



1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

ССІ	2014TC16RFCB054
Title	Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria
Version	1.0
Reporting year	2015 (including also 2014)
Date of approval of the report by the Monitoring Committee	19 May 2016

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 is the first Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for programming period 2014-2020. It reports on the programming process and the implementation of the programme during the calendar years 2014 and 2015. The report complies with Article 50(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, which requires the Managing Authority to submit an Annual Implementation Report within five months (31 May) of the end of each full calendar year of implementation. According to Article 14 of the Regulation 1299/2013 this first report shall cover the financial years 2014 and 2015.

The report was prepared by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, acting as the Managing Authority of the programme in cooperation with its programme partners. The Monitoring Committee approved the Annual Implementation Report 2015 on 19th May 2016 in the frame of the 3rd Written Procedure.

Both Member States, Slovenia and Austria, were in the years 2014 and 2015 very much involved in the preparation of the Cooperation Programme, in particular by analysing and identifying the needs of the programme area, defining the priorities and related specific objectives and allocation of the available ERDF funds. The Task Force established for the preparation of the respective document and reaching decisions within the programming process was composed of representatives from Slovenia and Austria, who were supported by the representatives of the Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat and external experts. 25 Task Force meetings were held during the programming process until September 2015.

On 29 January 2014, the conference for stakeholders was held in Radenci, attended by more than 200 participants. The event provided an opportunity for networking, sharing experience with project partners of other projects and the representatives of the programme bodies and for the development of ideas for potential projects.

The European Commission approved the Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria on 16 September 2015. The approval was the legal basis for preparing and launching the Open Call for Proposals, which was published on 18 December 2015.

On 2 December 2015, the Kick-off event was organised in Laško (Slovenia) to present the Cooperation programme to the broader public and to announce the Open Call for Proposals. The event was attended by almost 400 people, keynote speakers from both countries, programme partners and interested applicants from the programme area.

Besides the Cooperation Programme also the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria and the Ex-ante evaluation of the Cooperation Programme V-A Slovenia-Austria have been prepared by external experts during the concerned reporting years.

The programme uses the e-monitoring system (eMS) developed by Plot in cooperation with Interact. The eMS and its functionalities fully comply with the e-Cohesion regulatory requirements (according to the audit opinion).

The e-Cohesion requirements are fully supported through the following measures:

- ✓ The Application Form is filled in online through the web access and is available to all programme partners instantly (based on the user rights).
- ✓ The communication with the applicants and the beneficiaries is performed through the eMS Communication portal.
- ✓ The assessment for selection of operations is carried out online and is available to all project and programme partners according to their user rights and assessment timeline.
- ✓ The contracting is implemented through automatic e-generation of documents.
- ✓ The expenditure verification process of the FLC is foreseen to be implemented though the online system reports and all supporting documents necessary for the audit trail will be uploaded (eMS) by the beneficiaries. FLC verification procedures and forms are completely concluded through the eMS.
- ✓ The Progress Reports and requests for payments can be generated within the monitoring system.
- ✓ Information submitted into the system is available in structured format, so electronic transfer of data is assured.
- ✓ Connection from the eMS to bookkeeping software of the CA is currently in development and is expected to be ready once the projects start reporting.

The new programme website has been created, however, in order to retain the recognisability and the sustainability, the programme kept the same web-domain www.si-at.eu as it was in 2007-2013 period.

In relation to the indicator data, the progress can be measured only on the level of the Technical assistance projects, where two joint cross-border informational and publicity events were organised by the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat, six information events for applicants and beneficiaries on the project generation were organised by the Regional Authority in Austria (Styria), 7,7 employees (FTEs) were employed and the programme website (www.si-at.eu) has been established. In relation to the financial data, no information is relevant for the years 2014 and 2015.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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
A.1	Strengthening cross- border Competitiveness, Research and Innovation	No activities were financed within this priority axes in 2014 and 2015.
A.2	2. Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency	No activities were financed within this priority axes in 2014 and 2015.

A	.3	3. Enhancing Institutional Capacity and an Efficient Public Administration	No activities were financed within this priority axes in 2014 and 2015.
A	1.4	4. Technical assistance	No activities were financed within this priority axes in 2014 and 2015.

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

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

TABLE 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to technical assistance priority axis

		Automatic fron	n SFC							ANNUA	L VALUE					
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
1b.1	R&D Intensity	percentage	3.1%	2011	3.3%	1	3,1									
1b.2	Enterprises with innovation cooperation with cooperation partners from Europe	Number	860	2012	903	/	860									
1b.3	Number of exporting companies	Number	17,695	2012	18,220	/	17,69 5									
6c	Overnight stays	Number	33,127,3 02	2013	36,124, 869	1	33,12 7,302									
6f	Length of the cross-border river bodies with unsatisfactory water quality status	Kilometres	22.5	2014	15	/	22.5									

11b.1	Level of sustainable institutional cooperation in the field of energy and risk management or health and social cohesion in the programme area	Scale	3,54	2015	3,89	/	3,54					
11b.2	Level of cross- border cooperation among municipalities and citizens in the programme area	Scale	2,41	2015	2,65	/	2,41					

TABLE 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes).

S – Selected operations • F – Fully	ID	Indicator (name of	Measure	Target value				cu	MULATI	VE VALU	E				Observations
implemented operations*	עו	indicator)	ment unit	(2023)	2014	2015	201 6	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	(if necessary)
s		Number of enterprises		15	0	0									
F	CO01	receiving support	Enterprises												
s		Number of enterprises		15	0	0									
F	CO02	receiving grants	Enterprises												
s		Number of enterprises		30	0	0									
F	CO04	eceiving non-financial E upport	Enterprises												
S		Number of enterprises		20	0	0									
F	CO26	cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises												
S		Number of enterprises		5	0	0									
F	CO29	supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises												
s	_	Number of joint CB	_	5	0	0									
F	1b.1	R&D projects	Number												
s	15.2	Number of joint CB	Nivershau	8	0	0									
F	1b.3		Number												
s	60.1	Number of newly	Number	16	0	0									
F	6c.1	developed and/or	Number												

		improved joint CB tourist products ¹									
S	6c.2	Number of projects targeting geodiversity	Number	3	0	0					
F	00.2	or biodiversity	Ivailibei								
S	C - 2	Number of sustainable tourism related	Ali i ma la a m	6	0	0					
F	6c.3	services	Number								
S	CO42	Research institutions	Organisati	4	0	0					
F	CU42	participating in CB research projects	ons								
S		Number of jointly		1	0	0					
F	6f.1	management strategies	Number								
S		Number of joint modelling, monitoring		1	0	0					
F	6f.2	and forecasting studies and research works	Number								
S		Number of joint CB		1	0	0					
F	6f.3	flood determination, protection and control measures	Number								
S	11b.1	Number of institutions	Number	100	0	0					
F	110.1	and/or organizations									

¹ A tourist product can be defined as an individual service and/or good, which is used by a tourist on the way and the stay outside his permanent place of residence. A set of such set products can be named as an integral tourist product. For the purposes of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria the definition can be specified in terms of sustainable tourism and defined as: 'Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities'. Thus, sustainable tourism should: 1. Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage. 2. Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance. 3. Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation. Reference: Making Tourism More Sustainable - A Guide for Policy Makers, UNEP and UNWTO, 2005, p.11-12. Natural heritage comprises bio- and geodiversity.

		participating in joint CB initiatives									
S		Number of people participating in joint		200	0	0					
F	11b.2	training schemes and programmes	Number								
S		Number of joint CB pilot and		5	0	0					
F	11b.3	demonstration projects	Number								
S		Population covered by		200,000	0	0					
F	11b.4	improved public services	Number								
S		Number of joint CB projects successfully		4	0	7					
F	TH.1	implemented and concluded	Number		0	7					
S		Number of joint CB		10	0	10					
F	TH.2	informational and publicity events	Number		1	2					
S		Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries		10	0	10					
F	тн.3	are co-financed by the Technical Assistance	Number		0	7,7					
S		Information, consultation and		8	0	8					
F	TH.4	training measures for applicants and beneficiaries on the project generation	Number		0	6					

S		Number of trainings for the beneficiaries,		10	0	10					
F	TH.5	programme structures	Number		0	0					
S		The number of visitors		10,000	10,000	10,000					
F	TH.6	of the programme website	Number		0	2,384					

^{*} **S** - Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in annual implementation reports from 2017 onwards

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

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

F - Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]

Priority Axis	Indicator Type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate result indicator)	QI	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
1	Financial indicator	A. 1. 1	Payments: Certified and declared to the EC	Number	2,121,00 8.40	17,675 ,070.0 0											
1	Output	C O 01	Number of enterprises receiving support (CI)	Enterpri ses	2	15											
2	Financial indicator	A. 2. 1	Payments: Certified and declared to the EC	Number	2,686,29 9.07	20,663 ,839.0 0											
2	Output indicator	A. 2. 2	Number of jointly developed water management strategies	Number	0	1											
2	Key implementation step	A. 2. 3	Number of operations developing water management strategies (approved operations)	Number	1	1											
2	Output indicator	A. 2. 4	Number of newly developed and/or improved joint CB tourist products	Number	0	16											

2	Key implementation step	A. 2. 5	Number of operations developing newly and/or jointly approved CB tourist products (approved operations)	Number	2	4										
3	Financial indicator	A. 3. 1	Payments: Certified and declared to the EC	Number	1,750,62 8.28	14,588 ,569.0 0										
3	Output indicator	A. 3. 2	Number of institutions and/or organizations participating in joint CB initiatives	Number	5	100										

3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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 1011/2014² [Model for transmission of financial data]³ and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

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)

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.

² OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

TABLE 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013) as set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [Model for transmission of financial data] and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

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

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support* envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area ⁴	Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.	Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.	Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.	Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.

^{*} ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

The Ex Ante evaluation of the programme area and corresponding needs has been prepared in 2014 and finalised in 2015. No additional evaluations of the programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for the programming period 2014-2020 have been carried out in 2014 or 2015.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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

Besides the approval of the CP in September 2015 that resulted in a delayed start of the programme implementation, there were no other specific issues affecting the performance of the programme.

b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

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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

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual implementation reports is part of the annual implementation report 2014/2015. The first Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for programming period 2014-2020 reports on the programming process and the implementation of the programme during the calendar years 2014 and 2015. The report was prepared by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, acting as the Managing Authority of the programme in cooperation with its programme partners, was approved by the Monitoring Committee and sent to the European Commission on 19 May 2016.

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In relation to the indicator data, the progress can be measured only on the level of the Technical assistance, where two joint cross-border Informational and publicity events were organised, 7,7 employees (FTEs) were employed and the website has been established. In relation to the financial data, no information is relevant for the years 2014 and 2015.

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

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, 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)

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.

8.1. Major projects

TABLE 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/submission to Commission	Total inves tmen ts	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/ submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement / approval by Commissio n (if applicable)	Planned start of impleme ntation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year. quarter)	Priority Axis/Inv estment priorities	Current state of realisatio n – financial progress (% of expendit ure certified to Commiss ion compare d to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation - physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4. procurement; 5. design	Main output s	Date of signatur e of first works contract ⁵ (if applicabl e)	Obse rvatio ns (if neces sary
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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).

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

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

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria.

TABLE 8: Joint action plans

Title of the JAP	ССІ	Stage of implementati on of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50% implemented 3. Started 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contributi on to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP 1. normal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submissio n to the Commissi on	[Planned] start of implementati on	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditur e certified to the Commissio n	Observatio ns (if necessary)
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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PART B - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

- 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)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS - Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

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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

The CP supports three priority axes of which one (Priority axis 2, TO6)

Figure	Figures calculated automatically by the SFC2014 based on categorisation data.								
Option	Optional: clarification on the given values — <type='s' input="M" maxlength="3500"></type='s'>								
9.5	Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Artic 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) (Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)								
to in A	ment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referrenticle 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the nentation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme								
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10.	OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4 SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013	1),							
10.1	Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations	ıе							
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10.2	The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried or under the communication strategy	ut							
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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)									
includi	11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme								

Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation

9.4.

(EU) No 1303/2013)

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11.2	Progress	in	implementation	of	actions	to	reinforce	the	capacity	of	authorities	and
bene	ficiaries to	o a	dminister and to	use	the ERD	F						

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

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11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

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12. Financial information at priority axis and programme level (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:

13	14								
Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework									
Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018 Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013								

PART C - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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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