

INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME 2021-2027

Priority 4: Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe
SO 4.1: Strengthening governance for integrated territorial
development in central Europe

09.2021

Disclaimer

This document has been approved by the programming Task Force “Working Group CENTRAL EUROPE 2021+” as an advanced draft of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027. The document was drafted in compliance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, according to the template annexed to the aforementioned regulation.

Further information on the programming process for the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027 can be found at www.interreg-central.eu/CE21-27.

Please note that contents of this document may change also substantially following negotiations with the concerned parties, namely the nine Member States participating in the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme and the European Commission.

Priority 4: Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe

Specific objective: Strengthening governance for integrated territorial development in central Europe

Reference: Article 17(3)(e)

ISO 1 - A better cooperation governance (objective 6 “other actions to support better cooperation governance”)

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

*Reference: Article 17(3)(e)(i), Article 17(9)(c)(ii)
Text field [7000]*

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

Territorial needs for central Europe

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

Transnational cooperation actions

Under this SO, Interreg CE will support transnational actions aimed at improving multi-sectoral governance processes on all territorial levels, in particular in view of complex challenges related to digitalisation, demographic change, public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services) and tourism including culture. Actions should follow a cross-sectoral approach and foster the horizontal and vertical cooperation of relevant actors of the public and,

where appropriate, the private sector. Furthermore, actions should also strengthen capacities of public authorities to prepare integrated territorial development strategies.

Possible cooperation actions include the joint development and implementation of strategies, action plans, tools, training, pilot actions and related solutions. Actions should focus on improving governance processes by better integrating policy sectors, by building consensus among relevant institutions, by better involving citizens and other stakeholders and by making use of digital tools.

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

- Reduction of administrative barriers, better policymaking and cooperation beyond borders
- Participatory decision-making processes (e.g. citizen involvement)
- Multi-level and multi-sector governance among areas with functional ties beyond borders
- Integrated territorial development strategies, e.g. addressing demographic change, public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services) and tourism and culture
- Digital governance

Examples of actions supported (non-exhaustive list):

- Identifying and reducing barriers to cooperation in territories with functional ties (e.g. improving cooperation between stakeholders across administrative units and sectors to implement joint solutions)
- Exchange of experiences and building capacities of authorities to prepare territorially integrated initiatives such as Community-led local development (CLLD) strategies and Integrated territorial investments (ITI) by fostering cooperation between urban-rural partnerships or on sustainable urban development (SUD)
- Fostering and testing participatory governance models at local and regional level to increase participation of citizens in decision-making and to strengthen civic engagement and equal opportunities in public governance
- Exchanging knowledge and good practices on managing participatory approaches, including the testing of digital solutions for further rollout at territorial level
- Developing and implementing integrated development strategies for territories with functional ties addressing demographic change challenges and including high quality public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services)
- Developing and implementing integrated tourism strategies beyond borders, based on the shared central European identity and joint historical and cultural heritage
- Fostering new territorial governance models by e.g. a better integration of new biodiversity governance frameworks based on the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy (through, for example, more effective stakeholder dialogues)
- Strengthening cooperation and policy integration in cross-border and transnational territories with functional ties, especially across the former Iron Curtain, by establishing new or capitalising on existing structures for cooperation governance (e.g. EGTCs, EUREGIOs, macro-regional initiatives), including joint decision making processes and coordinated action plans as well as by supporting cross-border public services

- Developing smart city and smart region strategies and supporting their integration into local and regional policies and governance systems
- Further strengthening digital governance solutions to create efficient public services that facilitate interaction between administrations and citizens and businesses (e.g. e-governance solutions, digital public services, e-participation)
- Testing, adapting and deploying smart digital services for better cooperation and coordination beyond administrative borders (e.g. in the health sector)

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

Expected results

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

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

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

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

Text field [7000]

N/A

Indicators

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

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
4	SO 4.1	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan	4	28
4	SO 4.1	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action	2	14
4	SO 4.1	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation	147	210
4	SO 4.1	RCO 116	Jointly developed solutions	Solution	2	14

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
4	SO 4.1	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/ action plan	0	2021	21	Programme monitoring system	
4	SO 4.1	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	0	2021	105	Programme monitoring system	
4	SO 4.1	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	0	2021	11	Programme monitoring system	

Main target groups

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

Text field [7000]

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

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

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

Text field [7000]

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

All possible actions need to consider the specific territorial settings and existing governance systems of targeted areas and be aligned to the relevant territorial strategies at the respective governance level (local, regional, national).

Planned use of financial instruments

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

Text field [7000]

N/A

Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

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

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	SO 4.1	171	20.798.500

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	SO 4.1	01	20.798.500

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

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	SO 4.1	33	20.798.500