



# Embedding cooperation under IJG goal programmes

Interact S3 Partnerships  
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# Conceptual aspects to be covered

## Who and what?

Partners to be identified

Policy objectives/specific objectives to be defined

How much? Allocation; co-financing

## How?

Project selection criteria and procedures

Expenditure outside own programme area  
Financial control and audit

# Point (d)(v) of Article 17(3) CPR

## 2014-2020

- CPR (Article 96(3))
  - ...an OP shall describe the integrated approach to territorial development(..), specifying, **where appropriate**, the following:
    - (e) the contribution of the planned interventions under the programme to MRS/SBS strategies (**Section 4.5**)
    - (d) the arrangements for [ERDF:] interregional and [ESF:] transnational actions, within the OPs, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (**Section 4.4**)

## post-2020

- CPR (Article 17(3))
  - Each programme **shall** set out:
    - (a) a summary of main challenges (vi) MRS/SBS
    - (d) for each **specific objective**:
      - (i) related types of action + expected contribution to those SOs and to MRS/SBS, where appropriate
      - (v) the interregional and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State  
(Council: *or outside the Union, where relevant*)

# Two cross-cut activities (Article 2(3) ERDF)

"With regard to the specific objectives set out in paragraph 1, the ERDF or the Cohesion Fund, as appropriate, may also support activities under the **Investment for jobs and growth goal**, where they either:

- (a) (capacity-building)
- (b) enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State.

Cooperation referred to in point (b) shall include cooperation

- with partners from cross-border regions,
- from non-contiguous regions or
- from regions located in the territory covered by [PCU: a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation,] a macro-regional or sea-basin strategy or
- a combination thereof."

# Potential sources for identifying cooperation activities

cooperation from regions located in the territory covered by a macro-regional or sea-basin strategy **(25 MSt in total or partially concerned! NOT: CY and LU)**

## 4 Macro-regional strategies

- Baltic Sea Region (2009) (8 MSt; IS, NO; RF, BY)
- Danube Region (2010) (9 MSt; BaH, ME, RS; UA, MD)
- Adriatic and Ionian Region (2014) (4 MSt; Alb, BaH, ME, RS)
- Alpine Region (2015) (5 MSt; CH, FL)

## 3 Sea-basin strategies (DG MARE)

- **Atlantic** maritime Strategy (2011) (4 MSt)
- Western **Mediterranean** (2017) (5 MSt + 5 Southern partners)
- **Black Sea (2018)** (3 MSt; TR; 4 Eastern partners)

## 3 Other maritime strategies (DG MARE)

- Arctic Ocean (3 MSt)
- North Sea (6 MSt)
- Seas around Europe's outermost regions (2017) (3 MSt)

# Different degrees of interregional cooperation

**0 NO cooperation in terms of Article 17 CPR**

**1 Unilateral cooperation**

**2 Mirror cooperation**

**3 Agreed cooperation**

**4 Joint informal (harmonized) cooperation**

**5 Joint formal (integrated) cooperation**

**Inside same programme and even inside same PO: different degrees possible!**

# 0-degree: **NO cooperation** in terms of Article 17 No agreement on any aspect

"interregional actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State"

ERDF programme does not list one region located in another Member State  
→ NO interregional cooperation

"..., but we don't know yet!"

List of possible partner region(s) per specific objective

Inspiration for partnerships for PO1:

COM(2017) 376 of 18.7.2017 on Innovation in Europe's regions → SWD (Section 3.2.6: 18 thematic platforms)

<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-platform-registered-regions>

Inspiration for partnerships for PO1 and other POs:

Regional Partnerships for EWRC 2020!

# 1<sup>st</sup> degree: **Unilateral** cooperation +/- agreement on WHO

Degrees explained between two regions only!

ERDF programme in region A refers to partner region B,  
but partner programme of region B does NOT refer back  
(e.g. because region B is in a different category of regions)

"Unilateral cooperation ≠ cooperation", but...

**For region A: they do interregional cooperation!**



# 2<sup>nd</sup> degree: **Mirror** cooperation Agreement on WHO, but not on WHAT

Partner regions are identified in two OPs:

Programme Region A: we cooperate with Region B

Programme Region B: we cooperate with Region A

→ "Mirror cooperation"

Both regions A and B do interregional cooperation!

Not necessarily cooperation on the same topics!

Reasons: different category of regions or different political choice or  
different fields of R3

Still possible: Unilateral "list" of projects of macro-regional importance or  
certain cooperation projects in  
"list of planned operations of strategic importance"

# 3<sup>rd</sup> degree: Agreed cooperation Agreement on WHO and on WHAT

The two OPs define the same topic(s) with +/-same text:

"We (region A) cooperate with region B on agri-food smart specialisation."

"We (region A) cooperate with region B on flood prevention."

"We (region B) cooperate with region A on agri-food smart specialisation."

"We (region B) cooperate with region A on flood prevention."

→ "Agreed cooperation"

# Mirror and agreed cooperation

## Separate allocation; (different) co-financing rate

Regulatory obligation do address interregional cooperation and to be specified at the level of each specific objective

→ Consequence for financial plan? No, as at priority level

No obligation to set aside amounts specifically

- absolute amount in EUR or
- percentage (%) per specific objective or
- top-up for already selected “normal” projects (SV 14-20)

Co-financing rate per priority according to each participating programme

# Mirror and agreed cooperation

## Separate project selection procedure and criteria

Each programme defines its own selection criteria and procedure

### Selection procedure

OPs can apply the "normal" procedure

(Option to work with open calls or with an on-going system for project submission)

Recital 48 (trilogue): competitive or non-competitive procedures!

Body, who selects cooperation projects, must not change!

### Selection criteria

**NEW** Article 67: selection of operations by MA [no COM consultation]  
"prioritisation of operations to be selected"

e.g. Allocation of **extra (bonus) points to cooperation projects** or projects contributing to macro-regional targets and actions where programme works with scoring system

# 4th degree: Joint informal (Harmonized) cooperation Agreement on WHO, WHAT and (partially) HOW

The two OPs agree on harmonized selection procedures (method, timing) or on harmonized selection criteria (bonus, scoring etc.) or on both, BUT they act in parallel, under each OP  
→ "Joint informal cooperation"

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Who selects cooperation projects?

Option to set up a "Selection Committee", i.e.

Representatives of the two OPs select cooperation projects at the same venue and at the same time

(on behalf of or to be formally validated by each of the two OPs)

# 5th degree: Joint formal (Integrated) cooperation Agreement on WHO, WHAT and HOW

Option to "pool" the amounts from the two OPs as a "joint pot of money" to be managed by a single body set up by the two regions

(e.g. ITI; "global grant", managed by an Intermediate Body; EGTC or other)

AND the decision-making organ of the joint body selects joint projects:

→ "Joint formal cooperation"

e.g. EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA (Nordpfalz (RP), Mittlerer Rhein (BW), Nordelsaß (FR))

drawing from Interreg and ERDF programmes RP, BW and Grand-Est for the Innovation region around Karlsruhe or

drawing from three ESF+ programmes to build up a genuine cross-border labour market

# Any degree of cooperation

## Expenditure outside own programme area: WHY?

### Financial control and audit

1997-1999: NL invested in anti-flood measures in BE, DE, FR and LU (Meuse and Rhine catchment areas)

actually: NL transferred its allocation to regions up-stream

2007-2013: EE invested in a joint research centre in SE

no rules → Legal Service interpretation

Post-2020: Article 70 CPR replaced by Article 57(4) new CPR:

*"All or part of an operation may be implemented outside of a MSt, including outside the Union, provided that the operation contributes to the objectives of the programme."*

### **Financial control and audit:**

Authorities of each co-financing programme bear ultimate responsibility for legality and regularity of expenditure off-shore.

# Example

## Bio Base Europe (BE/NL)

- **Bio Base Europe (BE/NL):**  
open innovation and training centre for bio-based economy in Europe  
join forces in common areas of interest in smart specialization strategies
- **Bio Base Europe pilot plant, Ghent (BE):**  
test factory for research and testing out new production processes
- **Bio Base Europe training centre, Terneuzen (NL):**  
information, training and networking

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# Thank you



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