

Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme 2021-2027



Methodological document: Performance framework

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Introduction

As per the provisions of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) no 1060/2021, the performance framework (PF) methodology for the Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme 2021-2027 (Interreg VI-A RO-BG) was established to support monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the programme performance during its implementation.

The performance framework consists of output and result indicators for each specific objective (SO) selected for Interreg VI-A RO-BG 2021-2027, milestones to be achieved by the end of year 2024 for output indicators, targets to be achieved by the end of 2029 for both output and result indicators.

The performance framework methodology was developed in accordance with Art. 17 CPR and includes details on: criteria applied to select indicators, data or evidence used to establish baselines and to estimate targets, data quality assurance, calculation method, as well as information regarding factors that may influence the achievement of the milestones and targets and how they were considered.

Definitions

The elements of the performance framework are defined as per the CPR provisions:

- **Output indicator** means an indicator to measure the specific deliverables of the intervention.
- **Result indicator** means an indicator to measure the effects of the interventions supported, with reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of infrastructure.
- **Target** means a pre-agreed value to be achieved by the end of the eligibility period in relation to an indicator included under an SO.
- **Milestone** means an intermediate value to be achieved at a given point in time during the eligibility period in relation to an output indicator included under an SO.

Most indicators used are common indicators established at EU level to monitor ERDF interventions, including those intended for monitoring territorial cooperation interventions. In the case where a specific indicator is used, it was designed to respect the RACER criteria¹, in accordance with the EU Financial Regulation no 2018/1046 and with the requirements set by the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) no 1060/2021.

Additionally, to avoid excessive administrative burden, the general consideration regarding the indicators system was that it must be parsimonious, meaning that when considering the related group of indicators at the level of each SO, they are not redundant (measure the same or similar aspects).

General considerations

Milestones and targets are established to meet the requirements set out in Article 33(3) of the Financial Regulation. Values refer to achievements of finalised operations. Programme objectives and the types of activities supported are clearly established from the onset of the programme. Progress towards achieving the established objectives will be monitored with performance indicators, which will allow for early warning in case of underperformance, so that corrective measures may be implemented in due time, both at programme and at project level. Monitoring will begin at project level and achievements of indicators will be aggregated upwards and reported according to the provisions of the CPR and of the ERDF Regulation no. 1058/2021.

¹ Acronym for Relevant, Accepted, Credible, Easy and Robust

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Unless otherwise mentioned, baselines are set to zero, as all supported investments are new and are not building upon projects previously funded through the programme. Milestones and targets are established based on the assumption that available funds will be used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, and thus be implemented respecting the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

When drafting the methodological document, it was ensured that the data underpinning the indicator baselines, milestones, and targets have been taken from a reliable source (from Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria documents, statistics etc.).

Thus, the targets and milestones for the output indicators are based on a mathematical aggregation of the targets estimated to be achieved, on average, at project level. This aggregated value represents the sum of the single values generated by the implementation of activities in projects supported by the Interreg VI-A RO-BG programme, and, in the case of indicators used for more than one SO, the sum of the values achieved for each of those SOs.

The quantification of targets and milestones is based on the following elements:

- expected size and number of projects to be supported under each SO;
- expected outputs and results estimated in the project fiches of strategic projects, as presented at the time of drafting the PF methodology
- estimated allocation of funds for each SO;
- expert advice, notably Managing Authority (MA), National Authority (NA) and Joint Secretariat (JS), as well as consultants engaged in supporting the preparation of the programme²;
- historical data on the average number of outputs and results generated by projects in the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods of Interreg RO-BG, when similar interventions have been implemented.

The VI-A RO-BG 2021-2027 Programme intends to open the first call for proposals in the second semester of 2022 or the first part of 2023, depending on the Programme approval by EC. Based on the experience of the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods, and of other ETC programmes in which Romania and Bulgaria participate, a high number of applications is expected in the 1st call. As such, the application and selection process are expected to last until the end of 2023/beginning of the 2024.

The first calls for proposals shall be dedicated to the strategic projects for PO 3 and PO 2 (annexed to the Programme), and to the regular projects dedicated to the Specific Objectives 2.4 and 2.7. and shall be launched in the second semester of 2022 or the first part of 2023, depending on the Programme approval. The calls for PO 4 are planned for a later stage, most probably in 2024.

The identification process of the projects under PO 5 shall be carried out within the integrated territorial strategy, planned to be developed during 2022 and 2023. Following the identification process and the approval of the integrated territorial strategy by the Monitoring Committee, including the list of proposed projects to be financed by the Programme, the evaluation process shall be carried out by the Programme structures, from technical and financial perspective.

Based on these assumptions, most contracts in the first wave of operations will start around mid-2024.

² Contract 283/09.10.2019

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The average duration of projects supported by RO-BG Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes was of 18 months in 2007-2013 and 24 months in 2014-2020³. As experience shows, both the output and the result indicators capture progress on activities which, in most cases, were completed at a late stage of the projects' implementation. For the 2021-2027 programming period, data on achievements of output indicators will be collected during project implementation or upon project completion, at the latest. Data on result indicators will be collected upon project completion or within one year after completion. As such, it is expected that values of output and result indicators will mostly be available starting with 2025.

Moreover, based on experience, the reporting is expected to have a gap of about 6 months between the end of the project implementation period and the submission of the final report. It is also expected that processing and validating the reports requires further months. Consequently, even for the operations supported under the 1st call, the full documentation of the outputs and achievements will only be available in the second part of 2025. Due to this expected timeline, measurable outputs for the 2024 milestone of the performance framework are minimal.

The data on the achieved progress for the indicators is collected from the application forms and through the progress reports in the regular monitoring process. The source for all data related to indicators is the MA monitoring system (Jems). Accordingly, no specific administrative burden is imposed to beneficiaries for data collection related to the performance framework. The validation of data is ensured thorough checks performed by the MA/JS, requesting the necessary evidence and background information.

At project level, the lead partner bears the responsibility for reporting and monitoring the output and result indicators, meaning that they should collect and aggregate relevant data received from the project partners. The lead partner should take every measure to avoid double counting and to ensure consistency between the achievements reported by each partner. Also, for the result indicators that require measurement within a certain period after project/output completion, the lead partner will take all the necessary measures for that measurement to be done in time and accurately, and that results are reported to the programme authorities.

At programme level, double counting will be avoided in relation to indicators referring to project partners and associated organizations (organizations cooperating across borders) and each entity will be counted only once per SO, so a thorough monitoring mechanism will be put in place to avoid double counting.

The financial allocation used for calculating the targets includes the total allocations (ERDF and national contribution) per specific objectives, excluding the TA flat rate amount.

Priority 1: A well connected region

Specific objective: 3.2. Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

Justification (criteria) to select the indicators

As highlighted by the territorial analysis, the competitiveness and the cohesion of the border area is hindered by the relatively low physical connectivity between the regions North and South of the Danube. The low density of border crossings reduces the mobility between the

³ Data from keep.eu

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two sides of the border, hinders commercial flows and makes commuting difficult. It also prevents the capitalization of the existing natural and anthropic resources for touristic purposes, due to limited access, limiting economic potential and job creation.

The River Danube shapes the geography and the economy of the territory, upholding a pivotal role in connecting the region to the rest of Europe. However, inland navigability suffers from bottlenecks, both because of the shallow river depth and the capacity of ports, including their hinterland connections. Ports and ferries on both sides lack an effective transport infrastructure to serve a larger hinterland, including road belts, which makes it difficult for freight and passengers to travel across the river.

PO3, SO 3.2. was selected to support the development of the cross-border transport infrastructure on two tiers: enhancing connectivity and mobility across the Danube (rail) and improving the navigation conditions and safety on the Danube. This priority will support investments with demonstrated cross-border relevance and supporting clean, environmentally friendly transport.

The SO will be implemented through two strategic projects. Two main types of actions will be implemented:

a) Actions improving the navigation conditions and safety on the Danube and Black Sea to enhance the mobility and connectivity in the cross-border area. These will be implemented through the strategic project DISMAR - “Danube Integrated System for MARKing”. The project aims at creating a harmonized, innovative, pro-active and effective waterway marking system along the Romanian - Bulgarian common sector of the Danube. Due to the linear transport structure of the waterway one single bottleneck with insufficient depth will limit the utilization for all transport routes passing this section. Only if a specific and harmonized quality of waterway infrastructure is available along the entire waterway corridor, the navigation industry will be able to provide reliable services and conduct cost-effective business.

The main outputs expected from the implementation of the activities are the following: to develop a coherent approach to waterway management actions on the Danube, to operationalize the waterway marking system and to implement a pilot action, based on the new marking system. The project will also contribute to enhancing the cooperation between the main authorities responsible for the administration and exploitation of the Romanian-Bulgarian shared sector of the river (River Administration of the Lower Danube Galati - AFDJ Galati and the Executive Agency for exploration and maintenance of the Danube River - EAEMDR Ruse).

b) Actions enhancing rail connectivity and mobility across the Danube. These will be implemented through the projects of strategic importance which aim at enhancing the rail connectivity and mobility in the cross-border area. The supported projects will be selected through a targeted strategic call. The projects may include both soft measures (such as tools, campaigns etc.) and hard measures (investments in rail infrastructure or other related elements, such as digitalization, signalling, etc.).

The focus of the monitoring for SO 3.2 is to observe progress in respect to developing joint, cross-border solutions for transport management. This implies both sustained cooperation between the relevant stakeholders and concrete investments. The following set of indicators reflects the purpose of the monitoring process:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
SO 3.2. Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient,	PSO2 Length of waterway supported in	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations

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Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
intelligent, and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility.	the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	
	RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	
	RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion
	PSO1 Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	RCR 58 Annual users of newly built, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised railways
	RCO 53 New or modernised railway stations and stops	

The following targets are set for the indicators:

SO	Indicator	Baseline (2021)	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
SO 3.2.	PSO1 Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	0	0	0.5
	PSO2 Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	0	0	470
	RCO 53 New or modernised railway stations and stops	0	0	2
	RCR 58 Annual users of newly built, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised railways	0	NA	5,000
	RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	0	0	1
	RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	0	0	1
	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations	0	NA	2
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	0	0	4
	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion	0	NA	2

Further on, effects are expected in respect to increased transport flows and improved mobility at border crossing, contributing to increasing accessibility in the Balkan area from the fluvial TEN-T network. Other expected effects include an increased economic activity in the served areas. Details regarding each indicator are presented as follows:

PSO1 Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator measures the length (in km) of tracks undergoing modernization works. Interventions will be made in the rail infrastructure in the Programme area, such as Giurgiu-Ruse border-crossing, in the proximity of and in connection to the railway stations in Ruse or Giurgiu, etc.</p> <p>These interventions are a component of the strategic project financed through the Programme which will be identified during the Programme implementation. As an example, interventions which encompasses modernizations to the Ruse railway station and Ruse freight station railway halt and in Giurgiu could be considered. Such interventions would be complementary to previous or ongoing works done to modernize the rail border-crossing connections in Giurgiu-Ruse, performed mainly on the Romanian side.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected to keep track of the interventions in modernizing railway sections, as opposed to the other components in the project targeting the railway stations.</p> <p>The ERDF specific indicators for PO3 were analysed, but they were considered less relevant, since the investments, which are envisaged through the Programme, are limited (considering the limited amount allocated to this type of actions) and do not capture the cross-border character of the projects. In order to capture the cross-border character of the projects and the added value for the Programme area, we have decided to define a programme specific output, starting from the ERDF specific indicators for PO3, namely <i>Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area</i>. This indicator will capture the total length of rail sections reconstructed or modernised in the Romania-Bulgaria area. Such interventions could cover rail features such as works, electrification, speed and safety, etc. The indicator measures the length of tracks.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero, as no previous funding was allocated for the specific length of rail envisaged by the project.</p> <p>Milestones for 2024 - 0</p> <p>It is expected that the financing contract will be signed during 2024/2025. It is estimated that the strategic project will have duration of at least 36 months. Therefore, the operation will start in 2024 or after this year.</p> <p>Target for 2029: 0.5 km</p> <p>Considering the limited budget allocation to this field (in total 15,000,000 euro are allocated to the rail sector, including the modernization of railway stations and stops) limited investments are envisaged in modernizing rails tracks; they could be made in connection to the stations, on sections which are most in need of modernization, or limited relevant sections.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon completion of output in the supported project.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Political commitment or priorities may change and the rail sector in cross-border area could not be supported. However, given the upfront preparatory work and the commitment that the Programme authorities request from the beneficiary/partner entities, the risk could be reduced.</p>

	Public tenders may also delay implementation.
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PSO2 Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area

Details	Explanations
Definition	The indicator counts the total length (in km) of inland waterways sections which will be covered by the marking system installed through the “Danube Integrated System for MARKing (DISMAR)” Project.
Criteria applied to select the indicator	<p>According to the concept note submitted by the partners, a marking system infrastructure that will enhance mobility and connectivity will be installed and tested along approx. 470 km of the Danube. The purpose of this indicator is to capture the investments foreseen in this project in respect to acquiring and operationalizing the marking system.</p> <p>The specific indicators were analysed, but they were considered less relevant, since the investments, which are envisaged through the Programme, are limited (considering the limited amount allocated to this type of actions) and do not capture the cross-border character of the project.</p> <p>In this regard, in order to capture the cross-border character of the projects and the added value for the Programme area, we have decided to define a programme specific output, starting from the ERDF specific indicators for PO3, namely <i>Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area</i>.</p> <p>This indicator will capture the total length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria area by the marking system installed through the “Danube Integrated System for MARKing (DISMAR)” Project. Also, the marking system will also constitute a pilot action. As a result of the testing in the pilot action, the system may be taken-up / up-scaled in other sections of the Danube or on other rivers.</p>
Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero, in line with the regulations.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0.</p> <p>It is expected that the financing contract will be signed following the call for proposals for strategic project, most probably during 2023. It is estimated that the strategic project will have duration of at least 36 months, so it is unlikely that the pilot action will be finalized in time for the 2024 reporting on milestones, therefore the milestone is set at zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 470 km</p> <p>The target was established based on the estimations in the project fiche. Data will be collected from the project using the electronic monitoring system.</p>
Factors of influence	Political commitment or priorities may change. However, the Programme authorities will include specific requirements in the call documents and in the financing contract, so that project partners may prepare and implement the necessary actions to secure that the target is reached.

RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

Details	Explanations
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<p>Definition</p>	<p>The indicator counts the pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation, or the transfer of practices.</p> <p>To be counted by this indicator, the pilot action needs not only to be developed, but also completely implemented within the project before the end of the project. Jointly developed pilot action implies the involvement of organizations from both participating countries in its implementation.</p> <p>This indicator will capture the outputs generated by the “Danube Integrated System for MARKing” Project. Additionally, the partners of the operation of strategic importance related to railway connectivity will be encouraged to contribute to this indicator, if appropriate.</p>
<p>Criteria applied to select the indicator</p>	<p>In the context of SO 3.2., a pilot action will be developed and implemented. The scope of the jointly developed pilot action could be to test the integration possibilities of the marking components using the new technologies and materials and data digitalization.</p> <p>Also, the specific indicators for PO3 were analysed, but considering the limited number of operations (one for each field - water and rail), the reduced budget and the objective of each project, the contribution to such indicators was very limited. Thus, for this project of strategic importance, the ERDF specific indicators were analysed. According to the concept note submitted by the partners, a pilot action will be developed. The project activates are related to soft measures, with hard components. Thus, a marking system infrastructure that will enhance mobility and connectivity will be tested and later on up-scaled in different parts of the Danube. The ERDF indicators analysed would not reflect the direct project outputs and results.</p> <p>Moreover, considering the limited financial allocation allocated to this project (around 10 million euro in total), the contribution to the ERDF specific indicators is limited (compared with the major investments allocated through other funding instruments) and thus these will only dilute the outputs and results of this project. Consequently, for capturing the intended output and result of the project (pilot action/the solution up-scaled), Interreg indicators are more suitable.</p> <p>As such, the pilot action is the core output of the project and the indicator was selected as it is the most suitable to track progress in implementation. Indicator <i>RCO116 Jointly developed solutions</i> was analysed, but, considering the project concept, pilot actions were considered more appropriate, as it builds upon previously developed solutions.</p> <p>The purpose of this indicator is to encourage investing in pilot activities in the field covered by the specific objective, activities that are later on promoted and replicated so that the effect of the initial investment is multiplied.</p>
<p>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data)</p>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero, in line with the regulations.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0.</p> <p>It is expected that the financing contract will be signed following the call for proposals, most probably during 2023. It is estimated that the strategic project will have duration of at least 36 months, so it is unlikely that the pilot action will be</p>

<i>quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>finalized in time for the 2024 reporting on milestones, therefore the milestone is set at zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 1.</p> <p>One pilot action will be developed and implemented within the project (based on the information included in the project concept note). Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Political commitment or priorities may change. However, the Programme authorities will include specific requirements in the call documents and in the financing contract, so that project partners may prepare and implement the necessary actions to secure that the target is reached.</p>

RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects. A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal-oriented process in a specific domain. An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organizations from at both participating countries in the drafting process of the respective document.</p> <p>This indicator will capture the cooperation initiatives carried out under the rail transport project financed under SO 3.2. Additionally, the partners of the operation of strategic importance related to improving the navigation conditions and safety on the Danube and Black Sea will be encouraged to contribute to this indicator, if appropriate.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>In the context of SO 3.2, a strategy or action plan will be developed. The scope of the strategy/ action plan is to reflect the cooperation initiatives carried out by the project partners and to ensure their sustainability.</p> <p>While the core outputs of the project are related to the works performed on the rail stops and the section of rail tracks, the soft actions related to enhancing cooperation between the transport authorities on both sides of the border also need to be acknowledged. As such, Indicator <i>RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed</i> was added to the programme indicators system.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero, in line with the regulations.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0.</p> <p>It is expected that the financing contract will be signed following the call for proposals, most probably during 2023. It is estimated that the strategic project will have duration of at least 36 months, so it is unlikely that the project will be finalized in time for the 2024 reporting on milestones, therefore the milestone is set at zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 1.</p> <p>One strategy or action plan will be developed and implemented within the project. Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system.</p>

<i>Factors of influence</i>	Political commitment or priorities may change. However, the Programme authorities will include specific requirements in the call documents and in the financing contract, so that project partners may prepare and implement the necessary actions to secure that the target is reached.
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RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of solutions, other than legal or administrative solutions, that are developed by supported projects and are taken up or up-scaled during the implementation of the project or within one year after project completion.</p> <p>To be counted for this indicator, proof of uptake may be provided up to one year after project completion.</p> <p>The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may or may not be a participant in the project. The uptake / up-scaling should be documented by the adopting organisations in, for instance, strategies, action plans etc. This indicator will capture the results generated by the operations of strategic importance.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>This result indicator has been selected in relation to the output indicators <i>RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects</i> and <i>RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed</i>.</p> <p>The integrated marking system developed within the project for supporting the improvement the navigation conditions and safety on the Danube and Black Sea (DISMAR) will be tested and the results and design will be presented to other organisations to be implemented on other cross border sectors/be used by the beneficiaries for further activities. The pilot action will be presented also to other stakeholders</p> <p>The strategic project on enhancing rail connectivity and mobility across the Danube is expected to carry out also soft measures related to topics such as (but not limited to): designing and implementing sustainable transport tools and solutions for better connectivity and mobility in the CBC area and designing and implementing integrated solutions for supporting mobility and connectivity in time of crisis. These soft measures will be reflected in the jointly developed strategy/action plan and could also be transferred or extended to other territories or entities.</p> <p>Considering the above, indicator RCR104 was selected as the most suitable for tracking the outcomes of the operations of strategic importance supported under SO 3.2.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone - not required</p> <p>Target - 2.</p> <p>During the implementation, two solutions are expected to be developed by the OSIs.</p>

<i>calculation method)</i>	<p>Only data from project under this SO will feed into the result indicator for this SO. However, values can be further aggregated with other SOs, to show results at Programme level.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion, based on the supporting documents provided by the partners.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Solutions developed may not be used by the project partners or of interest to other stakeholders.</p> <p>Given the urgency of the challenges which the projects seek to address (related to navigability and rail transport), it is unlikely that the solutions developed will not be of interest to other stakeholders. It is, however, acknowledged that their number is limited.</p> <p>Project partners may not be motivated to promote the developed solution. To prevent this, Programme authorities will include specific requirements for the project partners, to roll-out specific promotion actions, as part of the project sustainability. Thus, for this indicator, the measures proposed by the applicant for ensuring sustainability and durability of the project need to be clear and focused towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing visibility of the pilot actions and other outputs so that other organizations can adopt/up-scale them. - propose clear measures for facilitating the adoption/ scaling-up of outputs produced (including pilot actions) by the partners of the project themselves (indicate the distribution channels).

RCO 53 New or modernised railway stations and stops

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of railway stations and stops modernised with the support of the Programme. Modernisation refers to measures such as improving passenger comfort and safety, ensuring accessibility for people with reduce mobility, reducing noise etc.</p> <p>Ruse railway station serves as a border checkpoint for trains crossing into/from Romania, via the Danube Bridge, and could be o high importance for the area and the promotion of the cross-border mobility and connectivity.</p> <p>Also, Ruse freight station railway halt could be an option. It serves trains crossing into/from Romania via the Danube Bridge. The common challenge approach by the project is to improve the accessibility and mobility to the TEN-T network and thus to create suitable conditions for sustainable development in the border area. The proposed works will contribute to overall improvement of transport conditions, increased safety and security of railway services, achievement of interoperability.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected in order to keep track of the interventions in modernizing railway stations. Given that modernizing the railway stations is the core activity of the project, this ERDF indicator was considered the most appropriate.</p>

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<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestones for 2024 - 0</p> <p>It is expected that the financing contract will be signed during 2024/2025. It is estimated that the strategic project will have duration of at least 36 months. Therefore, the operation will start in 2024 or after this year.</p> <p>Target for 2029: 2</p> <p>Considering the limited budget allocation to this field (in total 15,000,000 euro are allocated to the rail sector, including the modernization of railway infrastructure) A limited number of stations/halts could be supported. Thus, the Programme estimates a target of 2 stations/stops</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Political commitment or priorities may change and the rail sector in cross-border area could not be supported. However, given the upfront preparatory work and the commitment that the Programme authorities request from the beneficiary/partner entities, the risk could be reduced.</p> <p>Public tenders may also delay implementation.</p>

RCR 58 Annual users of newly built, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised railways

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the total number of passenger-km travelled on railways modernised due to the supported project. It refers exclusively to the persons using rail a transport mode when using the RO-BG border crossing. Given that the primary works will be conducted on the railway stations and that the Programme's focus is primarily to increase connectivity and mobility across the border, the indicator only captures cross-border passengers and, thus, can be considered more restrictive in its interpretation compared to the recommended methodology.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected to monitor the project's contribution to supporting cross-border mobility and connectivity by rail.</p> <p>While actual investments in modernizing railway sections are marginal in the project, this indicator was selected for monitoring the direct effects of the interventions performed in modernizing the railway stations on the Giurgiu-Ruse border crossing.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0.</p> <p>The baseline for this indicator is zero, considering that no previous works were performed with the support of the Programme. Moreover, since the exact location and length of the sections that could be supported is not identified, the annual users of the supported railway infrastructure could not be set.</p> <p>Milestones for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029: 5,000</p> <p>The target was estimated based on a proxy indicator - number of persons crossing the Giurgiu-Ruse border by rail, as this is the main crossing in the Programme area (between Romania and Bulgaria). Considering that road transport bottlenecks are</p>

	<p>frequently affecting the Giurgiu-Ruse border crossing, an increase in the number of persons using rail would produce benefits for the overall functioning of the border crossing, decreasing the time spent in traffic and increasing comfort.</p> <p>For 2018 and 2019 approximately 10,000 persons used rail transport on the Giurgiu-Ruse border point. In 2020, given the travel restrictions, their number decreased to approx. 5,000. The target is estimated conservatively at 5,000, as the number of users greatly depends on personal preferences and, crucially, on developing other works in railway development.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured one year after the completion of the intervention. Project partners will be responsible for ensuring data collection.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Travellers' preferences and attitudes towards rail transport is crucial for achieving this indicator. Having a good infrastructure and good conditions is important, but consumers' preference may remain inclined towards road transport.</p> <p>The highest risk is related to the failure to implement the comprehensive investments in modernizing and re-operationalizing the Bucharest-Giurgiu rail section in Romania, planned through other sources. Only completing the investments in Ruse will not be enough to increase the number of users. This risk cannot be tackled by the Programme structures</p>

RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the organizations cooperating formally in the supported project. The organizations counted in this indicator are the legal entities, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the application. In the case of SO 3.2, this refers to the authorities responsible for the administration and exploitation of the Romanian-Bulgarian shared sector of the river, from Romania and Bulgaria and the railway system.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected in order to enhance and reflect the cooperation across border in the field of connectivity and accessibility.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestones for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Target for 2029: 4</p> <p>The organizations counted in this indicator are the legal entities including project partners, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the applications. According to the project concept note for the navigability project, there will be 2 entities implementing the project related to navigability. Considering the fact that the contracting process of the infrastructure project is time consuming, it is expected that only one financing contract will be signed following the call for proposals, during 2023.</p> <p>As regards the rail sector, considering the type of the project (strategic projects related to infrastructure request large budgets), and the budget allocated for the</p>

	<p>rail types of actions (of 15,000,000 euro), we estimate to have one strategic project for this mode of transport, with 2 partners.</p> <p>Since there are only two projects expected to receive funding under SO 3.2, the 2029 target is also set at 4 (2 partners for the navigability project and 2 for the rail project).</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Political commitment or priorities may change. However, given the upfront preparatory work and the commitment that the Programme authorities request from the beneficiary/partner entities, it is unlikely that this will happen.</p> <p>Programme authorities will include specific requirements from the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and may include detailed description of the partners' engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc. (e.g., Partnership Agreement).</p>

RCR84 Organizations cooperating across border after project completion

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the organizations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported project. The organizations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a joint statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or upon the project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>This result indicator has been selected in relation to the output indicator RCR 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders.</p> <p>The indicator was considered the most suitable to monitor the outcome the partnership established during the project implementation.</p> <p>Since cross-border cooperation is one of the most important objectives of the Programme, this indicator was selected for all specific objectives.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 2 organizations</p> <p>Considering the risks identified, we conservatory set the target for this result indicator at two partners continuing the collaboration after the completion of each project.</p> <p>Only data from projects contributing to RCO87 output indicator under this specific objective will feed into the result indicator for this specific objective.</p>

	<p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured 1 year after project completion.</p> <p>In order for a project to contribute to this result indicator, the cooperation should fulfil the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cooperation is formalized under other form than the “partnership agreement” signed between the project partners; - the purpose of the project is to develop and maintain the cooperation between structures over a longer period of time than the duration of the project; - not all the project partners need to sign the “cooperation agreement”, only a minimum of 2 partners. <p>These conditions will be extensively described in the Applicant's Guide and the quality assessment will also check their fulfilment.</p> <p>Special monitoring measures need to be taken for capturing the contribution to this indicator; in this respect, the cooperation agreements need to be formally adopted by organisations and supporting documents need to be provided by the lead partner.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Political commitment or priorities may change. Also, this type of projects is very risky as involve activities with high level of complexity (including in the field of public procurement). Thus, it is possible that one project will not be implemented. However, given the upfront preparatory work and the commitment that the Programme authorities request from the beneficiary/partner entities, it is unlikely that this will happen.</p> <p>For mitigating these risks, the Programme structures will provide support to the partners during the projects implementation in order to identify and solve the problems in due time.</p> <p>Programme authorities will include specific requirements for the projects partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and may include detailed description of the partners' engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p> <p>In case the project envisages the conclusion of multiple cooperation agreements, the organisations will be counted only once, regardless the number of signed cooperation agreements. The cooperation agreements can be signed in the same topic tackled by the projects or in a different topic.</p> <p>Double counting will be eliminated at the level of the specific objective, so that the same organization is not counted more than once.</p>

Priority 2: A greener region

Specific objective: 2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches.

Justification (criteria) to select the indicators

According to the Territorial Analysis, the cross-border area is considered to have a high degree of vulnerability to climate change, being exposed to various extreme weather events, storms and rivers draining in low-lying coastal areas, droughts etc. The main natural risks presented in the cross-border area are floods, droughts, earthquakes and landslides. The area also has a number of sites exposed to technology risks, particularly in urban areas. These need particular attention, in order to avoid major accidents with serious consequences.

Climate change effects are visible across the Programme area, in terms of increasing temperatures, higher frequency of extreme weather events, droughts etc. They increase vulnerability of buildings and infrastructure, increase energy demand, disrupt business operations and effect peoples' health and quality of life.

PO2, SO 2.4 was selected to support actions aiming to alleviate the risks affecting the area and to promote climate change adaptation in line with Green Deal objectives, to minimize the economic, social and environmental impact generated by climate change.

Taking into account the challenges faced by the cross-border area, the Programme will support actions related to the following fields (non-exhaustive list):

- climate change adaptation measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems to actual or expected effects of climate change. These actions aim at anticipating the adverse effects of climate change, at supporting appropriate actions to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause and/or at taking advantage of opportunities that may arise from their presence.
- risk prevention and management of natural and hazardous events (e.g., flood, fires, droughts, erosion, earthquakes and landslides) and risks linked to human activities.
- promoting disaster resilience.

The supported actions will include both soft measures (such as studies, strategies, plans, programs, tools, campaigns, trainings etc.) and hard measures (for example, investments in green infrastructure, endowments, buildings etc.).

Climate change adaptation measures will be implemented through competitive calls.

Risk prevention and disaster resilience actions will be implemented through the following strategic projects:

- The strategic project **Danube Risk Prevention (Danube RISK)** aims to develop a strategy and an implementation plan for adapting water management in the RO-BG CBC region to climate change and to its associated risks (floods, hydrological droughts, pollution). It also envisages the implementation of activities in pilot areas, training activities and endowment with special equipment, construction of an operational intervention centre for water management risks, including its endowment with equipment in case of floods and accidental pollution.
- The strategic project **STREAM 2** capitalizes the results of several projects implemented under CBC ROBG 2007-2013 and Interreg V-A ROBG Programme. The project aims to set-up (construction and/or endowment and/or equipment)

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several investments, such as: a cross-border disaster response centre in Constanta, a cross-border situational operations centre in Veliko Tarnovo, a zonal vessel base for intervention on the Danube in Giurgiu, mobile pontoons. It also aims at developing and roll-out capacity building activities, including trainings.

Given the variety of measures and risks covered (floods, fires, heavy rains, hydrological droughts, pollution) the focus for tracking the progress in implementation will be directed towards the investments made in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against the risks.

The ecosystem-based approach is an important element guiding the implementation of interventions supported under this specific objective. This means that nature-based solutions will be preferred, wherever possible, above hard or grey infrastructure. This includes flood plains, ecosystem restoration, afforestation, natural water retention measures and other green (or blue) infrastructure measures that have a direct benefit for climate change adaptation and risk prevention. As such, the surface (hectares) of green infrastructure newly built or upgraded significantly in order to enhance adaptation to climate change will be monitored during implementation.

For all projects, the pilot actions will be monitored, as an element of added value and specific to the territorial cooperation. Not least, given the need to strengthen the coordination and collaboration between the institutions on both sides of the border, monitoring the number of organizations which cooperate in joint projects is also envisaged.

As a result of the implementation, it is expected that the developed solutions will be promoted widely and adopted by other entities and that organizations will continue to cooperate after the completion of the projects. Given the nature of the investments, it is expected that there will be visible results for the population living in the programme area, who will be better protected against the natural and anthropic risks. As such, the population benefiting from protection measures against the risks was chosen as an indicator in this respect.

The following set of indicators reflects the purpose of the monitoring process:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches	RCO26 Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change	RCR35 Population benefiting from flood protection measure
	RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion
	RCO24 Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters	RCR 37 Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods or wildfire)
	RCO122 Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against non-climate related	RCR96 Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
	natural risks and risks related to human activities	

The following targets were set for the indicators:

SO	Indicator	Baseline (2021)	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
SO 2.4	RCO26 Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change	0	0	67
	RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	0	0	4
	RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up scaled by organizations	0	NA	2
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	0	0	13
	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion	0	NA	7
	RCO24 Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters	0	0	20,000,000
	RCR35 Population benefiting from flood protection measures	0	NA	1,000,000
	RCR 37 Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods or wildfire)	0	NA	1,000,000
	RCO122 Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities	0	0	4,000,000
	RCR96 Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities	0	NA	300,000

Further effects are envisaged in respect to increasing the ability to adapt to climate change and to support preventive actions while raising awareness towards climate change objectives as comprised within the European Green Deal.

Details regarding each indicator are presented as follows:

RCO26 Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change

Details	Explanations
Definition	The indicator counts the area (hectares) of green infrastructure newly built or upgraded significantly in order to enhance adaptation to climate change, for instance by strengthening protection to floods and preventing soil erosion. Green infrastructure typically refers to trees, lawns, hedgerows, parks, fields, forests,

	<p>etc. The indicator also covers blue infrastructure such as water elements, like rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands, floodplains, water treatment facilities, etc.</p> <p>The indicator does not cover investments in Natura 2000 sites reflected by indicator RCO37 (not selected by the Programme), nor green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change (covered by indicator RCO36, selected by the Programme under SO 2.7).</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>In SO 2.4, investments in green infrastructure are expected to be developed both by strategic and regular projects. Given the fact that the ecosystem-based approach is essential to carrying out interventions under this specific objective, it is expected that some projects would carry out such investments. This means that nature-based solutions will be preferred, wherever possible, above hard or grey infrastructure. This includes flood plains, ecosystem restoration, afforestation, natural water retention measures and other green (or blue) infrastructure measures that have a direct benefit for climate change adaptation and risk prevention. <i>RCO26 Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change</i> was considered the most common suitable indicator to reflect this type of investments.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero, in line with the regulations</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>It is expected that the first financing contracts will be signed following the first call for proposals, most probably at the end of 2023/beginning of 2024. Therefore, considering the implementation period of the projects (of over 36 months for projects of strategic importance and an average 12-24 months for regular projects), no projects finalized the implementation period. Therefore, the target is set at 0</p> <p>Target is set at: 67 hectares</p> <p>For the projects targeting climate change adaptation, based on the 2014-2020 experience⁴, the average value of hard projects is considered to be 1.7 million euro (by analogy with the hard projects financed under 2014-2020 Programme in the field of environment).</p> <p>Considering the financial allocation of 9,126,636.25 euros (excluding TA flat rate), 5 standard projects could be financed.</p> <p>Data on costs for developing green infrastructure is not available from the 2014-2020 or previous programming periods, in the programme area. For 2021-2027, unit costs are available in Romania in NRRP and in the Operational Programme Sustainable Development. Estimations of unitary costs under these programmes were made based on the Danube Floodplain projects (http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/danube-floodplain/partners), to which were added the costs of necessary works for habitats and species, estimated according to <i>Costs of restoration measures in the EU based on an assessment of LIFE projects</i> https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC97635. Further adjustments to cost were made by applying a 1.4661 index, to accommodate the historical cost increase in 2021-2029. This resulted in a unit cost / hectare of green infrastructure of approx. 30,825.78 euro.</p> <p>The strategic projects are expected to contribute to this indicator, but their contribution is expected to be limited, as their objective is doesn't target directly climate change adaptation and development of green infrastructures. As such,</p>

⁴ Data at Programme level, since for 2014-2020 the Interreg V-A RO-BG did not finance projects specifically targeting climate change adaptation.

	<p>their contribution was estimated to approx. 8 hectares in total. Regular projects are also expected to contribute to this indicator, with about 20 percent of their budget allocation to such investments. Considering a rounded cost of 31,000 euro/hectare and a budgetary allocation of 1,825,327.25 euros, it is estimated that regular projects would contribute to building or upgrading 59 hectares of green infrastructure for adaptation to climate change. In total, this leads to 67 hectares.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>For the strategic projects, public tenders may delay the implementation of the activities. To mitigate this risk, the duration for the strategic projects is estimated at 36 months.</p> <p>The quality of projects on climate adaptation measures may be limited, due to lack of experience of potential beneficiaries. To avoid this, the Programme authorities will provide extensive information, in the application package. Also, in order to ensure higher added value and quality of the financed operations, competent Romanian and Bulgarian institutions/bodies may be actively involved in the preparation of the call for proposals guidelines.</p> <p>The availability of other public funds (NRRPs and mainstream programs) may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p> <p>Also, in line with the Bulgarian national legislation, the Bulgarian applicants may have to receive a letter of support from the respective national/regional competent body/ies before submitting their project proposal. This request may discourage the partners to develop and submit a proposal, as an additional step is added to the selection process. Also, the Romanian partners will be reserved in getting involved in development of projects as the participation of the Bulgarian partners is conditioned by the receipt of the letter of support, aspect that cannot be controlled by the partnership. The programme will run an intensive information campaign on this aspect, in order to raise awareness among the Romanian and Bulgarian applicants on this pre-request and to start the preparation process in advance.</p>

RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation, or the transfer of practices.</p> <p>To be counted for this indicator, the pilot action needs not only to be developed, but also implemented within the project and the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project. Jointly developed pilot action implies the involvement of organizations from both participating countries in its implementation.</p>

	The pilot action needs to be identifiable on its own, not only in connection with other outputs of the project.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>In the context of SO 2.4, pilot actions are expected to be the most significant activities implemented by the projects. As such, the indicator was selected as it is the most suitable to track progress in implementation. Indicator <i>RCO116 Jointly developed solutions</i> were analysed, but, considering that we expect hands-on, visible results from the projects, pilot actions were considered more appropriate. Some projects may also build on previously developed solutions.</p> <p>Moreover, choosing the same indicator in more SOs allows for aggregation at programme level and for a better understanding of progress in implementation.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero, in line with the regulations</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>It is expected that the first financing contracts will be signed following the first call for proposals, most probably at the end of 2023/beginning of 2024. The minimum project duration is set at 12 months, so it is unlikely that the pilot actions will be finalized in time for the 2024 reporting on milestones, therefore the milestone is set at zero</p> <p>Target is set at: 4</p> <p>Apart from the 2 pilot actions which are expected to be implemented in the strategic projects, other 2 pilot actions are expected to be implemented in standard projects.</p> <p>For the projects targeting climate change adaptation, based on the 2014-2020 experience⁵, the average value of hard projects is considered to be 1.7 million euro (by analogy with the hard projects financed under 2014-2020 Programme in the field of environment). Considering the financial allocation of 9,126,636.25 euros (total - excluding TA funds), 5 standard projects could be financed. While not all projects may be developing pilot actions, this type of activity will be highly encouraged (for example by additional points in the appraisal process). However, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will develop at least one pilot action. As such, the target was established at 4 pilot actions, 2 from strategic and 2 from regular projects.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>For the strategic projects, public tenders may delay the implementation of the activities. To mitigate this risk, the duration for the strategic projects is estimated at 36 months.</p> <p>Political commitment or priorities may change, so after the implementation of the system, the pilot action may not be a priority. However, given the upfront preparatory work and the commitment that the Programme authorities request from the beneficiary/partner entities, it is unlikely that this will happen.</p>

⁵ Data at Programme level, since for 2014-2020 the Interreg V-A RO-BG did not finance projects specifically targeting climate change adaptation.

	<p>The quality of projects on climate adaptation measures may be limited, due to lack of experience of potential beneficiaries and to the tendency of implementing mirror projects. To avoid this, the Programme authorities will provide extensive information, in the application package. Also, in order to ensure higher added value and quality of the financed operations, competent Romanian and Bulgarian institutions/bodies may be actively involved in the preparation of the call for proposals guidelines.</p> <p>The availability of other public funds may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p> <p>Also, in line with the Bulgarian national legislation, the Bulgarian applicants may have to receive a letter of support from the respective national/regional competent body/ies before submitting their project proposal. This request may discourage the partners to develop and submit a proposal, as an additional step is added to the selection process. Also, the Romanian partners will be reserved in getting involved in development of projects as the participation of the Bulgarian partners is conditioned by the receipt of the letter of support, aspect that cannot be controlled by the partnership. The programme will run an intensive information campaign on this aspect, in order to raise awareness among the Romanian and Bulgarian applicants on this pre-request and to start the preparation process in advance.</p>
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RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of solutions, other than legal or administrative solutions, that are developed by supported projects and are taken up or upscaled during the implementation of the project or within one year after project completion. The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may or may not be a participant in the project. The uptake / up-scaling should be documented by the adopting organisations in, for instance, strategies, action plans etc.</p> <p>The pilot actions developed in the projects will be presented to other stakeholders, as such indicator RCR 104 was selected as the most suitable for tracking the outcomes of the project. As well, although RCO 84 is not used together with RCO116, as explained above, RCR 104 has the closest logical link to RCO84 given the envisaged actions to be financed under this specific objective.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	This result indicator has been selected in relation to the output indicator RCO84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects.
<i>Baseline, milestone and target</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is 0.</p> <p>Milestone - not required</p> <p>Target - 2</p>

	<p>Given the specific of some areas supported under SO 2.4, it is expected that uptake of solutions developed may be slow, and 1 year after completion may not be enough to promote/ materialize the uptake of solutions. As such, a conservative approach was adopted for setting the target. It is expected that half of the solutions developed in the projects will be taken-up/scaled-up by other entities. As such, the target value was set at 2.</p> <p>Only data from projects contributing to RCO84 output indicator will feed into the result indicator under this specific objective.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p> <p>Special monitoring measures need to be taken for capturing the contribution to this indicator; in this respect, the solutions need to be formally adopted by organisations and supporting documents need to be provided by the lead partner.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Solutions developed may not be of interest to other stakeholders. Given the variety of topics covered and the urgency of needs, it is unlikely that the solutions developed will not be of interest to other stakeholders or to be further on used by the project partners in other initiatives. Project partners may not be motivated to promote the developed solution. To prevent this, Programme authorities will include specific requirements for the project partners, to roll-out specific promotion actions, as part of the project sustainability.</p> <p>Thus, for this indicator, the measures proposed by the applicant for ensuring sustainability and durability of the project need to be clear and focused towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing visibility of the pilot actions so that other organizations can adopt/up-scale them; - propose clear measures for facilitating the adoption/ scaling-up of the pilot actions by the partners of the project themselves (indicate the distribution channels of the pilot actions tested).

RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations are legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation, and the cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected in order to enhance and reflect the cooperation across border in the field of climate change and risk prevention and adaptation.</p> <p>Since one of the main objectives of the Programme is support cooperation across the Romanian-Bulgarian border, the indicator was selected for all specific objectives.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>It is expected that the first financing contracts will be signed following the first call for proposals, most probably at the end of 2023/beginning of 2024. Therefore, the minimum project duration is set at 12 months, so no projects will be finalized</p>

<p><i>quality assurance and the calculation method)</i></p>	<p>in due time to report contribution to this indicator by the end of 2024. As a consequence, the milestone is set at 0.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 13</p> <p>The target was established considering the following:</p> <p>For the strategic projects on risk prevention and resilience (STREAM 2 and Danube RISK), a number of 10 partners are expected to be involved. However, considering the risks identified in relation to this type of projects, we considered for the target the partners involved in one project (6 partners).</p> <p>For the projects targeting climate change adaptation, an average number of 2.5 partners could be expected per project, based on the 2014-2020 experience⁶. The average of hard projects is considered to be 1.7 million euro (by analogy with the hard projects financed under 2014-2020 Programme in the field of environment). Considering the financial allocation of 9,126,636.25 euros (total excluding TA funds), 5 standard projects could be financed leading to 12 organizations involved in the projects (5 project x 2.5 partners/project = 12 partners).</p> <p>While not all projects may contribute to this indicator, this type of activity will be highly encouraged (for example by additional points in the evaluation process). So, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will contribute to this indicator, respectively 3 projects standard projects (rounded from 2.5 projects), representing 7 partners (3 projects x 2.5 partners/project = 7.5 partners).</p> <p>Therefore, considering the 2014-2020 statistics and the risks mentioned below, a conservatory approach was used, and the target was set for 13, out of which 6 from a strategic project on risk prevention and resilience and 7 from the projects on climate change (6 partners form 1 strategic project + 7 partners from standard projects = 13 partners).</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<p><i>Factors of influence</i></p>	<p>Political commitment or priorities may change. However, given the upfront preparatory work and the commitment that the Programme authorities request from the beneficiary/partner entities, it is unlikely that this will happen.</p> <p>The organisations are legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation, and the cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement). Programme authorities will include specific requirements from the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage may include detailed description of the partners' engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc. (e.g., Partnership Agreement).</p> <p>Also, the availability of other public funds may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p>

⁶ Data at Programme level, since for 2014-2020 the Interreg V-A RO-BG did not finance projects specifically targeting climate change adaptation.

	Moreover, in line with the Bulgarian national legislation, the Bulgarian applicants shall have to receive a letter of support from the respective national/regional competent body/ies before submitting their project proposal. This request may discourage the partners to develop and submit a proposal, as an additional step is added to the selection process. Also, the Romanian partners will be reserved in getting involved in development of projects as the participation of the Bulgarian partners is conditioned by the receipt of the letter of support, aspect that cannot be controlled by the partnership. The programme will run an intensive information campaign on this aspect, in order to raise awareness among the Romanian and Bulgarian applicants on this pre-request and to start the preparation process in advance.
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RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or upon project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was considered the most suitable to monitor the outcome the partnership established during the project implementation.</p> <p>Only data from projects contributing to RCO87 output indicator under this specific objective will feed into the result indicator for this specific objective.</p> <p>Since cross-border cooperation is one of the most important objectives of the Programme, this indicator was selected for all specific objectives.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 7 organizations</p> <p>The target for this result indicator is set at 50% of the target set for the corresponding output indicator: $50\% * 13 \text{ organisations} = 7 \text{ organisations (rounded)}$.</p> <p>In order for a project to contribute to this result indicator, the cooperation should fulfil the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cooperation is formalized under other form than the “partnership agreement” signed between the project partners; - the purpose of the project is to develop and maintain the cooperation between structures over a longer period of time than the duration of the project, including in other fields of interest; - not all the project partners need to sign the “cooperation agreement”, only a minimum of 2 partners; <p>Special monitoring measures need to be taken for capturing the contribution to this indicator; in this respect, the cooperation agreements need to be formally adopted</p>

	<p>by organisations and supporting documents need to be provided by the lead partner.</p> <p>We set the target for this result indicator conservatively at 50% of the target for the corresponding output indicator because the time limit for measuring is of only 1 year after project completion and there is a condition of “formal agreement” to continue the cooperation by organizations, which is also time-consuming.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator’s target will be measured 1 year after project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Political commitment or priorities may change. However, given the upfront preparatory work and the commitment that the Programme authorities request from the beneficiary/partner entities, it is unlikely that this will happen.</p> <p>Programme authorities will include specific requirements from the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and included in the financing contract and may include detailed description of the partners’ engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p> <p>In case the project envisages the conclusion of multiple cooperation agreements, the organisations will be counted only once, regardless the number of signed cooperation agreements. The cooperation agreements can be signed in the same topic tackled by the projects or in a different topic.</p> <p>Double counting will be eliminated at the level of the specific objective, so that the same organization is not counted more than once.</p>

RCO24 Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator measures the value of investments in projects, including in the strategic projects associated with works intended to increase the response capacity in respect to natural disasters produced as a result of climate change.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>Given the specific risk profile of the Programme area, floods are likely to be among the main natural threats affecting the territory, directly associated with climate change. Other risks include coastal erosion and landslides, fires caused by draughts and high temperatures etc.</p> <p>While the projects will be implementing several activities in pilot areas, hard investments, are likely to be the main expenditures and the most likely to produce immediate and visible benefits in the territory. As such, the indicator was selected to observe progress in respect to carrying out the projected investments in relation to natural disasters.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence,</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestones for 2024 - 0</p> <p>It is expected that the first financing contracts will be signed following the first call for proposals, most probably at the end of 2023/beginning of 2024. Therefore,</p>

<i>data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>considering the implementation period of the projects (of over 36 months for projects of strategic importance and an average 12-24 months for regular projects), no projects finalized the implementation period. Therefore, the target is set at 0.</p> <p>Target value - 20,000,000 euro</p> <p>Based on the data provided by the partners in the concept notes, the total allocation for investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters, we estimate that around 34,000,000 million euro (in total) could be allocated to this indicator.</p> <p>Considering the experience related to the implementation of the strategic projects, the target was established conservatively at 60% of the estimated value for investments, therefore the target is set at 20,000,000.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Based on the experience in the previous programming period, tendering procedures result in an acquisition price which is lower than the budgeted value. This is due mostly to the lowest price criterion, usually used for appraisal. Consequently, projects register economies of budget, as the value spent is lower than estimated. Other risk factor may be financial corrections applied during implementation of the contracts that may diminish final certified amounts.</p> <p>The achievement of the target may also be influenced by objective factors, such as socio-economic conditions, political changes, situations of force majeure, which are out of the control of the project partners or the Programme authorities. Thus, one of the projects would not be developed and implemented. Therefore, we set the target for this indicator conservatively at 60% of the estimated budget.</p>

RCR35 Population benefiting from flood protection measures

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the population (number of persons) living in areas where investments will be implemented, with the support of the Programme, in order to reduce vulnerability to flood risks. The indicator counts the resident population at risk of flooding.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>Given the proximity of human settlements and activities to the water bodies in the territory, particularly the River Danube, the risk of floods is likely to affect a large portion of the population.</p> <p>Given that important resources from the Programme are dedicated to carrying out investments in water-related risk prevention, mainly floods, the indicator was selected to measure the direct outcomes of those investments for the people in the RO-BG region. The indicator is likely to provide valuable information for evaluation purposes, as well.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p>

<i>evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Target for 2029 - 1 million persons.</p> <p>Project concept notes estimate an approximate value of 1 million people benefiting from the measures. Regular projects are expected to contribute to this indicator, however, considering the limited financial allocation 9,126,636.25 euros (total excluding TA funds), the contribution is reduced. However, considering, we set the target for this result indicator conservatively, taking into account the possible factors that might negatively influence the projects and their outcomes, including depopulation in the risk-prone areas, therefore the target is set at 1 million persons.</p> <p>Considering the need to avoid double counting, the population of each county has been considered only once. Also, estimations take into account the fact that the two projects are highly likely to address the same target groups.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon completion of output in the supported project.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>The population will continue to decrease, because of outward migration and negative demographic trends.</p> <p>Projects will be implemented in the same area and the achievements will not be reflected at programme level, due to double counting.</p> <p>The achievement of the target may also be influenced by objective factors, such as socio-economic conditions, political changes, situations of force majeure, which are out of the control of the project partners or the Programme authorities. Thus, one of the projects would not be developed and implemented.</p>

RCR 37 - Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods or wildfire)

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the population (number of persons) living in areas where investments will be implemented, with the support of the Programme, in order to reduce vulnerability to climate related natural risks, other than floods and wildfires (storms, droughts, heatwaves). These include erosion, landslides, earthquakes.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>Given that important resources from the Programme are dedicated to carrying out investments in risk prevention, the indicator was selected to measure the direct outcomes of those investments for the people in the RO-BG region.</p> <p>The indicator is likely to provide valuable information for evaluation purposes, as well.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 1,000,000 persons</p> <p>Project concept notes estimate an approximate value of two million people benefiting from the measures. However, considering, we set the target for this result indicator conservatively, taking into account the possible factors that might negatively influence the projects and their outcomes, including depopulation in the risk-prone areas.</p>

<i>calculation method)</i>	<p>Considering the need to avoid double counting, the population of each county has been considered only once. Also, estimations take into account the fact that the two projects are highly likely to address the same target groups, and some geographical area may overlap.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon completion of output in the supported project.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>The population will continue to decrease, because of outward migration and negative demographic trends.</p> <p>Projects will be implemented in the same area and the achievements will not be reflected at programme level, due to double counting.</p> <p>The achievement of the target may also be influenced by objective factors, such as socio-economic conditions, political changes, situations of force majeure, which are out of the control of the project partners or the Programme authorities. Thus, one of the projects would not be developed and implemented.</p>

RCO122 Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator measures the value of investments in the strategic projects associated with works intended to increase the response capacity in respect to non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>Given the risk profile of the Programme area, other water-related risks, including accidental water pollution, are also likely to manifest, considering the dense hydrological network and the intensity of human activities along the main rivers and especially on the Danube and the Black Sea. Earthquakes are also frequent and pose a significant threat to the population in the territory. The programme area also has a number of sites exposed to technology risks.</p> <p>Both projects envisage to carry out hard investments, which are likely to be the main expenditures and the most likely to produce immediate and visible benefits in the territory. As such, the indicator was selected to observe progress in respect to carrying out the projected investments in relation to non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestones for 2024 - 0</p> <p>The milestone was set to zero, as the operations will still be under implementation at the time of reporting.</p> <p>Target value - 4,000,000 euros</p> <p>Based on the estimations provided by the partners in the concept notes, the total allocation for investments would be around 7 million euro. However, considering the experience related to the implementation of the strategic projects, the target was established conservatively at around 60% of the estimated value for investments in the contracted project.</p>

	Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Based on the experience in the previous programming period, tendering procedures result in an acquisition price which is lower than the budgeted value. This is due mostly to the lowest price criterion, usually used for appraisal. Consequently, projects register economies of budget, as the value spent is lower than estimated. Other risk factor may be financial corrections applied during implementation of the contracts that may diminish final certified amounts.</p> <p>The achievement of the target may also be influenced by objective factors, such as socio-economic conditions, political changes, situations of force majeure, which are out of the control of the project partners or the Programme authorities. Thus, one of the projects would not be developed and implemented. Therefore, we set the target for this indicator conservatively at 40% of the estimated budget.</p>

RCR96 Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the population (number of persons) living in areas where investments will be implemented, with the support of the Programme, in order to reduce vulnerability to non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities.</p> <p>The indicator covers protection measures which are localised in high-risk areas (Craiova-Slatina, Giurgiu-Ruse, Silistra-Călărași-Tămădău Mare and Mangalia-Constanța-Năvodari) and cover specific risks, mainly technology risks, either related to harbour activities or to former communist industrial sites and use the proximity of the water resource as an asset for their activity. Two major industrial infrastructures in the area present a high level of risk - Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	Given that important resources from the Programme are dedicated to carrying out investments in risk prevention, the indicator was selected to measure the direct outcomes of those investments for the people in the RO-BG region. The indicator is likely to provide valuable information for evaluation purposes, as well.
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 300,000 persons.</p> <p>As the territorial analysis of the Programme area has shown, there are several non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities affecting the entire territory; some areas are affected by multiple risks.</p> <p>Project concept notes estimate a total value of 500,000 people benefiting from the measures. However, considering, we set the target for this result indicator conservatively, taking into account the possible factors that might negatively influence the projects and their outcomes, including depopulation in the risk-</p>

	<p>prone areas, as well as changes in the economic and industrial structure or upgrades to existing sites, which may lead to the elimination of some of the risks related to human activities.</p> <p>Considering the need to avoid double counting, the population of each county has been considered only once. Also, estimations take into account the fact that the two projects are highly likely to address the same target groups.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon completion of output in the supported project.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>The population will continue to decrease, because of outward migration and negative demographic trends.</p> <p>Projects will be implemented in the same area and the achievements will not be reflected at programme level, due to double counting.</p> <p>The achievement of the target may also be influenced by objective factors, such as socio-economic conditions, political changes, situations of force majeure, which are out of the control of the project partners or the Programme authorities. Thus, one of the projects would not be developed and implemented.</p>

Specific objective: 2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.

Justification (criteria) to select the indicators

The environment in the cross-border area faces several threats and adverse impacts of human and natural origin. Habitat degradation, land conversion and fragmentation, deforestation, industrialization, pollution, urbanization and overexploitation of natural resources, mass tourism, as well as climate change, have adverse effects on the environment and on quality of life in the cross-border area.

Also, one underlying challenge is the lack of consistent, comprehensive data. For example, in the case of air quality, data is available only for certain types of pollutants, and only for certain regions and years. This could indicate deficiencies in relation to monitoring or insufficient transparency. Based on existing data, the cross-border region and particularly its urban areas, are affected by water, air and soil pollution.

Considering the challenges affecting the cross-border area, under SO 2.7, the Programme will support actions related to reducing environment pollution, supporting the development of green infrastructures and the protection and preservation of nature and biodiversity.

Investments are expected to contribute to finding solutions for stopping environmental degradation, developing green infrastructures, expanding existing cross-border networks, building awareness and promoting successful solutions. A comprehensive approach, combining hard investments and soft measures is sought to provide better solutions to the problems in this area. Soft investments will only be financed if accompanying infrastructure development.

Given the relative novelty of the measures to be implemented, especially those in respect to the development of green infrastructures, it is expected that all projects have an innovative, even experimental component. As such, the focus in monitoring will be on observing progress through the pilot actions developed and implemented with the support of the programme. Pilot actions have significant importance also for being an element of added value, specific to the territorial cooperation programme. By selecting this indicator, the Programme authorities intend to encourage the testing of innovative solutions, to

showcase results and promote their uptake across the entire area. On that same note, particular attention will be given to monitoring the number of organizations cooperating across the border, as a measure of the contribution of the programme to supporting collaboration.

The following set of indicators reflects the purpose of the monitoring process:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.	RCO36 Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change	RCR95 Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure
	PSO3 Tools implemented for mitigating pollution	PSR3 Population living within the area covered by the tools implemented for mitigating pollution
	RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations
	RCO 87 Organizations cooperating across borders	RCR 84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion

The following targets were set for the indicators:

SO	Indicator	Baseline (2021)	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
SO 2.7	RCO36 Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change	0	0	5
	PSO3 Tools implemented for mitigating pollution	0	0	8
	RCR95 Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure	0	0	3,750
	PSR3 Population living within the area covered by the tools implemented for mitigation pollution	0	0	210,000
	RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	0	0	16
	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations	0	NA	8
	RCO 87 Organizations cooperating across borders	0	0	32
	RCR 84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion	0	NA	16

It is expected that the supported interventions would support the attainment of the *Green Deal* objectives in respect to promoting green urban spaces and reducing pollution.

Details regarding each indicator are presented as follows:

RCO36 Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the surface (hectares) of green infrastructure newly built or significantly upgraded for other purposes than adaptation to climate change. Upgrades refer to significant improvements in existing green infrastructures eligible for support. Maintenance is excluded.</p> <p>Examples of green infrastructure include biodiversity-rich parks, permeable soil cover, green walls, green roofs, green schoolyards etc. This indicator does not cover green infrastructure supported for adaptation to climate change (covered by indicator RCO26, selected by the programme for monitoring investments under SO 2.4) or investments in Natura 2000 (covered by indicator RCO37, not selected by the programme)</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>In SO 2.7, investments in green infrastructure are expected to enhance and to protect green areas in human settlements and raising awareness of the benefits of green spaces, including through: including by: roofing and façade greening, gardening, promoting green eco-friendly solutions for replacing pesticides and herbicides in urban areas etc.; Developing green areas, including connections between green spaces (urban parks, green sport facilities, forests, riverbank greens).</p> <p>Measures addressing green infrastructure (together with those targeting reduction of all forms of pollution) will be considered a higher priority among the rest of the activities under Specific objective 2(vii). <i>RCO36 Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change</i> was considered the most common suitable indicator to reflect this type of investments.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero, in line with the regulations</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>It is expected that the first financing contracts will be signed following the first call for proposals, most probably at the end of 2023/beginning of 2024. The minimum implementation period is of 12 months, so it is unlikely that investments in green infrastructure will produce outputs in time for the 2024 reporting on milestones, therefore the milestone is set at zero.</p> <p>Target is set at: 5 hectares</p> <p>The target value for this indicator was estimated taking into consideration the types of projects which will be financed, the experience from the 2014-2020 period and the available allocation. During 2014-2020, 4 projects were contracted on this topic, with an average value of 0.8 million euros (mostly soft activities), but due to the specificity of this indicator, we do not estimate that any soft project will contribute to it.</p>

	<p>The average of hard projects is considered to be 1.7 million euro (by analogy with the hard projects financed under 2014-2020 Programme in the field of environment).</p> <p>The available allocation for Investment code <i>079 Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure</i> is 18,750,000.00 euros, total budget excluding TA funds.</p> <p>However, considering the specific of this objective and the accent on the green infrastructure (mainly investment activities), we estimate that around 50% of the financial allocation will be allocated to hard projects (50% out of the total budget = $18,750,000 \times 50\% = 9,375,000$ euro).</p> <p>Data on costs for developing green infrastructure for other purposes than adaptation to climate change is not available from the 2014-2020 or previous programming periods, in the programme area. For 2021-2027, unit costs are available in Romania in the regional operational programs. Estimations of unitary costs under these programmes are based on average costs of creating green spaces in urban areas and amount to 1,568,727 euros/ hectare. Other sources⁷ show significant variations in costs, from around 300,000 euros up to 2,000,000 euros/hectare of green infrastructure built, depending on the type of works implemented. Similar Interreg interventions (Romania-Serbia) estimate costs of about 800,000 euros/ hectare.</p> <p>Projects are expected to contribute to this indicator, with about 60% of their budget allocation to such investments. Considering an average cost of approximatively 1,000,000 euro/hectare and the 9,375,000 budgetary allocation, it is estimated that projects would contribute to building or upgrading around 5 hectares of green infrastructure for adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>The quality of projects may be limited, due to lack of experience of potential beneficiaries. To avoid this, the Programme authorities will provide extensive information, in the application package. Also, in order to ensure higher added value and quality of the financed operations, competent Romanian and Bulgarian institutions/bodies may be actively involved in the preparation of the call for proposals guidelines.</p> <p>The availability of other public funds in mainstream programs may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p>

PSO3 Tools implemented for mitigating pollution

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the number of tools developed with the aim of improving pollution control, monitoring and data collection on air, soil and water pollution, particularly in urban areas, including through setting up tools for measuring the

⁷ For example [The Real Cost of Green Infrastructure \(wef.org\)](#), [untitled \(elca.info\)](#)

	<p>air, soil and water quality and providing real-time data (e.g., networks of sensors, applications and platforms to allow reporting by the public etc.).</p> <p>The indicator is used for keeping track of investments related to pollution mitigation, monitoring and data collection on various types of pollution and for improving the pollution mitigation.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>SO 2.7 supports interventions aiming to improve pollution control, by investments in pollution control, monitoring and data collection on air, soil and water pollution, particularly in urban areas, including through setting up tools for measuring the air, soil and water quality and providing real-time data (e.g. networks of sensors and applications and platforms to allow reporting by the public).</p> <p>As the common indicator which is closer to fit these operations (RCO39 Area covered by systems for monitoring air pollution installed) is limited to air pollution monitoring, the programme authorities decided to establish this specific indicator, to include all types of pollution.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Given that the completion of the activities in relation to this indicator will occur towards the ending of the projects and considering the chronology for implementation described previously, it is estimated that the milestone for 2024 is zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 8 tools</p> <p>The target value for this indicator was estimated taking into consideration the types of projects which will be financed, the experience from the 2014-2020 period and the available allocation. During 2014-2020, 4 projects were contracted on this topic, with an average value of 0.8 million euros.</p> <p>Considering these same assumptions and the available allocation for intervention code 077 (6,250,000.00 euros, total allocation excluding TA funds), it is estimated that during 2021-2027, approximately 8 projects will be supported for setting up tools for measuring the air, soil and water quality and providing real-time data. Considering that each project will implement at least one tool, the target was set conservatively at 8.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Given the novelty of investments supported under SO 2.7, it is likely that some beneficiaries /partners will not be interested in approaching this type of projects. This is why the target for this indicator was established conservatively.</p> <p>Moreover, the availability of other public funds may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p>

RCR95 Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure

Details	Explanations
Definition	The indicator counts the estimated population living within a 2 km radius from the public green infrastructure built or significantly upgraded in urban areas and supported by the projects under SO 2.7.
Criteria applied to select the indicator	This result indicator has been selected in relation to the output indicator <i>RCO 36 Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change</i> and it measures the change at the level of the population in terms of access to green infrastructure. Only data from projects contributing to RCO36 output indicator will contribute to this result indicator.
Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Given that the completion of the activities in relation to this indicator will occur towards the ending of the projects and considering the chronology for implementation described previously, it is estimated that the milestone for 2024 is zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 3,750 persons</p> <p>The target value for this indicator was estimated taking into consideration the average population density for the programme area and calculated an approximatively number of persons that will have access to the upgraded green infrastructure by the end of 2029.</p> <p>For 1 ha of green infrastructure built or upgraded, an average of 13 square kilometers would enter in the radius of 2 km, meaning that the population benefiting from 1 ha of green infrastructure would be:</p> <p>Population = 13 sqkm* 58 pers/sqm (average population density for all the NUTS 3 regions in the programme area, rounded) = 750 persons for each hectare of green infrastructure. As it is estimated that 5 hectares will be built or improved, the target for RCR95 is established at 5x750 persons = 3,750 pers.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
Factors of influence	Population density varies significantly in the programme area. Romanian counties (NUTS3) are more densely populated than the ones on the Bulgarian side, mostly in Constanța (95.63 inh/km ²) and Dolj (85.12 inh/km ²), both having important major cities, the Municipality of Constanța and the Municipality of Craiova. On the Bulgarian side, the maximum density is scored in Ruse (77.96 inh/km ²) and there is also a minimum of population density in Vidin with 27.98 inh/km ² , approximately half of the minimum value registered on the Romanian border (the county of Mehedinți).

	While it is expected that projects will be implemented in areas with relatively high population density, the entire programme area is faced constant population decrease, especially along the Danube River, due to demographic trends and outward migration. As such, population density is expected to decrease further, making it more difficult for the projects to reach their initial targets. As such, population density and the target for the indicator was established cautiously.
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PSR3 Population living within the area covered by the tools implemented for mitigating pollution

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the estimated population which lives in an area where one or more additional air, soil and water quality monitoring stations / tools were developed, with the support of the program.</p> <p>Only the population residing in the area covered by the pollution monitoring systems monitored under PSO3 is counted for this indicator.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was designed to capture the immediate results of the interventions targeting pollution control, by investments in reducing pollution, monitoring and data collection on air, soil and water pollution, particularly in urban areas, including through setting up tools for measuring the air, soil and water quality and providing real-time data (e.g., networks of sensors and applications and platforms to allow reporting by the public).</p> <p>In line with the argumentation for PSO3, a specific result indicator was established, to reflect all types of pollution tools supported.</p> <p>If more than one system is installed in the same area (for example water and air and soil quality), the population is counted only once.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Given that the completion of the activities in relation to this indicator will occur towards the ending of the projects and considering the chronology for implementation described previously, it is estimated that the milestone for 2024 is zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 210,000 persons</p> <p>The target value for this indicator was estimated taking into consideration the total population for the programme area and calculated an approximatively number of persons that will live in areas where tools will be implemented by the end of 2029.</p> <p>Different types of tools may be developed for different types of territorial coverage (streets in urban areas, water basins etc.), so it is difficult to anticipate where they will be developed/ installed. However, it is expected that urban areas or larger agglomerations will be particularly targeted.</p> <p>Taking into account the number of tools to be implemented, we estimate that approx. 5% of the population in the programme area (approx. 210,000 persons) will be residing in areas covered by the tools.</p>

	Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.
<i>Factors of influence</i>	While it is expected that projects will be implemented in urban areas with relatively high population density, the entire programme area is faced constant population decrease, especially along the Danube River, due to demographic trends and outward migration. As such, population is expected to decrease further, making it more difficult for the projects to reach their initial targets. As such, population density and the target for the indicator was established cautiously.

RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation, or the transfer of practices. In the context of SO 2.7, pilot actions refer to measures implemented in respect to reducing all types of pollution, supporting the development of green infrastructures, enhancing biodiversity conservation, recovery and sustainable use and protection of natural heritage, including Natura 2000 and RAMSAR sites. One project may carry out investments in both respects and implement multiple pilot actions. Each pilot action will be counted only once, regardless of its focus.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>Pilot actions are expected to be the most significant activities implemented by the projects under this SO. As such, the indicator was selected as it is the most suitable to track progress in implementation. Indicator <i>RCO116 Jointly developed solutions</i> were analysed, but, considering that we expect hands-on, visible results from the projects, pilot actions were considered more appropriate. Some projects may also build on previously developed solutions. Moreover, choosing the same indicator in more SOs allows for aggregation at OP level and for a better understanding of progress in implementation.</p> <p>To be counted for this indicator, the pilot action needs not only to be developed, but also implemented within the project and the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project. Jointly developed pilot action implies the involvement of organizations from both participating countries in its implementation.</p> <p>The pilot action needs to be identifiable on its own, not only in connection with other outputs of the project.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Given that the completion of the activities in relation to this indicator will occur towards the ending of the projects and considering the chronology for implementation described previously, it is estimated that the milestone for 2024 is zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 16</p>

<i>calculation method)</i>	<p>The target value for this indicator was estimated taking into consideration the types of projects which will be financed, the experience from the 2014-2020 period and the available allocation. During 2014-2020, 4 projects were contracted on this topic, with an average value of 0.8 million euros.</p> <p>However, considering the specific of this objective, and the accent on the green infrastructure and pollution, we estimate that around 50% of the financial allocation will be allocated to projects with a higher budget, of over 1 million euros. The average of hard projects is considered to be 1.7 million euro (by analogy with the hard projects financed under 2014-2020 Programme in the field of environment).</p> <p>Considering these same assumptions and the available allocation for the entire SO 2.7 (35 MEUR total excluding TA funds), it is estimated that during 2021-2027, approximately 32 projects will be supported (around 10 projects with an average value of 1.7 million euros and 22 projects with a budget of approx. 0.8 million euros)</p> <p>While not all may be developing pilot actions, this type of activity will be highly encouraged (for example by additional points in the appraisal process) and some projects will implement more than one pilot action. However, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will develop at least one pilot action. As such, the target was established at 16 (32 projects x 50% = 16 pilots).</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Given the novelty of investments supported under SO 2.7, it is likely that some beneficiaries /partners will not be willing to implement pilot actions or that their development and implementation will be delayed, due to inexperience. This is why the target for this indicator was established conservatively.</p> <p>Moreover, the availability of other public funds may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p> <p>Also, in line with the Bulgarian national legislation, the Bulgarian applicants shall have to receive a letter of support from the respective national/regional competent body/ies before submitting their project proposal. This request may discourage the partners to develop and submit a proposal, as an additional step is added to the selection process. Also, the Romanian partners will be reserved in getting involved in development of projects as the participation of the Bulgarian partners is conditioned by the receipt of the letter of support, aspect that cannot be controlled by the partnership. The programme will run an intensive information campaign on this aspect, in order to raise awareness among the Romanian and Bulgarian applicants on this pre-request and to start the preparation process in advance.</p>

RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of solutions, other than legal or administrative solutions, that are developed by supported projects and are taken up or upscaled during the implementation of the project or within one year after project completion.</p> <p>The pilot actions developed in the projects will be presented to other stakeholders, as such indicator RCR 104 was selected as the most suitable for tracking the outcomes of the project. It is also the closest linked to RCO84.</p> <p>The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may or may not be a participant in the project. The uptake / up-scaling should be documented by the adopting organisations in, for instance, strategies, action plans etc.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>This result indicator has been selected in relation to the output indicator RCO84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 8</p> <p>Given the specificity of areas supported under SO 2.7, it is expected that uptake of solutions developed may be slow. As such, a conservative approach was adopted for setting the target. It is expected that approximately 50% of the solutions developed in the projects will be taken-up/scaled-up by other entities. As such, the target value was set at 8 (50% out of 16 pilots = 8).</p> <p>Calculations only refer to data from projects financed under this SO.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured 1 year after project completion.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion, based on supporting documents provided by the lead partner.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Solutions developed may not be of interest to other stakeholders. A slow uptake is envisaged given the novelty of the topic.</p> <p>Also, the project partners may not be motivated to promote the developed solution. To prevent this, Programme authorities will include specific requirements for the project partners, to roll-out specific promotion actions, as part of the project sustainability. Thus, for this indicator, the measures proposed by the applicant for ensuring sustainability and durability of the project need to be clear and focused towards:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing visibility of the pilot actions so that other organizations can adopt/up-scale them; - propose clear measures for facilitating the adoption/ scaling-up of the pilot actions by the partners of the project themselves (indicate the distribution channels of the pilot actions tested).
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RC087 Organizations cooperating across borders

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects under this SO. The organisations are legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation, and the cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected in order to enhance and reflect the cooperation across border in respect to reducing environment pollution, supporting the development of green infrastructures and the protection and preservation of nature and biodiversity.</p> <p>Also, since one of the main objectives of the Programme is to support cooperation across the Romanian-Bulgarian border, the indicator was selected for all specific objectives.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0 Considering the chronology described previously, the operations will still be under implementation in 2024.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 32</p> <p>The target value for this indicator was estimated taking into consideration the types of projects which will be financed, the experience from the 2014-2020 period and the available allocation.</p> <p>During 2014-2020, 4 projects were contracted, with an average value of 0.8 million euros. However, considering the specific of this objective, and the accent on the green infrastructure and pollution, we estimate that around 50% of the financial allocation will be allocated to projects with a higher budget. The average of hard projects is considered to be 1.7 million euro (by analogy with the hard projects financed under 2014-2020 Programme in the field of environment).</p> <p>Considering these same assumptions and the available allocation (35 MEUR), it is estimated that during 2021-2027, approximately 32 projects will be supported (around 10 projects with an average value of 1.7 million euros and 22 projects with a budget of approx. 0.8 million euros). In the 2014-2020 period, each project had an average of 2.2 partners, however, we consider at least 2 partners per project.</p> <p>While not all projects may contribute to this indicator, this type of activity will be highly encouraged (for example by additional points in the evaluation process). Therefore, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will</p>

	<p>contribute to this indicator. Therefore, the target was set for 32 organizations (considering 2 partners per project x 16 projects = 32 organizations).</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Programme authorities will include specific requirements from the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and may include detailed description of the partners' engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p> <p>The organisations are legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation, and the cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).</p> <p>Moreover, the availability of other public funds may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p> <p>Also, in line with the Bulgarian national legislation, the Bulgarian applicants shall have to receive a letter of support from the respective national/regional competent body/ies before submitting their project proposal. This request may discourage the partners to develop and submit a proposal, as an additional step is added to the selection process. Also, the Romanian partners will be reserved in getting involved in development of projects as the participation of the Bulgarian partners is conditioned by the receipt of the letter of support, aspect that cannot be controlled by the partnership. The programme will run an intensive information campaign on this aspect, in order to raise awareness among the Romanian and Bulgarian applicants on this pre-request and to start the preparation process in advance.</p>

RCR 84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87.</p> <p>The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or upon project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was considered the most suitable to monitor the outcome the partnership established during the project implementation.</p>

<p><i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i></p>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 16</p> <p>The target for this result indicator is set at 50% of the target set for the corresponding output indicator: 50% * 32 organisations = 16 organisations.</p> <p>In order for a project to contribute to this result indicator, the cooperation should fulfil the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cooperation is formalized under other form than the “partnership agreement” signed between the project partners; - the purpose of the project is to develop and maintain the cooperation between structures over a longer period of time than the duration of the project, including in other fields of interest; - not all the project partners need to sign the “cooperation agreement”, only a minimum of 2 partners; <p>Special monitoring measures need to be taken for capturing the contribution to this indicator; in this respect, the cooperation agreements need to be formally adopted by organisations and supporting documents need to be provided by the lead partner.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator’s target will be measured 1 year after project completion.</p> <p>We set the target for this result indicator conservatively at 50% of the target for the corresponding output indicator because the time limit for measuring is of only 1 year after project completion and there is a condition of “formal agreement” to continue the cooperation by organizations, which is also time-consuming.</p>
<p><i>Factors of influence</i></p>	<p>Programme authorities will include specific requirements from the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and included in the financing contract and may include detailed description of the partners’ engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p> <p>In case the project envisages the conclusion of multiple cooperation agreements, the organisations will be counted only once, regardless the number of signed cooperation agreements. The cooperation agreements can be signed in the same topic tackled by the projects or in a different topic (there are no conditionalities/correlations between agreements and each one can be applied independently).</p> <p>Double counting will be eliminated at the level of the specific objective, so that the same organization is not counted more than once.</p>

Romania – Bulgaria

Priority 3: An educated region

Specific objective: 4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

Justification (criteria) to select the indicators

On both sides of the border, the region is affected by systemic challenges: high levels of illiteracy and poverty, low participation to education, training and life-long learning. Language barriers prevent the people in the cross-border region from reaping the benefits of learning or working mobility, whereas the limited collaboration between the national and local authorities in the training and education sector as well as between the education authorities and the business further decrease the opportunities for enhancing the quality and inclusiveness of the two education and training systems and for realization on the market (RO and BG). The quality of infrastructure, including endowments for digital education and training and development of digital skills, is low.

Collaboration is limited between the key stakeholders in the sector at national and local level and linkages between the education system and the business sector are weak, further reducing the opportunities for improving the quality of the education and training services and improving employment outcomes. The situation is similar on both sides of the border.

SO 4.2 was selected to support actions enhancing cross-border collaboration in the field of education and training, to create new opportunities for cross-border mobility and joint actions in increasing access and participation to education and training, including for disadvantaged groups (persons with low education levels and/or affected by poverty).

In the context of the Programme, projects of limited financial value (small scale projects) below 300,000 euros (ERDF) may be financed under SO 4.2, alongside the regular projects. The purpose and the target groups will correspond to the indicators and to the target groups identified for the specific objective. Small-scale projects will support both soft measures (such as training, internships, student exchange, mutual learning and exchange of practices between teachers and trainers, partnerships between education establishments and businesses) and hard measures (investments in infrastructure and educational facilities and endowments).

The focus of the monitoring for SO 4.2 is on observing progress towards engaging the target groups in concrete training activities so that they may acquire new skills and competencies. At the same time, given the limited linkages between the education and training system and the labour market, on both sides of the border and between Romanian and Bulgaria, the monitoring system will track progress in supporting cooperation. The following set of indicators reflects the purpose of the monitoring process:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training.	PSO4 Investments in education, training and life-long learning services	PSR4 Annual users of the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services
	RCO85 Participations in joint training schemes	RCR81 Completion of joint training schemes

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion

The following targets were established for the indicators:

SO	Indicator	Baseline (2021)	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4.2	PSO4 Investments in education, training and life-long learning services	0	0	13
	PSR4 Annual users of the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services	0	NA	7,800
	RCO85 Participations in joint training schemes	0	0	2,600
	RCR81 Completion of joint training schemes	0	NA	1,560
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	0	0	33
	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion	0	NA	16

Future interventions are expected to support efforts for curbing down illiteracy in the cross-border region, for enhancing basic digital and languages skills (RO and BG) of the population and for increasing the quality of the labour force in the region.

Details regarding each indicator are presented as follows:

RCO85 Participations in joint training schemes

Details	Explanations
Definition	<p>The indicator counts the number of participations in joint training schemes. Participations in a joint training scheme are intended to be counted as registered participants who completed at least 60% of the training. A joint training scheme implies the involvement of organizations from both participating countries. A joint training scheme requires building knowledge in a certain topic and involves the training of participants over several sessions. A one-off meeting/event/internal session where information is disseminated will not be considered as a training scheme.</p> <p>In the context of SO 4.2, this indicator counts the number of participations in joint trainings schemes organized by supported projects and it was selected because for this thematic field, joint training schemes are the core of the projects.</p>

	<p>The actions are considered joint if they are prepared and implemented by partners on both sides of the border and are available for target groups from both Romania and Bulgaria.</p> <p>Training organisers will be required to record the confirmed completions or to issue certificates of completion for the training activities.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>In the context of SO 4.2, trainings are expected to be the most significant activities implemented by the projects. As such, the indicator was selected as it is the most suitable to track progress in implementation. As such RCO85 was considered the most suitable to track progress on the interventions.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Considering the fact that the calls under this specific objective are planned to be launched in 2024, the milestone is set 0.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 2,600</p> <p>Data from projects implemented during 2014-2020 was used to inform the target setting for this indicator. A number of 20 projects under PA4 - <i>A skilled and inclusive region</i> (Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria) were analysed (by analogy with the projects financed under IP 8i), as they contributed to the indicator “<i>Joint educational and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders</i>”, which is relatively similar to RCO85. The lack of perfect correspondence is acknowledged. From the 20 projects, a total of approximately 9,700 participants was estimated, with a median of approximately 200 participants per project. Based on latest reports, progress was generally good at project level and, overall, at programme level, the targets were achieved. Also, the median value of a project was of almost 586,000 euro.</p> <p>Thus, based on these statistics and considering the current allocation (of 15,000,000 euro in total), 26 projects are estimated to be financed. For the regular projects, similar as for the small-scale projects, an estimated number of 200 participants/project could be expected.</p> <p>While not all projects may contribute to this indicator, this type of activity will be highly encouraged (for example by additional points in the evaluation process). Therefore, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will contribute to this indicator.</p> <p>Therefore, considering these assumptions and the identified risks, a conservatory approach was used, and the target was set for 2,600 participants (50% x 26 projects = 13 projects; 13 projects x 200 participants/project = 2,600 participants).</p> <p>Participants in more than one training schemes organised by the same project will only be counted once.</p>

<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Training may include smaller number of participants than previous projects, if the target groups will not be interested or will be prevented from participating in the joint trainings by external conditions (such as COVID-related restrictions). Demographic trends and outward migration may also decrease the potential target group.</p> <p>However, the implementation of small-scale projects is meant to target a very specific action, so it is expected that they would be more attractive for reaching out to potential participants. It is also expected that training organizers will take advantage of the digital instruments and social media available, to reach out to the target group. This will be encouraged through the application documents.</p> <p>Also, in case of investments projects, the activities would require a longer implementation period in order to produce outputs. This is why the milestone was established conservatively.</p>
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RCR81 Completion of joint training schemes

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of participants completing the joint trainings schemes organised by supported projects. This indicator was selected because it is suitable to measure the outcomes of the participation to the training activities. As such, it will be used jointly with the output indicator RCO85.</p> <p>Completion should be documented by the training organisers either through a record of the confirmed completions or by issuing certificates of completion of the training. The certificates of completion do not necessarily require a previous national certification process of the issuing organisation.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>In the context of SO 4.2, trainings are expected to be the most significant activities implemented by the projects. RCR81 was considered the most suitable to observe the immediate outcomes of the activities performed.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 1,560</p> <p>Based on the experience from the previous programming periods, it is estimated that, out of the total number of participants in training programs, only about 70% complete the training and about 60% receive certification (when it is awarded)⁸. Higher values are expected in the case of public institutions staff or formal education set-ups and lower values in the case of vulnerable groups and less formalized training.</p> <p>As such, a share of 60% of the output indicator was chosen for calculating the target of RCR81. Therefore, a conservatory approach was used, and the target was set for 1,560 participants (60% x 2,600 participants).</p>

⁸ Based on expert opinion

	<p>Only data from projects contributing to this RCO85 output indicator will feed into the result indicator.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured 1 year after project completion. In order to have information about the number of participations, projects must also report their contribution to this indicator within the first year after project completion.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	Participants may withdraw or not pass the final examination, for receiving the certification. This may be due to limited interest from the participants, difficulty of topics covered by the trainings, as well as other factors, external to the projects. Taking into account the experience in previous projects, the target was estimated at 60% of the total number of participants.

PSO4 Investments in education, training and life-long learning services

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of investments and it is directly dependent on the number of investments introduced and described by the applicants in the Application Form, in Jems.</p> <p>The indicator is built based on the section "Investments" of the Application Form that at least one project partner needs to fill-out. All the requirements (including in terms of ownership and sustainability) for this section are described in detail in the Applicant's Guide and in the Jems User Manual.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected to monitor actions in respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investments in the infrastructure of educational facilities (e.g., learning spaces such as classrooms, labs, libraries, workshops, gyms, outdoor learning spaces etc.) for all education levels and educational activities (including remedial and after-school), technical and vocational training and LLL etc.; special attention will be given to promoting accessible and inclusive learning. - Investments in ensuring proper endowment (equipment, tools, etc.) for joint learning facilities with focus on digitalization, digital skills and remote learning. <p>In the context of SO 4.2, investments in infrastructure are expected to be an important component of the projects. As such, the indicator was selected as it is the most suitable to track progress in implementation.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Considering the fact that the calls under this specific objective are planned to be launched in 2024, the milestone is set 0.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 13</p>

	<p>Considering the current allocation (of 15,000,000 euro in total, excluding TA funds) and previous experience, 26 projects are estimated to be financed. While not all projects may contribute to this indicator, this type of activity will be highly encouraged.</p> <p>For each project, we estimate that at least one partner taking part in the implementation will develop at least 1 investment.</p> <p>Therefore, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will contribute to this indicator.</p> <p>Therefore, and the target was set for 13 investments (50% x 26 projects = 13 projects carrying out investments).</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Since all the projects implemented under this specific objective will have an investment component, the achievement of the target could be influenced by difficulties in implementation, public tenders and acquiring permits, as well as by extraordinary circumstances.</p> <p>The implementation and achievement of results will also depend on the capacity of the project partners to design and carry out joint investment activities.</p>

PSR4 Annual users of the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the number of pupils/students/persons benefiting from the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services. One individual can be counted more than once if using the investments multiple times, but for different purposes, or if using different facilities (if the investment is used recurrently, one individual will be counted only once no matter how many times it uses the investment). The teachers, parents, auxiliary personnel or any other persons that may use the services with other purpose than benefitting from educational/training services are not counted.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected to monitor actions in respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investments in the infrastructure of educational facilities (e.g., learning spaces such as classrooms, labs, libraries, workshops, gyms, outdoor learning spaces etc.) for all education levels and educational activities (including remedial and after-school), technical and vocational training and LLL etc.; special attention will be given to promoting accessible and inclusive learning. - Investments in ensuring proper endowment (equipment, tools, etc.) for joint learning facilities with focus on digitalization, digital skills and remote learning. <p>In the context of SO 4.2, investments in infrastructure are expected to be an important component of the projects. As such, the indicator was selected as it is the most suitable to track the immediate results of these investments, in correspondence with PSO4. Since there is a significant deficit in infrastructure (labs, educational spaces, workshops etc. are missing, not precarious), we expect that investments target the creation of new such facilities.</p>

	Common indicators were also analysed (RCO67 Classroom capacity of new or modernised education facilities, RCR71 Annual users of new or modernised education facilities), but they were not suitable enough to reflect the nature of the investments, as in the case of the Interreg VI-A programme, the focus is mainly on educational spaces (not necessarily within education institutions) and not on developing classroom capacity or monitoring participation to formal education.
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. Since there is a significant deficit in infrastructure (labs, education spaces, workshops etc. are missing, not precarious), we expect that investments target the creation of new such facilities. The baseline for this indicator is therefore set to zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Considering the fact that the calls under this specific objective are planned to be launched in 2024, the milestone is set 0.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 7,800 persons.</p> <p>Based on the argumentation for indicator PS04, it is expected that 13 projects will contribute to this indicator. For each investment, we estimate conservatively an average of 50 users / month, leading to 600 users / investment/year. Consequently, the target for this indicator is 7,800 persons/year (600 users/year*13 projects)</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Since all the projects implemented under this specific objective will have an investment component, the achievement of the target could be influenced by difficulties in implementation, public tenders and acquiring permits, as well as by extraordinary circumstances.</p> <p>The achievement of results will also depend on quality of the investments, on their usefulness and attractiveness for the intended target groups and of the availability of the users. Not least, achieving the results and ensuring sustainability will depend on the availability of human resources to manage the facilities and deliver the intended education/training services and/or learning experiences.</p>

RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities including project partners and associated organizations, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the application.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	The indicator was selected in order to enhance and reflect the cooperation across border in the field of education and training. Also, since one of the main objectives of the Programme is to support cooperation across the Romanian-Bulgarian border, the indicator was selected for all specific objectives.
<i>Baseline, milestone and target</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0 (considering the chronology described previously).</p>

<p><i>(data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i></p>	<p>Target for 2029 - 33</p> <p>The target value for this indicator was estimated taking into consideration the types of projects which will be financed, the experience from the 2014-2020 period and the available allocation.</p> <p>A number of 20 projects under PA4 of the 2014-2020 projects was analysed, as they contributed to the indicator “Joint educational and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders”. The lack of perfect correspondence to the actions supported under SO4.2 is acknowledged.</p> <p>Also, the median value of a project was of almost 586,000 euros.</p> <p>Considering the financial allocation of 15,000,000 euro and a median project value of 586,000 euro, it is expected that 26 projects will be financed (both regular and small-scale projects). Based on the statistics from 2014-2020 programming period, each project had an average of 2.5 partners.</p> <p>While not all projects may contribute to this indicator, this type of activity will be highly encouraged (for example by additional points in the evaluation process). Therefore, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will contribute to this indicator.</p> <p>Considering these assumptions, and the risks mentioned below, a conservatory approach was used, and the target was set for 33 organizations (considering 2.5 partners per project x 13 projects = 33 organizations).</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator’s target will be measured upon project completion.</p>
<p><i>Factors of influence</i></p>	<p>Financial capacity of beneficiaries / partners may decrease, if an economic downturn will follow the COVID-19 medical crisis. This may limit their willingness or ability to carry out the project activities and commit to longer-term collaborations. Programme authorities will support beneficiaries and partners by providing paid advances and adopting a flexible approach during implementation.</p> <p>However, specific requirements will be asked to the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and may include detailed description of the partners’ engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p> <p>The organisations are legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation, and the cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).</p> <p>Also, the availability of other public funds may influence the decision of the potential applicants of applying under the Interreg programme. Therefore, the programme will run an intensive campaigning on promoting the call and providing support for developing applications.</p>

RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project.</p> <p>The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was considered the most suitable to monitor the outcome the partnership established during the project implementation.</p> <p>Since one of the main objectives of the Programme is support cooperation across the Romanian-Bulgarian border, the indicator was selected for all specific objectives.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0.</p> <p>Milestone - not required</p> <p>Target - 16</p> <p>The target for this result indicator is set at 50% of the target set for the corresponding output indicator: $50\% * 33 \text{ organisations} = 16 \text{ organisations}$.</p> <p>Special monitoring measures need to be taken for capturing the contribution to this indicator; in this respect, the cooperation agreements need to be formally adopted by organisations and supporting documents need to be provided by the lead partner.</p> <p>We set the target for this result indicator conservatively at 50% of the target for the corresponding output indicator because the time limit for measuring is of only 1 year after project completion and there is a condition of “formal agreement” to continue the cooperation by organizations, which is also time-consuming.</p> <p>In order for a project to contribute to this result indicator, the cooperation should fulfil the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cooperation is formalized under other form than the “partnership agreement” signed between the project partners; - the purpose of the project is to develop and maintain the cooperation between structures over a longer period of time than the duration of the project; - not all the project partners need to sign the “cooperation agreement”, only a minimum of 2 partners. <p>These conditions will be extensively described in the Applicant’s Guide and the quality assessment will also check their fulfilment.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator’s target will be measured 1 year after project completion.</p>

Romania – Bulgaria

<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Financial capacity of beneficiaries / partners may decrease, if an economic downturn will follow the COVID-19 medical crisis. This may limit their willingness or ability to carry out the project activities and commit to longer-term collaborations. Programme authorities will support beneficiaries and partners by providing paid advances and adopting a flexible approach during implementation.</p> <p>However, specific requirements will be asked to the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and included in the financing contract and may include detailed description of the partners' engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p> <p>In case the project envisages the conclusion of multiple cooperation agreements, the organisations will be counted only once, regardless the number of signed cooperation agreements. The cooperation agreements can be signed in the same topic tackled by the projects or in a different topic (there are no conditionalities/correlations between agreements and each one can be applied independently). Double counting will be eliminated at the level of the specific objective, so that the same organization is not counted more than once.</p>
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Priority 4: An integrated region

Specific objective: 5.2. Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security, in areas other than urban areas

Justification (criteria) to select the indicators

Considering the relatively low economic development of the border area as well as the significant unfavourable economic and social effects of COVID-19 crisis, it is essential that an integrated approach be adopted for the future, building on the existing networks of cities and helping the local economy to embrace the digital transformation, access new markets and become more resilient to global shocks.

The historical, cultural and natural heritage is a common asset which could be used to support economic diversification across the region. However, existing sites are often inaccessible, un-promoted and in poor condition.

At the same time, the Eurovelo 6 cycling route presents a remarkable opportunity for the area to benefit from the potential tourist flows and valorise its historical, natural and cultural heritage and to support the local economy. The route is nearly completed and has gained significant popularity among travellers, but the only missing link is currently on the Romanian-Bulgarian border.

Additional infrastructure and services are necessary, to accommodate the needs of the visitors and prolong their stay. Support along the value chain and in connected sectors (such as creative industries or agri-food) will also be necessary. The available work resources will also need preparation, to take on the newly created jobs in the respective sectors.

As such, SO 5.2 was selected to support an integrated approach to the economic development of the region, having as a backbone the Eurovelo 6 route and the valorisation of the tourism potential. A direct support to the local SMEs and microenterprises will also be envisaged. Priority will be given to projects demonstrating a direct connection to the EuroVelo 6.

The implementation of PO 5 is based on the integrated territorial strategy developed by the relevant stakeholders in the region. Any delays of the developing and implementation process of the strategy have an impact on the achievement of the output and result indicators. Therefore, the performance of the Programme is influenced by the activity of the stakeholders.

The focus of the monitoring for SO 5.2 is on capturing the progress towards developing the Eurovelo 6 route, and of the secondary routes and towards supporting the many valuable tourism attractions present in the area. At the same time, given the limited linkages between the Romanian and Bulgarian stakeholders, the monitoring system will track progress in supporting cooperation. However, it is also important that these actions bring tangible benefits to the people and communities in the area. These outcomes will be observed by the actual number of persons using the developed cycling infrastructure and the visitors attracted to the supported sites. The number of SMEs cooperating will give the measure of the Programme's performance in supporting local businesses. The following set of indicators reflects the purpose of the monitoring process:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
5.2. Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and	RCO58 Dedicated cycling	RCR64 Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security, in areas other than urban areas	infrastructure supported	
	RCO77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion
	RCO76 Integrated projects for territorial development	
	RCO01 Enterprises supported	
	RCO02 Enterprises supported by grants	

The following targets were set for the indicators:

SO	Indicator	Baseline (2021)	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
5.2	RCO58 Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported	0	0	200
	RCR64 Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure	0	NA	5,000
	RCO77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	0	0	18
	RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported	0	NA	32,400
	RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders	0	0	60
	RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion	0	NA	45
	RCO76 Integrated projects for territorial development	0	0	60
	RCO01 Enterprises supported	0	0	31
	RCO02 Enterprises supported by grants	0	0	31

Details regarding each indicator are presented as follows:

RCO58 Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported

Details	Explanations
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<i>Definition</i>	The indicator measures the length of dedicated cycling infrastructure newly built or significantly upgraded by projects supported. Dedicated cycling infrastructure includes cycling facilities separated from roads for vehicular traffic or other parts of the same road by structural means (kerbs, barriers), cycling streets, cycling tunnels, etc. For cycling infrastructure with separated one-way lanes (ex: on each side of a road), the length is measured as lane length.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	One of the main actions supported under SO 5.2 is supporting the development of the EuroVelo Route 6. As such, the indicator was considered the most appropriate to track progress in this respect and was selected for this SO.
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Considering the chronology described previously, it is estimated that at least 50% of the project contracts will be signed by the end of 2024, but the actual outputs are unlikely to be ready to be included in the 2024 reporting. As such, the milestone was set at zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 200 km</p> <p>The target was calculated based on the estimated unit cost for 1 km of cycling infrastructure built and the available allocation. The values are estimated based on data provided by the Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme projects.</p> <p>A unit cost of 70,000 euros/km was initially assumed (the average of costs of the Romanian and Bulgarian partners). This represents an average cost of similar interventions carried out in the implementation area of the programme (both on the Bulgarian side and on the Romanian side) by Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme.</p> <p>Preventively, however, against the background of the increase of the costs of construction materials and of the inflation, it was decided to adopt the highest cost (among the analysed interventions) of 100,000 euros/ km.</p> <p>Based on an average cost of 100,000 euros/km and considering the allocation (22.5 million euro), 225 km could be financed by the Programme.</p> <p>However, considering the risks identified, the value proposed for the target was conservatively calculated at approximately 90% from estimated number of km that could be finance, namely 200 km. Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon the completion of output in the supported project.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Public tenders, permits and other procedures associated with the construction may delay the implementation of the works and the completion of the cycling infrastructure. Weather conditions may also cause delays in the implementation. Not least, political priorities may change and the projects will not be given the needed attention by the public authorities. To mitigate this risk, the duration of the projects is estimated for 36 months.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. In order to mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the</p>

	<p>Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>Also, in Romania investments from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) are foreseen for the development of EuroVelo Route 6. This may influence the involvement of the Ro partners and there is a risk that they would be put in the situation of choosing where to focus their resources and there is a big chance that NRRP would be their first choice, not Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner. This is why the value proposed for the target was conservatively calculated.</p>
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RCR64 Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator measures the number of annual users of the dedicated cycling infrastructure financed by supported projects (RCO58)</p> <p>The achieved values will be estimated ex-post in terms of the number of users using the infrastructure for the year after the physical completion of the intervention.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was considered the most appropriate to track the outcomes of the supported projects. Given that all projects are expected to have concrete results and bring direct benefits to the population and tourists in the area, this indicator was selected to show the usage of the newly constructed cycling infrastructure.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 5,000 users.</p> <p>The estimation for the target value is based on data from countries or regions that have fully functional dedicated cycling infrastructure. Considering the fact that no information related to the annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure is available at Romanian and Bulgarian level, the Programme decided to analyse the data available in EU.</p> <p>In this specific context, data from the French Usage National Platform was used to base the calculations for the indicator. The estimation takes into account yearly numbers of users on Eurovelo routes in France, namely from the Eurovelo 6 route (between Orleans and Nevers - approx. 29,000 users on average) and the Eurovelo 17 route (between Montelimar and Avignon - approx. 23,000 users on average). It must be taken into account that France has an already established tradition for cycling, thus being accountable for a high share of the population being oriented towards cycling activities, including cycle tourism.</p> <p>We considered that data for long-distance cycle routes in UK⁹ are comparable with the RO-BG situation, due to their length and the user's profile. This data estimate</p>

⁹ [Monitoring Tourism on the UK's First Long-Distance Cycle Route | Request PDF \(researchgate.net\)](#)

	<p>about 12,000 to 15,000 users per year for the approximately 221 km of cycling route.</p> <p>However, considering the fact that on the Romanian side investments from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) are foreseen for the development of EuroVelo Route 6 (core network), the functionality of the cross-border route depends on the NRRP. Given the fact that the overall success of the cycling route developed through this Programme depends on various external factors, like the ones mentioned, the target for this indicator is set at 5,000 users/year of cycling infrastructure.</p> <p>Moreover, these figures are only valid if the entire section of the Eurovelo Route is developed, including through investments from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (RO), as projected.</p> <p>This is because the core of the investments is to attract new visitors in the area (users of the infrastructure), and this cannot be achieved in the absence of a comprehensive cycling network.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon the completion of output in the supported project.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Delays in operationalizing the infrastructure or faulty implementation may result in the cycling infrastructure being put up for use very late in the programme implementation and would delay reporting on the indicator.</p> <p>The poor quality of the execution may deter users from utilizing the cycling infrastructure. To mitigate this risk, quality insurance will be primary responsibility of the lead partner and will be particularly monitored during the implementation of the projects, by the MA/JS.</p> <p>Lack of interest or awareness from potential beneficiaries (users) for cycling or the poor access and connectivity to the cycling infrastructure may prevent the use of the infrastructure to its full potential. To mitigate this risk, only projects with demonstrated potential will be financed and particular attention will be paid to this aspect during the appraisal process. Project partners will also be required to carry out promotion and awareness activities.</p> <p>The highest risk is related to the failure to implement the comprehensive investments in developing Eurovelo Route 6, planned through other sources, such as NRRP (RO). Only completing small or separate sections would not be enough to attract visitors in the area. This risk cannot be tackled by the Programme structures.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. In order to mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p>

	However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner. This is why the value proposed for the target was conservatively calculated.
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RC077 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator measures the number of cultural and tourism sites supported. In the context of SO 5.2, the cultural and tourism sites must fulfil at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be directly associated with elements of local tangible or intangible heritage, such as events or living traditions, customs, ideas, beliefs, artistic or literary works of significance for the programme area. - be an example of a traditional human settlement or land-use with cultural and/or touristic value. - be an example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape with cultural and/or touristic value. - be an example of a type of natural landscape / site with cultural and/or touristic value.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected as it is the most appropriate to track progress in achieving the second major objective of SO 5.2, that of supporting the economic valorisation of the many cultural and tourism sites in the programme area.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0.</p> <p>Given that the completion of the activities in relation to this indicator will occur towards the ending of the projects and considering the chronology for implementation described previously, it is estimated that the milestone for 2024 is zero.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 18</p> <p>During 2014-2020, 68 projects were supported, with an average value of approximately 900,000 euro.</p> <p>Considering the allocation for 2021-2027 (33,750,000 euros) and the statistics from 2014-2020 programming period, we estimate that 37 projects could be contracted. However, considering the fact that these projects are part of the integrated territorial strategy and should be in-line with its objectives, the focus could be on big investments.</p> <p>Thus, projects with high budget, but tackling a limited number of cultural and touristic sites, could be promoted. Therefore, the target is set at 50% from the estimated number of projects, at 18 projects. For each project we considered one cultural/touristic site.</p>

	Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Based on the experience from the past programming periods, it is expected to have a high demand for this type of interventions.</p> <p>However, the achievement of the target could be influenced by difficulties in implementation and by the appearance of extraordinary circumstances like natural hazards or economic/social/medical crises.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. In order to mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner.</p> <p>Therefore, the value proposed for the target was conservatively calculated.</p>

RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator measures the estimated number of annual visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported (RCO77). The estimation of the number of visitors will be carried out ex-post, one year after the completion of the intervention.</p> <p>The indicator does not cover natural sites for which an accurate estimation of number of visitors is not feasible.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	The indicator was selected as it is the most appropriate to monitor the outcomes of the investments made by the supported local actors, as it expected that improved cultural and tourism sites should attract more visitors.
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0</p> <p>Given the fact that an estimation of the annual number of visitors of the supported sites is difficult to make since at this moment the sites that will be supported are not known and also the 1-year period "before the intervention starts" cannot be set at programme level, but at project level and it is variable, the baseline for this indicator will be "0", for both new and rehabilitated sites. However, in order to capture the change in terms of number of visitors, the projects will report at the end of the 1-year period after project completion the difference between the number of visitors of the supported sites for the year before the intervention started and the number of visitors at the moment of the cut-off date for the reporting.</p>

	<p>Milestone for 2024 - not required</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 32,400</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured 1 year after project completion. Given the fact that tourism and culture are sectors where activities have a seasonal component, the beneficiaries will report the data on the number of visitors for exactly one year after project completion. It will be the responsibility of the lead partner to report to the programme authorities the value for this indicator 1 year after the project has been completed/finalized.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, the baseline was set at "0" and the reference year section will be considered to be 2020, based on the assumption that the projects will only report the "new visitors" (please see the description below).</p> <p>In order to overcome the problem posed by the fact that the baseline is set at "0" even for sites which had visitors before the beginning of the intervention and to make sure that for this indicator the programme captures the change in the number of visitors due to the projects' intervention, the beneficiaries will only report "new visitors", that is the difference between the number of visitors the site had before the intervention and the number of visitors counted during the first year after project completion.</p> <p>Therefore, for sites that are not newly created, when reporting on the number of visitors of the supported site, the beneficiaries will take the previous year before the intervention starts as reference year for the baseline.</p> <p>For the new sites, the projects will report the total number of visitors counted during the first year after project completion. In order to avoid errors in reporting, the "visitors/year" are to be understood as different visits/year, regardless of the visitors being different persons or the same person making multiple visits within one year. Also, the quantification of number of visitors (within the meaning described above) should be supported by evidence, either on paper or electronic. For objectives implementing "virtual tour" type of experiences, specific evidence will be requested and they will also be counted as visits to the supported sites.</p> <p>Considering that during 2014-2020, 68 projects were supported, with an average value of approximately 900,000 euros, a number of 37 projects is estimated to be contracted for 2021-2027. Based on the statistic of the Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria, during 2014-2020, the average number of visitors to supported sites was of 1,875 visitors/project, since the supported sites were small in size and remotely located.</p> <p>However, considering the pandemic COVID - 19 situation and the pre-pandemic statistics from the 2014-2020 programming period, we consider an average of 1,800 visitors/year/site should be considered for large sites as well (similar to the smaller, remote sites).</p> <p>Considering that 18 larger sites are estimated for support, the target value for this indicator is set at 32,400 visits (18 sites x 1,800 visitors/year/site).</p>
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	Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system, one year after the completion of output in the supported project.
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>The number of visitors may depend on the socio-economic context and the changes in consumer behaviour. The physical restrictions imposed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic have changed significantly the travel and leisure industries and, as digitalization is more and more prominently used for enabling access to culture, including through virtual tours, it is likely that traditional visits to sites will not be the same as in the past. That is why, virtual experiences are taken into consideration, if demonstrated, for example by tickets acquired or other means.</p> <p>On the other hand, the same digital means and the social media may support the promotion of these sites, at an unprecedented level. It is expected that project partners will use these instruments in support of their projects.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. In order to mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner. This is why the value proposed for the target was conservatively calculated.</p>

RCO87 Organizations cooperating across borders

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities including project partners and associated organizations, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the application.
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was selected in order to enhance and reflect the cooperation across border in the integrated projects supported under integrated territorial development.</p> <p>Also, since one of the main objectives of the Programme is to support cooperation across the Romanian-Bulgarian border, the indicator was selected for all specific objectives.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - Considering the chronology presented earlier, the milestone was set for 0</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 60 organizations</p> <p>The target was established taking into consideration the expected number of projects and partners for each type of action supported under Priority 4, as follows:</p>

<i>calculation method)</i>	<p>a) cycling infrastructure - the design of the projects will be established in the Integrated Territorial Strategy. It is possible to have only one project for the entire area, or several projects. However, it is highly likely that, irrespective of the design, all project partnerships will encompass the relevant public authorities - in this case county and district administrations - which could be entitled to develop and administer the cycling infrastructure. There are 15 such authorities in the programme area (7 in Romania and 8 in Bulgaria, which were counted for this indicator target).</p> <p>b) Tourism - the programme is expected to finance a total of 37 projects (see indicator RCO76). A minimum of 2 partners for each project is envisaged, one from each side of the border. As such, tourism projects could contribute with 74 partners to the target of indicator RCO87.</p> <p>c) SMEs - 31 SMEs are expected to received funding. As such, 31 partners are considered for this indicator.</p> <p>Considering the above, 120 possible organizations could be considered (15 + 74+ 31). While not all projects may contribute to this indicator, this type of activity will be highly encouraged (for example by additional points in the evaluation process). Therefore, we conservatory estimate that at least half of the projects will contribute to this indicator (the estimated number of projects = 60).</p> <p>Considering these assumptions, and the risks mentioned below, a conservatory approach was used, and the target was set for 60 organizations (considering 2 partners per project x 30 projects = 60 organizations).</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p> <p>Multiple counting will be avoided at the level of the specific objective and at programme level.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Financial capacity of beneficiaries / partners may decrease, if an economic downturn will follow the COVID-19 medical crisis. This is especially valid for SMEs, which are particularly vulnerable to changes in the socio-economic environment.</p> <p>This may limit their willingness or ability to carry out the project activities and commit to longer-term collaborations. Programme authorities will support the partners by providing advances and adopting a flexible approach during implementation.</p> <p>However, specific requirements will be asked to the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and included in the financing contract and may include detailed description of the partners' engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p>

	<p>Multiple counting will be avoided at the level of the specific objective, so that in case the same organizations sign more than one cooperation agreement, it is not counted more than once.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. In order to mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner.</p>
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RCR84 Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87 and under RCO 01 and RCO 02. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was considered the most suitable to monitor the outcome the partnership established during the project implementation. Since cross-border cooperation is one of the most important objectives of the Programme, this indicator was selected for all specific objectives. Although the coverage of this indicator is narrowed in line with the corresponding common output indicator under this specific objective, its value reflects the cooperation at the level of this SO. Only data from projects contributing to RCO87, RCO 76, RCO 01 and RCO 02 output indicators under this specific objective will feed into the result indicator for this specific objective.</p> <p>The Programme main objective of funding the SMEs is to promote and enhance the cooperation among this type of partners in the fields tackled under the PO 5.2. The results of these projects will be the seeds of future cooperation that will increase the SMEs competitiveness in the area.</p> <p>In addition to this, the total budget allocated to SMEs support is 6,250,000 euro, which represents 3.27% of the Programme total value (excluding TA funds). Thus, considering the limited financial allocation translated into a limited number of the SMEs supported by the programme, the impact on increasing the number of jobs in the area is limited, and thus the ERDF specific result indicators set under PO 1 are not considered relevant for this type of actions.</p> <p>Therefore, the programme decided to the use RCO1 and RCO 2 connected to RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion to capture the results of the interventions related to the SMEs.</p>

<p><i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i></p>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - not required.</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 45</p> <p>The target for this result indicator is set at 50% of the target set for the output indicator RCO87: $50\% * 60 \text{ organisations} = 30 \text{ organisations}$.</p> <p>As regards the contribution generated by RCO01 and RCO02 (of 31 enterprises supported), we estimate that at least 50% of them will continue cooperating after the project implementation, as such 15 enterprises are considered for this result indicator ($50\% * 31$).</p> <p>Concluding the target of this result indicator is set at: 15 (generated by RCO01/RCO02) + 30 (organizations generated by RCO 87) = 45 organizations.</p> <p>However, no additional contribution to the target from RCO76 was considered, since the same projects that contribute to RCO87/RCO01/RCO02 will also contribute to RCO 76 (number of organisations determined by integrated projects, respectively number of integrated projects).</p> <p>We set the target for this result indicator conservatively at 50% of the target for the corresponding output indicators because the time limit for measuring is of only 1 year after project completion and there is a condition of “formal agreement” to continue the cooperation by organizations, which is also time-consuming. In order for a project to contribute to this result indicator, the cooperation should fulfil the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cooperation is formalized under other form than the “partnership agreement” signed between the project partners; - the purpose of the project is to develop and maintain the cooperation between structures over a longer period of time than the duration of the project. - the limited cross border experience of the SMEs from the Programme area. <p>Special monitoring measures need to be taken for capturing the contribution to this indicator; in this respect, the cooperation agreements need to be formally adopted by organisations and supporting documents need to be provided by the lead partner.</p> <p>These conditions will be extensively described in the Applicant’s Guide and the quality assessment will also check their fulfilment.</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator’s target will be measured 1 year after project completion.</p>
<p><i>Factors of influence</i></p>	<p>Financial capacity of beneficiaries / partners may decrease, if an economic downturn will follow the COVID-19 medical crisis. This is especially valid for SMEs, which are particularly vulnerable to changes in the socio-economic environment. Also, SMEs in the area don’t have experience in carrying out cross-border cooperation projects.</p> <p>This may limit their willingness or ability to carry out the project activities and commit to longer-term collaborations. Programme authorities will support beneficiaries and partners by providing paid advances and adopting a flexible approach during implementation.</p>

	<p>However, specific requirements will be asked to the project partners, to secure their commitment during and after the project completion, so that the target is reached. These will be requested from the application stage and included in the financing contract and may include detailed description of the partners' engagement strategy during the project implementation and after, specific proof of the cooperation etc.</p> <p>In case the project envisages the conclusion of multiple cooperation agreements, the organisations will be counted only once, regardless the number of signed cooperation agreements. The cooperation agreements can be signed in the same topic tackled by the projects or in a different topic.</p> <p>Double counting will be eliminated at the level of the specific objective, so that the same organization is not counted more than once.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. In order to mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner. This is why the value proposed for the target was conservatively calculated.</p>
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RC076 Integrated projects for territorial development

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
Definition	<p>Number of integrated projects supported under integrated territorial development which are integrated in themselves in line with CPR Article 28.</p> <p>A project is considered integrated in itself if it fulfils at least one of the following conditions: a) the project involves different sectors (such as social, economic and environmental sectors) the project integrates several types of stakeholders (public authorities, private actors, NGOs), b) the project involves different administrative territories (ex: municipalities), and c) the project involves several types of stakeholders (public authorities, private actors, NGOs).</p> <p>This output indicator is paired with RCR Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion.</p>
Criteria applied to select the indicator	<p>The indicator was designed to capture the immediate results of the interventions under SO5.2 linked to the implementation of the Integrated Territorial Strategy.</p>

<p><i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i></p>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - Considering the chronology presented earlier, the milestone was set for 0</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 60 projects</p> <p>The target was established taking into consideration the expected number of projects for each type of action supported under Priority 4, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) cycling infrastructure - the design of the projects will be established in the Integrated Territorial Strategy. It is possible to have only one project for the entire area, or several projects. However, considering the premises that this type of projects could be developed mainly by the regional administration of the counties and districts, we estimate a number of around 8 projects. e) Tourism - the programme is expected to finance around 37 projects. f) SMEs - 31 SMEs are expected to received funding. Taking into account that each project will support (at least) one SME on each side of the border, it is expected to have at least 15 projects. <p>Considering the above, the target for this indicator was set at 60 projects (8 + 37 + 15)</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p> <p>Multiple counting will be avoided at the level of the specific objective and at programme level.</p>
<p><i>Factors of influence</i></p>	<p>Financial capacity of SMEs may decrease, considering the current prospects envisioning a significant economic downturn following the COVID-19 medical crisis and the ongoing energy crisis.</p> <p>This may limit their willingness or ability to carry out the project activities. Programme authorities will support the partners by providing advances and adopting a flexible approach during implementation.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. To mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner.</p>

RC001 Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)

Details	Explanations
Definition	The indicator counts all enterprises that receive monetary support from the Programme. The enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods and services, which benefits from a certain

	<p>degree of autonomy in decision making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit. Legal units include legal persons whose existence is recognized by law independently of the individuals or institutions which may own them or are members of them, such as general partnerships, private limited partnerships, limited liability companies, incorporated companies etc.</p> <p>Legal units as well include natural persons who are engaged in an economic activity in their own right, such as the owner and operator of a shop or a garage, a lawyer or a self-employed handicrafts-person. (ESTAT in references, based on Council Regulation (EEC) No. 696/93, Section III A of 15.03.1993)</p> <p>For the purpose of this indicator, enterprises are profit-oriented organizations that produce goods and services to satisfy market needs.</p> <p>Classification of enterprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro enterprise (≤ 10 employees and annual turnover \leq EUR 2 million, or balance sheet \leq EUR 2 million); • Small enterprise (10-49 employees and annual turnover $>$EUR 2 million - \leq EUR 10 million or balance sheet in $>$ EUR 2 million - \leq EUR 10 million); • Medium enterprise (50-249 employees and annual turnover $>$EUR 10 million - \leq EUR 50 million or balance sheet in EUR $>$ EUR 10 million - \leq EUR 43 million); <p>Large enterprises (>250 employees and turnover $>$ EUR 50 million or balance sheet $>$ EUR 43 million) are not eligible for financing under SO 5.2.</p> <p>If either of the 2 thresholds (employees and annual turnover/balance sheet) is exceeded the enterprises shall be categorized in the size category above. (ESTAT based on EC Recommendation 2003/361/EC, Annex, Articles 2-3)</p> <p>Size of the enterprise supported is measured at the time of the application.</p> <p>This output indicator is paired with RCR Organizations cooperating across borders after project completion.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	The indicator was designed to capture the immediate results of the interventions under SO5.2 linked to supporting SMEs.
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - 0. The baseline for this indicator is zero.</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - Considering the chronology presented earlier, the milestone was set for 0</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 31</p> <p>During the previous programming periods, SMEs were not eligible to receive funding from the Programme. For 2021-2027, projects will be conditioned to include at least two SMEs collaborating, one from Romania and one from Bulgaria, in the limits of the maximum threshold set for <i>de minimis</i> (200,000 euro/public funding per partner). Therefore, for this type of projects we estimate a partnership formed of 2 partners. Also, we assume that all the partners will be unique.</p>

	<p>Thus, based on this assumption and considering the financial allocation of 6.25 MEUR (excluding TA funds) and the maximum amount of 200,000 euros/partner, it is expected that 31 SMEs will be financed (6.25 MEUR/200,000 euro = 31 SMEs).</p> <p>Data will be collected from the projects using the electronic monitoring system and the contribution to this indicator's target will be measured upon project completion.</p> <p>Multiple counting will be avoided at the level of the specific objective and at programme level.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Financial capacity of SMEs may decrease, considering the current prospects envisioning a significant economic downturn following the COVID-19 medical crisis and the ongoing energy crisis.</p> <p>This may limit their willingness or ability to carry out the project activities. Programme authorities will support the partners by providing advances and adopting a flexible approach during implementation.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. To mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner.</p>

RCO02 Enterprises supported by grants

<i>Details</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Definition</i>	<p>Number of enterprises receiving monetary support in the form of grants.</p> <p>For the definition of an enterprise see RCO01.</p>
<i>Criteria applied to select the indicator</i>	<p>The indicator was designed to capture the immediate results of the interventions under SO5.2 linked to supporting SMEs.</p>
<i>Baseline, milestone and target (data evidence, data quality assurance and the calculation method)</i>	<p>Baseline - The baseline for this indicator is zero</p> <p>Milestone for 2024 - 0</p> <p>Target for 2029 - 31 SMEs</p> <p>All support will be delivered by grants. As such, the target of RCO02 is equal to that of RCO01.</p>
<i>Factors of influence</i>	<p>Financial capacity of SMEs may decrease, considering the current prospects envisioning a significant economic downturn following the COVID-19 medical crisis and the ongoing energy crisis.</p>

	<p>This may limit their willingness or ability to carry out the project activities. Programme authorities will support the partners by providing advances and adopting a flexible approach during implementation.</p> <p>The PO 5 shall be implemented through an integrated territorial strategy (ITS), which is an innovative tool and a first experience for the ROBG border. Therefore, there is a risk for delays in the development and implementation process of the ITS, which would impact the achievement of the programme indicators and targets. To mitigate this risk, the Programme structures will provide support to the Strategy Board, responsible with the development and implementation process of the ITS.</p> <p>However, a safe approach is used by the Programme structures and the targets of indicators are set in a conservatory manner.</p>
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Metadata for specific indicators

PSO1 Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area

Row ID	Field	Indicator metadata
0	Fund relevance	ERDF
1	Indicator code	PSO1
2	Indicator name	Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area
2b	Indicator code and short name (open data name)	PSO1 Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area
3	Measurement unit	km
4	Type of indicator	output
5	Baseline	0
6	Milestone 2024	>=0
7	Target 2029	>0
8	Priority	Priority 1
9	Policy objective	PO3 Connected Europe
10	Specific objective	RSO 3.2 Sustainable transport
11	Definition and concepts	Total length of rail sections reconstructed or modernised in the Romania-Bulgaria area. Such interventions could cover rail features such as works, electrification, speed and safety, etc. The indicator measures the length of tracks.
12	Data collection	Supported projects
13	Time measurement achieved	Upon completion of output in the supported project
14	Aggregation issues	Double counting should be removed at the level of the specific objective
15	Reporting	Rule 1: Reporting by specific objective

Romania – Bulgaria

16	Notes	Forecast for selected projects and achieved values, both cumulative to date CPR Annex VII, Table 3). This indicator is linked to RCR 58 Annual users of newly built, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised railways
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PSO2 Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area

Row ID	Field	Indicator metadata
0	Fund relevance	ERDF
1	Indicator code	PSO2
2	Indicator name	Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area
2b	Indicator code and short name (open data name)	PSO2 Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area
3	Measurement unit	km
4	Type of indicator	output
5	Baseline	0
6	Milestone 2024	>=0
7	Target 2029	>0
8	Priority	Priority 1
9	Policy objective	PO3 Connected Europe
10	Specific objective	RSO 3.2 Sustainable transport
11	Definition and concepts	The indicator counts the total length (in km) of inland waterways sections which will be covered by the marking system installed through the “Danube Integrated System for MARKing (DISMAR)” Project.
12	Data collection	Supported projects
13	Time measurement achieved	Upon completion of output in the supported project
14	Aggregation issues	
15	Reporting	
16	Notes	

PSO3 Tools implemented for mitigating pollution

Row ID	Field	Indicator metadata
0	Fund relevance	ERDF

Romania – Bulgaria

1	Indicator code	PSO3
2	Indicator name	Tools implemented for mitigating pollution
2b	Indicator code and short name (open data name)	PSO3 Tools implemented for mitigating pollution
3	Measurement unit	number
4	Type of indicator	output
5	Baseline	0
6	Milestone 2024	0
7	Target 2029	>0
8	Priority	Priority 2. A greener region
9	Policy objective	PO2
10	Specific objective	SO 2.7
11	Definition and concepts	<p>The indicator counts the number of tools implemented for mitigating pollution. Tools may refer to investments such as networks of sensors, applications, platforms etc. (list not exhaustive) which would allow the reduction of pollution, monitoring and data collection on air, soil and water pollution, particularly in urban areas, including measuring the air, soil and water quality and providing real-time data.</p> <p>The indicator is used for keeping track of investments related to pollution mitigation, monitoring and data collection on various types of pollution, including but not restricted to air, soil and water pollution.</p>
12	Data collection	Supported projects
13	Time measurement achieved	At project completion.
14	Aggregation issues	Not applicable
15	Reporting	Rule 1: Reporting by specific objective Forecast for selected projects and achieved values, both cumulative to date (CPR Annex VII, Table 3).
16	Notes	

PSR3 Population living within the area covered by the tools implemented for mitigating pollution

Row ID	Field	Indicator metadata
0	Fund relevance	ERDF
1	Indicator code	PSR3
2	Indicator name	Population living within the area covered by the tools implemented for mitigating pollution

Romania – Bulgaria

2b	Indicator code and short name (open data name)	PSR3 Population living within the area covered by the tools implemented for mitigating pollution
3	Measurement unit	number
4	Type of indicator	result
5	Baseline	0
6	Milestone 2024	0
7	Target 2029	>0
8	Priority	Priority 2. A greener region
9	Policy objective	PO2
10	Specific objective	SO 2.7
11	Definition and concepts	<p>The indicator counts the estimated population which lives in an area where one or more additional tool for pollution mitigation has been implemented with the support of the program and are functional, one year after the intervention end.</p> <p>Tools may refer to investments such as networks of sensors, applications, platforms etc. (list not exhaustive) which would allow monitoring and data collection on air, soil and water pollution, particularly in urban areas, including measuring the air, soil and water quality and providing real-time data, etc.</p> <p>Only the population residing in the area covered by the pollution monitoring systems monitored under PSO03 is counted for this indicator.</p>
12	Data collection	Supported projects
13	Time measurement achieved	At project completion.
14	Aggregation issues	Not applicable
15	Reporting	<p>Rule 1: Reporting by specific objective</p> <p>Forecast for selected projects and achieved values, both cumulative to date (CPR Annex VII, Table 3).</p>
16	Notes	

PSO4 Investments in education, training and life-long learning services

Row ID	Field	Indicator metadata
0	Fund relevance	ERDF
1	Indicator code	PSO4
2	Indicator name	Investments in education, training and life-long learning services
2b	Indicator code and short name	PSO4 Investments in education, training and life-long learning services

Romania – Bulgaria

	(open name) data	
3	Measurement unit	investments
4	Type of indicator	output
5	Baseline	0
6	Milestone 2024	0
7	Target 2029	13
8	Priority	Priority 3. An educated region
9	Policy objective	PO4
10	Specific objective	RSO4.2 Education and training infrastructure
11	Definition and concepts	<p>Number of investments in education, training and life-long learning services.</p> <p>This indicator is proposed for measuring the outputs of infrastructure and equipment investments in the field of improving access to and the quality of education, training and lifelong learning.</p> <p>This indicator counts the number of investments and it is directly dependent on the number of investments introduced and described by the applicants in the Application Form, in Jems.</p>
12	Data collection	Supported projects
13	Time measurement achieved	At project completion.
14	Aggregation issues	Not applicable
15	Reporting	<p>Rule 1: Reporting by specific objective</p> <p>Forecast for selected projects and achieved values, both cumulative to date (CPR Annex VII, Table 3).</p>
16	Notes	This indicator is linked to PSR05 Annual users of the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services.

PSR4 Annual users of the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services

Row ID	Field	Indicator metadata
0	Fund relevance	ERDF
1	Indicator code	PSR4
2	Indicator name	Annual users of the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services.
2b	Indicator code and short name (open data name)	PSR4 Annual users of the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services.

Romania – Bulgaria

3	Measurement unit	Users/year
4	Type of indicator	result
5	Baseline	0
6	Milestone 2024	Not required
7	Target 2029	
8	Priority	Priority 3. An educated region
9	Policy objective	PO4 Social Europe
10	Specific objective	RSO4.2 Education and training infrastructure and under JTF
11	Definition and concepts	Number of pupils/students/persons benefiting from the supported investments in education, training and life-long learning services. One individual can be counted more than once if using the investments multiple times. Virtual users (in the case of online trainings/courses) are also counted. Special measuring measures need to be taken for quantification the number of users (within the meaning described above) and the reported data should be supported by evidence, either on paper or electronic.
12	Data collection	Supported projects
13	Time measurement achieved	1 year after project completion.
14	Aggregation issues	Not applicable
15	Reporting	Rule 1: Reporting by specific objective Forecast for selected projects and achieved values, both cumulative to date (CPR Annex VII, Table 3).
16	Notes	