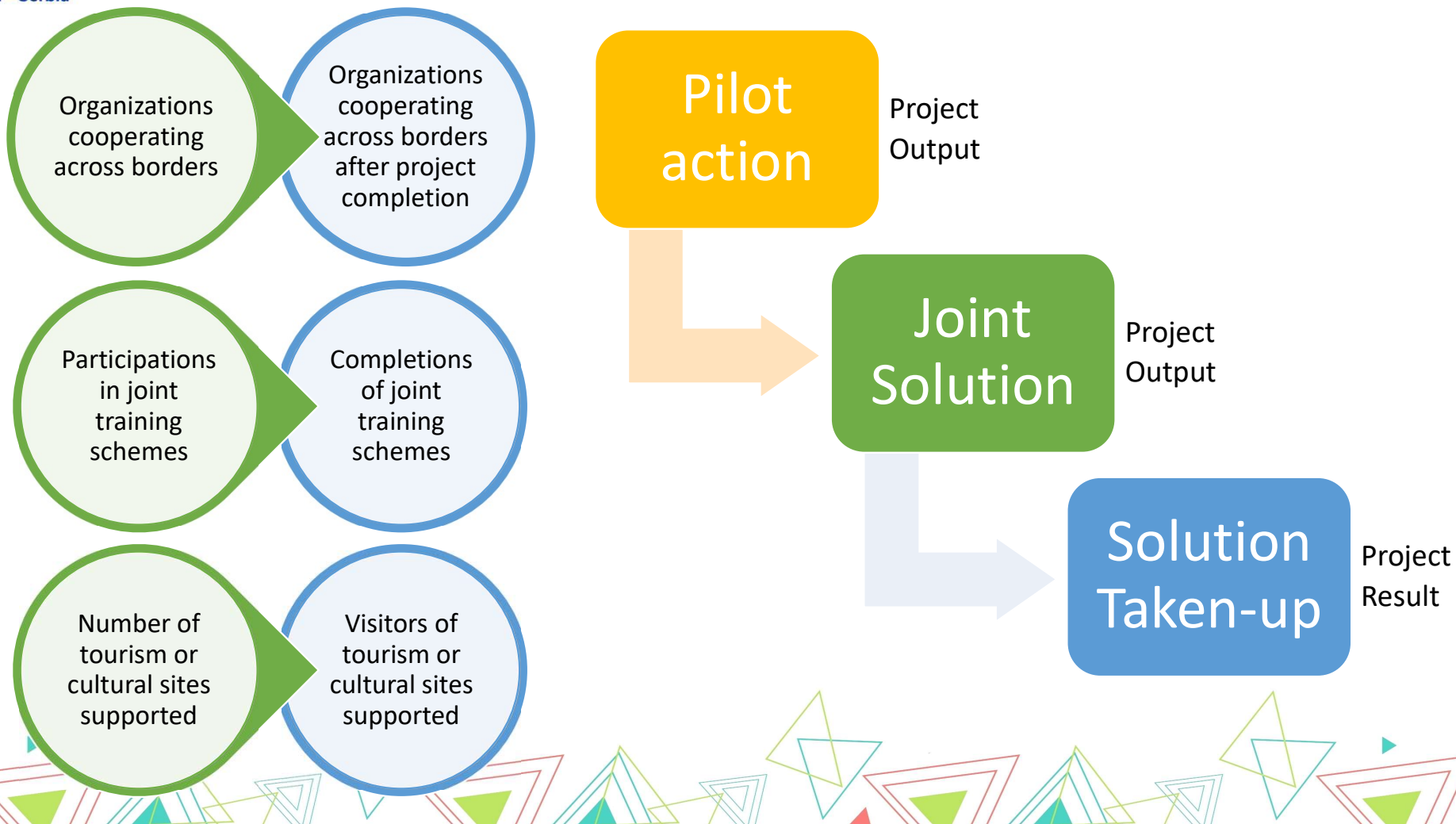
Definitions of Programme Indicators with examples

RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects (Programme output indicator)

- Measurement unit: pilot action
- Completed by the end of the project
- Aims to <u>test</u> new procedures, instruments or tools in the pilot area OR transferring existing best practices to the pilot area
- Innovative or demonstrative character (novelty for the pilot area)
- Project partners from both countries need to be <u>involved</u> in its developement or implementation
- A pilot action should aim towards the development of a **joint solution**

Related Programme Result Indicator: **RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations**

Examples of pilot actions
- Testing of biological acceptability and effectiveness of novel carriers for targeted delivery of antitumor drugs
- Applying innovative food processing technology in artisian cheese production in the pilot area
- Pilot rheological testing of blood samples in the cross-border region
- Multi-location field trials and phenotyping of new wheat varieties
- Pilot digitalization of municipality archives in Croatia and Serbia

RCO116 Jointly developed solutions (Programme output indicator)

- Measurement unit: solution
- Needs to be <u>derived from the pilot action</u> implemented within the project
- Should include indications of actions needed for it to be taken-up or up-scaled by organizations
- Implies the involvement of project partners from both countries in the drafting and design process
- The main focus should <u>not</u> be on administrative or legal frameworks

Related Programme Result Indicator: **RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations**

Examples of joint solutions
- Online cross-border platform 'Solar Atlas' presenting data from rooftop analysis of solar energy potentials
- Creation of Micro-scale public solar power efficiency monitoring system in cross-border region
- Joint Curriculum for Operators in Mechatronics, Robotics, and Laser Applications
- Multimedia platform with content for rehabilitation of patients in the cross-border area
- Developed Network of AED devices and equipment for first-aid in cases of sudden cardiac arrest

RCR104 Solutions taken-up or up-scaled by organizations (Programme result indicator)

- Measurement unit: solution
- Up take = making use of the solution in practice, up-scale = increasing the size or improving its quality
- Jointly developed solution should be taken up or up-scaled during the project or within 1 year after project completion
- By at least 1 organization (within or outside the project partnership)
- Needs to be documented by <u>officially adopting</u> the solution in the strategies/action plans/annual work plans of the institution

Examples of solutions taken-up
- Platform with digitized archives will be used by the municipalities as a practical tool for archivists, historians, educators, and the public
- Novel system of welding using AI and robotics will be further developed and used by competence centres and research instiutes for application in new sectors of industry
- Supporting platform for promotion of green, innovative and sustainable ideas for entrepreneurs will be further developed and improved by civil society organizations
- Newly developed speed breeding method will be futher enhanced by the research institutions

RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders (Programme output indicator)

- Measurement unit: organizations (only project partners cooperating in the project – LP and PPs)
- Newly established organizations (e.g. clusters) within the scope of the project are <u>not</u> to be counted
- The Programme does not envisage Associated partners, supporting partners without budget, etc.
- No other „tangible" project ouputs need to be connected to this output indicator
- We recommend using a standard title/description (such as „X project partners cooperating in the project")

Related Programme Result Indicator: **RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion**

- The continuation of cooperation among LP/PPs after project completion
- Proven by the formal agreement to be concluded during implementation or within 1 year of project completion
- Cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as the project, but main focus should be stated in Application
- Not all project partners have to continue the cooperation (min. is 2 – but at least 1 partner from each country)

Examples of the continued cooperation
- Medical institutions will continue the international cooperation on diagnostic methods, treatment and therapeutic strategies for breast cancer patients
- Research institutions will continue the cutting-edge agricultural research with specific emphasis on plant research in the cross-border region

RCO85 Participations in joint training scheme (Programme output indicator)

- Measurement unit: participants (those who started to attend the joint training scheme)
- The joint (cross-border) element needs to be present – involvement of project partners from both countries is required
- Implies the building of knowledge/skills of participants over several sessions
- A one-off meeting/event/seminar/symposium is <u>not</u> considered as a joint training scheme
- Recording of the successful completions (e.g. through certificates) needs to be ensured

Related Programme Result Indicator: **RCR81 Completion of joint training scheme**

- Only those participants who successfully <u>completed</u> the training scheme can be counted
- Target value can be lower than the related output (in case not all participants manage to complete the training scheme)
- Documented by the training organizers (either through a record of completions or issuing certificates)
- No previous national certification process of the issuing organization is needed

Examples of joint training schemes
- Joint training scheme for volunteers in elderly care
- Joint training programme for the application of DNS and Schroth methods in partner hospitals

RCO77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported (Programme output indicator)

- Measurement unit: cultural and tourism sites - supported by Programme funding
- Make sure that the site can be considered as <u>a cultural or tourism site,</u> otherwise it cannot be counted
- The project partners need to invest in the cultural/tourism sites, directly through small-scale infrastructure and/or equipment
- Only sites for which the number of visitors can be quantified are to be considered

Related Programme Result Indicator: **RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported**

- Target = Estimated number of annual visitors of cultural/tourism sites supported, in the first year after project completion
- For existing sites, the baseline value should be the number of visitors in the year before the project starts
- For new sites, the baseline value should be 0
- **Please note that due to technical limitations of the JEMS system, it is always required to enter 0 as the baseline value (even for existing sites, then the calculation of the baseline and target value should be provided in the project result description).**
- Natural sites for which the accurate estimation of the number of visitors is not feasible should not be considered

Examples of cultural/tourism sites
- New cultural and tourism centers for the promotion of naive art
- Enhanced Cultural and Tourism Experiences at ZOO sites

Most common mistakes and how to avoid them

- Vague descriptions of project ouputs, focused on the measurement units from the previous, 2014-2020 perspective (e.g. MW)
- Cross-border element missing in the development and implementation of project outputs
- Pilot action implemented in e.g. 3 different locations (but same/similar type of activities) counted as 3 pilot actions
- Unquantifiable outputs or difficult for measuring (e.g. enhancement of capacities, improvement of conditions, building knowledge, raising awareness)
- Project outputs overlapping – e.g. the same output considered as both a pilot action and a joint solution
- No clear description on how a joint solution will be taken up or up-scaled by organizations after project completion (in which action plan or institutional plan it will be formally adopted)

Most common mistakes and how to avoid them

- No mention on the topic of future cooperation of the Organizations (RCR84)
- Counting the institutions who will take-up the solution in the target value instead of the solutions
- Concepts/models, guidelines or strategies counted as a joint solution
- Trainings that cannot be counted as a joint training scheme (either a one-off event or missing the joint element)
- Highly overestimating the target value of participants in joint training scheme (e.g. over 100)
- Counting a site that cannot be considered as a cultural/tourism site (not every investment in a location is a cultural/tourism site by default)
- Unclear method of calculation of baseline and target value for visitors or the unability to count them via tickets, visitor counters etc.

Practical tips for the project intervention logic

- Make sure that there is a clear logical sequence between a pilot action – joint solution – solution taken up
- A cross-border (joint) element must be present in every project output/result
- Pilot action must represent a real novelty/innovation or demonstration for the pilot area/institution/city involved
- Joint solution should be sustainable even after the end of the project and of real use by the insitutions
- Joint training schemes need to build knowledge/skills through several sessions (a training Programme)
- A system to count visitors to cultural/tourism sites should be pre-existing or planned to be installed during project implementation

If you have any questions or doubts regarding Programme indicators, we encourage you to reach out.
The Programme regularly publishes the **Questions and Answers** document on the Programme website, containing all questions received while the Call for Proposals is open, and the answers provided by the JS/MA.

Thank you for the attention!

Managing Authority

Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds

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