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**INTERREG IPA CBC**

**‘GREECE – NORTH MACEDONIA’**

**PROGRAMME 2021-2027**

TEMPLATE FOR INTERREG PROGRAMMES

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| **CCI** | [15 characters] |
| **Title** | [255] Interreg IPA CBC Programme ‘Greece –North Macedonia 2021 - 2027’ |
| **Version** | 01 |
| **First year** | [4] 2021  |
| **Last year** | [4] 2027 |
| **Eligible from** |  |
| **Eligible until** |  |
| **Commission decision number** |  |
| **Commission decision date** |  |
| **Programme amending decision number** | [20] |
| **Programme amending decision entry into force date** |  |
| **NUTS regions covered by the programme** | EL122 ThessalonikiEL123 KilkisEL124 Pella EL126 Serres EL 133 KozaniEL134 Florina MK001 VardarMK003 SouthwestMK004 SoutheastMK005 Pelagonia |
| **Component of Interreg**  |  |

**Table of Contents**

[TEMPLATE FOR INTERREG PROGRAMMES 2](#_Toc91673150)

[1. Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses 5](#_Toc91673151)

[1.1 Programme area (not required for Interreg C programmes) 5](#_Toc91673152)

[1.2 Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social and territorial disparities, joint investment needs and complimentary with other forms of support, lessons-learnt from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies. 7](#_Toc91673153)

[1.3 Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure 17](#_Toc91673154)

[2. Priorities [300] 26](#_Toc91673155)

[2.1 PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy (PO2) 26](#_Toc91673156)

[2.1.1 S.O: (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy 26](#_Toc91673157)

[2.1.2 S.O: (vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution 31](#_Toc91673158)

[2.2 PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area 37](#_Toc91673159)

[2.2.1 S.O: (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility 37](#_Toc91673160)

[2.3 PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services 42](#_Toc91673161)

[2.3.1 SO: (v). 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 42](#_Toc91673162)

[2.3.2 SO: (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation 47](#_Toc91673163)

[2.4 PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation 52](#_Toc91673164)

[2.4.1 ISO 1 - A better cooperation governance (objective 6 “other actions to support better cooperation governance”) 52](#_Toc91673165)

[3. Financing plan 57](#_Toc91673166)

[3.1 Financial appropriations by year 57](#_Toc91673167)

[3.2 Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing 57](#_Toc91673168)

[4. Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation 61](#_Toc91673169)

[5. Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation) 65](#_Toc91673170)

[6. Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds 67](#_Toc91673171)

[7. Implementing provisions 69](#_Toc91673172)

[7.1 Programme authorities 69](#_Toc91673173)

[7.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat 70](#_Toc91673174)

[7.3 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission 71](#_Toc91673175)

[8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs 73](#_Toc91673176)

[9. APPENDICES 74](#_Toc91673177)

[9.1 Appendix 1 76](#_Toc91673178)

[9.2 Appendix 2 80](#_Toc91673179)

[9.3 Appendix 3 83](#_Toc91673180)

# Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses

## Programme area (not required for Interreg C programmes)

*Reference: Article 17(4)(a), Article 17(9)(a)*

*Text field [2 000]*

***including a map thereof as a separate document***

*The Interreg IPA CBC Programme ‘Greece - Republic of North Macedonia 2021-2027’ capitalises on the experience of the current IPA Programme between Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia. It promotes further integration for the cross border region, as a structured tool to strengthen cooperation through thematic focus, allowing capitalization of experiences and results achieved so far.*

*The Programme’s overall objective is to enhance territorial cohesion by improving living standards and employment opportunities holding respect to the environment and by using the natural resources for upgrading of the tourism product. The Programme area extends to 29,259 km2 (14,422 km2 in Greece and 14,837 km2 in the Republic of North Macedonia) and has a total population of 2.4 million inhabitants.*

*In North Macedonia eligible area, urban centres, tend to be larger than in Greece. The major urban centres of the cross-border region are Thessaloniki, Serres, Bitola, Prilep, Strumica, Veles and Ohrid, while other worth mentioning towns, in terms of population, are, Giannitsa, Edesssa, Kilkis, Gevgelija and Kavadarci.*

*One of the major challenges of the cross-border region, which continue up to date, is the high unemployment rate, in both countries’ total active population and on young people. At the same time, the area is host t several large and renowned academic institutions with many specialties. Young and highly skilled people often seek to migrate out of the eligible area (brain-drain).*

*The cross border area covers 6 territorial units at NUTS II level (Regions), and 10 territorial units at NUTS III level (Districts), as follows:*

*● 2 Greek regions – EL122 Thessaloniki, EL123 Kilkis, EL124 Pella and EL126 Serres from the Region of Central Macedonia and EL134 Florina and Kozani from the Region of Western Macedonia;*

*Kozani is the administrative centre of the Western Macedonia region. The addition of this unit in the eligible area is expected to benefit the Programme and the citizens as:*

*• Even more beneficiaries located in Kozani, will be able to participate through the Programme projects*

*• The funds of the Programme will be allocated in a more proportionate way among the 2 Greek regions, (Greek Regions of Central and Western Macedonia)*

*• The regional unit of Kozani shares the same problems and challenges with the eligible areas and will be significantly benefited*

*● 4 regions from the North Macedonia – MK001 Vardar, MK003 Southwest, MK004 Southeast, MK005 Pelagonia*

*Key territorial specificities of the cross-border area:*

*● The cross-border region counts approximately 2.4 million inhabitants, with 1.7 million located in Greece and 0.7 million in the Republic of North Macedonia. The demographic trend in the region indicates a continuous decline over recent years with both natural ageing and net emigration taking their toll.*

*● The area is characterized by the presence of 1 large city – Thessaloniki, with above 40% of the total population, 14 medium cities (>50.000 inhabitants) with approx. 25 % of total population, and small cities (10.000-50.000 inhabitants) where the remaining 35% of the population lives.*

*● The area is neighbouring with Bulgaria (east) and Albania (west).*

*● The area is also characterized by large economic and social disparities, especially across borders.*

*● Compared to the EU average, the economy remains considerably more agricultural, less industrial, and more service-dependent.*

***Functional Area***

*The Functional Area is considered as the key element for cooperation in the regions of the Programme. This area is defined by joint characteristics, challenges and development opportunities. More importantly, it is possible to address the joint needs satisfactorily and deliver tangible results.*

*Interventions should not be strictly limited to the administrative borders of the programme. Depending on the topic, the geography can vary. For some topics, the solution can be found if partners outside the programme area are involved, while for some other topics the solution can be local. What matters is that the selected interventions benefit the cross-border Programme area.*

*The programme will offer the benefit of enabling efficient interventions based on joint characteristics, challenges and development opportunities for the functional area. Possible territorial typologies for the aforementioned area could be the followings:*

*- Lakes areas:*

*Prespas, Ohrid, Kastoria (out of the eligible area) Vegoritis.*

*Doiran, Kerkini, Volvi*

*- River areas*

*Axios – Vardar. One river crossing the eligible area from North to South*

*- Mountain Areas – Valleys*

*Pelagonia / Western Macedonia: Includes Florina, Kozani, Bitola Prilep, surrounded by mountains Voras, Pelister*

## Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social and territorial disparities, joint investment needs and complimentary with other forms of support, lessons-learnt from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies.

*Reference: Article 17(4)(b), Article 17(9)(b)*

*Text field [50 000]*

***Socio-Economic analysis***

*According to Hellenic Statistical Authority data, the population of Greece was 10.816.286 inhabitants (ELSTAT Population - Housing Census, 2011), individuals of which 5,3m were males (49,0%) and 5,51m females (51,0%). The current population of the North Macedonia is 2.083.320 (Worldometer elaboration of United Nations data, 2021).*

*On the Greek side of the Programme area, the actual population stands at 1.708.690 inhabitants (incl. Kozani), of which 826.473 are males (48,37%) and 882.217 are females (51,63%). On the side of the Republic of North Macedonia, the population was 770.333 inhabitants (State Statistical Office, 2019). The gender ratio is 387.961 males (50,36%) and 382.372 females (49,64%).*

*In the eligible area of Greece (incl. Kozani), 16,73% of population hold a PhD/Masters/Bachelor degree, 4,54% graduated from a Vocational Training Centre or College, 23,28% graduated Lyceum, 13,44% graduated high school, 23,25% graduated elementary school.*

*The unemployment rate in Greece in 2020 was 15,47%, i.e. one of the highest rates in EU. Due to its debt crisis since 2010, the unemployment rate increased to its highest rate in 2013, reaching 27,47%. Regarding the Greek regions of the cross-border area, the average unemployment rate of the active population is approximately 22% in almost all regions. The unemployment rate is very high in the younger population, from 15 to 34 years old, and ranges from 30,83% to 37,71%, (ELSTAT database).*

*The unemployment rate in the North Macedonia was 17,3% in 2019, corresponding to male of 16,5% and 18,4% of female, (State Statistical Office). Unemployment rate has significantly decreased over the last decade, but it is still one of the highest in Europe, especially unemployment of youth. The highest percentages refer on the younger population (15-19: 37,5%, 20-24: 35,3%, 25-29: 27,0%). The employment rate of 20 to 64 year-olds at 53,3% is much lower than the EU average of 71,0%. The employment rate of recent graduates is 46,9%, considerably lower than the 78,2% in the EU. The unemployment rate for 20 to 34 year-olds has gone down by 7,0% since 2010. Regarding the Unemployment Rates in the cross-border area, there is a high unemployment rate at 24,4% in the Southwest regional unit, which surpasses country’s rate by 7,1%.*

*According to ELSTAT and World Bank, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Greece was worth 183,4 billion euros in 2019. The Greek cross-border area produced 13% of the total GDP in 2018. Most of the GDP in this area is contributed by Thessaloniki and reaches 15,77 billion euros. The GDP per Capita of Greece in 2018 was 16.745 euros, while the highest value was back to 2008 with 21.845 euros. The results of the GDP per Capita per region suggest there is a significant drop in Florina, Kilkis and Kozani after 2015, while Thessaloniki, Pella and Serres were largely not affected (ELSTAT 2018). However, Florina and Kozani show a higher GDP per capita compared to the country’s average due to the power generation establishments in their region. The de carbonization will severely affect the GDP within the region as both the energy generation will drop significantly and many related jobs will be lost. Their GDP will normally drop to the level of Pella and Serres..*

*Regarding the Republic of North Macedonia, in 2019 and based on State Statistical Office, the GDP was 689.425 million denars (approximately 11,204 million euros) and the GDP per Capita was 331.982 denars (approximately 5.395 euros). The cross-border area offers 36,50% of the total GDP in 2019. While 3 of 4 Programme regions present a GDP per Capita higher than the state’s average, the Southwest region is lower by 22%, which agrees with the previous figure with regards to the unemployment.*

*In summary, the recent economic crisis hit hard Greece having as a consequence the massive decrease of its GDP, unemployment rose to extremely high levels and subsequently brought poverty and social exclusion for a large number of inhabitants. Moreover, gender inequality, lifelong learning and recycle are targets far behind the national targets. However, after 2016, economy started to rebalance, but a higher effort is needed in order to reach the targets that lead to sustainable growth according to UN Sustainable Development Goals and EU27 targets.*

***(i) joint challenges and social disparities***

*There are large differences in prosperity and related outlooks in the CBC area. These disparities concern employment opportunities and quality of life, income levels, innovation potential, connectivity, accessibility.*

*This is a particular problem in less prosperous regions of the Programme area with long-term unemployment. Differences in employment and training opportunities often translate into further social challenges such as social exclusion. The risk of poverty and social exclusion remains an important issue in the Programme area, particularly in the rural regions.*

*The challenge for social policies is dual: a) to mitigate the negative consequences of lower levels of economic development, and b) to address the causes of economic stagnation in the first place.*

*The needs and challenges of the programme area arise through open consultation with the population, local enterprises and local authorities of the programme area in both countries, as well as in a second phase with the bodies listed below.*

*· Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*

*· Goce Delcev University of Stip*

*· Chamber of Small and Medium Sized Industries of Thessaloniki*

*· Waste management of Western Macedonia S.A. (Diadyma SA)*

*· Southwest planning region*

*· Craft Chamber of Thessaloniki*

*· TECHNICAL CHAMBER OF GREECE / SECTION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA*

*· Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thessaloniki*

*· Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace*

*· Pelagonia planning Region*

*· Decentralized administration of Epirus - Western Macedonia*

*· Ministry of Development & Investment, Special Secretariat for the Management of ERDF & TA Programs*

*· Region of western Macedonia*

*· Ministry for foreign affairs*

*· Secretariat of European affairs NIPAC*

*· National Confederation of Disabled People, Greece*

*· Ministry of Health*

*· Ministry of Culture and Sports*

*Synergies with other policies need to be sought, which explicitly support economic and territorial development. This asks for example for integrated policies that address social innovation and (digital) skills development. Such policy actions need to involve local stakeholders from both the private and public sectors as well as citizens working together to fulfil local needs and thereby exploit local knowledge. This is particularly important for rural regions.*

*Challenges/needs of the region, taking into account the disparities:*

*- reducing unemployment*

*- attracting scientists to the Programme area*

*- development of the regions’ economy*

*- cooperation and exchange of know-how between countries*

*- tackling differences in educational and technological level between the Programme areas*

***(ii) joint investment needs***

*The following describe the joint investment needs which take into account the prerequisite to have a continuity to the previous IPA-CBC Programme and lessons learned, the new EU 2021-2027 strategy, regulations and rules of the new programming period for territorial - cooperation, the input from all consultation phases, the current situation analysis and needs and priorities addressed.*

*To form the joint investment strategy, emphasis is given to strategic choices that could have added value for the cross - border area, joint actions among potential beneficiaries and the fact that this Programme is a supplementary tool to EU and national strategies, and not appropriate for large scale interventions, in terms of funding and size.*

*- Joint investments for the environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources*

*- Joint investments to promote the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy*

*- Joint investments to promote employment*

*- Joint investments to improve access to social and health care*

*- Joint investments to improve governance for cooperation*

*The operations under the CBC Programme will act as a solid investment for the enlargement policy of the EU, which will support the North Macedonia in the implementation of key political, institutional, social and economic reforms to comply with EU standards and progressively align with its rules and policies. This Programme will be a source providing funds and play a significant role to underpin the economic recovery of the region. Investments in key sectors such as, environment and climate, energy, connectivity, infrastructure, as well as health and governance, it will boost the convergence with the EU and bring tangible benefits for the North Macedonia.*

***(iii) complementarity with other forms of support***

*The impact of transnational cooperation depends, amongst others, on the extent to which Interreg project results can be transferred and scaled up by other EU and/or national Programmes with a larger scope and financial envelope. Therefore, coordinating and cooperating with other funding instruments creates opportunities to capitalize on project outputs and results, and consequently to multiply their territorial impact.*

*Interreg CBC aims to make use of potential synergies and complementarities with:*

*a) other Interreg programmes;*

*b) Regional and National Cohesion Policy programmes, e.g. (Sectoral Programmes, Regional Programmes)*

*c) IPA funds from the Delegation of EU, earmarked for the Programme area (side of the North Macedonia)*

*d) programmes related to the European Green Deal*

*Complementarities and synergies are sought throughout the Programme cycle.*

*During the consultation stage, the Managing Authority has monitored the input from key stakeholders-policy makers. Proposals from the Regional Authorities of Western Macedonia and Central Macedonia have been earmarked for joint planning between the IPA CBC Programme and the respective Regional Operational Programmes.*

*As Regional Authorities are members of the Programme’s Joint Monitoring Committee, synergies are further exploited at the level of Programme Governance and policy making.*

*The Managing Authority is an umbrella organization with several Programmes under its responsibility. As such, it oversees the project proposals submitted under the GR-RoNM Programme, together with the proposals submitted under the bilateral Programmes with Albania and Bulgaria. During the implementation phase, the Managing Authority can still steer project activities to avoid duplications between Programmes with common beneficiaries and similar Policy objectives.*

*The Managing Authority regularly monitors the Commission’s EU for Prespa Programme. The latest iteration of the Programme was reviewed by the MA and discussed with the Delegation of the EU (DEU), to coordinate the activities of the two donors.*

*As part of this exercise, a targeted CfP of the 2014-20 IPA CBC Programme will fund support activities of the strategic project in Prespa, which are complementary to the activities funded by the DEU.*

*The Managing Authority together with the National Authority of North Macedonia maintain communication links with the DEU. Under the Priority ‘Strategic focus on Prespas Area’, further actions may be explored, with relevance to the EU Strategy for Western Balkans.*

*Most synergies will be sought during programme implementation along the following principles:*

*- In general, applicants, when submitting project proposals, have to outline the coherence and complementarity with EU, national and regional programmes in the application form. This information will be subject to evaluation.*

*- Continuous exchange of information with the Managing Authorities and Joint Secretariat, especially during project assessment and monitoring, will take place in order to avoid overlapping the programme. This will contribute to promotion of synergies between projects and limit the risk of double financing. Furthermore, actions set by the programme (e.g. targeted calls) will allow to activate synergies and complementarities of Interreg IPA CBC Programme and projects funded by other Interreg programmes.*

*- Other Cohesion Policy programmes: coordination will be sought through National committees (or other mechanisms set by national rules) involving representatives of institutions participating in the implementation of national and regional programmes. Moreover, adequate control arrangements and fraud-fight measures will allow to limit the risk of double financing.*

*Detailed procedures for the implementation of the above measures will be defined in the description of the programme management and control system as well as in the “Programme Manual” setting the rules for participation to Interreg IPA CBC.*

***(iv) lessons learnt from past experience***

*The INTERREG IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme "Greece - North Macedonia 2014-2020" promoted chances for sustainable local development and offered opportunities for cooperation, good neighbourly relations and socio-economic development to both countries.*

*The Priority Axes that reflect the identified needs and challenges are described below:*

***Priority Axis 1*** *- Development and Support of Local Economy*

***Priority Axis 2*** *- Protection of Environment – Transportation*

*A review of lessons learned from INTERREG IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme "Greece - North Macedonia 2014-2020" monitoring reports (2020) and EC mid-term evaluation provided the following information for the strategy development:*

*• 52 projects were implemented during the 2014 –2020 programming period.*

*• The Programme empowered Public authorities, NGO’s and other institutions as well as the citizens to work together on joint challenges and problems, seeking smarter solutions, which can be better achieved when they cooperate.*

*• Shared activities in all sectors of common interest, such as competitiveness, environment, tourism, transportation, employment, health and social issues become joint actions of the cross border area.*

*• The European Union, Greece and the North Macedonia are offering more than 45.000.000€ (Total OP budget: 45,470,066 € Total EU contribution: 38,649,552 €), from 2014 to 2020.*

*• Project partners did well regarding their compliance with EU and INTERREG specific procedures, according to Lead Partners testimonials.*

*Lessons learnt from the previous Programme of 2014-2200 has shown that, in order to maximise the Programme impact on the CBC area, thematic concentration should go further in the 2021-2027 Programming period, with objectives that all converge towards climate and environment goals and concentration on the added value of transnational cooperation.*

*Moreover, the operational and impact evaluations show that, assuming a continuation of a thematic community approach, clear and effective coordination measures between the Joint Secretariat and the projects should be set up since the start of the Programme. The thematic specialisation, ownership and proximity of stakeholders that derive from this approach should be maintained, but with a clearer project architecture.*

*The Programme should provide for annual plans with revisions to allow for necessary adaptations to procedures or content. This would allow for the improvement of weaknesses and adaptation to strategic priorities that may emerge during the programming period.*

***Significant added value at CBC area:***

*• Created employment opportunities for educated graduates by exploiting comparative advantages of the cross-border area, with the use of innovative tools and practices*

*• Improved the attractiveness and promoted the tourism potential of the cross-border area*

*• Improved the preventive health care and social services of children and elderly population*

*• Prevented, mitigation and management of natural disasters, risks and hazards*

*• Sustainable management and recycling of bio-wastes*

*• Sustainable management of protected areas, ecosystems and biodiversity*

*• Upgraded public infrastructure to improve road travel time, safe border crossing and promoted energy efficiency towards green transport.*

***(v) macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies***

*Macro-regional strategies have become an integral part of EU regional policy. The partner countries, together with Albania, participate in the European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ιonian Region (EUSAIR.) The respective IPA Programmes are expected to contribute to the EUSAIR.*

*Macro-Regional Strategies such as the EUSAIR constitute an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council. Macro-regional Strategies have a common vision and a shared mission to address common challenges and promote the prosperity of the regions involved in the Strategy that represent a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area. The participating countries benefit from strengthened cooperation, creation of a common brand name and joint activities that contribute to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The 2021-2027 Interreg programmes should be ready –where relevant- to support actions arising from the macro-regional strategies, provided that these actions also contribute to the specific objectives of the programme area. The coordination between programmes and macro-regional strategies can ensure bigger territorial impact and better visibility. This, however, requires a good and proactive coordination. In order to promote macro-regional strategies the programme may consider one of these mechanisms: specific selection criteria (ex. bonus points if the project contributes to a macro-regional strategy); earmarking of a budget, or specific calls.*

***EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)***

*The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014.*

*The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Adriatic-Ionian Region countries and stakeholders, which agreed to work together on the areas of common interest for the benefit of each country and the whole region.*

*The EUSAIR covers nine countries: four EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) and five non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia). San Marino will join the Strategy, following the AII Ministerial Meeting and the Izola Declaration in May 2021.*

*The general objective of the EUSAIR is to promote economic and social prosperity and growth in the region by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity, while safeguarding the environmental protection of common sea and the hinterland areas of the participating countries. With four EU members and five non EU countries the strategy will contribute to the further integration of the Western Balkans.*

*The participating countries of the EUSAIR agreed on areas of mutual interest with high relevance for the Adriatic-Ionian countries, being it common challenges or opportunities. The countries are aiming to create synergies and foster coordination among all territories in the Adriatic-Ionian Region in the four thematic areas pillars:*

*1. BLUE GROWTH*

*- To promote research, innovation and business opportunities, in blue economy sectors, by facilitating the brain circulation between research and business communities and increasing their networking and clustering capacity.*

*- To adapt to sustainable seafood production and consumption, by developing common standards and approaches for strengthening these two sectors and providing a level playing field in the macro-region.*

*- To improve sea basin governance, by enhancing administrative and institutional capacities in the area of maritime governance and services.*

*2. CONNECTING THE REGION*

*- To strengthen maritime safety and security and develop a competitive regional intermodal port system.*

*- To develop reliable transport networks and intermodal connections with the hinterland, both for freight and passengers.*

*- To achieve a well-interconnected and well-functioning internal energy market supporting the three energy policy objectives of the EU – competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability.*

*3. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

*- To ensure a good environmental and ecological status of the marine and coastal environment by 2020 in line with the relevant EU acquis and the ecosystem approach of the Barcelona Convention.*

*- To contribute to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to marine and terrestrial biodiversity.*

*- To improve waste management by reducing waste flows to the sea and, to reduce nutrient flows and other pollutants to the rivers and the sea.*

*4. SUSTAINABLE TOURISM*

*- Diversification of the macro-region’s tourism products and services along with tackling seasonality of inland, coastal and maritime tourism demand.*

*- Improving the quality and innovation of tourism offer and enhancing the sustainable and responsible tourism capacities of the tourism actors across the macro-region.*

*The INTERREG IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme "Greece - North Macedonia 2014-2020", in order to fulfil its objectives, is based and built up on the pillars:*

*3) - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and*

*4) - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM*

*Actions implemented under PO3. (****A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity****) and PO4 (SOvi:* ***Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation****) will explore cooperation and direct or indirect contribution of project results to EUSAIR.*

*The results of those Priorities could be directly transferrable and enriched from activities within Programmes that share the priorities of the EUSAIR Environmental Quality and Sustainable Tourism pillars and the CBC Programme goals.*

***Horizontal Principles***

*The Programme ensures the respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union when implementing the European Structural and Investment Funds (‘ESI Funds’) (2016/C 269/01).*

*Horizontal principles (sustainable development, gender equality, equal opportunities and equal treatment) in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR) will be duly taken into consideration in the application, selection, monitoring and evaluation procedures. The particulars on how these principles will be applied in practice will be set out in the programme manual.*

*The adoption of acts and drawing up of documents, e.g. the Partnership Agreement and operational programmes (OPs), will act in the scope of the EU law. The content of the document will be in compliance with the provisions of the Charter and, with the help of the ‘Fundamental Rights Check-list’, will respect the rights protected by it and observe the principles there.*

***Do Not Significant Harm Principle (DNSH)***

*At the level of the definition of the types of actions, an ex-ante compatibility with the DNSH principles under cohesion policy has been ensured. All the activities or types of actions, of the programme, fully comply with the principles of DNSH, which is referred to avoiding significant adverse impacts on the six environmental and climate objectives of the taxonomy, (addressing climate change, adaptation to climate change, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, circular economy, prevention and control of pollution, protection and restoration of biodiversity, and ecosystems).*

***Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)***

*A detailed note on the public consultation for the SEA has been annexed to the Cooperation Programme, as submitted to the European Commission. A summary is provided below:*

*The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme ‘Greece – North Macedonia 2021-2027’, was sent by the competent Authority, i.e. Ministry of Reconstruction, of Production, Environment and Energy to the relevant environmental authorities (Regional Councils, General Secretariats, etc).*

*Greece will submit statements summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Programme and how the environmental report, the opinions and the result of consultations have been taken into account. The final statement will be available to the public (posted on the website:* [*http://www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu/programme-news/*](http://www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu/programme-news/) *).*

 *A clear commitment from both countries will be submitted with regard to the monitoring measures identified in the SEA process for prevention, reduction and, where possible, offsetting any possible significant effects on the environment resulting from the implementation of the Programme.*

***Implementation of E-Cohesion systems***

*• The Programme ensures that all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and the Programme authorities are carried out by means of electronic data exchange systems in accordance with Annex XIV of the CPR. Article 69(8) Reg 2021/1060.*

*• The reliable and fully functional electronic system M.I.S. (Monitoring Information System), including links with electronic data exchange systems with beneficiaries, will be in use, between beneficiaries and all the Programme authorities. This will secure the full integration of the procedures/reports and the interface with the institutions of both countries, in order to record and accumulate data for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verifications and audits. Appropriate processes to ensure the security, integrity and confidentiality of the data and the authentication of users will be included.*

***Public Procurement***

*During the implementation of the Programme, the Managing Authority will promote the strategic use of Public Procurement to support Policy Objectives (including professionalization efforts to address capacity gaps). Beneficiaries should be encouraged to use more quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria.* *When feasible, environmental (e.g. green public procurement criteria) and social considerations as well as innovation incentives should be incorporated into public procurement procedures.*

***The New European Bauhaus (NEB)***

*Through its operations, the Interreg CBC Programme ‘Greece –North Macedonia 2021 - 2027’ is planning to promote and mainstream the New European Bauhaus initiative.*

*The NEB principles (global/local, participatory and transdisciplinary approach) and values (sustainability, inclusivity, aesthetics) are planning to frame all the actions falling under the scope of this very high political priority of the EU.*

*In a nutshell, the Bauhaus ‘manifesto’ stands for the promoting of the following elements:*

*- buildings designed to respect the planet and the staff working in it,*

*- sustainable building solutions that are affordable and lead to more inclusive communities,*

*- building structures that blend in and respect the co-existence with nature,*

*- sustainable forms of living that come up to more resilient communities and impact transition towards locally productive and connected cities,*

*- buildings that become experiences and provide value beyond their housing function.*

*The above elements are directly or indirectly compatible with the planned actions foreseen under the three core Programme Priorities (PO2, PO3, and PO4).*

***Intervention logic***

*The intervention logic outlined in the Programme for each priority axis is driven by the specific objectives established based on the analysis of development needs and by the expected results.*

*The intervention logic creates reasonable links between all of the following elements:*

*1) The analysis of development needs and the strategy set out in the Programme, including:*

*• development needs or challenges identified (including both sectoral and territorial development needs);*

*• the strategic approach to maximise impact and effectiveness - identification of the funding priorities;*

*• the selection of thematic priorities to be supported.*

*2) The outcomes of past experience analysis were combined with the results of the consultation, the evaluation of the IPA CBC Programme for the Period 2014-2020 and compared with the list of CBC thematic priorities.*

*Finally, the Interreg IPA CBC Programme ‘Greece - North Macedonia 2021 - 2027’was built on the following priorities identified during the programming process as most relevant for the eligible cross-border area:*

*PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy*

*PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on the Prespas area*

*PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services*

*PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation*

*By combining the thematic priorities, the overall strategy statement of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme ‘Greece- North Macedonia 2021 - 2027’ is:* ***"to enhance territorial cohesion by improving living standards and employment opportunities holding respect to the environment and by using the natural resources for tourism"***

## Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure

*Reference: point (c) of Article 17(3))*

*Table 1*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Selected policy objective or selected Interreg-specific objective*** | ***Selected specific objective***  | ***Priority*** | ***Justification for selection***  |
| **2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management** | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | Transition to a low carbon economy | **Justification for the selection of PO2**The eligible area of Greece and the North Macedonia is very rich in natural heritage resources and biodiversity area. However, it is threatened by climate change, industrial activities, and unsustainable consumption and mobility patterns. The territories have to respond to the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change, by boosting the efficient use of resources, protecting and restoring biodiversity as well as reducing pollution.**Justification for the selection of SO (vi)**The transition to a circular economy is a key challenge for the eligible CBC area. It may be delivered through: fostering resource efficiency, preventing waste generation, and adopting the usage of waste as a resource. It will ensure positive impacts not only on the environmental sustainability and carbon-neutrality but it is also a decisive action for the competitiveness of national and regional economies.The circular economy is still at a primary development stage in the programme area. This shows the clear need for more efforts in order to reach the relevant European targets (e.g. 65% recycling rate by 2035).According to the “Green Deal” strategy, which aims to transform the EU into a competitive economy, economic growth is decoupled from resource use. Western Macedonia is a region with a great dependence on fossil fuels. The Greek government has set a goal of withdrawing all lignite plants by 2028, with the majority of units - representing over 80% of current installed capacity - being withdrawn by 2023. Throughout the de-carbonization effort, a central priority is to ensure a fair development transition of the lignite areas of Western Macedonia, which is based on three pillars: employment protection, compensation of the socio-economic impact of the transition and energy self-sufficiency of lignite areas and the country at large.Greece has a comprehensive strategic plan and a mixture of interventions and measures of economic diversification in areas such as clean energy, industry, technology, education, agriculture, tourism etc.The Republic of North Macedonia has prepared a Strategy for Energy Development according to the requirements of the new Energy Law, which was adopted end of May 2018 and will be implemented until 2040. The transnational cooperation on the CBC area offers significant benefits in addressing, among others, the specific needs below:- Fostering integrated circular economy policies- Building up circular value added chains and development of resource efficient solutions and technologies- Increasing resource efficiency and waste recycling across all sectors - Establishing and bracing circular economy skills in the private and public sector- Inspiring behavioural changes and give rise to the generation of new life and business models |
| **2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management** | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | Transition to a low carbon economy | **Justification for the selection of SO (vii)**In order to protect the environment and the ecological connectivity, various and integrated approaches are necessary to be implemented. The protection of environment is a policy area, which is highlighted by the EU Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. SO (vii) is suitable for strategies, pilot actions, and related resolutions, which aim to protect nature and render the environmental management viable and sustainable.Those actions should emphasize on the implementation of environmental policies and on the development of procedures, which are integrated to particular local conditions. For ecosystems such as, ecological corridors, river basins, etc., which are extended across borders, it is an opportunity to benefit from transnational cooperation and multilateral initiatives such as European Green Belt initiative, Environmental Conventions and action plans of macro-regional strategies.The protected natural sites, the rich natural heritage and biodiversity in the CBC area represent important resources and the significance of this area. The ecological environment of the mountainous settlements, the unique biodiversity, the favorable Mediterranean and continental climate, with available large percentage of an area for an agricultural activity, the numerous sunny days, the natural resources – bio mass, water, sun and wind, offer perfect conditions for eco-tourism, and for renewable energy sources as well. The CBC area covers significant eco-systems and ecological corridors, which are stretching across borders.At the same time, a perceptible loss of biodiversity - due to climate change, land use changes and extraction of natural resources – has been documented. Unsustainable economic activities lead to air, water and soil pollution, which is especially high in the industrial parts of the area. This ushers to a worsening of the ecosystem conditions, which will reduce their ability to offer essential eco-system services.The transnational cooperation on the CBC area offers significant benefits in addressing, among others, the following specific needs:- Decrease water, air and soil pollution- Maintaining and enhancing eco-systems services for the benefit of the population- Preventing biodiversity loss and ensuring ecological connectivity- Lengthening green infrastructure that connects habitats and strengthen their recreational potential- Protecting natural resources and supporting their sustainable use |
| **3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity** | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | Strategic focus on Prespas area | **Justification for the selection of PO3**The Programme area has a key geographical location and direct interconnection in the Balkans. It holds the position of the gateway to the EU in the Western Balkans, through the ‘Egnatia’ Highway. Thessaloniki is the metropolitan centre of the region, the centre of entrepreneurship and innovation which makes it the gateway to the Mediterranean. The North Macedonia has a very favourable geographical position, and supports to creation of communication channels. It has a developed road infrastructure and a position of Corridor 10. The eligible area is an important junction for Balkans, in north-south and east-west connections beyond the own borders and makes it a hub for the key corridors to which the closed regions are physically or socio-economically connected. Connectivity between and within regionsis an important location factor ensuring the economic prosperity and cohesion of the eligible area. In alignment with the “EU Green Deal”, there is the need for sustainable transport solutions. The CBC Programme will not finance transport infrastructure, but it can importantly contribute to these goals via synergies with other instruments and act as a catalyst in the preparation of bigger investments. Through IPA Programme, joint studies and researches may be implemented in order to render the Prespas area as a catalyst that connects the two eligible countries for sustainable cooperation. The IPA CBC Programme may act as a supportive tool for actions made by both countries on ICT investments, (e.g. settlement of a roaming free zone on the Western Balkans through “Roam Like at Home” regime, started on July 2021).**Justification for the selection of SO (ii)**Better accessibility and connectivity between the regional and cross-border areas are crucial challenges of the Programme area. The connection of the rural areas with the nodes of the TEN-T core network corridors (CNC), is a clear need, as it may remove bottlenecks and bridge missing transport links. This comes in line with the Territorial Agenda 2030 goals of a Just and Green Europe in terms of a balanced territorial development and sustainable connectivity of territories. The transnational cooperation on the CBC area offers significant benefits in addressing, among others, the following specific needs:- With a focus on public transport, to promote better links of rural and peripheral areas to the main transport corridors and nodes, - Fostering greener solutions- Upgrading transport across borders and decreasing bottlenecks and barriers, especially in regional areas- Creating and strengthening mobility in rural areas, as a means towards territorial cohesion and social inclusion- Enhancing logistic chains in areas of periphery. |
| **4. A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights** | **(v). 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** | Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | **Justification for the selection of PO4** The unprecedented global public health crisis due to the outbreak of the pandemic in early 2020 and its consequent deep imprint on economic activity, affected considerably the macroeconomic developments. The Coronavirus outbreak has imposed a burden on the economy of the Programme area, as also on the rest of the world economy, reverting the initial favourable short-term forecast. Bridging the social disparities, caused by the public health crisis and incentivizing social and environment friendly investment are now primary goals, expected to promote productivity and foster sustainable economic growth in the short and long-term. Emphasis should be given to actions implemented for healing the COVID -19 short and long term consequences in order to fully normalize the situation.**Justification for the selection of SO (v)**In terms of health care, one of the crucial challenges of the Programme is the lack of medical personnel and the establishment of measures for the Coronavirus treatment. Additionally, health care should be part of an integrated system ensuring coordinated care and preventing unnecessary expenditure. An important aspect that should be improved is the mitigation of the emergency care based on a finer planned health system.Unpredictable circumstances and economic issues due to the conditions caused by the pandemic (COVID 19) pay particular attention to the new challenges. This is a problem, which has impacts across national borders. Consequently, cooperation is advisable to reduce the impact of the threat on the population living in border areas. At the same time, once established, cooperation pays off in future similar occurrences. |
| **4. A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights** | **(vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation** | Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | **Justification for the selection of SO (vi)** The existence of folk traditions, folk crafts and material resources of historical and cultural heritage and unique natural values are great potential, which should be supported to increase the importance of the tourism sector in the CBC area. Border areas of the North Macedonia and Greece constitute an environmentally and culturally ‘integrated’ area. Yet, there is no system for joint management, for culture or tourism purposes, at place.Due to the significant ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, (which may turn out to be long-lasting) on the tourism industry, it is proposed to support tourism entrepreneurs in finding their way in the new era. The free movement of workers, one of the fundamental rights enjoyed by European citizens, has facilitated intra-EU labour mobility. However, in some regions (‘sending regions’) this freedom has led to a significant out-migration of their highly educated workforce to the advantage of other regions (‘receiving regions’). This is determined by the growing competition for talent and the limited capacity of sending regions to create attractive conditions for these workers. Local and regional authorities (LRAs) in sending regions have to cope directly with the socio-economic effects caused by the significant loss of talent or brain drain. Addressing these effects may require the formulation of appropriate policies and/or measures to retain, attract, or regain a highly educated workforce.Investing in human capital would help promote economic growth in the cross-border region of Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia. In practice, jobs could be created in the ripe sectors of agro-economy (e.g. local food and wine). Further, networking opportunities and synergies could emerge between academia and the business community. Businesses will benefit from the knowledge and innovation capability released by academic institutions, while young scientists will benefit from upgrading their skills and competencies. This in turn will maximize their ability to enter the local labour market, thus avoiding migration elsewhere. |
| **ISO1: A better cooperation governance** | 6. Other actions to support better cooperation governance | Improving governance for cooperation | **Justification for the selection of ISO 1**Despite many functional binds and connections, there is insufficient cooperation between involved stakeholders in the eligible area, mainly due to the legal and administrative barriers.A lack of capacity of institutions in the North Macedonia has been identified. By enhancing the governance of stakeholders, the Programme will not only foster cooperation between the two partner countries, but it will also promote the EU strategy for Western Balkans.**Justification for the selection of objective 6** Merged, integrated policies and multi-level governance processesare significant for enhancing regional development and cohesion across borders. This comes in line with the Territorial Agenda 2030.This is in specific due for compounded territorial challenges such as, digitisation, health or common crises, which affect the eligible region in similar ways. They are best addressed by integrated and cross-sectoral approaches and require the provision of and equal access to public services.The transnational cooperation on the CBC area offers significant benefits in addressing, among others, the following specific needs:- Enhancing the area with functional links that will act as cross-border operational amplifiers.- Reducing legal and administrative barriers to cooperation- Promoting place-based, integrated policy making, addressing complex societal challenges- Assisting high-quality public services of general interest- Promoting digital governance and better digital public services- Strengthening multi-level governance - Enhancing the operational capacity of implementing entities and organizations, especially those of the civil society- Adoption of the EU acquis by the IPA local bodies, as a means to facilitate the accession process of the candidate country to the European Union |

# Priorities [300]

*Reference: points (d) and (e) of Article 17(3)*

## PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy (PO2)

*Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)*

**PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy (PO2)**

|  |
| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3) |

### S.O: (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

**S.O: (vi) *Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy***

*Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)*

#### Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

*Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)*

***PO2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management***

***SO (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy***

***PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy***

*According to the new EU Circular Economy Action Plan (2020), pertinent actions shall cover the entire life cycle of products, promoting viable consumption through circular economy processes. The concept of circular economy**has a high potential for reducing environmental pressure and offers job opportunities and new green business, thus bringing socio-economic benefits. The CBC area is standing far away of the European targets for recycling and waste reuse. Several of its regions are still lagging behind. In order to gain a competitive economy, it is necessary to scale up and develop circular economy initiatives that are adjusted to the specific needs of urban and rural areas. It will require a policy framework for sustainable products, an improved waste management, a re-arrangement of key value chains and the creation of new business models.*

*As the outcomes of the public consultation and resources of the Programme indicate, actions under this SO will support transnational synergies to increase the implementation of circular economy approaches across the CBC area. Potential cooperation actions include the joint creation and implementation of strategies, action plans, pilot actions and related solutions. Actions should be implemented considering the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and the EU Green Deal. Therefore, actions that promote the improvement of product life cycles, foster sustainable consumption and circular economy processes (reduce, recover, reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture, recycle) will be developed and implemented. Transnational synergies should boost the transition to a circular economy by promoting the expertise and knowledge, improving policy learning and testing good practices.*

*List of planned actions*

*The programme will fund the following type of actions (non-exhaustive list):*

*1. Support product design for durability, reparability, upgradability and recycling.*

*2. Supporting industrial symbiosis, better tracking of resources and matching surplus or by-product materials across industry sectors.*

*3. Circular economy collaboration for resilient value chains*

*4. Investment in reverse logistics and feedback loops use, refurbishment and remanufacturing, in order to generate zero waste. By these investments corporate take-back programs, where product producers also take responsibility for its disposal.*

*5. Actions to promote investment in the key value chains (plastic, textiles, ICT, construction products)*

*6. Actions for raising public awareness about the climate change and environmental opportunities of a circular economy, (actions under and SPF with plethora of small projects such as festivals, etc)*

*7. Creation of a Circular Economy Centre to connect innovation and entrepreneurship through the support of high technology.*

*8. Raising awareness of young population through the creation of a "Circular Economy and Zero Waste Hub", the development of common strategy and policies in cooperation with the neighbouring countries to promote the bio economy and circular economy.*

*9. Creation and establishment of a monitoring system of the energy efficiency at local and regional level and creation of a common data centre system for common use for the authorities in two countries.*

*10. Use of the SPF instrument to support targeted activities of circular economy and Green Deal activities.*

*The types of actions have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle, since they are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.*

*The New European Bauhaus principles will affect the setting up and the implementation of the related actions under this SO.*

***For the INTERACT and ESPON programme:***

*Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)*

*Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure*

*N/A.*

#### Indicators

*Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)*

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID****[5]** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit****[255]** | **Milestone (2024)****[200]** | **Final target (2029)****[200]** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | enterprises | 10 | 31 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | enterprises | 10 | 31 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO34 | Additional capacity for waste recycling | tonnes/year | 10.000 | 31.250 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO107 | Investments in facilities for separate waste collection | euro | 500,000 | 2,500,000 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO119 | Waste prepared for re-use | tonnes/year | 5.000 | 22.700 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 300 | 1.000 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO115 | Public events across borders jointly organised | events | 5 | 20 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCO87 | Organisation cooperation across borders | organisations | 10 | 40 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline** | **Reference year** | **Final target (2029)** | **Source of data** | **Comments** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCR 01 | Jobs created in supported entities | annual FTEs | 0 | 2021 | 30 | Programme Monitoring Information System |  |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCR48 | Waste used as raw materials, | tonnes/year | 396.000 | 2021 | 780.000 | Programme Monitoring Information System |  |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCR47 | Waste recycled | tonnes/year | 0 | 2021 | 2.250 | Programme Monitoring Information System |  |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | RCR84 | Organisation cooperating across borders after project completion | organizations | 0 | 2021 | 20 | MA monitoring system |  |

#### The main target groups

*Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. As a result, they will be stimulated to take up solutions that lead to improved energy efficiency, an increased use of renewable energies and a more climate-neutral central Europe. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors such as, policy makers and planners, energy agencies, operators and distributers, infrastructure providers and other local and regional energy actors, as well as different economic sectors including SMEs. Target groups include also all population groups, which will benefit from an improved regional and local energy performance.*

*Inhabitants of the Programme area will be the main target group of actions under the priority Environment in terms of enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution. Intervention in this area may significantly improve biodiversity, increase ecological awareness of the inhabitants and reduce pollution in the support area, and thus improve the condition of the entire natural environment. These activities will have a positive impact on the quality of life of the local population. They may also affect the tourist attractiveness of the area, and thus constitute a great potential for the development of entrepreneurship.*

*Additional initiatives are planned at enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment and reducing pollution, e.g. organizing events, meetings, or jointly creating a strategy. Participants/recipients of such events may be anyone interested in the subject related to the specific objective, e.g. residents, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations, research centres, local government units and other entities.*

*It is proposed that interventions, under the Environment priority, in the scope of enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution should be undertaken under the support of the Programme by:*

*Target groups*

*- Regions residents*

*- Regional and Local Authorities*

*- Industry and SMEs and their associations*

*Actions under this specific objective may be undertaken by beneficiaries such as:*

*- Organisations responsible for the management of waste*

*- Regional and Local Authorities and their enterprises*

*- Universities, Educational / Research Institutions*

*- Research Centres, Civil Society Organizations*

*-Companies, SMEs and their associations*

*It should also be considered that the actions undertaken under each objective involve beneficiaries from at least two Programme countries, of which at least one is a beneficiary from a Member State.*

#### Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

*Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address all types of territories, i.e. both urban and rural areas. Actions could address territories which show a lower performance in energy efficiency and renewable energy use, or which have deficiencies regarding climate-neutral actions as well as more advanced regions. This will allow exchanges and learning from each other. Cooperation will also allow the more advanced regions to strengthen further their energy performance.*

*All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial characteristics of targeted areas and be aligned to the relevant territorial strategies at the respective governance level (local, regional, national).*

#### Planned use of financial instruments

*Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)*

*N/A*

#### Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

*Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)*

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | IPA III CBC | SO (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource | 045046179180 | 3.000.000,003.000.000,00100.000,00150.000,00 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | IPA III CBC | SO (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource | 01 | 6.250.000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority No** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | IPA III CBC | SO (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource | 04 | 6.250.000,00 |

### S.O: (vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

**S.O: (vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution**

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)*

#### Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)*

***PO2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management***

***SO (vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution***

***PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy***

 *The rich biodiversity, ecosystems and the wealth of nature in the CBC area, is exposed to a danger due to phenomenon such as pollution, invasive alien species, land use and the exhaustion of natural resources.*

*Objective: Protection of the environment. In order to protect the environment and the ecological connectivity, various and integrated approaches are necessary to be implemented. The protection of environment is a policy area, which is highlighted by the EU Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.*

*Focus: Projects aim to develop and implement strategies, pilot actions, and related resolutions, which aim to protect nature and make viable and sustainable the environmental management. These actions should emphasize on the implementation of environmental policies and on the development of procedures, which are integrated to particular local conditions. For ecosystems such as, ecological corridors, river basins, etc., which are extended across borders, it is an opportunity to benefit from transnational cooperation and multilateral initiatives such as European Green Belt initiative, Environmental Conventions and action plans of macro-regional strategies.*

*List of planned actions*

*The programme will fund the following type of actions (non-exhaustive list):*

*1. Joint actions for improving the system of protection against natural disasters*

*2. Joint actions of cross-border dimension to protect nature and biodiversity aiming at setting up ecological corridors to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems*

*3. Actions related to the protection of the environment and especially in the management and monitoring of Axios/Vardar river water quality and the establishment of early warning mechanisms (using ICT).*

*4. Actions for improving competences of stakeholders through exchange of best practices and knowledge to promote the management of natural resources such as air, water and soil as well as nature based solutions for infrastructure investments.*

*5. Actions for capacity building for the management of water ecosystems (e.g. by applying innovative water treatment technologies).*

*6. Actions for exchange of good practices and innovative solutions that enhance sustainable environmental management practices (e.g. for forest and agriculture management, pollinator-friendly management, lakes, sustainable food chains).*

*7. Enhancing the transnational coordination of environmental management and nature protection through various cooperation structures such as the Green Belt Initiative.*

*8. Operational instalment and application of a telescoping system for the monitoring and management of the water quality (phytoplankton) at Lake Doiran and raising awareness activities.*

*9. Sustainable management of protected areas with the active involvement of local communities and the use of ICT applications.*

*The types of actions have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle, since they are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.*

*The New European Bauhaus principles will affect the setting up and the implementation of all the related actions under this SO.*

***For the INTERACT and ESPON programme:***

*Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)*

*Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure*

*N/A.*

#### Indicators

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)*

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID****[5]** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit****[255]** | **Milestone (2024)****[200]** | **Final target (2029)****[200]** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCO38 | Surface area of rehabilitated land supported, | Hectares | 10.000 | 50.000 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCO36 | Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change | Hectares | 30.000 | 188.000 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 200 | 900 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCO115 | Public events across borders jointly organised | events | 5 | 18 |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCO87 | Organisation cooperation across borders | organisations | 10 | 36 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline** | **Reference year** | **Final target (2029)** | **Source of data** | **Comments** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCR52 | Rehabilitated land used for green areas, social housing, economic or other uses | Hectares | 0 | 2021 | 188.000 | Programme Monitoring Information System |  |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature,biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCR95 | Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure | persons | 0 | 2021 | 200.000 | Programme Monitoring Information System |  |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature,biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | RCR84 | Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion | organisations | 0 | 2021 | 18 | MA monitoring system |  |

#### The main target groups

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)*

*Text field [7000*

*Inhabitants of the Programme area will be the main target group of actions under the priority Environment in terms of enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution. Intervention in this area may significantly improve biodiversity, increase ecological awareness of the inhabitants and reduce pollution in the support area, and thus improve the condition of the entire natural environment. These activities will have a positive impact on the quality of life of the local population. It may also affect the tourist attractiveness of the support area, and thus it will constitute a great potential for the development of entrepreneurship.*

*Additional initiatives are planned aimed at enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment and reducing pollution, e.g. organizing events, meetings, or jointly creating a strategy. Participants/recipients of such events may be anyone interested in the subject related to the specific objective, e.g. residents, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations, research centres, local government units and other entities.*

*Target groups*

*- Regions residents*

*- Regional and Local Authorities*

*- Management Bodies of Protected Areas*

*- Stakeholders*

*- Eco-friendly organisations, Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency*

*- Pertinent Beneficiaries:*

*- State, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,*

*- Other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),*

*- Administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc,*

*- Entities administering forest areas and state forest holdings with their organizational units,*

*- Units of higher education and research institutions,*

*- Non-governmental organizations.*

*It should also be considered that the actions undertaken under each objective involve beneficiaries from at least two Programme countries, of which at least one is a beneficiary from a Member State.*

#### Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address all types of territories, i.e. both urban and rural areas. Territories with valuable natural assets and regions that are much affected by environmental pressures or that have a significant potential for environmental rehabilitation (e.g. urban industrial areas, brownfields, degraded rivers) should however be in the focus. Furthermore, regions which are lagging behind regarding the implementation of environmental policies will profit most from knowledge exchanges with more advanced regions, which will in turn also be able to strengthen further their environmental management practices. For pushing implementation on local and regional level, place-based approaches should respect the specific territorial settings of the targeted areas and be aligned to the relevant territorial strategies at the respective governance level (local, regional, national).*

#### Planned use of financial instruments

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)*

*N/A*

* + - 1. **Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention**

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)*

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | IPA III CBC | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | 058059064071073079179180 | 1.500.000,001.500.000,001.000.000,001.000.000,00500.000,00500.000,00100.000,00150.000,00 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | IPA III CBC | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | 01 | 6.250.000,00 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority No** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 1: Transition to a low carbon economy | IPA III CBC | vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | 04 | 6.250.000,00 |

## PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area

*Reference: Article 17(4)(d)*

**PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area**

|  |
| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3) |

### S.O: (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

**S.O: (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility**

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)*

#### Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)*

**PO3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity**

***SO (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility***

***PRIORITY: Strategic focus on Prespas area***

*Based on public consultation findings, Programme resources shall be dedicated to one or several strategic projects focused on the development of the Prespas area.*

*In the CBC area, the accessibility to the main nodes and transport corridors is still limited especially for rural and peripheral regions, including those that cross borders. It is necessary to develop sustainable and smart transport services, to create connections and to remove bottlenecks in order to ensure good accessibility. In line with the EU Green Deal, transport emissions need to be reduced by 90% by 2050. This is a challenge for smart and sustainable approaches to regional mobility, as well as the introduction of IT-supported solutions for mobility management.*

*One or more projects could include infrastructures and services for the opening of a border-crossing checkpoint at Prespas area. It is expected that the accessibility of the Prespas area, which is remote and isolated will provide opportunities for the development of tourism, improvement of business environment and support citizens in their everyday life.*

*Under this SO, the Interreg CB Programme will act as a catalyst to lever further investment for large-scale transport infrastructure and* *as a coordination tool for combined smaller interventions (e.g. with environmental dimension). Actions should seek synergies and coordinate with other European instruments and national funds. Alignment with the EUSAIR and the EU Strategy for Western Balkans should be envisaged.*

*List of planned actions*

*The programme will fund the following type of actions (non-exhaustive list):*

*1. Strategic actions and projects related to the BC "Markova Noga/Laimos" between the North Macedonia and Greece in the Prespa / Resen / region (e.g. accessibility at Laimos border crossing).*

*The project’s scope and Terms of Reference will be specified in a targeted Call for Proposals.*

*2. Sharing good practices and developing sustainable solutions for improvement of regional mobility services in the public interest and to increase their resilience in times of emergency circumstances.*

*3. Designing solutions, developing and implementing multi-modal mobility strategies promoting effective and sustainable connections within rural and peripheral regions and their connection to the major transport nodes and corridors.*

*The location of the strategic project and the Prespa/Resen region in general are environmentally sensitive areas. More information is provided in the Programme’s Strategic Environmental Assessment.*

*The types of actions have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle, since they are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.*

*The New European Bauhaus principles will affect the setting up and the implementation of all the related actions under this SO.*

***For the INTERACT and ESPON programme:***

*Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)*

*Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure*

*N/A*

#### Indicators

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)*

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID****[5]** | **Indicator** | **Measurement** **unit****[255]** | **Milestone (2024)****[200]** | **Final target (2029)****[200]** |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCO19 | Public buildings with improved energy performance | Square metres | 50 | 500 |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCO46 | Length of roads reconstructed or modernised –non-TEN-T | km | 1 | 2 |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 100 | 300 |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCO115 | Public events across borders jointly organised | Events | 2 | 6 |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCO87 | Organisation cooperation across borders | Organisations | 4 | 12 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline** | **Reference year** | **Final target (2029)** | **Source of data** | **Comments** |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCR26 | Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other) | KWh/year | 0 | 2021 | 35.000 | Programme Monitoring Information System |  |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCR56 | Time savings due to improved road infrastructure | Man-days/year | 25 | 2021 | 30 | Supported projects |  |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | RCR84 | Organisation cooperating across borders after project completion | organisations | 0 | 2021 | 6 | MA monitoring system |  |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility |  | Number of border crossing at the new established border crossing point | person | 0 | 2021 | 5.000 | Customs Office |  |

#### The main target groups

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*The main target groups, in the field of border crossing management, will be people visiting or travelling through the Programme area and its inhabitants, as well as border services. Intervention in this area may help entrepreneurs (including those from the tourism industry) to conduct cross-border economic activity (including tourism) by enabling more efficient movement of workers and tourists across the border.*

*Target groups*

*- Regions residents*

*- National, Regional / Local Authorities*

*Actions under this specific objective may be undertaken by beneficiaries such as:*

*- Local Self Government stakeholders*

*- Regions, Municipalities, affiliated development agencies of Western Macedonia*

*- Pertinent national Stakeholders*

*- Customs offices, Ministries*

*It should also be considered that the actions undertaken under each objective involve beneficiaries from at least two Programme countries, of which at least one is a beneficiary from a Member State.*

#### Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area. They should however primarily address rural and peripheral regions including cross-border regions which are suffering from low accessibility. They will profit most from knowledge exchanges with already well connected regions which in turn will also be able to further improve the sustainability of their regional mobility services.*

*All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial challenges and settings of the targeted areas and be aligned to the relevant territorial strategies at the respective governance level (local, regional, national).*

#### Planned use of financial instruments

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)*

*N/A*

#### Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)*

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area  | IPA III CBC  | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | 090091093170173179180181 | 3.000.000,002.000.000,001.000.000,001.000.000,001.000.000,00100.000,00150.000,00250.000,00 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | IPA III CBC | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | 01 | 8.500.000,00 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority No** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 2: Strategic focus on Prespas area | IPA III CBC | (ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | 01 | 8.500.000,00 |

## PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services

*Reference: Article 17(4)(d)*

**PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services**

|  |
| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3) |

### SO: (v). 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

**SO: (v). 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**

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)*

#### Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)*

**PO4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights**

***SO (v) 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: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services***

*The health care should function as part of an integrated system guaranteeing coordinated care and preventing unnecessary expenditure. Relieving emergency care as a result of a better planned health system is an important aspect that should be improved. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has drawn particular attention to the new challenges posed by the occurrence of unpredictable circumstances. The pandemic transcends national borders, therefore cooperation is advisable to minimize the impact of the threat on the population living in border areas. At the same time, once established cooperation pays off in future similar occurrences.*

*According to the needs and priorities raised and indicated by the public consultation, actions under this SO will support synergies in order to implement and develop strategies, pilot actions, actions and related resolutions, which aim to ensure equal access to primary health care development of infrastructure and purchase of medical and rescue equipment and specialised health care through joint improvement of qualifications of medical and rescue.*

*List of planned actions*

*The programme will fund the following type of actions (non-exhaustive list):*

*1. Mobile and other health services for children and elderly habitants in mountainous and remote areas through Mobile Groups of Health Professionals (MGHP) from the nearest urban centres or mobile Units, e-distance health services with modern technological products, stations for telemedicine.*

*2. Development of initiatives for supporting communities to assess the primary health care system, in order to secure social and family care. This will include cross-border initiatives for promotion of health and well-being of children and elderly persons.*

*3. Actions aimed at preventing the occurrence and effects of unpredictable adverse events such as crisis situations, e.g. epidemics. These actions will aim at creation of a Pandemic Task Force to coordinate a response to the pandemic on multiple levels (e.g. monitoring the availability of intensive care beds, setting up a cross-border information exchange system, etc.)*

*4. Actions for acquiring new skills in the field of medical care among medical and rescue staff in the Programme area will improve its quality, which may translate into its effectiveness in the treatment of diseases. As part of the action, it is proposed to organize joint initiatives and exchanges of good practices aimed at improving qualifications and drawing attention to common problems in the field of health care and emergency services in the Programme area.*

***For the INTERACT and ESPON programme:***

*Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)*

*Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure*

*Ν/Α*

#### Indicators

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)*

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID****[5]** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit****[255]** | **Milestone (2024)****[200]** | **Final target (2029)****[200]** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCO69 | Capacity of new or modernised health care facilities, | persons/year | 5.000 | 60.000 |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCO70 | Capacity of new or modernised social care facilities (other than housing) | persons/year | 5.000 | 40.000 |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 100 | 400 |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCO87 | Organisation cooperation across borders | organisations | 4 | 16 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline** | **Reference year** | **Final target (2029)** | **Source of data** | **Comments** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCR73 | Annual users of new or modernised health care services, | users/year |  45.754 | 2021 | 60.000 | Supported projects |  |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCR74 | Annual users of new or modernised social care facilities | users/year | 18.300 | 2021 | 40.000 | Supported projects |  |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCR72 | Annual users of new or modernised e- health care services | users/year | 0 | 2021 | 80.000 | Supported projects |  |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | RCR84 | Organisation cooperating across borders after project completion | organisations | 0 | 2021 | 8 | MA monitoring system |  |

#### The main target groups

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*The main target groups for actions under the Health priority to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of health systems and long-term care services across borders will be the inhabitants of the Programme area. Intervention in this area may significantly improve the health services provided, and thus improve the health condition of residents. Activities related to long-term care will have a positive impact on the quality of life of elderly and terminally ill residents. Investments in infrastructure, equipment and improving the qualifications of medical and rescue personnel will significantly affect the comfort of work and the number of successes achieved by health care and emergency services workers.*

*Target groups*

*- Regions residents*

*- Regional and Local Authorities*

*The following beneficiaries may undertake activities under this specific objective:*

*- State, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them that deal with medical care,*

*- Public entities providing medical services and long-term care services,*

*- Civil protection authorities and Rescue services (i.e. mountain rescue services)*

*- Entities of higher education, e.g. medical universities, educational entities in the field of health protection, etc.*

*- Non-governmental organizations, specializing in the field*

*It should also be considered that the actions undertaken under each objective involve beneficiaries from at least two Programme countries, of which at least one is a beneficiary from a Member State.*

#### Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address all types of territories. Cooperation is particularly encouraged to improve primary health structures and processes within and between territories that are sharing functional ties (e.g. metropolitan regions, adjacent or neighbouring cities and their rural hinterlands, cross-border regions). The exchanges of knowledge and experiences between more and less advanced regions will strengthen further their implementation capacities.*

*All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial settings and existing governance systems of targeted areas and be aligned to the relevant territorial strategies at the respective governance level (local, regional, national).*

#### Planned use of financial instruments

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)*

*N/A*

#### Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)*

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services  | IPA III CBC  | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care  | 128129131134160179180 | 2.000.000,001.000.000,00500.000,00500.000,00250.000,00100.000,00150.000,00 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services  | IPA III CBC  | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care  | 01 | 4.500.000,00 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority No** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | IPA III CBC | (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | 04 | 4.500.000,00 |

### SO: (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

**SO: (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation**

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)*

#### Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)*

**PO4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights**

***SO (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation***

***PRIORITY: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services***

*Fostering local traditions and tourist attractions draws attention, and thus encourages tourists to visit specific attractions.*

*The culture and heritage of the Programme area, active cultural units, valuable natural areas, the existence of folk traditions, folk crafts and material resources of historical and cultural heritage constitute capital, the proper use of which may enable the economic and social development of the CBC area. Cultivating and promoting local traditions, joint cross-border cultural undertakings, caring for valuable natural areas and other activities for the use and tourism values are essential in the development of the cross-border area. Actions under this SO should emphasize on enhance the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation as indicated by the outcomes of the public consultation.*

*Moreover, the Programme should support the development of cooperation and entrepreneurial links across border and promote actions, which nurture business start-up and employment.*

*Actions should seek synergies and coordinate with other European instruments and national funds. Alignment with the EUSAIR and the EU Strategy for Western Balkans should be envisaged.*

*List of planned actions*

*The programme will fund the following type of actions (non-exhaustive list):*

*1. Actions to support youth and unemployed, aiming at gaining skills and professional qualifications in the field of tourism market and cultural tourism as one of the fastest growing segments of the tourism industry. The actions will be in the form of courses, trainings and exchange workshops on how to set up and promote an enterprise in the tourism industry and to manage it effectively.*

*2. Networking initiatives, supporting employment mechanisms and joint efforts in the CBA towards the goal of creating new jobs in the field of tourism.*

*3. Actions which will create new opportunities through investment and co-operation in the field of tourism and environment, the adaption of ICT innovation, eco-innovation and attract additional investment and private funding within the border area.*

*4. Actions for the support of entities/ enterprises in the field of sports / recreational / natural / cultural activities under SPF with plethora of small projects (e.g. food festivals).*

*5. SPF for the support of private and public beneficiaries in order to improve the accessibility to cultural and touristic events (benefitting for example the elderly and / or people with disabilities).*

*The types of actions have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle, since they are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact due to their nature*

*The New European Bauhaus principles will affect the setting up and the implementation of all the related actions under this SO.*

***For the INTERACT and ESPON programme:***

*Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)*

*Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure*

*Ν/Α*

#### Indicators

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)*

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID****[5]** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit****[255]** | **Milestone (2024)****[200]** | **Final target (2029)****[200]** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | RCO77 | Number of cultural and tourism sites supported | Cultural and tourism sites | 2 | 8 |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | Participations | 150 | 500 |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | RCO115 | Public events across borders jointly | events | 3 | 10 |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | RCO87 | Organisation cooperation across borders | organisations | 6 | 20 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline** | **Reference year** | **Final target (2029)** | **Source of data** | **Comments** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | RCR77 | Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported | visitors/year | *0* | 2021 | 12,857 | Supported projects |  |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | RCR84 | Organisation cooperating across borders after project completion | organisations | *0* | 2021 | 10 | MA monitoring system |  |

#### The main target groups

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Interventions under this S.O are expected to increase the tourist attractiveness of the support area, and thus provide a great potential for the development of entrepreneurship.*

 *The participants of such events may be all, i.e. residents, entrepreneurs, local government units, non-governmental organizations operating in the Programme area.*

*Target groups*

*- Regions residents*

*- Regional and Local Authorities*

*- Management Bodies of Protected Areas*

*- Stakeholders*

*Activities under this specific objective may be undertaken by the following beneficiaries:*

*- State, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,*

*- Other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),*

*- Units of higher education and research institutions,*

*- Administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc.*

*- Personnel development institutions (OAED),*

*- Non-governmental organizations.*

*It should also be considered that the actions undertaken under each objective involve beneficiaries from at least two Programme countries, of which at least one is a beneficiary from a Member State.*

#### Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address all types of territories. Cooperation is particularly encouraged to improve governance structures and processes within and between territories that are sharing functional ties (e.g. metropolitan regions, adjacent or neighbouring cities and their rural hinterlands, cross-border regions). The exchanges of knowledge and experiences between more and less advanced regions will strengthen further their implementation capacities.*

*All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial settings and existing governance systems of targeted areas and be aligned to the relevant territorial strategies at the respective governance level (local, regional, national).*

#### Planned use of financial instruments

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)*

*N/A*

#### Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)*

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services  | IPA III CBC  | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | 165166167169171179180 | 2.000.000,001.000.000,00500.000,00500.000,00250.000,00100.000,00150.000,00 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | IPA III CBC | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | 01 | 4.500.000,00 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority No** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 3: Support and upgrade of Health and Social Services | IPA III CBC | (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | 04 | 4.500.000,00 |

## PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation

*Reference: Article 17(4)(d)*

**PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation**

|  |
| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3) |

### ISO 1 - A better cooperation governance (objective 6 “other actions to support better cooperation governance”)

**ISO 1 - A better cooperation governance (objective 6 “other actions to support better cooperation governance”)**

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)*

#### Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)*

***ISO 1 - A better cooperation governance (objective 6 “other actions to support better cooperation governance”)***

***PRIORITY: Improving governance for cooperation***

*Integrated policies and multi-level governance approaches are significant and crucial for strengthening regional development and cohesion, by eliminating legal obstacles and other barriers in border regions. There is the specific need for better governance and exchanging good practices between actors of multi-level governance systems. It will lead to more socially equitable public services and increase territorial and social cohesion as well as promote the principle of equal opportunities across the CBC area.*

*Actions of this SO, will support transnational synergies aiming at improving multi-sectoral governance processes on all territorial levels, in particular in view of complex challenges related to digitalisation, demographic change, public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services) and tourism including culture. Actions should follow a cross-sectoral approach and foster the horizontal and vertical cooperation of relevant actors of the public and, where appropriate, the private sector. Furthermore, actions should also strengthen capacities of public authorities to prepare integrated territorial development strategies. Possible cooperation actions include the joint development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, pilot actions and related solutions. Actions should focus on improving governance processes by better integrating policy sectors, by building consensus among relevant institutions, by better involving citizens and other stakeholders and by making use of digital tools.*

*Actions should foresee cooperation with other European instruments and initiatives such as the ERDF mainstream programmes, the Rural Programmes (including LEADER) cross-border Interreg programmes, as well as transboundary and transnational governance structures (e.g. EGTCs and EUREGIOS). Actions should also take into account relevant international initiatives and platforms, which seek better coordinating governance processes in specific thematic areas and in particular the EU macro-regional strategies.*

*List of planned actions*

*The programme will fund the following type of actions (non-exhaustive list):*

*1. Enhancing cooperation in cross-border and transnational territories by establishing new or developing existing structures for cooperation governance, including joint decision making processes and coordinated action plans as well as by supporting cross-border public services.*

*2. Developing and implementing integrated strategies for territories with functional ties addressing high quality public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services).*

*3. Developing and implementing integrated tourism strategies beyond borders, based on the Balkan legacy and traditions, (actions under SPF with plethora of small projects such as festivals, youth exchanges, etc.)*

*4. Developing smart digital services for coordination and better cooperation beyond administrative borders (e.g. in the health sector)*

*The types of actions have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle, since they are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.*

***For the INTERACT and ESPON programme:***

*Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)*

*Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure*

 *Ν/Α*

#### Indicators

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)*

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID****[5]** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit****[255]** | **Milestone (2024)****[200]** | **Final target (2029)****[200]** |
| PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation | Other actions to support better cooperation governance | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | Participations | 50 | 400 |
| PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation | Other actions to support better cooperation governance | RCO115 | Public events across borders jointly organised | Events | 2 | 8 |
| PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation | Other actions to support better cooperation governance | RCO87 | Organisation cooperation across borders | Organisations | 4 | 16 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **ID** | **Indicator** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline** | **Reference year** | **Final target (2029)** | **Source of data** | **Comments** |
| PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation | Other actions to support better cooperation governance | RCR84 | Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion | Organisations | 0 | 2021 | 8 | MA monitoring system / Survey | In terms of links with common output indicator, RCR84 may be used together with RCO87.The value reported for RCR84 can be equal to or lower than the value of RCO87, but no higher. |

#### The main target groups

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)*

*The* ***inhabitants of the Programme area****.*

*Interventions in this area may favour entrepreneurs and representatives of local government units by facilitating local government cooperation and conducting cross-border economic activity.*

*There are planned initiatives aimed at increasing the efficiency of public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation as well as cooperation between citizens and institutions, especially to eliminate legal obstacles and other barriers in border regions, e.g. in the form of public consultations, workshops and conferences in the supported area. Everybody can participate of such events, i.e. residents, entrepreneurs, local government units, non-governmental organizations and scientific and research centres.*

*Activities under this specific objective may be undertaken by the following beneficiaries:*

*State, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,*

*Other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),*

*Schools and educational institutions,*

*Units of higher education and research institutions,*

*Non-governmental organizations,*

*Other entities conducting cultural or educational activity.*

*It should also be considered that the actions undertaken under each objective involve beneficiaries from at least two Programme countries, of which at least one is a beneficiary from a Member State.*

#### Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)*

*Text field [7000]*

*Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address all types of territories. Cooperation is particularly encouraged to improve governance structures and processes within and between territories that are sharing functional ties (e.g. metropolitan regions, adjacent or neighbouring cities and their rural hinterlands, cross-border regions). The exchanges of knowledge and experiences between more and less advanced regions will strengthen further their implementation capacities.*

*All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial settings and existing governance systems of targeted areas and be aligned to the relevant territorial strategies at the respective governance level (local, regional, national).*

#### Planned use of financial instruments

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)*

*N/A*

#### Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

*Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)*

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation | IPA III CBC | Objective 6 “Other actions to support better cooperation governance” | 170171173182 | 1.000.000,001.312.500,00500.000,00500.000,00 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority no** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation | IPA III CBC | Objective 6 “Other actions to support better cooperation governance” | 01 | 3.312.500,00 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority No** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| PRIORITY 4: Improving governance for cooperation | IPA III CBC | Objective 6 “Other actions to support better cooperation governance” | 04 | 3.312.500,00 |

# Financing plan

*Reference: point (f) of Article 17(3)*

## Financial appropriations by year

*Reference: point (g)(i) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)*

Table 7

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Fund*** | ***2021*** | ***2022*** | ***2023*** | ***2024*** | ***2025*** | ***2026*** | ***2027*** | ***Total***  |
| *ERDF**(territorial cooperation goal)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *IPA* *III CBC (1)* | *0,00* | *1.865.500,00* | *2.665.000,00* | *6.662.500,00* | *6.662.500,00* | *4.797.000,00* | *3.997.500,00* | *26.650.000,00* |
| *NDICI-CBC(1)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *IPA III(2)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *NDICI(2)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *OCTP(3)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Interreg Funds* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Total***  | ***0,00*** | ***1.865.500,00*** | ***2.665.000,00*** | ***6.662.500,00*** | ***6.662.500,00*** | ***4.797.000,00*** | ***3.997.500,00*** | ***26.650.000,00*** |
| *(1) Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation.**(2) Interreg B and C.**(3) Interreg B, C and D.**(4) ERDF, IPA III, NDICI or OCTP, where as single amount under Interreg B and C.* |

## Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing

|  |
| --- |
| *Reference: point (f)(ii) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)* |

Table 8

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy objective No** | **Priority** | **Fund** | **Basis for calculation EU support (total eligible cost or public contribution)** | **EU contribution** | **Indicative breakdown of the EU contribution** | **National contribution** | **Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart** | **Total** | **Co-financing rate** | **Contributions from the third countries** |
| **(as applicable)** | **(a)=(a1)+(a2)** | **without TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a1)** | **for TA pursuant to Article 27(1)** | **(b)=(c)+(d)** | **National public** | **National private** | **(e)=(a)+(b)** | **(f)=(a)/(e)** | **(for information)** |
|   |   | **(a2)** |   | **(c)** | **(d)** |   |   |   |
| 2 | Priority 1 | ERDF |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III CBC  |   | 10.000.000,00 | 9.000.000,00 | 1.000.000,00 | 2.500.000,00 | 2.500.000,00 |   | 12.500.000,00 | 80,00% |   |
| NDICI- CBC |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III  |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| NDICI |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| OCTP |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| Interreg funds |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| 3 | Priority 2 | ERDF |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III CBC  |   | 6.800.000,00 | 6.120.000,00 | 680.000,00 | 1.700.000,00 | 1.700.000,00 |   | 8.500.000,00 | 80,00% |   |
| NDICI- CBC |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III  |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| NDICI |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| OCTP |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| Interreg funds |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| 4 | Priority 3 | ERDF |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III CBC  |   | 7.200.000,00 | 6.480.000,00 | 720.000,00 | 1.800.000,00 | 1.800.000,00 |   | 9.000.000,00 | 80,00% |   |
| NDICI- CBC |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III  |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| NDICI |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| OCTP |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| Interreg funds |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| ISO1 | Priority 4 | ERDF |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III CBC  |   | 2.650.000,00 | 2.385.000,00 | 265.000,00 | 662.500,00 | 662.500,00 |   | 3.312.500,00 | 80,00% |   |
| NDICI- CBC |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| IPA III  |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| NDICI |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| OCTP |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
| Interreg funds |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 |   |   | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
|  | **Total** | **All funds** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   | ERDF |   | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
|   |   | IPA III CBC |   | 26.650.000,00 | 23.985.000,00 | 2.665.000,00 | 6.662.500,00 | 6.662.500,00 | 0,00 | 33.312.500,00 | 80,00% |   |
|   |   | NDICI-CBC |   | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
|   |   | IPA III |   | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
|   |   | NDICI |   | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
|   |   | OCTP |   | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
|   |   | Interreg funds |   | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | #ΔΙΑΙΡ./0! |   |
|  | **Total** | **All funds** |  | **26.650.000,00** | **23.985.000,00** | **2.665.000,00** | **6.662.500,00** | **6.662.500,00** | **0,00** | **33.312.500,00** |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| (1) Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation.(2) Interreg B and C.(3) Interreg B, C and D.(4) ERDF, IPA III, NDICI or OCTP, where as single amount under Interreg B and C. |

# Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

*Reference: point (g) of Article 17(3)*

|  |
| --- |
| *According to the Code of Conduct and the Commission Delegated Regulation no 240/2014, the principle of partnership implies the full involvement of the representative partners in the management of the funds through a genuine consultation. This principle underpins all stages of the Programme cycle.**Programme Preparation* *For the Participation of the partners in the Programme preparation, it is obligatory to:** *be transparent in the selection of partners;*
* *provide sufficient information to partners and give them sufficient time to make their voice heard in the consultation process;*
* *ensure that partners are actively involved in all stages of the process, from planning to evaluation;*
* *support capacity building of partners;*
* *create platforms for mutual learning and exchange of good practice.*

*All categories of partners are selected transparently and given opportunities to actively participate in the consultation process, bringing their know-how / experience to the process.* *It is important to recall that the Interreg CBC Programme, since its creation, has always favoured the participation of all categories of partner organisations among its potential beneficiaries.**In order to reflect a broad partnership, partners other than only territorial authorities are included.**The partners involved cover a broad social spectrum, and derive from:* *(a) regional, local, urban and other public authorities;**(b) economic and social partners;* *(c) relevant bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination;* *(d) research organisations and universities, where appropriate.* *All information and communication actions carried out by the Programme since its first programming period, about its objectives and results, have always been addressed to the widest possible audience.**The Interreg CBC Programme will evolve and adapt to internal and external requirements, constantly "listening" to the voice of its beneficiaries.**The European code of conduct on partnership (Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014) will continue to apply for the 2021-27 period.** ***Procedures for selecting partners and ensuring their representativeness***

*The Managing Authority, in order to shape the new Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece - Republic of the North Macedonia 2021-2027" Programme will take into account the opinion of current and potential stakeholders to plan the future Programme. The answers contain valuable information which will help to define priorities, types of projects, objectives and results to be achieved by 2027.**The entire Programme cycle, embracing the Programme preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation alike, has been designed to ensure the active involvement of the relevant partners. As presented below, partners have been involved in the programming process, primarily through:**- Meetings of the ad hoc Planning and Programming Group, Joint Programming Committee**- Consultations with the stakeholders – local and regional authorities, central and regional offices of national institutions, Chambers of commerce and industry, NGOs, Academic institutions etc;**- Internet based consultations. They were designed to trigger maximum participation, while allowing the collection of more-than-usually elaborate analysis.**Impact of the public consultation on the proposed strategy and procedures:**Consultation is a two-way relationship where stakeholders and citizens provide feedback to the Programme Authorities. The participation of the relevant stakeholders and citizens in the public debate is of particular importance, as their input and contribution may lead to the adoption of new policies/practices aimed at improving the quality of life, strengthening social cohesion, local economy and environmental protection.** ***Representativeness and identification of partners (Article 2 and 4 of the Code).***

***The process for identifying all types of stakeholders****Prior to the public consultation, it is necessary that the Managing Authority will record/update information of old and new eligible bodies in the geographical area of the program. This can be implemented by:*1. *Existing database of the Managing Authority*
2. *Database of Ministries related to research institutes, new university departments, NGOs, administrations of protected areas, cultural institutions, youth organizations, etc.*
3. *Databases of Regions, Regional Units and Municipalities*
4. *National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) database for the training centres in the area*
5. *Database of business support structures (chambers, trade associations, etc.)*
6. *Internet search*

*Consultation is described analytically, hereinafter;****Electronic Participation****The method of electronic participation raises the expectations of greater participation, especially as it relates to the expansion of the scale and basis of participation, overcoming the constraints imposed by the rate of attendance in traditional processes. Also, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is an important tool in a time when gatherings are avoided in order to protect public health.* * ***Information and consultation (8 and 9 of the Code)***

***1st phase of public consultation****In the first phase of public consultation, a questionnaire were created via EU e-survey. The questionnaire was formulated in both two languages of the partner countries. The consultation period lasted one (1) month from 12 January 2021 to 12 February 2021. Interestingly, the scope of the consultation proved larger than envisaged: Respondents were not only based in the Programme area, but originated from other parts of the partner countries. A few participants were identified as foreign nationals.**According to the consultation process, an online survey was designed with main scope the collection of information and feedback from the local stakeholders of the two cross-border countries on a number of issues, such as their preferences regarding the new Program 2021- 2027, potential project ideas and opinions on the tools and solutions which could be applied in the area.**From a technical point of view, the methodology of the online survey was identical in the two countries and a link with the questionnaire “Survey for drafting the new Interreg IPA CBC Program “Greece – North Macedonia 2021-2021” was published at:** *Official Interreg webpage (*[*https://interreg.gr*](https://interreg.gr)*)*
* *Interreg IPA Cross Border Cooperation Program "Greece - North Macedonia (*[*http://www.ipa-cbc-Program.eu*](http://www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu)*)*
* *Ministry of Local Self Government (*[*https://www.mls.gov.mk*](https://www.mls.gov.mk)*)*
* *Social Media (Linkedin, Twitter, Facebook)*

*Moreover, promotional activities and campaigns took place for: the Joint Steering Committee and Joint Monitoring Committee members of the 2014-20 Programme, Beneficiaries and applicants under the 1st Call of Proposals (CfP), potential beneficiaries under the 2. CfP, stakeholders and policy makers of the two partner countries.**The questionnaire was created in a way, in order to maximize data collection and different viewpoints of the stakeholders, so that a wealth of quantifiable data illustrated with detailed qualitative information has been registered on the following questions:** ***What are the stakeholders’ previous experiences with the cross-border Programs?***
* ***What challenges and potential supporting initiatives do they identify?***
* ***What topics do they consider the most important for a cross-border Program?***
* ***What kind of project ideas do they have to implement during the next programming period?***
* ***What are their perceptions on the different innovative tools?***

*The consultation may be deemed successful. It triggered feedback from almost 200 participants. This figure is comparable with Programmes of larger scope, which are also under the responsibility of the Managing Authority’s organisation. More importantly, the responses were balanced between the two partner countries, despite the larger population of the Greek side of the Programme.****2nd phase of public consultation****Summary: In the second phase of the public consultation, a semi structured interview and discussion took place. First, a questionnaire was submitted to selected institutions of both partner countries, in their respective languages. Second, semi structured interviews were conducted between the Consultation specialists and the institutions’ designated officials.**Analysis: The main scope of the second (2nd) phase consultation is the proposals’ collection and analysis information from local stakeholders and policy makers to be considered in the preparation of the Programme strategy.**A semi-structured interview with public bodies was selected for this phase of consultation. The interview was based on the responses’ collection of 6 topics for discussion, with the aim to avoid imposing answers on the respondents, while maintaining boundaries in the discussion – interview. The topics were elaborated in questions that were sent via email (questionnaires) to the public bodies for their preparation. Most of them replied with a filled questionnaire. The six (6) topics were the following:****1. Needs:*** *Question on the needs identified in the area. The Researcher did not present the findings of the first stage analysis in order to record the perception and the point of view of the respondents.* ***2. Knowledge and opinion on the importance of cross-border cooperation****: The researcher asked for the opinions on the current Cooperation Programme and recorded the role and way of involvement.****3. Strategy Focus:*** *It was carried out, based on the Policy Priorities and the Specific Objectives (SOs). Which SOs were most pertinent for the cross-border area? A formulation / analysis of the respondent's opinion was given.****4. Suggested types of interventions:*** *The respondent was asked to describe types of interventions and/ or specific projects that she / he deemed appropriate. The Researcher recorded the proposals asking for a description of the desired results in each case.****5. Proposals for projects and actions:*** *In cases that elaborated actions or projects were proposed, more questions were requested about the cost, the implementing body and partnership, the maturity / time of preparation and implementation, the expected outputs, and the potential risks.****6. Problems / obstacles:*** *The respondent was asked to identify the main obstacles of the cross-border cooperation in general, but also in the context of their proposals.**Α list of organizations that responded to the call for public consultation and a detailed presentation and analysis of the findings are presented below.**Greece:** *Ministry of Development & Investments, Special Secretariat for ERDF & CF Programs*
* *Ministry of Interior and Public Administration*
* *Ministry of Culture and Sports*
* *Thessaloniki industrial Chamber*
* *Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry*
* *Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace (DAMT)*
* *Decentralized Administration of Epirus – Western Macedonia*
* *Region of Western Macedonia*
* *National Confederation of People with Disabilities, Greece*
* *Technical Chamber of Central Macedonia*
* *Greek Exporters Association*
* *University of Western Macedonia*

*Republic of North Macedonia:** *Ministry of Local Self – Government*
* *Ministry for Foreign Affairs*
* *Pelagonija Planning Region*
* *Secretariat of European Affairs – NIPAC*
* *Southwest Planning Region*

***Implementation and monitoring:****The central idea of the principle of partnership is the ‘multi-level governance (MLG)’. The Managing Authority will ensure the involvement of civil society, social partners and taking on board the expertise and experience of various pertinent stakeholders. In doing so, the members of the Joint Monitoring Committee will include at minimum :**a) competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities;**b) economic and social partners;**c) Relevant bodies representing civil society, environmental partners, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination.**As the Programme will pursue a Macro-regional Strategy, the MA will identify and bring on board bodies with expertise in the development and implementation of EUSAIR objectives. The guidance of the European Commission will also be sought after.****Evaluation:****The Programme Authorities have traditionally opted for external evaluations, to safeguard the integrity of the process and the independence of the evaluation results. Nonetheless, the Managing Authority will employ a transparent tendering procedure and will inform the Programme stakeholders on the scope, objectives and results of the evaluation exercise.* |

# Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation)

*Reference: point (h) of Article 17(3)*

*The Managing Authority will define a dynamic Communication Strategy, which will capture the different stages of Programme implementation. To this end, a dedicated Programme Communication officer will be designated. The Com. officer will be responsible to monitor, review and steer the Strategy and relevant means accordingly.*

*Although the Communication Strategy will be fully elaborated in line with the distinct Programme implementation features, its main pillars are set below:*

*- The Strategy covers the entire Programme Period. It includes provisions for planning, implementation and evaluation.*

*- The Universal Communication Objective is defined as: ‘To make the Programme known, attractive, and easily approachable throughout the Programme Area’*

*- The Universal Comm. Objective is broken down on periodical com. Objectives, which are described in respective action plans. The captured periods (e.g. annual, bi-annual) will be defined in line with expectations and the specific characteristics of Programme Policy Objectives.*

*- The action plans take into account the distinct phases of implementation (e.g. Calls published, Projects under implementation, Capitalisation of results).*

*- The action plans define the appropriate annual Communication objectives, target audiences, and pertinent outreach activities.*

*Channels*

*We consider “channels” as the programme and projects’ highways to effectively convey content to the target audiences. From this perspective, we take 3 categories of channels: events, advocacy, web & social media, press media and nearly-zero printed materials.*

*In terms of Social Media & Press, we intend to promote organic and paid content. We will use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube, mostly to promote programme, project activities & results, programme calls and relevant initiatives from the European Union / Commission or other institutions. Facebook will allow us to continue growing our community by bonding with actual & potential project beneficiaries but also with the general public thanks to simple and interactive content.*

*Twitter will be a mean to disseminate information in a fast, continuous and direct way. LinkedIn also serves dissemination purposes and allow us to reach a wider and more professional audience.*

*Target Audiences*

*The target audiences are divided into 5 categories, which are further detailed in the communication strategy. These categories include: potential applicants and project partners within the Programme eligible area; multipliers and/or strategic stakeholders such as NGOs, associations, SMEs, Intergovernmental Organisations working on or interested in Programme topics; political end users/ policy-makers working on or interested in Programme topics; Technical end-users; general public.*

*Budget*

*Despite the overall reduction of the Programme’s financial envelope, Programme Authorities are committed to keeping the communication budget at the same level with the previous Programme. To augment the Communication impact, support by all programme bodies, including the national contact point network, will be employed.*

*Following the previous Programme’s main lines of expense and the current strategy, aiming at increasing the social media outreach and greening support, the budget is distributed as follows: 40% on events, 28% on IT tools, 12% on branding, 10% on content strategy (social media campaigns, podcasts, videos), 5% press relations, 5% on project trainings.*

***Rough distribution per year depending on the launch of the first calls***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***YEARS*** | *2021* | *2022* | *2023* | *2024* | *2025* | *2026* | *2027* | *2028* | *2029* |
| ***%*** | *0* | *26* | *20* | *16* | *12* | *10* | *8* | *5* | *3* |

*Main Considerations:*

*Objectives of a programme are built on a number of levels, all supporting the achievement of the overall goals of the programme.*

*The Universal Com. Objective is deliberately set in general terms, because it shall be aligned with all four selected Programme Policy Objectives.*

*Each one of the four policy objectives will have tailored communication objectives.*

*The tailored communication objectives (and their action plans) will not only support Communication Strategy, but ideally, will contribute to the overall goals of the Programme.*

*Monitoring and Evaluation Considerations:*

*An evaluation plan for the whole Programme will be prepared and submitted to the Joint Monitoring Committee within 12 months of the Programme approval. It will include provisions for the monitoring and evaluation of the Communication Strategy.*

*As a general rule, the programme life cycle creates different needs for communication in different phases of the programme. In the beginning, the programme needs to target applicants while the need to capitalise on results grows towards the end of the programme period.*

*Implementation Considerations:*

*At minimum, the Programme will run a website including information on calls, the list of projects, and respective beneficiaries.*

*Further to the above regulatory requirement, an integrated Media strategy will be elaborated. It will seek to employ communication across multiple media.*

*The combination of communication platforms will be tailored to the communication objectives. By selecting the appropriate mix of media platforms and narratives, the media strategy will seek to engage stakeholders throughout the Programme cycles.*

*The media strategy will benefit from the lessons learnt from the 2014-2020 period.*

*The communication strategy will be funded by the Programme’s budget for technical assistance.*

# Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds

*Reference: point (i) of Article 17(3), Article 24*

*Background information and Lessons learnt*

*The ‘typical’ Programme beneficiary is a relatively small organisation, stemming from civil society.*

*Calls for Project Proposals of the previous Programme(s) were oversubscribed, indicating a ‘funding gap’.*

*Several applicants did not manage to secure funding. The majority of organisations that ‘did not make it’ are small municipalities, local organizations based at remote areas and newly established NGOs*

*SPFs and Programme Strategy*

*The SPF, as a tool, is well positioned to support organisations with limited resources, be it administrative, financial and human capital. The SPF can therefore address the ‘funding gap’ of small scale organisations.*

*The SPF is also expected to expand the Programme impact, by increasing the pool of beneficiaries and the involvement of citizens.*

*Based on the above considerations and Programme design, the most suitable applications of the SPF are under:*

*PO2 (SO vi), Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy*

*PO4 (SO vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation*

*and ISO 1 Vi) other actions to support better cooperation governance*

*Implementing Provisions*

*One SPF will be set up for each one of the above three Priorities. They will be managed by an SPF ‘beneficiary’.*

*The beneficiary will be a body with legal personality. The selection of the SPF beneficiary will be decided by the Programme Joint Monitoring Committee.*

*Considerations for the selection of SPF beneficiary:*

*- sound organizational structure*

*- capacity to provide financial flows to final recipients across borders, experience in verification and/or auditing, including adequate staffing of personnel with relevant skills*

*- experience in the management of EU funded Programmes and/or Interreg Projects*

*As an illustration:*

*- the Region of Central Macedonia (RCM), is entrusted by the JMC to manage the SPF.*

*- The RCM, as the SPF beneficiary signs a Subsidy Contract with the Managing Authority and is responsible for the management of the SPF operation, in line with article 25 of the CPR Regulation.*

*- According to the Regulation, the selection of the projects will be done by representatives of both partner countries, therefore:*

*- The SPF will invite an entity with proven organisational capacity from the Republic of North Macedonia to participate in the implementation of the SPF (e.g. the Region of Southeast).*

*- The two entities will establish a Steering Committee composed of representatives of both organisations. The Steering Committee will establish its own Rules of Procedure, and will be responsible for award of grants to the ‘final recipients’.*

*In line with Art 25(3), the SPF beneficiary is responsible for the “operation’s” communication activities. To this end, the RCM shall*

*- make available to the public the list of the final recipients which benefit from the operation,*

*- ensures that the final recipients meet their respective obligations ( “Final recipients shall communicate publicly on the Interreg operation”*

*Further implementing modalities*

*As the SPF is treated as a project, the SPF beneficiary shall be responsible for financial flows to the final recipients. As such, the RCM shall demonstrate its legislative and technical capacity to provide the money transfers to the final recipients in both countries. Further, the SPF beneficiaries are accountable for the implementation of the operation and bookkeeping (audit trail requirements).*

*Management Verifications:*

*The objective of management verifications is to verify that outputs were delivered.*

*Depending on the nature of the outputs, the usual reporting procedures may be relaxed. In addition, the Programme Authorities (e.g. Joint Secretariat, Info Points) may follow up when necessary, substituting the traditional verification activities of the First Level Controllers.*

*Final Considerations*

*An early activation of the SPFs will be envisaged. Benefits:*

*- Dissemination results and ‘advertisement’ of the Programme*

*- Contribution to the output indicators, before the maturity of the ‘traditional’ projects.*

*The exact Terms of Reference will be specified with relation to each SPF’s Call towards the potential final recipients. As a general rule:*

*Assessment criteria will be less stringent to ‘favour’ newcomers*

*Costs will be calculated with a Simplified Cost Option (SCO) methodology.*

*Simplification will be sought throughout the Project cycle.*

*The idea is to minimise the administrative requirements, as a means to reduce the arrangements for selection, reporting and control. Ultimately, the error risk will also decrease.*

*At the same time, provisions will be at place to encourage the participation of small scale organisations. As such, pre-financing may still be available.*

# Implementing provisions

## Programme authorities

*Reference: point (a) of Article 17(6)*

***Table 9***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme authorities**  | **Name of the institution** [255] | **Head of authority/body (position or post)** [200] | **E-mail** [200] |
| Managing Αuthority | Hellenic RepublicMinistry of Development & InvestmentsManaging Authority of European Territorial Cooperation ProgrammesLeoforos Georgikis Scholis 65GR – 57001, Thessaloniki Greece | Head of the Managing Authority | E-mail: interreg@mou.gr |
| National authority (for programmes with participating third countries, if appropriate) | Ministry of Local Self-Government - National AuthorityAve. Kiril and Metodij (Cyril and Methodius) no. 54, Skopje, 1000Republic of North MacedoniaTel: +389 2 3253 921 | CoordinatorTerritorial Cooperation Management Structure  | info@mls.gov.mk hajrie.office@gmail.com |
| Audit Authority | Hellenic RepublicMinistry of FinanceGeneral Accounting Office/Financial Audit Committee57, Panepistimiou str., Gr-10564, Athens, GreeceTel: +30 210 – 33 55 981Fax: +30 210 – 33 55 939 | General Director of Management and Control of EU Co-financed programmes | E-mail: gddde@mof-glk.gr |
| Group of auditors representatives  | For the Republic of North Macedonia

|  |
| --- |
| Audit Authority for Audit of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance  |

 | Head of Authority |

|  |
| --- |
|  emilija.jovanovic@aaipa.gov.mk  |

 |
| First Level Control ;Republic of North Macedonia | Decentralised FLC system established and coordinated by the National Authority (Ministry of Local Self-Government)Ave. Kiril and Metodij (Cyril and Methodius) no. 54, Skopje, 1000Republic of North Macedonia | Head of Unit 1.2Financial Control | For the Republic of North Macedonia |
| First Level Control ;Greece | Special Service Managing the “European Territorial Cooperation” Objective Cooperation Programmes – Unit C of the Hellenic Ministry of Development and InvestmentsLeoforos Georgikis Scholis 65, GR – 57001, Thessaloniki Greeceinterreg@mou.gr | Head of Unit C ‘Expenditure Verifications’ | kostxris@mou.gr |
| Body to which the payments are to be made by the Commission | General Accounting Office/ Financial Audit Committee of the Hellenic Ministry of Finance57, Panepistimiou str., GR-10564, Athens, Greece | General Director of Management and Control of EU Co-financed programmes | Email: gddde@mof-glk.gr |

## Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

*Reference: point (b) of Article 17(6)*

*Text field [3 500]*

*The joint secretariat is set up after consultation with the Partner countries under the responsibility of the managing authority. The partner countries delegate the task to the Managing Authority (i.e. MA of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes of the Greek Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism) to carry out all necessary actions for the swift and smooth transition from the 2014-2020 implementing structures to the 2021-2027 implementing structures.*

*As such, the Managing Authority takes advantage of the arrangements, already in place, from the 2014-2020 programming period. The current structure of the ‘Joint Technical Secretariat’ will be retained with possible adjustments and enhancements to achieve efficiency and effectiveness.*

*The location of the joint secretariat is in Thessaloniki, Greece. Antenna office will be established in the eligible area of the programme in the Republic of North Macedonia*

*The joint secretariat assists the monitoring committee, managing authority, and where appropriate, the audit authority in carrying out their duties. The exact framework of the JS shall be layed out in its rules of procedures, in agreement with the MA and the partner countries.*

*The joint secretariat is funded from the technical assistance budget.*

## Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

*Reference: point (c) of Article 17(6)*

*Text field [10 500]*

*Legal Basis:*

*Article 52 (2 of the Interreg Reg)*

*The arrangements related to irregularities and the apportionment of liabilities, in principle, will continue from the 2014-2020 programming period. In the eventuality that the managing authority suspects or is informed about an irregular use of granted funds, it shall undertake the necessary follow up actions, such as suspending the reimbursement of the financing related to the Lead Partner (LP) or Project Partner (PP) as well as withdrawing or recovering the irregular amounts.*

*Without prejudice to the Partner Countries’ (PCs’) responsibility for detecting and correcting irregularities and for recovering amounts unduly paid in accordance with Article 69 (2) of the CPR, as stated in Article 52 (1) of the Interreg Regulation, the Managing Authority shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the LP. The PPs shall then repay the LP any amounts unduly paid.*

*In line with Article 52 (2 of the Interreg Reg), the Managing Authority will not recover an amount unduly paid if it does not exceed EUR 250 IPA (not including interest) paid to an operation in a given accounting year. If the LP does not succeed in securing repayment from a PP, or if the Managing Authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the LP, the PC on whose territory the LP or PP concerned is located, shall reimburse the Managing Authority the amount unduly paid to that PP in accordance with Article 52 (3) of the Interreg Regulation.*

*The Managing Authority (MA) is responsible for reimbursing the amounts recovered to the general budget of the Union, in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the PC’s as laid down below. The MA will reimburse the funds to the Union once the amounts are recovered from the LP/PP/PC.*

*Should the Managing Authority bear any legal expenses for recovery recourse proceedings – initiated after consultation and in mutual agreement with the respective PC - even if the proceedings are unsuccessful it will be reimbursed by the country hosting the LP or PP responsible for the said procedure.*

*Since PCs have the overall liability for the IPA support granted to LPs or PPs located on their territories, they shall ensure that any financial corrections required will be secured and they shall seek to recover any amounts lost as a result of an irregularity or negligence caused by a beneficiary located on their territory. Where appropriate a country may also charge interest on late payments.*

*In accordance with Article 52 (4) of the Interreg Regulation, once the PC has reimbursed the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid to a partner, it may continue or start a recovery procedure against that partner under its national law.*

*Should the PC not reimburse the Managing Authority (MA), in accordance with Article 52 (5) the amounts shall be subject to a recovery order by the European Commission that, where possible, will be executed by offsetting with amounts due to the participating country. Such recovery shall not constitute a financial correction and shall not reduce the support from the IPA to the respective Interreg programme. The offsetting shall concern subsequent payments to the same Interreg programme. In such an eventuality, the MA will start bilateral discussions with the concerned Partner Country until a joint solution is found on how and from where to offset the amount deducted by the European Commission.*

*PCs will bear liability in connection with the use of the programme IPA funding as follows:*

*- Each PC bears liability for possible financial consequences of irregularities caused by LPs and PPs located on its territory.*

*- In case of a systemic irregularity or financial correction (decided by the programme authorities or the European Commission), the PC will bear the financial consequences in proportion to the relevant irregularity detected on the respective country. For a systemic irregularity or financial correction on programme level that cannot be linked to a specific PC, the liability shall be jointly borne by the PCs in proportion to the IPA claimed to the European Commission (for expenditure of beneficiaries located on the PCs’ territories) during the period which forms the basis for the systemic irregularity or financial correction.*

*The above liability principles also apply to corrections to Technical Assistance (TA) calculated in compliance with Article 27 of the Interreg regulation, since such corrections would be the direct consequence of project related irregularities (whether systemic or not) if they cannot be reused. The Managing Authority will keep the PCs informed about all irregularities and their impact on TA. At the latest at the end of the programming period, the Managing Authority will carry out a reconciliation to verify if there is a remaining balance of irregularities that have affected the TA budget and could not be reused. In case of a remaining balance, the Managing Authority will inform and ask the respective PC/s to reimburse the corresponding IPA amount. The amount shall be transferred to the TA account of the Managing Authority.*

*As stated in Article 69 (12) of the CPR, irregularities shall be reported by the Partner Country, which shall also inform the Managing Authority who will in turn inform the Audit Authority. Specific procedures in this respect will be part of the description of the programme management and control system to be established in accordance with Article 69 of the CPR.*

*In the event of financial corrections imposed by the Managing Authority or the Commission and in case liabilities cannot be assigned to a specific PC (e.g. systemic error), an apportionment of liabilities among the PCs will be made. The apportionment will be based on the projection of the specific error rate to the population of project beneficiaries per Partner Country potentially affected.*

# Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

*Reference point of Articles 94 and 95*

**Table 10**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Intended use of Articles 94 and 95** | **YES** | **NO** |
| From the adoption the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under priority according to Article 94 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 1) | ☐ | ☐ |
| From the adoption the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 2) | ☐ | ☐ |

 |

# APPENDICES

* Map 1: Map of the programme area
* Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates
* Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs
* Appendix 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable

**Map of the programme area**



## Appendix 1

**Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates**

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission**

**(Article 94 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of submitting the proposal |   |
|   |   |

This Appendix is not required when EU-level simplified cost options established by the delegated act referred to in Article 94(4) of CPR are used.

**A.   Summary of the main elements**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the simplified cost option will be applied in %** | **Type(s) of operation covered** | **Indicator triggering reimbursement** | **Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement** | **Type of simplified cost option (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)** | **Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the simplified cost option** |
|   |   |   |   | Code[(1)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr1-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0001) | Description | Code[(2)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr2-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0002) | Description |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**B.   Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)**

Did the managing authority receive support from an external company to set out the simplified costs below?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   |   |
| If so, please specify which external company: | Yes/No – Name of external company |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.1 | Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation[(3)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr3-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0003) |

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| --- | --- |
| 1.2 | Specific objective |

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| --- | --- |
| 1.3 | Indicator triggering reimbursement[(4)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr4-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0004) |

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| --- | --- |
| 1.4 | Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement |

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| --- | --- |
| 1.5 | Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate |

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| --- | --- |
| 1.6 | Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the simplified cost option |

 |   |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.7 | Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.8 | Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation? (Y/N) |

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|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.9 | Adjustment(s) method[(5)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr5-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0005) |

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.10 | Verification of the achievement of the units delivered

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| — | describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| — | describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| — | describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store the relevant data/documents |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.11 | Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures[(6)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr6-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0006) and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low) |

 |   |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.12 | Total amount (national and EU) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis |

 |   |

**C.   Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1. | Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data; where the data are stored; cut-off dates; validation, etc.):

|  |
| --- |
|   |

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2. | Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 88(2) of CPR is relevant to the type of operation:

|  |
| --- |
|   |

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 3. | Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission:

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| --- |
|   |

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 4. | Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate:

|  |
| --- |
|   |

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 5. | Assessment of the audit authority or authorities of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data:

|  |
| --- |
|   |

 |

[(1)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc1-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0001)  This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I CPR.

[(2)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc2-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0002)  This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

[(3)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc3-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0003)  Envisaged starting date of the selection of operations and envisaged final date of their completion (ref. Article 63(5) of CPR).

[(4)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc4-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0004)  For operations encompassing several simplified cost options covering different categories of costs, different projects or successive phases of an operation, the fields 1.3 to 1.11 need to be filled in for each indicator triggering reimbursement.

[(5)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc5-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0005)  If applicable, indicate the frequency and timing of the adjustment and a clear reference to a specific indicator (including a link to the website where this indicator is published, if applicable).

[(6)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc6-L_2021231EN.01015101-E0006)  Are there any potential negative implications on the quality of the supported operations and, if so, what measures (such as quality assurance) will be taken to offset this risk?

## Appendix 2

**Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs**

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission**

**(Article 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date of submitting the proposal** |   |
|   |   |

This Appendix is not required when amounts for EU-level financing not linked to costs established by the delegated act referred to in Article 95(4) of CPR are used.

**A.   Summary of the main elements**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Fund** | **Specific objective** | **The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs** | **Type(s) of operation covered** | **Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission** | **Indicator** | **Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission** | **Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary or beneficiaries** |
|   |   |   |   | Code[(1)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr1-L_2021231EN.01015501-E0001) | Description |   | Code[(2)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntr2-L_2021231EN.01015501-E0002) | Description |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**B.   Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| --- | --- |
| 1.1 | Description of the operation type |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.2 | Specific objective |

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|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.3 | Conditions to be fulfilled or results to be achieved |

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|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.4 | Deadline for fulfilment of conditions or results to be achieved |

 |   |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.5 | Unit of measurement for conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission |

 |   |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.6 | Intermediate deliverables (if applicable) triggering reimbursement by the Commission with schedule for reimbursements |

 | Intermediate deliverables | Envisaged date | Amounts (in EUR) |
|   |   |   |
|   |   |   |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.7 | Total amount (including Union and national funding) |

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| --- | --- |
| 1.8 | Adjustment(s) method |

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.9 | Verification of the achievement of the result or condition (and where relevant, the intermediate deliverables)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| — | describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the result or condition (and where relevant, each of the intermediate deliverables) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| — | describe how management verifications (including on-the-spot) will be carried out, and by whom |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| — | describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store relevant data/documents |

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| --- | --- |
| 1.10 | Use of grants in the form of financing not linked to costs/ Does the grant provided by Member State to beneficiaries take the form of financing not linked to costs? [Y/N] |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.11 | Arrangements to ensure the audit trailPlease list the body(ies) responsible for these arrangements. |

 |   |

[(1)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc1-L_2021231EN.01015501-E0001)  This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I to the CPR and Annex IV to the EMFAF Regulation.

[(2)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059&from=EN#ntc2-L_2021231EN.01015501-E0002)  This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

## Appendix 3

**List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable - Article 17(3)**

|  |
| --- |
| Text field [2 000]*Land Border Crossing in Laimos / Dolno Dupeni , in Lake Prespa region.**The inception of a border crossing dates back several years ago. The planning of the relevant strategic project was made possible by the bilateral IPA CBC 2014-2020 Programme. As part of the planning, the following studies will be undertaken, to facilitate the implementation of the 2021-7 operation of strategic importance (part A):**A)**Greece**topographic works and technical works assessment, studies of buildings and shelters at the border crossing, environmental, geotechnical studies, water streams and hydrological studies.**North Macedonia**Study of the works for the existing police station.**B)**Following the above, the scope of the project can be defined as:**1. At minimum: Construction of a police / customs station on the Greek side of the border.* *Renovation of the existing police station in the North Macedonia side of the border. Design and construction of all necessary additional buildings and installations.**Procurement of equipment for both sides.**2. Other actions: Construction of the road to and from the border.* *3. Auxiliary actions: Interventions in the cross-border municipalities.**Budget: Up to € 8 mil. will be earmarked from the IPA CBC 2021-7 Programme, depending on the project specifications. Additional funding will be provided by the Delegation of the EU.**Timetable: The core activities are expected to start after mid 2023, at the earliest, following the preparatory studies under A.* *Partnership: Customs Authorities ; Ministries of Interior ; Municipalities and Development Agencies of partner countries.**Communication: The project is focal to the respective Policy Priority, therefore it will be promoted throughout the Programme cycle. Definition of major publicity event(s), with the participation of the European Commission and the Managing Authority, will be made in the Programme Communication strategy, which will be updated to capture the dynamic nature of the project.* |