

Interreg VI-A Estonia-Latvia programme 2021-2027

Public hearing webinar
22 November 2021

Questions and Answers



Q: Regarding pilot actions (pilots), what are you expecting from pilots (under Priority 5)? We have the experience with Interreg Europe. Pilots are normally seen as innovation done with some partner. And, when will the pilots have to be implemented - in the beginning of project, or in the end?

A: We have taken the Interreg common indicators, and we follow the definitions provided by European Commission. The definitions will be further specified in the programme manual. But now I can say that we all understand it in the same way that pilots are seen either as innovative procedures, new tools, instruments, experimentation or transfer of practices.

Innovation also does not mean it has to be new in the world, but it has to be new to your product/service or for your customer (marketing side).

The pilot activities must be implemented during the project, and with these pilots you solve some problem/come up with the solution to the problem and then the solution can be taken up or up-scaled by some organization(s). Please note that the more detailed guidance will be given in the programme manual that will be approved by the future Monitoring Committee.

Q: Will the pilot activities have to be implemented by all the partners? In tourism projects we have have also 30 partners.

A: We have not discussed it yet in some many details, but as much as we have discussed we don't expect that 100% every partner will do the same. Your products consist of several sites, maybe the innovation does not apply to all sites and it will not be necessary in all sites. You are the experts and we expect that you yourself detect the problem and the need for solutions. The partners/projects are expected to create a new social value with the social inclusion.

Q: How do you see the existing EstLat tourism products/networks, which you mentioned as results of current programme, can be supported - making already existing products more accessible, e.g. further marketing? Or are only new joint tourism products expected?

A: The programme expects the projects/activities add value to the existing products/services and also develop new products/services. Regarding new products, it has been discussed so far that it makes sense to keep the same characteristics as during the 2014-2020 programme: customer journey, wider geographical territory, larger networks of partners, etc. It is not expected that a couple of partners make small local products. And, of course, the products must be based on the cultural or natural heritage.

Q: Is the 24 MEUR (ERDF) foreseen for the first call or is it the total budget of the programme?

A: It is the total budget of the programme 2021-2027.

Q: About better cooperation between municipalities - what kind of common plans there is possible to work out and implement, in which sectors?

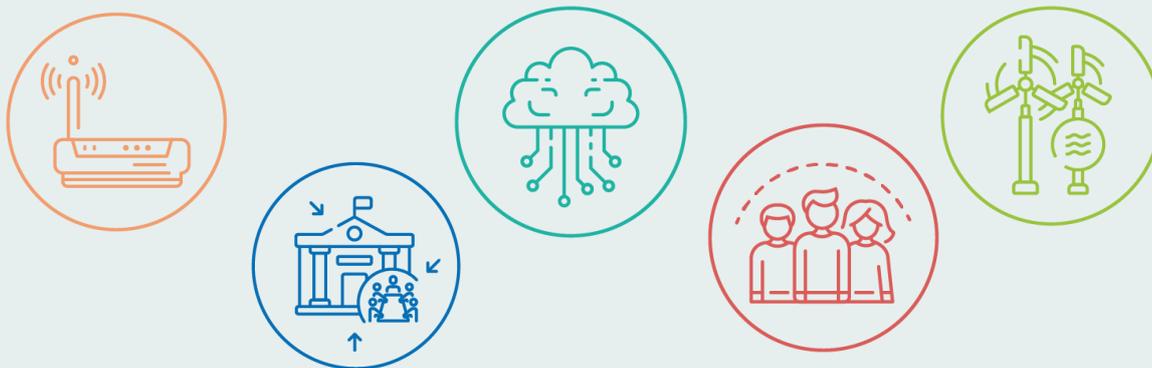
A: The Priority 1 (Better Cooperation Governance) is a great opportunity for border municipalities to come together and talk about the common challenges. It can be in any sector, e.g. joint use of recreational infrastructure in border area, smart solution(s) in public transportation, some sort of social service (cross-border social taxi, etc). It is an opportunity to come together and map the challenges. The strategy or action plan does not have to be all inclusive territorial plan. It can be in one particular sector and implemented either by 2 municipalities or in wider group. It is also a great opportunity to involve communities in planning and development and establish regular strong local cooperation models. It is an incentive for the municipalities.

Q: When could the Programme manual be published (approximately)?

A: Our internal goal is to get it ready a few months before opening the call. When the COM has approved the programme, we would like to publish it. But it is not a promise. We can say approximately - summer 2022. Once the programme is submitted to the COM, we expect that the general focus and priorities remain and we can finalise the manual. But no concrete promises at this stage.

Q: Before the Programme manual is published, can we inquire about the relevance of the content of specific ideas?

A: The JS is not officially consulting or saying if your idea fits or not, but the ideas can be shared with us, yes. We are interested to know in what direction you are heading and if there is a chance, we give you more constructive feedback and ask you to come back later, or, if we clearly see that the idea does not fit, we can communicate that as well in this stage. The information in the Interreg Programme about POs and SOs is not perhaps immediately clear and can help you to understand the focus.



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