

The 2028-2034 MFF and Interreg

Check-in

*Directorate-General
Regional and Urban Policy*

11 March 2026

Three blocks

Horizontal regulations

- **MFF Regulation**, accompanied by political communication
- **Performance Regulation**, covering:
 - MFF level common rules – do no significant harm, reporting
 - Environmental, climate adaptation and mitigation social tracking and gender scoring
 - Common intervention fields and indicators

The "Plan" Regulation

- Establishes the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security
- Objectives and requirements for the NRPP
- Rule of law and Charter horizontal conditions
- Budget
- Financial rules
- Governance
- Audit and control

Funds-specific Regulations

- **ERDF/Cohesion Fund (including Interreg)**
- European Social Fund
- Common Market Organisation
- Common Agricultural Policy
- Common Fisheries Policy
- HOME affairs
- EU School Scheme



Interreg: Legislative Developments – steps before trialogues

Council – Structural Measures and Outermost Regions Working Party for Interreg

- Several meetings on Interreg:
 - clarifications of the proposal, questions from Member States and Commission replies
 - Presentation of the planned content for the Implementing Act
 - Presentation of examples of milestones and targets
- 3/2/26: 1st Council proposal; 30/3/26: 2nd Council proposal (planned) – mid-2026: Council position?
 - Good progress on the NRPP and Performance Regulations in their working parties

European Parliament – REGI Committee for Interreg

- December 2025 : 1st meeting on ERDF/CF Regulation, including Interreg
 - Work started in 2026, mainly in the EP Committees on the NRPP Regulation
- December 2026: EP plenary vote on the NRPP Regulation (planned)
- March 2027: EP plenary vote for the ERDF/CF Regulation, including Interreg (planned)



Structural Measures Working Group: Main Q&A



SMOR: Main Q&A (1/6)

Member State allocations

- The Commission set the breakdown of allocations per Member State [Fiche N°18] and the amount of EUR 750 million for Strand C [Fiche N°12]
- Member States to calculate the allocations to the other strands for Interreg
- The amounts for strands A, B and D can be calculated on the basis of the methodology provided for in Annex III NRPP and the clarification on the source of the population figures [Fiche N°18]
- The proposal does not provide for a mechanism to transfer parts of the allocation between strands A, B and D.

Social and climate targets

- The social target (14%) applies to the Interreg Plan.
- Climate and environment and social policies [Fiche N° 22] : Interreg is taken into account in the calculations of the spending targets (based on past experience regarding the Interreg climate contribution).



SMOR: Main Q&A (2/6)

Scope of Interreg: specific objectives and Interreg specific objectives

- The Interreg Plan chapters will contribute to the specific objectives
 - to support the Union's sustainable prosperity across all regions [Article 3(a) NRPP proposal];
 - to strengthen social cohesion by supporting people and strengthening the Union's societies and the Union's social model [Article 3(c) NRPP proposal].

The drafting in Recital 13 ERDF/CF proposal could be enhanced.

- The requirement to contribute to the Interreg specific objectives is set at the level of the Interreg Plan.
- Individual Interreg Plan chapters can choose one or more specific objective or Interreg specific objective.



SMOR: Main Q&A (3/6)

Interreg specific objective and external borders

- Interreg specific objective *"more resilient regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine"*. Aims to:
 - foster regional economies and societies
 - increase safety and civil preparedness of these regions
 - tackle issues of concern, such as de-population or disinformation together
 - be able to measure the support provided to those regions.
- No additional resources or earmarking are proposed to support those regions, allocations should be made from the proposed budget.
- *"Cooperation on external borders"* refers to the external borders of the EU and the chapters covering cooperation with non-EU Member States



SMOR: Main Q&A (4/6)

Eligibility

- Payments from the Commission to Member States are made on the basis of fulfillment of milestones and targets agreed in the Interreg chapters – no longer reimbursement of costs
- The ERDF/CF proposal does not include specific eligibility rules for Interreg, in line with the approach taken under the NRPP proposal.
- The ERDF/CF proposal does not regulate the relations between the chapters' authorities and beneficiaries.
- Given the involvement of at least 2 countries in Interreg chapters, there may be a need to define common approaches and rules applicable to all partners involved in Interreg. This can be considered at the level of the Interreg Plan – general part.



SMOR: Main Q&A (5/6)

Allocations from Global Europe

- Interreg chapters may receive contribution from Global Europe for all strands of cooperation [2nd part of Article 7(2) ERDF/CF proposal].
- The participation of neighbouring non-Member States which do not receive funding from the EU will be based on the same principles as currently, provided those countries support their participation with own funding.
- Global Europe [Article 28(2) Global Europe proposal] :
 - May contribute upfront to Interreg chapters from the pillars (a) Europe and (b) Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf.
 - Up to 3% of the financial envelope for pillar (a) Europe may be indicatively allocated to support those Interreg chapters.
 - Contributions to be decided with the Commission services once the Member States' allocations to the chapters are defined.



SMOR: Main Q&A (6/6)

Provisions for non-Member States (Article 11 ERDF/CF)

- Article 11 ERDF/CF proposal: only concerns non-Member States receiving funding from the EU budget as is the case now. They will be included in the Interreg Plan general part.
- The contribution established for each Member State should not subsequently be reallocated between the Member States concerned. Not possible to move allocations from the NRP and Global Europe from one Member State to another.
- Financing agreements stipulate the conditions of participation of non-Member States to the Interreg chapter which needs legally to be established first. Financing agreements need to be concluded by 31 December of the year following the year of the 1st budgetary commitment, as is the case now.
- Possibility for non-Member States to use their national rules for procurement as long as the financing agreement allows [Article 11(3)(a) ERDF/CF]
- Even the national rules of non-Member States have to ensure open selection as provided for in Article 11(3)(a) ERDF/CF proposal when referring to the tender offering best value for money, or the tender offering the lowest price, while avoiding conflict of interest.



Continuity of structures and strengthened partnership principle

Article 8(3) ERDF/CF proposal- Requirements for each Interreg Plan Chapter

- Clear arrangements for the effective monitoring and implementation of the Interreg Plan chapter by each Member State, including the responsible authorities and created monitoring committees
- **a robust multi governance system based on the partnership principle,**
- promote partnership and knowledge exchange by setting out
 - which stakeholders have been consulted,
 - how they were selected,
 - how their representativeness has been ensured and
 - how their input is reflected in the Interreg Plan chapter in line with the code of conduct on partnership, and
 - by including a summary of the consultation process conducted for the preparation of the Interreg Plan chapter.



Structural Measures Working Group: Implementing Act – planned content



1. Chapters, areas and indicative allocations

Basis for inclusion in the IA: Article 9(1) ERDF/CF proposal

Description

Reference Regulation EU 2021/1059

The list of Interreg Plan chapters

Art. 8

The designation of the respective chapter areas

Art. 8

The indicative allocation from the NRP Fund

Art. 11

The indicative allocation from the Global Europe instrument
(where applicable)

Art. 11



2. Detailed arrangements covering the specific implementation modalities of Interreg

Basis for inclusion in the IA: Article 9(1) ERDF/CF proposal

Description	Reference Regulation EU 2021/1059
Geographical coverage of the strands of cooperation and scope of the interregional cooperation strand	<i>Art. 3(3), 4-7 and 16(5)</i>
Transfer of resources between strands	<i>Art. 9(4)</i>
Partnership within Interreg operations	<i>Art. 23 and 26</i>
Territorial and local cooperation initiatives	<i>Art. 20-21</i>
Group of auditors and audit of Interreg operations	<i>Art. 48-49</i>
Recoveries	<i>Art. 52</i>
Contribution to the implementation of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies	<i>Art. 15-16-17</i>



3. Requirements for bodies or persons responsible for management verifications

Basis for inclusion in the IA: Article 10(3) ERDF/CF proposal

Reference Regulation EU 2021/1059: Article 46(3)

4. Requirements for the monitoring committee and arrangements linked to its tasks

Basis for inclusion in the IA: Article 10(6) ERDF/CF proposal

Description

Setting up the monitoring committee

Rules of procedure

Composition of the monitoring committee

Steering committee

Selection of operations, including Small Project Funds

Reference Regulation EU 2021/1059

Art. 28 and 30

Art. 28

Art. 29

Art. 22

Art. 22 and 25



5. Requirements for pre-financing in case of contributions from the Global Europe Instrument

Basis for inclusion in the IA: Article 17(2) NRPP proposal

Possibility of a different pre-financing rate in case of a contribution from the Global Europe Instrument

Reference Regulation EU 2021/1059: Article 51(4)



Performance-based framework



Requirements linked to supported measures

General requirement: Each Interreg Plan chapter must provide the list, description and estimated costs of measures, including the specific objective that each of them primarily pursues and the list of envisaged milestones and targets (based on common indicators)

1. Chapters

Intervention strategy based on a clear analysis of territorial needs and gaps

Identification of the measures for cooperation and their contribution to the specific and/or the Interreg-specific objectives

2. Measures

Description of each measure including its intended objective, and for each measure:

- Identification and description of the milestones and targets and indicative timeline of achievement
- Identification and description of the intervention field, output indicator and associated payout value

3. Costing

Indicative breakdown of the total cost of each measure by intervention field, including the applied methodology and supporting justification



Programming – summary of the main steps

1. Ex ante determination of the costs, EU contribution and intervention fields

An ex-ante cost estimate for each of the measures included in the chapter, together with an indication of:

- the associated level of EU contribution, (taking into consideration the minimum contribution rate for Interreg set out in Article 20 NRPP)
- the corresponding intervention field(s) and result indicator based on Annex I of the Performance Regulation .

2. Definition of milestones, targets, outputs and pay-out values

Individual milestone(s) and target(s) associated to each measure, along with their indicative timeline for completion.

- The list of output indicators provided in Annex I of the Performance Regulation for the corresponding intervention field(s) should be used as reference for the final targets or may also serve for the definition of interim targets.
- The pay-out values will be defined based on the EU financial contribution to the underlying measure

3. Verification mechanisms

- for each milestone and target : description of the document(s)/system that will be used to verify their achievement, how management verifications will be carried out and how the audit trail will be ensured.



Performance Regulation

Expenditure tracking and performance monitoring [Article 14(2): NRP Plan]

Annex I of the Performance Regulation is a pre-defined catalogue from which relevant performance indicators should be selected

Output indicators:

- These monitor what is directly produced or supported by the implementation of an activity
- will be used to define a final target or milestone under the Interreg Plan chapter that serves two purposes:
(1) triggering payments; and (2) reporting on performance.
- Requirement: Only one output indicator per intervention field. No additional output indicators will have to be reported on.

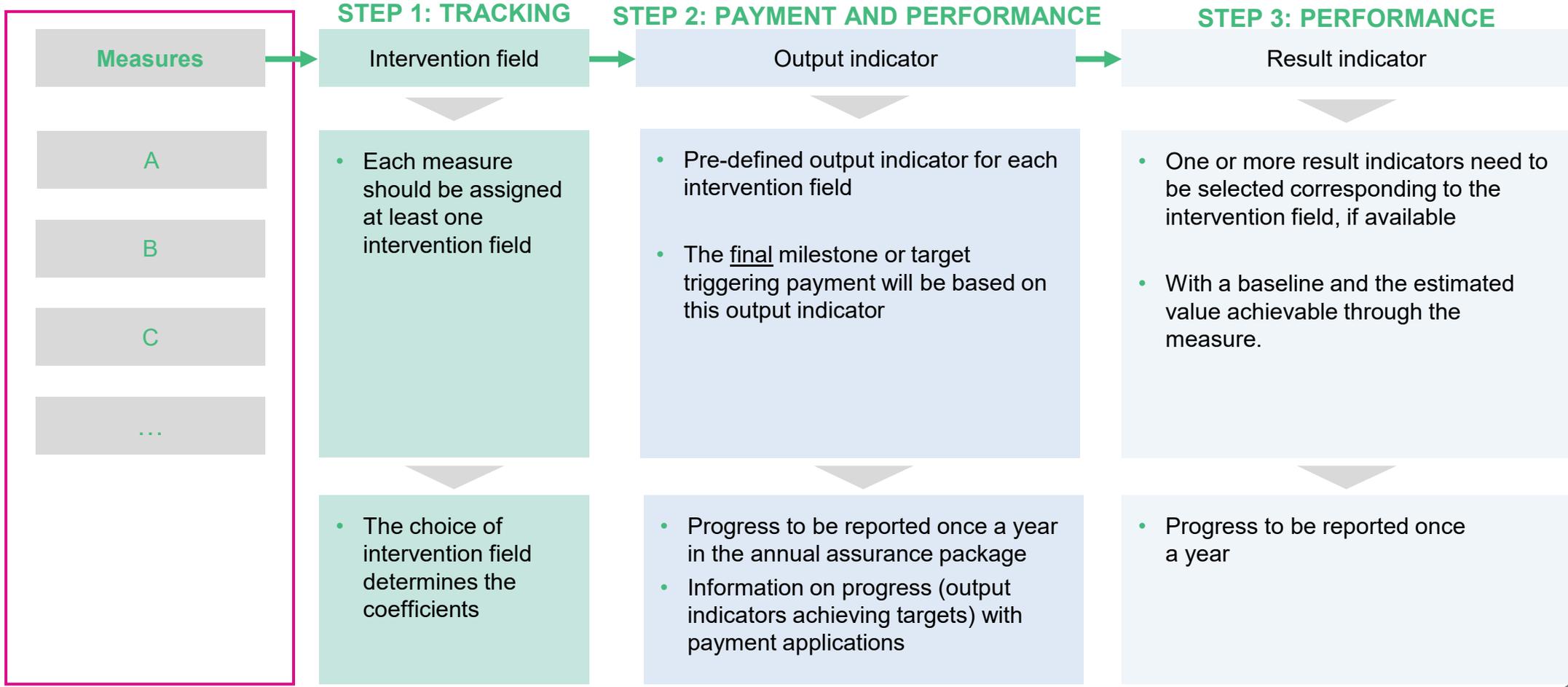
Result indicators:

- Plan and report on one or more result indicators from Annex I per intervention field, in addition to the output indicator.
- Performance reporting:
 - Non-achievement of estimated values has no impact on actual payments.
 - once a year by 15 February until 2037 in SFC.



Assigning intervention fields and indicators to measures

Interreg Plan chapter



General disclaimer

- The following slides contain examples of measures in Interreg Plan chapters to clarify the new delivery model
- The examples provided are for illustration purposes only
- The list of measures included in the examples is non-exhaustive and covers only part of the requirements
- The size and scope of presented chapters are purely indicative
- The values used for the estimated costs and pay-out values are purely indicative



Interreg Plan chapter: Example 1

STRAND A: Cross-border cooperation

The example contains two measures that contribute to the objective of establishing joint cross-border medical teams between two countries aiming to improve access to healthcare in mountainous border areas where hospital accessibility is limited.

Measure 1: Protocol for the establishment of joint cross-border medical teams

This is a reform element to establish a joint cooperation protocol that would set out the principles for the operation of the cross-border service

Measure 2: Operationalisation of joint cross-border medical teams and service

The reform is accompanied by an investment measure covering the project management costs and the investment in medical equipment

The measures contribute to ISO1 but could also contribute to ISO3 in areas bordering Ukraine



Example 1 – Cross-border cooperation – Cross-border Healthcare

Costing of measures - Protocol for the establishment of joint cross-border medical teams

Chapter ID	Measure ID	Reform / Investment	Estimated Total Cost (EUR)	EU financial contribution (80%)	Result indicator	Intervention field
#	1	Reform: Protocol of cooperation for the establishment and operation of joint cross-border medical teams	0	0	Annual users of new or modernised health care services	453 - Performance of health systems
	2	Investment: Operationalisation of joint cross-border medical teams and service	3.550.000	2.840.000	Annual users of new or modernised health care services	453 - Performance of health systems



Example 1 – Cross-border cooperation - Cross-border Healthcare

Milestones and targets – Measure - Protocol for the establishment of joint cross-border medical teams

Measure ID	Name of the measure	Specific Objective	Milestone/target name	Qualitative achievement	Quantitative indicators	Baseline	Target	Indicative timeline for achievement	Description of each milestone and target	Pay-out value (Euro)
1(Ref)	Improve access to healthcare	Interreg-specific objective 1: better cooperation governance	Milestone: Agreement on protocol of cooperation	Formal written notification confirming signature by the participating Member States of the protocol				Quarter 1 2029	Agreement on the protocol that sets out the principles for the deployment, authority, and operation of the medical teams across jurisdictions: formal notification of the signature by the participating Member States.	540.000



Example 1 – Cross-border cooperation - Cross-border Healthcare

Milestones and targets – Measure 2 - Operationalisation of joint cross-border medical svc

Measure ID	Name of the measure	Specific Objective	Milestone/target name	Qualitative achievement	Quantitative indicators	Base-line	Target	Indicative timeline for achievement	Description of each milestone and target	Pay-out value (Euro)
2(Inv)	Operationalisation of joint cross-border medical teams and service	Idem	Milestone 1 -: Project Management Structure established	Notification confirming the approval of the project management plan				Quarter 2 2029	Approval of the project management plan, including description of governance arrangements and team composition. Notification of approval of participating Member States	200.000
			Milestone 2 – Operating procedures of the joint medical teams	Notification of approval of operating procedures by the project governance board				Quarter 3 2029	Procedures how medical teams will operate have been approved by the project governance board. Notification of the formal decision note.	100.000
2(Inv)	Idem	Idem	Target – Purchase of medical equipment in support of the joint medical teams		Unit of equipment purchased	0	60	Quarter 1 2030	Formal public procurement procedure on the basis of requirements approved by the project governance board: completed; Notification of the procurement award decision.	1.200.000
2(Inv)	Idem	Idem	Target: Joint medical teams are operational		Improved services	0	1	Quarter 1 2031	Joint medical teams are established, equipped and operational. Notification of joint declaration by participating Member States	800.000



Programming
(or « where do we go from here »?)



Programming

Preparing for Post-2027

- For each Interreg partnership to decide how to prepare their future cooperation
- Usual approach: a task force/programming committee is established by the current Monitoring Committee
- Input and preparations can be requested from current programme authorities, from national and regional authorities, from technical assistance contracts
- Commission providing input for many programmes via border profiles and transnational profiles, with the support of ESPON and TESIM



Programming

Commission inputs

- Cooperation orientation papers will be prepared by the Commission for all current Interreg programmes
- Intention is to provide a short, focused document containing **orientations** in relation to content and governance
- Not binding, not formal negotiating positions – to be seen as support and a starting point for a dialogue with the Commission
- Important to recognise that Interreg does not operate in isolation and needs to take account of wider political contexts:
 - the overall EU budget;
 - EU priorities;
 - geopolitics;
 - internal market limitations;
 - lessons to be learned from 21-27 implementation
- Commission will participate in task forces/programming committees as much as HR resources and travel budgets allow



Programming

Next Steps

- Commission expects all programmes to have established task force/programming committee structure by mid-2026
- Early key decisions to be taken:
 - Preparation of input work/possible contracting out
 - Reflections on programme area geography
 - Internal management arrangements
- Maintain close monitoring of regulatory process in European Parliament and Council
- Maintain close contact with your desk officer

