

EXTRACT FROM INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME 2021-2027

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2. Priorities

Reference: Article 17(4)(d) and (e)

2.1. Title of the priority (repeated for each priority)

Reference: Article 17(4)(d)

Text field: [300]

Priority 1: A smarter central Europe through cooperation

This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3)

2.1.1. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO1 -(i) Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

2.1.1.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 1.1: Strengthening innovation capacities in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

Strong innovation capacities bear enormous relevance for the economic development of central Europe, considering its strong industrial base and the importance of sectors such as agriculture and food, the manufacturing industry or tourism. In particular, regions that are struggling with the transition to a more digitalised, green and bio-economy need to strengthen their capacities for innovation.

Currently, not all regions in central Europe equally engage in and benefit from research and innovation. R&D activities are mostly spatially clustered in urban areas and concentrated in larger companies. Knowledge and technology transfer remains a critical need especially for SMEs along the value chains. They are often local suppliers and not operating on global markets like larger companies. Tackling these challenges will also help to reduce territorial disparities between regions that might otherwise lead to unequal opportunities and a societal disintegration.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation in particular to improve SME competitiveness. The aim is to improve policy learning, to strengthen the capacities of innovation stakeholders and to increase collaboration within and between regional innovation systems. Possible cooperation actions include the development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, training and pilot actions. All actions have to respect greening and sustainability aspects as a horizontal principle.

Actions should push the uptake of novel technologies and solutions and consider e.g. prototyping and bringing research to the market. They should also foster cross-sector linkages by improving cooperation among innovation stakeholders with similar or complementing challenges. Actions should furthermore contribute to the establishment and strengthening of regional and transnational central European structures (e.g. clusters, innovation networks) and value chains, which will ultimately reduce dependency on foreign suppliers. The cooperation of companies within such interregional partnerships is in particular encouraged if these are part of value chains related to regional smart specialisation strategies.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Green economy, bio-economy
- Industry 4.0, robotisation, digital technologies, key enabling technologies
- Smart specialisation strategies
- Cultural and creative industries
- Silver economy and social innovation
- Technology and innovation transfer to SMEs
- Interregional partnerships along value chains
- New schemes for financing innovation

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Improving capacities of and cooperation among innovation stakeholders at different governance levels to help in particular SMEs to better integrate digitalisation when transitioning to industry 4.0 (while respecting sustainability aspects)
- Exchanging good practices on new green trends and standards and implementing pilot actions to support SMEs in taking up green economy approaches
- Fostering technology and innovation transfer from research to business in order to support the roll out of innovative solutions in a wider territory
- Developing new forms of cooperation along value chains in order to support the roll out of innovative solutions in a wider territory
- Setting up and strengthening transnational innovation networks and clusters and support cooperation among innovation hubs in different territories to foster internationalisation
- Enabling cross-sectoral cooperation to help businesses from various sectors (e.g. traditional economic sectors, cultural and creative industries, health care or silver economy) to sustainably integrate digital technologies (e.g. artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, Internet of Things) into product and service development
- Improving collaboration along value chains of (green) innovative products and services in line with national and regional smart specialisation strategies, in order to open up new business opportunities and markets
- Developing and implementing transnational value chain concepts based on regional potentials and resources. These should strengthen sustainability and reduce external dependency of value generation for central European regions (e.g. by reshoring of industrial production), and increase regional resilience to external impacts such as ruptures of supplier chains

- Reducing innovation gaps in non-urban areas by e.g. improving access to innovation support services for rural businesses focused on smart specialisation and technology priority areas
- Strengthening linkages between the public and private sector and finance institutions to encourage the design and setup of structures and services that facilitate access to innovation financing
- Promoting innovative actions that make the economy fairer and help the economic and social integration of disadvantaged population groups (e.g. handicapped persons, migrants, elderly)

Actions under this SO could clearly benefit from coordination with other European funding instruments including Horizon Europe, the Interregional Innovation Investments instruments, ERDF mainstreaming programmes or national innovation funds. Actions should seek synergies with these to achieve higher and wider territorial impacts in central Europe, e.g. through the uptake of research results and their rolling-out in the regions.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will result in the strengthening of innovation capacities in central Europe and its regional economies. They will improve policy learning and implementation, encourage policy changes towards a green and digitalised economy in lagging regions and help these with catching up with front-runner regions. Actions will lead to improved framework conditions for innovation and foster the uptake of advanced technologies. Improved cross-sector cooperation, technology transfer and coordination will contribute to reducing innovation barriers, in particular for SMEs.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final (2029) [200]	target
1	SO 1.1	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan			

1	SO 1.1	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
1	SO 1.1	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
1	SO 1.1	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	SO 1.1	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
1	SO 1.1	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
1	SO 1.1	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2.1.1.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. They should be stimulated to take up solutions that lead to an improved innovation eco-system. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors of the quadruple innovation helix system such as enterprises and their employees (especially SMEs), cluster organisations, public authorities, intermediaries, education and training organisations, private and public research institutions. Additionally, target groups include all public and private stakeholders and population groups affected by the issue.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, chambers of commerce and industry, enterprises (including SMEs), cluster organisations, universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions, NGOs, innovation agencies, technological parks, industrial parks, sectoral and business networks, business incubators, cluster management bodies, and financing institutions.

2.1.1.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address all types of territories. Territories with deficiencies in their innovation system should however be focused on. These will benefit from exchanges with advanced regions and learn from them. In turn, cooperation will also allow advanced regions to become more competitive on the global market. Even though innovation system stakeholders are mostly located in urban areas, needs of rural areas should also be addressed.

All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial characteristics of targeted areas.

2.1.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.1.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	SO 1.1		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	SO 1.1		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	SO 1.1		

2.1.2. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO1 - (iv) Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

2.1.2.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 1.2: Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

The strong industrial base of central Europe relies on skilled workers, which underlines the strategic relevance of this programme specific objective. SMEs are the largest employers in central Europe. To meet their needs it is important to improve and modernise skills of people locally, especially in view of digitalisation challenges and the transition to Industry 4.0. Up-to-date skills are a pre-requisite for exploiting technological innovation and exploiting the potentials offered by smart specialisation in different sectors and technology priority areas (including the health sector, silver economy, culture, tourism etc.). Skills are also key to encouraging entrepreneurship. Finally yet importantly, place-based improvements of the local employment situation are crucial for reducing urban-rural disparities. Overall, there is the need for a just transition process that is socially responsible and avoiding social as well as digital exclusion.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation that improves knowledge and human skills encouraging the introduction and strengthening of sustainable and innovative products, services or processes especially by SMEs. Possible cooperation actions include the development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, trainings and pilot actions. Cooperation can help adapting solutions for e.g. institutional learning, vocational training, lifelong learning, and e-learning to the specific needs, economic conditions and smart specialisation strategies of the targeted territories.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Skills for Industry 4.0, digitalisation, green economy, bio economy, silver economy and healthcare
- Capacity-building and institutional learning for smart specialisation
- Matching skills to labour market needs
- Competences for entrepreneurship
- Demographic change, ageing society, brain-drain, regional (urban-rural) disparities of human capital
- Counterbalancing job loss due to automation and digitisation

- Social entrepreneurship and social innovation leading to better social integration

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Improving capacities and competences of policy makers and other stakeholders to develop forward looking approaches to adapt regional skills development to future labour market needs (especially to make more sustainable use of digitalisation in different sectors and to support the digital transition of SMEs)
- Fostering skills of employees and entrepreneurs to implement green economy business concepts
- Developing knowledge hubs and innovative learning systems (e.g. transnational and cross-border learning labs, specialised learning platforms, open-access digital learning environments) contributing to the technology priority areas of regional smart specialisation strategies of the targeted regions
- Developing and implementing strategies and solutions that build on different business cultures and on all levels of education to improve entrepreneurial mind-sets and frameworks
- Developing support services for SMEs and entrepreneurs to improve their access to research and technological innovations
- Improving regional and local policies to help regions cope with demographic change related to labour market challenges (e.g. brain drain, ageing society, unemployment, migration), especially in rural and shrinking areas
- Developing and testing creative solutions for labour market adjustments (e.g. incentives, training, up-skilling, and counselling) in order to match labour market needs and counterbalance job losses due to automation and digitisation
- Strengthening capacities of the public and private sector for social innovation to ensure a just and socially inclusive economic transition (considering also novel solutions for silver economy and healthcare)
- Fostering competences of companies in view of social inclusion, social entrepreneurship and diversity management to improve the integration of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (e.g. handicapped persons, elderly, unemployed, migrants etc.) and better respect human health aspects

Actions should seek synergies with initiatives funded by other EU instruments such as ESF+ and the Just Transition Fund (which partly focuses on skills development for vulnerable groups) as well as initiatives from national and regional funds.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will build capacities of and empower public authorities, intermediate bodies and other institutions, to create framework conditions that help improve skills of employees and entrepreneurs in view of challenges like green economy, digitalisation and industrial transition. This will result in policy learning for the delivery of new and better services such as trainings and will foster the successful implementation of regional smart specialisation strategies. The framework conditions will also have to be inclusive, to allow citizens from all territories to benefit from the transition process. They have to take into consideration the specific challenges of territorial disparities, demographic change and brain drain.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.1.2.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
1	SO 1.2	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
1	SO 1.2	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
1	SO 1.2	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
1	SO 1.2	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	SO 1.2	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
1	SO 1.2	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
1	SO 1.2	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2.1.2.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors such as enterprises and their employees (especially in SMEs), (future) entrepreneurs, cluster organisations, public authorities, intermediaries, education and training organisations, private and public research institutions, associations representing specific groups (e.g. migrants, handicapped persons, unemployed). Target groups include also all population groups, which will benefit from improved skills development measures at regional and local level.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. They comprise amongst others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, enterprises (including SMEs), cluster organisations, universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions, NGOs, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as social partners and labour market-related institutions.

2.1.2.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area. Territories with deficiencies in skills development in their innovation system or labour market (e.g. peripheral and structurally weak regions, regions facing industrial decline, shrinking regions, brain drain affected regions) should however be focused on. These will benefit from exchanges with advanced regions and learn from them. In turn, cooperation will also allow advanced regions to become more competitive on the global market. For this, possible actions need to consider the specific territorial characteristics and smart specialisation strategies of the targeted regions.

2.1.2.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.1.2.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	SO 1.2		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	SO 1.2		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	SO 1.2		

1.1. Title of the priority (repeated for each priority)

Reference: Article 17(4)(d)

Text field: [300]

Priority 2: A greener central Europe through cooperation

This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3)

2.2.1. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO2 - (i) Promoting energy efficiency measures

2.2.1.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 2.1: Supporting the energy transition to a climate-neutral central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

Many regions of central Europe are still highly dependent on fossil fuels and their GHG emissions are above EU average. Significant regional disparities exist in view of their energy efficiency performance as well as their production and use of renewable energies, making it difficult for them to meet EU energy targets and climate objectives of the European Green Deal. Consequently, regions and cities need to increase efforts and improve policies to address energy-related matters in all sectors, including the industrial and residential sectors. Transnational cooperation aims to play a central role in supporting and coordinating the societal and economic transformation to a climate-neutral central Europe.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation to increase energy efficiency and the sustainable use of renewable energies across the programme area. Possible cooperation actions include the joint development and implementation of strategies and action plans, tools, trainings and pilot actions. Actions should improve energy-related policies and capacities and help central European regions and cities to implement affordable sustainable energy solutions that fit their specific territorial settings.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Renewable energy production and usage
- Energy efficiency of buildings and public infrastructures

- Greenhouse gas emissions from industrial production processes
- Energy planning at local and regional levels
- Energy demand management and behavioural change
- Financing schemes for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments
- Smart integration of carbon-neutral solutions across sectors

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Supporting the development of coherent policy frameworks at regional level for the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and society in central Europe
- Improving capacities of relevant stakeholders and fostering the exchange of knowledge and good practices on climate change mitigation at local and regional levels, especially between regions with similar territorial characteristics regarding the practical implementation of climate action plans
- Supporting cost-effective measures and pilot actions that increase energy efficiency in different sectors (e.g. in the building and construction sector, industry, agriculture, forestry etc.) and improve the integration of sustainable renewable energy-sources in different sectors
- Implementing pilot actions on innovative and climate-neutral solutions through e.g. taking up and exploiting R&D results for heating and cooling buildings
- Developing and implementing smart city and smart regions approaches to foster a carbon-neutral society
- Testing through pilot actions the production of decentralised renewable energy, and supporting the empowerment of renewables self-consumers and communities, especially in rural areas
- Improving energy demand management and fostering behavioural changes of consumers regarding a resource-efficient and sustainable use of energy
- Developing and introducing new or improved incentive schemes that encourage the reduction of industrial GHG emissions on regional level and strengthen the sustainable usage of renewable energy sources and energy storage solutions (including hydrogen)
- Mobilising investments, in particular private funds, to implement energy efficiency measures and make use of renewable energy sources in different sectors, including the industrial and residential sectors
- Fostering the collection of integrated data on energy management and the interoperability of data through digital technologies and the coordination of standards and regulatory aspects

Actions should seek synergies with other European instruments, in particular linked to the EU Green Deal. They should build on research results and innovative technologies developed in programmes like Horizon Europe, LIFE etc. and lever infrastructure investments through the private sector and EU financing instruments as e.g. national and regional ERDF programmes, the Joint Transition Fund or the EIB.

Furthermore, actions should take into account relevant EU and EC initiatives such as the Central and South Eastern Europe energy connectivity (CESEC), the Green City Accord and the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. It is also encouraged to participate in already existing regional

cooperation fora for the Energy Union Governance and to join the energy dialogue on the optimisation of energy and climate policies.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will result in increased capacities of central European regions and cities for implementing improved energy efficiency policies and measures within different sectors. Pilot actions will demonstrate the viability of energy efficiency solutions which will lead to behavioural changes, reduce barriers and lever further investment for their wide deployment within central Europe. This will ultimately result in lower GHG emissions on the path to carbon-neutrality and help to mitigate climate change.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
2	SO 2.1	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
2	SO 2.1	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
2	SO 2.1	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
2	SO 2.1	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
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2	SO 2.1	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
2	SO 2.1	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
2	SO 2.1	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2.2.1.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. As a result, they will be stimulated to take up solutions that lead to improved energy efficiency, an increased use of renewable energies and a more climate-neutral central Europe. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors such as energy operators, policy makers and planners, energy distributors, infrastructure providers and other local and regional energy actors, as well as industry including SMEs. Target groups include also all population groups, which will benefit from an improved regional and local energy performance.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, energy operators, energy management institutions, enterprises including SMEs, associations, innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

2.2.1.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address both urban and rural areas. Territories which show a lower performance in energy efficiency and renewable energy use, or which have deficiencies regarding climate-neutral actions, should however be in the focus. They will profit most from knowledge exchanges with more advanced regions, which will in turn also be able to strengthen further their energy performance.

All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial characteristics of targeted areas.

2.2.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.1		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.1		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.1		

2.2.2. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO2 - (iv) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

2.2.2.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 2.2: Increasing the resilience to climate change in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

Central Europe is facing significant challenges related to climate change. Extreme weather events like heat waves and heavy rainfalls are increasing considerably and lead to river flooding, landslides and more frequent heat and draught periods. In view of significant environmental, socio-economic and human health-related impacts, central European regions need to improve their resilience to climate change. However, the impact of climate change varies substantially between different regions and sectors. Therefore, adaptation actions need to take into account specific territorial aspects. Measures have to be tailored at the local level in order to set up viable integrated solutions, which could then be replicated in other regions of the central Europe area having similar characteristics. There is a strong need to integrate climate change concerns into risk-based strategic planning and measures enhancing resilience. This relates to a wide variety of natural hazards such as urban heat, floods, landslides, wild fires and droughts including water scarcity.

Transnational cooperation actions

In line with EU Green Deal objectives, under this SO Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation to enhance policy learning and regional capacities on climate resilience across the programme area. Possible cooperation actions include the development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, training and pilot actions. Actions should address the challenges of the territories to alleviate environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate change and related risks, through the cooperative development of approaches. This will help central European regions and cities to implement climate change adaptation measures that are tailored to their specific territorial settings.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Climate change resilience and adaptation measures
- Climate-proof landscape and urban planning
- Weather extremes and related hazards (rainfall events, floods, landslides, heat, draughts, water scarcity, wildfires etc.)
- Risk prevention and management
- Socio-economic and health-related impacts of climate change

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Increasing awareness and information of policy makers about local and regional implications of climate change, in order to foster a better understanding and integration of climate change concerns into policy design and implementation
- Developing integrated strategies and solutions to improve central European capacities for preparing and adapting to climate change and its negative impacts on society, economy and the environment
- Exchanging knowledge and good practices on eco-system based climate change adaptation measures and implementing pilot actions for restoration towards resilient eco-systems, e.g. rivers and wetlands, agro-forestry, biodiversity, landscapes etc.
- Developing and implementing integrated strategies and climate action plans that improve the resilience of central European cities (e.g. regarding urban heat islands or flash floods)
- Testing integrated climate-adaptation solutions in pilot actions, which combine technological, ecological, social, cultural, governance and financial aspects. The pilot actions should build on good practices available at local, national or European level
- Improving digital competences of and coordination among relevant stakeholders to manage climate-induced risks (e.g. by harmonizing and sharing data, forecasting and early warning systems)
- Increasing climate resilience of critical infrastructures and cultural heritage sites through improved risk preparedness and risk management plans
- Integrating climate change aspects into water management strategies on local, regional and interregional level (considering e.g. water quality, flooding, water scarcity, drinking water supply including smart water pricing, ground water)
- Sharing knowledge and developing solutions for climate proofing the agricultural and forestry sectors to increase their resilience towards e.g. droughts, outbreaks of pests
- Developing integrated strategies and solutions for strengthening eco-system services for human health and wellbeing in order to support social resilience and counteracting socio-economic impacts of climate change

Actions should seek synergies with European and national instruments, in particular related to the EU Green Deal. They should take into account available results from other programmes like Horizon Europe, LIFE etc. and contribute to lever investments from e.g. national and regional ERDF programmes, the Joint Transition Fund.

Furthermore, actions should take into account existing initiatives to create added value on all levels (e.g. transnational adaptation strategies or action plans developed in the frame of macro-regional strategies). Participation is also encouraged in well-established international initiatives such as Making Cities Resilient (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) or 100 Resilient Cities (Rockefeller Foundation) which will contribute to increasing the visibility of the CE region in the climate change adaptation agenda.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will result in increased capacities and policy learning to improve resilience and timely counteract unfavourable climate change impacts in central Europe. They will also improve the coordination of adaptation and risk prevention measures and lead to a broader deployment of novel solutions which have been tested and demonstrated in pilot actions. Actions

are also expected to leverage funds for climate change adaptation and resilience measures throughout central Europe.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.2.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
2	SO 2.2	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
2	SO 2.2	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
2	SO 2.2	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
2	SO 2.2	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	SO 2.2	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
2	SO 2.2	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2	SO 2.2	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
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2.2.2.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. As a result, they will be stimulated to take up solutions that improve the implementation of climate change resilience and adaptation measures in Interreg CE regions. More concretely, target groups include the public sector (e.g. policy makers and planners) and the private sector (e.g. organisations active on climate change adaptation). Target groups are also all population groups, which benefit from an improved climate change resilience at regional and local level.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, associations, special interest groups, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

2.2.2.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and in all types of territories (both urban and rural areas). Territories that are most vulnerable and affected by climate change impacts should however be in the focus. They will benefit most from exchanging with and learning from other regions with similar pressures.

All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial characteristics of targeted areas.

2.2.2.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.2.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.2		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.2		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.2		

2.2.3. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO2 - (vi) Promoting the transition to a circular economy

2.2.3.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 2.3: Taking circular economy forward in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

Increasing resource efficiency by e.g. preventing waste or using it as a resource is central for a circular economy. The concept has considerable potential for reducing environmental pressure and offers new, green business and job opportunities. Central Europe is moving closer to European targets for waste re-use and recycling but several of its regions are still lagging behind. For an overall more resource-efficient and competitive economy, a further development and scaling up of circular approaches is necessary. Such transformation will require a policy framework for sustainable products, a re-arrangement of key value chains and material flows (including energy and water), an improved waste management as well as the creation of new business models.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation to increase the deployment of circular economy approaches across the programme area. Possible cooperation actions include the joint development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, trainings and pilot actions. Actions should be in line with the EU Green Deal and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and therefore improve product life cycles, promote circular economy processes and foster sustainable consumption. Transnational cooperation should push the transition to a circular economy by increasing knowledge, improving policy learning as well as practically testing good practices.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Waste prevention and management, recycling and recovery of resources and raw materials
- Repair and re-use
- Circular economy value chains
- Clean production processes and closed loop systems
- Sustainable product design (e.g. eco-design) and product development processes
- Behavioural changes of producers, consumers, public buyers etc.

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Increasing awareness of policy makers and stakeholders about environmental and economic opportunities of a circular economy and improving their capacity for the practical implementation of circular economy approaches
- Supporting policy frameworks for deploying and scaling up circular economy approaches, e.g. through developing and implementing integrated circular economy strategies and action plans at the local and regional levels
- Improving waste management policies and competences of the public and private sector, including the prevention, processing and recycling of communal and industrial waste
- Developing and testing solutions that support the recovery and reuse of raw materials (e.g. setting up local markets for secondary raw materials, creating a central European market place for recycling products)
- Testing of repair, reuse and refurbish approaches in pilot actions that closely involve citizens
- Developing and putting into practice industrial symbiosis concepts at territorial level and fostering resource efficient industrial networks and business ecosystems
- Setting up policy frameworks for sustainable products and supporting local and regional governance structures that encourage circularity, eco-innovation and eco-design approaches in the entire life cycle of products
- Exchanging knowledge and good practices on solutions for clean production processes that consider circularity in different industrial sectors (such as electronics, construction and buildings, textiles, plastics, packaging, food, agriculture) and testing them in pilot actions
- Strengthening cooperation of actors along key value chains to reduce barriers for circular economy approaches (by considering also market- and globalisation-related aspects)
- Fostering and testing digital solutions for the circular economy including applications and services (such as product passports, resource mapping and consumer information)
- Fostering public-private cooperation to design financial instruments and sustainable business models that help the introduction of innovative circular economy solutions and cleaner production processes
- Developing and testing approaches that lead to behavioural changes and higher acceptance of more sustainable products and resource-efficient consumption and production patterns (e.g. integrated approaches for reducing food waste)
- Developing and testing approaches that enhance market demand for recycled materials and products (e.g. sustainable public procurement)

Actions should seek synergies with national and EU instruments to take up innovative results and technologies (e.g. from Horizon Europe) and thematic existing networks and initiatives such as the Circular Plastic Alliance or the Bio-based Industries Consortium. Actions are also expected to contribute to the leverage of investments from e.g. national and regional ERDF programmes, the Joint Transition Fund.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will result in increased capacities of central European public and private stakeholders to implement circular economy policies and to exploit innovative solutions in practice. Actions will lead to improved policy frameworks for sustainable products and behavioural

change. They will also help to reduce implementation barriers and lever investment for the deployment of circular economy measures both in the public and private sectors. Such integration and deployment of circular economy approaches, should address mainstream economic players and not only front-runners.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.3.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
2	SO 2.3	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
2	SO 2.3	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
2	SO 2.3	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
2	SO 2.3	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	SO 2.3	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
2	SO 2.3	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

			after project completion						
2	SO 2.3	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2.2.3.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. As a result, they will be stimulated to take up solutions leading to an improved circular economy framework and more sustainable and resource-efficient production processes. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors covering a wide range of different sectors and levels of governance such as policy makers, industry including SMEs, urban and rural planners, waste facilities, infrastructure owners and operators as well as other organisations such as intermediaries, regional agencies and associations. Target groups include all population groups including consumers, which will benefit from circular economy solutions.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, waste operators, environmental institutions, enterprises including SMEs, associations, business agencies, innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

2.2.3.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address both urban and rural areas. Territories which are lagging behind regarding the deployment of circular economy solutions should however be in the focus. They will profit most from knowledge exchanges with more advanced regions, which will in turn also be able to strengthen further their resource efficiency.

All actions need to consider the specific territorial characteristics of the targeted areas.

2.2.3.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.3.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.3		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.3		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	SO 2.3		

2.2.4. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO2 - (vii) Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

2.2.4.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 2.4: Safeguarding the environment in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

Pressures such as land use, pollution, the extraction of natural resources, and invasive alien species increasingly endanger the rich variety of landscapes, natural assets, ecosystems and biodiversity in central Europe. Coordinated approaches are necessary to counteract this trend and to valorise and protect the environment as well as to ensure ecological connectivity, which is also one of the policy areas of the EU Green Deal and is highlighted in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. This requires integrated approaches for air, water and soil protection and to involve different sectors and stakeholders such as environmental and spatial planning authorities, water facilities, industry and tourism.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation actions such as the development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, trainings and pilot actions that protect nature more efficiently and make environmental management more sustainable. Actions should focus on the development and implementation of better environmental policies as well as on the joint development of approaches that are tailored to specific local conditions. Ecosystems that are stretching across borders (e.g. river basins, ecological corridors etc.) should benefit from transnational cooperation beyond already existing multilateral initiatives, such as the Green Belt Initiative.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Biodiversity conservation and recovery
- Protection of natural heritage, ecosystems and valuable areas incl. Natura 2000 sites
- Environmental pollution (air, water, soil, noise, light etc.) and human health impacts
- Integrated environmental management and sustainable use of natural resources
- Sustainable land management and landscape planning
- Ecosystem services (e.g. production of food and water, clean air, recreational benefits)
- Restoration of degraded ecosystems
- Sustainable tourism and the valorisation of natural heritage

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Elaborating and improving policy frameworks for biodiversity and implementing strategies at local, regional and transnational level to conserve and restore ecosystems and to protect wildlife.
- Improving skills and competences of stakeholders on all policy levels through the exchange of knowledge and best practices to foster the integrated management of natural resources such as air, water and soil
- Linking green and blue infrastructures in a coordinated way to create and strengthen ecological corridors and protected sites at local, regional and transnational level, which will help to reduce landscape fragmentation and improve the transboundary connectivity of habitats
- Testing in pilot actions innovative technical solutions for the restoration of degraded ecosystems (e.g. rivers, high-diversity landscapes, forests) and upscaling these approaches at a wider territorial level
- Elaborating and testing solutions to evaluate and enhance ecosystem services and to raise the awareness of policy makers on the local and regional value of ecosystems
- Strengthening the transnational coordination of environmental management and nature protection in the frame of multilateral cooperation initiatives and structures such as the Green Belt Initiative
- Developing transnational approaches to sustainable land use in order to prevent urban sprawl and testing through pilot actions novel approaches for the remediation of polluted brownfield sites
- Developing and testing integrated environmental action plans (e.g. on monitoring and reducing pollutants) on the local and regional level as a basis for pollution prevention and remediation measures
- Building capacities for an integrated management of water ecosystems (e.g. by harmonising the implementation of water management plans to improve water quality in transnational river basins, or by applying innovative water treatment technologies)
- Sharing good practices and developing innovative solutions that address invasive alien species and strengthen sustainable environmental management practices (e.g. for forest management, lakes, pollinator-friendly management)
- Developing and implementing strategies and solutions for sustainable tourism that valorises central Europe's natural heritage (e.g. protected areas, wetlands, landscapes) through participatory approaches and that avoids usage conflicts

Actions should seek synergies with European and national instruments, in particular related to the EU Green Deal. They should take into account available results from other programmes like Horizon Europe, LIFE etc. and contribute to lever investments from e.g. national and regional ERDF programmes, the Joint Transition Fund.

Furthermore, actions should take into account existing initiatives and institutionalised cooperation settings to create added value on all levels (e.g. European Green Belt Initiative, Environmental Conventions).

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will contribute to policy learning at all governance levels and improve capacities for better managing the cross-sectoral interdependence of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as the socio-economic impacts of their deterioration. Transnational actions will help reducing policy gaps, in order to ensure a comprehensive and coherent policy framework for safeguarding and improving central Europe's environment. The piloting of new solutions and the transfer of good practices will reduce barriers for implementation of environmental protection and rehabilitation measures. It will also unlock financial resources and lever additional funds for green infrastructure.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.4.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
2	SO 2.4	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
2	SO 2.4	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
2	SO 2.4	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
2	SO 2.4	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
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2	SO 2.4	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programe monitoring system	
2	SO 2.4	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programe monitoring system	
2	SO 2.4	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programe monitoring system	

2.2.4.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations involved in or positively affected by the actions. As a result, they will improve the environmental management in central Europe. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors covering a wide range of different sectors and levels of governance, such as policy makers and planners, and other organisations that are active in the environmental field. Target groups include also all population groups, which will benefit from an improved environmental management at regional and local level.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, energy operators, energy management institutions, enterprises including SMEs, associations, innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

2.2.4.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address both urban and rural areas. Territories with valuable natural assets and regions that are much affected by environmental pressures or that have a significant potential for environmental rehabilitation (e.g. urban industrial areas, brownfields, degraded rivers) should however be in the focus. Furthermore, regions which are lagging behind regarding the implementation of environmental policies will profit most from knowledge exchanges with more advanced regions, which will in turn also be able to strengthen further their environmental management practices. For pushing implementation on local and

regional level, place-based approaches should respect the specific territorial settings of the targeted areas.

2.2.4.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.2.4.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	SO 2.4			

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	SO 2.4			

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	SO 2.4			

1.2. Title of the priority (repeated for each priority)

Reference: Article 17(4)(d)

Text field: [300]

Priority 3: A more connected central Europe through cooperation

This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3)

2.3.1. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO3 - (iii) Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

2.3.1.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 3.1: Improving transport connections of rural and peripheral regions in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

The programme area is a central junction at the heart of Europe. Seven of the nine core network corridors (CNC) of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) cross central Europe and it also connects the Baltic and the Mediterranean seas. This territorial setting has made central Europe since centuries an important hub for many trade and transport routes to which many regions are physically or socio-economically connected. A better accessibility throughout the entire area could strategically facilitate central Europe's participation in EU-wide and global trade and improve regional competitiveness.

However, for some regions, especially rural and peripheral regions including those that cross borders, the accessibility to the main transport corridors and nodes is still limited. There is the need to introduce smart transport services to bridge missing connections and to remove bottlenecks in order to ensure good accessibility across central Europe. Furthermore, in line with the EU Green Deal transport emissions need to be reduced by 90% by 2050. This calls for smart and sustainable approaches to regional mobility, inter-modality as well as the introduction of IT-supported solutions for mobility management.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation to improve the mobility in and accessibility of rural and peripheral regions, especially in view of their linkages to main EU transport corridors and nodes. Sustainable solutions will also help to reduce transport-related

pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and positively affect socioeconomic developments. Possible cooperation actions include the joint development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, training and pilot actions. Actions should improve transport-related policies and increase capacities for a coordinated, integrated planning of sustainable transport and mobility systems and solutions.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Demand-responsive and flexible regional passenger transport
- Accessibility of rural and remote areas and their connectivity to main EU transport corridors
- Transport barriers and bottlenecks across borders and beyond
- Strategic regional transport and spatial planning
- Multi-modal freight transport and logistic chains in rural and peripheral areas

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Developing and implementing integrated and multi-modal mobility strategies fostering effective and sustainable connections within rural and peripheral regions and their connection to the main transport nodes and corridors
- Designing and testing integrated, demand-responsive and sustainable transport solutions to better connect rural and peripheral areas to major transport nodes
- Identifying and supporting the removal of transport barriers and bottlenecks through e.g. improved cooperation among transport stakeholders and coordinated planning of strategic investment
- Improving the coordination between regional transport operators across borders (including e.g. the harmonisation and cross-border integration of ticketing information and services and the setting up of interregional partnerships of transport operators)
- Exchanging good practices and developing standards and sustainable solutions to improve regional mobility services in the public interest and to increase their resilience in times of crisis
- Developing and testing smart concepts for regional mobility (including e.g. digital solutions and traffic management systems)
- Improving the strategic and sustainable planning of freight transport and logistics to better align regional planning with central European value chains and TEN-T investments
- Improving transport management and navigation (including e.g. multi-modal logistics to better use existing waterway and rail transport infrastructure)
- Testing the optimisation of logistic chains in rural and peripheral areas through pilot actions based on innovative technological solutions (e.g. digitalisation)
- Developing and implementing green solutions for an efficient “last mile” transport of goods in peripheral, rural and sparsely populated areas

Under this SO, the Interreg CE Programme will complement and act as a catalyst to lever further investment for large-scale transport infrastructure. Actions should therefore seek synergies and coordinate with other European instruments and national funds, including e.g. ERDF mainstream programmes, the CEF and the EIB financial instruments as well as Interreg cross-border programmes.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will result in increased capacities of central European regions to develop and implement better sustainable transport and mobility services in rural and peripheral including cross-border areas. This will also improve the coordination between transport stakeholders and the access of regions to the main transport corridors and nodes. Pilot actions will demonstrate the feasibility of novel approaches. Investment preparation actions are expected to lever investment from other financing instruments, ultimately leading to a wide deployment of transport solutions across central Europe.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.3.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final (2029) target [200]
3	SO 3.1	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
3	SO 3.1	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
3	SO 3.1	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
3	SO 3.1	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		
3	SO 3.1	RCO 119	Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages	Project		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
3	SO 3.1	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
3	SO 3.1	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
3	SO 3.1	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2.3.1.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. As a result, they will be stimulated to take up solutions for improved transport and mobility, and a better accessibility of peripheral regions. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors covering a wide range of different sectors and levels of governance, such as institutions responsible for planning and managing regional transport services and networks, public transport operators, infrastructure providers and managers, and other local or regional transport actors. Target groups include also all population groups, which potentially benefit from improved regional passenger transport services (e.g. commuters, tourists).

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, enterprises, public transport operators, infrastructure providers, regional associations, regional innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

2.3.1.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area. They should however primarily address rural and peripheral regions including cross-border regions which are suffering from a low

accessibility. They will profit most from knowledge exchanges with already well connected regions which in turn will also be able to further improve the sustainability of their regional mobility services.

All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial challenges and settings of the targeted areas.

2.3.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.3.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	ERDF	SO 3.1		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	ERDF	SO 3.1		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	ERDF	SO 3.1		

2.3.2. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

PO3 - (iv) Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility

2.3.2.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 3.2: Greening urban mobility in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

Reducing transport emissions is a crucial challenge for greening central Europe's economy and also a major goal of the EU Green Deal. In particular, urban mobility requires an integrated response. Smart and green solutions have to be introduced in functional urban areas (FUA), taking account of interactions between "urban cores" and their "hinterlands". In central Europe, many FUAs face similar challenges when greening their mobility. They need integrated approaches to address the vast diversity of territorial aspects (from e.g. energy demand, air pollution, congestion and urban logistics to public transport services, mobility behaviour and good governance) and to achieve net zero GHG emissions. In all this, digitalisation and novel technologies show significant potentials to help greening the future of urban mobility.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational cooperation for the development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, trainings and pilot actions that aim at better policy learning and increased capacities for sustainable urban mobility. Actions should foster an integrated and smart green mobility in FUAs by considering governance aspects and improving coordination among relevant stakeholders and policies. In line with the EU "Urban Mobility Package", actions should develop and deploy integrated strategies. They should also test and introduce new green approaches and technologies for delivering solutions for urban mobility challenges. Furthermore, actions should balance out disparities between territories that are less advanced and more advanced in terms of green urban mobility.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Sustainable urban mobility planning
- Quality and efficiency of green, urban public transport services
- Smart traffic and mobility management, including commuting solutions
- Green connections between urban and peri-urban areas
- Sustainable multimodal urban freight and logistic solutions (including the "last mile")
- Urban traffic congestions
- Greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions (air quality) from urban traffic

- Accessibility of urban public transport for elderly and disabled people

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Improving skills and capacities of urban planners and decision makers on integrated sustainable and green mobility planning at the level of functional urban areas
- Exchanging knowledge, experiences and good practices on smart traffic management to improve aspects such as parking, congestion, GHG and other transport-related emissions
- Developing and implementing solutions for harmonised and integrated ticketing, fostering efficient and broadly accepted public transport at the level of functional urban areas
- Testing and rolling out Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) solutions and other digital business models for sustainable urban mobility and smart logistic solutions
- Developing and implementing integrated urban mobility concepts including e.g. zero-emission transport and monitoring strategies that contribute to improved air quality by reducing exposure of the urban population to transport-related emissions (air and noise pollution)
- Designing and setting up better governance solutions for sustainable mobility at the level of FUAs, including e.g. the coordination of stakeholders on various governance levels to improve urban and peri-urban connectivity and green commuting solutions
- Testing and deploying green urban logistic solutions and testing new approaches for multimodal transport of goods at the level of FUAs (e.g. multi-modal hubs)
- Designing and deploying strategies to green the “last mile” of urban deliveries and logistics
- Triggering behavioural changes towards more sustainable urban mobility through innovative approaches (e.g. “pop-up” measures accompanied by digital campaigning)
- Developing and implementing strategies and action plans to improve barrier-free accessibility to public transport systems for elderly and disabled people

Actions should seek synergies with EU instruments to take up innovative approaches and technologies such as from Horizon Europe and with existing networks and initiatives, e.g. CIVITAS, the European Platform on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans. Actions are also expected to contribute to the leverage of investments from e.g. national and regional ERDF programmes, the Joint Transition Fund.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will result in improved capacities and policy learning at all governance levels for implementing multimodal sustainable mobility in functional urban areas. This will lead to greener urban mobility services, behavioural change and contribute to substantially reducing transport-related pollution and GHG emissions. Less congested central European cities will bring economic benefits and create public spaces for a higher quality of life for citizens. Finally, supported actions will unlock financial resources for scaling up developed solutions and help the deployment of innovative and green urban mobility technologies at a wider territorial level.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.3.2.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
3	SO 3.2	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
3	SO 3.2	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
3	SO 3.2	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
3	SO 3.2	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		
3	SO 3.2	RCO 119	Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages	Project		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
3	SO 3.2	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
3	SO 3.2	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
3	SO 3.2	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2.3.2.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors such as public transport operators, policy makers and planners, infrastructure providers, mobility service providers, mobility interest groups, other local and regional transport actors, and enterprises including SMEs. Target groups also include all population groups, which will benefit from improved, greener public transport systems in functional urban areas.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, enterprises including SMEs, public transport operators, associations, innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

2.2.3.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the cooperation area. FUAs with high emissions of CO₂ or air pollutants from the transport sector should however be in the focus. They will profit most from knowledge exchanges with more advanced regions, which in turn will also be able to improve further their implementation capacities for green urban mobility.

All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial characteristics of the targeted functional urban areas.

2.3.2.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.3.2.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	ERDF	SO 3.2		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	ERDF	SO 3.2		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	ERDF	SO 3.2		

DRAFT

1.3. Title of the priority (repeated for each priority)

Reference: Article 17(4)(d)

Text field: [300]

Priority 4: A better governance for cooperation in central Europe

This is a priority pursuant to a transfer under Article 17(3)

2.4.1. Specific objective (repeated for each selected specific objective, for priorities other than technical assistance)

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)

ISO 1 - A better Interreg governance

2.4.1.1 Related types of action and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)

Text field [7000]

SO 4.1: Strengthening governance for integrated territorial development in central Europe

Territorial needs for central Europe

Central Europe is highly heterogeneous in both territorial and socioeconomic terms. An East-West divide is still recognisable along the former Iron Curtain and the area faces a multitude of complex challenges and barriers that do not stop at borders or administrative units and that hinder economic, social and territorial development. However, a common identity, rooted in strong cultural and historic ties, link central European regions closely together. This intangible “central European identity” is the starting point for addressing common challenges together. In line with the Territorial Agenda 2030 and the New Leipzig Charta, integrated policies and multi-level governance processes are crucial for strengthening regional development and cohesion beyond borders. However, such integrated and place-based approaches are often not sufficiently enforced in central Europe due to weak governance. Consequently, disparities and gaps persist between thriving regions and laggards. Better governance will help to change this. It will lead to more spatially and socially equitable public services and ultimately increase territorial and social cohesion as well as promote the principle of equal opportunities across the programme area.

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational actions aimed at improving multi-sectoral governance processes on all territorial levels, in particular in view of complex challenges related to digitalisation, demographic change, public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services) and tourism including culture. Actions should also strengthen capacities of public authorities to prepare integrated territorial development strategies. Possible cooperation actions include the joint development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools,

training and pilot actions. Actions should focus on improving governance processes by better integrating policy sectors, by building consensus among relevant institutions and by better involving citizens and other stakeholders.

More concretely, the programme will fund actions in the following thematic fields (non-exhaustive list):

- Reduction of administrative barriers, better policymaking and cooperation beyond borders
- Participatory decision-making processes (e.g. citizen involvement)
- Multi-level and multi-sector governance among areas with functional ties beyond borders
- Integrated territorial development strategies (e.g. on demographic change, public services including health)
- Digital governance

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Identifying and reducing barriers to cooperation in territories with functional ties (e.g. improving cooperation between stakeholders across administrative units and sectors to implement joint solutions)
- Exchange of experiences and building capacities of authorities to prepare territorially integrated initiatives such as Community-led local development (CLLD) strategies and Integrated territorial investments (ITI) by fostering cooperation between urban-rural partnerships or on sustainable urban development (SUD)
- Developing and testing participatory governance models at local and regional level to increase participation of citizens in decision-making and to strengthen civic engagement and equal opportunities in public governance
- Exchanging knowledge and good practices on managing participatory approaches, including the testing of digital solutions for further rollout at territorial level
- Developing and implementing integrated development strategies for territories with functional ties including high quality public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services)
- Developing and implementing integrated tourism strategies beyond borders, based on the shared central European identity and joint historical and cultural heritage
- Strengthening cooperation and policy integration in cross-border and transnational territories with functional ties, especially across the former Iron Curtain, by establishing new or capitalising on existing structures for cooperation governance (e.g. EGTCs, EUREGIOs) as well as joint decision making processes and coordinated action plans
- Developing smart city and smart region strategies and supporting their integration into local and regional policies and governance systems
- Strengthening digital governance solutions to create efficient public services that facilitate interaction between administrations and citizens and businesses (e.g. e-governance solutions, digital public services, e-participation)
- Testing, adapting and deploying smart digital services for better cooperation and coordination beyond administrative borders (e.g. in the health sector)

Actions should seek synergies with other European instruments and initiatives such as the ERDF mainstream programmes, the Rural Programmes (including LEADER) cross-border Interreg programmes, as well as existing transboundary and transnational governance structures (e.g. EGTCs and EUREGIOS). Actions should also take into account relevant international initiatives and platforms, which aim at better coordinating governance processes in specific thematic areas and in particular the EU macro-regional strategies.

Expected results

Transnational cooperation actions will result in improved capacities of public authorities for implementing coordinated and cooperative territorial governance processes, based on policy learning and policy change. This will ultimately improve territorial and social cohesion and reduce development barriers. It will also contribute to achieving the priorities of the Territorial Agenda 2030 (e.g. a balanced Europe, functional regions and integration across borders). For citizens, it will concretely result in better public services.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference Article 17(9)(c)(i)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.4.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(ii), Article 17(9)(c)(iii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
4	SO 4.1	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan		
4	SO 4.1	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action		
4	SO 4.1	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation		
4	SO 4.1	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution		

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
4	SO 4.1	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
4	SO 4.1	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	
4	SO 4.1	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021		Programme monitoring system	

2.4.1.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iii), Article 17(9)(c)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Target groups of funded actions can be both individuals and organisations that will be involved or positively affected by the actions. As a result, they will be more capable to implement integrated governance processes at various territorial levels. More concretely, target groups include both public and private actors covering a wide range of different sectors and levels of governance, such as policy makers, public administrations, urban and spatial planners, operators, infrastructure providers, social and healthcare institutions, service regulators, education and training organisations, international organisations and associations as well as enterprises including SMEs. Target groups include also all population groups, which will benefit from improved local and regional governance processes.

Beneficiaries, i.e. project partners benefitting from programme funds, can be any entity having legal personality that contributes to the actions above. This includes e.g. local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, EGTCs, health related institutions, tourism operators, intermediaries, enterprises including SMEs, associations, innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

2.4.1.4 Identification of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(iv)

Text field [7000]

Actions can be implemented throughout the programme area and address all types of territories. Cooperation is particularly encouraged to improve governance structures and processes within and between territories that are sharing functional ties (e.g. metropolitan regions, adjacent cities and their rural hinterlands, cross-border regions). The exchanges of knowledge and experiences between more and less advanced regions will strengthen further their implementation capacities.

All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial settings and existing governance systems of targeted areas.

2.4.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(v)

Text field [7000]

N/A

2.4.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	SO 4.1		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	SO 4.1		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	SO 4.1		