

# Questions & Answers



## on e-Cohesion Policy in European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

(Updated version, May 2013)

This fact sheet was drafted jointly by INTERACT and European Commission (DG Regional Policy, Unit A4). It summarises the most frequent questions and answers related to e-Cohesion in European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes.

The basis for this document is draft Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)<sup>1</sup>, prepared by the European Commission and submitted for approval to the European Council and European Parliament. During the approval process the content of the regulation can change; therefore, details of some answers may also be modified in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2011)615 final of 06/10/2011. Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund covered by the Common Strategic Framework and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

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The concept of e-Cohesion, as outlined in Article 112(3)<sup>2</sup> of the draft CPR, concerns the electronic exchange of information between beneficiaries of Cohesion Policy programmes and programme bodies during the 2014-2020 programming period. According to the regulatory requirement, programmes should provide their beneficiaries with a system to allow them submission of information in electronic form (see question 5).

e-Cohesion is an European Union (EU) initiative intended to support the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries and programmes as an important part of the Structural Funds simplification effort.

If there is sufficient interest from the Member States (MSs), regions and programmes, the European Commission can offer support in fulfilling the e-Cohesion requirements by providing to them a free of charge data exchange platform 'e-TrustEx' (see question 33).

## 1. Where does the idea of e-Cohesion come from?

e-Cohesion policy is an initiative resulting from the Digital Agenda<sup>3</sup> targets and the e-Government Action Plan:

- By 2015, 50% of EU citizens should use e-Government
- By 2015, 80% of EU businesses should use e-Government

To facilitate the process, European governments have committed themselves to make user-centric, personalised, multi-platform e-Government services a widespread reality by 2015.

The e-Cohesion initiative for structural funds results from work of the High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens<sup>4</sup>. It is expected that all MSs and programmes make efforts, based on clear targets, towards reducing administrative burden for beneficiaries.

## 2. Does e-Cohesion apply to ETC programmes?

Yes, article 112(3) of draft CPR applies to ETC programmes.

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<sup>2</sup> Art. 112(3) of draft CPR:

*Member States shall ensure that no later than 31 December 2014, all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and managing authorities, certifying authorities, audit authorities and intermediate bodies can be carried out solely by means of electronic data exchange systems.*

*The systems shall facilitate interoperability with national and Union frameworks and allow for the beneficiaries to submit all information referred to in the first sub-paragraph only once.*

*The Commission shall adopt, by means of implementing acts, detailed rules concerning the exchanges of information under this paragraph. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 143(3).*

<sup>3</sup> The European e-Government Action Plan 2011-2015, Harnessing ICT to promote smart, sustainable & innovative Government launched 15/12/2010, the Digital Agenda (COM(2010) 245 final/2) adopted 26/08/2010

<sup>4</sup> The European Commission has appointed a high-level group of independent experts to advise it on reducing administrative burdens linked to its legislation. For more information, please visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat\\_general/admin\\_burden/ind\\_stakeholders/ind\\_stakeholders\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/admin_burden/ind_stakeholders/ind_stakeholders_en.htm)

### 3. What is the deadline for implementing e-Cohesion requirements?

The deadline stated in art.112(3) of draft CPR is 31 December of 2014. By this time programmes should ensure that all data exchanges between beneficiaries and programme authorities can be carried out electronically. In practice it means that by the end of 2014 all programmes need to set up an electronic data exchange system.

The European Commission can offer support in fulfilling the requirements of e-Cohesion by providing programmes/regions/MSs with the e-TrustEx platform (see question 33).

### 4. What is an electronic data exchange system?

This is a system, which allows secure exchanges of natively digital documents or scanned documents from system to system via standardised interfaces. In the case of e-Cohesion this refers to the transfer of information between beneficiaries and programme authorities.

The system for electronic data exchange should guarantee:

- data integrity and confidentiality,
- authentication of the sender (for more info, see question 18);
- data storage in compliance with defined retention rules (Article 132 of the draft CPR);
- compliance with the 'only once' encoding and 'interoperability' principles (see questions 16 and 17).

In other words, there are several reasons for using the electronic data exchange system:

- the data is already safe from the moment of encoding it in the system. This is not the case when sending data per regular e-mail or post;
- the sender of information can be easily identified in the system and therefore data provided by the beneficiary is valid without written signature;
- elimination of parallel paper flow reduces storage space and often costs;
- providing the data only once saves time for beneficiaries and programme managers and information is stored in one place; also, authorised institutions can access necessary pieces of information without the necessity of sending the paper documents.

### 5. What data should be transferred by the electronic data exchange system?

The electronic data exchange should encompass programme authorities (managing authority (MA), joint secretariat (JS), intermediate bodies and audit authority (AA)) as well as beneficiaries.

The data exchanged can include everything the MA/JS, first level control (FLC) and AA might ask for during project implementation. For example, once a grant has been awarded, beneficiaries and JS should be able to fulfil all written information

requirements via electronic exchange only, including reporting on project progress, updating of subsidy contracts, etc.

Electronic data exchange refers also to FLC and their written communication with beneficiaries (eg invoices, requests for clarification, information on control results) and can also refer to FLC communication with MA/JS (eg communicating FLC work to the JS) and potentially others (eg written communication between AA and MA).

More information on this topic is expected to be included in the implementing act on electronic exchanges of information, which is being prepared by the European Commission.

**6. Are there any technical requirements concerning the exchange information system?**

No specific technical requirements are set in the regulation in order to preserve the flexibility to use already existing systems and platforms. The regulation defines the general objective and each MS, region or programme is free to decide on how to comply with art. 112(3).

The implementing act on electronic exchanges of information could provide some more details on e-Cohesion and its implementation. It will not, however, set any strict technical requirements to keep the flexibility mentioned above.

**7. Are MSs obliged to develop one national system used by all programmes or is it possible for each programme to have a different system?**

The draft CPR obliges MSs to develop an electronic data exchange system with beneficiaries. It is, however, up to each MS to decide on how to comply with this requirement, and they can delegate this task to programme authorities.

**8. Should compliance with art. 112(3) be described in any national or programme documents?**

According to Article 14(e)(iii) of the draft CPR, MSs should include in the Partnership Contract *'an assessment of the existing systems for electronic data exchange, and the actions planned to permit all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and authorities responsible for management and control of programmes to be carried out solely by electronic data exchange'*.

It is thus expected that Partnership Contracts with MSs will set out the planned actions in order to ensure the respect of the regulatory deadline of 31 December 2014. The European Commission will provide guidance and advice to MSs on how to achieve this deadline.

According to the Article 7(2)(d)(ii) of the draft ETC Regulation<sup>5</sup> each Operational Programme should include *‘an assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and the actions planned to achieve a reduction accompanied by targets’*. This should include a description of how the programme is planning to comply with e-Cohesion requirements.

## 9. Who will assess the compliance with art. 112(3) and how will this be done?

As for all regulatory requirements, compliance with article 112(3) should be checked by MSs and AAs in a coordinated way.

## 10. What will be the consequences if programmes do not manage to implement e-Cohesion requirements by the deadline given in the regulation?

If the deadline is not met programmes miss their chance to use one of the simplification measures proposed in the regulatory framework. The e-Cohesion initiative is supported by the High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens and the European Commission. It is expected that MSs, regions and programmes will implement e-Cohesion at some point. The deadline is set to motivate the programmes and to have a common target.

## 11. How can e-Cohesion simplify programme implementation?

e-Cohesion is one of the simplification measures foreseen for the 2014-2020 period, among eg simplified cost options, risk-based controls, etc.

Success stories in MSs in the field of e-governance confirm that the effective implementation of e-Cohesion has a potential to significantly reduce administrative burden both for beneficiaries and local administrations.

Data will be transferred only once, safely stored in one place and always available for all programme authorities. Electronic submission of information will save time and resources storage space and it should have positive impacts on the environment. It also helps in avoiding errors resulting from encoding the same data several times, copying of data, etc.

## 12. Does e-Cohesion apply only to beneficiaries or to applicants as well?

The art. 112(3) states: *‘... all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and managing authorities, certifying authorities, audit authorities and intermediate bodies can be carried out solely by means of electronic data exchange systems.’*. The article refers only to the post-contractual relationship between beneficiaries and programme bodies. Programmes can, if they wish, also extend the electronic communication system

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<sup>5</sup> Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal



to applicants, eg by setting up an online application system, but there is no regulatory requirement to do so.

Already in the current programming period there are some programmes that introduced an online application system. This solution is recommendable from the point of view of reducing the administrative burden as well as ensuring completeness and integrity of the monitoring system.

### **13. Is the usage of the electronic data exchange system obligatory for beneficiaries?**

The regulation sets the requirements for the programme authorities to set up the systems but not for the beneficiaries to use them. This is to avoid discrimination of certain beneficiaries that do not have access to suitable online connections.

However, programmes can set such requirement on their level, eg in the subsidy contract. Using an electronic data exchange system would then become a pre-condition for beneficiaries to receive payments. Still, programmes must ensure that this requirement does not result in a discrimination of some beneficiaries, and alternative arrangements should be ensured in case a beneficiary is not able to use it.

### **14. Should e-Cohesion apply to all project partners or only to the lead partner?**

The requirements set by the art. 112(3) do not specify who should input data in the electronic exchange system. It should be up to each programme to decide, whether the electronic relationship with beneficiary can be established at the level of individual project partners or at the level of the lead partner only.

It depends on the number of project partners and the capacity of the system in use. It will also depend on the management and control system of the programme (eg how the FLC is organised). If a programme decides to establish an electronic relationship with all partners, the requirement to use the electronic data exchange system should be clearly stated in the programme documents (ie stated in the Operational Programme (OP) or programme manual).

### **15. Is harmonisation important in the implementation of e-Cohesion?**

Certainly for applicants and beneficiaries participating in different programmes around Europe it would be a significant simplification for all programmes to request data in a harmonised form and to use harmonised implementation tools (eg templates, control reports, etc). Thus, bearing in mind that one of the objectives of e-Cohesion is reduction of administrative burden, harmonisation can be an important tool to achieve e-Cohesion objectives.

Moreover, if the same core data are collected by all programmes it also helps to present achievements of programmes, promote them, report to the European Commission, etc.



## 16. What does the 'only once' encoding principle mean?

If a beneficiary provides information/data/documents to a relevant body, this should be recorded in the monitoring system and reused among all the bodies involved in the monitoring, control, audit, implementation or evaluation of programme(s) co-financed by EU-Funds. Asking the beneficiary the same information more than once should be avoided (unless it is obvious that it is outdated).

## 17. What does the 'interoperability' concept mean?

Interoperability means that all the institutions involved in the implementation of a programme should work together at the organisational and technical levels in ensuring effective communication, as well as the exchange and re-use of information and knowledge. This principle should apply at a minimum to the level of one operational programme, ie all authorities of the programme should have access rights to the system and share data among themselves. The next step would be to extend the concept to monitoring systems of different programmes (eg in one country or region) and possibly also to establishing links to external databases such as the KEEP database of INTERACT that stores, manages and publishes information on ETC projects throughout Europe for public information.

At the same time, if some sort of harmonisation is in place (please see question 15), it would generate many exciting possibilities to accumulate information from different programmes at different levels (MS, EU, sectoral).

## 18. Will e-signature be required?

e-Signature will be required, however, MSs can decide which of three types of e-signature set out by the Directive (1999/93/EC)<sup>6</sup> should be used for the purpose of e-Cohesion. Electronic signature can be anything in the range between a modern solution using eID<sup>7</sup> or certificates<sup>8</sup>, and the usage of a simple token (key generator) or login and password which links data and the signature authentication.

In the context of the proposal for e-Cohesion policy, it is sufficient to implement the most basic type of electronic signature (ie login and password) and the final choice is left to MSs, regions and programmes. As e-Cohesion relates only to entities that have contractual relationship with the programme institutions, login and password allocated to the beneficiary are considered sufficient to ensure validity of documents and can serve as e-signature in the context of ETC.

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<sup>6</sup> DIRECTIVE 1999/93/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 December 1999 on a Community framework for electronic signatures

<sup>7</sup> The electronic identity card is a government-issued document for online and offline identification.

<sup>8</sup> An electronic document used for data encryption and decryption.

## 19. How to ensure security of data exchange?

ETC Programme authorities are responsible for the secure exchange of data. This means that:

- Data should always be transferred via secure exchange platforms/systems and be traceable to the beneficiary. Therefore each institution/person who is allowed to exchange information with programme bodies should be given a unique login and password (or another authentication method).
- In case changes of data are allowed that are already encoded in the system (eg by project partners or programme authorities), it is recommended that the system shows who changed data, and when and what changes were made.
- Different user rights should be allocated to different users, according to their needs and rights (eg read-only, edit but not delete, edit only certain fields, admin rights). Programme authorities also need to ensure safe storage of data to protect against accidental loss of data.
- Moreover, for security reasons, it is advisable to separate the external module dealing with the electronic exchanges with beneficiaries from the internal module dealing with internal management and monitoring; these two modules could then be linked via an interface<sup>9</sup>.

## 20. Are login and password enough to ensure data validity?

As e-Cohesion legal requirements refer to beneficiaries only, programmes work with organisations which they know and which have signed a subsidy contract with the MA. Setting a unique login and password for the beneficiary and defining the access rights can therefore be considered enough to ensure data validity as regards the identity of the person/institutions submitting information.

## 21. Can e-mail communication be used to fulfil the requirements of e-Cohesion?

As the data exchanged between beneficiaries and programme authorities can include sensitive or personal data, data security and validity need to be ensured.

For example, a solution is needed to make messages readable for the intended recipients only. The standard approach is to transform the original text into something unreadable, a process called encryption. The recipient then uses the appropriate parallel technique to transform the message back to readable text, a process called decryption. Encryption and decryption, combined with user authentication, ensure that only intended recipients read the messages.

E-mail does not support data encryption and decryption as it is sent over plain text protocols. In simple terms it means that if someone intercepts a message, it can be

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<sup>9</sup> A software solution providing a link between different systems/modules.

easily read. The risk of data interception is especially high when using public internet access areas. Moreover, e-mail messages are routed in such a way that a message is transferred from host to host until it reaches its destination. As a result, it is multiplied and multiple copies exist at different locations. Most common protocols for message retrieval send e-mail user name and password in clear text, which also can be easily intercepted. Therefore, e-mail cannot be used as data exchange system in the framework of e-Cohesion policy.

**22. Is generating the pre-filled report in excel, sending it to partners to be filled out and uploading the final version to the system, acceptable from the point of view of fulfilling the e-Cohesion requirements?**

Yes, such solution is acceptable as long as the files (excel or any other file formats) are transferred via secure electronic data exchange system, not via e-mail (see question 21) or post.

**23. Is a payment claim without a handwritten signature and stamp valid?**

This is up to programme authorities to define the requirements for validity of documents. If, at programme level, the exchange of electronic data is required, then the documents submitted via the system should be legally valid and binding and no additional hard copy signature or stamp should be required. It is the responsibility of a MS or programme to ensure an electronic data exchange system, which supports secure data exchange and enables authentication of sender (see question 19).

Already in the context of the current 2007-2013 programming period, some programmes do not require all documents to be signed and stamped and accept e-versions of the documents. Currently, some programmes don't request full paper documentation, however the e-versions need to be accompanied by a written signed and stamped confirmation of validity, which already significantly decreases the number of paper documents to be transferred.

**24. Can programmes use their current monitoring system if it can be developed to fulfil the requirements of e-Cohesion?**

Every programme has to establish a computerised monitoring system to comply with art. 114(2)(d) of the draft CPR. Programmes can build on the experience gained in current and previous programming periods and develop their systems to fulfil e-Cohesion requirements as well. If programme monitoring systems can serve as secure data exchange systems, no additional system is required. Nevertheless, for security reasons, it is advisable to separate the external module (dealing with the electronic exchanges) from the internal module (dealing with internal management and monitoring). The two modules are linked via an interface<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> A software solution providing a link between different systems/modules.

## 25. Does e-Cohesion mean that a paper trail is no longer needed?

The e-Cohesion initiative does not exclude the possibility to ask beneficiaries to keep papers at their premises, it just requires elimination of **parallel** paper flow of documents, data and information (no copying and sending by mail of already submitted electronic versions). In case original project documentation is on paper, it has to be stored according to rules set by art. 132 of the draft CPR, which defines minimum retention period and acceptable ways of document storage (either in the form of the originals, or certified true copies of the originals, or on commonly accepted data carriers including electronic versions of original documents or documents existing in electronic version only).

## 26. Can programme authorities request paper documents (eg during on the spot audits or controls or in case of doubts regarding validity or authenticity of documents)?

In case of any doubts concerning the validity or authenticity of the documents, programme authorities should be entitled to verify the original documents, eg on the spot at beneficiaries' premises.

## 27. Should FLC also use the electronic exchange system to communicate with beneficiaries?

FLC bodies, as a part of programme management and control system, should also use the electronic exchange system to communicate with beneficiaries.

e-Cohesion can also bring significant simplification to the FLC, provided that it is well prepared and implemented. If controllers have access to the programme monitoring system, they can easily keep track of all project changes, budget reallocations, etc. If management verifications are performed electronically and all information is available in one place, every authority can easily trace any decision on eligibility of expenditure, see which expenditures were claimed, etc.

## 28. In case of decentralised FLC systems (involving eg many different private controllers or many different internal controllers of beneficiaries) it might be difficult or even impossible to provide access to the system to all controllers. How can programmes solve this issue?

Indeed, different FLC arrangements might bring challenges to the programmes. Centralised or partly-centralised FLC systems could definitely benefit from the electronic exchange systems. For decentralised systems MSs and programmes might need to search for alternative solutions, eg electronic data exchange required only on lead partner level, ie for a project as a whole, in order to limit number of system users.

## 29. If an invoice should be exchanged electronically does it mean that the scanned invoice is acceptable or does it need to be an electronic invoice?

The original documents can be either in paper or electronic form. As defined in the art. 132 (2) of draft CPR<sup>11</sup> documents can be kept either in paper or in electronic form for the control reasons.

For the purposes of electronic data exchange in the framework of e-Cohesion, the paper documents, should be transferred to e-versions, taking into account any (programme, MS, EU-level) standards on the quality of the scan (readability), maximum permissible file size, etc.

## 30. Who will help beneficiaries to adapt to the new system?

Programmes should assume the responsibility to train beneficiaries on how to use the new electronic data exchange system and support them in case of any problems they might have in this respect. Operational Programme Technical Assistance budget can finance this activity.

## 31. How to meet the deadline of 31 December 2014 and manage to create a user-friendly system both for beneficiaries and authorities?

To reach the targets mentioned above, it is essential to act sequentially: building the electronic data exchange system (from now until the end of 2014) in order to enable beneficiaries to use these functionalities in a second stage.

Programmes do not have to start from the scratch. There is a lot of experience available already in Europe and programmes should build on it. It is important to learn from one another and exchange knowledge and experience.

Taking into account the time it takes to develop fully functioning IT systems, national, regional and local administrations responsible for the implementation of programmes need to start reflecting on future possible solutions and take necessary steps as soon as possible.

## 32. Where can programmes learn about interesting practices available in Europe concerning electronic exchange of data between programme authorities and beneficiaries?

Many programmes (ETC and 'mainstream') already in current programming period decided to simplify application and/or reporting procedures by introducing online submission facilities. INTERACT and the European Commission try to ensure exchange of experience in this field by organising various events and networks.

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<sup>11</sup> Art. 132(2) of the draft CPR: *The documents shall be kept either in the form of the originals, or certified true copies of the originals, or on commonly accepted data carriers including electronic versions of original documents or documents existing in electronic version only.*

INTERACT manages an ETC monitoring systems network, which meets periodically to share experiences in the field of electronic monitoring systems; functionalities supporting implementation of e-Cohesion are one of the mostly requested discussion topics.

The European Commission organised several thematic events during which representatives of various MSs and programmes are able to learn about e-Cohesion requirements and discuss experience available in Europe.

Moreover, the European Commission prepared an explanatory document, which includes examples of interesting solutions used in Europe.

### 33. What is e-TrustEx?

e-TrustEx is an open source data exchange platform enabling secure exchanges of natively digital documents or scanned documents from system to system or via an online platform.

e-TrustEx is not a standalone solution, and to use it programmes need a server and a database (eg the programme monitoring system) to which e-TrustEx can be linked. In case there is sufficient interest from MSs and programmes, the European Commission can support tailoring e-TrustEx to the needs of programmes on a pilot basis. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of individual programmes to make the programme-specific adjustments.

e-TrustEx contains a platform and an online portal, which is connected to the platform. Thus the system can be used eg for the online submission of documents by project partners.

When linked to the programme database e-TrustEx can support, for example:

- data integrity;
- data confidentiality and protection;
- authentication of user (with a login and a password);
- authorisation (different access rights provided to different user groups. A restricted user group has the right to authorise information for a another restricted user group);
- transparency and traceability;
- access for multiple users of the online portal.



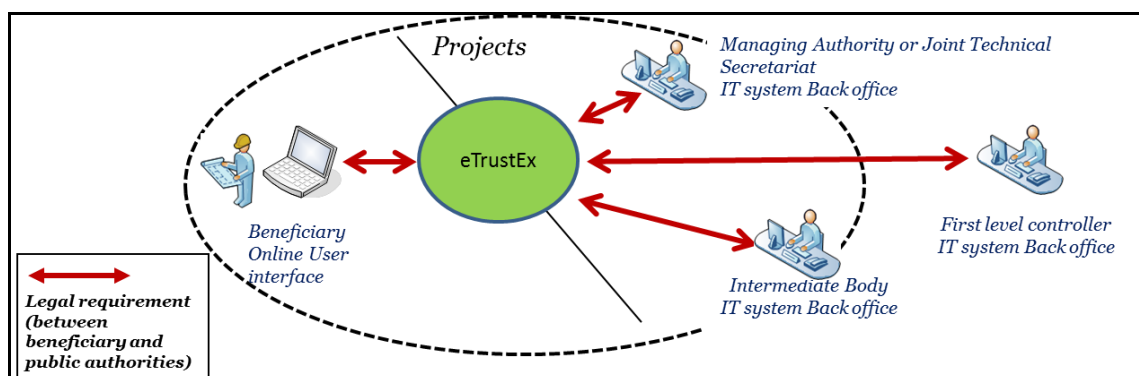


Figure 1 - Communication between programme bodies and beneficiary using e-TrustEx

### 34. What is the 'e-TrustEx for e-Cohesion' project?

The European Commission offered a possibility to adapt the open source data exchange platform e-TrustEx to the needs of Cohesion policy programmes and offer it for free to all interested MS and programmes.

### 35. What is the status of the 'e-TrustEx for e-Cohesion' project?

The project was launched in 2012, when the Commission together with interested MS and programmes investigated and identified common needs. A solution to meet the expectations and requirements was proposed in the document 'e-TrustEx for e-Cohesion - vision'.

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints the project cannot be continued and will not be carried to the development phase. Therefore, no adaptations will be made to adjust the e-TrustEx to programmes' needs. All the deliverables prepared by the Commission so far within the project are available and can be used as supporting documents.

### 36. Can programmes still use e-TrustEx?

Yes, e-TrustEx is an existing open source solution, which can be used by any MS or programme interested. It is, however, not adjusted to the requirements of e-Cohesion. The version of e-TrustEx currently available online, is being revised and corrected and the updated version should be available in a few months.

It is important however to remember, that the Commission does not offer any development or user support for the e-TrustEx.

### 37. How can ETC programmes use deliverables provided by the European Commission?

The European Commission defined detailed requirements for a communication portal (in a vision document for e-TrustEx for e-Cohesion). This document can be used as a reference for defining programmes' own communication portals.



Another useful deliverable of the project is a description of the business processes that require communication between the beneficiary and programme authorities.

Even though, these documents are not specifically targeted at ETC programmes and require some adaptations to specificities of a single programme, they are a good starting point in preparations for 2014-2020 period.

### **38. Can INTERACT support ETC programmes in fulfilling the e-Cohesion requirements?**

INTERACT is currently investigating different possibilities to support ETC programmes in fulfilling the requirements of e-Cohesion. The two options currently considered in more detail are:

- INTERACT develops an online communication portal, which can be used as an external ready-made module and linked to any existing programme monitoring system.
- INTERACT develops a programme monitoring system, with communication module, which can be used by any ETC programme.

The system developed for INTERACT would be given for free to any interested ETC programme. There will be a possibility to adjust it to programmes' specific needs and such adaptations should be covered by programmes themselves.

INTERACT plans to create a user community and useful additional developments done by any of the users should be made available for other programmes. INTERACT will provide long-term support, ensuring the integrity of the source code and general adjustments and corrections.

INTERACT is currently verifying the technical feasibility and financial viability of such a project and checking the interest of ETC programmes. The project needs to be approved by INTERACT Monitoring Committee.

### **39. Where can I find out more about e-cohesion?**

The European Commission is preparing several explanatory documents on e-Cohesion and e-TrustEx. Moreover, interested programmes are invited to participate in Open Days workshops and other information events which may be organised later this year.

There is a group dedicated to e-Cohesion on the RegioNetwork2020 website (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/regionetwork2020/node/10112>) where you can find more information.

Also, INTERACT supports ETC programmes by providing relevant information. Should you have any additional questions on e-Cohesion or would like to share your concerns and/or good practices regarding this new requirement, please feel free to contact INTERACT (<http://www.interact-eu.net/contact/contact/23/3>).