



14th Interreg Europe Monitoring Committee Meeting 16 December 2020

Online

- Chaired by:** Germany (DE)
- Participants:** See Participants' List (**Annex 01**).
- Decision notes:** Interreg Europe JS

1.	Welcome, opening and approval of the agenda
	<p>Chair welcomed all MC members.</p> <p>Decision: the agenda (Annex 02) was approved without objections.</p>
2.	Presentation of the new MC members
	The new participant from IT introduced himself.
3.	Presentation of S3Chem project
	The Ministry of Economy, Science and Digitalisation of Saxony-Anhalt (DE), lead partner of the S3Chem project, presented the project as well as its main achievements (Annex 03).
4.	Update on programme developments
	<p>JS presented the latest developments in terms of JS human resources (Annex 04). The MC did not have any comments.</p> <p>JS reminded that the Chair recently signed and sent a letter on negative interest to the EC. The objective of this letter is that DG Regio declares negative interest expenditure as eligible for the TA budget of the programme.</p> <p>EC confirmed that the letter arrived and declared that several other programmes sent similar letters. The letter is currently reviewed by the EC legal service, which is working on a reply.</p>
5.	Update on Communication activities (2020 + 2021 plan)
	JS presented the update in communication activities from September to December 2020 and an overview of the plans for communication activities in 2021 (Annex 05).
6.	Policy Learning Platform update
	JS updated the MC on the Platform activities and the current results (Annex 06).



7.	Projects' monitoring
	JS updated the MC on various issues related to project monitoring such as changes in running projects, the outcome of the recent mid-term review update, and the pilot actions state of play and projects achievements (Annex 07).
8.	Update on finances
	<p>In the first part, JS updated the MC about matters (see Annex 08.1) related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Management and Control System Description (MCSD), which was updated following system audit findings and new procedures and resubmitted to the audit authority▪ Arachne results 2019-2020, where no high risk was detected; <p>Audit of operations' results 2020, where the projected error rate was 0.1% (i.e. far below the 2% threshold),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Audit of accounts 2019/2020. <p>In the second part, the JS updated the MC about matters (see Annex 08.2) related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the programme spending target (no decommitment risk for 2020 nor 2021)▪ the ERDF commitment rate (the commitment rate is below 100% (after the MC had committed 105% in 2019)▪ the ERDF spending rate forecast based on closed project (the programme might be underspending by ca. 20MEUR by the time all projects are closed)▪ the ERDF spending rate forecast, which will be refined once more projects are closed and more budget reviews have been carried out in the coming six months. <p>An updated note on the programme spending with information related to Norwegian funding is available as Annex 08.3.</p>
9.	COVID crisis & underspending: possible programme strategy
	<p>JS presented to the MC the programme strategy for COVID-19 crisis and underspending (see Annex 09) and namely the launch of a restricted call (context, beneficiaries, practical aspects, feedback from projects).</p> <p>Following the PS' positive feedback on the proposal, the JS confirmed that a written procedure will be prepared beginning 2021 to decide on the restricted call.</p>
10.	Any other business
	No AOB discussed.
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	