**Three scenarios for the Interreg Europe 2021-2027 programme**

| **Scenario** | 1. **Programme based on thematic priorities**
 | 1. **Interreg Specific Objective with thematic focus**
 | 1. **Interreg Specific Objective with open thematic scope**
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| 1. ***Description***
 | Programme with thematic priorities based on a selection of Policy Objectives and (a selection of) corresponding Specific Objectives. | Programme based on the Interreg Specific Objective (ISO) “Better cooperation governance”, addressing a number of policy areas based on a selection of Policy/Specific Objectives. | Programme based on the Interreg Specific Objective “Better cooperation governance” without defining in advance a thematic scope based on a selection of Policy/Specific Objectives.  |
| 1. ***Thematic scope [[1]](#footnote-1)***
 | * The thematic scope is set by selecting a number of Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives.
* These objectives can be selected from the POs 1 to 4 [[2]](#footnote-2).
* The selected Policy/Specific objectives are each addressed by dedicated priorities/specific objectives of the programme (see below).
 | * Within the ISO as single objective, the thematic scope is defined by identifying a number of Policy Objectives (PO) that will be addressed. The thematic scope can be further defined by ‘selecting’ a certain number of Specific Objectives corresponding to the selected POs.
* The selected Policy/Specific objectives are justified in the text of the Cooperation Programme; however, they are all covered by one single priority (see below).
* All Policy Objectives 1 to 5 could be considered to contribute to the thematic scope in this scenario.
 | * The overall thematic scope of the programme is broadly defined according to the main EU strategies and cohesion policy regulations.
* This thematic scope is further specified by identifying policy themes and challenges of particular shared relevance to all partner states. These themes may correspond to Policy Objectives / Specific Objective or be more cross-cutting.
* The thematic focus of the programme can be further fine-tuned on an ongoing basis during programme implementation, e.g. for each call for proposals. Calls could be defined on the basis of recent (policy) developments and lessons learnt from projects.
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| 1. ***Cooperation Programme features [[3]](#footnote-3)***
 | * One or more priorities defined for each Policy Objective selected
* One of more Specific Objective selected for each priority
* One or more types of actions must be defined for each Specific Objective
* Output and result indicators[[4]](#footnote-4) to be defined for each Specific Objective
* Programme budget must be sub-divided between the Priorities (Policy Objectives)
 | * One priority addressing the Interreg Specific Objective
* One Specific Objective, also addressing the Interreg Specific Objective
* One or more types of actions must be defined for the Interreg Specific Objective
* Output and result indicators4 to be defined for the Interreg Specific Objective
* One Priority means the budget is not further sub-divided
 | * One priority addressing the Interreg Specific Objective
* One Specific Objective, also addressing the Interreg Specific Objective
* One or more types of actions must be defined for the Interreg Specific Objective
* Output and result indicators4 to be defined for the Interreg Specific Objective
* Output and result indicators4 to be defined for the Interreg Specific Objective
* One Priority means the budget is not further sub-divided
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| 1. ***Remarks***
 | * Types of actions are defined at the level of the specific objectives of each priority. This implies that each operation shall (primarily) address one Specific Objective in this scenario.
 | * Although the thematic scope based on Policy/Specific Objectives is set in the text of the Cooperation Programme, this scope is not reflected in the architecture of the programme in the form of separate Policy Objectives / Priorities / Specific Objectives.
* The exact architecture of a programme focusing only on the Interreg Specific Objective will need to be cross checked with the EC.
 | * In this ‘open’ approach, the scope of the programme would still have to remain within the overall scope of the cohesion policy.
* In case Partner States would like to ensure further thematic focus in a call for proposal, a mechanism for selecting and defining the themes for the call would be needed.
* The exact architecture of a programme focusing only on the Interreg Specific Objective will need to be cross checked with the EC.
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1. For reference: The thematic scope of the Interreg Europe 2014 – 2020 programme covers up to 13 Specific Objectives from 4 Policy Objectives presented in the draft regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. No possibility to select Policy Objective 5 for Interreg Europe with the conditions currently set in draft regulations. To be checked if this possibility exists when regulations are finalised. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Based on the Template for Interreg Programmes (Annex of the draft ETC Regulation) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Interreg indicators are currently being developed at EU level. It is to be seen whether these can be used for Interreg Europe in these three scenarios. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)