



ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES VOIES VERTES  
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ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE VÍAS VERDES



**OUR WAY**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# PreservatiOn and promotion of cUltural and natural heRitage through GreenWAYS **OUR WAY**

## **Note about Tourism in Regional Strategic Documents:**

### **Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) and Regional Operational Programs (ROP)**

**2014-2020 / 2012-2027**

**(draft)**

This document intends to help and motivate the OurWay partners to update /or contribute to the updating of their regional RIS3 and other Regional Policy documents, integrating the priorities identified in the meetings with stakeholders held during the project.

It provides basic information on the priorities for the current and next financial period more connected to tourism, and general recommendations for the updating of its RIS3 and regional strategy documents, in the themes linked to the [OurWay](#) project.

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## 1. THE CONTEXT

This document responds to the request for information on how tourism is considered in regional strategic documents and examples of good practices, by one of the partners of OurWay (Poland).

In the case of Podkarpackie (Poland), they are reviewing their RIS3 strategy, they want to integrate what they have learned about greenways thanks to OurWay. They have created a sub-panel of greenways as part of the "Quality of Life" smart specialization panel.

In the framework of the current Regional Operational Program of the Podkarpackie Region 2014-2020 there is no possibility of financing bicycle routes, since it is not included as investment priority, what they intend to correct within the framework of the OurWay project, for the next financial period.

One of the actions proposed in the Ourway Action Plan currently in preparation is the **Development of the concept of greenways routes in Podkarpackie**, including the design of potential greenways routes in Podkarpackie. The review of the regional strategy documents (RIS 3 and RPO) is very important for the implementation of the Action Plan and the continuity of actions beyond 2020.

Lead Partner (Murcia) shows also interest in this topic, although its RIS3 includes tourism as a priority, but it has also shown interest in knowing good practices with a view to its possible revision, in order to integrate their interest for greenways as tool for protecting and promoting greenways in the region.

This topic can be of the general interest for all the project partners, as it links to the Axis 3 Financing. Therefore it would be very suitable that overall all the partners of OurWay realize the interest of updating their strategic policy documents, integrating the responsible sustainable tourism related to greenways and other non motorized trails, as part of the opportunities for their regions. The situation and the actual possibility of this update vary greatly between the projects partners, it depends on the characteristics and skills of the partners. Regional partners, as Podkarpackie, have more possibilities to make the change, but all the partners can influence the revision of the RIS3 and the Strategic Policy instruments in the mentioned way, thanks to the experience gained in OurWay.

Therefore can be useful to give a general idea of the main features of the next financial framework, to help the partners to incorporate their priorities related to tourism and the enhancement of cultural and natural heritage through greenways, in their regional strategy documents. This will facilitate the sustainability of the project, by permitting them to apply for European funds for implementing the strategies to be carried out as part of the OurWay Action Plans, in the next financial period +2021. If they are not included in their regional priorities, they will not be able to receive European funding to carry out these projects. We have examples of projects that have not been able to be funded in the current period, because they were not integrated into the priorities established in the OPs, despite being able to count on national co-funding; it is really very disappointing to have funding and not be able to use it.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THIS NOTE

The purpose of this note is:

- To provide examples and references (of good practices) related to RIS3, which integrate tourism and which can be useful for the updating the RIS3, linked to the OurWay theme.
- To draw attention to the interest in updating the regional strategic documents (RIS 3 and ROP), in the themes linked to the OurWay project.
- To help to connect the tourism topic (as part of the RIS3) in a coherent way with the priorities more connected to tourism in the Operational Programs -ERDF and Cohesion Funds, in order to be able to receive European funding for the implementation of projects derived from the OurWay Action Plans and so to favor the sustainability of the project after the end of the financial aid/support period.
- To provide basic information on the priorities for the next financial period in this area, and general recommendations for the updating of its RIS3 and regional strategy documents, in the themes linked to the OurWay project,

### 3. WHY IS THE 'SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGY' (RIS-3) IMPORTANT FOR OBTAINING EUROPEAN FUNDS?

*The Regulation (EU) 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 is a legal base which defines 'smart specialisation strategy'.*

*'Smart specialisation strategy' means the national or regional innovation strategies which set priorities in order to build competitive advantage by developing and matching research and innovation own strengths to business needs in order to address emerging opportunities and market developments in a coherent manner, while avoiding duplication and fragmentation of efforts. A smart specialisation strategy may take the form of, or be included in a national or regional research and innovation (R&I) strategic policy framework. Smart specialisation strategies shall be developed through involving national or regional managing authorities and stakeholders such as universities and other higher education institutions, industry and social partners in an entrepreneurial discovery process. **The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well-performing national or regional R&I systems is a prerequisite for the effective and efficient achievement of a specific objective for all investment priorities under thematic objective no 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation. The RIS3 ex-ante conditionality requires EU Member States and regions to have smart specialisation in place that:***

- *Is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;*

- *outlines measures to stimulate private research, technology and development (RTD) investment;*
- *contains a monitoring and review system;*
- *sees a Member State has adopted a framework outlining available budgetary resources for research and innovation; and*
- *a Member State has adopted a multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to EU priorities (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures –ESFRI).<sup>1</sup>*

➤ **RIS 3 ex-ante condition for ROP**

- **In the current financial period (2014-2020) the smart specialisation strategy is an obligation for European regions and Member States to qualify for European funds from cohesion policies.** It is an ex-ante requirement. The purpose of RIS3 is to identify, through the joint work of public players and the business sector, the areas of research and innovation in which the region can aspire to stand out, based on its existing and emerging competitive advantages.
- In the next financial period (2021-2027) will be a "**enabling condition**". *The 'enabling conditions' continue the approach of the ex-ante conditionalities introduced for the 2014-2020 funding period. (...) They cover similar thematic areas as in 2014-2020, like energy efficiency, and still include smart specialisation strategies to guide investments in research and innovation<sup>2</sup>.*
- The region sets the priorities for innovation and development, and these priorities are then integrated into the development plans and operational programs. The priorities of RIS3 - have to be consistent with the Operational Programs, which can provide European funding for these actions.
- In the next financial period, **Regional development investments will strongly focus on objectives 1 and 2.** : 65% to 85% of ERDF and Cohesion Fund resources will be allocated to these priorities, depending on Member States' relative wealth. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/2021\\_2027/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/) . Objective 1. Smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation) is particularly linked to RIS3

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/smart\\_specialisation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/smart_specialisation_en.pdf) pg 6

<sup>2</sup> Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument. [COM/2018/375 final - 2018/0196 \(COD\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/375/final)

## 4. OPPORTUNITIES TO UPDATE RIS3: INCORPORATING THE RESULTS OF OURWAY

The results of the analysis carried out by OurWay partners may influence the (updating of the ) RIS3 and the design of the regional Operational Programmes for the next period, in particular through the integration of the tourism component and also the development of cycling infrastructure for sustainable mobility, including its use for active and sustainable tourism.

This is due to the work already done, the methodology and the objectives of the project.

i. Participatory methodology. The identification of productive specialization strategies for the development of RIS3 is based on a participatory methodology.

For RIS3

- They must do this through a process of **'entrepreneurial discovery'**, i.e. involving key innovation stakeholders and business.
- "This strategy should not only build on and/or aim at **regional scientific excellence** but also support **practice-based ('non-technological') innovation** (6) and include the adoption and diffusion of **knowledge and innovation**.

The Interreg Europe methodology is also based on **stakeholder participation; the partners** have involved representatives of the private sector - SME and civil society organisations.

Therefore the partners can take advantage of the SWOT and the specific regional analysis carried out on greenways and cultural and natural heritage as part of OurWay.

They would have to make the corresponding update of these documents derived from a greater knowledge of the situation acquired throughout the project and of the priorities selected in their meetings with stakeholders and Action Plans.

Also, to **complete the participation with specific entities of RDT**, depending on the composition of the stakeholders group in each case. **Collaboration could be considered in the next meetings of stakeholders and/or in the agendas of the pending study visits. In the case of Poland, the stakeholders group of the new subpanel on greenways includes** representatives of the Podkarpackie Innovation Council (RIS3 Steering Committee), what is a good example for partners.

Tourism is an important activity in improving the socio-economic development of all the areas represented in OurWay and has the capacity to stimulate other sectors at local level, as we had the opportunity to learn about in situ: agri-food activities (e.g. gourmet greenways based in a network of restaurants and hotels nearby the greenway, brewing of artisan beers, etc), crafts (production and selling in the old school new artisan centre in Bieskady mountains), the development of the social economy (Podkarpackie coffee

shop) and the creation and/or maintenance of jobs in new niche markets, linked to the use of natural and cultural resources - tangible and intangible - It is also an opportunity for innovation and for development of the Cultural and Creative Industry in most of the activities connected to the tourism, e.g. (App's, GPS augmented reality AR, Virtual Reality, 3D images, ...).

ii. **Governance** is a key requirement for the RIS3 and is also one of OurWay's priorities (Axis 1). Ourway partners can take advantage of the systematic meetings with stakeholders to establish a governance model, which could be integrated into RIS-3, with the improvements they consider necessary.

iii. **Monitoring and evaluation.** RIS3 must include a monitoring and evaluation system; output and achievement indicators that reflect the innovation in the selected priorities must be defined; also to establish an action plan.

iv. **International cooperation.** To favors the continuity of the cooperation and exchange of good practices that is being carried out in OurWay and to integrate international cooperation as part of the actions.

## 5. REFERENCES AND EXAMPLES OF RIS3 (2014-2020), OTHER THAN PARTNERS

### i. Reference information

- The basic reference information is the Smart specialisation platform. It includes extensive information, the reference guide Strategy (RIS3)<sup>3</sup>, methodology, indicators... Includes a tool that compares and synthesizes Smart strategies at a regional level. <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-guide> .
- RIS Repository-: <https://www.onlines3.eu/ris3-strategies-repository/> This website is part of a H2020 project, and also includes model forms for the implementation of RIS and its development.

### ii. Other general references:

- RIS3 summary document from France ([Synthesis of the Research & Innovation Strategies For Smart Specialisation of French Regions, December 2015](#)).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Guide to Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisations (RIS 3). European Commission, May 2012

<sup>4</sup> [https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/20182/90637/cget\\_sri\\_si\\_en-12-2015.pdf/8d04fd5d-b087-4bbf-9abb-7671c9e899ca](https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/20182/90637/cget_sri_si_en-12-2015.pdf/8d04fd5d-b087-4bbf-9abb-7671c9e899ca)

It provides a general summary of the RIS3 priorities of the regions of France, some of which include tourism. It is interesting to see the weight of tourism within the general activity of the regions; even if tourism is a priority for different regions, its treatment differs greatly in the way it is considered, as well its objectives and action strategies.

Based on this synthesis, the example of some regions where it is well known that cultural and nature tourism, and the cycle tourism in particular, is a prominent activity, such as La Loire à vélo in the Centre region has been reviewed;

This is the priority set regarding tourism for "Region Centre" <sup>5</sup>

- **Priority. ICT and services for heritage tourism**

(...) 9.1 Establishing collaborative science-industry networks and platforms within the potential areas of specialization (*DPS domaines potentiels de spécialisation*)

(...) Promote bringing innovative products to the market within the potential areas of specialization

*(...) actions towards the use of ICTs in the field of mediation and interpretation of heritage and tourism; the creation of innovative products and services in the field of nature tourism or ecotourism, soft non-motorized itinerant tourism and wine tourism, initiatives in terms of collective approaches and networking of stakeholders are encouraged in the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Tourism.*

iii. Regions where tourism is the engine of their economy; which expressly consider nature tourism.

- **Canary Islands (ES) <sup>6</sup>:**

Strategy focused on tourism and the green economy.

<https://www3.gobiernodecanarias.org/aciisi/ris3/documentos/ris3-canarias?own=0>

Summary in English:

[https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/20182/119870/RIS3\\_Canary+Islands\\_05062012\\_final.pdf](https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/20182/119870/RIS3_Canary+Islands_05062012_final.pdf)

For the purposes of this note, it is important to highlight the priority **productive diversification based on tourism:**

- R&D and tourism.

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<sup>5</sup> [VERS UNE STRATEGIE REGIONALE DE L'INNOVATION POUR UNE SPECIALISATION INTELLIGENTE EN REGION CENTRE 2014-2020. Version 5 novembre 2013](#)

<sup>6</sup> ESTRATEGIA DE ESPECIALIZACIÓN INTELIGENTE DE CANARIAS 2014-2020



- ICT and tourism.
- **Green growth, blue growth, sustainability and tourism.**
- Logistics, transport and tourism.
- Leisure, culture, sport and tourism.
- Agro-food industry, agriculture, livestock and tourism.
- Construction, technical services and tourism.
- Health and tourism

Including indicators of achievements.

- **Balearic Islands (ES)**

Estrategia Regional de Innovación para la Especialización Inteligente de Las Illes Balears. Mayo de 2013 <sup>7</sup>

The first version of the document was produced between 2012 and 2013. Due to certain problems in its composition, it was updated in 2016.

All the specialization priorities are directed towards tourism, the economic engine of the islands. Challenge: a **"Smart" tourism model with high growth potential in the** context of developing new market technologies.

The specialization axis is supported by five pillars; those that may be of most interest to the project partners are mentioned below:

**Sustainability.** This section seeks to apply knowledge, systems and new technologies to facilitate the implementation of tourism business activities that respect the geographical conditions of the region, nature and the environment.

**Advanced tourism services and human capital.** This section focuses on strengthening the human capital of the Balearic Islands, paying special attention to young people and workers in SMEs, promoting knowledge about innovation.

**Research and open innovation.** Cooperation is the key element of this section. In particular, cooperation between the business sector and innovation and research agents.

As a result of the 2016 review, a new axis is included regarding to **emerging transformer sectors that** allow for diversification of intelligent specialization. These

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<sup>7</sup>

[http://osrdev.uib.es/infoconvoc/doc/accions\\_especials/RIS3\\_Estrategia\\_Balears\\_Actualizada\\_2017.pdf](http://osrdev.uib.es/infoconvoc/doc/accions_especials/RIS3_Estrategia_Balears_Actualizada_2017.pdf)

are the bioeconomy, the marine economy and the **CCIs (Cultural and Creative Industries)**

It also extends what is understood by a tourism company, considering as any company in the tourism value chain.

- It is very well structured, clear about the actions it proposes and the investments to be made in each case.
- Includes a synthetic table of output indicators directly related to the lines of intervention derived from the implementation of the projects; and of result indicators, defined at the Axis level and linked to the intended achievement, these one including baseline, value 2020 and information source.

This is perhaps the most interesting example, because it is an update of 2017 and addresses part of the general interest issue. **In no case the situation corresponds to Podkarpckie, nor in general other partners, but some of the elements can be a good reference for the OurWay partners.**

Other RIS3 from France have also been revised, as from PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)<sup>8</sup> region since they have good examples of greenways and long distance cycle routes. The priority focus on "Tourism and Cultural Industries" and in innovation through digital technology: develop e-tourism solutions and increase international clientele, but we didn't find a mention regarding active or soft non-motorized tourism.

Latvia's case<sup>9</sup> has also been reviewed due to its recent determined action on greenways<sup>10</sup> although in this case RIS3 does not have a specific tourism priority; it includes the "Information and communications technologies" component, and mention new sectors with high growth potential; not specifically tourism.

In addition other RIS 3 have been consulted but do not contribute further to the topic, so no comments are included.

**It should be noted that these RIS3 have been produced in the years 2012-13, and that the context and priorities have evolved a lot with regard to outdoor tourism and cycle tourism. The next RIS3 should consider the current greater interest in nature, cultural and outdoor tourism.**

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<sup>8</sup> [Stratégie Régionale d'Innovation. Provence-Alpes- Côte d'Azur.](#)

<sup>9</sup> Innovation and Research Strategy for Smart Specialization. THE INITIAL POSITION OF LATVIA 27 March 2013; and [RTU the smart specialisation strategy of the republic of latvia](#)

<sup>10</sup> Podkarpackie mentions Latvia as a reference in its draft Action Plan; representatives of the region and stakeholders had the opportunity to learn about the new development of the greenways network in Latvia (Vidzeme region), in one of the activities organized by EGWA.

## 6. RIS3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OURWAY PROJECT PARTNERS

- Update (or contribute to) the RIS3 document (Regional Policy Document), integrating the priorities identified in the meetings with stakeholders held during the project and included in a different way in the action plans.
- In general, **to integrate as an ambition in the RIS3 the innovation for the development of responsible and sustainable tourism taking advantage of the natural and cultural resources, through greenways and other non-motorized itineraries.**
- In case the partner is not the competent authority, it is recommended to communicate these priorities to the regional RIS3 and RPO managers.
- Each territory has to include the result of its analysis and what it considers to be its competitive advantages, it is not a question of copying: the context and potentialities are different in each case. It is important that the context analysis includes natural and cultural values.
- In addition to the generally more identified cultural values, to expressly mention the interest of the natural resources, which most of the partners mention to a greater or lesser extent in their regional analyses, as an asset, whether or not this areas have a protection status; each partner need to specify the specific values (biodiversity, birds, fauna, ecosystem services, green infrastructure) in their territory.
- To include the opportunities that both (natural and cultural heritage) represent for innovation and the creation of quality employment and the interest for integrating new technologies. Specially the use of **Cultural and Creative Industries tools, applied to greenways and natural and cultural assets nearby, to better inform tourists and so enhance their experience.**
- Similarly, mention as an asset, the existence of disused communication infrastructures such as railway tracks, and also the canal towpaths, that can be very useful for both tourism and soft mobility. These old infrastructures are already integrated in the landscape with respect for the environment , and furthermore can be used to favor the continuity of green infrastructure in natural and rural areas with peri-urban and urban areas. This is addressed to those partners who have this type of heritage in their territories.
- Regarding the promotion for cultural and natural heritage, the [Guimarães Declaration](#), lead by the EGWA within the framework of the Greenways Heritage project, is a simple and clear reference of the type of actions that are recommended to be carried out in a general way for spaces that have cultural values, linked to greenways. It focuses on UNESCO heritage, since it has been generated as part of a specific project linked to this theme, but also makes reference to and clearly indicates that it can be

extended to other cultural and natural values. It expressly integrates innovation and the essential elements to be considered can be extended to natural values, classified (e.g. Natural parks, Natura 2000, RAMSAR areas...) or not. The partners can adhere to the Declaration and integrate their recommendations, totally or partially as ambitions of the region.

- They can also refer to the Declaration Towards a “European Greenways Network”, or [Lille Declaration](#), which develops the greenway concept promoted by the EGWA, and the [Madrid Declaration](#). They can be considered as the reference framework for the development of greenways and green network in Europe and are framed within the priorities of sustainable development, the fight against climate change, employment promotion policies and the fight against social exclusion, as well as sustainable tourism.

It also includes specific references to promote and finance innovation, research and information technologies for the competitiveness of a tourism industry and all the aspects related with Greenways and the European Green Network.

- About financing. To re-align the existing programs and lines of funding with the new proposals to be made in the RIS3 and to include new actions and lines of funding that respond to the new objectives that are being proposed. E.G. In the case of Poland, Podkarpackie could integrate their current funding schemes for future actions addressed to SMEs and also to social and local economy actors, integrating innovation. **(to confirm by the partner).**
- To integrate this intelligent specialisation axis (E.g Smart, sustainable, active non-motorized tourism) in a coherent manner with the other axes and regional policies. To draw up a roadmap and an action plan for the actions under this axis/priority.
- Establish a clear monitoring system with available and reliable indicators that can reflect the reality of progress. Also on the financing of actions.
  - ***Examples of programme objectives, outputs and expected results and possible related indicators***<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Guide to Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisations (RIS 3) - Table 10 -

*Table 10 - Examples of programme objectives, outputs and expected results and possible related indicators<sup>38</sup>*

Objectives	Expected results		
	Outputs	Short-term results	Medium/long-term results
Increase awareness of a set of new technologies	Awareness campaign, visits to fairs, advisory services	Adoption of technologies	Improved business performance; continuing awareness and adoption of related technologies
Improve the skill basis of a set of industries	Training sessions, staff exchanges	Improved technical competencies of staff, increase effectiveness of in-house R&D	Improved innovation performance, increased technological absorptive capacity
Increase science-industry links	Student placements, academic-industry cooperation projects or networks	Improved skill, technical competence and knowledge base, change of behaviours, increase in prototypes	New products and services based on innovation, increased quality of production
Increase of research activity in a region	Research subsidies to enterprises or universities/research centres	Increase in research expenditure in firms, increase in patents or publications	Improved innovation performance, enhanced reputation
Stimulate the start-up of new technology-based companies	Finance and information for future entrepreneurs, incubation	Creation of new high-tech companies	Long-term growth and sustained development of new high-tech industrial sectors
<b>Possible indicators (1)</b>	Number of visits, placements, projects, incubated start-ups, and amount of funding for future entrepreneurs etc.	Number of new enterprises created in the region, number of enterprises having adopted a new technology, number of staff reporting new working behaviours, etc.	Increase rate of productivity in regional SMEs Increased share of turnover based on innovation, increased export share, new products on the market, growth of employment in knowledge-intensive sectors, R&D expenditure per worker, etc.

(1) Indicators should be selected to reflect the programme's objectives and intervention logic.

- Ensure that ICT measures are included as horizontal measures.
  - a) *feature as horizontal measures such as application-driven research and user-driven innovation and, adoption of ICT including ICT-based solutions in all kinds of fields (healthcare, healthy and active aging, e-accessibility, assisted living, e-government, access to public information, resource efficiency, smart grids, intelligent transport, safety, e-commerce, manufacturing, design, public services, e-education, e-inclusion, e-skills, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, econtent, creativity, culture, living labs, smart buildings and neighbourhoods, smart cities, trust, security, etc); (ICT measures in RIS3 Guide - Box 7 -)*
- Consider incorporating initiatives to improve RIS3, modify the scope of existing ones or the budgetary priorities, in view of the evolution of the results and the generation of new needs, **over the period.**
  - **It is very important that regional RIS3 with the ROP (Operational Programmes), are coherent, clear, realistic, and applicable / achievable. They have to clearly include greenways, in a wide sense, in their priorities so that they can be**

financed at later stage during the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027. If they are not included they will not be eligible for receiving European funds.

## 7. CONSERVING, PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CURRENT RPO (2014-2020).

As indicated in the mentioned guide, *Smart Specialisation as a tool for regional policy has to be carefully considered and must follow the 'place based approach' to economic development that has been promoted by both the European Commission and the OECD. The strategies on their own will not bring about change if they are not translated into delivery instruments considered in the Operational Programmes of Cohesion Policy.*

The document "Operational Programmes Under The Goal Of Investment For Growth And Jobs" <sup>12</sup>, reviews the regions that invest in the Thematic Objective 6, the one most closely linked to tourism, and the type of concrete actions they carry out within the framework of the OPs in the current financial framework, which is where the OurWay Action Plans are framed.

*"The most frequently expected actions are grant investments in infrastructure and facilities, activities to raise awareness and visibility of cultural heritage, and grants for renovation and restoration of heritage sites.*

*This report looks into the Operational Programmes of the European Regional Development Fund to investigate how regions are investing in Thematic Objective 6 of the ERDF – 'Protecting the Environment and promoting resource efficiency', in particular, Investment Priorities 6c and 6g:*

*6c – Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage;*

*6g – Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors.*

*In total, there are 311 Operational Programmes managing spending of the European Structural and Investment Funds – 175 of which will be for the ERDF. Through our survey, we have found that 146 of these are concerned with TO6, of which 94 are*

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<sup>12</sup> ["Operational Programmes Under The Goal Of Investment For Growth And Jobs". \(INTERREG IVC Joint Technical Secretariat.\)](#)

*concerning IP6c, but only six are concerning IP6g. The countries of Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden have no OPs looking at TO6, at all."*

## 8. WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES IN THE NEW FINANCIAL PERIOD 2021-2027 ? POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO FINANCE TOURISM, GREENWAYS AND OTHER NON-MOTORIZED ROUTES

The OurWay Action Plans will include concrete action measures, with time planning and budgets to be carried out within the current funding period.

In the case of Podkarpackie the Action Plan (draft) includes as one of the actions Development of the concept of greenways routes in Podkarpackie The Action Plan fall within the current budgetary framework (2014-20), but the AP has to take into account what the conditions of the future EU financial framework will be from 2021 on, so that they can finance the implementation of the planned project that the AP may include.

It is therefore important to know the priorities of the next financial framework +2021 in order to be able to frame the priority actions relating to tourism and the promotion and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage, so that the actions and projects included in these plans can receive funding within the future RPOs., and so to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Obtaining sustainable financial resources is one of OurWay's priorities (Axis 2).

In the case of Podkarpackie, the partner is responsible for regional strategic planning and can therefore directly promote the updating of RIS3 and the integration of these conclusions/recommendations into its regional policy. The updating of RIS3 will have a very important impact for this region, and will be an excellent achievement of OURWAY with impact beyond the period of the project itself.

### ➤ **THE NEXT PERIOD 2021-2027**

From 11 'thematic objectives' in the 2014-2020 period, the new Regional and Cohesion Policy will now focus its resources on 5 policy objectives /investment priorities:

- **PO1 a Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses
- **(PO2) a Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change
- **PO3 a more Connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital networks

- **PO4 a more Social Europe**, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare
- **PO5 Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.
- **Horizontal issues:**
  - administrative capacity building,
  - cooperation outside the programme area.

**Regional development investments will strongly focus on objectives 1 and 2.** 65% to 85% of ERDF and Cohesion Fund resources will be allocated to these priorities, depending on Member States' relative wealth [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/2021\\_2027/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/)

**The Policy objective 5. A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives, seems the best suited to the tourism priority, but, tourism can and must be integrated in a complementary way with specific actions in most of the Policy and specific objectives.**

Specially in this PO5 the Involvement of local association and stakeholders in drafting strategies will be a key role.

Other specific objectives that include cycling infrastructure are focused on urban areas, like PO 3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity, en - (3.iv) Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, one of whose indicators is related to RCO 58 - Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported

- The details of the policy objectives and specific objectives with the outputs and result indicators are included in the annex 1.
- Furthermore in Annex 2, some **Suggestions of Indicative Actions relevant to tourism-related investments (general and explicit for greenways)** Aligned to the Policy Objectives (POs) and for the specific objectives as defined by EU.

It is necessary furthermore to review the country reports investment guidance provided by the European Commission to each Member State for Cohesion policy for 2021 – 2027 (Annex D of the Country reports issued on 27 February). The country report ***identify priority areas for policy action regarding public and private investment in Member States, and therefore provide the analytical basis for a successful programming of cohesion policy funds and use of related EU funds in 2021-2027.***<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK AND THE EUROGROUP 2019 European Semester: As-



**It is very important that regional RIS3 with the ROP (Operational Programmes), are coherent, clear, realistic, and applicable / achievable; they have to clearly include greenways, in a wide sense, in their priorities so that they can be financed at later stage during the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027. If they are not included they will not be eligible for receiving European funds.** We have examples of projects that have not been able to be funded in the current period, because they were not integrated into the priorities established in the OPs, despite being able to count on national co-funding; it is really very disappointing to have funding and not be able to use it.

## FINAL COMMENTS

At the EGWA we have extensive information and experience on Best Practices and specific strategies related to greenways, from different territories all around Europe; we promote the dissemination and replication of good practices in different regions.

EGWA has also formulated recommendations for action through various European declarations and through the several projects and activities carried out over the years.

We have been stressing the importance of addressing priorities regarding greenways in the Regional Operational Programmes, (ROP's) in order to be able to count with EU funding to carry out actions regarding greenways. We prepared a specific note<sup>14</sup> as a result of a EU Seminar focus on tourism, for the current period, which has been disseminated at the seminar in Poland, as the OurWay APs must be integrated into the current OP. In addition, a general reference was made to the need to take into account the next financial period, in order to clearly include the priorities for action in the next OPs.

But the association has been not directly involved in the Smart RIS 3 strategic documents to provide response to the question raised by Podkarpackie. The topic is important for OurWay partners and potentially for greenways stakeholders beyond the partners, so a specific search for information available on line has been carried out, in order to provide useful references related to this topic.

The importance of the RIS3 update and the opportunity to use OurWay results for that update, has been highlighted in this note. Furthermore a reference to the +21 financial

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assessment of progress on structural reforms, prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances, and results of in-depth reviews under Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011. [COM/2019/150 final](#)

<sup>14</sup> [EU funding for tourism and greenways. Requirements and tips to benefit from European funding in the new period 2014-2020. 2 April 2014](#)

framework, which is oriented towards the objectives of OurWay, that are common and replicable also in other territories not participating in OurWay.

The information herein contained derived from the analysis of the several documents mentioned and others related to common indicators<sup>15</sup>, in order to be able to give specific answers to the project partners, and transmit an overview of the situation. Furthermore held on the background and experience gained in the different EU projects carried out, but not in the actual practice of the management of the RIS3 or POR, therefore, the comment from the managers of these regional strategic documents are more than welcomed.

Due to the health crisis of COVID19, it has not been possible to carry out the meetings and visits planned for March and April, and it is difficult to foresee when we will return to "normality", which makes it more difficult to follow the planned work plan and to be able to discuss the Actions Plans and the recommendations of this note in meetings with partners and regional officials in charge of the policy instruments.

We will look for the most appropriate formula to exchange opinions about the Action Plans in the next few days, in order to continue making progress with the project and fulfilling the planned objectives, as much as possible.

Meetings/contacts with stakeholders will be more feasible in the medium term, than study visits to other countries, which may be an opportunity to integrate the recommendations of this note (contribution to the update of the regional RIS3 and other Regional Policy documents, integrating the priorities identified in the meetings with stakeholders held during the project). Please keep this in mind.

Many thanks for your comments, ideas and for sharing your experience.

Mercedes Muñoz Zamora,  
[European Association of Greenways](#), Director; OurWay Project Advisory Partner  
21 April 2020

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<sup>15</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/information/publications/studies/2018/development-of-a-system-of-common-indicators-for-european-regional-development-fund-and-cohesion-fund-interventions-after-2020-part-i-thematic-objective-1-3-4-5-6](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/studies/2018/development-of-a-system-of-common-indicators-for-european-regional-development-fund-and-cohesion-fund-interventions-after-2020-part-i-thematic-objective-1-3-4-5-6)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/evaluations/network/meetings/#1](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/network/meetings/#1)

**ANNEX I**

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund. COM/2018/372 final - 2018/0197 (COD)

[Common output and result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund - Article 7\(1\)\[1\]](#)

**Table 1: Common output and result indicators for ERDF (Investment for jobs and growth and Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund\*\***

Policy objective	Specific objective (Annex II)	Outputs	Results
		RCO: Regional Policy Common Output Indicator.	RCR: Regional Policy Common Result Indicator.
<p><b>1. A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation</b></p> <p><i>Smarter Europe, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses</i></p>	<p><b>(1.i) Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</b></p>	<p>RCO[1]01 - Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)*</p> <p>RCO 02 - Enterprises supported by grants*</p> <p>RCO 03 - Enterprises supported by financial instruments*</p> <p>RCO 04 - Enterprises with non-financial support*</p> <p>RCO 05 - Start-ups supported*</p> <p>RCO 06 - Researchers working in supported research facilities</p> <p>RCO 07 - Research institutions participating in joint research projects</p> <p>RCO 08 - Nominal value of research and innovation equipment</p> <p>RCO 10 - Enterprises cooperating with research institutions</p> <p>RCO 96 – Interregional investments in EU projects*</p>	<p>RCR[1]01 - Jobs created in supported entities*</p> <p>RCR 02 - Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)*</p> <p>RCR 03 – SMEs introducing product or process innovation*</p> <p>RCR 04 - SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation*</p> <p>RCR 05 - SMEs innovating in-house*</p> <p>RCR 06 - Patent applications submitted to European Patent Office*</p> <p>RCR 07 - Trademark and design applications*</p> <p>RCR 08 - Public-private co-publications</p>
	<p><b>(1.ii) Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments</b></p>	<p>RCO 12 - Enterprises supported to digitise their products and services</p> <p>RCO 13 - Digital services and products developed for enterprises</p> <p>RCO 14 - Public institutions supported to develop digital services and applications</p>	<p>RCR 11 - Users of new public digital services and applications*</p> <p>RCR 12 - Users of new digital products, services and applications developed by enterprises*</p> <p>RCR 13 - Enterprises reaching high digital intensity*</p> <p>RCR 14 - Enterprises using public digital services*</p>
	<p><b>(1.iii) Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs</b></p>	<p>RCO 15 - Capacity of incubation created*</p>	<p>RCR 16 - High growth enterprises supported*</p> <p>RCR 17 - 3-year-old enterprises surviving in the market*</p> <p>RCR 18 - SMEs using incubator services one year after the incubator creation</p> <p>RCR 19 - Enterprises with higher turnover</p> <p>RCR 25 - Value added per employee in supported SMEs*</p>
	<p><b>(1.iv) Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship</b></p>	<p>RCO 16 - Stakeholders participating in entrepreneurial discovery process</p> <p>RCO 17 - Investments in regional/ local ecosystems for skills development</p> <p>RCO 101 – SMEs investing in skills development</p> <p>RCO 102 - SMEs investing in training management systems*</p>	<p>RCR 24 - SMEs benefiting from activities for skills development delivered by a local/ regional ecosystem</p> <p>RCR 97 – Apprenticeships supported in SMEs</p> <p>RCR 98 – SMEs staff completing Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET) (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)</p> <p>RCR 99 – SMEs staff completing alternative training for knowledge intensive service activities (KISA) (by type of skills: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)</p> <p>RCR 100 – SMEs staff completing formal training for skills development (KISA) (by type of skills: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)*</p>

**Table 1: Common output and result indicators for ERDF (Investment for jobs and growth and Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund\*\***

Policy objective	Specific objective (Annex II)	Outputs	Results
<p><b>2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management</b></p> <p><b>a Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change</b></p>	<p><b>(2.i) Promoting energy efficiency measures</b></p>	<p>RCO 18 - Households supported to improve energy performance of their dwelling</p> <p>RCO 19 - Public buildings supported to improve energy performance</p> <p>RCO 20 - District heating network lines newly constructed or improved</p>	<p>RCR 26 - Annual final energy consumption (of which: residential, private non-residential, public non-residential)</p> <p>RCR 27 - Households with improved energy performance of their dwellings</p> <p>RCR 28 - Buildings with improved energy classification (of which: residential, private non-residential, public non-residential)</p> <p>RCR 29 - Estimated greenhouse gas emissions*</p> <p>RCR 30 - Enterprises with improved energy performance</p>
	<p><b>(2.ii) Promoting renewable energy</b></p>	<p>RCO 22 - Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal)</p> <p>RCO 97 – Number of energy communities and renewable energy communities supported*</p>	<p>RCR 31 - Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal)</p> <p>RCR 32 – Renewable energy: Capacity connected to the grid (operational)*</p>
	<p><b>2.(iii) Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level</b></p>	<p>RCO 23 - Digital management systems for smart grids</p> <p>RCO 98 – Households supported to use smart energy grids</p>	<p>RCR 33 - Users connected to smart grids</p> <p>RCR 34 - Roll-out of projects for smart grids</p>
	<p><b>(2.iv) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience</b></p>	<p>RCO 24 - New or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems*</p> <p>RCO 25 - Coastal strip, river banks and lakeshores, and landslide protection newly built or consolidated to protect people, assets and the natural environment</p> <p><b>RCO 26 - Green infrastructure built for adaptation to climate change</b></p> <p><b>RCO 27 - National/ regional/ local strategies addressing climate change adaptation</b></p> <p>RCO 28 - Areas covered by protection measures against forest fires</p>	<p>RCR 35 - Population benefiting from flood protection measures</p> <p>RCR 36 - Population benefiting from forest fires protection measures</p> <p>RCR 37 - Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods and forest fires)</p> <p>RCR 96 – Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities*</p> <p>RCR 38 - Estimated average response time to disaster situations*</p>
	<p><b>(2.v) Promoting sustainable water management</b></p>	<p>RCO 30 - Length of new or consolidated pipes for household water connections</p> <p>RCO 31 - Length of sewage collection networks newly constructed or consolidated</p> <p>RCO 32 - New or upgraded capacity for waste water treatment</p>	<p>RCR 41 - Population connected to improved water supply</p> <p>RCR 42 - Population connected to at least secondary waste water treatment</p> <p>RCR 43 - Water losses</p> <p>RCR 44 - Waste water properly treated</p>
	<p><b>(2.vi) Promoting the transition to a circular economy</b></p>	<p>RCO 34 - Additional capacity for waste recycling</p>	<p>RCR 46 - Population served by waste recycling facilities and small waste management systems</p> <p>RCR 47 - Waste recycled</p> <p>RCR 48 - Recycled waste used as raw materials</p> <p>RCR 49 - Waste recovered</p>
	<p><b>(2.vii) Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution</b></p>	<p>RCO 36 - Surface area of green infrastructure supported in urban areas</p> <p>RCO 37 - Surface of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures in accordance with the prioritised action framework</p> <p>RCO 99 - Surface area outside Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures</p> <p>RCO 38 - Surface area of rehabilitated land supported</p> <p>RCO 39 - Systems for monitoring air pollution installed</p>	<p>RCR 50 - Population benefiting from measures for air quality</p> <p>RCR 95 -Population having access to new or upgraded green infrastructure in urban areas</p> <p>RCR 51 - Population benefiting from measures for noise reduction</p> <p>RCR 52 - Rehabilitated land used for green areas, social housing, economic or community activities</p>

**Table 1: Common output and result indicators for ERDF (Investment for jobs and growth and Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund\*\***

Policy objective	Specific objective (Annex II)	Outputs	Results
<b>3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity</b>  <i>a more Connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks</i>	<b>(3.i) Enhancing digital connectivity</b>	RCO 41 - Additional households with broadband access of very high capacity RCO 42 - Additional enterprises with broadband access of very high capacity	RCR 53 - Households with broadband subscriptions to a very high capacity network RCR 54 - Enterprises with broadband subscriptions to a very high capacity network
	<b>(3.ii) Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T</b>	RCO 43 - Length of new roads supported - TEN-T[1] RCO 44 - Length of new roads supported - other RCO 45 - Length of roads reconstructed or upgraded - TEN-T RCO 46 - Length of roads reconstructed or upgraded - other	RCR 55 - Users of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded roads RCR 56 - Time savings due to improved road infrastructure RCR 101 – Time savings due to improved rail infrastructure
	<b>(3.iii) Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility</b>	RCO 47 - Length of new rail supported - TEN-T RCO 48 - Length of new rail supported - other RCO 49 - Length of rail reconstructed or upgraded - TEN-T RCO 50 - Length of rail reconstructed or upgraded - other RCO 51 - Length of new or upgraded inland waterways - TEN-T RCO 52 - Length of new or upgraded inland waterways - other RCO 53 - Railways stations and facilities - new or upgraded RCO 54 - Intermodal connections - new or upgraded RCO 100 – Number of ports supported	RCR 57 - Length of European Rail Traffic Management System equipped railways in operation RCR 58 - Annual number of passengers on supported railways RCR 59 - Freight transport on rail RCR 60 - Freight transport on inland waterways
	<b>(3.iv) Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility</b>	RCO 55 - Length of tram and metro lines- new RCO 56 - Length of tram and metro lines- reconstructed/ upgraded  RCO 57 - Environmentally friendly rolling stock for public transport  RCO 58 - Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported RCO 59 - Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/ recharging points) supported RCO 60 - Cities and towns with new or upgraded digitised urban transport systems	RCR 62 - Annual passengers of public transport RCR 63 - Annual users of new/ upgraded tram and metro lines  RCR 64 - Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure

**Table 1: Common output and result indicators for ERDF (Investment for jobs and growth and Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund\*\***

Policy objective	Specific objective (Annex II)	Outputs	Results
<b>4. A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights</b>  <i>a more Social Europe, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare</i>	<b>(4.i) Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure</b>	RCO 61 - Annual unemployed persons served by enhanced facilities for employment services (capacity)	RCR 65 - Job seekers using annually the services of the employment services supported
	<b>(4.ii) Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure</b>	RCO 63 - Capacity of temporary reception infrastructure created RCO 64 - Capacity of rehabilitated housing – migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection RCO 65 - Capacity of rehabilitated housing - other	RCR 66 - Occupancy of temporary reception infrastructure built or renovated RCR 67 - Occupancy of rehabilitated housing – migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection RCR 68 - Occupancy of rehabilitated housing - other
	<b>(4.iii) Increasing the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services;</b>	RCO 66 - Classroom capacity of supported childcare infrastructure (new or upgraded) RCO 67 - Classroom capacity of supported education infrastructure (new or upgraded)	RCR 70 - Annual number of children using childcare infrastructure supported RCR 71 - Annual number of students using education infrastructure supported
	<b>(4.iv) Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care</b>	RCO 69 - Capacity of supported health care infrastructure RCO 70 - Capacity of supported social infrastructure (other than housing)	RCR 72 - People with access to improved health care services RCR 73 - Annual number of persons using the health care facilities supported RCR 74 - Annual number of persons using the social care facilities supported RCR 75 - Average response time for medical emergencies in the area supported
<b>5. A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives</b>  <i>a Europe closer to citizens, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.</i>	<b>(5.i) Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in urban areas</b>	RCO 74 - Population covered by strategies for integrated urban development RCO 75 - Integrated strategies for urban development RCO 76 - Collaborative projects RCO 77 - Capacity of cultural and tourism infrastructure supported	RCR 76 - Stakeholders involved in the preparation and implementation of strategies of urban development RCR 77 - Tourists/ visits to supported sites* RCR 78 - Users benefiting from cultural infrastructure supported
	<b>5.ii Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas through community-led local development</b>	RCO 80 – Community-led local development strategies for local development	
<b>Horizontal - Implementation</b>	<b>(a) capacity building of programme authorities, and bodies linked to the implementation of the Funds;</b>	RCO 95 - Staff financed by ERDF and Cohesion Fund	RCR 91 - Average time for launch of calls, selection of projects and signature of contracts* RCR 92 - Average time for tendering (from launch of procurement until signature of contract)*
	<b>(b) enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State.</b>		RCR 93 - Average time for project implementation (from signature of contract to last payment)* RCR 94 - Single bidding for ERDF and Cohesion Fund interventions*

**Table 1: Common output and result indicators for ERDF (Investment for jobs and growth and Interreg) and the Cohesion Fund\*\***

Policy objective	Specific objective (Annex II)	Outputs	Results
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**Table 2: Additional common output and result indicators for the ERDF for Interreg (Annex 1)**

RCO 81 - Participants in cross-border mobility initiatives RCO 82 - Participants in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion RCO 83 - Joint strategies/ action plans developed or implemented RCO 84 - Joint pilot activities implemented in projects RCO 85 - Participants in joint training schemes  RCO 96 – Legal or administrative obstacles identified RCO 86 - Joint administrative or legal agreements signed  RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders RCO 88 - Projects across national borders for peer-learning to enhance cooperation activities RCO 89 - Projects across borders to improve multilevel governance RCO 90 - Projects across national borders leading to networks/clusters	RCR 79 - Joint strategies/ action plans taken up by organisations at/ after project completion RCR 80 - Joint pilot activities taken up or up-scaled by organisations at/ after project completion RCR 81 - Participants completing joint training schemes RCR 82 - Legal or administrative obstacles addressed or alleviated RCR 83 - Persons covered by signed joint agreements signed RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders 6-12 months after project completion RCR 85 - Participants in joint actions 6-12 months after project completion RCR 86 - Stakeholders/ institutions with enhanced cooperation capacity beyond national borders
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**(1) Common output and result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund - Article 7(1)[1]**

To be used, for the **Investment for jobs and growth and Interreg** in accordance with point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article [12(1)], and point (b) of Article [36(2)] [data transmission] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] and, for Investment for jobs and growth in accordance with point (d)(ii) of Article [17 (3)] of the Regulation (EU) [new CPR] and, for Interreg, in accordance with point (e)(ii) of Article 17 (4) of the of the Regulation (EU) [new ETC regulation]

See also ANNEX II **Core set of performance indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund referred to in Article 7(3)1**. These indicators will be used by the Commission in compliance with its reporting requirement pursuant to Article 38(3)(e)(i) of the [applicable] Financial Regulation.

The colors mark the link to tourism/greenways related actions:

- red = more direct link

- blue = link very possible, and **essential in PO1 and PO2**, depending on the priorities of the Operational Programmes

Classification proposed by MMZ- European Greenways Association

**ANNEX II : Policy Objectives and specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (\*) and Suggestions of Indicative Actions relevant to tourism-related investments (general and explicit for greenways). (2021-2027)**

Policy objective	Specific objectives (art.2) Annex II	Indicative actions tourism /greenways related
<p><b>1. A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation</b></p> <p><i>Smarter Europe, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses</i></p>	<p><b>(1.i) Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business incubators, virtual or not, for tourism services; demonstration projects for new tourism-related services, etc.</li> <li>• Introduction of innovative products/services or processes in tourism SMEs and micro-SMEs (e.g. innovation in tourism product sales and reservation systems; electric bike rental and innovation in delivery and pick-up systems; recharging points)</li> <li>• Creation of cycling and nature tourism clusters integrating R&amp;I centres / participating in innovation ecosystems linked to tourism (e.g. cycle tourism, accesible tourism, nature, cultural) / sustainable mobility</li> <li>• Sectoral and thematic actions to support innovation (e.g. for cycle tourism / specific territories); improvements in digitisation; set up observatories to follow up the use of the infrastructure (e.g. installation of counters for bicycle and pedestrian users on greenways and cycle paths</li> <li>• Innovation support for SMEs and micro-SMEs in the tourism sector</li> </ul>
	<p><b>(1.ii) Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate relevant digital content for the tourism sector (APP's GIS, Augmented Reality, 360° images, etc.), to promote specialization for new niche markets.</li> <li>• Promote cooperation and multi-sectoral synergies through ICTs (technological developments for cycle tourism, hiking, cultural tourism, accessible, active, gastronomic, wine tourism, ...)</li> <li>• ICT applications for SMEs in the tourism sector, to improve management.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>(1.iii) Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - Business incubators, virtual or not, for tourism services; demonstration projects for new tourism-related services, etc.</li> <li>• Support services for SMEs in the tourism sector to improve their capacity for innovation, internationalisation, promotion of new services, clusters, business incubators</li> <li>• e-tourism; integration of tools related to cultural and creative industries - GIS, augmented reality, virtual reality, GIS; 360° images (...)</li> <li>• Mentoring for SMEs and micro SMEs in the tourism sector;</li> </ul>
	<p><b>(1.iv) Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote entrepreneurship in the tourism sector, integrating new technologies for the product development (e.g. addressed to cycle tourism, cultural tourism, nature, outdoor tourism, outdoor, ...); aimed at different target groups</li> <li>• Training in tourism product, digitalization for companies and digital promotion</li> <li>• Training in technical, management, entrepreneurship, competitiveness skills, with ICT support</li> <li>• Training for the conversion of tourism companies in decline to new products of emerging tourism (tourism cycle, nature tourism, ...)</li> <li>• Mentoring for SMEs and micro SMEs in the tourism sector</li> </ul>



**ANNEX II : Policy Objectives and specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (\*) and Suggestions of Indicative Actions relevant to tourism-related investments (general and explicit for greenways). (2021-2027)**

Policy objective	Specific objectives (art.2) Annex II	Indicative actions tourism /greenways related
<p><b>2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management</b></p> <p><i>a Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change</i></p>	(2.i) Promoting energy efficiency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency measures for the tourism sector</li> <li>• Promotion of energy improvement nearby thematic routes, cultural and/or nature</li> <li>• Promotion of energy improvement in leisure and recreation facilities</li> </ul>
	(2.ii) Promoting renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the use of renewable energies in tourism and leisure SME's</li> <li>• Promotion of the use of renewable energies in companies linked to the use of natural resources and agrifood nearby thematic routes</li> </ul>
	2.(iii) Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level	Promotion of digital energy management in companies linked to the use of natural resources and agri-food industry, around thematic routes
	(2.iv) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to promote decarbonisation and sustainable mobility in all types of territories (urban, peri-urban or rural areas);</li> <li>• Promoting the use and transformation of abandoned transport infrastructure for sustainable mobility and its combined use for tourism</li> <li>• Promotion of risk prevention plans (fire, flood, erosion) and adaptation to climate change; early warning systems for the population in thematic route environments ( e.g. greenways)</li> <li>• Adaptation strategies / fighting climate change in local and greenway environments (revegetation, )</li> <li>• Promote and develop sustainable tourism based on decarbonization</li> </ul>
	(2.v) Promoting sustainable water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to promote the sustainable water management around thematic routes / greenways</li> </ul>
	(2.vi) Promoting the transition to a circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to promote the transition to a circular economy around thematic routes / greenways</li> </ul>
	(2.vii) Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions for the conservation, protection and restoration of the natural heritage and biodiversity in protected areas and Natura 2000, nearby thematic routes and greenways</li> <li>• Development of green infrastructure by using the greenways</li> <li>• Monitoring of uses in Natura 2000 and Greenways</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity</b></p> <p><i>a more Connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks</i></p>	(3.i) Enhancing digital connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of high-speed communication networks in rural and mountain areas</li> <li>• Improvement of internet connection in surroundings of thematic routes (greenways)</li> </ul>
	(3.ii) Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Activities for the adaptation of TEN-T infrastructure to ensure the continuity of bicycle infrastructure for long-distance cycling paths such as the EuroVelo routes. (1)</li> </ul>
	(3.iii) Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage intermodality bicycle + train / boat...</li> </ul>
	(3.iv) Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of cycling infrastructure in urban areas</li> </ul>

**ANNEX II : Policy Objectives and specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (\*) and Suggestions of Indicative Actions relevant to tourism-related investments (general and explicit for greenways). (2021-2027)**

Policy objective	Specific objectives (art.2) Annex II	Indicative actions tourism /greenways related
<b>4. A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights</b>  <i>a more Social Europe, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare</i>	<b>(4.i) Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure</b>	·Support to the creation of social economy and/or social integration enterprises around thematic routes / including greenways
	<b>(4.ii) Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure</b>	·Actions to promote digital literacy
	<b>(4.iii) Increasing the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Actions of social integration around thematic routes and greenways, through training, specific campaigns, promotion of business creation (...)</li> <li>· Innovative socio-economic projects related to tourism, to fight against social inequality and to stimulate social cohesion</li> </ul>
	<b>(4.iv) Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Rehabilitation of abandoned buildings, for social centres and health promotion by means of physical activity, nearby greenways</li> <li>· Health promotion on greenways (healthy walks, cycling courses and activities for groups with specific needs) (??)</li> </ul>
<b>5. A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives</b>  <i>a Europe closer to citizens, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.</i>	<b>(5.i) Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in urban areas</b>	· Development and implementation of local/regional strategies in cities of all sizes, for the renewal, protection and promotion of the local natural and cultural heritage, in order to foster sustainable economic development and stable and quality employment. Stakeholders participation.
	<b>5.ii Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas through community-led local development</b>	·Development and implementation of common local/regional strategies for the renewal, protection and promotion of local natural and cultural heritage, in order to promote sustainable economic development and stable and quality employment. Integration of stakeholders in the strategies required
<b>Horizontal - Implementation</b>	<b>(b) enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State.</b>	· Participation in European associations and thematic networks to favour the exchange of knowledge and the integration of good practices in the implementation of the actions

(\*) Policy objectives set out in Article [4(1)] of COM/2018/375 final - 2018/0196 (COD) and specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund Article 2 of COM/2018/372 final - 2018/0197 (COD)

(1) "Where applicable as part of a broader project of common interest, actions may include activities for the adaptation of TEN-T infrastructure to ensure the continuity of bicycle infrastructure for long-distance cycling paths such as the EuroVelo routes. These activities may include relevant adaptation of traffic signaling systems or the addition of infrastructure dedicated to cyclists and pedestrians, such as tunnels, bypasses, bridges, aerial cycling and walkways and protected cycling paths. They may cover activities extending along TEN-T routes or at crossings between TEN-T routes and long-distance cycling paths.

<https://ecf.com/what-we-do/european-funding/eurovelo-cycling-and-ten-t>

The colors mark the link to tourism/greenways related actions:

- red = more direct link

- blue = link very possible, and **essential in PO1 and PO2**, depending on the priorities of the Operational Programmes

Classification and suggestion of actions tourisme /greenways related in a wide sens, Classification and suggestions of actions tourism /greenways related in a wide sense, proposed by MMZ- European Greenways Association - [www.aevv-egwa.org](http://www.aevv-egwa.org)