



Annual Implementation Report 2012

INTERACT 2007-2013

Good Governance of Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Operational Programme

under the "European Territorial Cooperation" Objective
based on Article 6 pt. 3 lit. b of Regulation (EC) No. 1080/2006
of the European Parliament and the Council

Programme No. CCI 2007 CB163 PO 015.

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Identification

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Objective concerned:	European Territorial Cooperation
Eligible area concerned:	Territory of the 27 European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland
Programming period:	2007-2013
Programme number (CCI No):	CCI 2007 CB163 PO 015
Programme title:	INTERACT 2007-2013 (INTERACT II)

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Reporting year:	2012
Date of approval of the annual report by the monitoring committee:	29 May 2013

List of abbreviations

AA	Audit Authority	EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
AEBR	Association of European Border Regions	FEI	Financial Engineering Instrument
CA	Certifying Authority	FLC	First Level Control
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation	GoA	Group of Auditors
CDB	Contact Database	HAL	Horizontal Action Leader
CE	Central Europe (Programme)	HIT	Harmonised Implementation Tools
CERI	Centre of International Studies and Research	IMS	INTERACT Management System
CoR	Committee of the Regions	IP	INTERACT Point
CPMR	Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions	IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
CSF	Common Strategic Framework	IS	INTERACT Secretariat
DG	Directorate General	IVC	INTERREG IVC (Programme)
DG Devco	Directorate General Development and Cooperation	JAWP	Joint Annual Work Plan
DG Regio	Directorate General Regional Policy	JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
EC	European Communities	MA	Managing Authority
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	MC	Monitoring Committee
EIF	European Investment Fund	NCP	National Contact Point
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument	NWE	North West Europe (Programme)
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund	OLAF	European Commission Anti-Fraud Office
ERT	Event Registration Tool	OP	Operational Programme
ESF	European Social Fund	PA	Priority Area
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation	PAC	Priority Area Coordinator
EU	European Union	Q&A	Questions and Answers
EUR	euro	RfP	Request for Payment
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
		TA	Technical Assistance
		FTE	Full Time Equivalent
		TN	Transnational

1 Executive summary

In 2012 the INTERACT II Programme (furthermore referred to as INTERACT) continued contributing to its objectives as described in the Operational Programme and the Multi Annual Work Plan. Individual activities were implemented on the basis of the 2012 Joint Annual Work Plan.

In order to best serve the needs of the target groups (bodies and institutions responsible for the management and control of territorial cooperation programmes) and other stakeholders of the Programme, the Joint Annual Work Plan (JAWP) was based on a comprehensive needs assessment exercise. Besides a main online survey, it utilised several other sources of information including direct requests from programmes and the European Commission, anticipated needs, network events and follow-up from the previous year. The JAWP - eventually approved by the 8th Monitoring Committee meeting (November 2011, Budapest) - comprises several Europe-wide and zone-wide activities directly addressing the needs identified.

Activities carried out in 2012 included providing continued support for 2007-2013 territorial cooperation programmes taking into account the progress of the programme cycles, including intensifying cooperation with IPA CBC programmes with Member States, thematic capitalisation in various fields and further development of KEEP, providing support to the Baltic Sea Region and Danube Region macro-regional strategies, preparations for the 2014-2020 programming period, and communication aiming at making project results and the entire European Territorial Cooperation objective more visible. Out of these broader clusters of activities, especially two large-scale ones (each of them comprising many interconnected individual activities) are worth highlighting: Harmonised Implementation Tools and European Cooperation Day.

The Harmonised Implementation Tools (HIT) package, comprising a wide range of document templates and models, fact sheets, handbooks and other guidance documents, is maybe the largest-scale future-related INTERACT activity. The basic idea behind HIT is to simplify management and control activities of the programmes by providing ready-made, harmonised solutions for setting up and managing 2014-2020 territorial cooperation programmes, based on best practice. All HIT products are based on extensive research and analysis of the new legal framework and 2007-2013 experiences (they just need to be customised based on national or programme-level rules). Programmes themselves have been involved in development of these tools from the beginning. Several of them are already available, while others are being developed and will be made available, taking into account the needs of the programme cycle. More information about the HIT package is available in a separate section of the INTERACT website.

Another 2012 INTERACT activity of utmost importance was the first edition of the European Cooperation Day (EC Day). From the original idea of a smaller-scale initiative to spread information on European Territorial Cooperation success stories, EC Day eventually grew into a large-scale campaign aiming at improving the visibility and disseminating the outcomes of Territorial Cooperation to show how it has impacted the quality of life of European citizens. This activity also represented a significant follow-up of the recommendations of the Assessment of INTERACT Information and Publicity Measures (2011). An additional target group of the campaign was the media itself. This broad definition enabled the participating programmes to set up their tailor-made activities. Participation was voluntary and open to European Territorial Programmes and IPA CBC and ENPI CBC programmes were also invited. Eventually 75% of the territorial cooperation programmes decided to participate and organised in total 281 different events, attracting more than 110,000 participants. EC Day is therefore regarded as a success story itself, and preparations for the second edition are already well advanced.

Regular management and coordination activities of the Programme were also carried out and the programming process of INTERACT III was also started; the Programming Task Force was set up and met three times. By the end of the year, elaboration of key documents was well underway.

2 Overview of the Implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1 Achievement and analysis of the progress

Most of the interventions foreseen in the OP were covered in 2012 and are shown in the indicators table in section 2.1.1. For more comprehensive information on the contents, see section 3.2.1 onwards.

2.1.1 Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme

Quantifiable indicators only have been defined at priority levels (for details see section 3) and no quantifiable indicators have been mentioned at programme level in the OP itself. The baseline value for all indicators is zero.

Table No 1: Information on the physical progress on the operational programme level

Operational objective / Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Knowledge base											
Indicator 1: Studies	Achievement	0	1	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	14
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24
Indicator 2: Surveys	Achievement	0	0	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	9
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	48
Indicator 3: Material sets	Achievement	0	10	58	17	77	42	0	0	0	204
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300
Indicator 4: Web resources	Achievement	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	7
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9
Indicator 5: General information services	Achievement	0	207	179	253	45	72	0	0	0	756
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,800
Indicator 6: Technical dossiers on good governance	Achievement	0	0	1	0	35	10	0	0	0	46
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12
Tools											
Indicator 7: Refined and updated tools	Achievement	0	0	4	0	3	6	0	0	0	13
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30

Operational objective / Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 8: New tools developed	Achievement	0	1	7	0	2	16	0	0	0	26
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30
Network coordination											
Indicator 9: Two-tier network set-up and coordination	Achievement	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Indicator 10: Enhancement and main- tenance of external networking	Achievement	0	0	5	1	51	42	0	0	0	99
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12
Exchange and transfer											
Indicator 11: Seminars and workshops	Achievement	0	21	49	48	43	42	0	0	0	203
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	240
Indicator 12: E-workshops	Achievement	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14
Indicator 13: Advisory services	Achievement	0	18	67	16	47	23	0	0	0	171
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	180
Indicator 14: Thematic networks	Achievement	0	8	9	20	15	24	0	0	0	76
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24
Indicator 15: Framework for labora- tory groups and pilot networks	Achievement	0	8	3	2	16	24	0	0	0	53
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12
Indicator 16: Conferences	Achievement	0	3	4	1	2	3	0	0	0	13
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10
Dissemination and publicity											
Indicator 17: Web portal	Achievement	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Indicator 18: Newsletter	Achievement	0	1	4	3	3	11	0	0	0	22
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24

Operational objective / Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 19: Promotional activities	Achievement	0	21	28	30	38	92	0	0	0	209
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	500
Quality management											
Indicator 20: CooG and other perm. work groups set up and meeting regularly	Achievement	0	8	5	14	15	16	0	0	0	58
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24
Indicator 21: Quality Assurance Man- ager employed	Achievement	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Indicator 22: Manuals describing standardised core pro- cedures	Achievement	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4
Indicator 23: Certification scheme for contributors (thematic or pilot networks)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Indicator 24: Staff trainings	Achievement	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6
Indicator 25: Focus groups with stakeholders	Achievement	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6
Technical Assistance											
Indicator 26: All units of the managing system set up	Achievement	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
Indicator 27: Key committees meeting regularly	Achievement	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	10
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18
Indicator 28: Programme documents delivered in time	Achievement	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8
Indicator 29: Strategies and reports approved	Achievement	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	6
	Target baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7

2.1.2 Financial information

Thirty-one Requests for Payment (RfP) were submitted by the Managing Authority (MA) to the Certifying Authority (CA) in the period from 01 January to 31 December 2012 amounting to EUR 5,476,728.62, out of which EUR 4,655,219.31 from ERDF and EUR 821,509.31 of national contribution, thereof:

- 28 RfPs were approved in full claimed amount;
- 2 RfPs were approved in decreased amount;
- 1 RfP was in the process of verification at the end of 2012.

The total RfPs approved in 2012 represent EUR 5,471,199.30 (thereof EUR 4,650,519.30 ERDF and EUR 820,679.91 national contribution).

Since the beginning of the program until 31 December 2012, 97 interim RfPs were submitted to the CA in the amount of EUR 15,831,530.80 (EUR 13,456,801.22 ERDF contribution and EUR 2,374,729.58 national contribution). 90 RfPs were approved in the total amount of EUR 15,172,013.22 (EUR 12,896,211.27 ERDF), or in the decreased amount - decrease of EUR 197,945.79 (6 RfPs).

Out of the 97 RfPs submitted, 78 RfPs were paid out to the beneficiaries (total amount: EUR 13,445,369.05, ERDF: EUR 11,428,563.74) and 10 RfPs were used for clearance of advance payment. Two RfPs - of IP Valencia and IP Turku - amounting to EUR 840,784.71 (EUR 714,667.00 ERDF) were not paid out to the beneficiaries because of the lack of liquidity on the CA bank account. Six RfPs have been rejected by the CA amounting to EUR 456,220.25 (EUR 387,787.22 ERDF). One RfP was in the verification process in the amount of EUR 5,351.54 (EUR 4,548.81 ERDF) at the end of 2012.

The total approved RfPs until 31 December 2012 represent EUR 15,172,013.22 (thereof EUR 12,896,211.27 ERDF and EUR 2,275,801.95 national contribution). For the detailed overview of interim RfPs submitted to CA until 31 December 2012, see Table No 1 in Annex 1.

2.1.2.1 Applications for payment to the European Commission and payment received

During 2012, four Payment Claims were sent by the CA to the European Commission (Commission), amounting to EUR 3,992,807.62 and the Commission sent three interim payments to the CA amounting to EUR 2,824,353.10. The overview of all Commission payment claims is included in Table No 2 in Annex 1 and Commission payments are shown in Table No 3 in Annex 1.

2.1.2.2 N+2/n+3

The eligible expenditures reported to the Commission are in the amount of EUR 11,835,910.05, representing 39,25% of the total programme resources for the period 2007-2013. The n+3 rule (for years 2009, 2010) has been fulfilled and paid by 100%, and the commitment for 2011 is paid by 5,56%. The amounts paid to the beneficiaries by the end of 2012 have reached 50,20% of the commitment following the n+2/n+3 rule (summing up the commitments of the years 2011, 2012).

2.1.2.3 Estimation of expected expenditures

Estimation of expected expenditures for 2012 for OP INTERACT was sent to the Commission in accordance with the deadline on 27 April 2012, amounting to EUR 4,142,740.00. The updated estimation in the amount of EUR 4,700,000.00 was sent by CA to the Commission in August 2012.

Estimation of expenditures was fulfilled by 96,38% - four interim payments amounting to EUR 3,992,807.62 were sent to the Commission. By receiving three interim payments from the Commission in 2012 amounting to EUR 2,824,353.10 the estimation of expenditure was fulfilled at the level of 68,18%.

The updated estimation of expected expenditures was fulfilled by 84.95% - four interim payments amounting to EUR 3,992,807.62 were sent to the Commission. By receiving three interim payments from the Commission in 2012 amounting to EUR 2,824,353.10, the updated estimation of expected expenditures was fulfilled at the level of 60.09%.

Table No 2: Comparison of the actual and the estimated expenditures from 01 January to 31 December 2012

INTERACT	Estimation of expected expenditure sent to the Commission by 27 April 2012 for 2012 (EUR)	Actual spending (payment claims sent to the Commission for 2012, EUR)	Deviation (estimated expenditure - actual spending, EUR)	Fulfilment of the estimation of expected expenses in 2012
Total	4,142,174.00	3,992,807.62	149,932.38	96.38%

Data source: CA

INTERACT	Updated estimation of expected expenditure sent to the Commission by 12 Sept. 2012 for 2012 (EUR)	Actual spending (payment claims sent to the Commission for 2012, EUR)	Deviation (estimated expenditure - actual spending, EUR)	Fulfilment of the estimation of expected expenses in 2012
Total	4,700,000.00	3,992,807.62	707,192.38	84.95%

Data source: CA

Table No 2a: Comparison of the actual and the estimated expenditures from 01 January to 31 December 2012 - payments received from the Commission in 2012

INTERACT	Estimation of expected expenditure sent to the Commission by 27 April 2012 for 2012 (EUR)	Actual spending (payments received from the Commission for 2012, EUR)	Deviation (estimated expenditure - actual spending, EUR)	Fulfilment of the estimation of expected expenses in 2012
Total	4,142,740.00	2,824,353.10	1,318,386.90	68.18%

Data source: CA

INTERACT	Updated estimation of expected expenditure sent to the Commission by 12 Sept. 2012 for 2012 (EUR)	Actual spending (payments received from the Commission for 2012, EUR)	Deviation (estimated expenditure - actual spending, EUR)	Real fulfilment of the estimation of expected expenses in 2012
Total	4,700,000.00	2,824,353.10	1,875,646.90	60.09%

Data source: CA

2.1.2.4 Certification

Certification verification was performed within 2 RfPs out of 31 submitted to CA in the period from 01 January 2012 to 31 December 2012. The verifying sample represents an amount of EUR 457,908.69, which met 8.36% of the submitted RfPs, and 96.41% of the RfPs.

Ineligible expenditures within the submitted RfPs were identified in amount of EUR 175.50, which is 0.04% of the verified sample. These expenditures were related to the meal expenditures during missions and were confirmed as ineligible. No other problems were solved during certification verifications.

2.1.2.5 Irregularities

During the period 01 January to 31 December 2012 MA reported to CA as follows:

1. Irregularities with financial impact

In the reporting period, CA was reported about 2 reports on identified irregularities. These irregularities were identified during performed audits.

The total number of identified irregularities reported to the CA until 31 December 2012 was 14 in the amount of EUR 365,910.40.

2. System irregularities

No system irregularities were reported to the CA during 2012.

Table No 3: Overview of reported irregularities to CA by 31 December 2012

	Priority axis	Number of irregularities	Irregularities (EUR)	
			Total	ERDF
INTERACT Secretariat	1	1	1,375.92	1,169.53
IP Valencia	1	1	40,963.33	34,818.83
Total		2	42,339,25	35,988.36

Data source: CA

2.1.3 Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

Spending of the Community funds (taking into account the irregularities in the amount of EUR 7,551.09) by 31 December 2012 amounting to EUR 12,888,660.18 represents 42.74% of the overall commitment for the period 2007-2013. For a detailed overview, see Table No 4 in Annex 1.

Spending in the amount of EUR 12,888,660.18 including the advanced payments (EUR 3,063,016.00) represents 100% of the 2009 commitment (EUR 4,792,372.83), it means the rule n+3 was fulfilled on the level of CA until 31 December 2012. Equally

spending of the commitment 2010 (EUR 5,393,496.00) was fulfilled on 100%, while spending of the commitment 2011 (EUR 6,016, 985.00) was at the end of 2012 on the level of 23,05%.

However, 2013 is a special year, commitment target at the end of 2013 includes the annual commitments for 2010 and 2011 in accordance with the rule n+3/n+2. Spending in the amount EUR 12,888,660.18 of the commitment 2010 and 2011 was on the level of 59,42%. Until the 31 December 2013 it is necessary to spent and declare to the EC EUR 4,629,827.07.

Table No 4: Cumulative breakdown of allocations of the Community contribution by category

Combination of codes of dimension 1 to 5					
Code Dimension 1 Priority theme	Code Dimension 2 Form of finance	Code Dimension 3 Territory	Code Dimension 4 Economic activity	Code Dimension 5 Location	Amount (EUR)
81	01	00	00	Transnational Interregional Cross-border	28,345,020.00
85					1,809,257.00
				Total	30,154,277.00

Data source: MA

Table No 5: Indicative breakdown of the Community contribution by category in the operational programme

Dimension 1 Priority theme		Dimension 2 Form of finance		Dimension 3 Location	
Code	Amount (EUR)	Code	Amount (EUR)	Code	Amount (EUR)
81	28,345,020.00	01	30,154,277.00	Transnational Interregional Cross-border	30,154,277.00
85	1,809,257.00				
Total	30,154,277.00	Total	30,154,277.00		30,154,277.00

Data source: MA

2.1.4 Assistance by target groups

In 2012 INTERACT activities targeted Europe-wide the different programme- and national level institutional actors and bodies responsible for management and control activities of European Territorial Co-operation programmes (section 3.1 of the OP), such as Managing Authorities, Joint Technical Secretariats, Certifying Authorities, Audit Authorities, First Level Control bodies, as well as members of Monitoring Committees, National Contact Persons, and stakeholders backing the programmes. Activities in support of the similar bodies and actors of IPA CBC programmes were also carried out. However, no breakdown per target group is available.

Additionally, the first edition of European Cooperation Day targeted a wider audience, namely European citizens, in order to improve the visibility of Territorial Cooperation and to show what impact the programmes had on the life of the population.

2.1.5 Assistance repaid or re-used

No modification as referred to in Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 occurred in 2012. Concerning the financial correction as referred to in Article 98(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, two irregularities were reported by MA in the total amount of EUR 42,339,25 in 2012; for detailed information see section 2.1.2. The irregularities were identified at the level of the IS and INTERACT Point Valencia.

CA paid advance payments to beneficiaries in the total amount of EUR 3,794,515.00, thereof ERDF EUR 3,225,337,75 and national contribution amounting to EUR 569,177.25.

Beneficiaries MA, IS and CA submitted the clearance requests for payment in the total amount of EUR 885,859,46 which represents 23.53% of the provided advance payments. The clearance request was submitted by following beneficiaries within priority axis 1: MA in the amount of EUR 26,802.17, representing 8.69%, IS in the amount of EUR 587,002.25, representing 62.37 %.

The clearance request in total received amount, i.e. 100% was submitted by beneficiaries within priority axis 2 following: MA in the total amount of EUR 181,440.00 and CA in the total amount of EUR 44,560.00. IS submitted EUR 46,055.04 €, representing 52.19%.

The remaining amount of EUR 2,908,655.54 (represents 76.65% of provided advances) is necessary to submit for clearing until the reaching of the level 95% spending of total budget at the latest.

2.1.6 Qualitative analysis

The programme run smoothly in 2012, the core activities of the programme have been successfully implemented and products and services delivered to the target groups. Activities were based on a stakeholder analysis conducted in the summer 2011 and included in the Joint Annual Work Plan. Due to the nature of the programme, where flexibility is a must, some activities have been adapted to urgent needs of the stakeholders, expressed throughout the year 2012. The satisfaction rate of the users of INTERACT products and services is overall very high; for qualitative analysis of the service delivery see section 3.2.2.

2.1.7 Audit activities

2.1.7.1 System audits in 2012

During the year 2012 no system audit have been performed for the Programme. Since all key elements of the management and control systems of OP INTERACT have already been verified in the past, system audits are currently being performed based on a risk analysis. During the risk analysis performed after the 2011 audits, no area has been marked being of high risk, resulting into an absence of system audits for the year 2012.

Based on the aforementioned facts, the management and control system of OP INTERACT remains in the state from the previous audit - functional, however implementation of some improvements is necessary.

2.1.7.2 Audits of operations in 2012

Auditors of the Audit Authority in cooperation with members of the Group of Auditors of OP INTERACT verified the RfPs indicated in Table No 6. Details concerning the amount of expenditure verified as a sample of expenditure declared to the Commission in the course of 2011 are briefly summarized in Table No 7.

Table No 6: Overview of RfPs verified by the AA in 2012

Request for Payment ID	Authority	Expenditure declared
10/IS/1-IP7	INTERACT Secretariat	54,668.61
10/IP Vienna/1-IP4	IP Vienna	515,277.25
10/AA/2-IP2	Audit Authority	17,890.00
11/IPValencia/1-IP5	IP Valencia	314,075.28
11/MA/2-IP12	Managing Authority	28,248.75
Total		930,159.89

Data source: AA

Table No 7: Expenditure verified as sample of expenditure declared to the Commission in 2011

Operational Programme	Declared expenditure (EUR)	Verified expenditure (EUR %)	Ineligible expenditure (EUR)	Error rate
INTERACT	5,452,077.97	930,159.89 17.06%	9,187.98	0.988 %

Data source: AA

As the audit identified ineligible expenditure in the amount of EUR 9,187.98, the total error rate did not reach the level of 2% of the set materiality, and so the audit of operations in compliance with the Audit Strategy confirmed the results of the system audit - the management and control system is working, however, it is necessary to carry out several improvements.

The IP Vienna audit of operations has not been finalized by the end of 2012.

The audits of operations identified the following financial findings:

- INTERACT Secretariat:
 - inclusion of time spent travelling into the total duration of the working activities of a business trip by an external employee of the MA, leading to ineligible expenditure in the amount of EUR 1,375.92, the financial finding is considered random in its nature;
- IP Valencia:
 - IP Valencia has established an indirect costs assignment rate for the whole Programme period based on full time recruited staff and estimated dedication to Ad Hoc staff, however, absence of a detailed analysis and calculation to determine the Ad Hoc staff time has been noted. As it has not been possible to validate the indirect costs assignment rate, EUR 21,357.39 were considered to be

ineligible. On 18 October 2012 the Spanish GoA member received allegations from IP Valencia concerning this finding. A detailed analysis and calculation was provided, which have been considered to be sufficient. As a result, however, the initially declared indirect cost rate of 70% has been recalculated to 54%, which changed the amount of ineligible expenditure to the final amount of EUR 6,794,88.

The audits of operations also identified non-financial findings of non-systemic nature, major of which are listed below:

- insufficient first level control at both the MA and IS level,
- insufficient administrative control of RfPs performed by an external controller.

2.1.7.3 Communication with the European Commission

According to Article 62 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 the AA elaborated the Annual Control Report and an Opinion concerning the reference period 01 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, as well as an update of the Audit Strategy for the period 2013-2015 in December 2012. Both documents were sent for comments and approval to the members of the Group of Auditors and consequently on 21 December 2012 to the Commission via SFC2007.

2.2 Information about compliance with Community law

As in the previous years, the Programme took all necessary measures to ensure compliance with Community law. No significant problems relating to the compliance with Community law have been encountered in the implementation of the Operational Programme in 2012.

2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

There were no significant problems encountered in implementing the Operational Programme. All of the measures of the Action plan (adopted in June 2010 to remedy the critical situation in financial and administrative management of the OP INTERACT) were fulfilled by the end of 2012.

2.4 Changes in the context of the operational Programme implementation

No such changes are to be reported for 2012.

2.5 Substantial modification pursuant to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

No substantial modification as related to Article 57(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 has been detected for 2012.

2.6 Complementarity with other instruments

2.6.1 Cooperation with Interregional and Networking programmes

Cooperation with the networking programmes started from the very beginning of 2012; a common meeting of the four programmes, organised by INTERREG IVC took place on 06 January 2012 in Lille. All programmes agreed on very concrete areas of cooperation; discussion on the draft regulation brought an output in form of a joint internal paper summarising comments and proposals of all programmes related to the regulations under preparation. This activity was coordinated by INTERACT. Some of the Programmes took the final common document in

consideration for individually approaching Member State (MS) representatives in the High-level working group, trying to influence the process when possible. All programmes also agreed to organise a common workshop during the Open Days 2012 in Brussels, focusing on urban mobility, demonstrating the complementary approach of the four programmes.

Besides that, programmes discussed that directors of the programmes would possibly attend the last respective MC meetings organised in 2012 in order to present specific issues related to their programme to MC members of other programmes. Networking programmes delegated their representatives in the EC Day Advisory Group and contributed to the preparation of the event under coordination of INTERACT. (More information about the EC Day is available under section 5.1.1.8.)

The second coordination meeting during 2012 took place on 25 October in Paris and was organised by URBACT. Evaluation activities and the programming work with foreseen deadlines for the future of each programme were addressed; it was agreed to share relevant non-internal documents. Specific focus was dedicated to future joint activities among the four programmes (for 2013), with special focus on capitalisation and communication. The need to agree on a joint document stating complementarities and synergies among the four programmes was stressed.

All four networking programmes succeeded this year to organise a joint workshop during the Open Days on 09 October in Brussels. The specific focus of the workshop was based on common agreement of the programmes and the European Commission: "Policy, practice and evidence - delivering results in urban mobility through interregional cooperation".

A capitalisation working group was established in 2012 following the initiative of URBACT and was aimed at cooperating for the preparation of the URBACT annual event (Copenhagen, December 2012). The main idea was to identify relevant projects addressing urban issues within programmes other than URBACT. According to URBACT's plan, capitalisation work was structured in six agreed work streams covering demographic change, better jobs, social inclusion and innovation, divided cities, transport and accessibility as well the building energy efficiency. Each work stream was expected to produce synthetic thematic papers (to be available in January 2013) and articles to be presented at the URBACT Annual Conference in December 2012. The working

group first met on 6 March in Paris, INTERACT was represented by the IS and IP Valencia. INTERACT's contribution focused in preparing information about relevant ETC projects dealing with urban issues, from A and B strands. Further results of the work and ongoing plans have been discussed at the second meeting of the group in Paris on 6 July. INTERACT, represented by IP Valencia, provided a comprehensive list from A and B strands projects dealing with urban issues.

In addition to the above-mentioned common activities coordinated by URBACT, INTERACT representatives visited also the capitalisation seminar on "exchange of experience approaches" organised by INTERREG IVC in Barcelona on 19 June and attended some of the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation Workshops in October/November.

Discussion about complementarities of actions among INTERACT and INTERREG IVC related to Article 37.6.b and other future cooperation tools have been further channelled and addressed at a joint coordination meeting of both programmes, together with the respective programmes' Commission desk officers in May 2012. Complementary thematic capitalisation activities conducted by both programmes were also addressed, especially in view of the future programming phase. It was agreed to further exchange (on a regular basis) information between the two programmes, in order to ensure better coordination and synergies.

A very intensive bilateral cooperation between ESPON and INTERACT in KEEP, started back in 2011, has been focused mainly on two areas: on the technical features of the ESPON projects display in KEEP (respecting their different nature in ETC) and on a pilot activity related to the selection of the most relevant ESPON maps to be integrated into KEEP. Identification of the most relevant maps produced by ESPON has been combined with results of the selection of the most relevant topics/keywords addressed within INTERACT. Comparison of the first maps set and 11 keywords resulted in a selection of 7 maps to be implemented. ESPON experts elaborated the descriptions of the relevant maps, providing guidance on how to interpret and read provided scientific results. Selection of the additional maps sets in ESPON is an on-going process, being followed by INTERACT screening in order to identify additional maps of common interest. Consequently the integrated maps are continuously being moved from the KEEP demo-version to the publicly available KEEP website thus

combining territorial evidence available from both programmes.

Both programmes met on 28 February in Luxembourg together with technical experts to discuss strategic and also technical features on the integration of ESPON and INTERACT maps in the system. The preliminary results of the pilot project were presented to the audience of the joint INTERACT-ESPO seminar "European Territorial Cooperation Delivering Europe 2020. Focus on Evidence Based Results", organised in Luxembourg on 25 September.

Besides integration of ESPON maps and projects, KEEP activities also continued with the integration of URBACT projects. Further support was also provided to the ENPI CBC community by sharing the technical expertise and know-how.

2.6.2 Cooperation with other stakeholders

INTERACT continued its effort in interlinking with the research community; the established contacts have been regularly informed and up-dated about ongoing INTERACT activities and planned events. As human resources allowed, INTERACT representatives participated in events organised by relevant actors, such as the workshop of the "Research Network on Effectiveness, Added Value and Future of EU Cohesion Policy" in Paris on 15 March, organised by the Regional Studies Association, the CECICN Conference in La Coruña on 25-26 June, the Annual event of the SEE programme in Bologna on 28 June (in order inform about ongoing EUSDR activities of INTERACT), or to the conference organised together by MOT, TEIN and Association of European Border-Regions (AEBR), SEE in Brussels on 10 July, focusing on capacity building in CB territories. Ambitions to strengthen links and mutual exchange with MOT have been materialised also by visiting their event in Paris on 24 October. Continuous attention was given to the relevant stakeholders at the European Commission, the European Council or the European Parliament, concentrating mostly on the future of ETC and activities being organised in this respect.

The network aligns together the Centre of International Studies and Research (CERI), Institute for European Integration Research, European Policies Research Centre and other academic institutions together with the practitioners working in the field. Many of academics involved are focusing their research on very similar thematic topics as INTERACT

does and the established contacts can be used in common cooperation for benefit of ETC programmes.

Cooperation with institutions and networks of regions was continued, such as with:

- Committee of the Regions: support and exchange on European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) was continued also at a CoR stakeholder's conference, where inputs were provided and at the Open Days.
- Association of European Border Regions: The harmonised tools for 2014-2020 programmes were presented in an AEBR EU-wide seminar held in Brussels.
- Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR): INTERACT is usually invited to the events organised by the Inter-Mediterranean Commission and asked for input on ETC issues.
- Central European Initiative and Regional Cooperation Council: visit to IP Vienna and to IS/MA of delegations from the two institutions.

At the same time, networking and information exchange with the EU institutions also took place, such as eg on the 2014+ legal package with the EU-Parliament or the regular information and coordination meetings with desk officers of DG Regional Policy, both on 2014+ work and the macro-regional strategies.

Finally, INTERACT work was presented at national networks meetings, such as Austrian, Finnish and Swedish networks involving central ministries and ESF funds. Continuous collaboration with French Europ'ACT has taken place also in 2012.

2.6.2.1 Open Days

INTERACT actively contributed to the Open Days 2012, in order to provide especially non-ETC stakeholders - the Open Days audience - with information and insights on the ETC work. In particular following workshops were organised by INTERACT together with DG Regional Policy:

- "IPA cross-border cooperation - added value to EU integration of accession countries"
- "Creating synergies between EU funds: demographic change and active ageing in European Territorial Cooperation and ESF" (together with Central Europe);

- "Integrated territorial instruments for regional management and cooperation in ETC and not only"



Open Days seminar on cooperation tools, Brussels, Belgium, October 2012

INTERACT also participated and provided ETC inputs in other workshops, such as

- "Cross-border cooperation boosts innovation" (INTERACT chaired)
- "Workshop of the EGTC Platform: New Grouping, better performances" (INTERACT speaker)
- "Regiostars awards 2013 - Telling audiovisual stories" (INTERACT speaker and video presentation)
- "e-cohesion Policy: e-government functionalities as simplification for beneficiaries in the 2014-2020 programming period"
- "Policy, practice and evidence-delivering results in urban mobility through interregional cooperation", organised by the four networking programmes together (see above).

2.6.2.2 Macro-Regional strategies

Concerning Macro-Regional Strategies, please consult section 3.2.1.3 Strategy and development.

2.6.2.3 Cooperation with ENPI CBC-programmes

The INTERACT ENPI Phase II project (2011/275-765) is an uninterrupted continuation of services of the INTERACT ENPI project (2008/166-846). The stakeholders, the applied methodology of supporting services and the types of activities remain the same. Following some organisational changes, the second phase of the project (October 2011-December 2013) is managed by DG Development and Cooperation (DG Devco) of the Commission on behalf of project partners and is implemented by the INTERACT programme Managing Authority - the Bratislava Self-Governing Region - together with INTERACT ENPI

Point North in Turku, within the Ministry of Employment and the Economy in Finland.

During the second phase, in addition to continuing the support to programme managing bodies in different fields, INTERACT ENPI Phase II is required by the European External Action Service and the Commission to provide inputs for the reflection on the future regulatory and strategic framework and setting up of the programmes for the period 2014-2020 as the resources available for the INTERACT ENPI Phase II project allow. However, the focus is on ensuring uninterrupted supporting activities towards the ENPI CBC programmes and continuing reflection on the future programming period.

In addition to providing support at different programme meetings and answering individual advisory requests, individual training activities were delivered primarily on financial management, audit and control and procurement. Networking platforms were offered to discuss communication matters and issues related to Monitoring and Evaluation. Many activities aimed at promoting the ENPI CBC programmes. ENPI CBC programmes have been involved actively in the preparation of European Cooperation Day, which is a combined European event of ETC, IPA and ENPI CBC programmes initiated by INTERACT. The project has also participated at a number of conferences organised by the programmes.

Concerning the future reflections, the INTERACT ENPI project has provided extensive support both to EEAS and DG Devco. On the one hand, a situation analysis of the North-East-South cooperation areas, highlighting the changes since 2006, has been prepared as an input for the elaboration of future ENI CBC Programming Document. On the other, a number of documents explaining the implications deriving from the application of shared management in future ENI CBC programmes have been prepared. In this respect, special attention has been given to such implications as far as Partner Countries are concerned and technical briefings have been organised in different countries during the summer period. Likewise, contributions have been provided to the discussion on the future ENI Implementing Rules. Moreover, INTERACT ENPI has also contributed to the elaboration of information related to the launching of the programming exercise.

ENPI CBC programme data has been integrated into the interactive knowledge platform of cooperation

programmes "KEEP". Within the limits of the data provided by the programmes, project information, statistics and thematic searches are available online (www.territorialcooperation.eu). The work continues and a schedule has been agreed with the remaining programmes to provide their data as soon as possible.

Links and synergies with the INTERACT programme continue to be exploited by sharing common methods and tools as well as by exchanging expertise with special attention to the sustainability of project results. European Cooperation Day, the development of KEEP, the involvement of ENPI CBC programmes in thematic events as well as launching the reflection about capitalisation initiatives run by INTERACT show the commitment to creating synergies as much as possible.

The cooperation with ENPI CBC programmes brought an important result in the framework of KEEP. A parallel process of data collection successfully resulted in more than 90% coverage of all ENPI CBC programmes; some of them provided projects and partners data from all evaluation rounds. This parallel ENPI CBC database created during 2011 was ready to be integrated into one common system. The testing phase, conducted in January, besides internal resources, involved also programmes that provided data. Information from six programmes has been available online as of 1 February, with all standard functionalities. Further data collection has been implemented throughout 2012, being closely inter-linked with the contracting processes in the related programmes, based on the individual action plans agreed with the programmes.

The INTERACT ENPI II project services are delivered by a team of nine key experts consisting a part time project director and part time financial manager as well as full time project officer in INTERACT Point Turku/ENPI Point North, five full time key experts and one part time key expert delivering services from decentralised home office locations in different countries. Similarly to the INTERACT ETC community, the ENPI CBC programmes are also facing the new programming period and challenges related to this process. Therefore the INTERACT programme positively reacted to the request from some of the ENPI CBC programmes to visit INTERACT events focusing on programming in order to be able to choose relevant elements and to transfer them into their own practices.

2.6.2.4 Cooperation with IPA CBC Programmes

In general, the managers of IPA CBC programmes with Member States, especially those run in shared management like ERDF ETC, participated in the events organised by all INTERACT Points. Some few activities were specifically devoted to IPA CBC programmes:

1. Early 2012 INTERACT Point Vienna organised, together with DG Regio, a working meeting with representatives of IPA CBC programmes from MSs and non-MSs to discuss future implementing provisions for cross-border cooperation programmes co-financed by IPA. As a key outcome an input paper with key positions on the future was published.
2. A meeting specifically for IPA CBC first level controllers and auditors was organised in Sofia.
3. On a specific request, a half-day study visit for the IPA CBC programme between Croatia and Bosnia took place in Vienna, especially devoted to the new role of Croatian authorities upon accession.
4. A networking meeting of AAs and GoAs in IPA CBC programmes was organised in Brussels, to provide a platform to discuss specific IPA issues for MSs and Commission auditors.
5. In the framework of the Open Days, a workshop on IPA CBC success stories was organised together with DG Regio.

2.7 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

2.7.1 Reporting on Beneficiary level

The primary source of data for the MA for financial and activity monitoring of the INTERACT Points are

the regular reports foreseen in the subsidy contracts. Based on the subsidy contracts, INTERACT Points shall submit at least an annual mid-term and annual final report, by 15 October and 15 April, covering the first and the second half of the calendar year, respectively. (They may submit another two additional reports per year.) The reports comprise a narrative part (describing in detail the staff situation and the activities undertaken in the reporting period) and a financial part; the latter must be validated by the designated national controller. The MA verifies reports both financially and content-wise and may ask for clarifications and/or completion of documents or information. Reports need to be submitted in pre-defined format, by means of IMS. Furthermore, the IPs shall at any time provide further information as requested by the MA.

2.7.2 Reporting on programme level

There are several reporting obligations existing on programme level: besides the regular Annual Implementation Reports (Article 67 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006) and the AA's Annual Control Reports (Article 62.1.d of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006), the MA submits twice a year six-month reports to the Slovak government, focusing on activities undertaken in the reporting period (INTERACT services, support to external events, coordination activities and INTERACT publications).

2.8 National performance reserve

The national performance reserve is not applicable in case of INTERACT.

3 Implementation by priority

3.1 Organisational situation

According to the OP INTERACT just two Priorities are foreseen, one dealing with the provision of services and the other one with Technical Assistance.

The INTERACT Points and the INTERACT Secretariat are to be considered as the core implementing bodies of the programme, and therefore the organisational and staff situations are crucial for a successful performance.

The year 2012 was characterised by following developments:

- Increase of staff in every INTERACT Point and INTERACT Secretariat, based on approval of the 8th MC meeting (Budapest, November 2011)
- Turnover of staff in all IPs and the IS.

All the recruitment procedures were published on the INTERACT website (and other major international websites). The applications came from different countries of the European Union and on the basis of the published profile and selection panels composed of representatives of the Managing Authority, INTERACT Secretariat and INTERACT Points (as well as INTERACT Monitoring Committee members where relevant), candidates were separately pre-assessed, short listed and agreed on the basis of clear and transparent selection criteria.

3.1.1 INTERACT Point Turku

Over 2012 the staff situation in IP Turku has been stable. From early 2012 IP Turku has been operating with a staff of 5.82 FTE, composed of the Coordinator (82% FTE), four full time Project Managers and a full time Communication Officer. One of the Project Manager positions (the post of PM for Programme and Project management) became vacant in the end of 2011. Two new staff members were already selected in 2011. A Communication Officer, the latter of the two, is a new staff position (IP Turku was the only IP without such an expert), complementing the existing position of Communication and Capitalisation Manager.

The Project Manager post was occupied again from 1 March 2012. Similarly the new post of Communica-

tion Officer has been filled from 16 January 2012. The new position holders for these vacancies are Konrad Danieluk as Project Manager and Gabriel Alvarez as the Communication Officer. With the two new members, the IP Turku team reaches full gender equality, as the team consists of three women and three men.

3.1.2 INTERACT Point Valencia

IP Valencia started the recruitment process of the 8th officer in the team (to be finalised in early 2013), approved at the 8th MC meeting in November 2011. As approved during that MC, the tasks to be fulfilled by the new officer will be specifically focused on the follow-up on the new strategies being launched: the Atlantic sea-basin strategy and the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategy. The activities will be designed to support the ETC programmes in their connections with the strategies, also in view of the preparation for the new programming period.

Besides, Chiara Valdesolo, project development and knowledge management officer left the programme in December 2012. Her position will be subject to a new vacancy announcement and recruitment, to be started in 2013.

3.1.3 INTERACT Point Viborg

Following a recruitment process, in order to fill the position of Developer and Trainer in finance after the resignation of Sven Svane, Karolina Bachman was contracted. She started working from March 2012. Due to her previous work experience, she was able to immediately take on the necessary tasks.

A new position of Administration Officer (approved at the 8th MC), in charge of administrative and event management tasks as well as with liaison with the hosting institution, was filled from March 2012 by Linda Jane Ring. Linda's enthusiasm and previous work experience in administration has certainly helped her with smooth take over of the tasks. The whole team has seen a major improvement in the event planning process and is extremely grateful for this addition to the team.

In June, Polona Frumen announced that she would take a maternity leave from the end of August 2012,

which will last until August 2013. Bearing in mind Nathalie Wergles' (energy capitalisation intern) background and her performance, she was offered to change the position to maternity cover. She took over Polona's projects (Harmonised Implementation Tools and Typology). This implied that some attention was partially moved away from the energy capitalisation project, which will need to be completed in 2013.

3.1.4 INTERACT Point Vienna

Based on the additional position decided at the 8th MC meeting, Maria Alejandra Baetti started to work as part-time "Communication Assistant" in February 2012. Her tasks are mainly focused on the support to the Danube Strategy and Communication activities.

Following up on the notice given in December 2012 by Elise Lindner, communication manager, leaving her position on 31 January 2013, INTERACT Point Vienna started the recruitment procedure for the position of a Project Manager (ETC and IPA CBC) at the end of December 2012. Based on a joint assessment of qualification, current focus and development needs, it was decided that Ivana Lazic, IPA project manager, will assume the communication tasks from 01 February 2013, supported by the communication assistant, and at the same time still supporting the new colleague with IPA CBC issues.

Training opportunities have been provided to staff members, according to the assessment carried out in December 2011 (such as e.g. Photoshop course, English effective communication course, German course, Lobbying workshop).

3.1.5 INTERACT Secretariat

Several IS staff positions were affected by changes in 2012. Based on 8th MC decision on approval of the new position of Capitalisation Manager and the resigning of Brigitte Obiltschnig, Programme and Financial Manager, recruitment procedures were launched for both positions. As result of these procedures, Ariane de Vriendt and Szabolcs Csahók were hired from the end of May as Capitalisation Manager and Programme and Financial Manager, respectively.

However, Ariane de Vriendt was forced to leave due to personal reasons as of mid August 2012. Following internal recruitment, Rafael Agostinho, former IS

Communication Manager took over her position from 15 November. This implied recruiting a new Communications Manager, and Aiga Nebare eventually started working from 15 November. Viera Gazikova was hired as temporary replacement for Carla-Albrecht-Hengerer (Quality Assurance and Knowledge Manager), on maternity leave from 01 May. Furthermore, following the resigning of the previous Team Assistant at the end of December 2011, Karina Kubinakova started working from 01 March, based on the outcome of a successful recruitment process.

Several part-time external staff members were contracted to assist the Programme, mainly by providing expertise and services for KEEP (technical/IT and content support, web design, database management, data format and quality check, theme- and keyword-assignment) and communication (graphic design and proof-reading). Another expert provided assistance in public procurement (mainly with the application of Slovak national legislation) and a part-time (25%) back-office assistant was also hired to provide some urgently needed support in administrative issues.

3.1.6 Coordination

The usual coordination activities were carried out also in 2012. They include development of the Joint Annual Work Plan for 2013 as well as internal coordination of the implementation of the plan for 2012. The internal working groups of INTERACT were instrumental for both tasks.

Preparation of the 2013 Joint Annual Work Plan of the INTERACT Points and the INTERACT Secretariat was preceded by a comprehensive stakeholder needs assessment conducted primarily during the summer of 2012. This needs assessment exercise, besides the main online survey, utilised multiple sources of information (ongoing needs assessment) such as direct requests from programmes and the Commission, input collected at network events, anticipated needs and follow-up activities from the previous year.

In 2012 one team meeting was held in Haarlem, The Netherlands. As the primary focus of the team meeting was the development of the 2013 JAWP, it was decided to organise it in September, when results of the needs assessment were available and before the November MC meeting. It was the first year when the whole INTERACT team was involved in preparing the JAWP for the following year. In the previous

years, this exercise was conducted mainly at the level of the Coordinators Group.

The primary objective was to agree on the 2013 joint activities. For this purpose, activities suggested by IPs and IS on the basis of the needs assessment results were discussed in detail, similar activities were clustered or joined and main joint activities (ie activities carries out by cooperation of at least two IPs) were identified during meetings of the relevant working groups including the Finance Management Group, Programme Management Group and Communication Group (activities related to the KEEP and capitalisation Group were partly addressed in the Programme Management Group). The second day of the meeting comprised of a plenary session when the key activities were introduced to the whole team. A social event fostering team cohesion was also part of the meeting (as this year no separate teambuilding was carried out). The team meeting itself was organised by the INTERACT Secretariat but INTERACT Point Coordinators took a major role in defining the methodology for JAWP development and facilitation of the meetings of Working Groups.

The 2013 draft JAWP, as compiled by the IS based on the results of the team meeting, was further fine-tuned by members of the Coordinators Group and eventually approved by the MC at its 10th meeting (Copenhagen, November 2012). An internal assessment of the team meeting also took place in September, which showed that the meeting exceeded the participant's expectations and that such meeting would be welcome in 2013 as well.

The Programme has multiple working groups as mentioned before, which met regularly during 2012:

- Communications Group (met four times);
- Coordinators Group (met four times);
- Quality Group (met twice, of which once within the framework of the team meeting);
- Finance Management Group (met twice, of which once within the framework of the team meeting);
- Programme Management Group (met twice, of which once within the framework of the team meeting);
- KEEP and Capitalisation Group: (met twice).

For a detailed list of INTERACT coordination activities, please consult Annex 3.

3.2 Priority 1: Service Development and Delivery

3.2.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

3.2.1.1 Financial Management

General Financial management (Programme and Projects) - 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 periods

A general training on Financial Management of ETC CBC was organised on 21-22 November for staff in need of basic knowledge. The content repeated same information as earlier seminars on Financial Management: cases for analysing project budgets, verification of cost eligibility and irregularity proceedings. Despite of the elementary nature of the content, the seminar was highly appreciated by the participants.

An advanced seminar was organised on 04-05 December 2012 in London. This finance network meeting was mainly focused on advanced issues for ETC programmes, of both periods.

Programme closure was planned as one of the topics for seminars in 2012. Due to delayed publication of the Commission Closure Guidelines the seminars could not yet take place. Some individual advisory on initiation of the closure process have been provided, and the content concentrated in coordination between programme management bodies.

Regarding the involvement of SMEs in ETC programmes, screening of information on the involvement of SMEs in different EU initiatives has been done. Contacts have also been established with European Commission representatives managing programmes that provide support to SMEs at the EU level (e.g. DG Enterprise, DG Research, European Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation). Classification of beneficiaries in different programmes was analysed. Extra knowledge has been gained from participating in events focusing on innovation and SME support. First guidance on all the elements was given to programmes during the Finance network meeting for transnational, interregional, network and cross-border cooperation programmes in North West Europe held in London on 04-05 December 2012. Input for further work on the study by INTERACT was also collected during group discussions. A questionnaire was prepared to collect more input (including statistical data) from programmes across Europe in the

beginning of 2013. A practical paper: "Involvement of SMEs in ETC programmes 2014-2020" will be published in the first part of 2013. Apart from a general picture of the situation in the current period (statistical data, role of SMEs in projects, etc.) it will present main barriers for involvement of SMEs in ETC programmes and ways to address them in the next period. This will be benchmarked against practices of other EU funding programmes.

Audit and Control (including "Harmonization efforts") - 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 periods

a. Eligibility, budget lines and simplification - 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 periods

Following activities carried out in 2011, further work on the harmonisation of approaches to eligibility of costs and budget lines has been done in 2012. Fact sheets for five budget lines (Staff costs, Office and administration, Travel and accommodation, External services and experts, Equipment and investments) have been drafted and consulted with stakeholders of 40 ETC programmes. Presentation of the budget line fact sheets and consultation with programme representatives (JTS, Managing Authorities, Audit Authorities, First Level Controllers) took place during dedicated sessions at a number of seminars.

As part of the work on the simplified options, meetings were organised with experts from DG Regio and DG EMPL to discuss the possibility of applying standard scales of unit costs in ETC programmes. The meeting resulted in a proposal that INTERACT would elaborate a methodology for the application of a standard scale of unit costs, which could be used by ETC programmes in order to establish the eligible rates in their respective zones. To support ETC programmes in the understanding of different simplified cost options and rationale for applying the simplified systems, "Guidance on simplified cost options in ETC programmes" was drafted. Information received during meetings with different EU programmes managed centrally by the European Commission (Lifelong Learning Programme, Europe for Citizens) served as a basis and source of inspiration for the document. It seems that the current draft legal package requires a very sound methodology behind all options, which virtually can make it impossible to implement these options. It is hard to believe that this was the intention behind the proposal. INTERACT has raised the issue with the European Commission and the Member States but it seems that the requirements of the new Regulation will not change. Still, a good relation was

established with the Commission colleagues, who support INTERACT's efforts within the set framework. The options with ETC programmes are being explored as well.

At the beginning of October, the first final draft of the fact sheets for all five budget lines (as mentioned above) and the "Guidance on simplified cost options in ETC programmes" were published on the INTERACT website. Representatives of the European Commission expressed their positive opinion on the work done by INTERACT in this field. Closer collaboration on simplified cost options between INTERACT and Commission was established. The Commission indicated informally that it would use the work by INTERACT as input for Delegated Acts on the eligibility of expenditure in ETC programmes 2014-2020.

Following the publication, the documents were discussed at a number of events, where feedback was gathered again. The promotional work will accelerate in 2013.

b. First Level Control harmonisation of approaches

INTERACT kept on providing support to first level controllers. A First Level Control and Eligibility Seminar was delivered in the beginning of the year in close cooperation with the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxväcket), where a number of controllers, Managing Authorities and Secretariats participated. The idea of the event arose from another event in 2011, which one of the Swedish controllers called: *the best FLC seminar, he attended*. It is important to recognise the importance of such relationships as they build trust to INTERACT services and allow the programme to better address the needs of its core customers.

In the framework of the harmonised implementation tools (see below) and general simplification effort, INTERACT continued its work on the templates for FLC: FLC report and checklist, FLC sampling methodology, FLC certificate. An analysis of the FLC systems has been also carried out (to be finalised in 2013). In particular, FLC-Network meetings, such as in May 2012 in Krakow, were used to collect first level controllers views and practices and integrate them in the templates.

c. Irregularities and Recoveries and de-commitment

In 2012 almost 20 ETC programmes faced an interruption or suspension of payment. This is due to the

error rate (theirs or one of the countries' participating in the programme) being over 2%. In principle, Commission's reaction is a normal management practice, which calls for remedy in areas of weakness in the management and control system. However, it seems that the process is far from transparent, the change of approach happened suddenly and without communication with the programmes. At the same time it had major cash flow implication for the programmes and projects, which do not seem commensurate to the problems at hand. To address this issue a meeting with affected programmes was organised and a document gathering the experiences was developed. At the same time, it seemed that this strict approach was applied to the closure of INTERREG III. Again a quick analysis across programmes was done and results distributed to the programmes.

Besides a specific meeting with a number of programmes, INTERACT organised a seminar on irregularities in February 2012. More than 90 participants from the majority of ETC programmes attended the event, which counted on the expertise from a number of programmes and practitioners, but also DG Regio (several units, including Audit) and OLAF. As a consequence of this event, a factsheet was elaborated and distributed. In addition, INTERACT has been following up on several open questions that were left open at the event, and kept contact with DG Regio in order to provide a common understanding on certain issues, like the application of corrections.

In addition to the joint meeting, irregularities have been addressed in various training events and direct programme advisories. The agendas have included the topics: definition of irregularities, administration and prevention of irregularities, suspected fraud and fraud awareness together with monitoring and recovery of irregularities.



Seminar on irregularities and fraud, Brussels, Belgium, February 2012

d. State-Aid and Public Procurement

A Europe wide public procurement seminar was run (04-05 October, Dublin, Ireland). This is still one of the major areas of programme errors and it is hoped that INTERACT has provided the participants with the understanding of the subject and its myriads. An expert was invited, who not only knows the legal background but deals with public procurement process with ETC programme on a daily basis. Based on the previous good experience, the seminar was run with not only case studies but also case law. The knowledge of the latter is paramount in understanding the principles, which govern the procurement area.

e. Development of new financial management tools

Already during 2011, INTERACT started developing additional new approaches to project financing. The discussions in the macro-regional laboratory groups brought into daylight the need of joining funding sources and developing methods for doing so. On the other hand it was also recognised that existing tools used by other funding instruments may serve as examples for further elaboration, also in view of implementing new mechanisms proposed in the 2014-2020 draft general regulation, such as the Community-Led Local Development, the Joint Action Plans and the Integrated Territorial Development. In 2012 the work continued. Please see sections Alignment of funding and Financial Engineering Instruments below.

f. Audit authorities network and support

A meeting of the network of Audit Authorities and Groups of Auditors in ETC programmes took place in Vienna on 28-29 June 2012. The main thematic focus was on irregularities, audits by the European Commission and their consequences (eg payment stops), audits on operations and role of AAs in draft regulatory framework for the 2014-2020 period.

INTERACT has been working on the harmonisation of documents used for audit purposes:

1. Checklist, report and opinion on compliance assessment of the management and control systems;
2. Template for Audit Strategy;
3. Checklist for Second Level audit of operation and template for audit report of operation;
4. Templates for Annual Control Report and Annual Opinion.

As requested by the Audit Authorities and members of the Groups of Auditors, these templates will be updated in accordance with the rules for the 2014-2020 period only when the legislative package will be approved.

Besides, INTERACT organised a seminar for the Audit Authorities and Groups of Auditors in IPA CBC programmes in February 2012.

New territorial development tools

The draft legislative package 2014-2020 includes a series of innovative tools for territorial development. Some of them already existed in previous periods and have now been modified; some others are new. The common feature of them all is the innovative element and the possibilities for territories to use different tools than the pure operational programme, be it ETC or Investment for Growth and Jobs. INTERACT considers that these tools are the EGTC, cooperation in Investment for Growth and Jobs, Integrated Territorial Investment, Joint Action Plan and Community-Led Local Development. In all of them, ETC may be involved, with possibilities to be combined with other programmes or even funds.

In 2012, research work on these aspects has been continued. Two meetings with the European Commission (various Units at DG Regio) were organised in January and March 2012, and very good contacts were established to continue the research work.

One of the milestones of the year was the organisation of a workshop at Open Days 2012, where almost 300 participants attended. In this workshop, past experiences of the use of these tools (Article 37.6.b), were combined with plans to use a JAP in the future and the theory behind the Integrated Territorial Investment. In addition, the possibilities of the financial engineering instruments were also portrayed in order to give a full picture of all possibilities for regions to meet their development goals.

As a complement to the guidance being issued by the European Commission, INTERACT is drafting a document containing practical scenarios. This document will be finalised when the legislative package will be approved, as some elements of the various tools are subject to modifications during the negotiations among the various institutions in the legislative process. One issue of the INTERACT newsletter was dedicated to these tools (issued in January 2013).

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

In 2012 INTERACT followed up on the debate for an updated EGTC regulation, as well as on the creation of new EGTCs. The EGTC-handbook and website section were updated with completion of the roadmap, with new examples and the list of national notification authorities. An EGTC Seminar took place in Nova Gorica, Slovenia, focused on basic knowledge on creating, running and closing an EGTC. INTERACT also cooperated with the Committee of the Regions for EGTC support (eg during the Annual meeting of EGTC stakeholders).



EGTC seminar, Nova Gorica, Slovenia, July 2012 February 2012

Alignment of funding

INTERACT has been invited to take part and to contribute in several types of external events that have been discussing the need of cooperating across programmes and across funding sources. Very often these events have been linked to the developments in the EU macro-regional strategies and the opportunities for the next financial perspective. For example the ESF Baltic Sea Network meetings in March and May 2012 have discussed these issues and further contributed in elaboration of the operational aspects of the alignment. Similarly, in the context of Smart Specialisation the Atlantic Arc Regions constituted on 21-22 November that embedding the strategic approach and alignment of funding into their national and regional strategies they could serve the existing needs in cooperation.

The knowledge needs of alignment of funding were addressed in a meeting with the DG Regio Geographic units in March 2012, in order to enhance cooperation across programmes and between different strategy initiatives. The Annual conference of Baltic Sea Region Programme on 19-20 September concluded that by aligning funding the achievements of the ETC programmes could be strengthened.

The knowledge needs of national authorities have also been served by providing them with inputs to their meetings in the context of national coordination of different programmes. The potentials of aligning CSF funds are recognised but so far the operational solution on the management of the process has not been identified. INTERACT is expected to provide models for testing, and continuous work is being done in order to reach an applicable proposal for the model. The work is done in cooperation with DG Regio experts and national authorities involved in the implementation of EU strategies and with the representatives of European Financing Institutions with the aim that a model would be available for the next programming period 2014-2020.

Financial Engineering Instruments

INTERACT has continued the capacity building exercise in the area of Financial Engineering Instruments. This is quite a challenging task as there is no actual experience with these tools in ETC and there is some resistance to enter totally new area with complex financial tools, which additionally have a State Aid risk. Clearly, the ETC community does not feel equipped with capacity/competences to handle this task. On the other hand, organisations with FEI expertise are lacking understanding of ETC context and may have unrealistic expectations regarding financial engagement. Still, they seem to have a natural attraction to the ETC concept, where borders are 'to be dismantled' for the benefit of the region. A tune, which can certainly be listened to by nowadays capital, which moves freely around the world. INTERACT has established good contacts with the European Investment Fund, which was interested in supporting this capacity building process at least in 2012 and a meeting between EIF and selected ETC programmes was facilitated. Based on this cooperation and the experience gained, workshops on FEI were run during the year. So far INTERACT has managed to convince the NWE programme to consider the issue again for their next programming period. In itself, it may be considered a success but it is another EU subject, which experiences a disconnection between its high-level strategic anchor and implementation on the ground. Even though these instruments are mentioned in many EU strategic documents, INTERACT work is very much bottom-up and this creates a lot of frustration among the experts the programme cooperates with, with a high risk of their demotivation. They call for a more proactive approach

from the Commission, if these strategic messages are to have any credibility.

Programming support on financial management aspects

As a follow-up of all the work done on preparing the future programming period and its challenges in financial management and control, one meeting was organised in March 2012 in Madrid. Open discussions were held and INTERACT worked on the outputs of this meeting to feed the research work done so far.

On 14-15 November 2012 a workshop on operational aspects of programming 2014-2020 took place: it covered main operational aspects of programming ETC programmes with a special focus on legal and financial issues, such as: Programming process and start-up; Content of an ETC Operational Programme; Designation of programme authorities and accreditation; Monitoring Committee setup; First Level Control Systems setup; New cooperation options (eg Integrated Territorial Investment, Joint Action Plan, Financial Engineering Instruments) and EGTCs. Follow-up on all those issues are planned for 2013.

3.2.1.2 Programme Management

Harmonisation of programmes tools and templates

For almost two years, INTERACT has worked closely with the ETC community on simplification (through harmonisation) of the future period. The interest in INTERACT's work has grown gradually and over 40 programmes have contributed so far to the process. The first half of 2012 gave at last concrete results, where concrete documents as a proposal for standardised forms for the future were developed. The list is long and together with guidance documents it contains almost 40 products: MC Rules of Procedures, Assessment criteria, Application Forms, First Level Control, etc. It is important to see all these products as one 'future related project', with many interrelated products. Harmonisation of core procedures and the forms used across Europe could lead to a major reduction of administrative burden for not only programme bodies but most of all beneficiaries, which should, by the way, be addressed by all OPs in the new period. The idea is not to harmonise all but harmonise the core aspects, which seem similar across Europe, leaving space for programme specificities. This has been a major analysis and consultation exercise. In the second part of the year these tools were further refined, in accordance with the feedback received.

At the same time the programme started putting together an integrated communication strategy covering the future related tools developed by INTERACT. A specific website area was launched and a special newsletter presenting the whole package was published. Presentations were made in various events. Still, the work cannot stop here and a major promotional work needs to continue. This work is fully voluntary for the programmes and there is no concrete commitment that they will actually use any of these tools. As in any change management project, it is necessary to continue to build ownership and overcome resistance, be it as a result of lack of information or just resistance to change. Commitment and full support from the Member States cannot be overstated here. After all, the biggest source of diversity of rules and requirements comes from the Member States and the programmes and not the European Commission. If we are to achieve simplification, it is necessary to see the proposals for the future period as a glass half full, where it is up to the programmes and Member States to limit the natural attraction of tailoring all rules to their own requirements. In other words, the strategic commitment to simplification and moving resources from control to actual activities needs to be translated into practice. INTERACT will continue reminding the stakeholders about this strategic goal, not least because of the resources invested in this work so far.

In April 2012, a meeting of the working group on programme management was organised in Barcelona. A variety of ETC programmes had the chance to discuss openly about all issues concerning programme management in the future period. INTERACT collected the feedback and integrated it in the research work being carried out and the preparation for the Harmonisation of programme management tools.

As part of promotion of INTERACT's future related products and services, a meeting was organised at the European Commission premises in the beginning of the year. Some 14 Commission colleagues from 4 different units participated in the meeting and expressed a great interest in and support for INTERACT's work. As result, their participation was secured in number of INTERACT events. In particular, commitment was secured to:

- organising a promotional event for all ETC desk officers at the Commission
- INTERACT major contribution (with the future related products) to the European Commission

Annual Meeting with Managing Authorities with ETC programmes (April 2013).

INTERACT's desk officer personal commitment and drive must be acknowledged here. The leave of Virve Vimpari is a great loss for the INTERACT programme. The good news is that the new desk officer (Vicente Rodriguez-Saez - Deputy Head of Unit) has really seen the potential of INTERACT and has been actively supporting the programme's links within the Commission and INTERACT can always count on their presence during programme events. This supports greatly the core role of INTERACT of bringing professional people working on a common subject together and fosters better cooperation. The past years have clearly shown that working in isolation does not bring about change that is so needed today. By the end of 2012, another meeting for presenting INTERACT work was prepared for the beginning of 2013, where all desk officers were invited.

Programmes geography

On 5 June 2012 in Brussels, INTERACT, in close cooperation with DG Regio organised an EU-wide consultation meeting, where Member States were involved in the discussion of future programme areas and macro-regional approaches. INTERACT facilitated an open dialogue between Member States and the European Commission, in view of a more joint understanding and approach on the programmes areas. European Commission proposal issued in December 2012 took the outcomes of this discussion into account. Follow-up meetings are planned for 2013.

Project management

On 29-30 May 2012 in Thessaloniki, INTERACT organised a seminar with a specific focus on risk assessment and management of risky projects. Different examples and approaches in project management and monitoring of such projects across Europe were presented and methodologies were discussed.

Thematic capitalisation

INTERACT has been addressing thematic capitalisation for years, but it is in 2012 that some outputs have become more evident. The overall objective is to gather project outcomes and results from the various ETC programmes with a focus on identified topics. This work may also imply the connection to other non-ETC programmes and to the rest of the policies of the EU. As a result, analysis and conclu-

sions may serve a variety of objectives on quality programme and project management and to ensure that ETC is properly connected to the strategies and the rest of the policies and programmes of the EU. The INTERACT Points have implemented several activities on various strategic topics and have been invited to a series of external events to give their input.

INTERACT organised a consultation event on the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) working document that was issued in March 2012. Its objective was to collect additional input by ETC practitioners and especially Member States representatives to feed into the final version of the Common Strategic Framework. Several working groups discussed on the various thematic objectives set out by the draft Regulations, and the potentials for ETC were highlighted.

In June 2012, a seminar on “Sustainable growth through ETC and its links with other European funds” was organised in Florence. This event followed-up on the one on Smart Growth organised the previous year in Budapest. It was an opportunity to have an overview on the contributions of ETC to this priority, portray good examples, and also check the complementarities with other instruments.



Seminar on Sustainable Growth, Florence, Italy, June 2012

Besides the events, research work has been implemented on several topics in 2012: energy, transport, maritime issues and climate change.

Regarding the capitalisation project in the area of energy, great progress was made during the year with identifying and analysing energy projects in ETC. A structured methodology was developed as well. It must be noticed that this analysis takes a broad view of the subject, in a sense that not only projects, which have energy as their main focus, but also projects having energy as ‘sub-theme(s)’, are analysed. In concrete numbers, it means that 386

projects were identified. The target was to analyse in depth a representative number of around 100 projects with a more general analysis of the rest. However, a maternity leave at IP Viborg has delayed the project. By the end of 2012, 84 projects were analysed in depth and 39 in general. They are addressing a wide variety of energy-related issues from energy efficient mobility to energy production from agricultural waste and targeting at ‘hard measures’ such as financial investments into energy production from renewable sources as well as ‘soft interventions’ such as awareness raising and the transfer of knowledge and know-how. Altogether, the analysis showed that about 880 million EUR of national and ERDF-funding could be linked to ETC-energy projects. It is hoped that the analysis will show a comprehensive view of how energy is tackled by ETC programmes across Europe and their link to EU policy objectives. Intelligent Energy Europe already indicated interest in the project and concrete plans were set in motion for a joint event and publication in 2013. The analysis will be completed in 2013 and a publication is scheduled for the first part of the year.

Besides this work being done at EU level, a specific focus on Mediterranean programmes and projects was initiated in the very specific sub-topic of energy efficiency in buildings. This sub-topic is identified as the first one in the Common Strategic Framework (working document) section on thematic objective 4. This work started in 2012 and will obtain some specific outputs in 2013. INTERACT has participated at several meetings on the topic, like the group meeting of URBACT on building energy efficiency in European cities (November 2012 in Milan) or the MEDBEE (Mediterranean Building Rethinking for Energy efficiency) Forum in November in Brussels.

As for the work on transport, INTERACT completed its research on capitalisation possibilities in the Mediterranean. A workshop was organised in April in Marseille, where examples from the various programmes were analysed and some general trends were concluded. In addition, a specific publication was issued in 2012 (Mediterranean Newsflash).

During the course of the year, INTERACT has noticed that maritime ETC programmes are ‘struggling’ with their maritime identity. This has been partially confirmed by representatives of the CBC Unit of the European Commission, who were expressing concerns about the maritime dimension and results of these programmes. INTERACT has gathered most of

the maritime programmes for a workshop, where, based on the current experience, the meaning of the maritime aspect was explored. Links to the future were made as well. Representatives from DG Regio and DG Mare and from the Baltic Sea Macro-Regional Strategy were present. The workshop has shown that the group needs to work further. For 2013 a workshop and a potential analysis of the maritime subject were planned.

As regards climate change, research work has been started on how the ETC programmes should tackle this topic in the future programming period in order to be in line with the Common Strategic Framework. Research has been done on current ETC programmes and projects EU-wide and the staff working document of the CSF has been used as guidance. The outputs of this work will be issued in 2013.

Monitoring systems, programme evaluation and typology

Evaluation

In order to streamline approaches, as well as to support the new result-orientation required by the 2014-2020 regulations, a template for terms of reference for ex-ante evaluations was produced together with ETC programme managers and DG Regio. In particular, this document was elaborated during a laboratory group meeting in September 2012. This template has been widely distributed and used by programme managers as a basis for their own tenders.

INTERACT contributed to a substantial part of a DATAR meeting on ex-ante evaluation held in November 2012 in Paris. The event targeted French ETC practitioners and INTERACT gave a detailed presentation on the new trends in evaluation, particularly ex-ante.

Monitoring systems and e-cohesion

INTERACT support on monitoring systems for the year 2012 built on the network created in the previous years. The third meeting of the monitoring systems network was organised in early 2012 to continue the beneficial exchange of experiences in different monitoring systems. At the meeting the concept of e-cohesion, new requirement of the draft regulatory framework, was introduced. On this basis, in May 2012 INTERACT met DG Digit, in order to discuss the ETC challenges and opportunities for e-cohesion. As a concrete outcome, a Q&A document

on e-cohesion for ETC was produced, in cooperation with the European Commission, in order to explain in an easy way the concept of e-cohesion for ETC programmes.

The European Commission also invited INTERACT to participate in a seminar on IT systems for the 2014-2020 programming period, held in November in Madrid. The target audience was not only ETC, but all Cohesion Policy stakeholders.

Moreover, at the end of 2012, a feasibility study was launched on the creation of an ETC joint approach and online-tool, fulfilling e-cohesion requirements, for which the outcomes are expected in the 2nd quarter of 2013.

Typology

The 'typology approach' developed by INTERACT was successfully piloted during 2010 as a system that attempts to measure the achievements of not only individual projects or even programmes, but of the whole European Territorial Cooperation objective. The pilot phase was closed in 2011 and 2012 focused on gathering data, promotional activities and the communication with programmes interested in using the online tool. Regarding promotional activities, the Typology system was presented at a number of events and has sparked interest among the programmes. Regular articles on Typology are published in INTERACT's newflash to maintain the interest and update programmes on the preliminary results from Typology. The webpage underwent a complete makeover. Programmes were contacted to provide a short testimonial on how the Typology system was used in their Programmes and the testimonials were published on the new webpage. All these efforts resulted in an increase in the number of project achievement report from 174 in August 2012 to a 258 reports in December 2012. Furthermore, data from the pilot phase were evaluated and statistics updated.

INTERACT will continue promoting the use of the system as the messages about the lack of evidence of ETC results are not diminishing and as we approach the end of the programming period they will certainly be echoed even stronger at the national and European levels. As an example, the Strategic National Reports were supposed to contain a section on ETC for the first time for 2012. Apparently, the European Commission struggled not only with accumulating, but also with identifying meaningful re-

sults. With over 90 ETC programmes and no common structured approach this is not surprising. If the same criticism of ETC as of INTERREG III in the ex-post evaluation should be avoided, there is a need to change this. Typology, while not a perfect system, could provide a good platform for such a structured data gathering and analysis.

Capturing exercise and programming

One of the major successes in INTERACT's future related work is the project on Strategic Programming, which incorporated the three projects of Programming Process, Capture Exercise and Typology. As a result, INTERACT has developed a framework for the programming of the future ETC programmes as described in the Practical paper on programming. The methodology has been very well received by stakeholders involved in programming and it translated in a number of programming workshops all over Europe and requests for INTERACT to be a facilitator during the programming process in individual programmes (NWE, IVC, CE). This required quite a lot of attention and resources in terms of following the programme developments and attendance during the programming meetings. Still, it is another expression of great trust in INTERACT services by ETC programmes. It must be noted as well that the Capture Exercise is recognised by the European Commission as a follow up action of the critical points in the ex-post evaluation of INTERREG III. What could be better recognition of quality of this work?

Building on the above-mentioned work and the results focus of the future Cohesion Policy, a seminar was run on evidence-based approach to programme implementation. This was a first seminar delivered jointly with ESPON, which mainly provided input on data availability. Commission colleagues were present as well and their input was very valuable regarding the new intervention logic, which will be one of the major challenges, when constructing the new programmes. It seems that the logic of the new performance framework of the Cohesion Policy, with a rather top-down strategic steering, will require major capacity building within the programmes. Co-operation with ESPON on the programming workshops continued during the year. Several workshops on strategic programming were organised around Europe.

Besides that, in other occasions INTERACT supported ETC programmes in the starting phase of their programming exercises:

- At the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Regional Network of Central and South-Eastern European programmes, taking place in October in Venice, one of the main focuses was the programming process and tools provided by INTERACT;
- At national networks, such as the Austrian ETC network, INTERACT provided its inputs and tools;
- On request, INTERACT facilitated programming meetings of transnational programmes, such as Central Europe.



Fifth meeting of the Regional Network, Venice, Italy, October 2012

Programming support

INTERACT provided support to initial needs in starting the programming activities and responded to needs of individual Member States and programmes by providing direct support on request. One of such direct advisories took place in Latvia on 2 November.

Linked to an event on CSF consultation in May 2012 INTERACT organised a workshop for National Authorities in order for them to discuss the upcoming needs of the programming process and related requirements set by the regulations. The exchange proved useful as many participants realised the fact that ETC programmes have been mostly invisible in the national meetings preparing for the strategic priorities and negotiations concerning the expected Partnership Agreements.

3.2.1.3 Strategy and Development

Macro-Regional Strategies

In 2012 INTERACT continued supporting macro-regional strategies, in the view of sharing:

- Key lessons, that can be learnt from ETC programme management by macro-regional stake-

holders, as well as by ETC programmes on macro-regional thematic approaches;

- The requirements for 2014-2020 programming to enhance territorial cooperation in all policies, funds and programmes, as well as to support macro-regional strategies by all structural funds programmes.

In December 2012, the European Council agreed to ask the Commission to put forward a new macro-regional strategy: the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategy. As part of this strategy, the European Commission adopted the Adriatic-Ionian sea-basin strategy in December 2012. INTERACT has been following the possible developments of this new strategy, even though they will take place mostly in 2013.

As for the Atlantic Sea-Basin strategy, the European Commission Communication to develop a Maritime Strategy was launched in November 2011. In 2012, a series of meetings (Atlantic Forum) have taken place in order to collect information for the drafting of the Action Plan. INTERACT was invited to participate in the meeting in Bilbao (November 2012) and has been following the developments of this strategy.

a. European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

INTERACT is actively supporting implementation of the EUSBSR coordinating its activities with the European Commission and actors of the Strategy including ETC programmes, in particular the Baltic Sea Region Programme. Embedding of the EUSBSR into programmes and alignment of funding are becoming key tasks. There have been several meetings organised in cooperation with DG Regio representatives in order to respond to ad hoc needs of the EUSBSR implementation. In addition to those activities INTERACT organised meetings with National Contact Points, Priority Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Leaders (including Task Force groups) and representatives of the ETC programmes in order to provide a forum for discussion and operational management coordination within the Strategy.

Significant progress has been reached in tackling one of the biggest challenges of the previous year: the complex implementation mechanism and multi level governance of the EUSBSR. A Task Force set up and led by INTERACT developed fiches on roles and responsibilities of the key actors and discussed the concept of the Flagship Project of the EUSBSR. The

agreement on roles and responsibilities of the key actors should result in more effective implementation of the Strategy. Based on the work of the Task Force INTERACT prepared a publication "Roles and responsibilities of the implementing stakeholders of the EUSBSR and a flagship project concept".

INTERACT also addressed another major challenge, which emerged already in 2011, that was the need of a comprehensive communication strategy for the EUSBSR. The visual identity for the EUSBSR was developed in order to increase the perceptibility of the Strategy. A network of Communication Managers of EUSBSR stakeholders was established and it is led by INTERACT. One of the results of this cooperation has been the production of the document "Expertise on information and communication issues of the EUSBSR" presenting the state of play and elaborating on the tasks necessary for successful communication on EUSBSR. The EUSBSR website was launched and the role of INTERACT is to guide stakeholders in the website updates as well as to manage the content in the site that is a joint effort of all EUSBSR implementing bodies.



EUSBSR annual forum, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2012

Four issues of EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region newsletter were produced in 2012. The newsletter delivers latest news and information regarding the Strategy. The EUSBSR newsletter is coordinated by INTERACT with the support of the European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy.

b. European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

INTERACT continued its facilitation of networks of strategy implementers of the EUSDR. In particular a main EUSDR NCPs/PACs meeting was organised together with the European Commission in Romania in January 2012 and followed up on during 2012. The

key support by INTERACT aimed at providing key EUSDR stakeholders a platform to discuss common approaches, challenges and successes in the strategy implementation, as well as to promote ETC programme approaches.

Key facilitation support to EUSDR stakeholders and European Commission was provided at the Regensburg EUSDR Annual Forum, in which the Commissioner and German chancellor participated, raising a great interest in this new form of territorial cooperation.



EUSDR annual forum, Regensburg, Germany, November 2012

One of the main outcomes of the EUSDR work is a wide online contact database (about 420 entries) developed and constantly updated. This unique database was also shared with the European Commission and used for dissemination purposes. Within the EUSDR activities, communication played an important role too:

- Update of communication tools (flyers, map, visual identity, roll-ups);
- The newsletters of the EUSDR were issued twice, together with DG Regional Policy;
- Communication activities at Commissioner's Danube trip;
- Further development and updates of www.danube-region.eu, including promotion of the website;
- On demand facilitation of EUSDR meetings was provided, such as at PA 10, 8, 9 and 11 meetings.

ETC beyond 2013

Consultation on the legal package and inputs papers

INTERACT has actively followed and contributed to the developments in the policy and legal fields relevant for the next programming period since 2010.

In 2012, the following strategic inputs were delivered:

- 3 input papers in strategic, administrative, and monitoring and evaluation (indicators) areas. There is high interest and support for the latter both in Member States and the European Commission itself.
- Summary of key 15 points to be changed as requested by ETC community. This included key recommendations on the legislative package.
- Within this framework, INTERACT was invited also to an EU Parliament hearing on the EGTC and future ETC, together with other ETC programme managers, in order to present opinions and wishes of ETC programme managers to decision-makers. Again, a number of suggestions were taken on board.
- Input to the Commission's fiche on eligibility presented to the Council. As a result of INTERACT's 'lobbying', changes to Article 17 of the ETC Regulation may reflect the programme's proposal for the 5 common budget lines. One should not praise the sun before sunset but there are unofficial indications that this work may majorly influence the content of the future delegated act on eligibility. INTERACT is in close contact with the European Commission on this. Additional changes, simplifying ETC practice, were introduced in Articles 12 and 26.
- Consultation paper of the Common Strategic Framework, which does not seem to reflect the ambitions for ETC as set in the drafts of the new Regulations.
- A number of inputs into the State Aid policy change as negotiated by DG Regio and DG Competition. Calls for simplification extended to State Aid policy. It was hoped that the ETC could be considered for exemption due to its relatively limited impact on internal market. We are pretty sure today that it will not happen and thus other options were considered as well. It must be admitted that the strategic calls do not seem to have saturated the ground level of Commission officers and the work can be frustrating due to the bureaucracy of processes, which sometimes seem to lose sight of the bigger goals. Certainly, Member States support is necessary. INTERACT has produced and actively circulated a number of papers regarding this issue.
- A comprehensive survey of the application of existing State Aid exemptions and schemes in ETC

programmes and projects was developed, in consultation with ETC programme managers. The purpose of this was to provide information to DG Regio (and indirectly to DG Competition) to prepare for upcoming amendments of the state aid regulation. This included a summary of options to simplify state aid rules for ETC based on the goals of the European Commission State aid reform programme to simplify State aid rules, as well as the experiences of ETC programmes in applying the current set of State aid rules in a multi-country environment. Hypothetical scenarios with ETC as another form of regional aid in the future General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) were also developed.

It must be acknowledged that the above opportunities to contribute to high-level process are a result of hard work in the past. INTERACT is an acknowledged ETC expert, which can be and actually is drawn on during policy shaping process. A major reflection of trust in INTERACT services was the request to organise the consultation process between the European Commission and the Member States on the geography of future ETC programmes. Of course the hard work and building the relationships need to continue, not least due to the complexity of the issues addressed but the complexity of the processes, where information does not seem to flow smoothly to all levels involved.

Strategic Communication-related activities

INTERACT organised the annual CBC and transnational communication network in June 2012 in Lisbon. In this occasion, a very specific practical approach was applied and the seminar focused on the use of social media and the methodology of story telling. The outcomes were very successful and programmes appreciated a lot this guidance, specifically applied to ETC.



CN and TN communications meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, June 2012

Besides, INTERACT contributed to the INFORM meeting 2012 organised in Warsaw as well as to other relevant communication events in the EU (for example the DATAR one "Objectif com"). INTERACT also took part at the Open Days workshop for the finalists of RegioStars awards.

European Cooperation Day

The preparation of the EC Day took a substantial part of the communications work in 2012. Several consultation meetings were organised with the ETC programmes, in order to ensure a correct coordination for the EC Day in September (see also section 5.1.1.8).

The impact of this campaign was so strong that the EC Day will be organised again in 2013. The participation of Commissioner Hahn and of several MEPs (especially Ms. Hübner, Ms. Sanchez-Schmid and Ms. Manner) were crucial and it gave INTERACT the opportunity to be present at the REGI committee of the European Parliament and organise the kick-off event at its premises. Some IPs also organised specific events for the EC Day, as was the case of Vienna and Valencia.



EC Day kick-off event at the European Parliament, September 2012

3.2.1.4 Quality- and Knowledge Management

Quality management

The INTERACT Quality Assurance system has been further enhanced with online features, such as the needs assessment and evaluation tools for IPs with first inputs from INTERACT Points on Confluence being received in April 2012. At the same time the evaluation forms used for INTERACT services have been revised. The needs assessment exercise (for 2013 activities) was divided into an on-going needs assess-

ment and an online needs assessment in order to take into consideration several information sources in a harmonised way.

The second INTERACT Quality Group meeting took place in February 2012 in Brussels with the Quality Assurance Manager from the IS and representatives from the IPs. During the meeting, besides the needs assessment and evaluation forms, also details on the IMS-based monthly reporting tool were agreed, together with outlines of the staff training, Macro Management Plan and re-organisation of Confluence. At the same time, the plan for quality management activities was harmonised.

The key activity of the second half of 2012 in the Quality Assurance and Knowledge Management area was the online needs assessment survey. The preliminary and final analyses were made available on 30 June and 15 July, respectively for the purpose of the JAWP 2013 preparation. In addition, a results overview of the ongoing needs assessment, using the information uploaded from all IPs in Confluence, was compiled by the IS for the same purpose.

The INTERACT team, with initial input by IP Viborg, has started the process of revision of the INTERACT indicators in July 2012, with the aim to unify the understanding of the existing indicators and where possible, improve their quality.

Within the Haarlem INTERACT team meeting, on 5 September 2012, the Quality Group met for the second time in 2012. During the meeting, at which also Coordinators and the MA took part, the process of revision of the indicators was discussed, together with the use of the IMS, especially for reporting purposes and experience with using the new evaluation forms. At the same time the Group outlined the next needed training activities, particularly in the field of knowledge management (to be implemented in 2013) and further team meetings and their focus, together with other Quality Assurance-related issues.

The Haarlem meeting was also followed-up with a survey on satisfaction with the meeting, especially for the JAWP preparation purposes. An analysis of the results was made available end of September 2012. The responses from participants showed satisfaction with the meeting. Almost all participants would welcome similar events to be organised for the purpose of the JAWP 2014 preparation.

The third meeting of the Quality Group in 2012 was in by means of a teleconference, on 14 December 2012. The members discussed the progress of activities and their further steps, such as the revision of indicators or different possible options for the quality management training.

Knowledge management

KEEP

The process of content/data development was originally intended to be subject to a tendering procedure. However, in order to overcome the administrative complexity linked to the tendering process, in agreement with the MA and in line with relevant recommendations from the mid-term evaluation, it was decided to start implementing this task through the involvement of external consultants on short-term labour contract. Short-term contracts for the development of KEEP (experts and assistants) were finally signed and entered into force as of March (technical and content support, web design, database management, data format and quality check, theme- and keyword-assignment).

This made way for substantial progress, regarding both the amount of published data and the number of solved bugs detected in the system. At the same time, this allowed to partly bridge the gap until the tendered IT service provider was contracted and ensure the delivery of urgent services.

A tender for the procurement of long-term IT services was launched in February. The process was concluded in October, with the signing of the contract for the provision of these services (ranging from technical improvements/developments of the system and of the database to the server hosting and to the regular maintenance of KEEP) for an expected period of 48 months. Besides technical improvement of the system and of the database, the technical specifications contain a series of items ranging from the development of a new interface to the server hosting and the regular maintenance of KEEP. Further to the signing of the contract, work begun for the purchase orders foreseen therein to be issued. In December 2012, the purchase orders that would make way for the speed up of the system in early 2013 were issued (database and Java-script-code updates and hosting). Preparations for the roll out of a new web interface also began in November, also building up of the KEEP manual that was drafted at the INTERACT Secretariat and revised by the mem-

bers of the KEEP and Capitalisation Group from the INTERACT Points.

By the end of 2012, regarding the current programming period, KEEP contained in its public area all interregional and networking programmes' projects, 84% of the transnational projects, 54% of the cross-border projects and 93% of the ENPI CBC ones.

ESPO maps also began to be integrated in the system, further to the agreement of a technical solution with ESPON in February. In order to select and identify relevant ESPON maps, INTERACT defined a set of priority keywords. A public presentation of the preliminary results of the KEEP-ESPO pilot project was made within the frame of the INTERACT-ESPO Seminar 'European Territorial Cooperation Delivering Europe 2020'. Focus on Evidence Based Results, on 25 September 2012, in Luxembourg.

ENPI CBC was also successfully integrated into the overall database, in February. The ENPI KEEP database was filled with programmes data and then actually merged with the KEEP main database; this strategy permitted to have a unique database where data can be searched also all together. New developments were required to colour non-EU partner areas at NUTS 3 level because that geographical system doesn't exist outside the EU. Finally, the offi-

3.2.2.1 Number of activities

Table No 8: Overview of the number of activities

	IP Turku	IP Valencia	IP Viborg	IP Vienna	Overall
Number of seminars and workshops	9	9	11	13	42
Number of network events	18	0	5	1	24
Total number of events	27	9	16	14	66

Data source: IPs, IS

3.2.2.2 Number of participants

Table No 9: Average number of participants per day

	IP Turku	IP Valencia	IP Viborg	IP Vienna	Overall
INTERACT seminars and workshops	32	56	46	56	47

Data source: IPs, IS

3.2.2.3 Participation per country and programme

Using the information from the Event Registration Tool (ERT), we can conclude that in 2012 the highest number of participants of INTERACT events come from Italy (9.3%), followed by Spain (6.5%), Poland

cially recognised map of Cyprus was laid on top of the Google map of the country in KEEP (that is not visualised anymore in the system) and reproduced at all zoom levels. This was in line with the indications of the Cyprus government, that doesn't recognise the way names are visualised in the Cyprus Google map.

INTERACT launched a survey in order to identify the programmes that could take part in the pilot project for the automatic update of KEEP.

The KEEP Advisory Task Force and the KEEP and Capitalisation Group both met twice along the year (the former in May and in early November and the latter in July and late November).

3.2.2 Qualitative Analysis

INTERACT finds target group satisfaction very important and at the same time it represents an integral part of its learning method, using the gathered feedback from final beneficiaries for improving its services. Underneath please find some general statistics measuring the number of activities implemented and their analysis according to different criteria.

and Romania (each 6.3%) and Belgium (5.5%), which followed the trend from 2011. The smallest number of participants, on the other hand, comes from countries like Ireland (0.4%), Luxembourg, Malta (each 0.6%) and Cyprus (0.8%), all with limited absorption capacities stemming from the small size of

the country but also Portugal (0.7%), which might be caused by lack of finances to cover travel costs of participants due to economic crisis.

When we look at the number of participants per programme, from the available data from the ERT, the most of participants, like in 2011, were from the Baltic Sea Region (1.5%), followed by the programmes from the south, notably Romania/Bulgaria CBC and South East Europe (each 1/3%).

Evaluation of INTERACT services is being carried out using the evaluation form, which has been revised in

April 2012. The participants of INTERACT events are asked about the Event objectives and Learning and Materials and Methods using the scale from Strongly agree to Strongly disagree, which equal to rating 1-5. A separate part of the form is devoted to comments.

The overall satisfaction rate reached was 4.24, which is similar to 2011 results (4.26). The results of individual IPs are also similar ranging from 4.19 to 4.33, with the best being IP Vienna. See also the below table for individual and overall results.

Table No 10: Overview on the participant's satisfaction as average rate on scale 5-1 (5=very high satisfaction, 1=very low satisfaction)

	IP Turku	IP Valencia	IP Viborg	IP Vienna	Overall
Event objectives and learning	4.31	4.25	4.23	4.34	4.28
Materials and methods	4.27	4.15	4.12	4.33	4.21
Overall satisfaction rate	4.29	4.19	4.18	4.33	4.24

Data source: IPs, IS

The participants in their responses valued the most the relevance of the presented topics and their presentation, case studies, participation of Commission representatives, the presented materials and networking possibility. On the other hand, the room for improvement exists in density of events, limited time available for the event, or participation of Commission representatives at the discussion.

3.2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

As in the previous years, also in 2012 the new challenges in the context of Territorial Cooperation im-

plied additional efforts and workload for INTERACT in relation to the coordination of increased number of events and services. This could be partly addressed with some additional human resources.

No significant problems have been encountered in the implementation of programme related activities. Intense communication flows among teams, regular team meetings and full commitment made it possible to reduce overlapping and provide in some cases tailor made services for the programmes' stakeholders.

4 Technical Assistance

Under this priority, four beneficiaries are to be identified: Managing Authority, INTERACT Secretariat, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority. All four beneficiaries under Technical Assistance have submitted their RFPs to be reimbursed. Out of total Technical Assistance budget of EUR 2,128,537.00, the planned budget for 2011 for TA amounts to EUR 264,298.15, thus representing 12.42% of the total TA budget.

4.1 Explanation of use made of technical assistance

The main TA activities were as follows:

1. Management and Control activities

In 2012, Methodological Guideline of the Managing Authority for First Level Control and beneficiaries IS, MA, CA, AA has been updated and the version 3.1 introduced (valid from 15 August 2012). MA has updated the Methodological Guideline for Irregularities of the Managing Authority for beneficiaries OP INTERACT, version 2.0, valid from 01 February 2012) as well.

2. Audit activities

During the year 2012 no system audit has been performed for the INTERACT Programme. Five audits of operations were carried out on the selected sample of operation of the beneficiaries MA, IS, AA, IP Valencia and IP Vienna to gain assurance of the eligibility of the expenditure (see section 2.1.7).

3. Programme Management

The 9th Monitoring Committee meeting took place in Warsaw on 31 May 2012. It was mainly related to the current status of the programme, upcoming activities, the Annual Implementation Report 2011 and preparation of the programming period 2014-2020. The 10th Monitoring Committee was organized in Copenhagen on 08-09 November 2012 to present the activities already implemented in 2012, to discuss the programme developments since the 9th meeting and approve the Joint Annual Work Plan for the year 2013 as well as the budget changes.

In addition to the Monitoring Committee, the informal network of representatives of the participating countries, the National Contact Persons (NCP), held its meetings back-to-back to the two MC meetings.

The NCP meetings were an opportunity to involve NCPs, who mostly match with the MC members, in a discussion on the strategic content, such as the Future of ETC and the future of INTERACT. INTERACT Points presented their work on this topic to the NCPs, who could provide their feedbacks and strategic guidance.

The two MC meetings organized in 2012 were attended by 20 Member States in Poland (Warsaw) and 21 Member States in Denmark (Copenhagen). The average attendance rate of the 9th and 10th MC meeting held was 71% and 75%, respectively.

The advisory Programming Task Force for INTERACT III has been set up in May 2012 during the 9th MC meeting in Warsaw and three meetings of this task force were held throughout the year together. The Managing Authority has drawn up together with IPs and IS the document called "Orientation Paper for INTERACT III 2014-2020", which should serve as a base for the future OP.

Under pure TA-terms, the monitoring of the RFPs and related documents (by MA), and further processing of those until reimbursement (by CA) was implemented in 2012. The programming activities for the future programming period were continued in 2012.

Compliance

The continuing compliance of the IPs with Community and national rules is ensured through the submission and assessment of the JAWP, national control procedures and evaluation of the reports submitted every six months. Moreover, due to the structure and procedures of the INTERACT programme, all beneficiaries meet programme authorities approximately once every two months at Coordinator Group meetings, the Monitoring Committee (where beneficiaries take part as observers) and/or in programme working groups. As such, there is a constant update on expected activities and the MA has frequent opportunities to ensure their compliance with all relevant rules and conditions.

4.2 Percentage of the amount of the Structural Funds contribution allocated to the Operational Programme spent under technical assistance

Table No 11: Overview on the spending under TA by beneficiary and budget line - cumulative data for years 2008-2012 - status as of 31 December 2012

	MAWP Budget 2008 + 2009 + 2010 + 2011 + 2012	Paid out but not validated expenditure	Validated expenditure sent to CA but not processed	Validated expenditure reported and reimbursed by CA	Total expenditure	Use of Technical Assistance budget
	-1	-2	-3	-4	(5) = (2)+(3)+(4)	(6) = (5)/(1)*100
IS Staff/Office/Travel	160,115.00	0.00	0.00	88,919.41	88,919.41	55.53%
IS Other	23,354.00	0.00	0.00	1,992.28	1,992.28	8.53%
MA Staff	460,486.85	15,986.63	0.00	395,471.32	411,457.95	89.35%
MA Travel	86,735.00	2,470.60	0.00	81,014.83	83,485.43	96.25%
FLC	87,030.00	0.00	0.00	60,231.46	60,231.46	69.21%
MC meetings (incl prep)	132,102.00	5,698.94	0.00	64,542.56	70,241.50	53.17%
Mid-Term Evaluation	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	41,900.00	41,900.00	83.80%
Others	8,117.15	0.00	0.00	4,075.76	4,075.76	50.21%
CA (impl. mon. system)	251,243.39	0.00	0.00	249,829.03	249,829.03	99.44%
AA	176,775.26	0.00	0.00	70,864.35	70,864.35	40.09%
Total	1,435,958.65	24,156.17	0.00	1,058,841.00	1,082,997.17	72.84%

Data source: MA

Table No 12: Overview on the spending under TA (total)

	MAWP Budget 2008 - 2015	Paid out but not validated expenditure	Validated expenditure sent to CA but not processed	Validated expenditure reported and reimbursed by CA	Total expenditure	Use of Technical Assistance budget Total
	-1	-2	-3	-4	(5) = (2)+(3)+(4)	(6) = (5)/(1)*100
IS	219,873.00	0.00	0	90,911.69	90,911.69	41.35%
MA	1,403,541.00	24,156.17	0	647,235.93	671,392.10	47.84%
CA (impl. mon. system)	287,977.00	0.00	0	249,829.03	249,829.03	86.75%
AA (audit strategy functions)	217 146,00	0.00	0	70,864.35	70,864.35	32.63%
Total	2 128 537,00	24,156.17	0	1,058,841.00	1,082,997.17	42.46%

Data source: MA

5 Information and publicity

5.1 The Programme's Communication Strategy

5.1.1 Communication Activities

The INTERACT Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the Communication Plan in cooperation with the INTERACT Points whose function is described in chapter 5.3 of the Operational Programme.

The aim of the Communication Plan is:

- to inform the target audience about the opportunities offered by INTERACT and to support the target audiences in reaching the objectives set out in their communication strategies where appropriate;
- to set up the necessary external communications platforms and strategies for the accomplishment of the above and make them available to the target audience as appropriate;
- to set up the necessary internal communications platforms and strategies involving all members of the INTERACT managing system for the accomplishment of the above and make them available, through training or instructions, as appropriate;
- to facilitate communication within the organisational structure/management system of the INTERACT programme.

The Communication Rollout Plan for the second half of 2011 and beyond, approved at the meeting of May 2011 of the MC continued to be implemented, as mentioned below.

5.1.1.1 Coordination of the Communication Group

The Communication Group worked actively together to implement the communications objectives mentioned in the communications strategy of the programme and in the above-mentioned Communication Rollout Plan. This group met on a regular basis (four times) in 2012:

- 02-03 February 2012 (Rome, Italy);
- 22-23 May 2012 (Copenhagen, Denmark);

- 03 September 2012 and, within the scope of INTERACT's team meeting, on 04 September (Haarlem, The Netherlands);
- 15 November 2012 (Vienna, Austria).

Besides these meetings, and due to the nature of the activities of this group and, most notably, of the need to coordinate the roll out of European Cooperation Day 2012 (but also other issues, such as the planned testing of the new ERT and CDB in June, which did not occur at that date due to a server-shift), the Group had several telephone conferences along the year.

The integration of INTERACT ENPI into the INTERACT Communications Group (ComG) was also finalised. The new member of the ComG, representing the INTERACT ENPI Project, has access to the same mail exchanges and internal information, even though with no voting rights, in the cases when it is previously agreed that decision is made by voting.

5.1.1.2 The INTERACT website

The website is fully operational and provides constant updates of news and events concerning INTERACT in particular and European Territorial Cooperation in general. The website is designed in order to be an information platform on ETC. The website also focuses on themes of importance to the European Territorial Cooperation programmes, such as on programme management, project management, finance management, knowledge management and capitalisation, evaluation, regulatory changes, EGTC and IPA CBC. In 2012, new sections of the website were created like the one on the HIT (Harmonised Implementation Tools).

The website has been reorganised in order to highlight relevant new sections like ETC 2014+ and INTERACT Focus 2013.

There is a shared responsibility in managing the website: all IPs have been provided with passwords and can upload their own news and event announcements. The INTERACT Secretariat has final responsibility for editing and authorising publication.

Based on informal feedbacks and the assessment carried out in 2011, the Communication Group has proposed in 2012 to restructure the INTERACT website. A concept and a proposal for web restructuring was

developed and discussed from June 2012. The website will be redesigned to improve its capacity of attracting a wider audience and offer easier collection of information from general public. Some sections will be reviewed. The IACS in general will undertake a review to offer better tools for communication and evaluation of the activities. CDB and ERT will be completely renewed to overcome the limits of the old versions (WYSIWYG model approach). Confluence will be reviewed to offer a better file repository.

The layout of the website has been assessed as too complicated and the research of useful documents needs to be improved by setting up a dedicated library tool to ease the gathering of information for end users. The restructuring will be a major review of the current website aiming at simplifying the layout and at allowing an easier gathering of information for visitors and stakeholders.¹

5.1.1.3 Social media

The Communication Rollout Plan identified the need to work on social media tools (not only Facebook, but also Wikipedia - the latter regarding the concept and results of Territorial Cooperation). The process for inclusion of Territorial Cooperation and INTERACT into Wikipedia experienced difficulties, after Wikipedia's refusal to have an entry on Territorial Cooperation (INTERACT thus had to edit the article on the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund). INTERACT also submitted an article on INTERACT.

5.1.1.4 INTERACT Newsletter

The INTERACT newsletter is published three times per year, focusing on a particular theme in Territorial Cooperation, and aiming to give a more extensive and in-depth perspective from a number of different angles.

In each issue the aim is to include articles by players from different levels, including the European Commission, the national level and programmes. It is intended to complement the website and shorter newsflashes.

It is sent out to all contacts in the Contact Database, published on the INTERACT website (seven thousand strong contacts in 2012). A small number of copies

(around 200 per location, but varying per issue) are printed out to be distributed at events.

In 2012, the following issues were published (the direction of the newsletter is assured by the INTERACT Secretariat and the editorial coordination by each INTERACT Point, as previously agreed in May 2011):

- Newsletter on the European Union Macro-Regional Strategies (Winter 2011/2012, published in January), with the editorial coordination of IP Turku.
- Newsletter on sustainable growth (Spring 2012, published in May), with the editorial coordination of IP Valencia.
- Newsletter on 2014+ (Autumn 2012, published in early October and distributed in Brussels, Belgium, during the Open Days), with the editorial coordination of IP Viborg.



INTERACT newsletters Spring and September 2012

5.1.1.5 INTERACT Newsflash

The INTERACT newsflash is sent out regularly via HTML e-mail to all contacts in the Contact Database in order to ensure a flow of information to stakeholders in between newsletters. The purpose of the newsflash is to inform the stakeholders about upcoming INTERACT events, latest publications (in particular INTERACT ones) and other relevant news for the ETC programmes.

Seven Newsflashes have been sent out in 2012. A new optimised process was defined within the Communication Group and implemented in the early part of 2012. Newsflashes are sent on a regular basis, four times each semester. An assessment process is in place to evaluate needs and to respond quickly when needed.

¹ The activity will be carried out along the first half of 2013

5.1.1.6 INTERACT Monitoring Committee Update (MC Update)

In March and early October, MC Updates were sent to the members of the Monitoring Committee. The October issue covered extensively the European Co-operation Day 2012, which had taken place some days before (21 September).

5.1.1.7 INTERACT Internal Communication System

The Contact Database and Expert Database

As already defined in the Communications Rollout Plan for 2011 and beyond, INTERACT has developed a new Contact Database (CDB) on a new platform system (7sheep)². The new CDB allows more flexibility and the possibility to create mailing lists according to relevant parameters (geographical, competences, roles etc).

Issue Tracking System

In order to better respond to the technical questions asked by the IPs related to problems with the website (CMS system), Zimbra (INTERACT email system), Confluence (INTERACT wiki system) and the ERT, each IP has been granted access to the 'issue tracking system'. This system enables the IPs to ask their requests directly to the INTERACT Secretariat and the Webmaster, and to follow up the development of every request electronically, eg: to whom it has been assigned as well as the state of play of the request. This system has reduced email traffic and has enabled the staff to keep track of all technical developments in the short and long term. In 2012 the Issue Tracking System has worked well and most the activities have been carried out in due time.

The Event Registration Tool

The new Event Registration Tool (ERT), developed together with the new CDB, has undertaken its testing phase. The final tool will be released at the beginning of 2013. It includes a set of automatic features that provide data needed to better understand the impact of the communication and dissemination activities made through its embedded contact database - as well as an overall set of statistics on the attendance of meetings and activities promoted by INTERACT. The new ERT is more "user friendly" and allows automating many tasks that had to be carried

out manually until now. The system allows issuing needed tools like presence sheets, badges, signature sheets, automatically, thanks to a feeding system.

Improvements to the CMS

INTERACT uses an advanced CMS system and it is constantly updated and improved by the Communications Group to allow a better interaction and to make it user-friendlier. The tagging system has been reviewed to allow fewer mistakes to be made. Specific instructions have been created in the upload field under "file and pictures" section of the CMS to allow people to use a common naming system that will ease the process of recovery of data. The whole files and picture database has been renamed along 2012 according to the set up rules. Improvements have been done concerning the workflow of proofing of news and concerning the capacity to layout news within the CMS.

Online Survey Tool

INTERACT is using different tools for surveys and questionnaires and polls. The main used tool is Google Forms that allows the realisation of surveys with a certain degree of complexity, which is suitable for the present needs. Limesurvey is only used for the yearly "Needs Assessment" where a certain complexity of the questionnaire doesn't allow the use of Google Forms. INTERACT is looking for the development of a more permanent tool.

Updates on Confluence

The INTERACT wiki, Confluence, has been under improvement. A new version of the software is needed and will be shortly uploaded in the server system³ in order to enhance the user-friendliness of its applications (eg drag and drop functionality). After further analysis, the Communication Group has decided not to undertake major review of the tool as originally proposed in 2011. Since major changes have been agreed concerning the website and the ERT and CDB, the Communication Group has assessed that an additional change could create too much confusion among the staff that will need to be trained on many different tools. Minor changes are foreseen to improve data collection and recovery and to better organise the system of accesses of users according to incoming needs.

² The new CDB had undergone a testing phase and was released in early 2013.

³ First quarter of 2013.

5.1.1.8 Media Outreach Strategy and European Cooperation Day

The Media Outreach Strategy was one of the main items of the above-mentioned Communication Roll-out Plan. Back in May 2011, when the Plan was approved, it included one activity named 'Development of framework for media notoriety of success stories'. This was considered a priority and the aim was to understand the best way to disseminate ETC stories for the media, thus increasing the level of awareness of the Programme.

Simultaneously, the communication rollout plan included one activity started by IP Vienna and named at the time 'Develop joint ETC communication product'. The IS took over the overall coordination of this activity after the first meeting of the programmes, in May 2011, in Budapest.

Given the amount of effort required to organise European Cooperation Day and also given the nature of this activity, the activities 'Development of framework for media notoriety of success stories' and 'Develop joint ETC communication product' were merged into the European Cooperation Day campaign, whose main features and task sharing can be described as follows (from the Assessment Report):

- The goals were to improve the visibility of Territorial Cooperation, to disseminate its outcomes

and to show how it has impacted the quality of life for the populations it serves. The presence of a multiplicity of events throughout Europe was meant to outline the diversity of Territorial Cooperation and the fact that this was truly a European initiative.

- The target audience was defined, in general, as European citizens. This broad definition was meant to give each programme the flexibility to set up its own activities in accordance with the circumstances of its geographical framework. It was also meant to give the programmes a strategic scope, in the sense that every event during these days should have been targeted towards those who were not solely the most significant (or immediate) stakeholders of each programme, but also the final beneficiaries of Territorial Cooperation, ie the populations. This definition was also meant to highlight the media as an additional target.
- Participation in the campaign was voluntary and open to all Territorial Cooperation programmes, including cross-border cooperation programmes within the scope of IPA and ENPI. Participation was also open to all European regions and countries.

It is worth mentioning the participation of each INTERACT office in the roll out of this activity, which is shown on the table below (from the MC Update of October 2012).

Table No 13: EC Day activities of different INTERACT units

INTERACT unit	Tasks within European Cooperation Day
INTERACT Programme Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall coordination and set up of basic guidelines and coherence of the campaign • Production of guidelines and files for adaptation by the programmes • Branding and visual guidelines, including with logo and slogan in all EU, IPA CBC and ENPI CBC languages, plus those of Norway and Switzerland • Production and shipping of PR materials and common staff material (t-shirts) • Liaise with programmes as required • Evaluation of campaign
INTERACT Point Turku and INTERACT ENPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, maintenance and update of social media presences (Twitter, Facebook and Youtube) • Collection of promotional material used by programmes • Liaise with CBC programmes in the area and ENPI CBC programmes
INTERACT Point Valencia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of teaser video in English, French and German • Media strategy • Support to the organisation of the kick-off event at the European Parliament • Co-organisation of the Valencia event, together with other entities • Liaise with CBC programmes in the area

INTERACT unit	Tasks within European Cooperation Day
INTERACT Point Viborg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, production and maintenance of the website (architecture, content, mapping of events, flagship stories and photos) • Help desk for all programmes regarding upload and mapping of events and flagship stories • Coordination of proof reading of the programmes' flagship stories in English • Liaise with CBC programmes in the area and Transnational and Networking programmes
INTERACT Point Vienna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative platform (Groupspaces) • Basic guidelines on events • Guidelines for promotion of project participation • Production of flyers • Overview of programme participation • Coordination and production of kick-off event at the European Parliament • Co-organisation of the Vienna event, together with other programmes • Liaise with CBC programmes in the area and IPA CBC programmes

Data source: MC update October 2012

In 2012, three meetings of the Advisory Group of European Cooperation Day took place:

- 29 February in Brussels, Belgium;
- 12 June in Lisbon, Portugal;
- 16 November in Vienna, Austria (assessment of the campaign).

An extensive assessment process of the European Cooperation Day was prepared since the early stage of this activity. It covered not only results of the campaign as a whole but also, regarding INTERACT, how its first stakeholders - the remaining Territorial Cooperation programmes and their projects - as well as other entities that took part in the campaign, viewed INTERACT's coordination and outputs.

The assessment report, with the recommendations for the roll out of the campaign in 2013, was widely disseminated (to the members of the Monitoring Committee of INTERACT and to all the entities participating and supporting the campaign).

Given the relevance of this activity for the perceived value of INTERACT as a catalyst of good cooperation practices, it is considered worthwhile to use below some significant excerpts of this report.

Concerning it's main conclusions:

Regarding the three key performance indicators set for European Cooperation Day (number of programmes participating, number of people participating per event and media visibility), this campaign had no defined targets, as it was developed on a best-effort basis, since there were no benchmarks available. Taking this into account, and also the fact that this

was a pilot initiative, the achieved outcomes were very satisfactory:

- 75% of all 93 Territorial Cooperation programmes (here included all the strands of European Territorial Cooperation and the cross-border cooperation programmes operating within the framework of ENPI and IPA) took part in European Cooperation Day.
- 80% of the 281 events organised by entities that sent data on their events gathered around 112,500 participants - a rate of 502 participants per event.
- There were reports of 903 news published by (national or regional) press, radios and televisions in 37 countries or territories all over Europe regarding European Cooperation Day.

According to the respondents to the online poll on European Cooperation Day and INTERACT services, the main value of this campaign lay in the fact that most Territorial Cooperation programmes cooperated to make their services and value better recognized within the general public, and also to attract new stakeholders (the common efforts and common tools providing economies of scale and better results were also mentioned). With respect to INTERACT's services in general, the main perceived value was the common framework, guidelines and promotional material, tools delivered to all the programmes and the support from INTERACT's team.

Recommendations for the campaign's future editions

The recommendations below stem from the assessment of European Cooperation Day 2012 and should be taken into account for the next edition of this

campaign. The following is recommended for the overall coordination of the campaign:

- **Date:** A next edition of European Cooperation Day in early Autumn 2013 should be foreseen, as this timing is favoured by over two thirds of the programmes responding to the online poll on European Cooperation Day and INTERACT services. One of the main outcomes of the meeting of the Advisory Group of European Cooperation Day on 16 November 2012 was setting 21 September 2013 as the date of the next edition of European Cooperation Day 2013.
- **Format and INTERACT's role:** The format of the campaign and the role of INTERACT should be mainly the same, even if they should both be further adjusted to the respondents' needs. This includes the need for a better overall and detailed planning, in order to make a better integration of efforts at regional, national and European levels possible - and on making sure that the vision and goals of European Cooperation Day are the main drivers of all the efforts of this campaign.
- **Vision for the campaign:** Stemming from what is mentioned above, the vision for this campaign should be kept (disseminate the relevant outcomes of Territorial Cooperation in the relevant languages), as well as its key performance indicators (number of programmes onboard, number of participants to the local events and number of published / broadcasted news items). The actual goals can now be set taking into account the accomplishments of 2012.
- **An overall guide to the campaign should be produced.** This should include guides on the goals and procedures for European Cooperation Day, media, social media, promotion, events and project enrolment, as well as any other set of guidelines that the organisation of European Cooperation Day 2013 considers necessary to promote the good coordination of the campaign.
- **Planning and involvement of programmes:** This was one of the main difficulties of the 2012 edition. For 2013, INTERACT and the Advisory Group will need to define, and respect, a closing date for enrolment. May 2013 can be a possibility. This is fundamental in order to correctly plan the use of resources and better coordinate at national and European levels.
- **Planning for scarce resources and creativity:** Different strands of programmes have different basic issues to solve when dealing with their par-

ticipation in European Cooperation Day. In any case, they should focus on planning their actions for receiving media attention in the territories that they cover - and on being able to pass on the message about the outcomes of their programmes. INTERACT's main role should be to make sure that the scale effects are correctly used and that the vision of European Cooperation Day is correctly understood and rolled out.

EC Day was also presented in a series of occasions, among which on the 09 March 2012 (presentation of EC Day to network of national contact points of Central Europe). Some local events organised by INTERACT took place on the 21 September 2012, such as the Vienna Press Conference with Commissioner Hahn (including ETC exhibition) and an event for children and families in Valencia.



EC Day local event, Vienna, Austria, September 2012

5.1.1.9 Corporate Identity

Back in 2011, the INTERACT Secretariat worked with the INTERACT Points to come up with a set of agreed templates and guidelines to be used by the whole Programme. All the members of the Communications Group are responsible for enforcing the use of these templates and rules.

In order to make it simpler for all the organisation to comply with the rules, the INTERACT Secretariat publishes more or less every six months a revised edition of the Programme's style guide, also taking into account the suggestions and queries coming from the INTERACT Points. An extensive revision of the style guide (including the newly approved templates and also the inter-institutional style guide) was published in September 2012.

Within this framework, a restyling of the homepage of INTERACT’s website was discussed (starting in June) and new designs started to be applied to paper communications supports, such as the conference folders.

5.1.2 INTERACT Points specific activities

INTERACT Points also carried out several specific communication activities including

- INTERACT Point Turku produced 4 issues of EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region newsletter in 2012 which delivers latest news and information regarding the Strategy. The EUSBSR newsletter is coordinated by INTERACT Point Turku with the support of the European Commission, DG Regional Policy and Urban Development.
- IP Turku prepared a publication "Roles and responsibilities of the implementing stakeholders of the EUSBSR and a flagship project concept".
- The EUSBSR website was launched and the role of IP Turku is to guide stakeholders in the website updates as well as to manage the content in the site that is a joint effort of all EUSBSR implementing bodies.
- IP Valencia published two issues of the Mediterranean Newsflash, the spring edition focusing on maritime risks, and the autumn one on transport. It also elaborated a video on the thematic work about energy efficiency in buildings. IP Valencia also organised an EC Day local event on 21 September, which was attended by approximately 200 participants.
- IP Vienna jointly with the Commission published 2 issues of the EUSDR newsletter (May and

December), further developed and updated the EUSDR website. The EC Day local event (press conference and project exhibition) took place on 21 September, in cooperation with several other programmes, with the participation of Commissioner Hahn.

- In addition to that, INTERACT attended the European Commission INFORM meeting, bringing the ETC specificities forward.



EC Day local event, Valencia, Spain, September 2012

5.2 Indicators of information and publicity

The tables here display both the Programme’s targets and the results achieved on each indicator. (In certain cases figures are not available.) Almost all targets have been met, and many surpassed. Despite many efforts made and large improvements, the situation has sometimes delayed the planning and implementation of certain communication activities. All the shortcomings were solved along 2012.

Table No 14: INTERACT indicators on information and publicity

Output indicators	Target	Achievement
Management and coordination		
Number of Communications Group meetings	3	4
Dissemination and publicity		
INTERACT website		
Unique users per month	4,000	6,228
Number of EU countries actively using website	27	27
% of documents available compared to those produced	95%	N/A
Number of pages published (INTERACT related)	150	N/A
Number of pages published (ETC related)	50	N/A
INTERACT newsflash		
Number of newsflashes sent	6	7

INTERACT newsletter		
Number of issues produced per year	3	3
Number of articles per issue in average	5	14
INTERACT MC Update		
Number of MC Updates sent	4	2
Promotion and communication activities		
Number of activities	>3	defined after IPs inputs
Number of publications	>1	defined after IPs inputs
Number of external events	>2	defined after IPs inputs
INTERACT Communications System (Internal indicators)		
Number of logins	N/A	N/A
Number of active CDB users	All	All
Number of Communications Group members	6	6

Data source: INTERACT

5.3 Assessing the results of the information and publicity measures in terms of visibility

5.3.1 Statistics

5.3.1.1 Visitors

Number of visitors 148,075

There were more than 148,000 visitors in 2012, with an increase of more than 12% compared to the previous year, which indicates the growing appeal of the website. The visitors come from 197 countries, including a strong coverage in the countries involved in INTERACT, demonstrating the scope of the website's appeal (all the involved countries are among the first 38 visitor countries).

Number of unique users 90,329

The total number of unique visitors for 2012 was 90,329, showing the number of people who visited the INTERACT site for the first time.

Returning visitors 51.86%

New visits 48.14%

The majority of visitors are returning visitors, showing that a high number of users are interested in what they find on the website and keep coming back.

The huge amount of new visitors indicates that INTERACT is continuing to expand the audience and

find new visitors, due to an increased number of programmes being represented in the news and events sections, the jobs and experts section, and a consistently high profile in Google searches.

Please find below the number of visitors and total number of unique visitors per month. Google Analytics was used as a source to retrieve those numbers and track web usage.

Table No 15: Number of visitors and total number of unique visitors per month (2012)

INTERACT website visitors		
Month	Total	Unique
January	13,858	8,168
February	12,618	7,548
March	13,597	7,974
April	10,988	6,621
May	12,983	7,653
June	10,138	6,362
July	10,370	6,442
August	9,557	5,916
September	13,868	8,614
October	17,959	10,901
November	13,130	8,253
December	9,009	5,877
Total	148,075	90,329

Data source: Google Analytics

5.3.1.2 Attention span

User time on website 2:40 minutes

This figure allows seeing how much time users spend on the INTERACT site. The data could be interpreted negatively, "di per se", but considering that it correspond to a significant increase of visitors, and taking into account the major landing pages of the website, it shows that lots of visitors come for very specific information on a particular issue and do not stay around very long.

Average pageview per visit 3,30 page views

This figure allows us to see how many pages are viewed by every visit. In average 3 pages are opened per visit.

Please find below the average time spent on the website and the average pageview per visit. Google Analytics was used as a source to retrieve those numbers and track web usage.

Table No 16: Website attention span data for 2012

Attention span		
Month	Average time on site	Average pageview per visit
January	03:49	2.53
February	02:52	3.42
March	02:46	3:29
April	02:35	3.24
May	02:34	3.23
June	02:30	3.20
July	02:37	3.29
August	02:35	3.29
September	01:31	3.01
October	02:44	3.29
November	02:27	3.12
December	02:50	3.43
Average	02:40	3.30

Data source: Google Analytics

5.3.1.3 Popular sections

The most popular section job opportunities, events and news

Like in 2011, in 2012 the most popular sections of the website are the job opportunities, the events and the news. This shows the priorities of the visitors and proves the central role that INTERACT has acquired along the time in informing about job opportunities among ETC and disseminating the programme's expertise to a wide audience. This shows the central role that INTERACT plays in providing information on vacancies, and in disseminating the programme's expertise to a wide audience. This data with the fact that more than 50% of traffic is generated by returning visitors, suggests that users find the information relevant and up-to-date.

5.3.1.4 Traffic sources overview

This gives us an indication of how people find our site.

Direct traffic: 22.59%
Search engines: 60.55%
Referring sites: 16.86%

The fact that more than 89,000 visitors have landed on INTERACT website from Google shows how it has been well indexed in the search engine. Since we know that the ranking of Google results to queries is also connected to the amount of reliable links that the website has along the net, it is reasonable to assume that a lot of improvement have been made in the quantity and the quality of links to INTERACT.

The top keywords for Google searches were:

1. *interact*
2. *interact eu*
3. *interact.eu.*

Annexes

Annex 1 Financial information of the Operational Programme

Annex 1 Table No 1: Interim RfPs as of 31 December 2012

Beneficiary	Number of RfP	Status of each RfP of 31 December 2012	Date of approval / rejection at CA	ERDF (EUR)	National contribution (EUR)	Total interim payments (EUR)
IP Viborg						
	09/IP Viborg/1-IP1	approved	10/13/09	202,918.38	35,809.13	238,727.51
	09/IP Viborg/1-IP2	approved	12/2/09	293,267.53	51,753.09	345,020.62
	10/IP Viborg/1-IP3	approved	8/5/10	290,841.36	51,324.94	342,166.30
	10/IP Viborg/1-IP4	approved	12/17/10	223,217.62	39,391.35	262,608.97
	10/IP Viborg/1-IP5	approved	3/18/11	134,820.16	23,791.79	158,611.95
	10/IP Viborg/1-IP6	approved	4/8/11	329,235.07	58,100.31	387,335.38
	11/IP Viborg/1-IP7	approved	5/27/11	59,342.31	10,472.17	69,814.48
	11/IP Viborg/1-IP8	approved	11/9/11	335,301.42	59,170.84	394,472.26
	12/IP Viborg/1-IP9	approved	4/24/12	391,866.77	69,152.96	461,019.73
	12/IP Viborg/1-IP10	approved	10/16/12	393,528.79	69,446.26	462,975.05
IP Turku						
	09/IP Turku/1-IP1	approved	11/4/09	126,643.20	22,348.80	148,992.00
	09/IP Turku/1-IP2	approved	12/31/09	146,367.23	25,829.51	172,196.74
	09/IP Turku/1-IP3	approved	3/8/10	83,695.38	14,769.77	98,465.15
	10/IP Turku/1-IP4	approved	10/29/10	125,892.64	22,216.35	148,108.99
	10/IP Turku/1-IP5	approved	4/7/11	277,034.58	48,888.45	325,923.03
	11/IP Turku/1-IP6	approved	6/29/11	395,544.65	69,802.00	465,346.65
	11/IP Turku/1-IP7	approved	3/1/12	284,880.35	50,273.00	335,153.35
	12/IP Turku/1-IP8	approved	6/7/12	273,388.65	48,245.05	321,633.70
	12/IP Turku/1-IP9	approved	12/12/12	341,287.61	60,227.23	401,514.84
IP Valencia						
	09/IP Valencia/1-IP1	approved	11/9/09	97,981.39	17,290.83	115,272.22
	09/IP Valencia/1-IP2	approved	6/8/10	285,862.80	50,446.38	336,309.18
	10/IP Valencia/1-IP3	approved	8/20/10	233,830.14	41,264.14	275,094.28
	10/IP Valencia/1-IP4	approved	1/14/11	319,189.42	56,327.54	375,516.96
	11/IP Valencia/1-IP5	approved	7/1/11	266,963.99	47,111.29	314,075.28
	11/IP Valencia/1-IP6	approved	12/20/11	340,256.39	60,045.24	400,301.63
	12/IP Valencia/1-IP7	approved	5/25/12	380,774.87	67,195.57	447,970.44
	12/IP Valencia/1-IP8	approved	12/18/12	373,379.39	65,890.48	439,269.87
IP Vienna						
	09/IP Vienna/1-IP1	approved	10/26/09	312,893.80	55,216.55	368,110.35
	09/IP Vienna/1-IP2	approved	12/18/09	265,984.91	46,938.51	312,923.42
	10/IP Vienna/1-IP3	approved	8/5/10	370,570.90	65,394.86	435,965.76

Beneficiary	Number of RfP	Status of each RfP of 31 December 2012	Date of approval / rejection at CA	ERDF (EUR)	National contribution (EUR)	Total interim payments (EUR)
	10/IP Vienna/1-IP4	approved	1/17/11	437,985.66	77,291.59	515,277.25
	11/IP Vienna/1-IP5	approved	6/7/11	460,065.32	81,188.00	541,253.32
	11/IP Vienna/1-IP6	approved	11/11/11	318,371.81	56,183.26	374,555.07
	12/IP Vienna/1-IP7	approved	10/16/12	419,407.84	74,013.15	493,420.99
Total approved RfPs for INTERACT Points				9,592,592.33	1,692,810.39	11,285,402.72
Managing Authority						
priority axis 1	09/MA/1-IP1	rejected	10/8/09	98,005.43	17,295.07	115,300.50
priority axis 1	12/MA/1-IP2	approved / clearance of advance payment	12/18/12	22,781.84	4,020.33	26,802.17
priority axis 2	09/MA/2-IP1	rejected	10/8/09	33,766.80	5,958.85	39,725.65
priority axis 2	10/MA/2-IP2	approved	4/30/10	5,533.03	976.42	6,509.45
priority axis 2	10/MA/2-IP3	rejected	8/3/10	52,315.82	9,232.20	61,548.02
priority axis 2	10/MA/2-IP4	approved	9/13/10	40,210.68	7,096.00	47,306.68
priority axis 2	10/MA/2-IP5	approved	10/22/10	23,254.28	4,103.70	27,357.98
priority axis 2	10/MA/2-IP6	approved	12/21/10	18,236.83	3,218.26	21,455.09
priority axis 2	10/MA/2-IP7	approved	1/17/11	21,152.22	3,732.74	24,884.96
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP8	approved / clearance of advance payment	5/5/11	42,713.20	7,537.62	50,250.82
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP9	approved	8/24/11	6,864.61	1,211.40	8,076.01
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP10	approved	8/24/11	9,226.96	1,628.29	10,855.25
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP11	approved	8/4/11	33,630.79	5,934.84	39,565.63
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP12	approved	8/22/11	24,011.44	4,237.31	28,248.75
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP13	approved	8/22/11	29,007.30	5,118.93	34,126.23
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP14	approved	8/4/11	50,606.91	8,930.63	59,537.54
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP15	approved	10/13/11	43,088.81	7,603.91	50,692.72
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP16	approved	12/20/11	40,515.17	7,149.73	47,664.90
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP17	approved	5/23/12	36,045.18	6,360.91	42,406.09
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP18	approved / clearance of advance payment	9/3/12	64,388.06	11,362.60	75,750.66
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP19	Approved	9/25/12	14,542.35	2,566.30	17,108.65
priority axis 2	11/MA/2-IP20	approved / clearance of advance payment	12/21/12	47,122.74	8,315.78	55,438.52
Total approved RfPs for Managing Authority				757,020.45	133,591.82	890,612.27

Beneficiary	Number of RfP	Status of each RfP of 31 December 2012	Date of approval / rejection at CA	ERDF (EUR)	National contribution (EUR)	Total interim payments (EUR)
INTERACT Secretariat						
priority axis 1	09/IS/1-IP1	approved	11/13/09	118,589.78	20,927.61	139,517.39
priority axis 2	09/IS/2-IP1	approved	11/13/09	12,561.50	2,216.73	14,778.23
priority axis 1	09/IS/1-IP2	approved	2/4/10	144,740.14	25,542.38	170,282.52
priority axis 2	09/IS/2-IP2	rejected	2/4/10	12,792.08	2,257.42	15,049.50
priority axis 1	10/IS/1-IP3	approved	4/27/10	36,818.48	6,497.38	43,315.86
priority axis 2	09/IS/2-IP3	approved	7/29/10	819.39	144.60	963.99
priority axis 1	10/IS/1-IP4	approved	7/30/10	115,006.07	20,295.19	135,301.26
priority axis 2	11/IS/2-IP4	approved	11/8/11	614.8	108.49	723.29
priority axis 1	10/IS/1-IP5	approved	12/16/10	147,157.63	25,968.99	173,126.62
priority axis 2	12/IS/2-IP5	approved	5/16/12	24,132.47	4,258.67	28,391.14
priority axis 1	10/IS/1-IP6	approved	12/17/10	3,180.25	561.22	3,741.47
priority axis 2	12/IS/2-IP6	approved / clearance of advance payment	12/11/12	18,701.79	3,300.32	22,002.11
priority axis 1	10/IS/1-IP7	approved	12/21/10	46,468.32	8,200.29	54,668.61
priority axis 2	12/IS/2-IP7	approved / clearance of advance payment	12/11/12	11,184.97	1,973.82	13,158.79
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP8	approved / clearance of advance payment	5/3/11	230,297.92	40,640.81	270,938.73
priority axis 2	12/IS/2-IP8	approved / clearance of advance payment	12/11/12	9,260.02	1,634.12	10,894.14
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP9	approved	10/14/11	4,034.46	711.96	4,746.42
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP10	approved	10/25/11	28,820.48	5,085.97	33,906.45
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP11	approved	10/25/11	10,580.09	1,867.08	12,447.17
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP12	rejected	11/27/11	153,037.84	27,006.68	180,044.52
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP13	approved	3/21/12	87,973.15	15,524.67	103,497.82
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP14	approved	3/13/12	102,426.61	18,075.28	120,501.89
priority axis 1	11/IS/1-IP15	approved	3/13/12	167,457.47	29,551.32	197,008.79
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP16	approved	4/4/12	202,978.27	35,819.69	238,797.96
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP17	approved	4/16/12	100,700.32	17,770.65	118,470.97
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP18	approved	4/30/12	3,512.06	619.78	4,131.84
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP19	approved	6/7/12	2,378.23	419.69	2,797.92
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP20	approved	9/3/12	257,695.29	45,475.64	303,170.93

Beneficiary	Number of RfP	Status of each RfP of 31 December 2012	Date of approval / rejection at CA	ERDF (EUR)	National contribution (EUR)	Total interim payments (EUR)
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP21	approved / clearance of advance payment	10/19/12	268,653.99	47,409.53	316,063.52
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP22	approved	10/26/12	72,321.54	12,762.63	85,084.17
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP23	approved	11/20/12	229,031.67	40,417.35	269,449.02
priority axis 1	12/IS/1-IP24	in the verification process	approved 11.01.2013	4,548.81	802.73	5,351.54
Total approved RfPs for INTERACT Secretariat				2,628,475.89	463,848.69	3,092,324.58
Certifying Authority						
priority axis 2	09/CA/2-IP1	approved	5/6/10	63,508.13	11,207.32	74,715.45
priority axis 2	09/CA/2-IP2	rejected	4/27/11	37,869.25	6,682.81	44,552.06
priority axis 2	11/CA/2-IP3	approved / clearance of advance payment	6/27/11	37,876.00	6,684.00	44,560.00
priority axis 2	11/CA/2-IP4	approved	6/27/11	26,300.11	4,641.19	30,941.30
	11/CA/2-IP5	approved	10/13/11	58,761.06	10,369.60	69,130.66
priority axis 2	11/CA/2-IP6	approved	4/24/12	25,909.38	4,572.24	30,481.62
Total approved RfPs for Certifying Authority				250,223.93	44,157.16	294,381.09
Audit Authority						
priority axis 2	09/AA/2-IP1	approved	3/5/10	22,220.48	3,921.26	26,141.74
priority axis 2	10/AA/2-IP2	approved	2/10/11	15,206.50	2,683.50	17,890.00
priority axis 3	10/AA/2-IP3	approved	8/23/12	22,807.72	4,024.89	26,832.61
Total approved RfPs for Audit Authority				60,234.70	10,629.65	70,864.35
Total approved				12,896,211.27	2,275,801.95	15,172,013.22
Total priority axis 1				11,996,196.39	2,116,975.83	14,113,172.22
Total priority axis 2				900,014.88	158,826.12	1,058,841.00
Total rejected				387,787.22	68,433.03	456,220.25
Ongoing processing at CA - as of 31 December 2012				4,548.81	802.73	5,351.54
Total submitted and paid off requests for payments				11,428,563.74	2,016,805.31	13,445,369.05

Data source: CA

Annex 1 Table No 2: Overview of payments received from the Commission (as of 31 December 2012)

Source	Payment claim	Date of the submission of claim to the Commission	Amount requested (EUR)	Amount paid (EUR)	Date of transfer to the CA account	Difference between claimed and transferred amount
ERDF	advance payment	x	x	680,670	12/14/07	x
ERDF	advance payment	x	x	1,021,005	6/18/08	x
ERDF	advance payment	x	x	680,670	2/5/09	x
ERDF	advance payment	x	x	680,670	4/22/09	x
ERDF	2010900701	11/12/2009	740,437	740,437	12/31/09	0
ERDF	2011000702	2/2/2010	836,771	836,771	2/22/10	0
ERDF	2011000703	3/8/2010	642,378	642,378	9/16/10	0
ERDF	2011000704	28/9/2010	1,011,068	1,011,068	11/15/10	0
ERDF	2011100705	8/2/2011	1,405,946	1,405,946	3/7/11	0
ERDF	2011100706	30/5/2011	1,019,509	1,019,509	6/21/11	0
ERDF	2011100707	11/8/2011	1,246,092	1,246,092	9/2/11	0
ERDF	2011100708	22/12/2011	940,901	940,901	2/10/12	0
ERDF	2011200709	19/4/2012	935,536	935,536	5/25/12	0
ERDF	2011200710	25/7/2012	1,269,329	1,269,329	9/18/12	0
ERDF	2011200711	24/9/2012	619,488	619,488	10/12/12	0
ERDF	2011200712	16/11/2012	1,168,455	0	-	x
Total	x	x	11,835,910	13,730,472	x	x

Data source: CA

Annex 1 Table No 3: Interim payment claims submitted by CA to the Commission (as of 31 December 2012)

Interim payment claim No	Date	Amount - priority axis 1 (EUR)	Amount - priority axis 2 (EUR)	Total (EUR)
<i>Commitment 2007-2013</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>28,345,020</i>	<i>1,809,257</i>	<i>30,154,277</i>
2010900701	11 December 2009	740,437	0	740,437
2011000702	02 February 2010	824,209	12,562	836,771
2011000703	03 August 2010	551,117	91,262	642,378
2011000704	28 September 2010	1,010,248	819	1,011,068
2011000705	08 February 2011	1,303,092	102,854	1,405,946
2011000706	30 May 2011	965,007	54,502	1,019,509
2011000707	11 August 2011	1,181,916	64,176	1,246,092
2011000708	22 December 2011	686,879	254,023	940,901
2011200709	19 April 2012	895,021	40,515	935,536
2011200710	25 April 2012	1,178,039	91,290	1,269,329
2011200711	24 September 2012	532,293	87,196	619,488
2011200712	16 November 2012	1,153,912	14,542	532,293
Total interim payment claims		11,022,169	813,741	11,835,910
% of the commitment 2007-2013		38.89%	44.98%	39.25%

Data source: CA

Annex 1 Table No 4: INTERACT spending (as of 31 December 2012)

Item	ERDF Amount (EUR) / (%)
Spending (approved RfPs decreased with irregularities)	12,888,660
Commitment 2007-2013	30,154,277
Actual spending of the commitment 2007-2013 (%)	42.74%
Advance payments	3,063,016
Commitment 2009	4,792,373
Commitment 2010	5,393,496
Commitment 2011	6,016,985
Spending of 2009 commitment (%)	100.00%
Spending of 2010 commitment (%)	100.00%
Spending of 2011 commitment (%)	23.05%
Spending of 2010 and 2011 commitment (%)	59.42%
Necessary to spend until 31 December 2013 in accordance with n+3 (commitment 2010 and 2011)	4,629,827

Data source: CA

Annex 2 Examples of INTERACT information and Publicity measures (electronic addresses)

1. INTERACT in general

- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/interact.programme>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/INTERACTandETC>

2. Danube Region Strategy

- Official information website: <http://www.danube-region.eu/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DanubeRegionStrategy?ref=hl>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EUSDR>
- Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/DanubeRegionStrategy?feature=mhee>
- Several interactive and collaborative groups created on Groupspaces (eg "EUSDR Labgroup", "PAC Network": <http://groupspaces.com/PACNetwork/>) - functions as intranet.

3. Baltic Sea Region Strategy

- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EUSBSR>
- Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/eusbsr>

4. Newsletters

- Newsletter January 2012: http://www.interact-eu.net/interact_newsletter/newsletter_interact_january_2012_european_union_macro_regional_strategie_s/250/11457
- Newsletter May 2012: http://www.interact-eu.net/interact_newsletter/newsletter_interact_spring_2012_inclusive_growth_in_european_territorial_cooperation/250/12191
- Newsletter October 2012: http://www.interact-eu.net/interact_newsletter/newsletter_interact_autumn_2012_territorial_cooperation_2014_ready_steady_go/250/12969

5. INTERACT Videos

- Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/INTERACTProgramme>

6. European Cooperation Day 2012

- Website: <http://www.ecday.eu>
- Video launch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPq9Zylgn9U&list=UUcRYop6GRMeWyAXhSjXHZ6A&index=5>
- Video on results: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWnH8nL_qIw&list=UUcRYop6GRMeWyAXhSjXHZ6A&index=1
- Groupspaces collaborative work platform: <http://groupspaces.com/ETCJointCommunication/join/>

7. INTERACT Press Area

- Press area on INTERACT website: http://www.interact-eu.net/press_area/press_area/239/2883

8. KEEP

- Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCaAsmpn6JQ>

Annex 3 INTERACT Activities 2012

Annex 3 Table No 1: INTERACT Points Services - Workshops, seminars, lab groups, network meetings and conferences

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
09.01.12	12.01.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSDR	Coordination meeting for PACs and NCPs	Meeting
11.01.12	11.01.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	EUSBSR	1st meeting of Task Force for EUSBSR Communication	Meeting
13.01.12	13.01.12	Vilnius	Lithuania	Irregularities	Advisory Service on Irregularities	Advisory
18.01.12	19.01.12	Lille	France	Monitoring Systems	Monitoring Systems Networking Meeting	Meeting
19.01.12	19.01.12	Brussels	Belgium	Future of ETC	Meeting with the Commission - presentation of the ETC future related products	Meeting
24.01.12	24.01.12	Tallinn	Estonia	EUSBSR	5th Task Force meeting on roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders and the development of the concept of the Flagship Project of the EUSBSR	Meeting
25.01.12	25.01.12	Ostersund	Sweden	Regulatory requirements, roles and responsibilities	FLC and Eligibility in ETC Programmes	Seminar
30.01.12	31.01.12	Bucharest	Romania	Project preparation and communication	2nd Meeting of NCPs and Area Coordinators of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region	Meeting
31.01.12	31.01.12	Valencia	Spain	Exchange of information regarding new draft regulations	EU Funds 2014-20: Analysis and debate of the draft proposals by the Commission - ETC and its role in the Cohesion Policy	Conference
10.02.12	10.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSBSR	19th EUSBSR Laboratory Group meeting	Meeting
16.02.12	16.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	Irregularities	Irregularities and frauds in ETC Programmes	Seminar
23.02.12	24.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	IPA CBC	Challenges for Audit Authorities and Groups of Auditors in IPA CBC Programmes	Meeting
28.02.12	29.02.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	EUSBSR	6th Task Force meeting on roles and responsibilities of the key actors and development of the concept of the Flagship Project of the EUSBSR	Meeting
01.03.12	01.03.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSBSR	2nd meeting of Task Force for EUSBSR Communication	Meeting
07.03.12	07.03.12	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Financial Engineering	Financial Engineering Instruments and ETC - ETC meeting with European Investment Fund	Seminar
13.03.12	13.03.12	Vienna	Austria	Future of the CBC within IPA II	Future of the IPA CBC with Member States	Meeting
14.03.12	14.03.12	Viborg	Denmark	Capitalisation on current experience for the future	FLC Working Group of Danish ETC programmes	Meeting
20.03.12	21.03.12	Sofia	Bulgaria	Training on FLC	FLC Seminar for IPA CBC Programmes	Training
20.03.12	22.03.12	Vilnius	Lithuania	EUSBSR	3rd Working Meeting: Future of the EUSBSR and seven back-to back meetings: 1) Meeting on indicators and targets at EUSBSR level (meeting of NCPs and the Commission); 2) Meeting on the EUSBSR communication issues (meeting with PACs and HALs, ETC programmes); 3) Meeting on indicators and targets for the EUSBSR at Priority Area level (meeting of NCPs, PACs and HALs of the EUSBSR and the Commission); 4) Discussion on roles and responsibilities of the key actors of the EUSBSR: with NCPs, PACs and HALs of the EUSBSR and the Task Force established on setting up the roles and responsibilities for the key actors of the EUSBSR; 5) Meeting between the MAs of the OPs and the Commission; 6) Meeting on review of the EUSBSR Action Plan: meeting of NCPs, PACs and HALs of the EUSBSR and the Commission; 7) Networking meeting for ETC communication managers.	Conference
28.03.12	29.03.12	Madrid	Spain	Agreement on budget lines, cost categories and FLC, report and methodology	2nd Meeting of the ETC Post 2013, WG on Finance Management and FLC	Meeting

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
29.03.12	29.03.12	Madrid	Spain	Irregularities	Meeting on Irregularities with programmes affected by interruption or suspension	Meeting
18.04.12	18.04.12	Marseille	France	Analysis of output within the thematic pole transport	Mediterranean Lab Group Meeting	Seminar
18.04.12	19.04.12	Riga	Latvia	EUSBSR	3rd meeting of Task Force for EUSBSR Communication	Meeting
18.04.12	19.04.12	Stockholm	Sweden	Financial management	Network Meeting and Workshop for the Certifying Authorities in the ETC Programmes in the North East Europe	Meeting
24.04.12	24.04.12	Barcelona	Spain	WG on Programme Management, focus on implementation tools (assessment criteria, application forms, monitoring checklists, reporting forms, budget lines)	3rd Meeting of the ETC Post 2013	Meeting
25.04.12	25.04.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programming meeting	Programme preparation Group of the North Sea Programme	Advisory
25.04.12	25.04.12	Paris	France	EC Day	Meeting with the service provider on the EC Day website	Meeting
02.05.12	02.05.12	Helsinki	Finland	EUSBSR	Meeting regarding the inception report for needs assessment; Communication gaps in EUSBSR	Meeting
07.05.12	08.05.12	Brussels	Belgium	Draft legal package and strategic programming	CSF Consultation event	Meeting
08.05.12	08.05.12	Brussels	Belgium	Strategic Programming	National Authorities meeting on preparation of Partnership Contracts and coordination of the future ETC Programmes	Workshop
09.05.12	09.05.12	Lille	France	Next programming period	Advisory on next programming period for the 2 Seas programme	Advisory
09.05.12	10.05.12	Krakow	Poland	FLC	FLC network of Central-South-East European zone	Meeting
11.05.12	11.05.12	Tallinn	Estonia	EUSBSR	20th EUSBSR Laboratory Group meeting	Meeting
24.05.12	24.05.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	EUSBSR	Meeting with EUSBSR Priority Area 8	Advisory
25.05.12	25.05.12	Vienna	Austria	IPA CBC	Advisory service on programme management for IPA CBC HR-BiH	Advisory
29.05.12	30.05.12	Thessaloniki	Greece	Programme Management	Project monitoring seminar	Workshop
30.05.12	31.05.12	London	UK	Strategic Programming	Programming workshop for Transnational programmes	Workshop
04.06.12	04.06.12	Helsinki	Finland	EUSBSR	Communication needs of Priority Area 1 of the EUSBSR	Advisory
04.06.12	04.06.12	Lille	France	Strategic Programming	Advisory on new legal package for 2 Seas programme	Advisory
05.06.12	05.06.12	Brussels	Belgium	ETC future	ETC geography EC consultation event with Member States	Seminar
05.06.12	05.06.12	Riga	Latvia	EUSBSR	4th meeting of Task Force for EUSBSR Communication	Meeting
05.06.12	06.06.12	Florence	Italy	EU 2020	Sustainable Growth in Europe through ETC	Conference
06.06.12	06.06.12	Brussels	Belgium	Legal package	Meeting with DG Employment + Region on simplified costs options	Meeting
06.06.12	06.06.12	London	UK	EUSBSR	Meeting with the EUSBSR website provider	Meeting
07.06.12	07.06.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	EUSBSR	Meeting on communication needs of Priority Area 5 of the EUSBSR	Meeting
08.06.12	08.06.12	Lille	France	Strategic Programming and legal package	Advisory on next programming period for INTERREG IVC programme	Advisory
12.06.12	13.06.12	Lisbon	Portugal	Social media	CBC Communication Meeting - 2012 Annual Meeting (with participation of some TN programmes)	Meeting
20.06.12	20.06.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	EUSBSR	7th Task Force meeting on roles and responsibilities of the key actors and development of the concept of the Flagship Project of the EUSBSR	Meeting

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
21.06.12	21.09.12	Valencia	Spain	EC Day	Local event (puppet theatre, concert and project fair) with INTERREG IVC Info Point South, MED-ENPI Liaison Office and ENPI Antenna	Events
28.06.12	29.06.12	Vienna	Austria	Knowledge exchange between European Commission and Audit Authorities	AA and GoA in ETC programmes	Meeting
03.07.12	04.07.12	Marseille	France	Strategic Programming and legal package	Advisory on next programming period for MED programme	Advisory
17.07.12	18.07.12	Nova Gorica	Slovenia	EGTC	EGTC Advisory Service (training on EGTC set-up, steps and procedures)	Workshop
18.07.12	18.07.12	Brussels	Belgium	Legal package	Meeting with Life Long Learning + Europe for Citizens programme on simplified costs options	Meeting
16.08.12	16.08.12	Helsinki	Finland	EUSBSR	5th meeting of Task Force for EUSBSR Communication	Meeting
03.09.12	03.09.12	Brussels	Belgium	Coordination meeting INTERACT-IEE on energy issues	Meeting with Intelligent Energy Europe	Meeting
18.09.12	18.09.12	Brussels	Belgium	EC Day	Kick off the EC Day at EU Parliament REGI Committee	Event
21.09.12	21.09.12	Vienna	Austria	EC Day	Local EC Day event (press conference and project exhibition) with Commissioner Hahn in cooperation with the Commission, Central EU, AT-CZ, SK, HU programmes	Event
25.09.12	25.09.12	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Europe 2020, evidence based results	INTERACT-ESPON seminar	Seminar
27.09.12	27.09.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programming 2014-2020	Evaluation lab group to draft ex-ante evaluation ToR template	Workshop
02.10.12	02.10.12	Milan	Italy	Programming 2014-2020	Advisory service to IT-CH and FR-CH to discuss specific features of CBC on the Swiss border, with focus on the future	Advisory
02.10.12	03.10.12	Venice	Italy	Programme management	Fifth meeting of the Regional Network of the Central and South-Eastern European programmes	Workshop
03.10.12	04.10.12	Malmo	Sweden	Programming 2014-2020	Strategic programming workshop for CBC	Workshop
04.10.12	05.10.12	Dublin	Ireland	Public procurement below EU threshold	Seminar on public procurement in ETC	Seminar
08.10.12	11.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programming 2014-2020	Open Days workshops with DG Regio: Added value of IPA CBC; Demographic change - synergies between ESF, ERDF and ETC; Integrated territorial instruments for regional management and cooperation (ITI, JAP, CLLD) and contribution to other 3 workshops, i.e. The EGTC Platform; E-cohesion and CBC boosting innovation; Policy, practice and evidence - delivering results in urban mobility through inter-regional cooperation	Workshop
18.10.12	18.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programme closure	Meeting on Commission request regarding the Programme Closure 2007-2013 (DG REGIO)	Meeting
24.10.12	24.10.12	Valetta	Malta	Finance	Financial advisory	Workshop
30.10.12	31.10.12	Marseille	France	Communication	Transnational Communication Network meeting	Networking
30.10.12	31.10.12	Tallinn	Estonia	EUSBSR	Storytelling workshop for the EUSBSR	Workshop
31.10.12	31.10.12	Tallinn	Estonia	EUSBSR	6th meeting of Task Force for EUSBSR Communication	Meeting
02.11.12	02.11.12	Riga	Latvia	Strategic Programming	Advisory on the new period	Advisory
14.11.12	15.11.12	Palma de Mallorca	Spain	Programming 2014-2020	Operational Aspects of Programming: Programme Implementation Provisions 2014+	Workshop
15.11.12	15.11.12	Palma de Mallorca	Spain	Programme closure	Expert Group Meeting on the Experiences of the Programme Closure 2000-2006 and Lessons Learnt for the Programme Closure 2007-2013	Expert group meeting
21.11.12	22.11.12	Haarlem	Netherlands	Financial management	Financial Management in ETC Programmes	Seminar
27.11.12	27.11.12	Riga	Latvia	Programme Closure	Advisory service on Programme Closure to the Latvia-Lithuania programme	Advisory
04.12.12	05.12.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	Capitalisation	Workshop on maritime focus of the relevant programmes	Workshop

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
04.12.12	05.12.12	London	UK	Network	Finance network meeting of the TN and CBC programmes	Network
10.12.12	10.12.12	Turku	Finland	Network	Meeting between the JTS of Central Baltic INTERREG IVA programme and IP Turku	Network
11.12.12	12.12.12	Vienna	Austria	Programming 2014-2020	Strategic Programming Workshop	Workshop
13.12.12	14.12.12	Turku	Finland	Network	Network meetings for the Managing Authorities and the Heads of the Joint Technical Secretariats	Network

Annex 3 Table No 2: INTERACT support to external events

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
30.01.12	30.01.12	Helsinki	Finland	Programme management on national level	Finnish ETC Network by MEE	Meeting
13.02.12	13.02.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	EUSBSR	Informal EUSBSR NCP meeting	Meeting
24.02.12	24.02.12	Vienna	Austria	EUSDR	EUSDR PA 10 Territorial Cooperation Meeting - support	Meeting
24.02.12	24.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programming meeting	North West Europe Programme Preparation Group - facilitation	Advisory
06.03.12	06.03.12	Paris	France	Common Capitalisation	URBACT Common Capitalisation WG	Meeting
08.03.12	08.03.12	Turku	Finland	EUSBSR	ESF Baltic Sea Network Seminar: Linkages between the EUSBSR and the ESF	Training
13.03.12	14.03.12	Bordeaux	France	Communication	DATAR meeting of the network of EU Funds information officers	Meeting
15.03.12	15.03.12	Paris	France	EU CP	Research Network on Effectiveness, Added Value and Future of EU CP	Workshop
21.03.12	22.03.12	Vilnius	Lithuania	EUSBSR	Future of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	Meeting
22.03.12	23.03.12	Vienna	Austria	EUSDR	EUSDR PA 10 Financing dialogue - INTERACT Stand and Facilitation	Meeting
27.03.12	27.03.12	Brussels	Belgium	Future of ETC	Meeting with Ms Manner and other MEPs at the EP	Meeting
28.03.12	28.03.12	Ostersund	Sweden	Programme management on national level	ERFA Meeting	Meeting
29.03.12	29.03.12	Brussels	Belgium	EGTC	Interinstitutional Conference and Annual Meeting of the EGTC Platform	Conference
11.04.12	11.04.12	Brussels	Belgium	ETC and EGTC	Public hearing on ETC and EGTC at the EP	Public hearing
12.04.12	12.04.12	Vienna	Austria	EUSDR	EUSDR Info meeting	Meeting
18.04.12	19.04.12	Bournemouth	UK	Project communication	FR-UK Channel Advisory	Workshop
20.04.12	20.04.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERREG management	AEBR Seminar on INTERREG Management Cases	Seminar
20.04.12	20.04.12	Lille	France	Programming meeting	North West Europe Programme Preparation Group - facilitation	Advisory
23.04.12	23.04.12	Helsinki	Finland	Programme management on national level and Future of ETC	National meeting in Finland on progress in ETC programmes (EAY) and the future period 2014-2020	Meeting
23.04.12	24.04.12	Berlin	Germany	EUSBSR	EUSBSR NCP meeting, Joint informal meeting of CSO, CBSS and ND steering groups, EUSBSR & EUSDR HLG joint meeting	Meeting
23.04.12	23.04.12	Split	Croatia	EUSDR	EUSDR PA 8 steering group - facilitation	Meeting
24.04.12	24.04.12	Berlin	Germany	EUSBSR	Business Forum on the Baltic Sea Region	Conference
24.04.12	25.04.12	Paris	France	Future of ETC	Meeting about the negotiation status of the new legislative package (DATAR)	Meeting
24.04.12	24.04.12	Amiens	France	Project communication	FR-UK Channel Advisory	Workshop
25.04.12	25.04.12	Stockholm	Sweden	EUSBSR	EUSBSR workshop: Agriculture Development & Scenarios Baltic Sea Region	Seminar
25.04.12	25.04.12	Paris	France	Capitalisation	DATAR Capitalisation workshop	Workshop
25.04.12	25.04.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programme design	Programme preparation Group of the North Sea Programme	Meeting
03.05.12	04.05.12	Brussels	Belgium	Monitoring Systems	E-Cohesion meeting with EU Commission and ETC programmes	Meeting
03.05.12	04.05.12	Rostock-Warnemünde	Germany	EUSBSR	Conference on Tourism on the Baltic Sea Region	Conference

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
07.05.12	08.05.12	Riga	Latvia	Smart Growth	EU Structural Funds 2014-2020: Promoting Innovation Through "Smart Specialisation"	Conference
10.05.12	10.05.12	Brussels	Belgium	Draft legal package	Committee of the Regions event on Common Strategic Framework	Seminar
10.05.12	11.05.12	Warsaw	Poland	Communication	INFORM meeting	Meeting
16.05.12	16.05.12	Brussels	Belgium	Coordination between the two programmes	Meeting with INTERREG IVC and DG Regio	Meeting
21.05.12	21.05.12	Riga	Latvia	EUSBSR	OCN-panel discussion for the ESF transnational cooperation	Seminar
22.05.12	23.05.12	Riga	Latvia	EUSBSR	ESF Baltic Sea Network meeting	Meeting
30.05.12	01.06.12	Hamburg	Germany	EUSBSR	Conference on Education and Employment	Conference
04.06.12	05.06.12	Krakow	Poland	Capitalisation	WIRE (Week of Innovative Regions in Europe)	Conference
06.06.12	06.06.12	Dortmund	Germany	Strategic Programming	North West Europe Annual Event	Conference
06.06.12	06.06.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSDR	DG Regio EUSDR support meeting	Meeting
11.06.12	11.06.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSBSR	EUSBSR NCP meeting	Meeting
13.06.12	14.06.12	Vienna	Austria	EUSDR	Facilitation of EUSDR PA 9 Stakeholders conference	Conference
13.06.12	14.06.12	Aalborg	Denmark	Capitalisation	ESPON Territorial Evidence for EU Cohesion Policy and Programming	Seminar
18.06.12	19.06.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	EUSBSR	3rd Annual forum of the EUSBSR	Conference
18.06.12	19.06.12	Bremerhaven	Germany	Typology	NSR Annual Conference	Conference
19.06.12	19.06.12	Barcelona	Spain	Capitalisation	INTERREG IVC exchange of experience seminar	Meeting
25.06.12	26.06.12	La Coruña	Spain	Future of ETC	1st Congress on Smart Cooperation	Conference
28.06.12	29.06.12	Vienna	Austria	EUSDR	EUSDR Info material for the start of Danube Trip of commissioner Hahn	Meeting
29.06.12	29.06.12	Bologna	Italy	Communication	Participation and INTERACT material for the Annual Event of South-East Europe transnational programme	Conference
10.07.12	10.07.12	Brussels	Belgium	Networking	Future of ETC: Capacity Building in Cross-Border Territories	Conference
17.07.12	18.07.12	Rome	Italy	Mediterranean partnership	The Mediterranean Sea Basin ENPI CBC Programme	Conference
11.09.12	12.09.12	Koblenz	Germany	Programming	North West Europe Programme Preparation Group - facilitation	Meeting
12.09.12	13.09.12	Rouen	France	Communication	Channel Programme - support to communication event for applicants	Advisory
17.09.12	18.09.12	Sofia	Bulgaria	EUSDR	Facilitation of EUSDR PA 11 steering group	Meeting
18.09.12	18.09.12	Valencia	Spain	Capitalisation	Participation in the Capitalisation seminar of the MED programme	Seminar
18.09.12	18.09.12	Tallinn	Estonia	EU Cooperation Day	European Cooperation Day - Central Baltic bus tour	Events
20.09.12	20.09.12	Ipswich	UK	Future of ETC	Open Days local event on ETC past, present, future	Seminar
21.09.12	21.09.12	Vasa	Finland	Communication and Capitalisation	Evolving Experience in Communication in International projects and organisations	Conference
21.09.12	21.09.12	Vasa	Finland	Communication and Capitalisation	European Cooperation Day event of Botnia-Atlantica ETC Programme	Campaign
21.09.12	21.09.12	Europe	Europe	Communication and Capitalisation	Of the 281 European Cooperation Day local events, 169 took place on the main date of European Cooperation Day (21 Sept. 2012)	Campaign
25.09.12	26.09.12	Vienna	Austria	EUSDR	Info materials and presentation at EUSDR Communication conference by DCR Council	Events
27.09.12	27.09.12	Cracow	Poland	EUSBSR	Science Link conference "Research structures and cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, a challenging opportunity"	Conference
27.09.12	27.09.12	Brussels	Belgium	Future of ETC	User Reference Group for eTrustEx meeting	Meeting
27.09.12	27.09.12	Vienna	Austria	Programming meeting	Support at Central EU programme synergy workshop	Events
27.09.12	27.09.12	Brussels	Belgium	Monitoring Systems	Participation in the E-TrustEx Users Group	Meeting
08.10.12	11.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	Networking	Open Days workshops	Workshop
09.10.12	09.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	Capitalisation	Open Days EU Commission CBC Unit workshop: 'CBC Boosting Innovation'	Workshop

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
05.10.12	05.10.12	Helsinki	Finland	Programme management on national level and Future of ETC	National meeting in Finland on progress in ETC programmes (EAY) and the future period 2014-2020	Meeting
12.10.12	12.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programming meeting	VC Programme Preparation Group	Advisory
15.10.12	15.10.12	Stockholm	Sweden	Programme management on national level and Future of ETC	Swedish national network meeting on the implementation of the EUSBSR	Meeting
15.10.12	15.10.12	Stockholm	Sweden	EUSDR	Knowledge exchange on macro-regions at the SE EUSBSR network	Meeting
16.10.12	17.10.12	Dead Sea	Jordan	Programming 2014-2020	INTERACT-ENPI annual conference	Conference
17.10.12	17.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSBSR	Meeting on the review of the Action Plan (DG REGIO)	Meeting
18.10.12	18.10.12	Dead Sea	Jordan	Financial issues, monitoring	3rd meeting of the JMA network of ENPI CBC programmes	Meeting
24.10.12	24.10.12	Paris	France	Future of ETC	MOT Conference "Cross-border territories, regional and national policies: what coordination for 2014-2020?"	Conference
24.10.12	25.10.12	Nicosia	Cyprus	Communication and Capitalisation	Annual event of the MED and ENPI CBC MED programmes	Conference
25.10.12	25.10.12	Paris	France	Networking	Regular coordination meeting with Networking programmes	Meeting
05.11.12	05.11.12	Milan	Italy	Capitalisation	URBACT hearing on energy efficiency	Meeting
06.11.12	06.11.12	Brussels	Belgium	Programming	North West Europe Programme Preparation Group - facilitation	Meeting
12.11.12	12.11.12	Bilbao	Spain	Sea-basin strategies	Atlantic Forum Bilbao	Conference
15.11.12	16.11.11	Turin	Italy	Programming	Central Europe Programme Preparation Group - facilitation	Meeting
19.11.12	19.11.12	Vienna	Austria	Programming	Central Europe Programme Preparation Group	Meeting
20.11.12	20.11.12	Paris	France	Evaluation	Ex-ante evaluation seminar at DATAR	Workshop
21.11.12	22.11.12	Bognor Rigis	UK	Clustering	Running a workshop on clustering as part of the Annual Conference of Channel Programme	Workshop
21.11.12	22.11.12	Bordeaux	France	EUSBSR	Seminar - Smart specialisation in the Atlantic Arc Regions	Seminar
23.11.12	23.11.12	Brussels	Belgium	Evaluation	Participation in the Evaluation Network of the COM and the MS	Network
27.11.12	28.11.12	Regensburg	Germany	EUSDR	The first Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region	Meeting
27.11.12	28.11.12	Madrid	Spain	Future of ETC	Annual IT Seminar	Seminar
28.11.12	30.11.12	Larnaca	Cyprus	Programming	Facilitation of the JPC of the INTERREG VC on selected subjects of vision, mission, thematic objectives	Meeting
03.12.12	04.12.12	Paris	France	Communication	INFORM meeting	Meeting
03.12.12	04.12.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	Capitalisation	URBACT annual event	Conference
07.12.12	07.12.12	Lisbon	Portugal	Finance and programme management	Annual event of several programmes, organised by IFDR	Conference
17.12.12	17.12.12	Paris	France	Capitalisation	Capitalisation event organised by DATAR	Workshop

Annex 3 Table No 3: INTERACT Written and Audiovisual Publications

From	To	Theme	Title	Type
12.11	01.12	Communication	European Union Macro Regional Strategies	INTERACT newsletter
12.11	01.12	Communication	Update Section of the website ETC 2014+	Online tool
12.11	01.12	Communication	Update Section of the website INTERACT Focus	Online tool
01.12	12.12	Future of ETC	Templates for rules of procedure of Monitoring and Steering Committee, Memorandum of Understanding, FLC report and certificate	Templates
01.12	01.12	Future of ETC	Summary of INTERACT/ETC Input papers: 15 key-points	Online publication
01.12	01.12	EUSBSR	Visual identity for the EUSBSR	Visibility guidance
01.12	03.12	Communication	Hot subjects (ETC and INTERACT)	Newsflash

From	To	Theme	Title	Type
02.12	02.12	Communication	EUSDR Key recommendations on the legislative package proposal by the Commission for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	Online publication
01.12	06.12	EUSDR	EUSDR Website updates	Online tool
01.12	06.12	Communication	European Cooperation Day Video	Video
02.12	03.12	Communication	Guide to European Cooperation Day	Support to events
03.12	03.12	Communication	MC Update March 2012	MC Update
03.12	03.12	Communication	Hot subjects (ETC and INTERACT)	Newsflash
03.12	03.12	IPA CBC	Update of the Manual on public procurement in IPA CBC Programmes with EU MS in shared management	Online tool
03.12	03.12	Communication	Overview of the status quo for European Territorial Cooperation programmes in terms of evaluation updated	Online tool
03.12	03.12	EUSBSR	EUSBSR newsletter (1.)	EUSBSR newsletter
04.12	04.12	Future of ETC	Input paper on implementing provisions; 2014-2020 IPA II CBC with Member States	Online publication
05.12	05.12	Communication	Inclusive Growth	INTERACT newsletter
05.12	05.12	Communication	Hot subjects (ETC and INTERACT)	Newsflash
05.12	05.12	Communication	Mediterranean Newsflash on Maritime Risks	Newsflash
05.12	05.12	EUSDR	A Year in Action: New Danube Region Strategy Newsletter	Newsflash
05.12	05.12	EUSBSR	EUSBSR newsletter (2.)	EUSBSR newsletter
06.12	06.12	Communication	Hot subjects (ETC and INTERACT)	Newsflash
06.12	06.12	Communication	European Cooperation Day Website	Online tool
06.12	06.12	EUSBSR	Expertise on information and Communication issues for the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)	Expertise
06.12	07.12	Monitoring Systems	50 questions and answers on e-Cohesion Policy in European Territorial Cooperation Programmes	Online fact sheet
06.12	12.12	Programming 2014-2020	Survey for a study on the FLC systems in Europe	Survey
07.12	07.12	E-cohesion	E-cohesion: 50 questions and answers	Paper
07.12	12.12	INTERACT 2014-2020	Orientation Paper	Paper
09.12	10.12	Communication	Territorial Cooperation 2014+	INTERACT newsletter
09.12	09.12	Communication	Hot subjects (ECT and INTERACT)	Newsflash
09.12	09.12	EUSBSR	EUSBSR newsletter (3.)	EUSBSR newsletter
09.12	09.12	Communication	Hot subjects (ECT and INTERACT)	Newsflash
09.12	09.12	Programming 2014-2020	Draft Template for ToRs for the ex-ante evaluation	Templates
09.12	09.12	Capitalisation	Mediterranean Newsflash on transport	Publication
10.12	10.12	Programming 2014-2020	Guidance on simplified costs options	Paper
11.12	11.12	EUSBSR	EUSBSR newsletter (4.)	EUSBSR Newsletter
09.12	10.12	Communication	Diptych on European Cooperation Day (pullout of newsletter)	INTERACT newsletter
09.12	10.12	Communication	Diptych on European Cooperation Day (pullout of newsletter)	INTERACT newsletter
12.12	12.12	Programming 2014-2020	Operational Programming	Paper
12.12	12.12	EUSDR	EUSDR newsletter	Publication

Annex 3 Table No 4: INTERACT Coordination activities

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
01.12	02.12	n/a	n/a	INTERACT reporting	INTERACT six-month report to the Slovak Government	Report
06.01.12	06.01.12	Lille	France	Networking, coordination	Regular coordination meeting with Networking programmes	Meeting
10.01.12	10.01.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSDR	Coordination meeting with EU Commission on EUSDR activities	Meeting
01.02.12	03.02.12	Rome	Italy	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Communication Group meeting	Meeting

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
15.02.12	15.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	Promotion of ETC future related products	Coordination meeting on Annual meeting with MAs of ETC with EU Commission	Meeting
16.02.12	16.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	Draft regulations - eligibility	Coordination meeting with the Commission on eligibility	Meeting
28.02.12	29.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Quality Group meeting	Meeting
28.02.12	28.02.12	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	KEEP	Cooperation between ESPON and INTERACT in KEEP area (maps integration)	Meeting
29.02.12	29.02.12	Brussels	Belgium	EC Day	European Cooperation Day Advisory Group meeting	Meeting
08.03.12	08.03.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Coordinators Group meeting	Meeting
28.03.12	28.03.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	Meeting with DG Regio geographic units	Meeting
11.04.12	11.04.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSDR - EUSBSR	EUSBSR and EUSDR coordination with EU Commission in communication strategies	Meeting
26.04.12	26.04.12	Barcelona	Spain	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Programme Management Group meeting	Meeting
24.04.12	26.04.12	Barcelona	Spain	INTERACT coordination	Future WG meeting	Meeting
25.04.12	25.04.12	Barcelona	Spain	Capitalisation	Capitalisation meeting	Meeting
04.05.12	04.05.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Financial Group meeting	Meeting
22.05.12	23.05.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Communication Group meeting	Meeting
29.05.12	29.05.12	Warsaw	Poland	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Coordinators Group meeting	Meeting
29.05.12	29.05.12	Warsaw	Poland	INTERACT coordination	KEEP Advisory Task Force meeting	Meeting
29.05.12	29.05.12	Warsaw	Poland	INTERACT coordination	1st meeting of the INTERACT III Programming Task Force	Meeting
30.05.12	30.05.12	Warsaw	Poland	INTERACT coordination	8th meeting of INTERACT National Contact Persons	Meeting
31.05.12	31.05.12	Warsaw	Poland	INTERACT coordination	9th meeting of the INTERACT Monitoring Committee	Meeting
05.12	05.12	n/a	n/a	INTERACT reporting	INTERACT Annual Implementation Report 2011	Report
06.06.12	06.06.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	Coordination meeting with the Commission on EUSDR second semester activities	Meeting
07.06.12	07.06.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	Meeting with the Desk Officer about update on outstanding issues before her leave	Meeting
12.06.12	13.06.12	Lisbon	Portugal	EC Day	European Cooperation Day Advisory Group meeting	Meeting
21.06.12	22.06.12	Brussels	Belgium	Evaluation	Evaluation Network meeting (COM + Member States)	Meeting
06.12	07.12	n/a	n/a	INTERACT reporting	INTERACT six-month report to the Slovak Government	Report
05.07.12	05.07.12	Paris	France	KEEP	KEEP meeting	Meeting
09.08.12	08.09.12	Bratislava	Slovakia	INTERACT coordination	Contracting aspects of KEEP	Meeting
09.08.12	09.08.12	Turku	Finland	Needs assessment	Needs assessment meeting with Central Baltic ETC Programme	Meeting
15.08.12	16.08.12	Helsinki, Turku	Finland	INTERACT coordination	Meeting with the INTERACT Managing Authority and Finnish authorities	Meeting
15.08.12	15.08.12	Stockholm	Sweden	Needs assessment	Needs assessment meeting with Swedish-led ETC Programmes	Meeting
16.08.12	16.08.12	Warsaw	Poland	Needs assessment	Needs assessment meeting with Polish-led ETC Programmes	Meeting
21.08.12	21.08.12	Riga	Latvia	Needs assessment	Needs assessment meeting with Latvia-Lithuania ETC Programme	Meeting
22.08.12	22.08.12	Vilnius	Lithuania	Needs assessment	Needs assessment meeting with Lithuania-Poland ETC Programme	Meeting
23.08.12	23.08.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSBSR	Planning meeting between DG REGIO and IP Turku on the EUSBSR matters	Meeting
24.08.12	24.08.12	Tallinn	Estonia	Needs assessment	Needs assessment meeting with Estonia-Latvia ETC Programme	Meeting
03.09.12	03.09.12	Haarlem	The Netherlands	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Communication group meeting	Meeting
04.09.12	05.09.12	Haarlem	The Netherlands	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Team Meeting (meetings of the Communication-, Finance Management- and Programme Management Groups)	Meeting

From	To	Location	Country	Theme	Title of activity	Type
05.09.12	05.09.12	Haarlem	The Netherlands	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Quality Group Meeting	Meeting
10.09.12	10.09.12	Berlin	Germany	INTERACT coordination	Participation of Germany in INTERACT III	Meeting
11.09.12	11.09.12	Vienna	Austria	Needs assessment	Needs assessment with Austrian CBC programmes on programming workshop	Meeting
18.09.12	19.09.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	2nd meeting of the INTERACT III Programming Task Force	Meeting
19.09.12	19.09.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Coordinators Group Meeting	Meeting
18.10.12	18.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	EUSBSR	Meeting with DG REGIO on the EUSBSR activities in 2013	Meeting
18.10.12	18.10.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	Meeting with DG Regio on programme closure	Meeting
25.10.12	25.10.12	Paris	France	Networking, coordination	Regular coordination meeting with Networking programmes	Meeting
06.11.12	06.11.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Coordinators Group Meeting	Meeting
07.11.12	07.11.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	INTERACT coordination	KEEP Advisory Task Force Meeting	Meeting
07.11.12	07.11.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	INTERACT coordination	3rd meeting of the INTERACT III Programming Task Force	Meeting
08.11.12	08.11.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	INTERACT coordination	9th meeting of INTERACT National Contact Persons	Meeting
08.11.12	09.11.12	Copenhagen	Denmark	INTERACT coordination	10th meeting of the INTERACT Monitoring Committee	Meeting
15.11.12	15.11.12	Vienna	Austria	INTERACT coordination	INTERACT Communication Group meeting	Meeting
16.11.12	16.11.12	Vienna	Austria	EC Day	Follow-up on EC Day	Meeting
21.11.12	22.11.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	Meeting with DG Regio on alignment of funding and key events of EUSBSR	Meeting
23.11.12	23.11.12	Brussels	Belgium	INTERACT coordination	Meeting with DG Regio on the Partnership Agreement	Meeting
29.11.12	29.11.12	Brussels	Belgium	KEEP	KEEP meeting	Meeting