TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report
Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation
(Interreg V-A) AT-CZ – Austria – Czech Republic
# Table of contents

1  Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation .................................................. 1  
   1.1 Programme ID .................................................................................................. 1  
   1.2 Context and programme area description ...................................................... 1  
   1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area ........... 1  
   1.4 Overview needs and challenges .................................................................... 2  
   1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ................................................................. 3  
   1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment .............................. 5
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCI number:</th>
<th>2014TC16RFCB002</th>
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<td>Title of the programme:</td>
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1.2 Context and programme area description

The programme covers border regions between Austria and the Czech Republic. The region consists of large urban centres (such as Vienna, Linz, and Brno), and a large number of small and medium-sized villages and towns. The programme area covers approximately 6.3 million inhabitants (2013), concentrated in the large urban centres of Vienna (1.7 million) and Brno (379,000).

The border region features structurally underdeveloped regions, including relatively less competitive enterprises and traditional industries, in addition to dynamic regions with highly innovative and creative environment and competitive enterprises. Along the Austrian Czech border, disparities are visible in terms of the productivity of the regions: GDP per capita (at PPP 2010) is approach 135% of EU27 average in Austrian regions, whereas it approached 75% in Czech regions. The secondary sector strongly features traditional industries in rural areas, and more innovation-related and dynamic industries in urban centres. Expansions in the tertiary sector, in both rural and urban areas, are driving the expansion of economic output. In the border region, approximately 3 million people are employed.

The programme volume amounts to € 115,134,844, of which € 97,814,933 stems from ERDF contributions. The remaining € 6,447,627 and € 10,872,324 stem from national public and private co-funding, respectively.

1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

Under smart growth, the Austria-Czech programme contributes by promoting skill and innovation-oriented activities. In addition, institutional capacities are improved together with existing cooperation and communication structures.
Under inclusive growth, cross-border accessibility is promoted in terms of access to jobs, housing, and services. Legal and institutional frameworks are harmonised, which improves access to cross-border opportunities, be they job-related or seeking legal recourse.

Additionally, under sustainable growth, regional economies are strengthened in terms of their resilience towards risks stemming from climate change, as well as contributing to quality improvements of natural and cultural resources.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

One of the territorial challenges is linked to demographic change, especially in peripheral regions that experience declining tendencies. The region is diversified in terms of economic structure and there can be many disparities observed. Next to dynamic, innovative and strong regions and industries there are also less competitive branches and sectors. Such differences can be seen between not only between urban and rural areas but also between Czech and Austrian regions. For example secondary sector is still very prominent in rural and Czech areas.

Czech regions need to support innovativeness and competitiveness of their enterprises, implementation of S3 strategies, key enabling technologies, clusters, niches, institutions and research. In Austria, on the other hand, the need is to raise the share of technology and knowledge-based products and services in export activities, as well as the efficiency of governance. R&I investments are concentrated around centres on both sides of the border making it difficult for peripheral regions to benefit from them. Also, SMEs have difficulties with regards to innovation capacities and these are rather found in large companies. The potential role of clusters in the region has so far not been used in the cross-border dimension.

In the area of education and qualification regions on both side of the border aim to reduce school drop-out date. There is also a need for educated skilled personal according to the needs of the labour market and to reduce a gap between the education offered and needed skills. Austria also emphasizes the need for more inclusive employment, improving participation of older employees, women, migrants, young people as well as vulnerable groups. Cross-border cooperation between schools and universities should be strengthened.

As a challenge for the region, the consequences of climate change are identified, in terms of their impact on infrastructure, settlements, economic activities, energy production, and water supply. Water shortages may detrimentally impact urban areas and the agricultural sector. Additionally, despite improved flood protection measures, the risk of flooding continues to exist. Tourism needs to be linked with sustainability in an increased manner. Challenges include preserving natural and cultural resources, minimising the negative impact of tourism on local ecosystems, reducing the season-linked demand fluctuations, as well as increasing the accessibility of tourism, and improving the quality of jobs generated through tourism.
Related to regional governance, institutional and administrative capacities need to be strengthened, in addition to promoting good governance principles. This comes with a reduction of regulatory and administrative burdens, promotions of higher standards of transparency, integrity, and accountability. Challenges for regional cross-border governance systems are identified as bottlenecks impacted by factors such as the enabling environment, policy frameworks, organisational settings, and regulations.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1a: Improved and extended research and innovation capacities

Priority Axis 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (TO1, IP 1a)

- Brief justification: selected as research and innovation activities are unequally divided across the region. Rural areas feature low rates of research and investment, while urban areas feature high rates
- Main change sought: Improvements in innovation systems due to jointly-used R&I capacity. Increased cooperation in the field of R&I between existing institutions. Economies of scale by sharing of existing capacities.
- Expected activities: measures (preparatory studies and planning) for investments in cross border R&I infrastructure, investments into shared cross facilities, support of joint cross border R&I activities
- Beneficiaries: public and private R&I institutions, universities and related academic institutions, enterprises, the non-profit sector, and the public sector

Specific objective 1b: Fostering the involvement of enterprises (primarily SMEs) in the innovation system

Priority Axis 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: selected for similar reasons as SO1: research and innovation is concentrated on research institutions and similar, while SMEs invest little.
- Main change sought: Better integration of enterprises in regional innovation systems. Better connection between universities and research institutions and regional needs, with increased cooperation with enterprises. Increased regional and sectoral diffusion of R&D.
- Expected activities: an empowerment of enterprises to pursue innovation, a fostering of information and technical knowledge to improve the economic viability of business partners, integration of enterprises into regional innovation systems, and the promotion of institutional cross border networks
- Beneficiaries: public and private R&I institutions, universities and related academic institutions, enterprises, the non-profit sector, and the public sector, chambers and associations

Specific objective 2a: Valorising the region’s cultural and natural heritage in a sustainable way

Priority Axis 2: Environment and Resources (TO 6, IP 6c)

- Brief justification: selected, as natural and cultural heritage impacts the local quality of living, and as such require adequate protection
• **Main change sought:** Better access, preservation, and protection of heritage sites. Strategic approach to heritage protection which balances economic, social, and environmental needs. Improvements in the potential of soft tourism.

• **Expected activities:** improving accessibility of heritage sites via infrastructure improvements, small-scale investments into tourism infrastructure, as well as measures to protect cross border and regional cultural and natural heritage, and common frameworks

• **Beneficiaries:** public authorities, non-profit actors, R&I institutions, universities and related academic institutions, and chambers and associations.

**Specific objective 2b:** Increase of ecological stability and improvement of ecosystem services

**Priority Axis 2:** Environment and Resources (TO 6, IP 6d)

• **Brief justification:** selected to account for increased land use, the negative impacts of climate change, and environmental challenges, such as risks of destabilisation of biodiversity

• **Main change sought:** Coordinated measures to counter landscape transformations. Safeguarding biodiversity via green infrastructure. Better protection of natural habitats. Awareness raising in the local population

• **Expected activities:** investments into green infrastructure, the implementation of NATURA 2000, and the preparation and implementation of joint cross border plans

• **Beneficiaries:** public authorities, non-profit actors, R&I institutions, universities and related academic institutions, and chambers and associations.

**Specific objective 2c:** Fostering the utilisation of eco-innovative potential of the region

**Priority Axis 2:** Environment and Resources (TO 6, IP 6f)

• **Brief justification:** selected to support environmentally friendly and efficient technologies

• **Main change sought:** Awareness of the general population and pilot projects and infrastructure in energy efficiency and waste management, as well as research findings on energy efficiency and waste management.

• **Expected activities:** supporting of mechanisms promoting cross-border eco-protection, cross-border projects focusing on energy efficiency, and projects implement and testing innovation in the field of eco-protection

• **Beneficiaries:** public authorities, non-profit actors, R&I institutions, universities and related academic institutions, and chambers and associations.

**Specific objective 3a:** Extension of common supply of education and qualification activities in order to utilize human resources potential in cross-border region

**Priority Axis 3:** Human resources development (TO 10, IP 10a)

• **Brief justification:** selected because of the importance of skills, policy, and qualifications play to foster growth and an inclusive environment

• **Main change sought:** Increased cooperation between education institutions and the economic sector, as well as increased integration of SMEs into qualification systems, and common frameworks for education and qualifications.

• **Expected activities:** changes to educational systems to better fit the needs of the joint region, the supporting of activities which further the harmonisation of vocational education systems, and the development of common systemic measures in the field of education

• **Beneficiaries:** educational institutions, universities and related academic institutions, public authorities, non-profit actors, and chambers and organisations
Specific objective 4a: Fostering cross-border cooperation of communities and institutions in joint regions

Priority Axis 4: Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation (TO 11, IP 11a)

- Brief justification: was selected to strengthen existing cross border networks, as well as promoting new ones, in terms of cooperation between organisations, administrative sectors, and citizens
- Main change sought: Harmonisation, better coordination of services, planning and activities of administrative bodies and public service providers on both sides of the border. Fostering of intercultural exchanges to promote integration and cohesion.
- Expected activities: improved cooperation within the public sector between regional and local actors, as well as local cohesion activities, and the strengthening of local and regional networks.
- Beneficiaries: educational institutions, universities and related academic institutions, public authorities, non-profit actors, R&I institutions, and chambers and organisations

Synergies with other EU interventions: The programme is coordinated in Austria by the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) within the Federal Chancellery. Coordination of STRAT.AT 2020 also lies with the ÖROK, thus ensuring complementary of Interreg AT-CZ with ESI fund-specific activities. A specific working group “Cross-Border-Cooperation” is organised by the ÖROK for the ERDF to assure links to other committees for structural funds.

1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

The ex-post evaluation recommends using a more clearly defined overall objective of the cross-border-cooperation. The majority of programme indicators feature a clear definition; however, some proposed result indicators require additional revision, e.g. of IP 1a and 6c. Additionally, missing data values of output indicators should be included.
The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
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Territorial Evidence Report

Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

(Interreg V-A) Finland – Estonia – Latvia – Sweden (Central Baltic)
Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020
Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation .................................................. 1
  1.1 Programme ID .......................................................................................... 1
  1.2 Context and programme area description .................................................. 1
  1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area .......... 1
  1.4 Overview needs and challenges .................................................................. 1
  1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ................................................................. 3
  1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ............................ 6
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

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1.2 Context and programme area description

Countries involved:

- **FI Finland/SUOMI**: Etelä-Karjala, Pirkanmaa, Satakunta, Päijät-Häme, Kanta-Häme, Kymenlaakso, Helsinki-Uusimaa, Varsinais-Suomi, Ahvenanmaa
- **EE Estonia/EESTI**: Põhja-Eesti, Lääne-Eesti, Kesk-Eesti, Kirde-Eesti, Lõuna-Eesti
- **LV Latvia/LATVIJA**: Kurzeme, Pieriga, Riga, Vidzeme, Zemgale
- **SE Sweden/SVERIGE**: Gävleborg, Uppsala, Stockholm, Västmanland, Örebro, Södermanland, Östergötland, Gotland

Population in programme area: 10.5 million inhabitants (2% of total EU population)

Total Budget: EU support: € 122,360,390 (ERDF), national counterpart: € 37,916,232

1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

“The Programme supports projects in four priorities: Competitive economy, Sustainable use of common resources, Well-connected region and Skilled and socially inclusive region.”

- **Smart Growth**: The programme focuses on strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs, promoting entrepreneurship and improving flows of goods and people.
- **Sustainable Growth**: The support of sustainable tourism, reduction of pollution in the Baltic Sea and improvement of urban environments are goals of the programme.
- **Inclusive Growth**: The programme focuses on vocational education and training schemes and to strengthen disadvantaged communities through small scale projects.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

The Programme area includes coastal regions of Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Latvia, for whom the Baltic Sea plays an important economic and cultural role. It covers the capital cities of all four countries, but also peripheral and isolated islands and rural regions. Urban-rural disparities are identified as a joint challenge. The Programme aims to promote economic,
social and territorial cohesion by supporting business creation, developing natural and cultural resources, improving small ports and strengthening local communities.

- **Population:** All regions are facing population ageing, and many also experience population decline, even though the population particularly in the capital areas has been growing strongly. To counteract processes of urbanisation, new employment opportunities have to be created in the rural areas. Population ageing creates pressures to increase productivity and exploit opportunities of the “silver economy”. Further integration of labour markets and work-related migration are potential solutions for regional mismatches of jobs and skills.

- **Education and research:** The region boasts a high proportion of people with tertiary education and host top-level universities. Internationalisation and cross-border cooperation could strengthen entrepreneurial activities and the competitiveness of the area.

- **Labour market:** The regions in the programme area have varying employment levels. Unemployment declined after the economic crisis, but challenges still exist to reduce the mismatch of skills and demands on the labour market and to lower youth unemployment.

- **Economic development:** Levels of economic development differ across the programme area. There are strong potentials to further develop already existing trade links between the Central Baltic countries. The export capacity of companies needs to be strengthened, and the “blue”, “green” and “silver” business areas further developed. Sectors with high potential in the area include ICT products and forestry, food production, logistics and chemical industry. The region is also a tourist destination, but this sector is challenged by seasonality.

- **Gender equality:** The number of women in employment and education is increasing. Gender gaps in salaries and employment are smaller than in many other EU countries. Nonetheless, gaps remain, with few women in decision-making positions, the private sector and research.

- **Environment:** The Baltic Sea suffers from eutrophication. It also warms up fast under current climate change conditions. Efficient marine space management across borders is needed to ensure that economic activities are carried out in a sustainable way.

- **Natural/cultural heritage:** The programme area boasts natural and cultural heritage sites, which are an asset for sustainable tourism and quality of living for residential populations.

- **Transport:** The programme area has a well-developed transport network (road, railway, sea, inland waterways and air routes), but rural and peripheral areas face poorer accessibility. All transport modes still depend on fossil fuel to a large extent, creating the need to further develop low-carbon, sustainable transport systems. Small ports are of particular relevance for the population in the programme area and important sources for tourism development.

- **Communication infrastructure:** The programme area has a comparatively well-developed ICT infrastructure and hosts globally competitive companies in the ICT sector, creating excellent business opportunities to develop tools and services for an ageing population.

- **Social inclusion:** Levels of social inclusion differ, resulting from differences in long-term unemployment, household incomes and youth unemployment. Better integrated labour markets could create new work opportunities and decrease social exclusion.
1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1.1: New Central Baltic knowledge intensive companies
Priority Axis 1: Competitive Economy (TO3, IP 1 of PA 1)

- **Brief justification:** The specific objective aims to target challenges related to the sustainability of the businesses operating in remote, rural and sparsely populated communities and those that are characterised by seasonality of traditional activities.
- **Main change sought:** Exploitation of the opportunities of the “green”, “silver” and “blue” economy. New business creation on the basis of ICT and low-carbon solutions. Creation of new joint Central Baltic enterprises and co-operation between new enterprises.
- **Expected activities:** Awareness raising, training, coaching, advisory services, networking, incubator services etc.
- **Beneficiaries:** Potential entrepreneurs and newly established enterprises contributing to the “green”, “low-carbon”, “blue” and “silver” economies, technology start-ups

Specific objective 1.2: More entrepreneurial youth
Priority Axis 1: Competitive Economy (TO3, IP 1 of PA 1)

- **Brief justification:** Use the potential of the young generation to make the Central Baltic region more entrepreneurial and competitive.
- **Main change sought:** Create more student companies (teams formed for business simulation under adult supervision)
- **Expected activities:** Awareness raising, training, internships, advisory services, networks, capacity building of teams and student firms, design of e-platforms and e-tools
- **Beneficiaries:** Students involved in basic and upper secondary education, business development organisations, youth organisations, education institutions

Specific objective 1.3: More exports by the Central Baltic companies to new markets
Priority Axis 1: Competitive Economy (TO3, IP 2 of PA 1)

- **Brief justification:** Use the potential of the young generation to make the Central Baltic region more entrepreneurial and competitive.
- **Main change sought:** Support Central Baltic SMEs to enter into new markets (outside EU/EFTA) with a focus on innovation, product development and internationalization.
- **Expected activities:** Development and adaptation of services and products in new markets, process development, branding, marketing, human resource development, market analysis, feasibility studies
- **Beneficiaries:** SMEs in business clusters, organisations and authorities responsible for cluster development and business development, business associations, regional development organisations

Specific objective 2.1: Natural/cultural resources developed into sustainable tourist attractions
Priority Axis 2: Sustainable use of common resources (TO6, IP 1 of PA 2)

- **Brief justification:** A balance should be found between preserving and developing natural and cultural resources.
- **Main change sought:** Improve attractiveness of living and visiting environments by developing cultural and natural resources into joint tourist attractions and products
- **Expected activities:** Identifying the potential use of natural and cultural resources, designing attractions, packaging tourist services, investments, marketing activities
• **Beneficiaries:** Visitors and local people, companies in the tourism sector, local and regional organisations for tourist development and the maintenance and development of natural and cultural heritage, local and regional authorities

**Specific objective 2.2:** Sustainably planned and managed marine and coastal areas  
**Priority Axis 2:** Sustainable use of common resources (TO6, IP 1 of PA 2)  
- **Brief justification:** Address joint challenges related to maritime spatial planning of exclusive economic zones of territorial waters and integrated coastal zone management.  
- **Main change sought:** A more sustainable use of the fragile resources of the Baltic Sea and its coastal areas. Foster cooperation, mediate and find the balance between different sectors that have different interests using marine and coastal resources.  
- **Expected activities:** Information collection, participatory processes, exchange events, seminars, manuals, guidelines, e-platforms for supporting participatory processes  
- **Beneficiaries:** local people, visitors and companies interested in developing sea and coastal resources, organisations and authorities responsible for the planning of territorial waters and for specific sectors using marine and coastal resources

**Specific objective 2.3:** Better urban planning in the Central Baltic region  
**Priority Axis 2:** Sustainable use of common resources (TO6, IP 2 of PA 2)  
- **Brief justification:** The SO aims to target the challenges and opportunities related to improving the urban space.  
- **Main change sought:** Improvement of urban planning.  
- **Expected activities:** Information collection, surveys, seminars, trainings, preparatory activities of environment impact assessments, primary designs for brownfield regeneration, pilot investments, dissemination of good practice  
- **Beneficiaries:** Inhabitants, visitors, developers of urban/sub-urban areas, organisations and authorities on local, regional and national level responsible for spatial planning

**Specific objective 2.4:** Reduced nutrients, hazardous substances and toxins inflows into the Baltic Sea  
**Priority Axis 2:** Sustainable use of common resources (TO6, IP 3 of PA 2)  
- **Brief justification:** The water quality of the Baltic Sea region should be improved.  
- **Main change sought:** Reduce nutrients, hazardous substances and toxins inflows into the Baltic Sea from all types of land-based sources  
- **Expected activities:** Information collection, surveys, development and implementation of methods and technologies to reduce nutrients, hazardous substances and toxins inflows, pilot investments  
- **Beneficiaries:** People living in the Central Baltic region, visitors, organisations and authorities for environment protection and water treatment, research institutions

**Specific objective 3.1:** Improved transport flows of people and goods  
**Priority Axis 3:** Well-connected region (TO7, IP 1 of PA 3)  
- **Brief justification:** Different transport nodes are not optimally integrated; transport corridors in North-South and East-West directions should be improved.  
- **Main change sought:** Reduce time in transportation for passengers and cargo and reduce CO₂ emissions. Improve existing transport corridors and create new transport corridors which have a significant potential.
- **Expected activities:** Plans for improving transport corridors and nodes, pilot investments, planning and investments into ICT solutions, marketing activities, joint seminars, visits, surveys, trainings for the implementation of new methods
- **Beneficiaries:** People and visitors, transport and logistics companies of the area, organisations and authorities on national, regional and local level responsible for planning and developing transport solutions, port authorities

**Specific objective 3.2:** Improved services of existing small ports to improve local and regional mobility and contribute to tourism development

**Priority Axis 3:** Well-connected region (TO7, IP 1 of PA 3)
- **Brief justification:** The mobility and transport opportunities in the Central Baltic are not optimal.
- **Main change sought:** Improve the services of small ports’ network to boost mobility and improve travel opportunities for local people and visitors. The use of modern technologies leading to resource efficiency and use of renewable energy is supported.
- **Expected activities:** surveys, plans for improving port services, investments, planning and investing into ICT solutions, marketing activities
- **Beneficiaries:** Inhabitants using small ports, visitors, companies offering services to users of small ports, private companies operating/providing services for small ports, organisations and authorities responsible for development/maintenance of small ports

**Specific objective 4.1:** More people benefiting from stronger Central Baltic communities

**Priority Axis 4:** Skilled and socially inclusive region (TO10, IP 1 of PA 4)
- **Brief justification:** The region experiences some local level social problems related to health, minorities, safety, gender, elderly, low involvement in entrepreneurship.
- **Main change sought:** Strengthening social inclusion through joint educational and/or training activities through “people to people” projects.
- **Expected activities:** Surveys to identify and map problems, training, seminars, exchange events, network development, designing and creating ICT solutions
- **Beneficiaries:** People under risk of social exclusion, regional and local authorities and non-governmental organisations that deal with community development.

**Specific objective 4.2:** More aligned vocational education and training (VET) programmes in the Central Baltic region

**Priority Axis 4:** Skilled and socially inclusive region (TO10, IP 1 of PA 4)
- **Brief justification:** There is a need to enhance the competitiveness of VET programmes and align them more closely with the needs of the labour market.
- **Main change sought:** Development and further integration of the Central Baltic labour market, decrease of social exclusion.
- **Expected activities:** Surveys, develop new curricula and improve existing ones, pilot training/education activities, seminars, develop distance learning/e-learning platforms
- **Beneficiaries:** people in vocational education and training, companies, vocational education and training institutions, authorities responsible for developing vocational education and training, organisations representing employers and employees.

**Synergies with other EU interventions:** Synergies are expected especially with adjacent ENI programmes (South-East Finland-Russia and Estonia-Russia and Latvia-Russia). There has been some interest to include Russian actors in the Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020.
1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

The ex-ante evaluation report suggests that result indicators are currently measured only twice – at the beginning and at the end of the Programming period. The evaluators recommend measuring indicators also at the mid-point of the period, in 2018, to provide the Monitoring Committee with feedback and opportunity to take strategic decisions.

Some output and result indicators would also benefit from a clearer definition to facilitate their interpretation. As an example, the evaluators refer to the indicator “Share of marine and coastal areas with improved management”, where a clearer explanation of what constitutes “improvement” would be helpful. Other examples are discussed in the ex-ante evaluation report.

The evaluators also acknowledge that most indicators measure joint activities and/or cooperating entities, but stress that it can be difficult to measure joint actions at the regional level. Opportunity should be given to measure separate indicators in each participating country/region.

References

Relevant Websites
Programme website: http://centralbaltic.eu/
Programme description on keep.eu: https://www.keep.eu/keep/programme/5

Literature
The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
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# Table of contents

1. Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation .................................................. 1  
   1.1 Programme ID ......................................................................................... 1  
   1.2 Context and programme area description .................................................. 1  
   1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area .......... 2  
   1.4 Overview needs and challenges ............................................................... 4  
   1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ................................................................. 5  
   1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ......................... 10
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

| CCI number: | 2014 TC 16 RF TN 003 |
| Title of the programme: | Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE |
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| Last year: | 2020 |
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| Eligible until: | Non available |
| EC Decision Date: | Non available |
| EC Decision number: | Non available |

1.2 Context and programme area description

Geographical location & territorial characteristics: Covering an area of over 1 million square km the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme is home to about 146 million people. A detailed territorial analysis of the central Europe area was carried out in 2012, showing that the programme area is highly heterogeneous in geographical terms as well as in economic and social terms. (p.5) The central Europe area is characterised by a significantly uneven distribution of economic strength, which is rooted in the historical economic development (east-west divide) as well as in structural differences between regions (urban and industrialised areas vs. rural and peripheral areas). Research and development (R&D) as well as investments are concentrated in few, mostly urban growth poles including capital city agglomerations like Warsaw, Prague, Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest (...). As a consequence, rural and peripheral areas often show a lower competitiveness combined with significant brain-drain. The level of skills and knowledge in these regions suffers accordingly. [Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Cooperation Programme p.6]

Countries involved, total budget, Funds: Nine EU Member States cooperate in the Programme, including all regions from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as eight Länder from Germany and nine regions from Italy¹. In total, the programme area is made up of 76 statistical NUTS 2 regions.

¹ AT Austria/ÖSTERREICH (Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien, Kärnten, Steiermark, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg); CZ Czech Republic/ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA (Praha, Střední Čechy, Jihozápad, Severozápad, Severovýchod, Jihovýchod, Střední Morava, Moravskoslezsko); DE Deutschland (Freiburg, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Tübingen, Oberbayern, Niederbayern, Oberpfalz, Oberfranken, Mittelfranken, Unterfranken, Schwaben, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Dresden, Chemnitz, Leipzig, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen); HR Croatia/Hrvatska (Jadranska Hrvatska, Kontinentalna Hrvatska); HU Hungary/MAGYARORSZÁG (Közép-Magyarország, Közép-Dunántúl, Észak-Magyarország, Észak-Alföld, Dél-Alföld; IT Italia/ITALIA (Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, Liguria, Lombardia, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna); PL Poland/POLSKA (Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Małopolskie, Śląskie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Świętokrzyskie, Podlaskie, Wielkopolskie, Zachodniopomorskie, Lubuskie, Dolnośląskie, Opolskie,
The budget for the Programme is allocated through the European Regional Development Fund. EU budget is € 231,786,426.00 (including technical assistance: € 246,581,112.00); total budget is: € 279,260,535.00 (including technical assistance: € 298,987,026.00). [keep.eu]

### 1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

With the objective of supporting economic, social and territorial cohesion, the overall goal of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme is defined as “Cooperating beyond borders in central Europe to make our cities and regions better places to live and work.” The overall programme goal is further detailed in the following technical description: “Transnational cooperation in central Europe is the catalyst for implementing smart solutions answering to regional challenges in the fields of innovation, low-carbon economy, environment, culture and transport. It builds regional capacities following an integrated bottom-up approach involving and coordinating relevant actors from all governance levels.”

Strengthening capacities is related to creating an enabling environment through improved:

(1) policy frameworks as well as legal and economic frameworks

(II) institutional and human resources development

(III) managerial systems

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Kujawsko-pomorskie, Warmińsko-mazurskie, Pomorskie); SI Slovenia/SLOVENIJA (Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija); SK Slovakia/SLOVENSKO (Bratislavský kraj, Západné Slovensko, Stredné Slovensko, Východné Slovensko)
The specific characteristics of the transnational cooperation programme (CP) Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE is taking into account common challenges and needs shared by most or all regions involved in the programme area and can thus contribute better to social, economic and territorial cohesion than national endeavours alone. The programme strategy seeks to reduce barriers of development by promoting sustainable and integrated territorial approaches. It aims to strengthen existing or to make use of yet untapped potentials to support territorial integration, which will ultimately result in smart, sustainable and inclusive growth directly contributing to the Europe 2020 goals:

- **TO 1**: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- **TO 4**: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- **TO 6**: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
- **TO 7**: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

[Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Cooperation Programme p.12]

The overall programme strategy is formulated in direct response to the EU 2020 strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Expected impacts:

(I) **Smart Growth**: to improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity and to improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation; the programme will contribute to a more inclusive and cohesive development by means of stimulating activities (in the fields of accessibility, knowledge and skills, social innovation etc.) that address the needs of disadvantaged groups in order to allow them to better integrate into the labour market. This will facilitate their full participation in society as well as social inclusion and foster the integration of people facing particular difficulties on the labour market, such as older workers, people with disabilities, minorities etc. as laid down in the EU green paper on equality and non-discrimination

(II) **Sustainable Growth**: To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures; to improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation; to improve capacities for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO₂ emissions; the programme will direct investments towards the most resource-efficient and sustainable options, avoid investments that may have a significant negative environmental or climate impact and to support actions to mitigate any remaining negative effects, take a long-term perspective when “life-cycle” costs of alternative options for investment are compared and encourage the use of green public procurement; the programme aims at including environmental criteria in procurement procedures (e.g. green procurement procedures), giving preference to environmentally-friendly mobility options for short travel distances; adopting to the possible extent measures for the organisation and implementation of conferences and events in a sustainable way (e.g. reducing printing and using recyclable materials, using video conference facilities); considering re-
source efficiency and the use of renewable energy to the possible extent, making use of regional supply chains (reducing supply chain length and CO₂ emissions)

(III) Inclusive Growth: the programme will be Integrating equal participation of women and men and actively promoting gender mainstreaming

[Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Cooperation Programme pp.115-118]

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

The Programme indicates 4 Thematic Objectives (TO):

- **TO1:** *Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.* Challenges for this objective: concentration of R&D on a few growth poles, low level of R&D activities in rural/peripheral regions, brain drain occurrences and deterioration of competitiveness and risk of unemployment, on-going labour market transformation. Disparities in education and employment. Needs addressed: improved framework for innovation, economic specialisation based on regional potentials, enhanced technology transfer between research, education and business, improved skills and knowledge in the field of innovation throughout central Europe, stronger links and networks between regions and innovation actors.

- **TO4:** *Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.* Challenges for this objective: high dependency on fossil fuels, low gross inland consumption of renewable energy, still increasing energy consumption, inefficient energy use especially in the housing and the public sector, not efficiently exploited potential of renewable energy. Needs addressed: improved energy efficiency in all sectors (public and private), reduced increase of the energy consumption, increased use of the existing renewable energy potentials.

- **TO6:** *Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency.* Challenges for this objective: natural/semi-natural environment under pressure, natural and cultural heritage endangered through unsustainable use air, water and soil pollution, conflicting land use, high level of land consumption & fragmentation, urban sprawl. Needs addressed: careful use of natural and cultural heritage and resources while maintaining an intact environment, improved quality of life in urban areas, reduced land consumption & prevention of further landscape fragmentation.

- **TO7:** *Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.* Challenges for this objective: low accessibility of peripheral regions, new MS transport systems suffer from reduced public transport services, stronger reliance on individual transport leading to social and environmental problems, exhausted public transport infrastructure capacity. Needs addressed: tackle regional accessibility disparities, improve accessibility of cities & regions outside the metropolitan areas and TEN-T corridors, promote environmentally friendly and intelligent public transport systems, focusing on public transport & multi-modal transport systems.

[Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme: Annex 04: Table on the justification for selection or non-selection of thematic objectives]
1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1.1: To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems and strengthening regional innovation capacity in Central Europe

Priority Axis 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (TO1, IP1b)

- **Brief justification:** There is an uneven distribution of R&D activities over central Europe, significant R&D activities in urban and intermediate regions serve as seed-bed and anchor of innovation in central Europe. There is a high potential for mobilisation of synergies between business and research and investments in product and process innovations but linkages are not sufficiently established. The better linkage of advanced regions will support the competitiveness of transnational and regional clusters in central Europe against changes in world market conditions and the inclusion of horizontal challenges (e.g. globalisation, gender issues). The improvement of framework conditions for R&D and innovation will support the characteristics of the CENTRAL EUROPE programme area being a potential destination for foreign investments and capital flows. The fostering of links between business and research increases competitiveness and decreases the risk of brain drain in the CENTRAL EUROPE programme area. The improvement of skills and knowledge of human capital and of entrepreneurs is an important factor for increased innovation capacity in the CENTRAL EUROPE programme area.

- **Main change sought:** Increased and more sustainable linkages of actors in the innovation systems achieved through transnational cooperation strengthening the innovation capacity within the central European regions.

- **Expected activities:** To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe.

- **Beneficiaries:** all legal personalities that can contribute to increasing economic and social innovation and entrepreneurial capacity. They comprise amongst others: local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, enterprises (including SMEs), cluster organisations, universities, associations, technology transfer institutions, research institutions, centres of R&D excellence, NGOs, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as social partners and labour-market institutions.

Specific objective 1.2: To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions

Priority Axis 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (TO1, IP1b);

- **Brief justification:** The promotion of innovation potentials in rural regions encourages impulses for a sustainable and balanced territorial development and will foster economic and social cohesion. The promotion of skills and competences in peripheral and shrinking regions – being targeted from long-term (demographic) transformation processes – may reduce the increasing lagging behind of peripheral, badly accessible regions. Fostering additional knowledge and skills in the field of economic and social innovation (with a specific focus on SMEs) will increase the entrepreneurial spirit within the regions and improve the endogenous economic potential thus reducing out-migration in peripheral regions.
Main change sought: Improved capacities of the private and public sector for skills development of employees and entrepreneurial competences achieved through transnational cooperation driving economic and social innovation in central European regions.

Expected activities: To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions.

Beneficiaries: see SO 1.1

Specific objective 2.1: To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures

Priority Axis 2: Environment and Resources (TO 4, IP4c)

 Brief justification: There is a need for increase of renewable energy production, especially in eastern central Europe. Efficient use of energy can contribute to decreasing central Europe’s energy import dependence and mitigating climate change. The promotion of endogenous resources and energy technologies is a high potential but capacities are often limited. The sectors housing, public services and transport are among the biggest energy consumers – especially in urban areas. Their energy use is still wasteful in many regions in central Europe. Potential new green jobs contribute to increase the competitiveness of regions and to reduce unemployment. The implementation of low-carbon strategies supports the reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and of central Europe’s existing dependency on fossil energy.

Main change sought: Improved capacities of the public sector and related entities for increased energy efficiency and renewable energy use of public infrastructure in central Europe achieved through transnational cooperation.

Expected activities: To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures.

Beneficiaries: actors that can contribute to an increase of energy efficiency of public infrastructures. They comprise among others local, regional and national public authorities and related entities, regional development agencies, energy suppliers, energy management institutions and enterprises, the construction sector, regional associations, regional innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training centres as well as universities and research institutes.

Specific objective 2.2: To improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation

Priority Axis 2: Environment and Resources (TO 4, IP4e)

Brief justification: The use of available knowledge on renewable energy of some central European regions is a great potential for lagging regions. There is the need for increasing the capacity of the public sector for energy efficiency measures.

Main change sought: Improved capacities of the public sector and related entities for territorially based low carbon energy planning and policies in central European regions achieved through transnational cooperation.

Expected activities: To improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation.

Beneficiaries: all legal personalities that can contribute to improved energy and low-carbon mobility planning. They comprise among others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, energy operators, energy management institutions, enterprises including SMEs, public transport operators, associations, innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.
Specific objective 2.3: To improve capacity for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO₂ emissions

Priority Axis 2: Environment and Resources (TO 4, IP4e)

- Brief justification: Promoting more environment friendly and sustainable low-CO₂ urban transport systems contributes to tackle air quality problems (including high concentrations of particulate matters and ozone) and fosters the regional quality of life as well as economic conditions especially around urban nodes.

- Main change sought: Improved capacities of the public sector and related entities for low carbon mobility planning in central Europe’s functional urban areas achieved through transnational cooperation.

- Expected activities: To improve capacities for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO₂ emissions.

- Beneficiaries: see SO 2.2.

Specific objective 3.1: To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

Priority Axis 3: Human resources development (TO6, IP6c)

- Brief justification: The richness of central Europe’s natural and cultural resources needs to be preserved and their management improved. The sustainable use of natural and cultural resources serves as important location factor but they are often not sufficiently used.

- Main change sought: Improved integrated environmental management capacities of the public sector and related entities for the sustainable use of natural heritage and resources in central Europe achieved through transnational cooperation.

- Expected activities: To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources.

- Beneficiaries: all legal personalities that can contribute to an improved management and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources. They comprise among others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, enterprises (in particular SMEs within the cultural and creative industry as well as the environmental sector), associations, regional innovation agencies, special interest groups, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

Specific objective 3.2: To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources

Priority Axis 3: Human resources development (TO6, IP6c)

- Brief justification: Transnational cooperation can help to coordinate sustainable management of natural and cultural resources. Natural and cultural heritage sites are not sufficiently linked. Pressures on natural and cultural resources endanger the use potentials.

- Main change sought: Improved capacities of the public and private sector and related entities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources in central Europe achieved through transnational cooperation.

- Expected activities: To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources.

- Beneficiaries: see SO 3.1
**Specific objective 3.3:** To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more livable places

**Priority Axis 3:** Human resources development (TO6, IP6e)

- **Brief justification:** The environmental challenges of air, water and soil pollution, climate, land consumption and land use conflicts and negative spill-over effects in agglomeration areas are development barriers. Negative external effects of urban areas (agglomeration disadvantages, resulting in e.g. low air quality, etc.) are a major challenge for central.
- **Main change sought:** Improved integrated environmental management capacities of the public sector and related entities in central Europe's functional urban areas achieved through transnational cooperation for making them more liveable places.
- **Expected activities:** To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more livable places.
- **Beneficiaries:** all legal personalities that can contribute to improved environmental management of functional urban areas. They comprise among others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, enterprises, environmental facilities and infrastructure operators and owners, associations, regional innovation agencies, special interest groups, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

**Specific objective 4.1:** To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks

**Priority Axis 4:** Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation (TO7, IP7b)

- **Brief justification:** Weak regional and local accessibility exists outside of central Europe's agglomerations. There is a notable accessibility gap between peripheral rural regions and economic centres and to the TEN-T network Disparities in multimodal accessibility lower the competitiveness of many regions in central Europe. The promotion of the quality of rural-urban connections (as well as regiopolises and surrounding areas) may reduce the gap between peripheral areas and centres. Better regional accessibility contributes to increase the involvement of peripheral, regions into the development process and to reduce regional shrinkage.
- **Main change sought:** Improved and coordinated planning capacities of the public sector and related entities for regional passenger transport systems in central Europe linked to national and European transport networks achieved through transnational cooperation.
- **Expected activities:** To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks.
- **Beneficiaries:** all legal personalities that can contribute to improved regional passenger transport. They comprise among others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, enterprises, public transport operators, infrastructure providers, regional associations, regional innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

**Specific objective 4.2:** To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solution

**Priority Axis 4:** Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation (TO7, IP7c)

- **Brief justification:** The implementation of environment-friendly and low-carbon freight transport systems and logistics will contribute to the 2020 targets of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increase in energy efficiency. Increasing transport volumes re-
inforce the need for environmental-friendly and low-carbon freight transport systems. Disparities exist in multimodal accessibility for freight transport in central Europe.

- **Main change sought:** Improved coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environment-friendly freight solutions in central Europe achieved through transnational cooperation.

- **Expected activities:** To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions.

- **Beneficiaries:** all legal personalities that can contribute to improving freight transport. They comprise among others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, enterprises, transport operators including operators of multimodal logistics hubs, infrastructure providers, transport associations, regional innovation agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, education and training organisations as well as universities and research institutes.

Programme coordination and synergies with the ESI Funds and other EU instruments:

(I) ESI Funds: the programme has potential for facilitating the implementation of national and regional programmes supported by the ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD and EMFF by allowing stakeholders to tackle common challenges and needs beyond administrative borders. Coordination and complementarity with other ESI funds is key, especially in terms of investment planning and preparation which can be accomplished at regional and local levels based on operations supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme. Already in the 2007-2013 period transnational cooperation operations demonstrated their ability to prepare ground for medium to large-scale investments, not only in terms of development of technical specifications for investments but also in terms of building knowledge and capacity, mobilising critical mass as well as creating and strengthening ownership. Regarding coordination with other ESI funds, special attention will be given to the possibility of coordination with other programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective. In this regard the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme will seek exchanges with the managing authorities of other, geographically overlapping ETC programmes.

(II) Other Union instruments: coordination between ETC programmes and other Union instruments has the potential to raise the impact of Union policies at national and regional level supporting local, regional and national investments that effectively contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy. (Horizon 2020, COSME, LIFE, TEN-T, Connecting Europe Facility, Creative Europe and Erasmus)

(III) ENI and IPA: the programme will seek coordination with the external policy instruments of the European Union: the Pre-Accession Instrument (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). Even if the programme does not benefit of IPA and ENI funding, spreading and following up on outputs and results of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE operations in bordering candidate countries and non-European countries could contribute both to their accession process (applicable to Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina) and to a harmonious neighbourhood (applicable to Ukraine and Belarus).
(IV) Relevant national funding instruments: transnational operations supported by the programme have the potential to improve the implementation of national, regional and local policies and of the related funding instruments. In this respect, potentials for coordination and complementariness can be seen in preparing investment to be realised with national funding, as well as in applying national incentives in the thematic sectors addressed by the programme (e.g. de-taxation of expenditure and other incentive mechanisms applied at national level for R&D initiatives by enterprises and/or for energy efficiency and renewable energy usage interventions of enterprises and households).

(V) EIB: Preparation of large-scale investment represents a relevant share of outputs delivered by operations within the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme. Transnational cooperation can therefore contribute to making results of operations ready for benefitting of instruments of the European Investment Bank (EIB), both in terms of technical preparation and execution of large-scale investment (i.e. make them “bankable”). (E.g. JASPERS, JESSICA, ELENA, JEREMIE)

[Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Cooperation Programme pp.109-112]

1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

All in all, it can be stated that the selected programme indicators are relevant to the overall intervention logic as well as to the intended investment priorities and specific objectives:

(I) The programme-specific result indicators are consistent with the corresponding investment priority.

(II) The programme-specific result indicators cover the most important changes of the corresponding specific objective and are relevant to measuring the progress towards achieving the changes intended by the Cooperation Programme CE 2020.

(III) The programme-specific output indicators are relevant to the actions which are to be supported. The selected common output indicators are appropriate for priority axes 1-4.

[Ex-ante Final Evaluation p.60]

(no implementation reports dd 27 April 2018)

References

Ex-ante Final Evaluation
Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Cooperation Programme
Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme: Annex 04: Table on the justification for selection or non-selection of thematic objectives
www.keep.eu/keep/ (last accessed 25.05.18)
The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report

Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Germany – Netherlands
Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation .............................................................. 1
   1.1 Programme ID ........................................................................................................... 1
   1.2 Context and programme area description .................................................................. 1
   1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area ....................... 2
   1.4 Overview needs and challenges ................................................................................. 2
   1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives .............................................................................................................. 3
   1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment.......................................... 5
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

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1.2 Context and programme area description

Geographical location & territorial characteristics: The programme area of the 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme INTERREG V A Germany-Netherlands is stretching along the roughly 460 km long North-South border between Germany and the Netherlands, from the North Sea coast to the Lower Rhine Valley. An analysis of its territorial characteristics has been carried out in 2012 to, among others, inform the programme in the 2014-2020 period (Buck Consultants International and MCON Consulting, 2012).

In 2012 the programme area had a population of about 14.3 million people, concentrated in the southern part of the area. By then population was estimated to grow with 1% until 2020. Population change was expected to differ across the area. Strongly shrinking areas were located in the rural North-East but also in few urbanized regions, e.g. around Duisburg. In 2010 there were around 760,000 businesses located in the area. Most of these (99%) were small and medium sized. In the same year there were a total of 5,396,572 jobs, relatively many in the sectors manufacturing and energy supply (16%) and public administration, public services and health (30%). In 2011 Southern and North-Eastern parts of the area had an, in respect to EU average, high percentage of unemployment. GDP in Dutch regions and regions around medium-sized German cities resembled or exceeded EU average. GDP in rural regions, particularly in Germany, were below average. There were a large number of ecologically valuable areas in the program area, with more than 100 NATURA 2000 territories.

Countries involved, budget, and funds: The programme area of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V A Germany-Netherlands covers 51 NUTS 3 regions. 30 of these are located in Germany and 21 in the Netherlands. The total EU budget (excluding technical assistance) is € 417,659,598.00. In March 2018 funding of € 266,262,507 (including outstanding funding) has been allocated (Keep). All funds were provided via ERDF instruments.
1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The overarching aims of the current programming period of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V A Germany-Netherlands are embodied in the header “A new INTERREG-programme for a smart, sustainable and inclusive region” (Interreg Deutschland Nederland, 2015, p.4). A central mean to achieve this broadly defined agenda is in support for small and medium-sized businesses in specific sectors (Agribusiness/Food, Health & Life Sciences, High Tech Systems & Materials (HTSM), and Logistics). Support is intended to foster the formation of economic clusters that stretch across national boundaries. Strategic (business) initiatives are to simultaneously reduce CO₂ emissions and energy use and thus support the transition of energy systems towards a more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. The strengthening of socio-cultural ties across the border and territorial cohesion are seen as prerequisites to achieve objectives.

More detailed contributions to the EU 2020 strategy are formulated from the perspective of countries, taking into account achievements already realized in 2011, during the earlier funding period of the programme (Interreg Deutschland Nederland, 2015, p.8).

- **Smart Growth**: Increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that is invested in education, research & development (Germany: 3%, Netherlands: 2.5%).
- **Sustainable Growth**: Reduction of greenhouse gas emission in respect to 2005 (Germany: 40%; Netherlands: 20%); Increase in energy consumption from renewable resources (Germany: 18%, Netherlands: 14%); Rise in energy efficiency (Netherlands: 16%, Germany: not specified).
- **Inclusive Growth**: Increase of population, age 20-64 years, with a job (Germany: 77%, Netherlands: 80%); Reduction of the amount of early school leavers (Germany: not specified; Netherlands: smaller than 8%); Increase of population, age 30-34 years, that has concluded tertiary education (Germany: 42%, Netherlands: larger than 45%); Reduction of the amount of people in the EU that are threatened by poverty of exclusion (Germany: 20% reduction of long-term unemployed, Netherlands: 100.000 fewer jobless households).

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

A strategic analysis of the programme area, titled Strategic Analysis INTERREG V A-programme Germany-Netherlands 2014-2020, has been carried out to inform the building of a common strategic framework for the 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme INTERREG V A Germany-Netherlands (Buck Consultants International and MCON Consulting, 2012). The analysis has considered conditions in the programme area, experiences from the earlier programme period, goals of single INTERREG partners and EU perspectives on the results of cross-border cooperation (smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth). The analysis is referred to in the cooperation programme document; distinct needs and challenges are emphasized by mentioning their importance for regional and national partners. In addition a collaborative approach that has led to a refined selection of economic sectors is described in the main document. The approach, Smart Specialisation Strategies, has focused attention on the sec-
tors Agribusiness/Food, Health & Life Sciences, High Tech Systems & Materials (HTSM), and Logistics.

The below listed needs and challenges are adopted from the strategic analysis (Buck Consultants International and MCON Consulting, 2012, p. 25-36):

**Smart Growth:** A lack of innovation capacity in SMEs due to limited connection between knowledge institutes and the business community, low growth ambitions and limited competences within companies; Limited internationalization of SMEs; Restrictions in human capital, partly due to shrinkage and poor connection between education and the labour market, resulting in deficits on the one hand and unemployment and the brain drain of the higher educated on the other; Many practical obstacles to working and studying across borders.

**Sustainable Growth:** More efficient use of natural resources (via bio based and low-carbon economy); Part of the environmental problems (i.e. air and water pollution) play at the supra-regional level/do not stop at borders; Conservation of biodiversity requires large, contiguous areas and cross-border nature development.

**Inclusive Growth:** Lack of exchange and joint activities (among others, aimed at young people and entrepreneurs); A lacking integration of the labour markets/a lack of qualified staff (both in growing and shrinking regions) and job opportunities; Current cross-border mobility is too limited to facilitate integration; Young people are not prepared for a cross-border labour market, in technical professions particularly; Cross-border mobility of students is impeded by bottlenecks in connection and recognition of certificates; A lack of cooperation between police and fire brigade to combat safety issues; Despite long-term efforts, cross-border language skills do not develop in the desired direction.

**Integrated approach to territorial development:** The cooperation programme document refers to an integrated approach to territorial development, via priority axes. The approach is deducted from the strategic analysis mentioned above (using the method of Smart Specialisation Strategies), experiences from the previous funding period, objectives in European Union and national strategies, objectives of the regional partners and results of stakeholder conferences and consultations. New integration instruments (ITI, CLLD) are not used.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

**SO 1:** More product and process innovations in the sectors that are relevant for the program area

**PA 1 Increasing the cross-border capacity for innovation (TO 1, IP 1b)**

- **Brief justification:** A lack of innovation capacity and internationalization in SMEs; restrictions in human capital, partly due to shrinkage and poor connection between education and the labour market, obstacles to working and studying across borders.
- **Main change sought:** the number of product and process innovations has increased; the percentage of SMEs introducing product and/or process innovations has increased.
Expected activities: The Cooperation Programme names four generic measures to achieve main change sought, notably (1) raising awareness and giving specific advice; (2) stimulating entrepreneurship; (3) the promotion of knowledge and technology transfer and open innovation and (4) the promotion of internationalization. Next to these generic measures, the document sets out a long list of activities related to the specific economic sectors under attention (Agribusiness/Food, Health & Life Sciences, High Tech Systems & Materials (HTSM), and Logistics).

Beneficiaries: Technology, innovation and start-up centres; Companies (especially SMEs and their potential employees); Local and regional organizations and governments (for instance related to economic development, Chamber of Commerce, Chambers of Craft); Universities, colleges, research institutes and institutions supporting technology transfer; Educational institutions or other institutions that offer qualification programmes.

SO 1: More product and process innovations in the field of CO2-reducing technologies
PA: 1 Increasing the cross-border capacity for innovation (TO 4, IP 4f)

Brief justification: use of natural resources is inefficient, environmental problems play at the supra-regional level, conservation of biodiversity requires large, contiguous areas and cross-border nature development.

Main change sought: the number of product and process innovations in the field of CO2 reduction has increased; The percentage of SMEs that introduce product and/or process innovations in the field of CO2 reduction has increased;

Expected activities: The Cooperation Programme lists 24 measures to achieve main change sought. In a brief summary these concern the stimulation of innovation in the field of CO2 and energy-saving technologies through the exchange of knowledge and best practice, the creation of experimental settings (e.g. pilot projects), the building cross-border value chains and clusters (including companies, schools and knowledge institutes), the support to the building of new business models, the fostering of cooperation and the use of such technologies for a broad range of purposes (e.g. mobility, building, production).

Beneficiaries: Technology, innovation and start-up centres; Companies (especially SMEs and their potential employees); Local and regional organizations and governments (for instance related to economic development, Chamber of Commerce, Chambers of Craft); Universities, colleges, research institutes and institutions supporting technology transfer; Educational institutions or other institutions that offer qualification programmes.

SO 1: Reducing the barrier effect of the border for citizens and institutions
PA: 2 Socio-cultural and territorial cohesion (TO 11, IP: Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (see VO (EU) No 1299/2013, Article 7 (1) (a) (iv);

Brief justification: Lack of exchange and joint activities, lacking integration of the labour markets, insufficient cross-border mobility, young people are not prepared for a cross-border labour market, barriers to cross-border mobility of students, a lack of cooperation to combat safety issues, underdeveloped cross-border language skills.

Main change sought: the attitude towards the neighbouring country has changed in a positive way; cross-border relations have been intensified; the inhabitants of the program area see the border as an opportunity rather than a barrier.
• **Expected activities:** The Cooperation Programme sets out measures in four thematic fields notably (1) working, education, culture, (2) nature, landscape and environment; (3) structure and demography and (4) network development at local and regional level. Each field is refined through a list of five to eight topics. Also these topics are broadly defined though. They include, for instance, accessibility, health services, natural and cultural heritage, social inclusion, tourism, and internal security.

• **Beneficiaries:** Citizens, associations; Regional and local organizations and governments (e.g. employers’ and employees’ organizations, insurers, social partners, cultural institutes and organizations, social institutes, municipalities); Nature and environmental organizations, nature park managers; Companies (especially SMEs and their potential employees); Hospitals, universities, research institutions, organizations in the field of health care; Employees, students, students, job seekers and trainees; Schools, universities and colleges, other educational institutes.

*Programme coordination and synergies with the ESI Funds and other EU instruments:* The 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme INTERREG V A Germany-Netherlands uses ERDF funding only. It mentions a broad range of other trajectories that can produce synergies and require coordination. These are the ERDF programs North, East and South Netherlands, Nordrhein-Westfalen and Niedersachsen, the Euregion INTERREG A programmes Meuse-Rhine and Flanders-Netherlands; the INTERREG B programmes North West Europe and North Sea, Horizon 2020, LIFE +, POP3, and ESF.

### 1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

Result and output indicators are well aligned with this focus.

• Annual implementation reports show that many indicators are adopted from the earlier funding period. Continuity in assessment is emphasized.
• However, in the current funding period one (new?) indicator receives particular attention: a score to evaluate the “Perception of the German-Dutch border as a barrier”. To be able to assess this result a dedicated evaluation method was developed. It analyses the perception from the view of citizens and organizations (EACR Impact and Radboud University, 2015), largely relying on online-questionnaires.

**References**


EACR IMPACT & RADBOUD UNIVERSITY 2015. Nullmessung des Ergebnisindikators der Priorität 2: „Wahrnehmung der deutsch-niederländischen Grenze als Barriere“.

TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report
Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation
Interreg V-A – Italy – Austria
# Table of contents

1  Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation ......................................................... 1  
   1.1  Programme ID ................................................................................................. 1  
   1.2  Context and programme area description...................................................... 1  
   1.3  Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area .......... 2  
   1.4  Overview needs and challenges ..................................................................... 2  
   1.5  Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ................................................................. 3  
   1.6  Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment .............................. 5
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

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1.2 Context and programme area description

The Programme involves eleven NUTS3 regions in Austria and eight NUTS3 areas in Italy. The area covered by the Programme spreads over 54,065 km\(^2\) and the population involved was equal to 5,681,950 inhabitants in 2017. About 65\% of the population is resident in Italy. The eligible area covers mountain territories in the Alps and, as consequence, population density is lower than the country average for both Italian (153 vs. 200.6 inhabitants per km\(^2\)) and Austrian regions (66 vs. 105.8 inhabitants per km\(^2\)).

The per capita GDP in Italian eligible areas is significantly higher than the national value (€ 32,220 vs. € 27,200 per inhabitant in 2015). The Austrian Programme area, instead, is characterized by a level of GDP per capita comparable with the whole country (€ 39,376 vs. € 39,900 per inhabitant in 2015).

The economic specialization of the Italian eligible regions was, in 2015, more oriented than the country average towards manufacturing (24.6\% vs. 16.0\% of value added). On the other hand, the specialization the service sector was lower, especially as far as ICT wholesale and retail trade (21.6\% vs. 24.2\% of value added) and financial, professional, scientific and technical activities are concerned (26.0\% vs. 29.2\% of value added). The Austrian Programme area is a characterized by an economic specialization similar to the national one, with the exception of a higher share of value added generated by wholesale and retail trade, transport and ICT (31.4\% vs. 26.8\%) and a lower presence of financial, professional, scientific and technical activities (20.5\% vs. 23.6\% of value added).

The total budget of the OP amounts to € 98,380,352, and the EU contribution, via ERDF, is equal to 82,238,866.
1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The main programme objective for the 2014-20 programming period is to reinforce cross-border cooperation between Austrian and Italian neighbouring regions. Overcoming national barriers and the creation of new synergies between the two countries will contribute to all the three EU 2020 strategy pillars.

The Smart Growth strategy will be addressed by the Programme through the development and reinforcement of cross-border cooperation, in the aim of stimulating the development of firms’ networks, especially in the economic sectors with a higher development potential such as the those of research and innovation.

Sustainable Growth is an extremely important element for the Programme area, characterized by a rich natural and cultural environment. This characteristic represents a huge potential for tourism attraction, especially in the Alpine areas. At the same time, however, it implies some risks, related to the sustainable preservation of these resources. In this perspective, the reinforcement of cross-border cooperation will focus on joint actions for the protection of biodiversity and the variety of species. Tourism facilities will be made more accessible thought the reinforcement of cross-border traffic interoperability and a better coordination of transport operators.

Population ageing and the difficulties of the young generations in the access to the job market call for interventions in the strategy pillar of Inclusive Growth. In this case, the cross-border cooperation will provide incentives for professional cross-border mobility, jointly with common actions and strategies in the job-placement activities.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

The needs and challenges of the Programme area highly depend on the territorial characteristics of the regions involved.

The presence of a number of high-quality universities and research centres represents a potential for the launch of joint projects, especially in those sectors where Italian and Austrian eligible regions share the same specialization (culture, medicine and health, tourism, agri-food, energy). Public intervention is needed since, until now, existing cooperation networks were not able to guarantee stable, long-period interactions among partners.

The impact of the global economic recession involved, with a different intensity, also the regions of the Programme area, and in particular the Italian ones. Cross-border cooperation in R&I is a potential for launching firms’ competitiveness and productivity.

The challenge for the achievement of a sustainable growth is related to the increasing demand, both at the local and EU level, of renewable energies. The sustainable exploitation of the natural resources of the Programme area, especially in terms of water, is the instrument
through which new modes of management of the territory and its potential will be developed, based on cross-border agreements and strategies.

Finally, inclusive growth actions will be aimed at the achievement of a higher involvement of young generations in the job market by exploiting some opportunities provided by the socio-economic environment of the Programme area. On the one hand, SME and artisans are the keepers of knowledge and traditions, whose transmission to the younger generations will be incentivized by Programme actions. On the other hand, the high entrepreneurial propensity of the eligible regions will be further stimulated, in order to facilitate the creation of new businesses.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1: Strengthening research capacities and innovation capacities through the cross-border cooperation of research facilities

Priority Axis 1: Research and innovation (TO1, IP 1a)

- **Brief justification:** the area is characterized by several high-quality research institutions, which found difficulties in the creation of stable cooperations.
- **Main change sought:** reinforcement of research and innovation in the key sectors of regional economies through cross-border cooperation of research institutes.
- **Expected activities:** identification of possible synergies for the cross-border cooperation of research institutes and universities, shared investments on research infrastructures.
- **Beneficiaries:** public authorities, research centres, Universities, Technical schools, research cluster, technological and innovation parks, Chambers of Trade.

Specific objective 2: Promote investment in R&I by strengthening cross-border cooperation between companies and research institutions

Priority Axis 1: Research and innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- **Brief justification:** the economic crisis resulted in a slowdown of the regional economies of the area (especially in Italy), cross-border cooperation on R&I is a potential for launching economic growth.
- **Main change sought:** reinforcement of the cross-border cooperation among firms and research centres.
- **Expected activities:** measures for the technological transfer between firms and research and innovation institutions, incentives for the development of networks and cluster.
- **Beneficiaries:** public authorities, research centres, Universities, Technical schools, research cluster, technological and innovation parks, firms, association categories, innovation intermediaries.

Specific objective 3: Improving the innovation base for companies in the program area

Priority Axis 1: Research and innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification:
- Main change sought: selected for similar reasons as SO2.
- Expected activities: support to firms in the early phase of innovation creation, promotion of the SMEs growth and development.
• Beneficiaries: public authorities, research centres, Universities, Technical schools, research cluster, technological and innovation parks, firms, association categories, innovation intermediaries.

Specific objective 4: Protection and promotion of natural and cultural heritage

Priority Axis 2: Nature and culture (TO6, IP 6c)

• Brief justification: natural and cultural heritage represent a resource for the area, especially for tourism attraction.
• Main change sought: Valorisation of the cultural and natural heritage.
• Expected activities: improvement of biodiversity, actions for the protection and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage.
• Beneficiaries: public authorities, Universities, research centres, technological and innovation parks, firms, association categories, innovation intermediaries.

Specific objective 5: Strengthening cross-border institutional cooperation in the central areas of the program area

Priority Axis 3: Institutions (TO11, IP 11CTE)

• Brief justification: the lack of integration between cross-border institutions generates costs for firms and citizens.
• Main change sought: increasing the cooperation between cross-border institutions and improving the integration of administrative rules and norms.
• Expected activities: planning and provision of joint services from the cross border institutions, harmonization of the existing regulations.
• Beneficiaries: public administrations.

Specific objective 6: Promotion of integration and of local ownership in its immediate frontier zone with integrated cross-border strategies in accordance with the CLLD approach

Priority Axis 4: Regional development at the local level (TO9, IP 9d)

• Brief justification: the reduction of cross-border barriers calls for a stronger involvement of local communities, and their daily collaboration and social and cultural exchange.
• Main change sought: increase the participation of citizens from local communities in cooperation activities, adopting a bottom-up approach.
• Expected activities: realization of small-scale projects, aimed at the diversification of the local economy in the cross border areas.
• Beneficiaries: local action groups.

Synergies with other EU interventions: The programme presents several possible synergies with other EU Instruments. More specifically, the whole Programme area is included in the EU strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP), while Austrian and Italian eligible regions take part respectively of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR). Moreover, actions in the priority axis 1, Research and innovation, will look for possible synergies with Horizon 2020.
1.6 **Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment**

Output and result indicators have been defined for all the priority axes of the Programme. Each axis is assessed with one result indicator, with the exception of the priority axis on Research and innovation, for which three result indicators were defined. Whenever possible, result indicators are quantitative and derived from official statistical sources.

**References**

The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report
Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

(Interreg V-A) IT-HR – Italy – Croatia
Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation ......................................................... 1
  1.1 Programme ID ........................................................................................................ 1
  1.2 Context and programme area description ............................................................. 1
  1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area .................. 2
  1.4 Overview needs and challenges .......................................................................... 2
  1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ................................................................. 3
  1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ...................................... 6
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

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1.2 Context and programme area description

The Programme involves eight NUTS3 regions in Croatia and twenty-five NUTS3 areas in Italy. All the regions are located on the Adriatic Sea. The area covered by the Programme spreads over 85,562 km² and the population involved was equal to 12,487,910 inhabitants in 2017. The majority of the population (88%) is resident in Italy. Population density of the eligible area is, in the case of Italy, slightly below the national average (191.90 vs. 200.6 inhabitants per km²). Italian NUTS3 regions involved in the Programme are characterized by the presence of several medium-size cities (four above 200,000 inhabitants and six above 100,000 residents). The same holds in the case of Croatia, since the eligible area is characterized by a population density equal to 53.03 inhabitants per km², against a country-average of about 75.8. The two biggest urban centres involved in the Croatian territory are Split and Rijeka with, respectively, 178,102 and 128,624 inhabitants.

The socioeconomic conditions of the two groups of regions are rather different. Per capita GDP in the Italian eligible area was, in 2015, lower than the national value (€ 24,853 vs. € 27,200 per inhabitant). The Croatian NUTS3 regions involved in the Programme are also characterized by a per capita GDP lower than the country average, even if to a lower extent (€ 10,083 vs. € 10,600 per inhabitant).

The economic specialization of the Italian eligible regions was, in 2015, more oriented than the country average towards manufacturing (17.1% vs. 16.0% of value added) and retail trade and transport (21.2% vs. 20.5% of value added), reflecting the presence of large ports. On the other hand, the specialization in ICT and professional, scientific and technical activities is lower than the country average (29.7% vs. 32.9% of value added). The Croatian eligible area is less specialized than the country in agriculture (2.60% vs. 4.40% of value added) and manufacturing (10.3% vs. 14.9% of value added), while a higher portion of value added is generated by retail trade and transport (26.8% vs. 22.1%) and construction and real estate activities (20.7% vs. 15.5%). As for Italy, also the Croatian regions involved in the Programme
are less specialized than the country in ICT and professional, scientific and technical activities (27.4% vs. 29.2% of value added).

The total budget of the OP amounts to € 236,890,849, and the EU contribution, via ERDF, is equal to 201,357,220.

1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The overall programme objective for the 2014-20 programming period is to increase the prosperity and the blue growth potential of the area by stimulating cross-border partnerships able to achieve tangible changes. The Programme contributes to all the three EU 2020 strategy pillars.

As far as Smart Growth is concerned, the Programme aims at enhancing the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy, with the purpose of reducing the gap, in terms for instance of R&D intensity and availability of ICT services, of eligible regions compared with the EU average.

Sustainable Growth is the strategy pillar on which most of the actions are focused. The coastal geographical location of the eligible area, jointly with its rich natural and cultural heritage calls for policy actions aimed at preserving these resources. From this perspective, the Programme will lead to an improvement of the monitoring system for climate change, increasing the safety of the area from natural and man-made disasters. At the same time, actions will be focused on the improvement of environmental quality and biodiversity in the sea and coastal areas. These resources, jointly with the cultural heritage, will be used as a leverage for sustainable territorial development through, for instance, tourism. A specific line of action is identified in the improvement of safety, quality and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services in the Programme area.

Finally, a contribution in the strategy pillar of Inclusive Growth is expected to be indirectly achieved by the abovementioned actions on the other two. There is a potential, for instance, for an increase in the specialization of the workforce in the sectors of the blue economy where the eligible regions have a competitive advantage. Similarly, actions under the Sustainable Growth pillar aimed at fostering territorial development are expected to producing an effect on regional employment.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

The needs and challenges of the Programme area are strictly related to the strengths and opportunities characterizing these regions.

Given the high density of SME, there is the need to increase their level of competitiveness on the international markets, facilitating the involvement in international networks and the access to high-skilled human resources, also through collaborations with the 23 universities located
in the Programme area. Given the geographical position and the historical economic specialization, relevant sectors of the blue economy are the richest ones in terms of opportunities.

The endowment natural and cultural heritage calls for needed actions in the territories’ adaptive capacity to climate change and degradation. The intense anthropic pressure on the environmental resources calls for actions aimed at preventing disasters, and also at improving the environmental quality of the Adriatic basin.

At the same time, however, the richness of the natural and cultural heritage implies some opportunities for the specialization in sustainable tourism and the increase in the systemic and efficient maritime connections between eligible territories.

The need to increase the accessibility to the eligible regions through safe, environmentally sustainable marine and coastal transport services is also among the priorities of the Programme.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1.1: Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area

Priority Axis 1: Blue Innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: Both countries lag behind EU28 in R&D expenditure as well as in number of patent applications to EPO. There is therefore a need to improve SMEs competitiveness through innovation in specific business niches.
- Main change sought: increase of firms’ competitiveness in the sectors identified (sustainable tourism, aquaculture, and shipbuilding, creative industries).
- Expected activities: Joint projects and actions aimed at creating platforms, networks and at supporting exchange of good practices in order to enhance the knowledge transfer in the field of blue economy.
- Beneficiaries: local, regional and national public authorities, regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organisations, SMEs.

Specific objective 2.1: Improve the climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation measures tackling specific effects, in the cooperation area

Priority Axis 2: Safety and resilience (TO5, IP 5a)

- Brief justification: the Adriatic coastal area has vulnerable ecosystem that is very receptive to negative effects of the climate change.
- Main change sought: increase both the awareness about the threaten of climate change and the protection of the potentially vulnerable areas.
- Expected activities: Actions aimed at improving the knowledge base, data and monitoring systems supporting adaptation capacity, increasing the capacity for planning of adaptation measures.
- Beneficiaries: local, regional and national public authorities and related entities, regional and local development agencies, environmental agencies, regional associations, NGOs, education and training centres, Universities and research institutes.
Specific objective 2.2: Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster

Priority Axis 2: Safety and resilience (TO5, IP 5b)

- **Brief justification:** There is a need to improve monitoring measures for prevention of damage caused by natural disasters such as erosion, droughts and floods, also due to the intense human activities in the Adriatic basin.
- **Main change sought:** reduction of the risk related to the occurrence of natural disasters and the risk associated to human activities.
- **Expected activities:** actions aimed at improving monitoring of risks, activities aimed at increasing the management capacity of prompt response to disasters
- **Beneficiaries:** local, regional and national public authorities and related entities, regional and local development agencies, environmental agencies and regional associations, Emergency services and coast guard centres, NGOs, education and training centres, universities and research institutes.

Specific objective 3.1: Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development

Priority Axis 3: Environment and cultural heritage (TO6, IP 6c)

- **Brief justification:** The Programme area is very rich in cultural and environmental resources that require proper conservation.
- **Main change sought:** to develop joint activities to improve visiting and living environment by conserving, protecting and developing natural and cultural resources.
- **Expected activities:** actions aimed at increasing the value of natural and cultural heritage by developing and implementing protection and promotion measures, aimed at fostering economic development by sustainable tourism and at decreasing the human pressure to natural and cultural heritage sites.
- **Beneficiaries:** local, regional and national public authorities, public service providers, cultural and natural heritage management bodies, regional development agencies, enterprises, associations, regional innovation agencies, NGOs, education and training organisations, universities and research institutes.

Specific objective 3.2: Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity

Priority Axis 3: Environment and cultural heritage (TO6, IP 6d)

- **Brief justification:** an important part of the Adriatic Sea is beyond national jurisdiction limits, cross-border cooperation is vital to ensure an efficient protection of marine biodiversity.
- **Main change sought:** securing sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources.
- **Expected activities:** actions aimed at improving the knowledge base, data and monitoring systems for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, at supporting the restoring of biodiversity.
- **Beneficiaries:** local, regional and national public authorities, protected areas/natural heritage management bodies, regional and local development agencies, associations, NGOs, education and training organizations, universities and research institutes.
Specific objective 3.3: Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches

Priority Axis 3: Environment and cultural heritage (TO6, IP 6f)

- Brief justification: Anthropic polluting activities of the marine environment require coordinated interventions.
- Main change sought: to reduce inflows of hazardous substances to the Adriatic basin.
- Expected activities: developing, demonstrating and implementing small-scale innovative environmental friendly technology actions and approaches and innovative actions aimed at improving the knowledge on the environmental quality.
- Beneficiaries: local, regional and national public authorities, regional and local development agencies, SMEs and business supporting organizations, associations, innovation and environmental agencies, NGOs, education and training organizations, universities and research institutes.

Specific objective 4.1: Improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services and nodes by promoting multimodality in the programme area

Priority Axis 4: Maritime transport (TO7, IP 7c)

- Brief justification: There is a strong need to reduce the environmental impact of transport activities by increasing multimodality and shift to most appropriate environmental friendly modes of transport.
- Main change sought: to improve accessibility of the area by better data sharing and coordination
- Expected activities: Support coordination/harmonization/monitoring of data and systems for enhancing multimodality. Piloting tools/solutions for improving connectivity in the transport systems.
- Beneficiaries: local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, enterprises, transport operators, infrastructure providers, transport associations, regional innovation agencies, NGOs, education and training organisations, universities and research institutes.

Synergies with other EU interventions: the programme presents several possible synergies with other EU Instruments such as:

- PA1: possible synergies with Horizon 2020, COSME, and the Connecting Europe Facility in the field of innovation.
- PA2 and PA3: complement actions and exploit results from LIFE and LIFE Integrated Projects and Horizon 2020 in the fields of environment protection, climate change, risk prevention, and resource efficiency

Moreover, the Programme will seek exchanges with the managing authorities of other geographically overlapping territorial cooperation programmes.
1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

The ex-ante evaluation report assesses the result indicators defined by the Programme. In general, the proposed indicators are coherent with the specific objectives and they are measurable and consistent with the respective priority axes. However, some weaknesses were found for the result indicators proposed for the objectives 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1 described above. In particular, due to the lack of baselines and targets, the indicators cannot be considered as achievable and time-bound. Moreover, the information provided in the CP does not offer a clear understanding on the methodology that will be adopted for collecting information.

References

INTERREG IT-HR (2017) Cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal.
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The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report

Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

Interreg Mediterranean: MED
# Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation .............................................. 1  
1.1 Programme ID ............................................................................................... 1  
1.2 Context and programme area description ...................................................... 1  
1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area .......... 1  
1.4 Overview needs and challenges ................................................................... 2  
1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment  
 priority, specific objectives .............................................................................. 3  
1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ........................... 6
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

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1.2 Context and programme area description

Under the Interreg MED programme, the Member States Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Malta, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Slovenia are covered. Additionally, the Partner States Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, are covered. It includes 57 regions from ten Member States and three candidate countries. The total volume of the programme is set at € 224,322,525 and is co-funded by the ERDF.

The territory covered by the programme is geographically heterogeneous. The geographic characteristics are diverse: covering islands (e.g. Cyprus and Malta), but also several mountainous regions (such as part of the Alps). The geographic characteristics may pose a impeding factor to the accessibility of regions within the territory, as well as communication flows. The region possesses a wide range of natural resources, which greatly contribute to economic activities in the fields of tourism and agriculture, but are at-risk due to climate change.

The area eligible for the programme amounts to approximately 20% of the EU, or approximately 860,000 km². The MED territory covers around 122 million inhabitants, with a population density of on average 142 inhabitants per km². Average GDP per capita stood at € 21,776 at 2010, 12% lower than the EU average. Regional disparities are pronounced, with higher GDP per capita rates observed along the Northern Mediterranean Coast. Tourism remains a significant contributor to economic wealth in the MED region, attracting 18.5% of global tourists in 2012.

1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The overall objective for the current programming period is to reduce the imbalance between the regions covered in the programme in terms of their economic, social, and territorial development, as well as their environmental sustainability. The MED programme contributes to the EU 2020 strategy pillar by promoting smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth in the MED region.
In terms of smart growth, promoting innovation and knowledge as a basis for economic growth, activities under Thematic Objective 1 aims to promote innovative activities in enterprises, especially in transnational innovative clusters. Activities under Thematic Objective 4 are designed to promote energy efficiency and a shift to low-carbon economic activities, which contribute to the sustainable growth pillar. In addition activities under Thematic Objective 6 contribute to sustainable growth by promoting sustainable development of tourism and safeguarding biodiversity. Contributions to inclusive growth are also found under Thematic Objective 1, in which social innovations are promoted.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

Under smart growth, the programme area features strengths, such as: some regional leaders in R&D and some high skill industry sectors, a relatively wide coverage of high-speed broadband, and the attractiveness of the region, which is a positive aspect for SMEs in the tourism sector. As weaknesses, a relatively lower average GDP per capita, strong influences of traditional business, wide regional disparities, and a limited understanding of intellectual property, are identified. One of the key opportunities are rising investments in R&D and R&D specialisation of agribusinesses. The most significant threat outlined under this strategy pillar is the economic consequences of the economic and debt crisis. The main challenges to the region are stemming from increasing competition from countries outside of the region and relatively lower innovation levels. As needs, stronger investments in R&D and a need to improve the competitiveness of businesses are identified.

Under sustainable growth, major strengths are favourable conditions for the production of renewable energy and many protected environmental areas. Significant weaknesses are a relatively high concentration of ozone, high energy dependence, a high susceptibility to climate change, and the degradation of fragile areas. An opportunity is the development of renewable energy sources, which are not fully exploited. Significant threats are outlined as an increase in the cost of low carbon energy, an increased risk of natural disasters due to climate change, and a risk of environmental pollution due to tourism and agricultural activities. Main challenges include the consequences of climate change and the increasing scarcity of water. Improving the toughness of coastal areas and the environment to consequences of climate change, as well as the reduction of marine pollution and litter, are identified as needs.

Under the strategy pillar inclusive growth, major strengths are identified as the attractiveness of universities in the MED area, descending intergenerational solidarity, and the availability of high quality and free training. However, as weaknesses, low employment levels, a relatively large percentage of the population at risk of social exclusion, and high levels of early-school leavers, are identified. An opportunity is increasing interregional and inter-country labour mobility. The identified threats are stemming from the financial crisis, e.g. strong unemployment and drain of human capital. The consequences of demographic change on the economy and
the rising difficulties of socio-economic integration of young people are listed as main challenges. Social innovation in key economic sectors needs to be promoted.

Needs and challenges p27

The most important thematic fields are strengthening research and development, supporting a shift to a low-carbon economy, preserving the environment, and enhancing Mediterranean governance.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1b: To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area

Priority Axis 1: Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: The specific objective takes advantage of the specific resources of the MED area to promote innovation, via improving and strengthening innovative clusters and networks in the areas of green and blue growth. A focus lies on promoting eco-innovations. This is in-line with the challenges identified for the MED region, namely, relatively low innovation capabilities and threats to the environment via pollution
- Main change sought: Strengthen and empower innovation clusters and networks
- Expected activities: Design of common transnational strategies and approaches (including studies and innovation simulations), testing of pilot activities (e.g. public policies aimed at bolstering innovation, voucher systems), and activities involving transfer, dissemination, and capitalisation (e.g. capacity building, creation of sustainable networks, upscaling of pilot initiatives)
- Beneficiaries: The main target groups are local, regional, and national authorities, SMEs and economic operators, universities and research centres, and civil society. Other beneficiaries include regional development agencies, business support centres, chambers of commerce, and public bodies (or equivalents) involved in innovation-related activities, industrial policy, and SMEs and training.

Specific objective 4c: To raise capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level

Priority Axis 2: Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories, cities, islands and rural areas (TO4, IP 4c)

- Brief justification: The specific objectives 4c directly addresses the weaknesses identified in the SWOT analysis, by improving energy efficiency and thereby reducing dependency via reduced energy consumption.
- Main change sought: Increase capacity of owners and managers of public buildings to implement energy efficient practices.
- Expected activities: common approaches and strategies (e.g. harmonisation of standards, strategies and approaches of energy efficiency management), pilot demonstration activities (including feasibility studies, new management approaches), and activities involving transfer, dissemination, and capitalisation (e.g. upscaling of projects, capacity
Specific objective 4e: To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in specific MED territories
Specific objective 4e: To increase capacity to use existing low carbon transport systems and multimodal connections among them.
Priority Axis 2: Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories, cities, islands and rural areas (TO4, IP 4e)
- Brief justification: By increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix strategies, the specific objective addresses a key issue identified in the SWOT analysis, namely, reducing energy dependence.
- Main change sought: Increased development of local renewable energy sources.
- Expected activities: common approaches and strategies (e.g. harmonisation of standards, strategies and approaches of energy efficiency management), pilot demonstration activities (including feasibility studies, new management approaches), and activities involving transfer, dissemination, and capitalisation (e.g. upscaling of projects, capacity building, and implementation of public policies for improved energy consumption management)
- Beneficiaries: Beneficiaries include public authorities (including authorities dealing with energy issues, transport, and mobility management), energy agencies, research institutes active in energy and mobility issues, NGOs, Public and private operators, transport organisations/companies (public and private), developers and providers of transport organisation.

Specific objective 6c: To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area
Priority Axis 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources (TO6, IP 6c)
- Brief justification: Priority Axis 3 is seeking to protect and maintain biodiversity and ecosystems in the MED area, and develop sustainable and responsible tourism in coastal and maritime areas. With the degradation of coastal areas identified in the SWOT analysis, the specific objectives 6c and 6e directly aim to address this weakness.
- Main change sought: Improvements in e.g. coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning policies to bolster cooperation strategies and joint policies.
- Expected activities: common approaches and strategies (e.g. studies and analyses, data gathering and monitoring, development of innovative strategies of tourism development), pilot demonstration activities (e.g. tools assessing the issue of seasonality, management of coastal tourist destinations), and activities involving transfer, dissemination, and capitalisation (e.g. upscaling of projects, enhancing governance principles)
- Beneficiaries: Types of beneficiaries include public authorities, regional development agencies, environment agencies, tourism agencies and organisations, university and research centres, and economic operators
Specific objective 6d: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas

Priority Axis 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources (TO6, IP 6d)

- **Brief justification:** Priority Axis 3 is seeking to protect and maintain biodiversity and ecosystems in the MED area, and develop sustainable and responsible tourism in coastal and maritime areas. With the degradation of coastal areas identified in the SWOT analysis, the specific objectives 6c and 6e directly aim to address this weakness.
- **Main change sought:** Strengthening of management and cooperation between protected areas.
- **Expected activities:** common approaches and strategies (e.g. development of information services and protection plans), pilot demonstration activities (e.g. testing of public policies and innovative technologies), and activities involving transfer, dissemination, and capitalisation (e.g. awareness-raising of the population and decision-makers, transfer of scientific knowledge to decision-makers)
- **Beneficiaries:** Environment departments of public authorities, environment agencies, regional development agencies, protected areas management organisations, intermediary bodies, research centres, economic operators, local community associations

Specific objective 11: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas

Priority Axis 4: To support the process of strengthening and developing multilateral coordination frameworks in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges (TO11, IP 11)

- **Brief justification:** Priority Axis 4 seeks to improve Mediterranean governance by setting up new multilateral coordination frameworks and improving on existing one. As the political, geographical, and economic factors vary from region to region, new multilateral governance processes can improve the capability of the region for joint responses to common challenges.
- **Main change sought:** Setting up of a joint governance process.
- **Expected activities:** knowledge management (via e.g. studies and consultation processes) and networking and strategy building (via e.g. the drafting of integrated approaches, the setting up of working groups, and support to macro-regional and sea basin strategic cooperation).
- **Beneficiaries:** The main types of beneficiaries are European, national, regional, and local authorities, research centres, decision-makers

Programme cooperation: Interregional working groups (composed of managing authorities), targeting capitalisation potentials between programmes under the auspices of MED and regional ERDF/ESF/EARDF programmes. Synergies are expected between other non ESIF instruments, as the MED project can contribute to finance projects, where thematic objectives overlap.
1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

The ex-post evaluation notes that the choices of indicators for axis 4 the use of a multiple indicator would be more appropriate. Also, the report notes, there are few references to territorial added-value in the choice of output and results indicators.
The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report
Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation
Cooperation Programme Interreg North West Europe
### Table of contents

1. Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation ................................................................. 1
   1.1 Programme ID .................................................................................................................. 1
   1.2 Context and programme area description ........................................................................ 1
   1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area ......................... 2
   1.4 Overview needs and challenges ...................................................................................... 3
   1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ...................................................................................................................... 4
   1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ............................................... 8
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

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1.2 Context and programme area description

**Geographical location & territorial characteristics:** The NWE Programme area has a population of about 180 million people living in the eligible area of 845 000 km². On one hand, it can be considered as one of the most dynamic and prosperous areas of Europe. On the other hand the area faces a number of environmental, social and economic needs and challenges. According to the 2013 SWOT-analysis NWE comprises a number of the main metropolitan areas in Europe, which even play an important role in a worldwide perspective. Besides the global cities of London and Paris, major urban agglomerations stretch throughout North West Europe from Dublin and Greater Manchester, via London, large parts of Belgium and the Netherlands, major agglomerations areas along Ruhr and Rhine in Germany further to Switzerland. Furthermore, there are a large number of secondary growth poles. The high level of urbanity is both a strength but in particular in environmental terms also a challenge. Next to that and in spite of its general urban characteristic NWE also shows high levels of heterogeneity among its regions in light of an important number of performance indicators (accessibility; economic performance). Further, many of these differences seem to be increasing with time. As a result, one of the main challenges for transnational cooperation area is to manage excellence and diversity at once.

**Countries involved, budget, Funds:** The NWE Programme involves Ireland, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and parts of France, Germany and the Netherlands. EU budget is € 372,366,282; total budget: € 620,610,471. Funds: ERDF [keep.eu; accessed 18 April 2018].
1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The overall ambition defined by the Member States for the NWE area is: “To be a key economic player in the world and create an attractive place to work and live, with high levels of innovation, sustainability and cohesion.” The strategy of the programme is not only evidence based but also policy based. The general relation between the programme and the three EU 2020 strategy pillars is as follows: “[I]t is evident that the selected set of TOs mainly addresses smart and sustainable growth […]” (p.9). “[T]he Inclusive Growth dimension is integrated as a horizontal and cross-cutting issue within the selected TOs in order to promote the inclusion of vulnerable social groups and territories. Wherever relevant, it is incorporated in the Types of Actions (ToA) and the related project selection criteria.” (p.10).

The NWE Programme strategy places particular focus on four of the European Commission’s defined Thematic Objectives (TO)1 (between brackets the relation with the EU 2020 strategy pillars):

- **TO 1**: strengthening research, technological development and innovation (Smart Growth);
- **TO 4**: supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors (Sustainable Growth);
- **TO 6**: protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (Sustainable Growth);
- **TO 7**: promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures (Sustainable Growth).

The contribution to the EU 2020 strategy pillars is explained as follows (p.16-17):

(I) **Smart Growth** – The Programme will promote excellence and synergy by matching regional innovation approaches and connecting key clusters and innovation stakeholders in the NWE area; focuses on applied research and technological development activities
close to the market, and market exploitation of new products, processes and services; aims at closing the gap between strong and weak(er) innovation regions.

(II) **Sustainable Growth** – The Programme strategy contributes to reduced GHG emissions, increased energy efficiency and an increased share of renewable energy in the consumption and production mix, by stimulating eco-innovation and the development and uptake of low carbon technologies and transport systems. Also focuses on projects in the field of resource and materials efficiency.

(III) **Inclusive Growth** – Transnational and territorial aspects of social inclusion may include removing barriers for a transnational labour market, as well as education, entrepreneurship education and pre-employment training. The Programme strategy also addresses energy accessibility and affordability and improving energy efficiency in social housing. Social inclusion is embedded throughout the Programme strategy and will be made visible in the Specific Objectives, where applicable (for example, in the Types of Action).

1.4 **Overview needs and challenges**

Based on the 2013 SWOT-analysis six challenges are identified (p.6-9):

- **Boosting of knowledge flows between regions and innovation stakeholders, with the aim of stimulating innovation.** Needs include: stimulate transnational cooperation between organisations, research and higher education institutions, governments and social institutions to develop new or improved links and synergies; develop and implement new technologies, products and services; close the gap in terms of innovation performance between regions; connect regional clusters at a transnational level.

- **SME’s innovative capabilities.** SME’s are the engines of economic growth, and the principle drivers for new employment. There is a need to promote the uptake of all types of innovation (social innovation, product innovation, service innovation, etc.) within SMEs, improve access to innovation funding and support their internationalisation.

- **Resource and materials efficiency: a smart use of water, land, air and materials, is of high importance considering the high population density and growing environmental problems in NWE.** The NWE countries are among the highest resource consumers in the EU. The challenge is thus to further decouple economic growth from material consumption and thus to make better use of waste materials and energy from waste.

- **Energy security and supply: NWE is one of the highest energy consuming regions in the EU with high energy saving potentials particularly in transport and the built environment.** To increase the share of renewable energies the emphasis is on stimulating demand rather than supply.

- **Vulnerability to climate change effects: problems stemming from climate change could have strong effects on the NWE area, due to the high density of infrastructure and built environment and location near coasts and rivers.** There is a need for risk reduction (adaptation) as well as climate change mitigation.

- **Inclusion: The economic crisis and austerity measures have had a negative impact on economic and social inclusion for communities – the NWE area faces a considerable challenge to ensure the protection and integration of at-risk populations.** Poverty, social exclusion, and (youth) unemployment is highly visible in larger urban areas (excluded neighbourhoods), but probably less pronounced or less visible in rural areas.
These 6 challenges do not relate one-to-one to the Thematic Objectives of the programme (see section 3). The programme contains a separate section on “Integrated approach to territorial development” (p.67-70). In the first part (p.67-68) the programme identifies specific approaches as defined by the ETC Regulation which will not be applied in the NWE Programme:

1. Community-led local development instruments.
2. Integrated actions for sustainable urban development.
3. Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI).

It is also stated that the NWE eligible area covers one macro-regional strategy (Danube) and one sea-basin strategy (Atlantic Sea). It states (p.69): The NWE’s Programme’s Managing Authority and partners are aware of the relevant macro-regional cooperation initiatives and occasionally monitor their progress action plans, looking for possible complementarities. However, the NWE partners do not find it relevant to implement formal coordination mechanisms at this stage. For the Atlantic sea-basin strategy, this is mainly due to a lack of thematic relevance, since the fact that the NWE Programme does not focus on maritime issues. For the Danube Macro-Region Strategy, there is only a small geographical overlap with the eligible NWE area. In addition the programme identifies priorities of the Atlantic Sea to which it contributes and it will only marginally contribute (due to the small geographical overlap) to the priorities of the Danube strategy.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

The programme document states the following in relation to its strategy: “[T]he Programme cannot address all specific transnational development needs as presented in the overall ambition. Firstly, the Programme has limited resource and financial capacity. Secondly, there is an increased need to ensure the generation of results in the strategic fields of choice. Thirdly, the Programme takes into account the successes of the previous Programme and needs to elaborate on these successes to obtain the best results. Lastly, national support is essential for successful implementation of the Programme. Therefore, the process of defining the strategy is not only evidence based, but also policy based.” (p.9). The strategy is summarised in the next table (p.10).

Specific objective 1: To enhance innovation performance of enterprises throughout NWE regions

Priority Axis 1: Innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: the innovation in NWE is highly geographically concentrated, creating a pronounced territorial divide. Tackling this “territorial gap” and the differences in innovation performance among regions is addressed in this SO. In addition, the NWE area as a whole continues to have difficulties transforming science and research into products and other commercial outputs. This is due to poor circulation of knowledge and limited collaboration among innovation stakeholders, but also to a recurrent lack of critical mass in local innovation communities.
• **Main change sought:** the Programme aims to increase SME innovation levels. This will be done by capturing the innovation efforts at SME level, in line with the Innovation Union and Regional Innovation 2014 Scoreboards. SMEs are considered as the main target group of this SO and will benefit from the provision of support for the testing and development phases of innovation. The Programme will hence act as an innovation enabler at SME level.

• **Expected activities:** 1) enhancing and developing transnational (self-sustaining) clusters or networks; 2) cooperative actions that take forward the development of specific products, services or processes to a stage of market-readiness; 3) actions that aim at supporting development, testing and implementation of innovative solutions for social needs and problems (“social innovation”) in all NWE territories

• **Beneficiaries:** Governmental organisations; civil society stakeholders; education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations; intermediate bodies, such as chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices; enterprises, including social enterprises

*Specific objective 2:* To facilitate the implementation of low-carbon, energy and climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions in NWE

**Priority Axis 2:** Low carbon (TO4, IP 4e)

• **Brief justification:** the NWE area is confronted with a need to reduce the carbon footprint in NWE society and with several energy-related challenges, including energy transition management. Transition to restructure the energy systems into more sustainable forms is necessary in NWE. Actions to guarantee energy accessibility and affordability are needed in order to avoid growing social fragmentation.

• **Main change sought:** This SO will lead to a reduction of emissions, less energy consumption and an increase in the use of renewable energy in NWE, in particular in public buildings, public infrastructure and social housing. NWE cities will be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

• **Expected activities:** The success of SO initiatives relies to a large extent on the increased capacity of public institutions in NWE, being the main target group of this SO. Therefore the increased capacity level of public institutions in implementing low carbon measures effectively is the main expected result of this SO. Such a capacity focus will allow the Programme to gain knowledge about how quickly and how far the low carbon strategies have been rolled out in NWE.

• **Beneficiaries:** governmental organisations; public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations; intermediate bodies, such as chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices; education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations; civil society stakeholders; enterprises.

*Specific objective 3:* To facilitate the uptake of low carbon technologies, products, processes and services in sectors with high energy saving potential, to reduce GHG emissions in NWE

**Priority Axis 2:** Low carbon (TO4, IP 4f)

• **Brief justification:** The NWE area is characterised by a high level of GHG emissions and a strong dependence on non-renewable energy sources, as well as a lower-than-average proportion of renewable energies in the production and consumption mix.

• **Main change sought:** reduced GHG emissions and pollution and optimisation of the regions’ energy consumption and production in the NWE areas (geographic, functional or economic) or sectors responsible for the highest levels of GHG emissions (for example,
construction and the built environment). This SO aims to realise the market opportunities presented by Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS).

- **Expected activities:** Actions focus on demonstrating low carbon solutions, illustrating their feasibility, relevance and economic/environmental rationale. Actions will raise awareness among all relevant stakeholders and thereby increase the implementation of low carbon solutions. The focus is exclusively on the uptake of existing low carbon technologies, products and services.

- **Beneficiaries:** enterprises, including SMEs; governmental organisations; civil society stakeholders promoting energy saving measures; intermediate bodies, such as chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices; environmental and energy agencies; households/inhabitants.

**Specific objective 4:** To facilitate the implementation of transnational low-carbon solutions in transport systems to reduce GHG-emissions in NWE

**Priority Axis 2: Low carbon (TO7, IP 7c)**

- **Brief justification:** The transport sector is by far the largest consumer of energy in the EU and also one of the main sources of pollution and CO₂ emissions. With a large transport sector, NWE countries rank among the leading polluters in the EU, notably in terms of GHG emissions. In addition air pollution is causing public health problems, especially in densely populated areas.

- **Main change sought:** to improve the conception and coordination of low carbon transport and mobility solutions by the sector by increasing its institutional capacity. This can be achieved by maximising the potential of heterogeneity of the public-private partners involved in the NWE projects.

- **Expected activities:** targeting the transnational components of NWE transport systems: it does not support stand-alone solutions, but focuses on corridors or transport systems. These are important for inter-country or inter-regional flows of goods or people and therefore relevant for all NWE countries.

- **Beneficiaries:** governmental organisations; civil society stakeholders; education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations; intermediate bodies, for example chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices; enterprises in the transport sector.

**Specific objective 5:** To optimise (re)use of material and natural resources in NWE

**Priority Axis 3: Resource & materials efficiency (TO6, IP 6f)**

- **Brief justification:** there is a need to decouple economic growth from material consumption, and drive an absolute reduction in the use of natural resources in production activities, in particular those that tend to be intensive in their use of natural resources and raw materials.

- **Main change sought:** to accelerate the transition of the NWE economy to a circular model (3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) by enabling spill-over effects of eco-innovation in the resource intensive industry. This will be achieved by increasing competences.

- **Expected activities:** the drive towards eco-innovation is facilitated by collaboration among innovation stakeholders on the development and testing phases of innovations and/or innovative solutions that are less material intensive than those currently on the market. This SO also covers actions focusing on the use of land in production processes (for example, non-food crops).

- **Beneficiaries:** governmental organisations; civil society stakeholders; education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations; intermediate bodies such as chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices; enterprises in the transport sector.
tions, technology transfer offices; public environmental organisations, such as water authorities and nature organisations; enterprises.

Table 1.1: NWE Programme Specific Objective: Expected results and result indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO</th>
<th>Expected results</th>
<th>Result Indicator</th>
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<tr>
<td>SO1</td>
<td>NWE has considerable innovation potential and hosts some of Europe’s top innovation performers. However, this potential is highly geographically concentrated, creating a pronounced territorial divide. Tackling this “territorial gap” and the differences in innovation performance among regions is specifically addressed in this SO. As a result of this Specific Objective, the Programme aims to increase SME innovation levels. This will be done by capturing the innovation efforts at SME level, in line with the Innovation Union and Regional Innovation 2014 Scoreboards. SMEs are considered as the main target group of this SO and will benefit from the provision of support for the testing and development phases of innovation.</td>
<td>Degree of SME involvement in collaboration with other institutions (including R&amp;D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO2</td>
<td>This SO will lead to a reduction of emissions, less energy consumption and an increase in the use of renewable energy in NWE, in particular in public buildings, public infrastructure and social housing. NWE cities will be more resilient to the effects of climate change. The success of these initiatives relies to a large extent on the increased capacity of public institutions in NWE, being the main target group of this Specific Objective. Therefore the increased capacity level of public institutions in implementing low carbon measures effectively is the main expected result of this SO.</td>
<td>Effectiveness of the NWE public sector organisations in the implementation of low carbon strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO3</td>
<td>This SO will lead to reduced GHG emissions and pollution and optimise the regions’ energy consumption and production in the NWE areas (geographic, functional or economic) or sectors responsible for the highest levels of GHG emissions (for example, construction and the built environment). The expected result of initiatives undertaken within this Specific Objective will be the removal of barriers to the adoption of and improvement of conditions for low carbon technology deployment by enterprises (the main target group of this SO).</td>
<td>Status of conditions for low carbon technology deployment in NWE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO4</td>
<td>This SO will lead to reduced GHG emissions in transport systems in NWE (such as networks of mobility connections, flows of passengers and goods, travel patterns, logistics chains, multimodal systems). The expected result of this Specific Objective is related to the main target group, the transport sector (passenger and freight). The Programme aims to improve the conception and coordination of low carbon transport and mobility solutions by the sector by increasing its institutional capacity.</td>
<td>Status of competences of the transport sector in the use of low carbon solutions in the transport systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO5</td>
<td>This SO will lead to an optimised use of material resources and a reduction in the use of natural resources in NWE. Success will be measured in terms of the use and uptake of eco-innovations in NWE, but also in terms of the resource savings and (waste) recycling rates they generate. The expected result of this Specific Objective relates to the main target group, the resource intensive industrial sectors. The Programme aims to accelerate the transition of the NWE economy to a circular model (3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) by enabling spill-over effects of eco-innovation in the resource intensive industry. This will be achieved by increasing competences in the resource-intensive sectors.</td>
<td>Status of competences in the resource intensive sectors in NWE for eco-innovation diffusion</td>
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1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

The 2014 Ex Ante Evaluation (p.40-41) concludes that overall, the output indicators for SO 1 – SO 5 are logic and relevant. They allow to link outputs with the results and thus the change measured by the result indicators. The output indicators are not meant to cover all possible outputs of a programme, and the proposed output indicators are defined in a way that they do not cover all activities supported. The result indicators for SO 1 – SO 5 are in general logic and relevant. For each specific programme objective, one result indicator addresses directly the main result envisaged by the programme, i.e. it targets the share of relevant stakeholders or organisations benefitting from international cooperation in the field addressed by the specific programme objective. Basing the result indicators on surveys is an appropriate approach, given the types of results envisaged by the programme. However, it requires also considerable efforts as regards the development of the survey and the identification of the stakeholders to be addressed.

PM: implementation (no implementation reports dd 24 May 2018)
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TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report

Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

(Interreg V-A) Sweden – Denmark – Norway
Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation ......................................................... 1
  1.1 Programme ID .................................................................................................... 1
  1.2 Context and programme area description............................................................. 1
  1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area ............... 2
  1.4 Overview of needs and challenges ...................................................................... 2
  1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives .............................................................. 2
  1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment................................. 5
1  Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1  Programme ID

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1.2  Context and programme area description

The Öresund-Kattegatt-Skagerrak (ÖKS) Programme area includes the metropolitan areas of Copenhagen-Malmö, Gothenburg, and Oslo, as well as rural areas. There are over 9 million people living in the ÖKS area. The ÖSK area is characterised by good economy, high education level, and good connections to sea and nature. Put into a European context, the area has relatively low social differences, good welfare, strong economy, high quality education and research with more than 30 universities, and good consciousness of environmental and climate issues. There is a challenge of demography in the area with aging population, and with youth employment. At the same time, there is a tradition of transnational labour market in the Programme area.

The cooperation programme Interreg V-A Sweden-Denmark-Norway, or Öresund-Kattegatt-Skagerrak Programme (later: ÖKS) addresses the important cross-border challenges linked to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in the dynamic cross-border region, which includes the metropolitan regions of Copenhagen-Malmö, Gothenburg and Oslo as well as rural areas. The programme will contribute to a strengthened cross-border research and innovation system capacity, linking it more strongly to the EU and international systems. The ÖKS Programme links Europe 2020 strategy with national plans and with the regional and local development plans.

In Denmark, the Programme area includes Copenhagen and its surroundings, Nordsjaelland, Bornholm, Ostsjaelland, Vest- och Sydsjaelland, Vestjylland, Ostjylland, and Nordjylland. In Sweden, the Programme area includes Skåne län, Halland län and Västra Götaland län. In Norway, the Programme area includes Oslo, Akershus, Ostfold, Buskerud, Vestfold, Telemark, Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder. The total budget of the ÖKS programme is € 255,093,931.00, out of which EU funding is € 127,546,965.00.
1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The ÖKS cooperation programme addresses especially the cross-border challenges linked to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in the dynamic cross-border region, which includes the metropolitan regions of Copenhagen-Malmö, Gothenburg and Oslo as well as rural areas. The ÖKS programme contributes to each of the following EU 2020 strategy pillars:

- **Smart Growth**: The programme seeks to strengthen cross-border research and innovation system capacity. It includes the European Spallation Source ESS and the Swedish research facility MAX IV. The programme will also promote the commercialisation of innovations and increased business participation in the R&I sector and increase connectivity and cross-border mobility through the TEN-T network and other measures.
- **Sustainable Growth**: The programme promotes the production of renewable energy, among other strategies by promoting innovation in renewable energy and by reducing energy consumption in the public sector.
- **Inclusive Growth**: Self-employment, and employment in new companies and micro-enterprises will be promoted by the programme.

1.4 Overview of needs and challenges

The major needs and challenges in the region could be introduced as follows. Firstly, there are challenges of demography with ageing population, b at the same time the challenges in proving job opportunities to youth. Secondly, the recent downturn in private R&D investments has been remarkable. Thirdly, despite the opportunities provided by climate change, there are also environmental challenges to be faced by the Programme area. Low carbon economy transition needs research, innovation, new products, but also mindset and forerunners in the area. Fourthly, the challenges in organising an effective transportation system in the area are considerable. Advanced, coordinated transnational efforts are needed and play a key role, here. Finally, despite long tradition in integrating labour market in the ÖKS region, much more needs to done in order to fully harness the potential of the region and its people – and to develop the ÖKS region in an inclusive way.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

The ÖKS programme is based on four major thematic objectives (TO, or Tematiska Mål" in the Programme Document). A brief introduction to the specific objectives (SOs) is presented here (Please note: the Priority Axes of the ÖKS Programme are same as the TOs).

Specific objective 1.1: Increase the number of researchers cross-border/internationally in the strength areas of ÖKS

*Priority Axis/TO: (TO 1, IP 1a)*

- **Brief justification**: The main purpose is to increase the capacity for research and innovation in the European context
Main change sought: The activities are expected to enable competence building especially in the fields that are important for the cross-border research infrastructure (ESS, MAX IV)

Expected activities: public-private cross-border projects, activities that increase cross-border interaction within ÖKS area, demo projects and tests, activities that strengthen research infrastructure

Beneficiaries: public sector, R&D environments, business life, education sector

Specific objective 1.2: Increase applied research & innovation activity in the KS region

Priority Axis/TO: (TO1, IP 1b)

Brief justification: The main purpose is to increase private sector capability to utilise research results and competence and to increase the number of companies that participate in cross-border research projects.

Main change sought: The relative share of the R&D out of regional GDP is expected to raise

Expected activities: Promotion of implementing pilot, test and demo projects, promote private R&D investments, promote public sector innovation

Beneficiaries: Public sector, R&D environments, Business life, Education sector

Specific objective 2.1: Increased number of cooperation to develop new renewable energy technology and methods

Priority Axis/TO: (TO2, IP 4a)

Brief justification: In order to reach the goals of low-carbon economy, new knowledge is needed. Also, the already existing knowledge should be used in a more effective way

Main change sought: Production of renewable energy should be increased

Expected activities: development of storing overflow of renewable energy, development, test, demonstration facilities, competence building, consultancy

Beneficiaries: public sector, private actors and branch associations, education organisations, non-profit organisations

Specific objective 2.2: Increase the share of renewable energy

Priority Axis/TO: (TO2, IP 4a)

Brief justification: need to further develop cross-border distribution network of energy, new innovation promotion measures in R&D

Main change sought: higher share of renewables

Expected activities: development of storing overflow of renewable energy, new development, tests, demonstration

Beneficiaries: public sector, private actors, and branch associations, energy companies, education organisations, non-profit organisations

Specific objective 2.3: Reduced energy consumption in public activity

Priority Axis/TO: (TO2, IP 4c)

Brief justification: by co-operation, there is potential to energy efficiency methods and activities in public infrastructure, especially in buildings and construction sector, in the ÖKS cooperation

Main change sought: energy efficient solutions, reduced energy consumption

Expected activities: ÖKS cooperation in developing solutions, method; exchange of experiences, private-public cooperation, competence building
• **Beneficiaries:** public sector, private actors and related branch organisations, R&D institutions, education organisations

**Specific objective 3.1:** Promote better access to and through ÖKS region

**Priority Axis/TO:** (TO 3, IP 7a)

- **Brief justification:** Strongly related to Transeuropean TEN-T network, as ÖKS region has many TEN-T related transport corridors and facilities, activities should bring cross-border and even transnational/European added value
- **Main change sought:** Reduced transportation times, and optimal usage of road and rail-road under Nordic triangle of the TEN-T corridor
- **Expected activities:** new, better, and cross-border transportation for people and goods, promote the implementation of prioritised TEN-T projects relevant to ÖKS region
- **Beneficiaries:** national, regional, and local actors responsible for transport and infrastructure, private actors, branch organisations, R&D organisations

**Specific objective 3.2:** Reduce travel time with climate-friendly ways to TEN-T nodes

**Priority Axis/TO:** (TO 3, IP 7b)

- **Brief justification:** Improve and guarantee transport connections between secondary and tertiary networks and nodal points, targeted especially to more peripheral parts of region
- **Main change sought:** Reduced travel time between the chosen transport routes/nodal points within ÖKS
- **Expected activities:** new, better, and cross-border transportation for people and goods, activities to connect secondary nodal points to core network of TEN-T in ÖKS area
- **Beneficiaries:** national, regional, and local actors responsible for transport and infrastructure, private actors, branch organisations, R&D organisations; with emphasis on areas outside the leading transport routes/nodal points

**Specific objective 3.3:** Increase environment friendly transport work in chosen traffic corridors

**Priority Axis/TO:** (TO 3, IP 7c)

- **Brief justification:** To improve the prerequisites for sustainable and energy efficient transportation by reducing energy consumption and emissions of CO₂ and other air pollution
- **Main change sought:** Reduced energy consumption of the transport sector in the ÖKS region
- **Expected activities:** development of new methods, exchange of experiences, development of environmentally friendly transport corridors,
- **Beneficiaries:** public sector, private actors, non-governmental organisations, universities and R&D institutes

**Specific objective 4.1:** Promote increased employment in start-ups and micro companies

**Priority Axis/TO:** (TO 4, IP 8a)

- **Brief justification:** Importance to promote the dynamics of labour market in ÖKS by introducing new ideas and products also via start-up and small companies
- **Main change sought:** Increased employment in micro and SME companies in ÖKS region
- **Expected activities:** promotion of Incubator activities, trainings, consultancy, new cross-border networks in the field of entrepreneurship
- **Beneficiaries:** public sector, private actors, incubators, training institutes, social innovators
Specific objective 4.2: Increase the number of cross border commuters

Priority Axis/TO: (TO 4, IP 8e)

- **Brief justification:** utilise the cross-border potential of the labour market development in the ÖKS region
- **Main change sought:** increased commuting in the ÖKS region; harmonising and increasing cooperation between labour market responsible actors over the ÖKSD region
- **Expected activities:** cross-border matchmaking of the labour demand/supply, reducing the formal and informal hinders for cross-border commuting, consultancy, new initiatives
- **Beneficiaries:** public sector, private sector, education institutes, labour officials in the ÖKS region

1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

According to the ex-ante evaluation of the ÖKS programme in 2014, the evaluation and monitoring of indicators is expected to be challenging especially related to the difficulty of designing output indicators with an evident connection to the activities that are to be supported by the programme, partly dependent on the fact that the measures are indicative. Regarding result indicators, there is a difficulty of finding and using comparable transnational statistics, a relevant issue at the ÖKS region. The suggested result indicators are, however, sufficiently robust according to the ex-ante evaluation.

The annual implementation reports (AIRs) 2014-15 and 2016 indicate the obvious challenge of monitoring the indicators in the beginning of the programme period when it comes to output indicators. The AIR 2016 clearly states that there are no projects fully implemented so the output indicator shows zero value – before the projects are fully implemented. For the EU commission reporting, the programme uses “selected operations” as a way to report back from projects that are not yet fully implemented.

Regarding KEEP database, the data available on ÖKS programme is more limited as of today compared to many other Interreg programmes.

Finally, most of the Programme and Programme reporting documents are at the moment available only in Swedish.
ESPON 2020 – More information

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TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report

Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

(Interreg V-A) PL-DK-DE-LT-SE – Poland – Denmark – Germany – Lithuania – Sweden (SOUTH BALTIC)
# Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation ......................................................... 1  
  1.1 Programme ID ........................................................................................................ 1  
  1.2 Context and programme area description ................................................................ 1  
  1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area .................... 2  
  1.4 Overview needs and challenges ............................................................................. 2  
  1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ........................................................................................................ 3  
  1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ....................................... 6
1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

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1.2 Context and programme area description

The South Baltic Programme (SWP) area includes the coastal region of five EU member states (Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Lithuania and Poland). The SBP has a non-metropolitan, mostly rural character, with population concentrated in a few large urban centres, which are the main poles of social and economic development. The area is inhabited by about 8.9 million people (2011) and the average population density is about 75 inhabitants per km², and therewith, far below the European average of about 117 per km². The SBP area is characterized by positive economic growth (higher than EU-28 average), based on knowledge-intensive services and research-intensive industries/SMEs that represent different blue and green sectors such as maritime sectors, tourism or forest economy. The programme area has experienced rapid and diverse demographic change characterized by an ageing society, low birth rates, negative net migration and brain drain caused by increasing levels of unemployment, particularly among younger people. The SBP areas has many natural assets and cultural heritage sites; as a result, tourism has increased rapidly, but it is seasonally and has put environmental pressures on coastal ecosystems. Large parts of the SBP Baltic area suffer from poor accessibility due to low population densities and distance to metropolitan areas, but the region leads the way in developing eco-friendly mobility solutions.

The SBP area includes the following administrative units at the NUTS III level:

- Germany – districts (Landkreise) of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Nordwestmecklenburg, Rostock, Vorpommern-Rügen, Vorpommern-Greifswald and district-free city (kreisfreie Stadt);
- Denmark – Regional Municipality of Bornholm and Region Zealand (subregions: Østsjælland, Vest- og Sydsjælland);
- Sweden – counties of: Kalmar, Blekinge, Skåne and Kronoberg;
- Lithuania – counties of Klaipėda, Tauragė and Telšiai;
- Poland – subregions of: Miasto Szczecin, Szczeciński, Stargardzki, Koszaliński, Słupski, Starogardzki, Gdański, Trójmiejski and Elbląski.
The total budget for the SWP area is €96,296,368.00, with the EU contributing €78,000,057.00, and the main funding instrument is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The overall objective of the SWP is “to increase the blue and green growth potential of the South Baltic area through cross-border cooperation”. The SWP contributes to each of the following EU 2020 strategy pillars:

- **Smart Growth**: The programme aims to increase the presence of blue and green sector SMEs in international markets and improve the transfer of innovations through cross-border actions. It also includes projects focusing on cross-border labour mobility.

- **Sustainable Growth**: The programme promotes the areas natural and cultural assets to develop sustainable tourist destinations, and emphasizes environmental protection through the promotion of green technologies and environmentally friendly transport.

- **Inclusive Growth**: The programme seeks to involve local community actors in cross-border cooperation networks and to train labour forces for blue and green sector occupations.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

**Economy**: The South Baltic area is in general characterized by positive economic growth (higher than EU-28 average), but strong differences in economic growth and productivity exist across the regions. Knowledge-intensive services and research-intensive industries are growing. The South Baltic area is strongly based on SMEs, many of which represent different blue and green sectors such as maritime sectors, tourism or forest economy. Strong territorial differences in their innovation capacity, commercialisation of new products and export potential exist. Many SMEs in the South Baltic regions are challenged by a low level of international activity. There needs to be more coordinated infrastructure for exchange of cross-border innovation and internationalization of business activities.

**Human resources**: The programme area is characterised by diverse demographic structures. Age structures in the area vary strongly, and some regions are challenged by outmigration and/or low birth rates. Many regions are also experiencing increasing levels of long-term and youth unemployment, and have mostly experienced rising unemployment levels in the context of the financial and economic crisis since 2009. The South Baltic area has a well-developed educational infrastructure and low levels of early school leavers, but needs to offer better employment opportunities to prevent brain drain. There is a need to utilise the strong educational base in the SB to reduce brain drain and match education to employers needs.

**Environment and tourism**: The South Baltic area includes a large number of natural and cultural heritage sites, which offer opportunities for tourism. Nonetheless, the concentration of economic activities in urban centres and coastal regions put pressure on the environment.
Inflows of nutrients from the programme area damage the Baltic Sea water and threaten biodiversity. Populated areas suffer from inadequate air quality. Wind energy and wave energy offer development potentials for the South Baltic area, but require further technological developments. Closer cooperation and transfer of innovation may help to boost this sector. Tourism to the South Baltic areas has increased during recent years, but changes strongly by season and is concentrated along the coastal areas, putting particular pressure on ecosystems there. Sustainable development solutions are required to balance economic and environmental interests. There is a need to protect the environment through the development of ecosystem services tools and environmentally friendly technologies such as renewable energies.

**Transport:** Large parts of the South Baltic area suffer from poor accessibility due to low population densities and distance to metropolitan areas. After EU accession, transport infrastructure was built up in Lithuania and Poland, co-financed by EU Cohesion and Structural funds, but differences in infrastructure remain. Regions in Sweden and Denmark have introduced sustainable and eco-friendly mobility solutions, but other regions are lagging behind. Strong differences between the regions exist also with respect to the ratio of rail- to road haulage. The Baltic Sea remains a barrier between the territories in the programme area. Joint action could improve the connectivity of the region and promote sustainable mobility solutions. There is a need to increase connectivity by creating joint approaches to the development of sustainable mobility and environmentally friendly forms of transport.

**Institutional Capacities:** A common South Baltic identity does not exist in local and regional communities and the number of actors involved in cross-border activities is limited. There is a need to facilitate partnerships and strengthen cross-border cooperation between institutions and stakeholders to ensure funding instruments and programmes are used effectively.

### 1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

**Specific objective 1.1:** Increase the presence of blue and green sector SMEs from the South Baltic area in international markets through joint cross-border actions

**Priority Axis 1:** Strengthening International activeness and innovation capacity of the South West Baltic blue and green economy (TO3, IP 3b)

- **Brief justification:** low internationalization capacity of SMEs in the region and insufficient advisory services and matchmaking actions to help SMEs reach international markets.
- **Main change sought:** enhance the competitiveness of SMEs by increasing innovation transfer and the presence of blue and green growth SMEs in international markets through joint cross-border actions.
- **Expected activities:** develop joint business models for internationalization of SMEs; market research for SMEs, organize activities to promote products and services; awareness raising campaigns for international trade.
- **Beneficiaries:** SME cluster organization, chamber of commerce, business agencies and innovation centres, local and regional authorities, higher education institutes and NGOs, European groupings of territorial cooperation
Specific objective 1.2: Improve the transfer of innovation for the benefit of blue and green sector SMEs through joint cross-border initiatives

Priority Axis 1: Strengthening international activeness and innovation capacity of the South West Baltic blue and green economy (TO1, IP 3d)

- Brief justification: Varying innovation capacity between SMEs in the region and potential for innovation transfer through cross-border networking and clustering.
- Main change sought: Increase innovation capacity of blue and green growth SMEs and transfer innovation to less advanced regions.
- Expected activities: Cross-border training facilities for SMEs, business advisory services, cross-border events to exchange information, develop cross-border smart specialization strategies; develop cross-border triple-helix cooperation platforms.
- Beneficiaries: SME cluster organization, chamber of commerce, business agencies and innovation centres, local and regional authorities, higher education institutes and NGOs, European groupings of territorial cooperation

Specific objective 2.1: Increased development of the South Baltic area’s natural and cultural heritage assets into sustainable tourist destinations

Priority Axis 2: Exploiting the environmental and cultural potential of the South Baltic area for the blue and green growth (TO 6, IP 6c)

- Brief justification: Unbalanced seasonal pattern and tourism. High quality of natural and cultural heritage sites create potential for active holiday and leisure activities.
- Main change sought: Increase popularity of natural and cultural heritage sites as sustainable tourism destinations.
- Expected activities: Small pilot investments for tourism infrastructure and services, joint events for promoting region, joint marketing of region, capacity building actions for managing cultural heritage sites, joint ICT tools for cross-border tourism, exchange knowledge on eco-management, protect biodiversity.
- Beneficiaries: SME cluster organization, chamber of commerce, business agencies and innovation centres, local and regional authorities, higher education institutes and NGOs, European groupings of territorial cooperation, forest management and cultural heritage institutions.

Specific objective 2.2: Increased use of green technologies in order to decrease the pollution discharges in the South Baltic area

Priority Axis 2: Exploiting the environmental and cultural potential of the South Baltic area for the blue and green growth (TO 6, IP 6f)

- Brief justification: Environmental pressures resulting from concentration of pollution and economic activities in Baltic Sea leading to high eutrophication and noxious air quality. High potential to develop green technology sectors in the region.
- Main change sought: Increase the use of green technologies in the South Baltic
- Expected activities: Small scale green technology investments in renewable energies, cross-border sustainable energy networks, cross-border studies to mitigate water and air pollution, common testing standards for air and water, testing to help decrease outflows of nutrients.
- Beneficiaries: SME cluster organization, chamber of commerce, business agencies and innovation centres, local and regional authorities, higher education institutes and NGOs, European groupings of territorial cooperation, cooperatives of farmers and residents, public and private companies working with environment.
**Specific objective 3:** Improve the quality and environmental sustainability of transport services in the South Baltic area

*Priority Axis 3:* Improving cross-border connectivity for a functional blue and green transport area (TO 7, IP 7c)

- **Brief justification:** predominant car-based mobility pattern and unsatisfactory connectivity due to weak transport infrastructure. Significant disparities between Eastern and Western parts of the region in environmentally friendly transport.
- **Main change sought:** improved and more environmentally friendly and sustainable passenger and cargo services.
- **Expected activities:** deployment of cross-border transport greening measures, development of joint smart mobility concepts, more environmentally friendly transport, joint studies on intermodal passenger and cargo services, improve sustainability of air and sea transport services.
- **Beneficiaries:** local and regional authorities, public transport companies, transport infrastructure administration, SMEs, chamber of commerce, business agencies and higher education institutes, European groupings of territorial cooperation.

**Specific objective 4:** Increase the share of skilled labour force working in blue and green economy sectors of the South Baltic area through joint cross-border actions

*Priority Axis 4:* Boosting human resource capacities for the area’s blue and green economy (TO 8e, IP 10a)

- **Brief justification:** mismatch of education and needs of employers. High unemployment rates and difficulties to attract qualified labour
- **Main change sought:** better prepared labour force for work places in blue and green sector companies
- **Expected activities:** develop cross-border services connecting vocational and tertiary education graduates with employers, cross-border training programmes for the labour force, harmonization of international education qualifications, cross-border internships and apprenticeships, models to promote self-employment, information services for cross-border workers on legal requirements.
- **Beneficiaries:** local and regional authorities, labour offices and administration, higher education institutes, associations and clusters of SMEs, NGOs in labour market training, European groupings of territorial cooperation.

**Specific objective 5:** Improve the cooperation capacity of local South Baltic area actors through participation in cross-border networks

*Priority Axis 5:* Increasing cooperation capacity of local actors in the South Baltic area for the blue and green growth (TO 11, IP 11b)

- **Brief justification:** limited participation of actors in network of partners, organizations and institutions in the region. A low recognition of shared regional identity in local communities and need to increase capacity for cross-border cooperation between local actors.
- **Main change sought:** improve cooperation of local actors in cross-border cooperation networks
- **Expected activities:** cross-border knowledge exchange regarding cooperation between citizens and institutions on local challenges, joint activities between local government administrations, awareness raising campaigns between local actor groups to promote shared culture and identify, joint initiatives aimed at strengthening networks, increase involvement of local actors in project development.
• **Beneficiaries:** local and regional authorities, NGOs involved in cross-border networking, chamber of commerce, institutions of cultural and national heritage, European groupings of territorial cooperation.

**Synergies with other EU interventions:** Priority Axis 1 of the SBP corresponds with Horizon 2020, which promotes smart specialisation, intends to create innovation-friendly business environment for SMEs, and links emerging centres of excellence and innovative regions in less developed Member States to leading counterparts elsewhere in Europe. Apart from that, Priority axis 1 has some commonalities with COSME (Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-size Enterprises), which enables SMEs to have access to markets by offering assistance to find a business partner abroad: in the EU or worldwide. Priority Axis 2 of the SBP liaises with LIFE (European Programme for Environment and the Climate Action), which supports integrated projects in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. Priority axis 4 of the SBP complements the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) by addressing regional connectivity issues and opportunities created by the TEN-T core and comprehensive networks for urban and rural areas. Priority 4 and 5, the SBP is linked to the programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI), notably in the field of social innovation and social policy experimentation. Specifically, in priority 4, the SBP provides a cross-border perspective to the Youth Employment Initiative, which will help young people currently not in employment in some South Baltic regions experiencing youth unemployment rates above 25%. Priority 4 also liaises with the EURES (the European network of Employment Services), “Creative Europe” initiative (for the cultural and creative sectors) and “Erasmus+” (aimed to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising education, training, and youth work). Priority 5, in turn, corresponds to the “Europe for Citizens” Programme, which aims to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at an EU level.

### 1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

The relation between the specific objectives of the Programme and the planned qualitative result indicators, as well as between qualitative result indicators and output indicators as correct and raising no reservations. The working document on how to measure the value of these indicators described the whole method of data collection and analysis, research agenda, etc. Introduced a method of qualitative result indicators at the level of specific objectives (method of measurement, scale, etc.) is very innovative. It has very positive assessment. However, it is necessary as soon as possible to estimate the baseline value and values during and after the program.

**References**

Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 Programme
2016 Implementation Report for the European Territorial Cooperation Goal for South Baltic Region
ESPON 2020 – More information

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Territorial Evidence Report

Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

Interreg V-B – South West Europe
## Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation .............................................................. 1
  1.1 Programme ID ........................................................................................................... 1
  1.2 Context and programme area description .................................................................. 1
  1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area ...................... 1
  1.4 Overview needs and challenges .................................................................................. 1
  1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives .................................................................................................................. 2
  1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ........................................... 4
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1.2 Context and programme area description

The programme covers regions in Spain, France, the UK (Gibraltar), and Portugal, and spans coastal and inland areas. The areas was particularly strongly affected by the consequences of the economic crisis, which translates to consistent and negative (or close to zero) percent GDP growth, as well as limited convergence in relation to the European average in per capita figures. The primary and service sectors contribute relatively more to the economy, the industrial sector relatively less, than the European average. The programme volume amounts to approximately € 141,879,979, of which € 106,810,523 stems from ERDF funding, with the remainder stemming from national and private co-funding.

1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

- **Smart Growth**: priority challenge for the SUDOE space for the 2014-2020 period; significant progress made since last period.
- **Sustainable Growth**: Owing to its endogenous characteristics and the potential of its territory and its socioeconomic dynamics, the sustainable aspect of growth represents an opportunity for relative specialisation and differentiation of the SUDOE space on a European level.
- **Inclusive Growth**: SUDOE space is promoting the creation of employment by the actors involved, through the existence of initiatives at regional, national and community level to directly address the aspects of employment and unemployment; direct support measures in favour of job creation.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

SUDOE is characterised by coastal-inland pairing (most metropolitan centres are coastal). SUDOE space has been particularly affected by negative effects of economic and financial crisis – low economic growth, stagnation of the GNP growth. There is a sharp increase of unemployment, worst in Portugal and Spain as well as a problem of youth unemployment.
Some regions of the SUDOE space stand out in some sectors and are ready to assume a leading role at a European level in certain sectors (renewable energies, the aerospace industry, the automotive supplier industry, textiles, and footwear, for example). Productive structure of the transnational space is almost exclusively to be found in SMEs (which represent 95% of the total number of existing companies), mainly service sector. SMEs have a limited capacity for innovation and for penetrating foreign markets, and are more vulnerable. Average level of R&D is low, improvements have been made; R&D is concentrated in some clusters. In terms of education, drop out is considered to be too high. In regards to the environment, there is a great diversity and an opportunity for tourism (20% of SUDOE is included in Natura 2000 Network). The territory however faces threats from urban growth and agricultural overexploitation, and also natural recurrent risks common to the transnational area (fires, earthquakes, drought, desertification, and floods). There is also the problem of overall water scarcity – in the South desertification and soil erosion are increasing. Considerable (negative) effects of climate change are to be expected and to increase inequalities within SUDOE.

1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1b-1: Strengthening the Synergic and networking operation of R+i at a transnational level in the specific SUDOE sectors as from smart specialisation

Specific objective 1b-2: Developing dissemination of applied research related to essential facilitating technologies

Priority Axis 1: Promoting research, technological development, and innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: the projects developed in the 2007-2013 programming period have already contributed to the creation of networks of cooperation and excellence in R&D+i that have enabled scientific, technological and educational institutions in the region to achieve research results with high added value at regional and European level. Those projects shall be continued.
- Main change sought: the objective aims to correct the imbalances between regions in terms of investment in R&D+i through the strengthening of networks in sectors of excellence identified in the framework of RIS3 strategies
- Expected activities: The active and efficient involvement of SMEs, which represent practically the entirety of the productive fabric of the SUDOE space, is a relevant element for the success of this specific objective. This involvement would improve the level of collaboration in activities of R&D+i activities and would contribute to a greater level of private investment in R&D+i and improved levels of the transfer of technology to the market. Activities include the creation or consolidation of collaboration platforms, developing models for transferring technology of innovation management and of open innovation
- Beneficiaries: public and private R&D+i actors
Specific objective 3a_1: Developing capacities for the improvement of the environment of SMEs in the SUDOE space

Specific objective 3b_1: Improvement and increasing of the possibilities for the internationalisation of SMEs

Priority Axis 2: Improving the competitiveness of SMEs (TO3, IP 3a, 3b)

- **Brief justification:** the fomenting of an economy concentrating on knowledge and innovation must, of necessity, be associated with the strengthening of the productive structure of the SUDOE space.
- **Main change sought:** help improve the conditions of the context in which companies operate, strengthening institutions, services, and mechanisms supporting their development and internationalisation.
- **Expected activities:** Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators. Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation.
- **Beneficiaries:** public institutions supporting companies and start-ups.

Specific objective 4c_1: Improving energy efficiency policies and the use of sources of renewable energies in public buildings and housing through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation

Priority Axis 3: Encouraging the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors (TO4, IP 4c)

- **Brief justification:** justified due to the buildings mean near a half of all the energy consumption and it is the origin of 1/3 of the greenhouse gases; therefore, the energy refurbishment in buildings and houses may have a remarkable impact.
- **Main change sought:** the consumption of renewable energies by public infrastructure and buildings should result in improved energy efficiency and consolidation of an economic development model based on green and ecological growth.
- **Expected activities:** Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
- **Beneficiaries:** public and private actors in the sector, economic operators, clusters and poles of competitiveness.

Specific objective 5b_1: Improving the coordination and effectiveness of prevention, disasters management and rehabilitation tools of damaged areas

Priority Axis 4: Encouraging adaptation to climatic change and risk prevention and management (TO5, IP 5b)

- **Brief justification:** justified by the geographical characteristics of the SUDOE space whose territory is faces natural risks already present and other potential risks resulting from the impact of climate change. These risks are associated with the scarcity of water resources and high temporal and spatial variability of rainfall which favours the intensification of drought conditions, forest fires, desertification, soil erosion and cyclical flooding.
- **Main change sought:** development of strategies, methods and of common coordination activities, considered as more effective than a set of specific and individual actions.
- **Expected activities:** measures include the design of emergency plans, set up of early warning systems, development of transnational risk management tools.
- **Beneficiaries:** public and private bodies: national, regional, local authorities, business associations or companies specialised in territorial diagnostic.
Specific objective 6c_1: Improving management methods of the common natural and cultural heritage through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation

Specific objective 6d_1: Reinforcing the cooperation of the SUDOE stakeholders of the natural sites through the development and the use of joint methods

Priority Axis 5: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources (TO6, IP 6c, 6d)

- Brief justification: justified by the existence of extensive forest areas, natural spaces, protected areas, etc. that need more exigent intervention methods if they are to guarantee their resilience regarding natural risks and those created by man (acting as a complement to OT5)

- Main change sought: the SUDOE space has a marked rurality, a great biodiversity, and an extremely rich natural and cultural heritage that needs not only to be protected but also to be encouraged as to making use of it and contributing to local development in a sustainable manner.

- Expected activities: Development of a network for experimentation and capitalisation of innovative methods for management and conservation of the spaces that may contribute to a high improvement of the strategies of the pertinent local stakeholders.

- Beneficiaries: public and private actors, specialists in tourism, environmental sector.

1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

The programme ex ante evaluation presents the analysis of the relevance and clarity of the indicator system, stating that the programme’s indicators selected for the monitoring and evaluation are satisfactory and appropriate. Common indicators have been considered, in spite of the “rigidity and inadequacy that some of those indicators present with regards to the capture of territorial cooperation component”. The main problem reported relates to the geographical scale covered, which is limited to NUTS 2. In the case of France, the data used to populate the indicators is even at the national level (not only the French regions comprised in the programme). Improving the quality of the indicators therefore relates to using data actually covering the programme area in order to better monitor and evaluate the evolution of the area’s situation itself and, vis-à-vis the European context. Moreover, the most updated data is not used in some cases, which therefore provides an obsolete picture of the situation. It is also recommended to develop more gender specific indicators (E.g. employment indicators) to better integrate the horizontal principle of equal opportunity. Likewise, indicators should be better taking into considerations specific social groups (E.g. youth unemployment, NEETs).

The ex-ante evaluation reports a need for additional technical guidance under the form of descriptive fiches better defining the results indicators and their calculation methodology to ensure a good understanding and monitoring. An aspect of utmost importance relating to the selection of indicators is their complementarity and the need to design an overall comprehensive indicator system rather than developing them individually.
The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Targeted Evidence Support

Territorial Evidence Report

Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

Interreg V-A – France – Belgium – The Netherlands – United Kingdom (Les Deux Mers/Two seas/Twee Zeeën)
Table of contents

1 Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation ................................................................. 1
   1.1 Programme ID ............................................................................................................... 1
   1.2 Context and programme area description ....................................................................... 1
   1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area .................... 1
   1.4 Overview needs and challenges .................................................................................... 2
   1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives ........................................................................................................... 3
   1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment ........................................ 5
Part 1: Programme Territorial Characterisation

1.1 Programme ID

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1.2 Context and programme area description

The 2 Seas area covers the coastal regions of 4 EU Member States along the Southern North Sea and the Channel: England (East Anglia; Essex; Surrey, East & West Sussex; Hampshire & Isle Of Wight; Kent; Dorset & Somerset; Cornwall & Isles Of Scilly; Devon); Belgium (Antwerpen; Oost-Vlaanderen; West-Vlaanderen), France (Picardie; Nord-Pas-De-Calais); and the Netherlands (Noord-Holland; Zuid-Holland; Zeeland; Noord-Brabant).

The areas’ connection to the North Sea and Channel is a common link across the Programme area. Large parts of the programme area are in close proximity to the capital cities of London, Amsterdam or Brussels. The area has been subject to major economic changes relating to the financial crisis, which have particularly affected SMEs, led to a rise in unemployment and risk of poverty, and impacted on R&D expenditure. However, compared to EU averages, innovation levels remained stable. Environmental concerns and sustainable development are a high priority in what is generally a densely populated area of the EU – large parts of the programme area are in close proximity to the capital cities of London, Amsterdam or Brussels. The Programme area has demonstrated particular strengths in blue economy, environmental technology and bio-technology. The Programme budget is € 392,143,504 with ERDF € 256,648,702 and national counterofpart funding € 135,494,802.

1.3 Contribution to EU 2020 strategy & situation in the programme area

The overall objective of the Programme is: to develop an innovative knowledge and research based, sustainable and inclusive 2 Seas. Its contribution to EU 2020 strategy is linked to strengths and weaknesses identified in the programme area.

Under Smart Growth, the 2 Seas programme area benefits from the presence of regions with high innovation performance. However, this performance varies across the area. Proximity to large capital cities provides access to a large knowledge market and offers opportunities e.g.
for provision of sites for manufacturing. For Sustainable Growth, one of the key challenges for the 2 Seas area is to accelerate the movement towards a low-carbon economy. For Inclusive Growth, levels of employment, youth employment, educational attainment and share of population at risk of poverty are favourable compared to EU-averages. However, the territorial impact of the economic crisis and increasing levels of territorial polarization are concerns.

1.4 Overview needs and challenges

In the 2 Seas area most regions lag behind targets in relation to: the Europe 2020 low carbon economy theme. Many also are lagging behind on education targets. For the knowledge economy, the situation mixed, with some regions below EU targets. Employment in the 2 Seas area is the only target where most regions are on track, but the financial crisis will have a negative impact. On the basis of an initial broad analysis, the programme focuses on the following key areas: In relation to R&D and innovation, the strength of some regions in R&D and high tech sectors is highlighted. At the same time, the area faces the lower performance of SMEs in R&D, territorial polarisation, social exclusion and lack of social innovation, the risks of brain drain and demographic ageing, outsourcing of R&D, skills shortages, internal competition and the lasting impacts of the economic crisis. Opportunities are identified in social innovation, targeted innovation policy and cluster development in: logistics, transport; environmental & marine technology (“blue economy”); agri-food; life sciences & health; communication, digital and creative industries. Issues linked to climate change is another area highlighted. Strengths are the area’s capacity and policy focus on the issues. Weaknesses include the area’s high vulnerability and sensitivity to climate change, and capacity issues in the most vulnerable regions. Together, these offer significant opportunities in relation to information sharing and planning, collective actions to address coastal and marine issues. In relation to the shift to a low carbon economy, the Programme notes the potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency across the region and accompanying policy commitment. However, the fact that the regions have high levels of carbon emissions and renewable energy production lags behind targets are identified as weaknesses. Opportunities are noted in relation to the development of renewables such as off shore wind and solar power and newer forms of energy production and efficiency. Threats are low acceptance, investment and take up of new technologies and solutions. No specific instruments related to integrated approaches are used. Although reference is made to the need for integrated coastal zone management.
1.5 Overview on the selected Thematic Objectives, Priority Axis, Investment priority, specific objectives

Specific objective 1.1: Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialization

Priority Axis 1: Technological and social innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: Innovation and competitiveness are a major challenge for 2 Sea regions facing international competition. It contributes to boosting economic growth and job creation.
- Main change sought: Improved conditions for innovation to the benefit of all stakeholders in the innovation chain
- Expected activities: Stimulating the cooperation of public and private stakeholders, civil society and research entities according to the “quadruple helix” paradigm; introducing and adopting common approaches, collaboration arrangements, joint structures and policy tools supporting capacity for delivering innovation.
- Beneficiaries: SMEs, NGOs, Civil Society, Local Authorities, Universities, key sectors and competitiveness clusters, research centres, public stakeholders, social and local services, business sector, chambers of commerce, research centres, civil society

Specific objective 1.2: Increase the delivery of innovation in smart specialisation sectors

Priority Axis 1: Technological and social innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: Exploits the high potential for innovation of the 2 Seas area which is mainly related to existing clusters for smart specialisation, networks of research, possibility of high technology transfer.
- Main change sought: Better exploitation of research outcomes and innovation application, specifically in key sectors
- Expected activities: Enhancing technology transfer and uptake, in particular by SMEs, testing and developing pilot actions; promoting a closer, more effective and operational cooperation among the key stakeholders of innovation
- Beneficiaries: Competitiveness clusters, incubators, business sector stakeholders, regional authorities, chambers of commerce, research centres, technology parks and civil society.

Specific objective 1.3: Increase the development of social innovation applications to make more efficient and effective local services to address the key societal challenges in the 2 Seas area

Priority Axis 1: Technological and social innovation (TO1, IP 1b)

- Brief justification: The development of social innovative applications is useful to tackle the challenges related to inclusion themes, and to promote more effective and efficient social support against unemployment, in particular for youth people, poverty and social exclusion.
- Main change sought: Development of social innovation addressing challenges related to social inclusion
- Expected activities: Exploiting and adopting the results of research; promoting a closer, more effective and operational cooperation between the third sector and social enterprises, private and public sector.
- Beneficiaries: Social and local services.
Specific objective 2: Increase the adoption of low-carbon technologies and applications in sectors that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

Priority Axis 2.1: Low carbon technologies (TO4, IP 4f)

- **Brief justification:** Low carbon economy is a key issue for sustainable territorial development in all parts of the programme area. The programme partners see an important role for the 2 Seas programme to increase the adoption of low carbon technologies and invest in cross-border actions to pilot and roll out low carbon technologies in the 2 Seas area.
- **Main change sought:** Increased adoption of low carbon tech leading to reduced carbon dependency and GHG emissions
- **Expected activities:** Enhancing the uptake of state-of-the-art solutions; testing and demonstration of these technologies and applications to pave the way for their wider uptake; promoting a closer, more effective and operational cooperation of businesses, knowledge institutes and public sector
- **Beneficiaries:** Businesses, research institutes, knowledge institutes and public sector and relevant entities and stakeholders that can directly benefit from the improved services and conditions.

Specific objective 3.1: Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects

Priority Axis 3: Adaptation to climate change (TO5, IP 5a)

- **Brief justification:** Adaptation and preparedness in response to the effects of climate change is an important challenge for the whole 2 Seas programme area. The area’s maritime location makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change.
- **Main change sought:** Increasing ecosystem-based adaptation capacity
- **Expected activities:** Develop collective approaches which will be integrated into spatial planning and solutions for environmental and economic resilience and integrated management of coastal zones; improving the coherence and coordination between strategies and actions, and mechanisms for the cross-border exchange of information and data.
- **Beneficiaries:** Local and regional authorities, environmental agencies, emergency services and coast guard centres, universities and research centres and local communities will be among the beneficiaries.

Specific objective 4.1: Increase the adoption of new solutions for a more efficient use of natural resources and materials

Priority Axis 4: Resource efficient economy (TO6, IP 6g)

- **Brief justification:** Achieving an increased adoption of new solutions for a more resource-efficient economy requires the reinforcement of the institutional framework conditions and the capacity of business, public bodies and other stakeholders in society to adopt new models and approaches.
- **Main change sought:** Achieving an increased adoption of new solutions for a more resource-efficient economy
- **Expected activities:** Adopting and implementing collaborative approaches, structures and policy tools for the more efficient use of the natural resources and materials
- **Beneficiaries:** Policy-makers and economic actors in charge of developing and implementing resource efficient policies, strategies and business models are among the expected beneficiaries.
Specific objective 4.2: Increase the adoption of new circular economy solutions

Priority Axis 4: (TO6, IP 6g)

- **Brief justification:** responds to the identified need of the 2 Seas area to develop resource-efficiency policies and change attitudes of economic stakeholders to more sustainable behaviour.
- **Main change sought:** Achieving an increased adoption of new solutions for a circular economy
- **Expected activities:** adopting and implementing collaborative approaches, structures and policy tools in order to facilitate the transition towards a circular economy.
- **Beneficiaries:** Policy-makers and economic actors in charge of developing and implementing resource efficient policies, strategies and business models are among the expected beneficiaries.

Coherence and Cooperation: Particular attention is drawn to the capacity of ETC to help improve coherence, coordination and alignment with policies affecting maritime regions, including the Atlantic Strategy. The need for coordination with other EU funds is also highlighted.

### 1.6 Indicators selected in the Programme: Initial assessment

*Ex ante evaluation notes that: All the indicators are specific, relevant, measurable and time-bound.* Some output indicators risk being interpreted as “Number of projects”. It is important that the CP provides a definition detailing the indicator and explaining that this indicator does not refer to the number of project. All the result indicators have been constructed through an ad hoc and sound methodology.

### References


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