

MINUTES

5th meeting of the Monitoring Committee

Interreg NEXT Programme Poland – Ukraine 2021-2027

8 October 2025, Nyzhnie Solotvyno, Zakarpattia Oblast & online (Zoom)

1. Opening, objectives of the meeting

- The Chairman (*Mr Rafał Baliński*) opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and presented the agenda.
- The National Authority (NA) representative (*Ms Olena Feleniuk*) and the representative of Zakarpattia region (*Mr Vasyl Ivancho*) also welcomed the participants and wished everyone a fruitful meeting.

2. The Programme – state of play and further steps

- The Managing Authority (MA) representative (*Ms Małgorzata Chętko*) gave an overview of the Programme implementation progress.
- The Joint Secretariat (JS) representative (*Mr Tomasz Jędrzejewski*) presented the possibilities of using savings and contracting the reserve list projects.
- The Commission representative (*Mr Jozef Michalek*) noted that the implementation of the Programme showed clear progress and congratulated the Programme authorities on successful and efficient implementation.
- The JS representative (*Mr Andrzej Słodki*) presented a few successful project stories.
- The JS representative (*Mr Tomasz Jędrzejewski*) informed the participants about the main challenges affecting the Programme implementation and indicated that two projects were facing delays:
 - o **PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0001/24** "Environmental Safety – Creation of a Ukrainian-Polish Forest Fire Management Network in the Carpathian Region" (LIP),
 - o **PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0030/23** "Preventing and removing the effects of climate change by purchasing vehicles and firefighting equipment to fight forest fires" (regular project).
- The NA representative commented on the situation in Ukraine concerning the project registration and pointed out that the project registration in Ukraine is an administrative service that takes up to ten days. Once a project is registered, Ukrainian partners are exempt from taxes, which allows them to use the funds more efficiently.
- The representative of Ivano-Frankivsk region (*Ms Kristina Torgan*) and the representative of Lviv region (*Ms Iryna Butynets*) assured everyone that particular attention was being paid to the challenging projects to ensure their timely implementation.
- The Commission representative pointed out that the projects were selected according to the selection procedure, and they were expected to deliver the declared results.
- The Chairman noted that the JS in agreement with the NA and the regional authorities would prepare the official letters to the Lead Partners of the two challenging projects, specifying the concrete deadlines and the consequences of failing to deliver the previously declared results

in order to ensure proper implementation of the projects selected by the Monitoring Committee.

- The JS representative (*Mr Andrzej Słodki*) presented the information and promotion activities of the Programme.
- The Chairman initiated a discussion on the possible use of savings which was followed by voting on that matter. The MC members were reminded of the need to report conflicts of interest where applicable.
- The representative of Zakarpattia region (*Mr Vasyl Ivancho*) informed the participants about the impossibility of implementing the first project on the reserve list under priority ENVIRONMENT, SO 1.2, i.e. project **PLUA.01.02-IP.01-0003/23** "Cross-border flow of information – joint activities of Stare Miasto-Park Ltd. In Leżajsk Municipality and Perechyn City Council for sustainable water and wastewater management" in the Zakarpattia region due to objective reasons. He also underlined the importance and urgency for the Zakarpattia region to implement the first project on the reserve list under priority ENVIRONMENT, SO 1.3, i.e. project **PLUA.01.03-IP.01-0026/23** "Urban Lungs – Smart Green Infrastructure Solutions for Urbanized Communities in Poland and Ukraine".
- The Chairman underlined that the Programme authorities are obliged to follow certain rules, keeping the fundamental principles of transparent projects' selection and ensuring proper implementation of previously approved arrangements. The reserve lists, already approved by the MC, have been established for each specific objective and must be followed in the exact order determined¹. The Chairman stressed that the situation and consecutive steps obviously depend on the sufficiency of resources and the project applicants – whether they decide to accept financing. He declared that MA/JS will keep a rule of communication with the project applicant and, in case of refusal, revert to the next applicant from the reserve list. He emphasized that this is the fundamental principle of the reserve lists.

Decisions:

1. In line with the MC decision, taken during its meeting in Krosno (18-19.04.2024), to contract the first project on the reserve list under priority ENVIRONMENT, SO 1.1, i.e. project **PLUA.01.01-IP.01-0018/23** "Activities for prevention of catastrophes and natural disasters in Polish and Ukrainian municipalities".
2. To use all current savings from the HEALTH and ENVIRONMENT priorities for financing the above-mentioned project.
3. The order of projects to be financed if further savings are available:
 - one project from the reserve list SO 1.2 (following the order on the list),
 - one project from the reserve list SO 1.3 (following the order on the list),

¹ Footnote on the Programme procedures in place: according to the Programme Manual, **p. 7.1.5. Reserve list of projects**, "The Monitoring Committee can create a reserve list of the applications, ranked by the scoring, to use the available funding at later stages of implementation. If the Lead Partner awarded a grant does not decide to follow the recommendations of the Monitoring Committee or decides not to implement its project, the support may be recommended to a reserve project from the same Priority and specific objective, starting from the project ranked on the first place".

- further projects for financing will be taken from the reserve list within the SO in which savings become available.

Poland: 9 votes “YES” (0 votes “NO”, 2 votes “ABSTAIN”)

Ukraine: 9 votes “YES” (0 votes “NO”, 1 vote “ABSTAIN”)

Reserve lists of projects in Annex 10.

3. Small Project Funds (SPFs)

- The representative of the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion (*Mr Łukasz Grabowski*) presented the Small Project Fund under priority COOPERATION.
- The JS representative (*Mr Siarhei Kuzniatsou*) presented the SPF project prepared by Ternopil Regional Development Agency (Ukraine) to be approved by the MC and implemented under priority ENVIRONMENT.
- The Commission representative stressed the importance of SPFs for the Programme as these should provide accessible funding for people-to-people actions and attract new beneficiaries. The EU delegation in Kyiv should be regularly informed of the progress made by the SPFs. He also noted that the experience of RDA Ternopil should be considered a learning exercise on Ukraine's EU accession path.
- The TESIM representative (*Mr Edmunds Snikeris*) underlined the importance of the following three points for the organisations applying for funds within the SPF: simple application process, simple implementation and relatively short timing when it comes to the approval decisions. Therefore, he recommended that the PL SPF consider shortening the timeframe for the assessment of applications within the SPF, based on the experience of evaluating regular projects carried out by the JS. The TESIM representative also offered support to the SPF beneficiaries from the TESIM side (training, materials etc).

Decision:

1. To approve the SPF of the Ternopil Regional Development Agency under the ENVIRONMENT priority

Poland: 10 votes “YES” (0 votes “NO”, 1 vote “ABSTAIN”)

Ukraine: 8 votes “YES” (0 votes “NO”, 1 vote “ABSTAIN”)*

**The representative of Ternopil region (Mr Pavlo Zhurba) reported the conflict of interest. The MC member was excluded from voting.*

4. Large Infrastructure Projects (LIPs) development (priorities ACCESSIBILITY, BORDERS)

- The JS representative (*Mr Tomasz Jędrzejewski*) presented the strategic projects developed under priorities ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS.

Decisions:

1. To approve the LIP Full Application Form (FAF) under priority BORDERS:

- **PLUA.05.01-IP.01-0001/25** "Improvement of the quality and safety of cross-border railway connections by works on line no 101 Werchrata and Lviv railway station"

Poland: 10 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 1 vote "ABSTAIN")

Ukraine: 9 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 0 votes "ABSTAIN")*

** The representative of Lviv region (Ms Khrystyna Zamula) reported the conflict of interest. The MC member was excluded from voting.*

2. To approve the LIP FAF under priority ACCESSIBILITY:

- **PLUA.06.01-IP.01-0001/25** "Developing cross-border availability and mobility of road infrastructure of the Podlaskie Voivodeship and the Volyn region"

Poland: 9 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 1 vote "ABSTAIN")*

Ukraine: 9 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 0 votes "ABSTAIN")*

** The representatives of Podlaskie region (Ms Izabela Łokić) and Volyn region (Mr Denys Denyshchenko) reported the conflict of interest. The MC members were excluded from voting.*

3. To approve the LIP FAF under priority ACCESSIBILITY:

- **PLUA.06.01-IP.01-0002/25** "Enhancing transport infrastructure to strengthen Polish-Ukrainian connectivity via road 850 in Lubelskie and H-22 in Rivne"

Poland: 9 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 1 vote "ABSTAIN")*

Ukraine: 9 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 0 votes "ABSTAIN")*

** The representatives of Lubelskie region (Mr Bogdan Kawałko) and Rivne region (Ms Olga Yutovets) reported the conflict of interest. The MC members were excluded from voting.*

4. To approve the LIP FAF under priority ACCESSIBILITY:

- **PLUA.06.01-IP.01-0003/25** "Development of cross-border mobility: improving the accessibility of road infrastructure in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia and Podkarpackie regions"

Poland: 9 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 1 vote "ABSTAIN")*

Ukraine: 7 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 0 votes "ABSTAIN")*

** The representatives of Podkarpackie region (Mr Marek Rainer), Lviv region (Ms Khrystyna Zamula), Ivano-Frankivsk region (Ms Kristina Torgan), Zakarpattia region (Mr Vasyl Ivancho) reported the conflict of interest. The MC members were excluded from voting.*

5. To approve the LIP FAF under priority ACCESSIBILITY:

- **PLUA.06.01-IP.01-0004/25** "Improving cross-border mobility by building the regional road no. 627 Kosów Lacki – Sokołów Podlaski and general renovation of the bridge in Terebovlia on M-19 national road"

Poland: 9 votes "YES" (0 votes "NO", 1 vote "ABSTAIN")*

Ukraine: 9 votes “YES” (0 votes “NO”, 0 votes “ABSTAIN”)*

* The representatives of Mazowieckie region (Ms Magdalena Sałata) and Ternopil region (Mr Pavlo Zhurba) reported the conflict of interest. The MC members were excluded from voting.

5. Post 2027

- The MA and Commission representatives presented the draft structure and main regulatory provisions stemming from the 16 July 2025 Commission proposal for the new regulations linked to the “Interreg Plan” and the Interreg Poland – Ukraine 2028-2034 Programme (Interreg chapter), including its objectives, implementation logic, and specific rules for external EU borders.
- The Chairman encouraged the representatives of the regions to engage in the work on the preparation of the new programming period.

6. Office for Polish-Ukrainian Development Cooperation, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Republic of Poland

- The representatives of the Office for Polish-Ukrainian Development Cooperation presented the project “Accelerating Ukrainian regional policy capacity with Polish assistance 2024-2025”.

Table 1. Voting members

POLAND

	Institution	Name	Participation
1.	Managing Authority	Rafał Baliński	in place
2.	Lubelskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	Bogdan Kawałko	online
3.	Mazowieckie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	Magdalena Sałata	online
4.	Podkarpackie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	Marek Rainer	online
5.	Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	Izabela Łokić	online
6.	Euroregion Bug	Anna Kusiak	online
7.	Euroregion Karpacki	Barbara Inglot	online
8.	Euroregion Rostocze*	Wojciech Żukowski	online
9.	Konfederacja Lewiatan	Dariusz Jodłowski	online
10.	Ministry of Interior and Administration of Poland	Mariusz Kasprzyk	online
11.	Association for the Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia"	Małgorzata Pociask	online

UKRAINE

	Institution	Name	Participation
1.	National Authority	Olena Feleniuk	in place
2.	Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State (Military) Administration	Kristina Torgan	in place
3.	Lviv Regional State (Military) Administration	Khrystyna Zamula	in place

4.	Rivne Regional State (Military) Administration	Olga Yutovets	in place
5.	Ternopil Regional State (Military) Administration	Pavlo Zhurba	in place
6.	Volyn Regional State (Military) Administration	Denys Denyshchenko	in place
7.	Zakarpattia Regional State (Military) Administration	Vasyl Ivancho	in place
8.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine	Ruslana Linnik	online
9.	Platform Civil Society Ukraine-EU	Nadija Afanasieva	online
10.	National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development Scientific Committee	Ivan Kulchyyskyy	in place

Annexes:

1. Presentation 1: Programme implementation progress.
2. Presentation 2a: Projects in motion – successful project stories.
3. Presentation 2b: Projects in motion – challenges.
4. Presentation 3: Info-promo PL-UA.
5. Presentation 4a: Small Project Fund PL Cooperation.
6. Presentation 4b: Small Project Fund UA Environment.
7. Presentation 5: Large Infrastructure Projects development.
8. Presentation 6: Interreg PLUA 2028+.
9. Presentation 7: Accelerating Ukrainian regional policy capacity with Polish assistance 2024-2025.
10. Reserve lists of the projects – Priority ENVIRONMENT.

Chaired by:

RAFAŁ BALIŃSKI (MA)

Secretary:

LENA BUDARINA (JS)