

DRAFT TEMPLATE AND GUIDELINES ON THE CONTENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Version 2 – 25.02.2013

This document is based on the most recent Presidency compromise text (from 19 December 2012) which has been agreed to by the European Parliament as regards Articles 14, 15 and 87 CPR and is provisional, without prejudice to the on-going negotiations (reflecting the principle that 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed').

According to the latest compromise text the elements outlined under sections 1 and 2 of this template (corresponding to Article 14 (1) of the CPR) will be subject to a Commission decision. The elements outlined under sections 3 and 4 of this template (corresponding to Article 14 (2) of the CPR) will not be subject to a Commission decision unless the Member State has made use of the provisions of Article 87(8). The informal dialogue and the formal assessment by the Commission shall cover the entirety of the document.

The headings in this document correspond to the elements set out in the Article 14 of the Common Provisions Regulation. The text boxes provide guidance on the drafting of the content of the Partnership Agreement.

In 2012 the Commission provided each Member State with a country position paper outlining the analysis of the Commission services of the main challenges and funding priorities relevant for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) in the programming period 2014-2020.

These position papers, and the ensuing dialogue with the Commission, should serve to guide the elaboration of the Partnership Agreement both in terms of its content, in particular in relation to the prioritisation of development needs and concentration of support, as well as in terms of the presentation of information. They should be taken into account especially as regards the content of section 1A of this template.

It should be recalled that when a Member State prepares a maximum of one operational programme for ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund, Article 87(8) CPR allows that some elements of the operational programme are solely incorporated under the relevant provisions of the Partnership Agreement. The sections affected are identified with '' and a reference to the relevant content requirements of the Operational Programmes. This possibility is not applicable to EAFRD and EMFF programmes.*

It is recalled that the Partnership Agreement will be directly introduced into SFC.

SECTION 1A

1. ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNION STRATEGY OF SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AS WELL AS THE FUND SPECIFIC MISSIONS PURSUANT TO THEIR TREATY-BASED OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION (ARTICLE 14(1) (A) CPR)

1.1 An analysis of disparities, development needs, and growth potentials with reference to the thematic objectives and the territorial challenges and taking account of the national reform programme, where appropriate, and relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

This section should outline the main development needs and growth potentials of the Member State which can be addressed by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). It should identify the main funding priorities for the ESI Funds which take into account development needs and are consistent with the Commission services country position paper.

1) The identification of main development needs should be based on the analysis of:

- The relevant country-specific Council recommendations ex Art. 121(2) TFEU and Art. 148(4) TFEU;*
- Distance to the national Europe 2020 targets and targets linked to legislative requirements;*
- The National Reform Programme with reference to the main development needs identified at national level;*
- Strategic orientation provided in the Common Strategic Framework (Annex I of the CPR);*
- Experience from the period 2007-2013 and the state of achievement of objectives set out for programmes supported under this programming period, as appropriate;*
- Other national, regional, macro-regional and sea-basin strategies which are relevant to the Member State's NRP and to thematic objectives;*
- Other studies and evaluations (in addition to the ex-ante evaluation) that may have been undertaken, including fund-specific studies and evaluations.*

2) Where appropriate, this section should identify the need to transfer funds between categories of regions based on Article 85 of the CPR and provide an overview of the circumstances which justify this transfer.

The analysis presented in this section should in addition to the analysis of sectoral challenges, also:

- Provide an analysis of the relevant territorial imbalances, development needs and*

bottlenecks, in particular where this is necessary to follow-up relevant country-specific Council recommendations and reach the national Europe 2020 targets;

- *Where applicable, take into account the specific challenges of the outermost regions, regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density, and island, cross-border and mountain regions;*
- *Address the specific development needs and growth potentials of urban, rural and coastal as well as maritime areas and include an analysis of the growth potential of the "blue economy", where relevant.*
- *Consider cross-sectoral, cross-jurisdictional or cross-border coordination challenges, particularly in the context of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies.*

'' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (2) (a) of the CPR.*

1.2 A summary of the ex-ante evaluations of the programmes or key findings of the ex-ante evaluations of the Partnership Agreement where undertaken by the Member State at its own initiative

This section should include a synthetic overview of the main conclusions of the ex-ante evaluations of programmes, summarising and drawing conclusions at national level. Where Member States have carried out a specific ex-ante evaluation of the Partnership Agreement at its own initiative this section should outline its main findings.

The overview should focus on the issues which are relevant for the Partnership Agreement, and should not go into detail on issues which pertain mainly to individual programmes.

In order to simplify the presentation of the main conclusions of the ex-ante evaluations in particular in Member States with a large number of programmes, these conclusions may be presented in general terms outlining the number of cases where ex-ante evaluators provided a particular type of recommendation e.g. "The ex-ante evaluators generally concluded that the selection of thematic objectives has been consistent with the main development needs of the Member State/regions. Only in 1 programme out of 12 (programme x) did they consider it necessary to focus on fewer thematic objectives to achieve a greater focus on research and innovation. This proposal was subsequently introduced in programme x". However, the overview provided must cover all ESI Funds, even when a Member State has only one programme for a particular Fund.

This section should provide an overview of the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluations on:

- a. the contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It should outline the assessment of the ex-ante evaluators on the appropriateness of the thematic objectives and funding priorities, indicate whether the evaluators recommended a focus on different thematic objectives and outline the follow-up of such recommendation;*
- b. the internal coherence of the programmes and their relation to other relevant EU*

and national instruments;

- c. whether the financial allocation is consistent with the objectives set out in programmes, and allows the achievement of the results sought by the Member State;*
- d. the consistency of the selected thematic objectives and main results with the CPR and the country-specific Council recommendations under Article 121(2) TFEU and the Council recommendations under Article 148(4) TFEU. It should highlight any instances where the ex-ante evaluation has found that the thematic objectives and the main results chosen are not consistent with these Council recommendations.*

There may be limitations to the extent to which the results from the ex-ante evaluation of individual programmes can be generalised at the national level, because the ex-ante evaluations focus on individual programmes.

' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (2) (a) of the CPR.*

1.3 Selected thematic objectives, and for each of the selected thematic objectives a summary of the main results expected for each of the ESI Funds

This section should set out the thematic objectives selected and a summary of the main results expected for each of the ESI Funds and thematic objectives. In particular it should:

1) Set out the thematic objectives selected and explain why they have been chosen on the basis of development needs and funding priorities.

The thematic objectives chosen should be consistent with the thematic concentration requirements set out in the CPR and the Fund-specific rules, and ensure appropriate focus and critical mass of interventions.

2) Outline, by thematic objective, the main results sought for each of the ESI Funds, especially in relation to the Europe 2020 objectives and to the relevant country specific Council recommendations. "Main results" refers to the main changes that the Member State seeks to achieve under each of the thematic objectives. The changes may be expressed in qualitative or quantitative terms indicating e.g. the general direction and the magnitude of change.

The use of indicators set out in individual programmes to outline the main results sought is not obligatory. Where appropriate, (aggregate) targets based on target levels of indicators used in programmes can be used to provide a more detailed understanding of the results sought, however these should clearly relate to the main results sought for each Fund, not to individual priorities and actions. Excessive duplication of indicator data included in programmes should be avoided, given that programmes will set out detailed information on indicators and only few of these may be suitable to express the main strategic changes sought by the Member State through the use of all of the ESI Funds.

In order to facilitate the completion of this section and of the table under section 1.4 the links between thematic objectives and the Union priorities for rural development have been set out in the annex of this guidance.

**' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (2) (a) of the CPR.*

1.4 The indicative allocation of support by the Union by thematic objective at national level for each of the ESI Funds, as well as the total indicative amount of support foreseen for climate change objectives

This table is generated automatically by SFC based on the allocation between thematic objectives available in financial tables or indicators plans of programmes already encoded in SFC. The table can be adjusted manually, including in cases where the data for all programmes is not available in the SFC by the time of submission of the Partnership Agreement

The financial allocation set out must comply with the thematic concentration requirements set out in the CPR and in Fund-specific Regulations and ensure appropriate focus and critical mass of interventions, taking into account the total allocation available.

1.4.1 The indicative allocation of support by the Union by thematic objective at national level for each of the ESI Funds (table) (EUR)

	ERDF	ESF	CF	EAFRD	EMFF	TOTAL
1.Strengthening research, technological development and innovation						
2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies						
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)						
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors						
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management						
6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency						
7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures						
8. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility						
9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty						
10. Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning						
11. Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration						
Technical assistance						
TOTAL						

Note on the presentation of information for the EAFRD under section 1.4: for technical reasons the presentation of the indicative EAFRD allocation to thematic objectives 5 and 6 should be based on the following: 50% of planned EAFRD expenditure under the rural development priority 4 should be assigned to thematic objective 5 and 50% to thematic objective 6. Planned expenditure under EAFRD focus area 5a should also be assigned to thematic objective 6.

Total indicative amount of EU support for climate change objectives (EUR) (figure)

This figure is generated automatically by SFC based on tables available for programmes already encoded in SFC. The figure can be adjusted manually, including in cases where the data for all programmes is not available in the SFC by the time of submission of the Partnership Agreement.

The information provided in this section has to make use of the methodology based on categories of intervention or priorities/measures (to be) adopted by the Commission (Article 8 CPR).

NB: This figure does not necessarily correspond to the amounts allocated to thematic objectives no 4 " Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors " and no 5 "Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management", as set out in the table under point 1.4, as they are calculated using a specific methodology established by the Commission based on Article 8 of the CPR and may, inter alia, include expenditure linked to other thematic objectives.

SECTION 1B

1.5 The application of horizontal principles and policy objectives for the implementation of the ESI Funds

1.5.1 Arrangements for the partnership principle (with reference to Article 5 CPR) (Article 14 (1) (c) CPR), including an indicative list of partners and a summary of the actions taken to involve those partners as referred to in Article 5 CPR and their role in the preparation of the Partnership Agreement and the progress report as defined in Article 46 CPR

1) A summary of the preparation of the Partnership Agreement, with a specific focus on partnership, including: authority which has coordinated the preparation of the Partnership Agreement and the public institutions directly involved (for example, the ministries directly concerned by the ESI Funds).

A description of the key stages of the preparation process and the involvement of the relevant partners referred to in Art. 5 CPR. This description should include:

- how partners have been selected;*
- the list of the partners involved (annexed);*
- the actions taken to facilitate a wide involvement and an active participation of the partners, including in terms of accessibility;*
- the main added value of the partnership in the preparation of the Partnership Agreement, e.g. instances where the strategic choices have been significantly influenced by partners;*
- the main results of the consultation with partners, including significant concerns, comments and recommendations raised by multiple partners.*

2) A description of the role of the selected partners in the preparation of the progress report as defined in Article 46 CPR.

1.5.2 Promotion of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility (with reference to Article 7 of CPR)

An overview of the general approach to ensure (a) the promotion of equality between men and women, (b) non-discrimination and (c) accessibility in the implementation of the ESI Funds, including a description of any general arrangements at national or regional level to ensure the promotion and monitoring of these principles in different types of programme.

1.5.3 Sustainable development (with reference to Article 8 of CPR)

An overview of:

- *how the "polluter pays" principle will be implemented;*
- *any relevant national or other arrangements cutting across several or all programmes to ensure that the requirements of Article 8 CPR are respected in regard to:*
 - *environmental protection requirements;*
 - *resource efficiency;*
 - *climate change mitigation and adaptation;*
 - *biodiversity and ecosystem protection;*
 - *disaster resilience;*
 - *risk prevention and management.*

Other relevant measures should be highlighted, where applicable (e.g. application of green public procurement).

1.5.4 Horizontal policy objectives

The aim of this section is to set out any horizontal policy objectives that are relevant for one or more programmes and one or more ESI Funds. Some of these horizontal policy objectives may be specific to a Member State.

It should provide an overview of any additional horizontal policy objectives as set out in the CSF, such as demographic change, which will be pursued and explain how this will be done, including a description of arrangements to ensure mainstreaming, where relevant.

1.6 The list of the programmes under the ERDF, the ESF, the Cohesion Fund, except those under the European territorial cooperation goal, and of the programmes of the EAFRD and the EMFF¹, with the respective indicative allocations by ESI Fund and by year

The table is generated automatically by the SFC based on the information in financial tables of programmes already encoded in SFC. The table can be adjusted manually, including in cases where the data for all programmes is not available in the SFC by the time of the submission of the Partnership Agreement.

Programme title	ESI Fund (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD or EMFF)	Total	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Total								

¹ Only one programme for each Member State for the EMFF.

2 ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION - ARTICLE 14(1) (B) CPR

2.1 The arrangements, in line with the institutional framework of the Member States, that ensure coordination between the ESI Funds and other Union and national funding instruments and with the EIB

1) *Description of the arrangements to ensure coordination between ESI Funds and with other Union and relevant national funding instruments, which includes:*

- (a) *Identification of areas where the ESI Funds will be used in a complementary manner;*
- (b) *mechanisms and structures to coordinate to support the complementary use of the ESI Funds and avoid duplication, including joint Monitoring Committees, common monitoring and evaluation arrangements etc.;*
- (c) *mechanisms to help applicants and beneficiaries use the funds in a complementary way such as joint eGovernance solutions, "one stop shops" e.g. for advice on the opportunities of support available through each of the ESI Funds etc.;*
- (d) *Outlining coordination mechanisms set up at national and regional levels between the bodies responsible for the implementation of national and regional programmes, in particular under the cohesion policy's Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal, and those responsible for the implementation of the programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) goal. Where appropriate, outlining coordination mechanisms to ensure complementarity with actions implemented in the context of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies.*

2) *A description of the arrangements for coordination of the ESI Funds with other Union and national funding instruments and the EIB:*

- (a) *Identifying complementarities and synergies with other Union and national instruments incl. instances where the ESI Funds and support from other instruments will be used in a complementary manner e.g. for the EAFRD, how Member States will manage interventions under the CAP's 1st and 2nd pillars to maximize synergies.*
- (b) *Outlining the mechanisms and structures to coordinate interventions, to promote complementarities and avoid duplication of effort.*
- (c) *Outlining any arrangements allowing for complementarities at the level of operations including possibilities for complementary support from multiple funding sources within one operation.*

While the number of EU instruments is limited, the number of national funds/instruments may be substantial, and it is likely that not all of them can be covered by an analysis of complementarities. The analysis should therefore identify the areas where national instruments are essential to achieve the main results set out for the Funds or where the ESI Funds are critical to complement the use of national funds.

In highly regionalised or federal Member States, this section should provide an overview of general arrangements or principles of how coordination and complementarity will be achieved (at national and/or regional level). A region by region presentation of coordination mechanisms should be avoided, where possible.

' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (6) (a) of the CPR.*

2.2 The information required for ex ante verification of compliance with the rules on additionality (based on Annex xx CPR)

At national level

Expenditure of the General Government as a share of GDP	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
P51	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

At regional level for MS in which less developed regions and [transition regions] cover more than 15% and less than [65%] of the population (Article 86(4) CPR)

Gross Fixed Capital Formation of the General Government in the less developed [and transition] regions as a share of GDP	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
P51	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

This information is required solely for those ESI Funds to which Article 86 CPR applies.

2.3 A summary of the assessment of the fulfilment of applicable *ex ante* conditionalities in accordance with Article 17 and Annex (xx) at national level and of the actions to be taken, the responsible bodies, and the timetable for their implementation, where *ex ante* conditionalities are not fulfilled

This section should cover the applicable general and thematic/fund specific ex-ante conditionalities where national authorities are responsible for the fulfilment of the ex-ante conditionality.

The table below should set out all applicable general and thematic/fund-specific ex-ante conditionalities where the national level is responsible for their fulfilment. It is necessary to identify for each applicable ex-ante conditionality whether it is fulfilled, providing explanations where appropriate. The applicability of ex-ante conditionalities to individual programmes is set out in those programmes and therefore does not need to be included in the Partnership Agreement.

'' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (6) (b) of the CPR.*

- (i) A summary of the assessment of the fulfilment of applicable ex ante conditionalities at national level.

Applicable Ex-ante conditionality for which national bodies are responsible	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled Yes/no	Reference (if fulfilled) (reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation (where appropriate)

- (ii) For the applicable general and thematic/fund specific ex ante conditionalities for which national bodies are responsible and which are completely or partially unfulfilled, indication of the bodies responsible for their fulfilment, the actions to be taken at national level to fulfil these ex-ante conditionalities, and the timeframe for the implementation of such actions (tables).

These tables cover only applicable general and thematic/Fund-specific ex-ante conditionalities, which are unfulfilled or only partially fulfilled (as set out in the table above) at the time of submission of the Partnership Agreement.

Applicable general ex-ante conditionalities for which national bodies are responsible and which are unfulfilled or partially fulfilled	Criteria not fulfilled	Action to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible for fulfilment
1. X		Action 1	Deadline for action 1	
		Action 2	Deadline for action 2	

Applicable thematic/Fund-specific ex-ante conditionalities for which national bodies are responsible and which are unfulfilled or partially fulfilled	Criteria not fulfilled	Action to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible for fulfilment
1. X		Action 1	Deadline for action 1	
		Action 2	Deadline for action 2	

- (iii) Additional information relevant to the assessment of the fulfilment of applicable ex-ante conditionalities and the actions to be taken to fulfil them.

Additional field to provide any necessary explanations or additional information to complement the tables above.

2.4 The methodology and mechanism to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework in accordance with Article 19 of the CPR

An overview of:

- *how consistency in the selection of indicators and the setting of milestones and targets is ensured across programmes and priorities), including possible guidance provided at national level for the preparation of the performance framework to ensure a consistent approach or an existing framework establishing rules and principles on setting of milestones and targets fulfilling this function also for the ESI Funds (e.g. national rules on strategic planning);*
- *any monitoring mechanisms to ensure early detection of potential performance issues and the system for the follow-up of detected issues.*

2.5 An assessment of whether there is a need to reinforce the administrative capacity of the authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and, where appropriate, of the beneficiaries, as well as, where necessary, a summary of the actions to be taken for this purpose.

1) An assessment of the needs for the reinforcement of administrative capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries taking into account the experience from the previous programming period, including issues identified in evaluations or studies, or raised by the Commission.

2) Where relevant, a summary of the main actions taken or envisaged to reinforce administrative capacity, outlining where technical assistance will be used.

In the case of highly regionalised or federal Member States this section should provide an overview at national level of the main (types of) capacity issues identified in regions (avoiding a region by region analysis) and set out the main actions (or types of actions) foreseen to address these.

2.6 A summary of the actions planned in the programmes, including an indicative timetable, to achieve a reduction in the administrative burden for beneficiaries

A summary of the actions planned achieve a reduction in the administrative burden of beneficiaries, with an indicative timeframe, based on an assessment of administrative burden for beneficiaries associated with the ESI Funds in 2007-2013 period, identifying areas where there is scope for further reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries (referring to statistical data, and results of evaluations and studies, where possible) in order to justify and underpin the summary of actions to achieve a reduction in administrative burden.

Where significant action has already been taken to address to administrative burden of beneficiaries for the programming period 2014-2020, this may be highlighted.

'' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (6) (c) of the CPR.*

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED BY THE ESI FUNDS OR A SUMMARY OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMMES (ARTICLE 14(2) (A) CPR)

A description of the strategy for territorial development, taking into account the analysis under section 1, covering the integrated approach to using the ESI Funds at regional and sub-regional level in different types of territories.

In the case of highly regionalised or federal Member States this section should provide an overview of how an integrated approach to the use of ESI Funds at regional level will be achieved.

This sub-section should not include a detailed description of different territorial development tools to be used, as these are outlined in the sub-sections below.

3.1 The arrangements to ensure an integrated approach to the use of the ESI Funds for the territorial development of specific sub-regional areas (Article 14 (2) (i) CPR)

3.1.1 Community-led local development (Articles 28-31 CPR, Article 9 ETC, and the EAFRD, ESF, EMFF and ERDF regulations)

Outline of the approach to community-led local development (CLLD), including:

- *The main challenges that the Member State intends to tackle with the help of the CLLD approach;*
- *The main objectives and priorities for CLLD in the Member State (including the general objectives that the Member States aims to achieve with CLLD, but also outlining the thematic focus and target groups. Member States should outline in the Partnership Agreement towards which thematic objectives CLLD will contribute);*
- *The types of territories (not a list of territories) where CLLD is envisaged to be implemented (a general indication of types of areas is sufficient e.g. urban, rural, cross-border, areas with specific characteristics in terms of population density or settlement pattern, areas with strong fisheries dimension. The types of territories chosen should reflect the strategic choices of the MS regarding the role, the objectives and the potential thematic focus of CLLD. An example could be if the Member State wishes to address urban-rural linkages through use of CLLD by several Funds. If the Member State wishes to implement CLLD in the entire territory of the Member State this should also be indicated)*
- *Identification of the ESI Funds that shall be used for CLLD, an approximate planned budget allocation for each Fund, the role of each ESI Fund in different types of territories (particular attention should be paid to areas where multiple ESI Funds could intervene), taking into account that CLLD is obligatory under the EAFRD (Leader);*
- *Whether the Member State will support local development strategies financed from*

multiple ESI Funds and if not, how the integrated approach will be achieved at the local level;

- *Coordination of and administrative set-up for CLLD, and the specific role the local action groups (LAGs) will be attributed in its delivery;*
- *Where appropriate, whether the Member State will apply the possibility to designate a lead Fund in the context of integrated multi-fund local development strategies.*
- *Arrangements for preparatory support, (including possible arrangements between Funds to offer a coherent scheme and types of activities foreseen).*

In the case of highly regionalised or federal Member States this will require generalization to the national level. The description should indicate in which regions the CLLD approach will be used and set out main elements pertaining to the points outlined above.

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3.1.2 *Integrated territorial investments (ITI)*

The approach to the use of ITIs, including:

- *An overview of the (types of) territories where ITIs will be used, identifying the ESI Funds that shall be used for ITIs in different types of territories covered by ITIs.*
- *The implementation arrangements to carry out integrated territorial strategies as ITI, including coordination arrangements between ESI Funds and managing authorities and arrangements for the delegation of management and implementation tasks of an ITI.*

In the case of highly regionalised or federal Member States this will require generalization to the national level. A region by region description should be avoided, if possible. However, in some cases, particularly ITIs are used to address issues specific to only one or a few regions, this may be warranted.

The use of ITIs is optional. Member States who do not plan to use this instrument should indicate this here.

'' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (3) (c) of the CPR.*

3.1.3 *Sustainable urban development, including the principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented (with reference to Article 7 and 8 of the ERDF Regulation and to Article 12 of the ESF regulation)*

The approach to sustainable urban development, including the principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented.

3.1.4 *The main priority areas for cooperation, under the ESI Funds, taking account, where appropriate, of macro-regional and sea basin strategies*

The description should set out:

- *The main priority areas for European Territorial Cooperation, indicating how a complementary use of Funds from the ETC programmes and in particular the programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal could contribute to addressing challenges identified.*
- *Where appropriate, how macro-regional and sea-basin strategies have been taken into account in strategic programming to ensure consistency of interventions (e. g. description of the involvement in a strategy (e.g. as priority area coordinator) and how priorities identified in the strategy and related*

Action plans link up to planned use of ESI Funds).

- *Where appropriate, how the Member State intends to make use of possibilities for cooperation provided in the Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes (e.g. for bilateral cooperation outside the geographical scope of an ETC programme).*

' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (3) (d) of the CPR.*

3.1.5 Where appropriate, an integrated approach to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities, persons with disabilities, long term unemployed and young people not in employment, education or training

A description of the approach to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion including:

- *An identification of the geographical areas most affected by poverty (preferably on the basis of poverty maps) or an identification of the target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion and a description of their specific needs;*
- *The integrated approach to address their specific needs (including setting specific targets where appropriate);*
- *The ESI Funds that will be used for the implementation of the integrated strategy; and their role as regards fields of intervention or specific territories;*
- *A table summarizing the role and the contribution of the ESI Funds in the implementation of the strategy (table).*

' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (4) of the CPR.*

<i>Specific target group or geographical area</i>	<i>Short description of the needs</i>	<i>ESI Funds that will be used (ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD, EMFF)</i>	<i>Main types of actions to be supported</i>	<i>Programme</i>

3.1.6 Where appropriate, an integrated approach, to address demographic challenges of regions or specific needs of geographical areas which suffer by severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, as defined in Article 174 of the Treaty.

This section should be included in the Partnership Agreement where the Member State has highlighted in section 1 specific development needs in regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross- border and mountain regions, which require integrated intervention from the ESI Funds.

It should provide a brief summary of how the ESI Funds will be used to tackle the specific development needs of these regions, insofar as the approach is specific to these regions.

Not all Member States include such regions, therefore the section is not relevant in all cases.

'' This section may also contain the elements of operational programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund set out in Article 87 (4) of the CPR.*

4 ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND PROGRAMMES -ARTICLE 14(2)(B) CPR

4.1 An assessment of the existing systems for electronic data exchange, and a summary of the actions planned to gradually permit all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and authorities responsible for management and control of programmes to be carried out by electronic data exchange

An overview of the arrangements for electronic data exchange including:

- (i) an assessment of the existing systems for electronic data exchange, including, for instance an overview of electronic services already available for beneficiaries and of the main development needs;*
- (ii) a summary of actions planned to gradually permit all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and authorities responsible for management and control of programmes to be carried out by electronic data exchange with an indicative timeframe.*

Annex: Guidance on the attribution of Union Priorities for Rural Development to thematic objectives set out in Article 9 of the CPR

The table below sets out the links between the Union priorities and focus areas of the EAFRD and the thematic objectives set out in Article 9 of the Common Provisions Regulation. This table provides guidance and does not form part of the Partnership Agreement.

Priority 1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas	
(a) Fostering innovation and the knowledge base in rural areas	1. Strengthening research, technological development, innovation
(b) Strengthening the links between agriculture and forestry and research and innovation	1. Strengthening research, technological development, innovation
(c) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors	10. Education, skills and lifelong learning
Priority 2: Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability	
(a) Facilitating restructuring of farms facing major structural problems, notably farms with a low degree of market participation, market-oriented farms in particular sectors and farms in need of agricultural diversification	3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector and fisheries and aquaculture
(b) Facilitating generational renewal in the agricultural sector	3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector and fisheries and aquaculture
Priority 3: Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture	
(a) Better integrating primary producers into the food chain through quality schemes, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations	3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector and fisheries and aquaculture
(b) Supporting farm risk management	3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector and fisheries and aquaculture
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry	
(a) Restoring and preserving biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes	6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
(b) Improving water management	5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
(c) Improving soil management	5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
Priority 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors	
(a) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture	6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

(b) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing	4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
(c) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw material for purposes of the bio-economy	4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
(d) Reducing nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture	4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
(e) Fostering carbon sequestration in agriculture and forestry	4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
Priority 6: Promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas	
(a) Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation	8. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
(b) Fostering local development in rural areas	9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
(c) Enhancing accessibility to, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas	2. Enhancing access to and use and quality of information and communication technologies

Note: *The nature of the interventions under the focus areas of EAFRD priority 4 in particular means that they contribute to both thematic objectives 5 and 6 and have multiple effects. This allocation of focus areas to thematic objectives is therefore provided for the purposes of qualitative description under section 1.3. For the indicative allocation of planned EAFRD expenditure to thematic objectives in table 1.4.1, 50% of the expenditure planned under priority 4 should be allocated to thematic objective 5 and 50% to thematic objective 6, rather than an allocation on the basis of priority 4's individual focus areas.*