

## Programme outputs (RCO) and results indicators (RCR)

### OUTPUT INDICATORS

#### Programme indicator RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed

##### What it measures?

- ✓ The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects.

##### Definitions:

- ✓ **Jointly developed strategy** aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal oriented process in a specific domain. A joint strategy shall define the common problems / challenges of the targeted area and its regions. The strategy should set up clear mid- and long-term objectives, priorities and the course of action designed to achieve the planned objectives, reflecting also the common vision of the Danube Region in the specific field. Strategies should aim at policy integration in the Danube area in the targeted fields and act as policy drivers below EU level but above national level.
- ✓ **Joint action plan** translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions. It shall include the sequence of steps to be taken, or activities that must be performed, for a strategy to succeed. Therefore, it should include a timeline, the financial resources and a definition of the responsible actors.
- ✓ A **jointly developed** strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organisations from the partnership in the drafting process of the strategy or action plan. The involvement of the relevant stakeholders is also crucial, since the strategy, or action plan shall reflect the needs of these stakeholder groups and ensure its sustainability and future implementation.

##### Practical implementation of the indicator:

- ✓ A joint strategy/action plan is to be counted if it is developed by the project, while revision or update of existing strategies/action plans cannot be counted under this indicator.
- ✓ Each developed strategy/action plan of the project shall be counted only once under the respective output indicator.

- ✓ In case a strategy is developed by the project and based on that also action plan(s) are developed within the same project, these are to be counted separately for this indicator.
- ✓ Project management and communication-related strategies such as e.g. the project communication strategy, should not be considered under this output indicator.
- ✓ Guidelines, policy recommendations and other similar documents of strategic relevance, but not being strategy/action plan shall not be counted under this output indicator.

#### **Collection of data:**

- ✓ Data for this indicator is collected from the DRP monitoring system based on the project application form and project progress reports.

#### **Example**

Countries along the Danube River intend to address the challenge of increasing low-water periods induced by climate change affecting different sectors. In order to improve adaptation capacities regarding that challenge and to reduce the potential damage, project partners being key actors from different affected sectors of Danube riparian countries joining forces and develop a joint strategy, involving also stakeholders, decision makers from their countries beyond the project partnership. Within the joint cooperation they define those elements of this challenge that are common and would need joint efforts of the countries, based on which mid- and long-term objectives, the related priorities and course of necessary actions are elaborated in the strategy.

#### **Programme indicator RCO 84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects**

#### **What it counts?**

- ✓ The indicator counts the pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects.

#### **Definitions:**

- ✓ Jointly developed **pilot action** has an experimental nature either testing of innovative products, methodologies, tools etc. or demonstrating the application of existing products, methodologies, tools to a certain territory/sector; the feasibility and effectiveness of procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or the transfer of practices.
- ✓ **Jointly developed** pilot action implies the involvement of organisations from the partnership in its implementation. The concept and implementation details of the pilot actions have to be jointly developed by the partnership, even though its implementation can be individual in certain partner regions.

#### Practical implementation of the indicator:

- ✓ In order to be counted by 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.
- ✓ Carrying out project activities in a certain “pilot area” without testing, or demonstrating a solution is not considered as pilot action and not to be counted under this indicator.

#### Collection of data:

- ✓ Data for this indicator is to be collected from the DRP monitoring system, based on the approved project application form and the project progress reports.

#### Example

A project is developing a new concept and wishes to test it in different environments by the different actors. The partners are developing the pilot action concept jointly and then implement it in different environment, analyse the outcomes and make improvements. Following this exercise at the end of the implementation a solution can steam out of the project (please see below RCO 116).

## **Programme indicator RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions**

### **What it measures?**

- ✓ The indicator counts the number of jointly developed solutions from joint pilot actions implemented by supported projects.

### **Definitions:**

- ✓ Jointly developed **solution** contributes to solve a common problem, challenge addressed by the project. The joint solution shall be pilot tested (RCO84) to prove whether the solution meets the needs of the target groups.
- ✓ The **forms of solutions** can be very diverse, tools (e.g. analytical, monitoring, management, decision making tools, instruments), technologies (software, ICT solutions, platforms), methodologies, concepts, guidelines, processes, agreements, services etc.
- ✓ A **jointly developed** solution implies the involvement of organisations from the partnership in the drafting design and evaluation process of the solution.

### **Practical implementation of the indicator:**

- ✓ In order to be counted in the indicator, an identified solution should include indications of the actions needed for it to be taken up by the target group or to be up scaled.
- ✓ Each developed solution of the project shall be counted only once under the respective output indicator.
- ✓ In case a solution (e.g. a methodology) is jointly developed by the project, but not pilot tested and validated within the project to be feasible and applicable (see RCO84), then that product of the project shall not be counted under this output indicator.
- ✓ Project management-related tools, like internal communication platforms, templates should not be considered under this output indicator.

### **Collection of data:**

- ✓ Data for this indicator is collected from the DRP monitoring system, based on the project application form and the project progress reports.

### Example

Several regions from different Danube Region countries intend to contribute to reducing GHG emission in their area and decide to apply innovative mobility solutions in their public transport systems. The project partners jointly analyse the common problems and possibilities and identify some alternative transport solutions, which are tested by two-three project partners in their area as pilot actions (RCO84). The solutions verified by the pilot actions to be feasible and applicable in other areas as well is counted as *jointly developed solutions output* (RCO116).

## Programme indicator RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders

### What it counts?

- ✓ 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 strategic partners, as mentioned in the application form and subsidy contract.

### Definitions:

- ✓ Project partners are the institutions included in the application form who receive financial support from the programme (Interreg funds).
- ✓ **Associated strategic partners** are organisations which are essential for the successful development of meaningful and useful outputs. These are the associated strategic partners defined in the project application form as well as such organisations, which are not directly involved in the project partnership, but the partnership plans to sign cooperation agreements with them. Their involvement in the development and assessment of outputs ensures that the end product is one that meets their expectations and is relevant to their needs and situations. They provide insight and information that would be difficult to obtain without their participation. Sustaining the outputs by, for example, adopting tools and strategies developed by the project, is also a primary role of the ASPs in ensuring the project has long-lasting legacy.
- ✓ **Formal cooperation** is cooperation between independent entities which is based on written contracts.

### Practical implementation of the indicator:

- ✓ At Programme level, double counting should be avoided at the level of project partners and ASP. When counting for the output indicator organisations cooperating across borders, it should be a legal entity. If the different departments of a university/city hall, etc. are established as individual legal entities, then they can be counted separately. If they don't have a legal status on their own then they should be counted as one entity.

### Collection of data:

- ✓ Data for this indicator is to be collected via the DRP monitoring system, based on the approved application forms of the projects (project partnership).
- ✓ The programme is responsible for verifying the consistency of the aggregated data in the overview table provided by the programme in order to exclude double counting of same organisations from different projects.

## **Programme indicator RCO 118 - Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macroregional strategies**

### What it counts?

- ✓ The indicator counts the number of legal entities supported by the programme, listed in the application form and subsidy contract, and also contributing to the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies.

### Definitions:

- ✓ **Multi-level governance** is a term used to describe the way decision making is spread vertically between many levels of government and horizontally across multiple quasi government, non-governmental organizations and actors. This situation develops because many countries have multiple levels of government including local, regional, state, national or federal, and many other organisations with interests in policy decisions and outcomes.
- ✓ **Macro-regional strategy** is a policy framework which allows countries located in the same region to jointly tackle and find solutions to problems or to better use the potential they have in common. The key macro-regional strategy for the DRP is the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), since the target area of the Strategy and the programme are the same.

### Practical implementation of the indicator:



- ✓ The indicator is solely dedicated for EUSDR governance support therefore the number of project partners (PPs, ASPs) involved only in the EUSDR governance support projects (PAC, DSP, SMF) financed by DRP are to be counted for this indicator.

#### **Collection of data:**

- ✓ Data for this indicator is collected from the DRP monitoring system, based on the project application forms and project progress reports.

### **RCO120 - Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages**

#### **What it counts?**

- ✓ The indicator counts the number of projects which aim, as a primary objective, to enhance the cooperation across borders between urban and rural areas.

#### **Definitions**

- ✓ Understanding rural-urban linkages provides the basis for measures that can improve both urban and rural livelihoods and environments.

#### **Practical implementation of the indicator:**

- ✓ The indicator should be counted by the project only if by general approach or at least one specific objective of the project is addressing the developing of urban-rural linkages. Since the indicator is counting the number of projects, if selected by the LA, the target value will always be 1.

## RESULT INDICATORS

### Programme indicator RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations

#### What it measures?

- ✓ The indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion.

#### Definitions:

- ✓ Joint strategies and action plans **taken up** by organisations means that the elaborated strategy/action plan is endorsed and applied by its target group and the implementation of at least certain parts of the strategy/action plan already starts during project implementation or until the deadline of submission of the final progress report (three months after the project end).
- ✓ The **organisations** involved in take-up means those target groups who are expected to apply and implement the elaborated strategy / action plan, which organisations may or may not be direct participants (PP, ASP) in the supported project.

#### Practical implementation of the indicator:

- ✓ At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan does not need to be completed but effectively started.
- ✓ It is not necessary that the implementation of the strategy/ action plan is fully finalised in order to count the indicator.
- ✓ Together with the final progress report the lead partner shall provide the MA/JS with the timespan of strategy/ action plan implementation, timetable that should cover at least one year after the project end.

#### Collection of data:

- ✓ Data for this indicator is collected from the DRP monitoring system.



### Example

Following the example of RCO83 regarding the joint strategy elaborated by project partners from Danube riparian countries addressing the challenge of increasing low-water periods induced by climate change; once the joint strategy is endorsed by the key actors, which are partly the PPs and other relevant stakeholders in their countries, in some countries the defined priorities are integrated into sectorial policy documents and procedures, in other countries specific action plans are elaborated to detail the realisation of the strategy within those countries. This means that the strategy started to be implemented in practice therefore the indicator shall be reported.

## Programme indicator RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations

### What it measures?

- ✓ 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.

### Definitions:

- ✓ Joint solutions **taken up** by organisations means that the solution developed jointly by the partnership is adopted and applied by its target group (documented by the adopting organisations in, for instance, strategies, action plans etc.) already before, or until the submission of the final report (3 months from the end of project implementation). In case the solution is finalised at the end of the projects and thus its uptake will happen after project finalisation, the lead partner shall provide, together with the last progress report a time plan for the uptake of the solution in practice (by organisations within the partnership and or outside the partnership).
- ✓ The **organisations** involved in take-up means those target groups who are expected to adopt and apply the developed solution, which organisations may or may not be direct participants (LP, PP, ASP) in the supported project.

### Practical implementation of the indicator:

- ✓ This indicator counts solutions that are used by at least one organisation within or outside the project partnership. The solution should be used either by an organisation that was not using it before the project or by an organisation that was already using it before the project and will now extend the planned duration or increase the scale.

### Collection of data:

- ✓ Data for this indicator is collected from the DRP Monitoring System.

#### Example

Following the example of RCO116, once the innovative mobility solutions were developed and validated by pilot testing by the project partnership, in some participating / neighbouring regions relevant organisations start using these solutions by adjusting their relevant regulatory framework accordingly / integrating it into their mobility plan / providing new mobility services by which they increase the effectiveness of mobility in the respective area and contributing as well to the reduction of GHG emission.

### Programme indicator RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion

#### What it counts?

- ✓ The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation and counted only under the output indicator: RCO 118 **Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies.**

### Practical implementation of the indicator:

- ✓ The indicator is solely dedicated for EUSDR governance support therefore the number of project partners (PPs, ASPs) involved only in the EUSDR governance support projects (PAC, DSP, SMF) financed by DRP and cooperating after project end are to be counted for this indicator. The cooperation should be documented by a formal agreement (EUSDR decisions, national decisions, letters of intent etc.)

### Collection of data:

- ✓ Data for this indicator is collected from the DRP monitoring system and requesting proof of document signed by the partnership

## Programme indicator ISI - Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders

### What it measures?

- ✓ measures the number of organisations that actively participated in cooperation activities of a project across borders and consequently increased their institutional capacity.

### Definitions:

- ✓ **Institutional capacity** is defined as an organisation's ability to set and achieve goals through knowledge, skills, systems and institutions. An organisation increases its institutional capacity by securing the resources (human or technical) and structures (organisational or governance) it needs to successfully perform its mandated tasks.
- ✓ **Cooperation activity across borders** is defined as a process of exchanging knowledge and experience between participants from multiple countries (this can be done through e.g. testing solutions, tools, innovative concepts etc. developed by the project, through peer-reviews, trainings etc.). This process can lead to creating joint objectives and commitments and actions fulfilling these commitments.
- ✓ Organisations **actively participating** can relate both to the project partnership (LP, PPs, ASPs), as well as such organisations, which are not involved in the partnership, but actively participated in cooperation activities project across borders, by which they increased their institutional capacity in the thematic field of the project.

### Practical implementation of the indicator:

- ✓ An organisation is to be counted if it has undergone this kind of learning process through project activities. This is defined as more than one instance of tangible exchange in which the organisation played an active role.
- ✓ An organisation is to be counted no more than once per project regardless of how many activities it was involved in or how many departments were involved.
- ✓ An organisation is to be counted only if its increased institutional capacity is in the thematic field of the project.
- ✓ An organisation that is involved in the project partnership (LP, PPs, ASPs) are to be counted for this result indicator, if the result indicator is linked to the output indicator RCO87 (cooperation across border).
- ✓ An organisation, which actively took part in a project pilot action and increased their institutional capacity in the thematic field of the project, but not involved in the project partnership shall be counted for this indicator, if it is linked to the output indicator RCO84 (joint pilot actions).

#### **Collection of data:**

- ✓ Data for this indicator is to be collected via a survey provided by the programme to the project lead partner.
- ✓ The project may decide to translate the survey into local languages if necessary. The project lead partner is responsible for ensuring that the survey is completed by the organisations that participated in project activities. The lead partner is responsible for collating the responses in an overview table that it provides to the programme.
- ✓ The programme is responsible for verifying the consistency of the aggregated data in the overview table provided by the programme. The programme is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the data at the level of the individual organisations.

#### **Example**

18 rescue service organisations in six countries tested existing procedures and communication designed for accidents in the Danube through a set of joint large-scale exercises. They assessed and further developed these procedures and communication. As a result, they can respond to accidents more effectively in a transnational setting.

## Interconnection between the programme outputs and results indicators

In the frame of the programme intervention logic the programme output indicators are linked to the programme result indicators, which is presented in this table.

Output indicator	Result indicator
RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	ISI <sup>1</sup> : Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders, other than organisations counted under RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders (PPs, etc.) – e.g. organisations external to the partnership
RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions	RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders	ISI: Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders
RCO118 Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies	RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
RCO120 Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages	

*RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders*, which is a mandatory output indicator, is linked to result indicator *ISI Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders*, as it is expected that the institutional capacity of the organisations directly involved in the project partnership (LP, PPs and ASPs) will be increased by participating in the project cooperation and implementation.

<sup>1</sup> Interreg specific Indicator developed by the programmes together with INTERACT

*RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed* is linked to *RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations*, as DRP is supporting projects that are developing viable and practical outputs therefore it is expected that the strategies and action plans developed by the projects are actually implemented.

*RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects* is linked to *ISI Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders*, as it is expected that the institutional capacity of those organisations, which are not involved in the project partnership (LP, PPs and ASPs), but actively participating in the implementation of the pilot actions of the project will be increased by participating in the project cooperation and implementation. (Of course it is also expected that the institutional capacity of the organisations of the project partnership will also increase by taking part in a project pilot action, but since this increase is already considered within the project cooperation in general (*RCO 87 – ISI*) this shall not be double counted within the *RCO 84 – ISI* linkage).

There is also linkage between the output indicators *RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects* and *RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions*, since only such solution, project product can be counted as project output contributing to RCO 116, which stems out of and validated by a pilot action of the project.

*RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions* is linked to *RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations* since DRP is supporting projects that are developing viable and practical outputs therefore it is expected that the solutions developed by the projects are actually adopted and applied by the target organisations.

*RCO118 Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies* is linked to *RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion*, which indicators are related to the cooperation within EUSDR governance support projects and it is assumed that the governance of the EUSDR (PACs, DSP, SMF etc.) will not be terminated after the finalisation of the programme.



## Survey template - for ISI (sample only)

[Preamble]

### 1. Identification

Your name and surname: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Status in project:

- LP/PP
- Associated strategic partner
- Other stakeholder

### 3. Did the institutional capacity of your organisation increase as a result of involvement in this project?

- Yes
- No / Not sure

### 4. If you answered 'Yes': How has your organisation changed? Select all that apply.

- Used new knowledge or skills

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

- Adopted new tools

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

- Adopted new procedures or workflows

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_



- Changed the organisational structure

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

- Other

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you answered "No": what were the factors that lead to failure in increasing the institutional capacity? Select all that apply from the following:

- Unclear information received;

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

- No new information, tools etc. provided;

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

- Lack of consistent participation in the project;

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

- Other, please specify.

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_