Interreg Specific Objective 1 (ISO)

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An important warning

This uses information available prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe.

An important warning

- Focus on common understanding of intentions

- Mechanics not 100% stable

- Use time smartly to focus on YOUR governance needs + be inspired by examples

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Reminder

- **Territorial Cooperation is broader than Interreg (« cooperation beyond funding »)**
  - Reducing legal and administrative obstacles – Border Focal Point
  - Legal tools – EGTC + ECBM
  - Embedding cooperation in EU policies

- **CBC internal** ➡ Communication (2017) « Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions »

- **External borders, IPA III and NDICI** ➡ policy frameworks

- **Outermost regions** ➡ Communication COM(2017)623

- **Larger spaces** ➡ MRS/sea-basin strategies and action plans

What is ISO1?

ISO 1 (based on Trilogues)

« **Better cooperation governance** »

- Institutional capacity

- Reduce obstacles

- People-to-people

- Strategies (macro-regional, sea-basin, other)

- External borders, outermost regions: democracy, civil society, reform and democratic transitions, efficient public administration

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What is expected?

- It is not "money taken away from programmes"

- It is "money given to increase the impact of programmes"

- Why ? Institutional capacity and governance issues of a structural nature = high potential to lead to real change

- Objective of key importance for EC – it touches the very heart of cooperation

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What can it be used for?

Examples of activities

- Dialogue (to agree on the problems and discuss possible solutions)

- Studies (e.g. to better understand border obstacles and processes)

- Expertise (to understand in detail border issues)

- Pilot projects (to test possible solutions)

- Exchange of experience (to share solutions and increase their impact)

- Trainings, peer reviews and staff exchanges (to enhance institutional capacity)

- Data collection

- People-to-people projects (to promote citizens' cooperation).

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Can ISO1 finance infrastructure?

- It is not the objective of ISO1. Infrastructure is for PO1-5

- Equipment/small investment is only possible if:

  - It is of a minor, complementary nature

  - It is demonstrated that it specifically contributes to the objective of the ISO1 (e.g. IT systems that operate jointly)

ISO 1 in the light of COVID-19 pandemic

- OECD 2020: pandemic has a very strong regional impact

  → Need for **enhanced regional and local response**

- Coordinating actions across borders to minimise crisis management failures and negative cross-border spill-overs

- External cooperation programmes apt to infuse knowledge and facilitate cross-border interaction in the fight to the virus and subsequent phase of economic upturn

- Supported actions in line with CRII, CRII+, ENI CRII and IPA CRII and „Team Europe" packages

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How to programme ISO1?

Regulation

- Articles 14(4), 15(2) and (5) of the ETC Regulation

- It is different from technical assistance, which is for programme management

- ISO1 is a policy objective (in addition to the other 5)

- It has 6 « specific objectives »:
  1. Institutional capacity of public authorities
  2. Legal and administrative cooperation
  3. People-to-people actions for increased trust
  4. Institutional capacity to manage macro-regional strategies
  5. Support to democracy and civil society
  6. Other actions to support better cooperation governance

Budget *

- Proposal <u>by the Commission</u>:
  - ISO1: 15% shall be allocated
  - *or*
  - ISO2: 15% shall be allocated

- Proposal <u>by the EP</u>:
  - ISO1: up to 15% shall be allocated
  - *and*
  - ISO2: up to 10% may be allocated

- Proposal <u>by the Council</u>:
  - ISO1: at least 10% may be allocated
  - *or*
  - ISO2: at least 10% may be allocated

* For the interregional programmes **Interact and ESPON** ISO1 = 100% *(Art. 15(4) ETC Regulation)*

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How to do it?

- Simplest option = a separate priority axis

- Indicators and targets:
  - Targets should be realistic
  - Avoid open-end projects (where studies disappear in the drawer)
  - Set targets which can bring the solutions for cross border obstacles further

- Matching intervention codes may be developed later

- Could be implemented through one/ several small projects funds

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Institutional cooperation and obstacles

Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
RCO 85 Participations in joint training schemes	RCR 81 Completion of joint training schemes
RCO 117 Solutions for legal and administrative obstacles across borders identified	RCR 82 Legal or administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved
RCO 86 Joint administrative or legal agreements signed	RCR 83 Persons covered by joint administrative or legal agreements signed
RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions	RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations RCR 86 Stakeholders/institutions with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders

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People-to-people cooperation

Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO 81 Participations in joint actions across borders	RCR 85 Participations in joint actions after project completion
RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
RCO 115 Public events across borders jointly organised* *Indicator proposed by the Council*	RCR 85 Participations in joint actions after project completion* *Not optimal but possible*

Macroregional strategies

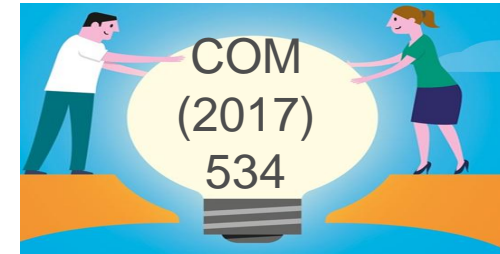| Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO 118 Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macroregional strategies	*Not optimal but possible:* RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations RCR 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations RCR 85 - Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion

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Other possible indicators

Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO 82 Participations in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion	RCR 85 Participations in joint actions after project completion *Other RCRs are also possible, for instance: RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations*
RCO X Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages* ** Indicator proposed by the Council without a corresponding result indicator*	*Not optimal but possible:* *RCR79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations* *RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations*

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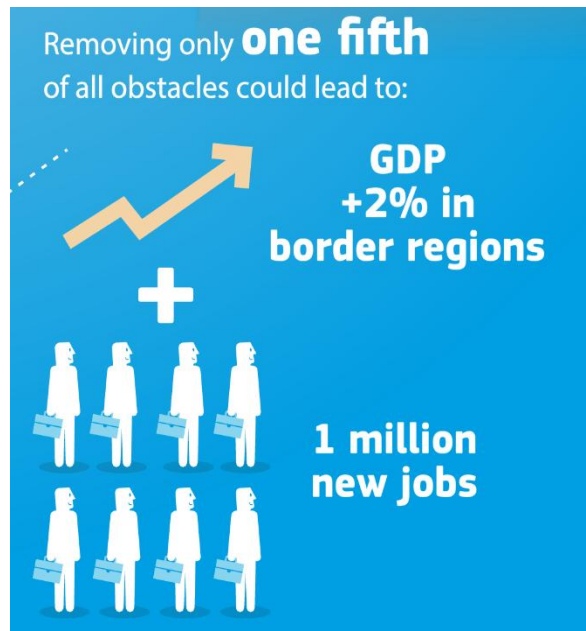
Focus on cross-border obstacles

Cross-border legal / administrative obstacles

2015 – Cross-Border Review
Consultation + Study (and inventory) + Stakeholders workshops

"Border Effect"
Unused potential

Removing only **one fifth** of all obstacles could lead to:

GDP +2% in border regions

+

1 million new jobs

COM (2017) 534

10 areas action plan

(including, inter alia)

Healthcare

Why can't individuals go to nearest hospital?
Why can't ambulances cross the border?

Transport

How to ensure CB public transport?

Employment
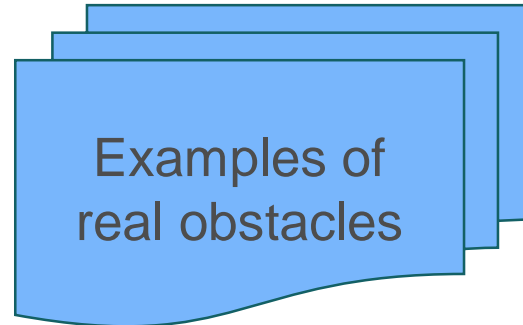
Lack of information for commuters;
Lack of recognition of qualifications

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Cross-border obstacles,
Available knowledge and experiences

COM (2017) 534

Cross-Border Review

SOLUTIONS
Pilot projects

Political / Social / Economic frame

Examples of real obstacles

Examples of solutions

Health care study;
Missing rail links study;
ESPON Cross-Border Public Services

National + regional initiatives;
Public transport study (upcoming);
Other institutions (CoR; AEBR; …)

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Approach

- Partners on each side of the border should:

  - Know and trust each other (through cooperation)

  - Identify the obstacles (mapping)

  - Understand the <u>details</u>

  - Work <u>together</u> to find solutions

- Differentiated approach

  → This can (should !) be funded by ISO1

Examples of results

- Supporting cross-border employment *by facilitating access to labour market across the border (joint vacancies/databases; joint skills development; language training)*

- Facilitating cross-border accessibility *by promoting joint mobility plans*

- Enabling cross-border public administration *by promoting interoperability of systems and CB access to public services*

- Providing reliable and understandable information and assistance to citizens *by setting up information points for commuters*

- Promoting border multi-lingualism *by ensuring access to education on the neighbouring region or by developing joint bi-lingual curricula*

- Promoting greater pooling of health care facilities *by ensuring access to healthcare on the other side (simplifying reimbursements, pooling equipment & expertise)*

- Building evidence (data) of cross-border interaction to inform decision-making *by implementing observatories of CB interactions*

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Cross-border obstacles,
All this info is available on our platform

Interested in **BOOSTING EU BORDER REGION'S** potential?

JOIN US on the new EU border platform !

#EUBorderRegions

Regional and Urban Policy

🔗 https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/border-regions

Please share your experiences...

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Focus on MRS implementation

References

- General Affairs Council conclusions from 21/10/2014 on the Governance of macro-regional strategies

- 4 adopted macro-regional strategies and 3 sea-basin strategies coordinated by the Commission:

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR; 2009)

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR; 2010)

- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR; 2014)

- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP; 2015)

- Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (2018)

- Initiative for the Western Mediterranean (2017)

- Atlantic Maritime Strategy (2011)

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General principles (GAC 2014 conclusions)

- **Whom to involve**:

  - EU Institutions, Member States including on regional level and participating non-EU countries

  - Stakeholders and relevant key implementers (e.g. National Coordinators/National Contact Points, Priority Area Coordinators etc.)

- Tailor-made approach respecting each Strategy and administrative set-up of the participating countries

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What should be supported under TN programmes

Governance of MRS, sea-basin strategies and other territorial strategies by:

Ø Empowering the relevant MRS key implementers, programming and implementationing bodies

Ø Improving communication to raise awareness on relevant strategies

Ø Coordination between relevant strategies and EU programmes

Ø Other relevant actions

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Focus on external borders

References

- Council of Europe: „The Principles of Good Governance" – 12 recommendations

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) – governance aspects

- Future NDICI legal framework: Support to democracy, rule of law and governance (including local governance)

- IPA III legal framework, Enlargement packages and accession negotiation frameworks

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Approach

Lessons learnt:

- Thematic Objective 5 under ENI CBC

- Thematic Priority „f" of Annex III of IPA Regulation

- Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) - and other

Emphasis on:

- Improving capacities of regional and local authorities to deliver quality public services to citizens in border regions

- Empowering local communities

- Civil society participation

Specificities of Outermost regions

- Reference: Communication COM (2017)623

- Problems are of a different nature than in continental Europe: long distances, remoteness, neighborhood with ACP countries and OCTs.

- Cooperation programmes for the OMR are of a « hybrid » nature: cross-border and transnational

- Actions that might be undertaken: hosting the EDF-ERDF platform, cross-border activities as for other types of borders, TN governance measures as for other TN programmes.

Conclusion

Main messages

- ISO1 is very important as it will address the key obstacles to good cross-border cooperation: (1) legal/ administrative obstacles and (2) lack of trust

- Important tool for capacity-building (all levels) and for sustainable cross-border or transnational governance structures (e.g. EGTC)

- The tool for MRS to reform their governance, reshape their action plans and develop a vision

- Even if budget is small, impact is expected to be very high

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Main messages

There are 'low-hanging fruits' for which we need results in 2030:

- Some of the 230 obstacles identified in the cross-border review
- Some of the 43 cases identified under b-solutions (which are likely to happen in other borders)
- The four MRS are in urgent need to improve the capacity of their stakeholders to better integrate the transnational dimension in their daily work