

PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK METHODOLOGY

INTERREG VI-A NEXT ROMANIA-REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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GENERAL INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

'Output indicator' means an indicator to measure the specific deliverables of the intervention. - CPR Article 2

'Result indicator' means an indicator to measure the effects of the interventions supported, with particular reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of infrastructure. - CPR Article 2

'Target' means a pre-agreed value to be achieved at the end of the eligibility period in relation to an indicator included under a specific objective. - CPR Article 2

'Milestone' means an intermediate value to be achieved at a given point in time during the eligibility period in relation to an output indicator included under a specific objective. - CPR Article 2

GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF INDICATORS

Correlation with the territorial needs and the Programme specific objectives

The territorial analysis identified the main needs of the area that were translated into activities to be financed by the programme. The next step, the selection of indicators was done based on the types of actions and the resources allocated for financing them. The indicators were selected taking

into consideration their coverage of activities and their ability to provide information necessary to assess the success of the programme. In order to ensure a smooth implementation of the programme, the number of indicators was kept as low as possible, ensuring at the same time the proper monitoring and assessment of the activities. In order to achieve this purpose, the programme used indicators from both the list of common indicators and the list of additional Interreg common indicators proposed in Annex I of ERDF Regulation.

The proposed output indicators cover all the fields of actions and provide a causal link between output and result. Result indicators were set in direct correlation with the specific objectives of the programme and measure short term effects of the interventions with reference to the organisations participating in projects, direct addressees, i.e., target groups.

Clear distinction between indicators

In order to ensure the proper implementation of the programme, the indicators should be clear and overlapping kept to a minimum. In order to provide a clear framework for the implementation, each indicator was correlated with corresponding types of action.

Additionally, where possible, two types of indicators were used, capturing both investments and Interreg specific actions, ensuring the aggregation of both tangible results and activities specific to the cross border cooperation.

Correspondence with the intervention fields

Following the identification of needs of the eligible area, the specific objectives were chosen and the needs identified were structured in corresponding intervention fields, taking into account the need for thematic concentration and the limited resources as well. When structuring the indicator system, correlation was ensured both with the specific objectives and intervention fields. The structure took into account the allocated budget of a specific intervention field/specific objective, as input, and, based on series of assumption that will guide the calls, derived the outputs of the interventions, meaning what the projects are expected to deliver (in output indicators) but also how these outputs are going to generate results, respectively changes, in the targeted communities, through results indicators. All of these elements contribute to addressing the needs of the communities in the eligible area and to the achievement of specific objectives. The complete correlation scheme is presented in Annex 1.



Measuring and recording achievement for indicators

The measuring and recording of achievement of the indicators shall be done based on project progress reports. The lead beneficiary is responsible with reporting issues for the whole project and also for monitoring the output and result indicators. The lead beneficiary is therefore responsible for collecting and collating the data from all project partners and report against each of the output and result indicator. In doing so the lead beneficiary should also avoid double counting and ensure that the reported data is accurate. For result indicators that need to be reported after project completion the lead beneficiary is also responsible for making sure that the measurement is done in time and reported to the programme authorities as per set timelines.

As important as measuring and recording might be, it is also essential that project partners set the indicator targets accurately during the stage of project design and that the targets are achievable, as to reflect the efficient use of programme resources in achieving specific deliverables and results.

One project can contribute to more than one programme output indicator or result indicator. It is compulsory that projects contribute both to programme result indicators and output indicators. Nonetheless, the link between output indicators and results indicators must be kept, a project cannot contribute to a result indicator if it does not contribute to a paired output indicator and vice-versa. Some output indicators cannot be used on their own and must be together with another output indicator, in which case their corresponding result indicators must also be used. More details are given in the description of each indicator.

In selecting the indicators used in the indicator system the following criteria were used:

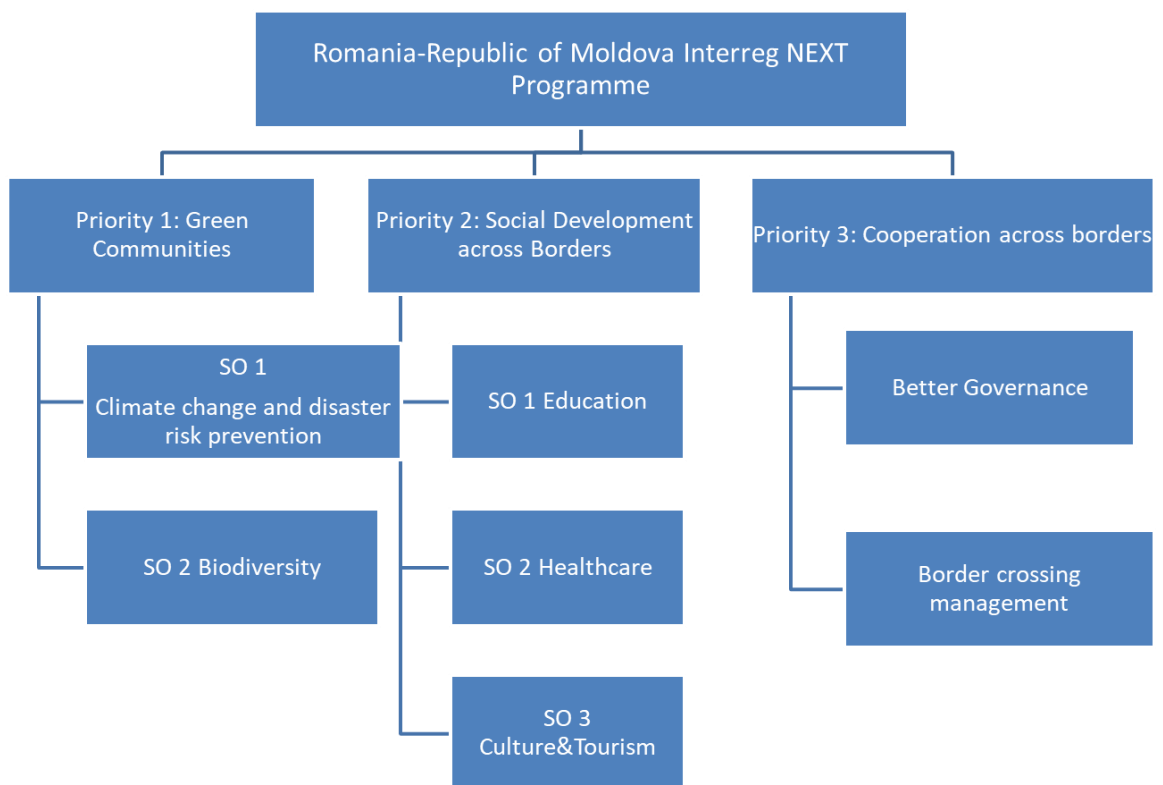
- ✓ **Relevance to cross border cooperation** - able to capture and reflect the added value of cross border cooperation
- ✓ **Relevance to programme specific objectives** - able to reflect the programme contribution to the selected priorities
- ✓ **Partnership and integrated approach** - able to reflect the achievements through the partners' joint participation

- ✓ **Thematic concentration** - reflect the use of resources for the most important outcome in the concerned field of intervention
- ✓ **Applicability and availability** - able to collect consistent data which are easily available

! In the situation that for a specific objective large infrastructure projects will be selected, all the targets and milestones set for the corresponding indicators can suffer major changes because of the fact that those projects contribution to the indicators will not be proportionate to their budget.

Note: For calculation purposes, the values below are rounded!

ROMANIA - REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA INTERREG VI-A NEXT PROGRAMME STRATEGY AND INTERVENTION LOGIC



PRIORITY 1: GREEN COMMUNITIES

Specific objective 1.1: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

During the past years, an increase in the average temperature and changes in the precipitation regime have been registered in the programme area, having as consequences floods and drought with potential damage to health and infrastructure, and higher risks of forest fires. Considering the results of the consultations held during the programme preparation, the main fields of intervention to be covered by the programme are related to floods and landslides, fires and man-made disasters. There has also been identified a lack of financing concerning water management, in terms of river monitoring, river banks consolidation and reduction of erosion.

The programme aims to contribute to alleviate the problems generated by climate change issues through both small, soft investments in actions such as awareness raising, developing joint strategies and through investments in endowment and infrastructure.

In order to achieve significant results in this areas, the following indicators will be used:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
<u>1.1. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention...</u>	RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
	RCO 83 - Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 - Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
	RCO 81 - Participations in joint actions across borders	RCR 85 - Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion
	RCO 24 - Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters	PSR 1 - Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disaster

The system of indicators proposed for this specific objective covers a wide variety of investments, from preventing landslides, floods and fires, events for raising awareness at the level of the general population and trainings of professionals in the field of emergency situations as well as climate change adaptation and risk prevention strategies and action plans.

The performance framework for Priority 1/SO 1 as presented below is based on the following assumptions:

- ✓ Programme budget allocated to P1/SO 1: 23,235,957 EUR (29.98% of total projects budget, including indicative national cofinancing);
- ✓ Allocation for limited financial volume projects: up to 10% of the allocation for P1/SO 1, respectively 2,323,596 Euro;
- ✓ Small/SOFT projects have been financed under both Romania-Republic of Moldova Programme 2014-2020 and Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013. During the 2014-2020 programme the average size of grant for similar operations for soft project has been around 275,000 euro and 12 projects have been selected, with various types of beneficiaries, such as: universities, NGOs, authorities responsible with emergency situations, local authorities.
- ✓ Allocation for regular projects: 20,912,361 Euro, up to 90% of the budget allocated to investment projects (i.e. projects which dedicate the majority of their budget to infrastructure and/or purchase of equipment);
- ✓ 25 projects to be supported under Priority 1/SO1 (9 limited financial volume projects and 16 regular projects).
- ✓ Average size of grant per each project of limited financial volume: 250,000 euro
- ✓ Average size of grant per each regular project: 1,300,000 euro

OUTPUT INDICATORS

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone 2024	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
1.1	RCO 87	Organizations cooperating across borders	organizations	2	52	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: in average 3 organisations cooperating per project, with an average of 70% unique entities</p> <p>Calculation: (allocation for limited financial volume projects: average grant) *3 organizations per project</p> <p>Calculation: (allocation regular projects: average grant) *3 organizations per project</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone2024: estimated that 10% of limited financial volume projects will be concluded*3 organisations*70% unique organisations</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 3 organizations per project*70%</p>
1.1	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan	1	12	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 50% of projects will develop a strategy/action plan</p> <p>Calculation: 50% * no of projects* 1 strategy action plan</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p>

							<p>Milestone 2024: 10%* number of limited financial volume projects* 1 strategy action plan</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 50% elaborating strategies/actions plans</p>
1.1	RCO 81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participations	30	375	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 50% of projects will develop joint actions</p> <p>Minimum number of participations per joint action in similar projects during the 2014-2020 programming period: 30 people (10 people per each organisation with 3 organisations involved in a project)</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone 2024: estimated that 10% of limited financial volume projects will be concluded</p> <p>Calculation: 30 participations* 10% limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 50% participations in joint actions*30</p>
1.1	RCO 24	Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response	Euro	0	13,000,000	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 80% of the SO allocated to projects with an investment component, out of which 70% estimated expenditure for investments.</p> <p>Milestone 2024: no projects finalised by 2024, considering the implementation period of the projects (of over 36 months for projects of strategic importance and an average 12-24 months for regular projects).</p>

		systems against natural disasters					Final target 2029: 80%*SO allocated budget*70% expenditure for investment
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RCO 87 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS

This is an INTERREG specific common output indicator that has been selected to cover all the types of actions proposed under the specific objective 1.1.

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects, including small projects (projects of a limited financial volume). The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation. The cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).

! The indicator covers all types of activities: investments in infrastructure and endowment, trainings and elaboration of joint strategies and tools!

! 80% of the budget of this specific objective should be allocated to investment projects!

! Timeframe for measurement: upon project completion!

! At programme level, double counting should be avoided at the level of project partners and associated organizations! In addition, double counting will be checked by the programme structures, meaning that at programme level each organization will be counted only once, irrespective of the specific objective the project is implemented under.

RCO 83 - STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS JOINTLY DEVELOPED

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions: joint operational plans/procedures for risk prevention and management, elaborating updated joint operational plans and procedural framework for efficient management and deployment of joint interventions, hydrological monitoring of rivers, water temperature, precipitation measurements, ice regime; strengthen the banks of rivers, canals, the condition of dams, afforestation of river banks; prevention activities for the elimination of erosions.

The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects. A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal oriented process in a specific domain. An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.

Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organizations from both countries in the drafting process of the strategy or action plan.

The milestone value for this indicator is set to be zero, as projects drafting a strategy or an action plan are complex projects, involving more interaction and research in both states in order to tackle the specific needs of all partners.

! If the strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! Projects aiming to implement specific jointly developed strategies or action plans, previously developed, should not be reported for this output indicator.

RCO 81 - PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT ACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions: joint trainings for climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management, awareness campaigns.

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders implemented in the supported projects. Participations should be understood as the number of persons attending a joint action across borders - e.g. citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, public officials, etc. and are counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organizations from both countries (preparation, implementation, etc.).

! Participations in public events organized in supported projects will not be counted in this indicator.

! Participations in events related to project management or other internal project meetings will not be counted under this indicator.

! Participations, not participants are reported and this will be done based on attendance lists or other relevant means of quantifications. This means that a person can participate in multiple events and the participations will be counted.

! This indicator also adds up trainings (but with no certificate of completion or a record confirming the completion of the training).

RCO 24 - INVESTMENTS IN NEW OR UPGRADED DISASTER MONITORING, PREPAREDNESS, WARNING AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS AGAINST NATURAL DISASTERS

The indicator measures the value of investments in projects, including in the strategic projects associated with works intended to increase the response capacity in respect to natural disasters produced as a result of climate change.

Given the specific risk profile of the Programme area, floods are likely to be among the main natural threats affecting the territory, directly associated with climate change. Other risks include coastal erosion and landslides, fires caused by draughts and high temperatures etc.

Hard investments are likely to be the main expenditure and the most likely to produce immediate and visible benefits in the territory. As such, the indicator was selected to observe progress in respect to carrying out the projected investments in relation to natural disasters.

Considering the implementation period of the projects (of over 36 months for projects of strategic importance and an average 12-24 months for regular projects), no projects will have finalized the implementation period by 2024. Therefore, the milestone target is set at 0.

From the total allocation for this specific objective, approximately 80% are estimated to cover actions aiming at adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks such as floods, landslides and fires. The remaining budget of the SO envisages actions concerning non-climate related natural risks and water management. Out of the estimated percentage for the above named investments, 70% is estimated to be dedicated to infrastructure works and endowment, and the rest to cover administrative costs, staff costs, trainings and awareness campaigns.

! Timeline for measuring this indicator is upon completion of output in the supported project.

RESULT INDICATORS

Result indicators have been selected in correlation with corresponding output indicators selected.

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
1.1	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	26	Projects/programme monitoring system	Assumptions: a minimum of 50% of organization cooperating in projects will continue the cooperation after project completion Calculation = target of RCO 87 * 50%
1.1	RCR 85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participations	0	2022	37	Projects/programme monitoring system	Assumptions: in average 15% of supported projects will organize one joint action after project completion. Estimated no of participants per joint action: 5 participants*2 organisations Calculation: 15%*supported projects* 1 joint action* 10 participations
1.1	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy /action plan	0	2022	6	Projects/programme monitoring system	Assumption: in average 50% of developed strategies and action plans are taken up by organisations Target 2029: Target = number of strategies and action plans (RCO83) * average percentage of uptake by organisations
1.1	PSR 1	Population benefiting from	persons	0	2022	1,670,000	Projects/programme	Assumption: the total population of the programme area is 5.59 mill. Euro.

		<p>protection measures against climate related natural disaster</p>					<p>monitoring system</p>	<p>Estimated 30% of the population in the programme area will benefit of the measures against climate related natural disasters</p> <p>Target 2029: 30%*total population</p>
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RCR 84 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project.

A cooperation agreement should be signed during project implementation and the purpose of the project should imply the need for maintaining the cooperation over a longer period of time than the implementation period.

Not all project partners need to continue the cooperation, only one partner from each state is needed.

The timeframe for measurement for the achievement of this indicator will be during project implementation or up to one year after project completion. Intermediate values can be collected for reporting purposes also during projects implementation.

The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.

Multiple counting will be removed at the level of the specific objective. An organization is considered once regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same specific objective. In case the project envisages the conclusion of multiple cooperation agreements, each organisation will be counted by the programme structures only once at the level of the programme, no matter how many cooperation agreements it signs. Therefore, when reporting on this result indicator at project level, the lead partner will mention not only the number of unique organisations that concluded cooperation agreements, but it will also clearly identify these organisations.

RCR 85 - PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT ACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

This result indicator has been selected in relation to the output indicator RCO81 - Participations in joint actions across borders.

In order to measure this change, only data related to RCO - 81 output indicator will feed into the result indicator.

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders after the completion of the project, organised by all or some of the former partners, as a continuation of cooperation. Joint actions across borders could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits organized with participants from the two countries of the programme area.

The measurement unit is Participations (i.e. number of persons attending a joint action across border) and should be counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! For the definition of this indicator, the joint action includes training schemes.

! Timeframe for measurement: up to one year after project completion.

RCR 79 - JOINT STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS TAKEN UP BY ORGANISATIONS

This indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion. At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started.

! The organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project.

It is not necessary that all actions identified are taken-up for a strategy/action plan to be counted in this context.

The value reported should be equal to or less than the value for "RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed".

! If a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! The measurement of the indicator should be done up to one year after project completion.

PSR 1 - POPULATION BENEFITING FROM PROTECTION MEASURES AGAINST CLIMATE RELATED NATURAL DISASTER

The programme aims at financing actions for the adaptation to climate change measures, prevention and management of climate related risks, such as floods, landslides, fires etc. In order to cover these various types of interventions, the programme will respond to a specific result indicator, i.e. "Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disaster".

! Measurement unit for this programme specific result indicator is "persons". Only population residing in the programme area will be counted for this indicator.

! Timeline for measurement is upon completion of the supported project.

Specific objective 1.2: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Apart from highly needed infrastructure investment in these areas, certification and inclusion in the global network of natural reserves would help preserve biodiversity and contribute to the economic development of the communities living in these areas. Another important aspect is raising awareness of the local communities living in the protected areas about the needs on the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, with the aim of achieving sustainable and resilient development. The most frequent activities identified were those concerning protecting endangered species, rehabilitation of natural heritage, forest plantation, creation of natural cross-border reserves.

The following indicators will be used to measure the achievements in this area:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
<u>1.2. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas</u>	RCO 83 - Strategies and action plans jointly developed RCO 84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	RCR 79 - Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations

The system of indicators proposed for this specific objective covers a wide variety of interventions, from studies and research to endowments and green infrastructure.

The performance framework for Priority 1/SO2 as presented below is based on the following assumptions:

- ✓ Programme budget allocated to P1/SO2: 4,691,199 EUR (6.05% of total projects budget, indicative national cofinancing included);
- ✓ Allocation for limited financial volume projects: up to 40% of the allocation for P1/SO2, respectively 1,876,480 Euro;
- ✓ Small projects were financed under Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013.
- ✓ Allocation for regular projects: 2,814,720 Euro, up to 60% of the budget allocated to projects which include infrastructure and equipment;
- ✓ 12 projects to be supported under Priority 1/SO2 (7 limited financial projects and 5 regular projects).
- ✓ Average size of grant per each project of limited financial volume: 250,000 euro
- ✓ Average size of grant per each regular project: 500,000 euro

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Mile stone 2024	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
1.2	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/ action plan	1	6	Projects/ Programme monitoring system	Assumptions: 50% of projects will develop a strategy/action plan Calculation: 50% * no of projects* 1 strategy action plan 10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024 Milestone 2024: 10%* number of limited financial projects * 1 strategy/action plan developed Final target 2029: number of projects * 50% elaborating strategies/actions plans
1.2	RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action	1	12	Projects/ Programme monitoring system	Assumptions: in average at least one pilot action implemented per project. 10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024 Milestone 2024: 10%* number of limited financial projects * 1 pilot action developed Final Target: number of projects* 1 pilot action per project

RCO 83 - STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS JOINTLY DEVELOPED

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions: drafting common management plans/procedures for protected areas; assessment, protection and improvement of existing ecosystems; awareness campaigns for the protection and eco-safe tourism promotion within protected areas.

The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects. A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal oriented process in a specific domain. An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.

Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organizations from both countries in the drafting process of the strategy or action plan.

! If the strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! Projects aiming to implement specific jointly developed strategies or action plans, previously developed should not be reported for this output indicator, but for RCO 84 (provided that the envisaged activities fulfill the specific requirements set for this output indicator).

! Projects aiming to both develop and implement pilot actions should be reported for RCO84.

! Timeframe for measurement of programme indicator: upon project completion.

RCO84 PILOT ACTIONS DEVELOPED JOINTLY AND IMPLEMENTED IN PROJECTS

This output indicator is selected to cover the following actions: assessment, protection and improvement of existing ecosystems (research activities, inventory of resources, protection of endangered species, eradication of invasive species, afforestation etc.); urban green infrastructure.

The indicator counts the pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or the transfer of practices. 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.

Jointly developed pilot action implies the involvement of organizations from both participating countries in its implementation.

For the implementation of projects developing and implementing pilot actions, at least 40% of the budget will be allocated to regular projects.

**Pilot actions don't cover actions like trainings, meetings events.
Timeframe for measurement of programme indicator: upon project completion.**

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
1.2	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy /action plan	0	2022	9	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumption: in average 50% of developed strategies and action plans are taken up by organisations Target 2029: number of strategies and action plans (RCO83) and number of pilot actions (RCO84) * average percentage of uptake by organisations

RCR 79 - JOINT STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS TAKEN UP BY ORGANISATIONS

This indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion as well as the number of pilot actions. At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started.

! The organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project.

It is not necessary that all actions identified are taken-up for a strategy/action plan to be counted in this context.

The value reported should be equal to or less than the value of "RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed" cumulated with the value of "RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects".

! If a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! The measurement of the indicator should be done one year after project completion.

PRIORITY 2: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS BORDERS

Specific objective 2.1: Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

The budgetary allocation for the field of education is rather small in both countries. The educational infrastructure, both basic (buildings rehabilitation, utilities, especially in rural areas) and also specialized infrastructure (laboratories) are essential for a high quality educational process. Also, the exchange of experience between schools and trainings for teachers would be needed in order to increase the quality of the educational act. A strong focus lays on the education for children with special needs in this area. A lack of specialization and training opportunities for teachers involved in special education was mentioned. Moreover, cooperation between special schools for inclusive education, for ensuring specialized educational services, and educational support for disabled persons (children and adults) are also relevant for the area.

In order to tackle the above mentioned needs, projects should respond to the following indicators, covering both soft investment as well as infrastructure and endowment projects:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
<u>2.1. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning</u>	RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
	RCO 67 - Classroom capacity of new or modernised education facilities	RCR 71 - Annual users of new or modernised education facilities
	RCO 116 - Jointly developed solutions	RCR 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled

The performance framework for Priority 2/SO1 as presented below is based on the following assumptions:

- ✓ Programme budget allocated to P2/SO1: 11,053,508 EUR (14.26% of total projects budget, indicative national cofinancing included);
- ✓ Allocation for limited financial volume projects: up to 20% of the allocation for P1/SO2, respectively 2,210,702 Euro;

- ✓ SOFT/small projects have been financed under both Romania-Republic of Moldova Programme 2014-2020 and Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013. During the 2014-2020 programme 13 SOFT projects have been contracted with an average size of grant for similar operations for soft project has been 320,000 euro.
- ✓ Allocation for regular projects: 8,842,806 Euro, up to 80% of the budget allocated to projects including infrastructure and equipment;
- ✓ 21 projects to be supported under Priority 1/SO2 (8 limited financial volume projects and 13 regular projects).
- ✓ Average size of projects of limited financial volume: 250,000 euro
- ✓ Average size of regular projects: 650,000 euro

The following output indicators are to be used:

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone 2024	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
2.1	RCO87	Organizations cooperating across borders	organizations	1	29	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: in average 2 organisations cooperating per project, with an average of 70% unique entities</p> <p>Calculation: number of projects financed* 2 organizations per project*70%</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone2024: 10% of limited financial volume projects*2 organisations* 70%</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 2 organizations per project*70%</p>
2.1	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Solutions	1	10	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: in average 1 jointly developed solution will be developed per project, with an average of 50% of financed projects developing such solutions.</p> <p>Calculation: number of projects financed* 1 solution*50%</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p>

							<p>Milestone 2024: 10% of limited financial volume projects*1 solution* 50%</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 1 solution per project*50%</p>
2.1	RCO 67	Classroom capacity of new or modernised education facilities	persons	0	23,400	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: in average 2 organisations cooperating per regular project</p> <p>Assumptions: 900 students in an organisation (school)</p> <p>Milestone: 0</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of regular projects * 2 organizations per project * 900 students per school.</p>

RCO 87 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS

This is an INTERREG specific common output indicator that has been selected to cover all the types of actions proposed under the specific objective 2.1.

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects, including small projects (projects of a limited financial volume). The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation. The cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).

! The indicator covers all types of interventions: infrastructure, endowment, trainings and elaboration of joint strategies and tools.

! At least 80% of the budget should be allocated to infrastructure and endowment!

! Timeframe for measurement: upon project completion!

! At programme level, double counting should be avoided at the level of project partners and associated organizations! In addition, double counting will be checked by the programme structures, meaning that at programme level each organization will be counted only once, irrespective of the specific objective the project is implemented under.

RCO 116 - JOINTLY DEVELOPED SOLUTIONS

This is an INTERREG specific common output indicator that has been selected to cover activities such as development of joint educational tools, e-solutions, programs, networks; joint actions in the field of education (strategies, trainings, workshops, exchange of experience etc.) proposed under the specific objective 2.1.

The indicator counts the number of jointly developed solutions from joint pilot actions implemented by supported projects. In order to be counted in the indicator, an identified solution should include indications of the actions needed for it to be taken up or to be upscaled.

! The indicator covers all types of interventions: infrastructure, endowment, trainings and elaboration of joint strategies and tools.

! At least 80% of the budget should be allocated to infrastructure and endowment!

! Timeframe for measurement: upon project completion!

! In order to avoid double counting, the solutions relevant for this indicator should not have the main topics linked to administrative or legal frameworks.

RCO 67 - CLASSROOM CAPACITY OF NEW OR MODERNISED EDUCATION FACILITIES

The indicator covers the following types of activities: construction/rehabilitation/modernisation of educational infrastructure; equipment endowment of education institutions (schools, universities, libraries).

Classroom capacity should be understood in terms of maximum number of pupils/students who can be enrolled in and use the education facilities. Classroom capacity should be calculated in accordance with national legislation, but it should not include teachers, parents, auxiliary personnel or other persons who may use the facilities too. The average value of reference for classroom capacity for both countries is of 25 students. In the future, the values might change, depending on national legislation, therefore the reporting will consider the reference in force at that specific time.

Due to the fact that investments in construction/rehabilitation/modernisation of educational infrastructure require extensive preparatory activities and have an infrastructure component, which is also time consuming, the milestone for 2024 is set at 0.

! Education facilities, such as schools, can be newly built or modernised.

! Modernisation does not include energy renovation or maintenance and repairs.

Result indicators

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
2.1	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	8	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: a minimum of 30% of organization cooperating in projects will continue the cooperation after project completion Calculation = target of RCO 87 * 30%
2.1	RCR 104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solutions taken up or up-scaled	0	2022	10	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: in average 1 solution will be taken up or up-scaled, with an average of 50% of financed projects developing such solutions. Calculation: number of projects financed* 1 solution*50% 10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024 Milestone 2024: 10% of limited financial volume projects*1 solution* 50% Final target 2029: number of projects * 1 solution per project*50%
2.1	RCR 71	Annual users of new or modernised education facilities	Users/year	0	2022	23,400	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: indicator used only for regular projects with an infrastructure component Average value of grants for regular projects: 650,000 euro Final target 2029: number of regular projects*2 schools*900 students/school (average number of 25 students/class*4classes*9 series)

RCR 84 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project.

A cooperation agreement should be signed during project implementation and the purpose of the project should imply the need for maintaining the cooperation over a longer period of time than the implementation period.

Not all project partners need to continue the cooperation, only one partner from each state is needed.

The timeframe for measurement for the achievement of this indicator will be during project implementation or up to one year after project completion. Intermediate values can be collected for reporting purposes also during projects implementation.

The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion.

The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.

Multiple counting will be removed at the level of the specific objective. An organization is considered once regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same specific objective. In case the project envisages the conclusion of multiple cooperation agreements, each organisation will be counted by the programme structures only once at the level of the programme, no matter how many cooperation agreements it signs. Therefore, when reporting on this result indicator at project level, the lead partner will mention not only the number of unique organisations that concluded cooperation agreements, but it will also clearly identify these organisations.

RCR 104 - SOLUTIONS TAKEN UP OR UP-SCALED BY ORGANISATIONS

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. The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may or may not be a participant in the project. The uptake / up-scaling should be documented by the adopting organisations in, for instance, strategies, action plans etc.

A cooperation agreement should be signed during project implementation and the purpose of the project should imply the need for maintaining the cooperation over a longer period of time than the implementation period.

The timeframe for measurement for the achievement of this indicator will be during project implementation or up to one year after project completion.

RCR 71 - ANNUAL USERS OF NEW OR MODERNISED EDUCATION FACILITIES

The indicator counts the annual number of unique registered pupils/ students using the education facility supported. The baseline of the indicator refers to the number of users of the facility supported estimated for the year before the intervention starts, and it is zero for newly built facilities. The purpose of the activities financed through the programme is not necessarily to create additional capacity for existing facilities, but rather to modernize and improve existing ones.

The indicator does not cover teachers, parents, auxiliary personnel or any other persons who may use the facility too.

The indicator covers education facilities such as schools that are newly built or modernised, and modernisation does not include energy renovation or maintenance and repairs.

The indicator doesn't necessarily imply the creation of additional capacity; the result indicator will be assumed to have the same value as the final target for the corresponding output indicator.

Timeframe for measurement: for achieved values, the calculation should be carried out ex post based on the number and size of groups of pupils/students using the facility at least once during the year after the completion of the intervention.

Specific objective 2.2: Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care

In both countries, the health system has been underfinanced and the data of the territorial analysis have shown disparities between rural and urban medical services while in the Republic of Moldova the lack of high-end medical equipment was identified as one of the causes for outward migration of the medical staff.

Existing medical units need rehabilitation and modernisation to respond to the new standards and to have the necessary utilities to allow installation and use of high-end equipment. Furthermore, procurement of modern equipment, using less invasive and more efficient methods of treatment would benefit patients and would also contribute to the reduction of health expenditure on the long run.

Common procedures across borders and similar approach for medical services will level the quality of healthcare in the programme area. Joint trainings and exchange of experience of medical staff from both states will significantly contribute to the increase of quality of the medical act. Difficulties caused by the increasing number of aging healthcare workers nearly retiring the system, and the lack of doctors and medical staff because of their migration would be solved by attracting new staff to the system, who can benefit of continuous training and have access to high-end equipment.

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
<u>2.2. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems</u>	RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
	RCO 81 - Participations in joint actions across borders	RCR 85 - Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion
	RCO 69 - Capacity of new or modernised health care facilities	RCR 73 - Annual users of new or modernised health care facilities

The performance framework for Priority 2/SO2 as presented below is based on the following assumptions:

- ✓ Programme budget allocated to P2/SO2: 18,142,454 EUR (23.41% of total projects budget, indicative national cofinancing included);
- ✓ Allocation for limited financial volume projects: up to 40% of the allocation for P2/SO2, respectively 7,256,982 Euro;
- ✓ Small/SOFT projects have been financed under both Romania-Republic of Moldova Programme 2014-2020 and Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational

Programme 2007-2013. During the 2014-2020 programme 6 projects were contracted with an average size of grant for similar operations for soft project has been around 193,000 euro and 6 projects including an infrastructure component, with an average value of grant of 1,200,000 were selected;

- ✓ Allocation for regular projects: 10,885,472 Euro, up to 60% of the budget allocated to projects including infrastructure and equipment;
- ✓ 34 projects to be supported under Priority 1/SO2 (24 limited financial volume projects and 10 regular projects).
- ✓ Average size of grant per project of limited financial volume: 300,000 euro
- ✓ Average size of grant per regular project: 1,000,000 euro

The output indicators to be addressed under this SO are the following:

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone 2024	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
2.2	RCO 87	Organizations cooperating across borders	organizations	3	47	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: in average 2 organisations cooperating per project, with an average of 70% unique entities</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone 2024: number of limited financial volume projects*10% limited financial volume projects concluded*2 organisations cooperating per project*70% unique entities</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 2 organizations per project*70%</p>
2.2	RCO 81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participations	12	60	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 30% of projects will develop joint actions</p> <p>Minimum number of participations per joint action: 6 people (3 people per each organisation with 2 organisations involved in a project)</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone 2024: estimated that 10% of limited financial volume projects will be concluded</p>

							<p>Calculation: 6 participations* 10% limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 30% participations in joint actions*6</p>
2.2	RCO 69	Capacity of new or modernised health care facilities	Persons/year	0	260,000	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: in average 2 organisations cooperating per project</p> <p>Assumptions: 250 beds in an organisation (hospital) that receives support for investment in infrastructure (regular project)</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of regular projects * 2 organizations per project * 250 beds per hospital*52 patients/bed/year</p>

RCO 87 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS

This is an INTERREG specific common output indicator that has been selected to cover all the types of actions proposed under the specific objective 2.2.

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects, including small projects (projects of a limited financial volume). The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation. The cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).

! The indicator covers all types of investments: infrastructure, endowment, trainings and elaboration of joint strategies and tools.

! At least 60% of the budget should be allocated to infrastructure and endowment.

! Timeframe for measurement: upon project completion!

! At programme level, double counting should be avoided at the level of project partners and associated organizations. In addition, double counting will be checked by the programme structures, meaning that at programme level each organization will be counted only once, irrespective of the specific objective the project is implemented under.

RCO 81 - Participations in joint actions across borders

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions: joint trainings/procedures/exchange of experience in the field of healthcare services.

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders implemented in the supported projects. Participations should be understood as the number of persons attending a joint action across borders - e.g. citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, public officials, etc. and are counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organizations from both countries (preparation, implementation, etc.).

! Participations in public events organized in supported projects will not be counted in this indicator.

! Participations in events related to project management or other internal project meetings will not be counted under this indicator.

! Participations, not participants are reported and this will be done based on attendance lists or other relevant means of quantifications. This means that a person can participate in multiple events and the participations will be counted.

! This indicator also adds up trainings (but with no certificate of completion or a record confirming the completion of the training).

RCO 69 - CAPACITY OF NEW OR MODERNISED HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

This is an ERDF indicator counting to the maximum annual number of persons that can be served by the new or modernised health care facility at least once during a period of one year. Healthcare facilities include hospitals, clinics, outpatient care centers, specialized care centres etc.

The indicator will be calculated only in relation to the regular projects envisaging infrastructure construction, rehabilitation and modernisation and large equipment endowment.

! Modernisation does not include energy renovation or maintenance and repairs.

! Timeframe for measurement: upon project completion!

Result indicators

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
2.2	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	14	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: a minimum of 30% of organizations cooperating in projects will continue the cooperation after project completion Calculation = target of RCO 87 * 30%
2.2	RCR 85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participations	0	2022	60	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: 30% of projects will develop joint actions after project completion. Minimum number of participations per joint action: 6 people (3 people per each organisation with 2 organisations involved in a project) Final target 2029: number of projects * 30% participations in training schemes*6
2.2	RCR 73	Annual users of new or modernised health care facilities	Users/year	0	2022	260,000	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: in average 2 organisations cooperating per project Assumptions: 250 beds in an organisation (hospital) Final target 2029: number of regular projects * 2 organizations per project * 250 beds per hospital*52 patients/bed/year

RCR 84 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project.

A cooperation agreement should be signed during project implementation and the purpose of the project should imply the need for maintaining the cooperation over a longer period of time than the implementation period.

Not all projects need to continue the cooperation, but each project should contribute to at least one result indicator.

The timeframe for measurement for the achievement of this indicator will be during project implementation or up to one year after project completion. Intermediate values can be collected for reporting purposes also during projects implementation.

The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion.

The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.

Multiple counting will be removed at the level of the specific objective. An organization is considered once regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same specific objective.

RCR 85 - PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT ACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders after the completion of the project, organised by all or some of the former partners or associated organisations within the project, as a continuation of cooperation. Joint actions across borders could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits organized with participants from the two countries of the programme area.

The measurement unit is Participations (i.e. number of persons attending a joint action across border) and should be counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! For the definition of this indicator, the joint action includes training schemes.

! Timeframe for measurement: up to one year after project completion. Intermediate values can be collected for reporting purposes also during projects implementation !RCR 73 - ANNUAL USERS OF NEW OR MODERNISED HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

This ERDF indicator sums up the number of patients served by the new or modernised health care facility during the year after the completion of the intervention. One individual can be counted more than once if using facilities multiple times.

Healthcare facilities include hospitals, clinics, outpatient care centres, specialized care centres etc.

The value of the indicator will be calculated only for regular projects envisaging infrastructure construction, rehabilitation and modernisation and large equipment endowment.

The data for both countries concerning the number of patients treated in the eligible area is available for the year 2019, i.e. 615,871 patients for the Republic of Moldova and 547,968 patients for Romania, including all healthcare units. Considering the fact that during the years 2020 and 2021 the healthcare system had to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, the number of patients treated is not representative for a normal functioning of the medical units, therefore these figures cannot be considered for a baseline under this indicator. Furthermore, in order to have a clear image of the current status of the capacity of the medical units to be modernised/rehabilitated through the programme, applicants will be asked to indicate in the application form the registered patients served at least once by the health care facility during the year before the start of the intervention. This can be zero for new facilities.

! Timeline for measuring the value of this indicator is one year starting with the time when the new or modernised health care facility becomes operational.

Specific objective 2.3: Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

The common cultural heritage of the area is an important asset to be valorised and it may also contribute to the development of the tourism in both countries (eligible area). Adequate access infrastructure to historical monuments and proper facilities will have an important role in increasing the attractiveness of the area both for internal as well as foreign tourists.

The development and promotion of public tourism assets proved to be of interest for both countries during the consultations held with the purpose of identifying the needs of the area in this domain.

Increasing the tourism services revenues coming from the foreign tourist visiting the eligible area would highly contribute to the development of local economy and would create the premises for a sustainable cooperation in the border area.

To this end, the following indicators will be addressed within this specific objective:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
<u>2.3. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</u>	RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
	RCO 83 - Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 - Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
	RCO 77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	RCR 77 - Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported

- ✓ Programme budget allocated to P2/SO3: 12,254,701 EUR (15.81% of total projects budget, indicative national cofinancing included);
- ✓ Allocation for limited financial volume projects: up to 30% of the allocation for P2/SO3, respectively 3,676,410 Euro;
- ✓ Limited financial volume projects have been financed under both Romania-Republic of Moldova Programme 2014-2020 and Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013. During the 2014-2020 programme the average size of grant for similar operations for soft project has been 215,000 euro.
- ✓ Allocation for regular projects: 8,578,291 Euro, up to 70% of the budget allocated to projects including infrastructure and equipment;
- ✓ 22 projects to be supported under Priority 1/SO2 (14 limited financial volume projects and 8 regular projects).
- ✓ Average size of projects of limited financial volume: 250,000 euro
- ✓ Average size of regular projects: 1,000,000 euro

The following output indicators will be addressed:

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone 2024	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
2.3	RCO 87	Organisations cooperating across borders	organisations	2	46	Projects/ programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: in average 3 organisations cooperating per project, with an average of 70% unique entities</p> <p>Indicator used for all projects</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone2024: estimated that 10% of limited financial volume projects will be concluded* 3 organizations per project*70% unique entities</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 3 organizations per project* 70%</p>
2.3	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/ action plan	1	6	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 30% of projects will develop a strategy/action plan</p> <p>10% of limited financial volume projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone 2024: estimated that 10% of limited financial volume projects will be concluded* 1 strategy/action plan developed per project</p>

							Final target 2029: number of projects * 30% elaborating strategies/actions plans
2.3	RCO 77	Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	cultural and tourism sites	0	16	Projects/ programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: no.of projects of regular size supported, 2 cultural sites supported per project.</p> <p>Average value of grants for regular projects: 1,000,000 euro</p> <p>Milestone 2024: no projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Final target 2029: no.of regular projects*2 sites/project</p>

RCO 87 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS

This is an INTERREG specific common output indicator that has been selected to cover all the types of actions proposed under the specific objective 2.3.

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects, including small projects (projects of a limited financial volume). The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities (project partners) involved in project implementation. The cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants (Partnership Agreement).

! The indicator covers all types of investments: infrastructure, endowment, trainings and elaboration of joint strategies and tools.

! At least 70% of the budget should be allocated to infrastructure and endowment!

! Timeframe for measurement: upon project completion!

! At programme level, double counting should be avoided at the level of project partners and associated organizations. In addition, double counting will be checked by the programme structures, meaning that at programme level each organization will be counted only once, irrespective of the specific objective the project is implemented under.

RCO 83 - STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects in the field of tourism. A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal oriented process in a specific domain. An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.

Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organizations from both countries in the drafting process of the strategy or action plan.

! If the strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! For a project aiming to implement specific jointly developed strategies or action plans, previously developed, a different output indicator should be used to report on the implementation of action plans.

RCO 77 NUMBER OF CULTURAL AND TOURISM SITES SUPPORTED

This indicator covers the following types of activities: rehabilitation/restoration/preservation and endowment of cultural heritage; rehabilitation of infrastructure related to cultural heritage

sites; promotion of cultural heritage (promotion campaigns, cultural events etc.); promoting cultural heritage sites and including them in cross border tourism networks and chains.

! Timeframe for measurement: upon project completion.

! The indicator doesn't cover natural sites.

Result indicators

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
2.3	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	13	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: a minimum of 30% of the unique organizations cooperating in projects will continue the cooperation after project completion Calculation = target of RCO 87 * 30%
2.3	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy/action plan	0	2022	3	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumption: in average 50% of developed strategies and action plans are taken up by organisations Target 2029: number of strategies and action plans (RCO83) * 50%
2.3	RCR 77	Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported	visitors/year	0	2022	16,000	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: 2 cultural sites supported per project, with an average of 1,000 visitors each in the first year after project completion. Calculation: 2 sites/project* no. of regular projects* 1,000 visitors

RCR 84 - ORGANISATIONS COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects. The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project.

A cooperation agreement should be signed during project implementation and the purpose of the project should imply the need for maintaining the cooperation over a longer period of time than the implementation period.

Not all projects need to continue the cooperation, but each project should contribute to at least one result indicator.

The timeframe for measurement for the achievement of this indicator will be during project implementation or up to one year after project completion. Intermediate values can be collected for reporting purposes also during projects implementation.

The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.

Multiple counting will be removed at the level of the specific objective. An organization is considered once regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same specific objective.

RCR 79 - JOINT STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS TAKEN UP BY ORGANISATIONS

This indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion. At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started.

! The organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project!

It is not necessary that all actions identified are taken-up for a strategy/action plan to be counted in this context.

The value report should be equal to or less than the value for "RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed".

! If a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! The measurement of the indicator should be done up to one year after project completion.

RCR 77 VISITORS OF CULTURAL AND TOURISM SITES SUPPORTED

The indicator counts the estimated number of annual visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported.

The baseline of the indicator refers to the estimated annual number of visitors of the supported sites the year before the intervention starts, and it is zero for new cultural and tourism sites. In 2019, the total number of tourist in the four eligible Romanian counties was of 551,398, while in the same year, the Republic of Moldova registered 347,765 tourists. Considering that 2020 and 2021 were years with a very low rate of tourism because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the baseline for this result indicator will be considered to be zero. However, the applicants will be required to fill in this value for activities that imply supporting existing/open tourism/cultural sites in the application.

! Timeframe for measurement: the estimation of the number of visitors should be carried out ex post one year after the completion of the intervention.

PRIORITY 3: COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS

Specific objective 3.1: Interreg Specific Objective 1 “Better cooperation governance”

Romania, as a member state of the European Union, has a long experience of accessing and implementing EU funded projects. Authorities at national and regional/local level may share their expertise with Moldovan counterparts and both parties may work together to identify common solutions to the problems of the eligible area. Cooperation for drafting common development strategies in various fields of action, enhancing capacity building of public authorities and other stakeholders by exchanging experience, study visits, developing ITC tools, drafting joint protocols, setting up new legislative measures to help cross border cooperation would significantly improve the relations between the two participating countries and would help reduce disparities in terms of institutional capacity.

In order to achieve notable results in the areas tackled by the programme, the following indicators were selected:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
<u>3.1. Better cooperation governance</u>	RCO 81 - Participations in joint actions across borders	RCR 85 - Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion
	RCO 83 - Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 - Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations

- ✓ Programme budget allocated to P3/SO1: 4,263,538 EUR (5.46% of total projects budget, indicative national cofinancing included);
- ✓ Allocation for limited financial volume projects: 100% of the SO budget;
- ✓ Small/SOFT projects have been financed under both Romania-Republic of Moldova Programme 2014-2020 and Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013. During the 2014-2020 programme all priorities included also indicative activities meant to enhance the capacity building of public authorities and other stakeholders by exchanging experience, study visits, developing ITC tools, drafting joint protocols etc. The average size of grant for similar operations for soft project has been 215,000 euro.
- ✓ 12 projects to be supported under Priority 3/SO1 (12 limited financial volume projects).
- ✓ Average size of grant per project of limited financial volume: 350,000 euro

For this specific objective two indicators were selected, a more general one, RCO 81- Participations in actions across borders, and a more specific one, RCO 83-Strategies and action plans jointly developed.

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Mile stone 2024	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
3.1	RCO 81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participations	36	360	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 100% of projects will develop joint actions</p> <p>Average participations per joint action in similar projects during the 2014-2020 programming period: 30 people (10 people per each organisation with 3 organisations involved in a project)</p> <p>10% projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Calculation: no of projects* 30 participations*10% projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone 2024: estimated that 10% projects will be concluded, out of which all of them will involve participations in joint actions</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects *30 participations per project</p>
3.1	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan	2	9	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 80% of projects will develop a strategy/action plan</p> <p>Calculation: 80% * no of projects* 1 strategy action plan</p> <p>20% of projects concluded by 2024</p> <p>Milestone 2024: 20% projects concluded*1 strategy/action plan*80%</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 80% elaborating strategies/actions plans</p>

RCO 81 - PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT ACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions such as joint cross border strategies/action plans/trainings.

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders implemented in the supported projects. Participations should be understood as the number of persons attending a joint action across borders - e.g. citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, public officials, etc. and are counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organizations from both countries (preparation, implementation, etc.).

! Participations in public events organized in supported projects will not be counted in this indicator. Participations in events related to project management or other internal project meetings will not be counted under this indicator.

! This indicator cannot be used on its own and projects must also contribute to the other output indicator set at the level of the specific objective, namely RCO 83.

! Participations, not participants are reported and this will be done based on attendance lists or other relevant means of quantifications. This means that a person can participate in multiple events and the participations will be counted.

! This indicator also adds up trainings (but with no certificate of completion or a record confirming the completion of the training).

RCO 83 - STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS JOINTLY DEVELOPED

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions such as joint solutions for cross border cooperation.

The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects. A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal oriented process in a specific domain. An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.

Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organizations from both countries in the drafting process of the strategy or action plan.

! If the strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! For a project aiming to implement specific jointly developed strategies or action plans, previously developed, a different output indicator should be used to report on the implementation of action plans.

Result indicators

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
3.1.	RCR 85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participations	0	2022	30	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: in average 25% of supported projects will organize one joint action after project completion. Estimated no. of participations per joint action: 10 Calculation: 25%*number of projects*10 participations/project
3.1	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy/action plan	0	2022	5	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumption: in average 50% of developed strategies and action plans are taken up by organisations Target 2029: number of strategies and action plans (RCO83) * 50%

RCR 85 - PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT ACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders after the completion of the project, organised by all or some of the former partners or associated organisations within the project, as a continuation of cooperation. Joint actions across borders could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits organized with participants from the two countries of the programme area.

The measurement unit is Participations (i.e. number of persons attending a joint action across border) and should be counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! For the definition of this indicator, the joint action includes training schemes.

! Timeframe for measurement: up to one year after project completion. Intermediate values can be collected for reporting purposes also during projects implementation!

RCR 79 - JOINT STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS TAKEN UP BY ORGANISATIONS

This indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion. At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started.

! The organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project!

It is not necessary that all actions identified are taken-up for a strategy/action plan to be counted in this context.

The value report should be equal to or less than the value for "RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed".

! If a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only once for the dominant specific objective.

! The measurement of the indicator should be done up to one year after project completion.

Specific objective 3.2: Interreg Specific Objective 2 “A safer and more secure Europe”

Romania and Moldova share a number of 9 land border crossing points in the eligible area. Out of these, 6 border crossing points are open to road traffic, while 3 of them are dedicated to railway border crossing. Focusing on the cross-border transportation, both countries have registered a decrease of the period of time spent with customs formalities. Improved times for customs clearance in both countries will bring benefits to all fields of economy, from transportation to tourism.

Authorities involved in border management, together with police and gendarmerie forces dealing with crime prevention and fight in the border area need to have common procedures, to undergo similar training and to have similar level of equipment, as their activities are placed at the EU external borders.

In order to achieve notable results in the areas tackled by the programme, the following indicators were selected:

Specific Objective	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
<u>3.2. A safer and more secure Europe</u>	RCO 81 - Participations in joint actions across borders	RCR 85 - Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion
	RCO 83 - Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 - Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations

- ✓ Programme budget allocated to P3/SO2: 3,874,238 EUR (5 % of total projects budget, indicative national cofinancing included);
- ✓ Allocation for regular projects: 3,874,238 Euro, 100% of the budget allocated to the SO;
- ✓ 7 projects to be supported under Priority 3/SO2.
- ✓ Average size of regular projects: 500,000 euro

For this specific objective two indicators were selected, a more general one, RCO 81, Participations in actions across borders, and a more specific one, RCO 83, Strategies and action plans jointly developed.

Considering the estimation that most project will envisage equipment endowment and infrastructure works (together with strategies and action plans jointly developed and participations of border staff in joint actions), as well as the complexity of such investments in the border management tasks, we do not estimate to have projects with all activities concluded by 2024. Therefore, the milestone is set to zero for the corresponding indicators.

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone 2024	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
3.2	RCO 81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participations	0	210	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 100% of projects will develop joint actions</p> <p>Average participations per joint action in similar projects during the 2014-2020 programming period: 30 people (10 people per each organisation with 3 organisations involved in a project)</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 30 participations in joint actions/project</p>
3.2	RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan	0	4	Projects/Programme monitoring system	<p>Assumptions: 50% of projects will develop a strategy/action plan</p> <p>Calculation: 50% * no of projects* 1 strategy action plan</p> <p>Final target 2029: number of projects * 50% elaborating strategies/actions plans</p>

RCO 81 - PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT ACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions: joint cross border strategies/action plans/trainings.

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders implemented in the supported projects. Participations should be understood as the number of persons attending a joint action across borders - e.g. citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, public officials, etc. and are counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organizations from both countries (preparation, implementation, etc.).

! Participations in public events organized in supported projects will not be counted in this indicator. Participations in events related to project management or other internal project meetings will not be counted under this indicator.

! This indicator cannot be used on its own and projects must also contribute to the other output indicator set at the level of the specific objective, namely RCO 83.

! Participations, not participants are reported and this will be done based on attendance lists or other relevant means of quantifications. This means that a person can participate in multiple events and the participations will be counted.

! This indicator also adds up trainings (but with no certificate of completion or a record confirming the completion of the training).

RCO 83 - STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS JOINTLY DEVELOPED

This is an Interreg Specific common output indicator selected to cover the types of actions: joint solutions for cross border cooperation; information and awareness campaigns.

The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects. A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal oriented process in a specific domain. An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.

Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organizations from both countries in the drafting process of the strategy or action plan.

! If the strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only for the dominant specific objective!

! For a project aiming to implement specific jointly developed strategies or action plans, previously developed, a different output indicator should be used to report on the implementation of action plans!

Result indicators

SO	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target 2029	Source of data	Notes
3.2.	RCR 85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participations	0	2022	20	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: in average 40% of supported projects will organize one joint action after project completion. Estimated no of participations per joint action: 10 Calculation: 40%*number of projects*10 participations
3.2	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy/action plan	0	2022	2	Projects/ programme monitoring system	Assumptions: a minimum of 40% of joint strategies/actions plans drafted during projects implementation will be taken up after project completion Calculation = RCO83* 40%

RCR 85 - PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT ACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders after the completion of the project, organised by all or some of the former partners or associated organisations within the project, as a continuation of cooperation. Joint actions across borders could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits organized with participants from the two countries of the programme area.

The measurement unit is Participations (i.e. number of persons attending a joint action across border) and should be counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.

! For the definition of this indicator, the joint action includes training schemes!

! Timeframe for measurement: up to one year after project completion. Intermediate values can be collected for reporting purposes also during projects implementation!

RCR 79 - JOINT STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS TAKEN UP BY ORGANISATIONS

This indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion. At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started.

! The organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project!

It is not necessary that all actions identified are taken-up for a strategy/action plan to be counted in this context.

The value report should be equal to or less than the value for "RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed.

! If a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only for the dominant specific objective!

! The measurement of the indicator should be done up to one year after project completion!

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS

The achievement of the milestones and targets set for the chosen indicators can be influenced by various external factors:

- The COVID 19 pandemics and its further developments can have a significant impact on the programme progress and can generate delays in the implementation and therefore in the achievement of outputs and outcomes;
- Overall economic difficulties generated by the economic slowdown triggered by the pandemics had an impact on the financial possibilities of the potential beneficiaries and might have an impact also on the ability of the potential beneficiaries to provide cofinancing;
- The energy crisis and the significant increase of energy products prices can significantly influence the evolution of the prices of the other product categories as well as the financial viability of the potential beneficiaries;
- Regional instability- latest developments in terms of regional security might generate significant issues related to the design and implementation of projects;
- Political context - changes in participating countries which may lead to lack of commitment to implement the projects, to delays in decision making process concerning both public and private sector architecture and funding;
- Legal changes- changes in national legislation that might impact the implementation of projects (works related, procurement related, etc.);
- Delays during the evaluation process generated by problems in finding qualified and available assessors;
- Delays in the contracting process due to: lack of availability of documents required during contracting, changes in the partnership structure, other revisions requiring Steering Committee approval.

In order to mitigate the impact of these factors, as well as others, on the implementation of projects and hence on the achievement of targets, the managing structures will consider the issues as they arise, on a case by case basis, and take appropriate measures in a timely manner.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

When drafting the methodological document, it was ensured that the data underpinning the indicator baselines, milestones, and targets were taken from a reliable source (e.g. programme monitoring system or official statistics). Whenever this was not the case, the necessary steps were taken to ensure the quality of the data.

Data collection is done at project level from the application form and from the regular monitoring of project implementation (via progress reports). Output and result indicators are

monitored at the level of beneficiaries, capturing the deliverables and direct effects during implementation.

The validation of data from indicators will be ensured by the programme structures through the following processes:

Programming stage- development of a comprehensive Framework Methodology, that will set the basis for the selection of indicators at project level and that will provide detailed information to the beneficiaries regarding output and result indications

Project generation stage- proper explanation of indicators in the Guidelines for Grant Applicants as well capacity building measures regarding the indicators systems and how indicators should be quantified at project level and how they correlate to programme indicators. Additionally, potential beneficiaries will be taught how to set realistic and achievable targets for the selected indicators.

Evaluation stage- during project quality assessment, the assessors will have to be fully aware of the programme indicators and to ensure that the projects set realistic targets, in line with programme requirements.

Implementation stage - MA/JS will implement specific capacity building measures to ensure a common understanding of indicator definitions and reporting requirements.

-the MA/JS will perform thorough checks on output and result indicator values reported and will provided necessary support to beneficiaries during project implementation.