



The 2014-2020 Interreg Programme Management Handbook is composed of fact sheets. Each theme is covered by one fact sheet so that the reader can easily and quickly choose the relevant fact sheet.

Fact Sheet; **Achieving result-orientation through the use of the Intervention Logic and the Performance Framework**

1. What is it? What is the definition of the term / theme of this fact sheet?

In the programming period 2014-2020 the cohesion policy pursues a result-oriented policy in order to better contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy. For programmes including the Interreg programmes that means moving away from a focus on the absorption of funds to a clearer articulation of the results - a result-oriented approach based on the theory of change: The Interreg programme interventions have to be more specific on their aim to change the situation in a region/area for a particular target group. The clear articulation of the **intervention logic** should help the Interreg programmes plan what they intend to achieve/change. The **performance framework** is a tool for examining the performance of the programmes at the level of priorities against the milestones set for the end of 2018.

In addition to these two tools (intervention logic and performance framework), the **result indicator** also plays an important role in this programming period: The result indicator should capture the changes the programme is aiming for. Monitoring of the result indicator reflects if the indicator is moving in the desired direction, and if the programme implementation is on track. In the evaluation, the impact of the intervention is explored by specifying the programme's contribution to the observed change.

2. Why we are discussing it?

In the 2014-2020 programming period, the cohesion policy shifts its focus from action and financial means to results. In order to contribute to this result-oriented approach, Interreg programmes use a more strategic way of setting up their intervention (intervention logic). The performance framework is a new tool for checking whether the programme reaches its aims planned per priority axis. This approach is for the Interreg programmes a new strategic way of planning and implementing their programme, which raises many new questions and brings with it many new challenges.

What does the intervention logic look like?

The intervention logic demonstrates the casual link between priority axis, thematic objectives, investment priorities, specific objectives, result indicators, planned type of actions and output indicators. To build a focused Intervention Logic, the Interreg programmes should consider the following points:

- Priority axis should correspond to one thematic objective and be comprised of one or more investment priorities from that thematic objective. For the efficiency of the programme it is also possible to combine investment priorities from different thematic objectives.
- At least 80% of the ERDF allocation must be concentrated on up to 4 thematic objectives. Each thematic objective is translated into investment priorities. The programme can choose the optimal mix of them.
- Each investment priority must be linked to at least one specific objective.
- Each specific objective reflects the change that the programme is aiming for which will be measured by at least one result indicator (max. two result indicators per specific objective)
- The result indicators are linked to the specific objectives, and capture what the programme wants to change.
- Output indicators reflect the activities of the priority. Output indicators will be defined for each investment priority.



What does the performance framework look like?

The **performance framework** is a tool used to control if the programme is following its intervention logic and is achieving its result as planned. The performance framework is established at the level of priority and consists of selected financial output indicators and key implementation steps. This achievement will be assessed in 2019. The Commission will suspend the funds if certain conditions are not fulfilled (Article 22(6) CPR). To build a performance framework, Interreg programmes should consider following points:

- There is one financial indicator per priority
- Only output indicators, common or programme-specific, which have already been selected for the programme can be used for the performance framework. They must have a quantified target value.
- The key implementation steps are not required but may be used where no outputs related to fully implemented operations are expected by the end of 2018.

3. Reference to the regulations and what is new in the 2014-2020 programming period compared with the 2007-2013 programming period

The regulation for the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment funds (ESIF) sets out characteristics relating to how the intervention logic and the performance framework should be planned and implemented.

Legislative framework:

- CPR Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013
 - Article 9 defines thematic objectives
 - Article 24 defines the content of programmes
 - Article 21 defines the performance review
 - Article 22 defines the application of the performance framework
 - Annex II defines the method for establishing the performance framework
- ETC Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013
 - Article 6 defines the investment priorities
 - Article 7 defines the content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes

4. Challenges and frequently-asked questions

- Establishing the intervention logic by focusing on a limited number of specific objectives.
- Translating the result indicators into selection criteria to ensure projects will contribute to the results of the programme.
- Ensuring that the performance framework represents the priorities, and that milestones and targets are fixed at an appropriate level.

5. How they are addressed?

- **Establishing the intervention logic:** The elaboration of the intervention logic should also start with an analysis of the development needs and a definition of what the programmes wants to change. The selection of the investment priorities and the corresponding specific objective should relate to these needs of the programme. Then you define result indicators which capture the change in the specific objectives. Setting clear result indicators is crucial, since the result indicators facilitate the understanding of the needs and, later on in the assessment, show if the specific objective have been attained.



- Translating the result indicators into selection criteria to ensure projects will contribute to the results of the programme: When the programme is assessing and selecting the project it should be ensured that the project contributes to the achievement of the specific objectives of the programme.
- Ensuring that the performance framework represents the priorities, and that milestones and targets are fixed at an appropriate level: The performance framework should be kept as simple as possible by selecting one output indicator and one financial indicator per priority axis. In 2018, the programme can demonstrate by means of the performance framework if the programme has been implemented efficiently.

6. Reference to other, more-detailed papers

- Guidance Document “Monitoring and evaluation of European Cohesion policy - European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund - Concepts and Recommendations”,
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/guidance/#1
- Guidance Fiche on Intervention Logic:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/what/future/pdf/preparation/2709_gui_guidance_in_tervention%20logic.pdf
- Guidance Fiche on Building Priority Axes:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/what/future/pdf/preparation/2709_gui_guidance_building_priority_axis_.pdf
- Guidance Fiche on Performance Framework Review and Reserve 2014-2020
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/emff/doc/09-performance-framework_en.pdf
- Harmonised Implementation Tools for Interreg Programmes - Establishing ETC Programme logic and linking Programme and Project Intervention Logics, saved under http://admin.interact-eu.net/downloads/8923/141016_Programme_project_intervention_logic.pdf