

Intro to title

# Post-27: Common indicators and the provisions effecting evaluation

Besiana Ninka, Bernhard Schausberger, Daniela Minichberger | Interact | 05.03.2024, 10.30 –  
12.30

**Interact**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**  
Interreg

# Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is the **second edition** of the Interreg Knowledge Fair, it is still a new approach for us.

The **Conference Support** stand in the Exhibition Room is a one-stop shop for your questions.

At the end of this session, you are asked to rate the **session experience**.

At the end of the event, you will be asked your **overall feedback**.





# Objective

- Analyse the use of performance indicators with a focus on tracking common and programme specific indicators during the period 2021-2027
- Explore future perspectives and potential enhancements to the common indicators and evaluation provisions post-2027

# Agenda

01

**Indicators  
stock-tacking**

02

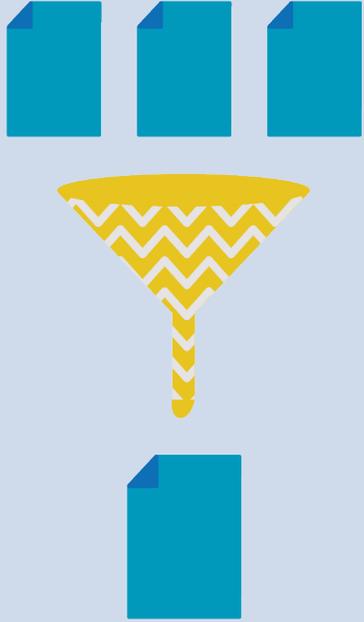
**Indicators  
discussion  
round:  
experiences &  
wishes for the  
future**

03

**Main findings  
of the ex-post  
evaluation**

04

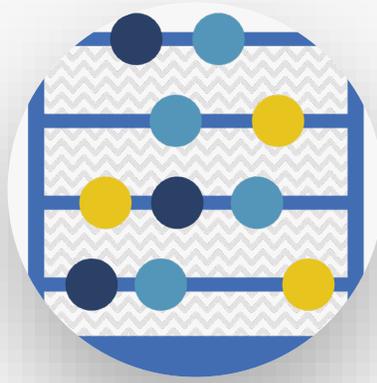
**Evaluation  
discussion  
round:  
experiences &  
wishes for the  
future**



# On indicators

Result-orientation and/or  
performance-based future  
delivery: indicators will be  
required ...



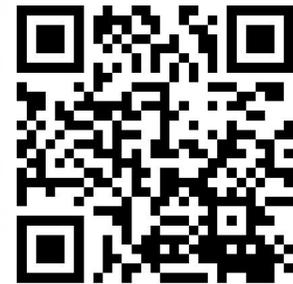


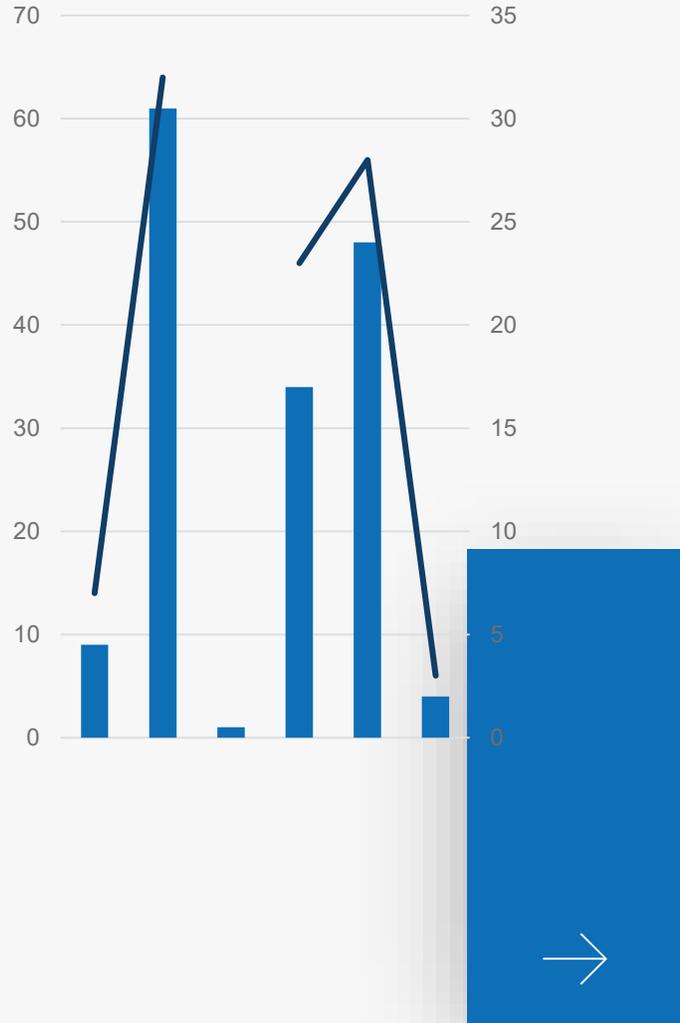
***One of the tasks at the European level is to aggregate information across all programmes in order to track overall performance and to account to EU citizens, the Council, the European Parliament and the European Court of Auditors on what cohesion policy resources are spent on and what benefits it delivers. This is the task of common output and direct result indicators defined at EU level.***

The role of indicators, SWD, p.6

# It's time to make an educated guess...

Join at  
**slido.com**  
**#Post27-Indicators**





# Analysis of how Interreg indicators are used

**Dora O'Neill, Evaluation Unit, DG Regio**

**John Walsh, Evaluation Unit, DG Regio**



# Taking stock of Interreg common indicators 2021-2027

John WALSH, Dora O'NEILL

*Interreg Knowledge Fair 2024  
Riga, Latvia*

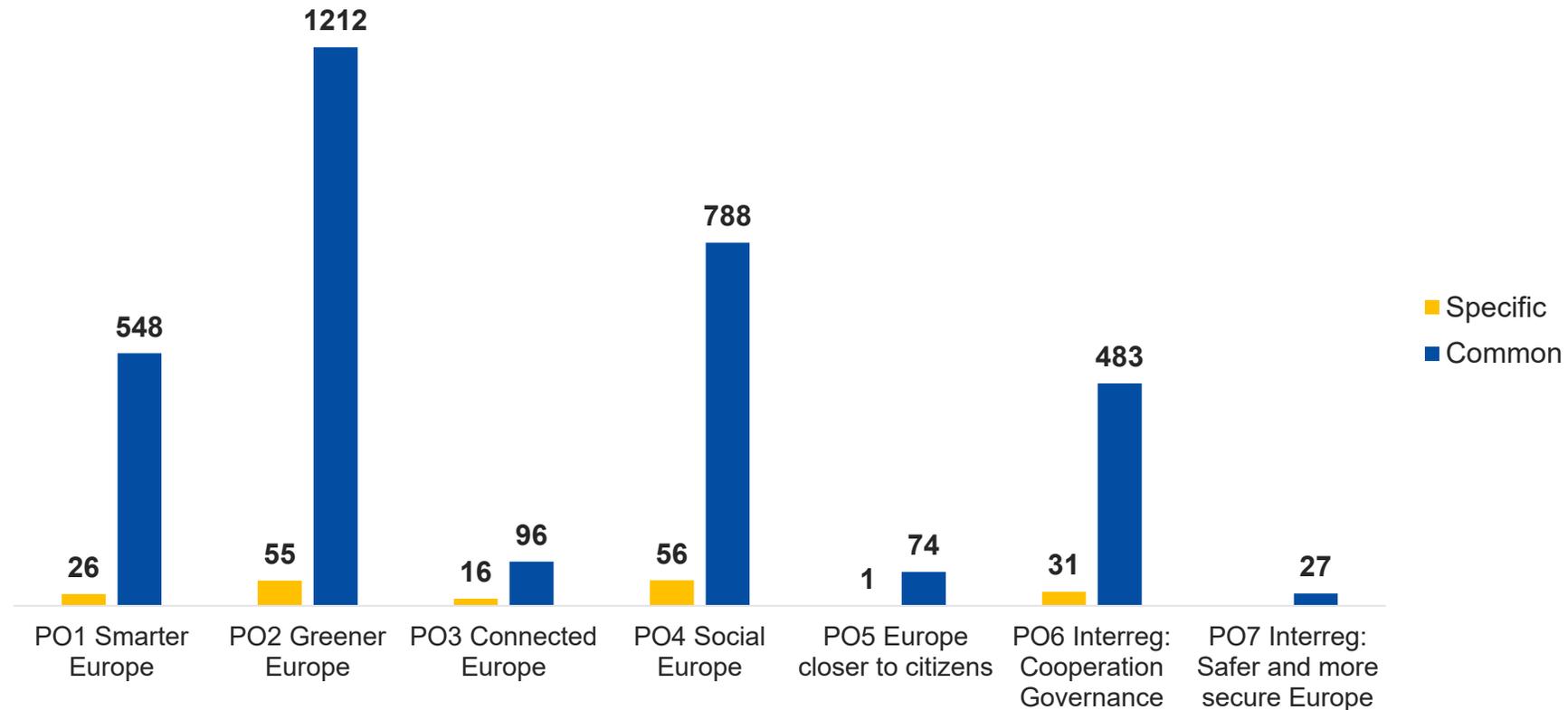
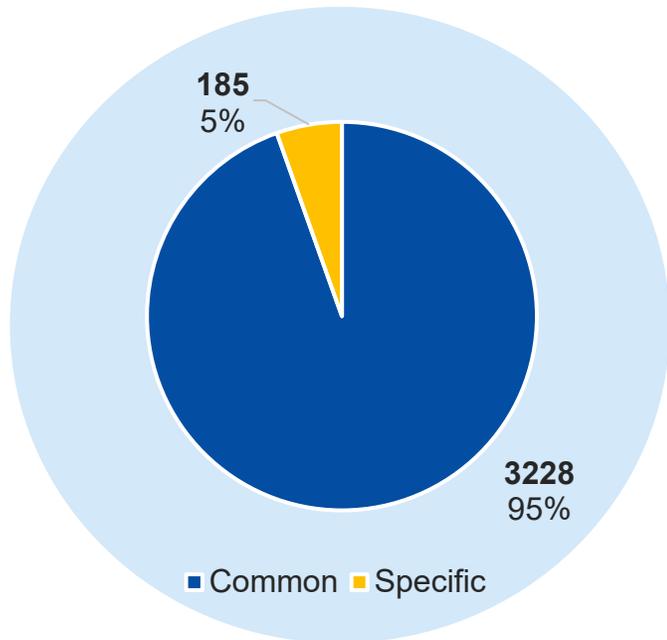
# Outline

## **I. A first numeric overview of 2021-2027**

- Common vs specific indicator uses in Interreg
- Interreg Common indicators by PO
- Are Interreg common outputs and results used “coherently”?

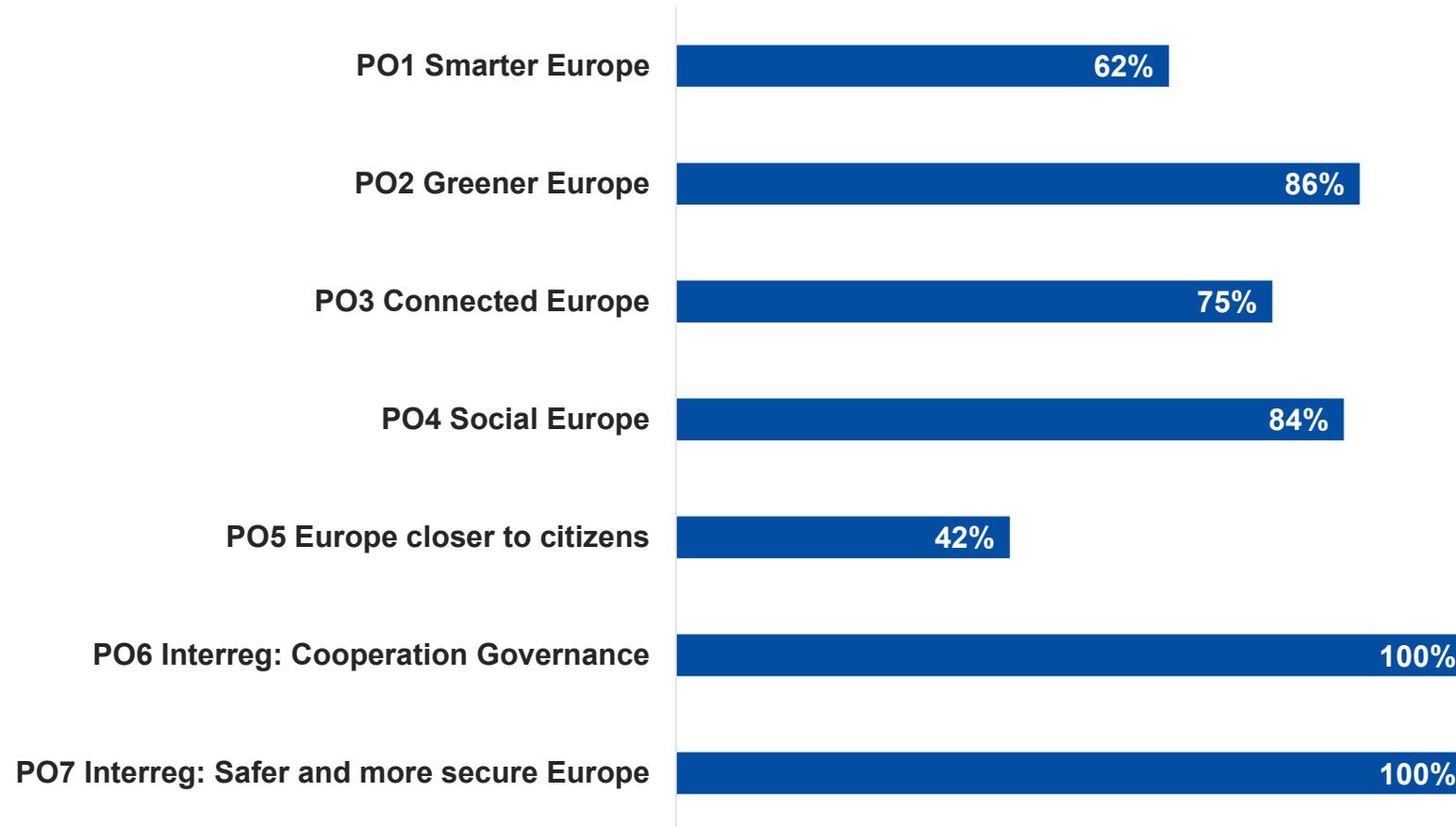
## **II. Next step: Drawing lessons from programming using common Interreg indicators**

# Use of common indicators in Interreg programmes



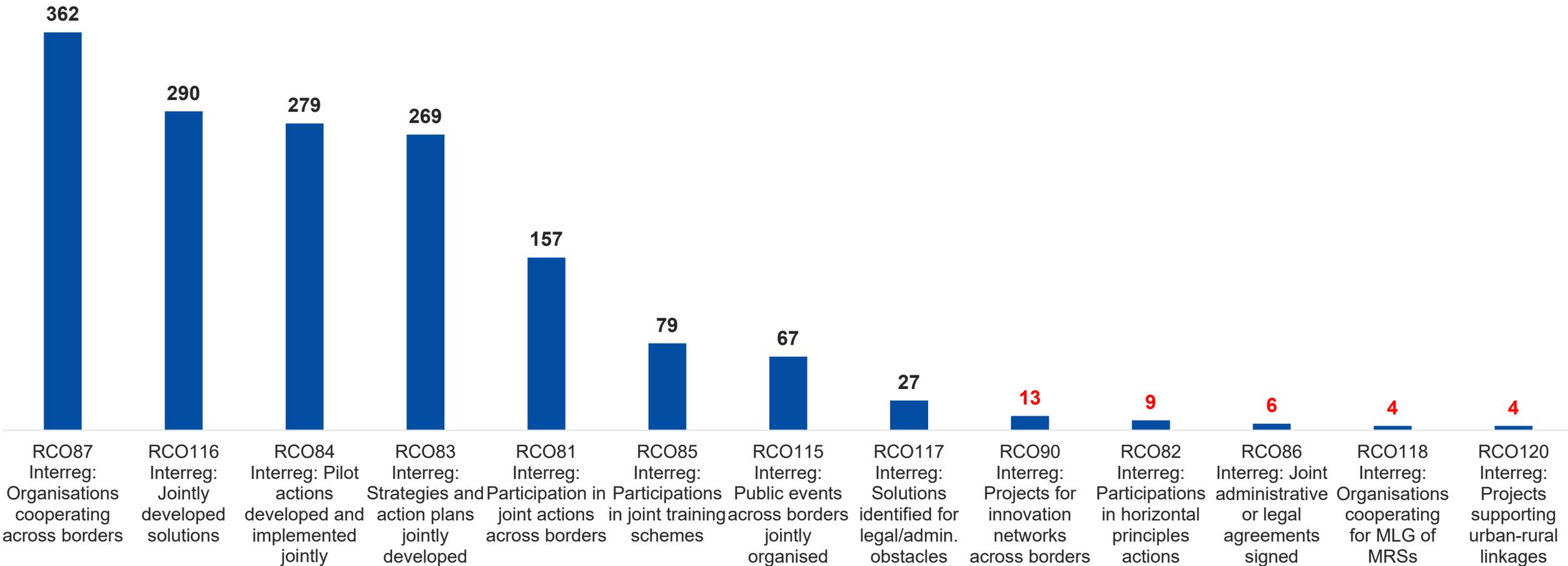
\*Specific indicators mostly used in POs 2 and 4, across a range of SOs.  
 \*61% of programme specific indicator use can be attributed to 10 programmes

# Use of Interreg common indicators\*

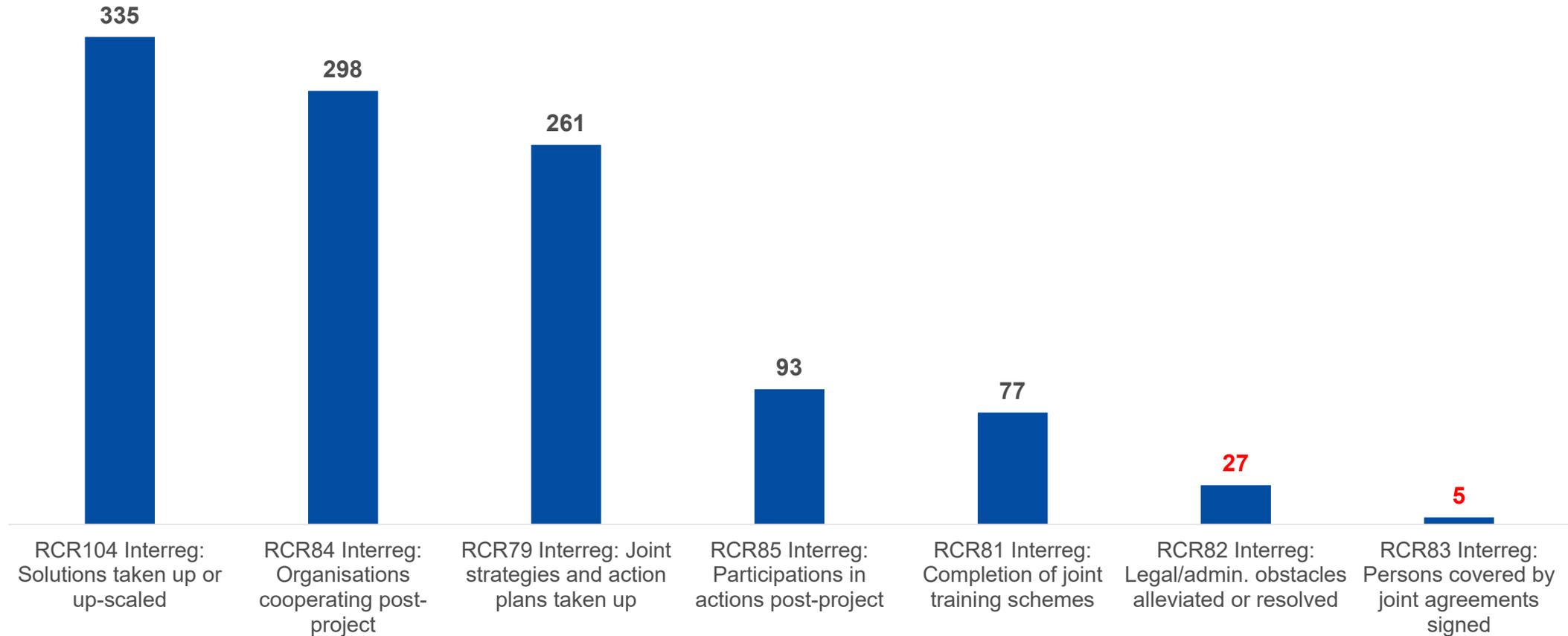


\*As a percentage of total # of common indicators

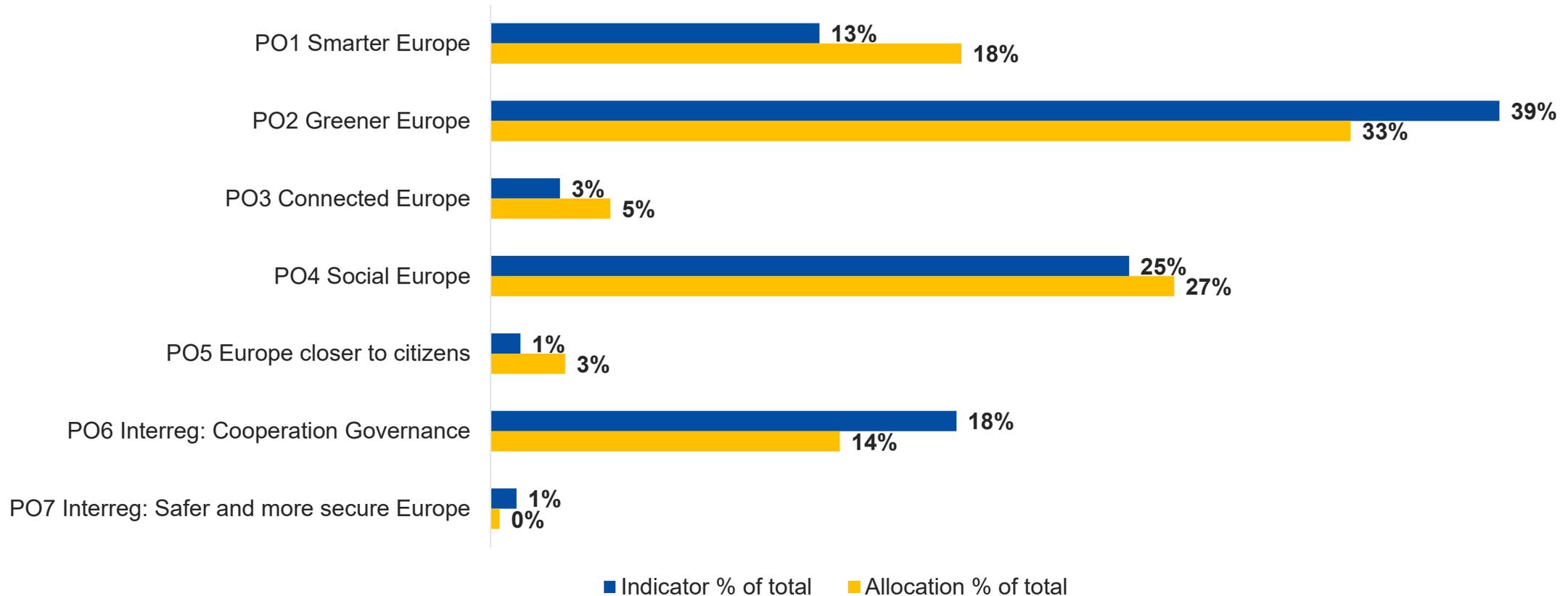
# Use of Interreg common **output** indicators



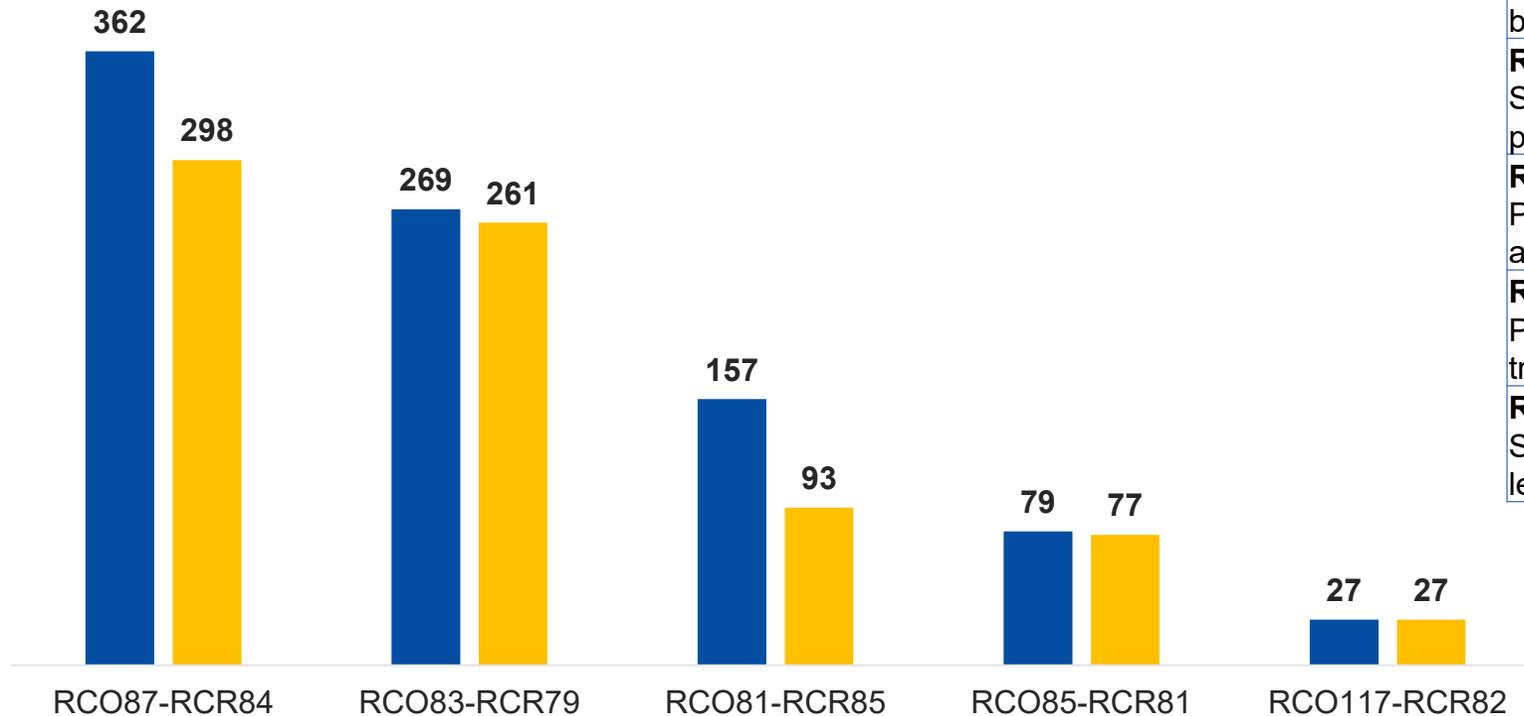
# Use of Interreg common **result** indicators



# Use of Interreg common indicators



# Interreg common indicator pairs



Output	Result
<b>RCO87</b> Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	<b>RCR84</b> Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project
<b>RCO83</b> Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed	<b>RCR79</b> Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up
<b>RCO81</b> Interreg: Participation in joint actions across borders	<b>RCR85</b> Interreg: Participations in actions post-project
<b>RCO85</b> Interreg: Participations in joint training schemes	<b>RCR81</b> Interreg: Completion of joint training schemes
<b>RCO117</b> Interreg: Solutions identified for legal/admin. Obstacles	<b>RCR82</b> Interreg: Legal/admin. obstacles alleviated or resolved

# Some questions for further reflection

- Are the Interreg common indicator definitions consistently used by the programmes / by policy objective / by specific objective?
- How consistent is the target setting? Similar "unit costs"? Outlier values?
- Are there indicators that are more challenging to collect?
- Are the low use indicators useful? Should they be kept/dropped?
  
- **Other questions?**

# Invitation:

***DG REGIO would like ...***

***to work with INTERREG programmers during 2024 ...  
to conduct a review of the Interreg common indicators ..  
focussing on lessons learned ...  
and areas for improvement for the future.***

# The common indicators ...

**March**

## **Informal working group on indicators**

Express your interest in the google sheet

**April-October**

## **2-3 Online meetings**

Technical meeting to discuss common indicators, definitions, etc with DG Regio and programme representatives of the informal working group

**summer**

## **Survey to all Interreg programmes**

Based on an online survey

**19-20 Nov.**

## **Post 2027 Meeting, Brussels**

presentation of the outcome of the discussions: and collection of comments from participants based on the findings

# What are your commitments?



**Engaging actively in the transformation of the common indicators**



**Reviewing documents and providing constructive feedback:** discuss indicators in your programme and give written feedback before the online meetings



**Sharing the agreed data and findings during the 2 or 3 online meetings** (taken place between April and October)



**Participate in the final meeting on 19-20 November in Brussels**

# Thank you



© European Union 2024

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

# Floor is open for discussion

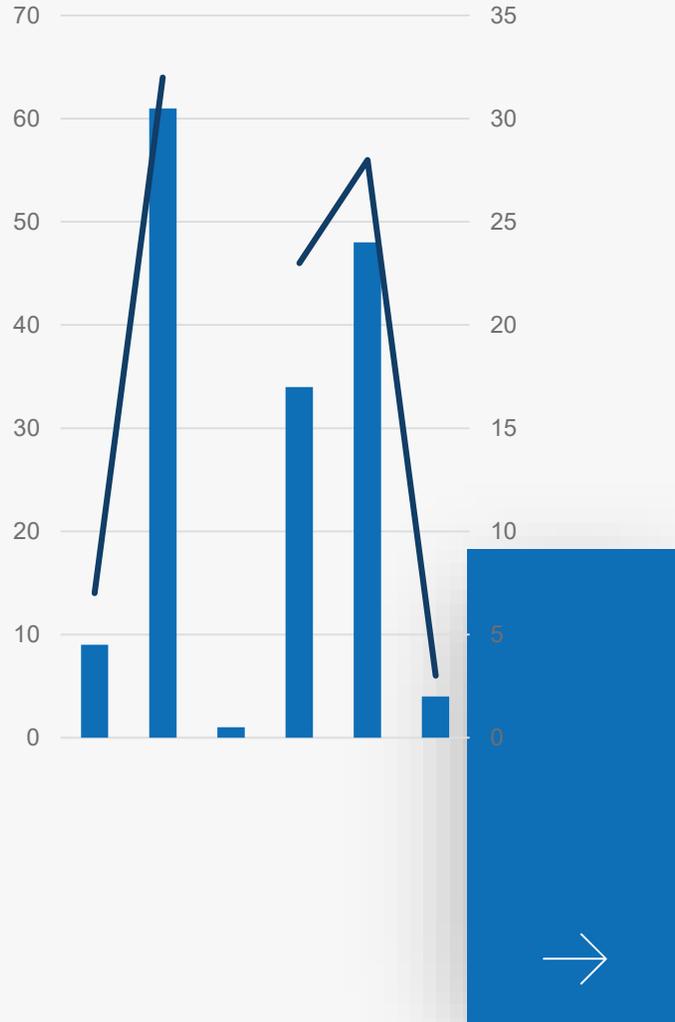
- Which indicators present challenges in terms of interpretation?
- Which indicators are readily comprehensible to applicants?
- Where do you encounter obstacles in setting targets?
- What are reliable methods for data collection?



# Floor is open for discussion

- How to weight and profile indicators & targets in discussion with MC (e.g. for selection)
- Do you plan any adjustment of methodologies? What to factor in?
- Do you plan any amendment of programme? Why?





# Wishes for the future

Common indicators dotting exercise: put your dots...

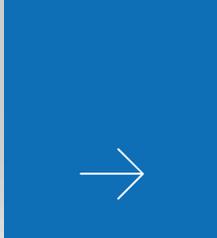
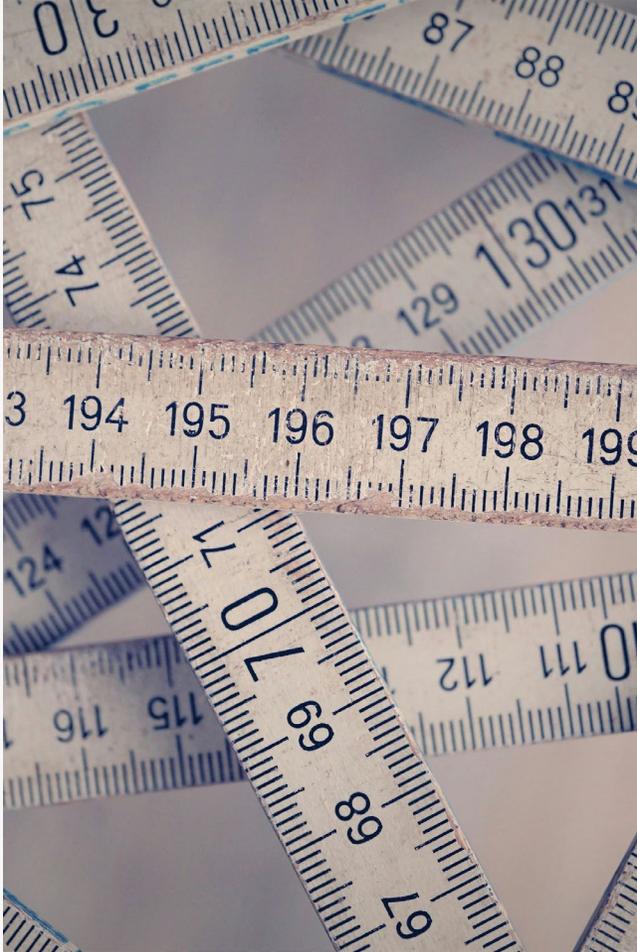
- 3 green dots (stay)
- 3 orange dots (change)
- 3 red dots (abolish)



# On Evaluation

Why the Commission evaluates....

The Commission evaluates if specific laws, policies and spending activities are fit for purpose and have delivered, at minimum cost, the desired changes to European businesses and citizens.



# Ex-post evaluation

**Dora O'Neill, Evaluation Unit, DG Regio**

**John Walsh, Evaluation Unit, DG Regio**



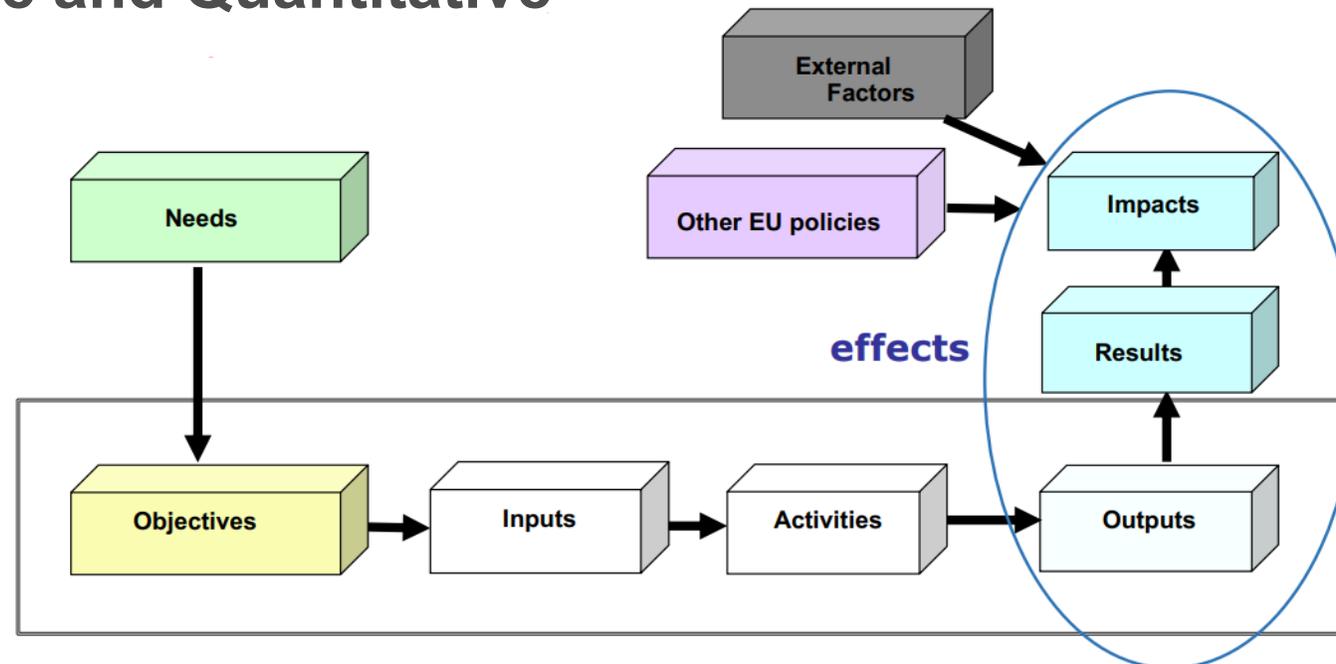
# Main findings of the *ex post* evaluation 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 emerging findings

Dora O'NEILL, John WALSH

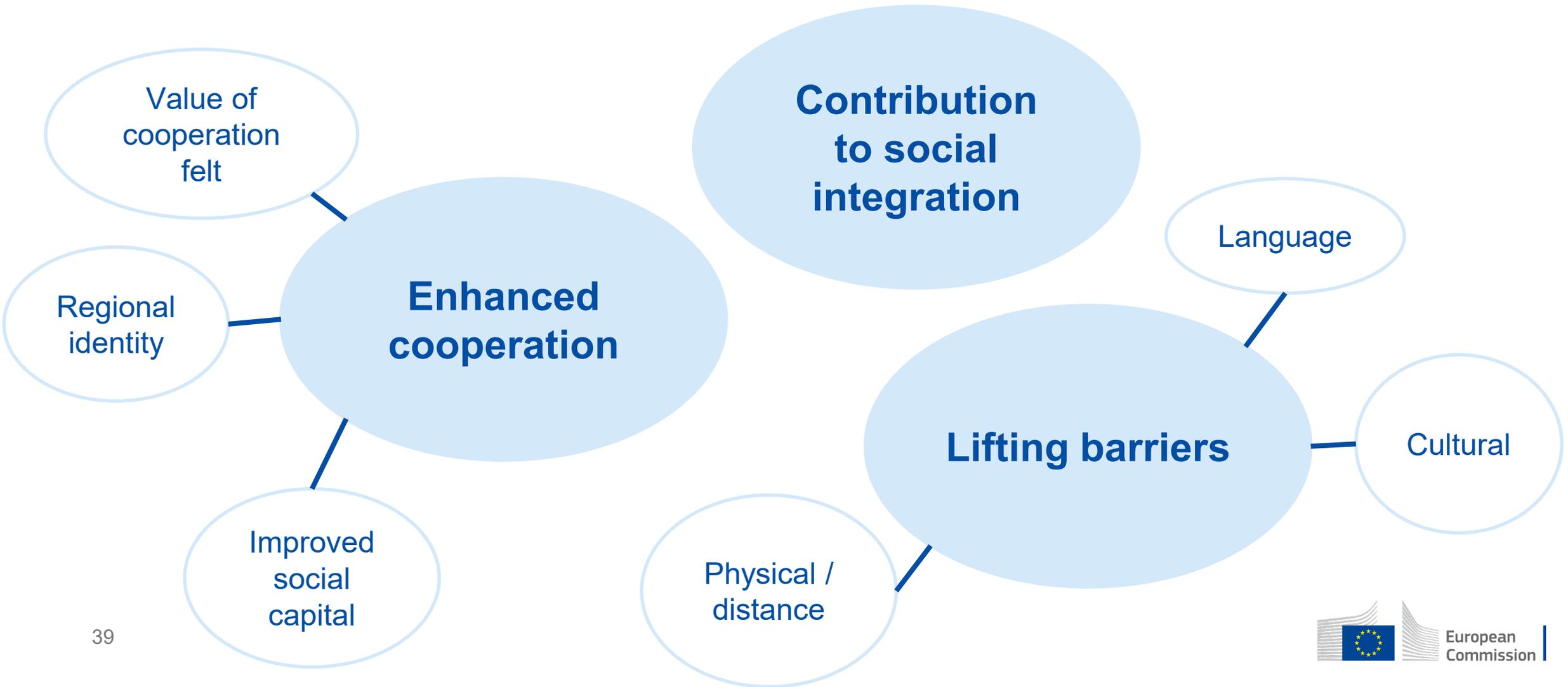
*Interreg Knowledge Fair 2024  
Riga, Latvia*

# Ex post evaluation design

- **Our context:** Better Regulation Guidelines
- **Approaches:** theory of change, contribution analysis
- **Qualitative and Quantitative**



# 2007-2013: Impact of ETC



# 2007-2013: Lessons learned

1. Broad in scope

2. Functional regions/areas – more focus needed

3. Bottom-up approach

4. Results and impact: challenges

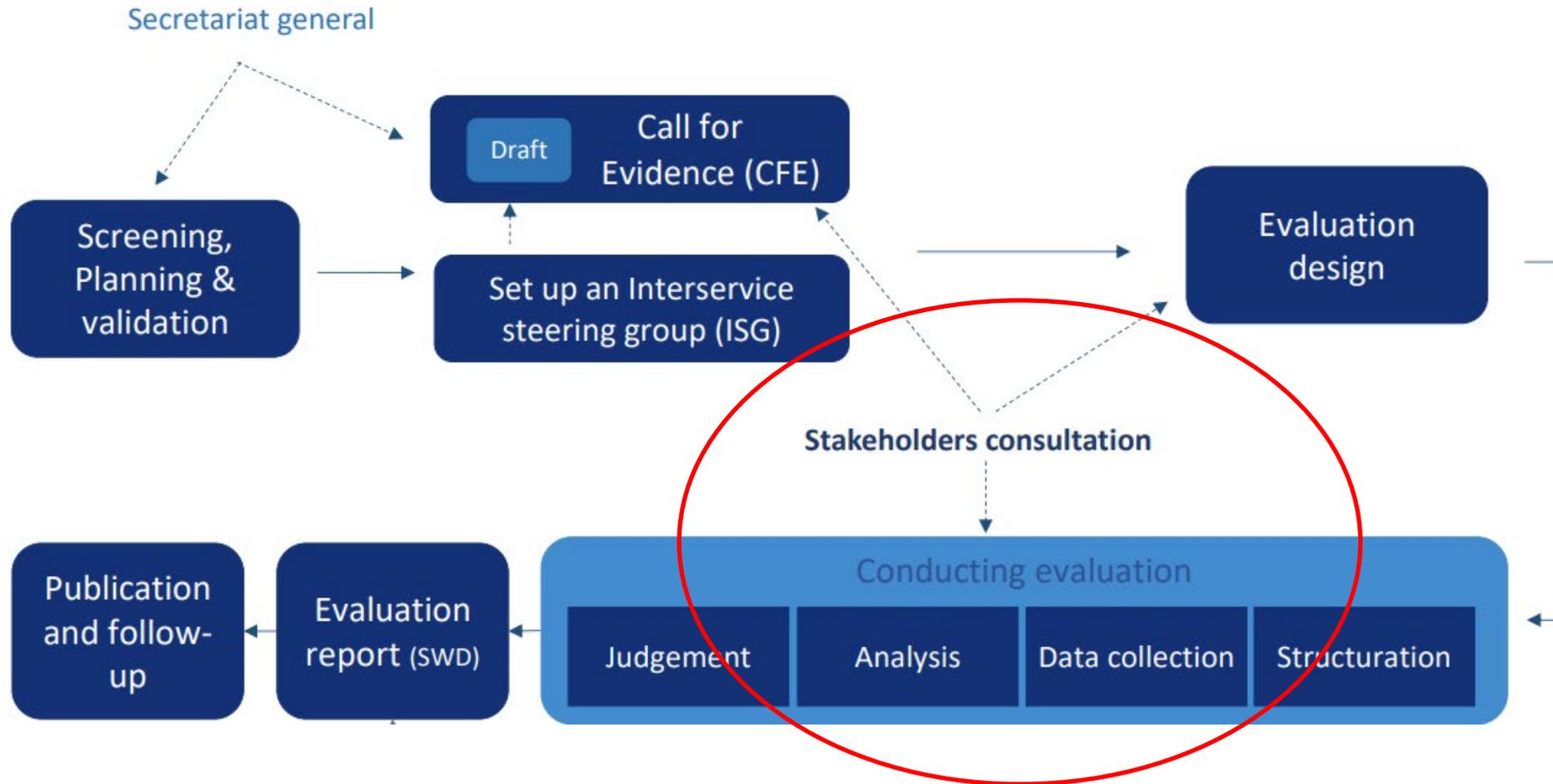
5. Coordination difficulties

6. Weak monitoring systems

**“Interreg is the only policy instrument in its field. It is therefore crucial for ensuring continuity and linkages of common projects across borders and (for transnational and EU wide programmes) across the EU”.**

Commission Staff Working Document, *Ex post evaluation of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-13*, 2016.

# 2014-2020: Where we are



# 2014-2020: Emerging findings

Programmes were able to adapt to crises and still deliver on targets

Scope of cooperation has expanded

Reduction in administrative burden (2007-13) – but still room for simplification

Border obstacles – many addressed, but legal and administrative obstacles persist

Impact of cooperation goes beyond indicators

Main policy areas: environment, R&D, tourism, transport, business development

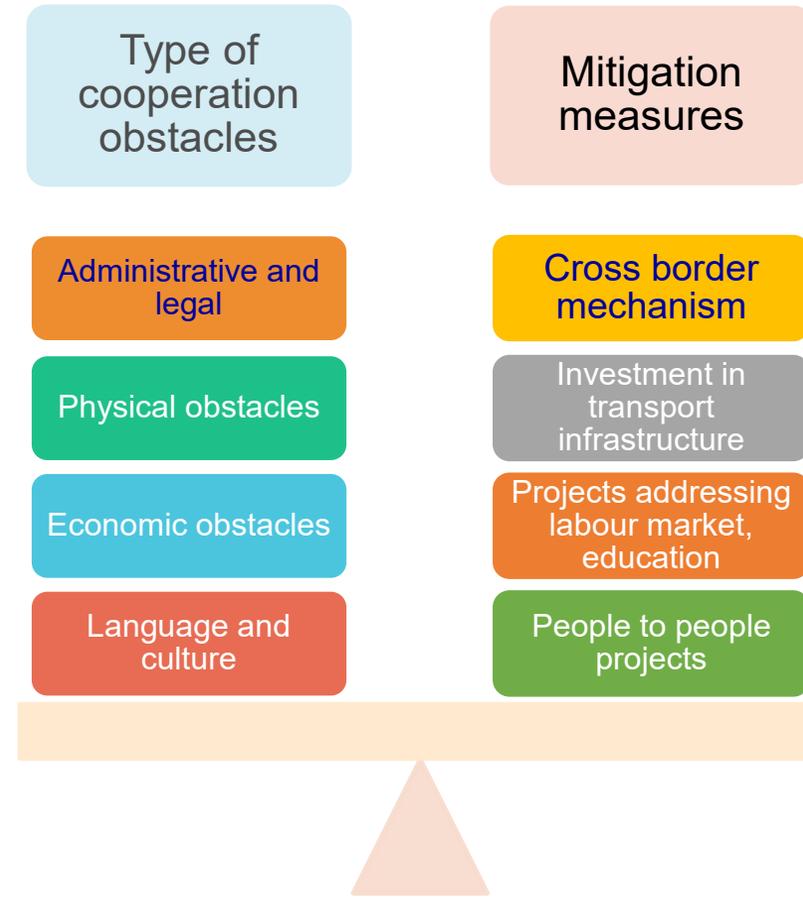
Without ETC, cooperation would be reduced or even non-existent

Key:

 = continuation of finding from 2007-2013 *ex post* evaluation

# 2014-2020: Lessons learned

- “Cookbook”: toolkit for ETC policy practitioners
  - Do’s and don’ts
  - Obstacles
  - Lessons learned



# 2014-2020: Next steps



# Thank you



© European Union 2024

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

# Evaluation provisions 2021-27

What? (scope)

Along the following criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value; Evaluations may also cover other relevant criteria

When? (timing)

During the period; an evaluation for each programme to assess its impact shall be carried out by 30 June 2029.

How?

External or internal (functionally independent expert); based on evaluation plan

# Evaluation responsibilities

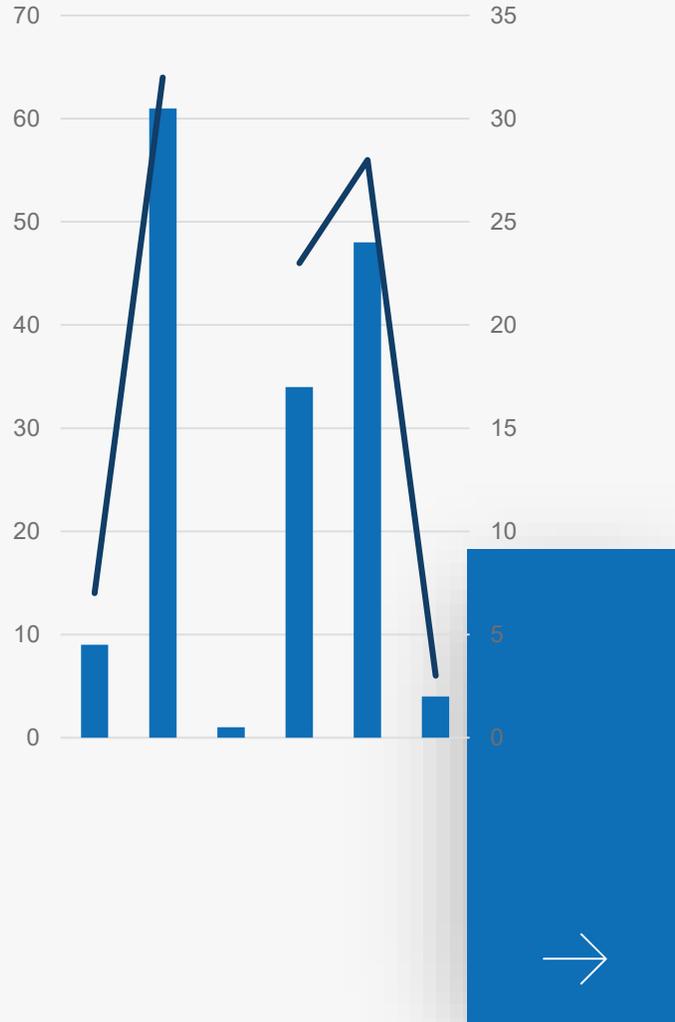
Responsibility	MA	MC
Overall responsibility	X	
Evaluation plan	Draft – latest one year after IP approval	Approval
Collection of necessary data	X	
Examination of progress, follow-up to findings		X
Publish evaluation	X	

# Floor is open for discussion

## Evaluation

- Which aspects works well with existing evaluation provisions?
- Is there any need for modifications?
- Aspirations for the future?





# Wishes for the future

**Wish box:** Take 5 minutes to write down your thoughts and drop them into the box before leaving the room.

- What changes do you wish in relation to evaluation?
- What indicators are missing?
- What indicators (definition of the indicator) do you want to abolish?
- What indicators should stay?

# Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

Log into the **Whova app** and tell us what you think in the **session Q&A, from 1 (bad) to 5 (amazing)**  
Please check which session you are in!

You can also talk to us at the Conference Support stand in the networking area.

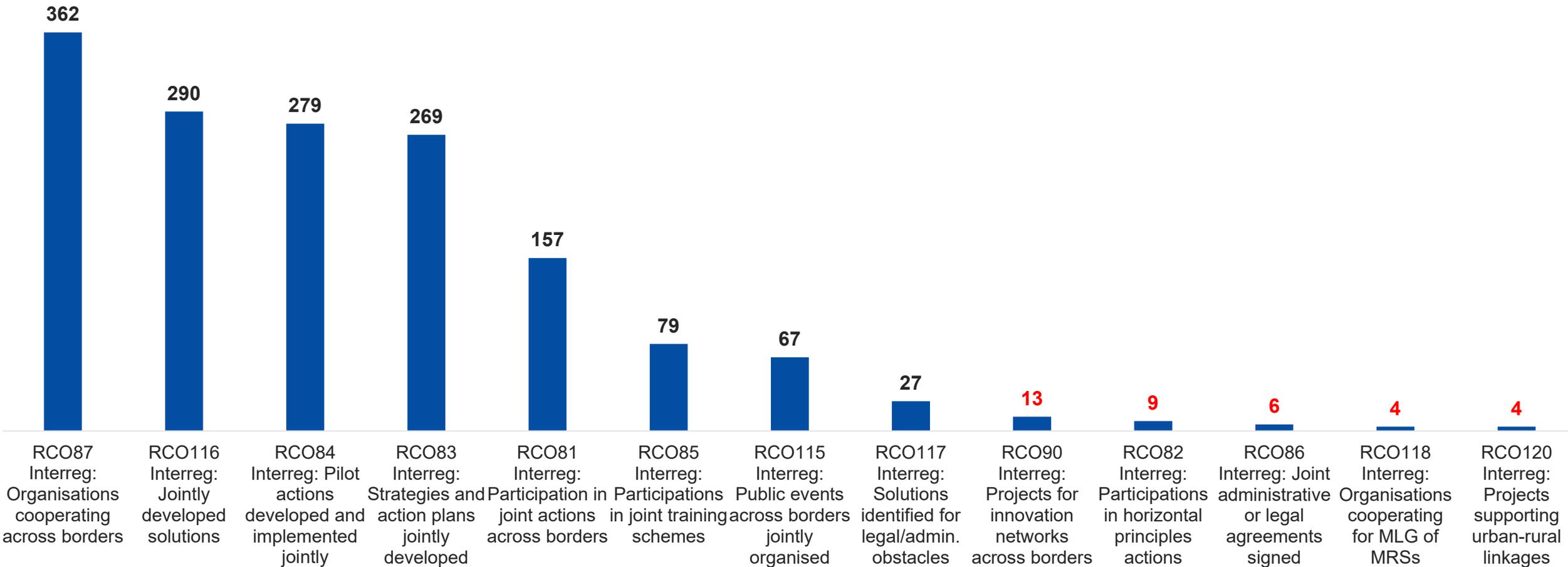


# Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

[Interact / Events / Interreg Knowledge Fair \(5-7 March 2024\)](#)

# Use of Interreg common **output** indicators



# Use of Interreg common **result** indicators

