

Interreg



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IPA ADRION

Interreg post 2027 consultation

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Forward

Following the preliminary communication provided during the last Interreg Annual Event, on 22 November 2023 DG Regio officially informed all Interreg programmes about the first steps to take to start preparing the future cohesion policy after 2027, as the first draft of the new legislative package is likely to be published in 2025.

To proactively contribute to this interim goal, DG REGIO proposes a proactive involvement of Interreg programmes through the consultation of citizens and stakeholders to be implemented in 2024. Collected information will then be analysed by DG REGIO and used for the preparation of the future legislative package.

The aforementioned communication was followed by two events:

- 1 December 2023, organized by Interact and with the participation of the EC.
- 11 December 2023, organized by the EC, focused on the role of Interreg Volunteers Youth (IVYs) in post-2027 consultations.

According to DG Regio, *“The future Interreg should be based on the experience of programmes, stakeholders and citizens. They are those who are the most concerned by the policy and know best the needs for territorial cooperation across the EU and along its external borders”*.

To streamline this task, DG REGIO prepared a toolkit: programmes were asked to provide comments by end of 2023; both releases were published on DG REGIO web site.

The *Guide for the shaping together the Future Interreg*¹ is structured according to the following:

- Background and objectives.
- List of key questions.
- What to include in Harvesting Reports.
- Methodology for consultation.
- Annex: more details on consultation methodologies.

During the dedicated meetings to illustrate this task, the EC clarified that this exercise shall not have any statistical scope.

1. The general framework for consultation

Consultation post 2027 is one of the supporting actions to the events that shall take place in 2024 to shape the future programming period:

¹ This toolkit is enclosed to this document.

PRESENTATION

2024 “A decisive year”. Key events.

| Spring 2024 | | Autumn 2024 | Spring 2025 |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| IKF 2024_5-7 March_Riga | 9th Cohesión Report. Mid March | Event co- organised with CoR, 14 May_Brux | EU Elections, 6- 9 June |
| One full day, 6 March. | “Ideation on ideas” | Targeted to Regions as | Post 2027 focused event_Nov_ Brux |
| “Synergies between TN and CBC” | Exploring future policy purposes & simplification, cross-border focus | “Validation of ideas” | Event in Gorizia/Nova Gorica |
| | | | EC organised presentation of the harvest. |
| | | | Last opportunity for the draft regulations |

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Source: Interact

As reported by the picture above, outcomes of the consultation shall be presented on occasion of the meeting in Gorizia/Nova Gorica next year.

2. IPA ADRION consultation post 2027 – proposal of methodological approach and indicative calendar

As the EC expects a report from each Interreg Programme by 31 December 2024 according to the template provided, it is necessary to start defining the indicative calendar and the approach to adopt.

The following paragraph provides IPA ADRION proposal on how to implement the requested task. Information complements what already reported in the EC Toolkit enclosed to this proposal.

2.1. Who should be consulted

Consultation shall involve stakeholders only, as the citizens engagement, due to the large area covered by the programme, could become challenging.

2.2. Available financial resources

For the proper and effective implementation of this exercise, EC suggests using Technical Assistance or financial resources allocated under ISO1. With regard to IPA ADRION programme, only the former can be considered, as all Priority Axis 4 resources have been allocated in full.

Core Technical Assistance budget is however limited: resources envisaged for communication activities - whose average amount is of ca EUR 30.000,00/year - also cover expenditure for the organization of Monitoring Committee meetings. The present proposal envisages that only costs for the setting in place of the online questionnaire on the programme web site should be considered.

2.3. How consultation should be done

Since the available *core* TA budget allows the organization of a very limited number of events in person/year, opting for the organization of online events, also consultation shall necessarily be performed online.

To mitigate potential risk of low stakeholders' interest, visibility of consultation shall be ensured also by promoting it on occasion of pan-Adriatic Ionian events, like e.g.: the EUSAIR Forum, the UNIADRION events. ISO1 project Facility Point could provide the list of relevant events to be organized in the Adriatic Ionian area through which the information can be spread.

Similarly, also the other two ISO1 strategic projects could also support this exercise considering their specific tasks.

National dimension shall also play a relevant role: National Contact Points shall be engaged accordingly to promote the consultation along their national events and by sensitizing the relevant stakeholders in their own countries. Additionally, due to their close relations with the relevant national Ministries, they shall contribute to building potential synergies regarding similar exercise performed by other programmes.

2.4. Staff to be engaged

The consultation process shall be coordinated by IPA ADRION Managing Authority.

Both IPA ADRION Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat and National Contact Points (as well as granted projects) can avail themselves of the support of IVYs provided by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) <https://www.aebr.eu/projects/ivy/> and <https://www.interregyouth.com/>: the volunteers can support e.g.: feedbacks collection during the meeting in persons, data entry and data elaboration.

Each volunteering experience lasts for 2 to 6 months, and the volunteers receive a financial contribution that covers their cost of living by the EC through AEBR.

Every volunteer receives a stipend to cover expenses for food and accommodation. The amount provided allows them to live in similar conditions as the local population where they are volunteering, and ranges from 23 to 39 EUR per day. AEBR transfers the financial support in multiple instalments: one week before deployment, during deployment and at the end. The financial support provided is a guarantee that all young people who are interested in the initiative can participate: it is a stipend, not a salary. As such, it is not taxable. There is no fee to participate.

The European Commission and AEBR provide additional funds for IVY volunteers who wish to organise local events – known as Citizens' Engagement Activities – informing citizens of the achievements of the European Regional Policy. As an IVY volunteer, you can come up with your own ideas on how to best raise awareness of the benefits that the Cohesion Policy provides locally, and how to engage citizens in a stimulating debate.

It is possible to host IVYs in all IPA ADRION participating countries with the exception of San Marino.

MA can cover activities for San Marino through its IVY.

2.5. Subject of the consultation

The EC Toolkit provides a set of questions considered as a minimum during the consultation process: some additional questions can be added having regard to the specificities of the programme (e.g.: enlargement, granted topics): overall, the questionnaire should not be too long to discourage potential respondents.

MA/JS will also explore the possibility of developing a questionnaire in cooperation with other transnational programmes to increase effectiveness with regard to the sections of common interest/relevance.

2.6. Consultation 2027 promotion

Consultation shall be closely linked to communication.

IPA ADRION Joint Secretariat shall offer dedicated news and supporting communication articles to promote it and/or to be used also at national level to promote the consultation.

3. Proposed next tasks and calendar

| Task | Actors involved | Provisional calendar |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Overall agreement on the proposed methodology | | 20 February 2024 |
| Identification of online meetings organized by IPA ADRION Programme where consultation post 2027 shall be promoted | MA/JS | By 15 March 2024 |
| Enrichment of the list of questions provided by EC | MA/JS | By 15 March 2024 |
| Elaboration of common piece of news to be used to promote the consultation post 2027 by National Contact Points and on occasion of other meetings/events organized by third parties | MA/JS | By 15 March 2024 |
| Collection of lists of key events where the consultation post 2027 can be directly promoted, eventually through the engagement of IVY(s) Key events shall include transnational and national events | ISO1 strategic projects; NCPs, MA/JS | By 31 March 2024 |
| <i>MC update on the state of play</i> | | |
| Setting in place of a dedicated section on consultation post 2027 on the programme web site <i>Within this section, visitors will find a brief description of the consultation's purpose and a form to submit their answers.</i> | MA/JS | By 31 March 2024* |
| Elaboration of updated mailing lists by NCPs to address dedicated messages to stakeholders to encourage their participation to the consultation (with the JS coordination) NCPs shall be invited to disseminate piece of news along with the questionnaires through their communication channels (website, social media). NCPs shall also be invited to translate them into local languages. | NCPs | By 31 March 2024 |
| Start of the consultation post 2027 activities | | April – October 2024 |
| <i>MC update on the state of play</i> | | |
| Data collection and data entry | IVYs, NCPs (if necessary) | October 2024 |

| | | |
|--|-------|------------------|
| Elaboration of the “Harvesting Report” and submission to the Monitoring Committee for acknowledgement/approval | MA/JS | November 2024 |
| Submission of the “Harvesting Report” to the EC | MA/JS | 31 December 2024 |

*Date to be confirmed