

VISUAL IDENTITY STYLE GUIDE

for projects information and communication activities

Version No 3/2021

ANNEX I - EU REGULATIONS OF VISUAL IDENTITY



INTRODUCTION

The Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia Programme (hereinafter, Programme) is a European Territorial Cooperation programme part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and therefore an integral part of the European Union's Cohesion Policy.

This document contains the extracts of EU visual rules that are the basis of the Visual Identity style guide for projects information and communication activities for the Programme and its funded projects, as follows:

- Articles 115-117 and Annex XII of EU Regulation 1303/2013
- Articles 3-5 and Annex II of Implementing EU Regulation 821/2014

**REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 17 December 2013**

Article 115

Information and communication

1. Member States and managing authorities shall be responsible for:
 - (a) drawing up communication strategies;
 - (b) ensuring the establishment of a single website or a single website portal providing information on, and access to, all operational programmes in that Member State, including information about the timing of implementation of programming and any related public consultation processes;
 - (c) informing potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under operational programmes;
 - (d) publicising to Union citizens the role and achievements of cohesion policy and of the Funds through information and communication actions on the results and impact of Partnership Agreements, operational programmes and operations.
2. Member States or managing authorities shall, in order to ensure transparency concerning support from the Funds, maintain a list of operations by operational programme and by Fund in a spreadsheet data format, which allows data to be sorted, searched, extracted, compared and easily published on the internet, for instance in CSV or XML format. The list of operations shall be accessible through the single website or the single website portal providing a list and summary of all operational programmes in that Member State.

In order to encourage the use of the list of operations subsequently by the private sector, civil society or national public administration, the website may clearly indicate the applicable licensing rules under which data are published. The list of operations shall be updated at least every six months.

The minimum information to be set out in the list of operations is laid down in Annex XII.
3. Detailed rules concerning the information and communication measures for the public and information measures for applicants and for beneficiaries are laid down in Annex XII.
4. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts concerning the technical characteristics of information and communication measures for the operation and instructions for creating the emblem and a definition of the standard colours. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 150(3).

Article 116

Communication strategy

1. The Member State or the managing authorities shall draw up a communication strategy for each operational programme. A common communication strategy may be drawn up for several operational programmes. The communication strategy shall take into account the size of the operational programme or programmes concerned, in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

The communication strategy shall include the elements set out in Annex XII.
2. The communication strategy shall be submitted to the monitoring committee for approval in accordance with point (d) of Article 110(2) no later than six months after the adoption of the operational programme or programmes concerned.

Where a common communication strategy is drawn up for several operational programmes and concerns several monitoring committees, the Member State may designate one monitoring committee to be responsible, in consultation with the other relevant monitoring committees, for the approval of the common communication strategy and for the approval of any subsequent amendments of that strategy.

Where necessary, the Member State or managing authorities may amend the communication strategy during the programming period. The amended communication strategy shall be submitted by the managing authority to the monitoring committee for approval in accordance with point (d) of Article 110(2).
3. By way of derogation from the third subparagraph of paragraph 2, the managing authority shall inform the monitoring committee or committees responsible at least once a year on the progress in the implementation of the communication strategy as referred to in point (c) of Article 110(1) and on its analysis of the results as well as on the planned information and communication activities to be carried out in the following year. The monitoring committee shall, if it considers it to be appropriate, give an opinion on the planned activities for the following year.

Article 117

Information and communication officers and their networks

1. Each Member State shall designate an information and communication officer to coordinate information and communication actions in relation to one or more Funds, including relevant programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal, and shall inform the Commission accordingly.
2. The information and communication officer shall be responsible for the coordination of the national network of Fund communicators, where such a network exists, the creation and maintenance of the website or website portal referred to in Annex XII and the provision of an overview of communication measures undertaken at Member State level.
3. Each managing authority shall designate one person to be responsible for information and communication at operational programme level and shall inform the Commission of those designated. Where appropriate, one person may be designated for several operational programmes.
4. Union networks comprising the members designated by the Member States shall be set up by the Commission to ensure exchange of information on the results of the implementation of the communication strategies, the exchange of experience in implementing the information and communication measures, and the exchange of good practices.

ANNEX XII

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ON SUPPORT FROM THE FUNDS

1. LIST OF OPERATIONS

The list of operations referred to in Article 115(2) shall contain, in at least one of the official languages of the Member State, the following data fields:

- beneficiary name (only of legal entities; no natural persons shall be named);
- operation name;
- operation summary;
- operation start date;
- operation end date (expected date for physical completion or full implementation of the operation);
- total eligible expenditure allocated to the operation;
- Union co-financing rate, as per priority axis;
- operation postcode; or other appropriate location indicator;
- country;
- name of category of intervention for the operation in accordance with point (b) (vi) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2);
- date of last update of the list of operations.

The headings of the data fields shall be also provided in at least one other official language of the Union.

2. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION MEASURES FOR THE PUBLIC

The Member State, the managing authority and the beneficiaries shall take the steps necessary to provide information to, and communicate with, the public on operations supported by an operational programme in accordance with this Regulation.

2.1. Responsibilities of the Member State and the managing authority

1. The Member State and the managing authority shall ensure that the information and communication measures are implemented in accordance with the communication strategy and that those measures aim for the widest possible media coverage using various forms and methods of communication at the appropriate level.
2. The Member State or the managing authority shall be responsible for at least the following information and communication measures:
 - (a) organising a major information activity publicising the launch of the operational programme or programmes, even prior to the approval of the relevant communication strategies;
 - (b) organising one major information activity a year which promotes the funding opportunities and the strategies pursued and presents the achievements of the operational programme or programmes, including, where relevant, major projects, joint action plans and other project examples;
 - (c) displaying the Union emblem at the premises of each managing authority;
 - (d) publishing electronically the list of operations in accordance with Section 1 of this Annex;
 - (e) giving examples of operations, by operational programme, on the single website or on the operational programme's website that is accessible through the single website portal; the examples should be in a widely spoken official language of the Union other than the official language or languages of the Member State concerned;
 - (f) updating information about the operational programme's implementation, including, when appropriate, its main achievements, on the single website or on the operational programme's website that is accessible through the single website portal.
3. The managing authority shall involve in information and communication measures, in accordance with national laws and practices, the following bodies where appropriate:
 - (a) the partners referred to in Article 5;
 - (b) information centres on Europe, as well as Commission representation offices, and information offices of the European Parliament in the Member States;
 - (c) educational and research institutions.

These bodies shall widely disseminate the information described in Article 115(1).

2.2. Responsibilities of the beneficiaries

1. All information and communication measures provided by the beneficiary shall acknowledge support from the Funds to the operation by displaying:

- (a) the Union emblem in accordance with the technical characteristics laid down in the implementing act adopted by the Commission under Article 115(4), together with a reference to the Union;
- (b) a reference to the Fund or Funds supporting the operation.

Where an information or communication measure relates to an operation or to several operations co-financed by more than one Fund, the reference provided for in point (b) may be replaced by a reference to the ESI Funds.

2. During implementation of an operation, the beneficiary shall inform the public about the support obtained from the Funds by:

- (a) providing on the beneficiary's website, where such a website exists, a short description of the operation, proportionate to the level of support, including its aims and results, and highlighting the financial support from the Union;
- (b) placing, for operations not falling under points 4 and 5, at least one poster with information about the project (minimum size A3), including the financial support from the Union, at a location readily visible to the public, such as the entrance area of a building.

3. For operations supported by the ESF, and in appropriate cases for operations supported by the ERDF or Cohesion Fund, the beneficiary shall ensure that those taking part in an operation have been informed of this funding.

Any document, relating to the implementation of an operation which is used for the public or for participants, including any attendance or other certificate, shall include a statement to the effect that the operational programme was supported by the Fund or Funds.

4. During implementation of an ERDF or Cohesion Fund operation, the beneficiary shall put up, at a location readily visible to the public, a temporary billboard of a significant size for each operation consisting of the financing of infrastructure or construction operations for which the total public support to the operation exceeds EUR 500 000.

5. No later than three months after completion of an operation, the beneficiary shall put up a permanent plaque or billboard of significant size at a location readily visible to the public for each operation that fulfils the following criteria:

- (a) the total public support to the operation exceeds EUR 500 000;
- (b) the operation consists of the purchase of a physical object or of the financing of infrastructure or of construction operations.

The plaque or billboard shall state the name and the main objective of the operation. It shall be prepared in accordance with the technical characteristics adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 115(4).

3. INFORMATION MEASURES FOR POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND BENEFICIARIES

3.1. Information measures for potential beneficiaries

1. The managing authority shall ensure, in accordance with the communication strategy, that the operational programme's strategy and objectives, and the funding opportunities offered through joint support from the Union and the Member State, are disseminated widely to potential beneficiaries and all interested parties, with details of the financial support from the Funds concerned.

2. The managing authority shall ensure that potential beneficiaries have access to the relevant information, including updated information where necessary, and taking into account the accessibility of electronic or other communication services for certain potential beneficiaries, on at least the following:

- (a) the funding opportunities and the launching of application calls;
- (b) the eligibility of expenditure conditions to be met in order to qualify for support under an operational programme;
- (c) a description of the procedures for examining applications for funding and of the time periods involved;
- (d) the criteria for selecting the operations to be supported;
- (e) the contacts at national, regional or local level that are able to provide information on the operational programmes;
- (f) the responsibility of potential beneficiaries to inform the public about the aim of the operation and the support from the Funds to the operation in accordance with point 2.2. The managing authority may request potential beneficiaries to propose indicative communication activities, proportional to the size of the operation, in the applications.

3.2. Information measures for beneficiaries

1. The managing authority shall inform beneficiaries that acceptance of funding constitutes an acceptance of their inclusion in the list of operations published in accordance with Article 115(2).
2. The managing authority shall provide information and communication tools, including templates in electronic format, to help beneficiaries to meet their obligations set out in point 2.2, where appropriate.

4. ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The communication strategy drawn up by the managing authority and, where appropriate, by the Member State shall include the following elements:

- (a) a description of the approach taken, including the main information and communication measures to be taken by the Member State or the managing authority and aimed at potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries, multipliers and the wider public, having regard to the aims described in Article 115;
- (b) a description of materials that will be made available in formats accessible for people with disabilities;
- (c) a description of how beneficiaries will be supported in their communication activities;
- (d) the indicative budget for implementation of the strategy;
- (e) a description of the administrative bodies, including the staff resources, responsible for implementing the information and communication measures;
- (f) the arrangements for the information and communication measures referred to in point 2, including the website or website portal at which such data may be found;
- (g) an indication of how the information and communication measures shall be assessed in terms of visibility and awareness of policy, operational programmes and operations, and of the role played by the Funds and the Union;
- (h) where appropriate, a description of the use of the main results of the previous operational programme;
- (i) an annual update setting out the information and communication activities to be carried out in the following year.

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 821/2014
of 28 July 2014

Article 3

Instructions for creating the emblem and a definition of the standard colours

The Union emblem shall be created in accordance with the graphic standards set out in Annex II.

Article 4

Technical characteristics for displaying the Union emblem and the reference to the Fund or Funds supporting the operation

1. The Union emblem referred to in point 1(a) of Section 2.2 of Annex XII to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 shall be displayed in colour on websites. In all other media, colour shall be used whenever possible and a monochrome version may only be used in justified cases.
2. The Union emblem shall always be clearly visible and placed in a prominent position. Its position and size shall be appropriate to the scale of the material or document being used. For small promotional objects the obligation to make reference to the Fund shall not apply.
3. When the Union emblem, the reference to the Union and the relevant Fund are displayed on a website:
 - (a) the Union emblem and the reference to the Union shall be visible, when landing on the website, inside the viewing area of a digital device, without requiring a user to scroll down the page;
 - (b) the reference to the relevant Fund shall be made visible on the same website.
4. The name 'European Union' shall always be spelled out in full. The name of a financial instrument shall include a reference to the fact that it is supported by the ESI Funds. The typeface to be used in conjunction with the Union emblem may be any of the following fonts: Arial, Auto, Calibri, Garamond, Trebuchet, Tahoma, Verdana, Ubuntu. Italic, underlined variations or font effects shall not be used. The positioning of the text in relation to the Union emblem shall not interfere with the Union emblem in any way. The font size used shall be proportionate to the size of the emblem. The colour of the font shall be reflex blue, black or white depending on the background.
5. If other logos are displayed in addition to the Union emblem, the Union emblem shall have at least the same size, measured in height or width, as the biggest of the other logos.

Article 5

Technical characteristics of permanent plaques and temporary or permanent billboards

1. The name of the operation, the main objective of the operation, the Union emblem together with the reference to the Union and the reference to the Fund or Funds to be displayed on the temporary billboard referred to in point 4 of Section 2.2 of Annex XII to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 shall take up at least 25 % of that billboard.
2. The name of the operation and the main objective of the activity supported by the operation, the Union emblem together with the reference to the Union and the reference to the Fund or Funds to be displayed on the permanent plaque or permanent billboard referred to in point 5 of Section 2.2 of Annex XII to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 shall take up at least 25 % of that plaque or billboard.

ANNEX II

Graphic standards for creating the Union emblem and the definition of the standard colours

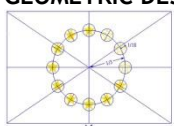
SYMBOLIC DESCRIPTION

Against a background of blue sky, twelve golden stars form a circle representing the union of the peoples of Europe. The number of stars is fixed, twelve being the symbol of perfection and unity.

HERALDIC DESCRIPTION

On an azure field a circle of twelve golden mullets, their points not touching.

GEOMETRIC DESCRIPTION



The emblem has the form of a blue rectangular flag of which the fly is one and a half times the length of the hoist. Twelve gold stars situated at equal intervals form an invisible circle whose center is the point of intersection of the diagonals of the rectangle. The radius of the circle is equal to one third of the height of the hoist. Each of the stars has five points which are situated on the circumference of an invisible circle whose radius is equal to one eighteenth of the height of the hoist. All the stars are upright, i.e. with one point vertical and two points in a straight line at right angles to the mast. The circle is arranged so that the stars appear in the position of the hours on the face of a clock. Their number is invariable.

REGULATION COLOURS

The emblem is in the following colours:

- PANTONE REFLEX BLUE for the surface of the rectangle;
- PANTONE YELLOW for the stars.

FOUR-COLOUR PROCESS

If the four-colour process is used, recreate the two standard colours by using the four colours of the four-colour process.

PANTONE YELLOW is obtained by using 100 % 'Process Yellow'.

PANTONE REFLEX BLUE is obtained by mixing 100 % 'Process Cyan' and 80 % 'Process Magenta'.

INTERNET

PANTONE REFLEX BLUE corresponds in the web-palette colour RGB:0/51/153 (hexadecimal: 003399) and PANTONE YELLOW corresponds in the web-palette colour RGB: 255/204/0 (hexadecimal: FFCC00).

MONOCHROME REPRODUCTION PROCESS

Using black, outline the rectangle in black and print the stars in black on white.



Using blue (Reflex Blue), use 100 % with the stars reproduced in negative white.



REPRODUCTION ON A COLOURED BACKGROUND

If there is no alternative to a coloured background, put a white border around the rectangle, the width of the border being 1/25th of the height of the rectangle.

