

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION GOAL
PART A**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

Calls for applications

Priorities 1-3

The last two subsidy contracts of 2nd call projects were signed in February and implementation of the 74 regular projects selected in call 1 and 2 continued.

In June the Monitoring Committee (MC) selected six platform projects and MA/JS started contracting. By the end of the year all but one platforms were contracted and started implementing.

There was also a 3rd call for regular projects in 2018. 269 applicants had been consulted in late 2017 and 114 applications were submitted in April. All but two applications were admissible and assessed by the MA/JS. In September the MC selected 31 projects. By the end of 2018 nine subsidy contracts were signed. All 3rd call projects are up and running.

In October the 1st call for extension stage projects and the 2nd call for platform projects were launched, both to be decided on by the MC in April 2019.

Priority 4

In specific objective 4.1 all 25 seed money projects were implemented and finalised in 2018. Final reports were submitted by 24 projects in December, one followed in January 2019 and one project did not submit a report at all.

In specific objective 4.2 the projects selected in the 2nd call for support to PACs/HACs continued implementing and were also finalised in 2018. By the deadline in November three final reports were submitted, four more followed by the end of the year. The remaining followed in early 2019. A 3rd call for support to PACs/HACs was decided on in June and 12 projects were selected for funding. Contracting lasted until November and all projects are up and running.

In specific objective 4.2 there was also a call for applications for organising the EUSBSR Forum 2019. In March one application had been received, which was then selected by the MC in April. In June the EUSBSR Forum 2018 was held (selected in 2017) and the final report on its organisation was submitted by the deadline in December.

In addition, in October the 3rd call for applications to organise targeted support and communication measures for the implementation of the EUSBSR was opened under the specific objective 4.2. The call resulted in one application in November that was to be decided on by the MC in January 2019.

Support to applicants

The MA/JS supported applicants in various ways, with individual project consultations via online meetings and meetings at the MA/JS, with information events and seminars, and via information about the Programme at external events. The MA/JS also facilitated contacts between Russian partner organisations and lead partners, and provided special information for them.

The MA/JS provided individual consultations for calls for regular projects, EUSBSR PACs/HACs, EUSBSR communication, the EUSBSR Forum, project platforms, and extension stage projects. And a development seminar for project platforms was organised by the MA/JS in Potsdam (DE) in November (33 participants without MA/JS staff).

The Programme website provided information to applicants and project partners through relevant documents and news items.

Additional support for applicants was offered on national level – through websites with relevant information and documents and information events.

Programme implementation

No changes to the Cooperation Programme were made and the implementation continued according to plan.

By the end of 2018 of 155 projects were contracted. This included regular projects, project platforms, seed money projects, and projects supporting the implementation of the EUSBSR as well as the Technical Assistance (TA).

The MA/JS supported projects by providing documents and tools, individual support via mail, skype or phone, as well as information and guidance during events and seminars, e.g. (participants without MA/JS):

- 2 Information Seminars for Russian partners, Pskov and St. Petersburg (RU), April/May (51)
- 2 Financial Seminars, Hamburg (DE), January (83)
- A Communication Seminar, Lübeck (DE), March (58)
- A reporting seminar for Seed money projects via Skype from Rostock (DE), August (25)
- A Kick-off meeting/lead partner seminar for project platforms in Riga (LV), October (30)

In addition, the MA/JS organised a workshop on “How to make best use of Interreg programmes in the Baltic

Sea Region post 2020 for the benefit of the EUSBSR” during the EUSBSR Annual Forum in June in Tallinn (110).

The MA/JS also co-organised the “Idea lab on the future of transnational Interreg cooperation” with other transnational EU-programmes during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, in October (100), and sessions on “Platforms for capitalisation” and on “Innovative, accessible and sustainable Baltic Sea Region: stakeholders of EU-Russia macro-regional cooperation” during the Strategic Planning Leaders Forum in St. Petersburg, in October (70).

The MA/JS also contributed to national information events, national seminars on financial matters (DK, SE, PL), the EUSBSR Annual Forum, EUSBSR National Coordinators’ meetings and supported the work of the MC.

The number of reports submitted for monitoring to the MA/JS in 2018 amounted to 153. In addition, four reports on TA expenditures were processed.

The MC met in June and September in Tallinn. The MC selected projects and took decisions on programme implementation. MC discussions on how to develop a future programme also started in 2018.

Furthermore, the MA/JS regularly met with other programmes, e.g. regards financial, certifying, communication or evaluation matters as well as on “Interreg post-2020”, and participated in several network meetings or project related events around the Baltic Sea.

The **electronic monitoring system BAMOS** serves as interface between Programme management bodies, applicants, lead partners and first level controllers. The system was further developed with the support of an external service provider and the helpdesk proved to be useful for all users. Best practices of BAMOS related issues were regularly exchanged with other programmes during Interact meetings.

In 2018 the MA/JS updated the Programme Manual **documents and the procedure** for national liability and recovery of unduly-spent funds to the Programme was fine-tuned with the MC.

The **communication strategy** emphasised support to projects and making achievements visible. Communication implementation was discussed at each MC meeting. 111 projects received support and are presented at projects.interreg-baltic.eu. Two stories on long-term achievements were published (<https://bit.ly/2VIZltk> and <https://bit.ly/2Ymo9DB>). Highlights of 2018 were joint activities with other transnational Interreg Programmes, namely a brochure, an exhibition and a workshop at the European Week of Regions and Cities.

The **audit and control system** is fully established and works well as confirmed by the Programme’s AA in its latest control report (ACR 2018). The AA drew samples for second level audits in 2018 based on costs declared to the Commission until June 2017. The audits were carried out on national level until the end of 2018.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Capacity for innovation	<p>All 12 1st call projects, approved in 2015, provided mid-term self-evaluations assessing their progress in reaching the set targets and goals. All in all, projects demonstrated good progress. These projects will finalise their activities in 2019 and will provide their main outputs, e.g., cooperation networks, prototypes, solutions for businesses. The 18 projects from the 2nd call, approved in 2017, kicked off their activities as planned.</p> <p>The 3rd call for regular projects resulted in 47 applications in this priority. Traditionally, the most demanded specific objective was 'non-technological innovation' where 30 applications were submitted. These projects covered a wide scope of topics: from business support, creative industries and clean technologies/ circular economy to service innovation and digital technologies/ digitalization. 14 applications targetted 'research and innovation technology' and three applications 'smart specialisation'. 15 projects were selected by the MC in June 2018. Three projects were contracted in 2018. The contracting of the other twelve projects was finalised in beginning 2019.</p> <p>Focus of the 1st platform call in priority 1 was on capitalisation of projects' results in the specific objective 'smart specialisation'. This call was closed with no successful applications. The 2nd platform call supported capitalisation in two topics relevant for priority 1: 'research and innovation infrastructures', 'smart specialisation'. Innovation projects contributing to the topic 'climate change adaptation and mitigation' could also form a project platform. By the end of 2018 five platform ideas were consulted in this priority.</p> <p>No significant problems were encountered in this priority.</p>
2	Efficient management of natural resources	<p>Mid-term results of all 13 1st call projects, approved in 2015, confirmed that they were well on track with their implementation. These projects will finalise their activities in 2019. The 12 projects from the 2nd call, approved in 2017, kicked off their activities and continued with the implementation as planned.</p> <p>The 3rd call for regular projects attracted 48 applications in this priority. The most demanded specific objective was 'clear waters': 20 applications were submitted. The other objectives were sufficiently covered, too: 12 proposals in 'renewable energy', eight – in 'energy efficiency', and eight – in 'blue growth'. As a result, nine applications were selected by the MC in June 2018: five in 'clear waters', one in 'renewable energy', one in 'energy efficiency' and two in 'blue growth'. One project was contracted in 2018. The contracting of the other eight projects was planned to be finalised in the beginning of 2019.</p> <p>The focus of the 1st platform call in priority 2 was on enabling capitalisation of projects' results in two specific objectives: 'clear waters' and 'blue growth'. In June 2018 three applications were selected: two in 'clear waters' on improving waste water management and on more efficient manure & nutrient management in agriculture and one on advancing blue bio-economy in 'blue growth'. All three project platforms were contracted in 2018.</p> <p>The 2nd platform call supported capitalisation in three topics relevant for priority 2: 'marine litter management', 'management of marine space', and 'climate change adaptation and mitigation'. By the end of 2018 four project platform</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>ideas were consulted in this priority. No significant problems were encountered in this priority</p>
3	Sustainable transport	<p>Mid-term results of all ten 1st call projects, approved in 2015, confirmed that the implementation was accordance with the planned schedule. These projects would finalise their activities in 2019. The nine projects from the 2nd call, approved in 2017, started their activities and continued with the implementation as planned.</p> <p>The 3rd call for regular projects attracted 19 applications in this priority. The most popular specific objective was 'maritime safety' where eight applications were submitted and two selected. The programme received one application for 'interoperability' which was also approved. Out of three applications under 'accessibility' two were approved. There were no applications for 'shipping' which might show that the existing six projects cover the most important challenges and stakeholders. Out of six applications two were selected under 'urban mobility'.</p> <p>One of the selected projects project was contracted already in 2018. The contracting of the other six projects was planned to be finalised in beginning 2019.</p> <p>The focus of the 1st platform call in priority 3 was on enabling capitalisation of projects' results in three specific objectives: 'interoperability', 'maritime safety' and 'shipping'. In June 2018 three applications were selected: one on each topic. All three project platforms were contracted in 2018.</p> <p>The 2nd platform call supported capitalisation in one topic which might have been relevant also for priority 3: 'climate change adaptation and mitigation'. By the end of 2018 one project platform idea was consulted in this priority.</p> <p>No significant problems were encountered in this priority.</p>
4	Institutional capacity for macro-regional cooperation	<p>Seed Money projects (SO 4.1)</p> <p>The first 25 seed money applications contributing to 13 Policy Area/Horizontal Actions of the EUSBSR closed their activities in August 2018. 23 projects delivered all three pre-defined outputs. Six projects already secured further funding (Interreg Central Baltic, Interreg BSR, NDPC, national funds).</p> <p>PAC/HAC support (SO 4.2)</p> <p>Out of 12 projects in the 2nd call for PAC/HAC support, which started their project activities in 2016, eight were paid and closed in 2018. Monitoring activities would continue in 2019. In 2018 the 3rd call for PAC/HAC support was organised to secure continuous financing for the PACs/HACs. The call resulted in 12 new projects.</p> <p>Support to EUSBSR Annual Forum (SO 4.2)</p> <p>Till date Interreg BSR has organised four calls to support organising the EUSBSR Annual Forum. In 2018 the formal monitoring process was closed in two cases: Forum 2017 (held in Germany) and Forum 2018 (held in Estonia). Furthermore, in 2018 the 4th call was closed to support the organisation of the Annual Forum in 2019. One application was selected in April 2018. The project has launched the activities successfully.</p> <p>Targeted support (SO 4.2)</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>The first phase of the project ‘Let’s communicate’, which aims to maintain and further develop the communications of the EUSBSR is approaching its end. This project phase will close in 2019.</p> <p>Similarly, also the project ‘EUSBSR Support’ aiming to support PAC/HAC capacity building is progressing well.</p> <p>A call for the continuation of the started communication activities was launched in 2018. The selection of this second phase was organised in early 2019.</p> <p>No significant problems were encountered in this priority.</p>
5	Technical Assistance	<p>The total TA budget will be approximately EUR 22.3 million and covers all Programme management costs, including costs for the MA/JS and contribution to the Audit Authority for the period 2014-2023.</p> <p>In the year 2018 the overall spending of TA amounted to EUR 2,948,968, or 91.0% of the annual budget of EUR 3,241,250. Expenditure was incurred by Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB.SH) and the State Regional Development Agency, Latvia, as well as by the Audit Authority in Kiel, Germany. All expenditure was subject to national first level control.</p> <p>The year 2018 was the third year of programme implementation that was entirely financed from TA of the present programme. Compared to the previous calendar years, the spending increased slightly.</p> <p>No significant problems were encountered in this priority.</p>

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Capacity for innovation
Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1a

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	63.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	63.00	1,255.00	CO01 = 23 enterprises receiving grants + CO04
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	60.00	0.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	60.00	1,232.00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	50.00	0.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	50.00	427.00	
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	1,846,815.00	0.00	
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	1,846,815.00	1,505,491.00	
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	7.00	0.00	
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	7.00	31.00	
F	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	market products and services	4.00	0.00	
S	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	market products and services	4.00	73.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	751.00	247.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	734.00	242.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	332.00	92.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	849,996.00	134,157.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	19.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	58.00	8.00	0.00	0.00

(I) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - Capacity for innovation
Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Specific objective	1.1 - 'Research and innovation infrastructures': To enhance market uptake of innovation based on improved capacity of research and innovation infrastructures and their users

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1a.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
1.1.1	Capacity of research and innovation infrastructures in the Programme area to implement measures to increase the market uptake of innovation	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Slightly below medium (2,7)	2014	Medium to good (3,6), focus on more efficient use of human and technical resources		3.0: Slight increase, positive trend towards target value	The overall estimated score of administrative capacity has slightly increased with respect to the baseline, however the pace of the progress is insufficient in order to meet the target value of 3.6 in 2023. The picture for dimensions 1, 4, and 5 has seen little or no improvement, while dimension 2 "Improved governance structures and organizational set-up" has seen a substantial increase and is close to reaching the target. A more efficient use of human and technical resources 3 has seen a relevant increase and may be in close reach of the target if the efforts continue at the same pace.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1.1	Capacity of research and innovation infrastructures in the Programme area to implement measures to increase the market uptake of innovation								

Priority axis	1 - Capacity for innovation
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1b

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	207.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	207.00	6,233.00	CO01 = 36 enterprises receiving grants + CO04
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	200.00	0.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	200.00	6,197.00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	170.00	0.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	170.00	1,081.00	
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	6,595,766.00	0.00	
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	6,595,766.00	5,760,071.00	
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	25.00	0.00	
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	25.00	83.00	
F	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	market products and services	6.00	0.00	
S	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	market products and services	6.00	147.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	4,343.00	1,431.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	4,314.00	1,406.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	888.00	458.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	5,660,071.00	5,585,000.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	56.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO02	No. of documented newly developed market products and services	282.00	67.00	0.00	0.00

(I) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - Capacity for innovation
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
Specific objective	1.2 - 'Smart specialisation': To enhance growth opportunities based on increased capacity of innovation actors to apply smart specialisation approach

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
1.2.1	Capacity (definition of capacity see section 1 Programme Strategy) of innovation actors (innovation intermediaries, authorities, research institutions, enterprises) in the Programme area to implement smart specialisation strategies	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Slightly below medium (2,9)	2014	Slightly below good (3,8), focus on enhanced institutionalized knowledge and competence		3.4: Sizeable increase, positive trend, target is in reach	Overall, there has been a relevant increase in capacity for smart specialisation, and the final target for 2023 is within reach if the current pace of development is sustained. All dimensions show a similar and coherent path of improvement, with dimension 4 (ability to attract financial resources) being the closest to the goal.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2.1	Capacity (definition of capacity see section 1 Programme Strategy) of innovation actors (innovation intermediaries, authorities, research institutions, enterprises) in the Programme area to implement smart specialisation strategies								

Priority axis	1 - Capacity for innovation
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
Specific objective	1.3 - 'Non-technological innovation': To advance the Baltic Sea Region performance in non-technological innovation based on increased capacity of innovation actors

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
1.3.1	Capacity of innovation actors (innovation intermediaries, authorities, research institutions, enterprises) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase uptake of non-technological innovation	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Slightly below medium (2,9)	2014	Medium to good (3,7), focus on enhanced institutionalised knowledge and competence		3.2: Slight increase, positive trend towards target value	The overall score shows a small increase, which could however, in case the growth pace is slightly increased, allow for reaching the set target of 3.7. Most dimensions show a modest improvement of around 0.3 points in comparison with the baseline, while dimension 3 "more efficient use of human and technical resources" outperforms the other dimensions and could easily reach the target in case of maintained improvement rate. Dimension 2 "improved governance structures and organizational set-up" is also on track to meet the target, while in other dimensions more effort would be needed in order to close the gap.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.3.1	Capacity of innovation actors (innovation intermediaries, authorities, research institutions, enterprises) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase uptake of non-technological innovation								

Priority axis	2 - Efficient management of natural resources
Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.6b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	12.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	12.00	1,011.00	CO01 = 19 enterprises receiving grants + CO04
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	10.00	0.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	10.00	902.00	
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	12.00	0.00	
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	12.00	36.00	
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	9,497,904.00	0.00	
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	9,497,904.00	4,732,534.00	
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	48.00	0.00	
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	48.00	41.00	
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	19.00	0.00	
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	19.00	17.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	826.00	231.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	810.00	225.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	25.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	232,534.00	119,010.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	28.00	19.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	11.00	4.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Efficient management of natural resources
Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
Specific objective	2.1 - 'Clear waters': To increase efficiency of water management for reduced nutrient inflows and decreased discharges of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea and the regional waters based on enhanced capacity of public and private actors dealing with water quality issues

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6b.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
2.1.1	Capacity of public authorities / practitioners (from water management, agricultural, forestry, fisheries etc. sectors) in the Programme area to implement measures to reduce nutrient inflows and decrease discharges of hazardous substances	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Slightly below medium (2,7)	2014	Medium to good (3,6), focus on better ability to attract new financial resources		2.9: Slight increase, positive trend towards target value	The overall score for clear waters shows some improvement in institutional capacity; however, the pace of growth is too slow, and at the current rate it may be uneasy to reach the target. The situation is especially serious in considering that for one dimension (dimension 1 about institutional knowledge and competence), the score has not improved in comparison with 2014, but it has deteriorated slightly. Dimensions 2 and 4, on the other hand (improved governance structure and organisational set up, and ability to attract financial resources), show relevant improvements and are likely to get closer to the target if the pace of improvement is continued. Dimensions 3 and 5 have seen very little improvement and are far from reaching the goal.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1.1	Capacity of public authorities / practitioners (from water management, agricultural, forestry, fisheries etc. sectors) in the Programme area to implement measures to reduce nutrient inflows and decrease discharges of hazardous substances								

Priority axis	2 - Efficient management of natural resources
Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.6g

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	83.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	83.00	612.00	CO01 = 36 enterprises receiving grants + CO04
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	80.00	0.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	80.00	576.00	
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	20.00	0.00	
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	20.00	46.00	
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	15,829,839.00	0.00	
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	15,829,839.00	3,510,000.00	
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	80.00	0.00	
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	80.00	70.00	
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	32.00	0.00	
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	32.00	24.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	326.00	115.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	296.00	92.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	32.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	3,510,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	50.00	17.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	19.00	6.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Efficient management of natural resources
Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
Specific objective	2.2 - 'Renewable energy': To increase production of sustainable renewable energy based on enhanced capacity of public and private actors involved in energy planning and supply

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6g.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
2.2.1	Capacity of public/private actors in energy planning and supply (authorities, agencies, enterprises, NGOs in energy, waste, forestry and agricultural sector) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase the use of sustainable renewable energy	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Basic to medium (2,4)	2014	Medium to good (3,5), focus on increased capability to work in transnational environment		2.8: Increase, positive trend towards target value	The indicator has seen a notable improvement; however, it is moving too slowly for the ambitious target of 3.5 to be met in 2023. All dimensions show a modest progress toward the goal, except for dimension 2 "improved governance structures and organizational set-up", which is well advanced in reaching its target. This dimension was regarded as the weakest in 2014, but now it improved to exceed the average value for the SO.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2.1	Capacity of public/private actors in energy planning and supply (authorities, agencies, enterprises, NGOs in energy, waste, forestry and agricultural sector) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase the use of sustainable renewable energy								

Priority axis	2 - Efficient management of natural resources
Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
Specific objective	2.3 - 'Energy efficiency': To increase energy efficiency based on enhanced capacity of public and private actors involved in energy planning

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6g.2.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
2.3.1	Capacity of public and private actors involved in energy planning (public authorities, energy agencies, enterprises, NGOs) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase energy efficiency	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Basic to medium (2,6)	2014	Medium to good (3,5), focus on better ability to attract new financial resources		3.0: Increase, positive trend towards target value	The overall picture shows a consistent increase to almost 50% of the original distance from the goal. Dimensions which are very close to the target are dimension 1 (institutional knowledge) – for which the baseline was set already high and not far from the goal – and dimension 5 (capability to work in transnational environment). Other dimensions are doing relevant improvements but the speed of improvement should be increased in order to meet the targets.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.3.1	Capacity of public and private actors involved in energy planning (public authorities, energy agencies, enterprises, NGOs) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase energy efficiency								

Priority axis	2 - Efficient management of natural resources
Investment priority	6g - Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors
Specific objective	2.4 - 'Resource-efficient blue growth': To advance sustainable and resource-efficient blue growth based on increased capacity of public authorities and practitioners within the blue economy sectors

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6g.2.4

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
2.4.1	Capacity of public authorities, enterprises, and NGOs in the Programme area to implement measures to advance sustainable business opportunities for blue growth	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Slightly below medium (2,8)	2014	Medium to good (3,6), focus on more efficient use of human and technical resources		2.9: Slight increase, positive trend towards target value	The progress in comparison with the 2014 baselines is very little overall: no improvement was identified in dimensions 2 and 4, despite the former's ambitious goal, and the latter's low baseline. A slight worsening was regarded in dimension 1. Dimension 3 saw little progress, while dimension 5 about the capability to work in a transnational environment, seems to be the only one in which substantial improvement has taken place.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.4.1	Capacity of public authorities, enterprises, and NGOs in the Programme area to implement measures to advance sustainable business opportunities for blue growth								

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.7b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	42.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	42.00	240.00	CO01 = 14 enterprises receiving grants + CO04
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	40.00	0.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	40.00	226.00	
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	13.00	0.00	
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	13.00	26.00	
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	9,893,650.00	0.00	
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	9,893,650.00	380,000.00	
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	52.00	0.00	
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	52.00	72.00	
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	21.00	0.00	
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	21.00	14.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	203.00	80.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	130.00	73.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	17.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	5,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	57.00	45.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	10.00	7.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Specific objective	3.1 - 'Interoperability of transport modes': To increase interoperability in transporting goods and persons in north-south and east-west connections based on increased capacity of transport actors

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.7b.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
3.1.1	Capacity of public and private transport actors (public authorities, logistic and transport operators, ports, intergovernmental and research org.) in the Programme area to implement measures increasing interoperability between transport modes and systems	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Basic to medium (2,3)	2014	Slightly below medium (2,9), focus on improved governance structures and organizational set-up		2.5: Slight increase, positive trend towards target value	The overall progress is positive, however the pace should be accelerated in order to meet the target of 2.9 set in 2014. The target is relatively low and not excessively distant from the current situation, therefore it is still possible that it will be attained with a slight enhancement of efforts. The picture is mixed when it comes to the single dimensions, with dimension 3 recording a slight worsening, dimension 1 sees no improvement, dimensions 2 and 5 enjoyed only limited progress, but dimension 4 has seen the largest increase from its low starting point, and is now very close to the target.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1.1	Capacity of public and private transport actors (public authorities, logistic and transport operators, ports, intergovernmental and research org.) in the Programme area to implement measures increasing interoperability between transport modes and systems								

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Specific objective	3.2 - 'Accessibility of remote areas and areas affected by demographic change': To improve the accessibility of the most remote areas and regions whose accessibility is affected by demographic change based on increased capacity of transport actors

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.7b.3.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
3.2.1	Capacity of public / private transport actors (public authorities, logistic and transport operators) in the Programme area to implement economically efficient solutions to improve the accessibility of remote regions/regions affected by demographic change	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Slightly below medium (2,8)	2014	Slightly below good (3,8), focus on enhanced institutionalized knowledge and competence		2.8: Constant. Target is far from reach.	This SO has possibly deteriorated due to the perception that demographic change is progressing faster than public authorities are able to react, therefore making the existing improvement – in organisational structures and technological innovations – insufficient and undersized. There is little time to work on long-term challenges like demographic change, as stakeholders mostly work on short-term organisation of services (e.g. public transport). There is "a lack of knowledge of the population". In general, there seems to be a lack of awareness and interest of relevant stakeholders in remote and sparsely populated areas, concentrating rather on solving problems in areas with high traffic and high demand. The only dimension presenting an improvement, albeit small, is the capacity to improve governance structures and organisational set-up.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2.1	Capacity of public / private transport actors (public authorities, logistic and transport operators) in the Programme area to implement economically efficient solutions to improve the accessibility of remote regions/regions affected by demographic change								

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.7c

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	42.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	42.00	862.00	CO01 = 38 enterprises receiving grants + CO04
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	40.00	0.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	40.00	824.00	
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	13.00	0.00	
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	13.00	33.00	
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	9,893,650.00	0.00	
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	Amount in EUR	9,893,650.00	1,300,000.00	
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	52.00	0.00	
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	52.00	66.00	
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	21.00	0.00	
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	authorities/institutions	21.00	38.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	796.00	232.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	760.00	215.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	22.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO03	Amount of documented planned investments to be realised with other than the Programme funding	1,300,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO04	No. of local/regional public authorities/institutions involved	48.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO05	No. of national public authorities/institutions involved	24.00	10.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Specific objective	3.3 - 'Maritime safety': To increase maritime safety and security based on advanced capacity of maritime actors

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.7c.3.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
3.3.1	Capacity of maritime actors (maritime admin., rescue services, authorities, shipping operators, ports, research and intergovernmental org.) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase maritime safety and security	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Basic to medium (2,5)	2014	Medium to good (3,4), focus on more efficient use of human and technical resources		2.8: Slight increase, positive trend towards target value	Overall, there has been an increase in the indicator, however the current growth rate is slightly too low to reach the goal for 2023. The picture for this SO is peculiarly mixed, with dimensions 2 and 3 seeing a slight decrease, dimension 1 showing little progress, dimension 5 solidly on track to reach the goal, and dimension 4 presenting the single highest increase in all analysed dimensions across all SOs, and covering more than twice the distance from its target, resulting in also being the only dimension in any SO to reach and pass its set target for 2023. However, it is to be noted that, as detailed in the relevant paragraph below, interviews have shown that for this dimension there are notable differences across different countries and sectors, and therefore the result could be influenced by the small size of the sample.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.3.1	Capacity of maritime actors (maritime admin., rescue services, authorities, shipping operators, ports, research and intergovernmental org.) in the Programme area to implement measures to increase maritime safety and security								

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Specific objective	3.4 - 'Environmentally friendly shipping': To enhance clean shipping based on increased capacity of maritime actors

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.7c.3.4

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
3.4.1	Capacity of maritime actors (maritime admin., rescue services, authorities, shipping operators, ports, research and intergovernmental org.) in the Programme area to implement measures to reduce negative effects of shipping on the marine environment	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Slightly below medium (2,9)	2014	Medium to good (3,7), focus on better ability to attract new financial resources		3.2: Slight increase, positive trend towards target value	Overall, there has been an increase in the indicator's value, albeit small. The picture for each dimension shows different patterns, with dimension 2 slightly deteriorating with respect to 2014, dimensions 3 and 5 bearing small increases, and dimensions 1 and 4 making substantial progress.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.4.1	Capacity of maritime actors (maritime admin., rescue services, authorities, shipping operators, ports, research and intergovernmental org.) in the Programme area to implement measures to reduce negative effects of shipping on the marine environment								

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Specific objective	3.5 - 'Environmentally friendly urban mobility': To enhance environmentally friendly transport systems in urban areas based on increased capacity of urban transport actors

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.7c.3.5

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
3.5.1	Capacity of urban transport actors (public authorities, ports, infrastructure providers and operators) in the Programme area to implement environmentally friendly transport solutions in urban areas	Qualitative analysis of the state and gaps of capacity	Basic to medium (2,7)	2014	Medium to good (3,5), focus on increased capability to work in transnational environment		3.2: Sizeable increase, positive trend, target is in reach.	The overall value shows promising progress which, if the current pace is maintained, will lead to the reaching of the overall target in advance of 2023. All dimensions present increases, however it is dimensions 4 and 5 that show the largest improvements, allowing for the targets to be reached in these two cases. The lowest improvement is found in dimension 2.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.5.1	Capacity of urban transport actors (public authorities, ports, infrastructure providers and operators) in the Programme area to implement environmentally friendly transport solutions in urban areas								

Priority axis	4 - Institutional capacity for macro-regional cooperation
Investment priority	11c - Developing and coordinating macro-regional and sea-basin strategies (ETC-TN)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4.11c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	PSO06	No of project plans for a main project including information on possible financial sources	project plans	50.00	1.00	
S	PSO06	No of project plans for a main project including information on possible financial sources	project plans	50.00	25.00	Value based on indications by the Seed money projects for a questionnaire from Sweden in 2018
F	PSO07	No of project plans contributing to joint priorities with the partner countries	project plans	10.00	1.00	
S	PSO07	No of project plans contributing to joint priorities with the partner countries	project plans	10.00	12.00	Value based on indications by the Seed money projects for a questionnaire from Sweden in 2018
F	PSO08	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate implementation of the EUSBSR targets	meetings	60.00	195.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively
S	PSO08	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate implementation of the EUSBSR targets	meetings	60.00	377.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively
F	PSO09	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate joint work on common priorities with the partner countries	meetings	12.00	58.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively
S	PSO09	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate joint work on common priorities with the partner countries	meetings	12.00	109.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively
F	PSO10	No of strategic policy documents supporting the implementation of the EUSBSR targets and/or common priorities with the partner countries	documents	10.00	32.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively
S	PSO10	No of strategic policy documents supporting the implementation of the EUSBSR targets and/or common priorities with the partner countries	documents	10.00	49.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively
F	PSO11	No of support measures provided to the EUSBSR	measures	14.00	59.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively
S	PSO11	No of support measures provided to the EUSBSR	measures	14.00	75.00	F and S values were mixed in previous AIRs and now updated also retrospectively

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	PSO06	No of project plans for a main project including information on possible financial sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO06	No of project plans for a main project including information on possible financial sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO07	No of project plans contributing to joint priorities with the partner countries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO07	No of project plans contributing to joint priorities with the partner countries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PSO08	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate implementation of the EUSBSR targets	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO08	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate implementation of the EUSBSR targets	235.00	228.00	64.00	0.00
F	PSO09	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate joint work on common priorities with the partner countries	26.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO09	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate joint work on common priorities with the partner countries	76.00	70.00	25.00	0.00
F	PSO10	No of strategic policy documents supporting the implementation of the EUSBSR targets and/or common priorities with the partner countries	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO10	No of strategic policy documents supporting the implementation of the EUSBSR targets and/or common priorities with the partner countries	32.00	30.00	10.00	0.00
F	PSO11	No of support measures provided to the EUSBSR	29.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PSO11	No of support measures provided to the EUSBSR	59.00	52.00	16.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	4 - Institutional capacity for macro-regional cooperation
Investment priority	11c - Developing and coordinating macro-regional and sea-basin strategies (ETC-TN)
Specific objective	4.1 - 'Seed Money': To increase capacity for transnational cooperation implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and working on common policies with the partner countries

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.11c.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
4.1.1	Amount of funding for projects implementing the EUSBSR resulting from seed money projects	Million Euro	0.00	2014	108.00	9.40		Excludes data from terminated projects BCT and AFM-BSR
4.1.2	Number of organisations from the partner countries working on joint projects resulting from seed money projects	Number of organisations	0.00	2014	9.00	17.00		Excludes data from terminated projects BCT and AFM-BSR

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.1.1	Amount of funding for projects implementing the EUSBSR resulting from seed money projects								
4.1.2	Number of organisations from the partner countries working on joint projects resulting from seed money projects								

Priority axis	4 - Institutional capacity for macro-regional cooperation
Investment priority	11c - Developing and coordinating macro-regional and sea-basin strategies (ETC-TN)
Specific objective	4.2 - 'Coordination of macro-regional cooperation': To increase capacity of public administrations and pan-Baltic organisations for transnational coordination in implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and facilitating the implementation of common policies with the partner countries

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.11c.4.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
4.2.1	Percentage of EUSBSR priority areas and horizontal actions reaching the identified targets	Number of EUSBSR PA and HA in relation to their total number	0.00	2014	80.00	88.00		15 PACs/HACs reported they are reaching or on track to reaching the identified targets; 2 reported they are not.
4.2.2	Percentage of EUSBSR priority areas and horizontal actions facilitating the implementation of joint priorities with the partner countries	Number of EUSBSR PA and HA in relation to their total number	50.00	2014	60.00	79.00		11 PACs/HACs reported some facilitation of implementation of joint priorities with partner countries; 3 reported none; 1 did not report.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.2.1	Percentage of EUSBSR priority areas and horizontal actions reaching the identified targets								
4.2.2	Percentage of EUSBSR priority areas and horizontal actions facilitating the implementation of joint priorities with the partner countries								

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 5.Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	TA01	Number of (potential) applicants advised	Number	415.00	837.00	2018: 10 (Priority 1-3 = 2x C1 and 8x C2)
S	TA01	Number of (potential) applicants advised	Number	415.00	0.00	
F	TA02	Number of applications received and assessed	Number	260.00	842.00	2018: 137 (Priority 1-3 = R3 and C1)
S	TA02	Number of applications received and assessed	Number	260.00	0.00	
F	TA03	Number of reports checked and paid out	Number	630.00	223.00	2018: 131 (Priority 1-3 = 106, Priority 4, SO4.1 = 2, SO4.2 = 19; Priority 5 = 4 TA reports - 1x MA/JS IB.SH, 1*AA, 2x JS branch office Riga)
S	TA03	Number of reports checked and paid out	Number	630.00	0.00	
F	TA04	Number of news items published on the programme's website	Number	168.00	208.00	2018: 32
S	TA04	Number of news items published on the programme's website	Number	168.00	0.00	
F	TA05	Number of own events carried out	Number	14.00	32.00	2018: 12 (C2 development seminar, C1 kick-off, S1 reporting seminar, RU PP seminars Pskov, RU PP seminar St Petersburg, 2x R2 finance seminar, R2 communication seminar, EUSBSR Forum IR BSR workshop, EWRC IR BSR workshop, 2x at RU Planning Leaders Forum; excluding MC meetings)
S	TA05	Number of own events carried out	Number	14.00	0.00	
F	TA06	Number of participants at programme events	Number	1,580.00	1,630.00	2018: 551 (C2 development seminar (33), C1 kick-off (28), S1 reporting seminar (18), RU PP seminar Pskov (11), RU PP seminar St Petersburg (40), 2x R2 finance seminar (40+43), R2 communication seminar (58), 2x at RU Planning Leaders Forum (sum: 70), EUSBSR Forum IR BSR workshop (110), EWRC IR BSR workshop (100); excluding MA/JS staff)
S	TA06	Number of participants at programme events	Number	1,580.00	0.00	
F	TA07	Number of other events attended by MA/JS staff	Number	700.00	270.00	2018: 76 (excluding IB.SH events/meetings)
S	TA07	Number of other events attended by MA/JS staff	Number	700.00	0.00	
F	TA08	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number	186.00	115.00	2018: 30
S	TA08	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number	186.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	TA01	Number of (potential) applicants advised	827.00	551.00	286.00	0.00
S	TA01	Number of (potential) applicants advised	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA02	Number of applications received and assessed	705.00	601.00	373.00	0.00
S	TA02	Number of applications received and assessed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA03	Number of reports checked and paid out	92.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	TA03	Number of reports checked and paid out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA04	Number of news items published on the programme's website	176.00	120.00	64.00	18.00
S	TA04	Number of news items published on the programme's website	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA05	Number of own events carried out	20.00	12.00	3.00	2.00
S	TA05	Number of own events carried out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA06	Number of participants at programme events	1,079.00	633.00	241.00	163.00
S	TA06	Number of participants at programme events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA07	Number of other events attended by MA/JS staff	194.00	133.00	60.00	13.00
S	TA07	Number of other events attended by MA/JS staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA08	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	85.00	57.00	30.00	28.00
S	TA08	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.1 - 'Technical Assistance': To provide sufficient financing to ensure a professional and efficient programme management

Table 1: Result indicators - 5.5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
5.1.1	Share of programme funding allocated to projects	Percentage of funds allocated to projects	0.00	2014	100.00	84.30		2018: ERDF only, EUR 209 million out of total EUR 248 million (allocated project funds = excluding funds allocated to TA) Details: Prio 1-3 (all calls) = 197.9 million, Prio 4 (all calls) = 11.1 million (contracted)
5.1.2	N+3 targets fulfilled	Number of annual spending targets fulfilled	0.00	2014	7.00	1.00		2018: ERDF only; target 2018 = 19,904,228; cumulative: 33,592,670 Spent by 31.12.2018 = cumulative: 40,838,543 (including TA) 2018 target fulfilled = "1" The cumulative spent is excluding the advance payments of COM
5.1.3	Visitors on programme's website	Number of unique visitors	0.00	2014	350,000.00	263,440.00		2018: 68,532 website visits

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
5.1.1	Share of programme funding allocated to projects	74.00		38.50		36.90			
5.1.2	N+3 targets fulfilled	1.00							
5.1.3	Visitors on programme's website	194,908.00		154,905.00		88,234.00		22,255.00	

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2018	Observations
1	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	20,591,661.00	102,958,307.00	18,859,555.54	See payment claim 3_2016+5_2017+02_2018
1	I	KIS01	No. of documented learning experiences of selected operations (forecast provided by beneficiaries)	learning experiences	32	32.00	114.00	
1	O	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	0	32.00	0.00	
2	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	20,591,661.00	102,958,307.00	27,049,134.29	See payment claim 3_2016+5_2017+02_2018
2	I	KIS01	No. of documented learning experiences of selected operations (forecast provided by beneficiaries)	learning experiences	32	32.00	82.00	
2	O	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	0	32.00	0.00	
3	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	16,087,235	80,436,178.00	16,525,490.17	See payment claim 3_2016+5_2017+02_2018
3	I	KIS01	No. of documented learning experiences of selected operations (forecast provided by beneficiaries)	learning experiences	26	26.00	59.00	
3	O	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	0	26.00	0.00	
4	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	3,103,890	15,519,446.00	4,162,928.48	See payment claim 3_2016+5_2017+02_2018
4	O	PSO08	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate implementation of the EUSBSR targets	meetings	30	60.00	195.00	For 2017, the O value reported to SFC was 171 but should have been 100 since the corresponding F value from table 2 was mixed with S values already in the AIR 2016. For 2016 the value should have been 0.

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2017	2016	2015	2014
1	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	5,135,329.49			
1	I	KIS01	No. of documented learning experiences of selected operations (forecast provided by beneficiaries)	learning experiences	75.00			
1	O	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	0.00			
2	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	6,846,569.51			
2	I	KIS01	No. of documented learning experiences of selected operations (forecast provided by beneficiaries)	learning experiences	57.00			
2	O	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	0.00			
3	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	5,258,131.48			
3	I	KIS01	No. of documented learning experiences of selected operations (forecast provided by beneficiaries)	learning experiences	39.00			
3	O	PSO01	No. of documented learning experiences	learning experiences	0.00			
4	F	FI01	Certified Expenditure	Euros	1,289,934.72			
4	O	PSO08	No of transnational meetings held to facilitate implementation of the EUSBSR targets	meetings	100.00			

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2018 and certified to the Commission
1	ERDF	Total	102,958,307.00	82.00	91,256,587.10	88.63%	88,340,122.00	22,827,633.52	22.17%	36	18,859,555.54
1	ENI	Total	3,520,000.00	85.00	1,057,666.13	30.05%	1,018,778.38	0.00	0.00%	10	
2	ERDF	Total	102,958,307.00	82.00	99,757,487.18	96.89%	95,781,648.81	29,529,337.95	28.68%	34	27,049,134.29
2	ENI	Total	3,520,000.00	85.00	1,034,744.77	29.40%	1,019,763.74	0.00	0.00%	11	
3	ERDF	Total	80,436,178.00	82.00	73,255,793.62	91.07%	70,733,042.36	18,607,029.56	23.13%	25	16,525,490.17
3	ENI	Total	2,588,236.00	85.00	191,773.50	7.41%	191,773.50	0.00	0.00%	3	
4	ERDF	Total	15,519,446.00	85.00	13,067,543.62	84.20%	13,024,375.12	5,866,265.62	37.80%	66	4,162,928.48
4	ENI	Total	103,530.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0	
5	ERDF	Public	21,106,452.00	75.00	21,106,452.00	100.00%	15,829,839.00	5,727,690.34	27.14%	1	
5	ENI	Public	704,000.00	75.00	704,000.00	100.00%	528,000.00	0.00	0.00%	1	
Total	ERDF		322,978,690.00	81.69	298,443,863.52	92.40%	283,709,027.29	82,557,956.99	25.56%	162	66,597,108.48
Total	ENI		10,435,766.00	84.33	2,988,184.40	28.63%	2,758,315.62	0.00	0.00%	25	
Grand total			333,414,456.00	81.77	301,432,047.92	90.41%	286,467,342.91	82,557,956.99	24.76%	187	66,597,108.48

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

Late January 2018 was a very important milestone within the Programme implementation because the Agreement between the European Commission, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the financial contribution of the European Union and the Russian Federation provided for the implementation of the Transnational Cooperation Programme "Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2014-2020" in the Russian Federation (Financing Agreement) was signed. The Financing Agreement made available EUR 4.4 million of ENI co-financing as well as EUR 4.4 million of Russian national co-financing for participation of Russian project partners in the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. As reported in the previous year, with the signature at the horizon 2nd call projects were selected by the MC in 2017 already including partners from Russia under special conditions. During 2018 further projects with Russian partners were approved by the MC of which few were contracted in 2018 and the remaining would be contracted in 2019.

The ENI payment scheme does not allow any advance payments to projects, instead it was agreed that advance payments for Russian partners were to be made from Russian national co-financing only. Due to various technical challenges the Russian national co-financing reached the Programme bank account at the end of 2018 only, and therefore the first payments to Russian partners were to start in early 2019 and will be reported in the next annual implementation report. For the same reasons no noteworthy amounts of expenditure were reported for Russian beneficiaries to the MA/JS in 2018.

For Belarus no development can be accounted for.

Financial data on ENI are included in table 4 above.

In addition to this Norwegian funding has been also available, amounting to EUR 11.3 million, including the project partners' own contribution. This is funding to finance the participation of Norwegian organisations in Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects.

By end of 2018 the total eligible costs of project partners from Norway in operations selected for support in all five priority axis amounted to EUR 5.7 million (Norwegian national funds and partners' own contributions). This included EUR 5.0 million of public eligible cost of operations selected for support.

The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries from Norway to the MA/JS by end of 2018 amounted to EUR 1.2 million. This was a proportion of almost 10% of the total budget available for Norwegian project partners.

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	058	01	04	07	01		20	DE600	4,177,013.60	4,140,878.60	2,079,603.59	1,000
1	ERDF	059	01	04	07	01		20	EE001	3,042,842.70	2,998,772.70	452,013.42	1,000
1	ERDF	060	01	04	07	01		07	DK050	2,572,392.75	2,490,387.75	248,271.85	1,000
1	ERDF	060	01	04	07	01		09	FI1D6	3,198,738.74	2,998,963.72	349,702.68	1,000
1	ERDF	060	01	04	07	01		20	DE600	3,620,242.40	3,526,562.14	2,328,278.49	1,000
1	ERDF	062	01	04	07	01		06	EE008	1,777,200.00	1,741,620.00	174,898.86	1,000
1	ERDF	062	01	04	07	01		07	PL418	2,211,666.00	2,211,666.00	813,714.60	1,000
1	ERDF	063	01	04	07	01		01	FI193	1,895,723.10	1,843,395.85	198,070.32	1,000
1	ERDF	063	01	04	07	01		22	FI1C1	2,362,704.17	2,362,704.17	206,522.80	1,000
1	ERDF	063	01	04	07	01		22	SE232	1,966,685.50	1,794,290.50	177,165.09	1,000
1	ERDF	063	01	04	07	01		24	SE312	2,290,596.80	2,172,944.12	365,436.52	1,000
1	ERDF	064	01	04	07	01		03	EE001	2,055,268.35	1,946,417.37	252,964.31	1,000
1	ERDF	065	01	04	07	01		22	FI1B1	2,313,180.00	2,244,723.75	205,172.83	1,000
1	ERDF	066	01	04	07	01		04	FI1D5	2,458,870.00	2,386,148.75	1,217,918.82	1,000
1	ERDF	066	01	04	07	01		17	DK042	2,105,850.00	2,013,905.00	199,960.63	1,000
1	ERDF	067	01	04	07	01		17	DE600	2,260,070.00	2,177,023.25	173,247.58	1,000
1	ERDF	067	01	04	07	01		24	DE803	2,992,711.42	2,973,963.51	1,558,090.94	1,000
1	ERDF	067	01	04	07	01		24	FI197	2,749,979.69	2,749,979.69	1,361,532.36	1,000
1	ERDF	069	01	04	07	01		03	LV009	1,520,013.00	1,477,516.50	839,229.94	1,000
1	ERDF	069	01	04	07	01		22	DEE01	2,031,946.66	1,862,670.21	1,150,442.06	1,000
1	ERDF	071	01	04	07	01		22	DK050	2,368,032.00	2,359,312.50	285,142.47	1,000
1	ERDF	073	01	04	07	01		21	DEF0B	4,880,664.11	4,606,456.56	2,506,649.39	1,000
1	ERDF	077	01	04	07	01		23	DE212	2,849,797.09	2,802,847.27	0.00	1,000
1	ERDF	077	01	04	07	01		23	DE300	3,516,874.00	3,360,361.75	289,409.38	1,000
1	ERDF	077	01	04	07	01		23	EE001	2,613,350.00	2,517,740.00	1,298,514.72	1,000
1	ERDF	082	01	04	07	01		13	EE001	3,417,843.20	3,155,313.34	258,862.37	1,000
1	ERDF	082	01	04	07	01		13	LT00A	2,121,050.00	2,089,767.50	20,000.00	1,000
1	ERDF	082	01	04	07	01		20	DEF01	2,724,433.85	2,681,043.53	331,820.47	1,000
1	ERDF	082	01	04	07	01		24	PL127	2,424,710.00	2,151,071.25	20,000.00	1,000
1	ERDF	106	01	04	07	01		24	EE001	1,984,050.00	1,882,262.50	20,000.00	1,000
1	ERDF	119	01	04	07	01		18	FI195	1,484,437.62	1,484,437.62	182,113.08	1,000
1	ERDF	119	01	04	07	01		19	DE600	3,014,500.00	3,014,500.00	1,777,157.96	1,000
1	ERDF	119	01	04	07	01		20	FI1C1	2,361,307.85	2,361,307.85	0.00	1,000
1	ERDF	119	01	04	07	01		21	DK011	2,256,030.00	2,205,955.00	0.00	1,000
1	ERDF	119	01	04	07	01		22	DEF02	1,856,045.00	1,856,045.00	1,280,081.21	1,000
1	ERDF	119	01	04	07	01		24	PL343	1,779,767.50	1,697,166.75	205,644.78	1,000
1	ENI	060	01	04	07	01		09	FI1D6	113,435.20	108,935.20	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	063	01	04	07	01		22	FI1C1	252,542.50	252,542.50	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	063	01	04	07	01		22	SE232	135,013.13	123,911.16	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	063	01	04	07	01		24	SE312	92,388.50	78,530.22	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	064	01	04	07	01		03	EE001	53,223.00	53,223.00	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	065	01	04	07	01		22	FI1B1	54,569.80	54,569.80	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	067	01	04	07	01		17	DE600	102,100.00	92,672.50	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	071	01	04	07	01		22	DK050	52,794.00	52,794.00	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	077	01	04	07	01		23	DE212	115,000.00	115,000.00	0.00	1,000
1	ENI	119	01	04	07	01		20	FI1C1	86,600.00	86,600.00	0.00	1,000
2	ERDF	011	01	04	07	06		01	SE331	2,550,100.15	2,489,687.46	0.00	1,000
2	ERDF	011	01	04	07	06		10	LT002	2,314,980.52	2,272,752.52	18,500.00	1,000
2	ERDF	012	01	04	07	06		10	DE300	3,948,961.29	3,718,229.61	2,141,919.09	1,000
2	ERDF	012	01	04	07	06		10	DE804	2,712,342.75	2,693,492.90	1,347,943.55	1,000
2	ERDF	012	01	04	07	06		10	DEF02	3,168,866.00	3,015,779.12	299,838.50	1,000
2	ERDF	013	01	04	07	06		10	DE600	2,452,424.58	2,452,424.58	220,501.16	1,000

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
2	ERDF	013	01	04	07	06		10	PL633	3,588,008.15	3,365,107.11	268,991.39	1,000
2	ERDF	014	01	04	07	06		10	DE502	3,480,996.48	3,402,294.98	171,177.69	1,000
2	ERDF	019	01	04	07	06		11	FI1B1	3,284,027.21	2,995,359.28	207,279.13	1,000
2	ERDF	019	01	04	07	06		22	PL633	4,454,494.76	4,454,369.76	3,135,421.18	1,000
2	ERDF	021	01	04	07	06		01	SE232	2,950,965.00	2,869,730.11	1,411,636.56	1,000
2	ERDF	021	01	04	07	06		11	DE803	2,495,184.45	2,364,036.32	20,000.00	1,000
2	ERDF	021	01	04	07	06		22	DE801	1,448,032.32	1,354,809.15	0.00	1,000
2	ERDF	022	01	04	07	06		11	FI1B1	3,724,448.36	3,676,371.11	323,649.51	1,000
2	ERDF	022	01	04	07	06		11	FI1C1	994,730.62	994,730.62	0.00	1,000
2	ERDF	022	01	04	07	06		11	FI1C2	3,027,536.10	2,975,488.45	1,584,291.45	1,000
2	ERDF	062	01	04	07	06		02	SE123	4,651,846.85	4,397,014.27	2,656,944.25	1,000
2	ERDF	062	01	04	07	06		24	DEF02	3,410,789.55	3,045,046.77	1,643,683.73	1,000
2	ERDF	065	01	04	07	06		10	DK032	3,099,982.26	2,947,456.66	1,999,061.55	1,000
2	ERDF	069	01	04	07	06		01	SE121	5,096,104.01	4,571,656.23	3,408,979.90	1,000
2	ERDF	084	01	04	07	06		11	FI1B1	2,482,144.24	2,430,442.78	279,800.57	1,000
2	ERDF	087	01	04	07	06		11	EE001	3,018,360.25	3,006,452.75	20,000.00	1,000
2	ERDF	091	01	04	07	06		02	SE110	3,152,633.18	3,059,062.42	209,872.78	1,000
2	ERDF	094	01	04	07	06		23	DEF0C	2,322,372.80	2,296,665.30	242,095.19	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		02	SE110	1,966,057.80	1,925,820.30	20,000.00	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		10	SE312	2,432,258.00	2,394,458.00	231,821.16	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		11	FI1B1	2,987,530.07	2,915,016.13	178,217.52	2,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		11	FI1C1	4,622,034.70	4,445,027.48	2,392,244.95	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		12	DE600	3,396,208.00	3,373,693.00	1,590,633.87	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		22	LV006	2,209,690.80	2,102,680.14	0.00	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		22	SE110	3,541,797.08	3,331,940.90	2,087,914.70	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		22	SE224	3,772,348.00	3,512,201.00	1,416,918.57	1,000
2	ERDF	119	01	04	07	06		24	FI1B1	999,230.85	932,351.60	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	011	01	04	07	06		10	LT002	54,693.75	54,693.75	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	013	01	04	07	06		10	DE600	59,217.50	59,217.50	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	013	01	04	07	06		10	PL633	99,873.50	84,892.47	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	014	01	04	07	06		10	DE502	60,580.00	60,580.00	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	019	01	04	07	06		11	FI1B1	59,167.31	59,167.31	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	021	01	04	07	06		11	DE803	44,998.21	44,998.21	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	021	01	04	07	06		22	DE801	195,908.23	195,908.23	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	022	01	04	07	06		11	FI1C1	69,354.89	69,354.89	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	084	01	04	07	06		11	FI1B1	214,438.88	214,438.88	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	094	01	04	07	06		23	DEF0C	149,712.50	149,712.50	0.00	1,000
2	ENI	119	01	04	07	06		24	FI1B1	26,800.00	26,800.00	0.00	1,000
3	ERDF	026	01	04	07	07		12	FI1B1	3,307,648.45	3,265,148.45	1,677,273.90	1,000
3	ERDF	036	01	04	07	07		12	DE404	3,219,063.00	3,134,656.75	1,827,133.37	1,000
3	ERDF	036	01	04	07	07		12	FI1B1	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000
3	ERDF	036	01	04	07	07		12	SE221	3,583,361.00	3,557,186.00	2,030,370.74	1,000
3	ERDF	040	01	04	07	07		12	FI1C1	4,343,648.50	4,032,961.00	2,510,523.76	1,000
3	ERDF	040	01	04	07	07		22	DE600	2,457,550.00	2,335,355.00	988,319.32	1,000
3	ERDF	042	01	04	07	07		12	DE600	4,415,127.00	4,307,992.75	2,368,082.01	1,000
3	ERDF	043	01	04	07	07		12	DE600	3,132,526.80	3,041,268.82	192,645.18	1,000
3	ERDF	043	01	04	07	07		12	DE803	3,703,950.00	3,627,687.50	212,325.94	1,000
3	ERDF	043	01	04	07	07		12	FI1B1	2,052,471.00	2,031,696.00	0.00	1,000
3	ERDF	043	01	04	07	07		18	DE600	1,957,521.65	1,924,358.15	20,000.00	1,000
3	ERDF	044	01	04	07	07		12	DE803	4,960,899.00	4,679,958.30	0.00	1,000
3	ERDF	044	01	04	07	07		12	DE80B	3,089,487.50	2,873,737.50	133,584.18	1,000
3	ERDF	044	01	04	07	07		12	FI1B1	3,306,388.64	3,275,873.01	20,000.00	1,000
3	ERDF	044	01	04	07	07		12	FI1C1	3,980,242.11	3,639,554.61	209,699.76	1,000
3	ERDF	044	01	04	07	07		12	LT003	2,873,763.75	2,622,065.86	1,530,840.48	1,000
3	ERDF	083	01	04	07	07		12	FI1C1	2,883,325.25	2,804,497.25	1,376,728.07	1,000
3	ERDF	088	01	04	07	07		24	SE221	2,266,914.98	2,195,206.14	1,211,694.72	1,000
3	ERDF	119	01	04	07	07		12	DE600	3,591,116.40	3,426,484.68	471,446.17	1,000
3	ERDF	119	01	04	07	07		12	DE804	1,947,104.90	1,947,104.90	20,000.00	1,000
3	ERDF	119	01	04	07	07		12	DEF0B	3,559,884.65	3,475,428.40	423,700.49	1,000
3	ERDF	119	01	04	07	07		12	FI1C1	3,403,904.50	3,376,730.30	1,179,897.39	2,000

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
3	ERDF	119	01	04	07	07		18	F11C1	988,607.59	988,607.59	0.00	1,000
3	ERDF	119	01	04	07	07		22	F11C4	3,231,286.95	3,169,483.40	202,764.08	1,000
3	ENI	043	01	04	07	07		12	DE803	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	1,000
3	ENI	119	01	04	07	07		12	DE804	91,023.50	91,023.50	0.00	1,000
3	ENI	119	01	04	07	07		12	F11C1	50,750.00	50,750.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		01	F11B1	50,000.00	47,525.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		07	EE008	50,000.00	49,700.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		07	LT009	50,000.00	45,800.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		10	EE001	50,000.00	50,000.00	42,500.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		10	F11C5	50,000.00	48,012.50	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		10	SE232	50,000.00	46,175.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		11	LV006	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		11	SE110	100,000.00	98,125.00	0.00	2,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		12	F11C3	50,000.00	48,800.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	DE300	300,000.00	300,000.00	256,387.54	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	DEF02	588,231.86	588,231.86	194,800.55	3,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	DK011	1,634,925.21	1,634,925.21	1,161,780.41	5,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	DK022	470,550.00	470,550.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	EE001	300,000.00	300,000.00	289,256.85	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	F1197	317,641.00	317,641.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	F11B1	465,294.00	465,294.00	307,868.80	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	F11C1	988,202.55	988,202.55	465,828.81	4,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	LV006	1,746,304.73	1,742,209.73	649,845.33	8,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	PL633	250,000.00	250,000.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	SE110	4,859,894.27	4,859,894.27	2,288,472.33	17,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		18	SE331	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		19	F11C4	50,000.00	45,725.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		19	LV008	50,000.00	47,675.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		20	F11C1	96,500.00	96,500.00	82,025.00	2,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		21	F1196	50,000.00	46,250.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		21	SE232	50,000.00	48,275.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		22	DE801	50,000.00	44,414.00	42,500.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		22	EE001	50,000.00	50,000.00	42,500.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		22	F11B1	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		22	F11C3	50,000.00	50,000.00	42,500.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		23	F11B1	50,000.00	49,250.00	0.00	1,000
4	ERDF	119	01	04	07	11		23	PL613	50,000.00	45,200.00	0.00	1,000
4	ENI	119	01	04	07	11				0.00	0.00	0.00	0
5	ERDF	121	01	04	07			24	DEF02	21,106,452.00	15,829,839.00	5,727,690.34	1,000
5	ENI	121	01	04	07			24	DEF02	704,000.00	528,000.00	0.00	1,000

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area	7,525,471.00	2.85%	2,345,129.00	0.89%

(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Introduction

For 2018 an internal operational evaluation of the Programme was carried out to assess and analyse the progress made in programme implementation. This evaluation was also done to ensure appropriate functioning of the Programme bodies. The levels addressed were management structures at project level and at programme level as well as financial performance. An evaluation of Programme delivery was not applicable for 2018 since evaluating this is based on results of finalised projects. However, projects selected for funding in the first calls of the Programme have not yet been closed.

According to the Programme's Evaluation Plan the internal evaluation was conducted by the MA/JS. This was done in the first quarter of 2019. Overall, structures and processes related to Programme management as well as financial performance were found to be sound, sufficient and timely. For information on follow-up measure to the internal operational evaluation for 2017 reference is made to section 10.1.

In addition to the internal operational evaluation the mid-term evaluation of the Programme was carried out in 2018. According to the Programme's Evaluation Plan this was conducted by an external service provider. The task contained the impact evaluation and the analysis of indicator values for 2018 and 2020. The 2018 analysis of indicator values was concluded by September and the final results of the impact evaluation were delivered in November 2018.

Internal operational evaluation

Management structures on project level

The 3rd call was run as a one-step call with an obligatory consultation based on a project idea form. The MA/JS managed to consult all 268 submitted project ideas within the short timeline. The call was closed with 114 submitted applications. Of them 25,9 % had sufficient quality. It can be concluded that the efforts of the MA/JS to give detailed consultations to all applicants were somewhat too high for such an open call. Admissibility and assessment processes went smoothly. The MC selected the projects following the assessment done by the MA/JS and the applicants did not question the assessments. The contracting of the 3rd call projects could not be closed during the set three-month contracting period. The main reasons for prolonged contracting time were severe conditions put on several projects during project approval as well as the time needed to collect all necessary documents as original versions. The monitoring of the 1st and 2nd call projects went smoothly and all but one report were paid within 90 days.

The main management tool of MA/JS for working at the project level is the electronic application and monitoring system BAMOS. This works in general properly. The system is regarded as secure and user-friendly. The most important ways of supporting users were the helpdesk (via email), the user manual/handbook, and seminars and training sessions provided by MA/JS.

Due to the high level of complexity, the investments in terms of time and money were high since the Programme start. The investments paid off mainly on the side of the lead applicants and partners as they now almost do not need to produce hard copies anymore when applying and reporting to the Programme.

Management structures programme level

This level covered the management tasks of the MA/JS, financial management, tasks of the CA, the AA and Group of Auditor, the MC, and communication and public relations.

The MA/JS supported the MC, the AA and the national second level auditors, the beneficiaries and their first level controllers according to the distribution of tasks agreed with the participating countries. The MA/JS reported to the MC and the European Commission in time and provided additional information on Programme implementation, e.g. for evaluations on behalf of the European Commission, on request of third parties.

The separation of MA/JS and CA functions was ensured and the latter's duties were carried out precisely and in time. Still, the electronic system SFC to communicate with the European Commission (reporting, payment claims etc.) was challenging as not all technical solutions worked properly and some guidance was not self-explanatory. The AA fulfilled its responsibilities, chairing the Group of Auditors, maintaining and updating the audit strategy and coordinating the national second level audits. Based on the payment claims submitted for the Programme for the accounting period 7/2017-6/2018 samples for national second level audits were drawn and the audits were carried out until the end of the year. The results were available in time for compiling the ACR 2018 until February 2019. In addition to this, the AA did carry out checks of the Programme's management, financial and control systems, mainly on indicators and their reporting

Financial performance

MA/JS managed the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management (principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness). The most important financial data were continuously processed via regular reporting duties, mainly to the European Commission and to the MC.

The main measure to avoid de-commitment was a high commitment rate since programme start. In preparation of MC meetings a de-commitment simulation was run showing the dependency between timely commitments and the de-commitment risk. The simulation helped to define a minimum commitment target for the selection of projects in regular calls. Also in 2018 the MC took note of the de-commitment simulation and selected a sufficient number of projects of good quality in the 3rd call for applications and the 1st call for project platforms (both calls in priorities 1-3) to reach the commitment targets.

The actual spending of projects has been continuously observed during the monitoring procedure. First call projects would be finalising in the first half of 2019 therefore it was not yet possible to evaluate the

spending rate. This would only be possible at the end of 2019.

In general it can be stated that the Programme spending lacked behind the original plans as indicated in the Programme's performance framework. The main reason was that the original spending plan was based on one-step-application procedures for projects instead of running regular calls with a two-step approach. The latter lead to later project selection, later project start and delayed spending at programme level. However, apart from that the spending of projects continued to be in line with our expectations. All unspent/returning project funding will be recycled/reused in targeted calls in the course of 2019/2020.

At no time during the year 2018 there was a risk of not meeting the N+3 target.

Programme delivery

An evaluation of Programme delivery is not applicable for 2018 since evaluating this is to be based on results of finalised regular projects in the three main priorities 1-3.

Midterm Evaluation of the Programme impact

After launching the call for tender in early November 2017 seven bids were received and the MC selected the external evaluator Spatial Foresight GmbH in February 2018. Evaluation activities started in Spring 2018 and ended in November 2018.

The evaluation comprised two main parts:

First, for the update of the result indicators as presented in sections 3.2 and 9.1 of this report, the state of institutional capacity in the Baltic Sea region was assessed in relation to each of the specific objectives in priorities 1-3 of the Programme (innovation, natural resources and transport).

Secondly, the impact of the Programme has been evaluated. This was done in six aspects of the Programme:

- impact of projects in reaching the Programme's specific objectives under priorities 1-3,
- involvement of different types of partners,
- contribution to EUSBSR,

- impact of Programme support to EUSBSR coordination,
- MA/JS performance,
- and communication.

First results on the state of institutional capacity and the update of result indicator values were available in September 2018 (see tables 1 in section 3.2 above). Results of the Programme impact evaluation were available in November 2018. The final report was approved by the MC in December 2018 and published on the Programme website in January 2019.

Spatial Foresight's overall result of the evaluation was that the Programme worked very well and that the implementation was well on track. This was also based on an efficiently organised management structure and a high level performing MA/JS. There was a high level Programme awareness at project, country and expert level and a valuable outreach via different means. In future more precise definitions of topics when approaching experts, measurable communication indicators, better use of external experts and even more targeted communication would be useful. In addition to this more commitment of the member states to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region would be needed to avoid too strong a dependency of the strategy governance on Programme funding.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
Interreg Baltic Sea Region Mid-term evaluation of Programme impact	ERDF ENI	1	2014	11	2018	Impact	01 06 07 11	Monitoring of the state of institutional capacity in the region and mid-term evaluation of Programme impact	For overall results and findings reference is made to the last paragraph of the text above this overview table.
Internal operational evaluation 2018	ERDF ENI	1	2018	12	2018	Process	01 06 07 11	Assessment and analysis of the progress made in programme implementation to ensure appropriate functioning of the Programme bodies.	For overall results and findings reference is made to the corresponding paragraphs of the text above this overview table.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

Efforts to involve Russia in the Programme with ENI funding amounting to EUR 4.4 million were successful and the Financing Agreement between the European Commission, Russia and Germany was signed in late January 2018. Russia allocated national funding in an equal amount to the ENI funding for the participation of Russian project partners in the Programme and first payments were received on the Programme accounts in December 2018. Payments for Russian project partners were scheduled to start in early 2019.

Projects selected in June 2018 in the 1st call for project platforms and in the 3rd regular call for projects, both for priorities 1-3, were recommended to check for the possibility to include additional Russian project partners. These partners would receive ENI and Russian national funding upon signature of the relevant project's subsidy contract.

Linked to the 1st call for project platforms three Russian partners were involved after the project approval and included during contracting. This was finalised by December 2018.

For the 3rd regular call projects nine Russian partners were involved at the application stage already but contracting was still ongoing by the end of 2018. The implementation of the recommendation on adding new Russian partners upon project approval was expected to be finalised by June 2019. Therefore, no 3rd call project finalised clarifications on involving Russian partners or on adding new Russian partners in 2018.

The 2nd regular call projects, selected in 2017 and contracted by the end of 2017 including 15 Russian partners were up and running and were to receive funding for the Russian partners as of early 2019.

In addition to this, in 2018 also one project was selected with a partner from outside the Programme area – a Belgian partner from the Brussels Capital Region. Therefore a bilateral MCS-Agreement was signed between IB.SH hosting the MA/JS and the Brussels Capital Region in November 2018.

National authorities responsible for Interreg and the previously selected project partners from outside the Programme area, namely in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, continued to fulfil their duties for the Programme sufficiently.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

This point is included in point 9.1.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Investment priorities	Axis/	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress	Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

n.a. for IR BSR 2014-2020

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

n.a. for IR BSR 2014-2020

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

n.a. for IR BSR 2014-2020

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

n.a. for IR BSR 2014-2020

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Capacity for innovation
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With the 3rd call for applications all ERDF funds in priority 1 were committed. All in all 45 regular projects are being implemented under this priority. The specific objective 1.3 “non-technological innovation” has been the most popular specific objective in the Programme with 23 selected projects.

The aimed results of the priority 1 are formulated as follows: “improved capacity of research and innovation infrastructures and their users allowing for better market uptake of innovation” (SO 1.1), “increased capacity of innovation actors (innovation intermediaries, authorities, research institutions, enterprises) to apply smart specialisation approach” (SO 1.2) and “Increased capacity of innovation actors (innovation intermediaries, authorities, research institutions, enterprises) to improve conditions for non-technological innovation” (SO 1.3). The monitoring of the increased capacities in the region with the method chosen by the Programme, showed slight to sizeable increase in the capacities related to the innovation priority. In the scale 1 (no capacity) to 5 (full capacity), the baseline values of the capacities for these results were set on 2,7-2,9 in the Programme start and the values in 2018 were 3,0-3,4. SO 1.2 “smart specialisation” had the highest value.

There is no clear evidence how the projects of the Programme influenced the increased capacities. The impact evaluation carried out in 2018 concluded that projects aim at improving institutional capacities in specific thematic fields. The analysis of the Application Forms by the evaluators, highlighted that all approved projects foresee an impact on the generation of knowledge and competence in specific thematic fields. The capacity dimension ‘Enhanced institutionalised knowledge and competence’ was a general aim for all the projects. Most projects aimed at various dimensions of institutional capacities. Projects did not focus on only one dimension and the combination of capacities supported and developed by IBSR projects added value compared to other regional or national projects. (This is valid for all priorities 1-3.)

Priority axis	2 - Efficient management of natural resources
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With the 3rd call for applications all ERDF funds were committed in this priority as well. There are 37 projects being implemented under priority 2. The specific objective 2.1 “clear waters” is the second popular in the Programme with 18 projects.

Similar to the priority 1 the aimed results of the priority 2 are formulated in increased capacities of actors in the specific thematic fields; for instance “Enhanced capacity of public authorities, public and private practitioners (from water management, agricultural, forestry, fisheries etc. sectors) for improved water management” (SO 2.1). The monitoring of the increased capacities showed an increase or a slight increase. The starting values in this priority were 2,4-2,8 and the values in 2018 were 2,8-3,0.

Regarding the contribution of the projects funded by the Programme, please see priority 1.

Priority axis	3 - Sustainable transport
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Similar to the priorities 1 and 2 also in this priority all the remaining ERDF funds were committed in the 3rd call for applications. All in all there are 29 regular projects in this priority. The distribution across the specific objectives is otherwise balanced (6-8 projects), but in the specific objective 3.2 “accessibility” there are only three projects. It seems that this specific objective is defined too narrow in order to respond to the needs of the regions with accessibility challenges.

Similar to the priorities above, the aimed results of the priority 3 are also formulated in increased capacities of actors in the specific thematic fields; for instance “Increased capacity of maritime actors (maritime administrations, rescue services, authorities, shipping operators, ports, research and intergovernmental organisations) to work with maritime safety and security.” The monitoring of the increased capacities showed no change for SO 3.2 “accessibility” (value 2,8). For the other specific objectives there was a slight or a sizeable increase. The starting values were 2,3-2,9 and the values in 2018 were 2,5-3,3.

Regarding the contribution of the projects funded by the Programme, please see priority 1.

Priority axis	4 - Institutional capacity for macro-regional cooperation
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The expected result of the specific objective 4.1. (seed money) is the “increased capacity of project idea owners (public authorities, research institutions, NGOs, SMEs) to initiate complex projects with strategic impact, and to build partnerships at transnational level“. Out of 25 selected seed money projects 23 delivered the outputs as expected. By the time of the report six projects had secured funding for their planned main project amounting to EUR 9.4 million. The target value of this result indicator is EUR 108 million set for 2023 and it seems too high. There are currently only few funding programmes still having calls from which seed money projects could apply for funding. The indicative amount planned for seed money funding in the Programme was reduced from three to two million euros as it was expected not to receive enough seed money applications with sufficient quality. With the remaining EUR 1.0 million another 25 seed money projects are expected to be implemented in 2020-2021.

One of the aims of the seed money funding is to support cooperation with partner countries, in particular Russia. Seed money projects included 17 organisations from the partner countries and it is expected that cooperation will continue with these organisations. The target value of nine organisations by 2023 is already clearly exceeded.

The aim of the support provided under specific objective 4.2 (coordination of macro-regional cooperation), in particular the support to Policy Area and Horizontal Action Coordinators, is to “increase capacity of public administrations, pan-Baltic organisations and transnational working groups to implement and follow-up targets of the EUSBSR and to realise common priorities with the partner

countries.” The first result indicator is the percentage of EUSBSR priority areas and horizontal actions reaching the identified targets. 88% of the Policy Area and Horizontal Action Coordinators indicated that they are reaching their targets, which exceeds the set target of 80% by 2023. The second result indicator in this specific objective is the percentage of EUSBSR priority areas and horizontal actions facilitating the implementation of joint priorities with the partner countries. 79% of the Policy Area and Horizontal Action Coordinators do this, which clearly exceeds the target of 60% that was set for 2023.

Priority axis

5 - Technical Assistance

The total TA budget will be approximately EUR 22.3 million and covers all Programme management costs, including costs for the MA/JS and contribution to the Audit Authority for the period 2014-2023.

In the year 2018 the overall spending of TA amounted to EUR 2,948,968, or 91.0% of the annual budget of EUR 3,241,250. Expenditure was incurred by Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB.SH) and the State Regional Development Agency, Latvia, as well as by the Audit Authority in Kiel, Germany. All expenditure was subject to national first level control.

The year 2018 was the third year of programme implementation that was entirely financed from TA of the present programme. Compared to the previous calendar years, the spending increased slightly.

As the three result indicators for TA showed the achievement of targets was according to plan. The 2018 values continued to demonstrate the positive development of previous years in priority 5. The baseline indicators at Programme start were zero and the targets set for 2023 100%. Already until end of 2018 75-85% were reached in two of the indicators, i.e. in “numbers of visitors on the programme's website” and in “share of programme funding allocated to projects”. In addition to this the third aim on “meeting the N+3 target” was reached to 100% in 2018 as meeting this target was never at risk during the year.

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

Following the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 all applicants were requested to promote the equality between men and women as well as equal opportunities and non-discrimination in their projects. The applicants were guided to either integrate these horizontal principles in their activities, or at least, to consider the project's influence on these principles.

The projects of the 1st call have reported on their contribution to both horizontal principles, against the descriptions they have provided in their application forms. The evolution of the planned contributions was described in the mid-term evaluation reports, annexed to their third progress reports.

For example, the project BEA-APP – which was mentioned in the AIR 2016 for its planned contribution to equal opportunities and non-discrimination – is constituted of a consortium of peripheral regions and the rural population is well involved in the pilot projects, as well as the regional stakeholder meetings. These meeting specifically focus on getting local communities involved in all partner countries.

The project BSN – to which the AIR 2016 referred as an example to illustrate the contribution to equality between men and women – has paid special attention to having an appropriate balance between female and male members in its consortium, as well as in national and transnational workshops and other events (seminars, panel discussions). Furthermore, in the first outputs related to the topic of researcher mobility, the challenge of moving with family was highlighted

All applications submitted were assessed for their planned actions and impacts on fostering equality between men and women as well as equal opportunities and on the prevention of discrimination, including accessibility for disabled people. The contribution to these horizontal principles is regarded as a positive factor in the project selection for funding.

None of the projects approved in the calls in priorities 1-3 in 2018 negatively affected equal opportunities and non-discrimination or equality between men and women.

As an example of a project promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination the project GreenSAM can be given. GreenSAM supports the inclusion of senior citizens in urban mobility. Due to physical or social barriers, this group has limited access to public transportation and ride-sharing systems. The project will support the adaption of urban mobility to the needs of senior citizens through an improved

participation of this group.

The project EmPaci illustrates well the contribution to the principle of equality between men and women. The objective of EmPaci is to get more municipalities involved and mobilise different types of citizens in participatory budgeting (process of democratic decision-making in which ordinary people take part in preparing and adopting a public budget). A typical type of citizen in such a process is male, politically active and 35-65 years old. The gender-specific perspectives will therefore be an important aspect to be considered.

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

Sustainable development of the region is an integral part of the Programme, and it is covered by all Programme priorities. Following the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 applicants are requested to promote sustainable development in the BSR both via the approach they apply and the outputs they develop. Applicants should consider economical, ecological and social impacts of their projects. Furthermore, projects should consider environmental impacts when making decisions on investments and their location.

The projects of the 1st call have reported on their contribution to sustainable development, against the descriptions they have provided in their application forms. The evolution of the planned contribution was described in the mid-term evaluation reports, annexed to their third progress reports.

For example, the activities of WAMBAF all refer to the usage of the natural resources in a sustainable way. The project has developed maps that allow the forestry to drive where the machines do not cause damage on the soil. The project is also working on the development of a handbook and a tool that aim at finding the balance between the number of beavers and the forestry, so that the beaver dams can be left when they enhance the water quality, but removed if they spoil forests with high economical value. WAMBAF is also developing guidelines, that will help the decision maker to plan forestry with a high level of consideration towards water protection.

The sustainable development dimension is also an integral part of the Baltic LINes project. A model simulating the effects of economic development projects on ecology is being integrated into the of Maritime Spatial Planning “Challenge software”. Also, ecological layers are integrated into the data access tool “BASEMAPS”. Furthermore, the initial work on planning criteria for shipping and energy designations in Maritime Spatial Planning also included environmental considerations.

All applications submitted in the were assessed for their planned actions and impacts on sustainable development. Promoting sustainable development was regarded as a positive factor in the project selection for funding.

None of the projects, approved in the calls for applications in 2018, is negatively contributing to sustainable development. For example, the project SmartUp Accelerator is aimed at stimulating and strengthening the capacity for consumer “cleantech” within the innovation ecosystem. The main driver for this sector is a more efficient use of resources and less impact on our environment. This implies favourable influences on sustainable development related to environment, economy and social issues. The project will contribute to decreasing the environmental costs of consumers by enhancing sustainable innovation e.g. in housing, transport and food sectors.

Another example is the project AREA 21, which will also have a direct positive impact on sustainable development of BSR cities and regions. The project will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through targeted support of innovative energy efficiency policies and measures. AREA21 will

also raise awareness among citizens as energy end-users about the importance of conscious energy consumption and will foster long-term behavioural change.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1	5,003,636.62	5.72%
2	29,621,675.53	33.89%
3	17,799,567.37	26.12%
Total	52,424,879.52	19.23%

The "Amount of Support to be used for Climate Change Objectives" is calculated by multiplying the Union Support of the Priority Axis with a Climate Change Rate.

Get the Union Support and the Climate Change Rate from the Intervention Fields defined in Table 5 (not table 7 as mentioned in the header above)(comes from Financial Data Table 2). Since in Table 5 there is no Union Support but only a Total Eligible Cost and a Public Eligible Cost per PA/Fund, multiply either of these two (based on the calculation basis of the PA/Fund) with the co-financing rate of the PA/Fund in Table 16 of the linked Programme version.

If the Climate Change Rate for an Intervention Field = 0, then check that all Investment Priorities of the Priority Axis are related to TO4 or TO5 only. Only in this case, apply 40% as co-financing rate.

We only show those Priority Axes which have a calculated amount > 0.

The "Proportion of total allocation to the cooperation programme" is calculated by dividing the "Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives" by the Total Union Support (A) of Table 16 of the linked Programme version.

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

The MC is composed of representatives of both national and regional levels from the participating countries. In addition, national sub-committees have been established by all participating countries in order to ensure broader involvement of regional and local levels as well as civil society through economic, research and social partners and non-governmental organisations. In total, more than 100 members of national subcommittees some are of the international level and some are from associations and civil society.

The MC is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme, e.g. deciding on implementation steps, announcement of calls, selection of projects, monitoring the Programme's progress, approving annual implementation reports towards the European Commission and annual work plans for the MA/JS as well as providing expert input to Programme evaluations.

Another type of involvement in the Programme implementation and monitoring the participating countries are responsible for is the national first level control and second level audit as well as all corresponding tasks. The participating countries participate in communication activities and support applicants and beneficiaries from their national territory.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Evaluation plan

The MA/JS together with the Evaluation Steering Group (ESG), consisting of one MC member from each participating country, developed an evaluation plan for the Programme. The first version of the plan was approved by the MC in November 2015. A revision was completed in 2016 in order to address feedback received from the European Commission.

External impact evaluation

In 2018 an external evaluation was undertaken, as set out in Annex 1 of the evaluation plan. As the evaluation was completed at the end of 2018, there was no follow-up on findings that year. For information on the external evaluation reference is made to section 4.

Internal operational evaluation

The previous operational evaluation of *management structures at the project level* conducted for 2017 showed room for improvements. Based on the evaluation finding that more targeted support was needed during the project development phase, the MA/JS continued to provide this during the 3rd call in 2018. State aid assessment as well as new financial tools assessments (e.g. budget line 7 "Specific project activities" clarification) were introduced in the assessing of applications with the aim of reducing the need to clarify these tools during contracting.

The 2017 evaluation concluded from the experience of the 1st and 2nd call for priorities 1-3 that the workload related to assessing concept notes and full applications was high. One of the follow-up measures in 2018 for the 3rd call was to replace the two-step procedure with an extended one-step procedure in order to simplify the process. The financial assessment of applications was simplified as well by eliminating State aid checks for applications that clearly did not fit the Programme focus and/or were of exceptionally low quality.

One of the previous evaluation findings was that projects often took longer than desired to be contracted due to the need to collect all documents in original form (e.g. partner declarations, State aid self-declarations). Attempts in 2018 to reduce the time needed for this were not successful. This is due to legal obligations which require documents for contracting in their original form. Time savings measures during contracting from document circulation therefore do not seem feasible. However, after the contracting all data exchange between projects and MA/JS are fully transferred to the electronic monitoring system BAMOS as defined by the e-cohesion rules.

The Programme's staff costs tool and guidance were further improved upon in 2018 based on the experience from monitoring of progress reports, desk checks, and discussions with other ETC

programmes.

As there were no suggestions for improvement of *management structures at the programme level* from the evaluation conducted in 2017, no follow-up measures were required in 2018.

For information on the internal evaluation for 2018 reference is made to section 4.

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
Executed	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Mid-term evaluation of Programme impact	ERDF ENI	2018	Impact	01 06 07 11	Monitoring of the state of institutional capacity in the region and mid-term evaluation of Programme impact	For overall results and findings reference is made to the last paragraph of the text in section 4.	As the evaluation was only completed at the end of 2018, there was no follow-up on findings that year.
Executed	Internal operational evaluation 2018	ERDF ENI	2019	Process	01 06 07 11	Assessment and analysis of the progress made in programme implementation to ensure appropriate functioning of the Programme bodies.	For overall results and findings reference is made to the corresponding paragraphs of the text in section 4.	As this evaluation was only carried out in 2019 retrospectively for 2018, there was no follow-up on findings in the year 2018 on this evaluation. However, follow-ups on previous year's internal operational evaluations were made in 2018 (see the corresponding paragraphs in the text above this table).

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Attracting applicants

Activities to attract applicants were directed at attracting applicants for regular projects (3rd call) and for project platforms (2nd call), a funding instrument established for the first time in 2017. Direct consultations were complemented by online activities such as moderating the LinkedIn partner search group and promoting the calls to target groups via website, newsletter, LinkedIn and Twitter. For the project platforms, a specific development seminar was held on 13 November 2018, Berlin, Germany.

The participating countries provided support to applicants with websites, documents and information activities, e.g., via a national contact point.

Support to projects

When it comes to support to projects, 2018 marked a peak year, with more than 100 projects running at the same (last quarter of 2018). Support thus needed to be provided for all implementation stages of projects (35 1st call projects in their final stage, 31 2nd call projects around mid-term, six 1st call project platforms starting implementation, 39 3rd call projects newly approved). In addition, new types of support were developed for project platforms and Russian partners who formally joined the Programme in early 2018.

Specific support activities included

- Communication seminar, 7-8 March 2018, Lübeck (DE)(for 2nd call projects and others interested)
- Project logos and postcards (for 1st project platforms and 3rd call projects)
- Kick off meeting for 1st call project platforms with a focus on communicating results, 17 October 2018, Riga (LV)
- New logo with the Russian flag and updated visibility rules for Russian partners

In addition to this, the participating countries supported project implementation with communication activities at national level, e.g., with information events or via a national contact point.

Making achievements visible

Focus was on new projects and 1st call projects, which entered into the final implementation stage so that results could be expected. This year was characterised by joint communication activities with other transnational Interreg programmes. Our Programme contributed to the joint exhibition stand #MadeWithInterreg at the European Week of Regions in Cities organised by 12 Interreg transnational programmes, dedicated to achievements of Interreg projects proving benefits of transnational cooperation (in line with the publication „Ten things to know about TN cooperation”). The Programme was also among the co-organisers of the workshop "Idea lab on the future of transnational cooperation".

The core online tool to compile, make available and disseminate Programme achievements on the level of the individual project is the project library (projects.interreg-baltic.eu). The Programme updated the library along the entire implementation cycle: new project entries (1st call project platforms, 3rd call projects), summary descriptions (2nd call projects), mid-term achievements (1st call projects). The Programme furthermore compiled multimedia products provided by projects, such as website links, videos, social media streams, and added them to the library. In addition, about one dozen projects were featured by a project story, usually in reportage style.

From the project library, the users extract information in search of, e.g. good examples of EU funded projects for print, video and online publications, of speakers for own events etc.

One new text format, a proof point, was developed and compiled for seven fields of activity. These are short, very concise texts which explain the contribution of the Programme (via one or several projects) to solve specific challenges in selected fields. They can be found online on the Programme website and in two print publications, „Ten things to know about TN cooperation“ (jointly developed by 10 transnational Interreg cooperation Programmes to cover the entire European Union) and „Things to know about transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea region“ (developed by Interreg BSR to cover the Programme area with more examples).

Project results were presented at several events, e.g. at a meeting of the standing committee of the European Parliamentarians (22 February 2018) as well as at the following major events on Baltic Sea region and EU levels:

- The Baltic Sea Future (8-9 March 2018, Älvsjö/Stockholm, SE)
- The Baltic Sea Day (22-23 Mar 2018, St. Petersburg, RU)
- 9th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (4-5 June, Tallinn, EE)
- 26th BSSSC Annual Conference (10-12 September, Gdansk, PL)
- European Week of Regions and Cities (8-11 October 2018, Brussels, BE)

In early summer, a conference task force was established in the MA/JS to prepare the next Programme conference scheduled for April 2019. The conference task force met six times by the end of 2018 (including kick-off) and had the task to arrange all organisational and content related matters as well as branding and communication. The conference was to be run with active contributions of the entire team of the MA/JS and with as many active contributions as possible of the core stakeholders (project beneficiaries and programme bodies).

Facilitating good administration

In order to keep the MC informed about project achievements, short summaries of the project highlights by

mid-term were compiled and provided for all 1st call projects.

In order to harmonise visibility support among MA/JS officers when receiving requests from projects, a guidance document was compiled with frequently occurring questions and answers.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

The Programme applies the integrated approach to territorial development by building on territorial assets of the region. Project proposals should, as far as possible, address territorial challenges and consider relevant territorial development policies as well as regional conditions of envisaged actions. They should also take into account their implications and impacts on other sectors in the given territories.

Project applications are assessed for their relevance in terms of their contribution to policies or strategies relevant to the Programme area, e.g. Europe 2020, the EUSBSR, Socio-economic Development Strategy of the Russian Federation (Russian North-West Strategy). Furthermore, project partnerships are assessed on their cross-sectoral approach and whether organisations from relevant sectors are involved and whether the partnership allows for a multidisciplinary approach.

In addition, the Programme continued its support of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (see section 11.3 and Annex 2 for details).

Community-led development, integrated actions for sustainable urban development and integrated territorial investments are not applicable to the Programme.

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

In the Programme actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF are implemented in Priority 4 linked to the support to the macro regional strategy for the BSR therefore reference is made to sections 3.1, 3.2 and mainly to section 11.3.

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The Programme provides a major contribution to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region. First of all, it co-finances flagship projects of the Strategy. Secondly, a total of EUR 13.2 million ERDF was allocated to the Programme's priority 4. These funds support the implementation and governance structures of the Strategy. Seed money is available for the preparation of flagship projects and other projects important for the Strategy.

105 regular projects were approved in the three open calls for applications in priorities 1-3. Of these, 56 flagships of the EUSBSR with EUR 130 million coming from ERDF. This is 57 % of the total ERDF commitment in the three regular calls. Flagships cover all Policy Areas but Tourism and two Horizontal Actions (HA Spatial Planning and HA Climate). The number of Programme-funded flagships is highest in Priority 1 Innovation (23 projects) followed by Priority 2 (21) and Priority 3 Transport (12 projects).

The first 25 seed money projects have finalised their activities in 2018. Six projects have already secured financing for the implementation of their main project (Interreg Central Baltic, Interreg BSR, NDPC, national funds). This number is not final, as several calls have the application deadline in 2019. Four projects are financed by Interreg BSR. Out of these, two have obtained the flagship status.

As earlier reported the 1st call for support to Policy Area and Horizontal Action Coordinators (PACs/HACs) under the specific objective 4.2 was opened already in December 2014. The Programme has held three consecutive calls to assure support to PACs/HACs. The projects, which were approved in 2018 will run until end September 2020.

Despite of the high administrative efforts connected to the ERDF funding provided by the Programme, the funding seems to be essential for the coordination work of PACs/HACs. In the final reports coordinators highlight that the support helped them to mobilise resources and accomplish improvements which otherwise would not had been possible. The support ensured sufficient staff resources for coordination, communication and regional collaboration with experts and stakeholders or development of specific priorities. The effects of the support or the additionality to already ongoing activities could not be observed to the same extent for all PA/HA. This was the case in areas where a strong transnational cooperation already exists supported by pan-Baltic organisations.

Under the specific objective 4.2 the Programme has allocated funding for the organisation of four EUSBSR Strategy Forums (including the 10th Strategy Forum to be held in Gdansk 2019). Similar to the Programme support to the PACs/HACs, the administrative efforts related to the funding are perceived as high by the Forums' organisers. Nevertheless, without co-financing it would be difficult to organise the Forums in the current scope and scale, with up to 800 participants per event. Furthermore, Programme support enabled the preparation of a number of studies, e.g., EUSBSR after 2020: governance remastered (Tallinn, 2018).

In addition, there have been three calls for communication and other targeted support for the EUSBSR. EUSBSR communication is assured by the 'Let's communicate' project. Preparation of the second implementation phase of the project was carried out in 2018. PAC/HAC capacity building and stakeholder meetings are organised by the EUSBSR Support project, which will run until end July 2020.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

Objective(s), policy area(s) and horizontal action(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Objectives
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Save the Sea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connect the Region
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Increase Prosperity
	Policy areas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1 - Bioeconomy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.2 - Culture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.3 - Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4 - Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.5 - Hazards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.6 - Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.7 - Innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.8 - Nutri
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.9 - Safe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.10 - Secure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.11 - Ship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.12 - Tourism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.13 - Transport
	Horizontal actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.1 - Capacity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.2 - Climate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.3 - Neighbours
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.4 - Spatial planning

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSBSR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Policy Area Coordinators, Horizontal Action Coordinators, or members of the Steering Committees/Coordination Groups) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSBSR?

Yes No

a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSBSR

Yes No

b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)

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c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

No extra points. However, the Programme particularly encourages flagship projects of the Action Plan thematically relevant to the Programme to apply. The coordinators of the policy areas and horizontal actions of the Strategy together with their steering groups are responsible for selecting flagship projects and for issuing a "letter of commitment" to be submitted with the application. Applicants are encouraged to be in contact with the relevant Policy Area/Horizontal Action Coordinator as early as possible. In the event that there are several applications demonstrating the same level of quality according to the quality assessment criteria of the Programme, priority will be given to the flagship project.

d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

The Programme plans to launch a new call for the support of the policy area coordinators/horizontal action coordinators. Further support to the EUSBSR Forum is planned.

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSBSR?

Yes No

Approximate or exact amount in Euro invested in the EUSBSR:

ERDF	140,931,570.91
CF	0.00
ESF	0.00
EAFRD	0.00
EMFF	0.00
ENI	1,124,143.82
any other funds	3,437,592.59
name of "any other funds"	Norwegian Funds (EUR 2.313 million) and Russian Funds (EUR 1.124 million)

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSBSR (n.a. for 2016)

Based on the questionnaire sent to PACs/HACs and their self-evaluation, 82% of the policy areas/horizontal

actions are reaching the targets for the specific policy area/horizontal action set in the Action Plan. 19 flagship projects finalised their activities in February 2019 and that these projects will report on their results later in June 2019. The closing flagships are contributing to: PA Bioeconomy (2), PA Culture, PA Education, PA Energy, PA Hazards (2), PA Innovation (4), PA Nutri, PA Safe (2), PA Ships, PA Secure, PA Transport, HA Spatial Planning (2). For more information reference is made to Annex 2 "Results in relation to the EUSBSR" (-> General > Documents in SFC). For detailed information on the projects please visit the project library of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 (<https://projects.interreg-baltic.eu/>).

E. Does the programme address the EUSBSR sub-objectives (with corresponding to specific targets and indicators) as stated in the "EUSBSR Action Plan"? (Please specify the target and the indicator)

The Programme expects that the projects that have been selected as flagships of the different policy areas and horizontal actions, contribute to the sub-objectives of the EUSBSR. The linking of single projects to the targets and indicators of the EUSBSR is however done by the PA coordinators.

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

In the annual implementation report for 2016, two projects that promote socially innovative solutions in the Baltic Sea region were presented, namely the SEMPRES and the BaltSe@nioR projects.

SEMPRES is a project that promotes empowerment in social service provision in rural areas in the Baltic Sea region. The project aims to improve the social service infrastructure by empowering end-users such as single parents, elderly members of the community or migrants to participate in the design and delivery of social services in rural areas in the region. To achieve the aim, twenty Local Empowerment Networks were set up. Within these networks social service providers, public authorities, NGOs and local organisations cooperate to test different empowerment tools and methods that are meant to improve their work with different vulnerable groups. One of the tested tools are micro projects (small-scale initiatives) that aim at offering social services created by end users at the local level. By the end of 2018, the project has resulted in eleven locally rooted micro projects (out of thirty planned to be running by the end of the project). Among the initiated micro-projects there are e.g. projects for seniors focusing on rehabilitation at home and support in home tasks, projects supporting people who have completed reintegration programmes to return to society or projects dedicated to families with children with autism. The SEMPRES partnership applied for the extension stage project “SEMPRES Accelerators” with the aim to support mechanisms to accelerate the growth and development of some of the most promising micro projects and turn them into sustainable social start-ups. The extension stage project was to be approved by the MC in 2019.

BaltSe@nioR is another example of a project that support social innovation in the Baltic Sea region. The project inspires furniture companies to create smart products that are adapted to senior needs. Due to changing demographics and an aging population in the region, there is a need for products adapted to the specific needs of the elderly. At the same time, integration of new technologies into traditional furniture design has a positive effect on senior people who want to stay independent longer. During the project implementation prototypes of smart furniture have been developed that are adapted to specific needs of the elderly people, e.g. the smart chair, the skirting board with the integrated fall detection system or the “magic mirror” displaying personalised messages regarding the state of health of a person looking into the mirror. The BaltSe@nioR partnership decided to develop a new project idea BaltSe@nioR2.0 and to apply for funds within the 3rd call. BaltSe@nioR2.0 aims to trigger public institutions and manufacturing companies in the region in starting a transformation of public spaces into friendlier places for seniors. The MC approved the application on 20.09.2018.

Within the 3rd call one more project being a good example of supporting the social innovation was approved by the MC members on 20.09.2018. The EmPaci project focuses on participatory budgeting, as a way of direct participation of citizens in the preparation and adoption of local budgets. The aim of EmPaci is to mobilise different types of citizens to be part of democratic decision-making processes. To achieve this the partners intend to increase municipal capacities in this field and to support municipality-citizen cooperation.

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

On a strategic level, the Cooperation Programme of Interreg Baltic Sea Region was developed within the wider framework Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. As more direct reference framework a wide range of Baltic Sea Region specific strategies were used, in particular the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, which is translating core objectives of the Union strategy to the macro-regional level. At the same other thematic strategies or strategies for neighbouring countries like the “Development Strategy of the North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation” served as further references. Altogether 24 reference documents were analysed and assessed by external experts to form the basis of the programme strategy.

Comparing the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the programme objectives one can observe a strong Programme contribution to the thematic priorities of smart growth and sustainable growth. The programme’s priority 1 is mainly covering the smart growth objectives whereas priority 2 is related to the sustainable growth objectives. Yet, in many cases the objectives appear in combination. This goes in particular for the specific objective 2.4 on blue growth, which is explicitly linking the objective to use marine resources as impetus for development of entrepreneurship and the creation of new businesses and jobs while preventing overexploitation of maritime resources and securing the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem services.

Inclusive growth is the Union objective least taken up by the Programme. There are examples of projects funded by Interreg Baltic Sea Region relating to this Union objective, e.g. when it comes to improving the accessibility of remote areas and areas affected by demographic change (in specific objective 3.2), or social innovation projects addressing disadvantaged groups of the society (in specific objective 1.3). However, there is a wide range of other European programmes (e.g. ESF) specifically targeting the issue of equal opportunities and non-discrimination and thus it was decided when setting up Interreg Baltic Sea Region to focus on other challenges instead.

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

In general it can be stated that the Programme did only slightly fail to achieve one of the milestones – the financial performance and spending in priority 1 (cf. table 3 in section 3.3). The main reason is that the original target was set by equal milestones per anno and the spending plan was based on a one-step-application procedure for projects. Instead the Programme opted for running the first two regular calls with a two-step approach. This led to later project selection, later project start and delayed spending at programme level. However, apart from this slight underspending in priority 1 until 31.12.2018 the spending of projects in the other priorities and the overall achievements are in line with the expectations.

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens' Summary (Programme Fact Sheet)	Citizens' summary	31-Dec-2018		Ares(2019)3995482	AIR 2018 - Citizens' Summary (Programme Fact Sheet)	24-Jun-2019	ndittrgu
Results in relation to the macro-regional strategy for the Baltic Sea region (EUSBSR)	Citizens' summary	21-May-2019		Ares(2019)3995482	Results in relation to the EUSBSR	24-Jun-2019	ndittrgu