

MINUTES

4th meeting of the Monitoring Committee

Interreg NEXT Programme Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027

8th meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee

Poland-(Belarus)-Ukraine ENI CBC 2014-2020

18-19 April 2024, Krosno & online (Zoom)

1. Opening, objectives of the meeting

Deputy Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Mr Konrad Wojnarowski, representing the Managing Authority (MA), chaired the meeting. On behalf of the Ukrainian National Authority (NA), the meeting was attended by Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Mr Ihor Yaremenko.

- The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and presented the agenda.
- Deputy Minister Ihor Yaremenko also welcomed the participants and wished them a fruitful meeting.
- The MA representative (*Ms Małgorzata Chętko*) proposed to modify the agenda and discuss the project development (Priorities ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS) after the approval of the results of the 1st Call for Proposals (Priority ENVIRONMENT) and selection of the projects for co-financing. There were no objections.
- The modified agenda was approved.

2. Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme – state of play and further steps

- The MA representative (*Ms Małgorzata Chętko*) gave an overview of the Programme implementation progress, goals for the year 2024 and underlined the importance of functioning control systems in both participating countries to ensure efficient financial liquidity of the Programme.
- Mr Ihor Yaremenko informed the participants that the control system in Ukraine as referred to in the Financial Agreement had not been established yet as that system would not work properly in the current situation in Ukraine. Therefore, internal discussions on this topic and arrangements with the Ukrainian regions are underway. Mr Yaremenko assured the members of the Monitoring Committee that the NA is interested in establishing a control system in Ukraine as soon as possible.
- The Joint Secretariat (JS) representative (*Mr Stanisław Bielański*) presented the schedule of calls for proposals, the budget and thematic scope of Priority TOURISM and described a few different options for the allocation of funds earmarked for regular projects under Priority TOURISM.
- The Ukrainian delegation (*Mr Ihor Yaremenko*) upheld their earlier proposal to transfer the Priority TOURISM allocation foreseen for regular projects to Priority ENVIRONMENT due to the

ongoing war in Ukraine, the Ukrainian side requested moving the Programme funds from TOURISM priority to objectives that are currently more demanding.

- The Polish delegation (*Mr Konrad Wojnarowski*) confirmed that the Polish delegation, although very much interested in projects under Priority Tourism, understands the Ukrainian delegation's position and is willing to vote for it.

3. 1st Call for Proposals (Priority ENVIRONMENT) – selection of the projects for co-financing

- The Chairman informed the participants about the rules for the selection of projects for financing and then initiated a discussion on the ranking list of the projects.
- The representatives of the following institutions reported a potential conflict of interest in the selection of the projects:
 - Roztocze Euroregion (*Mr Wojciech Żukowski*),
 - Karpacki Euroregion (*Mr Dawid Lasek*),
 - Association for the Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia" (*Ms Agnieszka Pieniążek*),
 - Podkarpackie Voivodeship Marshal's Office (*Mr Marek Rainer*),
 - Bug Euroregion (*Ms Galina Grabarczuk*).

The abovementioned persons representing the institutions acted as Lead Partners or Project Partners in some of the projects submitted within Priority ENVIRONMENT.

- The Chairman presented the joint proposal that had been discussed during the coordination meetings of the Polish and Ukrainian delegations:
 - 1) to accept the list of 29 projects recommended for financing within the allocation available (52 240 798 EUR allocated for regular projects within Priority ENVIRONMENT),
 - 2) to transfer to Priority ENVIRONMENT:
 - 2 555 672 EUR remaining under Priority COOPERATION,
 - 27 126 048 EUR from Priority TOURISM (allocated for regular projects).

In line with the RoP of the Monitoring Committee as well as the Evaluation and Assessment Manual, the Monitoring Committee concluded the strategic assessment of projects. Based on the strategic assessment, the Monitoring Committee gave additional points to 14 projects which demonstrated importance for the Programme and had a great potential to positively impact the Programme area. The detailed justifications for the points awarded to those projects is included in the Strategic Assessment Report. The projects awarded with additional points by the Monitoring Committee are:

Main list projects:

- PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0010/23 – 0,5 p.
- PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0025/23 – 1,5 p.
- PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0027/23 – 0,5 p.
- PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0039/23 – 1 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0019/23 – 5 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0020/23 – 7,5 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0021/23 – 7 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0033/23 – 10 p.

- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0040/23 – 1 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0041/23 – 6 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0042/23 – 6 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0043/23 – 6 p.
- PLUA.01.03-IP.01-0017/23 – 4,5 p.

Reserve list projects:

- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0003/23 – 7,75 p.

3) to include to the list of project recommended for financing 2 projects from the ranking list:

- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0036/23 – 83 p.
- PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0053/23 – 83,5 p.

Decisions:

1. Reallocation of funds to Priority ENVIRONMENT:
 - 2 555 672 EUR remaining under Priority COOPERATION,
 - 27 126 048 EUR from Priority TOURISM (allocated for regular projects).
2. To approve the strategic assessment of projects concluded by the Monitoring Committee.
3. Granting 13 projects in total additional points by the Monitoring Committee.
4. Granting 2 additional projects from the ranking list of projects.
5. Approval of the list of **44 projects recommended for financing** (29 projects from the initial basic list sent to the MC after the assessment + 13 projects for which the MC carried out the strategic assessment and gave additional points + 2 additional projects from the ranking list of projects) with the maximum co-financing of **90%**.
6. In order to enable financing of all 44 projects, to decrease their grants by 1.25% each, ensuring the maximum (90%) co-financing provided by the Programme. The total co-financing for **44 selected projects** will amount to **81 896 489.56 EUR**. During the contracting the JS will help project partners to adjust projects' budgets and eliminate ineligible costs.
7. Approval of the reserve list of projects.
 - The first project on the reserve list under SO 1.1 remains the project PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0018/23 with total score 75 points. It is also the first reserve list project to be financed in case of available funds under Priority ENVIRONMENT.
 - The first project on the reserve list under SO 1.2 will be the project PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0003/23 with total score 82,75 points.

Poland: 6 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 0 votes "ABSTAIN").

Ukraine: 8 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 0 votes "ABSTAIN").

Full list of selected projects in Annex 10.

Full list of reserve list projects in Annex 11.

Strategic assessment report – Priority ENVIRONMENT Annex 12.

4. Poland-(Belarus)-Ukraine ENI CBC 2014-2020 – closure of the Programme

- The JTS representative (*Mr Tomasz Jędrzejewski*) presented the current situation and the main challenges in the settlement of projects. Mr Jędrzejewski emphasised the importance of the deadline for the settlement of projects and asked the regional authorities to support the JTS in reaching the Project Partners that had not yet submitted their financial reports.
- The JTS representative (*Mr Stanisław Bielański*) presented the main conclusions and recommendations of the ex-post evaluation report of the 2014-2020 Programme (conducted by company Ecorys). The report confirms that the majority of the projects under the Programme have had a high or average impact on the life of the local communities.

5. Projects development in Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme – state of play

- The JS representative (*Mr Tomasz Jędrzejewski*) gave an overview of the process of contracting the large infrastructure projects, regular projects selected within Priority HEALTH and described further steps to be taken in the implementation of the Programme.
- The JS representative (*Mr Andrzej Słodki*) presented the main assumptions of Small Project Funds within Priorities ENVIRONMENT and COOPERATION.
- The JS representative (*Mr Stanisław Bielański*) provided information on project development within Priorities ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS.

On 9 August 2023 the JS asked representatives of 4 Polish and 6 Ukrainian regions to submit (until 31 August 2023) draft proposals of the road/railway modernization investments to be financed within joint PL-UA LIPs. It was planned that basing on these proposals and agreed cross-border partnerships, by 30 October 2023, the JS shall receive all the ACCESSIBILITY Project Summaries.

Within the deadline set, the JS received draft proposals of the road investments from all Polish regions. On 7 December 2023, the Ukrainian side provided a list of short concepts of railway investments under ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS priorities, for further partners search with the Polish side. Those proposals that consisted of activities eligible under ACCESSIBILITY priority were sent by MA for the consultation with Polish Ministry of Infrastructure. In a result of that, the Polish Railways expressed interest in creating the cross-border partnership project(s) with Ukrzaliznytsia. The MA has confirmed that to UA NA in email of 20 March 2024 and proposed the meeting to move things forward. The UA NA was simultaneously again requested to provide proposals of the road activities which could be combined with the Polish proposals sent in August 2023.

On 1 April 2024, the UA NA has confirmed its readiness to involve Ukrzaliznytsia in joint meetings for consultations on project proposals. Referring the proposals of roads activities – the UA NA has asked for more time on that.

- Mr Ihor Yaremenko pointed out the importance for Ukraine of development of the border, road and rail infrastructure. Mr Yaremenko assured the other MC members that the Ukrainian

side would be ready to present the agreed LIPs proposals by July 2024, in particular in the field of road infrastructure (after internal consultations and prioritising of projects).

- The MA representative (*Ms Małgorzata Chętko*) stressed the necessity of accepting projects under all the Programme priorities by the end of 2024 to ensure the efficiency and financial flows of the Programme.
- Two of the representatives of the Polish regions (*Ms Ewa Orzełowska, Mr Bogdan Kawałko*) underlined the importance of implementation of the Polish project proposals aimed at development of road infrastructure.
- The Commission representative (*Mr Jozef Michalek*) noted that the Commission was very much involved in discussion on ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS projects, as they were not only crucial for creating cross-border regional cohesion supporting integration between Ukraine and the EU, but also an element of the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes initiative.
- The Polish and Ukrainian sides agreed to come back to the discussion on LIPs under Priorities ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS after receiving project proposals from Ukraine.

6. AOB

- The JS representative (*Mr Andrzej Słodki*) raised a question on supporting beneficiaries in Ukraine by the JS Branch Office in relation to establishment of the new system of supporting Interreg programmes by the regional development agencies in Ukraine.
- The representatives of the Polish and Ukrainian regions supported the decision to set up the JS Branch Office in Lviv (BO), in the Information and Cross-border Cooperation Support Centre DOBROSUSIDSTVO. The MC members highlighted the significant experience of that organisation, and the good cooperation with the BO.
- The Ukrainian NA (*Ms Yana Romaniuk*) agreed to accept the decision concerning Lviv BO and not to change the Programme document. The NA representative informed the participants that in order to support beneficiaries in Ukraine the regional contact points should also be established.
- The MA representative (*Ms Małgorzata Chętko*) proposed 11-12 September, 2024 as the date of the next MC meeting. There were no objections to that. The Ukrainian side proposed to hold that meeting in the Zakarpattia region. The organizational aspects of the meeting will be analyzed by the JS and the information will be sent to the MC in due time.

Table 1. Voting members

POLAND

	Institution	Name	Participation
1.	Managing Authority	Konrad Wojnarowski	in place
2.	Lubelskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	Bogdan Kawałko	in place
3.	Mazowieckie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	Ewa Orzełowska	in place
4.	Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	Izabela Łokić	in place

5.	Podkarpackie Voivodeship Marshal's Office*	Marek Rainer	in place
6.	Euroregion Bug*	Galina Grabarczuk	in place
7.	Euroregion Karpacki*	Dawid Lasek	in place
8.	Euroregion Roztocze*	Wojciech Żukowski	in place
9.	Association for the Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia"*	Agnieszka Pieniążek	in place
10.	Ministry of Interior and Administration of Poland	Mariusz Kasprzyk Maciej Kaczorowski	online
11.	Konfederacja Lewiatan	Dariusz Jodłowski	in place

UKRAINE

	Institution	Name	Participation
1.	National Authority	Ihor Yaremenko	in place
2.	Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration	Vitalii Ilchyshyn	in place
3.	Lviv Regional State Administration	Khrystyna Zamula	in place
4.	Rivne Oblast State Administration	Olga Iutovets	in place
5.	Ternopil Regional Military Administration	Viktor Ustenko	in place
6.	Volyn Regional State (Military) Administration	Olena Behal	in place
7.	Zakarpattia Regional State Administration	Vasyl Ivancho	in place
8.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine	Iryna Yefremova	online
9.	Platform Civil Society Ukraine-EU	Nadija Afanasieva	online
10.	National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development Scientific Committee	Ivan Kulchyyskyy	in place

* Reported potential conflict of interest in decisions on the selection of projects within Priority ENVIRONMENT.

Annexes:

1. Presentation 1: State of play and plans for 2024.
2. Presentation 1.2: Control cost UA.
3. Presentation 1.3: Schedule of calls for proposals. Priority TOURISM.
4. Presentation 1.4: Project development ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS.
5. Presentation 1.5: ENVIRONMENT Assessment.
6. Presentation 2.1: PBU 2014-2020 Programme closure.
7. Presentation 2.2: PBU 2014-2020 Programme evaluation.
8. Presentation 2.3: Contracting PL-UA.
9. Presentation 2.4: Small Project Funds.
10. List of the projects recommended for financing – Priority ENVIRONMENT.
11. Reserve list of the projects – Priority ENVIRONMENT.
- 12 a. MC Strategic assessment report – Priority ENVIRONMENT 1.1
- 12 b. MC Strategic assessment report – Priority ENVIRONMENT 1.2
- 12 c. MC Strategic assessment report – Priority ENVIRONMENT 1.3

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NEXT Poland – Ukraine

PL-BY-UA
2014-2020

Chaired by:

KONRAD WOJNAROWSKI (MA)

Secretary:

LENA BUDARINA (JS)