

Interreg Programme Management Handbook

Guide to the 2021-2027 period

The Interreg Programme Management Handbook comprises a series of factsheets. They can be read individually, or collectively, to understand the relevance of certain aspects of Interreg management. They cover the relevance, legal basis, key challenges and approaches to the given subject.

Factsheet | **Intervention Logic**

1. What is it? What is the definition of this work?

The programme intervention logic demonstrates how supported actions and developed outputs address the territorial challenges and needs tackled by the programme. It indicates how the programme will deliver its expected results.

It is also the programme's main tool to structure the individual projects. Indicators form part of the intervention logic and applicants will have to set targets for indicators in the application form. The achievements on indicators will contribute to the project's objectives, which also form part of the intervention logic. Projects must monitor their achievements on indicators and objectives through progress reports.

Programmes use a fixed set of indicators to measure the performance of projects and the programme. At application stage each project must set targets for the indicators that are relevant. The information on indicators recorded in the Online Monitoring System supports the monitoring of the implementation of projects and the programme.

Programme outputs and results build on outputs and results achieved by the funded projects. Therefore, there must be a clear coherence between the project and the programme intervention logic. To measure the achievement of programme outputs and results, project outputs and results are captured by means of corresponding output and result indicators.

2. Why are we discussing it?

In the 2021-2027 programming period there is a drive to further streamline the intervention logic in comparison to the 2014-2020 period.

In line with that, for the current programming period, the intervention logic focuses further on broad policy objectives and specific objectives. All indicators and types of intervention are at one level – specific objective only¹ (not spread between priorities and specific objectives as in the past).

Furthermore, the regulatory framework for territorial cooperation published in June 2021 has established that programmes should have simplified, streamlined and logical performance frameworks that should be built from the following elements:

- Five Policy Objectives for ERDF and a pre-defined set of specific objectives for reaching these objectives (according to [ERDF/CF Regulation](#), Article 3)
- Two Interreg-specific objectives ([Interreg Regulation](#), Article 14)

Project Intervention Logic

The programme intervention logic should be mirrored in the project's intervention logic. Each project applying in an Interreg programme should be able to define outputs and results that will feed into the programme output indicator and programme result indicator.

However, to be able to aggregate indicator data at programme level, projects must use the same measurement unit as used for programme output and result indicators. The project intervention logic should present a coherent and logically correct progression from activities, work packages, outputs and all the way to results.

Projects must provide, already at application stage, the necessary information for programmes to assess their contribution to the achievement of the programme-specific objectives by contributing to the achievement of programme output and result indicators.

Interact developed [HIT application form](#) has been designed to support this need. All fields are linked to allow data to be entered only once to maximise data consistency and reliability, and to comply with single-entry requirements. In the long-term, this ensures that the data is manageable and can be aggregated – both for projects during their reporting, and for programmes to monitor progress towards their expected milestones and results.

3. What are the Legal references and basis for this topic?

[Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1058](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund

- Article 3 - Specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund
- Article 8 - Indicators

[Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1059 \(IR\)](#) — on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg)

- Article 1 – Subject matter and scope
- Article 3 – Interreg strands
- Article 14 – Interreg specific objectives
- Article 15 – Thematic concentration
- Article 17 – Content of Interreg programmes

¹ [Article 16 of the CPR](#)

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR) — common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund (...)

- Article 5 – Policy Objectives
- Article 15 – Enabling conditions
- Article 16 – Performance framework
- Article 17 – Methodology for the establishment of the performance framework

4. What are the challenges, key considerations and frequently asked questions?

Some of the challenges connected to the intervention logic are associated with the idea of how the intervention logic may be built in an Interreg programme. The session below addresses the main questions programmes need to address to develop the intervention logic.

5. How are they addressed?

Selection of policy objectives (PO)

Based on the analysis of the programme area and identified joint needs and challenges, programmes have to select among the 5 Policy Objectives and the 2 Interreg-specific objectives.

Interreg-specific objectives are considered as policy objectives. These are:

- "A better cooperation governance" (Article 14(4), Interreg Regulation) - mainly for "internal" Interreg programmes within the boundaries of the EU.
- "A safer and more secure Europe" (Article 14(5), Interreg Regulation) - mainly an option for external cooperation programmes.

For most Interreg programmes the actions contributing to one policy objective (PO) will be implemented through one corresponding priority. The choice of policy objectives for cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes must respect the rules on thematic concentration (Article 15(1), Interreg Regulation). For transnational cooperation programmes, the chosen policy objectives have to correspond to the priorities set in the relevant macro-regional strategies (Article 15(3), Interreg Regulation).

Selection of specific objectives (SO)

A priority must consist of one or more specific objectives as set in the Regulation where a Policy Objective based on the ERDF-Regulation has been chosen. Interreg-specific Objectives are considered as policy objectives – each of the Interreg-specific objectives covers several specific objectives.

6. How does it work in practice?

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the intervention logic a series of steps must be taken:

Link to the type of action

- The programme has defined types of actions which intend to frame the major types of projects supported in a priority, respectively, under a specific objective.
- The project should link to one type of action (in many programmes these are considered indicative; thus, this is not necessarily a pre-requirement).

Define the project overall objectives and link it to the programme priority specific objective

- Project defines a project overall objective, if this is required by the programme.
- Choose a programme priority specific objective to which the project contributes and describe how it will contribute. It is important to secure consistency between the project overall objective and the programme priority specific objective, as this will help focus the reach of the project and underline what impact the project will make.

Define project specific objectives

- The project can define a number of project specific objectives. Each project specific objective will be supported by a work package.
- The project specific objectives need to show a direct contribution to the project overall objective. If the project has not defined a project overall objective, the project specific objectives should clearly demonstrate how they will contribute to the achievement of programme priority specific objective.
- Each work package, created to support the delivery of the project specific objectives, outlines and describes which activities and outputs support the achievement of this objective.
- It should be possible, at least to some extent, to measure the achievement of project specific objectives by monitoring the delivery of project outputs.

Define project outputs and link them to the programme output indicators

- Project outputs are specific elements that can be quantified and that align with a programme output indicator. Project output and programme output indicators need to have the same measurement unit to be able to aggregate them and monitor progress on programme level.
- An aggregation of project outputs based on programme output indicators is essential for the achievement of output targets set on the programme level. Project specific output indicators are not encouraged, because they fall out of programme intervention logic and therefore don't contribute to the achievement of programme objectives and indicators.
- It is mandatory for the project to contribute to at least one programme output indicator.
- It is possible for several project outputs to contribute to the same programme output indicator.

Develop a work plan

- The project work plan must explain what needs to be done to deliver project outputs and results, in order to achieve project specific objectives.
- The work plan is divided into several work packages, which are based on project specific objectives and are further broken down into activities.
- A side-product of the project that contributes to the development of a project output can be listed as a deliverable of an activity in the work package. However, not every activity has to have a deliverable. Deliverables are not a part of the intervention logic, as there is no causal link between them and project outputs.

Define project results and link them to the programme result indicators

- Indicate to which programme result indicator, corresponding to the chosen programme priority specific objective, the project will contribute.
- Define project results that will contribute to the chosen programme result indicators.
- The measurement unit is pre-defined by the programme result indicator.

7. Good practice examples, innovative approaches

Programmes are constantly evolving their approach to the intervention logic. Some good practice examples are listed below.

- Interreg North Sea [Factsheet on Intervention Logic and Indicators](#)
- Interreg NEXT-MED [Performance Framework Methodology Paper](#)
- Danube Programme Video on [How to Build the Intervention Logic](#)
- Interact's [HIT – Harmonised Implementation Tools repository](#)

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