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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: To:	General Secretariat of the Council Working Party on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions
N° Cion doc.:	11768/25 + ADD 1 (COM(2025) 552 final + annex)
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Fund for Regional Development including for European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund as part of the Fund set out in Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP] and establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to regional development from 2028 to 2034: - COM replies to MS questions: PPT

Delegations will find attached the slides that were used by the Commission for replying to MS questions on the ERDF/CF proposal including Interreg at the WP on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions on 30 September 2025.

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2028-2034 MFF:

ERDF/CF proposal including Interreg key areas based on questions

Directorate-General

Regional and Urban Policy

30 September 2025

European Commission

Context - Regional and territorial features in NRPP

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*The role of regions in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NRP Plans**

- Autonomy of regions and regional authorities preserved
- Full responsibility in implementing their dedicated chapters
- Possibility to be in direct contact with the Commission (Article 49(1) NRPP)
- In line with national arrangements depending on the institutional and administrative setup
- NRP Plans to be tailored to the specific challenges and needs of the different regions and territories.
- Dedicated methodology for a territorial concentration of resources with clear criteria (Annex VII NRPP).
- Coordinating authority ensures coherence in negotiation/implementation of the Plan

** Articles discussed at AHWP MFF – National and Regional Partnerships*

Support for disadvantaged areas (1)

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Article 4 (ERDF/CF) refers to the areas defined in Art. 174 TFEU and the just transition areas as well as the regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

- **Eastern Border regions**
  - Specific needs and challenges of Eastern border regions to be taken into account – esp. security, border management and economic development
  - Identified needs to be matched by corresponding reforms and investments
  - All types of measures, incl. those targeting Eastern border regions, eligible for support under all specific objectives
  - Allocation key in NRPP (Annex I) - criteria to address challenges in relation to security at external borders ie bordering Russia and Belarus

Support for disadvantaged areas (2)

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Article 4 (ERDF/CF) refers to the areas defined in Article 174 TFEU and the just transition areas and regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

- **Just transition areas**
  - Objectives of Just Transition Fund (JTF) integrated into the NRP Fund
  - JTF objective - *"addressing the social, employment, economic, and environmental impacts of the transition to a climate-neutral economy"* - embedded in the scope and specific objectives of the NRPP cf. (Article 3(1)(a)(iii) NRPP)
  - Objective to pursue in a cross-cutting and comprehensive way across the NRP Plans.
  - Additionally, the proposal promotes territorial just transition strategies supported under the plan cf.Article 22 (2) (h)(i) NRPP, Annex VII (h)

Support for disadvantaged areas (3)

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Article 4 (ERDF/CF) Member States and regions shall, where appropriate, set out an integrated approach to addressing demographic challenges or specific needs of disadvantaged regions and areas and this may include a commitment on dedicated funding for that purpose and may be included in dedicated chapters of the National Regional and Partnership Plan.

- Article 4 (ERDF/CF) is to be considered in conjunction with Articles 74–76 NRPP .
- NRP Plans need to support integrated urban development strategies (Article 5 ERDF/CF) and LEADER/CLLD (Article 18 CAP) BUT
- Possible to provide support for the relevant regions outside territorial development strategies set out under Articles 74–76 NRPP
- Integrated approaches do not require dedicated funding – possibility to rely on strategies, coordination mechanisms or complementary measures

Support for outermost regions

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- *Article 6 (ERDF/CF) sets out specific provisions for outermost regions*

  - **Outermost regions** not included in Article 4 ERDF/CF - mirroring the approach of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 - no discrepancy of treatment with the disadvantaged regions
  - **Support for operating costs** no longer limited to the special allocation - can be supported for any measure supporting the economic, social and territorial development of outermost regions.
  - **Under the Interreg Plan,** outermost regions benefit from lower national co-financing rates for their cooperation (15%) and a higher rate of technical assistance (10%) than other regions.
  - Support under the NRPP is built on the basis of **the following principles**:
    - **Dedicated measures** necessary in their NRP Plans of concerned Member States - option of adding specific chapters
    - **Dedicated chapters** allow for a comprehensive approach to strengthen the economic and social development of outermost regions, tailored to their specific needs and challenges, including in terms of compensatory support (in line with Article 349 TFEU)
    - **More comprehensive strategy** and effective combination of resources across more policy areas (incl. agriculture, fisheries)

Territorial approach – NRP*

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- *Territorial and local cooperation initiatives, integrated territorial and urban development, Community-led local development (Articles 74-76 NRP proposal)*

  - Article 75 NRPP applies to all integrated territorial development strategies
  - Any type of geographical area can be approached via integrated territorial development – no limitation and potentially including just transition territories/strategies
  - For territorial development strategies (incl. CLLD) deliverables may be established partly in strategies - appropriate to have monitoring committee approval for proper scrutiny and in line with subsidiarity (cf. Article 56(2)(e) NRPP)
  - No need to approve territorial strategies before the approval of the Plan
  - Project under the territorial development strategies will continue to be selected by the relevant territorial bodies – no need to involve managing authorities/monitoring committees.

** Articles discussed at AHWP MFF – National and Regional Partnerships*

Territorial approach: integrated territorial and urban development

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- *As part of their territorial development, Member States shall support integrated urban development strategies (Article 5 ERDF/CF)*

  - Mandatory to support integrated urban development strategies but no corresponding earmarking
  - Sustainable urban development – to implement via integrated strategies in line with requirements of Article 75(2) NRPP and Article 5 ERDF/CF.
  - Possible to integrate such development strategies in a wider regional development measure (if requirements are met)
  - Support under the NRPP entails:
    - **Strategies to be selected by managing authorities** in view of providing support, including for its preparation (Article 75(3) NRPP).
    - **No obligation to involve managing authorities in the preparation** of the strategies – they decide on the selection of the strategies for support.
    - Support may cover **the preparation** of these strategies

Interreg: strands and specific objectives

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- *Interreg shall focus on supporting the four strands of cooperation (Article 7 ERDF/CF)*
  - The Commission clarified in Fiche N°12 the amount of EUR 750 million for Strand C – allowing Member States to calculate the allocations to the other strands for Interreg
- *Interreg shall support "better cooperation governance", "a safer and more secure Europe" and "more resilient regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine" (Article 8(4) ERDF/CF).*
  - The choice of a specific objective and cooperation measures contributing to be summarised in the Interreg Plan chapter (Article 8(3)(b) ERDF/CF)
  - The three additional Interreg objectives are set at the level of the instrument – possibility to choose them in Interreg chapter but none of them mandatory

Interreg: social measures and flexibility amount

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- *Recital 13 (ERDF/CF) refers to infrastructure investments and related activities under Interreg, specifically in connection with the social objectives outlined in the NRP Regulation.*

  - Emphasis in recital to provide message on continuity ie support for social investments remain possible (i.e. training and other soft measures)
  - In line with the approach for Interreg since 2007

- *Article 14(2) NRPP shall not apply to the Interreg Plan*

  - Specific context of Interreg with necessary implementation modalities for multi-country projects, limited funding at chapter level and specificities of the four strands
  - Continuity in approach - no MTR for Interreg in 2021-2027

Interreg: performance framework and monitoring

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- *The Interreg programmes are embedded in the frameworks of the NRP Regulation and the Performance Regulation*

  - Rules set out in the NRPP Regulation shall apply to the Interreg Plan, except where more specific rules are set out in the ERDF/CF Regulation (Article 7(3) ERDF/CF.
  - Specific provisions for the Interreg Plan - to address specificities of cooperation programmes, including their governance
  - Further requirements for the monitoring committee may be included in the general part of the Interreg Plan (Article 10(6) ERDF/CF).
  - Additional rules, incl. for Interreg set out in the proposal for the Performance Regulation.
  - Role of the managing authorities and the monitoring committee - broadly the same as in 2021-2027.
  - Joint Secretariat - same approach as in 2021-2027 with staff to represent participating countries

Interreg: Interreg Plan (1)

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- *Interreg should be implemented outside the NRP Plans, in the form of an Interreg Plan in view of providing for the specific context of the cooperation objective and the necessary implementation modalities for multi-country projects including specificities of the four strands (recital 12 ERDF/CF)*

  - A single Interreg Plan will be composed of two parts:

    - **general part** covering
      - (i) the list of Interreg Plan chapters, their geography and the indicative allocations and
      - (ii) the detailed implementation modalities (Article 9(1)) ERDF/CF) to ensure continuity in implementation; and

    - **the Interreg Plan chapters** which will be a summary of the most important elements of Interreg programmes as they are currently, as defined in the template for the Interreg Plan chapter (Article 9(2)-(6) ERDF/CF).

  The partnership may agree on other documents helping programming/implementation in their specific context.

Interreg: the Interreg Plan (2)

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- *The Interreg Plan shall include Interreg Plan chapters. Each chapter shall correspond to cooperation in a given geographical area (Article 8(1) ERDF/CF)*

  - The **approval of Interreg Plan chapters** is not linked to the approval of the NRP Plans.
  - A c**hange in the geographical area** of the current Interreg programme is possible if agreed by all partners.
  - The Commission will prepare **Interreg Orientation Papers** to help develop the Interreg Plan chapters.
  - **Adoption of the general part** of the Interreg Plan will allow the submission of the Interreg chapters based on the underlying programme partnerships
  - The Commission has 4 months to **assess the Interreg Plan chapters** or their amendments (Article 9(3) ERDF)
  - **The Commission will approve chapters** that are ready every 3 months or 6 months in case of modification of already approved chapters (Article 9(4) ERDF).

Interreg and Global Europe

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- *Cooperation programmes may receive contributions from the Global Europe instrument*

  - **Interreg programmes involving candidate countries will be implemented fully under Interreg rules** - same as in 2021-2027 (Articles 7(2) and 11 ERDF/CF).
  - **Financing agreements are required** and they shall be considered to be a tool to implement the Union budget (Article 11(2) ERDF)
  - **The audit and control standard** to be applied to Interreg programmes with candidate countries are to be the same as other Interreg programmes.
  - **Possibility for non-Member States to use their national rules for procurement** as long as the financing agreement allows (Article 11(3)(a) ERDF/CF)
  - **Candidate and neighbouring countries to be fully fledged partners** throughout the programme cycle ie. participation in the monitoring committee and following the partnership principle (Article 6 NRPP Regulation).
  - **Enlargement-related reforms,** such as institution building, minority rights, and regional development can be covered under
    - specific objectives in Article 3(a) and (c) NRPP proposal
    - and the additional Interreg objectives (Article 7(4) ERDF/CF) with relevant milestones and targets.

Interreg: return of resources and decommitment

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- *Article 12 (ERDF/CF) contains provisions to re-allocate resources in addition to the provisions on the general provisions on automatic decommitment (Article 15 NRPP)*

  - The new framework proposed by the Commission allows for an accelerated financial implementation
  - 4% pre-financing is envisaged at the beginning of the period for the first 3 years compared to 14% spread over 6 years in 2021-2027
  - Additional payments can take place early on based on milestones which can be linked to procedural steps (qualitative achievements)
  - Accelerated Interreg implementation already visible in 2021-2027 - evidencing that no specific Interreg difficulties expected
  - The different specificities can be translated into milestones and targets adapted to Interreg

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Thank you



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