

Regional network meeting of programmes in **Central and South-East Europe**

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Making results count and discovering the secret to sustainable project closure



How do we define durability?

Oxford's learners Dictionaries:

Durability: The quality of being able to last for a long time without breaking or getting weaker

Harmonised definition

Durability refers to the fact that project achievements will be available/accessible/useful to relevant groups (after the project's lifetime), in order to have a lasting effect on the territory and the population.

Requirements and agreements

CPR (EU 2021/1060) – Articles 65 & 66

Article 65: No major change within 5 years after final payment.
Article 66: Investment must stay within the region; relocation = ineligibility + repayment risk

Interreg Regulation (EU 2021/1059)

- Art 22: Programmes must verify that beneficiaries have financial resources and mechanisms to cover operation and maintenance costs **for infrastructure or productive investments.**

Harmonised Approach via HIT Tools

From applications, to assessment, to final report and control.

Harmonised approach

Application Form

- C.8.2 Durability: Describe post-project use of outputs and who will use them.
- C.8.3 Transferability: Measures to ensure uptake and reuse in other territories.

Quality Assessment Criteria

- Assessment of the project's potential for long-term impact and sustainability during the selection process.

Final Report (some programmes call it JAR)

- C.3.1: How outputs will be maintained and made available.
- C.4.2: Long-term cooperation to sustain project results (e.g., institutional structures, action plans, strategic alignment).

Control Report and Checklist

- Verification of the continued use and maintenance of project outputs post-completion.

HIT project final report

C.1 Project story

- The section summarises the project's final achievements in a story telling format.
- This field is transferred to keep.eu.

C.2 Project's relevant mentions and prizes

- This field is in a list format and can be left empty in case the project did not receive any prizes or mentions.
- This field is transferred to keep.eu.

HIT project final report - optional

C.3 Outputs after project end

- C.3.1 What will happen with project outputs after the project end and how will the outputs be made available to the general public?

C.4.2 Cooperation beyond this project

- Measures: Institutional structures for maintaining of the project results
- Long run action plan for maintaining the project results
- Adjustment of the regional/national strategic documents or/and planning procedures for maintaining the project results
- Follow-up projects

C.5 Contribution to wider policies and strategies

How does it work in practice – Programme example

Interreg Central Europe

Synergies

How did the project coordinate with other European, national, or regional initiatives? What added value was gained?
Related initiatives/projects and funding instruments

Uptake, Upscaling & Transfer

Political/institutional uptake and durability of results; Upscaling or territorial roll-out (planned or ongoing); Transfer of results to other territories or organisations

Funds Leveraged

Additional funds attracted during or after project (up to 3 years); Amounts, sources, and follow-up activities.

Follow-up & Continued Cooperation

Measures for sustaining cooperation among partners beyond project end Alignment with indicator RCR84: Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion.

How does it work in practice – Programme example ^{1/3}

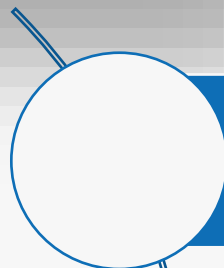
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Project closure – General requirements

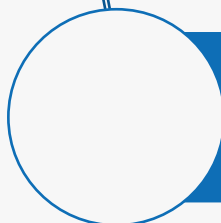
- Closure meeting: Lead Partner, Joint Secretariat, Contact Points
- Final Project Progress Report (submitted by project)
- Project Closure Report (submitted by project)

How does it work in practice – Programme example ^{2/3}

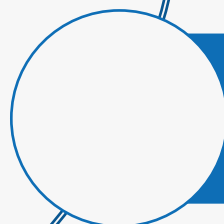
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A questionnaire: This forms the basis of the discussion at the closure meeting which takes place 3 - 4 months before the project's end date.



A presentation by the lead partner (and potentially other partners) of the project focusing on main achievements, results, deviations and long-term plans may be made during the meeting



An in-depth discussion between the project and the Programme, aimed at collecting additional information on project achievements.

Site visit(s) by the JS/ Contact Points, where deemed relevant.

How does it work in practice – Programme example ^{3/3}

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LTE – Long Term Effect procedure

- Launched by NCP **18 months after project end**
- Step 1: **Questionnaire** sent to Lead Partner (LP)
- Step 2: **Interview / in-person meeting** with LP
 - Occasionally: WP leaders join
 - With NCP and, if possible, JS Project Officer

Making project results last

Let's exchange

- ☐ **Durability & impact:** How do you ensure that outputs and results continue to have a lasting impact after the end of the project?
- ☐ **Uptake & transfer:** How do you ensure the uptake and durability of the project outputs and results?
- ☐ **Evaluation & future calls:** How do you use insights from project closure to improve evaluation exercises, shape future calls, or increase programme visibility?

Making project results last - Durability & impact

Key outcomes of the exchange

Practices	Examples
✓ Annual monitoring of sustainability via monitoring reports; ✓ Follow-up cooperation agreement 1 year after project end; ✓ Promotion of project results at programme & EU level ✓ Sustainability requirements in Application Form (AF); ✓ Face-to-face advice on durability during contracting ✓ Reporting: check if results are promoted ✓ Final report focuses on long-term impacts ✓ Follow-up mechanisms: reports, spot checks.	➤ 5-year follow-up report after last payment (IPA HU-RS); ➤ Closure reminder letters for 2 years (IPA BG-TR, IPA BG-RS, IPA BG-MK); ➤ Ex-post visits on risk-based approach (IT-HR).

Making project results last - Uptake & Transfer

Key outcomes of the exchange

Practices	Examples
✓ 1-year post-project evaluation of result uptake; ✓ Declarations of uptake (check sufficiency); ✓ Capitalisation & uptake in standard or strategic calls and OSIs; ✓ Procedures for management bodies: follow-up reports, spot checks.	➤ Capitalisation dashboards & search tools (SI-HR, IT-HR); ➤ Extra scoring in assessment grids for capitalisation; ➤ Specific capitalisation calls or standard calls with capitalisation aspects.

Making project results last - Evaluation & Future Calls

Key outcomes of the exchange

Practices	Examples
✓ Learn from closure to improve programme evaluation & visibility; ✓ Improve indicators based on lessons learned; ✓ Combine post-2027 programming with 2021-2027 evaluation; ✓ Uptake of innovative approaches for mainstreaming; ✓ Surveys with beneficiaries for internal evaluation.	➤ Surveys with beneficiaries for internal evaluation (IT-HR)

Making project results last - Topics for further discussion

Key outcomes of the exchange

- ☐ Possible benchmark/methodology needed for handling the sustainability period;
- ☐ Clarify responsibilities: MA, JS, MS? Only LP or also PP?
- ☐ Harmonised templates could support this.

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:
[Interact.eu/Library/Regional network meeting of programmes in Central and South-East Europe](#)

Want to discuss it? Join our MS Teams environment!
[Portal.Interact.eu | Programme and project management](#)

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Project reporting, monitoring and closing

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