

DRAFT TEMPLATE AND GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTENT OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Version 3 – 21.05.2013

This document is based on the Presidency compromise text (from 19 December 2012), which has the agreement of the European Parliament as regards Articles 14, 15 and 87 CPR, and is a provisional text, without prejudice to the on-going negotiations (in line with the principle that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed").

The headings in this document correspond to the elements set out in the Articles 24 and 87 of the Common Provisions Regulation. The text boxes provide guidelines on the drafting of the content of the Operational Programme.

It is recalled that the Operational Programmes will be directly introduced in the SFC. The character limits proposed are based on the needs of most extensive programmes, the pages estimations are based on a standard page using the font "Times new roman 12". Where programmes are sectoral or cover a limited number of thematic objectives, the content of the operational programme can be shorter. The character limits referred to under the description of the priority axis, where information is required by investment priority, are set per investment priority.

In 2012 the Commission provided each Member State with a country position paper outlining the analysis of the Commission services of the main challenges and funding priorities relevant for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) in the programming period 2014-2020. These position papers should guide the ensuing dialogue with the Commission in particular in relation to the prioritisation of development needs and concentration of support, as well as in terms of the presentation of information.

When a Member State prepares a maximum of one operational programme for ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund, Art. 87(8) CPR allows that some elements of the operational programme are solely incorporated under the relevant provisions of the Partnership Agreement. These elements are identified with an asterisk ''. If a Member State wants to make use of this option, it is thus sufficient to include a reference to the relevant section of the Partnership Agreement.*

SECTION 1. STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION (ARTICLE 24 (1) AND ARTICLE 87(2) (A) CPR)

1.1 Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

[a maximum of 35 000 characters with spaces= approx. 10 pages]

- Description of the operational programme's strategy to contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The strategy of the operational programme for contributing to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth outlining:

- *the relevant¹¹ regional, and where appropriate, the national needs (depending, inter alia, on the territorial scope of the OP), including the needs to address the challenges identified in the relevant country specific Council recommendations (ex Art. 121(2) and Art. 148(4) TFEU);*
- *how the operational programme will address these needs and challenges and thereby contribute to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to economic, social and territorial cohesion, where appropriate with reference to existing national or regional strategies coherent with the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including the National Reform Programme, where relevant and the ex-ante evaluation;*

The operational programme's strategy should be consistent with the Common Strategic Framework, the Partnership Agreement and take into account the relevant elements of the Commission services country position paper.

Where the operational programme is dedicated specifically to technical assistance, this section should set out the strategy for the programme, with reference to the relevant development needs and challenges, taking into account relevant strategies.

- * Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities based on the identification of national and regional needs set out above including those identified by the relevant Council recommendations,

¹¹ i.e. the needs that can be addressed by the Fund(s) of the OP.

taking into account the ex-ante evaluation, and with reference to the Partnership Agreement, existing national or regional strategies coherent with the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including the National Reform Programme, where relevant (table).

Not required for operational programmes dedicated exclusively to technical assistance, as technical assistance is not associated with any of the thematic objectives and investment priorities.

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*** Table 1: A synthetic overview of the justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities**

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection [a maximum of 500 characters with spaces per investment priority]
		<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <p><i>1) Country specific Council recommendation to improve energy efficiency in housing</i></p> <p><i>1bis) Country specific recommendation to increase participation (e.g. of older workers, vulnerable groups, youth) in the labour market</i></p> <p><i>2) Ambitious national Europe 2020 targets set out in the National Reform Programme from baseline of x in 2010 to a target of y by 2020</i></p> <p><i>3) Severe bottlenecks in transport infrastructure due to a insufficient intermodal links between rail, road, air and water transport</i></p> <p><i>4) Serious territorial imbalances, needs or potential that need to be addressed to achieve a certain thematic objective (further explanation needed).</i></p> <p><i>5) Need to improve the quality of active labour market policies and increase the capacity of the Public Employment Service</i></p> <p><i>§) Skills mismatch and low responsiveness of the education system to labour market needs</i></p> <p><i>7) Low efficiency of the public administration</i></p>

1.2 * Justification of the financial allocation

The justification of the financial allocation (i.e. the Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

[a maximum of 7000 characters with spaces= approx. 2 pages]

For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, this justification should primarily concern the level of thematic objectives.

As the thematic concentration mechanisms of the ESF is established at the level of the programme, and investment priorities, the justification in the case of ESF should also refer to investment priorities. There is no obligation to set out a financial allocation by investment priority in the financial tables, but an indicative allocation by investment priority is available for the ESF in the categorisation tables (under "Intervention field").

This justification is to be set out with reference to, where appropriate:

- *distance from national Europe 2020 targets;*
- *need to ensure compliance with EU acquis;*
- *substantial complementary investments from other public or private sources the funding priorities;*
- *with reference to the Commission services country position paper;*
- *etc.*

The justification should be presented in percentage and qualitative terms (e.g. "approximately 1/3 of the ERDF allocation is allocated towards thematic objective 1, because.."), based on the relative weight of the allocation to different thematic objectives to the operational programme. It should be brief and proportionate, reflecting the total amount of programme resources.

In case of technical assistance this section should explain the size of the overall allocation to technical assistance and, where appropriate, the choice of Funds from which technical assistance is supported.

Table 2: Overview of the programme investment strategy

The purpose of this section is to demonstrate in a synthetic manner the consistency between the needs identified, the thematic objectives and the investment priorities selected, as well as the specific objectives and the financial allocation proposed. It also provides an overview of the contribution of the operational programme to the Europe2020 strategy.

This table is generated automatically by the SFC based on information inserted under other sections of the operational programme.

Priority axis	Thematic objective <i>[Input from the description of the priority axis]</i>	Investment priorities <i>[Input from the description of the priority axis]</i>	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities <i>[Input from the description of the priority axis]</i>	Programme specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective <i>[input from result indicator tables no 3, 4 and 13]</i>	Fund (specify the Fund: ERDF, Cohesion Fund, ESF) <i>[Input from the financial tables 18a- 18c]</i>	Union support - EUR <i>[Input from the financial tables 18 a -18c]</i>	Share of the total Union support to the operational programme (by Fund) <i>[Input from the financial tables 18 a - 18c]</i>
1	1. Title	1.1. Title				€1,000,000,000	%
2	2. Title	2.1 Title				€1,000,000,000	
	3. Title	3.1 Title					
TA	NA	NA				€500,000,000	

SECTION 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES (ARTICLE 87(2)(B) AND (C) CPR)

Section 2.A. A description of the priority axes other than technical assistance (Article 87 (2) (b) CPR)

The description of the priority axis has to be provided for each priority axis and is, where indicated, broken down by investment priority. For each investment priority the corresponding specific objectives have to be set out (Article 87 (2) (b) CPR).

As a general rule programmes should set out priority axes which are mono-fund, cover only one thematic objective and a single category of region.

However, Article 87 (1) CPR sets out that:

- where appropriate, and in order to increase the impact and effectiveness in a thematically coherent integrated approach, it is possible to set up a priority axis covering more than one Fund and more than one categories of region;*
- in duly justified cases, it is also possible to set up priority axes combining complementary investment priorities from different thematic objectives in order to achieve their maximum contribution to priority axis.*
- for the ESF it is possible to combine investment priorities from different thematic objectives set out in Article 9(8), (9), (10) and (11) in order to facilitate their contribution to other priority axes, without need for further justification. In practical terms this means that where complementary support from the ESF is needed to complement actions supported under an operational programme funded predominantly from the ERDF or the Cohesion Fund, a single priority axis may be set up combining all ESF investment priorities, to ensure a proportionate approach.*

As a general rule, information included in the operational programme for such priority axes set up under Article 87 (1) should be broken down by Fund and by category of region. Special cases are where:

- A joint priority axis is set up for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund supporting the same investment priorities. In such cases data on output indicators and on categories of intervention should be broken down by Fund (due to the close link with the financial allocation to each Fund). The breakdown (by Fund) of other information included in the description of the priority axis is not required, but may be provided.*
- A priority axis is set up which covers more than one category of region and the same investment priorities for all categories of regions concerned. In such a case information on all output indicators and targets (except those for the Cohesion Fund, as this fund is not allocated by category of region) and categories of intervention should be broken down by category of region (due to the close link with the financial allocation of each category of region). The result indicators and targets for the ESF must also be broken down by category of region in all cases due to their close link with output indicators. Information on ERDF result indicators should be broken down, where appropriate. The breakdown (by category of region) of other information included in the description of the priority axis is not required, but may be provided.*

- *When YEI is implemented as a part of a priority axis it should be treated as a separate investment priority.*

PRIORITY AXIS 1: (title)

2.A.0. Where applicable, an explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund (Article 87 (1) CPR)

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx. 1 page]

This section is required only in case the operational programme uses the possibility provided by Article 87 (1) CPR to set up a priority axis covering more than one category of region, more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund. Where this option is not used, this section is not filled in.

This approach is a derogation from the general rule and should only be used "where appropriate and in order to increase impact and effectiveness in a thematically coherent integrated approach (...) in duly justified cases".

The aim of this section is to explain how the chosen set-up of the priority axis contributes to an increase in the impact and the effectiveness of cohesion policy and why a simpler set-up of an axis or axes covering a single category of region, a single thematic objective or a single Fund would constitute a less effective choice. When a priority covers more than one thematic objective, this section should justify how this will lead to the maximum contribution of the investment priorities concerned to the priority axis.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1 of priority axis 1: (title) (Article 87 (2) (b) (i))

2.A.1. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (Article 87 (2) (b) (i)-(ii))

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: (specific objective as defined by the Member State/region)

[a maximum of 500 characters with spaces]

The results, which the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support, with regard to a reference situation in the programme area, where necessary to complement the analysis in section 2.

[a maximum of 2000 characters with spaces= approx.0.5 pages]

The aim of this section is to specify the specific objective linked to a particular investment priority and to outline the results sought.

The specific objective must be consistent with the investment priority in question, defining it,

as necessary to target the particular identified needs of the Member State or regions. The specific objective cannot be broader than the investment priority in question. The number of specific objectives per investment priority should be limited as far as possible, to facilitate the monitoring of progress and avoid the fragmentation of programmes. However, there is no formal limitation in this respect.

The specific objective sought is meaningful only if there is an understanding of the reference situation i.e. what the situation is at the beginning of the programming period.. Therefore, where section 2 is not sufficiently explicit on the identified development needs pertinent to the specific objective, this section may be used to outline the situation at the start of the programming period, including the challenges to be addressed, in more detail.

"Results" in general refer to the changes sought (in the reference situation) in view of the specific objective which the Member State seeks to achieve with the Funds. "Result indicators" are used to capture the measurable dimension(s) of the result – to facilitate the assessment of whether progress has been made towards the achievement of the specific objectives and whether a change has taken place in the direction desired. Result indicators measure only some of the relevant dimensions of the result. Depending on the indicator, external factors apart from Union intervention may to a lesser or higher degree influence the results reported and the attainment of the specific objective and targets.

Table 3: Programme Specific Result indicators for ERDF/CF (by Specific Objective) (Article 87.2(b)(ii))

One (if possible) and no more than two result indicators should be used for each specific objective.

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value ² (2022) ³	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
	Programme Specific Result Indicator S.I, with qualitative target e.g. SME productivity as GVA per worker	Euro/worker	Less developed region	20,000	2012	Increase by 10-15%	National Statistical Office	Once a year.
	Programme Specific	Safety perception by	Less developed	6	2013	2-3	Survey	Every two

² For ERDF and Cohesion Fund the target values can be qualitative or quantitative.

³ If N+3 is agreed between the Council and the European Parliament, the reference year for target values of indicators shall be 2023.

	<i>Result Indicator</i> <i>S.2 with a qualitative target</i> <i>e.g.</i> <i>Perception of safety in selected urban areas</i>	<i>population, expressed on a scale from 1 to 10, 1 being very safe</i>	<i>d region</i>					<i>years</i>
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Table 4: For ESF: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and Programme Specific Result indicators corresponding to the Specific Objective (by investment priority, broken by category of region) (Article 87(2)(b)(ii))

ID	Indicator	Category of region or YEI	Measurement Unit for Indicator	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline Value	Measurement Unit for Baseline and Target	Baseline Year	Target Value ⁴ (2022)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
	<i>Programme Specific Result Indicator S.1 with quantitative target</i> <i>e.g. No of unemployed aged 15-24 in education or training upon leaving</i>	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>	NA	60%	%	2014	65%	Monitoring	1/year
		<i>More developed regions</i>			70%	%	2014	80%	Monitoring	1/year
		<i>Transition regions</i>			65%	%	2014	75%	Monitoring	1/year
	<i>Common Result Indicator C.1 with quantitative target</i> <i>e.g. No of participants in employment upon leaving</i>	<i>Less developed region</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>	<i>Below 25 years</i>	50%	%	2013	55%	Monitoring	1/year

⁴ This list includes those common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme specific result indicators. The target values for common result indicators have to be quantified and for programme specific result indicators they can be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.2. Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.2.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate:

- the identification of the main target groups;
- specific territories targeted;
- types of beneficiaries.

[a maximum of 10500 characters with spaces= approx. 3 pages]

(Article 87 (2) (b) (iii) CPR)

This description should provide an overview of the types of interventions that the Member State plans to support, complemented by more concrete examples, as appropriate. In particular it should explain how types of actions planned contribute to specific objectives e.g. through targeting of specific target groups or territories, focus on particular themes or issues etc. Therefore this section should provide a clear understanding of how the objectives will be pursued and the results attained in practice, with the types of actions planned.

Note that the choice of output indicators and categories of intervention must be consistent with this description.

Where appropriate, this description should also include steps to be taken to take into account the principles of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and sustainable development.

NB:

1. Where appropriate, this description should include an indication that the entire priority axis is dedicated solely to community-led local development in the meaning of Article 28 of the CPR (which allows an increase in the EU co-financing rate by 10% points as set out in Article 110 (5) of the CPR).

2. For the ESF: where appropriate, this description should include an indication that the whole of a priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation (which allows an increase in the EU co-financing rate by 10% points as set out in Article 11 (2) of the ESF Regulation).

2.A.2.2. The guiding principles for the selection of operations (Article 87 (2) (b) (iii) CPR)

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx.1 page]

This section should include a brief description of:

- *The principles applied to ensure the selection of quality operations contributing to the delivery of the specific objectives and achievement of the*

result. The CPR requires this description for each investment priority, but where this description is the same for several investment priorities, a cross-reference may be used to avoid repetition.

2.A.2.3 The planned use of financial instruments (Article 87 (2) (b) (iii)CPR)

[a maximum of 7000 characters with spaces =approx. 2 pages]

Where it is envisaged to use financial instruments, this section should include a description of the planned financial instruments. It should outline the planned scope for the use of financial instruments and the intentions of the Member State in this regard. As financial instruments can be set-up in mid-period, and the ex-ante assessment required for each instrument is not necessarily completed at the time of submission of the operational programme, the description should be clear on where the use of financial instruments is definite (e.g. has been already subject to ex-ante assessment and instrument is being set up) and where it is under consideration or planned.

NB: Where appropriate, this section should indicate that the entire priority axis will be implemented solely:

- through financial instruments within the meaning of Article 32 (which allows an increase in the EU co-financing rate of the EU co-financing rate by 10% as set out in Article 110 (5) of the CPR); or*
- through financial instruments set up at Union level and referred to in Article 33(1)a (which allows increasing the EU co-financing rate up to 100%).*

2.A.2.4 The planned use of major projects (Article 87 (2) (b) (iii)CPR)

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx.1 page]

A description of how the major projects to be supported will contribute to the specific objectives corresponding to this investment priority. Where no major projects are planned, the Member State should indicate this here.

Each operational programme will include a list of major projects planned to be implemented, which are linked to priority axes and investment priorities under section 13.

2.A.2.5 Output indicators (by investment priority and by category of region) (Table 5) (Article 87 (2) (b) (iv) CPR)

Output indicators are required by category of region for each investment priority. Outputs relate to the operations supported. The indicators should measure outputs of a majority of the interventions supported under the investment priority and thus enable an assessment of progress of implementation. These data sets can be used as a basis to assess progress towards achieving the specific objectives.

Table 5: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF, the ESF and the CF (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF and the ESF)

ID	Indicator (<i>name of indicator</i>)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2022) ⁵	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.							

2.A.3. Specific provisions for the ESF ⁶, where applicable (by priority axis, broken down by category of region, where relevant): social innovation, transnational cooperation and the contribution of the ESF to thematic objectives 1-7⁷.

[a maximum of 10500 characters with spaces – approx. 3 pages]

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis⁸);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis⁹).
- thematic objectives set out in Articles 9(1) to (7) CPR.

Identification of:

- *the themes for social innovation¹⁰, in particular with the aim of testing and scaling up innovative solutions to address social needs.*

⁵ For the ESF, this list includes those common output indicators for which a target value has been set.

⁶ In accordance with Art. 11 (3) (b) of the ESF Regulation.

⁷ As set out in Article 9 (1)-9 (7) of the CPR.

⁸ In case there is a specific priority axis on social innovation, the description of the priority axis has to correspond to the description set out in section 3.

⁹ In case there is a specific priority axis on transnational cooperation, the description of the priority axis has to correspond to the description set out in section 3.

¹⁰ In accordance with Art. 9 ESF Regulation.

- *a non-exhaustive list of themes for transnational cooperation including the planned actions and the stakeholders to be involved.*
- *This section should also set out whether and how the types of actions supported contribute to the thematic objectives in Articles 9(1) to 9(7) CPR.*

2.A.4. Performance framework (Article 87 (2) (b) (v))

An identification of implementation steps and financial and output and, where appropriate, results indicators¹¹ to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework in accordance with Article 19(1) and Annex (xx) (Table 6) (by priority axis, broken down by Fund and category of region, where a priority axis covers more than one Fund or category of region).

Specific guidance will be available of the set-up of the performance framework and the use of different types of indicators for this purpose¹².

The indicators used for the performance framework are in most cases likely to be a sub-set of the indicators defined for the priority axes, possibly at an aggregate level (if the same indicator is used for multiple investment priorities within the priority axis). The exception to this is the use of "key implementation steps", which are not part of the general indicator system and financial indicators.

Key implementation steps indicate progress in the implementation processes, e.g. preparation of major projects, launch of tendering procedures for key operations, launch of support schemes etc. Such key implementation steps can be used as milestones in circumstances where the early stage of implementation does not allow the use of output or result indicators. In such cases, measurement units are not always used, hence measurement units are listed as "where appropriate".

Annex x CPR on the performance framework requires the indicators used in the performance framework to be "closely linked" to the policy interventions supported. They are required to be relevant, capturing essential information on the progress of a priority axis. Therefore the indicators and implementation steps chosen should be representative of the priority axis i.e. reflect the implementation, outputs and, where appropriate, results of the majority of interventions undertaken under that priority axis. The last column of the performance framework table provides a possibility to explain this, where this is not evident from the description of the priority axes.

¹¹ The compromise text on Article 87 does not refer to result indicators in the context of the performance framework. However, according to the draft compromise text of the annex of the CPR setting out requirements for the performance framework, result indicators are included in the performance framework. On the basis of the compromise text on Article 20 of the CPR, result indicators included in the performance framework shall not be taken into account for the purposes of Article 20(3) and Article 20(4) CPR.

¹² The performance reserve and its implementation arrangements are still subject to negotiation between the Council and the European Parliament. Depending on the agreement achieved, adjustment of this section and in the related guidance may be necessary.

Table 6: The performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and category of region)

Implementation step, financial, output or result indicator	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2022)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate

In addition qualitative information on the set-up of the performance framework may be added. [a maximum of 7000 characters with spaces= approx. 2 pages]

2.A.5. Categories of intervention (Article 87 (2) (b) (vi))

Categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support (Tables 7-12).

The categories of intervention are based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, which is planned to include 6 dimensions common for the Funds, an additional (7th) dimension for the ESF and (8th) for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

- The first 5 dimensions correspond to those used for the period 2007-2013 and set out in Annex II of the Commission Regulation 1828/2006, albeit changes in certain categories and codes will be made.*
- The additional common dimension covers "territorial delivery mechanisms" allowing the analysis of the use of community-led local development, ITIs, and integrated approaches to sustainable urban development.*
- The dimension for the "ESF secondary theme" aims to capture the contribution of the ESF operations to the thematic objectives set out in Articles 9 (1)-(7) CPR.*
- The additional dimension proposed for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund aims to track the allocation of Union support to each thematic objectives (where priority axes cover multiple thematic objectives) and thus to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.*

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section (categories of intervention) is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

Tables 7-12: Categories of intervention

Separate tables by category of region/Fund if the priority axis covers more than one category or Fund. For the purposes of categorisation YEI (specific allocation and the matching ESF support) is considered equivalent to a separate Fund but the data for the YEI does not need to be broken down by category of region.

Category of region and Fund <i>E.g. ERDF: Less developed regions</i>											
Table 7: Dimension 1 Intervention field		Table 8: Dimension 2 Form of finance		Table 9: Dimension 3 Territory		Table 10: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 11: Dimension 7 ESF secondary theme ¹³ (ESF only)		Table 12: Dimension 8 Thematic objective (ERDF/CF)	
Code	€ amount	Code	€ amount	Code	€ amount	Code	€ amount	Code	€ amount	Code	€ amount

For the remaining dimensions of categorisation, data is requested for information purposes through electronic data exchange system during implementation.

2.A.6. Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (by priority axis) (Article 87 (2) (b) (vii))

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx. 1 page)]

This section should be included in the description of the priority axis, where appropriate, to identify specific gaps in the administrative capacity of specific authorities or specific beneficiaries who implement this priority axis. It should set out specific actions to be supported from technical assistance to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to ensure an effective implementation of the priority axis as well as the level of the available resources. Therefore this section is dedicated to the actions which are specific and limited to improving the implementation capacity related to a single priority axis.

Where the use of technical assistance for the purpose of developing the administrative capacity of authorities and beneficiaries does not involve any specific actions linked to the priority axis concerned, this section does not need to be filled in.

¹³ This aims, inter alia, at obtaining quantified information on the contribution of the ESF to the thematic objectives referred to in Art. 9(1) to (7) CPR.

The content of this section should not overlap with the description of the priority axis for technical assistance or the specific operational programme for technical assistance.

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Section 2.B. A description of the priority axes for technical assistance (Article 87 (2) (c) CPR)

The following information should be provided by priority axis and, where indicated, broken down by specific objective (Article 87 (2) (c)). There are no corresponding thematic objectives or investment priorities for technical assistance.

Technical assistance priority axes are mono-fund and as a general rule should cover a single category of region.

However, Article 87 (1) CPR sets out that, where appropriate, and in order to increase the impact and effectiveness in a thematically coherent integrated approach, it is possible to set up a priority axis covering more than one category of regions.

PRIORITY AXES: (TITLE)

2.B.0. Where applicable, an explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region (Article 87 (1) CPR)

[a maximum of 2000 characters with spaces= approx. 0.5 pages]

This is required only in case the operational programme uses the possibility provided by Article 87 (1) CPR to set up a priority axis covering more than one category of region. The aim of this section is to explain and substantiate how the chosen set-up of the priority axis contributes to an increase in the impact and the effectiveness of cohesion policy to contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy and why a simpler set-up of an axis or axes covering a single category of region, would constitute a less effective choice.

Article 109 of the CPR sets out that technical assistance priority axes are mono-fund. However, technical assistance from any of the Funds can be used to support activities related to any other of the Funds, within limits set out in Article 109 of the CPR.

2.B.1. Specific objectives and expected results (Article 87 (2) (c) (i) –(ii))

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: *(specific objective as defined by the Member State/region)*

[a maximum of 500 characters with spaces]

- The results, which the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support, with regard to the reference situation in the programme area, where necessary to complement the analysis in section 2.

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx. 1 page]

The description of the expected results is required only where the Union support to the priority axis or axes for technical assistance in an operational programme exceeds EUR

15 million.

2.B.2. The list of result indicators (only where the Union support to technical assistance in the operational programme exceeds EUR 15 million)

Table 13: Result indicators for ERDF/CF/ESF (by specific objective) (Article 87.2(c)(ii))

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value ¹⁴ (2022)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.3. Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis) (Article 87 (2) (c) (i) –(ii) CPR)

2.B.3.1. A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives - Article 87 (2) (c) (iii) CPR

[a maximum of 7000 characters with spaces=approximately 2 pages]

This section should include a description of actions to be supported and describe the link between the outputs generated by these actions and the specific objectives/ results sought.

¹⁴ The target values can be qualitative or quantitative.

2.B.3.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis) (Table 13) (Article 87 (2) (c) (iv) CPR)

Table 13: Output indicators for the ERDF, the ESF and the CF (by priority axis)

ID	Indicator (<i>name of indicator</i>) ¹⁵	Measurement unit	Target value (2022) ¹⁶ (optional)	Source of data
			(values)	

¹⁵ For the ESF, this list includes all those common output indicators for which targets have been set and all programme specific output indicators

¹⁶ Target values for output indicators under technical assistance are optional.

2.B.4. Categories of intervention (Article 87 (2) (c) (v)) (by priority axis)

The corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section (categories of intervention) is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 Intervention field		Table 15: Dimension 2 Form of finance		Table 16: Dimension 3 Territory	
Code	€ amount	Code	€ amount	Code	€ amount

For the remaining dimensions of categorisation data is requested for information purposes through electronic data exchange system during implementation.

SECTION 3. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 87 (2) (D))

3.1 A table specifying for each year, in accordance with Articles 53, 110 and 111 of the CPR, the amount of the total financial appropriation envisaged for the support from each of the Funds (EUR) (Article 87 (d) (i) CPR)

Table 17

Category of region	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF								(1)
In less developed regions								
ERDF								(2)
In transition regions								
ERDF								(3)
In more developed regions								
<i>ERDF Total</i>								(4)
ESF In less developed regions								(5)
ESF								(6)
In transition regions								
ESF								(7)
In more developed regions								
<i>ESF Total</i>								(8)
Youth Employment Initiative:								(8 ii)
Cohesion Fund								(9)
Total								(10)

3.2.A Financial plan of the operational programme specifying, for the whole programming period, for the operational programme and for each priority axis, the amount of the total financial appropriation of the support from each of the Funds and the national co-financing. (EUR) (Table 18) (Article 87 (d) (ii) CPR)

1. *The financial table should set out the financial plan of the operational programme by priority axis.*
2. *Where the priority axis covers more than one category of region, the data for the Union funding and the national counterpart should be broken down by category of region with a separate co-financing rate within the priority axis for each category of region.*
3. *The EIB contribution should be presented at the level of the priority axis.*

Table 18a: Financial plan of the operational programme

	Fund ¹⁷	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of the Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart			Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e) (2)	For information
						National funding (c)	Public (d)	National private funding (1)			EIB contributions

¹⁷ The YEI (special allocation and the matching ESF support) should be considered as a separate Fund and should appear on a separate line even if it is part of a priority axis (as set out in Art. 15 vii ESF Regulation).

Priority axis 1	ERDF									
Priority axis 2	ESF									
	YEI									
Priority axes 3	CF	NA								
Total	ERDF	Less developed		Must equal total (1) in table 17						
Total	ERDF	Transition		Must equal total (2) in table 17						
Total	ERDF	More developed		Must equal total (3) in table 17						
Total	ESF	Less developed		Must equal total (5) in table 17						
Total	ESF	Transition		Must equal total (6) in table 17						
Total	ESF	More developed		Must equal total (7) in table 17						
Total	YEI			Must equal total (8ii) in table 17						

Total	CF	NA		Must equal Total						
Grand total				Must equal total (10) in table 17						

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

Table 18 B: The division of the allocation of the priority axis (or part of a priority axis) dedicated to the Youth Employment Initiative between ESF and the YEI specific allocation, and between different categories of regions for the ESF

	Fund ¹⁸	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of the Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d))	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e) (2)	For information
						National funding (c)	Public funding (1) (d)			
1	YEI specific allocation	NA			0	0	0		100%	
2	ESF matching support	less developed								
3	ESF matching support	transition								

¹⁸ The YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered a Fund and should appear on one separate line even if it is part of a priority axis. To be included in this table in accordance with Art. 15 vii ESF Regulation.

4	ESF matching support	more developed								
5	TOTAL: YEI [part of] priority axis	[Must equal [part of priority axis 3]		Sum (1:4)	Sum (1:4)	Sum (1:4)	Sum (1:4)			
6			Ratio between ESF and the specific allocation for YEI →	sum(2:4)/1						
7			Ratio of ESF by category of region: less developed regions	2/sum(2:4)						
8			Ratio of ESF by category of region: transition regions	3/sum(2:4)						
9			Ratio of ESF by category of region: more developed regions	4/sum(2:4)						

Table 18C Breakdown of the financial plan of the operational programme by priority axis, Fund, category of region and thematic objective for the ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund (Table 18b) (Article 87 (d) (ii) CPR)

This breakdown is required in order to fulfil the requirement set out under Article 87 (2) (d) (ii) CPR to specify for priority axes, which combine investment priorities from different thematic objectives, the amount of total financial appropriation from the ERDF, ESF and CF and the national co-financing for each of the corresponding thematic objectives. Where each priority axes corresponds to a single thematic objective, this table will not require a breakdown below the level of a priority axis.

Priority axis	Fund ¹⁹	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Priority axis 1			Thematic objective 1			
			Thematic objective 2			
Priority axis 2			Thematic objective 3			
TOTAL						

¹⁹ For the purposes of this table the YEI (specific allocation and the matching ESF support) is considered a Fund.

Table 19: The indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (Article 24 (5) CPR)

This table is generated automatically by SFC based on categorisation tables included under each of the priority axes.

The information provided in this table is based on uniform conditions on the implementation of a methodology to each of the ESI Funds adopted by the Commission based on Article 8 of the CPR.

Priority axis	The indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Share of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1.		
Total		

SECTION 4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT - ARTICLE 87(3) CPR

A description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme and having regard to the Partnership Agreement, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results.

[a maximum of 3 500 characters with spaces= approx. 1 page]

A description of the approach to territorial development outlining:

- *The main territorial development needs and bottlenecks to be addressed, and main territorial development potentials, with reference to section 2, where appropriate and the means to achieve an integrated approach at regional and sub-regional level, where necessary to complement the Partnership Agreement. Where the Partnership Agreement is comprehensive and the programme does not have a specific territorial considerations (which can be the case especially where all programmes are prepared at the national level), the repetition of the Partnership Agreement is not necessary.*
- *The contribution of the territorial approach to the specific objectives and expected results of the operational programme.*

In case of operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance, this section should outline the support provided through this programme to the integrated territorial approach set out in the Partnership Agreement.

4.1 *Where appropriate, the approach to the use of community led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas where it will be implemented

[a maximum of 7000 characters with spaces= approx. 2 pages]

A description outlining:

- *Where the Member States plans to use the community-led local development approach, a description of:*
 - *the principles for the identification of the areas in which community led local development will be implemented in line with the Partnership Agreement;*
 - *the principles for the selection, approval and funding of community-led local development strategies and local development groups under Article 29(2-5) of Regulation (EU) No [CPR].*

The description should focus on the role of community-led local development under the particular operational programme, avoiding duplication of information included in the Partnership Agreement. Hence, where the Partnership Agreement is comprehensive this

section may include cross-references to the Partnership Agreement.

Community-led local development is optional for the ERDF and the ESF, therefore filling in this section is not mandatory, where no community-led local development is planned under the operational programme. This section is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. Where actions are envisaged under such operational programmes specifically to support the implementation of community-led local development, it should be indicated.

4.2 Where appropriate, the support for sustainable urban development - Article 87 (3) (b) CPR and Article 7 (2) and (3) of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF]

The indicative amount of the ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development, to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF] and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx. 1 page]

This section should include:

- The indicative amount of the ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development, to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF] and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action, where ESF is used for the purposes of such actions (table 20).*
- In addition the Member State may outline other aspects related to the approach to sustainable integrated urban development, including the use of Integrated Territorial Investment or other specific implementation arrangements to ensure an integrated approach, where this is an integral part of the operational programme.*
- Where integrated urban development actions falling under Article 7 (2) of the ERDF Regulation are implemented as part of the operational programme, the operational programme should indicate the extent of the involvement of urban authorities in the management of these actions (including in the selection of operations).*

Not all operational programmes include integrated actions for sustainable urban development, therefore filling in this section is not mandatory, where no such actions are planned. This section is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. However, where actions are envisaged under such operational programmes specifically to support the implementation of integrated urban development, it should be indicated.

Table 20: The indicative amount of the ERDF support for sustainable urban integrated actions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF] and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated actions

1. Fund	2. Indicative amount of the ERDF support for sustainable urban integrated actions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF] and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated actions	2. Share of column 2 of the total allocation of the Fund to the operational programme
Total ERDF		
Total ESF		
TOTAL ERDF+ESF		

4.3 *Where appropriate, the approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (as defined in Article 99 of the Common Provisions Regulation) other than urban development undertaken under Article 7 (2) of the ERDF Regulation and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis.

[a maximum of 5000 characters with spaces= approx. 1,5 pages]

An indication of whether the Member State will apply the approach outlined in Article 99 of the Common Provisions Regulation to other areas in addition to sustainable urban development referred to in point 5.2 and where relevant:

- *whether ITIs will constitute a significant or a widely used implementation tool for the operational programme;*
- *the areas where ITI will be used (where this is known) or types of areas, if the concrete areas are to be selected later e.g. by competitive procedures, specifying how and by when the areas covered by ITIs will be decided, where relevant;*
- *an indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 5.2 (table 21);*
- *the arrangements for the management and implementation of the ITI including the coordination between the managing authorities of the operational programmes contributing financially to the implementation of an ITI.*

The use of ITIs is optional. Therefore the filling in of this section is not mandatory, where no ITIs will be used to implement the operational programme.

This section is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. However, where actions are envisaged under such operational programmes specifically to support the implementation of ITIs, it should be indicated.

Table 21: An indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (EUR)
Priority axis 1	ERDF	
Priority axis 2	ESF	
TOTAL		

4.4. Where appropriate, the mechanisms to ensure coordination with cooperation activities and macro-regional and sea-basin strategies

- ***The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State.**

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx. 1 page]

- *An overview of circumstances where actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State are planned under the operational programme in question, the expected contribution of such actions to the achievement of the programme's objectives and the expected benefit of such actions for the programme area. Where applicable, a description of arrangements ensuring audit trail and control.*

This section is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. However, where actions are envisaged under such operational programmes specifically to support or promote interregional and transnational actions within other national operational programmes, it should be indicated.

- **Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State, the contribution of the planned interventions to such strategies.**

[a maximum of 3500 characters with spaces= approx. 1 pages]

Where appropriate, a description, of how the macro regional and sea basin strategies have been taken into account in the definition of specific objectives and elaboration of types of actions to be supported. As not all Member States and regions are covered by macro-regional and sea basin strategies, this section may be left unfilled. However, where the Member State or the regions is covered by such a strategy this section should be filled in. Where the strategy is not relevant for the particular programme or these aspects have been sufficiently elaborated in the Partnership Agreement, it should be explained in this section.

This section is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. However, where such operational programmes entail a significant contribution to a macro-regional or a sea-basic strategy, it should be outlined.

SECTION 5. *THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION, WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (ARTICLE 87 (4) (A) CPR)

Where appropriate, the identification of whether and how the operational programme addresses the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities, and persons with disabilities, and where relevant the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement (Article 87(4) CPR).

This section is relevant for most operational programmes under cohesion policy. However, in some cases, particularly in case of narrowly focused sectoral programmes which do not have a significant social dimension, this section might not be relevant. Where this is the case, these sections do not need to be filled in.

Section 6 is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. However, where actions are envisaged under such operational programmes specifically to support the implementation of the integrated approach to the areas and groups concerned, it should be indicated.

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination

[a maximum of 7000 characters= approx. 2 pages]

An identification of the geographical areas most affected by poverty (e.g. NUTS III or LAU 1, formerly known as NUTS IV regions with an at-risk-of-poverty rate 20 percentage points above national average) (preferably on the basis of poverty maps or of target groups at highest risk of discrimination (incl. educational and territorial segregation) covered by the operational programme, or target groups most affected by poverty and a description of their specific needs.

There are no restrictions or requirements as regards the level at which this data should be analysed, however in most cases the analysis should be carried out at a lower level than NUTS II regions in order to be useful. NUTS III regions or particular administrative regions of a Member State may also be used as a point of reference. The analysis may also go to a neighbourhood level, where relevant.

5.2 The strategy of the operational programme to address the specific needs of geographical areas/target groups most affected by poverty

[a maximum of 7000 characters= approx. 2 pages]

The programme's strategy and funding compatible with the overall strategy to address these specific needs. A description of how the operational programme in the implementation of the programme's strategy will contribute to addressing these specific needs, including the main elements included in table 22, as appropriate and the main results.

Table 22: An outline of the contribution of the operational programme to addressing the specific needs of geographical areas/target groups most affected by poverty²⁰

The aim of the table below is to capture the actions focussing on geographical areas/target groups most affected by poverty from different priority axes which contribute, in an integrated manner, to the reduction of poverty in the areas/of target groups identified above. The aim of this section is not to capture all interventions under these priority axes/investment priorities, but only those that are targeted to these geographical areas/target groups.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

Target group/ geographical area	Main types of planned actions which are part of the integrated approach	Priority axis	Investment priority	Fund

²⁰ If the operational programme covers different category of regions, a breakdown by category of region can be necessary.

SECTION 6. *SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (ARTICLE 87 (4) (B) CPR)

[a maximum of 5000 characters= approx. 1,5 pages]

Where appropriate, the identification of whether and how the operational programmes addresses demographic challenges of regions or specific needs of geographical areas which suffer by severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, as defined in Article 174 of the Treaty and the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement to this end.

This section should identify, where appropriate, whether and how the operational programme the addresses demographic challenges of regions, with reference to the CSF.

Where the Member State has highlighted in section 2 demographic challenges or specific development needs in regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross- border and mountain regions, it should provide a brief summary of how the operational programme will be used to tackle these specific development needs, or demographic challenges in a more wider context. s.

Where the operational programme is implemented solely in e regions referred to in Article 174 of the Treaty, the general strategy of the programme and the description of the priority axes should provide for these elements, and this specific section is in most cases not necessary.

This section is not relevant for all operational programmes. Where no demographic challenges are highlighted in section 2 or the operational programme does not coverregions suffering from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, the section does not need to be filled in.

Section 7 is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. Where actions are envisaged under such operational programmes specifically to address the needs of the regions concerned, it should be indicated.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

SECTION 7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS (ARTICLE 87 (5) CPR)

7.1. Identification of the relevant authorities and bodies (Article 87 (5) (a) and (b) CPR)

Table 23: Identification of and contact details for the relevant authorities and bodies

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body, and department or unit, where appropriate	Head of the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority		
Certifying authority, where applicable		
Audit authority		
Body to whom payments will be made by the Commission		

7.2. The actions taken to involve the relevant partners referred to in Article 5 in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme- Article 87 (5) (c) CPR

7.2.1. Role of the relevant partners in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme.

[a maximum of 14000 characters= approx. 4 pages]

1) A short summary of the process of the preparation of the operational programme, with a specific focus on partnership, including:

- the authority which has coordinated the preparation of the OP and the public institutions directly involved in this exercise (such as, for example, the ministries);*
- a description of the involvement of the partners referred to in Art. 5 CPR in the preparation of the operational programme (i.e .their involvement in the ex-ante evaluation; the definition of priorities and related specific objectives; the allocation of funding; the definition of programmes' specific indicators; and the implementation of the horizontal principles. This description should include:*

- o how partners have been selected;*
- o the list of the partners involved (annexed, separate character limit 10 500 characters with spaces)*
- o the actions taken to facilitate a wide involvement and an active participation of the partners, including in terms of accessibility;*
- o the main added value of the partnership in the preparation of the operational programme, in particular instances where the strategic choices have been significantly influenced by partners.*
- o the main results of the consultation with partners, including significant concerns, comments and recommendations raised by multiple partners.*

2) A description of how the relevant partners referred in Article 5 will be involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme, including the planned actions to ensure their active participation in the implementation of the programmes, including actions in terms of accessibility, and the planned use of technical assistance resources.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

7.2.2. For ESF: Global grants (Article 6 (1) ESF)

As set out in Article 6.1 of the ESF regulation, the participation of social partners and other stakeholders in the implementation of the operational programmes may take the form of global grants.

[a maximum of 5000 characters= approx. 1 page]

Where appropriate, programmes shall identify the parts of the programming concerned by global grants to social partners and other stakeholders, in particular NGOs, including an indicative financial allocation from each priority axis to it.

This section is generally not relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance.

7.2.3. For ESF where appropriate: Earmarking for capacity building (Art. 6 (2) and (3) ESF)

As set out in Article 6.2 and 6.3 of the ESF regulation, managing authorities of an operational programme covering a less developed region, a transition region or a Member State that is eligible for the Cohesion Fund shall ensure that an appropriate amount of ESF resources is allocated to capacity building and activities jointly undertaken by the social partners and capacity building for NGOs.

[a maximum of 14000 characters with spaces – 4 pages]

Where required, programmes shall:

- *identify the appropriate (according to the needs) allocation (amount) of ESF resources to capacity-building activities and activities jointly undertaken by the social partners. They shall specify the priority axes concerned and the types of activities they intend to support (training, networking measures, strengthening of the social dialogue...).*
- *identify the appropriate (according to the needs) allocation (amount) of ESF resources to capacity-building activities for the non-governmental organisations. They shall also specify the types of activities they intend to support.*

This section is relevant for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance which include a contribution from the ESF in case there is technical assistance support for capacity building for social partners and/or NGOs.

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SECTION 8. *COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB - ARTICLE 87(6) (A) CPR

The mechanisms that ensure coordination between the Funds, the EAFRD, the EMFF and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the EIB taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the CSF as set out in Annex I of the CPR

[a maximum of 14 000 characters= approx. 4 pages]

A description how coordination will be ensured:

- *with the other ESI Funds (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD, EMFF);*
- *with other Union instruments (Horizon 2020, LIFE +, the Connecting Europe Facility, COSME, Erasmus for All, Asylum and Migration Fund, Programme for Social Change and Innovation etc.);*
- *with relevant national funding instruments that contribute to the same or similar objectives as the operational programme, or complement the interventions of the operational programme;*
- *with the EIB.*

This should include:

- *An identification of the areas where support under the operational programme can be used in a complementary manner with the funding sources listed above to achieve the thematic objectives selected;*
- *An explanation of how synergies and complementarities will be exploited to ensure effectiveness, including e.g. by combining support from different instruments to support individual operations;*
- *A description of coordination mechanisms for each of the relevant funding sources listed above identifying the bodies responsible for coordination in these areas and outlining the structures or arrangements (e.g. committees, consultation procedures) used for this purpose.*
- *A description of arrangements to ensure coordination with relevant European Territorial Cooperation programmes operating in the same territory.*

The content of the Partnership Agreement should be taken into account. The description of coordination mechanisms in the operational programme should complete and complement the Partnership Agreement, avoiding repetition. In certain cases it is possible that this section in the operational programme is very brief, focusing on very specific coordination mechanisms, or it can make references to the Partnership Agreement, as the latter is comprehensive.

In the case of operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance this section should outline how the operational programme will contribute to support

coordination between the ESI Funds, with other Union and national funding instruments, and with the EIB.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

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SECTION 9. * EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES - ARTICLE 87(6) (B) CPR

For each ex ante conditionality, established in accordance with Article 17 and Annex (xx), which is applicable to the operational programme an assessment of whether the ex-ante conditionality is fulfilled at the date of submission of the Partnership Agreement and operational programme, and where ex-ante conditionalities are not fulfilled, a description of the actions to fulfil the ex-ante conditionality, the responsible bodies and a timetable for such actions in accordance with the summary submitted in the Partnership Agreement.

In accordance with Article 17 of the CPR, the Member States should provide the Commission with information on the applicability of ex-ante conditionalities and on the fulfilment of applicable ex ante conditionalities. Information on this regard may be provided within separate explanatory documents submitted with the operational programme. However, it may also be included under this section of the operational programme in order to complement the information set out in table 24.

NB: No thematic ex-ante conditionalities have been proposed for technical assistance. However, general ex-ante conditionalities may be applicable to technical assistance priority axes, therefore tables 24 and 25 are relevant also for operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance. Table 26 on thematic ex-ante conditionalities is not relevant for such programmes.

Where necessary, explanations or additional information to complement the tables below can be added here [a maximum of 14 000 characters= approx. 4 pages]

9.1. Identification of applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment (table 24).

This table sets out all applicable general and thematic ex-ante conditionalities for the operational programme, including those which have been included in the Partnership Agreement, but which are applicable to the priority axes of the programme in question and the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of which therefore affects the implementation of the programme. It is necessary to identify, for each applicable ex-ante conditionality, the priority axes to which it applies and to indicate, and where necessary, explain, which criteria are fulfilled or unfulfilled.

Table 24: Identification of applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Applicable ex-ante conditionality	Priority axis or axes to which the conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled Yes/no	Reference (reference to the strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by weblinks or access to full text)	Explanations

9.2 A description of the actions to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities, the responsible bodies and a timetable for such actions (tables 25 and 26)

These tables cover only applicable general and thematic ex-ante conditionalities which are completely unfilled or partially fulfilled (as set out in table 24 above) at the time of submission of the operational programme.

Table 25: Actions to be undertaken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

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

Table 26: Actions to be undertaken to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

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

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**SECTION 10. *REDUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES
(ARTICLE 87 (6) (C) CPR)**

A summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden.

[a maximum of 7 000 characters = approx. 2 pages]

A summary assessment of the administrative burden and actions to planned to achieve a reduction including:

- *An assessment of the administrative burden of beneficiaries, including the identification of main sources of administrative burden in the period 2007-2013, the main actions already taken to reduce that burden for the period 2014-2020, and potential scope for further reduction, referring to statistical data, and results of evaluations and studies, where possible;*
- *Main (not all – only a summary is required) actions planned to achieve a reduction in administrative burden with an indicative timeframe (e.g. end date), including the use of simplified costs, where appropriate.*

In the case of operational programmes dedicated to technical assistance the beneficiaries concerned under this section are the authorities using technical assistance. The description of actions taken to reduce the administrative burden of the beneficiaries of other programmes should be described under the description of the respective priority axes.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

SECTION 11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES (ARTICLE 87(7) CPR)

11.1. Sustainable development

A description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

[a maximum of 5 500 characters= approx. 1,5 pages]

A description of how the aspects listed above are taken into account in project selection, with reference to particular priority axes, where appropriate.

This section is subject to the duly justified assessment of the Member State of the relevance of horizontal principles to the content and objectives of the programme. If the Member State considers that the horizontal principle is not relevant for the operational programme concerned, this section should provide a justification for such an assessment.

Where a part or all of the information requested is included in the Partnership Agreement a cross-reference may be made.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

11.2. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

[a maximum of 5 500 characters= approx. 1.5 pages]

A description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disability.

A description covering, but not limited to:

- *Identification of particular targets groups, which may have a reduced access to support or are at risk of discrimination and identification of the measures to mitigate these risks;*
- *Any initiatives aimed at mainstreaming these principles in project selection and implementation e.g. uniform requirements for accessibility for new or reconstructed public buildings;*
- *Any specific monitoring and evaluation measures envisaged to ensure the follow –up of the implementation of these principles and how these results*

of monitoring and evaluation will be taken into account;

- *Where appropriate, specific actions to be taken to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination with reference to the investment priority(es) concerned in the OP (compulsory for the ESF);*

This section is subject to the duly justified assessment of the Member State of the relevance of horizontal principles to the content and objectives of the programme. If the Member State considers that the horizontal principle is not relevant for the operational programme concerned, this section should provide a justification for such an assessment.

Where a part or all of the information requested is included in the Partnership Agreement a cross-reference may be made.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

11.3. Equality between men and women

A description of the contribution to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

[a maximum of 5 500 characters= approx. 1.5 pages]

A description covering, but not limited to:

- *The contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women, with reference to specific challenges faced in this area, as appropriate;*
- *The actions planned to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational level including any initiatives aimed at mainstreaming this principle in project selection and implementation;*
- *Any specific monitoring and evaluation measures envisaged to ensure the follow-up of the implementation of this principle and how these results of monitoring and evaluation will be taken into account;*
- *Where appropriate, specific actions to be taken to promote gender equality with reference to the investment priority(es) concerned in the OP (compulsory for the ESF).*

This section is subject to the duly justified assessment of the Member State of the relevance of horizontal principles to the content and objectives of the programme. If the Member State considers that the horizontal principle is not relevant for the operational programme concerned, this section should provide a justification for such an assessment.

Where a part or all of the information requested is included in the Partnership Agreement cross-references may be made.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

DRAFT

SECTION 12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS - PRESENTED AS ANNEXES IN PRINTED DOCUMENT VERSION

12.1. A list of major projects for which the implementation is planned during the programming period (Article 87 (2) (e) CPR) (Table 27)

Table 27: A list of major projects

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section (list of major projects) is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

Title	Planned time of notification/submission of the major project application to the Commission (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date of implementation (year quarter)	Investment priority	Priority axis

12.2. The performance framework of the operational programme²¹

The summary table is generated automatically by the SFC based on the tables outlined by priority axis.

Table 28: The performance framework of the operational programme, broken down by fund and category of region

Priority axis (broken down by Fund and by category of region)	Implementation step, financial, output or result indicator	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2022)

²¹ The requirement for a performance framework in case of technical assistance is pending negotiations on the performance reserve.

12.3 List of relevant partners involved in the preparation of the operational programme [max. 10 500 characters]

This list will complement the description of partnership arrangements and the involvement of partners outlined in section 1.

NB: As set out in Article 87 (10) CPR, this section is not subject to the Commission decision approving the operational programme and remains under the responsibility of the Member State.

DRAFT

ANNEXED (uploaded to SFC 2014 as a separate files):

- Draft report of the ex-ante evaluation, with an executive summary (mandatory) (Article 48 (2) CPR)
- Documentation on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (as appropriate)
- The opinion of national equality bodies on sections 12.2 and 12.3 (Article 87 (7)(c) CPR) (as appropriate)
- A citizens' summary of the operational programme (as appropriate)

A citizens' summary is an optional element. The Member State is not obliged to submit it to the Commission and it is not covered by the Commission decision approving the operational programme. It can be used to outline, in the format chosen by the Member State, the objectives and the content of the operational programme, including the intervention logic, as appropriate, for the purposes of consultation and communication.

Where necessary, this section can also outline the content of each individual priority axis.

The format proposed (upload to the SFC 2014 as a separate file, no structured data) enables the Member State to use the structure and the formatting it considers most appropriate for communication purposes. It also entails no restrictions on the number of characters used.

NB: This document complements the mandatory elements of the operational programme. It does not replace any of the elements for which format requirements have been outlined in the model to be adopted by way of implementing acts. All data required in a structured format must be submitted to comply with the requirements of Article 87 CPR.

In the case of inconsistencies between the structured data submitted (i.e. the formal content of the operational programme) and the citizens summary (not part of the formal content of operational programme under Article 87 CPR), the structured data submitted in the required format shall prevail.