Fact Sheet 22: Intervention logic and indicators

Version	Valid from	Valid to	Main changes
Version 1	16.11.2021	12.04.2023	n/a
Version 2	12.04.2023		Version 2 adds an annex to the fact sheet containing a survey template for data collection on the result indicator on capacity building

CORE MESSAGE

The intervention logic is the programme's main tool to structure the individual projects. Indicators form part of the intervention logic and applicants will have to set targets for indicators in the application form. The achievements on indicators will contribute to the project's objectives, which also form part of the intervention logic and are also set at application stage. Projects must monitor their achievements on indicators and objectives through progress reports.

Introduction

The programme uses a fixed set of indicators to measure the performance of projects and the programme. At application stage each project must set targets for the indicators that are relevant. The information on indicators recorded in the Online Monitoring System supports the monitoring of the implementation of projects and the programme.

Programme intervention logic

The programme targets four themes, which are called priorities. Each priority is divided into one or more priority specific objectives. At the application stage, applicants must choose the priority specific objective their project will contribute to.

Priority	Priority Specific Objective (SO)	
Priority 1 - Robust and smart economies in the North Sea Region	Priority specific objective 1.1	Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
	Priority specific objective 1.2	Developing skills for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship
Priority 2 - A green transition in the North Sea	Priority specific objective 2.1	Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Priority	Priority Specific Objective (SO)	
	Priority specific objective 2.2	Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein
	Priority specific objective 2.3	Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)
	Priority specific objective 2.4	Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
	Priority specific objective 2.5	Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy
Priority 3 - A climate resilient North Sea Region	Priority specific objective 3.1	Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches
	Priority specific objective 3.2	Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution
Priority 4 - Better governance in the North Sea Region	Priority specific objective 4.1	Actions to support better cooperation governance

More information about the priorities and priority specific objectives can be found in the Interreg North Sea Programme document.

Project intervention logic and indicators

The intervention logic of a project should contribute to a selected priority and priority specific objective and consist of:
- the project overall objective,
- the work package objectives,
- the activities,
- the output indicators,
- the result indicators.

When selecting indicators, applicants should keep in mind that there should be a logical connection between all parts of the intervention logic. The starting point is always the priority specific objective (SO1.1 – SO4.1), which links to all other apects of the project's intervention logic and defines which indicators can be selected.

The following graphic visualises the project's intervention logic and its connection to the programme level. The individual building blocks are described further below.
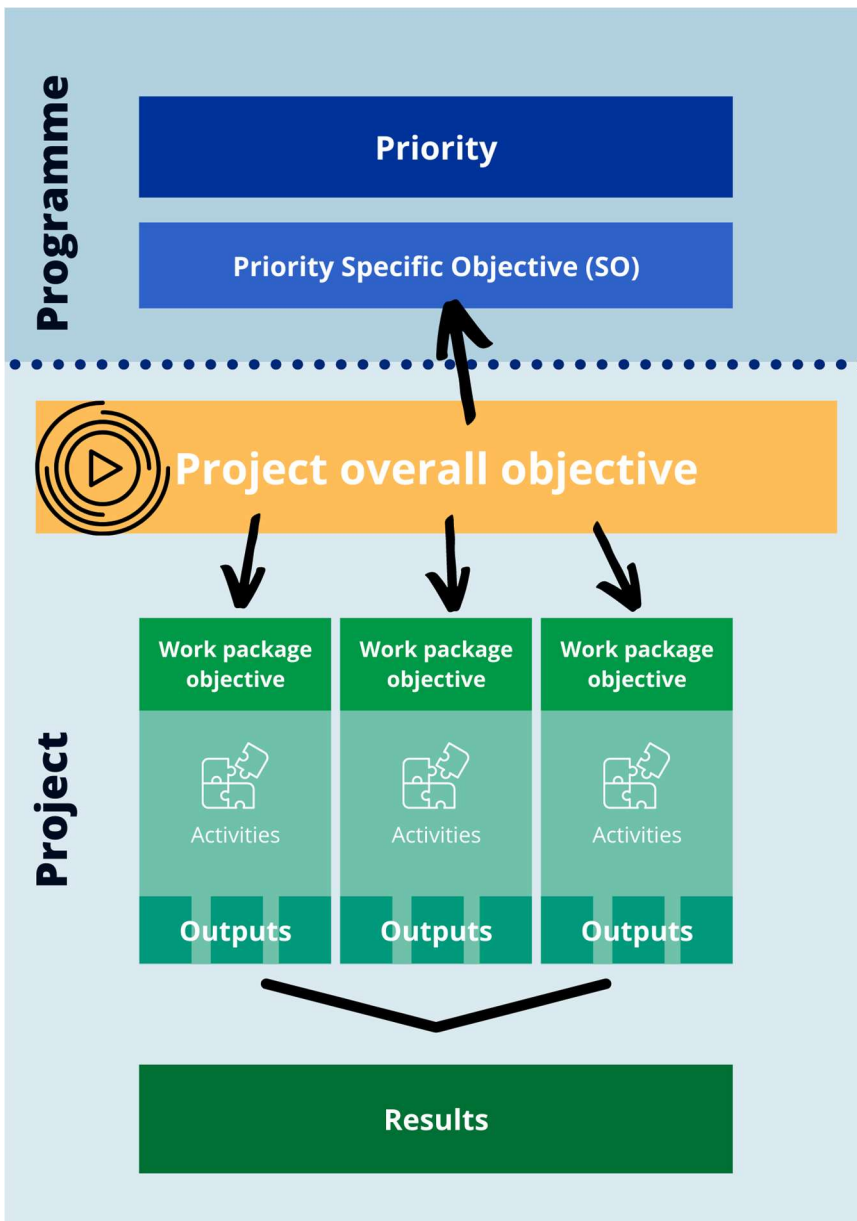
Project overall objective and work package objectives

The project overall objective is described by the project and outlines the overall aim of the project (it is a free-text field in the application). The project overall objective must have a clear link to the priority and priority specific objective that has been chosen. The project overall objective will be achieved by carrying out the work described in the work packages. Each of the work packages has its own work package objective, which describes the goal of the activities in the work package.

Activities

In each work package, the applicant should list the activities that need to be implemented in order to achieve the work package objectives. Each activity is linked to a deliverable. The deliverables quantify the implemented activities. Deliverables will be chosen from a drop-down menu and should be specified in the "activity description" column. Progress toward and completion of deliverables should be evidenced by explanations and/or supporting documentation. More information and the definitions of the deliverables can be found in annex III.

Outputs

Outputs must be defined on work package level. There are two output indicators from which projects can choose:

1. Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
2. Strategies and action plans jointly developed

The achievement of the output indicators will be a logical consequence of the activities carried out in the respective work package.

Projects must set targets for the output indicators at application stage and report on them regularly (see Fact Sheet 20 on reporting).

In addition, the programme counts the number of organisations that participate as project partners in the programme, which will contribute to the third output indicator 'organisations cooperating across borders'. As an applicant/project you do not have to set targets or report on achievements on this indicator, as this is calculated automatically in the Online Monitoring System.

More information and the definitions of the output indicators can be found in annex I.

Results

Result indicators capture the accumulated benefits of all work packages. Projects can choose between three result indicators:

1. Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
2. Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
3. Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders

Each result indicator links to an output indicator and measures the wider uptake of the corresponding output. You can find the sets of indicators in the table below.

More information and the definitions of the result indicators can be found in annex II.

Projects must set targets for the results indicators at application stage and report on them regularly (see Fact Sheet 20 on reporting).

Link between output and result indicators

The first two columns in the table below describe the link between output and result indicators.

Output indicator	Result indicator	SO 1.1	SO 1.2	SO 2.1	SO 2.2	SO 2.3	SO 2.4	SO 2.5	SO 3.1	SO 3.2	SO 4.1
Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Organisations cooperating across borders (automatically measured)	Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

The above set of output and result indicators is available for all projects under the different priority specific objectives – except for SO4.1. Priority 4 projects cannot choose the output and result indicators that measure pilots and solutions.

Selecting indicators in the application form

The targets for relevant indicators should be set by the project at application stage and form part of the application form in the Online Monitoring System. Indicator targets are part of all application forms: the expression of interest, the full application and the small-scale project application. The Joint Secretariat and national contact points may be consulted for guidance with regard to the intervention logic, indicators and target setting.

Programme targets

The progress of the programme is measured against the same set of indicators as used by the projects. The achievements of projects under the same programme specific objective will accumulate towards the programme targets.

Annex 1: List and definition of outputs

Indicator name	Measurement Unit	Definition
Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action	A pilot action is a practical measure implemented in the context of a project that tests or demonstrates one novel solution (e.g. procedures, instruments, tools, approaches and methods or the transfer of working practices). A solution is considered to be novel if it is either new or applied in a new context. The aim of a pilot is to test, validate and/or improve the solution. A pilot has to be attached to one specific location. In order to be counted towards this indicator, • the pilot action must be developed and implemented within the project framework. • the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project. • the development of the pilot action must involve organisations from several countries. In order to count towards the corresponding result indicator (Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations) a successfully piloted solution should document what is needed for it to be taken up or to be up scaled. This indicator is applicable to priorities 1-3, but not to priority 4. Data on this indicator is collected by projects.
Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/action plan	The indicator counts the number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects. A jointly developed strategy sets a general direction in a certain subject to achieve a desired goal in the future. An action plan is a detailed plan outlining actions needed to reach one or more goals, laid down in the strategy. An action plan is one step further than a strategy towards actual/physical implementation. Joint development implies the involvement of organizations from at least two participating countries in the drafting process.

		Further clarifications:
		- Strategies have to be jointly developed by the partners. Those action plans that are based on a joint strategy can be designed in local/regional context. - Projects can create a strategy and/or action plan(s) within the project framework. Alternatively, projects can create action plans that are based on an existing strategy (for example from another/previous project). - Strategies and action plans are counted individually, e.g. if a project creates a strategy and three action plans, then four would be the target value. - Strategies and action plans developed outside of the context of the North Sea Region programme cannot be counted towards this indicator. NOTE: Plans for pilot activities and/or internal project implementation (e.g. management plan or project communication strategy) and already existing strategies do not count toward this indicator. This indicator is applicable to priorities 1-4. Data on this indicator is collected by projects.
Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisation	The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the project partners as mentioned in the contract between the project and the programme. This indicator is applicable to priorities 1-4. Data on this indicator is collected automatically by the programme.

Annex II: List and definition of result indicators

Indicator name	Measurement Unit	Definition
Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Solution	The indicator counts the number of solutions that were tested, validated and/or improved in joint pilot actions and that were taken up or upscaled during the implementation of the project. Taking up solutions means changing existing practices, procedures or equipment as a result of the project either by modifying existing practices or introducing completely new practices. This result indicator corresponds to output indicator 'pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects'. In order to count towards this result indicator a successfully piloted solution reported under the output indicator should document what is needed for it to be taken up or to be upscaled. Further clarifications: - The organisation adopting the solutions developed by the project may or may not be a participant in the project. - The uptake / up-scaling should be documented by the adopting organisations. - This indicator does not count legal or administrative solutions. This indicator is applicable to priorities 1-3, but not to priority 4. Data on this indicator is collected by projects.
Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	The indicator counts the number of joint strategies and action plans adopted and/or implemented by organisations during or after the project completion. Adoption implies an official statement by the organisation taking up the strategy/action plan. Implementation means the realisation of the steps outlined in the document. In order to be counted towards this indicator, - the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started at the time of reporting of this indicator - the organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project - strategies and action plans need to be beneficial in the context of the North Sea Region programme

		This result indicator corresponds to output indicator 'strategies and action plans jointly developed'. The number reported should be equal to or less than the number for the output indicator. This indicator is applicable to priorities 1-4. Data on this indicator is collected by projects.
Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders	Organisations	This indicator counts the number of organisations that increased their institutional capacity in the thematic field of the project by actively participating in cooperation activities across borders. An organisation increases its institutional capacity by securing the human resources (new knowledge and skills), new tools, procedures or workflows and structures (organisational or governance) it needs in order to perform its mandated tasks better. In order to be counted towards this indicator, • an organisation may or may not be a project partner • organisations include but are not limited to public authorities, research institutions, SME´s, and NGO´s • the organisation has undergone a learning process through project activities. This is defined as more than one instance of exchange in which the organisation played an active role • the organisation has increased its institutional capacity in the thematic field of the project • an organisation is to be counted no more than once per project regardless of how many activities it was involved in or how many departments were involved This indicator is applicable to priorities 1-4. Projects have to collect data on this indicator via a survey available in the annex to this fact sheet and provide this data when reporting in the Online Monitoring System.

Annex III: List of deliverables and definitions

The deliverables must be applied in the work packages to measure the activities that projects deliver. Applicants select deliverables from a drop-down list and specify them in the "activity description" column. They must also select a target value per deliverable.

Deliverable	Definition
Report	Includes all written conclusions and policy recommendations published externally. Includes digital publication. Does not include reporting to the programme.
Communication initiative	Brochures, leaflets, web content, social media contributions and other internal or external communication initiatives. This also includes project promotion and content activities at external events organised by third parties. Project communication plans should provide details.
Internal Event	Includes all events for exchange on the content of the project. 'Internal' means that the majority of participants are from partner organisations.
External Event	As above but with external participants. The deliverable includes for example dissemination events and tailored events with politicians to promote a policy change. 'External' means that the majority of participants are from outside the partner organisations and are instead representatives of the target group(s). This deliverable does not count participation in external events organised by third parties.
Data collection activity	This deliverable includes data collection activities, such as surveys, interviews, measurements or other data gathering methods.
Other	Wherever possible, projects should use the standard list. Where an important deliverable cannot be included using the standard list, projects should make use of "Other" and provide more details in the "activity description" column. Please provide a short title of the deliverable at the top of the activity

	description. A deliverable should always quantify the activity. This should be done in consultation with the Joint Secretariat.