IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

This section provides a general appreciation of the progress made in 2020 with the implementation of the Single Operation regarding content, infrastructure, and outreach, and capitalisation.

The main strategic objectives for 2020 were:

- to complete the development of territorial evidence towards key ongoing and new policy processes at all levels building on the results of completed research and in relation to the research agenda of other programmes/ networks/ institutions;
- to capitalise on the available research outputs and ensure their contribution to key policy processes and specific target audiences at European, national, regional, and local scale by developing a range of tailor-made outreach products and engaging more actively with stakeholders, researchers, and media in the design and implementation of outreach activities.

Key accomplishments and support to policy processes

Considering the strategic priorities indicated above, the activities implemented during 2019 have actively supported the following policy processes:

Territorial Agenda 2030 and the Urban Agenda for the EU

The ESPON EGTC closely cooperated with the German Presidency for the elaboration of the Atlas for the Territorial Agenda 2030, a joint production between ESPON and Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). The content of the Atlas was inspired by ESPON work, in particular the European Territory Report and the ESPON European Territorial Reference Framework.

<u>Urban Agenda for the EU</u>

The EGTC cooperated, via the CIRCTER project, with the Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy to analyse indicators for measuring circular economy at a city level. This resulted, among others, in the Partnership paper on the 'Indicators for circular economy (CE) transition in cities'.

Furthermore, the action plan of the Urban Agenda's Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage recollects results of the ESPON TOURISM project and mentions, under the good practices, the ESPON TIA tool as a useful instrument.

Support the debates under the Presidencies of the EU

The EGTC worked closely with the respective EU Council Presidencies to design and deliver recommendations for more effective policies through a better understanding of territorial evidence.

In the first semester, the EGTC prepared policy briefs on green infrastructure and the reuse of spaces to serve the political priorities of the Croatian Presidency. In the second semester, upon request of the German Presidency, the EGTC delivered territorial evidence on structural change and just transition as well as post-COVID-19 recovery. This was done via the ESPON policy brief on structural change in the coal phase-out regions (shared with the DGTC group) and the live debates during the ESPON Week with top politicians and researchers.

Support to Macro-regional strategies

The Macro-regional monitoring system, aimed at developing a web tool that provides territorial evidence to

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stakeholders and policymakers in Europe and in particular on the Baltic Sea, Danube, Alpine and Adriatic-Ionian macro-regions on key development trends over time and on the progress, implementation, and contribution of policy objectives as defined in the EU macro-regional strategies and in the VASAB Long-Term Perspective, was delivered in 2020 and made available online.

Capitalisation on the available research outputs

ESPON evidence is also reflected in a growing number of publications (e.g. by the IGLI Global, Circular Economy Initiative Deutschland Office, Journal on European Planning Studies, Austrian Magazine for Art and Monument Preservation etc.) and as well as in EU-funded research projects. The Horizon 2020 project MATILDE uses data provided by the ESPON PROFECY project on accessibility of SGI. Similarly, the ESPON HERIWELL project feeds evidence into Horizon 2020 projects: UNCHARTED and REACH.

The TIA handbook published by Springer (https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030545017) presents a comprehensive analysis of TIA methodologies designed under the auspices of the ESPON Programme since the mid-2000s. It is intended to serve as a TIA handbook for practitioners, professors, and students in the field of policy evaluation and territorial analysis.

ESPON result have also been cited in the European Commission documents:

- The "Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies" (https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/urbanstrategies/) provides quotes on ESPON, indicating how the programme's thematic activities (ESPON SPIMA, COMPASS and Policy Brief on Indicators for Integrated Territorial and Urban Development) are useful in exploring the topic;
- The "European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage" adopted by the European Commission cite the ESPON HERIWELL project as one of the key studies in helping provide data and analysis on culture for cities and regions (https://ec.europa.eu/culture/policies/culture-cities-and-regions).
- The ESPON HERIWELL project is also referenced to in topic-relevant Horizon 2020 projects (e.g. UNCHARTED and REACH) as well as by national agencies (e.g. Portuguese Directorate General for Cultural Heritage)
- The main report of the ESPON CIRCTER project and the guide have been integrated in the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, a joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee.

The stock of territorial evidence reports accumulated in the ESPON Programme is reflected in the growing number of publications for scientists and practitioners (e.g. by the IGLI Global, Circular Economy Initiative Deutschland Office, Journal on European Planning Studies, Austrian Magazine for Art and Monument Preservation etc.) and as well as in EU-funded research and demonstration projects. For the latter, the Horizon 2020 project MATILDE uses data provided by the ESPON PROFECY project on accessibility of SGI, with an aim to assess the socio-economic impact of foreign migration to European rural and mountain regions. Similarly, the ESPON HERIWELL project feeds evidence into Horizon 2020 projects: UNCHARTED and REACH.

In terms of implementation:

- 17 of the applied research projects are finalised of the 22 launched;
- 28 targeted analysis are launched and 17 completed;

•	6 policy briefs were published (making a total of 24 by end of 2020): Green Infrastructures in Urban
	Areas, Reuse of spaces and buildings, Measuring Economic Impact of Cultural Heritage at Territorial
	Level, Entrepreneurial development niches for Interreg programmes, Maritime spatial planning and land
	sea interactions and Potential for structural change in coal phase-out regions.

- 4 tools out of 8 expected have been created, 4 others are not completed;
- 11 online outreach events were organised in 2020 making a total of 78 events organised by the end of 2020
- In 2020 the EGTC published 15 country fiches, 2 editions of TerritoriALL and 5 transnational publications (excluding thematic focus papers counted separatetely)

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant							
		problems and steps taken to address these problems							
P1	Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach	During 2020 further territorial evidence to feed the ongoing and newly identified policy processes at all levels was accumulated, building on the results of completed research activities and dialogue with other programmes, networks and institutions. The year 2020 was caracterised by a stronger focus on developing tailormade outreach products to ensure that the available research outcomes are translated to key policy processes owned by target audiences at European, national, regional and local scale. ESPON actively cooperated with a broad group of policy stakeholders, researchers and media in the design and implementation of outreach activities.							
		The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial challenges in the management of the Single Operation. From mid-March and following the lock-down, staff members were instructed to telework to different degrees. Still, on account of the recurrent school closure staff were forced to take family leaves or work part-time over the longer period of time. This resulted in some implementation delays.							
		In effect of the COVID-19 outbreak all events planned since then were either cancelled or postponed (with the exception of one workshop which was held online in June 2020).							
		The EGTC put in place mitigation measures to overcome the delays while maintaining the high service quality towards ESPON stakeholders. The Transnational Outreach Work Plan for 2020 was revised after discussions with the service provider in order to reschedule the cancelled events and to include in the contract a new format of online events, making possible to have at least 11 online events organised.							
P2	Technical Assistance	During 2020 the efforts were concentrating mainly on the steering and monitoring of the implementation of the Single Operation whose fourth Annual Work Plan was approved in January 2020. From a management point of view, a key objective for the first months of 2020 was the successful implementation of the audits audit of operations) and programming of the post-2020 ESPON programme. The the major communication event due in 2020 was again postponed due to the COVID pandemic. The cooperation and coordination with the Certifying Authority was continued to ensure the submission of the certification of expenditures to the EC submitted by the CA and for the report on irregularities due by the 31 March 2020. From a financial point of view the TA is being implemented according to the initial forecast. - to coordinate the dialogue between the MC and the Single Beneficiary on the Annual Work Plan for 2021; - to assess and approve (together with the Monitoring Committee) the two Activity and Financial reports submitted by the Single Beneficiary within the year, - to follow up of the dialogue/cooperation between PST and Single Beneficiary. - to assessment the Annual Work Plan for 2021 by the Assessment Committee.							

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - P1.11f

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement	Target	2020	Observations				
			unit	value						
F	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	22.00		17 Applied research projects have been finalized by end of 2020.				
S	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	22.00	22.00	A total of 22 applied research projects have been so far launched since the beginning of the programme implementation until the end of 2020, 17 of which have been finalised.				
F	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	25.00	17.00	17 targeted analyses have been finalized by the end of 2020.				
S	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	25.00	28.00	A total of 28 targeted analysis projects have been so far launched since the beginning of the programme implementation until the end of 2020, 17 of which have been finalised.				
F	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	45.00	24.00	matic Papers have been published until the end of 2020.				
S	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	45.00	24.00	ematic Papers have been published until the end of 2020.				
F		Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03		8.00	4.00	The maintenance/creation of 4 tools has been completed by the end of 2020.				
S		Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03	Number	8.00	8.00	No additional maintenance/creation of tools has been launched during 2020.				
F	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	Number	40.00	78.00	11 additional outreach events were held during 2020 the total for outreach events to 78 since the beginning of the programme implementation. The indicators has been outperformed as the events implemented by the ECPs under the transnational activities were not taken into account at the moment of setting the targets.				
S	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	Number	40.00	78.00	additional outreach events were held during 2020 the total for outreach events to 78 since the beginning of the programme implementation. The indicators has been outperformed as the events implemented by the ECPs under the transnational activities were not taken into account at the moment of setting the targets.				
F	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	Number	20.00	47.00	The target initially accounted only for the European outreach publications, The indicator has been outperformed due to the fact that the number of transnational publications was defined only at the stage of drafting the ToR for the TNO service contract and therefore was not possible to consider them at the moment of setting the target for this indicator.				
S	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	Number	20.00	47.00	The target initially accounted only for the European outreach publications, The indicator has been outperformed due to the fact that the number of transnational publications was defined only at the stage of drafting the ToR for the TNO service contract and therefore was not possible to consider them at the moment of setting the target for this indicator.				
F	OI07	Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation	Number	1.00	1.00	The ESPON EGTC, single beneficiary of the programme, was set up in 2016.				
S	OI07	Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation	Number	1.00	1.00	The ESPON EGTC, single beneficiary of the programme, was set up in 2016.				

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	13.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	21.00	17.00	14.00	7.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	12.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	24.00	17.00	14.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	20.00	17.00	10.00	5.00	2.00	0.00
S	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	20.00	17.00	10.00	5.00	2.00	0.00
F	OI04	Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI04	Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03	6.00	6.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	67.00	41.00	12.00	5.00	1.00	0.00
S	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	67.00	41.00	12.00	5.00	1.00	0.00
F	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	47.00	38.00	23.00	18.00	5.00	0.00
S	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	47.00	38.00	23.00	18.00	5.00	0.00
F	OI07	Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI07	Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO1 - Enhanced European territorial evidence production through applied research and analyses.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2020	2020	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI01	Number of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON applied research outputs and results in policy and programming processes.	% Change	59% of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON outputs and results	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (to increase up to between 70% and 75%.)	Total	80%	The 2017 annual value represents a 36% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 31% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 44% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represent a 36% increase from the baseline
								value.

ID	Indicator	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI01	Number of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON applied research outputs		85%		77%		80%		n.a
	and results in policy and programming processes.								

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI01	Number of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON applied research outputs and results in policy and programming processes.		59%		n.a

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach						
Investment 11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the anal							
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)						
Specific	SO2 - Upgraded knowledge transfer and analytical user support.						
objective							

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2020	2020	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI02	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming they are satisfied with ESPON knowledge transfer and analytical user support.	% Change	83% of potential users in selected target groups affirming being satisfied	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (to increase to at least to 95% of potential users affirming being satisfied)		93%	The 2017 annual value represents a 10% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 13% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 11% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represents a 12% increase from the baseline value.

ID	Indicator	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI02	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming they are satisfied with ESPON knowledge		92%		94%		83%		n.a
	transfer and analytical user support.								

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI02	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming they are satisfied with ESPON knowledge transfer and analytical user support.		83%		n.a

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach						
Investment 11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis.							
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)						
Specific	SO3 - Improved territorial observation and tools for territorial analyses.						
objective							

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2020	2020	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI03	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming use of ESPON territorial observations and tools for territorial analyses in policy and programming processes.	% Change	40% of potential users affirming using of ESPON territorial observations and tools	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (To increase up to between 45% and 50%)	Tour	82%	The 2017 annual value represents a 98% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 110% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 117% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represents a 118% increase from the
								baseline value.

ID	Indicator	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI03	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming use of ESPON territorial observations and tools		87%		84%		79%		n.a
	for territorial analyses in policy and programming processes.								

ID	Indicator	2015	2015	2014	2014
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI03	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming use of ESPON territorial observations and tools for territorial analyses in policy and programming		40%		n.a
	processes.				

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO4 - Wider outreach and uptake of territorial evidence.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2020	2020	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI04	Total number of potential users within selected target groups participating at ESPON events.	% Change	50%* of stakeholder respondents currently attend and/or participate at ESPON events.	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (To increase to between 58% and 63%.)		58%	The 2017 annual value represents a 40% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 24% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 30% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represents a 16% increase from the baseline value.
RI05	Total number of potential users within selected target groups making use of ESPON publications.	% Change	62%* of stakeholder respondents currently making use of ESPON publications.	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (To increase to between 71% and 78%.)		86%	The 2017 annual value represents a 45% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 47% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 47% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represents a 39% increase from the baseline value.

ID	Indicator	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI04	Total number of potential users within selected target groups participating at ESPON events.		65%		62%		70%		n.a
RI05	Total number of potential users within selected target groups making use of ESPON		92%		92%		90%		n.a
	publications.								

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI04	Total number of potential users within selected target groups participating at ESPON events.		50%		n.a
RI05	Total number of potential users within selected target groups making use of ESPON publications.		62%		n.a

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO5 - Leaner, and more effective and efficient implementation provisions and more proficient programme assistance.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value	2020	2020	Observations
		unit		year	(2023) Total	Total	Qualitative	
RI06	Total number of potential users within selected target groups affirming dissatisfaction with the implementation provisions of ESPON 2020 Programme	% Change	32%* of respondents currently affirm they are 'very dissatisfied' (14%) or 'somewhat dissatisfied'	2015	Reduce by 35-50% (To reduce to between 16% and 20%.)	Total	7.5%	In terms of the overall efficiency of the ESPON 2020 programme architecture, the opinion of stakeholders was split generally regarding whether it was moderately or largely efficient. Compared to the previous programming period the stakeholders leaned towards the view that efficiency gains had been made during ESPON 2020. When asked regarding 'to what extent is participation in the ESPON 2020 procedures not burdensome', the moderate to large extent responses were selected most frequently. Moreover, compared to ESPON 2013, the results indicated that some gains had been made in ensuring that the procedures were less-burdensome under ESPON 2020. The rate of stakeholders declaring dissatisfaction with the implementing provisions of the ESPON 2020 Programme has considerably decreased. Only 7,5% of respondent indicated some dissatisfaction.

ID	Indicator	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI06	Total number of potential users within selected target groups affirming dissatisfaction with the		n.a.		18%		n.a		n.a
	implementation provisions of ESPON 2020 Programme								

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI06	Total number of potential users within selected target groups affirming dissatisfaction with the implementation provisions of ESPON 2020 Programme		32%		n.a

Priority axes for technical assistance

	Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - P2.Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F		Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	Number	1.00	1.00	
S	OI08	Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	Number	1.00	1.00	
F	OI09	Computerised system set	Number	1.00	1.00	
S	OI09	Computerised system set	Number	1.00	1.00	
F	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	Number	1.00	1.00	
S	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	Number	1.00	1.00	
F	OI11	Evaluations carried out	Number	2.00	2.00	
S	OI11	Evaluations carried out	Number	2.00	2.00	Ongoing evaluation exercises and external mid-term evaluation.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OI08	Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	OI08	Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	OI09	Computerised system set	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI09	Computerised system set	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	OI11	Evaluations carried out	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI11	Evaluations carried out	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

⁽¹⁾ S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority	Ind	ID	Indicator	Measurement	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023)	2020	Observations
axis	type			unit		total		
P1	F	FI01	Absorption of Priority Axis 1 Programme Budget	Euros	5,600,000	45,758,109.00	31,136,144.41	
P1	I	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	0	22.00	17.00	
P1	I	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	0	25.00	17.00	
P1	О	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working	Number	15 thematic focus papers	45.00	24.00	
			papers etc		produced			

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
P1	F	FI01	Absorption of Priority Axis 1 Programme Budget	Euros	23,584,300.88	10,816,719.40	3,864,157.44	1,229,099.62	0.00
P1	I	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	13.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P1	I	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	12.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P1	О	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	20.00	17.00	10.00	7.00	2.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
P1	F	FI01	Absorption of Priority Axis 1 Programme Budget	Euros	0.00
P1	I	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	0.00
P1	I	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	0.00
P1	0	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority	Fund	Calculation	Total	Со-	Total eligible cost of	Proportion of the total	Public eligible cost of	Total eligible expenditure	Proportion of the total allocation	Number of
axis		basis	funding	financing	operations selected for	allocation covered with	operations selected for	declared by beneficiaries to the	covered by eligible expenditure	operations
				rate	support	selected operations	support	managing authority	declared by beneficiaries	selected
P1	ERDF	Total	46,207,234.00	85.00	46,207,234.00	100.00%	46,207,234.00	29,432,260.18	63.70%	1
P2	ERDF	Total	2,471,617.00	85.00	2,471,617.00	100.00%	2,471,617.00	1,062,722.19	43.00%	1
Total	ERDF		48,678,851.00	85.00	48,678,851.00	100.00%	48,678,851.00	30,494,982.37	62.65%	2
Grand		-	48,678,851.00	85.00	48,678,851.00	100.00%	48,678,851.00	30,494,982.37	62.65%	2
total										

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

n.a.

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1.	2. The amount of ERDF	3. Share of the total financial	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF	5. Share of the total financial
Operation	support(1) envisaged to be	allocation to all or part of an	support incurred in all or part	allocation to all or part of an
(2)	used for all or part of an	operation located outside the	of an operation implemented	operation located outside the
	operation implemented	Union part of the programme	outside the Union part of the	Union part of the programme
	outside the Union part of the	area (%) (column 2/total amount	programme area declared by	area (%) (column 4/total amount
	programme area based on	allocated to the support from the	the beneficiary to the managing	allocated to the support from the
	selected operations	ERDF at programme level *100)	authority	ERDF at programme level *100)

- (1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.
- (2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The ESPON Managing Authority has elaborated on an Evaluation Plan pursuant to the Common Provisions Regulations 1303/2013 which assigns the ESPON EGTC with certain tasks in collecting and reporting data for the purposes of the monitoring and evaluation. Each year the ESPON EGTC is required to report on the performance of the implementation of the Single Operation vis-à-vis the baseline for result indicators completed in 2015 and on any follow-up measures required to be implemented based on the findings of internal and external evaluations.

This current report covers the activities implemented as part of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2020. The primary method implemented for the collection and analysis of data related to the five specific objectives results indicators (RI) was an annual online survey. The survey was launched on 14 December 2020 and remained open until 12 March 2021.

The goal of the online survey was to elicit feedback and opinions on ESPON outputs and activities from a wide range of potential and actual users, with reference to:

- the degree to which target groups make use of ESPON outputs in their practical activities;
- the perceived usefulness of the knowledge acquired.

The survey specifically aimed at collecting information from different categories of stakeholders to ensure the specific target groups for each of the four content-orientated Specific Objectives of the Single Operation (SO1-4) as well as organisations involved in the implementation of the Single Operation (SO5) were reached.

The ESPON EGTC's email distribution list, website, direct emailing, ESPON events and social media channels were used to reach potential respondents. In total, 244 stakeholders responded to the survey, representing 26 countries of the ESPON space. Of the respondents, 60 per cent indicated 'Policy / Administration / Governance' and 26 per cent 'Research' as their primary field of work, with the remainder working in 'Consultancy' or 'Other'. The most represented level of governance is the national, which more than doubles the regional; more than triples European and nearly quadruples local representation in the survey. The researchers work in the following fields of research: spatial planning, geography, economics, environment, sociology, political sciences and statistics with the remaining 1 per cent indicating 'others' as primary research field.

The survey included 8 questions, designed to serve the result indicators. The baseline values were determined through a survey conducted in 2015. Based on this, the corresponding target values have been defined. Each result indicators (RI) is structured around the 5 ESPON Specific Objectives (SO): SO1 – Applied Research; SO2 – Targeted Analysis; SO3 – online tools and maps; SO4 – Outreach; SO5 – Implementation Provisions. Chapter 3 provides in-depth insights into ESPON's performance based on quantitative and qualitative data from the survey combined with other data sources such as testimonials and endorsements, social media engagement analytics.

The analysis of the result indicates an achievement or overachievement of the defined target values in five out of the six result indicators. The use of Applied Research observed in 2020 reveals a slightly downward-sloping trend, losing 5 percentage points as compared to 2019. RI1 measures three percentage points increase relative to 2018 and no change relative to 2017. The maximum target value has been surpassed in 2017 and remained above the threshold in 2020.

The satisfaction with ESPON Targeted Analyses registers a slight upward trend of two percentage points relative to 2019 and remains above the value observed in 2017. The target value of 95% could not yet be reached in 2019 but the results reflect the already very high baseline value for this indicator. With 94% satisfaction declared by surveyed stakeholders, however, the performance of SO2 has clearly improved as compared with the baseline value of 83%.

As part of the TNO annual activity report, the service provider has carried out an impact assessment of the transnational outreach activities implemented in 2020, based on surveys distributed after every event. The survey design is aligned with the annual ESPON survey so as to feed the overall ESPON performance framework. In addition, the TNO survey elicits project-specific information related to both the project's mission and implementation. The performance analysis of all activities reveals that nine out of ten surveyed participants are satisfied with the event outcomes. More than a half of them had limited or no awareness of ESPON before the event. Furthermore, the results of the impact assessment reveal a well-balanced and purposeful segmentation of participant profiles, whereby the public sector (i.e. politicians, local, regional, national administrations and other public organisations) composes the largest stake of 63%.

		Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
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5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial challenges in the management of the Single Operation. From mid-March and following the lockdown declared by the Luxembourgish government, all staff members were instructed to telework to different degrees, the share of office work and teleworking adapting to the situation. Benefiting from the new equipment and software purchased and installed in 2019, the ESPON EGTC was able to offer relatively good conditions for teleworking. Still, on account of the recurrent school closure in Luxembourg and the neighbouring countries, some staff were forced to take family leaves or work part-time over the longer period of time. This resulted in some implementation delays.

In effect of the COVID-19 outbreak all events planned since then were either cancelled or postponed (with the exception of one workshop which was held online in June 2020).

The EGTC put in place mitigation measures to overcome the delays while maintaining the high service quality towards ESPON stakeholders. The Transnational Outreach Work Plan for 2020 was revised after discussions with the service provider in order to reschedule the cancelled events and to include in the contract a new format of online events.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, instead of a physical seminar in Zadar, the EGTC proposed to hold the events of the ESPON week in Croatia in a different format. Fully internally designed and developed by the EGTC team, the first issue of TerritoriALL, the online ESPON Magazine was published on the initially scheduled day of the seminar, featuring a video message of EC Vice President Dubravca Suica and giving the floor: to the Croatian Presidency, to the MC members and to experts/policy makers representing the ESPON community. The principle approach was meant to be as interactive as possible allowing interested individuals to pick-up what they are interested in and interact through messages, questions, posts and articles. Analytics have demonstrated that despite the circumstances this new online format was able to reach out even more the ESPON target groups that regular physical events.

Following up on the successful ESPON experience with the Croatian Presidency, the new (online) format of the ESPON Week was further developed for the purpose of supporting the German Presidency. Besides a second edition of TerritoriALL featuring a message from the Presesident of the European Parliament, it included new online events, such a scientific debate between prominent economists and a high level policy debate with the EC Commissioner Elisa Ferreira.

Eventually, bearing in mind the possible operational disturbances because of COVID-19 outbreak, all ESPON service providers were invited to communicate all delays or service delivery problems in order to find suitable arrangements in continuing the service contracts. Also, the EGTC decided an extended publication period for all ongoing procurement procedures to allow all interested economic operators to submit offers.

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(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

The progress with the implementation of the programme is considered to be on track on the basis of the target as detailed follows:

- SO1: 22 activities (Applied Research Projects) have been launched to date out of the 2022 target of 22 foreseen in total for the entire programming period. 17 applied research activities are now completed and 5 are ongoing. An additional activity has been included in the Annual Work Plan 2021, responding to the emergent stakeholder needs, will be launched in 2021 (about territorial impacts of COVID-19).
- SO2: 28 activities (Targeted analyses) have been launched to date out of the 2022 target of 28 foreseen in total for the entire programming period. 17 out of 28 expected targeted analysis projects are completed. 11 are still ongoing.
- SO2: 24 thematic focus papers have been produced to date. 4 additional papers foreseen to be published in 2020 were still in the process of being completed by the end of the reporting period and will be ready in early 2021. Altogether, the number of thematic focus papers published by end 2020 is 24 out of 45 set as the programme target. 4 additional papers foreseen to be published in 2020 were still in the process of being completed by the end of the reporting period and will be ready in early 2021. The ESPON EGTC closely monitors the production status of thematic focus papers and took planning and management measures to ensure that the target will be met by the end of the programme period: 17 thematic papers are in the planning pipeline.
- SO3: By end of 2020, 4 tools have been created and 4 others are being implemented. It is therefore considered that the Single Operation is on track to achieve the target of 8 territorial observation tools to be created or maintained by 2022. The new ESPON 2020 database is now fully operational and accessible via the ESPON website. The ESPON FUORE webtool as a product of ESPON 2020 project "Functional Urban Areas and Regions in Europe" was also finalised and made accessible on the ESPON website during the reporting period. The TIA tool was also updated with new functionalities and upgraded list of indicators and made available on the ESPON website. The new European and Macroregional Territorial Monitoring Tool was also completed and made available on the ESPON website in 2020.
- SO4: The target to hold 40 outreach events during the programming period has already been met. 11 online outreach events held under 2020 sum up to altogether 78 events outreach events hosted in total during the programming period. In 2020, less outreach events than in the past years were carried out on account of the pandemic. The COVID-19 outbreak pushed to cancel many foreseen events or to switch to online formats.
- SO4: The target of 20 outreach publications during the programming period has already been met. Beside the thematic focus papers counted under SO2, so far a total of 47 publications have been produced, including: territorial observations reports, seminar synthesis reports, country fiches, transnational observations and TerritoriALL (the ESPON Magazine)..
- Territorial Observations/Reports (IO07) No specific activities were carried out during the reporting period. By the end of 2020, the record of Territorial Observations/Reports still counts 2 out of a target of 3, namely the European Territorial Review and the State of the European Territory Report. In 2021, the online Territorial Atlas of Europe will be released and thereby the programme target will be met.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Projec	t CCI	Status of	Total	Total	Planned	Date of tacit agreement/	Planned start of	Planned	Priority Axis/	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main	Date of signature of first Observations
		MP	investments	eligible	notification/submission date	approval by Commission	implementation	completion date	Investment priorities	expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible	Main implementation stage of the project outpo	its works contract (1)
				costs						cost)		

(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

	t pi obiems encountei eu m im	prementing major pro	of cets and measures taken to overcome them
n.a.			

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

n.a.

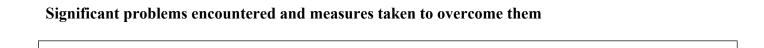
8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

n.a.		

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the	CCI Stage of implement	tation of Total eli	igible Total	public OP contribution	on to Priority	Type	of [Planned] submission	to the [Planned] start	of [Planned]	Main outputs and	Total eligible expenditure certified to the	Observations
JAP	JAP	costs	support	JAP	axis	JAP	Commission	implementation	completion	results	Commission	



- 9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)
- 9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

9.3. Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	0.00	0.00%

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

10. OBLIGATORY	INFORMATION AND	D ASSESSMENT	ACCORDING TO	O ARTICLE 14(4),
SUBPARAGRAPH 1	I (A) AND (B), OF REG	ULATION (EU) No	o 1299/2013	

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

 α I	~ ~				777	- ·		
 Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
 Status	rame	runu	I cai oi iinanzing cvaiuation	I VDC OI CVAIUALIOII	I II I	LODIC	Tinuings (in case of execution)	TOHOW UP (III CASC OF CACCULOII)

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

- 11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)
- 11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The EGTC agreed with the policy stakeholders two new Targeted Evidence Support activities (TEVI), which will strengthen the territorial dimension in the implementation of two EU macroregional strategies (the EUSDR and EUSAIR). This will be based on replicable experience gathered in the two past activities that worked on territorial scenarios and spatial perspectives for the EUSBSR and the Alpine Area, respectively. In particular, the new activities will produce trend analysis and territorial scenarios for the Danube (EUSDR) and Adriatic Ionian macro-regions (EUSAIR). Key topics of reference to the territorial development that had been worked out in the respective macro-regional strategies and their action plans shall serve as a basis for the work under this service contract. The project shall be launched in 2021 and completed in 2022.

The MRS ESPON Tool is considered by EU macroregional fora stakeholders a useful monitoring tool to guide them in developing long term visions and scenarios. This project was aimed at developing a web tool that provides territorial evidence to stakeholders and policymakers in Europe and in particular on the Baltic Sea, Danube, Alpine and Adriatic-Ionian macro-regions on key development trends over time and on the progress, implementation and contribution of policy objectives as defined in the EU macro-regional strategies and in the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. After being several times delayed and confronted to serious problems of implementation, the tool was eventually delivered in 2020 and made available online.

ш	EU Strategy for the Battic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
	EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
	EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
	EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
	Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

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DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
ESPON 2020 Citizen's summary	Citizens' summary	30-Jun-2021		Ares(2021)4252783	ESPON 2020 Citizen's summary	30-Jun-2021	nesereth

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 102.50% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 112.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI02, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 115.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 167.50% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 190.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 195.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 235.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 235.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 102.50% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 115.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 167.50% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 190.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 195.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 235.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 235.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2020. Please check.