

**2014-2020 Interregional Cooperation Programme
under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective**

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Scoping Note

for

GEIE GECOTTI
INTERREG IVB
„Les Arcuriales“, 5th floor
45d, rue de Tournai
F-59000 LILLE

**2014-2020 Interregional Cooperation Programme
under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Scoping Note**

Prepared by:

Dr. Dräger & Thielmann PartG
Marburger Straße 7
D-60487 Frankfurt am Main
Tel: 069 – 70792026
Mail: stefan.draeger@iesy.net

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1 Introduction

Pursuant to the Directive 2001/42/EC (hereinafter SEA-Directive) adopted by the European Parliament and European Council, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the development and amendment of certain plans and programmes including those programmes which influence other plans and programmes (Art. 3 and Annex II SEA-Directive). Accordingly the assessment of the impacts on the environment of the 2014-2020 Interregional Cooperation Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective (hereinafter: INTERREG EUROPE) is obligatory. Annex II of the SEA Directive stipulates the criteria for the assessment of potential environmental impacts.

Purpose of the SEA is the consideration of effects on the environment caused by the implementation of the INTERREG EUROPE. The process of the SEA is interlinked to the preparation of the programme. The SEA comprises the development of the environmental report on the effects as well as consultations of relevant authorities and the public. The findings and recommendations of the environmental report and the consultations will be considered in the finalisation and approval of the programme.

The Scoping Note on hand presents a base to determine extent and details of the assessment being described in the environmental report. For the determination "authorities [designated by the member states] [...] which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes" (SEA-Directive, Art. 6, para. 3) will be consulted. This corresponds to Art. 5, para. 4 of the SEA-Directive.

Due to the fact that based on the character of the Programme the Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives, expected results and supported actions are formulated in a general way and without clarification on spatial location and volume of individual projects the assessment of potential significant impacts remains quite general as well.

2 Approach and content of the 2014-2020 Interregional Cooperation Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective

The Programme covers 4 Thematic Objectives (TO 1, TO 3, TO 4, and TO 6 as prescribed by Article 9 of the Common Provision Regulation (CPR)) which form the base for the identified Priority Axes (PA). Within the Priority Axes, 6 Investment Priorities (IP, as prescribed by Article 5 of EFRD Regulation (proposal)) were selected and further focussed in 6 Specific Objectives (SO), i.e. one Specific Objective per each selected Investment Priority. The individual Specific Objectives form the respective corridors for the expected results and actions to be supported.

The Programme version on which the Scoping Note is based, does not present the final draft Programme. Amendments and additions might be introduced into the document within the further preparation process of the INTERREG EUROPE. However, it can be assumed that those amendments and additions will not change the principle orientation and character of the planned interventions. In fact, reformulations and more detailing of individual stipulations can be expected.

The following listing reflects the current set of strategic stipulations of the Programme as presented in the programme version of September 2013:

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| <p>Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</p> |
| <p>Priority Axis 1: Research, Technological Development and Innovation</p> |
| <p>Investment Priority 1(a): Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest.</p> |
| <p>Specific Objective - SO1.1: Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, in the field of research and innovation infrastructure and capacities through EU-wide policy learning and interregional exchange and transfer of experience and good practice for policy change.</p> |
| <p>Expected Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main change sought is an improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, in the field of regional infrastructures for research and innovation and capacities to develop research and innovation excellence. - To achieve innovation-driven growth at regional level, regional authorities and other actors of regional relevance must create favourable circumstances that allow research and innovation to flourish in regional key sectors with strong innovation opportunities. In many EU regions these key sectors are identified in Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3), which give focus to the regional Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes. - Regional policies and programmes addressing this 'infrastructure' for regional innovation target such elements as the availability of research and competence centres, an education system providing the competences and qualifications needed by regional innovative sectors and public facilities for funding and supporting R&I activity. - In that context the programme will support the exchange of experiences in this field among actors of regional relevance from across Europe with the aim to prepare the integration and implementation of good practices exchanged in the regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs or other regional programmes of the regions involved (mainstreaming of good practice). - And the programme will facilitate capacity building and policy learning of regional actors involved in innovation support in the framework of programmes for Investment in Growth and Jobs on the basis of relevant results from interregional cooperation projects and other experiences. - The main result will be an improved effectiveness of the implementation of (Growth and Jobs) programmes in the field of research and innovation infrastructures in the regions involved in interregional cooperation. |
| <p>Actions to be supported (Types of Intervention):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Mainstreaming Projects</u> which allow partners from the different Partners States to work |

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| <p>together on a shared regional policy issue in the field of innovation infrastructures and capacities. (...)</p> <p>Mainstreaming projects have two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A first phase dedicated to the exchange of policy experience and to preparing the implementation of lessons learnt. (...) - A second phase dedicated to the monitoring of the Action Plans' implementation. In this phase it is also possible to support pilot actions related to certain parts of the Action Plan that require further testing before being fully adopted and supported by their regional (Growth an Jobs) programme. <p>2. A <u>Policy Learning Platform</u> (PLP) on Research, Technological Development and Innovation will be created addressing both specific objectives of Priority Axis 1 combined. This platform will be a 'knowledge resource centre' to support regional policy learning in the field of research, technological development and innovation, mainly with regard to the implementation of the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal. (...)</p> <p>The platform will provide activities and services for the community of actors and stakeholders involved in the management and implementation of regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs across Europe. These actors can make use of the platform without necessarily being involved as partner in a mainstreaming project.</p> |
| <p>Investment Priority 1(b):</p> |
| <p>Promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education, in particular product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, cultural and creative industries, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in Key Enabling Technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies.</p> |
| <p>Specific Objective - SO1.2:</p> <p>To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, that support the delivery of innovation, including the promotion of business investment in innovation and cooperation among actors in innovation chains in key areas of "smart specialisation" and innovation opportunity.</p> |
| <p>Expected Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main change sought is an improved effectiveness of regional policies and programmes, in particular for Investment for Growth and Jobs, supporting innovation related business activity, the promotion of research driven clusters, the support to triple-helix cooperation and to technology transfer. - To promote business investments in innovation and research, and to develop connections between innovation actors (enterprises, R&D centres, higher education), regional authorities and their partners need to facilitate cooperation and joint initiatives of these actors in the key regional areas of smart specialisation. This must be promoted through integrated regional innovation strategies and smart specialisation strategies to pave the way for stronger innovation systems in EU regions. |

- Regional policies and programmes addressing ecosystems of innovation need to improve the economic exploitation of new ideas stemming from research, development and innovation (RD&I) and improve the development of research-driven clusters, cooperative partnership between research, education, innovation actors and businesses. This can include the integration in regional policies of demand driven strategies for innovative products through public procurement of innovation.
- The programme will support the exchange of experience among actors of regional relevance from across Europe with the objective to integrate experiences, know-how and good practices in the regional programmes for Growth and Jobs or other relevant regional programmes. The programme will also facilitate capacity building and policy learning of regional actors involved, in complementarity with learning processes initiated through Regional Innovation and Smart Specialisation Strategies.
- The main result will be an improved effectiveness of the implementation of Growth and Jobs programmes and other regional programmes across the EU aiming to improve innovation capacities, cooperation and growth of regional (networks of) innovation actors.

Actions to be supported (Types of Intervention):

1. Mainstreaming Projects which allow partners from the different Partners States to work together on a shared regional policy issue related to supporting the delivery of innovation or cooperation in the innovation chain/triple helix. (...)

Mainstreaming projects have two phases:

- A first phase dedicated to the exchange of policy experience and to preparing the implementation of lessons learnt. (...)
- A second phase dedicated to the monitoring of the Action Plans' implementation. In this phase it is also possible to support pilot actions related to certain parts of the Action Plan that require further testing before being fully adopted and supported by their regional (Growth an Jobs) programme.

2. A Policy Learning Platform (PLP) on Research, Technological Development and Innovation will be created addressing both specific objectives of Priority Axis 1 combined. This platform will be a 'knowledge resource centre' to support regional policy learning in the field of research, technological development and innovation, mainly with regard to the implementation of the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal.. (...)

The platform will provide activities and services for the community of actors and stakeholders involved in the management and implementation of regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs across Europe. These actors can make use of the platform without necessarily being involved as partner in a mainstreaming project.

Thematic Objective 3:

Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

Priority Axis 2:

Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Investment Priority 3(d):

Supporting the capacity of SMEs to engage in growth in regional, national and international markets, and in innovation processes;

Specific Objective - SO2.1:

To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop and achieve growth and engage in innovation.

Expected Results:

- The main change sought is an improved effectiveness of regional policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Growth and Jobs that are created to support small and medium sized enterprises to develop and grow by making use of regional, national and international market opportunities, including the opportunities provided by engaging in innovation-driven growth.
- The potential for enterprises to create new or make use of existing market opportunities is strongly related to the presence of entrepreneurial qualities and competences. Regional policies supporting SME growth and innovation therefore need to give considerable attention to entrepreneurship development and capacity building as a building block for all business creation and growth.
- To achieve this goal it is equally crucial that regional authorities and other actors in regional business development support provide an adequate response to the key challenges and obstacles that obstruct businesses on their path to growth. This includes helping enterprises overcome hurdles for growth such as access to finance, to technology and knowledge and to international markets. Financial engineering is an especially relevant topic at a time when Growth and Jobs programmes are invited to develop such initiatives (e.g. by provision of start-up capital or guarantees).
- A transparent and dependable business climate is a crucial issue for economic actors, as is access to information. Regional communication tools and regulatory procedures can be made more business-friendly, e.g. related to public procurement, employment law, social security, taxation and standardisation.
- The programme will facilitate capacity building and policy learning among regional level actors involved in SME and entrepreneurship support across Europe and support them in the exchange of experience to prepare the integration and implementation of good practices in their Growth and Jobs or other relevant programmes.

Actions to be supported (Types of Intervention):

1. Mainstreaming Projects which allow partners from the different Partners States to work together on a shared regional policy issue related to supporting SME growth and entrepreneurship. (...)

Mainstreaming projects have two phases:

- A first phase dedicated to the exchange of policy experience and to preparing the implementation of lessons learnt. (...)
- A second phase dedicated to the monitoring of the Action Plans' implementation. In this phase it is also possible to support pilot actions related to certain parts of the Action Plan that require further testing before being fully adopted and supported by their regional (Growth and Jobs) programme.

2. A Policy Learning Platform (PLP) on competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship will be created. This platform will be a 'knowledge resource centre' to support regional policy learning in the field of research, technological development and innovation, mainly with regard to the implementation of the Investment for

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| <p>Growth and Jobs goal. (...)</p> <p>The platform will provide activities and services for the community of actors and stakeholders involved in the management and implementation of regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs across Europe. These actors can make use of the platform without necessarily being involved as partner in a mainstreaming project.</p> |
| <p>Thematic Objective 4:</p> <p>Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</p> |
| <p>Priority Axis 3:</p> <p>Low Carbon Economy</p> |
| <p>Investment Priority 4(e):</p> <p>Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures.</p> |
| <p>Specific Objective - SO3.1:</p> <p>To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy.</p> |
| <p>Expected Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main change sought is an improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes, in particular the programmes for investment and Growth and Jobs, in support of the transition to a low-carbon economy. - The possible scope of regional interventions covers an array of interconnected challenges and opportunities. These include regional support actions and investments to increase levels of energy efficiency, including in public buildings and the housing sector. Also regional programmes aim at raising the share of energy from renewable, sustainable sources in the overall energy mix, by encouraging and facilitating production and distribution of renewable energy. Another key field of action is reduction of the emission of greenhouse gasses by businesses and households, resulting from energy consumption, mobility and other sources. - In this field integrated regional low-carbon strategies are needed to identify the most promising areas of action, mobilise stakeholders, facilitate and channel public and private investments in low-carbon measures and infrastructures. They also have a key role in increasing the awareness of inhabitants, business and other actors of the need for and opportunities of using low-carbon alternatives and changing their behaviour to more sustainable patterns. - The transition to a low-carbon economy needs to be driven by the development and introduction of innovative technologies and solutions. Regional authorities can facilitate development of low-carbon innovations within their regions and speed up their application through green public procurement, regional pilots and investment schemes and by mobilising other regional actors. - The programme will facilitate capacity building and policy learning among regional level actors on these and related matters and aims to prepare the integration and implementa- |

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| <p>tion of good practices exchanged in the regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs or other regional programme.</p> |
| <p>Actions to be supported (Types of Intervention):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Mainstreaming Projects</u> which allow partners from the different Partners States to work together on a shared regional policy issue related to the transition to the low-carbon economy. (...) <p>Mainstreaming projects have two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A first phase dedicated to the exchange of policy experience and to preparing the implementation of lessons learnt. By the end of this first phase each participating region would need to produce an Action Plan for the implementation of lessons learnt from the cooperation to be integrated in their regional policies and (Growth and Jobs) programmes. - A second phase dedicated to the monitoring of the Action Plans' implementation. In this phase it is also possible to support pilot actions related to certain parts of the Action Plan that require further testing before being fully adopted and supported by their regional (Growth an Jobs) programme. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A <u>Policy Learning Platform</u> (PLP) on the transition to a low-carbon economy. This platform will be a 'knowledge resource centre' to support regional policy learning in the field of research, technological development and innovation, mainly with regard to the implementation of the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal. (...) <p>The platform will provide activities and services for the community of actors and stakeholders involved in the management and implementation of regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs across Europe. These actors can make use of the platform without necessarily being involved as partner in a mainstreaming project.</p> |
| <p>Thematic Objective 6: <i>Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</i></p> |
| <p>Priority Axis 4: Environment and Resource Efficiency</p> |
| <p>Investment Priority 6(c): <i>Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</i></p> |
| <p>Specific Objective - SO4.1: To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular Investment for Growth and Jobs, in the field of the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage</p> |
| <p>Expected Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main change sought is an improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes, in particular for Investment in Growth and Jobs, dealing with protecting, promoting and developing natural heritage, biodiversity and ecosystems as well as supporting cultural heritage. - The natural environment is an important resource that requires attention and care in re- |

gions across Europe. Regional actors have an important responsibility in protecting ecosystems and vulnerable landscapes and preventing biodiversity loss and soil degradation in their territories to prevent (further) degradation of these natural assets. At the same time there are considerable regional development opportunities connected to sustainable management and exploitation of natural assets in terms of so-called eco-system services (e.g. pollination for agriculture, or natural flood retention areas) and to support regional economic development based on natural quality (e.g. in tourism, regional attractiveness). A similar logic applies to the preservation and exploitation of regional cultural heritage.

- Regional actors involved in management of natural and cultural heritage must define coordinated strategies and actions that combine necessary measures of preservation with well balanced plans for the sustainable exploitation of these assets. This can include improvement of biodiversity protection schemes, sustainable use of NATURA 2000, heritage sites or other protected areas, increase knowledge on the state of the environment and sensitisation of actors. They can also improve the protection of natural and cultural heritage through integrated territorial strategies, in the natural and built environment (e.g. river basin, coastal zone, town planning).
- The programme supports exchange of good practice and capacity building to improve regional policies on related matters and prepare implementation of good practices in the regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs or other programmes.

Actions to be supported (Types of Intervention):

1. Mainstreaming Projects which allow partners from the different Partners States to work together on a shared regional policy issue related to supporting the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage. (...)

Mainstreaming projects have two phases:

- A first phase dedicated to the exchange of policy experience and to preparing the implementation of lessons learnt. By the end of this first phase each participating region would need to produce an Action Plan for the implementation of lessons learnt from the cooperation to be integrated in their regional policies and (Growth and Jobs) programmes.
- A second phase dedicated to the monitoring of the Action Plans' implementation. In this phase it is also possible to support pilot actions related to certain parts of the Action Plan that require further testing before being fully adopted and supported by their regional (Growth an Jobs) programme.

2. A Policy Learning Platform (PLP) on Environment and resource efficiency will be created addressing both specific objectives of Priority Axis 4 combined. This platform will be a 'knowledge resource centre' to support regional policy learning in the field of research, technological development and innovation, mainly with regard to the implementation of the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal. (...)

The platform will provide activities and services for the community of actors and stakeholders involved in the management and implementation of regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs across Europe. These actors can make use of the platform without necessarily being involved as partner in a mainstreaming project.

Investment Priority 6(g):

Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and pri-

vate sectors.

Specific Objective - SO4.2:

To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular Investment for Growth and Jobs, aimed at increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and improving environmental performance management in the private and public sector.

Expected Results:

- The main change sought is an improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes, in particular for Investment for Growth and Jobs, that aim to support the transition to a resource efficient economy, stimulate regional development based on green growth and eco-innovation and improve environmental performance management in the private and public sector.
- Natural resources like metals, minerals, fuels and timber but also water, land and clean air are becoming ever scarcer. Making use of these resources in an efficient and conscious manner is essential to combine further growth in Europe with the sustainable use of our environment.
- Moving towards a more resource efficient economy can also bring major economic opportunities. Regional authorities and business support actors can capacitate businesses to follow the track of green growth and eco-innovation to develop new products and services, reduce inputs, minimise waste and improve management of resource stocks. And they can lead in the introduction of new green products and services, for instance by means of green procurement.
- Regional actors can also address and work with the businesses and households in their territory to create awareness and provide incentives to provoke change in consumption patterns and reduce waste and emissions of pollutants to air, soil and water. And regional authorities invest in further improving waste management, water treatment and recycling by businesses and households.
- On these issues, exchange of experience, capacity building and policy learning between regional and local actors across Europe can help identify innovative initiatives and governance systems and integrate them in regional programmes for Investments for Growth and Jobs or other relevant regional programmes.

Actions to be supported (Types of Intervention):

1. Mainstreaming Projects which allow partners from the different Partners States to work together on a shared regional policy issue related to increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and improving environmental performance management in the private and public sector. (...)

Mainstreaming projects have two phases:

- A first phase dedicated to the exchange of policy experience and to preparing the implementation of lessons learnt. By the end of this first phase each participating region would need to produce an Action Plan for the implementation of lessons learnt from the cooperation to be integrated in their regional policies and (Growth and Jobs) programmes.
- A second phase dedicated to the monitoring of the Action Plans' implementation. In this phase it is also possible to support pilot actions related to certain parts of the Action

Plan that require further testing before being fully adopted and supported by their regional (Growth an Jobs) programme.

2. A Policy Learning Platform (PLP) on Environment and resource efficiency will be created addressing both specific objectives of Priority Axis 4 combined. This platform will be a 'knowledge resource centre' to support regional policy learning in the field of research, technological development and innovation, mainly with regard to the implementation of the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal. (...)

The platform will provide activities and services for the community of actors and stakeholders involved in the management and implementation of regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs across Europe. These actors can make use of the platform without necessarily being involved as partner in a mainstreaming project.

The defined actions to be supported form a particularity of this Programme: Across all Specific Objectives the actions to be supported are the same in their nature, differentiated only by the individual thematic orientation of "their" respective Specific Objective.

3 Guiding environmental objectives

The environmental important issues, going to be considered in the scope of the environmental report, are defined in the SEA Directive (Annex II). According to recent foci of European general policy (e.g. Europe 2020) and more specific environmental policy (e.g. 7. Environmental Action Plan, Roadmap to Low carbon Economy or Roadmap to Resource Efficient Europe) two more issues are added: (1) "Global Climate" reflects the enormous efforts to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases and to adapt to climate change impacts; (2) "Resource efficiency" responds to the overarching aim to strengthen sustainable growth in the EU and to promote a resource efficient Europe including to decouple economic growth and resource consumption. Due to the enormous range of existing protection objectives and indicators, the issue "Global Climate" is further divided into important intervention areas as renewable energies, energy efficiency as well as transport and mobility and adaptation, in order to provide a better understanding.

The relevant environmental objectives are derived from strategies and directives of the EU (see table 1). Any national or regional strategies, objectives and indicators will not be included into the assessment. Although INTERREG EUROPE also covers the partner states Norway and Switzerland, only the EU level is considered as the reference framework for the assessment.

In the last years, the number of documents related to environmental protection as well as the definition of objectives and adequate indicators increased. To avoid an unnecessary expansion of the assessment it was decided to focus on those objectives which are most relevant for the Programme. Missing objectives which do not appear in the list below, are not forgotten but put aside because of little or no added value to the assessment of this programme in the perception of the authors. Same counts for the indicators by concentration on the "Core Set of Indicators (CSI)". Partly, other indicators are stated if they fit to the environmental objective or an appropriate CSI indicator is lacking.

Nevertheless, suggestions to include more objectives and indicators as well as on further available relevant data and information are welcome.

Table 1: Environmental issues, environmental protection objectives and related indicators

| Environmental Issues | Environmental Objectives and Targets | Indicators |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Population, Human Health</p> | <p>Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (COM(2005) 446): Compared with the situation in 2000, the Strategy sets specific long term objectives (for 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 % reduction in loss of life expectancy as a result of exposure to particulate matter; • 10 % reduction in acute mortalities from exposure to ozone. <p>To achieve these objectives,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO₂ emissions will need to decrease by 82 %, • NO_x emissions by 60 %, • volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 51 %, • ammonia by 27 %, • primary PM_{2.5} (particles emitted directly into the air) by 59 % <p>compared with the year 2000.</p> | <p>Source: European Environment Agency - Indicators and fact sheets about Europe's environment - Website on 1.Nov.2013</p> <p>Exceedance of air quality limit values in urban areas (CSI 004) - Assessment published Oct 2013</p> |
| <p>Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora</p> | <p>Our life insurance, our natural capital: An EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM(2011) 24):</p> <p><u>2050 vision</u> By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides — its natural capital — are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided.</p> <p><u>2020 headline target</u> Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. Target 1: Fully implement the Birds and habitats directive</p> | <p>Land take (CSI 014/LSI 001) - Assessment published Jun 2013</p> <p>Species diversity (CSI 009) - Assessment published Nov 2005</p> <p>Designated areas (CSI 008) - Assessment published Mar 2009</p> <p>Exposure of ecosystems to acidification, eutrophication and ozone (CSI 005) - Assessment published Nov 2012</p> |

| Environmental Issues | Environmental Objectives and Targets | Indicators Source: European Environment Agency - Indicators and fact sheets about Europe's environment - Website on 1.Nov.2013 |
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| | <p>Target 2: Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services Target 3: Increase the contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintain and enhancing biodiversity Target 4: Ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources Target 5: Combat invasive alien species Target 6: Help avert global biodiversity loss</p> <p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571): By 2020 natural capital and ecosystem services will be properly valued and accounted for by public authorities and businesses. By 2020 the loss of biodiversity in the EU and the degradation of ecosystem services will be halted and, as far as feasible, biodiversity will be restored.</p> | |
| Soil | <p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571): By 2020, EU policies take into account their direct and indirect impact on land use in the EU and globally, and the rate of land take is on track with an aim to achieve no net land take by 2050; soil erosion is reduced and the soil organic matter increased, with remedial work on contaminated sites well underway.</p> | <p>Soil erosion (CLIM 028) - Assessment published Nov 2012 Soil organic carbon (CLIM 027) - Assessment published Nov 2012 Progress in management of contaminated sites (CSI 015/LSI 003) - Assessment published Aug 2007 Exposure of ecosystems to acidification, eutrophication and ozone (CSI 005) - Assessment published Nov 2012</p> |
| Landscape | <p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571): By 2020, EU policies take into account their direct and indirect impact on land use in the EU and globally, and the rate of land take is on track with an aim to achieve no net land take by 2050; soil erosion is reduced and the soil organic matter increased, with remedial work on contaminated sites well underway.</p> | <p>Land take (CSI 014/LSI 001) - Assessment published Feb 2011 Fragmentation of natural and semi-natural areas (SEBI 013) - Assessment published May 2010</p> |

| Environmental Issues | Environmental Objectives and Targets | Indicators |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Water | <p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571): By 2020, all WFD River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) have long been implemented. Good status – quality, quantity and use - of waters was attained in all EU river basins in 2015. The impacts of droughts and floods are minimised, with adapted crops, increased water retention in soils and efficient irrigation. Alternative water supply options are only relied upon when all cheaper savings opportunities are taken. Water abstraction should stay below 20% of available renewable water resources.</p> <p>By 2020, good environmental status of all EU marine waters is achieved, and by 2015 fishing is within maximum sustainable yields.</p> <p>The EU Water Framework Directive - integrated river basin management for Europe (Directive 2000/60/EC): All surface and groundwater bodies in river basins achieve 'good status' by 2015.</p> <p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC): 'Good environmental status' is achieved or maintained in the marine environment by 2020.</p> | <p>Source: European Environment Agency - Indicators and fact sheets about Europe's environment - Website on 1.Nov.2013</p> <p>Use of freshwater resources (CSI 018) - Assessment published Dec 2010</p> <p>Urban waste water treatment (CSI 024) - Assessment published Jan 2013</p> <p>Bathing water quality (CSI 022) - Assessment published Oct 2012</p> <p>Oxygen consuming substances in rivers (CSI 019) - Assessment published Oct 2012</p> <p>Nutrients in freshwater (CSI 020) - Assessment published Oct 2012</p> <p>Nutrients in transitional, coastal and marine waters (CSI 021) - Assessment published Mar 2013</p> <p>Chlorophyll in transitional, coastal and marine waters (CSI 023) - Assessment published Mar 2013</p> <p>Status of marine fish stocks (CSI 032) - Assessment published Sep 2011</p> |
| Air | <p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571): By 2020, the EU's interim air quality standards will have been met, including in urban hot spots, and those standards will have been updated and additional measures defined to further close the gap to the ultimate goal of achieving levels of air quality that do not cause significant impacts on health and the environment.</p> <p>Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005) (COM(2011) 571): Compared with the situation in 2000, the Strategy sets specific long term objectives (for 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 % reduction in loss of life expectancy as a result of exposure to particu- | <p>Exposure of ecosystems to acidification, eutrophication and ozone (CSI 005) - Assessment published Nov 2012</p> <p>Exceedance of air quality limit values in urban areas (CSI 004) - Assessment published Oct 2013</p> <p>Emissions of primary particulate matter and secondary particulate matter precursors (CSI 003/APE 009) - Assessment published Dec 2012</p> |

| Environmental Issues | Environmental Objectives and Targets | Indicators |
|----------------------|--|---|
| | <p>late matter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 % reduction in acute mortalities from exposure to ozone. • 43 % reduction in areas or ecosystems exposed to eutrophication. • reduction in excess acid deposition of 74 % and 39 % in forest areas and surface freshwater areas respectively; <p>To achieve these objectives,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO₂ emissions will need to decrease by 82 %, • NO_x emissions by 60%, • volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 51 %, • ammonia by 27 %, • and primary PM_{2.5} (particles emitted directly into the air) by 59 % <p>compared with the year 2000.</p> | <p>Source: European Environment Agency - Indicators and fact sheets about Europe's environment - Website on 1.Nov.2013</p> <p>Emissions of ozone precursors (CSI 002/APE 008) - Assessment published Dec 2012</p> <p>Emissions of acidifying substances (CSI 001/APE 007) - Assessment published Dec 2012</p> |
| Global Climate | <p>Greenhouse Gas Emission</p> <p>"20-20-20 targets" Europe 2020 strategy (COM(2010) 2020)</p> <p>Reduce emissions to 20 % below 1990 levels by 2020</p> <p>A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 (COM(2011) 571):</p> <p>Milestones: 40 % by 2030, 60 % by 2040 and to 80 % by 2050 below 1990</p> | <p>Greenhouse gas emission trends (CSI 010/CLIM 050) - Assessment published May 2013</p> |
| | <p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>Directive 2009/28/EC</p> <p>Increase renewable energy to at least 20 % of final energy consumption by 2020</p> | <p>Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption (ENER 028) - Assessment published Mar 2013</p> |
| | <p>Energy Efficiency</p> <p>Energy efficiency action plan (COM(2006)545), '20-20-20' targets Europe 2020 strategy (COM(2010) 2020), Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive</p> | <p>Progress on energy efficiency in Europe (ENER 037) - Assessment published Mar 2013</p> |

| Environmental Issues | Environmental Objectives and Targets | Indicators |
|----------------------|---|---|
| | <p>2012/27/EU): Reduce consumption of primary energy by 20 % compared to energy consumption projections for 2020</p> <p>Directive on the energy performance of buildings (Directive 2010/31/EU): All new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are 'nearly zero-energy' buildings by 2019 All new buildings are 'nearly zero-energy' buildings by 2020</p> | <p>Source: European Environment Agency - Indicators and fact sheets about Europe's environment - Website on 1.Nov.2013</p> |
| | <p>Transport</p> <p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571): Milestone: By 2020 overall efficiency in the transport sector will deliver greater value with optimal use of resources like raw materials, energy, and land, and reduced impacts on climate change, air pollution, noise, health, accidents, biodiversity and ecosystem degradation. Transport will use less and cleaner energy, better exploit a modern infrastructure and reduce its negative impact on the environment and key natural assets like water, land and ecosystems. There will be on average a 1% yearly reduction, beginning in 2012, in transport GHG emissions.</p> <p>WHITE PAPER - Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system (COM(2011) 144): Reduce CO₂ emissions from the transport sector by 20 % compared to 2008 levels by 2030 Reduce CO₂ emissions from the transport sector by 60 % compared to 1990 levels by 2050</p> | <p>Use of cleaner and alternative fuels (CSI 037) - Assessment published Sep 2010</p> <p>Freight transport demand (CSI 036) - Assessment published Jan 2011</p> <p>Passenger transport demand (CSI 035) - Assessment published Jan 2011</p> |
| | <p>Adaptation to Climate Change</p> <p>An EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (COM(2013) 216): The overall aim of the EU Adaptation Strategy is to contribute to a more climate-</p> | <p>--</p> |

| Environmental Issues | Environmental Objectives and Targets | Indicators Source: European Environment Agency - Indicators and fact sheets about Europe's environment - Website on 1.Nov.2013 |
|---|--|--|
| | resilient Europe. This means enhancing the preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change at local, regional, national and EU levels, developing a coherent approach and improving coordination. | |
| Material Assets, Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage | <p>Treaty of Lisbon (2009): Article 3.3. "(...) The Union shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced".</p> <p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised), Valetta, 16.I.1992 Article 1 The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. To this end shall be considered to be elements of the archaeological heritage all remains and objects and any other traces of mankind from past epochs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preservation and study of which help to retrace the history of mankind and its relation with the natural environment; • for which excavations or discoveries and other methods of research into mankind and the related environment are the main sources of information; and • which are located in any area within the jurisdiction of the Parties. <p>The archaeological heritage shall include structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water.</p> | -- |
| Sustainable consumption and production (resource efficiency) | <p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571): By 2020, market and policy incentives that reward business investments in efficiency are in place. These incentives have stimulated new innovations in resource efficient production methods that are widely used. All companies, and their investors, can measure and benchmark their lifecycle resource efficiency. Economic</p> | <p>Ecological Footprint of European countries (SEBI 023) - Assessment published May 2010</p> <p>Waste electrical and electronic equipment (waste 003) - Assessment published Jun 2013</p> <p>Generation and recycling of packaging waste</p> |

| Environmental Issues | Environmental Objectives and Targets | Indicators |
|----------------------|---|---|
| | <p>growth and wellbeing is decoupled from resource inputs and come primarily from increases in the value of products and associated services.</p> <p>By 2020, waste is managed as a resource. Waste generated per capita is in absolute decline. Recycling and re-use of waste are economically attractive options for public and private actors due to widespread separate collection and the development of functional markets for secondary raw materials. More materials, including materials having a significant impact on the environment and critical raw materials, are recycled. Waste legislation is fully implemented. Illegal shipments of waste have been eradicated. Energy recovery is limited to non recyclable materials, land-filling is virtually eliminated and high quality recycling is ensured.</p> | <p>Source: European Environment Agency - Indicators and fact sheets about Europe's environment - Website on 1.Nov.2013</p> <p>(CSI 017/waste 002) - Assessment published Nov 2012</p> <p>Municipal waste generation (CSI 016/waste 001) - Assessment published Dec 2011</p> |

4 Evaluation framework and scope of the assessment

Delineation of the assessment subject

The assessment of potential significant impacts on the environment refers to the 2014-2020 Inter-regional Cooperation Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective. Areas of the assessment are the general strategic approach, defined Investment Priorities respectively Specific Objectives and related expected results and actions to be supported as well as the defined indicators.

Spatial coverage

According to the provision in the Programme the territory of the Interregional Cooperation Programme includes the entire area of the European Union plus the partner states Norway and Switzerland (= EU28 + Norway + Switzerland).

Significant impacts beyond the borders of this territory cannot be expected related to most environmental issues. Exceptions are global climate and partly resource efficiency (see EU (2011) EU Resource Efficiency Perspectives in a Global Context; pp. 26). However, the description of "Presentation of actual effective objectives for environmental protection" and "Characteristics of the environment, status of the environment in case of non-implementation of the programme and existing environmental problems" is limited to the immediate area of European Union.

Time-based delimitation

The formal time frame for the Programme covers the years 2014 till 2020. Adding 2 more years for the finalisation of funded projects, the period considered in the assessment is 2014 till 2022. As far as possible and required, also impacts on long-term environmental objectives of the EU till 2050 will be included into the assessment.

Assessment methodology

"Europe 2020" requires that all instruments at EU-level contribute to this overarching strategy. By this, the strengthening of a sustainable and ecological-sound economic development is imposed as a commitment to all actors. The assessment has to verify how far INTERREG EUROPE supports the environmental objectives of the European Union and does not counteract environmental targets and objectives as stated in relevant strategies as the Environmental Action Plan, the Roadmap for a Resource Efficient Europe, the Roadmap to Low Carbon Economy, the Water Framework Directive, or the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

In case of INTERREG EUROPE, the assessment has to consider the impacts potentially caused by the strategic and operational orientation of the programme and the impacts caused by the implementation of the programme itself.

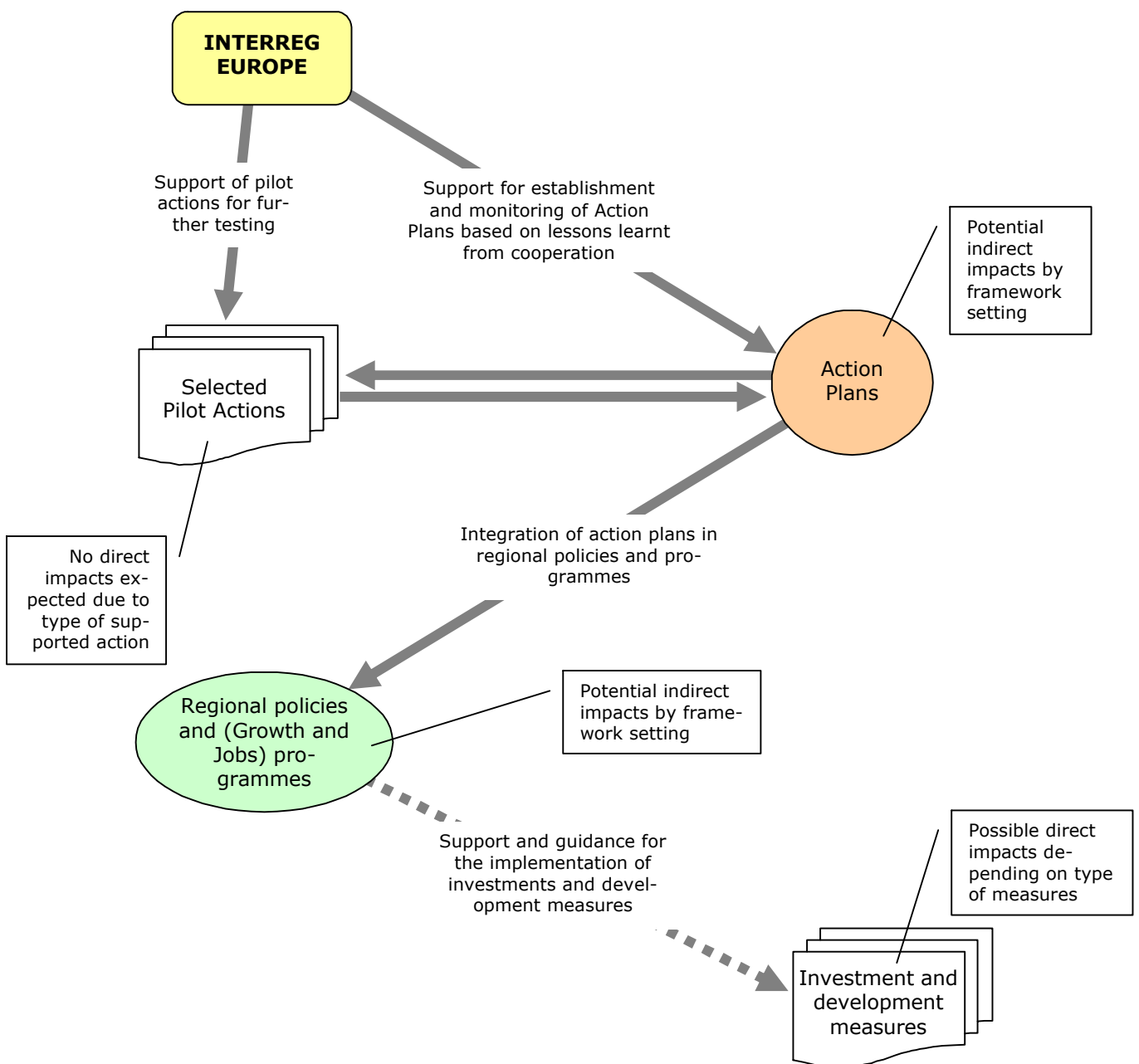
Strategic and operational orientation of the programme

The strategic and operational approach of programme can be divided into two tracks:

- The first track aims to support the integration of actions based on exchanged lessons learned from the cooperation to be incorporated into regional programmes which finally will be implemented by realising projects according to the provisions of these regional programmes (= Mainstreaming Projects).
- The second track focuses on the establishment of a Policy Learning Platform by which inter-regional exchange, benchmarking, organisation of thematic events, policy advice etc. should be strengthened.

The second track (= establishment of Policy Learning Platform) obviously does not show potential direct and hardly indirect impacts on the environment; the realisation of concrete measures with possible direct impacts based on results of the policy learning platform also depends on additional influences, external to the programme to a large extent. For the first track (= Mainstreaming Projects) the impact chain is long and quite complex (see graphic 1). The immediate potential impacts of the programme itself are highly indirect because the programme provides support for Action Plans. Though the Action Plans set the framework for certain investment and development measures, this framework will be incorporated into regional programmes and get effective via these regional programmes. The potential impacts of the regional programmes in which the action plans are incorporated are still indirect but at this stage of the chain linked to possible direct impacts because these programmes provide the immediate framework for the realisation of investments.

Graphic 1: Impact chain of the Programme related to Mainstreaming Projects



The assessment of the potential impacts caused by the proposed expected results has to respect this long impact chain and additional external influences on the formulation and finally realisation of projects based on the regional programmes. Therefore, mainly general potential contributions to achieve the overall objectives of environmental protection of the EU in the long run can be assessed.

Possible direct impacts might be realised by the support of selected pilot actions "related to certain parts of the Action Plan that require further testing before being fully adopted and supported by their regional (Growth and Jobs) programme" (Draft Programme version September 2013, p. 19). Nature and extent of possible direct impacts on the environment depend on the concrete actions which will be supported. The support of pilot actions will cover the testing of tools, practices, methodologies and similar "soft" measures only. Additionally, the planned funding per pilot action is limited so that only small scale actions will be assisted by the Programme. Significant impacts are not expected.

Implementation structures of the programme

Potential direct impacts on the environment can be expected by the planned implementation structures of the programme. The large programme area (= EU28 + Norway + Switzerland) and the defined orientation of the programme ask for extended travelling of the management as well of regional partners involved in individual measures.

Regular meetings of the programme bodies, particularly the Monitoring Committee and the Group of Auditors, are needed. But also measure-related meetings like on-the-spot-visits, events, seminars, etc. are foreseen. The number of some kind of those meetings will also be applied as indicators for the successful implementation of the programme.

The conduction of the meetings is linked to impacts usually caused by traffic like emission of greenhouse gases, air pollution or noise. Additionally, the production of printed documents could also show impacts on resource efficiency. In the assessment, potential significant impacts caused by the implementation of the programme have to be considered.

Presentation of assessment's results

As stated above, the nature of the Programme asks for a more general assessment of contributions of the specific objectives, expected results and supported actions to the European objectives of environmental protection. Statements to detailed potential impacts are not possible. This holds also for the proposed support of pilot actions because neither thematic characteristics nor location or extent of such actions are known yet. Related to the implementation of the programme, potential impacts on the various environmental issues can be assessed.

For the presentation of the assessment's results a textual-explanatory form will be applied, complemented by a tabular summary.

For the expected potential contributions and impacts on the environmental issues, the following categories will be used:

- Negative contributions or impacts
- 0** Neutral or negligible (e.g. extreme indirect) contributions or impacts
- +** Positive contributions or impacts
- (=)** Insufficient information available for an assessment of possible environmental impacts, contributions or impacts depend on actual thematic orientation of the actions to be supported.

The appraisal of the environmental impacts is based on the comparison with the zero alternative.

Alternatives

Due to the nature of the programme is not possible to define alternatives - except the zero scenario. In case of arising alternatives in the course of further elaboration and differentiation of the Programme, those will be included into the assessment.

At this level of programming possible shifts in spending of funds to the individual Priority Axes and Investment Priorities might be considered as alternatives. Due to the fact that the total amount and distribution of funds to the individual Priority Axes and Investment Priorities is not finally defined up to now no proposal is made.

Time schedule

The strategic environmental assessment, i.e. the elaboration of the environmental report and the consultation, will be conducted in a parallel and an iterative process to the further development of the Programme and the ex-ante evaluation.

Structure of the Environmental Report

For the environmental report, the following structure is proposed:

- 1 Introduction
 - 1.1 SEA-obligation
 - 1.2 Concise presentation of the Programme
 - 1.3 Assessment frame
 - 1.4 Explanation of the programme preparation process
- 2 Environmental objectives
 - 2.1 Presentation of actual effective objectives for environmental protection
 - 2.2 Presentation how far and in which way these objectives/contemplations were considered in the preparation of the Programme
- 3 Characteristics of the environment, status of the environment in case of non-implementation of the programme and existing environmental problems
- 4 Expected significant impacts on the environment (positive/negative)
 - 4.1 Concise presentation of considered alternatives
 - 4.2 Impacts on the environment of the individual stipulations of the Programme and possible alternatives
 - 4.3 Cumulative and synergetic effects of environmental contributions resp. impacts
 - 4.4 Impacts on the environment of the Programme as a whole
 - 4.5 Recommendations
- 5 Notes on problems in the compilation of required data and information
- 6 Proposed monitoring measures
- 7 Non-technical summary

Table 2: Preliminary assessment of the potential contributions of the expected results to the protection of the environmental issues

The following preliminary assessment of the contributions is based on the understanding that research, innovation, smart specialisation, good practices etc. in principle are considered to be in line with the requirements of Europe 2020 and related strategies as the 'Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe' or 'Roadmap for Moving to a Competitive Low Carbon Economy' and aim to decouple growth and resource consumption (particularly Priority Axis 1 and 2).

Trends of expected contributions:

- negative contributions
- 0** neutral or negligible (e.g. extreme indirect) contributions
- + positive contributions
- (=)** Insufficient information available for an assessment, potential contributions or impacts depend on actual thematic orientation of the actions to be supported

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| Priority Axis 1: Research, Technological Development and Innovation | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Investment Priority 1(a):</u> Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest. | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Specific Objective - SO1.1:</u> Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, in the field of research and innovation infrastructure and capacities through EU-wide policy learning and interregional exchange and transfer of experience and good practice for policy change. | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Expected Results:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| - Improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes in the field of regional infrastructures for research and innovation and capacities to develop research and innovation excellence. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (=) | 0 | (=) |
| - Innovation-driven growth at regional level, creation of favourable circumstances that allow research and innovation to flourish in regional key sectors with strong innovation opportunities. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Regional policies and programmes addressing this 'infrastructure' for regional innovation target such elements as the availability of research and competence centres, an education system providing the competences and qualifications needed by regional innovative sectors and public facilities for funding and supporting R&I activity. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Exchange of experiences among actors of regional relevance from across Europe with the aim to prepare the integration and implementation of good practices exchanged in the regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs or other regional programmes of the regions involved (mainstreaming of good practice). | (=) | (=) | (=) | 0 | (=) | (=) | (=) | 0 | (=) |
| - Capacity building and policy learning of regional actors involved in innovation support in the framework of programmes for Investment in Growth and Jobs on | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| the basis of relevant results from interregional cooperation projects and other experiences. | | | | | | | | | |
| - Improved effectiveness of the implementation of (Growth and Jobs) programmes in the field of research and innovation infrastructures in the regions involved in interregional cooperation. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <p><u>Investment Priority 1(b):</u> Promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education, in particular product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, cultural and creative industries, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in Key Enabling Technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><u>Specific Objective - SO1.2:</u> To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs that support the delivery of innovation, including the promotion of business investment in innovation and cooperation among actors in innovation chains in key areas of "smart specialisation" and innovation opportunity.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><u>Expected Results:</u></p> | | | | | | | | | |
| - Improved effectiveness of regional policies and programmes supporting innovation related business activity, the promotion of research driven clusters, the support to triple-helix cooperation and to technology transfer. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - To promote business investments in innovation and research, and to develop connections between innovation actors (enterprises, R&D centres, higher education), regional authorities and their partners need to facilitate cooperation and joint initiatives of these actors in the key regional areas of smart specialisation. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Improvement of the economic exploitation of new ideas stemming from research, development and innovation (RD&I) and improve the development of research-driven clusters, cooperative partnership between research, education, innovation actors and businesses. This can include the integration in regional policies of demand driven strategies for innovative products through public procure- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (=) | (=) | + | 0 | + |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| ment of innovation. | | | | | | | | | |
| - Exchange of experience among actors of regional relevance from across Europe with the objective to integrate experiences, know-how and good practices in the regional programmes for Growth and Jobs or other relevant regional programmes. The programme will also facilitate capacity building and policy learning of regional actors involved, in complementarity with learning processes initiated through Regional Innovation and Smart Specialisation Strategies. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (=) | (=) | (=) | 0 | (=) |
| - Improved effectiveness of the implementation of Growth and Jobs programmes and other regional programmes across the EU aiming to improve innovation capacities, cooperation and growth of regional (networks of) innovation actors. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| Priority Axis 2: Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Investment Priority 3(d):</u> Supporting the capacity of SMEs to engage in growth in regional, national and international markets, and in innovation processes; | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Specific Objective - SO2.1:</u> To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop and achieve growth and engage in innovation. | | | | | | | | | |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| <u>Expected Results:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| - Improved effectiveness of regional policies and programmes that are created to support small and medium sized enterprises to develop and grow by making use of regional, national and international market opportunities, including the opportunities provided by engaging in innovation-driven growth. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Regional policies supporting SME growth and innovation therefore need to give considerable attention to entrepreneurship development and capacity building as a building block for all business creation and growth. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Regional authorities and other actors in regional business development support provide an adequate response to the key challenges and obstacles that obstruct businesses on their path to growth. This includes helping enterprises overcome hurdles for growth such as access to finance, to technology and knowledge and to international markets. Financial engineering is an especially relevant topic at a time when Growth and Jobs programmes are invited to develop such initiatives (e.g. by provision of start-up capital or guarantees). | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Regional communication tools and regulatory procedures can be made more business-friendly, e.g. related to public procurement, employment law, social security, taxation and standardisation. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Capacity building and policy learning among regional level actors involved in SME and entrepreneurship support across Europe and support them in the exchange of experience to prepare the integration and implementation of good practices in their Growth and Jobs or other relevant programmes. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|------|---|--|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| Priority Axis 3: Low Carbon Economy | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Investment Priority 4(e):</u> Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures. | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Specific Objective - SO3.1:</u> To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs, addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy. | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Expected Results:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| - Improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes, in particular the programmes for investment and Growth and Jobs, in support of the transition to a low-carbon economy. | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | + |
| - The possible scope of regional interventions covers an array of interconnected challenges and opportunities. These include regional support actions and investments to increase levels of energy efficiency, including in public buildings and the housing sector. Also regional programmes aim at raising the share of energy from renewable, sustainable sources in the overall energy mix, by encouraging and facilitating production and distribution of renewable energy. Another key field of action is reduction of the emission of greenhouse gasses by businesses and households, resulting from energy consumption, mobility and other sources. | + | (-) Possible conflict of aims by promoting biogas plants | 0 | (-) Possible conflict of aims by promoting wind power plants | (-) Possible conflict of aims by promoting hydropower plants or biogas plants | + | + | 0 | + |
| - In this field integrated regional low-carbon strategies are needed to identify the most promising areas of action, mobilise stakeholders, facilitate and channel public and private investments in low-carbon measures and infrastructures. They also have a key role in increasing the awareness of inhabitants, business and other actors of the need for and opportunities of using low-carbon alternatives and changing their behaviour to more sus- | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | + |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| tainable patterns. | | | | | | | | | |
| - Regional authorities can facilitate development of low-carbon innovations within their regions and speed up their application through green public procurement, regional pilots and investment schemes and by mobilising other regional actors. | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | + |
| - Capacity building and policy learning among regional level actors on these and related matters and aims to prepare the integration and implementation of good practices exchanged in the regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs or other regional programme. | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | + |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| Priority Axis 4: Environment and Resource Efficiency | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Investment Priority 6(c):</u> Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Specific Objective - SO4.1:</u> To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular Investment for Growth and Jobs, in the field of the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage. | | | | | | | | | |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| <u>Expected Results:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| - The main change sought is an improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes dealing with protecting, promoting and developing natural heritage, biodiversity and ecosystems as well as supporting cultural heritage. | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |
| - The natural environment is an important resource that requires attention and care in regions across Europe. Regional actors have an important responsibility in protecting ecosystems and vulnerable landscapes and preventing biodiversity loss and soil degradation in their territories to prevent (further) degradation of these natural assets. At the same time there are considerable regional development opportunities connected to sustainable management and exploitation of natural assets in terms of so-called eco-system services (e.g. pollination for agriculture, or natural flood retention areas) and to support regional economic development based on natural quality (e.g. in tourism, regional attractiveness). A similar logic applies to the preservation and exploitation of regional cultural heritage. | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |
| - Regional actors involved in management of natural and cultural heritage must define coordinated strategies and actions that combine necessary measures of preservation with well balanced plans for the sustainable exploitation of these assets. This can include improvement of biodiversity protection schemes, sustainable use of NATURA 2000, heritage sites or other protected areas, increase knowledge on the state of the environment and sensitisation of actors. They can also improve the protection of natural and cultural heritage through integrated territorial strategies, in the natural and built environment (e.g. river basin, coastal zone, town planning). | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |
| - The programme supports exchange of good practice and capacity building to improve regional policies on related matters and prepare implementation of good practices in the regional programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs or other programmes. | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| <p><u>Investment Priority 6(q):</u> Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><u>Specific Objective - SO4.2:</u> To improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular Investment for Growth and Jobs, aimed at increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and improving environmental performance management in the private and public sector</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Expected Results:</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| - Improved effectiveness of regional development policies and programmes that aim to support the transition to a resource efficient economy, stimulate regional development based on green growth and eco-innovation and improve environmental performance management in the private and public sector. | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | + | + | + | 0 | + |
| - Natural resources like metals, minerals, fuels and timber but also water, land and clean air are becoming ever scarcer. Making use of these resources in an efficient and conscious manner is essential to combine further growth in Europe with the sustainable use of our environment. | 0 | (=) | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + |
| - Moving towards a more resource efficient economy can also bring major economic opportunities. Regional authorities and business support actors can capacitate businesses to follow the track of green growth and eco-innovation to develop new products and services, reduce inputs, minimise waste and improve management of resource stocks. And they can lead in the introduction of new green products and services, for instance by means of green procurement. | 0 | (=) | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + |
| - Regional actors can also address and work with the businesses and households in their territory to create awareness and provide incentives to provoke change in consumption patterns and reduce waste and emissions of pollutants to air, soil and water. And regional authorities invest in further improving waste management, water treatment and recycling by businesses and households. | + | 0 | + | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | + |

| Priority Axes, Investment Priorities, Specific Objectives and expected Results | Environmental Issues | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Population, Human Health | Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity | Soil | Landscape | Water | Air | Global climate | Cultural heritage | Resource efficiency |
| - Exchange of experience, capacity building and policy learning between regional and local actors across Europe can help identify innovative initiatives and governance systems and integrate them in regional programmes for Investments for Growth and Jobs or other relevant regional programmes. | + | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + |