

Interreg



Co-funded by  
the European Union

IPA Romania – Serbia

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# Romania-Serbia Interreg Chapter

## Developing a draft ISO 2 Measure





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LESSONS LEARNED AND PRACTICAL INSIGHTS

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# The ideal process

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-  Identify Needs (territorial analysis, needs assessment...)
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-  Consult Stakeholders (survey, thematic meetings with relevant local/regional and national actors)
- ↓
-  Develop Draft Measure (focus on identified priorities and consider previous experience/capitalization)
- ↓
-  Internal Review & adjustment (from theory into practice, find the best compromise between ideal and achievable)

# Proposed measure



A measure dedicated to ISO 2, comprising of a series of intervention fields which can increase overall **resilience** of the border communities and accommodate actions meant to reduce concrete vulnerabilities and risks for citizens and essential services (public safety, environment, health, energy, informational space).

A broad ISO 2 measure will allow us:

- To preserve flexibility in a still evolving framework
- To accommodate multiple territorial vulnerabilities
- To simplify programme architecture
- To reduce fragmentation between thematic areas

## The following Intervention fields were selected



- 88** Physical regeneration and security of public spaces
- 90** Enhance detection and countering of disinformation and media literacy
- 278** Prevention measures to mitigate risk of flooding
- 284** Protection and restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems
- 290** Air pollution reduction measures
- 173** Electricity generation using solar photovoltaic technology
- 453** Performance of health systems (excluding infrastructure and digitalisation)
- 463** Healthcare infrastructure – Development and construction of other types of buildings

# A partial snapshot of the measure (1)

<b>Measure</b>	<b>1. Enhancing the security and safety of the border area</b>
<b>Reform /investment/Both</b>	Investment
<b>Specific objective</b>	A safer and more secure Europe
<b>Intervention field (IF1)</b>	88 - Physical regeneration and security of public spaces
<b>Target (interim 1) for IF1</b>	At least 50% of “x” Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders;
<b>Target (interim 2) for IF1</b>	“x” Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders;
<b>Intervention field (IF2)</b>	90 - Enhance detection and countering of disinformation and media literacy
<b>Target (interim 1) for IF2</b>	At least 50% of “x” Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders;
<b>Target (interim 2) for IF2</b>	“x” Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders;

# A partial snapshot of the measure (2)

<b>Intervention field (IF8)</b>	<b>463 - Healthcare infrastructure – Development and construction of other types of buildings</b>
<b>Target (interim) for IF8</b>	At least 50% of “x” Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders;
<b>Target (final) for IF8 if</b>	“x” Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders;
<b>Milestones</b>	<p>M1- Launch of call (Launching the call dedicated to projects targeting a Safer and more secure Europe specific objective)</p> <p>M2- Projects assessed for each intervention field (All projects submitted have been assessed)</p> <p>M3- Signature of contracts for each intervention field (All contracts selected were contracted)</p>
<b>Result indicators (IF1, IF2..)</b>	Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders after project completion*;

# Core design features

- Only investments are envisaged, no reforms;

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  - All IFs will have the same milestones (it is envisaged that a joint call will be launched and the assessment and contracting will be carried out in parallel for all projects => common timeline)
  - The Interreg specific indicator “Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders;” is proposed to be used for all IFs as the best indicator for measuring the core specificity of Interreg programmes whilst still targeting various thematic areas;
    - Together with the corresponding result indicator *Number of organisations/administrations cooperating across borders after project completion\**;
- (\*Based on the Presidency Compromise Proposal (May 2026))

# Core design features

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For each IF we propose **2 interim targets**: one deriving from the implementation of *at least 50% of the projects* and the other one deriving from the implementation of all project contributing to that IF,

with the exception of IF 463-Healthcare infrastructure – Development and construction of other types of buildings,

for which we propose an interim target and a final target. Based on the presumption that the implementation period for these projects will be higher and the projects contributing to this IF will be finalized last, this will also be the target triggering the final payment for the measure.

# Possible changes

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- Splitting the measure into smaller measures comprising of fewer number of IFs if:
  - developing and managing this wider measure proves too complicated or
  - it generates cash-flow problems due to the limitation to only one final target per measure and an official min. % of pay-out value for that final target;
- Revision of the indicators system if there will be an obligation to focus more on the thematic ones;

# Lessons learnt

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- **Flexibility** is critical in a changing regulatory context;
- **Common indicators** simplify management and reporting;
- Wider measures may increase complexity during implementation;
- **Early institutional alignment** is essential;
- Testing different scenarios improves robustness;
- **Cross-border added value must remain central**;
- **Balance** is needed between **ambition and implementation capacity**.

# Recommendations

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- Begin conceptual discussions **before the regulatory framework is finalized;**
- Allow enough time for **revisions and adjustments;**
- Keep the first draft broader and simpler than the final version;
- Use **previous programme experience** as a starting point;
- Anticipate implementation difficulties early;
- **Consider the beneficiaries' real capacity and set realistic and achievable targets.**

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*Managing Authority for Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme*