



OUTPUT INDICATOR GUIDANCE

INTERREG VA

Cross-border Programme for Territorial Co-operation 2014-2020, Northern Ireland, Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland

Thematic Objective 6
Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Priority Axis 2
Environment

Investment Priority 2b
Investing in the Water Sector

Specific Objective 2.3
To improve water quality in shared transitional waters

Document Control

Document History		
Version	Date	Changes
1.0	January 2016	Drafted by Carly Gordon (NISRA)
2.0	August 2022	Drafted by Michael Power (NISRA)

INTRODUCTION

INTERREG VA - United Kingdom - Ireland is a European Territorial Cooperation programme that aims to promote greater economic, social and territorial cohesion. The eligible region for this programme comprises Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland, and Western Scotland.

Ireland and Northern Ireland share a land border, whilst the border between Ireland and Scotland is a maritime border. Northern Ireland and Scotland are also separated by the North Channel. In all cases the regions concerned are peripheral to the main economic centres of their respective Member States. The contrasting nature of the borders within the eligible area means that different approaches to promoting cross-border co-operation need to be adopted, depending on the nature of the border and the sector involved.

The following strategic areas of investment have been prioritised by the Member States for the 2014-2020 period:

- Smart Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation - The programme will contribute to the objective within EU2020 of increasing the spend on Research and Development (R&D) to 3% of GDP by 2020, by establishing increased cross-border R&D competence building, for Life and Health Sciences and Renewable Energy. Additionally, R&D into renewable energy technologies may contribute to EU2020 targets and lead to reductions in the use of carbon resources and emissions.
- Sustainable Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 6 – Preserving and Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency- The inclusion in the programme of the protection and preservation of habitats and species, an emphasis on water and marine management will contribute to enhancing the region’s sustainability and is congruent with the priority for sustainable growth outlined in strategy EU2020.
- Sustainable Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 7 – Promoting Sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures – The promotion of electric vehicles; greenways; and multimodal transport links have the purpose of reducing the reliance upon carbon forms of transport in the region and underpins the EU2020 strategic objective of creating sustainable growth.
- Inclusive Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 9 – Promoting Social Inclusion, Combating Poverty and any discrimination. The needs analysis of the region has

identified inequalities in health care provision for those citizens living in the border area. The inclusion of improved access to cross-border health services is in line with the EU 2020 strategy to generate inclusive growth.

This document provides descriptions and definitions for the output indicators under specific objective 2.3 presented in the new INTERREG VA Programme 2014 – 2020.

Priority axes (PA) are the building blocks of programmes; the PAs are defined as follows: PA 1 – *Research and Innovation*, PA 2 – *Environment*, PA 3 – *Sustainable Transport*, and PA 4 – *Health*. This document includes a diagram highlighting the investment priorities, specific objectives, result and output indicators, as well as descriptions and definitions of the specific objective 2.3 output indicators in detail.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

The Programme's impact is monitored through the use of output and result indicators¹. This section provides a definition of output and result indicators. Projects receiving funding through INTERREG VA will be expected to report progress against output indicators only, so this document goes on to outline definitions and guidance relating to output indicators only.

Output Indicators: Link to activities of operation. They are measured in physical or monetary units (e.g. length of road constructed, number of firms financially supported) and contribute to result indicators.

Output indicators cover all investment priorities of a programme (art. 27.4(b), 96.2(b) CPR). They should be derived from the intervention logic of the programme, expressing its actions. Output indicators from the list of common indicators may be insufficient to reflect the actions of a certain programme; in this case it was necessary to also identify programme specific output indicators.

The programme shall set *cumulative targets* for output indicators for 2023 (art. 6, ERDF regulation; art. 5, CF regulation; art. 16, ETC regulation). Baselines for output indicators are not required.

Result Indicators: Relate to specific objectives and capture the expected change.

Each priority axis includes one or more investment priorities according to their specific needs and context. The specific objective is the expression of what each investment priority aims to achieve (see art.2.34, CPR for legal definition of a specific objective). The change sought by the specific objective is expressed in one *result indicator*, or as few as possible.²

Result indicators shall meet certain quality criteria. They should be:

- a) responsive to policy: closely linked to the policy interventions supported. They should capture the essence of a result according to a reasonable argument about which features they can and cannot represent;

¹ Ecorys Academy. (2014). Training to Managing Authorities: Intervention logic - Explaining the result orientation of 2014-2020.

² EC (2014). The programming period 2014-2020: Guidance document on monitoring and evaluation. Retrieved from: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf

- b) normative: having a clear and accepted normative interpretation (i.e. there must be agreement that a movement in a particular direction is a favourable or an unfavourable result);
- c) robust: reliable, statistically validated;
- d) timely: available when needed, with room built in for debate and for revision when needed and justified.

GUIDANCE FOR MEASURING AND RECODING ACHIEVEMENT FOR INDICATORS

The following is some general advice to take into account when recording achievement against output indicators on the database in relation to project monitoring for the 2014-2020 Programme (DB2014). The purpose of this is to ensure that all projects record accurately and consistently; ensuring that Programme level reporting on progress against indicators is reflective of each of the projects that have received funding and are contributing to Programme aims and objectives.

- The lead partner is the source of data for all indicators, as they should collect and/or collate relevant data from project partners and managers to report against each of the output indicators relevant to their project.
- Achievement should be updated on a quarterly basis, even if there is nothing to report (in this case a '0' should be entered).
- Please note, when collecting data relating to individuals (e.g. numbers trained, numbers treated, numbers participating etc...) a breakdown by gender should also be collected and recorded.
- In addition to indicators and targets, Lead Partners will also have to agree milestones, where relevant. These will be project specific, included in the Letter of Offer and will have to be reported against regularly to show progress towards achieving an output indicator.
- Level of recording - Activity/achievement should only be entered at one level i.e. preferably only the lead partner will enter any achievement against their project, to avoid any possibility of duplicate recording and ensure consistency. Entries will then be quality assured by the Joint Secretariat and the Financial Control Unit in SEUPB. Where monitoring data is being collected by, for instance, service providers as opposed to the lead partner; the lead partner should take responsibility for collating monitoring data from the various sub-projects/project managers/service providers, and record activity on DB2014 on a quarterly basis.
- Cumulative within year - Entries of achievement against a project can be made several times over the course of a calendar year; however new entries will overwrite previous entries so they should be on cumulative basis for each year i.e. each new

entry should include all achievement so far that year even if a report has already been made. However, between years, achievement should be on a non-cumulative basis.

For example: [Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment](#) – there will be 2 entries against this indicator upon completion of the 2 [sewage network and waste water treatment projects](#). So if the first water treatment project is completed early 2015, and a quantity is available for the number of additional people this project is serving (e.g. 5,000) by the third quarter; then the first two quarters should have entries of zero, the third quarter should have the entry of 5,000 and the last quarter should still have an entry of 5,000. . That will make a total achievement of 5,000 additional people in 2015, and the counter should reset to 0 for 2016 and those 5,000 should not be recorded again. Then, if the second sewage network and waste water treatment project is completed in 2017, the number of additional people being served by that project should be entered in 2017, not counting the 5,000 served by the first project. All preceding, intermediate and following years should have entries of zero.

Projects should also note that activity should be recorded in the year to which it relates, rather than the date it was entered, i.e. if an activity took place in December of 2017 but not recorded until January 2018, the entry should be made under 2017.

- Record achievement as information becomes available - Achievement against output indicators at the Interreg Programme level is reported on at several times during the year (including Spring and Autumn Programme Monitoring Committees and the Annual Implementation Report that is produced by calendar year). Ideally, projects should not wait until the year end to enter all achievement in one go. It would be more beneficial to report achievement at regular intervals, ideally not later than the end of each quarter, to ensure that Programme level reports are as accurate and up to date as possible, reflecting the output achievement of all projects at that point in time. Projects should note that even if there is no achievement against certain output indicators there is still the need to update monitoring entries. In this case projects, should enter zero.
- Check wording and definitions - this document contains a list of the relevant indicators and associated definitions and units. Please ensure you are reporting

accurate, relevant information, avoiding double counting and using the correct unit (e.g. enterprises, patients, percentage etc).

For example, 'number of enterprises engaging an intern'; the unit here is enterprises, so you should not record the number of interns as this may lead to double counting if an enterprise employs more than one intern. It should be the number of enterprises and each enterprise should only be counted once.

INTERREG Cross-Border Programme 2014-2020
€240 million ERDF (plus 15% match funding)
Max 85% intervention rate

Thematic Objective 1
Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Thematic Objective 6
Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Thematic Objective 7
Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

Thematic Objective 9
Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

Priority Axis 1
Research and Innovation

Priority Axis 2
Environment

Priority Axis 3
Sustainable Transport

Priority Axis 4
Health

Investment Priority 1a
Enhancing research and innovation

Investment Priority 1b
Promoting business investment in R&I

Investment Priority 2a
Protecting and restoring biodiversity

Investment Priority 2b
Investing in the water sector

Investment Priority 3a
Developing and Improving Environmentally-friendly and low carbon transport systems

Investment Priority 4.a
Investing in health and social infrastructure

Specific Objective 1.1

To increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energies.

€45 million (approx)

Specific Objective 1.2

To increase the number and capacity of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activity in the region aimed at the development of new products, processes and services

€ 16 million (approx)

Specific Objective 2.1

To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species

€ 11 million (approx)

Specific Objective 2.2

To develop cross-border co-operation capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species in the region

€ 11 million (approx)

Specific Objective 2.3

To improve water quality in shared transitional waters

€ 30 million (approx)

Specific Objective 2.4

To improve fresh water quality in cross-border river basins

€ 20 million (approx)

Specific Objective 3.1

Promote cross-border intermodal and sustainable mobility in the cross-border region

€ 40 million (approx)

Specific Objective 4.1

Through collaboration on a cross-border basis, to improve the health and well-being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs

€ 53 million (approx)

Thematic Objective 6
Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource

Priority Axis 2 – Environment

Investment Priority 2a
 Protecting and restoring biodiversity

Investment Priority 2b
 Investing in the water sector

Specific Objective 2.1

To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species

Result Indicator: The percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favourable condition

Output Indicators

- Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status (common indicator)
- Conservation action plans

Specific Objective 2.2

To develop cross-border capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species in the region

Result Indicator: Cross-border capacity for monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species.

Output Indicators

- Network of buoys for regional seas, including telemetry and oceanographic monitoring e.g. for seals, cetaceans and salmonids
- Models developed to support conservation of habitats and species
- Management plans for designated protected areas complete
- System for the prediction of bathing water quality and install real time signage

Specific Objective 2.3

To improve water quality in shared transitional waters

Result Indicator: Percentage of the shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality

Output Indicators

- Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment
- Sewage network and waste water treatment projects to improve water quality in shared transitional waters

Specific Objective 2.4

To improve fresh water quality in cross-border river basins

Result Indicator: Percentage of cross-border freshwater bodies in cross-border river basins with good or high quality

Output Indicators

- Cross-border drinking water sustainable catchment area management plan: Research and pilot project
- Develop and implement cross-border groundwater monitoring wells
- Establish 3 river water quality improvement projects

Specific Objective 2.3: To improve water quality in shared transitional waters

The specific objective of this investment priority will be to improve water quality in cross-border river catchment areas and shared transitional and coastal waters in the region in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD; Directive 2000/60/EC). The WFD classification scheme for water quality includes five status classes: high, good, moderate, poor and bad. 'High status' is defined as the biological, chemical and morphological conditions associated with **no** or **very low** human pressure. This is also called the 'reference condition' as it is the best status achievable - the benchmark. The general objective of the WFD is to achieve 'good status'³ for all surface waters by 2015.⁴

³ 'Good status' means both 'good ecological status' and 'good chemical status'.

⁴ European Commission. (2014). *Environment: Ecological status and intercalibration*. Retrieved from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/objectives/status_en.htm

SPECIFIC INDICATORS

The following is a list of the indicators relevant to this call, with associated targets, definitions and reporting details.

The aim of this call is to improve the quality of shared transitional waters.

OUTPUT INDICATORS

Indicator CO19	Wastewater treatment: additional population served by improved wastewater treatment
Measurement Unit	Population equivalent/PE
Target Value (2023)	10,000
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population served by improved wastewater treatment <p>Number of persons whose wastewater is transported to wastewater treatment plants through wastewater transportation network as a result of increased waste water treatment/transportation capacity built by the project, and who were previously not connected, or were served by sub-standard wastewater treatment. It includes improving wastewater treatment level.</p>
Achievement	<p>Population served should relate to and be recorded after completion of the wastewater treatment projects under indicator 2.311.</p> <p>It is not necessary for data to be obtained to allow a gender breakdown of the additional population being served by improved wastewater treatment.</p>

Indicator 2.311	Sewage network and wastewater treatment projects to improve water quality in shared transitional waters
Measurement Unit	Projects completed ⁵
Target Value (2023)	2
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'improve' water quality <p>To raise water quality status from 'moderate' to at least 'good status'⁶</p> <p>The need for improved water quality and how it is to be rated originates from the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD; Directive 2000/60/EC). The WFD classification scheme for water quality includes five status classes: high, good, moderate, poor and bad. 'High status' is defined as the biological, chemical and morphological conditions associated with no or very low human pressure. This is also called the 'reference condition' as it is the best status achievable - the benchmark. The general objective of the WFD is to achieve 'good status' for all surface waters by 2015.⁷</p> <p>The types of activities expected under this indicator include:</p> <p>Research and development in wastewater treatment technologies, including the use of sustainable technologies with direct relevance to the shared transitional waters. The creation of demonstration sites in the catchment areas to illustrate best practice wastewater treatment methodologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared transitional waters <p>Transitional waters are those waters between the land and the sea. They often encompass river mouths and so show the transition from freshwater to marine conditions. Depending on the tidal influence from coastal waters, but also on the freshwater influence from upstream, transitional waters are often characterised by frequently changing salinity.⁸</p> <p>Shared / Cross-border transitional water bodies are Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough in the eligible region.</p>
Achievement	The additional population counted under indicator CO19 should be served as a result of the sewage network and wastewater treatment projects from indicator 2.311. Projects should be complete and operational before they can be counted under indicator 2.311.

⁵ Upon completion of agreed work programme, pending approval from SEUPB

⁶ 'Good status' means both 'good ecological status' and 'good chemical status'.

⁷ European Commission. (2014). *Environment: Ecological status and intercalibration*. Retrieved from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/objectives/status_en.htm

⁸ <http://www.wiser.eu/background/transitional-waters/>