



5th Interreg Europe Monitoring Committee Meeting 13 – 14 December 2016

**Crowne Plaza Hotel Bratislava
Hodžovo námestie 2
816 25 Bratislava, Slovakia**

Chaired by: Michal Antal (SK)
Participants: See Participants' List (annex 01).
Decision notes: Interreg Europe JS

Final decision notes

1. Welcome, opening and approval of the agenda

SK welcomed the members to Slovakia with a few words about Slovakia's commitment to Europe and cooperation.
Chair informed that 29 PS were represented so the quorum was reached.
The agenda was approved.

2. Presentation of the new MC members

New members from **NL**, **SK** introduced themselves.

3. Update on general programme developments

JS presented the meetings with strategic partners since the last MC (see annex 02).

JS presented changes in human resources at the secretariat (see annex 03).

Regarding closure the JS confirmed to the MC that the closure documents had been submitted to the Audit Authority. They will be submitted to the GoA for approval during the next meeting in February 2017. Once the closure package is finalized, the MC will receive it for information.

The committee was also informed of the modifications made to the INTERREG IVC final report, separated from the 2015 report, as per the requests from the previous MC meeting.

4. National contribution to the TA budget

The PS were invited to pay 2017 contributions by 31 January 2017.
An update was provided on the state of 2014-2016 contributions. Since the supporting documents were sent, there is only one instalment outstanding from PT with a commitment to pay by January 2017. It was therefore proposed to postpone the discussion and decision on the proposed measure against this PS until next MC meeting, if necessary.

Decision: The discussion and decision on measures against PS not having paid their contribution for 2014-2016 is postponed until next MC meeting, if necessary.



5. MA presentation

The MA updated the MC on developments in the territorial and administrative context and its impact on the MA organisation, the synergies built between the programmes it manages, the designation process and an introduction to the Urban Innovative Actions initiative (see presentation in annex 04).

6. Strategic cooperation with the CoR

The Committee of Regions (CoR) presented a proposal for more enhanced, strategic cooperation between Interreg Europe and CoR (see presentation in annex 05 and draft paper in annex 06).

Decision:

The final paper with the small change requested will be put on the agenda of the next MC meeting for approval in Malta. In the meantime, the MC members can send comments on the paper to the JS.

7. Project approval – decision making process

The JS presented the proposals for revising the project approval decision making process that were described in the supporting documents and two new proposals received by DE and NL (see presentation in annex 07).

Decision:

The options to modify the decision making process presented by the JS, DE, NL, NO and IT were put to the vote and were all rejected by the MC (details of the votes in the presentation - annex 07).

8. Measures to avoid possible underspending

The JS presented the proposed measures to avoid possible underspending (see annex 08) and clarified that these measures would apply to all ongoing and future projects.

Decision:

The following proposed measures (taking into account the remark from Poland – see annex 09 updated programme manual) were put to the vote and unanimously approved :

1. Budget cut for individual partners not reporting after three reporting periods

The budget of project partners not reporting after three progress reports may be cut. The budget cut would be proportional to the partner's spending plan. Decision on budget cuts will be taken by the monitoring committee.

2. Changes in projects' activities and/or budget following the mid-term review

A mid-term review will be carried out by the joint secretariat for each project. Decision on changes following the mid-term review will be taken by the monitoring committee.

9. Thematic analysis of projects, DG environment: support to push the participation of environmental actors and possible change of the cooperation programme

As requested at the last MC in Winterthur, JS presented an overall thematic overview of the projects as well as an analysis of the thematic objective "Environment and resource efficiency" (see annex 10). There is no specific tendency that could explain the under-performance of TO6 but the two following points were highlighted:

- Overall, there is no problem in the demand but in the quality of the demand.
- In certain topics like water management or waste management, the demand is also limited.



In order to help national points of contact in promoting the third call, **NO** and **LU** asked the JS to prepare a list of possible projects under each of the underrepresented topics.

10. Third call application pack (programme manual, ToR)

JS presented the application pack for approval (see annex 11).

Decision:

The application pack was approved as proposed with the amendments listed above (see annex 09).

11. Project presentation

Zuzana Hudekova from Bratislava Karlova Ves Municipality involved as partner in the second call project PERFECT gave a presentation of the project and in particular on the way PERFECT was developed (see annex 12).

12. Rules of procedure

JS presented briefly the proposed changes for the rules of procedure.

Decision:

The MC approved the revised rules of procedure (annex 13).

13. Update on PLP

JS presented the state of play of the policy learning platforms including the approved annual workplan, the budget allocation, the preliminary evaluation of performance and the next steps (see presentation in annex 14).

14. Communication

JS presented an overview of the communication activities implemented in 2016 including the events, publications and website developments as well as the communication plan for 2017 including the information campaign for third call, activities for approved project partners, public relations, dissemination, cross cutting tasks and evaluation (see presentation in annex 15 and draft communication plan in annex 16).

There were no comments on the communication plan for 2017.

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