

Interreg



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IPA Croatia – Serbia

GUIDANCE ON PROGRAMME INDICATORS

2nd Call for Proposals

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Interreg VI-A IPA Programme Croatia – Serbia has established its performance framework as required by the Common Provision Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR). It allows monitoring, reporting and evaluating overall programme performance during and after its implementation. The performance framework consists of output and result indicators linked to the Specific Objectives, each with its own programme target to be achieved by the end of the Programme implementation period (end of 2029). The indicator system for the Programme has been set up in direct correlation with the Programme’s strategic framework. It is based on a thorough analysis of the territorial challenges and needs and has been formulated following a strong involvement of the Programme stakeholders.

At the application stage, each project needs to select the relevant Programme indicators (output and related result indicators) and include a realistic quantification of its targets in the Application. During the implementation of the project, the progress towards the achievement of project outputs/results will be monitored through periodic progress reports in a unified approach, to allow aggregation of achievements on Programme level using the data in the Joint Electronic Monitoring System (*Jems*). It is therefore of utmost importance for applicants to understand the meaning of indicators and how their project’s contribution shall be counted. For this reason, the Programme has prepared this document to provide applicants with additional guidance to plan the appropriate contribution to Programme indicators.

2. PROGRAMME INTERVENTION LOGIC

Based on the identified territorial challenges to be tackled by supported projects, the Programme has chosen its Priorities to achieve the strategic goal and mission. Each Priority consists of one or more Specific Objectives (SOs). Each Specific Objective is further detailed by indicative Examples of Actions which should be addressed by the project proposals. The outcomes of supported projects are captured by output and result indicators. These elements together form the Programme’s intervention logic. The coherence of the project intervention logic (project’s main and specific objectives, activities, outputs and results) should follow logically the Programme intervention logic (specific objectives, actions, outputs and result indicators).

Programme output indicators aim to capture the direct, immediate outcomes of the interventions (projects), while the Programme result indicators refer to wider impact on the population targeted in the area addressed by the supported projects.

2.1. Programme output and result indicators

Projects are required to establish a clear result-oriented approach contributing to the achievement of Programme indicators. In the financial perspective 2021-2027, result indicators are closely linked to output indicators and need to be selected by the project, correctly quantified, monitored and reported on. Each Programme output indicator is associated with a corresponding Programme result indicator stated in Table 1 below. These indicators must remain “paired up” in every project proposal, which means that the corresponding result indicator is therefore preselected and mandatory for each output indicator.

Table 1. Programme indicators to be used together in the project proposal

Programme output indicator	Programme result indicator
RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions	
RCO85 Participations in joint training schemes	RCR81 Completion of joint training schemes
RCO77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported

*Programme output and result indicators listed in the table refer only to the specific objectives open within the 2nd Call for Proposals. There are additional Programme indicators within the specific objective 2.4.

3. HOW TO CHOSE THE CORRECT PROGRAMME INDICATORS per SO

The selection of appropriate Programme indicators **depends on the Specific Objective** targeted by the project proposal. There are mandatory and optional Programme indicators per SO. Each indicator has a final target value to be achieved on Programme level by the end of 2029, stated in the tables 2 (for output indicators) and 3 (for result indicators).

Table 2. Mandatory and optional Programme output indicators and Programme targets per SO

Output Indicator \ Specific Objective	RCO87 (organisations cooperating)	RCO84 (pilot actions)	RCO116 (joint solutions)	RCO85 (participations in training schemes)	RCO77 (cultural or tourism sites)
1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	34	12	8		
2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein		6	6		
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	29	9	6	105	
4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	22				14


 Mandatory indicator  Optional indicator **N** = Programme target value for indicator by 2029

Table 3. Mandatory Programme result indicators and Programme targets per SO

Result Indicator Specific Objective	<u>RCR84</u> (organisations cooperating after project completion)	<u>RCR104</u> (solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations)	<u>RCR81</u> (completions of training schemes)	<u>RCR77</u> (visitors of cultural and tourism sites)
1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	17	4		
2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein		3		
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	9	3	84	
4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	11			14.000

 Mandatory indicator  Optional indicator N = Programme target value for indicator by 2029

It is crucial for the applicant to correctly chose, quantify and describe the contribution to the appropriate output and result indicators within the Application. As stated in the Quality assessment grid listed in the Guidelines for Applicants of the 2nd Call for Proposals: ***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 Strategic Criteria, and therefore not further assessed for the Operational criteria).

4. HOW TO ENSURE PROJECT’S CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAMME INDICATORS

4.1. General requirements for the project intervention logic

The project intervention logic should logically reflect the path of the project and the necessary steps that will lead to a change the project seeks to achieve. It should be clear, simple and easy to monitor and implement. It consists of several intertwined elements as follows:

The project overall (main) objective should aim to tackle the common challenges and needs in the project area. It should be defined following the SMART approach – be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound. The project overall objective must clearly target **only one** Programme Specific Objective within one Priority of the Programme. Each project should also define one or more project specific objectives (one for each workpackage in the workplan), derived from the overall project objective. The workpackage consists of project activities and deliverables aimed at achieving the main project outputs (measured by Programme output indicators). These contribute to the lasting impact in the project area even after project implementation called project results (measured by the Programme result indicators).

The alignment of the project intervention logic with the Programme’s is carefully appraised in the Quality Assessment of project proposals, as well as its internal coherence and robustness. Durability and transferability of project outputs and results should also be envisaged in the Application.

Practical Tip: 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 the 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).

4.2. Definitions of Programme indicators

Programme output indicators

Indicator Code	RCO87
Indicator Name	Organizations cooperating across borders
Indicator Type	Output
Measurement Unit	Organisation
Definition	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the project partners (LP and PPs), as mentioned in Subsidy Contract/Application. <i>The same organisation can be counted only once at Programme level, but applicants are advised to count all project partners within the partnership as a contribution to this indicator.</i>
Corresponding Result Indicator	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
Points of attention	This indicator counts only the organisations participating as lead/project partners within the project. Newly established organizations (e.g. clusters) through the project should not be counted as a contribution towards this indicator. The Programme does not envisage Associated partners, supporting partners without budget, etc. There is no need to connect any other „tangible” project output to this indicator in Jems. A standard sentence can be used in every project for the title and/or description (e.g. „N project partners cooperating in the project”).
Achieved/reported by	Project Start Date (automatically achieved with SC signature)
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	SO 1.1. (mandatory) SO 4.5. (mandatory) SO 4.6. (mandatory)

Indicator Code	RCO84
Indicator Name	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
Indicator Type	Output
Measurement Unit	Pilot action
Definition	The indicator counts the pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects. The scope of a jointly

	developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or the transfer of practices. To be counted by this indicator, the pilot action needs not only to be developed, but also implemented within the project and the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project. This indicator implies the involvement of organizations from at least two participating countries in the pilot action development and implementation.
Corresponding Result Indicator	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
Points of attention	A pilot action needs to have an innovative and/or demonstration character, aimed at testing a new tool/procedure OR demonstrating the application of existing practice in a new territory and/or sector. In any case, the pilot action needs to represent a novelty for the pilot area. The pilot action can be implemented in one location (one country), but project partners from both countries need to be involved in its development and/or implementation (cross-border effect). Similar activities and actions performed on different locations are to be counted as only 1 (joint) pilot action. The pilot action should aim towards the development of a joint solution.
Achieved/reported by	Upon project completion
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing of biological acceptability and effectiveness of novel carriers for targeted delivery of antitumor drugs • Applying innovative food processing technology in artisan 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
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	SO 1.1. (mandatory) SO 2.2. (mandatory) SO 4.5. (mandatory)

Indicator Code	RCO116
Indicator Name	Jointly developed solutions
Indicator Type	Output
Measurement Unit	Solution
Definition	The indicator counts the number of jointly developed solutions from joint pilot actions implemented by supported projects. In order to be counted as a contribution to the indicator, an identified solution should include indications of the actions needed for it to be taken up or to be upscaled. A jointly developed solution implies the involvement of organizations from at least two participating countries in the drafting and design process of the solution. Solutions considered for this indicator should not have as their main focus administrative or legal frameworks. The

	uptake of such solution(s) should be reflected in the result indicator RCR 104.
Corresponding Result Indicator	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
Points of attention	Jointly developed solution needs to be derived from a pilot action within the same project and should be durable and replicable by other institutions after the end of the project. Therefore, the durability and sustainability of the joint solution need to be ensured, and appropriate institutional/financial support should be planned. A purely administrative/legal solutions should be avoided since their contribution cannot be counted under this indicator (e.g. strategic study, action plan etc.).
Achieved/reported by	Upon project completion
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online cross-border platform presenting data from rooftop analysis of solar energy potentials • Creation of solar power efficiency monitoring system in the 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
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	SO 1.1. (optional) SO 2.2. (mandatory) SO 4.5. (mandatory)

Indicator Code	RCO85
Indicator Name	Participations in joint training schemes
Indicator Type	Output
Measurement Unit	Participant
Definition	The indicator counts the number of participants in joint training schemes. Participations in joint training schemes are intended to be counted as registered participants who started the training. A joint training scheme implies the involvement of organizations from at least two participating countries in the organisation of the training. A joint training scheme requires building knowledge in a certain topic and involves the training of participants over several sessions. A one-off meeting/event/internal session where information is disseminated should not be considered as a training scheme. Joint trainings for which the training organisers do not intend to record the confirmed completions / do not intend to issue certificates of completion should not be counted under this indicator.
Corresponding Result Indicator	RCR81 Completions of joint training schemes
Points of attention	Not every training organized within the project can be considered as a joint training scheme. The joint element requires the involvement of partners from both sides of the border (e.g. first

	session organized in Croatia and the 2 nd session in Serbia OR a training scheme organized in Croatia or Serbia with participants from both countries). Target values should be realistically set. Double counting of participants in more than one training scheme organised by the same project should be excluded.
Achieved/reported by	Upon project completion
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint training scheme for volunteers in elderly care • Joint training programme for the application of DNS and Schroth methods in partner hospitals
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	SO 4.5. (mandatory)

Indicator Code	RCO77
Indicator Name	Number of cultural and tourism sites supported
Indicator Type	Output
Measurement Unit	Cultural/tourism site
Definition	Number of cultural and tourism sites supported by the Programme. The Programme will take into account only those projects that have in some ways invested in the cultural/tourism sites, directly through investments (small-scale infrastructure and/or equipment). Only sites for which the number of visitors can be quantified are to be taken into consideration.
Corresponding Result Indicator	RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported
Points of attention	Cultural and tourism sites can be pre-existing or newly developed within the project (new sites). Not every investment by the project in a location is automatically considered as a tourism or cultural site – it needs to be recognized as an attraction and visited by tourists (e.g. a museum, theatre, ancient heritage site, aquarium, zoo, etc.). A visitor counting system needs to be ensured (e.g. entrance tickets, electronic counters, etc.).
Achieved/reported by	Upon project completion
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New cultural and tourism centres for the promotion of naive art • Enhanced Cultural and Tourism Experiences at ZOO sites
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	SO 4.6. (mandatory)

Programme result indicators

Indicator Code	RCR84
Indicator Name	Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion
Indicator Type	Result
Measurement Unit	Organisation
Definition	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project

	<p>implementation, counted within RCO 87. 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.</p> <p><i>The same organisation can be counted only once at Programme level, but applicants are advised to count all project partners cooperating after the end of the project as a contribution to this indicator.</i></p>
Corresponding Output Indicator	RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders
Points of attention	The formal agreement needs to be planned within the project and indicated in the Application, as well as the topic of the future cooperation (previous, existing agreements should not be taken into account). Organisations to be counted are project partners (not other entities outside the partnership) who intend to sign the formal agreement. The target value for this result indicator can be lower than the one for the output indicator (e.g. 4 project partners within the project, but only 3 project partners cooperating after project completion). However, the cross-border character of the continued cooperation needs to be ensured (at least one partner from each country).
Achieved/reported by	Upon project completion or within 1 year
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	<p>SO 1.1. (mandatory)</p> <p>SO 4.5. (mandatory)</p> <p>SO 4.6. (mandatory)</p>

Indicator Code	RCR104
Indicator Name	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations
Indicator Type	Result
Measurement Unit	Solution
Definition	The indicator counts the number of solutions, other than legal or administrative solutions, that were jointly developed by supported projects and derived from pilot actions and are taken up or up-scaled during the implementation of the project or within one year after project completion. Uptake is defined as the action of taking up or making use of solution that is available and developed within the project, while up-scale is defined as increasing the size or improving the quality of the solution

	developed within the project. 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.
Corresponding Output Indicator	<p><u>RCO84</u> Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects</p> <p><u>RCO116</u> Jointly developed solutions</p> <p><i>Note: only in SO 1.1. the Programme output indicator RCO116 is optional (and RCO84 is mandatory) while in SO 2.2. and SO 4.5. both RCO84 and RCO116 need to be “paired up” with this Result Indicator.</i></p>
Points of attention	The joint solution needs to be durable and applicable by other institutions and/or replicable in another territory. The target value should represent the number of solutions taken up or upscaled, not the number of institutions taking up/up-scaling the solution. The solution needs to be taken up or up-scaled by at least one institution, but it is recommended to apply the cross-border principle and ensure the solution uptake/up-scale in both countries. The method of official adoption (e.g. in strategies or action/work plans of the institution) should be described in the Application.
Achieved/reported by	Upon project completion or within 1 year
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 institutes 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 further enhanced by the research institutions
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	<p>SO 1.1. (mandatory)</p> <p>SO 2.2. (mandatory)</p> <p>SO 4.5. (mandatory)</p>

Indicator Code	RCR81
Indicator Name	Completions of joint training schemes
Indicator Type	Result
Measurement Unit	Participant
Definition	The indicator counts the number of participants completing the joint trainings schemes organised by supported projects. Completion should be documented by the training organisers either through a record of the confirmed completions or by issuing certificates of completion of the training. The certificates

	of completion do not necessarily require a previous national certification process of the issuing organisation.
Corresponding Output Indicator	RCO85 Participations in joint training schemes
Points of attention	The target value should be realistically set and can differ from the related output indicator (RCO85) e.g. not all participants who start the training scheme manage to successfully finish it.
Achieved/reported by	Upon project completion
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	SO 4.5. (mandatory)

Indicator Code	RCR77
Indicator Name	Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported
Indicator Type	Result
Measurement Unit	Visitors/year
Definition	Estimated number of annual visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported. The estimation of the number of visitors should be carried out ex post, one year after the completion of the project. The baseline of the indicator refers to the estimated annual number of visitors of the supported sites the year before the project starts, and it is zero for new cultural and tourism sites. The indicator does not cover natural sites for which an accurate estimation of the number of visitors is not feasible.
Corresponding Output Indicator	RCO77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported
Points of attention	Visitors should be counted either by a ticket system or other means of visitor counting (e.g. scanning of QR codes by the visitors at the location of the site). Only physical site visits can be counted. <i>IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to technical limitations of Jems, 0 should always be entered as a baseline value, even for existing sites. In this case, the calculation of the actual baseline and target values should be provided within the description of Project Result.</i>
Achieved/reported by	1 year after project completion
Specific Objective(s) with this indicator	SO 4.6. (mandatory)

4.3. Most common issues in relation to Programme indicators

Based on the experience with projects of the 1st Call for Proposals, the Programme has identified several common challenges faced by the applicants and drawn up recommendations on how to avoid these pitfalls when developing a project (see next chapter, 4.4.). The intention is to ease the demanding optimization phase for the partnership of the selected projects, which is conducted prior to contracting the project.

Most common issues encountered:

- Vague description of project outputs, focused on measurement units from the previous financial perspective 2014-2020 (MW, hectares, population covered, etc.)
- Cross-border element missing from the development and implementation of project outputs and results

- Similar/mirroring activities performed in different territories counted as more than one pilot action or joint solution
- Unquantifiable project outputs or difficult for measuring and reporting (e.g. capacity building, conditions improvement, raising awareness, building knowledge and skills, etc.)
- Project outputs overlapping (e.g. same output considered as both a pilot action and a joint solution)
- No clear description on the uptake/up-scale of the joint solution ([RCR104](#))
- No mention on the topic of future cooperation of the organisations ([RCR84](#))
- No mention of the formalized agreement of future cooperation ([RCR84](#))
- Counting the institutions who will take up or up-scale the solution instead of the solutions taken up or up-scaled ([RCR104](#))
- Administrative or legal frameworks counted as a joint solution such as strategies or action plans ([RCO116](#))
- Trainings that cannot be considered as a joint training scheme - either a one-off event, or missing the cross-border character ([RCO85](#))
- Overestimating the number of participants in joint training schemes ([RCO85](#))
- Counting a location that is not a tourism or cultural site ([RCO77](#))
- Unclear or missing method of calculating the baseline and target values for the visitors ([RCR77](#))

4.4. Practical tips for the project intervention logic

With the aim to improve the quality of submitted applications, the Programme emphasizes several important aspects of the project intervention logic to be considered in drafting the project proposals:

- Project intervention logic needs to be aligned with the Programme's intervention logic
- Cross-border element must be present in every project output or result
- Pilot action needs to represent a novelty for the pilot area and go beyond the existing practice (e.g. in an institution, city or region)
- Joint solution needs to be derived from the pilot action and then taken up, or up-scaled
- Project outputs and results must be durable and sustainable even after project completion, as well as replicable in other territories (especially the joint solutions)
- It is advised to be realistic when planning the target values of project outputs and results (in most cases, less is more – focus on quality instead of quantity, have a closer look at Programme targets)
- Make sure there is internal coherence and logical sequence within the project's intervention logic (project overall and specific objectives - activities – deliverables – outputs – results)
- Follow the measurement units stated in the definitions of Programme indicators
- Ensure that the project outputs and results have an appropriate impact on the target groups
- Each output should have its own title, description, target value and delivery period (even when connected to the same Programme indicator) – since characters are limited in *Jems* this allows the applicant more space to provide specific details and follow the requirements of each Programme indicator
- The delivery period of most outputs and results should be planned for the end of project implementation – however, progress towards achieving them will be closely monitored during implementation and additional checks will be introduced after project completion, during the project follow-up period (e.g. in relation to the achievement of certain result indicators)
- Supporting documentation and evidence on completion of outputs and results will depend on the Programme output/result indicator selected and the type of project outputs and results within each Specific Objective. Further guidance will be provided at a later stage.

In case you have specific questions in relation to the Programme indicators, we encourage you to reach out and send your question in English to the Joint Secretariat using the following email address: js-hr-rs@mrrfeu.hr. The answer will be provided through the Questions and Answers document regularly published on our Programme website, with the aim to ensure transparency and to provide equal guidance and support to all applicants.