

Summary of Interact IV Monitoring Committee meetings

Updated February 2024

MC01 – first Monitoring Committee meeting 20 September 2022, Online meeting held under the French Presidency

After more than three years of preparatory work, European Commission has adopted Interact IV 2021-2027 programme on 27 July 2022. The next step was for the Interact IV Monitoring Committee to meet and approve all necessary documents for the successful launch of activities, which is planned for 1 December 2022.

The online meeting was held under the French Presidency and was therefore chaired by Christina Bezes-Feldmeyer. All meeting documents were already discussed before by the Interact IV Programming committee and updated based on the comments and suggestions received.

The monitoring committee approved its Rules of Procedure, the Rules on Eligibility of expenditure, and agreed on the final text of the Strategic Implementation Document. The budget for all beneficiaries (Interact Offices in Valencia, Viborg, Vienna and Turku and Interact Secretariat) and the breakdown of the flat rate for technical assistance were also approved during the meeting. Following the good practice from the past, the spending will be regularly monitored by the Managing Authority and if needed, the budget will be reallocated between the beneficiaries.

All of these documents can be found on the current website at: www.interact-eu.net/#o=interact-iv

The second meeting of the monitoring committee will take place on 15-16 December 2022 in Paris, France.

MC02 – second Monitoring Committee meeting 15-16 December 2022, Paris, France

The second Interact IV Monitoring Committee meeting was chaired by Christina Bezes-Feldmeyer and the main item on the agenda was the work plan for 2023.

Interact priorities for the upcoming year are to support Interreg programmes in preparation and start, especially in how to prepare management and control system description, how to switch to risk based management verifications and to comply with the e-cohesion by further developing the Joint electronic monitoring system (Jems). We will also support the closure activities of the 2014-2020 programming period, facilitate the synergies between programmes, be active in the external cooperation (Interreg IPA, Interreg NEXT and outer-most regions) and continue the horizontal support to macro-regional strategies. Our work on harmonisation and

simplification will continue as well, as well as the capitalisation activities and strategic visibility, i.e. Interreg Day Campaign and Interreg Slam. Monitoring Committee members approved the work plan, the upcoming events are available on our website: <https://www.interact-eu.net/events>

Monitoring Committee members also discussed extensively the new element in our work, the training schemes. This new way of learning will enable participants to get comprehensive knowledge and obtain a certificate. Interact will also develop a catalogue of different trainings. First training should be available before summer break.

During the meeting, participants discussed also about the principles of establishing and maintaining Interact networks and working groups, the preparation of the evaluation plan and the preparation of communication strategy.

They gave valuable feedback on all the agenda items and agreed to continue the discussions at the next meeting, which will take place on 30-31 May 2023 in Prague, Czech Republic.

MC03 – third Monitoring Committee meeting 30-31 May 2023, Prague, Czech Republic

The third Interact IV Monitoring Committee meeting was chaired by Milada Hroňková.

At first, Interact presented Interreg Knowledge Fair pilot event, which was a great success.

The meeting continued with programme management updates. During the Interact IV programming period, the Managing Authority will monitor the programme outputs monthly. Risk-based management verification will be mandatory for all programmes in the 2021-2027 programming period. Very low Interact III error rate of 0.04%, which covered minor irregularities related to public procurement, forms a good basis for the new system, which will carry out a sample check.

Next, the members of the Monitoring Committee approved the draft Interact IV Evaluation plan 2021-2027 and commented on the updated Interact IV Communication strategy. Information on the new visual identity for Interact IV, the timeline for the launch of the new website and the visibility of Interact activities was also discussed.

The second meeting day started with the presentation of Interact Academy training programmes and progress details since the last meeting. The participants were also informed about the upcoming changes to the Strategic Implementation Document.

The Monitoring Committee subsequently approved the work plan for the second half of 2023, the upcoming events are available on our website: <https://www.interact-eu.net/events>

The last item of the meeting was devoted to the development and key achievements of the Jems electronic monitoring system. 50 Interreg programmes have already signed the licence.

The next Monitoring Committee meeting will take place online on 5 December 2023 under the Swedish presidency.

MC04 – fourth Monitoring Committee meeting 05 December 2023, Online meeting held under the Swedish Presidency of the programme

The fourth Interact IV Monitoring Committee meeting was chaired by Maria Eriksson.

At first, programme management updates were presented. The Managing Authority finalised the Description of Management and Control System in June 2023, prepared several guidance documents for the beneficiaries and controllers and conducted trainings on risk-based management verifications.

Next on the agenda was the state of play of the [Interact Academy](#), a new initiative featuring certified trainings as well as short online courses in programme management, finances, and communication. The participants were also informed about the future changes to one of the key documents of the programme, the [Strategic Implementation Document](#).

After, the members of the Monitoring Committee approved the Interact Work Plan 2024. All upcoming events can be found [here](#). Next, the participants were introduced to the updated Interact IV Communication strategy and the new Interact website, www.interact.eu (launched at the end of 2023). The meeting continued with presenting Interact's new tool, the Interreg Data Exchange (Index). The last item of the meeting was devoted to thematic capitalisation strategy.

The following Monitoring Committee meeting will take place on 11-12 June 2024, in Valencia, Spain under the Spanish presidency.