10th Interreg Europe Monitoring Committee Meeting
26 – 27 March 2019

'Final decision notes'

Hotel New Montana
Bd. Carol 1 nr 24, 106100 Sinaia, Romania

Chaired by: Maria Magdalena Racovita

Decision notes: Interreg Europe JS

1.   Welcome, opening and approval of the agenda

The **Chair** welcomed the MC members. The agenda was approved without objections. **JS** confirmed that the quorum is reached and no country is missing.

2.   Presentation of the new MC members

The participants of the monitoring committee from **LT**, **NL** and **IE** introduced themselves.

3.   Update on general programme developments

JS presented an update on the JS human resources and the JS participation in meetings, notably the coordination meeting between Interreg Europe and the Committee of Region of 22 March 2019 (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 03 - IR-E CoR meeting notes).

The MC agreed to the JS proposal to plan a task force or informal Programming Committee meeting (with as many PS as possible) in Autumn 2019 and a task force or programming committee back to back with the MC in December to start preparing the new programme.

4.   Update on Communication activities – Annual event

JS presented an update on the communication activities (see IR- E MC10 - Ax 04 – Update on Communication)

5.   Finance

5.1 TA actual expenditure 2018, TA budget 2019

The **JS** proposed to approve the TA actual expenditure for 2018 and the TA budget for 2019 (for more information, (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 05.1).

Decision

The **MC** approved:
- The TA actual expenditure for 2018 for a total of EUR 3,567,052.77.
- The TA budget for 2019 for a total of EUR 4,216,695.62 (incl. a carry-over of EUR 277,715.95 from the 2018 TA budget).

5.2 National contributions / contact point budget – update

The **CA** presented the state of play on this point. The few partner states that had not yet paid their contributions for 2018 or 2019 were invited to do so as soon as possible (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 05.2)

Conclusion

No questions were raised on this point.

5.3 Risk management update

In line with the provisions of the programme Management Control System Description, the **JS** presented the annual review of the risk mapping (see IR-E MC10 -Ax 05.3).

5.4 Decommitment, payment forecast, performance review update

The **JS** quickly updated the **MC** on the decommitment situation, payment forecast and performance review. The **JS** also updated the **MC** on the ongoing revision of CPR, impacting the annual pre-financing of the programme. As communicated in Innsbruck, the **EC** proposed to reduce the annual pre-financing from 3% to 1% (years 2021-2023) which would increase the decommitment targets. The **EP** proposed a reduction of 1% of the annual pre-financing (instead of the 0.25% reduction that was originally announced in Sinaia). A 1% reduction of the annual pre-financing would imply a reduction of MEUR 3.5 per year and would have a negative impact on the programme's cash flow. The **JS** warned the **MC** that this reduction could lead to treasury issues, preventing the programme from paying the projects on time and asked PS to support the inclusion of an exemption for ETC programmes in the revised CPR.

5.5 procedure for reporting on the results of national checks

The **JS** presented the procedure for the **PS** to submit their national checks results (see IR-E MC10-Ax 05.5). Those **PS** that actually carry out national checks are asked to submit the results to the programme by 1 October each year.

5.6 Recovery procedure – update on treatment of errors below EUR 250 before inclusion in an interim payment claim

The **JS** updated the **MC** on the recovery procedure and in particular on the rule concerning irregularities below EUR 250 (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 05.6). From the **JS** experience, this rule is a useful simplification for projects and for the good reputation of programmes, especially now that its use has been clarified with the EC. In consequence, the **JS** expressed the wish to continue to use this rule during the next programming period and to have it included again at least in the ETC Regulation. The **Chair** reacted to confirm that this proposal was included in the Compromise Text of the Presidency for the post2020 draft regulations.

6. Policy Learning Platform update

JS updates the MC about the latest PLP developments: on contractual situation, progress since MC09 and upcoming activities (see IR-E MC10 - Ax06 - Policy Learning Platform update).
JS also highlighted that the PS contribution to the PLP activities would be further discussed during the point of contact briefing on the second day of the meeting.

7. Overview of fourth call results

JS presented an overview of the fourth call results (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 07a - Overview fourth call results). The core principles to ensure the equal treatment in assessing projects were shared. It is the most successful call: 35 % of projects being recommended for approval. This equals 80 M€ to be committed. Most successful rate for projects under TO6 conversely to the least successful projects' rate for projects under TO3. The wide variety of topics covered shows the richness of the programme: TO1 - digital innovation, social innovation; TO4 - energy poverty, ports; TO6 – plastic waste, circular economy (see IR-E MC10 – Ax 7b – Overview of projects topics). The state of play in a nutshell: all PS already covered and almost 89 % of the programme area will be presented. **JS** made a reference to the clarification request from **DE** related to financial conditions (budget reductions). This session ended with no comments from the MC.

8. Strategy for fourth call approval

JS presented the five different option for deciding on the fourth call for proposals (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 08 - Strategy for fourth call approval).

Decision

- The MC approved the 60 projects with a score of 3 and above (unanimous decision).

- The MC agreed unanimously on the rejection of projects with a score of 2.67 and below.

The **Chair** asked the MC if there was an agreement on the principle to approve the 2.83 applications under the conditions to be drafted by the JS (then whether the conditions should be approved through a written procedure by the MC or not would be decided afterwards).

9. Approval of projects

A total of 74 projects were approved under conditions, and the MC will approve the conditions for the 2.83 projects in a written procedure ending on 03/04.

10. Presentation of project (Romanian partner)

A representative of West RDA (lead partner) presented the current results of the NICHE project (see IR-E MC10- Ax 10 – Presentation of NICHE project).

11. Projects monitoring

The **JS** presented the changes in running projects, the feedback from mid-term review meetings, an update on closing phase 1 and action plans, pilot actions and programme manual update (see IR-E MC10-Ax 11 – Projects monitoring). The **JS** pointed out that there was a mistake in the number of pilots received (11 instead of 6) and in the total number of RfC (21 instead of 16) included in the supporting document and that the figures will be corrected (see IR-E MC10 – Ax 11.4 – Project monitoring note). The action plan of Municipality of Fundão from Portugal (OSIRIS – 1st call) is a good example of quality (see IR-E MC10- Ax 11.1 – Action plan OSIRIS – Municipality of Fundao) as a good example. The **JS** also presented an Excel table that was internally developed to keep track of the different reporting deadlines per call (see IR-E MC10 – Ax 11.2 – Overview projects monitoring). The **JS** presented the update of the programme manual and asked the **MC** to approve the revised version of the programme manual (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 11.3 - Programme manual v7 with track changes).
Decision

The **MC** approved by consensus:
- The 4 pilot actions (RESOLVE, TRAM x2, Cult-RInG).
- The updated version of the programme manual.

12. Mid-term evaluation – Follow-up measures on lot 1 recommendations

JS presented the follow-up measures on lot 1 recommendations (see IR-E MC10- Ax 12 – Mid-term evaluation lot1).

Decision

Chair asks if there was any objection or abstention. The follow-up measures were approved by consensus.

13. Mid-term evaluation – Follow-up measures on lot 2 recommendations

JS presented the follow-up measures on the recommendations from the impact mid-term evaluation (lot 2) (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 13 - Mid-term evaluation lot 2).

JS confirmed that part of the PLP strategy for 2019 was to open up more the events to in external stakeholders. **JS** said that the work on indicator did not start yet and a representative of the JS will be present on the Interact workshop.

14. AOB

JS presented the timeline (see IR-E MC10 - Ax 14 – Timeline)

Decision

1 October was approved as the date for a task force or informal Programming Committee meeting in Lille and **JS** will make arrangements for **CY**.

RO announced that Dan was leaving Interreg Europe MC. The **Chair** said wished him well and thanked everyone for attending.

The **Chair** closed the meeting.

End of Meeting

NOTE: To ensure transparency of the Monitoring Committee meetings, the decision notes are published on the Interreg Europe's website. Annexes as mentioned in the notes can be requested by email: info@interregeurope.eu