

Management of NDICI funds in practice

Sharing lessons learned



Wednesday 21 May 2025

Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration
16 Libertății Bld, Bucharest (Sector 5) – Romania





Managing NDICI funds in practice

Sharing what we know

21 May 2025

Bucharest (Hybrid)

Outline

NDICI funds are granted to Interreg external cooperation programmes – they allow for truly and tangibly supporting the participation of neighbouring third countries and regions in cooperation projects, thus reinforcing regional integration and providing concrete responses to shared challenges, especially in border areas with an external dimension.

In the 2021–2027 period, two Outermost Regions programmes (Madeira-Azores-Canarias and Indian Ocean) under Interreg Strand D are making this experience a reality, as NDICI funds have now been allocated to them and they are preparing to launch their first calls. This took several months in the making to reach that important step, and obviously still a lot of questions remain to be answered as we are heading towards the implementation phase. Fortunately, other programmes – namely Interreg NEXT and IPA – have already overcome these challenges, developed and tested this approach successfully in previous programming periods.

This workshop aims to build on their valuable experience. It offers an opportunity to share key lessons and practices in managing NDICI funds, supported by Interact, TESIM and European Commission who will provide guidance and clarification on the relevant regulatory framework and practical implementation. The event will prioritise open discussion and exchange, offering all participants the chance to ask questions and share experiences. The knowledge exchanged will help shape an adapted and efficient model for NDICI in indirect management, to be trialled in this period by the two programmes and to serve as basis for reflection of a wider implementation NDICI funds in OMR programmes in post-27. All OMR programmes are therefore warmly invited, as they also have past experience managing external funds, and the discussions would be relevant in all context.

The event will be hosted by the Managing Authority of the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin programme in Bucharest, in-presence attendance is recommended to favour meaningful exchanges, but the option to join remotely via an online link is available.

Objectives

- Exchange on operational management of NDICI funds, including experiences with call preparation and running both systems in parallel.
- Clarify the regulatory framework and requirements involved in NDICI management.
- Learn from Interreg NEXT and IPA programmes to ensure a smooth and effective implementation of NDICI-funded activities in OMR programmes.
- Reflect together on how to build a tailored approach for the next programming period.



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Agenda

Please note that the following timings and sections of the agenda are only indicative – the purpose of the meeting is to share knowledge and experience among participants, allowing maximum time for Q&A discussions.

09.30 – 09.40

Welcome

Interact - Tour de table

Introduction of meeting objectives and wider context

09.40 – 10.00

Presentation of the programmes and NDICI plans

Representatives of Interreg MAC and Indian Ocean programmes

Both programmes will introduce their context, what plans they have for the integration of NDICI and upcoming call, challenges and opportunities.

10.00 – 11.00

NDICI in practice – lessons from Interreg NEXT and IPA

ENPI CBC Black Sea Managing Authority and Turkish National Authority

Programme representatives to share practical experiences from 2007-2013 to date, followed by open Q&A

11.15 – 12.00

Overview of regulatory framework and tools available for implementation

Interact – TESIM – DG REGIO

Guidance and discussion around current status of implementation

12.00 – 12.30

Zoom in on NDICI call design

Questions around the dual fund call preparation, criteria, contracting, engagement...

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00

Parallel systems and coordination: what works and what needs to be adjusted?

Managing NDICI alongside ERDF, financial flows, eligibility, control and audit implications

15.00 – 15.45

Experience of Interreg and EDF articulation – lessons learned

TBC – Interreg Caribbean

Sharing experience on practical implementation

If time allows – to be covered during a subsequent meeting

Looking ahead: adapting the model

Update on current status regarding preparation of post-27 period.

Perspectives/expectations of financial allocation



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15.45 – 16.00

Wrap up & next steps

Interact

Summary of key points and outstanding questions to be clarified