



REPORT
PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS
OF THE INTERREG NEXT PROGRAMME
POLAND-UKRAINE 2021-2027

CARRIED OUT 16 MAY – 6 JUNE 2022

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1. General information on the consultations process

A. LEGAL BASIS

In accordance with art. 8 of the *Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of 24 June 2021*¹ (Common Provision Regulation - CPR) the member states in the scope of using the EU funds shall implement a partnership with:

- a) regional, local, urban and other public authorities;
- b) economic and social partners;
- c) relevant bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination;
- d) research organisations and universities, where appropriate.

Taking this into consideration and in accordance with the Polish regulations indicated below, the draft Interreg NEXT Programme Poland-Ukraine 2021-2027 was subject to public consultations.

The legal basis for public consultations, arrangements and opinions:

- Act of 6 December 2006 on the principles of development policy (Journal of Laws of 2006, item 1658 with amendments) and
- Guidelines for conducting public consultations in accordance with para 35 (1), para 36 (1) and para 38 (1) and (2) of Resolution No. 190 of the Council of Ministers of October 29, 2013 - Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers.

B. THE PRINCIPLES OF CONSULTATIONS

To ensure the principle of partnership in the process of public consultations on draft PL-UA Programme 2021-2027 the following assumptions were made:

- minimum 21-day duration of the public consultations - 16.05-06.06.2022;
- providing public information about the course of the public consultations (websites of the Programme and Managing Authority – Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy;
- submitting comments via the electronic form in:
 - Polish <https://www.ewt.gov.pl/strony/formularz-zglaszania-uwag-do-projektu-programu-wspolpracy-transgranicznej-interreg-next-polska-ukraina-2021-2027/>
 - Ukrainian <https://www.ewt.gov.pl/strony/interreg-next-2021-2027/>

Except to principle of partnership, during the consultation process of the draft Programme the following principles were applied:

- complexity - consultations had international (Polish, Ukrainian), national and regional nature;
- documentation - the various opinions / comments were documented;

¹ REGULATION (EU) 2021/1060 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy

- continuity - consultations were ongoing, carried out systematically and intended to formulate socially legitimized draft of the Programme;
- responsiveness - participants of the consultations had the right to expect a response. All comments referring to the consulted document were analysed and answered in the attached Annex 3;
- transparency – the basic principle during consultations; documents on the draft Programme and the opinions expressed by the participants of public consultations were made available to the public on the Programme website;
- accessibility - anyone interested in the topic (not only institutional partners) were able to take part in the public consultations and express their views;
- coordination - the Managing Authority of the Programme was responsible for public consultations.

C. THE OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE CONSULTATIONS

The aim of the public consultations of the draft Programme was to collect the remarks and opinions on the priorities of the Programme and the support proposed within its framework. These remarks were taken into account in the preparation of the final Programme document submitted to the European Commission. All stakeholders and interested parties were invited to take part in the consultations, most particularly the representatives of the regional and local authorities and all partners indicated in art. 8 par. 1 of the CPR.

The Programme document was prepared in accordance with the requirements set up in the Regulation (EU) 2021/1059² (Interreg Regulation). The draft Programme document sent to the public consultation was approved by the Joint Programming Committee (JPC) on 11 May 2022. The base for public consultations formed whole document as required in the Interreg Regulation.

2. Process and results of consultations

The consultations were carried out in both countries participating in the Programme.

A. CHANNELS AND FORM OF CONSULTATIONS

In order to reach the widest possible public with the information on consultations it was published on official websites of the Programme institutions and electronic form for consultation was applied.

The information about the public consultation along with the draft Programme document (as well as working translations into national languages) were published on the following websites:

- Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014-2020.
It was published in English, Polish and Ukrainian (EN version: <https://www.pbu2020.eu/pl/news/2559>);
Website is visited by approx. 3thousand individuals monthly (same IP counts once).
- European Funds / European Territorial Cooperation:

² REGULATION (EU) 2021/1059 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments

<https://www.ewt.gov.pl/strony/o-programach/programy-interreg-2021-2027/konsultacje-programow/programu-wspolpracy-transgranicznej-interreg-next-polska-ukraina-2021-2027/>.

- Additionally, same information was published on official Programme FB profile: <https://www.facebook.com/PBU2020/>

Number of subscribers: 2389, reach of the post on consultations: 4267 persons.

The print screens of the on-line information on the public consultations from the websites and FB mentioned above may be found in Annex 1.

The consultation was held via the electronic form published on the MA website in two languages (Polish, Ukrainian). Links to the forms were provided on the Programme website. The form was filled in and submitted on-line. The forms used may be found in Annex 2.

B. RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS

As a result of consultations, broad public opinion, stakeholders, potential applicants/beneficiaries were informed about the proposed assumptions of the Interreg NEXT Programme Poland -Ukraine 2021-2027. Many representatives of these actors expressed their opinions/remarks to the draft Programme consulted. In total 126 of such opinions/remarks were submitted via on-line forms. The detailed statistics of all submitted remarks are presented in Table 1.

Table. 1 Detailed statistics of submitted remarks

Part / chapter of the Programme	Number of submitted remarks
1. JOINT PROGRAMME STRATEGY: MAIN DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES	1
1.1. Programme area	3
1.2 Joint Programme strategy: Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, joint investment needs and complimentary and synergies with other funding programmes and instruments, lessons-learnt from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies.	45
1.3. Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure	8
2. PRIORITIES	4
2.1. Priority 1 Environment	15
2.2. Priority 2 Health	13
2.3. Priority 3 Tourism	10
2.4. Priority 4 Cooperation	2
2.5. Priority 5 Borders	4
3. FINANCING PLAN	2

4. ACTION TAKEN TO INVOLVE THE RELEVANT PROGRAMME PARTNERS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE INTERREG PROGRAMME AND THE ROLE OF THOSE PROGRAMME PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION	2
5. APPROACH TO COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY FOR THE INTERREG PROGRAMME (OBJECTIVES, TARGET AUDIENCES, COMMUNICATION CHANNELS, INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH, WHERE APPROPRIATE, PLANNED BUDGET AND RELEVANT INDICATORS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION)	7
6. INDICATION OF SUPPORT TO SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS, INCLUDING SMALL PROJECTS WITHIN SMALL PROJECT FUNDS	0
7. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS	6
8. USE OF UNIT COSTS, LUMP SUMS, FLAT RATES AND FINANCING NOT LINKED TO COSTS	0
OTHER COMMENTS (chapter/part of the document not specified)	4

The most frequent remarks related the following issues:

- assumptions in the strategic choices for the Programme objectives;
- broadening of the addressed problems;
- the indicative actions within particular priorities.

Table 2. Summary of remarks submitted to particular parts of the Programme document

PART	SUMMARY OF REMARKS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o technical corrections
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o technical corrections; o suggestion to include Kyiv and Zhytomyr oblasts into the Programme area;
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o suggestions to broaden the analytical base for the addressed problems or to precise provided information; o suggestions to enlarge the scope of issues addressed by the Programme, ie. additional environmental protection actions, hydroenergy, IT exclusion, development of IT solutions on the labour market, new industries; o broadening cooperation with institutions outside the Programme area to more effectively address the consequences of war in Ukraine; o inclusion of additional initiatives that Programme shall be consistent with; o technical corrections (names, numbers, etc.);
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o broadening the scope of planned actions and possible target groups; o clarification of some assumptions; o ensuring stronger links between situation in Ukraine and support under priorities (Tourism particularly);
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o verification and broadening of target groups, introducing indicators; o broadening of possible actions; o clarifying/technical corrections;
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o broadening the scope of planned actions and possible target groups; o clarifying/technical corrections;
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o cancelling some of the planned actions (for. ex. promotion of medical studies); o broadening of possible actions and target groups;
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o increasing the budget of Priority Tourism;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensuring complementarity with other EU programmes; ○ introducing microprojects under Priority Tourism; ○ clarifying/technical corrections;
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ broadening of possible actions addressing the consequences of the war in Ukraine;
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ broadening of possible actions by large infrastructure/investment activities on BCPs and on roads leading to BCPs;
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clarification of financial information;
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clarifying/technical corrections;
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introducing information on branch office in Rzeszów; ○ correction/broadening of the communication activities/objectives/indicators/channels of communication;
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introducing details on specified institutions; ○ introducing information on branch office in Rzeszów; ○ clarifying/technical corrections;
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ stronger addressing situation in Ukraine and consequences of war; ○ introducing additional objectives/activities (related to road infrastructure, labour markets).

Institutions submitting remarks

In total, 28 institutions submitted their remarks to the Programme document. There were:

- central authorities – incl. 10 ministries and state security agencies of Poland and Ukraine;
- regional authorities – incl. 5 marshal offices;
- local authorities;
- educational/science institutions;
- non-governmental organizations;
- other bodies, representing Programme social partners.

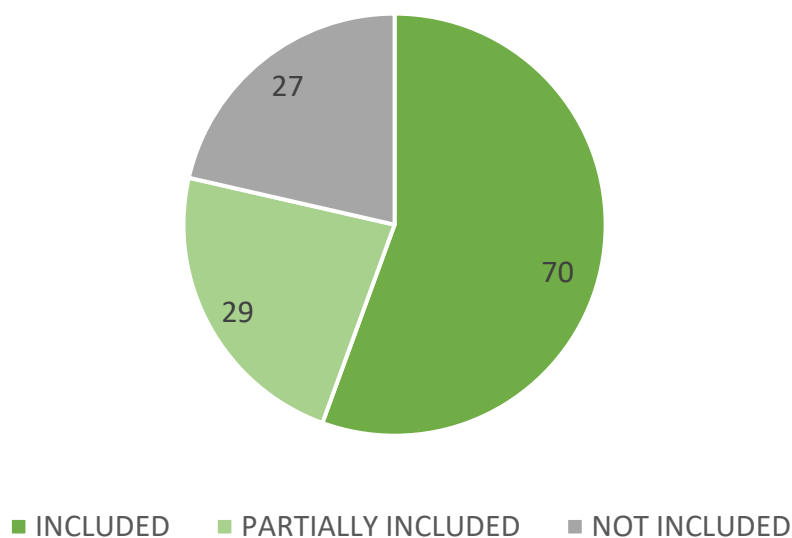
Out of these 28 institutions, 3 come from Ukraine:

- State Emergency Service of Ukraine;
- Main Department of State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kyiv Oblast;
- Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

JPC decisions on the submitted remarks

All comments/remarks to the Programme were considered by the Joint Programming Committee in the preparation of the final version of the document. Great majority, almost 80% of remarks influenced the Programme document – 56% were directly included and 23% were partly included. 21% of remarks, for various reasons, were rejected and did not influence the final wording of the Programme.

Graph 1. JPC consideration of submitted remarks (number of remarks)



The crucial amendments to the Programme were related to introducing of some additional potential actions under particular specific objectives as well as references to additional programmes/initiatives with which the Programme shall seek for complementarity. Some minor corrections were introduced to activities planned – those aspects that were not depicted in the analysis section were deleted. Additionally, the inconsistencies in information and assumptions were corrected resulting in more coherent and logically interlinked document.

The detailed list of all submitted remarks/opinions to the draft Programme document with references and decisions on their acceptance made by the JPC is annexed to the Report (Annex 3).

Annexes

- Annex 1: Announcements on the public consultations of the Programme (print screens from the Programme and ETC websites and Programme FB profile).
- Annex 2: Forms for submitting comments (in PL and UA).
- Annex 3: Table with remarks/opinions on the draft Programme consulted submitted via on-line form.