

Communication regulations: Key provisions in 2021-2027

December 2023



Disclaimer: Cooperation can be complex, and while Interact's job is to make it easier, Interact cannot offer assurances on the accuracy of our pan-European information in any specific context.

Furthermore, understanding and knowledge evolves throughout the programming period. If you spot a something out of date or inconsistent, please contact us at communication@interact.eu

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Interreg

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1. Introduction

Communication as an aspect of programme management is shaped by the main regulations underpinning Interreg. Each regulation lays different requirements based on the impacted entity, hence it is sometimes challenging to understand which regulation governs what aspect of communication.

The majority of provisions are from the Common Provisions Regulation (2021/1060) which sets out the shared rules for eight funds. Further Interreg specific elements are contained in the Interreg Regulation (2021/1059).

Please note: The following provisions are offered as the most directly relevant impacting communication. They are correct at the time of printing and are offered as an *aide memoir*. Please consult the regulations directly on eur-lex.europa.eu

In the following pages, the text is presented as in the regulations, as accessed in November 2023. The overall framework contained within the regulations offers programmes a harmonised set of rules to ensure consistency of communication. It also lays the foundation for the harmonised branding of Interreg, which enables individual Interreg projects and programme connect with the wider policy fund and the collective achievements of Interreg programmes.

2. Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)

2.1. Article 22: Content of programmes

1. Each programme shall set out a strategy for the contribution of the programme to the policy objectives or to the specific objective of the JTF and the communication of its results.
2. A programme shall consist of one or more priorities. Each priority shall correspond to a single policy objective, the specific objective of the JTF, or to technical assistance implemented pursuant to Article 36(4) or Article 37. A priority may use support from one or more Funds unless it receives support from the JTF or concerns technical assistance implemented pursuant to Article 36(4) or Article 37. A priority corresponding to a policy objective shall consist of one or more specific objectives. More than one priority may correspond to the same policy objective or to the specific objective of the JTF.

For programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, a programme shall use support from one Fund and consist of specific objectives and of technical assistance specific objectives.

3. Each programme shall set out:
 - (a) a summary of the main challenges, taking into account:
 - (i) economic, social and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, except for programmes supported by the EMFAF;
 - (ii) market failures;
 - (iii) investment needs and complementarity and synergies with other forms of support;
 - (iv) challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations, relevant national or regional strategies of that Member State, including its integrated national energy and climate plan, in relation to the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and, for the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, other relevant Union recommendations addressed to the Member State;
 - (v) challenges in administrative capacity and governance and simplification measures;
 - (vi) an integrated approach to address demographic challenges, where relevant;
 - (vii) lessons learnt from past experience;
 - (viii) macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where Member States and regions participate in such strategies;

- (ix) for programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, progress in implementing the relevant Union acquis and action plans and a justification for the choice of specific objectives;
- (x) for programmes supported by the JTF, transition challenges identified in the territorial just transition plans;

Points (i), (ii) and (viii) shall not apply to programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF or the BMVI.

- (b) a justification for the selected policy objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support;
- (c) for each priority, except for technical assistance, specific objectives;
- (d) for each specific objective:
 - (i) the related types of actions and their expected contribution to those specific objectives, to macro-regional strategies, sea-basin strategies, and to territorial just transition plans supported by the JTF, where appropriate;
 - (ii) output indicators and result indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets;
 - (iii) the main target groups;
 - (iv) actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination;
 - (v) indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of integrated territorial investment, community-led local development or other territorial tools;
 - (vi) the interregional, cross-border and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State or outside the Union, where relevant;
 - (vii) the planned use of financial instruments;
 - (viii) the types of intervention and an indicative breakdown of the programmed resources by type of intervention;
 - (ix) for the specific objective of the JTF, the justification of any amounts transferred from the ERDF and the ESF+ resources in accordance with Article 27, as well as their breakdown by category of region, reflecting the types of interventions planned in accordance with the territorial just transition plans;
- (e) for each priority on technical assistance implemented pursuant to Article 36(4):
 - (i) the related types of actions;

- (ii) output indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets;
 - (iii) the main target groups;
 - (iv) the types of intervention and an indicative breakdown of the programmed resources by type of intervention;
- (f) the planned use of technical assistance pursuant to Article 37, if applicable, and relevant types of intervention;
- (g) a financing plan containing:
- (i) a table specifying the total financial allocations for each of the Funds and, where applicable, for each category of region for the whole programming period and by year, including any amounts transferred pursuant to Article 26 or 27;
 - (ii) for programmes supported by ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF, a table specifying the total financial allocations for each priority by Fund and by category of region, where applicable, and the national contribution and whether it is made up of public or private contribution, or both;
 - (iii) for programmes supported by the EMFAF, a table specifying for each specific objective, the amount of the total financial allocations of the support from the Fund and the national contribution;
 - (iv) for programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, a table specifying, by specific objective, the total financial allocations by type of action, the national contribution and whether it is made up of public or private contribution, or both;
- (h) the actions taken to involve the relevant partners referred to in Article 8(1) in the preparation of the programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme;
- (i) for each enabling condition linked to the selected specific objective, established in accordance with Article 15 and Annexes III and IV, an assessment of whether the enabling condition is fulfilled at the date of submission of the programme;
- (j) the envisaged approach to communication and visibility for the programme through defining its objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation;
- (k) the programme authorities and the body or, in case of technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5), where applicable, bodies which receive payments from the Commission.

Points (a)(i), (ii) and (viii) of this paragraph shall not apply to programmes limited to supporting the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation. Point (d) of this paragraph shall not apply to the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation.

For the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund, the ESF+, the JTF and the EMFAF, the programme shall be accompanied for information purposes by a list of planned operations of strategic importance, with a timetable.

If, in accordance with point (k), more than one body is identified to receive payments from the Commission, the Member State shall set out the share of the reimbursed amounts between those bodies.

4. By way of derogation from point (b) to (e) of paragraph 3, for each specific objective of programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, the following shall be provided:
 - (a) a description of the initial situation, challenges and responses supported by the Fund;
 - (b) indication of the implementation measures;
 - (c) an indicative list of actions and their expected contribution to the specific objectives;
 - (d) where applicable, a justification for the operating support, specific actions, emergency assistance, and actions as referred to in Articles 19 and 20 of the AMIF Regulation;
 - (e) output and result indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets;
 - (f) an indicative breakdown of the programmed resources by type of intervention.
5. Types of intervention shall be based on a nomenclature set out in Annex I. For programmes supported by the EMFAF, the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, types of intervention shall be based on a nomenclature set out in the Fund-specific Regulations.
6. For ERDF, ESF+, Cohesion Fund and JTF programmes, the table referred to in point (g)(ii) of paragraph 3 shall include the amounts for the years 2021 to 2027, including the flexibility amount.
7. The Member State shall communicate to the Commission any changes in the information referred to in point (k) of the first subparagraph of paragraph (3) without requiring a programme amendment.
8. For programmes supported by the JTF, Member States shall submit to the Commission the territorial just transition plans as part of the programme or programmes or of a request for amendment.

2.2. Article 40: Functions of the Monitoring Committee

1. The monitoring committee shall examine:

- (a) the progress in programme implementation and in achieving the milestones and targets;
- (b) any issues that affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken to address those issues;
- (c) the contribution of the programme to tackling the challenges identified in the relevant country-specific recommendations that are linked to the implementation of the programme;
- (d) the elements of the ex ante assessment listed in Article 58(3) and the strategy document referred to in Article 59(1);
- (e) the progress made in carrying out evaluations, syntheses of evaluations and any follow-up given to findings;
- (f) the implementation of communication and visibility actions;
- (g) the progress in implementing operations of strategic importance, where relevant;
- (h) the fulfilment of enabling conditions and their application throughout the programming period;
- (i) the progress in administrative capacity building for public institutions, partners and beneficiaries, where relevant.
- (j) information regarding the implementation of the contribution of the programme to the InvestEU Programme in accordance with Article 14 or of the resources transferred in accordance with Article 26, where applicable.

As regards the programmes supported by the EMFAF, the monitoring committee shall be consulted and shall, if it considers it appropriate, give an opinion on any amendment of the programme proposed by the managing authority.

2. The monitoring committee shall approve:

- (a) the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations, including any changes thereto, without prejudice to points (b), (c) and (d) of Article 33(3); at the request of the Commission, the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations, including any changes thereto, shall be submitted to the Commission at least 15 working days prior to their submission to the monitoring committee.
- (b) the annual performance reports for programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, and the final performance report for programmes supported by the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund, the JTF and the EMFAF.

- (c) the evaluation plan and any amendment thereto;
 - (d) any proposal by the managing authority for the amendment of a programme including for transfers in accordance with Article 24(5) and Article 26, with the exception of programmes supported by the EMFAF.
3. The monitoring committee may make recommendations to the managing authority, including on measures to reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries.

2.3. Article 41: Annual performance review

1. Review meetings shall be organised once a year between the Commission and each Member State to examine the performance of each programme. Relevant managing authorities shall participate in the review meetings.

The review meeting may cover more than one programme.

The review meeting shall be chaired by the Commission or, if the Member State so requests, co-chaired by the Member State and the Commission.

2. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of paragraph 1, for programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, the review meeting shall be organised at least twice during the programming period.
3. For programmes supported by the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund, the JTF and the EMFAF, the Member State shall no later than 1 month before the review meeting provide the Commission with concise information on the elements listed in Article 40(1). That information shall be based on the most recent data available to the Member State.

For programmes limited to the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation, the information to be provided, based on the most recent data available, shall be limited to points (a), (b), (e), (f) and (h) of Article 40(1) of this Regulation.

4. The Member State and the Commission may agree not to organise a review meeting. In such a case, the review may be carried out in writing.
5. The outcome of the review meeting shall be recorded in agreed minutes.
6. The Member State shall follow up issues raised during the review meeting which affect the implementation of the programme and shall inform the Commission within 3 months of the measures taken.
7. For programmes supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, the Member State shall submit an annual performance report in accordance with the Fund-specific Regulations.

2.4. Article 42: Transmission of data

1. The Member State or the managing authority shall electronically transmit to the Commission cumulative data for each programme by 31 January, 30 April, 31 July, 30 September and 30 November of each year, with the exception of the data required in point (b) of paragraph 2 and in paragraph 3 that shall be electronically transmitted by 31 January and 31 July of each year, in accordance with the template set out in Annex VII.

The first transmission shall be due by 31 January 2022 and the last one by 31 January 2030.

For priorities supporting the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation, data shall be transmitted annually by 31 January.

The ESF+ Regulation may determine specific rules for the frequency of collecting and transmitting longer-term result indicators.

2. The data shall be broken down for each priority by specific objective and, where applicable, by category of region and shall refer to:
 - (a) the number of selected operations, their total eligible cost, the contribution from the Funds and the total eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiaries to the managing authority, all broken down by type of intervention;
 - (b) the values of output and result indicators for selected operations and values achieved by operations.
3. For financial instruments data shall also be provided on the following:
 - (a) eligible expenditure by type of financial product;
 - (b) amount of management costs and fees declared as eligible expenditure;
 - (c) the amount, by type of financial product, of private and public resources mobilised in addition to the Funds;
 - (d) interest and other gains generated by support from the Funds to financial instruments referred to in Article 60 and resources returned attributable to support from the Funds as referred to in Article 62;
 - (e) total value of loans, equity or quasi-equity investments in final recipients which were guaranteed with programme resources and which were actually disbursed to final recipients.
4. The data submitted in accordance with this Article shall be reliable and reflect the data stored electronically as referred to in point (e) of Article 72(1) as at the end of the month preceding the month of submission.

5. The Member State or the managing authority shall publish or provide a link to all the data transmitted to the Commission on the website portal referred to in point (b) of Article 46 or on the website referred to in Article 49(1).

2.5. Article 46: Visibility

Each Member State shall ensure:

- (a) the visibility of support in all activities relating to operations supported by the Funds with particular attention to operations of strategic importance;
- (b) communication to Union citizens of the role and achievements of the Funds through a single website portal providing access to all programmes involving that Member State.

2.6. Article 47: Emblem of the Union

Member States, managing authorities and beneficiaries shall use the emblem of the Union in accordance with Annex IX when carrying out visibility, transparency and communication activities.

2.7. Article 48: Communication officers and networks

1. Each Member State shall identify a communication coordinator for visibility, transparency and communication activities in relation to the support from the Funds, including programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) where that Member State hosts the managing authority. The communication coordinator may be appointed at the level of the body defined under Article 71(6) and shall coordinate communication and visibility measures across programmes.

The communication coordinator shall involve in the visibility, transparency and communication activities the following bodies:

- (a) European Commission Representations and European Parliament Liaison Offices in the Member States, as well as Europe Direct Information Centres and other relevant networks, educational and research organisations;
 - (b) other relevant partners referred to in Article 8(1).
2. Each managing authority shall identify a communication officer for each programme. A communication officer may be responsible for more than one programme.
 3. The Commission shall maintain the network comprising communication coordinators, communication officers and Commission representatives to exchange information on visibility, transparency and communication activities.

2.8. Article 49: Responsibilities of the managing authority

1. The managing authority shall ensure that, within 6 months of the decision approving the programme, there is a website where information on programmes under its responsibility is available, covering the programme's objectives, activities, available funding opportunities and achievements.
2. The managing authority shall ensure the publication on the website referred to in paragraph 1, or on the single website portal referred to in point (b) of Article 46, of a timetable of the planned calls for proposals, that is updated at least three times a year, with the following indicative data:
 - (a) geographical area covered by the call for proposal;
 - (b) policy objective or specific objective concerned;
 - (c) type of eligible applicants;
 - (d) total amount of support for the call;
 - (e) start and end date of the call.
3. The managing authority shall make the list of operations selected for support by the Funds publicly available on the website in at least one of the official languages of the institutions of the Union and shall update that list at least every 4 months. Each operation shall have a unique code. The list shall contain the following data:
 - (a) in the case of legal entities, the beneficiary's and, in the case of public procurement, the contractor's name;
 - (b) where the beneficiary is a natural person the first name and the surname;
 - (c) for EMFAF operations linked to a fishing vessel, the Union fishing fleet register identification number as referred to in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218 (47).
 - (d) name of the operation;
 - (e) the purpose of the operation and its expected or actual achievements;
 - (f) start date of the operation;
 - (g) expected or actual date of completion of the operation;
 - (h) total cost of the operation;
 - (i) fund concerned;
 - (j) specific objective concerned;

- (k) Union co-financing rate;
- (l) location indicator or geolocation for the operation and country concerned;
- (m) for mobile operations or operations covering several locations the location of the beneficiary where the beneficiary is a legal entity; or the NUTS 2 level region where the beneficiary is a natural person;
- (n) type of intervention for the operation in accordance with point (g) of Article 73(2).

For data referred to in points (b) and (c) of the first subparagraph, the data shall be removed 2 years from the date of the initial publication on the website.

4. The data referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall be published on the website referred to in paragraph 1, or on the single website portal referred to in point (b) of Article 46 of this Regulation, in open, machine-readable formats, as set out in Article 5(1) of the Directive (EU) 2019/1024 of the European Parliament and of the Council (48), which allows data to be sorted, searched, extracted, compared and reused.
5. The managing authority shall inform the beneficiaries that the data will be made public before the publication takes place in accordance with this Article.
6. The managing authority shall ensure that communication and visibility material including at the level of beneficiaries is made available upon request to Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies and that a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence to use such material and any pre-existing rights attached to it is granted to the Union in accordance with Annex IX. This shall not require significant additional costs or a significant administrative burden for the beneficiaries or for the managing authority

2.9. Article 50: Responsibilities of beneficiaries

1. Beneficiaries and bodies implementing financial instruments shall acknowledge support from the Funds, including resources reused in accordance with Article 62, to the operation by:
 - (a) providing on the beneficiary's official website, where such a site exists, and social media sites, a short description of the operation, proportionate to the level of support, including its aims and results, and highlighting the financial support from the Union;
 - (b) providing a statement highlighting the support from the Union in a visible manner on documents and communication material relating to the implementation of the operation, intended for the public or for participants;
 - (c) displaying durable plaques or billboards clearly visible to the public, that present the emblem of the Union in accordance with the technical characteristics laid down in Annex IX, as soon as the physical implementation of operations involving physical investment starts or purchased equipment is installed, in respect of the following:

- (i) operations supported by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund the total cost of which exceeds EUR 500 000;
 - (ii) operations supported by the ESF+, the JTF, the EMFAF, the AMIF, the ISF or the BMVI the total cost of which exceeds EUR 100 000;
- (d) for operations not falling under point (c), displaying at a location clearly visible to the public at least one poster of a minimum size A3 or equivalent electronic display with information about the operation highlighting the support from the Funds; where the beneficiary is a natural person, the beneficiary shall ensure, to the extent possible, that appropriate information is available, highlighting the support from the funds, at a location visible to the public or through an electronic display;
- (e) for operations of strategic importance and operations the total cost of which exceeds EUR 10 000 000, organising a communication event or activity, as appropriate, and involving the Commission and the responsible managing authority in a timely manner.

Where an ESF+ beneficiary is a natural person or for operations supported under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation, the requirement set out in point (d) of the first subparagraph shall not apply.

By derogation from points (c) and (d) of the first subparagraph, for operations supported by the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, the document setting out the conditions for support may establish specific requirements for the public display of information on the support from the Funds where this is justified by reasons of security and public order in accordance with Article 69(5).

2. For small project funds, the beneficiary shall comply with the obligations under Article 36(5) of the Interreg Regulation.

For financial instruments, the beneficiary shall ensure by means of the contractual terms that final recipients comply with the requirements set out in point (c) of paragraph 1.

3. Where the beneficiary does not comply with its obligations under Article 47 or paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, and where remedial actions have not been put into place, the managing authority shall apply measures, taking into account the principle of proportionality, by cancelling up to 3 % of the support from the Funds to the operation concerned.

2.10. Annex IX of CPR: Communication and visibility

1. The use and technical characteristics of the emblem of the Union ('the emblem')

- 1.1. The emblem shall be prominently featured on all communication materials such as printed or digital products, websites and their mobile views relating to the implementation of an operation, used for the public or for participants.

- 1.2. The statement 'Funded by the European Union' or 'Co-funded by the European Union' shall be written in full and placed next to the emblem.
- 1.3. The typeface to be used in conjunction with the emblem may be any of the following fonts: Arial, Auto, Calibri, Garamond, Trebuchet, Tahoma, Verdana or Ubuntu. Italic, underlined variations or font effects shall not be used.
- 1.4. The positioning of the text in relation to the emblem shall not interfere with the emblem in any way.
- 1.5. The font size used shall be proportionate to the size of the emblem.
- 1.6. The colour of the font shall be reflex blue, black or white depending on the background.
- 1.7. The emblem shall not be modified or merged with any other graphic elements or texts. If other logos are displayed in addition to the emblem, the emblem shall have at least the same size, measured in height or width, as the biggest of the other logos. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo must be used to highlight the support from the Union.
- 1.8. Where several operations are taking place at the same location, supported by the same or different funding instruments, or where further funding is provided for the same operation at a later date, at least one plaque or billboard shall be displayed.
- 1.9. Graphic standards for the emblem and the definition of standard colours:

(A) SYMBOLIC DESCRIPTION

Against a background of blue sky, twelve golden stars form a circle representing the union of the peoples of Europe. The number of stars is fixed, twelve being the symbol of perfection and unity.

(B) HERALDIC DESCRIPTION

On an azure field a circle of twelve golden mullets, their points not touching.

(C) GEOMETRIC DESCRIPTION

The emblem has the form of a blue rectangular flag of which the fly is one and a half times the length of the hoist. Twelve gold stars situated at equal intervals form an invisible circle whose centre is the point of intersection of the diagonals of the rectangle. The radius of the circle is equal to one third of the height of the hoist. Each of the stars has five points which are situated on the circumference of an invisible circle whose radius is equal to one eighteenth of the height of the hoist. All the stars are upright, i.e. with one point vertical and two points in a straight line at right angles to the mast. The circle is arranged so that the stars appear in the position of the hours on the face of a clock. Their number is invariable.

(D) REGULATION COLOURS

The emblem is in the following colours: PANTONE REFLEX BLUE for the surface of the rectangle; PANTONE YELLOW for the stars

(E) FOUR-COLOUR PROCESS

If the four-colour process is used, recreate the two standard colours by using the four colours of the four-colour process.

PANTONE YELLOW is obtained by using 100 % 'Process Yellow'.

PANTONE REFLEX BLUE is obtained by mixing 100 % 'Process Cyan' and 80 % 'Process Magenta'.

INTERNET

PANTONE REFLEX BLUE corresponds in the web-palette colour RGB:0/51/153 (hexadecimal: 003399) and PANTONE YELLOW corresponds in the web-palette colour RGB: 255/204/0 (hexadecimal: FFCC00).

MONOCHROME REPRODUCTION PROCESS

Using black, outline the rectangle in black and print the stars in black on white.

Using blue (Reflex Blue), use 100 % with the stars reproduced in negative white.

REPRODUCTION ON A COLOURED BACKGROUND

If there is no alternative to a coloured background, put a white border around the rectangle, the width of the border being 1/25th of the height of the rectangle.

The principles of the use of the Union emblem by third parties are set out in the Administrative agreement with the Council of Europe regarding the use of the European emblem by third parties (1).

2. The licence on intellectual property rights referred to in Article 49(6) shall grant to the Union at least the following rights:
 - 2.1. internal use i.e. right to reproduce, copy and make available the communication and visibility materials to Union's institutions and agencies, Member States' authorities, and their employees;
 - 2.2. reproduction of the communication and visibility materials by any means and in any form, in whole or in part;
 - 2.3. communication to the public of the communication and visibility materials by using any and all means of communication;

- 2.4. distribution to the public of the communication and visibility materials (or copies thereof) in any and all forms;
- 2.5. storage and archiving of the communication and visibility materials;
- 2.6. sub-licensing of the rights on the communication and visibility materials to third parties.

3. Interreg regulation

3.1. Article 17: Content of Interreg programmes

1. Each Interreg programme shall set out a joint strategy for the programme's contribution to the policy objectives set out in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and, where relevant, to the Interreg-specific objectives set out in Article 14(4) and (5) of this Regulation and the communication of its results.
2. Each Interreg programme shall consist of priorities.

Each priority shall correspond to a single policy objective or, where applicable, to one or both Interreg-specific objectives, respectively, and shall consist of one or more specific objectives. More than one priority may correspond to the same policy or Interreg-specific objective.

3. Each Interreg programme shall set out:
 - (a) the programme area, including, whenever possible, a map thereof as a separate document;
 - (b) a summary of the main joint challenges, taking into account:
 - (i) economic, social and territorial disparities as well as inequalities;
 - (ii) joint investment needs and complementarity and synergies with other funding programmes and instruments;
 - (iii) lessons learnt from past experience;
 - (iv) macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies;
 - (c) a justification for the selected policy objectives and Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives or actions under the Interreg-specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure;
 - (d) the specific objectives or actions under the Interreg-specific objectives for each priority;
 - (e) for each specific objective or for each action under the Interreg-specific objectives:
 - (i) the related types of actions and their expected contribution to those specific objectives or actions under the Interreg-specific objectives and, where appropriate, to macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies;

- (ii) output indicators and result indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets;
 - (iii) the main target groups;
 - (iv) an indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of integrated territorial investments (ITI), community-led local development or other territorial tools;
 - (v) the planned use of financial instruments; and
 - (vi) an indicative breakdown of the programmed resources by type of intervention;
- (f) a financing plan containing the following tables without any division per participating Member State, third country, partner country or OCT, unless specified otherwise therein:
- (i) a table specifying, by year, the total financial allocation for the ERDF and, where relevant, for each external financing instrument of the Union for the whole programming period;
 - (ii) a table specifying, for each priority, the total financial allocation by the ERDF and, where relevant, by each external financing instrument of the Union by priority and the national co-financing and whether the national co-financing is made up of public and private co-financing;
- (g) the actions taken to involve the relevant programme partners referred to in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 in the preparation of the Interreg programme, and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of that programme;
- (h) the envisaged approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme through defining its objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation; and
- (i) an indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds.

When a Member State submits the programme, it shall ensure that the programme is accompanied for information purposes by a list of planned operations of strategic importance and a timetable.

4. As regards the information referred to in paragraph 3 for the tables referred to in point (f) of that paragraph and as concerns the support from external financing instruments of the Union, those financial allocations shall be set out as follows:
- (a) for Interreg A programmes supported by IPA III and NDICI as a single amount (IPA III CBC or NEXT CBC) combining the contribution from Heading 2

'Cohesion and Values', sub-ceiling Economic, social and territorial cohesion and Heading 6 'Neighbourhood and the World';

- (b) for Interreg B and C programmes supported by IPA III, NDICI or the OCTP as a single amount ('Interreg funds') combining the contribution from Heading 2 and Heading 6 or split per financing instrument ERDF, IPA III, NDICI and OCTP, pursuant to the choice of the programme partners;
 - (c) for Interreg B programmes supported by OCTP split per financing instrument (ERDF and OCTP);
 - (d) for Interreg D programmes supported by the NDICI and by the OCTP split per financing instrument (ERDF, NDICI and OCTP, as appropriate).
5. With regard to point (e)(vi) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 3 of this Article, the types of intervention shall be based on a nomenclature set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.
6. The Interreg programme shall:
- (a) identify the programme authorities and the body to which payments are to be made by the Commission;
 - (b) lay down the procedure for setting up the joint secretariat;
 - (c) set out the apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States and, where applicable, third or partner countries or OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission.
7. The managing authority shall communicate to the Commission any changes in the information referred to in point (a) or (b) of paragraph 6 without requiring a programme amendment.
8. With regard to an Interreg A, B or D programme, where an A programme covers long borders with heterogeneous development challenges and needs, Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may define sub-programme areas.
9. By way of derogation from paragraph 3, the content of Interreg C programmes shall be adapted to the specific character of those Interreg programmes, in particular as follows:
- (a) the information referred to in point (a) of paragraph 3 is not required;
 - (b) the information required pursuant to points (b) and (g) of paragraph 3 shall be given as a short outline;
 - (c) for each specific objective, the following information shall be given:
 - (i) with regard to INTERACT and ESPON, the definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure;

- (ii) the related types of actions and their expected contribution to the specific objectives;
- (iii) output indicators and result indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets;
- (iv) the main target groups; and
- (v) an indicative breakdown of the programmed resources by type of intervention.

3.2. Article 29: Composition of the monitoring committee

1. The composition of the monitoring committee of each Interreg programme shall be agreed by the Member States and, where applicable, by the third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in that programme, and shall ensure a balanced representation of:
 - (a) the relevant authorities, including intermediate bodies;
 - (b) bodies jointly set up in the whole programme area or covering a part thereof, including EGTCs; and
 - (c) representatives of the programme partners referred to in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 from Member States, third countries, partner countries and OCTs.

The composition of the monitoring committee shall take into account the number of participating Member States, third countries, partner countries and OCTs in the Interreg programme concerned.

2. The managing authority shall publish a list of the members of the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 36(2).
3. Representatives of the Commission shall participate in the work of the monitoring committee in an advisory capacity.

3.3. Article 30: Functions of the monitoring committee

1. The monitoring committee shall examine:
 - (a) the progress in programme implementation and in achieving the milestones and targets of the Interreg programme;
 - (b) any issues that affect the performance of the Interreg programme and the measures taken to address these issues;

- (c) with regard to financial instruments, the elements of the ex ante assessment listed in Article 58(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and the strategy document referred to in Article 59(1) of that Regulation;
 - (d) the progress made in carrying out evaluations, syntheses of evaluations and any follow-up given to findings;
 - (e) the implementation of communication and visibility actions;
 - (f) the progress in implementing Interreg operations of strategic importance and, where applicable, of large infrastructure projects; and
 - (g) the progress in administrative capacity building for public institutions and beneficiaries, where relevant.
2. In addition to its tasks concerning the selection of operations listed in Article 22, the monitoring committee shall approve:
- (a) the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations, including any changes thereto, after notifying the Commission, where requested, pursuant to Article 22(2) of this Regulation, without prejudice to points (b), (c) and (d) of Article 33(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060;
 - (b) the evaluation plan and any amendment thereto;
 - (c) any proposal by the managing authority for the amendment of the Interreg programme including for a transfer in accordance with Article 19(5); and
 - (d) the final performance report.

3.4. Article 31: Review

1. A review may be organised by the Commission to examine the performance of Interreg programmes.

The review may be carried out in writing.

2. At the request of the Commission, the managing authority shall, within one month, provide the Commission with concise information on the elements listed in Article 30(1). That information shall be based on the most recent data available to the Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs.
3. The outcome of the review shall be recorded in agreed minutes.
4. The managing authority shall follow-up issues raised by the Commission and inform the Commission, within three months of the date of the review, of the measures taken.”

3.5. Article 32: Transmission of data

1. Each managing authority shall electronically transmit to the Commission cumulative data for the respective Interreg programme by 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October of each year in accordance with the template set out in Annex VII to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, with the exception of the information required in point (b) of paragraph 2 and in paragraph 3 of this Article that shall be transmitted by 31 January and 31 July of each year.

The first transmission shall be due by 31 January 2022 and the last one by 31 January 2030.

2. The data referred to in paragraph 1 shall be broken down for each priority by specific objective and shall refer to:
 - (a) the number of selected Interreg operations, their total eligible cost, the contribution from the respective Interreg fund and the total eligible expenditure declared by the lead partners to the managing authority, all broken down by type of intervention;
 - (b) the values of output and result indicators for selected Interreg operations and values achieved by finalised Interreg operations.
3. For financial instruments, data shall also be provided on the following:
 - (a) eligible expenditure by type of financial product;
 - (b) the amount of management costs and fees declared as eligible expenditure;
 - (c) the amount, by type of financial product, of private and public resources mobilised in addition to the funds;
 - (d) interest and other gains generated by support from the Interreg funds to financial instruments as referred to in Article 60 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and resources returned attributable to support from the Interreg funds as referred to in Article 62 of that Regulation;
 - (e) the total value of loans, equity or quasi-equity investments in final recipients which were guaranteed with programme resources and which were actually disbursed to final recipients.
4. The data submitted in accordance with this Article shall be reliable and reflect the data available in the electronic system referred to in point (e) of Article 72(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 as of the end of the month preceding the month of submission.
5. The managing authority shall publish or provide a link to all the data transmitted to the Commission on the website referred to in Article 36(2).

3.6. Article 35: Evaluation during the programme period

1. The Member State or the managing authority shall carry out evaluations of the programmes related to one or more of the following criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value, with the aim to improve the quality of the design and implementation of programmes. Evaluations may also cover other relevant criteria, such as inclusiveness, non-discrimination and visibility, and may cover more than one programme.
2. In addition to the evaluations referred to in paragraph 1, an evaluation for each programme to assess its impact shall be carried out by 30 June 2029.
3. Evaluations shall be entrusted to internal or external experts who are functionally independent.
4. The managing authority shall ensure the necessary procedures to produce and collect the data necessary for evaluations.
5. The managing authority shall draw up an evaluation plan that may cover more than one Interreg programme.
6. The managing authority shall submit the evaluation plan to the monitoring committee not later than one year after the approval of the Interreg programme.
7. The managing authority shall publish all evaluations on the website referred to in Article 36(2).

3.7. Article 36: Responsibilities of managing authorities and partners with regards to transparency and communication

1. Each managing authority shall identify a communication officer for each Interreg programme. A communication officer may be responsible for more than one programme.
2. The managing authority shall ensure that, within six months of the Interreg programme's approval pursuant to Article 18, there is a website where information on each Interreg programme under its responsibility is available, covering the programme's objectives, activities, available funding opportunities and achievements.
3. Article 49(2) to (6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 on the responsibilities of the managing authority shall apply.
4. Each partner of an Interreg operation or each body implementing a financing instrument shall acknowledge support from an Interreg fund, including resources reused for financial instruments in accordance with Article 62 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, to the Interreg operation by:
 - (a) providing on the partner's official website or social media sites, where such sites exist, a short description of the Interreg operation, proportionate to the level of

support provided by an Interreg fund, including its aims and results, and highlighting the financial support from the Interreg fund;

- (b) providing a statement highlighting the support from an Interreg fund in a visible manner on documents and communication material relating to the implementation of the Interreg operation, intended for the general public or for participants;
- (c) displaying durable plaques or billboards clearly visible to the public, presenting the emblem of the Union in accordance with the technical characteristics laid down in Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, as soon as the physical implementation of an Interreg operation involving physical investment or the purchase of equipment starts or purchased equipment is installed, with regard to operations supported by an Interreg fund, the total cost of which exceeds EUR 100 000;
- (d) for Interreg operations not falling under point (c), publicly displaying at least one poster of a minimum size A3 or equivalent electronic display with information about the Interreg operation highlighting the support from an Interreg fund, except where the beneficiary is a natural person;
- (e) for operations of strategic importance and operations whose total cost exceed EUR 5 000 000 organising a communication event and involving the Commission and the responsible managing authority in a timely manner.

The term 'Interreg' shall be used next to the emblem of the Union in accordance with Article 47 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

5. For small project funds and financial instruments, the beneficiary shall ensure by means of the contractual terms that final recipients comply with the requirements to communicate publicly on the Interreg operation.

For financial instruments, the final recipient shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding, in particular when promoting the actions and their results, by providing coherent, effective and targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

6. Where remedial actions have not been put into place, the managing authority shall apply measures, taking into account the principle of proportionality, by cancelling up to 2 % of the support from the funds to:
 - (a) the beneficiary concerned who does not comply with its obligations falling under Article 47 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Article; or
 - (b) the final recipient concerned who does not comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 5.