

Position of the MOT on the public consultation survey on the INTERACT III 2014-2020 programme

May 2014



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I. Introduction

The INTERACT programme has launched an online survey to gather stakeholders comments about the draft programme for 2014-2020.

The network of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) would like to participate in this consultation, in particular on aspects linked with cross-border cooperation.

Presentation of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT - Transfrontier Operational Mission):

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, created in 1997, is both an association and a French inter-ministerial structure, which has the main objective of facilitating cross-border projects. Its missions are operational assistance to leaders of cross-border projects (project development, legal structures, studies, etc.), networking, assistance in the definition of overall strategies in cross-border cooperation, and implementation of European projects. The MOT brings together within its network sub-national authorities and their groupings, associations, cross-border structures, large corporations, states, etc. involved in cross-border cooperation and situated on both sides of the border. It has more than 60 members, from 10 European countries.

To date, the MOT has concentrated its work on cross-border proximity cooperation and assistance in the definition of policies regarding cross-border territories.

Website: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

II. The MOT contribution – answers to the survey

1. Strategy of the programme

Please give your opinion based on the below aspects on Section 1 of the draft operational programme, which describes the strategy chosen.

Is the strategy of the draft operational programme relevant for the 2014-2020 ETC community? (required)

I agree

I partly agree

I disagree

Is the strategy of the draft operational programme coherent with the needs of the 2014-2020 ETC community? (required)

I agree

I partly agree

I disagree

Please provide additional feedback below:

The strategy of the INTERACT III programme is relevant for the ETC community and is coherent to its needs. However, some aspects should be given a greater importance.

The new generation of the INTERACT programme should be aimed at assisting not only the implementation of programmes but also of cooperation projects, facilitating the exchange of information, experiences, results and good practices. INTERACT should be involved in capitalisation and networking not only at programme level, but also at project level (between stakeholders and partners involved in cross-border cooperation).

Concerning the programmes, INTERACT should also address the strategic dimension of programmes (strategies, territorial diagnoses, development, selection, follow up and evaluation of projects).

INTERACT's focus is on programme implementation, but this should not be understood only as the cycle of administrative tasks; it should also include the more qualitative aspects of project development. Therefore, INTERACT should target not only the programme level, but also the project level.

2. Specific objectives of the programme

Please give your opinion based on the below aspects on the three specific objectives of the draft operational programme (sections 1.1.1 and 2.A.5).

Is specific objective 1.1 "To improve management and control capacity of ETC programmes" relevant for the 2014-2020 ETC community? (required)

I agree

I partly agree

I disagree

Is specific objective 1.2 "To improve the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating the programme results" relevant for the 2014-2020 ETC community? (required)

I agree

I partly agree

I disagree

Is specific objective 1.3 "To improve the cooperation management capacity to implement innovative approaches (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, Revolving Funds, macro-regional strategies, Article 96, Integrated Territorial Investment, etc)" relevant for the 2014-2020 ETC community? (required)

I agree

I partly agree

I disagree

Please provide additional feedback below:

Concerning objective 1, INTERACT should also aim to improve the quality of ETC projects by helping ETC programmes especially in the development phases. More help (networking activities, publications, targeted expertise) should be provided to improve calls for projects, initial information to beneficiaries, explanation of the strategy of the programmes, etc. These programme phases are essential in the development of quality projects (relevance, results, long-term impact). INTERACT should also assist programme managers in improving the capacity of beneficiaries to manage their projects. Concerning the payment phases, INTERACT could provide methods to decrease payment delays to beneficiaries.

Concerning objective 2, INTERACT (with the help of ESPON and INTERREG Europe) should focus on improving the observation capacity at programme level (production of baselines in the form of statistical information, methods to measure the results and the impact of programmes).

Concerning objective 3, INTERACT should focus early on in the programming period on the implementation of ITI and CLLD, as there is a lack of know-how among programme managers for the moment. INTERACT could help by clarifying and harmonising eligibility rules for EGTCs and other cross-border bodies. INTERACT should also provide assistance to programmes that implement Small projects funds.

3. Proposed actions of the programme

Please give your opinion based on the below aspects on the actions as laid down in the draft operational programme (section 2.A.6).

Do you think that the actions to be carried out in the framework of the programme are relevant for the 2014-2020 ETC community? (required)

I agree

I partly agree

I disagree

Do you think that the actions to be carried out in the framework of the programme are coherent with the strategy and the specific objectives? (required)

I agree

I partly agree

I disagree

Please provide additional feedback below:

The proposed actions are relevant and coherent. The MOT would like to emphasise several types of actions that seem particularly important: training on territorial diagnosis for ETC programmes; territorial observation and statistical data in a cross-border context; territorial development tools (ITI, CLLD, JAP etc.) in a cross-border context; training at project level (thematic and territorial approach); training on capitalisation methods and objectives; seminars on indicators and evaluation; transmission of useful documents on ETC (from the Commission or other sources), possibly links with other European resource centres.

In addition, INTERACT could work as a platform connecting European centres of ETC expertise and networks. Specific agreements or exchange protocols could be developed with European resources centers on ETC (eg AEBR, TEIN, CECICN, MOT, etc.). INTERACT tools (i.e. project database, etc.) could be more connected with other resource providers, including ESPON, URBACT, INTERREG Europe).

INTERACT could reinforce its role as a facilitator of multi-level governance, between all levels: local, regional, national and European. The interaction with the national level could be improved through the development of a network of national contact points (like for ESPON ECPs).

External capitalization events or trainings on ETC at European level could be supported and spread by INTERACT.

4. Use of INTERACT services and products

Please let us know if and how your organisation makes use of INTERACT services or products.

Is your organisation familiar with the current range of INTERACT services and products related to the 2014-2020 programming period?

Yes

No

Does your organisation plan to attend events or use other INTERACT services in the 2014-2020 programming period?

Yes

No

Does your organisation plan to use INTERACT products or tools in the 2014-2020 programming period?

Yes

No

Please provide additional feedback below. If you selected "Yes", we would appreciate if you described how your organization intends to use our services or products in the 2014-2020 programming period (e.g. use the e-MS system or the Harmonised Implementation Tools):

The MOT plans to assist to relevant workshops and events, to read the INTERACT newsletter and other publications.

5. Feedback from INTERACT II (2007-2013)

Please provide us with input in relation to the below two result indicators that INTERACT III intends to use in the 2014-2020 programming period. Even though it is not compulsory to answer this part of the questionnaire, your input would be very important and valuable for us.

Satisfaction rate with INTERACT services and products: in order to guide the future quality management development work, could you please define the most valuable aspects of our services and the aspects that need improvement?

Valuable aspects of INTERACT services and products

Networking capacities, dissemination of good practices.

Aspects that could be improved

Expertise at the project level, expertise on observation and evaluation.

Use of INTERACT products and services: in order to establish the baselines, for the INTERACT II services and products/tools your organisation have used, could you please indicate to what extent your organisation have used the knowledge gained through these services and products/tools? Please indicate on the scale from 0 to 10

Please select: **7/10**