

Mapping of Section 4.4 of IGJ Programmes

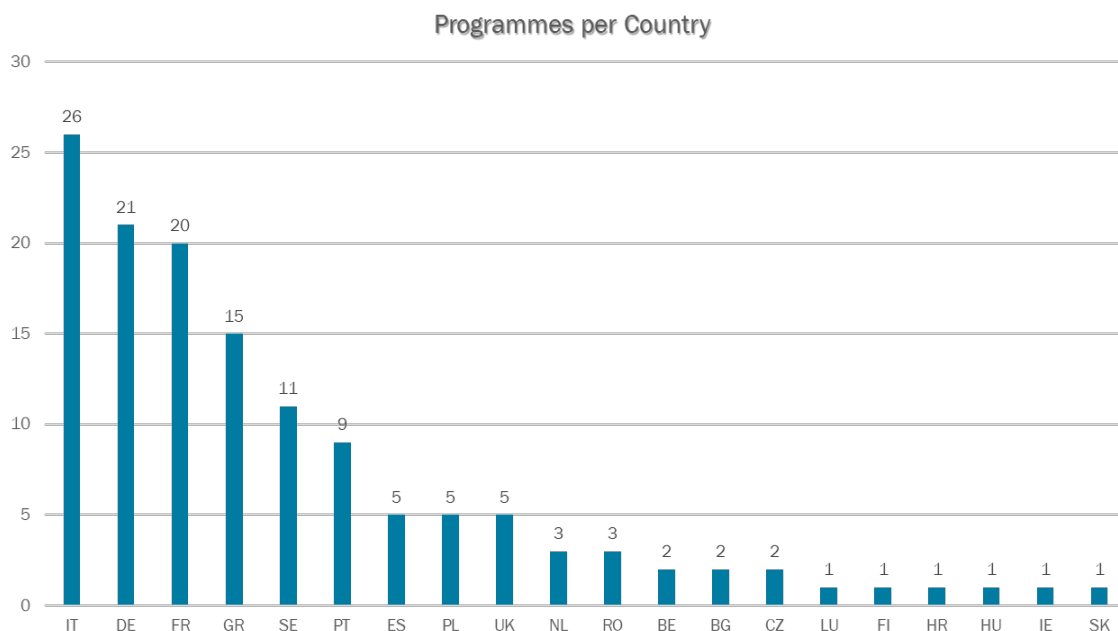
Pilot Project related to the support and awareness about the use of art.
96.3.d CPR and Cooperation actions
October 2020

Report

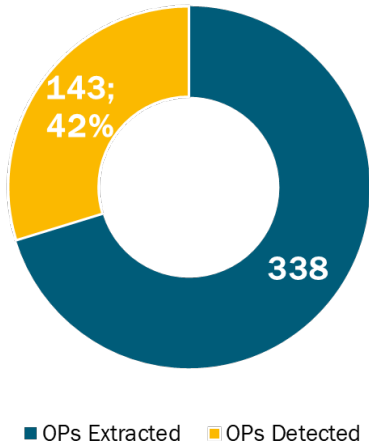
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Quantitative analysis

The mapping exercise started with an extraction of the **contents of Section 4.4 of all Operational Programmes gathered from SFC and provided by DG REGIO**.
Interact analysed the section 4.4 of **338 Operational Programmes**.



OPs Screened

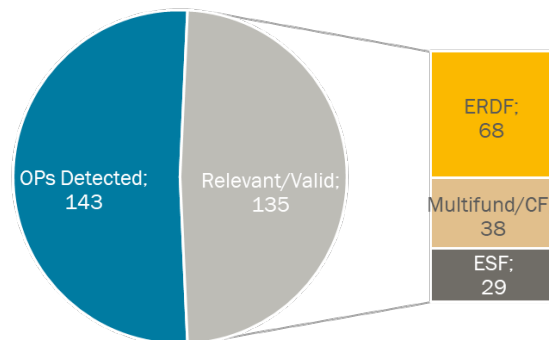


Out of them 143 contained valid information and **135 contained relevant information to be analysed** including five from UK.

Out of the **135 operational programmes' sections containing relevant and valid information:**

- 50% (68) are ERDF-funded programmes,
- 28% (38) are multi-fund or Cohesion Fund programmes and the
- 21% (29) is represented by ESF programmes.

Relevant OPs Analysed

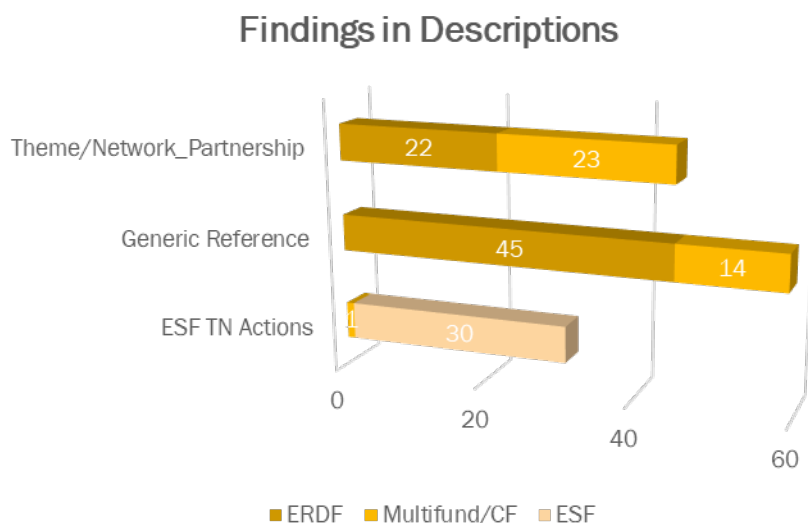


During the mapping exercise it emerged that **out of the 135 sections' descriptions 59 (44%) contained a generic or blurry reference.**

The descriptions containing “not relevant” or “not applicable” were excluded from the start, as mentioned above.

45 programmes (33%) have relevant information with sufficient detail or narrative regarding “thematic” interests (i.e. Thematic Objectives) as well as possible networks or partnerships were the cooperation interest could be deployed. Among the networks and partnerships, several layers could be also distinguished.

Furthermore 31 programmes (33%) described merely the opportunity and possibility provided by the ESF regulation for transnational actions in the framework of this fund.



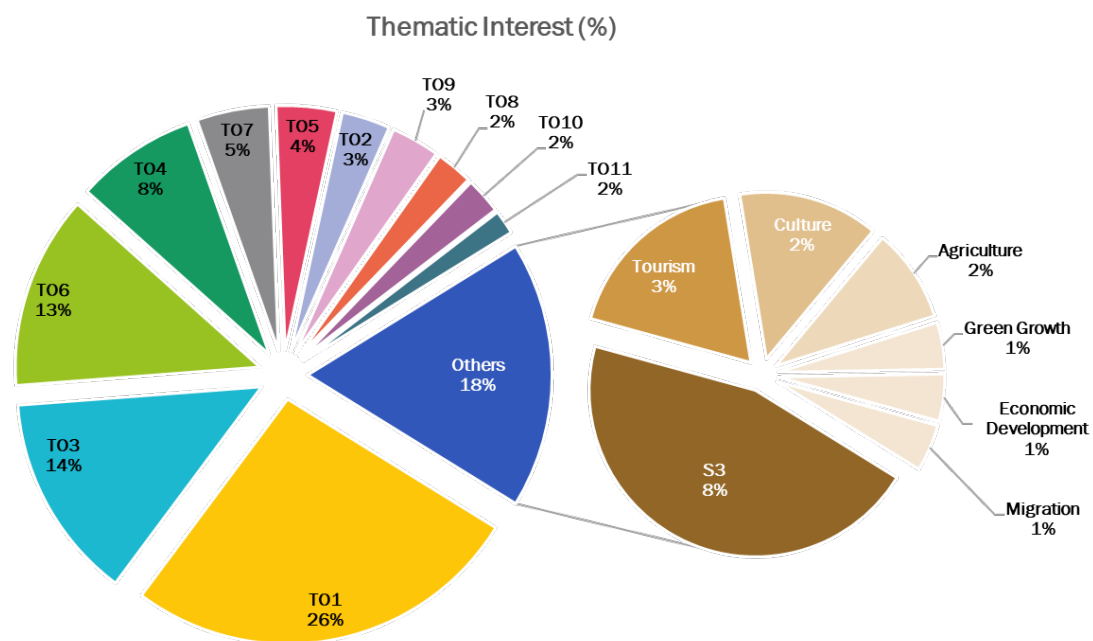
Qualitative analysis

According to these findings a certain predominance could be identified in terms of **thematic interest**: the majority of the programmes mentioned a specific theme or described the interest for **“innovation aspects” related to R+D+I** as well as any theme within the **RIS3 and Smart Specialisation**. In addition, another topic of interest is represented by **competitiveness of small enterprises**.

The second block of thematic predominance is represented by **“green topics”** related to environmental protection, risk prevention, low-carbon economy and energy efficiency.

Going on further detail, in this first mapping analysis it has been observed the interest according to the EU Cohesion Policy’s Thematic Objectives: **the main interest is for T0 1 and T03** in first line, then it can be observed a **relevant interest on T06, T04 and T05**. The rest of topics are equally represented .

Actually a third block **“Others” (non-thematic or cross-cutting topics)**, if analysed in deeper detail, shows us that 8% is actually constituted by the S3 as well as Tourism 3%, the rest could be aggregated into green topics: this **reinforces the interest on innovation and green topics**.



As per the **geographic interests, partnerships and existing networks** to cooperate with, programmes described specific interests in cooperating within macro-regional strategies' frameworks, where relevant (EUSBSR, EUSAIR, EUSDR), well as bordering territories or adjacent regions within the same Member State – for proximity or metropolitan continuity - or Euroregions.

As per the interest in partnership we can distinguish how the “interest for cooperation” is also based on geographic and political proximity. Within the observed sections, we can distinguish the following predominance:

1. **Territories involved in existing networks** (S3, KICs, Vanguard Initiative)
2. **Territories with similar conditions or proximity/political common elements** (Visegrad group, Outermost Regions, Mediterranean)
3. **Specific, adjacent border regions and regions of the same Member State**, in order to address common cross-border challenges.

Conclusions

In addition, the overall analysis - apart from the main findings related to the thematic interest or possible partnerships or framework to be exploited - provides some overall concerns and further elements. All these elements show an extended view on the understanding and interpretation of the provision, as well as its understanding in terms of programming.

Many OPs define an **unclear role and scope of cooperation in OPs strategies**: no clarification of its necessity or added value. It has also to be combined with an unclear justification of the need and opportunity, where relevant, to use the provision as well as its contribution to the OP objectives.

Some other descriptions contain an **undefined separation and redundant reference among the scope for the use of this provision and ETC programmes in the Region**: in this sense, many programmes are somehow excluding this opportunity because of the robust presence of Interreg programmes or 'activity' in their territory. This brings, somehow, doubts on the opportunity to use this provision as well and as complementary action under the OPs. In combination with this, in some cases, there's a blurry reference to the scope of using the provision within MRSs (where applicable for *embedding*).

Otherwise, in contrast with the requirements under section 4.4, in several cases there are **unclear references for synergies** and links with other direct management instruments

Some descriptions **also refer unnecessary to ITI or territorial development tools and approaches to be used, without any concrete proposal or strategy for it**, especially in combination with the provision under art. 96.3.d.

Similarly, in several descriptions, a certain **confusion** is observed in comparison with the information required in Section 6 of ETC Programmes' template.

As per the legislative framework, some OPs make **ambiguous references to art. 65 and 70 CPR**, that shows off a confusion among the scope of these provisions.

It also can be observed the case of **lack of match with possible partner regions**: despite some ROPs mention possible partnership with other regions, the indicated partner ROPs do not refer back or mention the other partner, nor the possibility of using the provision.

In some cases, we can also observe **a mismatch and unforeseen expenditures outside the programme area**, incurred by programmes not mentioning neither the use of the provision, thus having no budget allocations for this type of expenditures.

Many programmes use a **generic reference**, and they reserve the opportunity to implement the provision *if applicable and demonstrated* without any clear proposal or basis for decision making.

The mapping analysis also shows how some **Member States supported this approaches and the alignment among the OPOs at national level**: some Member States provided support

and guidelines about procedures and applicable rules, as well as % to be allocated, eligibility principles, or possible *degree of cooperation envisaged*: this could be observed in the descriptions of OPs of FR, SE, DE, GR, IT, PT, PL.

As overall conclusion, there is an unclear understanding of the provision, in terms of scope and opportunity for possible cooperation actions at benefit of territories, as well as in terms of legal or strategic framework applicable and technicalities.

These findings and conclusions pave the way for **further support and need for guidance for IGJ stakeholders** to define the scope and strategic framework for such approaches to be implemented.

Further exploitation of the mapping, to be implemented by Interact in 2021, may allow the completion of a 'Matrix' structure for allowing exchanges among IGJ Managing Authorities as well as a matching of thematic and/or partnerships' interest.