

**Interreg**



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**IPA** ADRION

# **Terms of Reference for the submission of the strategic projects in the framework of the Priority Axis No 4 – approval for funding of recommended project proposals**

7<sup>o</sup> IPA ADRION Monitoring Committee  
Belgrade & hybrid, 30 November 2023



# Overview on the received project proposals

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Project Number	Acronym	Project title	Interreg funds A	San Marino funds B	Total funds (A+B+ national contribution 15%)	Interreg contribution (in MEUR) as per Application Manual
IPA-ADRION00537	FACILITYPOINT	EUSAIR FACILITY POINT – Supporting the EUSAIR governance for improved cooperation	6.336.750,00	417.900,00	7.872.900,00	6,336
IPA-ADRION00539	STEP	EUSAIR STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT POINT	1.836.000,00		2.160.000,00	1,836
IPA-ADRION00538	SP4EUSAIR	EUSAIR Strategic Implementation Project - Support to Development and Implementation of Strategic Implementation Formats	1.768.000,00		2.080.000,00	1,768
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.940.750,00</b>	<b>417.900,00</b>	<b>12.112.900,00</b>	<b>9,941</b>

The envisaged partnerships and budgets mirrored what agreed by the Monitoring Committee (MC) and reported in the Application Manual

# Overview on adopted assessment methodology and outcomes



- National Contact Points contribution (check on the legal status; checks on EDES database and *ad hoc* GR anti-fraud checks) did not highlight any criticism. All checks have been performed.
  - MA anti-fraud checks on ERDF project partners (HR, IT; SI) did not highlight any criticisms;
  - MA/JS admissibility/eligibility checks weaknesses will be healed during the negotiation process.
- 
- Quality assessment performed in accordance with the assessment manual.
  - Content-wise, functions were pre-agreed by the EUSAIR Governing Board as necessary for its implementation. According to the understanding of the received proposals, **some activities** shall be considered **as preparatory of the next programming period**, with few or limited effects in the current one; **confirmation that the proposed timeline is in accordance with what discussed within the EUSAIR Governing Board is necessary.**
  - **Synergies and coordination mechanism** have been **set in place**; a shared description on how coordination will be ensured is included in all the three project proposals. However, the **different use of wording, structure of actions etc. make difficult to completely exclude the absence of overlapping**; in some cases, clarifications have been asked. Close **monitoring of the absence of overlapping shall be one element of attention along the projects implementation** to avoid potential risks of double funding.

# Overview on adopted assessment methodology and outcomes

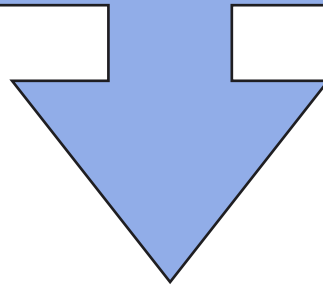


	STEP	SP4EUSAIR	FACILITY POINT	Total	proposed indicators quantification vs quantification as in programming document (in %)	Quantification as per programme document	
	Quantification of proposed indicators			(A)	(B) = (A)/(C)	(C)	
RCO 118 - Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macroregional strategies			2	11	13	26%	50
RCO 81 – Participations in joint actions across borders	4.060		80	4.981	9.121	422%	2160
RCO 115 – Public events across borders jointly organized	8		2	16	26	17%	156
RRCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project lifetime	5		2	11	18	72%	25
RRCR 85 – Participation in joint actions across borders after the project completion	10		40	80	130	12%	1.080

Considering that, by end of 2026, according to the mid-term review, projects will be considered as performing if they reach at least 75% of planned output indicators, the overall performance at priority level will be even lower. Also result indicators will be affected accordingly.



- a) Overall general lack of ambitions regarding the proposed indicators.
- b) Different understanding on how to interpret RCO 81.



- Some suggestions proposed to improve the targets of RCO118.
- As far as RCO81 is concerned, proposed target must be confirmed in accordance with the definition provided by EC fiche or reduced.
- Projects should provide clarifications on their plan to reach the priority axis indicators performance targets.
- **As (very) last resort, the programming document should be revised (performance framework) and due justifications provided to EC.**

**If necessary, additional conditions for improvement shall be added to overcome this situation**

## Further checks



- No compliance with state aid detected.
- Checks according to art. 22.4 letter i) of Interreg Regulation (*operations not directly affected by a reasoned opinion by the Commission in respect of an infringement within the scope of Article 258 TFEU that puts at risk the legality and regularity of expenditure or the performance of operations*), it has been **considered as not applicable** due to the nature of the three projects; indeed, this check should be performed by strategic project No 3 - SP4EUSAIR - along with the preparation of project proposals. The check only affects the ERDF involved organisations.

# Assessment outcomes and ranking list



Project Number	Project acronym	Country of the lead appl	Interreg amount	Total amount	Operational Assessment Scores										Final total score	Recommended for fund	Total budget proposed	Interreg amount (EU Contribution) proposed	EU Funds still available from the allocated amount		
					Work plan				Management	Communication	Budget									total project score (min 30/50)	Y/N
					1a	1b	1c	1d			2a	3a	4a	4b							
																			9.940.983,00		
537	FACILITY POINT	SI	6.336.750,00	7.872.900,00	3,0	3,0	3,0	4,0	4,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	32,0	Y	7.872.900,00	6.336.750,00	3.604.233,00		
539	STEP	IT	1.836.000,00	2.160.000,00	3,0	3,0	3,0	4,0	4,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	32,0	Y	2.160.000,00	1.836.000,00	1.768.233,00		
538	SP4EUSAIR	HR	1.768.000,00	2.080.000,00	3,0	3,0	3,0	4,0	4,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	32,0	Y	2.080.000,00	1.768.000,00	233,00		
			9.940.750,00	12.112.900,00													12.112.900,00	9.940.750,00			

- In relation to what above, it is proposed that all three project proposals get the same final score.
- No budget cut has been envisaged.
- Conditions for improvement mirroring overall concerns.

## Next steps



- Formal communication on the MC decision to the three lead partners after the MC meeting; the communication shall also include the conditions for improvement.
- Formal communication to the European Commission by first week of December 2023 (ref. to art. 73.5 of CPR).
- Conditions for improvement to be met by mid-January 2024 at the latest.
- Sending of the subsidy contract to the lead partner after the positive finalization of the conditions for improvement.
- Negotiation process as well as, if necessary, the dedicated support to the projects ensured by the JS officer in charge of strategic projects ISO 1.
- A lead partner seminar will be offered to the project partnerships (January 2024).
- Individual consultations and seminar shall take place online.