

Focus on selection! Vol 1 – building blocks



Draft agenda

12 May 2022 (10:30 – 15:00 CET)

Online





Focus on selection! #1

Online, 12 May 2022

Outline

The assessment and selection of projects is most probably the decisive step in the project management cycle of an Interreg programme. To fund projects with high value-added in compliance with the programme objectives is the key purpose for every Interreg programme.

In close cooperation with colleagues from DG Regio we want to focus on these two steps. We are inviting you to two consecutive webinars focussing on assessment and selection. This is the first webinar. The second one is scheduled for May 19.

We see the need to do it now! Assessment and selection - next to guidance for applicants - is one of the initial steps in the project management cycle, i.e. one of the first and major concerns for all programmes after approval.

Seemingly, there is still work to be done in that regard. The European Court of Auditor's (ECA) Report on Interreg has revealed that selection is one of the major deficiencies in many programmes and a significant number of projects fails to achieve sustainable results; the latter point indicates another challenge which is linked to deficiencies in selection.

In this webinar we will focus on the **building blocks**, i.e. the technical requirements from different but quite practical perspectives.

You will learn more about the:

- ECA report;
- Coherent pathways from call to assessment; and
- Interpretation of the key criteria – project relevance, cooperation character and partnership relevance.

The second webinar scheduled for May 19 will focus on the **process**, in particular assessment and decision-making in the MC.

Objectives

In close cooperation with colleagues from DG Regio we invite representatives from all programmes to join our event in order to:

- Hear and share reflections on assessment and selection
- Collect your questions, doubts and concerns
- Search for answers, solutions and common sense

Who is it for?

Please note that the target group for this workshop is staff from managing authorities (MA) and joint secretariats (JS), national authorities (NA) but also Monitoring committee (MC) members and staff from other bodies working closely on the subject.



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CET

Thursday, 12 May

10.20 – 10.30

Check-in to virtual meeting room and technical settings

Please join the virtual meeting room before the start of the meeting. It will be open 10 min before the event starts.

10.30 – 10.45

Welcome and introduction, meeting objectives

Interact, DG Regio

10.45 – 11.30

The ECA Special Report 14/2021: Interreg cooperation: The potential of the European Union's cross-border regions has not yet been fully unlocked¹: Summary of main findings

Niels-Erik Brokopp, European Court of Auditors (ECA)

Q&A

Objective: To hear first-hand expertise from one of the authors of the ECA Report

11.30 – 11.45

Comfort break

11.45 – 12.45

Building a coherent line from calls over applicant's manual to the assessment criteria

- Legal requirements
- The shared approach in HIT and steps beyond
- Translating it into practice: assessment sheets for 21-27

Q&A

Objective: To have a common understanding of legal requirements and general frameworks and exemplary translation to practice

12.45 – 13.30

Lunch break

13.30 – 14.45

Working on the decisive strategic criteria

Facilitated by Interact

(45 min group work, 15 min reporting)

Group work on the strategic criteria: **Cooperation character** (or the "cooperation dimension" in the project); i.e. the major reason why the project is submitted to the Interreg programme. We want to consider different angles of the strategic criteria, i.e. mainly the relevance of the idea or challenge addressed, the relevance of the partnership and elements to ensure sustainable results.

We want to discuss along two dimensions:

- Cross-border dimension
- Transnational dimension

Reporting back to the plenary

¹ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=58917>



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Q&A

Objective: To exchange on the actual interpretation of key criteria and the most relevant sub-questions in assessment

14.45 – 15.00

Closure, outlook on following seminar