

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Interreg V-A Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Reporting period: 01.01.2016-31.12.2016



INDEX

1 IDENTIFICATION	4
2 OVERVIEW	4
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS	7
3.1. Overview of the implementation.....	7
3.2. Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	10
3.3. Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework	35
3.4. Financial data	37
4 SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS	40
5 ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN	40
(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken.....	40
6 CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	40
7 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) .	41
7.1. Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	41
7.2. 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).....	42
7.3. Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)	43
7.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	43
7.5. 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)	44
8 OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) N° 1299/2013	44
8.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations.....	44
8.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy	45

9 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).....	45
9.1. Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme.....	45
9.2. Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF	46
9.3. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation.....	46
10 SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH.....	46
11 ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	47
DOCUMENTS.....	48
LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS.....	49

1 IDENTIFICATION

CCI	2014TC16RFCB001
Title	Interreg V-A Euregio Maas-Rijn
Version	2016.1
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	28.06.2017

2 OVERVIEW

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.

The Interreg V-A EMR programme was approved by the European Commission on 9 December 2015. In anticipation of this, preparations were made – after submission of the draft programme – for opening up the programme so that the first projects could be submitted and approved shortly after the programme itself had been approved.

The work in 2016 focused mainly on starting up and implementing the programme. There were various different categories of work:

1. Further detailing of the (organisational) structure of the programme;
2. Submission, assessment, and approval of project proposals.

Organisation

A great deal of work was done in 2016 on the description of the programme's management and control systems (MCS). The MCS includes a description of all the relevant processes, from the start of the programme to its completion, with the accompanying documents. The MCS thus forms the basis for all the activities in the programme. All the processes were developed in close consultation with the Monitoring Committee. All the relevant documents – for example the costs catalogue and factsheets, regulations and the model cooperation agreements – were also approved by the Monitoring Committee. The MCS is the most important document for the designation procedure that will be rounded off by the AA in 2017.

Work was also carried out in 2016 on operational matters such as accommodation, team composition, and communication (including visual identity).

The MA and CA were assigned to the Province of Limburg (EMR cluster) in Maastricht and the JS and the FLC have been housed in Eupen at the Stichting Euregio Meuse-Rhine. All the various components work closely together, directed by the Interreg coordinator, who is also the head of the EMR cluster. Practical arrangements were made between the Province of Limburg and the Stichting EMR in 2016 regarding the division of work and working method. In 2016, 80% of the positions (9 FTEs) were filled.

An important part of the organizational structure are the regional antennas representing the programme in the partner regions and serving as a contact point for partners and projects. Five regional antennas have been operating in the programme area since 2016.

Projects

The first group of project proposals were also approved in 2016. Early this year (March) that involved the 6 Technical Assistance proposals (central plus 5 regional antennas); later in the year (June) it involved 13 proposals submitted under the 4 substantive priorities (call 1).

The programme works with specific calls to which a budget is usually linked. In 2016, this involved “call 1”, which closed on 1 March 2016, with 13 proposals having been submitted. All the proposals were assessed by the partners and the MAJS and then submitted to the Monitoring Committee accompanied by recommendations. On 28 June, the Monitoring Committee approved 11 project proposals, with 2 others being approved conditionally. On 26 September, those two were also fully approved by the Monitoring Committee.

Based on the decisions by the Monitoring Committee, the first five grant letters could be issued by the MA in 2016.

A start was also made in 2016 on the second call (call 2). To that end, the Monitoring Committee adopted preconditions at the beginning of the year, and outline proposals were submitted by potential beneficiaries. All those applicants received feedback on their sketches. Full proposals could then be submitted during the official opening of the call between 5 September and 3 October. A total of 17 proposals were submitted. Of these, two were ultimately withdrawn and the Monitoring Committee approved 12 proposals in the course of 2017.

In late 2016, another specific call was also launched for projects on the cross-border reception of refugees. This continued until early 2017 and produced 2 new proposals, which were also approved in the course of 2017.

Amounts committed and results achieved

In 2016, EUR 28,387,615 in ERDF funding was committed. That represents 30% of the funds made available by the EU for the programme. These ERDF funds generated a total of € 61,475,162 in project funds, which is 45% of the planned total budget for the programme. The leverage of European funds is thus higher than anticipated.

Although the projects are all still in the initial phase and nothing can therefore be said about the results achieved, it is possible, nevertheless, to indicate what results the projects are expected to produce. Compared with the results to be achieved for the programme as a whole, this gives a positive picture. The overall conclusion is that the programme is well on track but that some aspects, need further attention, for example encouraging sustainable development within companies. That will already be taken into account in the forthcoming calls.

Publicity

In 2016, the basis was laid for PR and communication for the programme. In addition to means of communication, the communication plans were drawn up and the first major annual event took place.

In order to keep the public properly informed about the programme, a public version of the programme was distributed widely in early 2016. In addition, various documents were prepared and distributed such as the comprehensive programme document, the costs catalogue and factsheets, and the handbook for the project implementers. All of these documents were drawn up and distributed in three languages (Dutch, German, and French) in order to reach more people within the region.

In 2016, the old website of the Interreg IV programme was still used, with this being adapted for Interreg V. The new website was launched in 2017.

On 28 June, the Monitoring Committee approved the communication strategy for the programme for the period from 2016 to 2023. That strategy is translated into annual programmes.

An important occurrence for the programme was the annual event that took place in Maastricht on 24 November. This marked the conclusion of Interreg IV and the start of Interreg V and was organised by both MAs of these programmes. In addition to information about the results of Interreg IV and the main lines of Interreg V, the event also concerned practical knowhow and the exchange of experience gained during a number of leading projects. Workshops and plenary sessions gave those present (nearly 200) a good picture of the Interreg programmes, and there was ample time and opportunity to make (cross-border) contacts. The feedback from participants was largely positive.

Key points regarding organisation and publicity

A brief overview is given below of the main key points in this area:

- Number of meetings of the Monitoring Committee: 4
- Number of meetings of the Technical Working Group: 6
- Number of GO/NO GO meetings: 3
- Number of people attending the annual event: about 200
- Print run for public version of the programme: 3 x 750
- Number of visitors to website: about 25.000

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	Innovation 2020	<p>Innovation 2020 is the priority for which the largest budget has been reserved. Proposals were drawn up mainly by the knowledge institutions in the region. The focus is on cross-border cooperation in those areas in which the region and regional institutions have a clear profile, for example health, chemistry, biotechnology, and materials. Many of the proposals are based on existing and proven contacts, which increases the likelihood of their successful implementation. One issue is the involvement of the business sector, which can in fact be increased. Projects that score better here will receive a higher rating in future calls. More emphasis will also be placed on this during contacts with potential project applicants.</p> <p>It is for this priority that by far the largest amount has been requested. In total, 20 proposals were submitted during the two first calls for project proposals (11 proposals during the first call and 9 proposals during the second call).</p> <p>In 2016, the MC has finally decided on the proposals that were submitted in the framework of the first call. Of the 11 proposals submitted, 5 proposals were selected.</p> <p>A total budget of EUR 19.845.689 and an ERDF contribution of 50%, i.e. EUR 9.922.844 has been allocated. A small number of these also commenced in 2016, but funding applications have not yet been submitted.</p> <p>The decision making by the MC on the proposals of the second call has taken place in 2017.</p>
2	Economy 2020	<p>This is the second-largest important programme priority. Here, a total of 8 proposals were submitted (2 proposals during the first call, and 6 proposals during the second call).</p> <p>In the end, the MC decided in 2016 to select not 2 but 3 proposals from the first call for proposals under this priority. The third proposal was originally submitted under the first priority axis. The MC, however, was of the opinion that the proposal better met the objectives of the second priority axis.</p> <p>The selected projects focus mainly on assistance for innovative starting and restarting enterprises. Although these are three separate initiatives, the projects have so much in common that it has been decided to establish a joint coordinating body so as to avoid duplication and ensure effective implementation.</p> <p>For this purpose, a steering committee will be appointed, with</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>representatives of both projects and the programme.</p> <p>One issue requiring attention when implementing these proposals is that of the state aid rules, which are felt to be restrictive.</p> <p>The three proposals submitted have a total budget of EUR 9.899.616 and the sum of EUR 4.949.808 (50%) was committed as an ERDF contribution.</p> <p>Also for the proposals of the second call related to this priority axis only in 2017, the MC has made a decision.</p>
3	Social inclusion and education	<p>For this priority, the fewest applications were selected by the MC in 2016, both relatively and in absolute terms. Nevertheless, education and social inclusion are of great importance with a view to a properly functioning cross-border labour market and an involved population. The approved projects demonstrate a clear cross-border approach, which is important for the entire programme area. The emphasis is now on the integration of vulnerable groups but is expected to shift to cross-border labour market aspects.</p> <p>Of the 6 project proposals that were submitted during the first call, only 2 proposals were selected for a total budget of EUR 3.570.063 and an ERDF contribution of EUR 1.788.032.</p> <p>In the framework of the second call, 9 proposals were submitted, so it's expected that this priority will not be left behind.</p>
4	Territorial Development	<p>This priority comprises the less economically oriented projects. It is in fact no less important for cross-border cooperation, as the submitted projects show. Although the theme of territorial development has been defined broadly and includes a large number of sectors, the emphasis of the submitted and approved project proposals is on cross-border healthcare, in particular oncology, patient safety, and rare medical conditions. The focus here is on the expansion of cross-border cooperation.</p> <p>In the framework of the first call, a total of 3 out of 4 project proposals submitted were selected with a budget of EUR 11.939.881 and an ERDF contribution of EUR 5.969.941.</p> <p>During the second call, 10 proposals were submitted. As with any other priority axes, only in 2017 the MC decided on the selection of these proposals.</p>
5	Technical Assistance	<p>With regard to technical assistance, we were able to build on experience from the previous programme period and the preparations that were made.</p> <p>The emphasis was on developing and describing the various processes with accompanying documents (AO) and the introduction</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>of the eMS monitoring system. That system is a general monitoring system developed by Interact. Adapting the system to the specific situation for our programme is taking more time than anticipated. In 2016, the module for project applications and assessment was developed further. By hiring additional capacity, we hope to have the system fully operational in the course of 2017, including for the financial processes. No payment claims were submitted to the European Commission because insufficient eligible costs have yet been incurred. There were also no audits because no payment claims have yet been submitted. The costs for technical assistance remained well within the budget.</p> <p>For Technical Assistance, a total of 6 project proposals were submitted (1 for TB Central and 5 for the regional antennas), with a total budget of EUR 13.716.809 and an ERDF contribution of EUR 5.759.990. The ERDF contribution thus corresponds to the maximum allowable percentage of the total budget for the programme (6%).</p>

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

Table 1: Result indicators

Priority axis			1 - Innovation 2020										
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			1.1 - Increase the percentage of SMEs that introduces innovations.										
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	Total			Qualitative			Observations	
						2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016		
RI1	Percentage SMEs that introduces product or process innovations	Percentage	67,00	2013	70,00	0,00	0,00						
Specific objective			1.2 - Increase connections and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education.										
RI2	Proportion of innovative enterprises that cooperates with enterprises and knowledge institutions.	Percentage	45,00	2013	47,00	0,00	0,00						

Priority axis			2 - Economy 2020									
Investment priority			3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators									
Specific objective			2.1 - Strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	Total			Qualitative			Observations
						2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	
RI3	Percentage starting enterprises relative to total amount of enterprises	Percentage	9,61	2014	10,10	0,00	0,00					
Specific objective			2.2 - Increase resource efficiency of SMEs.									
RI4	Resource productivity	Euro's/kg	2,01	2014	2,10	0,00	0,00					

Priority axis			3 - Social inclusion and education									
Investment priority			9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services									
Specific objective			3.1 - Increase social integration of vulnerable groups.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	Total			Qualitative			Observations
						2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	
RI5	Percentage people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	Percentage	20,00	2014	20,00	0,00	0,00					

Priority axis			3 - Social inclusion and education									
Investment priority			10b - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing and implementing joint education, vocational training and training schemes (ETC-CB)									
Specific objective			3.2 - Improve the connection of the cross-border educational system to the labour market									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	Total			Qualitative			Observations
						2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	
RI6	Share of early school-leavers	Share	11,00	2014	10,00	0,00	0,00					(12) Projects not aimed at early school-leavers

Priority axis			4 - Territorial development									
Investment priority			11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)									
Specific objective			4.1 - Decrease border hindrance effects for residents and institutions.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	Total			Qualitative			Observations
						2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	
RI7	Percentage cross-border commuters	Percentage	39,00	2013	41,00	0,00	0,00					Percentage unchanged
Specific objective			4.2 - Increase the number of visitors and tourists in the EMR and increase the duration of stay.									
RI8	Number of nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments	Number	12.700.000,00	2014	13.000.000,00	0,00	0,00					Number as yet unchanged

Priority axis			5 - Technical Assistance									
Specific objective			TA - Responsible and efficient implementation of the Interreg V-A-programme Euregio Meuse-Rhine									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	Total			Qualitative			Observations
						2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	
RI9	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable							

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

Priority Axis	1 - Innovation 2020
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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2014	2015	2016	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	250,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	250,00	0,00	0,00	546,00	
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	80,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	80,00	0,00	0,00	106,00	

F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	170,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	170,00	0,00	0,00	514,00	
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	6.000.000,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	6.000.000,00	0,00	0,00	5.000.000,00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	25,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	25,00	0,00	0,00	120,00	
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	5.625.000,00	0,00	0,00		

S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	5.625.000,00	0,00	0,00	6.250.000,00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30,00	0,00	0,00	209,00	
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	30,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	30,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	25,00	0,00	0,00		

S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	25,00	0,00	0,00	146,00	
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	20,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	20,00	0,00	0,00	51,00	
F	PSI10	Number of supported innovation-oriented cooperation projects between enterprises and knowledge institutes	Number	40,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI10	Number of supported innovation-oriented cooperation projects between enterprises and knowledge institutes	Number	40,00			25,00	

F	PSI9	Number of supported innovation-oriented cooperation projects between enterprises	Number	20,00				
S	PSI9	Number of supported innovation-oriented cooperation projects between enterprises	Number	20,00			67,00	

Priority Axis	2 - Economy 2020
Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2014	2015	2016	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	750,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	750,00	0,00	0,00	200,00	
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	250,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	250,00	0,00	0,00	40,00	
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	500,00	0,00	0,00		

S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	500,00	0,00	0,00	160,00	
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	50,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	50,00	0,00	0,00	15,00	
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	100,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	PSI1	Number organised activities focussed on stimulating entrepreneurship	Number activities	150,00	0,00	0,00		

S	PSI1	Number organised activities focussed on stimulating entrepreneurship	Number activities	150,00	0,00	0,00	55,00	
F	PSI2	Number of developed business cases	Number business cases	10,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI2	Number of developed business cases	Number business cases	10,00	0,00	0,00	27,00	
F	PSI3	Number of SMEs receiving support	Number	990,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI3	Number of SMEs receiving support	Number	990,00	0,00	0,00	200,00	
F	PSI4	Number of SMEs receiving grants	Number	245,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI4	Number of SMEs receiving grants	Number	245,00	0,00	0,00	40,00	
F	PSI5	Employment growth in supported SMEs	Fte	99,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI5	Employment growth in supported SMEs	Fte	99,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	PSI6	Number of supported projects	Number	3,00	0,00	0,00		

		focussed on efficient use of natural and material resources in (SME) enterprises						
S	PSI6	Number of supported projects focussed on efficient use of natural and material resources in (SME) enterprises	Number	3,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	PSI7	Number of supported projects focussed on increasing energy independence in (SME) enterprises	Number	2,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI7	Number of supported projects focussed on increasing energy independence in (SME) enterprises	Number	2,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls

Priority Axis	3 - Social inclusion and labour market
Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2014	2015	2016	Observations
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	300,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	300,00	0,00	0,00	34,00	
F	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	300,00	0,00	0,00		

S	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	30,00	0,00	0,00	6,240.00	
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	150,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational	Persons	150,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls

		education across borders						
F	PSI19	Number of projects focussed on disadvantaged youth, elderly and vulnerable population	Number of projects	5,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI19	Number of projects focussed on disadvantaged youth, elderly and vulnerable population	Number of projects	5,00	0,00	0,00	15,00	
F	PSI20	Number of people that make use of cross-border social services	Number of persons	1.000,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI20	Number of people that make use of cross-border social services	Number of persons	1.000,00	0,00	0,00	6.000,00	
F	PSI21	Number of supported projects focussed on strengthening the connection between education and labour	Number of persons	3,00	0,00	0,00		

		market						
S	PSI21	Number of supported projects focussed on strengthening the connection between education and labour market	Number of persons	3,00	0,00	0,00	30,00	
F	PSI22	Number of organizations that participate in supported cooperation focussed on cross-border functioning of the labour market	Number of organizations	10,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI22	Number of organizations that participate in supported cooperation focussed on cross-border functioning of the labour market	Number of organizations	10,00	0,00	0,00	87,00	

Priority Axis	3 - Social inclusion and education
Investment priority	10b - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing and implementing joint education, vocational training and training schemes (ETC-CB)

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2014	2015	2016	Observations
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	300,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	300,00	0,00	0,00	34,00	
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational	Persons	150,00	0,00	0,00		

		education across borders						
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	150,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	PSI21	Number of supported projects focussed on strengthening the connection between education and labour market	Number of persons	3,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI21	Number of supported projects focussed on strengthening the connection between education and labour market	Number of persons	3,00	0,00	0,00	30,00	
F	PSI22	Number of	Number of organizations	10,00	0,00	0,00		

		organizations that participate in supported cooperation focussed on cross-border functioning of the labour market						
S	PSI22	Number of organizations that participate in supported cooperation focussed on cross-border functioning of the labour market	Number of organizations	10,00	0,00	0,00	87,00	

Priority Axis	4 - Territorial development
Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2014	2015	2016	Observations
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	2.500,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	2.500,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	800.000,00	0,00	0,00		
S	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	800.000,00	0,00	0,00	860.000,00	
F	CO43	Labour Market and Training: Number of	Persons	50,00	0,00	0,00		

		participants in cross-border mobility initiatives						
S	CO43	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives	Persons	50,00	0,00	0,00	112,00	
F	PSI11	Number of projects focussed on reducing the mismatch between knowledge institutes and enterprises and/or government	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI11	Number of projects focussed on reducing the mismatch between knowledge institutes and enterprises and/or government	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	PSI12	Number of projects focussed on improving the cross-border cooperation concerning health	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI12	Number of projects	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00	46,00	

		focussed on improving the cross-border cooperation concerning health						
F	PSI14	Number of projects focussed on improving the cross-border cooperation concerning safety	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI14	Number of projects focussed on improving the cross-border cooperation concerning safety	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00	1,00	
F	PSI15	Number of cross-border cooperation between public authorities	Number of cooperations	10,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI15	Number of cross-border cooperation between public authorities	Number of cooperations	10,00	0,00	0,00	9,00	
F	PSI16	Number of meeting-projects between residents of the EMR	Number of meeting-projects	2,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI16	Number of meeting-projects between residents of the EMR	Number of meeting-projects	2,00	0,00	0,00	7,00	

F	PSI17	Number of projects focussed on sustainable and intelligent mobility and/or new alternative means of transporting	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI17	Number of projects focussed on sustainable and intelligent mobility and/or new alternative means of transporting	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls
F	PSI18	Number of projects focussed on strengthening the quality of cultural activities by cooperation between cultural organizations	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00		
S	PSI18	Number of projects focussed on strengthening the quality of cultural activities by cooperation between cultural organizations	Number of projects	2,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	Approved projects were not concerned with this. Priority will be given to this in the following calls

Priority Axis		5 - Technical Assistance						
(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2014	2015	2016	Observations
F	PSI23	Number of promotion and publicity activities (focussed on promotion and publicity of the programme)	Number	20,00			1,00	
S	PSI23	Number of promotion and publicity activities (focussed on promotion and publicity of the programme)	Number	20,00				
F	PSI24	Number of research, studies and evaluations (on (sub)programme level for the purpose of effective functioning of the programme)	Number	4,00			1,00	
S	PSI24	Number of research, studies and evaluations (on	Number	4,00				

		(sub)programme level for the purpose of effective functioning of the programme)						
F	PSI25	Jobs involved in implementation (in fte)	fte	14,00			12,00	
S	PSI25	Jobs involved in implementation (in fte)	fte	14,00				
F	PSI30	Annual reports	Number	6,00			2,00	
S	PSI30	Annual reports	Number	6,00				

3.3. Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

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	2016 Final target (2023) total	2014	2015	2016	Observations
1	F	PI1.2	Amount of certified expenditures made by beneficiaries as specified in the payment claims to the European Commission	Euro	5.752.588,00	47.142.857,00			0,00	
1	I	PI1.1	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border research projects	Number	5	25,00			25,00	
1	O	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	0	25,00			146,00	
2	F	PI1.2	Amount of certified expenditures made by beneficiaries as specified in the payment claims to the European Commission	Euro	3.486.417,00	28.571.430,00			0,00	
2	I	PI2.1	Number of SMEs receiving support	Number	80	750,00			200,00	
2	O	PI2.1	Number of SMEs receiving support	Number	0	750,00			0,00	
3	F	PI1.2	Amount of certified expenditures made by beneficiaries as specified in the payment claims to the European Commission	Euro	3.388.841,00	27.771.786,00			0,00	

3	I	PI3.1	Number of participants in cross-border projects aiming at equal treatment between men and women, non-discrimination and social inclusion	Number	40	300,00			6.240,00	
3	O	PI3.1	Number of participants in cross-border projects aiming at equal treatment between men and women, non-discrimination and social inclusion	Number	0	300,00			0,00	
4	F	PI1.2	Amount of certified expenditures made by beneficiaries as specified in the payment claims to the European Commission	Euro	3.102.912,00	25.428.572,00			0,00	
4	I	PI4.1	Number of cross-border cooperation between public authorities	Number	3	10,00			9,00	
4	O	PI4.1	Number of cross-border cooperation between public authorities	Number	0	10,00			0,00	

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

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
1	ERDF	Total	47.142.857,00	70,00	19.845.688,00	42,10%	19.845.688,00	0,00	0,00%	5
2	ERDF	Total	28.571.430,00	70,00	9.899.617,00	34,65%	9.899.617,00	0,00	0,00%	3
3	ERDF	Total	27.771.786,00	70,00	3.570.063,00	12,85%	3.570.063,00	0,00	0,00%	2
4	ERDF	Total	25.428.572,00	70,00	11.939.881,00	46,95%	11.939.881,00	0,00	0,00%	3
5	ERDF	Total	11.520.000,00	50,00	16.219.913,00	140,80%	16.219.913,00	0,00	0,00%	6
Total	ERDF		140.434.645,00	68,36	61.475.162,00	43,77%	61.475.162,00	0,00	0,00%	19
Grand total			140.434.645,00	68,36	61.475.162,00	43,77%	61.475.162,00	0,00	0,00%	19

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

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 eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	056	01	01	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	NL423	4,752,193.00	4,752,193.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	057	01	01	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	NL423	5,620,340.00	5,620,340.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	NL423	4,855,691.00	4,855,691.00	0.00	2
1	ERDF	063	01	01	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	NL423	4,617,464.00	4,617,464.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	067	01	01	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	06	NL423	3,742,287.00	3,742,287.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	067	01	01	07	10	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	19	NL423	6,157,330.00	6,157,330.00	0.00	2
3	ERDF	109	01	01	07	10	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	NL423	1,966,335.00	1,966,335.00	0.00	1
3	ERDF	117	01	01	07	10	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	19	NL423	1,603,728.00	1,603,728.00	0.00	1

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 eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
4	ERDF	053	01	01	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	NL423	5,226,981.00	5,226,981.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	053	01	01	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	NL423	3,375,350.00	3,375,350.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	112	01	01	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	NL423	3,337,550.00	3,337,550.00	0.00	1
5	ERDF		01	07	07		08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08			16,219,913.00	16,219,913.00	0.00	6

4 SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

In accordance with Article 56 of EU Regulation 1303/2013, the programme has drawn up an evaluation plan to measure and evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of the programme. However, the evaluation plan was only adopted by the Monitoring Committee in 2017. No evaluations therefore took place in 2016.

Preparations did, however, begin in 2016 for an expert view that took place in 2017. That view naturally included the activities in 2016.

5 ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

The programme was only approved late (15 December 2015), meaning that the start was also delayed. An important accent was therefore on measures to promote the development, submission, and assessment of project proposals in order to be able to implement the programme as soon as possible. A lot of hard work was carried out together with the regional antennas. That resulted in more than 40% of the funds still being committed in 2016. In 2017, that percentage will increase to almost 60%.

It should be noted that the speed-up in commitments has not yet led to a speed-up in spending. Measures for this will need to be taken in 2017.

The late approval did mean, however, that organization of the programme could also start later. This was also partly caused by the fact that the partners had decided to transfer the function of MA – previously assigned (for IV) to the Meuse-Rhine Euregio Foundation – to the Province of Limburg. A structure therefore needed to be set up within the province and the new positions needed to be filled. This was ultimately accomplished in the course of 2016 and almost all the positions could be filled during the second half of 2016. An important consequence of this late development was that the designation procedure could not be completed in 2016; it will in fact be completed in mid-2017. Despite these organizational and capacity problems, the programme organization still succeeded in approving the first projects and starting the following tranches.

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 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)

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

Priority axis	1 - Innovation 2020
<p>This priority got off to a good start. A number of indicators will certainly be achieved, although there are still questions about the way in which the project applicants have calculated the indicator values. The existing cross-border cooperation between the knowledge institutions will receive a major boost from the approved projects. The associated knowledge generation is exceptionally positive, but during implementation of the projects, knowledge transfer to businesses in the Meuse-Rhine Euregio will need to be closely monitored.</p> <p>As already mentioned above, the program authorities have question marks around the announced contribution to the output indicators at project level. During the selection process, it appeared that certain applicants included very high indicator targets in their project proposal. Even though the correct assessment of the possible contribution of a concrete action is not an easy exercise, this is however of great importance for the proper management of the cooperation programme.</p> <p>The MA/JS has foreseen specific measures to guide the applicants and beneficiaries in the drafting of target values and in reporting of the concrete realisations. First there will be worked on better definitions of the indicators and the improvement of the accompanying documentation on this subject. Thereafter, for the already selected projects the target values will be discussed in a bilateral meeting with the lead beneficiary and, where necessary, be adjusted to realistic values. The implementation of these measures will take place in the course of 2017.</p> <p>As to the performance indicators, because of lack of manpower it was for the MA/JS not possible to look up the values for 2016. Therefore, the fields in question were deliberately left blank.</p> <p>The situation described above concerning the indicators applies to all priorities of the programme with the exception of the priority linked to technical assistance.</p>	
Priority axis	2 - Economy 2020
<p>The three approved projects offer a wide range of cross-border support for businesses, especially for starters and restarters. Although various perspectives have been chosen, optimum coordination is ensured by a joint steering group. Despite this positive development, the aspect of sustainable business practices is still lagging behind in the cross-border region. Additional attention will be paid to this in the coming years via the new calls. This aspect will be given priority when selecting projects.</p>	
Priority axis	3 - Social inclusion and education
<p>The two projects that have been approved are key elements for promoting social inclusion in the Meuse-Rhine Euregio (namely as regards the elderly and healthcare) and for coordinating theory and practice in this field by deploying students. Nevertheless, the number of applications is lagging behind other priorities and more attention should be paid to cross-border labour market aspects. This is therefore an important challenge for the future and will be a point for attention in the following calls.</p>	

Priority axis	4 – Territorial development
Territorial development is of great importance for cross-border cooperation. It has long been the object of a great deal of attention in the Meuse-Rhine Euregio. That is why there are three approved projects that appeal to the imagination and build on the close cooperation from the past. The emphasis is now mainly on healthcare, but it is expected that other important topics such as mobility, tourism, spatial planning, and cross-border contacts between residents will be addressed sufficiently in the coming years.	
Priority axis	5 – Technical Assistance
Using the knowledge and experience of staff of the previous programmes allowed a flying start to be made despite late approval. On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that the current programme and the accompanying (new) regulations differ from previous programmes and that staff will need to acquire this new knowledge and this new approach. This did not impede the progress of project development but did mean that more time was necessary for aligning the processes and associated documents. Now that this has been arranged, professional management can be expected from the various bodies.	

7.2. 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.

The third priority of the programme provides for specific actions aimed at social inclusion and at counteracting inequality. A good example is the euPrevent SFC project, which provides for cross-border measures to involve older people in social developments.

In addition, by means of explicit questions in the application form the applicants are asked to explain the expected impact of their project in this area. When assessing the projects by the MA/JS, this explanation will be checked as a specific criterion. The outcome of the assessment is registered in a checklist.

For the selected projects, the concrete application of the measures described in the application form and the application of the (European) rules will be checked by the MA/JS during the assessment of the progress reports and during any on-the-spot checks.

7.3. 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.

The submitted projects score neutral to positive for the aspect of sustainability. It must be noted that hardly any investment is foreseen in the projects, meaning that the impact on the environment and the local community is very limited. Most of the projects involve the deployment of staff and expertise in order to be able to achieve the aims of the project.

The involvement of environmental authorities is limited precisely because of the fact that there is hardly any investment. This can change, of course, if specific projects are submitted in the future that do involve investment that has an impact on the environment.

It has also been found that the number of proposals, in particular under priority 2 – which promotes sustainable actions and energy limitation (in trade and industry) – is lagging behind, so that the intended results in this area are also doing so. This will be taken into account when selecting projects for further calls. This will also be a factor in the (future) evaluation.

Quite apart from the effects of the project on its environment and on sustainable development, assessment will also involve considering the sustainability of the project itself. The central question will be whether the project or the results of the project will be maintained after completion. The project applicants must indicate what safeguards for this are included in the proposal. This will play an important role in the assessment by the Monitoring Committee.

7.4. 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 (%)
Total	0,00	0,00%

There were no projects within call 1 that contributed to preventing climate change. This explains the fact that there are no values listed in the table above.

In the case of call 2, the projects under which were approved in 2017, there was one project within axis 1 that is specifically aimed at this (light vehicle). The climate change targets are therefore still far removed on the basis of the currently approved projects. This demands particular attention in the coming years.

7.5. 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 partners play an important role in the development and implementation of the programme. The partners include the representatives of the Member States and regions (provinces) that form part of the programme area. None of the Member States or regions are excluded and all have promised cooperation and recorded this in the cooperation agreement between the partners. There is regular consultation between officials representing the various programme authorities (MA, CA, JS, FLC, RAs) and the programme partners. The most important consultation platform is of course the Monitoring Committee, within which all the partners are represented, plus the European Commission and the EMR Foundation. The Monitoring Committee not only monitors the programme but also decides on the funding applications.

The social-economic partners are involved in the programme through the Foundation. Within the Foundation there are regular consultations with representatives of businesses and employees, with the Interreg programme also being discussed. Where relevant, the results of these consultations are discussed by the Monitoring Committee.

In 2016, the Monitoring Committee met 4 times, the first time being on 4 March 2016 for the installation of the Monitoring Committee and ratification of the programme agreement between all the partners involved in the programme. Representatives of all the partners were present at the meetings. The chairmanship rotates between the partners each year; in 2016, the Walloon government held the position. The Rules of Procedure were also adopted at the first meeting and the Standing Rules at the meeting on 28 June.

The current system for consultation with the partners works well. There is open dialogue and many (official) contacts in order to properly align the processes and projects. It must be noted, however, that in comparison with other programmes, there is less administrative involvement in the programme on the part of the partners. The MA intends to take initiatives in 2017 to increase the involvement of administrators, especially in view of the forthcoming discussion on the future of the Structural Funds and the role of Interreg in that regard.

8 OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) N° 1299/2013

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

The evaluation plan was only approved in 2017. There were therefore no evaluations in 2016. An expert view was started, however; this was concluded in 2017.

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

A communication strategy was drawn up for the programme in 2016 as well as annual plans for 2016 and 2017. This led to the creation and dissemination of various brochures (in the three languages of the programme) and other information material. The aim of communication in the next few years is, after all, to reach as many potential project applicants as possible and to provide them with full information about the possibilities of the programme. In subsequent years, the emphasis will shift to providing information to a broad public about the results achieved by the programme. Information about the programme is also being disseminated by the partners and via regional antennas.

The original Interreg IV website was adapted and publicised. A new website will be launched in 2017. As yet, there have been no activities via the social media. This aspect will be tackled seriously when the new website is launched.

The provision of information via the programme bodies and the partners has led to potential project applicants being well informed about the programme and its possibilities and actually submitting proposals.

This was once more underlined by a major annual event organised in Maastricht in November 2016 to mark the start of the new Interreg V programme and to round off the existing Interreg IV programme. Around 200 people from a variety of Euregional organisations took part.

During the event the attendants were given the opportunity to participate in two workshops (free choice between a total of six workshops). The workshops were related to the four priority axes, the selection process and the implementation of a project.

In addition to the provision of information, of course, time was provided for mutual contacts and partner search.

In 2016, there was little communication to the press and the media in general. Two press releases were sent out: a first message linked to the selection of the first projects by the MC in June, the second message was linked to the annual event.

At project level, no communication activities have taken place in 2016. This is explained by the fact that the project's activities only started after receipt of the official grant letter by the MA (only in December 2016 the first ones have been sent).

9 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)

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

Not applicable.

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

The Interreg V-A EMR programme is a member of Interact and thus receives regular information about current developments. In 2016, representatives of the MA and the CA took part in training sessions and courses organised by Interact. These activities will continue in 2017.

There were no training sessions or meetings for beneficiaries in 2016. There were regular internal meetings, however, between all the programme management bodies (MA, CA, JS, FLC, RA) and with the partners (through structured consultation between officials) so as to pool knowledge and experience and determine strategies. For 2017, more information and knowhow meetings are foreseen for the projects (beneficiaries) and a number of seminars will be organized.

9.3. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

Not applicable.

10 SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

Not applicable.

11 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 view of the recent start and the fact that projects have only been approved under call 1, there is no backlog in this area and no further actions were required or implemented.

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Interreg EMR - Jaarverslag 2016 - Publikssamenvatting	Citizens' summary	30-Jun-2017		Ares(2017)4870703	Interreg EMR - Jaarverslag 2016 - Publikssamenvatting	05-Oct-2017	nodeurje

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated