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Strand	Strand A

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1. Joint Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses

1.1. Programme area

(not required for Interreg C programmes)

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(3), point (a) of Article 17(9)

Text field 2000

The Programme area is determined on the basis of NUTS 3 units (subregions) in Poland¹ and oblast division in Ukraine and consists of:

- in Poland: Białostocki, Łomżyński, Suwalski, Ostrołęcki, Siedlecki, Bialski, Lubelski, Puławski,
 Chełmsko-Zamojski, Przemyski, Rzeszowski, Tarnobrzeski, Krośnieński subregions,
- in Ukraine: Volyn, Lviv, Zakarpattya, Rivne, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts.

The Programme area covers around 177 128 km², 57% of which belongs to Ukraine and 43% to Poland. Despite the size of the Programme area, the participating regions face analogous problems and present similar development potential. The borderland of the countries is characterised by low population density, a sparse settlement network and - mainly in Poland - a large number of nature conservation areas. Combined, these factors contribute to a relatively high preservation of natural resources. The majority of the area is a periphery of the countries involved, as evidenced by the lower-than-average national GDP value of most subregions. Metropolises are an exception here and their economic situation is more favourable. It is also a region that has experienced an economic collapse and political crisis. On the other hand, basic systems such as education, public administration, legal and political systems differ greatly between the two countries involved in the Programme.

However, Poland and Ukraine have been cooperating for many years and in spite of the existing adversities, joint actions have been undertaken and common solutions have been developed. In 2004-2006 the partnership in the form of the Neighbourhood Programme was established. It has continued as the PL-BY-UA CBC Programme since 2007. For many years the trilateral cooperation was fruitful and successful. Nevertheless, due to i.a. human rights violations, stirring up crisis at EU's external borders and use of migrants for political purposes which was initiated by Belarus in 2021, cooperation with Belarus in the framework of CBC programme had to be suspended. Furthermore, due to the involvement of Belarus in Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine of 24.02.2022 and a gross violation of international law, further cooperation with Belarus is impossible. Therefore, the 2021-2027 Programme will be bilateral: Interreg NEXT PL-UA.

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¹ In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2066 of 21 November 2016 amending the annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) C/2016/7380.

1.2 Joint Programme strategy: Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, joint investment needs and complimentary and synergies with other funding programmes and instruments, lessons-learnt from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies.

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(3), point (b) of Article 17(9)

Text field 50 000

Socio-economic, spatial and functional problems can be identified in the area of the Poland-Ukraine Programme and the following conclusions were drawn on the basis of a socio-economic analysis of the support area and diagnostic workshops with representatives of units from that area. Information about the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the lives of the inhabitants is based on publicly available knowledge about the problems related to the functioning of Central and Eastern European countries during the pandemic. The invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces brings new challenges that have to be addressed by the Programme.

1.2.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

1.2.1.1 DEMOGRAPHY AND HEALTH

The Programme area is mostly sparsely populated – the average density is 80 people per square kilometre. In 2018 the population of the Programme area was 19 886 000 (14 516 780) people, of which 42 percent were in Poland and 58 percent in Ukraine. Each country has seen a decline in its population in recent years. Demographic forecasts indicate further declining trends in the number of inhabitants in most units of the Programme.

An important issue influencing the demand for various social services, such as senior care or healthcare, is the age structure of the inhabitants. A decreasing population and low population growth affect the demographic structure – the percentage of people in pre-working age is decreasing and the percentage of people in post-working age is increasing. A favourable demographic situation in the support area is recorded in subregions and oblasts in which the largest cities are located – capital cities of voivodeships, main public service centres. In Poland, these are the Białostocki, Lubelski and Rzeszowski subregions, in Ukraine – Lviv, Volyn, Zakarpattya and Rivne Oblasts. This is related to the migration trend of inhabitants from rural areas to cities.

The unfavourable demographic situation of a significant part of the Programme area is strongly linked with low migration attractiveness and low economic development, which is manifested by unemployment and a shortage of highly-paid, specialised positions. Urban areas are an exception in this context (in Poland – Białostocki, Lubelski and Rzeszowski subregions and in Ukraine – Lviv Oblast). Stopping unfavourable processes, such as depopulation of the Programme area as a result of the

increasing number of people at the retirement age and the decline in the birth rate, in most of the Programme area is becoming a key social challenge.

The health of inhabitants of the Programme area is also of key importance. Deaths, irrespective of location, are mainly caused by cardiovascular disease (in Poland their share in the total number of deaths is 41.5 percent, and in Ukraine – 56.5 percent) and cancer (in Poland their share in the total number of deaths is 26.5 percent and in Ukraine – 13.4 percent).

This is due to the growing demographic trends and the growing number of people in post-working age, as well as the apparent inequalities between the subregions of the Programme area in terms of the availability of healthcare. One of the elements of the senior policy will be the development of care and health services. Secondly, statistical data on mortality and morbidity indicate the need for taking measures in the field of preventive health and safety. These problems overlap with staff shortages – in the medical sector, as in other sectors, there is an outflow of staff to other urban centres and regions with a higher level of development potential. Inequalities in access to healthcare are manifested by the varying number of clinics, doctors and hospital beds in relation to the number of inhabitants. On the Polish side, these inequalities are most visible due to the fact that capital cities of three (out of four) voivodeships are located in Programme-area subregions, which often act as regional healthcare centres, serving patients from neighbouring subregions. On the Ukrainian side, the disproportions between the oblasts are much smaller. The better accessibility of clinics (number of clinics per 10,000 population) is on the Polish side. In the oblasts of Ukraine this indicator is lower by about half. When it comes to the availability of doctors (number of doctors per 10,000 population), the inequalities between the two countries are not significant, but with regard to the availability of beds in hospitals, their availability on the Polish side is much lower than in Ukraine. The advanced digitalization of health care is still a challenge for both sides of the border but poses far greater challenge for Ukrainian part where deficiencies in this regard are a serious problem. Insufficient mobility of health services is another issue, limiting equal access to health care for people from remote areas, which constitute significant part of the Programme area, on both sides of the border.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is a huge threat to the efficiency of healthcare and to elderly people. Its estimated duration is unknown, therefore long-term measures should be taken to safeguard the local population and healthcare providers. In order to combat the effects of the ongoing pandemic, it is advisable to tighten and develop cross-border cooperation between medical and emergency services. Health care should also be a priority as the Programme area is a place of military operations. The situation of inhabitants and refugees should be supported by providing medical supplies, improving access to medical treatment and improving emergency medicine.

Taking into account the demographic structure of the Programme area, the Programme should invest in public services aimed at improving the welfare of the aging population and mitigating results of the

unfavourable demographic structure of the population. This can be achieved e.g. through improving health services across borders, especially those aimed at senior citizens, preventive health and safety, access to specialists and e-medicine, as well as strengthening the cooperation and exchange of experience between medical professionals, and increasing the migration attractiveness of the Programme area e.g. by supporting better use of the potential of the Programme area such as high tourist attractiveness of cultural heritage and natural resources.

1.2.1.2 ECONOMIC SITUATION, EDUCATION AND LABOUR MARKET

The economic situation in the Programme area is characterised by large and deepening disparities between the subregions covered by the Programme and the other parts of participating countries.

The economic structure of individual regions in the Programme area is characterised by a significant share of the agricultural sector in creating gross value added. In the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, as well as in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast there is also a relatively large industry sector. However, despite some regional economic differences in all units of the Programme area, the share of the services sector is growing, while the share of sector I (agriculture) and sector II (industry) is decreasing. Such changes in the economic structure are typical of both the developed and developing economies.

Although the entrepreneurship indicator is higher on the Polish side of the Programme area, it remains moderately high in Ukraine.

The share of medium and large enterprises remains relatively high in units in Ukraine, while in Poland small and micro enterprises dominate. The Lubelskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeships are characterised by a relatively high level of innovation.

The education systems in Poland and Ukraine are quite different from each other. Nevertheless, in all surveyed units there is a clear tendency to reduce the number of educational institutions, which is a consequence of a decrease in the number of students. The number of university students is high in the Lviv Oblast and Lubelski, Rzeszowski, Białostocki subregions. This is due to the variety of educational opportunities offered by cities located within these units. Academic cities are characterised by high migration attractiveness - mainly among young people. The development of educational institutions from the elementary level to the tertiary level requires support. High-quality educational services combined with access to attractive job offers may limit the outflow of young staff from the Programme area to large agglomerations. An important aspect of cooperation in the field of education is the integration of the inhabitants of borderland from an early age. Due to the lack of trust and their noticeable reluctance to cooperate, it is advisable to undertake integration activities already at the stage of education.

When it comes to the labour market, in the Polish part of the Programme area, the unemployment level is close to the natural rate of unemployment. It is different in the Ukrainian part, where unemployment (especially in Volyn, Rivne, Ternopil and Zakarpattya Oblasts) remains high. Trends at the national level in Ukraine indicate a significant increase in long-term unemployment. The dynamic of changes on the labour market is relatively stable in case of Polish subregions in the Programme. However, in their case it is alarming, that the number of the unemployed with higher and post-secondary education is increasing in almost all analysed units on the Polish side (except Lubelski, Chełmsko-Zamojski and Przemyski subregions; no data available for Ukraine).

The economic issues of the Programme area are clearly linked to social and demographic problems, common to both countries. Negative economic phenomena result from the outflow of educated inhabitants, which is why the allocation of financial resources and remedial actions focusing on economic issues may be inefficient. Due to the existing differences in the economic profiles of the areas forming the Programme area adopting one common economic development strategy is practically impossible. Actions undertaken in each country shall be well adapted to the national, regional and local specificity and that is the role of the local projects' promoters.

The economic situation, education and labour market in the Programme area is also highly affected by the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. Within the Programme actions it is necessary to provide solutions that will support restoration of the country's economy after the war.

The Programme should foster cooperation between public institutions, business supporting entities and civil society actors with a view to improve economic situation at local and regional level. The Programme should support the tourism development as that sector has great potential in boosting economy in several parts of the Programme area, as well as is a chance for limiting negative trends of labour force migrations. Support on these two levels can have a positive impact on eliminating joint problems and achieving synergy.

1.2.1.3 TOURISM RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL

The multiculturalism of the area, the existence of folk traditions, folk crafts and material resources of historical and cultural heritage and unique natural values are great potential. Border areas of Poland and Ukraine constitute an environmentally and culturally coherent area. The tourist potential of that area is unique in the scale of both countries. In Ukraine, it constitutes one third of all tourist facilities. In Poland, tourist facilities are the most dispersed and only 13 percent of them are located in the Programme area. The crucial challenge here is that the economic importance of tourism in the Programme area is much lower than globally in each of the countries.

Due to the favourable natural location and landscape, as well as historical and cultural heritage potential, tourism should be an important element of the Programme area economy. However, its development has to be sustainable and should respect the valuable natural and cultural heritage on which it is based. Current share of tourism in the GDP in the Programme area remains low. Therefore, it is important to intensify activities related to the promotion of tourism. In terms of the general trends of tourism development, positive phenomena can be observed in Poland, where the number of tourist facilities and the number of tourists have increased or remained stable. The situation in Ukraine is different – a significant decrease in tourism development occurred in 2018, partly due to the unstable political situation.

All endeavours supporting tourism development on the Programme area shall be helpful in addressing challenges such as economic stratification of the population and negative migration trends. The potential increase in the number of tourists makes space for the development of enterprises providing services in the tourism industry, e.g. accommodation, gastronomy or other recreational, entertainment or cultural services. In addition, attention should be paid to the risks posed by failure to act in this area - the disappearance of cultural objects as a result of lack of financing. Currently, there is no system for joint management of historical and cultural heritage areas.

Due to the significant impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry and the limitations in the possibility of conducting tourist activities, as well as due to the decline in demand for tourist services, particular attention should be paid to the areas of development of such projects in the support area. It is proposed to take measures to support entrepreneurs to find their way in the new reality of tourism. According to the State Agency for Tourism Development of Ukraine (DART), more than four million foreign tourists visited Ukraine in 2021. This is almost 26 percent more than in 2020. The share of tourism in Ukraine's GDP in 2021 was estimated at 2 percent. Ukraine reached the growth in tourism, despite COVID-19 and Russian occupation of Crimea and some territories in the Eastern part of Ukraine. The full-scale aggression of Russia which started on February 24, 2022, naturally, has stopped any kind of touristic movement from the outside and within Ukraine. The same concerns Ukrainian part of the Programme territory. Other consequences of the aggression in this context are damages in the touristic infrastructure and natural/historic heritage objects/sites – those directly destroyed during the war and those which due to the war cannot be protected as it is required to keep them in the proper conditions. In general, tourism industry is very sensitive to any kind of unpredictable situation, consequently Ukraine will need years to recover from the war and attract the same number of tourists as before. Therefore, the Programme will contribute to the recovery of the industry and intensification of the Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the field.

The great tourist potential of the Programme area is not effectively exploited. In order to better use it, promotional activities concerning tourism in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland should be intensified. It may constitute important factor in improving the economic situation of the region. The Programme should support development of products and services for tourists which will lead to the creation of new jobs and aid with the post-pandemic economic recovery of the Programme area.

1.2.2 ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, SPATIAL, FUNCTIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The negative consequences of global climate change are a serious issue in the Programme area and they have been increasing in last few decades. They result in periods of drought and water scarcity, while temperature extremes increase the severity of fires. At the same time, violent weather phenomena, e.g. strong storms with gales favour flooding. However, the main threat of climate change is the increasing incidence of hot and dry spells, combined with extreme events such as heavy rains and storms. Mutual cooperation is essential in order to adapt to climate change, prevent and mitigate the negative effects of climate change such as floods, landslides, fires, storms and droughts.

Although overall water consumption in most of the Programme area has been decreasing in recent years, in some parts of the Programme area there are deficiencies in the coverage of the sewage network and clean water accessibility. The population, especially in Ukraine, is often connected to an inefficient and obsolete public water supply system, which results in both water losses and deteriorating quality of drinking water.

Adapting to high standards in the Programme area is very difficult because it results from infrastructural deficiencies, which is manifested in the insufficiently developed sewage and water supply network, and from low ecological awareness of residents and stakeholders operating in the Programme area. The lack of prioritisation of environmental protection is noticeable, among others in insufficient financial resources allocated to equip infrastructure networks. Part of the Programme area is unsafe or unusable due to contamination by human activity, therefore rehabilitation of brownfields to render them reusable is needed. The manifestation of environmental problems in the Programme area is the presence of illegal garbage dumps, persistent low level of waste recycling and low water quality.

The Polish part of the Programme area definitely differs from the Ukrainian by the large share of protected areas in the entire territory. The supported area is diversified in terms of the percentage of legally protected areas – while in the Ukrainian oblasts the percentage of the protected area covers around 15 percent (0 percent in case of Lviv Oblast), in the Polish subregions it is about 75 percent. However, the whole Programme area, on both sides of the border, covers significant number of valuable natural areas. There are 28 national parks – 8 on the Polish and 20 on the Ukrainian side.

In Ukraine, the protected areas have increased in size over the past few years, as subsequent areas are covered by various forms of nature protection. The border location of the largest protected nature complexes is an advantage for creating cross-border nature protection networks. The Białowieża Forest, covering extensive primeval forests, stretches across the Polish-Belarusian border. 42 percent of the forest is located in Poland. The Bug River Valley is a key element of the cross-border ecosystem. The total area of the river basin is almost 40,000 square kilometres, of which almost 50 percent is located on the Polish territory. In Ukraine the basin area is 10,800 square kilometres. The Bug is the border river of both countries. Western Polesie, a natural and culturally coherent area is also on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland and at the same time constitutes an important tourist potential of these countries. For cooperation in the field of environmental protection at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland also important are Roztocze and the Eastern Carpathians/Beskids. They constitute environmentally and culturally coherent areas and, at the same time, they have significant tourist potential, especially in terms of development of ecotourism. The naturally valuable areas included in the Natura 2000 in Poland and Emerald network in Ukraine are also of great importance here.

The lack of coordinated plans for the development of protective zones as well as differences in nature protection systems in both countries make it difficult to undertake joint, uniform actions related to environmental protection. Deeper cooperation on this matter would benefit the Programme area.

Considering the uniqueness of natural resources located in the Programme area it is crucial to protect them also from both climate and non-climate related natural risks and risks linked to human activities. Joint cooperation in this regard is needed to preserve them for present and future generations. Anthropogenic activities negatively impact flora and fauna on the Programme area. One of the main issues in the Carpathian Mountains is still deforestation, which causes more frequent floods and harmful impacts on fauna. The loss of natural ecosystems caused by wetland loss from draining and water extraction for irrigation are threatening biodiversity on the territories. In some cases, such as overexploitation of a particular animal species, economic drivers play a crucial role.

The quality of the natural environment of the cross-border area is the key aspect of its inhabitants' high quality of life, it also determines the tourist attractiveness and potential as described above which should be further sustainably explored.

Significant challenges for the Programme area are climate change adaptation, natural and anthropogenic risks prevention, sustainable water management as well as awareness rising on the sensitive issues of the wide range of stakeholders and inhabitants of the Programme area. The Programme should support the protection of biodiversity natural heritage and resources of its area.

1.2.3 COOPERATION POTENTIAL

The Programme should concentrate on developing cross-border links on the local and regional scale, between local government units, communities and NGOs.

The existing development asymmetries between Poland and Ukraine influence the possibilities for full usage of cooperation potential, especially due to:

- incomparable competences of local and regional authorities,
- differences in the principles of functioning of local authorities in Poland and Ukraine this mainly concerns the possibility of independent disposal of own resources and communal property, differences in the necessity and possibilities of planning activities for several years ahead financed from public funds,
- insufficient mutual trust between authorities and inhabitants of cooperating countries.

In order to strengthen the cross-border ties, use existing cooperation potential and create new links between local and regional authorities across borders, capacity building and improvement of competences of local and regional government staff should be supported.

Cross-border cooperation is an important issue for local governments. 41 percent of the examined Polish local governments declare active cooperation with Ukraine, especially regarding EU projects and gaining local government experience.

There are 5 Euroregions: Bug Euroregion, Carpathian Euroregion, Niemen Euroregion, Białowieża Forest Euroregion and newly created Roztocze Euroregion operating in the Programme area. Three of them (Bug Euroregion, Carpathian Euroregion and Roztocze Euroregion) encompass cross-border areas of Poland and Ukraine and represent a great potential for further cross-border cooperation development.

Cross border cooperation between public institutions and civil society actors, strengthening the administrative potentials as well as people-to-people actions should be an important part of the Programme intervention. The Programme should put a particular emphasis on improving the quality of public services, including border, custom and other related services in order to face current obstacles and challenges.

1.2.4 BORDER MANAGEMENT

About 22 million people annually crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border use 10 border crossings. The number of crossings is growing, which is the motivation behind the need to create new and improve existing border crossings. There are significant deficiencies in the infrastructure of existing border

crossings, especially for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. However, taking into account the limited budget of the Programme as well as the experiences from 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 perspectives, it is not possible to support large infrastructure activities on border crossing points under the Programme. Infrastructure improvements shall only be complementary to "soft" activities.

It is necessary to improve the effectiveness of controls at border crossing points. Projects supported by the Programme should focus on:

- creation of joint procedures for quicker and safer border control and crossing,
- targeted investments in necessary equipment and supplies,
- exchange of experience and best practices, joint training.

In order to promote strengthening of the cross-border coordination and cooperation, and taking into account the growing migration flows between Poland and Ukraine, it is important for the Programme to support the development of cooperation in the field of border management, increasing the efficiency of border-crossing procedures, but it should be remembered that the majority of border-crossing procedures is regulated by central institutions (and on EU level) and intergovernmental/international agreements.

1.2.5 SUMMARY OF THE MAIN COMMON CHALLENGES AND INVESTMENT NEEDS

In spite of the borders, there are common challenges on the Programme area, especially:

- low level of socio-economic development;
- advanced negative demographic processes such as depopulation and aging;
- negative effects resulting from the peripheral location of some parts of the area.

These can be counteracted by taking advantage of the tourism potential of the valuable natural and cultural resources of the region, for visitors both from and outside of the Programme area.

Strengthening cooperation between institutions responsible for policies affecting business development, SMEs functioning and generally economic development are of great importance in this regard. Increased efficiency of such institutions as well as their closer cooperation with business and 3rd sector organizations as well as societies have to be fostered.

Another important challenge of the Programme is counteracting degradation of the natural environment and further protection of the most valuable natural assets. These activities are part of the EU's demand for a more efficient use of environmental resources.

Taking into account further development of territorial cooperation between Poland and Ukraine as well as the current problems and challenges of the Programme area, cooperation between residents and institutions, integration of communities and overcoming socio-cultural barriers should be deepened and improved. Problems with maintaining local cohesion and integration of the inhabitants of the Programme area may be caused by the European Union border dividing Europe. Therefore, it is all the more important to promote and support strong, positive interpersonal relations.

Due to the existing inequalities and problems as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the residents' health should also become a priority. Further investments should be made in streamlining the border-crossing procedures to strengthen the existing and build new cross-border links between institutions and people living in the border area of Poland and Ukraine.

During the implementation of the Programme the MA will promote the strategic use of public procurement to support Policy Objectives (including professionalization efforts to address capacity gaps). Beneficiaries should be encouraged to use more quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria. When feasible, environmental (e.g., green public procurement criteria) and social considerations as well as innovation incentives should be incorporated into public procurement procedures.

1.2.6 CONTINUITY AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF COOPERATION

1.2.6.1 Lessons learnt from past experience

Institutional cooperation between Poland and Ukraine plays an important role within the cooperation of the European Union and its eastern partners under the Eastern Partnership and under the Poland-Ukraine Cross-border Cooperation Programme.

The Poland- Ukraine Cross-border Cooperation Programme supports building and maintaining links between local and regional communities and entities across borders. The 2014-2020 edition included Belarus and had a budget of over 183 million euro, out of which app. 171 million euro was allocated for implementation of projects under four thematic objectives: Heritage, Accessibility, Security and Borders. Three types of projects have been supported: Large Infrastructure Projects which addressed Accessibility, Security and Borders, regular projects under all thematic objectives and microprojects aimed at the cultural and natural heritage of the Programme area.

In the 2014-2020 Programme edition over 160 projects have been selected for financing, with approx..

450 beneficiaries involved as projects partners. The most popular project topics in this edition of the Programme 2014-2020 were:

preservation of historical and cultural heritage;

- improving safety including health security;
- preservation of existing natural heritage;
- improvement of transport connections.

The major lessons learnt so far from the implementation of the 2014-2020 edition of the Programme are:

- The Programme is popular among beneficiaries large number of organisations involved in project proposals;
- In the first years of the Programme implementation, the focus was on calls for proposals and organisational issues;
- In the first call for proposals organised for regular projects (consuming the majority of the
 Programme budget), the Heritage and Security thematic objectives (including health protection
 and social services) enjoyed the greatest interest of applicants;
- Within the Programme there was good cooperation among partner countries which lead to stable and sustainable partnerships;
- There were only minor issues reported by the applicants with relation to the e-application software usage, generally system proved to be efficient;
- There was effective communication with the JTS/MA, the institutions provided (potential)
 applicants and beneficiaries with up to date information and kept direct contact with them
 during all processes, these relations where the sine qua non conditions for ensuring successful
 Programme implementation;
- The level of cross-border cooperation and impact of actions implemented by individual beneficiaries under the Programme was sometimes questionable (some projects tended to be implemented on an 'individual basis', without having the bigger project and Programme picture in mind).

The 2021-2027 Programme will strengthen the existing links between Poland and Ukraine and build new ones in the field of: environment, health, tourism and cooperation. The Programme will therefore be a continuation and deepening of the development processes launched in the 2014-2020 programming period. However, as the new challenges for cross-border cooperation between Poland and Ukraine arise, the Programme will be more tailor-made to maximise its impact on the Programme area.

1.2.6.2 Complementarity of the Programme

In order to achieve positive synergies, work must be continued to maintain the thematic and spatial links between the various interventions at both supra-regional and regional levels. Obtaining and sustaining the benefits resulting from the current implementation of programmes and projects in the Programme area is possible only if the complementarity of interventions is maintained in the future. This will help to maintain the positive direction of long-term socio-economic, spatial, environmental and other changes.

1.2.6.2.1 EU strategies and programmes

In terms of planned priority investments, the strategic documents of the European Union should be referred to. The Strategy *Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030* is one of the key documents. The main assumptions of this document are:

- From a linear economy to a circular economy;
- Concept of 'farm-to-fork';
- Energy, construction and mobility ready for the challenges of the future;
- Ensuring the transformation of a just Europe from a social point of view.

The European Union is committed to moving towards an economically sustainable Europe in which people "live well within the limits of our planet"². In this context, the investment priorities planned under the Poland-Ukraine Programme 2021-2027 to promote sustainable water management, promote transformation towards a circular economy and broadly understood nature, environment and landscape protection are most important. There is a visible link between investment priorities and goal 1. "From a linear economy to a circular economy".

The Multiannual Financial Framework, reinforced by Next Generation EU, will be the main European tool serving creation of jobs and repairing the immediate damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic whilst supporting the Union's green and digital priorities. It is built on three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Supporting Member States to recover;
- Pillar 2: Kick-starting the economy and helping private investment;
- Pillar 3: Learning lessons from the crisis.

Pillar 1 involves instruments to support Member State efforts to recover, repair and emerge stronger from the crisis. The second pillar assumes measures to boost private investment and support ailing companies. The third pillar covers the reinforcement of key EU programmes to draw lessons from the

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² "Dobra jakość życia z uwzględnieniem ograniczeń naszej planety" (Dz.Urz. L347 z 28.12.2013, s. 171) and H. Komiyama, K. Takeuchi, Sustainability Science: building a new discipline, "Sustainability Science", no. 1/2006.

crisis and make the single market stronger and more resilient and accelerate the twin green and digital transitions. In this context, the activities planned under the Poland-Ukraine Programme 2021-2027 also serve digitalisation (e.g. in healthcare), support of tourism (creating jobs), environment by promoting adaptation to climate change, sustainable water management, increasing biodiversity and reducing pollution.

In context of digitalisation, the Programme will try to contribute to the objectives of the Web Accessibility Directive. It assumes that all online content of public sector bodies is accessible to all people, including persons with disabilities. A coordinated effort in this regard could have positive knock-on effects in areas relevant for the Programme such as SMEs, training, (digital) inclusion and employment prospects.

Attention should also be paid to macro-regional strategies: The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the draft Carpathian Strategy.

The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is based on three main thematic pillars: marine protection, increased integration of the region and increased prosperity and a horizontal basis. In this context, the Poland-Ukraine Programme will support the achievement of the Strategy goals by increasing integration in the region in the fields of i.a. biodiversity protection.

The Carpathian Strategy is a project of a macro-regional strategy that can significantly contribute to the improvement of security on the EU's eastern border and its stabilisation. Currently, it functions mainly in the political dimension. However, its design envisages the implementation of a number of objectives relating to both socio-economic and environmental development. Both the Carpathian Strategy project and the Poland-Ukraine Programme ensure that the common potentials and development challenges of border countries and regions create an opportunity to strengthen economic cooperation in order to increase the competitiveness of strategic sectors of the economy for macro regions and border regions, taking into account their unique endogenous natural, environmental and cultural resources and values.

The Programme is coherent with other European Territorial Cooperation programmes, at both cross-border and transnational dimensions, which at least partly overlap territorially with it. These are:

- Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine;
- Romania-Ukraine;
- Lithuania-Poland;
- Poland-Slovakia
- Baltic Sea;

- Central Europe;
- DANUBE.

The Programme will cooperate with other European Territorial Cooperation programmes, especially in the field of coordination of calls for proposals, avoiding double financing, information and promotion activities.

The Programme will also be complementary with the European Social Fund (ESF). The ESF finances initiatives that promote a high level of employment, equal opportunities for men and women, sustainable development and economic and social cohesion. Moreover, its components offer the possibility of applying innovative solutions in a cross-border approach, for example to support the mobility of workers in Europe and to help participating countries with healthcare systems. In terms of transnational cooperation, support for activities for health protection and labour markets from the ESF can also strengthen the impact of the Programme Poland-Ukraine.

Moreover, synergies with Erasmus+ will be ensured, primarily over the cooperation between educational institutions and exchanges of pupils/students.

With regard to the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world and in Europe, the complementarity between the ESF and the Programme is necessary. Implementation of the Programme priorities will contribute to drawing attention to the issues of health and its protection, which in turn may increase the immunity of citizens, and may also encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle, thus complementing ESF activities.

In terms of border management, the Programme is consistent with the assumptions of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Its purpose is to contribute to the effective management of migration flows, the implementation, strengthening and development of all elements of the common European policy on asylum and the common European immigration policy in accordance with the relevant EU acquis, the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, in full respect of the Union's and Member States' obligations, international law and the rights and obligations of the Union of the principles enshrined in the scope of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Another complementary support instrument may be the Internal Security Fund, which aims to ensure a high level of security in the European Union while facilitating legitimate travel thanks to uniform and high-level control of external borders and thanks to the effective processing of Schengen visa applications, in accordance with the Union's commitment to respect fundamental freedoms and human rights. Complementarity in the scope of the above mentioned possibilities of financing from the European Union funds due to the border nature of the Programme area is key for the possibility of

achieving the assumed specific objectives under priorities of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme - 'Borders' and 'Cooperation'.

The Programme will also be complementary with the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF), which aims at managing the crossing of the external borders efficiently and addressing migratory challenges and potential future threats at those borders, thereby contributing to addressing serious crime with a cross-border dimension (such as migrant smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism) and ensuring a high level of internal security within the EU, while at the same time acting in full respect for fundamental rights and in a manner that safeguards the free movement of persons within the EU. The Programme includes activities related to better border monitoring and efficiency raising for border and customs services.

1.2.6.2.2 <u>National strategies and EU-funded programmes</u>

Similarly to the 2014-2020 programming period, the priorities of the Programme 2021-2027 will remain complementary with the wider development priorities of the two involved countries. The Programme is compatible with the following long-term national strategies:

- In Poland: Long-term National Development Strategy "Poland 2030. The Third Wave of Modernity" - this document indicates the need to focus development on improving the competitiveness and innovativeness of the economy, achieving sustainable development of the potential of Polish regions, implementing the effectiveness and efficiency of the country;
- In Ukraine: Ukraine's Development Strategy until 2030 the document aims to achieve European living standards and a dignified position of Ukraine on a global scale;

Concerning the Polish part of the Programme area, complementarity with regional (regional operational programmes) and national programmes (e.g. "Eastern Poland 2020+") shall be maintained. The key element of the "Eastern Poland 2020+" Programme, if adopted, will remain the achievement of tangible economic effects related to the development of entrepreneurship and an increase in the level of private investments in the macro region. Aspects related to improving the quality of life of the inhabitants will also remain important. They are clearly linked to the priorities 'Cooperation' and 'Tourism' of the 2021-2027 Programme.

The effects achieved so far thanks to the implementation of the Eastern Poland 2014-2020 Programme have made it possible to significantly reduce or overcome some of the identified development barriers, as well as to support the competitiveness and innovation of regions.

In line with Partnership Agreement between Poland and the European Commission for cohesion funds 2021-2027, Poland is obliged to contribute 30 percent of the ERDF, i.e. 14.1 billion euro and 37percent of the Cohesion Fund (CF), i.e. 4.5 billion euro to expenditure aiming at climate goals achievement. According to the estimates, the share of the CF expenditure (after the transfer from ESF + to CF) in Poland for the climate target will amount to approximately 50 percent. This is a significant surplus in relation to the minimum share expected by the European Commission in the general regulation.

1.2.6.2.3 Regional strategies

The Programme will be implemented in close cooperation with the regional authorities in the Programme area. It will increase the chances of ensuring complementarity with the objectives and strategies of regional development, including: Podlaskie, Mazowieckie, Lubelskie and Podkarpackie voivodeships' development strategies (all with the 2030 perspective). The Programme is also complementary to the existing provisions of the development strategies of the Lviv, Volyn, Zakarpattya, Rivne, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil Oblasts for the years 2016-2025. All these documents are aimed at promoting the broadly understood socio-economic development on a regional scale and improving the quality of life of the inhabitants.

Maintaining the complementarity between the above-mentioned supranational, national and regional programmes and strategies is necessary due to the limited budget of the programmes. Each of them focuses on the most important issues within the scope of their intervention. Pooled effects of achieving objectives of different types of programmes, including the Poland-Ukraine programme will hopefully lead to a synergy effect, and thus effective improvement in the socio-economic, environmental and spatial situation of the Programme area, and as a result, to solving common problems of the Programme area.

1.2.7 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

Throughout the whole Programme implementation, the respect to principles mentioned in Article 9 of the CPR will be ensured, primarily, the compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union will be ensured. Cooperation under the Programme and projects it will co-finance, shall respect the horizontal principles of equal opportunity, non-discrimination, gender equality and sustainable development including environment protection during project design and implementation. Effective implementation of the Programme will facilitate the application of horizontal principles in a consistent way and reduce such risks as limited access for people with disabilities, gender, economic and social inequality.

Environmental sustainability, in the broad understanding including considerations about human health effects, is an important cross-cutting issue for the Programme. It shall be reflected at all stages of the

Programme and projects implementation. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was prepared simultaneously with the preparation of the Programme document in order to ensure that environmental impacts are assessed and considered during preparation of the Programme. The SEA results have been made available to the public. Projects with a direct negative environmental impact shall not be financed within the Programme. Projects partnerships are strongly encouraged to identify and consider any potentially significant environmental and health issues during project design and consequently choose available options for implementing projects that do not adversely affect the quality of the environment.

Moreover, it was decided that the actions implemented under the Programme could not be contrary to the objectives of the European green deal objectives. In that context the Programme will support only activities that respect the climate and environmental standards and that would do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The Managing Authority conducted respective analysis on the "do no significant harm" principle at the Programme level and the objectives of the Programme take into account that principle.

Programme actions have not been and are not being planned in the context of the Commission's initiative called "A New European Bauhaus".

1.3. Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(3)

Table 1
Text field 2 000 per objective

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility	RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	1. Environment	Insufficient measures are taken to allow for climate change adaptation in the Programme area. The socio-economic analysis confirms the need to pay special attention to the mutual coordination of efforts to prevent and adapt to climate change. Cooperation between all relevant actors is essential to achieve economies of scale in mitigating the negative effects of climate change. Common cross-border monitoring, warning, response and crisis management systems must be developed. It is also necessary to remove cross-border barriers in joint action to prevent and combat natural disasters and their consequences. Joint adaptation measures need to be carried out to this end. Cooperation between risk prevention specialists is not sufficient. The development of joint strategies for climate protection, climate change adaptation and risk prevention should be pursued. This applies in particular to preventing floods, droughts, storms and forest fires and their consequences. Combating further climate change and adapting to climate change shall constitute important element of strategies and policies
			implemented at various levels (from local to global). The inclusion of

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			this specific objective in the Programme will therefore support global efforts in this regard.
			The selection of this SO will enable the implementation of projects protecting against the phenomena described above and mitigating their effects.
			At the same time, projects will be implemented concerning training, exchange of experience and cooperation between rescue services, as well as joint exercises in cross-border rescue operations.
			Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions. Additionally, as the identified needs demand significant investments, in order to strengthen the impact of the Programme, implementation of large infrastructure project is foreseen under that SO.
			Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme cofinancing for the projects is 90%.
2. A greener, low- carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and	RSO2.5. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management	1. Environment	Despite the downward trend in total water consumption within the Programme area visible in the socio-economic analysis, it is recommended to constantly promote sustainable water management so that the situation in this area improves continuously. Analysis also showed that the percentage of people using sewage systems is increasing, but in rural areas it is still very

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Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility			low (in most subregions <40 percent). The efficiency of wastewater treatment plants is declining in some subregions in the Programme area. Because of this, it is proposed to promote measures of sustainable water management. This will minimise the consumption of freshwater resources that are being exhausted, which is in the interest of future generations. Particular care should be taken to use water resources sustainably. It is very important to promote sustainable water management in individual households, e.g. in the form of small retention facilities. The deficiencies are also identified in the water supply network. The population, especially in Ukraine, is often connected to an inefficient and obsolete public water supply system, which results in both water losses and deteriorating quality of drinking water. It is of high importance therefore to improve public water supply network. Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions. Additionally, as the identified needs demand significant investments, in order to strengthen the impact of the Programme, implementation of large infrastructure project is foreseen under that SO. Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme cofinancing for the projects is 90%.

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Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility	RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	1. Environment	The implementation of this objective is particularly important to all natural areas, especially of the cross-border character) Diagnostic workshops and socio-economic analysis show problems related to the lack of coordinated joint plans for the management of the protected zones and differences in nature protection systems between both countries. It is particularly important to protect ecological corridors and natural habitats, as well as to promote the restoration of their conditions for the proper functioning of ecosystems by supporting natural processes that have been disrupted. The creation of new or renovation of broken ecological corridors also has a positive effect on increasing biodiversity. Green infrastructure is an important element of the urban environment as it makes it more attractive and friendly for the residents. All areas belonging to the Natura 2000 and Emerald networks as well as areas protected by the national laws of two countries are the main subject of support under that SO Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions. Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme cofinancing for the projects is 90%.
4. A more social and inclusive Europe	RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of	2. Health	The lack of cross-border emergency procedures and medical personnel as well as the downward trend in the number of available hospital beds per capita are one of the main challenges of the

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Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights	health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community based care		Programme area in terms of healthcare. Crisis situations in this process must also be taken into account. In addition, healthcare should function as part of an integrated system guaranteeing coordinated care and preventing unnecessary expenditure. Relieving emergency care as a result of a better planned health system is an important aspect that should be improved. The socio-economic analysis showed that the main cause of death in the support area, irrespective of the location of the wards or provinces, are mainly caused by cardiovascular disease (In Poland their share in the total number of deaths is 41.5 percent and in Ukraine – 56.5 percent) and cancer (In Poland their share in the total number of deaths is 26.5 percent and in Ukraine – 13.4 percent) in all regions and it may be related to, inter alia, environmental pollution. The results of the analysis indicate a shorter life expectancy of people living in large urban centres compared to those in which urbanisation is lower. Due to the above-mentioned problems, measures must be taken to ensure better access to prophylaxis, diagnostics and specialist medical care, including geriatric and palliative care. To increase universal access to healthcare, it is also possible to implement solutions in the field of computerisation of healthcare facilities under this objective. The COVID-19 pandemic is a global challenge of unprecedented nature and influences societies across national borders. The biggest unpredictable challenge that affects the region is the war in Ukraine. Therefore, cooperation is advisable to minimise the impact of the threat on the population living in border areas. The established cooperation links can be used in cases of other events. Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be
			implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions. Additionally, as the identified needs demand significant investments, in order to strengthen the impact of the Programme, implementation of large infrastructure project is foreseen under that SO.
			Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme cofinancing for the projects is 90%.
4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights	RSO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	3. Tourism	The multiculturalism of the area, the existence of folk traditions, folk crafts and material resources of historical and cultural heritage and unique natural values are great potential, which should be supported to increase the importance of the tourism sector in the support area. Border areas of Poland and Ukraine constitute an environmentally and culturally coherent area. There is considerable tourist potential on that support area. It is unique in the scale of the respective countries. In Ukraine, it constitutes one third of all tourist facilities. In Poland, tourist facilities are the most dispersed and only 13 percent of them are located in the Programme area. In general, the economic importance of tourism in the Programme area is much lower than globally in each of the countries. That tourist potential is however not effectively exploited. In order to better use it, promotional activities concerning tourism in the
			Polish-Ukrainian borderland should be intensified. Furthermore, due to the significant negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry and the limitations in the possibility of conducting tourist activities, as well as the decline in the demand for tourist

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			services, particular attention should be paid to the directions of development of such projects in the support area.
			Actions addressing that issue shall also be helpful in addressing challenges such as economic stratification of the population and negative migration trends. In addition, attention should be paid to the risks posed by failure to act in this area - the disappearance of cultural objects as a result of lack of financing. Currently, there is no system for joint management of historical and cultural heritage areas.
			Due to the significant impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (which may turn out to be long-lasting) on the tourism industry and the limitations in the possibility of conducting tourist activities, as well as due to the decline in demand for tourist services, particular attention should be paid to the areas of development of such projects in the support area. It is proposed to take measures to support entrepreneurs to find their way in the new reality of tourism.
			Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions. Additionally, as the identified needs demand significant investments, in order to strengthen the impact of the Programme, implementation of large infrastructure project is foreseen under that SO.
			Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme co- financing for the projects is 90%.
Interreg: A better Cooperation Governance	ISO6.2 Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions	4. Cooperation	There is insufficient cooperation between various stakeholders in the Programme area. The stimulation and support to the development of cross-border links between institutions, non-governmental organisations, business support institutions and citizens is needed. This is aimed at gradual changes in the functioning of public administration, improving its effectiveness, based inter alia on cooperation with residents and institutions. It shall lead also to the development of civil society and improve the conditions for economic development. Currently, the continuous cross-border cooperation is based primarily on long-time ago established contacts and relations existing for several years, which have rather limited potential, taking into account vast territory of the Programme and number of needs/challenges. Grassroots movements and relations between other institutions supporting development of cooperation between e.g. entrepreneurs or NGOs should be encouraged. Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting primarily of soft measures. Financing of minor infrastructure and investments will be possible in order to enhance the impact of soft activities.
			Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme

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Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme cofinancing for the projects is 90%.
Interreg: A better Cooperation Governance	ISO6.3 Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions	4. Cooperation	The cooperation within and between communities is a great development opportunity for both countries. The existing crossborder cooperation between various actors coming from public and civil society background and principally residents is not very intense. Currently, the continuous cross-border cooperation is based primarily on long-time ago established contacts and relations existing for several years, which have rather limited potential, taking into account vast territory of the Programme. New impetus and new grassroots movements are needed in order to achieve two major goals the Programme set up for this SO: 1. To strengthen the impact of all other specific objectives of the Programme, all investments and actions that will be implemented under other SOs. For that purpose various joint awareness-rising campaigns, educational and knowledge development initiatives are of great importance. 2. To promote and support establishing new contacts, relations and initiatives on the people-to-people level, to achieve long-term cooperation. Undertaking such activities can significantly improve trust and establish interpersonal contacts between the inhabitants of the Programme area. Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via small projects selected in an open call for
			implemented via small projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of soft measures. Financing of minor

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			infrastructure and investments will be possible in order to enhance the impact of soft activities. Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme cofinancing for the projects is 90%.
Interreg: Safer and more secure Europe	Actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection and economic and social integration of third-country nationals, for example migrants and beneficiaries of international protection	5. Borders	The Programme area is facing an important challenge to improve the functioning of the border crossing system. Problems are related to the insufficient number of border crossings and long checks, resulting in long waiting times at the Polish-Ukrainian border crossings. There are also cases of illegal border crossing. Those issues have a negative impact on the efficient management and efficient service of people crossing the borders in the Programme area, which hinders the development of cross-border tourism and establishing lasting relations between the inhabitants of the borderland. Taking into account the planned increase of other EU funds allocated for border management as well as the experience from 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 perspectives, it is proposed not to support infrastructure activities under this objective. Projects should
			focus on: targeted investments in necessary equipment and supplies, exchange of experience and best practices, joint training,

EN 33

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			 creation of joint procedures for quicker and safer border control and crossing. The Specific Objective is complementary to the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF), which aims at managing the crossing of the external borders efficiently and addressing migratory challenges and potential future threats at those borders, thereby contributing to addressing serious crime with a cross-border dimension (such as migrant smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism) and ensuring a high level of internal security within the EU, while at the same time acting in full respect for fundamental rights and in a manner that safeguards the free movement of persons within the EU. Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme cofinancing for the projects is 90%.

2. Priorities

[300]

Reference: points (d) and (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1. Priority 1: Environment

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

Text field: [300]

Priority 1: Environment

2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Text field: [300]

RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

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: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Text field [7000]

As part of the specific objective related to promoting adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and disaster resilience, the following initiatives will be implemented:

1. Joint promotion and implementation of activities related to resilience to climate change.

Due to globally advancing climate changes, it is proposed to take measures to ensure appropriate living conditions. Adequate support is needed to climate change adaptation measures, e.g. in the form of developing and implementing strategies, solutions, programmes and infrastructural projects to increase the readiness and adaptability of the population in the Programme area. Activities related to the promotion of climate change adaptation measures among the inhabitants of the support area are also assumed. This will positively influence the awareness of inhabitants of the economic and environmental advantages of such solutions.

2. Joint actions in the field of adaptation and protection against floods, droughts, desertification, erosion and risk management regarding this area.

Due to the occurring climate change, adequate resources should be allocated to measures aimed at adapting to these changes, preventing flood, inundations, drought, desertification, erosion and managing the risk in this area, e.g. in the form of developing and implementing strategies, solutions, programmes and related to raising awareness and protection of the population,

including by building systems, infrastructure and purchase equipment for disaster management. These activities are aimed at increasing the readiness and adaptability of the society in the supported area. As part of this course of action, it is also possible to support joint training of uniform services, rescue services and firefighting units. The effect of the implementation of measures in this area will be the promotion of adaptation to the risk associated with floods, inundations, droughts, desertification, erosion and the minimisation of the effects of such events.

3. Joint actions in the field of adaptation and protection against fire, natural disasters and other local threats as well as risk management regarding this area.

As a result of the occurring climate changes, support will be provided to activities aimed at adapting to these changes, preventing fires, natural disasters and other local threats as well as managing risks in this area, e.g. in the form of developing and implementing strategies, solutions, programmes and innovative projects related to raising awareness and protection of the population, also by creation of systems, infrastructure and purchase of equipment for disaster management. The support for joint trainings of uniform services, rescue services and firefighting units is foreseen. The effect of the implementation of activities in this area will be the promotion of adaptation to the risks associated with fires and minimising the effects of such events.

4. Joint actions aimed at prevention and management of risks related to anthropogenic activities.

In connection with potential threats and the fairly common occurrence of industry in the support area, it is proposed to take measures to strengthen resistance to the effects of anthropogenic disasters, e.g. industrial accidents and risk management regarding this topic. This will translate into the implementation of specific projects in the area, and thus raise awareness and prevent such threats. As part of this course of action it is also possible to support joint training of uniformed services, rescue services and firefighting units. The implemented projects will reduce the chance of the above-mentioned disasters, and in the event of their occurrence, they will ensure the minimisation of related losses.

For the INTERACT and ESPON programme

2.1.1.1b Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

Text field [7 000]

N/A

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final Target (2029) [200]
1	RSO 2.4	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participation	0	600
1	RSO 2.4	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Solutions developed	0	73

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priorit	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	RSO 2.4		Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solutions applied	0	2021	36	Own calculation	-

2.1.1.3 Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Text field [7000]

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- units of state, regional and local administration,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- rescue units,
- fire protection units (including fire brigades),
- police and border services,
- other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

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

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

Text field [7000]

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.1.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

Text field [7 000]

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

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

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO 2.4		058 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)	6 053 113,64
1	RSO 2.4		059 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)	6 053 113,64
1	RSO 2.4		060 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)	6 053 113,64
1	RSO 2.4		061 Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (for example earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (for example technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches"	6 053 113,64

Table 5 - Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO 2.4		01. Grant	24 212 454,55

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO2.4		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	24 212 454,55

2.1.2. Specific objective: RSO2.5. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

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: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

As part of this specific objective the following initiatives will be implemented:

1. Joint actions aimed at protection and improvement of water resources' condition.

Due to the fact that in some subregions in the Programme area water consumption is increasing, it is important to provide support measures in the field of water management, including management of river basins, development of rainwater retention systems, infrastructure and other activities related to the improvement of water quality. Actions may be related to developing strategies, solutions, programmes and innovative projects, which will enable many activities in the field of water resource protection and will promote sustainable water management in the Programme area. When implementing projects related to the use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, it is very important to take into account the assumptions resulting from international legal acts, such as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, drawn up in Helsinki on March 17, 1992.

2. Joint actions aimed at development of sewage infrastructure and improving wastewater management.

The capacity of wastewater treatment plants in some subregions is decreasing (in about 40-50 percent of subregions in Poland and Ukraine), and in some subregions some of the untreated wastewater still goes to water bodies. Access to the sewage system is insufficient (especially in rural areas, where approx. 70-80 percent of NUTS3 or comparable units less than 2/5 of the population use sewage). Adequate management of municipal wastewater is essential and aims to maintain sustainable water management in the Programme area. Projects under this measure are aimed at supporting rational management of water resources.

3. Joint actions aimed at improvement of public water supply network.

The population of the Programme area is often connected to an inefficient and obsolete public water supply system, which results in both water losses and deteriorating quality of drinking

water. Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply) is essential and aims to improve public water supply in the Programme area.

2.1.2.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

N/A

2.1.2.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator Measurement unit		Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	RSO2.5	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participation	0	37
1	RSO2.5	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Solutions developed	0	4

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	RSO2.5		Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solutions applied	0	2021	2	Own calculation	-

2.1.2.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- units of state, regional and local administration,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

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

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.1.2.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

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

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO2.5		062 Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply)	4 304 436,36
1	RSO2.5		064 Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)	4 304 436,36
1	RSO2.5		065 Waste water collection and treatment	4 304 436,36

Table 5 - Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO2.5		01. Grant	12 913 309,09

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO2.5		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	12 913 309,09

2.1.3. Specific objective: RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

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

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

As part of this specific objective the following initiatives will be implemented::

1. Joint actions aimed at protection, regeneration and sustainable use of valuable protected natural areas, with particular emphasis on cross-border areas.

In order to maintain protected natural areas in good condition, measures should be taken to safeguard and regenerate them in order to neutralize various harmful impacts. All areas belonging to the Natura 2000 and Emerald networks as well as areas protected by the national laws of two countries are the particular subject of support. Special attention will be paid to their protection and

preservation.

Wherever needed and possible, support for expanding the existing and creation of new protected areas might be financed under the Programme. This may contribute to reducing pollution in the

Programme area and increasing its tourist attractiveness.

2. Joint actions aimed at protection of biodiversity and development of green infrastructure.

Due to the diagnosed problems, such as the presence of illegal landfills, poor water quality, and insufficient level of environmental education for the inhabitants of part of the support area, existing biodiversity in the support area should be strengthened through an appropriate approach to nature protection. Preservation of the local flora will make it possible to eliminate pollution, and thus improve the quality of life. In order to protect nature, it is also important to raise environmental

awareness of the inhabitants of the Programme area.

3. Joint actions aimed at monitoring the condition of the environment, as well as identifying and

improving the condition of areas with low environmental quality standards.

Due to the diagnosed problems, such as the presence of wild landfills, poor water quality, it is recommended to support common monitoring of the condition of the environment, as well as identify and improve the condition of areas with low environmental quality standards. This will help prevent potential threats on an ongoing basis and ensure a constant increase in biodiversity and reduction of pollution. Acquiring data regarding the existing environmental situation will allow for over time comparisons of changes taking place in the Programme area.

2.1.3.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

N/A

2.1.3.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	RSO2.7	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participation	0	103
1	RSO2.7	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Solutions developed	0	12

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	RSO2.7		Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solutions applied	0	2021	_	Own calculation	-

2.1.3.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- state, regional and local administration units,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),
- administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc.,
- entities administering forest areas and state forest holdings with their organisational units,
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.1.3.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.1.3.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.1.3.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO2.7		073 Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land	3 228 327,27
1	RSO2.7		078 protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	3 228 327,27
1	RSO2.7		079 Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure	3 228 327,27
1	RSO2.7		083 Cycling infrastructure	3 228 327,27
1	RSO2.7		167 Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism other than Natura 2000 sites	3 228 327,27

Table 5 - Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO2.7		01. Grant	16 141 636,36

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO2.7		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	16 141 636,36

2.2. Priority: 2 - Health

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.2.1. Specific objective: RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community based care

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

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: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

In order to ensure equal access to healthcare through joint improvement of qualifications of medical and rescue personnel, development of infrastructure and purchase of medical and rescue equipment, including primary healthcare, the following initiatives will be implemented:

1. Joint actions improving access and infrastructure development of diagnostic and prophylactic tools and resources in various areas of medicine.

The visible high mortality from cardiovascular diseases and cancer among the inhabitants of the Programme area requires measures to promote, as well as increase the availability and quality of prophylactic (including health screening) and diagnostics. In recent years COVID-19 pandemic has been the major challenge for healthcare systems of Poland and Ukraine. Both countries faced high number of cases and deaths. Health infrastructure should be supported in order to ensure better access to medical services for the inhabitants of the Programme area, and thus increase their life expectancy and quality of life. Consideration of the elderly and people with disabilities who require adaptation of the infrastructure that will allow them to use places providing health services is especially important (e.g. slipways, toilets). Activities may include the purchase of equipment, reconstruction, expansion, renovation of facilities providing services in the field of prevention, diagnostics, including those introducing facilities for people with disabilities. The efficiency of patient registration should be improved, as well as other activities which improve the system. It is also proposed to undertake activities for the benefit of a joint cross-border offer of care facilities providing services in the field of prevention and diagnostics in the entire Programme area.

2. Joint actions improving access to specialist medicine, in particular medicine related to cardiovascular diseases, cancer (development of health infrastructure, purchase of new equipment for healthcare facilities) and emergency medicine.

The Programme area faces problems such as a declining number of beds in hospitals, high mortality from cardiovascular diseases and cancer and an insufficient number of doctors per capita in some subregions (despite a favourable upward trend) and an aging population (requiring more frequent and more intensive care). Another problem is the limited access to specialised psychiatric care (including child care), which is increasing especially as a result of social isolation due to the pandemic. Therefore, it is planned to support the health infrastructure and equipment of healthcare facilities in order to provide better access to specialised health services (in particular regarding cardiovascular diseases, cancer and mental illness) to the inhabitants of the Programme

area, thus increasing their life expectancy and quality of life. Activities may include the purchase of equipment, reconstruction, expansion, renovation of facilities providing specialised health services, support in the field of management improvements to improve the efficiency and resilience of existing systems, as well as facilities for people with disabilities. Projects may also include support for medical universities in the purchase of equipment or the creation and promotion of fields of study related to medicine. It is also proposed to undertake actions for the joint cross-border offer of healthcare institutions and hospitals in the entire area of support.

3. Joint actions improving access to long-term care, especially infrastructure development for geriatric and palliative care.

Due to the aging of the population in the Programme area and the related demand for employees providing basic care and nursing services, as well as specialist medical services, it is proposed to support infrastructure development, courses and training, as well as promote related professions as a constantly developing, prospective industry. This will ensure better access to long-term care, which is expected to be in growing demand due to the increasing number of older people.

Projects may also include support for medical universities in the purchase of equipment or the creation and promotion of fields of study related to medicine. It is also planned to increase the availability of care services for people in economic disadvantage and excluded people.

4. Joint actions preventing the occurrence and effects of adverse events such as epidemics or military conflicts (with particular emphasis on local phenomena).

Activities aimed at preventing the occurrence and effects of adverse events should be supported e.g. developing and implementing strategies, action plans, solutions, innovative programmes and projects, as well as working out solutions to the issue of volunteering in rescue services and working out cross-border rescue procedures. The effect of the implementation of activities in this area will be the minimisation of the effects of adverse events. These actions should be complementary to national solutions in the field of healthcare and should be implemented at the local level depending on the cross-border needs.

5. Joint actions aimed at development of digitisation in healthcare (including the development of telemedicine).

In order to provide more effective and modern healthcare and integration between healthcare providers in the Programme area, it is proposed to support digitisation in healthcare. Assistance may be provided in the scope of co-financing IT devices, software (incl. telemedicine services), storage and service of medical records in digital form as well as in the scope of employee training in the field of system operation. Information technology is seen as a means to improve the process of providing healthcare - from prevention, through diagnosis, to monitoring the effects of

treatment and health. Taking action in this area will enable joint operation of medical personnel from the two countries in difficult cases. It is also proposed to create an integrated information system about the possibilities and principles of using healthcare in the neighbouring country. The creation of this type of system will definitely facilitate the access to medical services for all residents of the Programme area.

6. Joint actions improving the qualifications of medical and rescue personnel.

Acquiring new skills in the field of medical care among medical and rescue staff in the Programme area will improve its quality, which will positively affect the effectiveness of disease treatment, and as a result eliminate problems related to the relatively short life expectancy in the Programme area. It is proposed to organise joint meetings to exchange good practices, training, workshops or conferences aimed at improving qualifications and drawing attention to common problems in the field of healthcare and emergency services in the Programme area.

2.2.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

N/A

2.2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
2	RSO4.5.	RCO69	Capacity of new or modernised healthcare facilities	Persons/year	0	84 546
2	RSO4.5.	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Solutions developed	0	27

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	RSO4.5	RCR73	Annual users of new or modernised healthcare facilities	Users/year	0	2021	59 182	Own calculation	-
2	RSO4.5	RCR104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solutions applied	0	2021	14	Own calculation	-

2.2.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- state, regional and local administration units,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them that deal with medical care,
- public entities providing medical services and long-term care services,
- rescue services (i.e. mountain rescue services),
- entities of higher education, e.g. medical universities, educational entities in the field of health protection, etc.,
- non-governmental organisations (including rescue organisations and associations).

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

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

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.2.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

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

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO4.5		128 Health infrastructure	9 039 316,36
2	RSO4.5		129 Health equipment	9 039 316,36
2	RSO4.5		130 Health mobile assets	9 039 316,36

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO4.5		131 Digitalisation in health care	9 039 316,36
2	RSO4.5		160 Measures to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure)	9 039 316,36

Table 5 - Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO4.5		01. Grant	45 196 581,82

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO4.5		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	45 196 581,82

2.3. Priority: 3 -Tourism

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.3.1. Specific objective: RSO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Programme shall support activities such as:

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: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Nurturing and promoting local traditions and tourist attractions draws attention, and thus encourages tourists to visit specific attractions. As a result, tourist traffic generates profit, which increases the role of tourism in economic development.

The multiculturalism of the area, active cultural units, valuable natural areas, and the existence of folk traditions, folk crafts and material resources of historical and cultural heritage constitute capital, the proper use of which may enable the economic and social development of the Programme area. Cultivating and promoting local traditions, joint cross-border cultural undertakings, caring for valuable natural areas and joint heritage sites, and other activities for the use and tourism values are essential in the development of the cross-border area. As part of the specific objective related to enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation, the

1. Joint actions aimed at protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and services in the field of culture, including development of tourist infrastructure.

In the Programme area several sites (or groups of sites) are on the UNESCO World Heritage List, other sites and areas of particular cultural and historical value, and facilities providing cultural services, e.g. museums, open-air museums, art galleries etc. are also present in the Programme area. The area has a particular potential for the development of tourism through promotion of culturally valuable areas and objects, as well as intangible heritage. Countries included in the Programme area share many historical experiences, the positive aspects of which are worth highlighting in order to strengthen ties between local communities. The potential increase in the number of tourists provides space for development of enterprises providing services in the tourism industry, e.g. accommodation, gastronomy or other recreational, entertainment or cultural services. Creating new (e.g. museums) and renovating existing cultural heritage sites, allowing them to be preserved for future generations, as well as increasing the accessibility to the existing sites of historical and cultural heritage, e.g. for people with disabilities will be supported through development of infrastructure and investments. Involvement in the activities of local authorities as well as entrepreneurs and local leaders will strengthen social integration and allow for better promotion of the historical and cultural heritage of the area. Initiatives aimed at supporting cultural activities (carried out by non-governmental organisations), e.g. organising events promoting the intangible heritage of the area covered by the Programme. It is also proposed to undertake activities involving the establishment of long-term, cross-border cooperation between institutions dealing with particularly valuable heritage objects and cultural institutions.

2. Joint actions aimed at promotion of natural heritage and ecotourism, including development of tourist infrastructure.

Support is provided for natural heritage promotion and sustainable tourism allowing for nature preservation for future generations. Involvement in these activities by local authorities, entrepreneurs and local leaders will strengthen social integration and allow for better promotion of the natural heritage of the area. Initiatives aimed at supporting promotional activities carried out by non-governmental organisations, e.g. organising events promoting the natural heritage of the area covered by the Programme assumptions, will also be important. Actions involving the establishment of long-term, cross-border cooperation between institutions dealing with the protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and ecotourism are suggested. Development of cycling infrastructure shall be one of the recommended measures to promote ecotourism.

3. Joint actions aimed at adaptation of skills and professional qualifications in the field of tourism to the needs of the tourism market and changes within.

Due to the special touristic values (historical, cultural and natural), insufficiently used touristic potential and outflow of human resources (especially educated young people) to regions with higher development potential, it is proposed to take measures aimed at increasing tourism-related entrepreneurship in the Programme area. This will allow more effective use of the area's potential. Support is planned by e.g. courses, training or workshops on how to set up and promote an enterprise in the tourism industry and how to manage it effectively. One of the key factors in the development of tourism is the accommodation and catering base adapted to the needs of visitors (mainly private entities), therefore stimulating the development of these entities may particularly contribute to increasing the tourist attractiveness of the Programme area.

It is also proposed to promote tourism clusters (including their creation) and active participation in them by entities involved in tourism or cultural activities. Moreover, measures promoting and creating joint touristic products and touristic trails (e.g., walking, hiking, cycling, water trails, etc.) increasing attractiveness of the borderland and providing tourist facilities in the border area will be supported.

The Programme area has a high potential for the development of agritourism, e.g., due to the large share of rural and valuable natural areas. Actions involving creation of e.g., joint brochures, tourist guides, films, advertising campaigns and study visits are proposed in order to promote the area as attractive, with a coherent touristic offer. Involvement in the activities of local authorities, entrepreneurs as well as local leaders, will strengthen social integration and allow for better protection, development and promotion of tourist values.

2.3.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

N/A

2.3.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
3	RSO4.6	RCO77	Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	Cultural and tourism sites	0	68
3	RSO4.6	RCO115	Public events across borders jointly organised	Events	0	70
3	RSO4.6	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Solutions developed	0	78

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measureme nt unit	Baseli ne	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comm ents
3	RSO4.6	RCR77	Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported	Visitors/year	0	2021	1 335 318	Own calculation	-
3	RSO4.6	RCR104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solutions applied	0	2021	39	Own calculation	-

2.3.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- state, regional and local administration units,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc.,
- personnel development institutions,
- non-governmental organisations,
- entrepreneurs.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

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

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.3.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

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

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO4.6		083 Cycling infrastructure	10 088 522,73
3	RSO4.6		165 Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets and tourism services	10 088 522,73
3	RSO4.6		166 Protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural services	10 088 522,73
3	RSO4.6		167 Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism other than Natura 2000 sites	10 088 522,73

Table 5 - Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO4.6		01. Grant	40 354 090,91

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO4.6		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	40 354 090,91

2.4. Priority: 4 - Cooperation

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.4.1. Specific objective: ISO6.2. Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

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: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

One of the challenges facing the Programme area is the ineffective and inefficient functioning of public administration, *inter alia* implementing common actions for the development of this area.

In order to increase the efficiency of public administration through the promotion of legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions it is planned to take joint actions such as:

- 1. Increasing and improving the quality of cross-border cooperation between entities in the Programme area;
- 2. Improving access to information on legal, fiscal and formal conditions related to economic and public activities in the Programme area, promoting joint activities contribution to sustainable development of private and public entities.

2.4.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

N/A

2.4.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4	ISO6.2	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan	0	5
4	ISO6.2	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Strategy/action plan	0	7

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)		Comments
4	ISO6.2	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy / action plan	0	2021	5	Own calculation	-
4	ISO6.2	RCR104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solutions applied	0	2021	3	Own calculation	-

2.4.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- state, regional and local administration units,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),
- rescue units, fire protection units (including fire brigades) and the police,
- non-governmental organisations,
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- · societies and organisations for activating the economy,
- technological centres (e.g. chambers of economy or trade, business environment institutions).

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS. COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

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

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.4.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

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

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ISO6.2		171 Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	2 421 245,46
			Member State	245,40
4	ISO6.2		173 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives	2 421 245,46
			in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context	

Table 5 - Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ISO6.2		01. Grant	4 842 490,91

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ISO6.2		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	4 842 490,91

2.4.2. Specific objective: ISO6.3 Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

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

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

As part of the specific objective related to mutual trust creation by encouraging activities facilitating people-to-people actions, it is the following thematic activities will be implemented to increase the involvement and participation of the inhabitants of the Programme area in cross-border cooperation:

1. Integration of residents of the Programme area through in the fields of art and culture

To provide wide audience coverage with different aspects and social levels of people's integration, it is proposed to create opportunities to strengthen contacts between people of the cross-border region in fields of art and culture. Events and initiatives engaging target audiences for the joint cultural and creative leisure, cooperative actions between cultural and art institutions and NGOs across the border, joint preservation and promotion of cultural and art heritage objects, joint sociocultural and art inclusion of the people with special needs will contribute to establishing lasting relationships between representatives of the Programme area.

2. Cross-border cooperation in education

To enable shaping regional awareness across borders and give the stimulus to both personal and joint socio-cultural development to the inhabitants of the Programme area it is proposed to allocate funds for educational activities. Initiatives such as adaptation of innovative educational and scientific technologies and solutions in the cross-border region and joint creation of a new, accessible, cross-border educational offer for people of all age groups, arrangement of the joint educational programmes between educational institutions across the border as well as establishing

official institutional cooperation initiatives, exchange of youth, trainings, seminars will provide the opportunity to strengthen ties between participants and create long-term relationships in the Programme area emphasising social inclusion, accessibility and mutual respect of the people in the region.

3. Joint bottom-up initiatives concerning the environment and climate change

To aide prevention and adaptation to climate changes and in order to minimize their consequences, rising the awareness of the problems and engagement of the Programme area population in joint measures addressing the common issues of environmental protection and climate change adaptation is required. Initiatives creating conditions and specific solutions for the promotion of eco-friendly lifestyles, monitoring, assessment, prevention and solving of the common issues of local communities connected with nature protection and climate change on the Programme territory and relevant reflection of these issues on a higher regional level, preservation of the objects of local natural heritage and promotion of natural specificity of the Programme area regions as well as small scale innovative environmental solutions addressing specific visible improvements of local environmental conditions will result in raising awareness of the population in the actual scope of environmental issues and hopefully form vitally important attitude and vision of their resolution starting from smaller scale and moving towards global sustainable climate and environmental initiatives.

4. Integrational initiatives and capacity building in the field of healthcare and safety

To enable shaping of pro-healthy attitudes among communities of cross-border region especially children and youth, joint initiatives on promotion of regular medical check-ups/examinations and actualization of the aspects of hygiene and public health (that do not contradict to currently established national and international rules and standards) can be provided. Other supporting actions raising awareness and capacity building for local communities on the matter of first aid for distant cross-border territories, small scale practical solutions and synergies on the crossing of topics of healthcare, emergency situations are intended to detail and compliment the wide scope of initiatives provided in the Programme priority of Health.

2.4.2.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

N/A

2.4.2.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4	ISO6.3	RCO85	Participations in joint training schemes	Participation	0	491
4	ISO6.3	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisations	0	217
4	ISO6.3	RCO115	Public events across borders jointly organised	Events	0	380

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)		Comments
4	ISO6.3	RCR81	Completion of joint training schemes	Participants completion	0	2021	491	Own calculation	
4	ISO6.3	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisations	0	2021	152	Own calculation	
4	ISO6.3	RCR85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	Participation	0	2021	25	Own calculation	

2.4.2.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- state, regional and local administration units,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g. chambers, government administration bodies),
- schools and educational institutions,
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations,
- other entities conducting cultural or educational activity.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.4.2.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.4.2.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.4.2.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ISO6.3		171 Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	9 684 981,82

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ISO6.3		01. Grant	9 684 981,82

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ISO6.3		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	9 684 981,82

2.5. Priority: 5 – Borders

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.5.1. Specific objective: ISO7. Actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection and economic and social integration of third-country nationals, for example migrants and beneficiaries of international protection

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

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

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Main challenges in the functioning of borders between Poland and Ukraine are long waiting time to cross the border and occurring of criminal phenomena such as smuggling of goods across borders. These barriers affect the development of cooperation in the border areas and the level of residents security.

In order to decrease the existing problems the Programme support in the border crossing management will focus on developing the cooperation between customs and border protection services of participating countries.

The following joint actions are taken into consideration:

- Common training of border services, customs services, other services related to the operation of border crossings (including phytosanitary and veterinary services) and services ensuring security in the border area;
- Equipping of customs services, border services, phytosanitary and veterinary services and services ensuring security in the border area;
- Improving the service at existing border crossings;
- Promoting the creation of pedestrian and bicycle border crossings for the development of crossborder tourism;

- Activities related to the sealing of borders, by preventing and combating illegal migration;
- Securing borders beyond border crossings, e.g., by creating an innovative border supervision system using modern technology (sensors, cameras, radars, drones, etc.).

The realization of activities in the border crossing management area will improve capacity of border crossing points. Better knowledge and practical skills of border guards and customs services will positively influence a protection and speed of control at the border crossing. The common training of border services may enable closer cooperation between units in all Programme area countries and also improve the level of residents' security of the entire border region.

Under this priority support for minor infrastructure is assumed as part of other activities.

2.5.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

N/A

2.5.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)	
5	ISO	RCO85	Participations in joint training schemes	Participation	0	174	

Table 3 - Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
5	ISO	RCR81	Completion of joint training schemes	Participants completion	0	2021	174	Own calculation	-

2.5.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions::

border and customs services,

- other services related to the operation of border crossings (including phytosanitary and veterinary services) and the police from individual countries of the Programme area,
- state, regional and local administration units,
- associations of these units and institutions subordinated to them.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g. integrated territorial investments, the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.5.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.5.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.5.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 - intervention field

Prio	ority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
5		ISO		171 Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	8 070 818,18

Table 5 - Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	ISO		01. Grant	8 070 818,18

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

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	ISO		33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	8 070 818,18

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (f) of Article 17(3)

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Reference: point (g)(i) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

Table 7

Fund	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
NDICI-CBC(1)	0	29 517 835	31 153 076	31 655 835	32 167 917	25 875 576	27 187 761	177 558 000
Total								

¹ Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation

3.2. Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing

Reference: point (f)(ii) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

Table 8

Policy objecti ve	Priority	Fund	Basis for calculation EU support (total eligible cost or public contribution)	EU contribution (a)=(a1)+(a2)	Indicative breakd contrib		National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	ntribution Indicative breakdown of the		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co- financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)	Contrib utions from the third countrie
					without TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a1)	for TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a2)		National public (c)	National private (d)	Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co- financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)	Contrib utions from the third countrie
	Priority 1	NDICI- CBC(1)	Total eligible costs	58 594 140	53 267 400	5 326 740	6 510 460	6 162 801	347 659	65 104 600	90%	
	Priority 2	NDICI- CBC(1)	Total eligible costs	49 716 240	45 196 582	4 519 658	5 524 027	5 229 044	294 983	55 240 267	90%	
	Priority 3	NDICI- CBC(1)	Total eligible costs	44 389 500	40 354 091	4 035 409	4 932 167	4 668 789	263 378	49 321 667	90%	
	Priority 4	NDICI- CBC(1)	Total eligible costs	15 980 220	14 527 473	1 452 747	1 775 580	1 680 764	94 816	17 755 800	90%	
	Priority 5	NDICI- CBC(1)	Total eligible costs	8 877 900	8 070 818	807 082	986 433	986 433	0	9 864 333	90%	
	Grand total	NDICI- CBC(1)	Total eligible costs	177 558 000	161 416 364	16 141 636	19 728 667	18 727 831	1 000 836	197 286 667	90%	

4. Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Reference: point (g) of Article 17(3)

Text field [10 000]

Involvement of the relevant partners in the preparation of the Programme

Preparation of the Programme was initiated after conclusion that the preparations for the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme was no longer possible. Poland and Ukraine decided to continue their cooperation and, hence, the Joint Programming Committee for the Interreg NEXT Poland-Ukraine 2021-2027 (JPC) was established.

The composition of the JPC was set taking into consideration the partnership rules. Representatives of the Polish and Ukrainian public institutions of national and regional level as well as representatives of the relevant partners participated in the JPC. The partners' representatives in the JPC included:

- as representative of national or regional public higher educational institutions, education, training and advisory services providers and research centres – Bialystok University of Technology and the Mammal Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- as representative of nationally or regionally recognised social partners' organisations, in particular general cross-industry organisations and sectoral organisations – The Automotive Industry Institute;
- as representative of national or regional chambers of commerce and business associations representing the general interest of industries or branches, with the aim to ensure balanced representation of large, medium-sized, small and micro enterprises) – National Chamber of Commerce;
- 4. as representative of each of the entities: bodies representing civil society, bodies representing environmental partners, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination Association for the Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia" and Associacion "EKOSKOP";
- 5. as representative of competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities (e.g. Euroregions) Euroregions Niemen, Roztocze, Bug, Karpacki.

The Interreg NEXT Poland-Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme is a direct continuation of the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme, also in terms of preparation. The first meeting of the JPC for the Poland-BelarusUkraine Programme took place in Warsaw in October 2019. Later, due to the pandemic, online meetings and consultations with JPC and NAs were organized. Online workshops to discuss scope of the Programme within JPC. The first meeting of the Poland-Ukraine Programme JPC took place online on 3 March 2022.

The Programme strategy was not only widely consulted during its development among partner countries and JPC members, but also numerous actions were taken to directly involve the wide public:

- 1. Online survey on the Programme website (December 2020 January 2021);
- 2. 11 workshops on Programme priorities and activities organized by the external expert responsible for proposal of strategic part of the Programme (February May 2020);
- Public consultations of strategic part of the Programme: internet form in national languages and 3 online conferences for Poland, Belarus, Ukraine inhabitants – December 2020 – over 150 participants in total (December 2020 – January 2021).
- 4. Public consultations of the Programme were held on the Programme website. It was also consulted with a wide variety of social and economic partners in line with Polish and Ukrainian national procedures.

The role of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

In accordance with art. 8 of the CPR Relevant Programme partners will participate on a case-by-case basis upon decision of the Monitoring Committee of the Programme (MC) in the works of the MC. They will take part in the decision-making process on all issues concerning the Programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The principles of their participation as well as their rights and obligations will be stipulated in the MC Rules of Procedures. Possible conflict of interest will be prevented by introducing appropriate procedures.

The Programme partners will be supported in enhancing their institutional capacities through i.a. access to technical assistance trainings financed by the Programme, workshops and seminars and other forms of the experience and good practice exchanges.

Appropriate measures to avoid potential conflict of interest will be adopted when involving relevant partners in preparation of calls for proposals and decision making process. Involvement of relevant partners in the future evaluation of the Programme will be ensured and the outcomes from the evaluation will also be subject of consultations. All the principles and rules of involvement will be specified in details in the Rules of Procedures for the MC.

5. Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation)

Reference: point (h) of Article 17(3)

Text field [4500]

This chapter defines the implementation of information and promotion activities in the Programme. These activities aim to contribute to the communication objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy. More details will be presented in the Programme communication strategy approved by the Monitoring Committee.

Main objective

The Programme will use communication and visibility actions to achieve its main communication objective, i.e. promotion of opportunities and positive changes in the Programme area thanks to cooperation between the local and regional actors in Poland and Ukraine supported from the Programme's funding.

Specific objectives

- to ensure awareness about the EU funding and opportunities in the neighbouring border regions of Poland and Ukraine;
- to promote integrated regional development in the Programme area in line with the Programme objectives;
- to support the beneficiaries in implementing and promoting their projects;
- to inform the target groups (i.e. external and internal levels of communication) about the results of the Programme showing the positive influence on people's lives and the added value of the EU funds;
- to promote the benefits of cooperation and increase the Programme visibility.

Target groups

The information and promotion activities should be conducted at two levels of communication: external and internal.

The external level includes:

- beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries (the main target groups are defined in the section of the Programme's strategy with the description of the Programme priorities);
- general public (e.g. youth, journalists, public authorities at local/regional/national levels, NGOs, business support organisations, higher education and research institutions).

The internal level includes:

• institutions involved in the Programme's implementation (e.g. Monitoring Committee, National Authority, Managing Authority, EC, other CBC and Interreg programmes and initiatives including the process of

embedding relevant EU strategies and the national strategies of participating states into the Programme, and other relevant institutions).

Communication channels

The following communication channels are planned:

- 1. **websites** of the Programme (meeting criteria for accessibility) and the institutions implementing the Programme;
- 2. social media (e.g. Facebook, YouTube selection can be adjusted);
- traditional and internet media (local and regional);
- information and promotion events (online/hybrid/in-person) organised by the Programme or third parties;
- publications (including on-line publications and audio-visual products);
- consultations, training events, workshops addressed to (potential) beneficiaries;
- relevant networks (Regional Contact Points in Poland, Information Points on European Funds, EuropeDirect network).

The communication potential and abilities of the beneficiaries will be used through:

- building and maintaining relations with the beneficiaries;
- involving the beneficiaries in various initiatives organised and supported by the institutions implementing the Programme.

The communication coordinator, as specified in Art. 48 of the CPR, will closely cooperate with the communication manager(s) at the Joint Secretariat, who will be in charge of the implementation of harmonised communication and visibility actions of the Programme, as well as contacts with the Branch Office in Ukraine. Direct cooperation with the Interreg representative in the INFORM EU network is also envisaged.

Budget

At least 0.3% of the total Programme budget will be spent on communication and visibility in 2021-2029. The amounts for individual communication activities performed by Programme institutions will be provided in the Annual Information and Communication Plans.

Monitoring and evaluation

Communication and visibility actions will be regularly placed under external or internal evaluation and discussed and approved by the MC. Data for evaluation will come from surveys, internal statistics or website analytics. The following output and result indicators will measure progress and achievements:

Preparation phase

Output: number of website visits, social media/traditional and internet media engagements, event

participation, number of publications, networking engagements (statistics and analytics);

Result: interest of potential beneficiaries in the implementation of cross-border projects (survey);

Implementation phase

Output: number of website visits, social media/traditional and internet media engagements, event

participation, number of publications, networking engagements (statistics and analytics);

Result: beneficiary satisfaction with information and support provided by the Programme and positive

attitude towards the Programme (survey);

Results phase

Output: number of website visits, social media engagements//traditional and internet media, event

participation, number of publications, networking engagements (statistics and analytics);

Result: increased public awareness of the Programme, its results and impact (survey).

The Annual Information and Communication Plans may further define the indicators.

Evaluation of the communication strategy will be part of the overall programme's evaluation measures.

6. Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds

Reference: point (i) of Article 17(3), Article 24

Text field [7000]

Main assumptions

The Programme will support the cross-border integration based on people-to-people initiatives through direct

financing of the small-scale projects (microprojects) selected under an open call(s) for proposals.

Implementation of small project funds (art. 25 of the IR) may also be possible upon the decision of the Programme

Authorities.

Microprojects shall be implemented under the Programme priority 'Cooperation' within specific objective: Build up

mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions.

The overall indicative budget for microprojects within the Programme is 9,6 MEUR. The grant awarded for a

microproject must fall between:

minimum amount: 50 000 EUR,

maximum amount: 100 000 EUR.

No grant awarded to a microproject may exceed 90% of the total eligible costs of this project.

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A microproject is a CBC project:

- for which the selection is subject to approval by the Monitoring Committee, contracting and implementation process is simplified in relation to regular projects;
- which has a reasonable budget drafted on the basis of simplified costs options;
- which is to be settled on the basis of achievement of project indicators;
- in which the investment costs (works, supplies) and the infrastructure component are of auxiliary character and do not exceed 30% of the EU grant;
- that lasts no longer than 12 months, unless otherwise decided;
- that contributes to the Programme and its objectives;
- that has a strong and evident cross-border aspect;
- that is ready for implementation;
- that fulfils the partnership criteria.

It is intended to give support to microprojects offering mainly non-investment activities promoting cooperation, building of new cross-border citizens' contacts, enabling the inhabitants to jointly create actions, exchange of good practices in the Programme area, exchange of experiences and social initiatives related i.e., to education, art, culture, tourism, environment, heritage. Touristic and cultural events, promotion and cultivation of common traditions of the borderland areas, trainings, conferences, meetings, workshops, cross-border cooperation between schools and higher education institutions, NGOs, public administration, research and scientific centres, cultural entities, etc. will be supported. Favourable conditions will be created with a view to facilitate mutual contacts between bordering communities and institutions including integration activities. Projects focusing on transfer of innovative solutions, other actions related to cultural diversity as well as development of local communities will also be targeted through microprojects.

7. Implementing provisions

7.1. Programme authorities

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(6)

Table 9

Programme authorities	Name of the institution [255]	Contact name [200]	E-mail [200]
Managing authority	Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland ul. Wspólna 2/4 00-926 Warszawa Poland	Minister responsible for regional development, Poland	kancelaria@mfipr.gov.pl
National authority (for programmes with participating third countries, if appropriate)	Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	
Audit authority			
Group of auditors representatives			
Group of auditors representatives			
Group of auditors representatives			
Body to which the payments are to be made by the Commission	Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland ul. Wspólna 2/4 00-926 Warszawa Poland	Minister responsible for regional development, Poland	kancelaria@mfipr.gov.pl

7.2. Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(6)

Text field [3500]

Based on the experience and best practices from the previous editions of the Programme, participating countries decided to set up a Joint Secretariat (JS) to be the institution responsible for day-to-day implementation of the Programme. The JS shall support beneficiaries in implementation of their projects and conduct information and promotion activities. The JS shall also assist Programme institutions (Managing Authority, Monitoring Committee, National Authority, Audit Authority – if necessary) in carrying out their functions.

In line with the Programme institutions' decision, the JS shall be located in Warsaw, in the state-owned Center of European Projects (CEP). The detailed responsibilities of the JS shall be specified in a

cooperation agreement concluded between the MA and CEP. The role of the JS shall also be described in

other relevant documents (procedure manual, etc.).

As the Programme is a continuation of the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine cross-border cooperation, the JS shall

employ experts that have extensive knowledge of implementation of cross-border cooperation projects

in Poland and Ukraine. The costs related to the functioning of the institution shall be covered from the

Programme's technical assistance.

To support beneficiaries in the Programme area a Branch Office of the Joint Secretariat (BO) shall be set

up in Lviv. It will be hosted by

The main activities of the JS and the BO relate to:

organization of calls for proposals (information campaign for potential beneficiaries, workshops

for applicants, developing application pack, assessment of applications, etc),

supporting Programme beneficiaries in the process of preparation of grant contracts and

implementation of the projects (trainings for beneficiaries, assistance in introduction of changes

in the projects, etc),

monitoring of implementation of the projects (projects activities progress, changes in the

projects, informing on irregularities, verification of reports, etc),

supporting and assisting the Programme institutions in their functioning (organization of and

participation in MC meetings and other programme events, providing statistical and analytical

data on programme and projects' implementation upon request of any authorized

representative of the National and Regional authorities, etc),

information, communication and promotion activities (organization of conferences and other

promotional events, preparation of information and promotion materials, managing programme

website, developing Annual Information and Communication Plan, etc), provision of consultations

on the implementation of visibility and communication requirements to project,

participation in preparation and drafting of Programme documents,

participation in the desk and on-spot checks of the projects.

7.3. Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third

or partner countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority

or the Commission

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(6)

Text field [10500]

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Irregularities identified in one country

The Member State with the area where irregularities have been identified assumes financial responsibility. In particular, this applies to situations where irregularities result from: national legislation, a defective system (e.g. control) or exceeding the permissible error rate on the territory of the state.

Irregularities identified in more than one country

If an irregularity is identified in more than one Member State, the financial responsibility will be divided according to the weight and impact of different factors associated with the irregularity on the amount of the correction.

If it is difficult to determine the weight of the individual factors that led to the correction and therefore, it is not possible to precisely allocate financial responsibility to the countries, they will jointly decide on the share of the financial responsibility in proportion to the EU contribution paid to beneficiaries in each country during the period subject to audit/control.

Irregularities as a result of joint decisions of countries

In the event of irregularities resulting from joint decisions of countries regarding the Program, including non-achievement of the Program objectives, the financial responsibility is shared between the countries in proportion to the EU contribution paid to the beneficiaries in each country during the period subject to audit/control.

Irregularities as a result of decisions made by program institutions

In case of irregularities resulting from actions and decisions taken by the MA or the Joint Secretariat (JS), the country in which the MA or JS has its seat is responsible.

Irregularities arising under other circumstances

The MA, in agreement with the Member States, assigns a given case to one of the above-mentioned categories.

In cases not described above, the methodology for sharing responsibilities will depend on the joint decision of the member states.

Consequences of irregularities on technical assistance funds

The MA is responsible for establishing the rules for granting and transferring technical assistance funds referred to in Art. 27 of the Interreg Regulation, to authorized entities. Detailed solutions for the transfer of payments to eligible entities for the implementation of tasks for the Program shall be specified in the document granting technical assistance funds to a given entity.

Taking into account the fact that the European Commission transfers funds for technical assistance to the MA in the form of a flat rate, pursuant to Art. 27 of the Interreg Regulation, each financial correction has financial consequences for the paid and contracted technical assistance funds. The Managing Authority will analyze the impact of irregularities on the technical assistance funds in the program an ongoing basis. In the event of imposing financial corrections resulting in a reduction of technical assistance funds available for a program, the MA will apply for the difference to the country or countries responsible for the correction. The division of responsibilities in this respect is the same as for the financial correction which led to the reduction.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Table 10: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the Programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 1)	?	?
From the adoption, the Programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 2)	?	?

Map Map of the Programme area



Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission

(Article 94 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Date of submitting the proposal	

This Appendix is not required when EU-level simplified cost options established by the delegated act referred to in Article 94(4) of CPR are used.

A. Summary of the main elements

				Estimated proportion of	Type(s) of ope	ration covered		triggering rsement			
ı	Priority	Fund	Specific objective	the total financial allocation within the priority to which the simplified cost option will be applied in %	Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description	Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of simplified cost option (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the simplified cost option

⁽¹⁾ This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex 1 CPR

⁽²⁾ This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

B. Details by type of operation

Did the managing authority receive support from an external company to set out the simplified costs below?

If so, please specify which external company:

Yes/No – Name of the external company	
---------------------------------------	--

1.1 Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation ⁽¹⁾
1.2 Specific objective
1.3 Indicator triggering reimbursement ⁽²⁾
1.4 Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement
1.5 Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate
1.6 Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the simplified cost option
1.7 Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate
1.8 Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation? (Y/N)
1.9 Adjustment(s) method ⁽³⁾
1.10 Verification of the achievement of the units delivered
 describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered
—describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications
 describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store the relevant data/documents
1.11 Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures ⁽⁴⁾ and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low)
1.12 Total amount (national and EU) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis

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⁽¹⁾ Envisaged starting date of the selection of operations and envisaged final date of their completion (ref. Article 63(5) of CPR).

⁽²⁾ For operations encompassing several simplified cost options covering different categories of costs, different projects or successive phases of an operation, the fields 1.3 to 1.11 need to be filled in for each indicator triggering reimbursement.

⁽³⁾ If applicable, indicate the frequency and timing of the adjustment and a clear reference to a specific indicator (including a link to the website where this indicator is published, if applicable).

⁽⁴⁾ Are there any potential negative implications on the quality of the supported operations and, if so, what measures (such as quality assurance) will be taken to offset this risk?

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc):
2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) is relevant to the type of operation:
3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission:
4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate:
5. Assessment of the audit authority or authorities of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data:

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission (Article 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Date of submitting the proposal	

This Appendix is not required when amounts for EU-level financing not linked to costs established by the delegated act referred to in Article 95(4) of CPR are used.

A. Summary of the main elements

					operation ered	Conditions to	Indi	cator	Unit of measurement	
Priority	Fund	Specific objective	The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs	Code(1)	Description	be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Code(2)	Description	for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary or beneficiaries

⁽¹⁾ This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex 1 to the CPR and Annex IV to the EMFAF Regulation.

⁽²⁾ This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation

1.1 Description of the operation type			
1.2 Specific objective			
1.3 Conditions to be fulfilled or results to be achieved			
1.4 Deadline for fulfilment of conditions or results to be			
achieved			
1.5 Unit of measurement for conditions to be			
fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement			
by the Commission		.	
1.6 Intermediate deliverables (if applicable) triggering	Intermediate	Envisaged	Amount
reimbursement by the Commission with schedule for	deliverables	date	(in EUR)
reimbursements			
1.7 Total amount (including Union and national funding)			
1.8 Adjustment(s) method			
1.9 Verification of the achievement of the result or			
condition (and where relevant, the intermediate			
deliverables)			
—describe what document(s)/system will be used to			
verify the achievement of the result or condition (and			
where relevant, each of the intermediate deliverables)			
— describe how management verifications (including on-			
the-spot) will be carried out, and by whom			
 describe what arrangements will be made to collect 			
and store relevant data/documents			
1.10 Use of grants in the form of financing not linked to			
costs/ Does the grant provided by Member State to			
beneficiaries take the form of financing not linked to			
costs? [Y/N]			
1.11 Arrangements to ensure the audit trail			
Please list the body(ies) responsible for these			
arrangements.			

Appendix 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable - Article 17(3) CPR									
Text field [2 000]									

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DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by