

Evaluation Plan

Document	Evaluation Plan
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Acronyms	
MA	Managing Authority
EC	European Commission
MC	Monitoring Committee
JS	Joint Secretariat
AIR	Annual Implementation Report

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Foreword

The new planning cycle for Structural funds during the 2014-2020 period is an important opportunity for the Authorities responsible for managing funding to take another step forwards in terms of developing their organizational, managerial and evaluation capacities for complex socio-economic development Programmes.

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Title V, Chapter 2 appoints Member States to draw up Evaluation Plans outlining how evaluation reports should be conducted for the entire planning period.

In compliance with Article 114 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the reports should be drawn up within one year of the Programme's approval.

This Evaluation Plan for the Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020 has been drafted pursuant to the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 (CPR, Articles 50, 54, 56, 110 and 114), of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 (ERDF Reg., Article 14) and of the EC guidelines (EC - DGREGIO Guidance document on evaluation plans, February 2015 and Guidance document on monitoring and evaluation, March 2014), and also with national Guidelines where relevant.

In order to comply with the Regulations requirement for 2014-2020, all designated Managing Authorities (MA) of Programmes co-funded by the European Union in place in the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia have been working together for the implementation of a comprehensive Evaluation for all Programmes, to be submitted for approval to the respective MCs as required by the Regulations.

The Evaluation Plan has been drawn up by the MA and is subject to the approval of the MC by, in order to be adopted by the EC (EC) after uploading in the SFC system. After adoption it shall be published on the Programme's website www.italo.eu .

This Evaluation Plan defines the assessment strategy for the entire period of implementation of the Programme, and is designed to identify the evaluation activities to foster an efficient management of the Programme and to promote a result-oriented decision making. It defines the framework in which planning and carrying out evaluations on the Programme quality in order to ensure its effectiveness, efficiency and impact.

The Plan provides a general outline of the evaluation during the Programming period (Article 56, Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013), establishing the mechanisms for implementing the Plan, the links between the evaluation and monitoring system, the financial resources to be used for the evaluation and the methods for appointing the service and disseminating the results.

Finally it provides an indicative list of the evaluations to be performed during the 2014-2020 Programming period, the field of analysis for each evaluation, the financial resources allocated and indicative deadlines.

This document contains broad indication of the planned evaluations, however new evaluation requirements could anyhow emerge.

Therefore, this Evaluation Plan will be reviewed annually.

1. Objectives, content, coordination

1.1 Main Objectives

The EC "Guidance Document on evaluation plans" dated February 2015 provides recommendations for the design of evaluation plans. The main objectives of the evaluation plan for the 2014-2020 Programming period are:

- i. provide a reference framework for evaluations, especially those for assessing effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the Programme (Reg. 1303/2013, Art. 56.3);
- ii. improve the quality of evaluations through effective planning, production and collection of the necessary data ensuring all necessary and appropriate resources (equipment, personnel, facilities, etc.) (Reg. 1303/2013, Art. 54.2);
- iii. promote an evidence/evaluation-based policy;
- iv. facilitate consolidated decisions on the implementation and the strategic orientation of the Programme;
- v. facilitate the synthesis, interpretation and use of results from monitoring and evaluation activities;
- vi. ensure that the assessments provide useful information for the AIRs and for the Member States' reports;
- vii. collect useful information on the impact of the Programme;
- viii. ensure a realistic assessment of the Programmes impact;
- ix. draw lessons for future Programming periods.
- x. set out how partners were involved.

In particular, Chapter II of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 requires evaluations to be conducted in three main phases: ex-ante, on-going and ex-post.

This Evaluation Plan is mainly focused on the ongoing evaluation: the ex-ante evaluation has already been submitted for approval by the EC together with the Programme; the ex-post evaluation will be performed at the end of the Programming period by the EC or the Member State working together with the Commission.

The on-going evaluation shall be performed through a series of evaluation exercises aiming to provide constant supervision of the Programme's implementation.

These can be divided into:

- a. evaluations designed to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the activities funded by the Programme;
- b. evaluations designed to check how the funds allocated to the Programme contributed to the objectives of each priority;

- c. in-depth evaluations of all strategic and operative aspects implementing the Programme.

The evaluation approaches used (both theory-based and hypothetical) will leave ground for ex-post evaluations on concluded interventions to allow assessment of results and activities of the ongoing Programme, as well as impact evaluations.

1.2 Content of the Plan

The Evaluation Plan regards the Interreg Programme V-A Italy-Slovenia for the Programming period 2014-2020. The Programme area includes five Italian NUTS3 areas coinciding with the provinces of Venice, Udine, Pordenone, Gorizia and Trieste and five Slovenian statistical regions of Primorsko-notranjska, Osrednjeslovenska, Gorenjska, Obalno-kraška and Goriška.

Compared to 2007-2013 Programme, the strategy of the Programme brings about some news:

- Within Programme priority axis 1, crossborder economic cooperation is strongly linked to research and innovation and to transfer of know-how therefore it is essential the interrelation among SMEs and research centers;
- Within Priority axis 2 transport system is closely linked to a concept of sustainability and environmental preservation;
- Within Priority axis 3, tourism is connected to urban accessibility and to safeguard of natural and cultural heritage;
- Priority axis 4 is focused on the pivotal role given to institutional cooperation;
- the programme implements another EU Regulation novelty such as the ITI managed by the Intermediate body of the EGCT GO.

In light of the new context just described, evaluation shall:

- highlight Programme visibility in terms of contribution to a strategy for the development of local productive network
- measure results in terms of better capacity of innovation and higher competitiveness of enterprises according to the logic of networking and participative development;
- valorize territorial promotion and safeguard in terms of enhancing its attractiveness as an added-value of the Programme interventions;
- valorize experiences of institutional crossborder governance in order to test advanced models of joint management of territories.

Based on the above mentioned objectives and on the specific needs of the Programme, the following evaluations are planned for 2014-2020:

- evaluation on the efficiency and effectiveness of Programme implementation;
- impact Evaluation of each priority axis specific objectives of the Programme.

The Evaluation of effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the Programme are defined by art. 54 (1) of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and the EC Guidance documents (in particular, the "Guidance document on monitoring and evaluation" and the "Guidance Document on the evaluation plan"). In line with Article 56 (3) of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 the ERDF support contribution to achievement of the objectives of each priority shall be evaluated at least once during the Programming period.

The Evaluations on effectiveness and impact are essential for the collection of information on the fulfillment of Programme objective and they help improving the Programme impact during the Programming period and after its closure. Such evaluations are also essential to make visible the benefits brought about also by ensuring greater transparency.

More details on the evaluations and their timeframe are provided in Section 3 of this document.

The evaluation activities will take into account the outcomes of previous studies/evaluations carried out by the Programme: in the period 2007-2013 the ongoing evaluation analyzed in particular the relevance, consistency, efficiency and effectiveness of the fulfilled interventions in order to identify problems and solutions for Programme implementation and to ease ex post Evaluation. Also a thematic report has been produced as an investigation on the features of beneficiaries and on project partnership with a territorial approach.

1.3 Coordination Mechanism

In order to coordinate the planning and implementation of evaluations as well as to exchanging evaluation's outcomes and methodology there are no formalized structures foreseen: a working group will be nominated in order to assist the MC also in the tasks concerning Programme monitoring and evaluation.

The Plan is also potentially synergized with other Programmes established in the same organizational structure of the MA, as the regional ERDF Programme and the European Social Fund of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and of Interreg Italy- Austria.

The MA is responsible for coordinating the ongoing evaluation. In particular by:

- proposing the structure and main contents of the present Evaluation Plan, in order to ensure a favorable framework to perform evaluation;
- guaranteeing financial resources from Programme Technical Assistance Axis for a tender procedure for awarding the evaluation service (divided into two lots - Lot 2:

CP Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020; Lot 1: ROP ERDF, ESF and EAFRD of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia);

- ensuring that monitoring data is collected and made available for evaluation activities;
- guaranteeing that the evaluation objectives and quality criteria are met;
- presenting the results of the evaluation to the MC and the Programme partnership, as well as to the EC;
- participating in meetings and discussions about the evaluation.

2. Actors involved

2.1 Programme Authorities/Structures and partners

The main responsibilities in the Programme evaluation belong to the MC and the MA.

MC

The MC has a role on the development and implementation of the Evaluation Plan, pursuant to article 110 of the EU Regulation 1303/2013. The Committee examines and approves the evaluation plan of the Programme and any amendment thereto (Article 110 (2) of Reg. 1303/2013). As specified in the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Committee, it evaluates in particular the progress made in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to findings of evaluation.

According to article 49 (1) of the EU Regulation 1303/2013, the MC shall review implementation of the Programme and progress made towards achieving its objectives. In doing so, it shall have regard to the financial data, common and Programme-specific indicators, including changes in the value of result indicators and progress towards quantified target values, and the milestones defined in the performance framework.

According to article 49 (4) of the EU Regulation 1303/2013, the MC may make observations to the MA regarding implementation and evaluation of the Programme including actions related to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries. The MC shall monitor actions taken as a result of its observations.

The presentation to the MC of the state of play of the amendments to the Evaluation Plan shall be functional to the drafting of the AIR which also contains indication of progress in the implementation of the Evaluation Plan.

The tasks in charge of the MC shall be ensured through the institution of a Working Group by the MC.

MA and JS

Pursuant to Article 114 (1) of Reg. 1303/2013, the MA is responsible to draw up an evaluation plan and to submit it to the MC no later than one year after the adoption of the operational Programme.

The MA shall transmit to the EC for information purposes the evaluation plan and any of its amendments approved by the MC.

According to Article 56 (3) of Reg. 1303/2013, during the Programming period, the MA shall ensure that evaluations, including evaluations to assess effectiveness, efficiency and impact, are carried out on the basis of the Evaluation Plan and that each evaluation is

subject to appropriate follow-up. At least once during the Programming period, an evaluation shall assess how support from the ESI Funds has contributed to the objectives for each priority. All evaluations shall be examined by the MC and sent to the Commission.

In addition, pursuant to Article 114 (2) of Reg. 1303/2013, by 31 December 2022, the MA shall submit to the EC a report summarizing the findings of evaluations carried out during the Programming period and the main outputs and results of the operational Programme, providing comments on the reported information.

The MA is responsible for activating all procedures for appointing external experts as independent evaluators.

In this respect, Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in August 2016 awarded the service of Evaluation for all EU-funded-Programmes 2014/2020, included that on Programme Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia (see paragraph 2.2). The contract with evaluators in charge was signed in December 2016.

The JS/MA shall ensure coordination with the external experts in charge, with the Working Group and the MC, with the EC, eventually with INTERACT and with other Programmes (Interreg, ERDF, European Social Fund); ensuring the flow of relevant information among the various parties.

Considering the broad expertise of the JS in the general framework of the Programme also in the context of AIRs and final report, this wide knowledge might make sense also as framework for the evaluation tasks.

Programme partners and Working Group on Evaluation

The participation of Programme partners in the Programme evaluation activities will be organized through a specific Working Group on Evaluation which will assist the members of the MC in carrying out their tasks. Within the Working Group the relevant institutions will be consulted / involved in order to provide their contribution to Programme evaluation, its relevant outcomes and follow-up measures (in particular with respect to the report foreseen by Article 114 (2) of Reg. 1303/2013). The results of the evaluation will be shared with relevant partners through various communication channels, as described in § 2.3.

The MC shall delegate to the working group all the activities related to Programme evaluation as foreseen by articles 49 (4), 56 (3), 110 (1b), 110 (2c), 114.

The JS/MA will be the contact point for the Working Group.

(Parts of) evaluations might be carried out internally, in the only case it proves to be more effective than the use of external expertise, through the Working Group, as independent

body from authorities responsible for Programme implementation, pursuant to art. 54 (3) of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

2.2 External experts

The MA is responsible for activating all procedures for appointing external experts as independent evaluators through procedures assuring transparency and according to provisions in force.

External experts shall be contracted out of the Programme budget of Technical Assistance.

In particular, in consideration of the administrative organization of the autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (Single Centralised Committee), the tender has been divided into two lots, one for the evaluation of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020 and one for the evaluation of the Regional mainstream Programmes in relation to the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD funds.

In August 2016 the competent office of the autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia provisionally awarded the service of Evaluation for all EU-funded-Programmes 2014/2020, included that on Programme Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia. The evaluation service has been awarded following a specific public tender drafted in order to guarantee the quality of evaluation products. The contract with evaluators in charge was signed by the MA in December 2016.

The MA, for the tendered service and contract provisions, shall be the contact point for the external experts, who, as regards the technical and methodological aspects, shall keep a link not only with the MA but also with the MC, through the Working Group on Evaluation.

The external experts in the implementation of their tasks shall abide to the Programme Evaluation Plan as finally updated, amended and approved by the MC.

The MA shall, if necessary and with regard to issues relating to technical, methodological and qualitative aspects of evaluation, rely on the support of the FVG Regional Coordination Group on Joint Evaluation Plan (**PUV**) and of the FVG Regional Core Evaluation Unit (**NUVV**).

Apart from the mentioned Joint tender awarded, also in October 2016, a Notice was published on Programme website www.itaslo.eu in order to form a List of experts to be selected for projects evaluation under the Programme. This list can have a residual aim to select also experts for eventual evaluation needs of Programme on specific topics to be identified. The list of experts, divided into Italian and Slovene language proficiency, was published on Programme website www.itaslo.eu in December 2016 and will be valid,

according to law in force, for three years and it shall be subject to eventual updates and amendments.

3. Methodology

3.1. Evaluation process

For evaluation activities, the JS/MA will be the contact point for external evaluators and for the Working Group.

The Working Group discusses results and conclusions of the reports, revision of the plan and possible measures of follow-up.

The JS prepares a summary of the outcome of the Working Group for the MC.

The MC monitors, examines, approves the outcomes of the Working Group as foreseen in the EU Regulation.

The MA assesses the suitability and feasibility of the proposed follow-up measures.

The working group monitors and accompanies the implementation of the follow-up measures of the evaluations. The MC is duly informed.

3.2. Data collection and monitoring system

The Programme recognizes the importance of having a well-functioning monitoring system.

The main source of information for the evaluations consists of the monitoring data, integrated with all data of periodic reporting system.

In addition to the Programme's indicators, reports can include additional elements (for example, for environmental assessments).

The MA is responsible for providing the evaluators with all the monitoring and supervision data, including the performance and results indicators.

The autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has put in place a computerized management system for all its Programmes. This system manages the initial phases of implementation and obtains the information to be immediately submitted to the evaluators regarding the management of single projects.

In particular, the monitoring data can be used as the main information basis for operative evaluations, allowing for physical and financial indicators (performance and results indicators defined by priority axis, specific objective and activity) to be tracked regularly.

The data can also be used as an initial or additional base for strategic evaluations, which involve an in-depth investigation of the information provided by the system. Additional

information and data collected by the evaluator must be made available to facilitate subsequent studies and to stimulate the application of the most suitable research methods.

External experts might be asked to assist the Programme in the definition of these additional indicators. Moreover, they will have an "on-demand" role for the collection of qualitative information through, for example, questionnaires, analysis, surveys.

3.3. Use and communication of results

The Evaluation Plan and the results of the evaluations will be presented to the Monitoring Committee before being submitted to the EC, through the SFC portal.

For transparency pursuant to art. 54 (4) of Regulation 1303/2013, the results of the evaluations will be made available to the public. This occurs primarily through the publication on Programme website www.itaslo.eu of AIRs, which summarize the evaluations results. On the same Programme website it will be published the Programme Evaluation Plan and summaries of other evaluation reports or products.

For any matters not covered by this document, please refer to the relevant EU Regulations.

3.4. Strategy for a quality management of the evaluation process

To ensure high quality of Programme evaluations and their results, the following measures are adopted:

1. In order to guarantee the principle of independence, evaluations are performed mainly by external experts not involved in Programme implementation. This allows a high level of objectivity as the legitimacy of the work of experts is not based on the Programme successful establishment, but on scientific evaluation standards. The service of Evaluation for all EU-funded-Programmes 2014/2020, included that on Programme Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia awarded in August 2016 by Region Friuli Venezia Giulia followed an open tender in which were well-specified quantitative and qualitative criteria for ensuring the quality of evaluation products.

Therefore, requirements for the evaluations were well identified in the tender and the contract well specifies the conditions to be applied in the event of early termination of the contract, or in the event that the evaluator does not fulfill at all or does unsatisfactorily fulfill his obligations.

2. The awarding has been done according to the most advantageous tender principle, taking into account the relevant expertise of applicant evaluators.
3. Following the conclusion of the contract (December 2016), the evaluator shall submit a detailed work plan and timeframe.
4. In the definition of the timeframe, the MA takes into consideration the fact that the findings can be used to improve the ongoing Programme.

5. A further important aspect for a quality management strategy consists in ensuring that all relevant actors involved in Programme implementation are informed on evaluation outcomes. The MC is informed on the evaluation's products, its reports and thematic evaluations. The MA after each evaluation may draw up a list of suggestions to be implemented and establish deadlines and tasks according to the contract; the MC has in turn the opportunity to take a position with respect to planned adjustments.
6. The MA shall provide to the evaluator all relevant information and data resulting from monitoring system, including those not public and confidential.

3.5. Human and financial resources for the management of the Evaluation Plan

The human resources needed for the activity in order to ensure it functions correctly are estimated at two.

The Evaluation Plan has been drawn up by the MA. The MA and/or its staff member specifically appointed is responsible for the evaluation Plan.

A JS person shall contribute with the MA to the evaluation of the communication strategy and also ensure the communication of Programme evaluations results according to paragraph 3.3.

In order to ensure a good understanding of qualitative and quantitative methodologies, a smooth planning and management of evaluations, staff can take part in training courses organized in particular by INTERACT. Participation in these training activities will be funded through the Programme's technical assistance.

The technical assistance Programme financial plan (Priority Axis 5) - as part of the Specific Objective 5.1 "Ensure the efficient and smooth implementation of the Programme" - Action A - "Actions supported to improve the efficient and smooth implementation of the cooperation Programme", "Drafting and implementing the Programme evaluation plan and follow-up actions for the results of independent evaluations of the Programme" - reserves for Programme evaluation a maximum amount of € 100,000.00 (including VAT), as approved by the MC on 8th March 2016 in its first meeting, as part of the total amount for "core activities" in charge of the MA. The contract for the Evaluation service has been signed for gross amount of € 81.751,00, VAT included.

The cost of participating in training courses for experts is not included in the contract.

Eventual experts to be selected through the List of experts published on Programme website in December 2016 shall fall into the same item of core activities within Programme Technical Assistance.

During the implementation of the Programme unexpected developments might bring about new evaluation issues, not initially foreseen in the evaluation plan. For this reason a part of the total budget allocated to the evaluation activities is reserved for these arising developments.

4. Evaluation products and timeframe

The evaluation Plan aims at improving the coherence, effectiveness and quality of the Cooperation Programme as well as its strategy and implementation in terms of specific structural issues characterizing Programme area, while also taking into account the EC objectives of sustainable development and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The ongoing evaluation process is divided into the following components:

- i. operative efficiency and effectiveness evaluations (Assessment Reports), designed to support supervision of the Programme;
- ii. strategic impact evaluations (Thematic Reports), designed to examine the performance of the Programme in terms of EU, National and Regional priorities;
- iii. other types of evaluation required by the European Regulations and other provisions.

The mentioned evaluations will be used as integrated management tools, providing useful indications for improving the mechanisms used to implement the activities, to identify corrective actions and pinpoint best/bad practices.

4.1. Operative efficiency and effectiveness evaluations - assessment reports

These evaluations will aim to support the supervision of the Programme's progress in terms of implementation and results, including environmental indicators, and will formulate recommendations designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the interventions and suggest corrections or integrations to the implementation methods used.

As required by Article 56 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, these evaluations will also assess the Programme's contribution to achieving the objectives for each priority axis.

In particular, in compliance with Article 114, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, an operative evaluation will be performed to show the findings of evaluations carried out during the Programming period along with the main results obtained by the Programme.

4.2. Strategic impact evaluations - thematic reports

Strategic evaluations look at the entire range of policies and aim to investigate the impact of certain types of intervention and the Programme's contribution to achieving the main

specific objectives and European benchmarks that are particularly relevant to the Programme area.

Under Article. 56 (3) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 should be evaluated at least once during the Programming period, how the support of SIE funds contributes or has contributed to the objectives for each priority (ie at the priority axis level).

The Evaluation Guidelines drafted by the MA and informally presented to Programme partners aside the first meeting of the MC identify a list of possible topics to be developed within these evaluations (Environmental sustainability /Natura 2000/, Creation of business networks, Administrative capacity, Governance, I.T.I. performance). These not exhaustive list of topics were therein proposed on the basis of the evaluation questions formulated by the relevant stakeholders during the Programmes implementation.

This Evaluation Plan shall focus on limited number of specific issues which are:

for the first thematic report:

“ ITI performance and institutional cooperation”

for the second thematic report:

“Development of joint projects regarding environmental sustainability and measure the upper degree of attractiveness of the area and valorization of territory thanks to the interventions funded by the Programme. Areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods, in consideration of new new priorities across Europe, such as the EU Green Deal. ”

Impact Evaluation can be performed either by following the theory-based method or, when possible and relevant, **counterfactual** (ref. The EC Guidance document on monitoring and evaluation).

4.3 Evaluation of the Programme Communication Strategy

Pursuant to the approved Communication Strategy (MC’s second meeting May 20th, 2016), communication activities shall be assessed by the MC. To this end, the MA shall inform the MC at least once a year on the progress communication strategy and of its results, as well as present the communication activities planned for the following year.

4.4. Timeframe

Operative evaluations (Assessment Reports) refer to the Programme’s progress on 31/12/2017, 31/12/2019 and 31/12/2021.

Strategic evaluations (Thematic Reports) will be conducted from 2017 onwards, based on the calendar and the evaluation questions that come up during the implementation of the Programme.

Each evaluation product is below detailed according to legal framework, its specific content, the main topics it focuses on, its specific timeline and the method used and necessary data.

4.5. Detailed planned evaluations

Synthesis table.

WHEN	WHAT	REF.
Service awarded in August 2016		
Contract signed in December 2016		
Within 60 days from the approval of the Work Plan and annual updates by 31 December each year	Presentation of the integrated assessment Plan	
By 31 March each year from 2017 to 2023	Summarized contribution relative to the implementation of the Programme assessments, accompanied by an annex concerning the performance of the financial instruments, functional upon presentation of the AIR. Verification of performance of strategic measures and short assessment report to be provided to AIR on S3 (JS)	EU Regulation No 1303/2013 articles 46, 50 and 111
By 30 May 2017	1 st extensive assessment Report and summary: contributions to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme + development of result indicators + description of the I.T.I. included in the Programme	EU Regulation No 1303/2013 articles 56.3
By 30 May 2019	2 nd extensive assessment Report and summary: summary of assessments and contributions to the achievement of the Thematic Objectives/Intervention Plan goals + contribution of the Programme to the 2020 EU Strategy + description of the I.T.I. included in the Programme + assessment of the integrated use of ERDF resources	EU Regulation No 1303/2013 article 50.5

By 28 february 2023	3 rd extensive assessment Report and summary: summary of assessments and contributions to the achievement of the Thematic Objectives/Intervention Plan goals + contribution of the Programme to the 2020 EU Strategy	EU Regulation No 1303/2013 articles 50.5 and 114
By 31 July 2021	At least 2 Thematic Reports (see tables 6 and 7 below)	

Each product as listed in the synthesis table is better detailed herein:

Table 1 - Integrated Assessment Plan

Product	Integrated Assessment Plan
Legal reference	-
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of the Cooperation Programme - Analysis of the Evaluation reports and Thematic Reports of the Programme in the period 2007-2013 - Analysis of policy for each Programme's NUTS III areas - Analysis of interaction with other Programmes financed by Structural Funds (see section 6 of the Programme) - Mapping of relevant actors - set of indicators for each Specific Objective and Investment Priority of the Programme - Mapping of existing or acquirable relevant data (through monitoring system, official statistics, relevant studies and investigations, through surveys) - designing of evaluation objectives - fine-tuning of evaluation questions and definition of evaluation methods to be adopted and analysis of their feasibility
Method and data	Analysis of the Cooperation Programme Analysis of past experience of the Programme monitoring system official statistics relevant studies and investigations surveys
Timeline	Within 60 days from the approval of the Work Plan and annual updates by 31 December each year

Table 2 - Annual synthesis functional to the submission of AIRs

Product	Annual synthesis functional to the submission of AIRs
Legal reference	AIR - Article 50 and 111 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 (from 2016 to 2023 included). The report pertains to the previous year. Final Implementation Report for the year 2023 and a synthesis for the entire period - Article 50(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 and Article No. 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013

Content	Collection of all key information required in the AIR (implementation of the Programme and its priorities, including indicators, reference framework, summary of the evaluations performed, etc.). Structure and content of the AIR must meet the requirements of Article 50 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013
Main topics	Monitoring the state of implementation with regard to the content and financial data: - in terms of specific objectives, on the basis of result indicators; - in terms of investment priorities, by using common and Programme-specific output indicators; - including the implementation of Technical Assistance. Information on the use of funds depending on the categories of intervention according to the CP, including support used for climate change objectives. There are additional requirements regarding the AIR, in compliance with Article 50(4) and (5) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 for Progress reports to be submitted in 2017 and 2019 . In particular in 2019 shall be included “information and assessment of the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the Programme and its contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The evaluator shall give also a summarized contribution on implementation of the Programme strategy, accompanied by an annex concerning the performance of the financial instruments (valorization of result indicators). Verification of performance of strategic measures and short assessment on S3
Method and data	1. Evaluation of financial data (state of financial implementation); 2. Evaluation of data from monitoring system and referred to output indicators (state of operational implementation); 3. Evaluation of data on horizontal principles. 4. The research and analysis of data on progress on the annual basis of output indicators are carried out in accordance with the Cooperation Programme.
Timeline	AIR: each year as from 2016, submission of the AIR to the EC; respectively by 31st May of the year following the financial year concerned, except in 2017 and 2019 (by 30th June); Final Implementation Report (financial year 2023): submission to the EC by 30 June 2024.

Table 3 - First extensive Assessment Report (efficiency and effectiveness evaluations)

Product	First extensive Assessment Report
Legal reference	EU Regulation No 1303/2013 articles 56.3
Content	1st extensive assessment Report and summary:
Main topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributions to the achievement of the Programme objectives • development of result indicators • description of the I.T.I.

Method and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk-Research • Data from monitoring system • Analysis of indicators • Qualitative information on the implementation of the Programme • Consultation with beneficiaries
Timeline	By 30 May 2017

Table 4 - Second extensive Assessment Report (efficiency and effectiveness evaluations)

Product	Second extensive Assessment Report
Legal reference	EU Regulation No 1303/2013 article 50.5
Content	2 nd extensive assessment Report and summary:
Main topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summary of assessments and contributions to the achievement of the Thematic Objectives/Intervention Plan goals • contribution of the Programme to the 2020 EU Strategy • description of the I.T.I. • assessment of the integrated use of ERDF resources
Method and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk-Research • Data from monitoring system • Analysis of indicators • Qualitative information on the implementation of the Programme • Consultation with beneficiaries
Timeline	By 30 May 2019

Table 5 - Third extensive Assessment Report (efficiency and effectiveness evaluations)

Product	Third extensive Assessment Report
Legal reference	EU Regulation No 1303/2013 articles 50.5 and 114
Content	3 rd extensive assessment Report and summary:
Main topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summary of assessments and contributions to the achievement of the Thematic Objectives/Intervention Plan goals • contribution of the Programme to the 2020 EU Strategy
Method and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk-Research • Data from monitoring system • Analysis of indicators • Qualitative information on the implementation of the Programme • Consultation with beneficiaries
Timeline	By 28 February 2023

Table 6 - First Thematic Report (Strategic impact evaluations)

Product	Thematic Reports (Strategic impact evaluations)
Legal reference	-
Content	ITI performance and/or institutional cooperation
Main topics	Analysis of the territorial approach place-based Valorization of the participative local development Capacity of networking

Crossborder governance Pilot actions of institutional cooperation	
Method and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk-Research • Data from monitoring system • Analysis of indicators • Qualitative information on the implementation of the Programme • Consultation with beneficiaries • Interviews • Focus group • Network analysis • Nominal group technique • Counterfactual analysis
Timeline	By 31 May 2020

Table 7 - Second Thematic Report (Strategic impact evaluations)

Product	Thematic Reports (Strategic impact evaluations)
Legal reference	-
Content	Development of joint projects regarding environmental sustainability and measure the upper degree of attractiveness of the area and valorization of territory thanks to the interventions cofinanced by the Programme. Areas of consistency and continuity across 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods, in consideration of new new priorities across Europe, such as the EU Green Deal.
Main topics	
Method and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk-Research • Data from monitoring system • Analysis of indicators • Qualitative information on the implementation of the Programme • Consultation with beneficiaries • Interviews • Focus group • Network analysis • Nominal group technique • Counterfactual analysis
Timeline	By 31 July 2021