

SFC2021 INTERREG Programme

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1. Joint Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses

1.1. Programme area

(not required for Interreg C programmes)

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(3), point (a) of Article 17(9)

The Programme area is:

- in Poland NUTS 3: Białostocki, Łomżyński, Suwalski, Ostrołęcki, Siedlecki, Bialski, Lubelski, Puławski, Chełmsko-Zamojski, Przemyski, Rzeszowski, Tarnobrzesci, Krośnieński,
- in Ukraine oblasts: Volyn, Lviv, Zakarpattya, Rivne, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk.

It covers 177 128 km², 57% in Ukraine and 43% in Poland.

Despite its size, the participating regions face similar problems and present comparable development potential. The borderland area is characterised by low population density, a sparse settlement network and (mainly in Poland) a large number of nature conservation areas. Combined, these factors contribute to a relatively high preservation of natural resources. The majority of the area is a periphery of the countries involved, as evidenced by the lower-than-average national GDP value of most subregions. Metropolises are an exception here and their economic situation is more favourable.

On the other hand, basic systems such as education, public administration, legal and political systems differ greatly between the two countries.

Poland and Ukraine have been cooperating for many years and in spite of the existing adversities, joint actions have been undertaken and common solutions have been developed.

In 2004-2006 the Neighbourhood Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine INTERREG IIIA / TACIS CBC 2004-2006 was established. It continued as the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine CBC Programme from 2007. For many years, trilateral cooperation was fruitful and successful. Nevertheless, due to i.a. human rights violations, stirring up crisis at EU's external borders and use of migrants for political purposes which was initiated by Belarus in 2021, the involvement of Belarus in Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine of 24.02.2022 and a gross violation of international law, the CBC cooperation with Belarus is currently suspended. Therefore, the 2021-2027 Programme will be bilateral: Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine.

1.2 Joint programme strategy: Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, joint investment needs and complimentary and synergies with other funding programmes and instruments, lessons-learned from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies.

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(3), point (b) of Article 17(9)

Socio-economic, spatial and functional problems can be identified in the area of the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme and the following conclusions were drawn on the basis of a socio-economic analysis of the support area and diagnostic workshops with representatives of units from that area. Information about the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the lives of the inhabitants is based on publicly available knowledge about the problems related to the functioning of Central and Eastern European countries during the pandemic. Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine brings new challenges that have to be addressed by the Programme.

The war itself and its aftermath will undoubtedly have an immense impact on the situation in the Ukrainian part of the Programme area and, in consequence, on the implementation of the Programme. It has also caused an unprecedented inflow of refugees to Poland whose needs should also be addressed by the projects supported by the Programme. The Programme Monitoring Committee (MC) will identify the most crucial needs and challenges facing the Poland – Ukraine cross-border cooperation.

1.2.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

1.2.1.1 DEMOGRAPHY AND HEALTH

The Programme area is mostly sparsely populated – the average density is 80 people per square kilometre. In 2018 the population of the Programme area was 14 516 780 people, of which 42% were in Poland and 58% in Ukraine. Each country has seen a decline in its population in recent years. Demographic forecasts indicate further declining trends in the number of inhabitants in most regions of the Programme.

An important issue influencing the demand for various social services, such as senior care or healthcare, is the age structure of the inhabitants. A decreasing population and low population growth affect the demographic structure – the percentage of people in pre-working age is decreasing and the percentage of people in post-working age is increasing. A favourable demographic situation in the support area is recorded in subregions and oblasts in which the largest cities are located – capital cities of voivodeships, main public service centres. In Poland, these are the Białostocki, Lubelski and Rzeszowski subregions, in Ukraine – Lviv, Volyn, Zakarpattya and Rivne oblasts. This is related to the migration trend of inhabitants from rural areas to cities.

The unfavourable demographic situation of a significant part of the Programme area is strongly linked with low migration attractiveness and low economic development, which is manifested by unemployment and a shortage of highly paid, specialised positions. Urban areas are an exception in this context (in Poland – Białostocki, Lubelski and Rzeszowski subregions and in Ukraine – Lviv oblast). Stopping unfavourable processes, such as depopulation of the Programme area as a result of the increasing number of people at the retirement age and the decline in the birth rate, in most of the Programme area is becoming a key social challenge.

The health of inhabitants of the Programme area is also of key importance. Deaths, irrespective of location, are mainly caused by cardiovascular disease (in Poland their share in the total number of deaths is 41.5%, and in Ukraine – 56.5%) and cancer (in Poland their share in the total number of deaths is 26.5 % and in Ukraine – 13.4%). This is due to the growing demographic trends and the growing number of people in post-working age, as well as the apparent inequalities between the subregions of the Programme area in terms of the availability of healthcare. One of the elements of the senior policy will be the development of care and health services. Secondly, statistical data on mortality and morbidity indicate the need for taking measures in the field of preventive health. These problems overlap with staff shortages – in the medical sector, as in other sectors, there is an outflow of staff to other urban centres and regions with a higher level of development potential. Inequalities in access to healthcare are manifested by the varying number of clinics, doctors and hospital beds in relation to the number of inhabitants. On the Polish side, these inequalities are most visible due to the fact that capital cities of three (out of four) voivodeships are located in the Programme area subregions, which often act as regional healthcare centres, serving patients from neighbouring subregions. On the Ukrainian side, the disproportions between the oblasts are

much smaller. The better accessibility of clinics (number of clinics per 10,000 population) is on the Polish side. In the oblasts of Ukraine this indicator is lower by about half. When it comes to the availability of doctors (number of doctors per 10,000 population), the inequalities between the two countries are not significant. The advanced digitalization of health care is still a challenge for both sides of the border but poses far greater challenge for the Ukrainian part where deficiencies in this regard are a serious problem. Diagnostic accessibility, ambulatory care as well as prophylaxis are issues of great importance for the population's health on both sides of the border and should be addressed.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic proved to be a huge threat to the efficiency of health care, however, far greater challenge for the Ukrainian health care system pose the war consequences. The situation of inhabitants and refugees should be supported by providing medical supplies, improving access to medical treatment and improving emergency medicine. In order to address these issues, it is indispensable to further tighten and develop cross-border cooperation between medical and emergency services of both countries.

In context of COVID-19 isolations and war-related psychological consequences, easy access to psychiatric and psychological treatment and care (including children) shall also be supported by the Programme.

Taking into account the demographic structure of the Programme area, the Programme should invest in public services aimed at improving the welfare of the aging population and mitigating results of the unfavourable demographic structure of the population. This can be achieved e.g., through improving health services across borders, especially those aimed at senior citizens, preventive health, improved access to specialists and e-medicine, as well as strengthening the cooperation and exchange of experience between medical professionals, and increasing the migration attractiveness of the Programme area e.g., by supporting better use of the potential of the Programme area such as high tourist attractiveness of cultural heritage and natural resources.

1.2.1.2 ECONOMIC SITUATION, EDUCATION AND LABOUR MARKET

The economic situation in the Programme area is characterised by large and deepening disparities between the subregions covered by the Programme and the other parts of participating countries.

The economic structure of individual regions in the Programme area is characterised by a significant share of the agricultural sector in creating gross value added. In the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, as well as in the Ivano-Frankivsk oblast there is also a relatively large industry sector. However, despite some regional economic differences in all units of the Programme area, the share of the services sector is growing, while the share of sector I (agriculture) and sector II (industry) is decreasing. Such changes in the economic structure are typical of both the developed and developing economies.

Although the entrepreneurship indicator is higher on the Polish side of the Programme area, it remains moderately high in Ukraine. The share of medium and large enterprises remains relatively high in units in Ukraine, while in Poland small and micro enterprises dominate. The Lubelskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeships are characterised by a relatively high level of innovation.

The education systems in Poland and Ukraine are quite different from each other. Nevertheless, in all surveyed units there is a clear tendency to reduce the number of educational institutions, which is a consequence of a decrease in the number of students. The number of university students is high in the Lviv oblast and Lubelski, Rzeszowski, Białostocki subregions. This is due to the variety of educational opportunities offered by cities located within these units. Academic cities are characterised by high migration attractiveness - mainly among young people. The development of educational institutions from the elementary level to the tertiary level requires support. High-quality educational services combined with access to attractive job offers may limit the outflow of young staff from the Programme area to large agglomerations. An important aspect of cooperation in the field of education is the integration of the inhabitants of borderland from an early age. When it comes to the labour market, in the Polish part of the Programme area, the unemployment level is close to the natural rate of unemployment. It is different in the Ukrainian part, where unemployment (especially in Volyn, Rivne, Ternopil and Zakarpattia oblasts) remains high. Trends at the national level in Ukraine indicate a significant increase in long-term unemployment. The dynamic of changes on the labour market is relatively stable in case of Polish subregions in the Programme. However, in their case it is alarming, that the number of the unemployed with higher and post-secondary education is increasing in almost all analysed units on the Polish side (except Lubelski, Chełmsko-Zamojski and Przemyski subregions; no data available for Ukraine).

The economic issues of the Programme area are clearly linked to social and demographic problems, common to both countries. Negative economic phenomena result from the outflow of educated inhabitants, which is why the

allocation of financial resources and remedial actions focusing on economic issues may be inefficient. Due to the existing differences in the economic profiles of the areas forming the Programme area adopting one common economic development strategy is practically impossible. Actions undertaken in each country shall be well adapted to the national, regional and local specificity and that is the role of the local projects' promoters.

The economic situation, education and labour market in the Programme area is also highly affected by the Russian full-scale invasion of the Ukraine. Within the Programme actions it is necessary to provide solutions that will support restoration of the country's economy after the war.

The Programme should foster cooperation between public institutions, business supporting entities and civil society actors with a view to improve economic situation at local and regional level. The Programme should support the tourism development as that sector has great potential in boosting economy in several parts of the Programme area, as well as is a chance for limiting negative trends of labour force migrations. Support on these two levels can have a positive impact on eliminating joint problems and achieving synergy.

1.2.1.3 TOURISM RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL

The multiculturalism of the Polish and Ukrainian border areas, the existence of folk traditions, crafts and other sources of cultural heritage and the unique natural qualities of the borderland make up a great tourist potential, unique in the scale of both countries. The Polish-Ukrainian borderland constitutes an environmentally and culturally coherent area. One in three of all Ukrainian tourist facilities are located in the Programme area. On the other hand, in Poland, only 13% of tourist facilities are located in the Programme area. The crucial challenge here is that the economic importance of tourism in the Programme area is much lower than globally in each of the countries and current share of tourism in the GDP in the Programme area remains low.

In terms of the general trends of tourism development in Poland, positive phenomena can be observed in Poland, where the number of tourist facilities and the number of tourists have increased or remained stable prior to the war. For Ukraine (according to the State Agency for Tourism Development of Ukraine), more than four million foreign tourists visited that country in 2021. This is almost 26% more than in 2020. The share of tourism in Ukraine's GDP in 2021 was estimated at 2%. Ukraine reached the growth in tourism, despite COVID-19 and Russian occupation of Crimea and some territories in the Eastern part of Ukraine. The Russian full-scale invasion started in February 2022 naturally has stopped any kind of touristic movement from the outside Ukraine and reduced tourist traffic within Ukraine. The same applies to the Ukrainian part of the Programme area.

Concluding, tourism can be an important element of the Programme area economy. However, tourist infrastructure is still underdeveloped in many parts of the area and require significant support to attract visitors. Besides, the attractiveness of the tourism sector in Ukraine is strongly impacted by the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine.

The great tourist potential of the Programme area is not effectively exploited. In order to better use it investments in tourist infrastructure as well as promotional activities directed at tourists should be intensified. The Programme should support development of products and services for tourists, which will lead to the creation of new jobs and aid with the post-pandemic and post-war economic recovery of the Programme area.

1.2.2 ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, SPATIAL, FUNCTIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The negative consequences of global climate change are a serious issue in the Programme area and they have been increasing in the last few decades. They result in periods of drought and water scarcity, while temperature extremes drastically increase the severity of fires. Mutual cooperation is essential in order to adapt to climate change, prevent and mitigate its negative effects, particularly wildfires.

Although overall water consumption in most of the Programme area has been decreasing in recent years, in some parts of the Programme area there are deficiencies in the coverage of the sewage network and clean water accessibility. The population, especially in Ukraine, is often connected to an inefficient and obsolete public water supply system, which results in both water losses and deteriorating quality of drinking water.

Adapting to high standards in the Programme area is very difficult because the current situation results from infrastructural deficiencies, which is manifested in the insufficiently developed sewage and water supply network, and from low ecological awareness of residents and stakeholders operating in the Programme area. The lack of prioritisation of environmental protection is noticeable, among others in insufficient financial resources allocated to equip infrastructure networks. Part of the Programme area is unsafe or unusable due to contamination by human activity, therefore rehabilitation of brownfields to render them reusable is needed. The manifestation of environmental problems in the Programme area is the presence of illegal garbage dumps, persistent low level of waste recycling and low water quality.

The Polish part of the Programme area definitely differs from the Ukrainian by the large share of protected areas in the entire territory. The supported area is diversified in terms of the percentage of legally protected areas – while in the Ukrainian oblasts the percentage of the protected area covers around 15% (0% in case of Lviv oblast), in the Polish subregions it is about 75%. However, the whole Programme area, on both sides of the border, covers significant number of valuable natural areas. There are 28 national parks – 8 on the Polish and 20 on the Ukrainian side. The positive trend is observed in Ukraine, where the protected areas have increased in size over the past few years, and subsequent areas are covered by various forms of nature protection.

The border location of the largest protected nature complexes between two countries (particularly in Polesie, Roztocze, along the Bug River Valley and in Carpathians) is an advantage for creating cross-border nature protection networks. The Bug River Valley is a key element of the cross-border ecosystem. The total area of the river basin is almost 40,000 square kilometres, of which almost 50% is located on the Polish territory. In Ukraine the basin area is 10,800 square kilometres. The Bug is the border river of both countries. Western Polesie, a natural and culturally coherent area is also on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland and at the same time constitutes an important tourist potential of these countries. For cooperation in the field of environmental protection at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland also important are Roztocze and the Eastern Carpathians/Beskids. They constitute environmentally and culturally coherent areas and, at the same time, they have significant tourist potential, especially in terms of development of ecotourism. Other naturally valuable areas included in the Natura 2000 in Poland and Emerald network in Ukraine are also of great importance here.

On the Polish side the Białowieża Forest shall be mentioned. It is a large forest complex located on the border between Poland and Belarus, having a status of World Heritage Site. This property includes a complex of lowland forests that are characteristic of the Central European mixed forests terrestrial ecoregion. The area has exceptionally conservation significance due to its large parts of immense primeval forests, which include extensive undisturbed areas where natural processes are on-going. Białowieża Forest covers a total area of 141,885 hectares (about 42% of the total area of World Heritage Site of Białowieża Forest is located in Poland) and is exceptional for the opportunities it offers for biodiversity conservation.

The lack of coordinated plans for the development of protective zones as well as differences in nature protection systems between Poland and Ukraine make it difficult to undertake joint, uniform actions related to environmental protection. Deeper cooperation on this matter would benefit the Programme area.

Considering the uniqueness of natural resources located in the Programme area it is crucial to protect them also from both climate and non-climate related natural risks and risks linked to human activities. Joint cooperation in this regard is needed to preserve them for present and future generations. Anthropogenic activities negatively impact flora and fauna on the Programme area. One of the main issues in the Carpathian Mountains is the necessity to assure forestall water retention in the rivers' upper catchment areas, which prevents risk of inundations and floods in other parts of catchment areas. The loss of natural ecosystems caused by wetland loss from draining and water extraction for irrigation are threatening biodiversity on the territories. In some cases, such as overexploitation of a particular animal species, economic drivers play a crucial role.

The quality of the natural environment of the cross-border area is the key aspect of its inhabitants' high quality of life, it also determines the tourist attractiveness and potential as described above which should be further sustainably explored.

Significant challenges for the Programme area are climate change adaptation, prevention, detection and warning of natural and anthropogenic hazards, sustainable water management as well as awareness rising on the sensitive issues of the wide range of stakeholders and inhabitants of the Programme area. Moreover, it is

necessary to increase the involvement and participation of the inhabitants of the Programme area in cross-border cooperation aimed at transition to a circular and resource efficient economy.

The Programme should support the protection of biodiversity natural heritage and resources of its area, as well as initiatives focused on creating conditions and specific solutions for the promotion of eco-friendly lifestyles, monitoring, assessment, prevention and finding solutions to the common issues of local communities related to waste management and environmental protection.

1.2.3 COOPERATION POTENTIAL

The Programme should concentrate on developing cross-border links on the local and regional scale, between local government units, communities and NGOs.

The existing development asymmetries between Poland and Ukraine influence the possibilities for full usage of cooperation potential, especially due to:

- incomparable competences of local and regional authorities,
- differences in the principles of functioning of local authorities in Poland and Ukraine – this mainly concerns the possibility of independent disposal of own resources and communal property, differences in the necessity and possibilities of planning activities for several years ahead financed from public funds,
- insufficient mutual trust between authorities and inhabitants of cooperating countries.

In order to strengthen the cross-border ties, use existing cooperation potential and create new links between local and regional authorities across borders, capacity building and improvement of competences of local and regional government staff and other public institutions and non-governmental organizations should be supported.

Cross-border cooperation is an important issue for local governments. 41% of the examined Polish local governments declare active cooperation with Ukraine, especially regarding EU projects and gaining local government experience.

There are 5 Euroregions: Bug Euroregion, Carpathian Euroregion, Niemen Euroregion, Białowieża Forest Euroregion and newly created Roztocze Euroregion operating in the Programme area. Three of them (Bug Euroregion, Carpathian Euroregion and Roztocze Euroregion) encompass cross-border areas of Poland and Ukraine and represent a great potential for further cross-border cooperation development.

The cooperation potential will be utilized, among others, by implementing two Small Project Funds. The Carpathian Euroregion (PL) was indicated as the future beneficiary of the SPF under the SO 6.3 Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions (Priority 4. COOPERATION).

The Ternopil Regional Development Agency (UA) was indicated as the future beneficiary of the SPF under the SO 2.6 Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy (Priority 1. ENVIRONMENT).

The cooperation potential on both sides of the border naturally goes beyond the depicted Programme area and involves many other actors also with seats outside that area. Whenever possible and beneficial for the Programme area, the involvement of such actors shall be enhanced, and functional ties and interrelations shall be fostered.

Cross border cooperation between public institutions and civil society actors, strengthening the administrative potentials as well as people-to-people actions should be an important part of the Programme intervention. The Programme should put a particular emphasis on improving the quality of public services, including border, custom and other related services in order to face current obstacles and challenges.

1.2.4 BORDER MANAGEMENT

About 22 million people annually crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border use 10 border crossings. The number of crossings is growing, which is the motivation behind the need to create new and improve existing border crossings. There are significant deficiencies in the infrastructure of existing border crossings, especially for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. It is necessary to improve the effectiveness of controls at border crossing points. Projects supported by the Programme should focus on:

- development and modernization of border-crossing points infrastructure, especially in the context of the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes initiative as well as the increased movement of people through the Polish-Ukrainian border,
- creation of joint procedures for quicker and safer border control and crossing,

- targeted investments in necessary equipment and supplies,
- exchange of experience and best practices, joint trainings.

In order to promote strengthening of the cross-border coordination and cooperation, and taking into account the growing migration flows between Poland and Ukraine, it is important for the Programme to support the development of cooperation in the field of border management, increasing the efficiency of border-crossing procedures, but it should be remembered that the majority of border-crossing procedures is regulated by central institutions (and on EU level) and inter-governmental/international agreements.

1.2.5 ACCESSIBILITY AND SOLIDARITY LANES

Transport accessibility is an important factor for the economic development of any border area and its inhabitants' quality of life. In the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme area, however, it is not only a crucial aspect 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 initiative was a response to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the blockade of Ukrainian seaports, which threatened the export of Ukraine's produce to destinations around the world via the usual routes. This situation threatens global food security and alternative routes for transport of goods to and from Ukraine need to be established and enforced to help Ukraine export its produce via rail and road.

The solidarity lanes are currently the only option for exporting Ukrainian goods and importing goods Ukraine needs, such as fuel and humanitarian aid. The logistics routes created under the Solidarity Lanes initiative, including i.a. Baltic ports, rail and road routes in Poland and other EU countries neighbouring Ukraine need to be further used to develop transport networks between the EU and Ukraine.

Moreover, the reconstruction and modernization of roads and railways could improve the safety and flow of cross-border traffic.

Although the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme resources are too scarce to finance investments key for developing and sustaining the Solidarity Lanes logistics routes, it shall support initiatives enabling or enhancing access to those routes in terms of rail and road infrastructure.

1.2.6 SUMMARY OF THE MAIN COMMON CHALLENGES AND INVESTMENT NEEDS

In spite of the borders existing between the two countries, there are common challenges on the Programme area, especially:

- low level of socio-economic development;
- advanced negative demographic processes such as depopulation and aging;
- negative effects resulting from the peripheral location of some parts of the area.

These can be counteracted by taking advantage of the tourism potential of the valuable natural and cultural resources of the region, for visitors both from and outside of the Programme area. Strengthening cooperation between institutions responsible for policies affecting business development, SMEs functioning, and generally economic development are of great importance in this regard. Increased efficiency of such institutions as well as their closer cooperation with business and 3rd sector organizations, i.a. associations have to be fostered.

Another important challenge of the Programme is counteracting degradation of the natural environment and further protection of the most valuable natural assets. These activities are part of the EU's demand for a more efficient use of environmental resources.

Taking into account further development of territorial cooperation between Poland and Ukraine as well as the current problems and challenges of the Programme area, cooperation between residents and institutions, integration of communities and overcoming socio-cultural barriers should be deepened and improved. Problems with maintaining local cohesion and integration of the inhabitants of the Programme area may be caused by the European Union border dividing Europe. Therefore, it is all the more important to promote and support strong, positive interpersonal relations.

Due to the existing inequalities and problems as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine, the residents' health should also become a priority. Further investments should be made in streamlining the

border-crossing procedures to strengthen the existing and build new cross-border links between institutions and people living in the border area of Poland and Ukraine.

During the implementation of the Programme the Managing Authority will promote the strategic use of public procurement to support Policy Objectives (including professionalization efforts to address capacity gaps). Beneficiaries should be encouraged to use more quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria. When feasible, environmental (e.g., green public procurement criteria) and social considerations as well as innovation incentives should be incorporated into public procurement procedures.

1.2.7 CONTINUITY AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF COOPERATION

1.2.7.1 Lessons learnt and experience

Institutional cooperation between Poland and Ukraine plays an important role within the cooperation of the European Union and its eastern partners under the Eastern Partnership and under the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme. The Programme supports building and maintaining links between local and regional communities and entities across borders. The 2014-2020 edition included Belarus and had a total budget of over 201 million euro (183 M EUR of EU financing, 18.3 M EUR of beneficiaries co-financing), out of which in total approx. 188 million euro was allocated for implementation of projects under four thematic objectives: Heritage, Accessibility, Security and Borders. Three types of projects have been supported: Large Infrastructure Projects which addressed Accessibility, Security and Borders, regular projects under all thematic objectives and microprojects aimed at the cultural and natural heritage of the Programme area.

In the 2014-2020 Programme edition almost 160 projects were financed, with 433 beneficiaries involved as projects partners. The most popular project topics in this edition of the Programme 2014-2020 were:

- preservation of cultural heritage;
- improving safety including health security;
- preservation of existing natural heritage;
- improvement of transport connections.

The major lessons learnt so far from the implementation of the 2014-2020 edition of the Programme are:

- The Programme is popular among beneficiaries – large number of organisations involved in project proposals;
- In the first years of the Programme implementation, the focus was on calls for proposals and organisational issues;
- In the first call for proposals organised for regular projects (consuming the majority of the Programme budget), the Heritage and Security thematic objectives (including health protection and social services) enjoyed the greatest interest of applicants;
- Within the Programme there was good cooperation among partner countries which led to stable and sustainable partnerships;
- There were only minor issues reported by the applicants with relation to the e-application software usage, generally system proved to be efficient;
- There was effective communication with the JTS/MA, the institutions provided (potential) applicants and beneficiaries with up-to-date information and kept direct contact with them during all processes, these relations were the sine qua non conditions for ensuring successful Programme implementation;
- The level of cross-border cooperation and impact of actions implemented by individual beneficiaries under the Programme was sometimes questionable (some projects tended to be implemented on an ‘individual basis’, without having the bigger project and Programme picture in mind).

The 2021-2027 Programme will strengthen the existing links between Poland and Ukraine and build new ones in the field of: environment, health, tourism, cooperation, borders and accessibility. The Programme will therefore be a continuation and deepening of the development processes launched in the 2014-2020 programming period. However, as the new challenges for cross-border cooperation between Poland and Ukraine arise, the Programme will be more tailor-made to maximise its impact on the Programme area. For more effective exchange of the data the 2021-2027 Programme has set up a system ensuring that all exchanges between beneficiaries and all the Programme authorities are carried out by means of electronic data exchange.

1.2.7.2 Complementarity of the Programme

In order to achieve positive synergies, work must be continued to maintain the thematic and spatial links between the various interventions at both supra-regional and regional levels. Obtaining and sustaining the benefits resulting from the current implementation of programmes and projects in the Programme area is possible only if the complementarity of interventions is maintained in the future. This will help to maintain the positive direction of long-term socio-economic, spatial, environmental and other changes.

1.2.7.2.1 EU strategies and programmes

In terms of planned priority investments, the strategic documents of the European Union should be referred to. The Strategy *Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030* is one of the key documents. The main assumptions of this document are:

- From a linear economy to a circular economy;
- Concept of 'farm-to-fork';
- Energy, construction and mobility ready for the challenges of the future;
- Ensuring the transformation of a just Europe from a social point of view.

The European Union is committed to moving towards an economically sustainable Europe in which people "live well within the limits of our planet"¹. In this context, the investment priorities planned under the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme to promote sustainable water management, promote transformation towards a circular economy and broadly understood nature, environment and landscape protection are most important. There is a visible link between investment priorities and goal 1. "From a linear economy to a circular economy".

The Multiannual Financial Framework, reinforced by Next Generation EU, will be the main European tool serving creation of jobs and repairing the immediate damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic whilst supporting the Union's green and digital priorities. It is built on three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Supporting Member States to recover;
- Pillar 2: Kick-starting the economy and helping private investment;
- Pillar 3: Learning lessons from the crisis.

Pillar 1 involves instruments to support Member State efforts to recover, repair and emerge stronger from the crisis. Pillar 2 assumes measures to boost private investment and support ailing companies. Pillar 3 covers the reinforcement of key EU programmes to draw lessons from the crisis and make the single market stronger and more resilient and accelerate the twin green and digital transitions. In this context, the activities planned under the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme also serve digitalisation (e.g., in healthcare), support of tourism (creating jobs), environment by promoting adaptation to climate change, sustainable water management, increasing biodiversity and reducing pollution.

In context of digitalisation, the Programme will try to contribute to the objectives of the Web Accessibility Directive (DIRECTIVE (EU) 2016/2102 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies). It assumes that all online content of public sector bodies is accessible to all people, including persons with disabilities. A coordinated effort in this regard could have positive knock-on effects in areas relevant for the Programme such as SMEs, training, (digital) inclusion and employment prospects. Furthermore, in order to advance the digital transition in the Programme area, wherever possible during the Programme implementation and projects selection/financing, references to two new EU instruments will be made – the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) as well as Connecting Europe Facility (CEF Digital).

Attention should also be paid to macro-regional strategies: The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the draft Carpathian Strategy. The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is based on three main thematic pillars: marine protection, increased integration of the region and increased prosperity and a horizontal

¹ „Dobra jakość życia z uwzględnieniem ograniczeń naszej planety” (Dz.Urz. L347 z 28.12.2013, s. 171) and H. Komiya, K. Takeuchi, Sustainability Science: building a new discipline, "Sustainability Science", no. 1/2006.

basis. In this context, the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme will support the achievement of the Strategy goals by increasing integration in the region in the fields of i.a. biodiversity protection.

The Carpathian Strategy is a project of a macro-regional strategy that can significantly contribute to the improvement of security on the EU's eastern border and its stabilisation. Currently, it functions mainly in the political dimension. However, its design envisages the implementation of a number of objectives relating to both socio-economic and environmental development. Both – the Carpathian Strategy project and the Programme ensure that the common potentials and development challenges of border countries and regions create an opportunity to strengthen economic cooperation in order to increase the competitiveness of strategic sectors of the economy for macro regions and border regions, taking into account their unique endogenous natural, environmental and cultural resources and values.

The coherence and complementarity with the Visegrad Fund (VF) shall also be ensured throughout the Programme implementation. The VF supports regional cooperation between civil society organizations to advance their relations, exchange and share ideas and promote mutual understanding. It promotes European values in Central and East Europe, including Ukraine. A significant part of the thematic scope of VF well corresponds to the Programme thematic assumptions, especially concerning culture and common identity, education and capacity building, scientific exchange, research cooperation, public policy and institutional partnerships, regional development, environment and tourism as well as social development.

The Programme is coherent with other European Territorial Cooperation programmes, at both cross-border and transnational dimensions, which at least partly overlap territorially with it. These are:

- Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine;
- Romania-Ukraine;
- Lithuania-Poland;
- Poland-Slovakia;
- Baltic Sea Region;
- Central Europe;
- Interreg Europe;
- DANUBE.

The Programme will cooperate with other European Territorial Cooperation programmes, especially in the field of coordination of calls for proposals, avoiding double financing, information and promotion activities.

The Programme will also be complementary with the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). The ESF+ finances initiatives that promote a high level of employment, equal opportunities for men and women, sustainable development and economic and social cohesion. Moreover, its components offer the possibility of applying innovative solutions in a cross-border approach, for example to support the mobility of workers in Europe and to help participating countries with healthcare systems. In terms of transnational cooperation, support for activities for health protection and labour markets from the ESF+ can also strengthen the impact of the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme.

Moreover, synergies with Erasmus+ will be ensured, primarily over the cooperation between educational institutions and exchanges of pupils/students.

With regard to the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world and in Europe, the complementarity between the ESF+ and the Programme is necessary. Implementation of the Programme priorities will contribute to drawing attention to the issues of health and its protection, which in turn may increase the immunity of citizens, and may also encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle, thus complementing ESF+ activities.

In terms of border management, the Programme is consistent with the assumptions of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Its purpose is to contribute to the effective management of migration flows, the implementation, strengthening and development of all elements of the common European policy on asylum and the common European immigration policy in accordance with the relevant EU acquis, the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, in full respect of the Union's and Member States' obligations, international law and the rights and

obligations of the Union of the principles enshrined in the scope of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Another complementary support instrument may be the Internal Security Fund, which aims to ensure a high level of security in the European Union while facilitating legitimate travel thanks to uniform and high-level control of external borders and thanks to the effective processing of Schengen visa applications, in accordance with the Union's commitment to respect fundamental freedoms and human rights. Complementarity in the scope of the above-mentioned possibilities of financing from the European Union funds due to the border nature of the Programme area is key for the possibility of achieving the assumed specific objectives under priorities of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme - 'Borders' and 'Cooperation'.

The Programme will also be complementary with the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF), which aims at managing the crossing of the external borders efficiently and addressing migratory challenges and potential future threats at those borders, thereby contributing to addressing serious crime with a cross-border dimension (such as migrant smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism) and ensuring a high level of internal security within the EU, while at the same time acting in full respect for fundamental rights and in a manner that safeguards the free movement of persons within the EU. The Programme includes activities related to better border monitoring and efficiency raising for border and customs services.

Finally, actions under Priority 'Borders' should be complementary to the programme "Border Management and Visa Instrument" (BMVI) managed by the Polish Ministry of Interior (Department of EU funds). The actions aimed to improve the infrastructure of border crossing points should be coordinated with the BMVI managing authority, in particular with regards to construction and development of buildings, or investments in equipment for verification of electronic travel documents and biometric fingerprints.

The Programme Priority 'Accessibility' and support for the EU-Ukraine 'Solidarity Lanes' initiative are considered as added value for investments in border crossing points and access routes. The actions under this Priority should be implemented in coordination with other ongoing initiatives in the area. In particular, the Programme will consider complementarities with Integrated Border Management projects (DG NEAR), Connecting Europe Facility projects (DG MOVE), Polish national funding or projects under US Agency for International Development (USAID is in direct contact with Ukrainian State Agency for Restoration and Development of Infrastructure, as well as State Customs Services).

1.2.7.2.2 National strategies and EU-funded programmes

Similarly to the 2014-2020 programming period, the priorities of the Programme 2021-2027 will remain complementary with the wider development priorities of the two involved countries. The Programme is compatible with the following long-term national strategies:

- In Poland: The Strategy for Responsible Development for the period up to 2020 (including the perspective up to 2030). The Strategy determines basic conditions, objectives and directions for Poland's development in social, economic, environmental and spatial terms in the perspective of 2020 and 2030. The Strategy defines a new model of development – responsible development as well as development that is socially and territorially sustainable;
- In Ukraine: Ukraine's Development Strategy until 2030 – the document aims to achieve European living standards and a dignified position of Ukraine on a global scale.

Concerning the Polish part of the Programme area, complementarity with regional and national programmes (particularly European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, Environment (FEnIKS) and "European Funds for Eastern Poland 2021-2027 Programme") shall be maintained. Complementarity with FEnIKS will be sustained among others in tourism development, cultural heritage preservation and promotion. The main objective of the European Funds for Eastern Poland 2021-2027 Programme, is to consolidate the conditions for a competitive economy and a higher quality of life in Poland. They are clearly linked to the priorities 'Cooperation' and 'Tourism' of the 2021-2027 Programme.

The effects achieved so far thanks to the implementation of the Eastern Poland 2014-2020 Programme have made it possible to significantly reduce or overcome some of the identified development barriers, as well as to support the competitiveness and innovation of regions.

In line with Partnership Agreement between Poland and the European Commission for cohesion funds 2021-2027, Poland is obliged to contribute 30% of the ERDF, i.e., 14.4 billion euro and 37% of the Cohesion Fund (CF), i.e., 4.2 billion euro to expenditure aiming at climate goals achievement. According to the estimates, the share of the CF expenditure (after the transfer from ESF+ to CF) in Poland for the climate target will amount to approximately 60%. This is a significant surplus in relation to the minimum share expected by the European Commission in the general regulation.

Due to the specific cross-border character and its relatively low budget (170 378 176 EUR ERDF for projects (without TA)), the Programme is not capable of making significant-scale investments in climate protection or biodiversity enhancement.

Therefore, the planned contribution to the climate objective is 23% and to the biodiversity objective (ref. recital 11 of the CPR) it is 18%. The Programme will strive to work towards the ambition of providing 10% in 2026 and in 2027 of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives.

However, the cross-border cooperation in the result of the Programme will be creating innovative solutions, which will be used on a wider scale or developed further, through the financing from another public funding or national programmes, including those co-financed by EU funds.

1.2.7.2.3 Regional strategies

The Programme will be implemented in close cooperation with the regional authorities in the Programme area. It will increase the chances of ensuring complementarity with the objectives and strategies of regional development, including: Podlaskie, Mazowieckie, Lubelskie and Podkarpackie voivodeships' development strategies (all with the 2030 perspective). The Programme is also complementary to the existing provisions of the development strategies of the Lviv, Volyn, Zakarpattya, Rivne, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil oblasts for the years 2016-2025. All these documents are aimed at promoting the broadly understood socio-economic development on a regional scale and improving the quality of life of the inhabitants.

Maintaining the complementarity between the above-mentioned supranational, national and regional programmes and strategies is necessary due to the limited budget of the programmes. Each of them focuses on the most important issues within the scope of their intervention. Pooled effects of achieving objectives of different types of programmes, including the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme will hopefully lead to a synergy effect, and thus effective improvement in the socio-economic, environmental and spatial situation of the Programme area, and as a result, to solving common problems of the Programme area.

1.2.8 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

Throughout the whole Programme implementation, the respect to principles mentioned in Article 9 p. 1-3 of the CPR (Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231 of 30.06.2021, p. 159, as amended)) will be ensured, including the compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Cooperation under the Programme and projects it will co-finance, shall respect the horizontal principles of equal opportunity, non-discrimination, gender equality and sustainable development including environment protection during project design and implementation. Effective implementation of the Programme will facilitate the application of horizontal principles in a consistent way and reduce such risks as limited access for people with disabilities, gender, economic and social inequality.

The principle of accessibility for persons with disabilities will be also respected during the preparation, selection and implementation of projects under the Programme. Environmental sustainability, in the broad understanding including considerations about human health effects, is an important cross-cutting issue for the Programme. It shall be reflected at all stages of the Programme and projects implementation. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was prepared simultaneously with the preparation of the Programme document in order to ensure that environmental impacts are assessed and considered during preparation of the Programme.

The Managing Authority submitted the draft Programme together with the Environmental Report for an opinion of the General Director for Environmental Protection, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the competent authorities

of Ukraine. All observations and opinions (Appendix 1 attached to the SEA Summary) received contributed to correcting deficiencies and improving the Report.

The draft Environmental Report was subject to public consultations, which were conducted from 6 to 27 July 2021 and were open to all interested parties and to the general public. The draft documents were posted on the Programme website. Observations and opinions could be submitted using a dedicated electronic form. A detailed list of comments is enclosed in Appendix 2 to the SEA Summary.

Most of the observations and opinions were taken into account in the final version of the Programme.

Projects with a direct negative environmental impact shall not be financed within the Programme. Projects partnerships are strongly encouraged to identify and consider any potentially significant environmental and health issues during project design and consequently choose available options for implementing projects that do not adversely affect the quality of the environment.

When it comes to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Programme will directly address the following goals and their particular targets:

- GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being – actions to be financed under the Programme Priority HEALTH tackle that issue (chapter 2.2);
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation – actions to be financed under the Programme Priority ENVIRONMENT, RSO 2.5 tackle that issue (chapter 2.1.2);
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth – actions to be financed under the Programme Priority TOURISM tackle part of these targets (chapter 2.3);
- GOAL 13: Climate Action – actions to be financed under the Programme Priority ENVIRONMENT, RSO 2.4 tackle that issue (chapter 2.1.1);
- GOAL 15: Life on Land – actions to be financed under the Programme Priority ENVIRONMENT tackle that issue (chapter 2.1).

Several targets of other SDGs will also have direct and strong reflection in actions under the following Programme priorities:

- GOAL 4: Quality Education – the Programme Priority COOPERATION (subsection 2.4);
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - the Programme Priorities ENVIRONMENT and TOURISM (chapter 2.3);
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production – the Programme Priorities ENVIRONMENT and TOURISM (chapter 2.3);
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions – the Programme Priority COOPERATION (subsection 2.4);
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal – the Programme Priority COOPERATION (subsection 2.4).

Actions implemented under the Programme shall also not be contrary to the objectives of the European green deal objectives. In that context the Programme will support only activities that respect the climate and environmental standards and that would do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on establishing a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ EU L 198 of 22.06.2020, p. 13). The Managing Authority conducted respective analysis on the “do no significant harm” principle at the Programme level and all of the objectives of the Programme take into account that principle.

The Programme aims to adhere as much as possible to Commission initiative “New European Bauhaus”. Particularly under its Priorities:

- HEALTH – where support for research and innovative solutions is planned, as well as building infrastructure in a high-quality, sustainable and inclusive way;
- TOURISM – where support for sustainable and effective use of cultural heritage is planned;
- COOPERATION – which is to support actions encouraging a dialogue across cultures and societies including those inspired by art and culture.

1.3. Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(3)

Table 1

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| <p>2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility</p> | <p>RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account eco-system based approaches</p> | <p>1. Environment</p> | <p>Insufficient measures are taken for climate change adaptation in the Programme area. Special attention needs to be paid to the mutual coordination of efforts to prevent and combat natural disasters and climate related risks such as wildfires, storms, droughts and their consequences. This also includes systemic forest management as well as climate-sensitive infrastructure verification. Cooperation between risk prevention specialists and other relevant actors is essential to achieve economies of scale in mitigating the negative effects of climate change. Common cross-border monitoring, warning, response and crisis management systems must be developed. Combating further climate change and adapting to climate change shall constitute important element of strategies and policies implemented at various levels (from local to global). The same importance concerns risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks and risks linked to human activities. The inclusion of this specific objective in the Programme will therefore support global efforts in this regard.</p> <p>All projects supported under this objective shall support with the Polish “National plan for energy and climate 2021-2030” and the Ukrainian "Strategy of environmental safety and adaptation to climate change till 2030”.</p> <p>Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions (such as training, exchange of experience and cooperation between rescue services, as well as joint exercises in cross-border rescue operations). Additionally, as the identified</p> |

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | | <p>needs demand significant investments, in order to strengthen the impact of the Programme, implementation of large infrastructure project is foreseen under that SO (LIP no 3 from Appendix 3).</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |
| <p>2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility</p> | <p>RSO2.5. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management</p> | <p>1. Environment</p> | <p>Despite the downward trend in total water consumption within the Programme area, it is recommended to constantly promote measures of sustainable water management in order to further improve the situation. The percentage of people using sewage systems in rural areas is still very low, in some subregions the efficiency of wastewater treatment plants is declining. The promotion of sustainable water management (including using water in individual households) will minimise the consumption of freshwater resources that are being exhausted.</p> <p>The deficiencies are also identified in the water supply network. The population, especially in Ukraine, is often connected to an inefficient and obsolete public water supply system, which results in both water losses and deteriorating quality of drinking water. It is of high importance therefore to improve public water supply network.</p> <p>Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions. Additionally, as the identified needs demand significant investments (e.g., construction and rehabilitation of water supply and sewerage systems) in order to strengthen the impact of the Programme, implementation of large infrastructure project is foreseen under that SO (LIP no 4 from Appendix 3).</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine.</p> |

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|---|---|----------------|---|
| | | | Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects). |
| 2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility | RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | 1. Environment | <p>A Small Project Fund will be implemented under this priority. It is necessary to increase the involvement and participation of the inhabitants of the Programme area in cross-border cooperation aimed at transition to a circular and resource efficient economy. The Programme shall support initiatives focused on creating conditions and specific solutions for the promotion of eco-friendly lifestyles, monitoring, assessment, prevention and finding solutions to the common issues of local communities related to waste management and environmental protection.</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |
| 2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and | RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | 1. Environment | The implementation of this objective is particularly important to all natural areas, especially of the cross-border character. Diagnostic workshops and socio-economic analysis show problems related to the lack of coordinated joint plans for the management of the protected zones and differences in nature protection systems between both countries. It is particularly important to protect ecological corridors and natural habitats, as well as to promote the restoration of their conditions for the proper functioning of ecosystems by supporting natural processes that have been disrupted. The creation of new or renovation of broken ecological corridors also has a positive effect on increasing biodiversity. All areas belonging to the Natura 2000 and Emerald networks as well as areas protected by the national laws of two countries are the main subject of support under that SO. Expanding the existing and creation of new protected areas will also be promoted. |

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| sustainable urban mobility | | | <p>Green infrastructure conceptualization and development to ensure ecological, economic and social benefits of projects will be supported. Green, natural and semi-natural spaces in both rural and urban settings can be designed, created and managed to deliver a wide range of services. Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions.</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |
| 3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility | <p>RSO 3.2</p> <p>Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility</p> | 6. Accessibility | <p>The implementation of this objective will contribute to increasing cross-border mobility within the framework of the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes. The reconstruction and modernization of roads and railways infrastructure will improve the safety and flow of cross-border traffic.</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Projects will be selected within the direct award procedure, due to their strategic character and will meet the criteria established for LIPs. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |
| 4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights | <p>RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care</p> | 1. Health | <p>The lack of cross-border emergency procedures and shortages in medical personnel are among the main challenges of the Programme area. Relieving emergency care is also an important aspect that should be improved. The main cause of deaths in the Programme area are cardiovascular diseases and cancer. There is a shorter life expectancy of people living in large urban centres compared to those where urbanisation is lower. Hence, measures must be taken to ensure better access to prophylaxis, diagnostics and specialist medical care, including geriatric and palliative care. Improved</p> |

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|---|---|------------|---|
| | | | <p>access to healthcare solutions in the field of computerisation of healthcare facilities should be pursued.</p> <p>Two unprecedented threats significantly affected the Programme area also in terms of health care: the global COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian military aggression against Ukraine. Cooperation in the field of health care is necessary to minimise the impact of those challenges on the border area population. The cooperation links established in the times of crisis will be useful also in other circumstances. Easier access to psychiatric and psychological treatment and care (including children) shall be encouraged wherever possible.</p> <p>Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via regular projects selected in an open call for proposals and consisting of infrastructure, investment and soft actions. As the identified needs demand significant investments, in order to strengthen the impact of the Programme, implementation of three large infrastructure projects is foreseen (LIPs no 2, 5, 6 and 7 from Appendix 3). Above mentioned objectives are addressed within these LIPs for example the creation of Palliative Care Ward, Mobile Treatment Groups and a Psycho-oncology Unit is planned in Lviv Hospital or the creation of a hospice Care Ward for cancer patients planned in Ternopil Oncology Dispensary.</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |
| 4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights | RSO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | 3. Tourism | The Programme area has great tourist potential which is not fully exploited, inter alia due to underdeveloped tourist infrastructure as well as negative consequences of COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine (for more see point 1.2.1.3). |

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|---|--|----------------|---|
| | | | <p>In order to use it more effectively investments in infrastructure as well as promotional activities in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland should be intensified.</p> <p>Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via large infrastructure project (LIP no 1 in Appendix 3).</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |
| 6. Interreg: A better Cooperation Governance | ISO6.3 Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions | 4. Cooperation | <p>The cooperation within and between communities is a great development opportunity for both countries. The existing cross-border cooperation between various actors coming from public and civil society background and principally residents is not very intense. Currently, the continuous cross-border cooperation is based primarily on long-time ago established contacts and relations existing for several years, which have rather limited potential, taking into account vast territory of the Programme. New impetus and new grassroots movements are needed in order to achieve two major goals the Programme set up for this SO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To strengthen the impact of all other specific objectives of the Programme, all investments and actions that will be implemented under other SOs. For that purpose, various joint awareness-rising campaigns, educational and knowledge development initiatives are of great importance. 2. To promote and support establishing new contacts, relations and initiatives on the people-to-people level, to achieve long-term cooperation. Undertaking such activities can significantly improve trust and establish interpersonal contacts between the inhabitants of the Programme area. |

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|---|---|------------|---|
| | | | <p>Actions supported by the Programme under that SO will be implemented via a Small Projects Fund . Financing of minor infrastructure and investments will be possible in order to enhance the impact of soft activities.</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |
| 7. Interreg: A safer and more secure Europe | ISO7.4 Other actions for a safer and secure Europe | 5. Borders | <p>Following the unprovoked and unjustified Russian military aggression against Ukraine, supported by Belarus, the Programme area is facing an important challenge to improve the functioning of the border crossing system.</p> <p>Problems are related to the insufficient number of border crossings and long checks, resulting in long waiting times at the Polish-Ukrainian border crossings.</p> <p>Projects should focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • targeted investments in necessary equipment and supplies, • exchange of experience and best practices, joint training, • creation of joint procedures for quicker and safer border control and crossing • development and modernization of border-crossing points infrastructure and other infrastructure directly related to the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes initiative. <p>The Specific Objective is complementary to the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF), which aims at managing the crossing of the external borders efficiently and addressing migratory challenges and potential future threats at those borders, thereby contributing to addressing serious crime with a cross-border dimension (such as migrant smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism) and ensuring a high level of internal security within the EU, while at the same time acting in full respect</p> |

| Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective | Selected specific objective | Priority | Justification for selection |
|---|-----------------------------|----------|---|
| | | | <p>for fundamental rights and in a manner that safeguards the free movement of persons within the EU.</p> <p>Every action undertaken under the objective shall involve beneficiaries from both Programme countries. Programme authorities will strive for equal distribution of funds between beneficiaries from Poland and Ukraine. Projects will be selected within the direct award procedure, due to their strategic character and will meet the criteria established for LIPs. Maximum Programme co-financing for the projects is 90%. Support for the beneficiaries in a form of grant is linked to the character of the Programme (lack of revenue generation expected from the projects).</p> |

2. Priorities

Reference: points (d) and (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1. Priority 1: Environment

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

Priority 1: Environment

2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

As part of the specific objective related to promoting adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and disaster resilience, the following initiatives will be implemented:

1. Joint promotion and implementation of activities related to resilience to climate change - natural disasters and fires

Due to globally advancing climate changes, adequate resources should be allocated to measures aimed at adapting to these changes, preventing natural disasters, such as storms, droughts and fires and managing the risk in this area, e.g., in the form of developing and implementing strategies, solutions, programmes and related to raising awareness and protection of the population, including by building systems, infrastructure and purchase equipment for disaster management. This also includes systemic forest management as well as climate-sensitive infrastructure verification. Activities related to the promotion of climate change adaptation measures among the inhabitants of the support area are also assumed. This will positively influence the awareness of inhabitants of the economic and environmental advantages of such solutions.

The support for joint trainings of uniform services, rescue services and firefighting units is foreseen. The effect of the implementation of activities in this area will be the promotion of adaptation to the risks associated with natural disasters, fires and minimising the effects of such events.

2. Joint actions aimed at risk prevention and resilience to other local threats and disasters caused by anthropogenic activities

In connection with potential threats and the fairly common occurrence of industry in the support area, it is proposed to take measures to strengthen resistance to the effects of anthropogenic disasters, e.g., industrial accidents and risk management regarding this topic. This will translate into the implementation

of specific projects in the area, and thus raise awareness and prevent such threats. As part of this course of action it is also possible to support joint training of uniformed services, rescue services and units. The implemented projects will reduce the chance of the above-mentioned disasters, and in the event of their occurrence, they will ensure the minimisation of related losses.

For the INTERACT and ESPON programme

2.1.1.1b Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Final Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | RCO24 | Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters | euro | 0 | 19 000 000 |
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 0 | 1 500 |
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | RCO116 | Jointly developed solutions | solutions | 0 | 14 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Final Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | RCR36 | Population benefiting from wildfire protection measures | persons | 0 | 2021 | 8 000 000 | Own calculation | - |
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | RCR37 | Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disaster (other than flood and wildfires) | persons | 0 | 2021 | 560 000 | Own calculation | - |
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | RCR104 | Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations | solutions | 0 | 2021 | 7 | Own calculation | - |

2.1.1.3 Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- units of state, regional and local administration, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- rescue units, fire protection units (including fire brigades), police and border services,
- other public law entities (e.g., chambers, government administration bodies),
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.1.1.4 Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.1.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.1.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | NDICI | 059 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) | 29 485 825 |
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | NDICI | 060 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g., storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) | 2 168 974 |
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | NDICI | 061 Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (for example earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (for example technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches | 2 270 436 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | RSO 2.4 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 33 925 235 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.4 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 33 925 235 |

2.1.2. Specific objective: RSO2.5. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1.2.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

As part of this specific objective the following initiatives will be implemented:

1. Joint actions aimed at protection and improvement of water resources' condition as well as sustainable water management

In part of the Programme area water consumption is increasing, thus it is important to support water management, including management of river basins, development of rainwater retention systems, infrastructure and other activities related to the improvement of water quality. Actions may be related to developing strategies, solutions, programmes and innovative projects, which will enable activities in the field of water resource protection and will promote sustainable water management in the Programme area. When implementing projects related to the use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, it is very important to take into account international legal acts, such as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, drawn up in Helsinki on March 17, 1992. Projects shall focus on e.g., redirecting and purifying drain water (grey water) in households so it can be reused in order to decrease the pressure on the fresh water required for everyday activities or rain water harvesting for gardening and cleaning. In any case, the Programme will not support investments aimed at reusing water for agricultural irrigation.

2. Joint actions aimed at development of sewage infrastructure and improving wastewater management

The capacity of wastewater treatment plants in some subregions is decreasing (in about 40-50% of subregions in Poland and Ukraine), and in some subregions some of the untreated wastewater still goes to water bodies. Access to the sewage system is insufficient (especially in rural areas, where approx. 70-80% of NUTS3 or comparable units less than 2/5 of the population use sewage). Adequate management of municipal wastewater is essential and aims to maintain sustainable water management in the Programme area. Projects under this measure are aimed at supporting rational management of water resources.

3. Joint actions aimed at improvement of public water supply network

The population of the Programme area is often connected to an inefficient and obsolete public water supply system, which results in both water losses and deteriorating quality of drinking water. Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply) is essential and aims to improve public water supply in the Programme area.

2.1.2.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.1.2.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | RSO2.5 | RCO31 | Length of new or upgraded pipes for the public network for collection of waste water | km | 0 | 97 |
| 1 | RSO2.5 | RCO30 | Length of new or upgraded pipes for the distribution systems of public water supply | km | 0 | 600 |
| 1 | RSO2.5 | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 0 | 1 400 |
| 1 | RSO2.5 | RCO116 | Jointly developed solutions | solutions | 0 | 15 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | RSO2.5 | RCR42 | Population connected to at least secondary public wastewater treatment | persons | 0 | 2021 | 250 000 | Own calculation | - |
| 1 | RSO2.5 | RCR41 | Population connected to improved public water supply | persons | 0 | 2021 | 300 000 | Own calculation | - |
| 1 | RSO2.5 | RCR104 | Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations | solutions | 0 | 2021 | 8 | Own calculation | - |

2.1.2.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- units of state, regional and local administration, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g., chambers, government administration bodies),
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.1.2.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.1.2.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.1.2.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.5 | NDICI | 062 Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply) | 4 168 046 |
| 1 | RSO2.5 | NDICI | 064 Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction) | 2 418 065 |
| 1 | RSO2.5 | NDICI | 065 Wastewater collection and treatment | 35 503 595 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.5 | | 01. Grant | 42 089 706 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.5 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 42 089 706 |

2.1.3. Specific objective: RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1.3.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

This specific objective will be implemented via a Small Projects Fund. The programme area is in a transition regarding circular economy and recycling and re-use of resources are not fully in place. Hence, the Programme's intervention is needed at every stage of the material consumption and disposal cycle. The following thematic activities will be supported to increase the involvement and participation of the inhabitants of the Programme area in cross-border cooperation aimed at transition to a circular and resource efficient economy:

1) Joint initiatives for the improvement of household waste management and residual waste treatment and promoting innovative solutions related to the transition to a circular economy

Small-scale innovative environmentally positive solutions and infrastructure addressing specific visible improvements of local environmental conditions shall be supported to raise awareness in the general population on the matter.

2) Promoting rational waste management (minimizing generation, promoting segregation, increasing recycling and repurposing) and raising awareness of challenges concerning environmental issues

Promoting innovative solutions related to the transition to a circular economy and cross-border initiatives related to the technology transfer, utilisation of research outcomes and adaptation to local needs and capacities of local and regional authorities, public utility providers and professional associations practitioners, related to product design, waste management, resource efficiency and recycling.

Initiatives creating conditions and specific solutions for the promotion of eco-friendly lifestyles, monitoring, assessment, prevention and solving of the common issues of local communities concerning waste management and environmental protection shall be supported. The small projects will aim to support bottom-up initiatives in this area and relevant reflection of these issues on regional level.

2.1.3.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.1.3.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | RSO2.6 | RCO116 | Jointly developed solutions | solutions | 0 | 32 |
| 1 | RSO2.6 | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 0 | 180 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|--------|---|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | RSO2.6 | RCR104 | Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations | solutions | 0 | 2021 | 26 | Own calculation | |
| 1 | RSO2.6 | RCR85 | Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion | participations | 0 | 2021 | 18 | Own calculation | |

2.1.3.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- state, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g., chambers, government administration bodies),
- administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc.,
- entities administering forest areas and state forest holdings with their organisational units,
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.1.3.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.1.3.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.1.3.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.6 | NDICI | 067 Household waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse, recycling measures | 4 000 000 |
| 1 | RSO2.6 | NDICI | 071 Promoting the use of recycled materials as raw materials | 1 111 345 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.6 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 5 111 345 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.6 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 5 111 345 |

2.1.4. Specific objective: RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1.4.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

As part of this specific objective the following initiatives will be implemented:

1. Joint actions aimed at protection, regeneration and sustainable use of valuable protected natural areas, with particular emphasis on cross-border areas

In order to maintain protected natural areas in good condition, measures should be taken to safeguard and regenerate them in order to neutralize various harmful impacts. All areas belonging to the Natura 2000 and Emerald networks as well as areas protected by the national laws of both countries are the particular subject of support. Special attention will be paid to their protection and preservation. The measures carried out under this SO will also pay special attention to improving connectivity of the cross border ecological corridors on the Programme area.

Wherever needed and possible, support for expanding the existing and creation of new protected areas may be financed under the Programme.

2. Joint actions aimed at protection of biodiversity , and development of green infrastructure

In order to protect and preserve the biodiversity in the Programme area, it is recommended to support common monitoring of the condition of the environment, as well as identify and improve the condition of areas with low environmental quality standards. This will help prevent potential threats on an ongoing basis and ensure a constant increase in biodiversity and reduction of pollution, and thus improve the quality of life. Acquiring data regarding the existing environmental situation will allow for overtime comparisons of changes taking place in the Programme area.

Due to the diagnosed problems of the Programme area, such as the presence of illegal landfills and poor water quality, it is important to support activities aimed at raising the environmental awareness of the inhabitants. Education and shaping positive attitudes in this regard will be supported.

Moreover, green infrastructure conceptualization and development in projects will be promoted to ensure ecological, economic and social benefits. Natural and multi-dimensional solutions shall be sought either as an alternative or as complimentary to traditional single-issue grey infrastructure.

2.1.4.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.1.4.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | RSO2.7 | RCO37 | Surface of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures | hectares | 0 | 160 000 |
| 1 | RSO2.7 | RCO116 | Jointly developed solutions | solutions | 0 | 15 |
| 1 | RSO2.7 | RCO81 | Participations in joint actions across borders | participations | 0 | 600 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | RSO2.7 | RCR104 | Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations | solutions | 0 | 2021 | 8 | Own calculation | - |

2.1.4.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following institutions:

- state, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g., chambers, government administration bodies),
- administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc.,
- entities administering forest areas and state forest holdings with their organisational units,
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.1.4.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.1.4.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.1.4.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.7 | NDICI | 079 Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure | 18 391 578 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.7 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 18 391 578 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 1 | RSO2.7 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 18 391 578 |

2.2. Priority: 2 - Health

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.2.1. Specific objective: RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.2.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

In order to ensure equal access to health care through joint improvement of qualifications of medical and rescue personnel, development of infrastructure and purchase of medical and rescue equipment, including primary health care, the following initiatives will be implemented:

1. Joint actions improving access and infrastructure development of diagnostic and prophylactic tools and resources in various areas of medicine

Diagnostic accessibility, ambulatory care as well as prophylaxis are among the most important health-related challenges for the Programme area population and they require support. Health infrastructure should be supported in order to ensure better access to medical services for the inhabitants of the Programme area, and thus increase their life expectancy and quality of life. Activities may include the purchase of equipment, reconstruction, expansion, renovation of facilities providing services in the field of prevention and diagnostics. The efficiency of patient registration should be improved, as well as other activities which improve the diagnostics/prophylactic and its functioning. It is also proposed to undertake activities for the benefit of a joint cross-border offer of care facilities providing services in the field of prevention and diagnostics in the entire Programme area.

2. Joint actions improving access to specialist medicine, in particular medicine related to cardiovascular diseases, cancer (development of health infrastructure, purchase of new equipment for health care facilities) and emergency medicine

It is planned to support the health infrastructure and equipment of health care facilities in order to provide better access to specialised health services (in particular for the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, cancer and mental diseases and disorders). Activities may include the purchase of equipment, reconstruction, expansion, renovation of facilities providing specialised health services, support for management to improve the efficiency and resilience of existing systems. Projects may also include support for medical universities in the purchase of equipment or the creation of fields of study related to medicine. It is also proposed to undertake actions for the joint cross-border offer of healthcare institutions and hospitals in the entire area of support.

3. Joint actions improving access to long-term care, especially infrastructure development for geriatric care, palliative and hospice care as well as family addressed actions in this context and community-based services

Due to the aging of the population in the Programme area and the related demand for employees providing basic care and nursing services, as well as specialist medical services, it is proposed to support infrastructure development, courses and training, as well as promote related professions as a constantly developing, prospective industry. This will ensure better access to long-term care, which is expected to be in growing demand due to the increasing number of older people.

The medical facilities and places providing any kind of health services shall be adopted to the need of elderly people and people with disabilities in order to ensure them easy access and use of these places (e.g., slipways, toilets etc.).

Projects may also include support for medical universities in the purchase of equipment or the creation of fields of study related to medicine. It is also planned to increase the availability of care services for people in economic disadvantage and excluded people.

The Programme shall also support activities addressing families struggling with issues such as care of elderly and/or dependent, demanding care persons as well as community-based services.

Support for residential care facilities however is not foreseen. The investments in social and health care infrastructure will have to be fully in line with the requirements of the UNCRPD, including General Comment 5 and CRPD committee concluding observations, with due respect for the principles of equality, freedom of choice, the right to independent living, accessibility and prohibiting all forms of segregation. The investments will need to demonstrate compliance with the de-institutionalisation strategy and relevant EU policy and legal frameworks for upholding human rights obligations namely Charter of Fundamental Rights, European Pillar of Social Rights and Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.

4. Joint actions preventing the occurrence and effects of adverse events such as epidemics or military conflicts (with particular emphasis on local phenomena)

In recent years COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the major challenges for the Polish and Ukrainian health care systems. As of February 2022, for the Ukrainian part, these are the consequences of the war. Activities aimed at preventing the occurrence and effects of such adverse events should be supported e.g., developing and implementing strategies, action plans, solutions, innovative programmes and projects, as well as working out solutions to the issue of volunteering in rescue services and working out cross-border rescue procedures. The effect of the implementation of activities in this area will be the minimisation of the effects of adverse events. These actions should be complementary to national solutions in the field of healthcare and should be implemented at the local level depending on the cross-border needs.

5. Joint actions aimed at development of digitisation in healthcare (including the development of telemedicine)

In order to provide more effective and modern healthcare and integration between healthcare providers in the Programme area, it is proposed to support digitisation in healthcare. Assistance may be provided in the scope of co-financing IT devices, software (incl. telemedicine services), storage and service of medical records in digital form as well as in the scope of employee training in the field of system operation. Information technology is seen as a mean to improve the process of providing healthcare - from prevention, through diagnosis, to monitoring the effects of treatment and health. Enabling joint operations of medical personnel across the border shall be fostered.

Finally, in order to facilitate the access to medical services for all residents of the Programme area, the creation of an integrated information system about the possibilities and principles of using health care in the neighbouring country might be supported.

6. Joint actions improving the qualifications and effectiveness of medical and rescue personnel

Development of medical and rescue services' operationality, as well as acquiring new skills by medical and rescue personnel will improve their responsiveness and a quality of assistance provided to inhabitants and tourists. Except for investments in necessary equipment and infrastructure, the Programme will support organisation of joint meetings to exchange good practices, trainings and workshops aimed at improving qualifications and drawing attention to common problems in the field of health care and emergency services in the Programme area.

2.2.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2 | RSO4.5 | RCO116 | Jointly developed solutions | solutions | 0 | 38 |
| 2 | RSO4.5 | RCO69 | Capacity of new or modernised healthcare facilities | persons/year | 0 | 550 000 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|--------|---|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| 2 | RSO4.5 | RCR73 | Annual users of new or modernised healthcare facilities | users/year | 0 | 2021 | 275 000 | Own calculation | - |
| 2 | RSO4.5 | RCR104 | Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations | solutions | 0 | 2021 | 19 | Own calculation | - |

2.2.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following:

- state, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them that deal with medical care,
- public entities providing medical services and long-term care services,
- medical personnel, including rescue services (e.g., mountain rescue services),
- entities of higher education, e.g., medical universities, educational entities in the field of health protection, etc.,
- non-governmental organisations dealing with issues tackled under SO (including rescue organisations and associations),
- institutions organizing vulnerable groups or taking care of them,
- institutions taking care of migrants and refugees.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.2.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.2.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.2.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 2 | RSO4.5 | NDICI | 128. Health infrastructure | 18 220 992 |
| 2 | RSO4.5 | NDICI | 129. Health equipment | 22 046 153 |
| 2 | RSO4.5 | NDICI | 130. Health mobile assets | 894 124 |
| 2 | RSO4.5 | NDICI | 131. Digitalisation in health care | 2 012 328 |
| 2 | RSO4.5 | NDICI | 160. Measures to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure) | 10 180 836 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 2 | RSO4.5 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 53 354 433 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 2 | RSO4.5 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 53 354 433 |

2.3. Priority: 3 - Tourism

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.3.1. Specific objective: RSO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.3.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Several sites (or groups of sites) in the Programme area are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. There are also other sites and areas of particular cultural and historical value, and facilities providing cultural services, such as museums, open-air museums, art galleries etc. The area has particular potential for the development of tourism through the promotion of culturally valuable areas and sites, as well as intangible heritage. Poland and Ukraine share many historical experiences, the positive aspects of which are worth highlighting in order to strengthen ties between local communities. The potential increase in the number of tourists provides scope for the development of businesses that provide services in the tourism industry, such as accommodation, catering or other leisure, entertainment or cultural services. The maintenance and promotion of tourist attractions may capture tourists' attention and encourage them to visit the area. As a result of both, tourist traffic can generate profit for the local residents.

Under that specific objective, the Programme shall support **joint actions aimed at protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and services in the field of culture, including development of tourist infrastructure:**

The creation of new cultural heritage sites and the renovation of the existing ones so that they can be preserved for future generations, as well as the improvement of accessibility of the existing cultural heritage sites (e.g., for people with disabilities) will be supported through the development of infrastructure and investment.

- It is recommended that local authorities, as well as entrepreneurs and local leaders, be involved in these activities to strengthen social integration and to help promote the cultural heritage of the area. Activities aimed at establishing long-term cross-border cooperation between institutions dealing with particularly valuable heritage objects and cultural institutions will be encouraged.

Activities supported under the Priority will be planned and implemented in line with the assumptions of the "New European Bauhaus" initiative. Wherever possible and desirable, they shall be complementary to the interventions implemented under the European Funds for Eastern Poland 2021-2027 Programme.

2.3.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.3.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 3 | RSO4.6 | RCO77 | Number of cultural and tourism sites supported | cultural and tourism sites | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | RSO4.6 | RCO115 | Public events across borders jointly organised | events | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | RSO4.6 | RCO116 | Jointly developed solutions | solutions | 0 | 2 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| 3 | RSO4.6 | RCR77 | Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported | visitors/year | 160 000 | 2021 | 192 000 | LIP's calculation | - |
| 3 | RSO4.6 | RCR104 | Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations | solutions | 0 | 2021 | 1 | LIP's calculation | - |

2.3.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following:

- state, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g., chambers, government administration bodies),
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc.,
- personnel development institutions,
- non-governmental organisations.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.3.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.3.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.3.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 3 | RSO4.6 | NDICI | 165 Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets and tourism services | 3 875 625 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 3 | RSO4.6 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 3 875 625 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 3 | RSO4.6 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 3 875 625 |

2.4. Priority: 4 - Cooperation

2.4.1. Specific objective: ISO6.3 Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.4.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

This specific objective will be implemented via a Small Projects Fund. The following thematic activities will be supported to increase the involvement and participation of the inhabitants of the Programme area in cross-border cooperation:

1. **Integration of residents of the Programme area in the fields of art and culture**

To provide wide audience coverage with different aspects and social levels of people's integration, it is proposed to create opportunities to strengthen contacts between people of the cross-border region in fields of art and culture. Events and initiatives engaging target audiences for the joint cultural and creative leisure, cooperative actions between cultural and art institutions and NGOs across the border, joint preservation and promotion of cultural and art heritage objects, joint socio-cultural and art inclusion of the people with special needs will contribute to establishing lasting relationships between representatives of the Programme area. Activities supported here shall be planned and implemented in line with the assumptions of the "New European Bauhaus" initiative.

2. **Cross-border cooperation in education**

To enable shaping regional awareness across the border and give the stimulus to both personal and joint socio-cultural development to the inhabitants of the Programme area it is proposed to allocate funds for educational activities. Initiatives such as adaptation of innovative educational and scientific technologies and solutions in the cross-border region and joint creation of a new, accessible, cross-border educational offer for people of all age groups. In order to achieve that, it is necessary to focus on accessibility and develop courses to train accessibility experts, who will be i.a. responsible for ensuring that the digital content produced is accessible to all users. Arrangement of the joint educational programmes between educational institutions across the border as well as establishing official institutional cooperation initiatives, exchange of youth, trainings, seminars will provide the opportunity to strengthen ties between participants and create long-term relationships in the Programme area emphasising social inclusion, accessibility and mutual respect of the people in the region.

The Programme will also take into consideration high number of refugees from Ukraine in Poland. In this context, the development and implementation of systemic solutions and measures facilitating the integration of Ukrainian children and students in Polish educational and care settings will be fostered.

3. **Integrational initiatives and capacity building in the field of healthcare and safety**

To enable shaping of pro-healthy attitudes among communities of cross-border region especially children and youth, joint initiatives on promotion of regular medical check-ups/examinations and actualization of the aspects of hygiene and public health (that do not contradict to currently established national and international rules and standards) can be provided. Other supporting actions raising awareness and capacity building for local communities on the matter of first aid for distant cross-border territories, small scale practical solutions and synergies on the crossing of topics of healthcare, emergency situations are intended to detail and compliment the wide scope of initiatives provided in the Programme priority of Health.

2.4.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.4.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 4 | ISO6.3 | RCO87 | Organisations cooperating across borders | organisations | 0 | 242 |
| 4 | ISO6.3 | RCO115 | Public events across borders jointly organised | events | 0 | 418 |
| 4 | ISO6.3 | RCO85 | Participations in joint training schemes | participations | 0 | 552 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| 4 | ISO6.3 | RCR81 | Completion of joint training schemes | participants | 0 | 2021 | 497 | Own calculation | |
| 4 | ISO6.3 | RCR84 | Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion | organisations | 0 | 2021 | 169 | Own calculation | |
| 4 | ISO6.3 | RCR85 | Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion | participations | 0 | 2021 | 28 | Own calculation | |

2.4.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following:

- state, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinate to them,
- other public law entities (e.g., chambers, government administration bodies),
- schools and educational institutions,
- units of higher education and research institutions,
- non-governmental organisations,
- other entities conducting cultural or educational activity,
- institutions organizing vulnerable groups or taking care of them,
- institutions taking care of migrants and refugees.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, therefore the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.4.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.4.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.4.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--|--------------|
| 4 | ISO6.3 | NDICI | 171 Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State | 5 111 345 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 4 | ISO6.3 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 5 111 345 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 4 | ISO6.3 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 5 111 345 |

2.5. Priority: 5 – Borders

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.5.1. Specific objective: ISO7.4 Other actions to contribute to a safer and more secure Europe

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection and economic and social integration of third-country nationals, for example migrants and beneficiaries of international protection.

2.5.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Main challenges in the functioning of borders between Poland and Ukraine are long waiting time to cross the border, especially following the Russian unprovoked and unjustified aggression on Ukraine, and occurring of criminal phenomena such as smuggling of goods across borders. These barriers affect the development of cooperation in the border areas and the level of residents' security.

In order to decrease the existing problems, the Programme support in the border crossing management will focus on developing the cooperation between customs and border protection services of participating countries.

The following joint actions are taken into consideration:

- Common training of border services, customs services, other services related to the operation of border crossings (including phytosanitary and veterinary services) and services ensuring security in the border area;
- Equipping of customs services, border services, phytosanitary and veterinary services and services ensuring security in the border area;
- Improving the service at existing border crossings;
- Promoting the creation of pedestrian and bicycle border crossings for the development of cross-border tourism;
- Activities related to the sealing of borders, by preventing and combating illegal migration;
- Securing borders beyond border crossings, e.g., by creating an innovative border supervision system using modern technology (sensors, cameras, radars, drones, etc.);
- Border-crossing points infrastructure, including i.a. phytosanitary infrastructure as well as infrastructure adjacent to the border-crossing points necessary for supporting the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes initiative.

The realization of activities in the border crossing management area will improve capacity of border crossing points. Better knowledge and practical skills of border guards and customs services will positively influence a protection and speed of control at the border crossing. The common training of border services may enable closer cooperation between units in both Programme countries and also improve the level of residents' security of the entire border region.

2.5.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.5.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 5 | ISO7.4 | RCO85 | Participations in joint training schemes | participations | 0 | 88 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| 5 | ISO7.4 | RCR81 | Completion of joint training schemes | participants | 0 | 2023 | 88 | LIP's calculation | - |

2.5.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following:

- border and customs services, other services related to the operation of border crossings (including phytosanitary and veterinary services) and the police from individual countries of the Programme area,
- state, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinated to them.

SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.5.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.5.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.5.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--|--------------|
| 5 | ISO7.4 | NDICI | 174 Interreg: border crossing management and mobility and migration management | 10 721 644 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 5 | ISO7.4 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 10 721 644 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 5 | ISO7.4 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 10 721 644 |

2.6. Priority: 6 – Accessibility

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.6.1. Specific objective: RSO3.2 Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility.

2.6.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The main goal of this priority is to contribute to increasing cross-border mobility within the framework of the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes. The reconstruction and modernization of roads and railways infrastructure will improve the safety and flow of cross-border traffic, for both people and cargo.

In the future, supporting road and rail mobility will also improve cross-border connections between urban agglomerations and tourist attractions in Poland and Ukraine.

The activities which may receive the Programme support:

1. Improving the quality of cross-border road infrastructure, including aspects of sustainable transport

The support will concern only the following roads (all criteria shall be met):

- roads connected with the TEN-T network (in Poland and Ukraine) or with roads connected with the TEN-T network (in Ukraine);
- existing roads and transport corridors that lead directly towards a specific border-crossing point or directly connected with such roads and are actually used for cross-border mobility;
- voivodeship roads in Poland and only categories of roads of local and national importance on the Ukrainian side can be co-financed under the Programme;
- roads fulfilling the requirements for road freight (truck transport).

The following conditions apply:

- The activities may concern reconstruction, development or renovation of roads, including capital repairs;
- The necessity of infrastructure component in the context of the Solidarity Lanes initiative must be justified;
- Reconstruction, development or renovation of road sections on both sides of the border must be part of every project;
- The modernized road must be included in the regional or local transport plan/strategy;
- Only projects that offer environmentally beneficial solutions will be supported;

Furthermore, the reconstruction, development or renovation of a road fulfilling all of the above conditions must also be aimed at meeting at least one of the following:

- Reduction of the nuisance of transport for the environment (e.g., protection against excessive noise, vibration, pollution);
- construction of culverts for safe migration of animals,

and at least one of the following:

- improving road safety (e.g., by operating on sections with poor visibility or dangerous sections in inadequate technical condition);
- removal of traffic bottlenecks (e.g., increasing the load capacity of bridges and roads);
- increasing the pedestrians and cyclists' safety throughout reconstruction, development or renovation of accompanying infrastructure;
- initiatives aimed at creating accessible barrier-free environment.

While deciding on the projects financing, the Monitoring Committee will give priority to roads outside the urban areas, even if some sections of such roads are in the urban area.

2. Improving the quality of cross-border rail infrastructure, including aspects of sustainable transport

This activity concerns railway infrastructure of cross-border importance, ensuring safety and flow of cross-border traffic, as well as transportation of goods across the border. The reconstruction and modernization of railway infrastructure will increase cross-border mobility and the use of railways for the transport of people and goods between Ukraine and the EU.

The activities supported under this Priority will comply with the "do no significant harm" principle as they are not expected to have any significant negative effects on the environment. Projects will be monitored for their environmental impact. Projects with a potentially significant negative impact on the environment will not be eligible for co-financing by the Programme.

The infrastructure supported will be accessible to people with disabilities. The Priority will be implemented in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility. Supported projects will take into account the specific problems and needs of all minorities in the Programme area, including those with special needs.

Supported projects will respond to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The planned actions are in line with Objective 9. Build sustainable infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and support innovation.

2.6.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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2.6.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2 - Output indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
|----------|--------------------|--------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 6 | RSO3.2 | RCO 50 | Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - non-TEN-T | km | 0 | 3.9 |
| 6 | RSO3.2 | RCO 46 | Length of roads reconstructed or modernised - non-TEN-T | km | 0 | 32 |
| 6 | RSO3.2 | RCO 53 | New or modernised railway stations and stops | stations and stops | 0 | 1 |

Table 3 - Result indicators

| Priority | Specific objective | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| 6 | RSO3.2 | RCR 56 | Time savings due to improved road infrastructure | man-days/year | 0 | 2021 | 7 000 | Own calculation | |

2.6.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

Main target groups of support under this specific objective are the following:
state, regional and local administration units, associations of these units and institutions subordinated to them.

**SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED, INCLUDING THE PLANNED USE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS,
COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER TERRITORIAL TOOLS**

Due to the fact that on the Ukrainian side of the Programme area there are no instruments corresponding to those applied in the European Union, e.g., integrated territorial investments, the use of specific territorial tools is not applicable at the Programme level. It was decided not to designate any target areas, and thus the entire Programme area will be covered by the support.

2.6.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The Programme does not plan to use any territorial tools meant above.

2.6.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

The use of financial instruments is not foreseen.

2.6.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4 - Dimension 1 – intervention field

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 6 | RSO 3.2 | NDICI | 093 Other reconstructed or modernised roads (motorway, national, regional or local) | 30 000 000 |
| 6 | RSO 3.2 | NDICI | 102 Other reconstructed or modernised railways | 11 851 960 |

Table 5 - Dimension 2 – form of financing

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 6 | RSO3.2 | NDICI | 01. Grant | 41 851 960 |

Table 6 - Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Code | Amount (EUR) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 6 | RSO3.2 | NDICI | 33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting | 41 851 960 |

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (f) of Article 17(3)

3.1. Financial appropriations by year (in EUR)

Reference: point (g)(i) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

Table 7

| Fund | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | Total |
|--------------------------|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| NDICI-CBC ⁽¹⁾ | 0 | 39,375,825.00 | 41,492,584.00 | 42,162,337.00 | 42,844,274.00 | 34,215,249.00 | 35,785,887.00 | 235,876,156.00 |
| Total | 0 | 39,375,825.00 | 41,492,584.00 | 42,162,337.00 | 42,844,274.00 | 34,215,249.00 | 35,785,887.00 | 235,876,156.00 |

¹ Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation

3.2. Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing (in EUR)

Reference: point (f)(ii) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

Table 8

| Policy objective | Priority | Fund | Basis for calculation EU support (total eligible cost or public contribution) | EU contribution (a)=(a1)+(a2) | Indicative breakdown of the EU contribution | | National contribution (b)=(c)+(d) | Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart | | Total (e)=(a)+(b) | Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e) | Contributions from the third countries |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | without TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a1) | for TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a2) | | National public (c) | National private (d) | | | |
| | Priority 1 | NDICI-CBC(1) | Total eligible costs | 109,469,650.00 | 99,517,864.00 | 9,951,786.00 | 12,163,295.00 | 11,513,775.00 | 649,520.00 | 121,632,945.00 | 89.9999995889% | 0.00 |
| | Priority 2 | NDICI-CBC(1) | Total eligible costs | 46,037,155.00 | 41,851,960.00 | 4,185,195.00 | 5,115,240.00 | 4,842,086.00 | 273,154.00 | 51,152,395.00 | 89.9999990225% | 0.00 |
| | Priority 3 | NDICI-CBC(1) | Total eligible costs | 58,689,876.00 | 53,354,433.00 | 5,335,443.00 | 6,521,098.00 | 6,172,871.00 | 348,227.00 | 65,210,974.00 | 89.9999990799% | 0.00 |
| | Priority 4 | NDICI-CBC(1) | Total eligible costs | 4,263,188.00 | 3,875,625.00 | 387,563.00 | 473,688.00 | 448,393.00 | 25,295.00 | 4,736,876.00 | 89.9999915556% | 0.00 |
| | Priority 5 | NDICI-CBC(1) | Total eligible costs | 5,622,479.00 | 5,111,345.00 | 511,134.00 | 624,720.00 | 591,360.00 | 33,360.00 | 6,247,199.00 | 89.9999983993% | 0.00 |
| | Priority 6 | NDICI-CBC(1) | Total eligible costs | 11,793,808.00 | 10,721,644.00 | 1,072,164.00 | 1,310,424.00 | 1,240,445.00 | 69,979.00 | 13,104,232.00 | 89.9999938951% | 0.00 |
| | Grand total | NDICI-CBC(1) | Total eligible costs | 235,876,156.00 | 214,432,871.00 | 21,443,285.00 | 26,208,465.00 | 24,808,930.00 | 1,399,535.00 | 262,084,621.00 | 89.9999988935% | 0.00 |

4. Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Reference: point (g) of Article 17(3)

Involvement of the relevant partners in the preparation of the Programme

Preparation of the Programme was initiated after conclusion that the preparation of the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme was no longer possible. Poland and Ukraine decided to continue their cooperation and, hence, the Joint Programming Committee for the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 (JPC) was established.

The composition of the JPC was set taking into consideration the partnership rules. Representatives of the Polish and Ukrainian public institutions of national and regional level as well as representatives of the relevant partners participated in the JPC.

In order to engage the representatives of the relevant partners the Managing Authority and the National Authority approached organizations associating competent bodies to indicate their representatives to participate in the Programme preparation.

Thus, the partners' representatives in the JPC included:

1. as representative of national or regional public higher educational institutions, education, training and advisory services providers and research centres – Bialystok University of Technology and the Mammal Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences;
2. as representative of nationally or regionally recognised social partners' organisations, in particular general cross-industry organisations and sectoral organisations – The Automotive Industry Institute;
3. as representative of national or regional chambers of commerce and business associations representing the general interest of industries or branches, with the aim to ensure balanced representation of large, medium-sized, small and micro enterprises) – National Chamber of Commerce;
4. as representative of each of the entities: bodies representing civil society, bodies representing environmental partners, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination – Association for the Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia" and Asociacion „EKOSKOP";
5. as representative of competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities (e.g., Euroregions) – Euroregions Niemen, Roztocze, Bug, Karpacki.

The Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme is a direct continuation of the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme, also in terms of preparation. The first meeting of the JPC for the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme took place in Warsaw in October 2019. Later, due to the pandemic, online meetings and consultations with JPC and NAs were organized to discuss scope of the Programme. The Russian aggression on Ukraine did not stop the preparation of a bilateral programme. It was approved in June 2020 and the first official meeting of the Poland – Ukraine Programme JPC took place on 10-11 August 2022 to discuss further steps in programming.

Information on the programming process was made available to the general public since the very beginning. The Programme strategy was not only widely consulted during its development among partner countries and JPC members, but also numerous actions were taken to directly involve the wide public:

1. Online survey on the Programme website (December 2020 – January 2021);
2. 11 workshops on Programme priorities and activities organized by the external expert responsible for proposal of strategic part of the Programme (February – May 2020);
3. Public consultations of the strategic part of the Programme: Internet form in national languages and 3 online conferences for Poland, Belarus, Ukraine inhabitants – December 2020 – over 150 participants in total (December 2020 – January 2021).

Public consultations of the Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme were held on the Programme website from 16 May to 6 June 2022. It was also consulted with a wide variety of social and economic partners in line with Polish and Ukrainian national procedures. As a result of the formal consultations, the public opinion, stakeholders, potential applicants/beneficiaries were able to share their opinion on the draft Interreg NEXT Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme. During this process, 126 comments were received from various contributors, including the general public, central, regional and local authorities, educational and research institutions, NGOs and other social partners.

The most frequent remarks related to:

- assumptions in the strategic choices for the Programme objectives;
- broadening of the addressed problems;
- the indicative actions within particular priorities.

All comments to the Programme were considered by the JPC in the preparation of the final version of the document. Almost 80% of the remarks influenced the Programme document – 56% were directly included and 23% were partly included.

The role of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

In accordance with art. 8 of the CPR relevant Programme partners will participate on a case-by-case basis upon decision of the Monitoring Committee of the Programme (MC) in the works of the MC. They will take part in the decision-making process on all issues concerning the Programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The MC will consist of representatives and deputy representatives of the Managing Authority and the National Authority, and other representatives appointed by each participating country e.g., representatives of national, regional, local, municipal and other public authorities (such as Euroregions), relevant bodies representing civil society, such as non-governmental organisations, bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, and rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination as well as economic and social partners in accordance with the principle of partnership.

The principles of their participation as well as their rights and obligations will be stipulated in the MC Rules of Procedures. Possible conflict of interest will be prevented by introducing appropriate procedures.

The Programme partners will be supported in enhancing their institutional capacities through i.a. access to trainings financed by the Programme, workshops and seminars and other forms of the experience and good practice exchanges.

Appropriate measures to avoid potential conflict of interest will be adopted when involving relevant partners in preparation of calls for proposals and decision making process. Involvement of relevant partners in the future evaluation of the Programme will be ensured and the outcomes from the evaluation will also be subject of consultations. All the principles and rules of involvement will be specified in detail in the Rules of Procedures for the MC.

5. Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation)

Reference: point (h) of Article 17(3)

Communication activities will be carried out in cooperation with European, national and regional institutions, as well as social and economic partners and beneficiaries. Communication and visibility activities will be tailored to the specificities of projects supported under each Priority. Operations of Strategic Importance will be the flagship projects used for the promotion of the Programme.

Main objective

Promotion of opportunities and positive changes in the Programme area caused by cooperation between local and regional actors as well as societies in Poland and Ukraine supported from the Programme's funding.

Specific objectives

- awareness about EU funding and support in neighbouring border regions of Poland and Ukraine;
- demonstration that the Programme makes links and relations between borderland societies stronger and closer and common goals can be achieved;
- promotion of integrated regional development in the Programme area;
- support for beneficiaries in implementing and promoting their projects;
- informing target groups about the results of the Programme;
- to promote the benefits of cooperation and increase Programme's visibility.

Target groups

The information and promotion activities should be conducted at two levels of communication: external and internal.

External:

- (potential) beneficiaries;
- general public (e.g., youth, journalists, public authorities, NGOs, business support organisations, higher education and research institutions).

Internal:

- institutions involved in the Programme's implementation (e.g., MC, National Authority, MA, EC, other Interreg programmes and initiatives including the process of embedding relevant EU strategies and the national strategies of participating states into the Programme, and other relevant institutions).

Communication channels

The following communication channels are planned:

- **websites** of the Programme (meeting criteria for accessibility) and the institutions implementing the Programme (e.g. Portal Funduszy Europejskich);
- **social media** (e.g. Facebook, YouTube – selection can be adjusted);
- **traditional and internet media** (local and regional);
- **information and promotion events** (online/hybrid/in-person) organised by the Programme or third parties;
- **publications** (including on-line publications and audio-visual products);

- **consultations, training events, workshops** addressed to (potential) beneficiaries;
- **relevant networks** (Regional Contact Points in Poland, Information Points on European Funds, EuropeDirect network).

The communication potential and abilities of the beneficiaries will be used through:

- building and maintaining relations with the beneficiaries;
- involving the beneficiaries in various initiatives organised and supported by the institutions implementing the Programme.

Communication activities will be accessible to people with disabilities.

The Joint Secretariat (JS) will be in charge of the implementation of harmonised communication and visibility actions in the Programme as well as contacts with Branch Office in Ukraine and other information points of the Programme set up in cooperation with regional authorities in the Programme area. The JS will closely cooperate with MA communication officer for the Programme (CPR, Art. 48.2). Direct cooperation with Interreg representative(s) in the INFORM EU network is also envisaged.

Budget

At least 0.3% of the total Programme budget will be spent on communication and visibility in 2021-2029. The amounts for individual communication activities performed by Programme institutions will be provided in the Annual Information and Communication Plans.

Monitoring and evaluation

Communication and visibility actions will be regularly placed under external or internal evaluation and discussed and approved by the MC. Data for evaluation will come from surveys, internal statistics or website analytics. The following output and result indicators will measure progress and achievements:

Preparation phase

- Output: number of website visits, social media/traditional and internet media engagements, event participation, number of publications, networking engagements (statistics and analytics);
- Result: interest of potential beneficiaries in the implementation of cross-border projects (survey);

Implementation phase

- Output: number of website visits, social media/traditional and internet media engagements, event participation, number of publications, networking engagements (statistics and analytics);
- Result: beneficiary satisfaction with information and support provided by the Programme and positive attitude towards the Programme (survey);

Results phase

- Output: number of website visits, social media engagements//traditional and internet media, event participation, number of publications, networking engagements (statistics and analytics);
- Result: increased public awareness of the Programme, its results and impact (survey).

The annual information and promotion action plans may further define the indicators.

Evaluation of the communication strategy will be part of the overall programme's evaluation measures.

More details on above topics will be presented in the Programme communication strategy.

6. Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds

Reference: point (i) of Article 17(3), Article 24

The Programme will support the cross-border integration based on people-to-people initiatives through the implementation of 2 small project funds (SPF) in line with art. 25 of the IR.

SMALL PROJECT FUNDS

The SPFs shall be implemented under:

- the Programme 'Cooperation' priority, within RSO2.4: Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions – covering the entire Programme area with the Carpathian Euroregion (PL) as the potential SPF beneficiary;
- the Programme 'Environment' Priority, within RSO2.6: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy – covering the entire Programme area with the Ternopil Regional Development Agency (UA) as the potential SPF beneficiary.

Each SPF shall receive a maximum Programme co-financing of 5 111 345.18 EUR.

Both SPFs shall be implemented under the same rules.

The SPF beneficiaries shall demonstrate adequate capacity and meet eligibility criteria set in the SPF Beneficiary Manual.

The main tasks of the SPF beneficiary are:

- conducting calls for small projects, open to both Polish and Ukrainian potential final recipients,
- ensuring the implementation of small projects implemented by Polish and Ukrainian final recipients of small projects including the correct financial settlement of small projects,
- advance and final balance payments for Polish and Ukrainian final recipients of small projects, including possible recovery of funds;
- implementation and settlement of the SPF.

Costs of the management of a SPF shall not exceed 20 % of the total eligible cost of the respective SPF and shall be settled using simplified cost options.

SMALL PROJECTS

The grants awarded for small projects must fall between 20 000 and 90 000 EUR. The total value of a small project shall not exceed 100 000 EUR.

No grant awarded to the small project may exceed 90% of the total eligible costs of this project.

A small project:

- has a reasonable budget drafted on the basis of simplified costs options;
- shall be settled on the basis of achievement of project indicators;
- has an implementation period up to 12 months, unless otherwise decided;
- clearly contributes to the Programme and its objectives;
- has a strong and evident cross-border character;
- is ready for implementation;
- does not constitute state aid;
- fulfils the partnership criteria.

It is intended to give support to small projects offering mainly non-investment activities promoting:

- cooperation, building of new cross-border citizens' contacts, enabling the inhabitants to jointly create actions, exchange of good practices in the Programme area, exchange of experiences and social initiatives related i.e., to education, art, culture, tourism, heritage. Touristic and cultural events, promotion and cultivation of common traditions of the borderland areas, training, conferences, meetings, workshops, cross-border cooperation between schools and higher education institutions, NGOs, public administration, research and scientific centres, cultural entities, etc. will be supported. Projects focusing on transfer of innovative solutions, other actions related to cultural diversity as well as development of local communities will also be targeted through small projects;
- cooperation for the protection and improvement of the state of the environment, especially in smaller communities. Small projects shall focus on prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse and recycling measures as well as residual waste treatment for households.

7. Implementing provisions

7.1. Programme authorities

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(6)

Table 9

| Programme authorities | Name of the institution | Contact name | Position | E-mail |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Managing authority | Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland ul. Wspólna 2/4, 00-926 Warszawa, Poland | Minister responsible for regional development, Poland | Minister responsible for regional development, Poland | kancelaria@mfipr.gov.pl |
| Audit authority | Head of the National Revenue Administration | Director of Department for Audit of Public Funds in Ministry of Finance | Director of Department for Audit of Public Funds in Ministry of Finance | sekretariat.das@mf.gov.pl |
| National authority (for programmes with participating third or partner countries) | Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 01008 Kyiv, 12/2 Hrushevsky str., Ukraine | Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine | Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine | yaremenko@kmu.gov.ua |
| Group of auditors representatives | Accounting Chamber, Ukraine 04053 Kyiv, 10 Stritenska str., office 434, Ukraine | Vasyl Nevidomyi, | Member of Accounting Chamber | nevidomyi_vi@rp.gov.ua |
| Body to which the payments are to be made by the Commission | Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland ul. Wspólna 2/4, 00-926 Warszawa, Poland | Minister responsible for regional development, Poland | Minister responsible for regional development, Poland | kancelaria@mfipr.gov.pl |

7.2. Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(6)

Based on the experience and best practices from the previous editions of the Programme, participating countries decided to set up a JS to be the institution responsible for day-to-day implementation of the Programme. The JS shall support beneficiaries in implementation of their projects and conduct information and promotion activities. The JS shall also assist Programme institutions (Managing Authority, Monitoring Committee, National Authority, Audit Authority – if necessary) in carrying out their functions.

In line with the Programme institutions' decision, the JS shall be located in Warsaw, in the state-owned Center of European Projects (CEP). The detailed responsibilities of the JS shall be specified in a cooperation agreement concluded between the Managing Authority and CEP. The role of the JS shall also be described in other relevant documents (procedure manual, etc.).

As the Programme is a continuation of the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine cross-border cooperation, the JS shall employ experts that have extensive knowledge of implementation of cross-border cooperation projects in Poland and Ukraine. The costs related to the functioning of the institution shall be covered from the Programme's technical assistance.

To support beneficiaries in the Programme area a Branch Office of the Joint Secretariat (BO) shall be set up in Lviv (in Information and Cross-border Cooperation Support Centre DOBROSUSIDSTVO).

The main activities of the JS and the BO relate to:

- organization of calls for proposals (information campaign for potential beneficiaries, workshops for applicants, developing application pack, assessment of applications, etc),
- supporting Programme beneficiaries in the process of preparation of grant contracts and implementation of the projects (trainings for beneficiaries, assistance in introduction of changes in the projects, etc),
- monitoring of implementation of the projects (projects activities progress, changes in the projects, informing on irregularities, verification of reports, etc),
- supporting and assisting the Programme institutions in their functioning (organization of and participation in MC meetings and other programme events, providing statistical and analytical data on programme and projects' implementation upon request of any authorized representative of the National and Regional authorities, etc),
- information, communication and promotion activities (organization of conferences and other promotional events, preparation of information and promotion materials, managing programme website, developing Annual Information and Communication Plan, etc), provision of consultations on the implementation of visibility and communication requirements to project,
- participation in preparation and drafting of Programme documents.

To support beneficiaries in the Programme area the regional contact points are to be established in Poland (in 4 marshal offices of the area) and Ukraine (details to be confirmed).

7.3. Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third or partner countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(6)

Irregularities identified in one country

The Member State with the area where irregularities have been identified assumes financial responsibility. In particular, this applies to situations where irregularities result from: national legislation, a defective system (e.g., control) or exceeding the permissible error rate on the territory of the state.

Irregularities identified in more than one country

If an irregularity is identified in both countries participating in the Programme, the financial responsibility will be divided according to the weight and impact of different factors associated with the irregularity on the amount of the correction.

If it is difficult to determine the weight of the individual factors that led to the correction and therefore, it is not possible to precisely allocate financial responsibility to the countries, they will jointly decide on the share of the financial responsibility in proportion to the EU contribution paid to beneficiaries in each country during the period subject to audit/control.

Irregularities as a result of joint decisions of countries

In the event of irregularities resulting from joint decisions of countries regarding the Program, including non-achievement of the Program objectives, the financial responsibility is shared between the countries in proportion to the EU contribution paid to the beneficiaries in each country during the period subject to audit/control.

Irregularities as a result of decisions made by program institutions

In case of irregularities resulting from actions and decisions taken by the Managing Authority or the Joint Secretariat, the country in which the Managing Authority or JS has its seat is responsible.

Irregularities arising under other circumstances

The Managing Authority, in agreement with the National Authority, assigns a given case to one of the above-mentioned categories.

In cases not described above, the methodology for sharing responsibilities will depend on the joint decision of the member states.

Consequences of irregularities on technical assistance funds

The Managing Authority is responsible for establishing the rules for granting and transferring technical assistance funds referred to in Art. 27 of the Interreg Regulation, to authorized entities. Detailed solutions for the transfer of payments to eligible entities for the implementation of tasks for the Program shall be specified in the document granting technical assistance funds to a given entity.

Taking into account the fact that the European Commission transfers funds for technical assistance to the Managing Authority in the form of a flat rate, pursuant to Article 27 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2021/1059 of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions concerning the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (Official Journal of the EU L 231 of 30.06.2021, p. 94) (Interreg Regulation) of the Interreg Regulation, each financial correction has financial consequences for the paid and contracted technical assistance funds. The Managing Authority will analyze the impact of irregularities on the technical assistance funds in the Programme on an ongoing basis. In the event of imposing financial corrections resulting in a reduction of technical assistance funds available for the Programme, the Managing Authority will apply for the difference to the country or countries responsible for the correction. The division of responsibilities in this respect is the same as for the financial correction which led to the reduction.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Table 10: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

| Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| From the adoption, the Programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| From the adoption, the Programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Map
Map of the Programme area



A. Summary of the main elements

| Priority | Fund | Specific objective | Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the simplified cost option will be applied in % | Type(s) of operation covered | | Indicator triggering reimbursement | | Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement | Type of simplified cost option (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates) | Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the simplified cost option |
|----------|------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | Code(1) | Description | Code(2) | Description | | | |

(1) This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex 1 CPR

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

B. Details by type of operation

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc):

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) is relevant to the type of operation:

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission:

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate:

5. Assessment of the audit authority or authorities of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data:

A. Summary of the main elements

| Priority | Fund | Specific objective | The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs | Type(s) of operation covered | | Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission | Indicator | | Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission | Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary or beneficiaries |
|----------|------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|-------------|--|---|
| | | | | Code(1) | Description | | Code(2) | Description | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

(1) This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex 1 to the CPR and Annex IV to the EMFAF Regulation.

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation

Appendix 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable - Article 17(3) CPR

Large Infrastructure Projects (LIPs) will be implemented within the Programme as operations of strategic importance. LIPs were proposed by all regions from the Programme area. Debates on LIPs project summaries were organized in February 2021 and the final list of LIPs was approved by the Joint Programming Committee in August 2021.

Second round of LIPs identification and submission in the Programme was organized following the broadening of the Programme thematic scope (Priorities 'Borders' and 'Accessibility').

LIPs will be subject to final approval by the Monitoring Committee of the Programme.

Indicative timetable of LIPs preparation:

- Invitation for applicants to submit Full Application Forms: 4Q 2022
- Preparation of LIP Full Application Forms: 4Q 2022 – 1Q 2023
- Assessment of LIP Full Application Forms and submission of summaries to the Commission: 1Q 2023
- Recommendations for LIPs and corrections of the Full Application Forms: 2-3Q 2023
- MC decision on LIPs approval and contracting: 4Q 2023 – 1Q 2025

Indicative list of LIPs (to be complemented with Accessibility LIPs related to Solidarity Lanes)

| No | Priority | Lead Beneficiary Region | Title |
|----|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | Tourism | Podkarpackie | The Carpathian narrow-gauge railways – a journey in the footsteps of the Carpathian Forest railways |
| 2. | Health | Podlaskie | Joint development of accessible and resilient health care for elderly and disabled patients of Bialystok and Volyn hospitals |
| 3. | Environment | Ivano-Frankivsk | Environmental safety – creation of a Ukrainian-Polish forest fire management network in the Carpathian region |
| 4. | Environment | Volyn | Sustainable Water Management: a Way to Revitalise Western Ukraine and Eastern Poland |
| 5. | Health | Mazowieckie | A joint initiative of The Dr. Józef Psarski Mazovian Specialist Hospital in Ostrołęka as increasing the availability of health-care services through construction landing pads for rescue helicopters and purchase, delivery and assembly of lifting equipment |
| 6. | Health | Lviv | Development of palliative, geriatric and treatment care, and also improving the quality of medical services for cancer patients in hospitals of Lviv, Ternopil and Krosno |
| 7. | Health | Lubelskie | Creation of Cross-Border Centers for Preventive Examinations in Lubelskie and Volyn Regions |
| 8. | Borders | Lubelskie | Increasing the throughput capacity of the Hrebenne-Rawa Ruska road border crossing point and improving the conditions for travelers crossing the border at the Budomierz-Hruszew road border crossing point ² |

² The project shall be considered for implementation only if own co-financing is secured for the Ukrainian partner(s).

DOCUMENTS

| Document title | Document type | Document date | Local reference | Commission reference | Files | Sent date | Sent by |
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