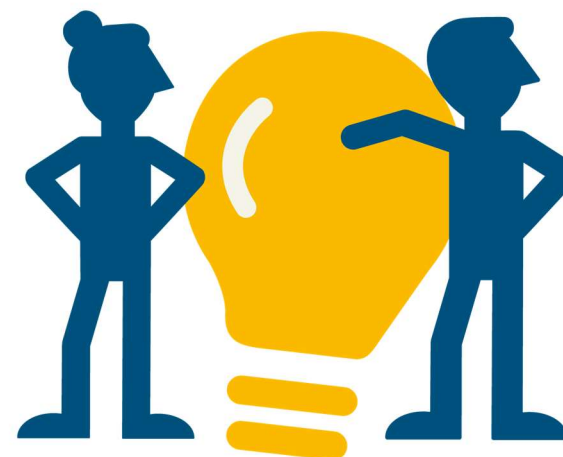


Interreg Regulation Comparison between 2014-2020 and 2021-27 periods

December 2021



Version 1 – December 2021



European Regional Development Fund

Interreg Regulation 2021-2027	Interreg Regulation and other sources 2014-2020	Summary of changes	Relevance of the change (H–high, M–medium, L–low)
Article 1 Subject matter and scope	Article 1 - Subject matter and scope	External programmes integrated as part of the Interreg	M (impact for transnational & interregional programmes not having been involved with external cooperation)
Article 2 Definitions	NEW!	New definitions of: - IPA III beneficiary - third country - partner country - cross-border leagal body - regional integration and cooperation organization	L
Article 3 Interreg strands	Article 2 - Components of the European territorial cooperation goal	New Interreg breakdown: - Interreg A (CBC) - internal cross-border - external cross-border - Interreg B (TN) - Interreg C (interregional) - Interreg Europe - URBACT - INTERACT - ESPON - Interreg D (outermost regions' cooperation)	L
Article 4 Geographical coverage for cross-border cooperation	Article 3 - Geographical coverage	External programmes added, for NEXT no distinction between type of regions UK added as for CBC internal cooperation	L
Article 5 Geographical coverage for transnational cooperation	Article 3 - Geographical coverage	Macroregional strategies and Sea Basin Strategies taken under consideration, where applicable	L

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Article 6 Geographical coverage for interregional cooperation	Article 3 - Geographical coverage	no change	L
Article 7 Geographical coverage for outermost regions' cooperation	NEW	all regions listed in the first paragraph of Art 349 TFEU shall be supported by the ERDF	L
Article 8 List of Interreg programme areas to receive support	Article 3 - Geographical coverage	no change - the same procedure, where EC shall adopt implementing acts setting out the list of Interreg programme areas	L
Article 9 ERDF resources for Interreg programmes	Article 4 - Resources for European territorial cooperation goal	Allocation per strands is difficult to compare as in the new Regulation the outermost regions have their own strand, is currently included in strands A and B. 2014-2020 2021-2027 Strand A 74.05% 72.2% Strand B 20.36% 18.2% Strand C 5.59% 6.1% Strand D - 3.5% Overall the total amount available for Interreg has been reduced.	H (overall political decision, which may have impact on the setup of particular programmes)
Article 10 Cross-fund provisions	Article 4 - Resources for European territorial cooperation goal	Taking note of ENI & IPA programmes being part of the Interreg Regulation: more explicit references, in particular to transnational and interregional cooperation. Equivalent amounts for ENI and IPA remains.	M (impact for transnational & interregional programmes not having been involved with external cooperation)
Article 11 List of Interreg programme resources	Article 4 - Resources for European territorial cooperation goal	Commission's Implementing Act will also contain information on transfers between strands by Member States	L

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Article 12 Return of resources and discontinuation	Article 4 - Resources for European territorial cooperation goal	Additional scenario for B programmes and OCTs in case of problems with partner countries.	M
Article 13 Co-financing rates	Article 120 - Determination of co-financing rates (CPR)	Max co-financing rate moved from priority axis to programme level Max co-financing rate reduced from 85% to 80% NEXT: will keep 90% co-financing (=EU support)	M
Article 14 Interreg specific objectives	Article 7 - Investment priorities	Introduction of new objectives (equal ranks as POs) ISO 1 is closest to TO 11 in 14-20 but its overarching objective is improved governance ISO 2 picks up politically sensitive issues of border management for external programmes (underlying rationale: 'CBC makes only sense when you are able to cross the border')	H New objectives!
Article 15 Thematic concentration	Article 6 - Thematic concentration	Significant changes - mainly the introduction of compulsory POs 2 & 4 for internal CBCs In terms of percentage less strict (at least 60% on four instead of 80% in 14-20) BUT all have to take PO2 and internal CBCs have to take PO4 as well Alignment with MRS/SBS: 80% of allocation to TN programmes has to contribute to MRS / SBS (if relevant)	H PO2 and P)4 mandatory and for internal CBCs
Article 16 Preparation and submission of Interreg programmes	Article 8 - Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes	Provisions far more comprehensive! - Covers internal as well as external programmes and strand D - TN (B) programmes have to consult MRS/SBS stakeholders; participating third/partner countries/OCTS have to consult regional integration and cooperation organisations - Timelines for submission for internal (9Ms after approval of Regulation) & external programmes (linked to approval of strategy documents) - No major changes to consultation routines prior to submission	M

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Article 17 Content of Interreg programmes	Article 8 - Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes	Significant changes in the intervention logic (PO and SO pre-defined, different approach to result indicators), in text increased focus on partnership principle, less annexes required	M
Article 18 Approval of Interreg programmes	Article 8 - Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes	The new article clarifies the procedure and the timelines for the approval procedure.	L (happens only once)
Article 19 Amendment of Interreg programmes	Article 8 - Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes	The new article clarifies the procedure and the timelines for the amendment procedure.	L
Article 20 Integrated territorial development	Article 11 - Integrated territorial investment	Changes: Paragraph is more detailed on implementation; for territorial strategy building and/or selection of operations under the strategy the authority or body shall represent at least two participating countries thereof one Member State (MS); EGTCs and cross-border legal bodies may act as sole beneficiaries when implementing an ITI (provided a separation of functions is safeguarded)	L
Article 21 Community-led local development	Article 10 - Community-led local development	No major change; except one additional clause: no single interest group may control the decision-making (most likely 'default' clause for LAGs also anchored in CPR)	L
Article 22 Selection of Interreg operations	Article 12 - Selection of operations	Significant changes: EC might request notification for selection criteria prior to submission to MC; the Article now lists several minimum conditions to be met when selecting the operations; partly new to common practice (e.g. assessment related to climate resilience of infrastructure)	H Selection approach has to be a number of pre-defined conditions!
Article 23 Partnership within Interreg operations	Article 12 - Selection of operations	No major change	L

Interreg Regulation 2021-2027	Interreg Regulation and other sources 2014-2020	Summary of changes	Relevance of the change (H–high, M–medium, L–low)
Article 24 Support to projects of limited financial volume	NEW	Significant change since it is a new requirement for strand A programmes either to have small-scale projects (directly managed by the MA/JS or to establish an SPF; there is an exit route for B and D programmes	H new approach!
Article 25 Small project funds	NEW	Article providing clarification to overcome legal uncertainties; clarifies position of project & final recipient (SPF is a project delivering its results via small projects); position and tasks of the SPF beneficiary (not an intermediate body), compulsory use of SCOs and option to use draft budget	H new approach!
Article 26 Tasks of the lead partner	Article 13 - Beneficiaries Article 46, ENI CBC IR	Significant changes: LP has to confirm that also partners' expenditure is spent for project implementation in compliance with document (contract) of the MA (14-20: LP had to make sure that management verification had been done); nor more upfront limitation to the seat of the LP (14-20: MA had to agree if not from participating MS) NEXT: no significant changes (except of one - regulation allows in duly justified exceptional cases, the payments directly to the partners by the MA)	M (responsibility of LP for partner expenditure in terms of content)
Article 27 Technical assistance	Article 17 - Technical assistance	Significant change. Technical assistance will be reimbursed as a flat rate of reported programme expenditure (projects) without being its own priority axis. Consequences: TA is no longer a fixed maximum amount, independent from the implementation speed of the projects. Only if projects advance & report, the programme will receive TA.	H new approach!
Article 28 Monitoring committee	NEW (Art. 47 of CPR)	(New) Rules of procedure shall prevent any situation of conflict of interest when selecting operations	L

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Article 29 Composition of the monitoring committee	NEW (art. 48 of CPR) Article 22, ENI CBC IR	No substantial change - more detailed description for the cooperation programmes	L
Article 30 Functions of the monitoring committee	NEW (art. 49 of CPR)	No substantial change - more detailed description of cooperation programmes (e.g. setting up steering committee/s)	L
Article 31 Review	Article 15 - Annual review	The review provided by the MA to the EC only on the request instead of every year; The MA shall provide it in one month; May be in writing	H new approach!
Article 32 Transmission of data	Article 14 - Implementation reports	New simplified approach! The managing authority shall electronically transmit to the Commission cumulative data for the respective Interreg programme 4 times per year (by 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October); List of item to be submitted limited to overall programme performance (i.e. number of project selected, value of resources committed, value of resourced claimed by LP, values of output and result indicators for selected and finalised projects, etc.); Figures also for the financial instruments to be provided; The same information shall be publically available of on the official programme website.	H new approach!
Article 33 Final performance report	Article 14 - Implementation reports	New simplified approach! No more annual reports! Only final performance report to be submitted by 15 Feb 2031 EC will examine the report and inform MA about any observations (5 months), MA has another 3 months for further clarifications and inform about measures taken, another 2 months for the EC to inform about acceptance of the report; MA shall publish final performance report on the website.	H new approach!

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Article 34 Indicators for Interreg programmes	Article 16 - Indicators for the European territorial cooperation goal	Significant changes: new approach to result indicators (measured again at project level; back to the approach in 2007-13); common indicators expanded, also common indicators for Interreg	M
Article 35 Evaluation during the programming period	CPR, Articles 54-57	Significant changes: no more ex-ante evaluation; Union Added Value as criteria summarising relevance for EU strategies; 14-20 effectiveness, efficiency and impact had been compulsory criteria; now it is more open ('one or more of those'); impact evaluation until June 2029	M
Article 36 Responsibilities of managing authorities and partners with regard to transparency and communication	NEW (CPR?)	New approach! Much more detailed description what and when should be available. - communication officer to be appointed; - 6 months after programme's approval website should be available with all the important info about the programme; - each project partner or body implementing a financing instrument shall acknowledge support from the Interreg fund;; - the term "Interreg" shall be used next to the emblem of the EU; - The MA may cancel up to 2% of support if remedial actions have not been put in place - for SPF and financial instruments, the beneficiary shall ensure that final recipients with the communication requirements;	H new approach!
Article 37 Rules on eligibility of expenditure	Article 18 - Rules on eligibility of expenditure Article 20 - Eligibility of operations in cooperation programmes depending on location	Changes concern: - no more monitoring of expenditure spent outside the programme area, concerned projects simply have to contribute to the objective of the programme - equally applicable for NEXT - MAs can "override" the AA in cases where the AA finds a project as such not eligible.	M (simplification for expenditure outside the programme area, ineligible projects are rather rare)

Interreg Regulation 2021-2027	Interreg Regulation and other sources 2014-2020	Summary of changes	Relevance of the change (H–high, M–medium, L–low)
Article 38 General provisions on eligibility of cost categories	Article 28 - Use of the euro Article 2, Delegated Regulation (EC) 481/2014 Article 67, ENI CBC IR ; Article 48-51, ENI CBC IR	Changes concern: - Gifts are not eligible any longer (any promotional material needed is covered in other provisions) - Simplified approach to exchange rate: + only concerns countries not having adopted the Euro + amounts can be taken from the accounts of the project partner	M (mainly changes concerning the exchange rate)
Article 39 Staff costs	Article 3, Delegated Regulation (EC) 481/2014	No significant changes. Just, that link between CPR and Interreg Regulation is now stronger & hourly rate calculation has to be understood as an additional off-the-shelf SCO (unit cost)	L (hourly rate calculation = SCO)
Article 40 Office and administrative costs	Article 4, Delegated Regulation (EC) 481/2014	No changes.	L
Article 41 Travel and accommodation costs	Article 5, Delegated Regulation (EC) 481/2014	An up to 15% of staff costs of-the-shelf flat rate has been introduced.	M (simplification reimbursing and controlling travel & accommodation expenditure)
Article 42 External expertise and services costs	Article 6, Delegated Regulation (EC) 481/2014	No changes.	L
Article 43 Equipment costs	Article 7, Delegated Regulation (EC) 481/2014	No changes.	L
Article 44 Costs for infrastructure and works	NEW	New provisions, mainly based on Interact factsheet	H (new cost category)
Article 45 Interreg programme authorities	Article 21 - Designation of authorities	Changes concern: - no more designation (simplification) - limitation of authorities to MA and AA, other identified	M (simplification, limitation for other authorities like intermediate bodies)

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		authorities (in the sense of the Regulation) have to carry out their function for the whole programme territory	
Article 46 Functions of the managing authority	Article 23 - Functions of the managing authority Article 32, ENI CBC IR	No significant changes for the set-up for management verifications, BUT management verifications have to be carried out according to a risk-based sampling approach NEXT: management verifications can be externalised, but also the internal system can be kept	H switching from a 100% verification approach to a risk-based sampling will be challenging
Article 47 The accounting function	Article 24 - Functions of the certifying authority	Significant change: with the objective to eliminate an additional layer of control, the certifying authority has been transformed into an "accounting function". This means in practice the accounting function can be carried out by: - the MA/JS (internally) - the MA, but a different department (semi-internally) - different organisation, via public procurement (or national appointment) (externally)	H new approach!
Article 48 Functions of the audit authority	Article 25 - Functions of the audit authority	No significant changes, with the exception for common sample for audit of operations - no more opinion on the legality and regularity of expenditure.	M new approach with regard to the sampling for audit of operations
Article 49 Audit of operations	NEW	Significant change. All Interreg programmes will be pooled for sampling for the audit of operations and calculating the error-rate.	H new approach!
Article 50 Budgetary commitments	NEW	No actual implementation impact	L
Article 51 Payments and pre-financing	Article 27 - Budget commitments, payments and recoveries Article 60, ENI CBC IR	Changes concern: - the modulation for annual pre-financing (1% for 2021 & 2022, 3% for 2023-26) - NEXT pre-financing will be up to 80% of annual commitments to the programme (no change) - annual clearance for pre-financing is limited to 2021 and	M cash-flow might be an issue for programmes given the new approach to TA and annual clearance in the early programme stage

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		2022 (with submission of annual accounts 2023, the latest), all other pre-financing to be cleared with final annual accounts (De-commitment: n+3, except 2029: n+2 and n+3)	
Article 52 Recoveries	Article 27 - Budget commitments, payments and recoveries	Changes concern the recovery possibilities in case MS do not reimburse the MA; it seems that the COM can get involved - However, the wording in the Regulation is rather complex and discussion are ongoing... No other changes with regard to the recovery chain.	L
Article 53 Applicable provisions	NEW	concerns the new programmes integrated in the Interreg Regulation (PEACE, OCTs, IPA, NEXT), no implementation impact	L
Article 54 Interreg programme authorities and their functions	Article 31, ENI CBC IR	NEXT: Revised role for national authorities - partner countries shall identify national or regional authorities as "contact points"	M
Article 55 Management methods	NEW	Formalising the options for different management methods: shared management and indirect and direct management	L
Article 56 Eligibility	NEW	Sets the eligibility period with regard to concluding the financial agreement	M
Article 57 Large infrastructure projects	NEW Article 41, ENI CBC IR	NEXT: Both "operations of strategic importance" (defined in CPR) and "large infrastructure projects" (defined in Interreg Regulation). Lighter approval procedure for LIPs (EC does not approve the projects, it's the MC)	M
Article 58 Procurement	NEW Article 52, 53-56, ENI CBC IR; Article 8 and 9, ENI CBC CIR 236/2014	NEXT: the rules are similar to the current ones, but the legal construction includes numerous cross-references between the applicable regulations.	L

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Article 59 Conclusion of financing agreements under shared management	NEW Articles 8 and 9 of ENI CBC IR	NEXT: change concerns Unified deadline for signature of the FAs: - programmes with 1 partner country: 31 December following the year of first budget commitment - programmes with > 1 partner country: at least one by 31 December following the year of first budget commitment, the other(s) by 30 June the following year	M
Article 60 Third country, partner country or OCT contribution other than co-financing	NEW Article 9 of ENI CBC IR	NEXT: The financial contribution from participating countries transferred to the MA is part of the “national co-financing” The equivalent article in the ENI CBC IRs refers to this financial contribution as “country’s co-financing”	M
Article 61 Outermost regions’ cooperation	NEW	Specific implementing provisions for the programme management of OCTs	M
Article 62 Exercise of the delegation	Article 29 - Exercise of the delegation	no change	L
Article 63 Committee Procedure	NEW	Formality, no impact on implementation	L
Article 64 Transitional provisions	Article 30 - Transitional provisions	no change	L
Article 65 Entry into force	Article 32 - Entry into force	no change	L