

SFC2021 Programme supported from the ERDF (Investment for jobs and growth goal), ESF+, the Cohesion Fund, the JTF and the EMFAF - Article 21(3)

CCI	2021NL16RFPR003
Title in English	Programme ERDF 2021-2027 South Netherlands
Title in national language(s)	NL - Programma EFRO 2021-2027 Zuid-Nederland
Version	4.2
First year	2021
Last year	2027
Eligible from	1 Jan 2021
Eligible until	31 Dec 2029
Commission decision number	
Commission decision date	
Member State amending decision number	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
Non substantial transfer (Article 24(5) CPR)	No
Clerical or editorial corrections (Article 24(6) CPR)	No
Approved by monitoring committee	Yes
NUTS regions covered by the programme	NL34 - Zeeland NL341 - Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen NL342 - Overig Zeeland NL4 - Zuid-Nederland NL41 - Noord-Brabant NL411 - West-Noord-Brabant NL412 - Midden-Noord-Brabant NL413 - Noordoost-Noord-Brabant NL414 - Zuidoost-Noord-Brabant NL42 - Limburg (NL) NL421 - Noord-Limburg NL422 - Midden-Limburg NL423 - Zuid-Limburg
Fund(s) concerned	ERDF
Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> under Investment for jobs and growth goal for the outermost regions only

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1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses

Reference: points (a)(i) to (viii) and point (a)(x) of Article 22(3) and point (b) of Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Ambition: harnessing the power of innovation for both economic and societal impact

With the ERDF programme 2021-2027, Zuid-Nederland's ambition is to implement RIS3 and defence/dual-use priorities, thereby harnessing and strengthening regional strength in the economy, entrepreneurship and innovation, with the aim of achieving both societal and economic impact. This means that: to contribute to innovative solutions in five major societal transitions and the defence and dual-use technology challenges that exist both in the South Netherlands and globally, and to enable market players to exploit (inter) national market opportunities. The 5 transitions – energy, climate, raw materials, agriculture & food and health – are in line with the Green Deal and European and national innovation policies. The defence and dual-use priority is in line with both the SAFE Regulation and Readiness 2030 at European level as well as national policies and the Defence Strategy for Industry and Innovation 2025-2029 (DSII). Technological knowledge is important to achieve breakthroughs, but not sufficient on its own. The challenge is to harness the technological and non-technological strength of South, through cooperation within the region but also across regional borders.

In the programme strategy, we focus on:

I. Economic, social and territorial disparities, including analysis of the regional economy and innovation system

Market failures, investment needs and complementarity with other forms of support

Challenges, including relevant (country-specific) recommendations;

Challenges to administrative capacity and governance

V. Lessons from past experience

VI. Conclusion and priorities in the ERDF programme

The RIS3 2021-2027 South Netherlands is an important starting point and was adopted by the Provincial Executive of the provinces of Limburg, Noord-Brabant and Zeeland in April 2020 after 'Entrepreneurial Discovery' with stakeholders. In line with RIS3, the ERDF programme focuses on promoting innovation, noting that the country part has specific knowledge and skills that can lead to breakthroughs and innovations within the transitions, but that knowledge does not yet always reach the market. This calls for targeted efforts to valorise and apply knowledge, with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at the forefront. The commitment to innovation promotion and valorisation is also central to the deployment in the field of defence and dual-use techniques which are not part of the RIS 2021-2027 and have been included in the interim as a new specific objective in the ERDF programme.

I. Economic, social and territorial disparities and regional economy and innovation system

I. strengths: strong knowledge position, culture and infrastructure of collaboration and strategic location

The 'power of South' lies in the unique combination of world-leading knowledge parties and campuses with leading technology positions, innovative SMEs with promising start-ups and scale-ups, and a strong manufacturing industry capable of marketing innovations. Zuid-Nederland has strong international (HTSM, agrofood, chemistry) and national clusters (logistics, biobased, life science, maintenance) and global frontrunners in key technologies such as photonics and digital technology. The number of companies with successful innovation projects is above national and EU average, as is the number of patent applications. It is noteworthy that the country ranks high on innovation benchmarks such as the Regional Innovation Scoreboard and the Regional Competitiveness Index. In addition to the position of knowledge, it is precisely the culture and infrastructure of collaborating and applying knowledge –

combined with creativity and design solutions – that creates a strong regional innovation system.

Given the strategic location between the Randstad, the Vlaamse Ruit and the Ruhr region, interregional and international cooperation is an undeniable part of South's DNA. Working together and innovating "in an open way" ensures that innovations are created. Knowledge and skills from 'outside South' are a valuable complement to the innovation chain, and Southern Dutch innovations can be applied elsewhere in the Netherlands and the EU. One example is the Vanguard Initiative, in which Zuid collaborates with other regions on 'Smart Industries'.

The availability of private investment in the (South) Netherlands has increased in recent years. In the Innovation Scoreboard 2019, the Netherlands scores 110 (vs 89.2 in 2011) on 'Venture capital expenditures'. Thus, there are generally relatively many financing options to market innovations. R & D intensity (share of GDP) is also relatively high in the South Netherlands at 2.76 % (CBS, 2018; public plus private). South, this scores above the national target of 2.5 % and above the current national share.

Opportunities: harnessing international market opportunities in transitions, SMEs at the forefront

An important opportunity for the South Netherlands is the international character and related market opportunities of the five transitions. Parties can respond by developing new solutions to global challenges. This applies equally to defence and dual-use innovations.

Zuid-Nederland scores well, according to the Innovation Scoreboard 2019, on innovation indicators indicating the potential of valorisation of innovations by SMEs, such as on 'Innovative SMEs Collaborating with others' (Zeeland = 131,17; North Brabant = 124,69; Limburg = 123,73; European average = 100). The strong ecosystem of collaborating SMEs in South can contribute to an even better practice and commercialisation of knowledge in South.

I. III. Weaknesses: regional differences in growth rates, tight labour market and – in part – limited mass and density

Although the economy of the South Netherlands is developing favourably, growth rates vary across the country. In North Brabant (especially Southeast Brabant and large Brabant municipalities (B5)), the BRP and employment trends are more positive than in Zeeland and Limburg (LISA, 2019 – see also RIS3). This is partly linked to demographic developments affecting peripheral areas in Zeeland and (South) Limburg. For example, over the next seven years, the share of people aged 60 and over is expected to rise to 33 % in Zeeland (now 31 %), 30 % in North Brabant (now 27 %) and 35 % in Limburg (now 31 %; national 29 % in 2027). Regions also differ in educational attainment and income. In North Brabant, the share of the working population with a HBO or WO degree is 29 % higher than in Limburg (25 %) and Zeeland (23 %) (CBS, 2018). The average disposable income per household in North Brabant is EUR 43.900 higher than in Limburg (EUR 40.100) and Zeeland (EUR 41.600) (CBS, 2018). Regional differences are reflected in provincial scores on innovation indices.

A constraint to development and innovation is the tightness of the labour market. "Pre-corona" was the tightness across the board, but especially in technical and social professions, it was significant. Of all provinces, the North Brabant labour market was the most strained in Q2 of 2021 with 124 vacancies per 100 unemployed (117 vacancies in Zeeland and 103 in Limburg). Although the coronavirus crisis caused a temporary rebound in unemployment (according to o. a. CBS, CPB), the tightness of many sectors has returned, if not never gone away. In particular, there is a shortage of technically and/or practically trained staff at all levels of education (MBO, HBO, WO). This may increase further in the coming years; for example, the PBL's scenario study (2020) shows that the energy transition further increases the already existing tension in the South Netherlands labour market.

For the South Netherlands as a whole, these are limited mass and density (and therefore limited attractiveness for talent) compared to other international regions. Brainport-Eindhoven has a high attractiveness for talent, but is not sufficiently able to keep pace with the development of economic mass. As a result, talent shortages persist and solutions are being worked on. The same applies to international connections (digital, road, rail, water, air, tube). These are in order, but certainly less well off the periphery than in European regions with similar levels of knowledge.

I. IV. Threats: fossil chemistry and process industry and the impact of the coronavirus crisis

A potential threat to the (chemical) process industry is the high dependency on fossil raw materials. This is the case, for example, in the three chemical clusters (Ghent-Terneuzen Canal Area and Vlissingen Industrial Cluster, Moerdijk Port, and Chemelot South Limburg). These regions are economically highly dependent on these clusters, and major investments in innovation, infrastructure and labour market are needed for the transition to a low-carbon and circular economy. In other sectors too, environmental issues can pose a threat to the regional economy and broad prosperity. Think of agriculture, where nitrogen discourse, desiccation, salinisation and soil degradation illustrate the need for sustainable solutions. In addition, the transition to a sustainable industry, mobility system and built environment poses challenges, including on space use and social acceptance. Renewable energy generation, energy efficiency and energy storage and transportation are needed to make the transitions successful.

Market and investment needs gaps and complementarity with other forms of support

Market failures and investment needs

This ERDF programme responds to:

·Technological, financial and legal risks in demonstrating and scaling up innovations: some innovations work well on the scale of a (living) lab or test environment, but need to be demonstrated in larger (operational) environment to eliminate (technological) risks. These final steps in the innovation chain up to market deployment (TRL 6-9) are often time-consuming, costly and highly risky in relation to the scale of SMEs. Although the availability of venture capital has improved in the South, it may be difficult to raise its capital, especially in times of economic uncertainty. This is demonstrated by the exploration of the Green Chemistry Action Agenda (ENZuid). This barrier can be overcome by encouraging cooperation between SMEs and with knowledge institutions, shared demonstration facilities, and subsidising the last TRLs and thereby shortening the product development phase. SIRA research (2016) shows that laws and regulations (certification, competition, licensing) often hinder innovation. This ERDF programme does not focus on regulatory approximation, but demonstration and scale-up can identify barriers and find solutions.

·Lack of public support and awareness: many solutions within the transitions require a high level of participation and acceptance by users (consumers, citizens, businesses). The demonstration of innovations in their environment, forms of non-technological innovation (e.g. new forms of governance, collaborations with design) and the conclusion of new broad coalitions can build support. This is also noted in the Exploration of Regional Innovation Ecosystems from the KIA Social Earnings Capacity.

Five societal transitions central

Innovation with both societal and economic impact is what the ERDF programme aims to achieve. It responds to market failures and investment needs within the transitions. The aim is to contribute to solutions to the challenges of the transitions and to capitalise on (inter) national market opportunities. In addition to the five transitions from the RIS 2021-2027, defence and dual-use technologies are also being deployed. It takes into account the evolving understanding and the increased urgency of this topic since the establishment of the RIS 2021-2027 and the ERDF programme Zuid-Nederland. This commitment is explained in more detail in Section III.

> Energy transition: The Netherlands has adopted a Climate Law (commitment: 49 % CO₂ reduction in 2030, 1990 and 95 % in 2050) and measures elaborated in the Climate Agreement, following up on the Paris Agreement, the Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 7, see [sdgs.un.org](https://www.sdg.un.org)). In addition, the Netherlands draws up an Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (INEK) every 5 years. The INEK focuses on five dimensions, of which the ERDF programme contributes in particular to decarbonisation, energy efficiency and research, innovation and competitiveness.

The Regional Energy Strategies of the South Netherlands together target around 12 TWh of renewable energy generation on land until 2030 (35 % of the national challenge). This is done through existing techniques and innovation.

The specific challenge for the South Netherlands is that there are three national chemical clusters with high energy consumption. At the same time, these clusters, but also other characteristics of South, create specific innovation opportunities. These include tube infrastructure between the chemical clusters, the presence of marine and surface water for energy generation and storage, scaling up of green hydrogen and knowledge of various key technologies.

> Raw Materials Transition: The limited availability of raw materials calls for a circular economy. The Kingdom has drawn up the Commodities Agreement, the Netherlands Circular 2050 programme and the KIA Circular Economy with the aim of achieving a circular economy of 50 % by 2030 and 100 % by 2050. The southern Dutch provinces support this policy. This is in line with SDG 12 and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan. Reduction of waste and residual flows is often associated with biobased raw materials and value chains. For South, there are specific challenges in the manufacturing industry, the large chemical clusters and the Agrifood. The challenge is to develop circular business models, eco-design and greater involvement of SMEs to drive behavioural change (e.g. through economic incentives). At the same time, there are also opportunities; for example, the part of the country has a strong position at the intersection of materials technology and Agrifood. South's potential is also great in the transition to a smart industry. In addition, circular design and construction initiatives are taking place.

> Climate transition: With the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) and the Delta Plan for Spatial Adaptation, the Government responds to the effects of climate change, in line with SDG 13. Specifically in South, there are important challenges related to water safety (flood protection), water and soil quality (salinisation, impoverishment of agricultural land, erosion) and water retention. Zuid-Nederland can make a difference thanks to its strong position in digital technologies such as measurement and control engineering and sensor technologies. These contribute to smart water and soil quality management, water shortage, water nuisance, heat stress and more. The North Sea coast and the Zeeland waters have a long tradition of innovative water management based on the need for coastal protection; further climate-adaptive innovations can be demonstrated here.

> Agricultural and food transition: The importance of sustainable, nutritious and healthy food production in balance with the environment is high. In the KIA Agriculture, Water, Food, circular farming, climate-neutral agriculture and food production and valued, healthy and safe food are the missions. Zuid-Nederland can bring breakthroughs globally, thanks to its prominent position as a production area and exporter, the large processing and distribution chain, and the network of technological knowledge and 'farmers' understanding'. Examples of promising innovations include the development of non-animal proteins, closing food chains, innovative plant cultivation on water/aquaculture and precision farming. Such innovations contribute to the agricultural transition and the nitrogen challenge.

> Health transition: One of the 17 SDGs is a healthy and happy life. The KIA Health and Care sets the objective that by 2040 Dutch people should live at least 5 years longer healthy lives and that health inequalities between groups of people should be reduced. The transition to efficient and personalised care – with a focus on prevention – is being challenged in the south by an ageing population and labour

shortages, especially in rural regions. Innovation opportunities in (preventive) care and life sciences exist in e-health, evidence-based sensing, vitality and disease detection through nanotechnology and photonics applications. In doing so, Zuid has a good track record in projects focusing on the social context, increasing participation and involving SMEs, healthcare organisations and insurers. The challenge is to properly link forms of formal and informal care systems. The health transition has strong interfaces with the other transitions; for example, promoters are invited to contribute to better air quality through projects within the agricultural transition, and the energy and raw materials transition (e.g. greening industry, sustainable mobility).

Cross-cutting themes in innovation promotion

- Digitalisation can create breakthroughs across all transitions, by enabling technological applications and other forms of collaboration and organisation.
- Creative design and creative industries can act as enablers for innovation, bringing together knowledge, skills and people, a.o. under the umbrella of the European Bauhaus. It can also create social awareness and acceptance.
- Skill development: For every transition, it is essential that the workforce has the right knowledge and – above all – skills. Investing in skills development across the board (from MBO to WO) and for all generations is necessary.

OOK are water and biodiversity issues that go through the transitions. For water, these include issues such as the shortage of fresh water in agriculture, water safety, (cool) water as a raw material/resource for industry, desiccation, salinisation in coastal areas, opportunities for sustainable energy, and opportunities for crop cultivation (e.g. seaweed). Maritime location offers innovation opportunities for the maritime sector, including in the circular transition of port areas. Strong parties can be found within the South Netherlands that can bring innovation in this area. Investments in agriculture, energy, climate and raw materials transitions contribute, among other things, to improved air quality, cleaner water, better soil and less depletion of natural resources, thus having a positive impact on biodiversity. In addition, interventions cover the whole programme area and do not exclude these rural areas. However, in the south of the Netherlands, there is no rural area (cf. the definition of rural area by the Commission). However, the agricultural sector in the Netherlands is well connected and is not lagging behind in the OPZuid. The commitment to innovation also leads to the possibility for the agricultural sector to benefit from crossover technology from other sectors such as agriculture and food transition, raw materials transition, etc.

Supplement to other forms of aid: complementarity and synergy with other EU, national, regional policies

With a focus on innovation within five transitions and on a dedicated defence and dual-use priority, the ERDF programme aligns with the main European policy goals for the coming decades. The energy, climate and raw materials transitions are all part of the transition to a green Europe (Green Deal). They are also in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative, which aims to combine design, sustainability, accessibility, affordability and investment to help deliver the European Green Deal. The principles of this will feed into the implementation of the programme, where relevant. The ERDF programme is in line with the mission-driven innovation policy at national level (see also the KIA and the Government's growth letter). The ERDF programme can implement this on a regional scale and as appropriate to the opportunities of the South Netherlands. In addition, with a focus on the agricultural transition, the programme aligns with the EAFRD and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) strategic plan. Moreover, it contributes to the Climate Agreement by supporting innovations that contribute to CO₂ reduction and improvement of air quality by supporting innovations that contribute to the reduction of air pollutant emissions. In the field of defence and dual-use technologies, the programme is in line with European legislation (SAFE Regulation and Readiness 2030 Strategy) and national policies (including through the DSII 2025-2029). Finally, the programme is in line with provincial and regional economic policies for structural strengthening and innovation. Both Limburg and North Brabant have funds for the energy transition, with risk capital for scaling up innovation. Innovation promotion is also high on the agenda in each of the provinces, increasingly linked to societal goals.

Position of ERDF programme with other funds and opportunities for synergy

- The fund is fully inspired by the strength of the South Netherlands, and aims to impact the regional economy and the innovation ecosystem. Many other funds have a broader geographical scope (e.g. Interreg) or cover the whole of Europe or the Netherlands. Within the South Netherlands, the provinces cooperate economically, but there is no other innovation fund or policy on a national scale.
- Innovation with both economic and societal impact. Many funds have one specific thematic focus (e.g. LIFE +, Digital Europe or Connecting Europe Facility) and are not directly focused on economic impact; ERDF, on the other hand.
- SMEs as the main target group and opportunities for civil society. For many programmes, SMEs are the main target group (e.g. the MIT scheme), but for civil society there are often fewer options, while this group is important for increasing public acceptance.
- Scope for complex partnerships with SMEs and knowledge institutions (see also Section V).
- TRL and position in the innovation chain: the ERDF programme indicatively targets projects from TRL 6-9, in the innovation chain after research and innovation resources such as Horizon Europe, the national NWO grants, MIT feasibility (TRL 3-4) and (partly) MIT cooperation (TRL4-7-8), but ahead of funds for further scaling up such as InvestEU and CEF2. This position is not unique; the combination of TRL and the above characteristics makes ERDF distinctive.

Zuid-Nederland aims to maximise synergies between the ERDF and the funds and cooperates with the other three parts of the country and the State:

- Substantive synergies between the Dutch ERDF funds (e.g. joint programming, uniform methodology and assessment), knowledge exchange, communication, etc.
- Synergies with other innovation policies at regional, national and EU level (e.g. through coordination with the State on the implementation of KIAs-KICs, MIT, other EZK instruments, and regional alignment with provincial and local innovation and climate policies).

In the preparation of the programme, cooperation, synergies and complementarities were sought with relevant funds and programmes such as ESF +, JTF (where for the South Netherlands the focus is on specific regions and empowering people to deal with the social, economic and environmental impacts of the transition to a climate-neutral Europe with a focus on green chemistry) and Interreg. This alignment continues in the implementation of the ERDF programme. Moreover, the RRF is currently being implemented nationally, focusing on large-scale investments. This is another way of maximising synergies in the implementation of the ERDF programme.

Challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations and other relevant Union recommendations addressed to the Member State;

The European Council noted in the 2019 country-specific recommendations that Dutch R & D investment intensity falls short of the national target of 2.5 % and among frontrunners. Dutch productivity growth is highly dependent on innovation. The Council recommends focusing investment-related economic policies on research and development, in particular in the private sector, on renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction strategies, and on addressing transport bottlenecks. In the 2020 country-specific recommendations, the European Council stresses the importance of frontloading public investment projects and encouraging private investment to foster economic recovery. It focuses on the green and digital transitions, embedded in mission-driven top sector and innovation policies. The selected specific objectives in this programme are directly in line with the CSRs' recommendations, by focusing on the overall innovation power based on the RIS3 (SD 1. i) and the targeted focus of innovation power on renewable energy (SD 2. ii) and energy systems (SD 2. iii).

As an annex to the 2019 Country Report (Annex D), the EC identified a number of investment needs:

- strengthen investment in new processes, products and services;
- develop and use the innovation ecosystem and stimulate market-oriented cooperation to increase SMEs' investment in research and innovation;
- fostering interregional cooperation in new value chains;
- development of campuses and living labs, with the participation of SMEs;
- skills for smart specialisation and the innovation capacity of SMEs.

The ERDF programme implements the Council's recommendations and the investment needs set out in the country report in the context of the South Netherlands, by focusing on (market-oriented) innovation promotion with SMEs and 'ecosystem thinking' at its core.

Additional priority on defence and dual-use technologies

On 19 September 2025, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament adopted the European Commission's proposal to amend the ERDF & Cohesion Regulation following the Midterm Review (MTR). This amendment introduces new specific objectives to respond to challenges that have emerged since the ERDF programmes were drawn up. One of those emerging strategic challenges is to strengthen Europe's defence and dual-use capabilities. Zuid-Nederland is committed to this because, on the one hand, it can respond to new challenges that feature prominently also in a future programming period and, on the other hand, it can build on existing sectors, centres of excellence and clusters in Zuid-Nederland and highly developed areas of innovation, such as digital technologies, drones and smart materials.

Challenges to administrative simplification and capacity and governance

Zuid-Nederland has a strong culture and infrastructure of collaboration and innovation together, with a fully-fledged innovation infrastructure (see also I.I). South Netherlands has a solid basis in terms of governance. The challenge is to continuously collect signals and needs from the market and target groups. To this end, the RIS3 of the South Netherlands provides for continuous dialogue with regional stakeholders and monitoring of social impact (see also H.6). To this end, the Managing Authority also encourages the strategic use of procurement, whereby proposers include qualitative lifecycle cost indicators in procurement and where relevant also encourage sustainability and social aspects and innovation.

A further challenge is to reduce the administrative burden in order to serve SMEs even better. For example, the evaluation 'Knowledge Development and Innovation' (RUG, 2018) proposes monitoring on the basis of mutual trust, without the 'strongest possible control system'. The evaluation of the low carbon economy priority OPZuid 2014-2020 found that in some cases heavy administrative burdens have acted as a disincentive. South is in line with the national agreements on the simplification of unit costs for the 2021-2027 ERDF programme (see H.8) and ensures clear communication (H.7).

V. Lessons from experience of ERDF evaluations and entrepreneurial discovery:

- ERDF-supported innovations have an impact: The mid-term evaluation of Knowledge Development and Innovation (RUG, 2018) of the Dutch ERDF programmes 2014-2020 shows that innovations have a real impact according to the envisaged intervention logics.
- ERDF stands out thanks to support for complex partnerships. It also shows that the ERDF programme differs from national innovation resources (e.g. from the EZK/RVO box) by supporting complex partnerships or 'Knowledge and Innovation Consortia', in which SMEs and knowledge institutions come together to innovate.

- Expert committees work well: the same evaluation showed the importance of an expert committee as a gatekeeper for the selection of quality projects (see H.6).
- Support to SMEs is effective. The EC's (pan-European) ERDF evaluation of the 2014-2020 programming period shows that support to SMEs can have the greatest potential impact, while financial support to large companies and investments in airports have little impact. During the OPZuid 2014-2020, SMEs were reached in the majority of supported projects (90 %).
- Reduced administrative burden, SME-focused communication: see Section IV and H.7.
- Need for increased provincial co-financing and coordination with other funds. Limited or unclear co-financing in the provinces and 'competition' from other financial instruments has made the low carbon economy priority of the South OP 2014-2020 less attractive. Commitment to the 2021-2027 ERDF programme is an optimal articulation and complementarity with other funding instruments at EU, national and regional level.
- Targeted thematic calls work well. In the ERDF OP 2014-2020, Zuid experimented with specific thematic calls to target certain interventions. The result is positive; the approved projects focus specifically on the selected challenges.

VI. Conclusion: a commitment to 'smarter' and 'greener'

With the ERDF programme, Zuid-Nederland is focusing on smart and green innovations in support of the five social transitions, as well as innovations in defence and dual-use techniques. The urgency within these themes is high and the South Netherlands has the right knowledge and skills to capitalise on the (inter) national market opportunities within these transitions.

With this ERDF programme, we are looking for projects that have a societal impact, through innovative solutions within one or more transitions. The aim here is not to finance the transitions as such, but to look for projects with a strong target/medium relationship and the prospect of (inter) national scalability. This also applies to projects with a strong target-medium relationship at the interface between defence and dual-use. Economic impact and ecosystem development are also important. We are looking for innovations that are developed and scaled up by players in the South Netherlands and that contribute to strengthening the (inter) national competitive and export position. .

Innovative solutions can be of both technological and non-technological nature. SMEs are the main target group, including innovative newcomers (start-ups and scale-ups).

1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses

Table 1

Policy objective or JTF specific objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority *	Justification (Summary)
<p>1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity</p>	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p>	<p>We focus on BD1.i from the observation that there is a gain in the valorisation of knowledge and innovation by SMEs. For example, we respond to the investment needs of SMEs to create impact with promising innovations in the transitions. We follow the 2019 European Council recommendation to focus investment-related economic policies on research and development, in the private sector, on renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies. This is in line with the investment needs for the ERDF programmes from the 2019 country report, Annex D (see paragraph III). The SD is in line with RIS3. This will enable South Netherlands to make the most of its power in knowledge, innovation and cooperation. The region has a strong technological knowledge base and parties have a strong knowledge position on key enabling technologies (e.g. Digital Technologies, Fotonica, Life Science-Biotech). Thanks to the strong culture and infrastructure of cooperation and innovation, South is able to translate this knowledge base into both economic and societal impact. Entrepreneurial discovery has shown that there is a particular need for subsidies that focus on the higher TRLs and the elimination of the unprofitable top. In addition, given the nature of the projects and the target group, the right path is to focus on grants. Many public funding instruments are available and there is no funding gap for innovation and renewable</p>

Policy objective or JTF specific objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority *	Justification (Summary)
		energy projects on the higher TRLs targeted by the OPZUID. In North Brabant, for this type of project, 14 funds provide loans and participations and 3 guarantee funds, in the range EUR 50.000-30 million. In Limburg, 2 funds providing loans and participations are in the range of EUR 100.000-25 million. In Zeeland, 3 funds providing loans and participations are in the range of EUR 150.000-2.5 million.
1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity	RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature	We focus on BD1.vii through projects that aim to further develop and scale up technological solutions for defence and dual-use applications. This will allow investment both in R & I for close-to-market products and services (new technologies, software or production methods) with dual-use applications and in (the industrial capacity to produce) innovative defence products and services. Zuid-Nederland is characterised by innovative clusters of knowledge parties, a strong concentration of high-tech SMEs and promising start-ups and scale-ups, as well as a strong manufacturing industry capable of marketing innovations.
2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	We are working on BD2.ii through projects that demonstrate innovative sustainable energy generation solutions in their real environment (living lab, pilot project) and take the final steps towards market deployment (e.g. new organisational structures to finance sustainable energy generation). Projects at a lower TRL level may be supported as part of PO1. With the choice of BD2.ii, South Netherlands is in line with national and European policies: the national

Policy objective or JTF specific objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority *	Justification (Summary)
		<p>climate targets of 2030 and 2050, in line with the Climate Agreement and the INEK; and the Green Deal, as part of broad ambitions for sustainability (including ‘Zero Pollution Action Plan’). It also offers an opportunity to support innovations that contribute to reducing air pollutant emissions. South Netherlands has specific forces and proven experience in technologies to produce renewable energy (hydrogen electrolysis, solar, wind and geothermal, among others). In addition, there are opportunities in Southern Netherlands to put innovative sustainable energy generation solutions into practice within broad coalitions (SMEs including start-ups/scale-ups, civil cooperatives, environmental organisations). Challenges in the energy transition justify the commitment to the chosen SD. For example, the South Dutch process industry and chemistry are highly dependent on fossil sources. The social acceptance of renewable energy sources is also a major challenge. It is therefore very relevant to accelerate “metering” on the energy transition in Southern Netherlands and to demonstrate and scale up innovative energy transition solutions in practice, in cooperation with civil society and local parties. For SO 2.ii, the focus is on subsidies in view of the challenges within the SO. Focusing in particular on the higher TRLs and the elimination of the unprofitable top.</p>
<p>2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility</p>	<p>RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E</p>	<p>Achieving the challenge of the energy transition requires a reliable and secure energy system that communicates well between use and generation. Investing in systems that communicate at different scales to achieve an efficient energy system is important. In addition, innovative conversion and</p>

Policy objective or JTF specific objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority *	Justification (Summary)
		<p>storage techniques, in digitalisation and organisational innovations are essential. Without an appropriate infrastructure of smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level, the energy transition cannot succeed. The challenge for Southern Netherlands is to better combine existing and new energy systems and better connect broad coalitions and foster cooperation. Within the chosen SD, parties in Southern Netherlands can demonstrate and scale up innovative solutions to these challenges in practice. It also offers an opportunity to support innovations that contribute to reducing air pollutant emissions. South Netherlands has expertise in energy conversion and storage. For example, the strong position of South Netherlands in battery technology offers opportunities, and the region has a strong position in intelligent metering and control systems (sensor technologies, AI, smart grids, etc.) and digital monitoring and management of the energy system. This is essential for a reliable and secure energy system. The region has the capacity to increase ownership of sustainable energy and to connect energy demand and supply locally. The South regional infrastructure (pipelines, chemistry clusters) also offers opportunities. Within the chosen SD, South Netherlands can capitalise on these opportunities. Projects at a lower TRL level may be supported as part of PO1. For SO 2.iii, the focus is on subsidies in view of the challenges within the SO. Focusing in particular on the higher TRLs and the elimination of the unprofitable top.</p>

* Dedicated priorities according to ESF+ Regulation

2. Priorities

Reference: Article 22(2) and point (c) of Article 22(3) CPR

2.1. Priorities other than technical assistance

2.1.1. Priority: 1. Promoting innovation with societal and economic impact in Southern Netherlands, through the further development, demonstration and commercialisation of promising as well as non-technological innovations and strengthening the South Netherlands innovation ecosystem.

2.1.1.1. Specific objective: RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies (ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions of the Funds

Reference: points (d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

The related types of actions – point (d)(i) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation:

The objective of this priority is to promote innovation in South NL, strengthen the innovation system and increase the uptake of that innovation system. This concerns innovation aimed at 1 or more of the 5 transitions (Chapter 1 II. II). We strive for innovation that leads to economic strengthening and societal impact, with a broad interpretation of the concept of innovation. Both aspects are assessed ex ante and monitored during and after projects.

The main challenges and innovation opportunities within each transition are set out in Chapter 1. Innovation projects within cross-cutting themes – where they contribute to the transitions – can also be supported under this priority. Think of projects aimed at: sustainable water management (interfaces with climate, raw materials and agricultural transitions); smart mobility (interfaces with energy and raw materials transition); promoting energy and resource efficiency in industry; and health and nutrition or health interface, climate adaptation and improved air quality.

Types of action

Within this SO, the following types of actions are eligible:

I. support for living labs and demonstrations in the real world, where businesses, knowledge institutions and civil society, including end-users, collaborate on innovations that contribute to societal challenges. We also consider other forms of cooperation and consortia in a broader context than the classic triple helix, e.g. by involving social institutions and encouraging civic participation.

(Through) developing innovations that provide solutions to challenges within one or more societal transitions. A distinction may be made between:

support for innovation projects within individual SMEs;

support for innovation projects between collaborating companies (cluster and ecosystem projects);

(Through) developing innovative interregional and international value chains of companies to market innovations within the transitions;

This SD focuses specifically on innovations that generate impact on one or more transitions. Projects should demonstrate this impact within the project plan. The actions are aimed at bringing innovations to the market; this includes the phase from experimental development to market introduction.

The actions envisaged are in line with the “Do no significant harm” principle. The DNSH analysis was carried out by external experts for the four Dutch ERDF programmes and included as an annex to this programme. This review of the envisaged actions against this principle has shown that, by their nature, the actions do not have a significant negative impact on the environment.

Under this SD, beneficiaries can use simplified cost options, as described in Appendix 1 of this programme

The main target groups - point (d)(iii) of Article 22(3) CPR:

Regional SMEs – including innovative start-up and scale-ups – are the main target group of this SD. Actions can take place in many different sectors and we do not exclude sectors in advance, but calls may contain further specifications. The actors identified as enablers in the RIS – in digital technology, creative industries and/or skills development – can also act as participants and final beneficiaries. Knowledge and educational institutions at the level of WO-, HBO and MBO are also an important target group. The programme also explicitly provides scope for collaborative projects bringing together SMEs and knowledge and educational institutions. Civil society stakeholders (foundations, NGOs) can also participate in consortia for innovation projects.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – point (d)(iv) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation

The Programme shall be implemented in compliance with the horizontal principles referred to in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union (‘TEU’) and in Article 10 TFEU, including the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality referred to in Article 5 of the TEU. In doing so, account shall be taken of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Projects should also comply with the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in accordance with its Article 9 and with Union legislation harmonising accessibility requirements for products and services. In the assessment of projects by the Expert Committee, criteria “contribution of the project to sustainable development and societal impact” shall consider the extent to which projects contribute to the promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and (social) participation.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – point (d)(v) of Article 22(3) CPR

The ERDF programme supports innovations across the whole of the South Netherlands without further delimitation or delimitation in the form of specific territories. There is also no use of territorial or area-based instruments. However, there is scope for projects to promote innovation on a local scale and/or area-specific, including rural areas in the South Netherlands. No region is excluded.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – point (d)(vi) of Article 22(3) CPR

In the implementation of projects, there are ample opportunities for cooperation with parties outside the South Netherlands (interregional within the Netherlands, cross-border with Germany and Belgium and international). Working together and innovating “openly” across borders is an important way of delivering innovations within this ERDF programme. This goes on two sides: knowledge and skills of ‘Outside South’ can be a valuable complement to the innovation chain, and southern Dutch innovations can be applied elsewhere and generate impact.

Therefore, within this ERDF programme, it is possible to cooperate with partners from outside the South Netherlands in an interregional and transnational context. The social and economic impact of the project in South Netherlands is a prerequisite. ERDF and INTERREG are regularly coordinated with other regions by the Managing Authority. There is also close cooperation with the three provinces, including regular consultations.

Interregional and transnational operations that may be supported under the ERDF programme:

- (by) developing innovative interregional and/or international value chains in cooperation with parties outside the South Netherlands to market innovations in the transitions;
- market-oriented interregional and/or international cooperation between SMEs and knowledge institutions to solutions in the societal transitions (as described under “types of actions”).

In the programme, we are looking at the possibility of encouraging cooperation with beneficiaries in at least one other Member State through interregional, cross-border and transnational cooperation actions. This could include, for example, cooperation within the Smart Specialisation Platforms, which includes cooperation on Photonica with, for example, Brittany and North Rhine-Westphalia.

The planned use of financial instruments – point (d)(vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Support within this SO is provided through grants. Grants are ideally the instrument to address investment needs (e.g. technological, financial and legal risks in demonstration and scaling up of innovation) and to support these actions. From the public side, many financial instruments are already available and no funding gap is experienced for innovation projects focusing on the higher TRLs targeted by the OPZUID.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 8 ERDF and CF Regulation

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	551.00	1,050.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	370.00	700.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	181.00	350.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	135.00	250.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO96	Interregional investments for innovation in EU projects	euro	79,765,121.00	120,000,000.00

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference Year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	euro	0.00	2020-2029	90,000,000.00	Monitoring programme	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	enterprises	0.00	2020-2029	350.00	monitoring programme	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More	RCR05	SMEs innovating in-house	enterprises	0.00	2020-2029	350.00	monitoring	

			developed							programme	
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2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: point (d)(viii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	009. Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	25,807,062.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	026. Support for innovation clusters including between businesses, research organisations and public authorities and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	9,216,808.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	027. Innovation processes in SMEs (process, organisational, marketing, co-creation, user and demand driven innovation)	11,060,170.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	028. Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and higher education sector	9,216,808.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	11,060,170.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	030. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, focusing on circular economy	7,373,446.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			73,734,464.00

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	73,734,464.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			73,734,464.00

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	73,734,464.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			73,734,464.00

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
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Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutral	73,734,464.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			73,734,464.00

* In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+

2.1.1. Priority: 2. Promoting the demonstration, commercialisation and scale-up of innovative solutions that are likely to foster the energy transition, in cooperation with SMEs and civil society in Southern Netherlands

2.1.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein (ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions of the Funds

Reference: points (d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

The related types of actions – point (d)(i) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation:

The aim of this priority is to promote the uptake, commercialisation and scale-up of innovative solutions that are likely to be innovative in the energy transition. This concerns specific objective 2. ii) innovative ways of producing renewable energy.

The main actions, main target groups, application areas and financial instruments in a row:

Types of action

Examples of operations that may be supported within the ERDF programme are:

I. support SMEs in commercialising innovations that can contribute to renewable energy production in Southern Netherlands and beyond, for example by developing business cases, demonstration in the real environment, pilot production, and first deployment c. or initial scale-up;

Operationalise and develop innovative forms of sustainable energy production on a local scale, in cooperation with local stakeholders including SMEs, civil society and knowledge and educational institutions. This could be done, for example, through demonstration in the real environment, setting up innovative organisational structures to organise and finance private investments in sustainable energy generation, and place-based pilots at district or industrial site level.

The actions within this specific objective focus in particular on the market development of innovations. Examples of these actions are the creation of a living lab for demonstrating technological and/or process innovations in sustainable energy supply for SMEs contributing to the energy transition; Carrying out a pilot project to test and demonstrate new concepts for decentralised energy generation; Setting up a new type of organisational structure to organise and finance investments in renewable energy generation

The actions envisaged are in line with the “Do no significant harm” principle. The DNSH analysis has been carried out by external experts from ERAC and White One + Bos for the four Dutch ERDF programmes and the reporting is annexed to this programme. This review of the envisaged actions against this principle has shown that, by their nature, the actions do not have a significant negative impact on the environment. Under this SD, beneficiaries can use

simplified cost options, as described in Appendix 1 of this programme

The main target groups - point (d)(iii) of Article 22(3) CPR:

As in the first priority of the ERDF programme, regional SMEs are an important target group. Actions can take place in many different sectors and therefore we do not exclude sectors, but indicatively companies in clusters HTSM, chemistry, maintenance cluster, parts of the other process industry and in the energy sector are likely to innovate in the energy transition. In doing so, parties specialised in digital technologies, creative industries and skills development can act as enablers.

Knowledge and educational institutions at WO, HBO and MBO level are also an important target group, with the challenge of applying the knowledge they possess.

In addition, under this priority in particular, the effects of the energy transition are often local countries and visible and felt. For the sake of public acceptance, the target group is therefore also local civil society stakeholders. For example, civil cooperatives that jointly implement an energy co-operative or community and other forms of organisation.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – point (d)(iv) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation

The implementation of this ERDF Programme South 2021-2027 shall respect the horizontal principles referred to in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union ('TEU') and in Article 10 TFEU, including the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality referred to in Article 5 of the TEU. In doing so, account shall be taken of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Projects should also comply with the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in accordance with its Article 9 and with Union legislation harmonising accessibility requirements for products and services. We ask petitioners to explicitly include this in their project plans. In the assessment of projects by the Expert Committee, criteria "contribution of the project to sustainable development and societal impact" shall consider the extent to which projects contribute to the promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and (social) participation.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – point (d)(v) of Article 22(3) CPR

The ERDF programme supports innovations in the energy transition across the whole of the South Netherlands, without further delimitation or delimitation in the form of specific territories. There is also no use of territorial or area-based instruments. However, there is scope in projects to put innovation into practice in a local scale and/or place-based way. Attention is also paid to the region-specific opportunities and challenges in the energy transition in South Netherlands, including rural areas.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – point (d)(vi) of Article 22(3) CPR

Within this priority too, there are ample opportunities for cooperation with parties outside the South Netherlands. Therefore, within this ERDF programme, it is possible to cooperate with partners from outside the South Netherlands in an interregional and transnational context. The condition is that the social and economic impact of the project is evident in the South Netherlands itself. ERDF and INTERREG are regularly coordinated with other regions by the Managing Authority. There is also close cooperation with the three provinces, including regular consultations.

Interregional and transnational operations that may be supported under the ERDF programme:

- support interregional or international partnerships consisting of SMEs in the marketing of energy innovations in Southern Netherlands and beyond (as described above).
- implement innovative forms of sustainable energy sourcing on a local scale, in cooperation with local stakeholders and relevant stakeholders from outside Southern Netherlands (including SMEs, civil society, knowledge and education institutions; further as described above).

Where appropriate, the Programme will explore the possibility of encouraging cooperation with beneficiaries in at least one other Member State through interregional, cross-border and transnational cooperation actions. For example, cooperation under the Vanguard initiative (and specifically with Lombardy Region), aimed at “Efficient and sustainable manufacturing”, could be an opportunity for this.

The planned use of financial instruments – point (d)(vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Support within this specific objective shall be provided through grants. Grants are ideally the instrument to address investment needs (e.g. technological, financial and legal risks in demonstration and scaling up of innovation) and to support these actions. From the public side, many financial instruments are also available and no funding gap is experienced for renewable energy projects focusing on the higher TRLs targeted by the OPZUID.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 8 ERDF and CF Regulation

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	41.00	115.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	39.00	110.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	2.00	5.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCO22	Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal)	MW	6.70	15.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCO97	Renewable energy communities supported	renewable energy communities	0.00	6.00

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference Year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	euro	0.00	2020-2029	15,800,243.00	monitoring programme, own data	
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	enterprises	0.00	2020-2029	35.00	Monitoring programme, own data	
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	RCR32	Additional operational capacity installed for renewable energy	MW	0.00	2020-2029	5.00	monitoring programme, own data	

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: point (d)(viii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	6,320,097.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	046. Support to entities that provide services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change, including awareness-raising measures	2,528,039.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	047. Renewable energy: wind	1,580,024.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	048. Renewable energy: solar	2,844,044.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	051. Renewable energy: marine	1,580,024.00
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	052. Other renewable energy (including geothermal energy)	948,015.00
2	RSO2.2	Total			15,800,243.00

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	15,800,243.00
2	RSO2.2	Total			15,800,243.00

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	15,800,243.00
2	RSO2.2	Total			15,800,243.00

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
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Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutral	15,800,243.00
2	RSO2.2	Total			15,800,243.00

* In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+

2.1.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E (ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions of the Funds

Reference: points (d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

The related types of actions – point (d)(i) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation:

The aim of this priority is to promote the uptake, commercialisation and scale-up of innovative solutions that are likely to be innovative in the energy transition. This includes innovative ways of smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level, where digital management systems can play an important role.

The main actions, main target groups, application areas and financial instruments in a row:

Types of action

Examples of operations that may be supported within the ERDF programme are:

I. support SMEs to market innovations that can lead to smarter, more efficient, more sustainable, stable or secure energy systems, energy networks and local energy storage in Southern Netherlands and beyond. This can be done, for example, through business case development, demonstration in the real environment, pilot production and first deployment, c) or initial scaling up;

Operationalise and develop innovative forms of smart and sustainable energy systems, networks and storage on a local scale in cooperation with local stakeholders (including SMEs, civil society, knowledge and educational institutions). This could be done, for example, through demonstration in the real environment, setting up innovative organisational structures to organise and finance private investments in renewable energy storage and area-based pilots at district or industrial site level.

The actions within this specific objective focus in particular on the market development of innovations. In the implementation of the ERDF programme, the link is sought between SO 2. ii (renewable energy generation) and SD 2. iii (smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level) and allows for projects combining actions within both objectives.

The actions envisaged are in line with the “Do no significant harm” principle. The DNSH analysis has been carried out by external experts from ERAC and White One + Bos for the four Dutch ERDF programmes and the reporting is annexed to this programme. This review of the envisaged actions against this principle has shown that, by their nature, the actions do not have a significant negative impact on the environment. Under this SD, beneficiaries can use simplified cost options, as described in Appendix 1 of this programme

The main target groups - point (d)(iii) of Article 22(3) CPR:

As in the first priority of the ERDF programme, regional SMEs are an important target group. Actions can take place in many different sectors and therefore we do not exclude sectors, but indicatively companies in clusters HTSM, chemistry, maintenance cluster, parts of the other process industry and in the energy sector are likely to innovate in the energy transition. In doing so, parties specialised in digital technologies, creative industries and skills development can act as enablers.

Knowledge and educational institutions at WO, HBO and MBO level are also an important target group, with the challenge of applying the knowledge they possess.

In addition, under this priority in particular, the effects of the energy transition are often local countries and visible and felt. For the sake of public acceptance, the target group is therefore also local civil society stakeholders. For example, civil cooperatives that jointly implement an energy co-operative or community and other forms of organisation.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – point (d)(iv) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation

The implementation of this ERDF programme South 2021-2027 shall respect the horizontal principles referred to in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union ('TEU') and in Article 10 TFEU, including the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality referred to in Article 5 of the TEU. In doing so, account shall be taken of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Projects should also comply with the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in accordance with its Article 9 and with Union legislation harmonising accessibility requirements for products and services. We ask petitioners to explicitly include this in their project plans. In the assessment of projects by the Expert Committee, criteria "contribution of the project to sustainable development and societal impact" shall consider the extent to which projects contribute to the promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and (social) participation.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – point (d)(v) of Article 22(3) CPR

The ERDF programme supports innovations in the energy transition across the whole of the South Netherlands, without further delimitation or delimitation in

the form of specific territories. There is also no use of territorial or area-based instruments. However, there is scope in projects to put innovation into practice in a local scale and/or place-based way. Attention is also paid to the region-specific opportunities and challenges in the energy transition in Southern Netherlands.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – point (d)(vi) of Article 22(3) CPR

Within this priority, there are ample opportunities for cooperation with parties outside the South Netherlands. Therefore, under this ERDF programme, it is possible to cooperate with partners from outside the South Netherlands in an interregional and transnational context. The condition is that the social and economic impact of the project is evident in the South Netherlands itself. ERDF and INTERREG are regularly coordinated with other regions by the Managing Authority. There is also close cooperation with the three provinces, including regular consultations.

Interregional and transnational operations that may be supported under the ERDF programme:

- support interregional or international partnerships consisting of SMEs in the marketing of energy innovations in Southern Netherlands and beyond (as described above).
- apply innovative forms of sustainable energy systems and storage on a local scale, in cooperation with local stakeholders and relevant stakeholders from outside South Netherlands (including SMEs, civil society, knowledge and educational institutions; further as described above).

Where appropriate, the Programme will explore the possibility of encouraging cooperation with beneficiaries in at least one other Member State through interregional, cross-border and transnational cooperation actions. Although there is no concrete cooperation on this topic yet, cooperation with regions that have joined the Vanguard Potential.

The planned use of financial instruments – point (d)(vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Support within this specific objective shall be provided through grants. Grants are ideally the instrument to address investment needs (e.g. technological, financial and legal risks in demonstration and scaling up of innovation) and to support these actions. From the public side, many financial instruments are already available and no funding gap is experienced for projects focusing on the higher TRLs targeted by the OPSouth. In the province of North Brabant, there are 14 funds providing loans and participations and 3 guarantee funds. These funds provide funding in the range of 50. EUR 000 to EUR 30 million. In the province of Limburg, there are 2 funds providing loans and participations. These funds provide funding in the range of 100. EUR 000 to EUR 25 million. In the province of Zeeland, there are 3 funds providing loans and participations. These funds provide funding in the range of 150. EUR 000 to EUR 2.5 million.

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2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 8 ERDF and CF Regulation

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	237.00	237.00
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	92.00	92.00
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	145.00	145.00
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO23	Digital management systems for smart energy systems	system components	48.00	48.00
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO105	Solutions for electricity storage	MWh	8,408.00	8,408.00

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference Year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	euro	0.00	2020-2029	13,208,965.00	Monitoring programme, own data	
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	enterprises	0.00	2020-2029	40.00	monitoring programme, own data	
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR33	Users connected to smart energy systems	end users/year	0.00	2020-2029	6,130.00	Monitoring Programme, own Data	
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR34	Roll-out of projects for smart energy systems	projects	0.00	2020-2029	21.00	monitoring programme. own data	

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: point (d)(viii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	1,215,284.00
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	046. Support to entities that provide services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change, including awareness-raising measures	1,215,284.00
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	053. Smart Energy Systems (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage	2,430,568.00
2	RSO2.3	Total			4,861,136.00

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	4,861,136.00
2	RSO2.3	Total			4,861,136.00

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	4,861,136.00
2	RSO2.3	Total			4,861,136.00

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
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Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutral	4,861,136.00
2	RSO2.3	Total			4,861,136.00

* In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+

2.1.1. Priority: 3. Promoting innovation with societal and economic impact in the South Netherlands, through the further development, demonstration and commercialisation of promising technological as well as non-technological innovations and strengthening the South Netherlands innovation ecosystem.

2.1.1.1. Specific objective: RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature (ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions of the Funds

Reference: points (d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

The related types of actions – point (d)(i) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation:

The objective of this priority is to foster innovation aimed at the further development, demonstration and commercialisation of high-potential, technological military or dual-use innovations within the following categories defined in the SAFE Regulation, or, technological military or dual-use innovations. We aim for innovation that leads to both economic strengthening and societal impact, with a broad interpretation of the concept of innovation. Both aspects are tested ex-ante and monitored during and after projects.

Types of actions

Within this SO, the following types of actions are eligible:

I. support for living labs and real-world demonstrations, in which businesses, knowledge institutions and civil society, including end-users, collaborate on innovations that contribute to the needs formulated within one of the scopes under the two categories defined in the SAFE Regulation.

(By) developing innovations that provide solutions to challenges within, for example, one of the five priority areas of the DSII or application areas under the two categories defined in the SAFE Regulation. In doing so, a distinction can be made between:

supporting innovation projects within individual SMEs;

supporting innovation projects between collaborating companies (cluster or ecosystem projects);

(By) developing innovative interregional and international value chains of companies in order to market innovations one of the five priority areas from the DSII or application areas under the two categories defined in the SAFE Regulation;

This SD focuses specifically on innovations that generate impact in the field of defence and dual-use applications. Projects should demonstrate this impact within the project plan. The actions aim at bringing innovations to market maturity; this includes the phase from experimental development to market introduction (TRL 5-9).

Within the scope of specific objective 1. 7 examples to be provided for applicants can be used as a guide for projects aimed at (by) developing dual-use innovations in the five areas covered by the Defence Strategy for Industry and Innovation 2025-2029 (DSII):

1. Smart materials;

2. Sensors;
3. Quantum;
4. Space technology;
5. Intelligent systems.

At the same time, by focusing on these five areas and the further development of the Dutch Defence Technological Industrial Base (NLDTIB), it contributes to the further development of the European Technological Industrial Base (EDTIB).

1. Smart materials

1. (1) composites

1. (2) additive manufacturing

1. (3) metal materials.

1. Sensors

2. (1) radar, optical, acoustic, EM and Cyber

2. (2) sensor networks

2. (3) sensor fusion

1. Quantum

3. (1) quantum computing

3. (2) quantum sensing

3. (3) quantum networking

3. (4) quantum resilience

1. Space technology

4. (1) space Situational Awareness (SSA)

4. (2) earth Observations incl. ISR

4. (3) satellite communications

4. (4) position, Navigation and Timing (PNT)

1. Intelligent Systems

5. (1) unstaffed systems

5. (2) AI & Data science.

These examples are not exhaustive.

The actions foreseen are in line with the “Do no significant harm” principle. The DNSH analysis was carried out by external experts for the four Dutch ERDF programmes and is included as an annex to this programme. This examination of the planned measures in the light of this principle has shown that, by their very nature, they do not have a significant negative impact on the environment. Because the types of actions chosen under this objective are similar to those under Specific Objective 1. 1, there is no change in the implementation of the ‘Do no significant harm’ principle. [SS1]

Under this SO, beneficiaries may use simplified cost options, as described in Appendix 1 of this programme.

[SS1] Instead of referring to Slimmer Europe, better refer to Specific Objective 1. 1

The main target groups - point (d)(iii) of Article 22(3) CPR:

Regional SMEs – including innovative start-ups and scale-ups – are the main target group of this SO. Actions can take place in many different sectors and we do not exclude sectors in advance, but calls may contain further specification. Knowledge and education institutions at WO-, HBO and MBO level are also an important target group. The actors identified in the RIS as enablers – in digital technologies, creative industries and/or skills development – may also act as participants and final beneficiaries. The programme also explicitly allows for collaborative projects bringing together SMEs and knowledge and education institutions.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – point (d)(iv) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 6 ESF+ Regulation

The Programme shall be implemented in compliance with the horizontal principles referred to in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union (‘TEU’) and in Article 10 TFEU, including the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality referred to in Article 5 of the TEU. In doing so, account shall be taken of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Projects should also comply with the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in accordance with its Article 9 and with Union legislation harmonising accessibility requirements for products and services. In the assessment of projects by the Expert Committee, criteria “contribution of the project to sustainable development and societal impact” shall consider the extent to which projects contribute to the promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and (social) participation.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – point (d)(v) of Article 22(3) CPR

The ERDF programme supports innovations throughout the South Netherlands and has no further demarcation or demarcation in the form of specific territories. Nor are territorial or area-based instruments used. However, there is scope in projects to promote innovation on a local scale and/or in a place-based manner, including rural areas in the South Netherlands. No region is excluded.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – point (d)(vi) of Article 22(3) CPR

In the implementation of projects, there are plenty of opportunities for cooperation with parties outside the South Netherlands (interregional within the Netherlands, cross-border with Germany and Belgium and international). Working together and innovating “in an open way” across borders is an important way of bringing about innovations within this ERDF programme. This is twofold: knowledge and skills from “outside South” can be a valuable complement to the innovation chain, and Southern Dutch innovations can be applied and generate impact elsewhere.

It is therefore possible within this ERDF programme to cooperate with partners from outside the South Netherlands in an interregional and transnational context. The condition is that the social and economic impact of the project in the South Netherlands is evident. Regular coordination takes place between the Managing Authority and other regions on ERDF and INTERREG. There is also close cooperation with the three provinces, including through regular consultations.

Interregional and transnational operations which may be supported under the ERDF programme:

- (by) developing innovative interregional and/or international value chains in cooperation with parties from outside the South Netherlands in order to bring innovations to the market in areas covered by the SAFE Regulation;
- market-oriented interregional and/or international cooperation between SMEs and knowledge institutions on solutions within areas in the DSII or SAFE Regulation (as described under “types of actions”).

In the programme, we specifically explore the possibility of encouraging cooperation with beneficiaries in at least one other Member State through interregional, cross-border and transnational cooperation actions.

The planned use of financial instruments – point (d)(vii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Support within this SO is provided through grants. Grants are ideally the instrument to address investment needs (e.g. technological, financial and legal risks in demonstration and scaling up of innovation) and to support these actions. From the public side, many financial instruments are already available and no funding gap is experienced for innovation projects focusing on the higher TRLs targeted by the OPZUID.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 8 ERDF and CF Regulation

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	0.00	100.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	0.00	50.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	0.00	50.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCO07	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	Research organisations	0.00	15.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	0.00	25.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCO96	Interregional investments for innovation in EU projects	euro	0.00	4,000,000.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCO128	Enterprises supported linked primarily to foster dual use and defence capabilities (RearmEU)	enterprises	0.00	100.00

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference Year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	euro	0.00	2020-2029	10,939,107.00	Monitoring programme	

3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	enterprises	0.00	2020-2029	80.00	Monitoring programme	
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	RCR05	SMEs innovating in-house	enterprises	0.00	2020-2029	40.00	Monitoring programme	

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: point (d)(viii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	5,104,916.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	026. Support for innovation clusters including between businesses, research organisations and public authorities and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	1,823,185.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	027. Innovation processes in SMEs (process, organisational, marketing, co-creation, user and demand driven innovation)	2,187,821.00
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	028. Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and higher education sector	1,823,185.00
3	RSO1.7	Total			10,939,107.00

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	10,939,107.00
3	RSO1.7	Total			10,939,107.00

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - No territorial targeting	10,939,107.00

3	RSO1.7	Total			10,939,107.00
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Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
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Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO1.7	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutral	10,939,107.00
3	RSO1.7	Total			10,939,107.00

* In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+

2.2. Technical assistance priorities

Machine translated

3. Financing plan

Reference: points (g)(i), (ii) and (iii) of Article 22(3), Article 112(1), (2) and (3), and Articles 14, 26 and 26a CPR

3.1. Transfers and contributions (1)

Reference: Articles 14, 26, 26a and 27 CPR

Programme amendment related to	<input type="checkbox"/> contribution to InvestEU
	<input type="checkbox"/> transfer to instruments under direct or indirect management
	<input type="checkbox"/> transfer between ERDF, ESF+, Cohesion Fund or to another Fund or Funds
	<input type="checkbox"/> Funds contributing to the objectives set out in Article 21c(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241

(1) Applicable only to programme amendments in accordance with Articles 14, 26 and 26a, except complementary transfers to the JTF in accordance with Article 27 CPR. Transfers shall not affect the annual breakdown of financial appropriations at the MFF level for a Member State.

Table 15A: Contributions to InvestEU* (breakdown by year)

Contribution from		Contribution to	Breakdown by year							
Fund	Category of region	InvestEU window	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total

* For each new request for contribution, a programme amendment shall set out the total amounts for each year by Fund and by category of region.

Table 15B: Contributions to InvestEU* (summary)

Fund	Category of region	Sustainable Infrastructure (a)	Innovation and Digitisation (b)	SME (c)	Social Investment and Skills (d)	Total (e)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)
Total						

* Cumulative amounts for all contributions done through programme amendments during the programming period. With each new request for contribution, a programme amendment shall set out the total amounts for each year by Fund and by category of region.

Justification, taking into account how those amounts contribute to the achievement of policy objectives selected in the programme in accordance with Article 10(1) of the InvestEU Regulation

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Table 16A: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management (breakdown by year)

Transfers from		Transfers to	Breakdown by year							
Fund	Category of region	Instrument	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total

Table 16B: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management* (summary)

Fund	Category of region	Total
Total		

* Cumulative amounts for all transfers done through programme amendments during programming period. With each new request for transfer, a programme amendment shall set out the total amounts transferred for each year by Fund and by category of region.

Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management - Justification

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Table 17A: Transfers between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to another Fund or Funds* (breakdown by year)

Transfers from		Transfers to		Breakdown by year							
Fund	Category of region	Fund	Category of region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total

* Transfer to other programmes. Transfers between ERDF and ESF+ can only be done within the same category of region.

Table 17B: Transfers between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to another Fund or Funds (summary)

	ERDF				ESF+				CF	EMFAF	AMIF	ISF	BMVI	Total
	More developed	Transition	Less developed	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	More developed	Transition	Less developed	Outermost or northern sparsely populated						
Total														

* Cumulative amounts for all transfers done through programme amendments during the programming period. With each new request for transfer, a programme amendment shall set out the total amounts transferred for each year by Fund and category of region.

Transfers between shared management funds, including between cohesion policy funds - Justification

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Table 21: Resources contributing to the objectives set out in Article 21c(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241

Fund	Category of region	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Grand total								

3.2. JTF: allocation in the programme and transfers (1)

3.3. Transfers between categories of region resulting from the mid-term review

Table 19A: Transfers between categories of region resulting from the mid-term review within the programme (breakdown by year)

Transfers from	Transfers to	Breakdown by year			
Category of region*	Category of region*	2025	2026	2027	Total

* Applicable to ERDF and ESF+ only

Table 19B: Transfers between categories of region resulting from the mid-term review, to other programmes (breakdown by year)

Transfers from	Transfers to	Breakdown by year			
Category of region*	Category of region*	2025	2026	2027	Total

* Applicable to ERDF and ESF+ only

3.4. Transfers back (1)

Table 20A: Transfers back (breakdown by year)

Transfers from	Transfers to	Breakdown by year			

InvestEU or other Union instrument	Fund	Category of region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
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(1) Applicable only to programme amendments for resources transferred back from other Union instruments, including elements of AMIF, ISF and BMVI, under direct or indirect management, or from InvestEU.

Table 20B: Transfers back* (summary)

From	To								
InvestEU / Instrument	ERDF			ESF+			Cohesion Fund		
	More developed	Transition	Developed	More developed	Transition	Developed			

* Cumulative amounts for all transfers done through programme amendments during programming period. With each new request for transfer, a programme amendment shall set out the total amounts transferred for each year by Fund and by category of region.

3.5. Financial appropriations by year

Reference: point (g)(i) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 3, 4 and 7 JTF Regulation

Table 10: Financial appropriations by year

Fund	Category of region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027		Total
							Financial appropriation without flexibility amount	Flexibility amount	Financial appropriation without flexibility amount	Flexibility amount	
ERDF*	More developed	0.00	18,622,420.00	18,922,145.00	19,227,963.00	19,539,897.00	8,096,177.00	8,096,177.00	8,258,446.00	8,258,447.00	109,021,672.00
Total ERDF		0.00	18,622,420.00	18,922,145.00	19,227,963.00	19,539,897.00	8,096,177.00	8,096,177.00	8,258,446.00	8,258,447.00	109,021,672.00
Total		0.00	18,622,420.00	18,922,145.00	19,227,963.00	19,539,897.00	8,096,177.00	8,096,177.00	8,258,446.00	8,258,447.00	109,021,672.00

* Amounts after the complementary transfer to the JTF.

3.6. Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing

Reference: point (g)(ii) of Article 22(3), Article 22(6) and Article 36 CPR

For the Investment for jobs and growth goal: programmes using technical assistance according to Article 36(5) CPR in accordance with the choice made in the Partnership Agreement

Table 11: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

Policy / JTF specific objective number or technical assistance	Priority	Basis for calculation Union support (total eligible cost or public contribution)	Fund	Category of region*	Union contribution (a)=(b)+(c)+(i)+(j)	Breakdown of Union contribution				National contribution (d)=(e)+(f)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (g)=(a)+(d)	Co-financing rate (h)=(a)/(g)
						Union contribution		Flexibility amount			Public (e)	Private (f)		
						without technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5)	for technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5)	without technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5)	for technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5)					
					(b)	(c)	(i)	(j)						
1	1	Total	ERDF	More developed	76,315,170.00	62,673,366.00	2,193,567.00	11,061,098.00	387,139.00	141,728,175.00	65,413,004.00	76,315,171.00	218,043,345.00	34.9999996560%
1	3	Total	ERDF	More developed	11,321,975.00	9,298,103.00	325,433.00	1,641,004.00	57,435.00	21,026,525.00	9,704,550.00	11,321,975.00	32,348,500.00	35.0000000000%
2	2	Total	ERDF	More developed	21,384,527.00	17,561,912.00	614,667.00	3,099,467.00	108,481.00	39,714,121.00	18,329,594.00	21,384,527.00	61,098,648.00	35.0000003273%
Total			ERDF	More developed	109,021,672.00	89,533,381.00	3,133,667.00	15,801,569.00	553,055.00	202,468,821.00	93,447,148.00	109,021,673.00	311,490,493.00	34.9999998234%
Grand total					109,021,672.00	89,533,381.00	3,133,667.00	15,801,569.00	553,055.00	202,468,821.00	93,447,148.00	109,021,673.00	311,490,493.00	34.9999998234%

* For ERDF and ESF+: less developed, transition, more developed, and, where applicable special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions. For Cohesion Fund: not applicable. For technical assistance, application of categories of region depends on the selection of the fund.

** Indicate the total JTF resources, including the complementary support transferred from the ERDF and the ESF+. The table shall not include the amounts in accordance to Article 7 JTF Regulation. In case of technical assistance financed from the JTF, the JTF resources should be split into resources related to Articles 3 and 4 JTF Regulation. For Article 4 JTF Regulation, there is no flexibility amount.

4. Enabling conditions

Reference: point (i) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 12: Enabling conditions

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market			Yes	<p>Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes:</p> <p>1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU.</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 procurement law (revised as of 1 July 2016, inter alia to implement Directives 2014/24 and 2014/25) • TenderNed, https://www.tenderned.nl 	<p>On 1 April 2013, the first version of the 2012 Aanbestedingswet entered into force in the Netherlands. With effect from 1 July 2016, that law was revised, inter alia, in order to implement Directives 2014/24 and 2014/25.</p> <p>Article 2.132 of the Aanbestedingswet 2012 provides that the contracting authority is to draw up a report on the award of a public contract and the establishment of a dynamic purchasing system containing a number of basic information, including the names of the winning bidder (paragraph 1h), the number of initial bidders (paragraph 1 of the C-E) and the contractual value (paragraph 1b).</p> <p>All contracting authorities are obliged to publish their contract notices and contract award notices on the national platform TenderNed, if the value of the contract is equal to or above the EU thresholds. In this way, criterion 1 is complied with.</p> <p>More details in annex.</p>
				<p>2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements:</p> <p>a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 procurement law (revised as of 1 July 2016, inter alia to implement Directives 2014/24 and 2014/25) • TenderNed, https://www.tenderned.nl 	<p>2.a) idem Criterion 1</p> <p>2.b) in the Netherlands, there is no obligation to collect the information referred to in criterion 2.b. Nevertheless, research on SME participation in public</p>

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research report “Effects of the Aanbestedingswet 2012, Lot 1: SME participation in public procurement and the Facts Study”, • 2021 Public Procurement Monitor in the Netherlands 2017-2019 More details in annex.	procurement is carried out, for example in a 2015 study on the Effects of the Aanbestedingswet 2012 and SME participation in public procurement. This showed, among other things, that in 201 463 % of all tenders above the EU thresholds were awarded to SMEs. In 2021, the second edition of the report was published, entitled ‘2021 Monitor Aanbestedingen in the Netherlands 2017-2019’, in view of the public procurement monitoring report (Articles 83 and 85).
				3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with article 83 (2) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (2) of directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 329 amendment of the 2012 Procurement Act in connection with the implementation of public procurement Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, No 3 MEMORION OF ACTION, https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-34329-3.html 	<p>The Explanatory Memorandum to the Amendment to the 2012 Procurement Act explains, with regard to the interpretation of Article 83 (2)/99 (2), that there are different control mechanisms for the lawful application of the procurement rules.</p> <p>There are possibilities for supervisory authorities or structures to raise issues with bodies such as the Ombudsman or Parliament. There are no obstacles, within the limits of procedural law, to raise problems before the courts.</p> <p>On the basis of Article 83 and 85 of the AanbestedingsDirective, the Netherlands shall submit a monitoring report to the EC every three years.</p>
				4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with article 83 (3) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (3) directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 329 amendment of the 2012 Procurement Act in connection with the implementation of public procurement Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, No 3 MEMORY OF ACTION 	With regard to Article 83 (3)/2012 (3), the Explanatory Memorandum on the Amendment to the 99 Procurement Act explains that the results of accounting audits are made public. These results are also used for monitoring reports to be

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement Monitoring Report of the Netherlands, latest version of 2021 (previous version: 2018) • 2021 Public Procurement Monitor in the Netherlands 2017-2019 <p>More details in annex.</p>	<p>drawn up.</p> <p>See also publication of the “Public Procurement Monitoring Report of the Netherlands” (May 2021) and the “2021 Monitor Aanbestedingen in the Netherlands 2017-2019” (May 2021). Both documents have also been published as part of the letter to the Lower House “Programme Beter Aanbesteden, research procurement volume and monitoring reporting”.</p> <p>Article 4.12a of the Aanbestedingswet gives effect to Article 83 (3): contracting authorities are required to provide the Minister for Economic Affairs with records of all public contracts awarded and dynamic purchasing systems put in place, at the latter’s request.</p>
				5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition law, https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0008691/2019-01-01 • 34 329 amendment of the 2012 Procurement Act in connection with the implementation of public procurement Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, No 3 MEMORY OF ACTION • Information leaflet “Do not pay too much... do you see agreements between companies in calls for tenders? With ACM” • ACM information on collusion in procurement (see here) • https://www.acm.nl/nl/contact/tips-en-meldingen/tip-ons 	<p>The aim of the Competition Act is to promote competition. The Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) maintains the law and has the task of detecting infringements of the Competition Act and the EU Treaty. On the basis of this Act, the Aanbestedingswet 2012, the Financial Supervision Act and Executive Arrangements, the ACM ensures that market participants comply with the rules on competition and market functioning. ACM helps contracting authorities to identify collusion between competitors on procurement routes. Information is published on ACM’s website to identify prohibited agreements between companies. Similarly, a hotline has been set up</p>

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						Find out more in annex.	<p>where anonymous reports can be made.</p> <p>Moreover, the data in TenderNed are publicly available and therefore also available to the ACM. TenderNed is part of PIANOo (Procurement Centre of Excellence). ACM works closely with PIANOo. See also criterion 3.</p> <p>Find out more in annex.</p>
2. Tools and capacity for effective application of State aid rules			Yes	<p>Managing authorities have the tools and capacity to verify compliance with State aid rules:</p> <p>1. For undertakings in difficulty and undertakings under a recovery requirement.</p>	Yes	Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014	<p>Undertaking in difficulty</p> <p>Each application form for support from the Funds shall ask the applicant – in the case of a consortium of participants – whether the undertaking concerned is in difficulty as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. To this end, a ‘no financial difficulty’ form must be completed and signed. This is assessed by the managing authority on the basis of the annual accounts. ARACHNE can also be used for the assessment of ERDF support.</p> <p>Companies against which a claim is pending</p> <p>In each application form, the applicant is asked whether there is an outstanding recovery order against the undertaking concerned. This declaration by the applicant is mainly supported by the managing authority.</p> <p>Given the very low number of recoveries, a pragmatic approach is chosen. This includes the Interdepartmental Support to Overleg (ISO). Once the ISO has been informed</p>

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							about a recovery order, the managing authorities can be informed about this.
			Yes	2. Through access to expert advice and guidance on State aid matters, provided by State aid experts of local or national bodies.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-departmental agreements 2017 (in particular agreement 11), https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0040099/2017-10-21 • State Aid Coordination Point: https://europadecentraal.nl/coordinatiepunt-staatssteun/ 	<p>In 2017, the interdepartmental state aid agreements were updated in the Netherlands. Agreement 11 describes the tasks of the Interdepartmental Support to Overleg (ISO). It is stipulated, inter alia, that the ISO may, upon request, give opinions on State aid issues to ministries, local and regional authorities, inter-departmental bodies or parts thereof. Where appropriate, the ISO will consult with other committees within the National Service responsible for providing legal advice, such as, for example, the Interdepartmental Committee on European Law (ICER).</p> <p>This ensures that managing authorities have access to advice from state aid experts at national level.</p> <p>Furthermore, the National Centre of Excellence “Europa Decentraal” has set up the State Aid Coordination Point (CPS) and supports local and regional authorities in making notifications.</p>
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights			Yes	<p>Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include:</p> <p>1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. • Establishment and task of the College for Human Rights (CvRM): Institute for Human Rights Act, https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0030733/2020-01-01 • Explanatory memorandum to the College of Human Rights Act (see in 	<p>The Netherlands uses Annex III, Guidance on compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including in the following processes:</p> <p>1. the managing authority, when drawing up and applying selection criteria, providing information on operations, informing potential beneficiaries and maintaining and providing access to the list of operations</p>

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						<p>particular section 3.1. mandate and reference to the Charter): https://mensenrechten.nl/nl/memorie-van-toelichting-op-wet-college-voor-de-rechten-van-de-mens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Administrative Law Act • Act of the National Ombudsman <p>More details in annex.</p>	<p>2. the Supervisory Committee when approving the project selection criteria and examining and approving the final report.</p> <p>3. The audit authority when carrying out audits.</p> <p>A representative of the SC or a similar organisation shall sit in the Supervisory Committees. This paragraph has the role of focusing on compliance with the Charter both in programme implementation, evaluation and closure.</p> <p>In the design of the programmes, civil society has been given the opportunity to reflect on compliance with the Charter.</p> <p>More details in annex.</p>
				<p>2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint procedure College for Human Rights (CvRM): https://mensenrechten.nl/nl/college-voor-jou • Establishment and task of the College of Human Rights: Institute for Human Rights Act • Explanatory memorandum to the College of Human Rights Act (Article 3.1). Terms of Reference) • Objection and appeal against a decision of the public authority • General Administrative Law Act • Act of the National Ombudsman <p>More details in annex.</p>	<p>Non-conformity: If non-conformity of supported operations is identified by the managing authority, audit authority or other competent authorities during control work, this is reported to the SC, e.g. as part of annual control reports. It also indicates which (corrective) actions are (to be) taken.</p> <p>Complaints about non-compliance with the Charter can be submitted to different bodies. The SC is at the heart of complaints concerning Charter rights.</p> <p>The managing authority, as the administrative body responsible, informs the SC of any complaints received as well as the handling (corrective actions) thereof.</p>

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							In all CVTS, there is also a representative (e.g. from the CvRM) who is responsible, among other things, for compliance with the Charter. This member has the role to actively query the managing authority about compliance with the Charter in the programme. Once a year, Tenministe is put on the agenda of the SC. More details in annex.
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC			Yes	A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes: 1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Convention (ratification NL June 2016) • Reporting on compliance with the UN Disability Convention in the Netherlands • Act on equal treatment on grounds of disability or chronic illness • Act on Banking Agreement/Quota Act, Knowledge Document Spring 2020. • Unlimited Meedo (programme) • 2020 Parliamentary letter on indicators of the Onrestricted Meedo programme! • Final report Unrestricted! 2018-2021 • Programme Everyone en route • Report on Overview of Inclusion (2018) • College of Human Rights Act • Explanatory memorandum to the College of Human Rights Act <p>More details in annex.</p>	In June 2016, the Netherlands ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Government, in consultation with persons with disabilities and organisations involved in the implementation of the UN Convention, has set up the ‘Unrestricted Meedo’ programme. This is an elaboration of the UN Convention and includes concrete goals and a timeline for the planned activities. Once a year, progress is reported to the House of Representatives, with the objectives achieved being reported in defined indicators. These reports shall also be reported to the UN Committee. The programme is in line with Dutch legislation, which states that the government has a role to play in promoting sufficient employment, including for people with disabilities. In the Act on Equal Treatment on the basis of disability and chronic illness, the UN Convention was developed by law. In addition, since 2015, the

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							<p>Banenovereenkomst en Quota Act (Wet Banenverkingen en Quotumwet) has also been in place, and in 2019 the ‘All en route’ programme was introduced.</p> <p>The College for Human Rights also regularly publishes investigative reports, such as ‘View in Inclusion’ (2018).</p>
				<p>2. Arrangements to ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary decision on digital accessibility of public administration • Unlimited Meedo (programme) • Establishment and task of the College of Human Rights: College of Human Rights Act, Explanatory Memorandum to the College of Human Rights Act <p>More details in annex.</p>	<p>The Temporary Decree on Digital Accessibility Government requires public sites to comply with accessibility requirements as laid down in EN 301 549/WCAG 2.1 and to take responsibility in a published accessibility statement to meet accessibility requirements.</p> <p>Public consultations were also carried out during the 2021-27 programme preparation to monitor the requirements.</p> <p>In programmes that are more targeted at individual beneficiaries (e.g. ESF +), expertise is actively involved in programme preparation and also implementation.</p> <p>Targeted training supports programme authorities as well as beneficiaries to meet the requirements.</p> <p>See also the ‘Unrestricted Meedo’ programme as described under criterion 1. This programme focuses on all the requirements of the Convention.</p> <p>In addition, the College for Human Rights or a similar organisation as a member of the Supervisory Committee will ensure that the Convention is respected during programme</p>

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							implementation. More details in annex.
				3. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints procedure College of Human Rights: https://mensenrechten.nl/nl/college-voor-jou Establishment and task of the College of Human Rights: Wet College voor de rechten van de mens, Memorie van toelichting op Wet College voor de Rechten van de Mens Objection and appeal procedure general: Objection and appeal against a decision of the Government Brochure Rijksoverheid.nl General Administrative Law Act Act of the National Ombudsman <p>More details in annex.</p>	<p>Non-conformity: If non-conformity of supported operations is identified by the managing authority, audit authority or other competent authorities during control work, this is reported to the SC, e.g. as part of annual control reports. It also indicates which (corrective) actions are (to be) taken, e.g. a proportional reduction of the grant.</p> <p>Complaints: Complaints about non-compliance with the Convention may be submitted to different bodies. The managing authority, as a distinct administrative body, informs the SC of any complaints received as well as the handling (corrective actions) thereof.</p> <p>There is a representative in all CVTS who, among other things, has responsibility for compliance with the UN Convention. This member has the role of actively searching the managing authority for compliance with the UN Convention in the programme. At least once a year, the issue of complaints and non-conformity shall be put on the agenda of the SC.</p> <p>More details in annex.</p>
1.1. Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation	ERDF	RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing	Yes	Smart specialisation strategy or strategies shall be supported by: 1. Up-to-date analysis of challenges for innovation	Yes	RIS3 Zuid-Nederland 2021-2027 (https://www.stimulus.nl/programmaperiode-2021-2027/)	The RIS provides an analysis of the economic strength of key enabling technologies in South Netherlands. The challenge lies in valorisation: allow innovations to reach the market. SMEs

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
strategy		research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies		diffusion and digitalisation.			play a crucial role in this. With a focus on removing barriers to scale-up, the RIS3 offers opportunities to have sufficient added value. The “Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2019” indicates a relative weakness in R & D spending. In addition, South Netherlands is strategically located in western Europe bordering Belgium and Germany and centrally between a number of metropolitan areas. Mr Boschma’s investigation will focus on a benchmark with other regions and how (international) cooperation can strengthen the region. In the approach, the South Netherlands is focusing on innovation promotion and economic strengthening and a clear contribution to the societal transitions where digitalisation is an important enabler.
				2. Existence of competent regional or national institution or body, responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy.	Yes	RIS3 Zuid-Nederland 2021-2027 (https://www.stimulus.nl/programmaperiode-2021-2027/)	The responsibility for implementation will be formally assumed by the province of North Brabant as managing authority of the OPZuid. Periodic consultations will take place with the Province of Zeeland and Limburg. The Preparatory Group has been set up for this purpose. The provinces concerned are represented and critically follow Stimulus’s work and proposals before they are submitted to the Provincial Executive. The monitoring, updating and continuation of the EDP will be carried out concretely by Stimulus programme management. The capacity is in order and has experience in keeping the regional innovation strategy in order. Stimulus has a relevant network

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							(composed of knowledge institutions, business and civil society organisations) to follow this EDP process. In order to organise the input from the field and keep the RIS dynamic, regular consultations with ENSouth and coordination with other stakeholders will take place.
				3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy.	Yes	RIS3 Zuid-Nederland 2021-2027 (https://www.stimulus.nl/programmaperiode-2021-2027/)	MA South uses periodic monitoring which is also used for evaluations. In addition to continuing the monitor from the previous programme period, a more specific monitor will be set up using the relatedness model. In addition, a monitor is being developed to monitor societal impact. Stakeholders are involved at the forefront of each evaluation, information is collected from them during the evaluation and then they are involved in discussing the results and possible consequences for the programme. The input is provided by monitoring whether South is spending the funds in line with the objectives of RIS3. In this process, it is important that stakeholders are involved at various levels. Existing bodies (SC members, Steering Committee and Expert Committee) in OPSouth Governance will have a role to play in this process as well as new collaborations such as ENSouth and the other Triplehelix organisations in South as mentioned in RIS3.
				4. Functioning of stakeholder cooperation (“entrepreneurial discovery process”).	Yes	RIS3 Zuid-Nederland 2021-2027 (https://www.stimulus.nl/programmaperiode-2021-2027/)	Southern Netherlands is characterised by the culture of cooperation and putting the tradition of knowledge into practice.

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							<p>The region has a fully-fledged innovation infrastructure that works together and promotes innovation. Triple-helix network organisations and development companies are active in the region. The South also has strong campuses where knowledge institutions and businesses come together and work on innovation. We would like to use these existing relevant structures in the EDP (see Annex 4 RIS3). Data subjects shall be identified by using the already known stakeholders involved in the previous processes. In addition, we will always be open to new stakeholders. These can be identified, inter alia, from the project proposers within the various programmes, and the first line of stakeholders is also asked for unusual suspects from that network.</p>
				<p>5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems, where relevant.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>RIS3 Zuid-Nederland 2021-2027 (https://www.stimulus.nl/programmaperiode-2021-2027/)</p>	<p>In South, there is a well-functioning innovation system. It could be even better. One of the EC's recommendations to the Netherlands is to increase spending on R & D and promote the development of interregional value chains. The latter is now explicitly included as one of the ambitions in the South RIS3. By responding to the RIS3 priorities and KIAs, we expect to be able to optimise the flow of national resources and resources from other public authorities, and to encourage investment by companies. Quadruplehelix parties present (triple helix plus civil cooperatives/civil society) are encouraged to cooperate even more</p>

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							together to market innovation. The commitment to ‘open-minded innovation’, with strong cross-border links, reinforces the innovation chain and ensures that knowledge from outside the south is deployed and vice versa. Improved governance and continuous EDP also strengthens the innovation system
				6. Where relevant, actions to support industrial transition.	Yes	RIS3 Zuid-Nederland 2021-2027 (https://www.stimulus.nl/programmaperiode-2021-2027/)	The RIS3 developed the industrial strength of Southern Netherlands in combination with the region’s good starting position in KETs. However, the identified transitions still pose major challenges to the industrial transition. It is precisely the RIS that contains many examples of this. The focus is on technological development with a view to societal impact. For example, there are opportunities in South for improving and scaling up conventional sustainable techniques (wind and sun and, by extension, green hydrogen) that are already well available, as well as techniques that are still under development throughout the 5 transitions. Innovation is supported by the programmes if it has a substantial energy potential and offers opportunities outside the South Netherlands.
				7. Measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation strategy.	Yes	RIS3 Zuid-Nederland 2021-2027 (https://www.stimulus.nl/programmaperiode-2021-2027/)	South the Netherlands is a region with an international orientation. In this interregional perspective, various opportunities for Southern Netherlands in terms of industrial renewal, key enabling technologies and other themes within the transitions are promoted,

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							including through the European thematic Smart Specialisation platforms. The RIS has identified international role and its opportunities in various places. The main opportunity this RIS is responding to is the international nature of the transitions and the related international market opportunities. Vanguard deployed on HTSM, Biobased and Maintenance. An important element of the strategy is to innovate “openly”, looking beyond the borders of Southern Netherlands, by establishing, strengthening and exploiting partnerships with partners at home and abroad.
2.2. Governance of the energy sector	ERDF	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	Yes	The integrated national energy and climate plan is notified to the Commission, in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and consistent with the long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives under the Paris Agreement, which includes: 1. All elements required by the template set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.	Yes	Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (2019, see: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/binaries/rijksoverheid/documenten/rapporten/2019/11/01/integraal-nationaal-energie-en-klimaatplan/integraal-nationaal-energie-en-klimaatplan.pdf) Methodology document Energy savings (see https://english.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2020/07/EED-Methodedocument-energiebesparing.pdf)	The Annex has been used for the classification of the INEK. 1. Sectoral trajectories Electricity The target for renewable electricity generation is at least 2 030 TWh of offshore wind and 49 TWh of onshore renewable sources by 35, in addition to 7 TWh of small-scale generation. As a result, at least 70 % of electricity consumption is expected to be renewable in 2030. Heating and cooling The ambition is to gradually reduce CO2 emissions from heating, for example, buildings to 0 by 2050.

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							<p>Mobility</p> <p>The aim is to create a mobility system in which, ultimately, all passenger and freight transport and mobility in construction are zero emissions.</p> <p>2. objectives for diversification of energy supply</p> <p>NL has not set numerical targets specifically for diversification, but targets for renewable energy that also lead to diversification of energy sources and suppliers. In qualitative terms, NL also has a policy for diversifying gas suppliers.</p> <p>3. methods for the implementation of Article 7 EED</p> <p>The methodologies described are detailed in the Energy Savings Methodology Document.</p> <p>More details in annex.</p>
				2. An outline of envisaged financial resources and mechanisms for measures promoting low-carbon energy.	Yes	Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (2019, see: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/binaries/rijksoverheid/documenten/rapporten/2019/11/01/integraal-nationaal-energie-en-klimaatplan/integraal-nationaal-energie-en-klimaatplan.pdf)	In the assessment, the EC indicates that the plan reflects a rather complete assessment of investment needs and that the authorities have explicitly assessed how to mobilise the necessary resources. In the plan itself, the overview is not very detailed and the quantitative information is often missing. This is mainly due to the instruments chosen

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							(regulation and fiscal measures) which should lead to the desired result. The justification for this is provided in the CPB's underlying analysis (see https://www.cpb.nl/sites/default/files/omnidownload/CPB-Notitie-1nov2019-Doorrekening-Klimaataakkoord.pdf).
2.3. Effective promotion of the use of renewable energy across sectors and across the EU	ERDF	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	Yes	Measures are in place which ensure: 1. Compliance with the 2020 binding national renewable energy target and with this share of renewable energy as a baseline up to 2030 or having taken additional measures in case the baseline is not maintained over any one-year period in accordance with the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.	Yes	Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (2019, see: link) National Regional Energy Strategy Programme (see link) Programme Start Interadministratie Programme (IBP) Ministry of BZK (2018, see link) More details in annex.	Renewable energy – promotion of use – according to the INEK, the EC considers that 26 % is a reasonable target for NL (EU target of 32 %) and NL shows the ambition to achieve a 27 % share. PBL estimates that all measures reach 30-32 % (INEK p. 10). These challenges are covered by the National Regional Energy Strategy Programme based on regional energy strategies, which include the concrete programmes and actions for each region. In 2020, the final share of renewable energy in the Netherlands was 11.5 %. The target for the Netherlands in 2020 was 14 %. Through statistical transfer of green electricity from Denmark, the Netherlands reached 202 014 % in 2020. The share of renewable energy in 2023 is estimated by PBL (Climate and Energy Outlook 2021) at 16.2 %. This achieves the 2013 National Energy Agreement target of 16 % renewable energy by 2023. In addition, the Netherlands is almost on track for the indicative trajectory set out in the INEK.
				2. In accordance with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and Regulation (EU)	Yes	Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (2019, see:	The INEK announced a wide range of financial (see e.g. 3.1.2.) and non-financial (see e.g. 3.2.) measures to

Enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				2018/1999, an increase of the share of renewable energy in the heating and cooling sector in line with Article 23 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.		<p>link)</p> <p>Progress report on Energy from renewable sources in the Netherlands 2017-2018. RVO (see link)</p> <p>More details in annex.</p>	<p>increase the share of renewable energy in the heating and cooling sector.</p> <p>The increase in the share of renewable energy in heating and cooling (as part of the RE Directive) is monitored every two years. In 2015 and 2016 (2018 reporting) it was 5.5 %. In 2017 en 2018 resp. 5,7 en 6,1% (rapportage eind 2019; see also on page 11 et seq., a comprehensive overview of measures taken and/or planned to promote the growth of energy from renewable sources.</p> <p>The INEK has not yet reflected a number of developments in recent years and the coalition agreement of 2021 of the new government. This has led to additional measures. In doing so, the Netherlands expects to meet the objective of RED Article 23.</p> <p>More details in annex.</p>

5. Programme authorities

Reference: point (k) of Article 22(3) and Articles 71 and 84 CPR

Table 13: Programme authorities

Programme authorities	Name of the institution	Contact name	Position	Email
Managing authority	Provincie Noord Brabant	Nadine Gooijers	Programme Director European Programmes	Ngooijers@brabant.nl
Audit authority	Ministerie van Financiën	Shams Arya	ERDF project leader, Central Government Audit Service	s.arya@minfin.nl
Body which receives payments from the Commission	Provincie Noord Brabant	Marlies Vos	Head of Stimulus	M.vos@stimulus.nl

The repartition of the reimbursed amounts for technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR if more bodies are identified to receive payments from the Commission

Reference: Article 22(3) CPR

Table 13A: The portion of the percentages set out in point (b) of Article 36(5) CPR that would be reimbursed to the bodies which receive payments from the Commission in case of technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR (in percentage points)

6. Partnership

Reference: point (h) of Article 22(3) CPR

Several partners in the South Netherlands and beyond are involved in the preparation of the ERDF programme; they will also continue to be involved in the implementation of the programme. These partners have been nominated from the stakeholders. On the basis of this nomination, we will consider, for each forum or procedural step, whether the representative is actually involved.

Involvement in preparation

RIS3 is an important substantive starting point for this programme. In the RIS3 pathway, relevant partners are involved in multiple ways and an extensive Entrepreneurial Discovery Process has been run. In this process, discussions were held and working sessions organised with some 40 parties in the South Netherlands. These include SMEs (renowned companies as well as “unusual suspects”), educational, knowledge and campus institutions, triplehelix organisations, regional development agencies, municipalities, the three southern Dutch provinces and civil society parties and institutions. A representative has been nominated from these stakeholders. Three meetings with an external monitoring group were also held on the RIS3 main line. Universities, colleges, business (employers ‘and industry’ organisations), local authorities and other institutions are represented. Finally, the official preparatory group (consisting of official representatives of the three provinces and Stimulus) has regularly discussed the content of the RIS3 with the other parts of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK) (‘quartiermakersconsultatie’), the EC and the managing authorities in Flanders and North Rhine-Westphalia.

Even after the adoption of the RIS3 and when drawing up the ERDF programme for Zuid-Nederland, the official preparatory group involved the relevant partners in Zuid-Nederland and beyond. First, there was an online consultation round in which partners were able to provide input for the elaboration of the ERDF programme. Interviews were held with:

- (1) Triplehelix organisations in South Netherlands: In a conversation, representatives of Industriebank LIOF, Brabantse Ontwikkelings Maatschappij (BOM), REWIN (also on behalf of partners in ENZuid) and Economics Impuls Zeeland were asked to provide input for the ERDF programme.
- (2) knowledge institutions: Key partners were consulted for the preparation of the ERDF programme, including representatives of Zeeland Campus, Brightland Campus and TU Eindhoven.
- (3) public authorities: Interviewed representatives of municipalities (municipality of Terneuzen, Venlo and 's-Hertogenbosch), provinces (Limburg, Zeeland and Noord-Brabant) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.
- (4) civil society: Civil society stakeholders are involved. Representatives of Maastricht School of Management, RVO, Health Holland/top sector Life Science and Health and the Limburgse Employers Association were able to contribute to discussions and discussions on the ERDF programme.
- 5) provinces + Kingdom: Internal administrative coordination within the three southern provinces and with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy on the connection with the other national ERDF programmes and innovation policy at national level.

As a result, the guidance group – in the same composition as for the drafting of the RIS3 – met online at 2 times. It shared the results of the consultation and held an exchange of views on the further development of the programme. A draft version of this ERDF programme was also shared with the guidance group, collecting additional feedback. In addition, a draft version of this ERDF programme has been submitted online to the general public for consultation via Stimulus’s communication channels. The results of the various discussions and discussions have been used in the preparation of this ERDF programme.

Involvement in implementation

Partners will also continue to be involved during implementation. The following bodies are involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme:

- Programme Secretariat Stimulus
- Supervisory Committee
- Steering Committee
- OPZuid Consultative Commission 2021-2027

The decision establishing the SC, the Steering Committee and the Expert Committee shall be public, thus including the members of the SC and the Steering Committee and the permanent members of the Expert Committee.

Programme secretariat: Stimulus

For the implementation of OPZuid 2021-2027, the programme secretariat is – as in 2014-2020 – invested in Stimulus Programme Management. Incentive guides project proposers in the preparation of their applications and the implementation of approved projects, monitors the financial and content-related progress of the programme, and ensures the communication and publicity of the programme. Stimulus is part of the province of North Brabant and manages several European, national and regional subsidy programmes and funds in the South Netherlands.

Monitoring Committee (CvT)

In the implementation of the ERDF programme, work is carried out with a SC with a supervisory role. The SC shall ensure the proper implementation of the programme: it evaluates the implementation and progress of the programme and gives its opinion on amendments to the programme proposed by the Managing Authority (Province of North Brabant). This Committee shall retain the same composition and function as in the 2014-2020 programming period and shall be composed of representatives of:

- Commissioner of the King Province of Zeeland (Chair)
- Employers' representative
- Workers' representative
- City representative
- Representative of knowledge institutions
- Representative of environmental organisations
- Provincial representative
- Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
- Civil Society

Steering Group

As in the 2014-2020 programming period, there will be a single Steering Committee for the implementation of the ERDF programme for Zuid-Nederland, with representatives of triple helix organisations, knowledge institutions, the central government and provincial and local authorities. Its task is to monitor the implementation of the programme strategically and substantively and to provide the SC with advice on the strategic and content-related direction of the programme, both when requested and unsolicited. This may include changes or emphasis in programme implementation or programme management. The Steering Group thus has a content-strategic steering function. Partners who have played an important role in the establishment of the RIS3 and the ERDF programme 2021-2027 are also involved

in the strategic decision making on programming.

AOPZuid Advisory Committee 2021-2027

An expert group of independent experts in the fields of the ERDF programme will carry out the substantive and possibly comparative assessment of project applications. After applications have been tested by Stimulus for completeness and appropriateness within the ERDF programme, the expert committee assesses the quality of applications and gives an important opinion to the awarding authority on the basis of the qualitative ranking of applications.

The criteria for the selection of experts in the committee are:

- Independence: no involvement with applicants.
- Expertise: substantive expertise in the field (s) of the programme.

The expert committee shall be appointed by the managing authority on the advice of the SC. The composition changes compared to the 2014-2020 programme period, reflecting the substantive changes in the 2021-2027 programme compared to the previous period.

Monitoring societal impact

In the selection, monitoring and accountability of projects, the social impact within the 5 transitions is explicitly taken into account in the ERDF programme. In doing so, we look at both the direct social impact of projects and the potential for indirect impact (later, elsewhere). To this end, Zuid-Nederland – in parallel with the ERDF programme Zuid Nederland – is working on its own monitoring system, looking at both quantitative and qualitative aspects. In doing so, we look beyond the formal monitoring in the ERDF framework.

Code of Conduct on Partnership

The Code of Conduct on Partnership (Regulation (EU) No 240/2014) has been respected. This is expressed in the following way:

- There is transparency about which partners have been consulted in the preparation (see separate annex in RIS3 and this chapter of the ERDF programme) and in the implementation (Stimulus website and the future website for the ERDF programme 2021-2027).
- Partners are provided with sufficient information and have had sufficient time to respond to the consultation.
- Partners are involved in all phases: programme preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Supporting capacity building of partners: in the RIS3 and in the ERDF programme, it was found that Zuid-Nederland has a strong ‘innovation infrastructure’ and partnerships. Partners, through the SC, the Steering Committee and the Expert Committee, continued to be well placed to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. There is little evidence of capacity building in the broad sense. However, Stimulus programme management focuses on targeted support and training for potential applicants, including new target groups (e.g. citizens’ cooperatives and other parties in ‘civil society’). This includes information sessions, workshops, events, online information and other communication tools (see also Chapter 7).
- Platforms to learn and exchange good practices: in addition to the Expert Committee, a group of “experience experts” (applicants from the last programme period) is consulted informally at the beginning of the 2021-2027 programme period and during implementation.

7. Communication and visibility

Reference: point (j) of Article 22(3) CPR

Audiences

1. (Potential) beneficiaries

- SMEs in the top three layers of the innovation pyramid: frontrunners, developers and implementers.
- SME consortia with:
 - Knowledge and research institutions (MBO, HBO and WO)
 - Civil society organisations/civil society
 - Sectoral/cluster organisations
 - Regional partnerships, networks, associations and cooperatives in the field of innovation

2. Stakeholders

- MOM
- South NL provinces (GS, PS and management)
- Triple and quadruple helix organisations and ROMs
- Urban network
- Rich
- EC
- SC
- Committee of Experts
- Steering Group

3. Public audiences

- Politics (decision-makers at lokaal-regional-country – European level).
- General public. Profile: 35-55 years old, effective, highly educated, posif-critical.

Communication objectives

Communication shall contribute to wide accessibility of the Programme and shall make the effects of the Programme visible. The objectives by target group:

1. (Potential) beneficiaries

- Motivate to develop good project proposals
- Informing and advising on grant opportunities and project administration
- Provide transparency for policies, processes and decision-making
- Enthusiasm to communicate about the project

The EC Regulation describes the importance of communicating on projects. In doing so, a role for the beneficiaries is explicitly indicated. MAs and beneficiaries will engage more together in communicating projects, making the message stronger. Particular attention will be paid to making complex and abstract

innovations understandable.

2. Stakeholders

- Inform and involve in the programme
- Informing about progress, results and added value of the programme

3. Public audiences

- Inform about the impact of the deployment of EU money
- Inform about regional cooperation on a South Dutch scale

To achieve these objectives, EUR 1.8 million (to be financed from technical assistance and own resources) is earmarked for the entire programme period.

Strategic or high-impact projects

Public audiences often have little knowledge about the results of European programmes and the impact on our society. This is why South showcases strategic “iconic” projects and projects with high societal impact among the general public, including issuemaking combined with a cross-media campaign. These are, for example, projects with a clear local impact, leading to visible innovations in the south and beyond and where new forms of cooperation are visible.

National cooperation

To strengthen the impact of our communication efforts among public audiences, cooperation is taking place at Member State level under the umbrella of Europe for the Hoek. All ESI programmes are represented, as well as relevant ministries, RVO, EC Permanent Representation and Europe Direct Network. The authority is at the Ministry of EZK. We put projects and end users at the centre of joint communication on results, as it enhances the credibility of our message. In communication with public audiences, the distinction between the different funds is not relevant. We communicate about “Europe” or “European funds”.

Communication channels: cross media approach

1. Programme website

The main source of information for all target groups. The website shall be set up in such a way that information for (potential) beneficiaries and intermediaries is quickly findable, understandable and up-to-date and projects are clearly visible.

2. Online media

- Paid and unpaid exposure via social media: LinkedIn, twitter, facebook and Instagram
- Public version of the annual report
- Digital newsletter
- External channels of programme partners, Europe around the Hoek and EC
- Webinars

3. Events

- Missions

· Publication moments

· Media campaigns

4. Print media

· Factsheets on openings

· Adverorials in relevant sheets

· Articles and press releases

Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of communication:

- Number of participants in information and other meetings and qualitative feedback, including evaluation forms.
- Number of visitors to the programme website and europa.eu:
- Followers, outreach and interaction on our social media channels.
- Customer satisfaction survey over the lifetime.
- Print and outreach in print and media campaigns.
- The number of press releases.

Contact

Germa Koolen, communicatie@stimulus.nl

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 CPR

Table 14: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Category of region	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
					Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			
1	ERDF	RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	More developed	32.00%	009. Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	SCO 1; standard hourly rate of EUR 60		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	60
1	ERDF	RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	More developed	7.80%	009. Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	SCO 2; standard hourly rate of EUR 73		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	73
1	ERDF	RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	More developed	7.80%	009. Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	SCO 3; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 8600		Months declared	months	Unit cost	8600
1	ERDF	RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	More developed	2.00%	009. Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	SCO 4; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 10400		Months declared	months	Unit cost	10400
1	ERDF	RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	More developed	0.40%	009. Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including	SCO 5: Surcharge for third party costs below EUR 250		Other costs declared by third parties exceeding EUR 250 per invoice	EURO	Flat rate	1

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Category of region	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
					Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			
						networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)					
2	ERDF	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	More developed	32.00%	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	SCO 1; standard hourly rate of EUR 60		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	60
2	ERDF	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	More developed	7.80%	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	SCO 2; standard hourly rate of EUR 73		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	73
2	ERDF	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	More developed	7.80%	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	SCO 3; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 8600		Months declared	months	Unit cost	8600
2	ERDF	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	More developed	2.00%	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation	SCO 4; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 10400		Months declared	months	Unit cost	10400

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Category of region	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
					Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			
						between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change					
2	ERDF	RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	More developed	0.40%	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	SCO 5: Surcharge for third party costs below EUR 250		Other costs declared by third parties exceeding EUR 250 per invoice	EURO	Flat rate	1
2	ERDF	RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E	More developed	32.00%	053. Smart Energy Systems (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage	SCO 1; standard hourly rate of EUR 60		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	60
2	ERDF	RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E	More developed	7.80%	053. Smart Energy Systems (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage	SCO 2; standard hourly rate of EUR 73		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	73
2	ERDF	RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E	More developed	7.80%	053. Smart Energy Systems (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage	SCO 3; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 8600		Months declared	months	Unit cost	8600
2	ERDF	RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E	More developed	2.00%	053. Smart Energy Systems (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage	SCO 4; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 10400		Months declared	months	Unit cost	10400
2	ERDF	RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E	More developed	0.40%	053. Smart Energy Systems (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage	SCO 5: Surcharge for third party costs below EUR 250		Other costs declared by third parties exceeding EUR 250 per invoice	EURO	Flat rate	1
3	ERDF	RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial	More developed	32.00%	010. Research	SCO 1; standard		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	60

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Category of region	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
					Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			
		capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature			and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	hourly rate of EUR 60					
3	ERDF	RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature	More developed	7.80%	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	SCO 2; standard hourly rate of EUR 73		Hours declared	number of hours	Unit cost	73
3	ERDF	RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature	More developed	7.80%	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	SCO 3; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 8600		Months declared	months	Unit cost	8600
3	ERDF	RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature	More developed	2.00%	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	SCO 4; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 10400		Months declared	months	Unit cost	10400
3	ERDF	RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature	More developed	0.40%	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	SCO 5: Surcharge for third party costs below EUR 250		Other costs declared by third parties exceeding EUR 250 per invoice	EURO	Flat rate	1

(1) This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I to the CPR and the Annex IV to the EMFAF regulation

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

B. Details by type of operation

Operation type short title	SCO 1; standard hourly rate of EUR 60
The managing authority received support from an external company to set out the simplified costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of external company	nvt
1. Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation (1)	<p>This SCO is widely used for types of projects to be defined as development projects. In Table A, the description for the picture focuses on development projects corresponding to the main category of intervention by specific objective, but also for the other categories of intervention, the development projects and thus the SCO concerned apply to the same extent.</p> <p>Development projects are characterised by the type of activities and mainly consist of personnel costs of the project partners. These are projects where a product, service or process is developed, further developed, demonstrated or tested in a pilot situation. Or collaborative projects aimed at strengthening the innovation ecosystem. They are therefore not investment projects or investments in production. The duration of projects is variable, with most projects lasting on average between two and five years. The type of beneficiaries can be broad, but companies are the vast majority. All personnel costs, except those of knowledge institutions * using the national IKS system * *, of all projects qualifying as development projects within the programme, shall be covered by the first four types of SCO (SCO1 to SCO4 of this Appendix). Often there is a collaborative project in the chain. The type of staff employed is fairly similar in terms of level and remuneration, hence a sizeable historical dataset of the current ERDF programme also showed that average rates could be reached. HBO/WO usually employs skilled people for development work, both on the technical and the process side. Irrespective of the external investment, which is not covered by this standard price, the type of staff employed by beneficiaries is comparable in terms of work and thought. For all types of actions, this type of work involves the deployment of staff, in particular at HBO/WO level or similar level of work and thought. Other levels are not excluded; it is an indication that the level of staff employed for this type of project is often equivalent. The SCOs have been determined on the basis of the average human costs from the historical dataset. The wage</p>

	<p>costs of the organisations using IKS have not been taken into account. The dataset includes labour cost data from different types of organisations, such as SMEs and knowledge institutions, but also from foundations, public organisations and large companies. These forms of organisation will also implement the operations within the ERDF 2021-2027 programme. The operations are after the basic research phase and for standard application. This level of work and reflection is necessary in order to be able to address, with sufficient knowledge and expertise, both development and initial applications and the challenges they face. Based on the analysis of a large data set of historical data, this does not appear to differ between ERDF national parts. The classification of HBO/WO level by sector varies slightly, but not significantly. An average is therefore well defensible as a standard unit scale for personnel costs of this type of action. There is, however, a difference in investment in third party costs between the sectors. However, this scale does not cover this type of cost. It concerns only the internal wage costs of the staff assigned to development projects.</p> <p>* Institution of knowledge: a: higher education institution referred to in subsection (a), (b), (g) or (h) of the Annex to the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and an academic hospital as referred to in section j of the Annex to that Act; B. Non-profit research organisation, other than those referred to in point (a), in whole or in part, multiannual and non-profit-making research organisation that ANNEX</p>
<p>2. Specific objective(s)</p>	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E</p>
<p>12. Total amount (national and Union) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis</p>	<p>34,000,000.00</p>

Indicators

3. Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)	Hours declared
4. Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	number of hours
5. Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Unit cost
6. Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the SCO	60
7. Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	<p>Only labour costs (direct labour costs and a fixed mark-up for employers' reports + overheads) and own labour of beneficiaries/project partners. The fixed storage refers to overhead for the whole organisation.</p> <p>Note that this SCO may be present in combination with SCO3 within one operation. This means that staff costs of development projects within the same operation can be declared on the basis of SCO 1 (hourly rate) and on the basis of SCO 3 (monthly rate). These two SCOs are based on the same calculation and only differ from each other in terms of indicator triggering the payment (hours vs months) and therefore in terms of verification method (hour records vs employer's statement).</p> <p>Addition to question 8 below:</p> <p>No, only labour costs (direct labour costs and a fixed mark-up for employers' reports + overheads) and own labour of beneficiaries/project partners. The fixed storage refers to overhead for the whole organisation. Other costs, which are not part of this SCO, include labour costs of knowledge institutions with IKS, third party costs, land costs, in-kind contributions and depreciation costs.</p>
8. Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation?	No
9. Adjustment(s) method (3)	<p>The methodology shall not be adjusted during the programme period. The indexation has been taken into account in advance in the same way as the European Commission does when allocating resources to the ERDF programmes. The data analysed to arrive at an average hourly rate are based on the OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020. This concerns the dates up to the ACR 2020 of the current programme. As a result, the average rates declared are 2016 as a base year. The rates will be used in the period 2021 to 2029. In order to fix the rates for the entire programme once, account should</p>

	<p>be taken of the increase in labour costs over this period. As a result, the indexation of tariffs should take place until 2025. The indexation is therefore based on a nine-year period. In addition, the average size of employers' reports was also determined during the current OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020 and included in the calculation. The evolution of labour costs has been made clear on the basis of Statistics Netherlands (CBS) figures during the current OP-ERDF. The CBS figures show that the annual average indexation is 1.94 %. As a result, the nine-year indexation is expected to be 18.92 %. The average rate of EUR 44,41 is therefore indexed by 18.92 %. In addition, the average size of employers' reports has also been assessed on the basis of figures from the CBS. The average rate of EUR 44,41 refers to 32 % of employers' additions. Figures from the CBS show that the average social security contributions in the period 2014/2019 were 27.3 %. As a result, including holiday pay, the storage for workers was 37.5 % over the past programme period. For this reason, the average hourly rate based on the gross salary of EUR 44,41 is recognised, the size being 37.5 % for employers' addicts.</p> <p>With this amendment to Appendix 1, the fixed hourly rate is adjusted from EUR 55 to EUR 60 because the above indexation over nine years of 18.92 % – as incorporated in the fixed hourly rate – has been underestimated. The index rate has been redetermined as part of the Mid Term Evaluation on the basis of recent figures (up to October 2023) from the CBS and over the same nine-year period is: 29.67 %. With the processing of the current indexation rate, the hourly rate comes to EUR 60.</p>
<p>10. Verification of the achievement of the units delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered - describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications - describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store relevant data/documents 	<p>Verification of the number of hours recorded and declared in projects. Time records take place at personal level and are project related. These hours are authorised by the employee himself and by a second (authorised) person. This concerns only the hours recorded and declared which are justified as internal wage costs for beneficiaries. In order to substantiate the hour declaration, an authorised hour statement shall be provided in good time. Every six months, the management authority receives from the grant beneficiary the costs declared in the online system (Business Central). The managing authority checks, through the risk-based audit methodology based on Article 79 CPR, that the hours declared correspond to the underlying documents (project related signed hours). The underlying documents are stored in the online system (Business Central). If the</p>

	<p>hours declared correspond to the underlying documentation (and this documentation is project-related and signed on time), the unit price per hour is declared.</p>
<p>11. Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures(4) and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low)</p>	<p>Perverse use of the standard rate is not expected. The standard rate is lower than the average rates in national schemes (the commonly used EUR 60 rate of RVO). Although this national rate is not 100 % comparable to the unit price of EUR 55, this indicates that it is in line with the nationally used tariff. The unit price is EUR 55 lower (thus on the safe side) compared to the national EUR 60 rate. The risk of matching when participating in several projects remains the same compared to the current methodology of the 2014-2020 period and will be mitigated by additional checks (risk-based and also using data analysis) in line with the fraud assessment. In addition, the current methods (risk mitigation measures) remain in place. This risk of mitigating measures could include a capping of 1.720 hours per person per year in a declaration, or the self-declaration of beneficiaries would have allowed the same person to participate simultaneously in the same projects. Adjustments to the automated system for data analysis of individuals across the programmes are also foreseen.</p> <p>Counterproductive incentives could be that beneficiaries use low-skilled staff on projects, making the actual wage costs lower than the standard rate. However, the use of low-skilled staff could negatively affect the outcome of the project. Beneficiaries have no interest in this. It is possible that beneficiaries receive a higher remuneration based on a flat rate than on the basis of the current methodology (wage costs + a fixed mark-up). However, this is also the case vice versa. Based on the data analysis, there is no indication of over- or underfunding at global level. The fixed hourly rate is calculated on the basis of the average weighted hourly rate. If during the current programme the ERDF OP 2014-2020 were to declare the hours on the basis of the average rate for indexation (EUR 44,41), the overall deviation is well below 1 %. In the dataset, 58 % of the declared rates have a range between EUR 30 and EUR 60. The rates declared under EUR 30 concern 25 % of the dataset. This is compared to 17 % above EUR 60. Of this 25 %, 3 % are below the EUR 20 rate. It follows from the above that the majority of declarations are concentrated around the average hourly rate. The lower (below EUR 30) and higher (above EUR 60)</p>

rates are evenly distributed, with a negligible impact on the overall programme. If previous analysis is carried out at project level, 66 % of projects have a deviation = < EUR 50.000 should the average hourly rate for indexation (EUR 44,41) have been applied during the OP ERDF. The total chargeable costs at project level are significantly higher than EUR 50.000. It follows from the above that the majority of the hourly rates declared are around the average rate calculated, with the overall financial impact being negligible. The average hourly rate is comparable for the different parts of the country (West, South, East and North). Based on the normal distribution (around the average rate) and the size of the dataset, there are no indications of over- or underfunding. Due to the existence of a single rate for all beneficiaries, it is not possible for beneficiaries to send the level of the rate. The risk of abuse is therefore assessed to be low. In addition, the subsidy is almost always a percentage of the actual costs. In short, the grant beneficiaries do not receive 100 % of the actual costs. As a result, the probability is low that a grant based on a fixed hourly rate will lead to a grant exceeding the total actual project costs.

The focus remains the maximum number of hours that can be declared at annual level. (see Annex)

In the current OP ERDF, full employment (40-hour) assumes 1.720 productive hours per year at staff level. The weighted average hourly rate is therefore based on 1.720 hours. It is therefore not possible for a beneficiary to declare more than 1.720 hours per employee on an annual basis in the case of full employment. In the case of a part-time contract, the maximum hours to be declared should be calculated on a pro rata basis. Most importantly, the results of high-level development work, which are envisaged by a project, are not achieved with underqualified staff. Of course, the beneficiaries themselves have a very strong interest in bringing things to the market or successfully rolling out the project's objectives. This is also assessed by both the expert committee and the 1th line of auditors. The assessment is recorded in the application checklist.

B. Details by type of operation

Operation type short title	SCO 2; standard hourly rate of EUR 73
The managing authority received support from an	<input type="checkbox"/>

external company to set out the simplified costs	
Name of external company	nvt
1. Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation (1)	<p>This SCO is widely used for types of projects to be defined as development projects, which also incur costs other than personnel costs. In Table A, the description for the picture focuses on development projects corresponding to the main category of intervention by specific objective, but also for the other categories of intervention, the development projects and thus the SCO concerned apply to the same extent.</p> <p>Development projects are characterised by the type of activities and mainly consist of personnel costs of the project partners. All personnel costs, except those of knowledge institutions using the national IKS system *, of all projects qualifying as development projects within the programme shall be covered by the first four types of SCO (SCO1 to SCO4 of this Appendix). This SCO is based on the same calculation as the standard rate of EUR 55 (SCO1). For further substantiation, please refer to the justification under SCO1.</p> <p>The difference compared to SCO1 is that for this SCO a mark-up of 40 % over the standard hourly rate for the remaining eligible costs has been added. This is derived from Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No 2021/1060. The timeline is also the timeline of the programme, indexed to a validated method. It is important to stress that this unit scale (including mark-up of 40 %) covers all eligible costs of project implementers/beneficiaries, with the exception of the wage costs of knowledge institutions with approved IKS.</p> <p>The type of operations to which this SCO (standard rate of EUR 73) applies is the same as the SCO to which the standard rate of EUR 60 relates. The type of beneficiaries, the type of staff and the type of operations are the same. The rate of EUR 73 includes, in addition to direct and non-wage costs, other eligible costs. A mark-up of 40 % is taken into account using the standard EUR 60 rate. This 40 % discount is also a method that can be applied by beneficiaries in the current ERDF 2014-2020 OP. Beneficiaries are free to choose whether to use the EUR 73 rate. If this methodology is chosen, this means that all project partners within a project, except knowledge institutions with IKS, must use this methodology. For partners with IKS, no costs other</p>

	<p>than IKS wage costs are eligible.</p> <p>* IKS (Integrale Kostensysteemregeling) is an integral cost system approved by the Minister for allocating direct and indirect costs to cost carriers, such as working hours. Organisations that systematically use an IKS to allocate costs may request approval from the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) for the use of this system to calculate the eligible wage costs within subsidy projects. This is a system which is applied to national subsidies (Article 12 (1) of the Framework Decision on national EZK and LNV-subsidies) and which complies with Article 53 (3) (d) of Regulation 2021/1060. It is a system which was already in place in the previous programming period and therefore not new. Knowledge institutions with IKS approved by RVO justify their eligible labour costs not against the SCOs 1 to 4 listed in this Appendix, but on the basis of their own IKS rates.</p>
2. Specific objective(s)	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p> <p>RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature</p> <p>RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein</p> <p>RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E</p>
12. Total amount (national and Union) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis	8,500,000.00

Indicators

3. Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)	Hours declared
4. Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	number of hours
5. Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Unit cost
6. Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the SCO	73
7. Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Labour costs including own labour and other eligible costs of beneficiaries/project partners (direct and indirect), excluding the wage costs of beneficiaries with IKS.

	<p>Note that this SCO may be present in combination with SCO4 within one operation. This means that the total cost of development projects within the same operation can be declared on the basis of SCO2 (hourly rate) and on the basis of SCO4 (monthly rate). These two SCOs are based on the same calculation and only differ from each other in terms of indicator triggering the payment (hours vs months) and therefore in terms of verification method (hour records vs employer's statement). Project partners may therefore declare the costs for employee A on the basis of SCO2 (hourly rate with hourly registration) and for employee B on the basis of SCO4 (monthly rate with employer statement).</p> <p>Addition to question 8 below: Yes, if none of the beneficiaries incur IKS expenditure. Otherwise, the eligible expenditure of the operation also includes IKS wage costs.</p>
<p>8. Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>9. Adjustment(s) method (3)</p>	<p>The methodology shall not be adjusted during the programme period. The indexation has been taken into account in advance in the same way as the European Commission does when allocating resources to the ERDF programmes. The data analysed to arrive at an average hourly rate are based on the OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020. This concerns the dates up to the ACR 2020 of the current programme. As a result, the average rates declared are 2016 as a base year. The rates will be used in the period 2021 to 2029. In order to fix the rates for the entire programme once, account should be taken of the increase in labour costs over this period. As a result, the indexation of tariffs should take place until 2025. The indexation is therefore based on a nine-year period. In addition, the average size of employers' reports was also determined during the current OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020 and included in the calculation. The evolution of labour costs has been made clear on the basis of Statistics Netherlands (CBS) figures during the current OP-ERDF. The CBS figures show that the annual average indexation is 1.94 %. As a result, the nine-year indexation is expected to be 18.92 %. The average rate of EUR 44,41 is therefore indexed by 18.92 %. In addition, the average size of employers' reports has also been assessed on the basis of figures from the CBS. The average rate of EUR 44,41 refers to 32 % of employers' additions. Figures from the CBS show</p>

	<p>that the average social security contributions in the period 2014/2019 were 27.3 %. As a result, including holiday pay, the storage for workers was 37.5 % over the past programme period. For this reason, the average hourly rate based on the gross wage of EUR 44,41 is recognised, the size being 37.5 % for employers' addictions. The fixed mark-up for the 40 % is not indexed and Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No 2021/1060 is chosen.</p> <p>This amendment to Appendix 1 adjusts the fixed hourly rate of SCO1 from EUR 55 to EUR 60 because the above indexation over nine years of 18.92 % – as incorporated in the fixed hourly rate – is underestimated. The index rate has been redetermined as part of the Mid Term Evaluation on the basis of recent figures (up to October 2023) from the CBS and over the same nine-year period is: 29.67 %. With the processing of the current indexation rate, the hourly rate of SCO1 is EUR 60. This brings the hourly rate of SCO2 to EUR 73.</p>
<p>10. Verification of the achievement of the units delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered - describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications - describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store relevant data/documents 	<p>Verification of the number of hours recorded and declared in projects. Time records take place at personal level and are project related. These hours are authorised by the employee himself and by a second (authorised) person. This concerns only the hours recorded and declared which are justified as internal wage costs for beneficiaries. In order to substantiate the hour declaration, an authorised hour statement shall be provided in good time. Every six months, the management authority receives from the grant beneficiary the costs declared in the online system (Business Central). The managing authority checks, through the risk-based audit methodology based on Article 79 CPR, that the hours declared correspond to the underlying documents (project related signed hours). The underlying documents are stored in the online system (Business Central). If the hours declared correspond to the underlying documentation (and this documentation is project-related and signed on time), the unit price per hour is declared.</p>
<p>11. Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures(4) and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low)</p>	<p>Perverse use of the standard rate is not expected. The standard rate is lower than the average rates in national schemes (the commonly used EUR 60 rate of RVO). Although this national rate is not 100 % comparable to the unit price of EUR 55, this indicates that it is in line with the nationally used tariff. The unit price is EUR 55 lower (thus on the safe side) compared to the national EUR 60 rate. The risk of matching when participating in several projects remains the same compared to the current methodology of the 2014-2020 period and will be</p>

mitigated by additional checks (risk-based and also using data analysis) in line with the fraud assessment. In addition, the current methods (risk mitigation measures) remain in place. This risk of mitigating measures could include a capping of 1.720 hours per person per year in a declaration, or the self-declaration of beneficiaries would have allowed the same person to participate simultaneously in the same projects. Adjustments to the automated system for data analysis of individuals across the programmes are also foreseen.

Counterproductive incentives could be that beneficiaries use low-skilled staff on projects, making the actual wage costs lower than the standard rate. However, the use of low-skilled staff could negatively affect the outcome of the project. Beneficiaries have no interest in this. It is possible that beneficiaries receive a higher remuneration based on a flat rate than on the basis of the current methodology (wage costs + a fixed mark-up). However, this is also the case vice versa. Based on the data analysis, there is no indication of over- or underfunding at global level. The fixed hourly rate is calculated on the basis of the average weighted hourly rate. If during the current programme the ERDF OP 2014-2020 were to declare the hours on the basis of the average rate for indexation (EUR 44,41), the overall deviation is well below 1 %. In the dataset, 58 % of the declared rates have a range between EUR 30 and EUR 60. The rates declared under EUR 30 concern 25 % of the dataset. This is compared to 17 % above EUR 60. Of this 25 %, 3 % are below the EUR 20 rate. It follows from the above that the majority of declarations are concentrated around the average hourly rate. The lower (below EUR 30) and higher (above EUR 60) rates are evenly distributed, with a negligible impact on the overall programme. If previous analysis is carried out at project level, 66 % of projects have a deviation = < EUR 50.000 should the average hourly rate for indexation (EUR 44,41) have been applied during the OP ERDF. The total chargeable costs at project level are significantly higher than EUR 50.000. It follows from the above that the majority of the hourly rates declared are around the average rate calculated, with the overall financial impact being negligible. The average hourly rate is comparable for the different parts of the country (West, South, East and North). Based on the normal distribution (around the average rate) and the size of the dataset, there are no indications of over- or underfunding. Due to the existence of a single rate for all beneficiaries, it is not possible for beneficiaries to send the level of the rate.

	<p>The risk of abuse is therefore assessed to be low. In addition, the subsidy is almost always a percentage of the actual costs. In short, the grant beneficiaries do not receive 100 % of the actual costs. As a result, the probability is low that a grant based on a fixed hourly rate will lead to a grant exceeding the total actual project costs.</p> <p>The point of attention remains the maximum number of hours that can be declared at annual level.</p>
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B. Details by type of operation

Operation type short title	SCO 3; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 8600
The managing authority received support from an external company to set out the simplified costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of external company	nvt
1. Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation (1)	<p>This SCO is widely used for types of projects to be defined as development projects, which also incur costs other than personnel costs. In Table A, the description for the picture focuses on development projects corresponding to the main category of intervention by specific objective, but also for the other categories of intervention, the development projects and thus the SCO concerned apply to the same extent.</p> <p>Development projects are characterised by the type of activities and mainly consist of personnel costs of the project partners. All personnel costs, except those of knowledge institutions using the national IKS system *, of all projects qualifying as development projects within the programme shall be covered by the first four types of SCO (SCO1 to SCO4 of this Appendix). This SCO is based on the same calculation as the standard rate of EUR 60 (SCO1). For further substantiation, please refer to the justification under SCO1.</p> <p>The nature of the staff to be deployed during the 2021-2027 ERDF is similar to the current programme. The type of operations for this SCO based on a monthly rate is the same as the SCO mentioned above in relation to the hourly rate of EUR 60. The monthly rate was calculated on the basis of the fixed hourly rate of EUR 60.</p>

	<p>* IKS (Integrale Kostensysteemregeling) is an integral cost system approved by the Minister for allocating direct and indirect costs to cost carriers, such as working hours. Organisations that systematically use an IKS to allocate costs may request approval from the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) for the use of this system to calculate the eligible wage costs within subsidy projects. This is a system which is applied to national subsidies (Article 12 (1) of the Framework Decision on national EZK and LNV-subsidies) and which complies with Article 53 (3) (d) of Regulation 2021/1060. It is a system which was already in place in the previous programming period and therefore not new. Knowledge institutions with IKS approved by RVO justify their eligible labour costs not against the SCOs 1 to 4 listed in this Appendix, but on the basis of their own IKS rates.</p>
2. Specific objective(s)	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E</p>
12. Total amount (national and Union) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis	8,500,000.00

Indicators

3. Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)	Months declared
4. Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	months
5. Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Unit cost
6. Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the SCO	8600
7. Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Only labour costs (direct labour costs and a fixed mark-up for employers' reports + overheads) and own labour of beneficiaries/project partners. The fixed storage refers to overhead for the whole organisation.

	<p>Note that this SCO may be present in combination with SCO1 within one operation. This means that staff costs of development projects within the same operation can be declared on the basis of SCO 1 (hourly rate) and on the basis of SCO 3 (monthly rate). These two SCOs are based on the same calculation and only differ from each other in terms of indicator triggering the payment (hours vs months) and therefore in terms of verification method (hour records vs employer's statement).</p> <p>Addition to question 8 below:</p> <p>No, only labour costs (direct labour costs and a fixed mark-up for employers' reports + overheads) and own labour of beneficiaries/project partners. The fixed storage refers to overhead for the whole organisation. Other costs, which are not part of this SCO, include labour costs of knowledge institutions with IKS, third party costs, land costs, in-kind contributions and depreciation costs.</p>
<p>8. Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>9. Adjustment(s) method (3)</p>	<p>The methodology shall not be adjusted during the programme period. The indexation has been taken into account in advance in the same way as the European Commission does when allocating resources to the ERDF programmes. The data analysed to arrive at an average hourly rate are based on the OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020. This concerns the dates up to the ACR 2020 of the current programme. As a result, the average rates declared are 2016 as a base year. The rates will be used in the period 2021 to 2029. In order to fix the rates for the entire programme once, account should be taken of the increase in labour costs over this period. As a result, the indexation of tariffs should take place until 2025. The indexation is therefore based on a nine-year period. In addition, the average size of employers' reports was also determined during the current OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020 and included in the calculation. The evolution of labour costs has been made clear on the basis of Statistics Netherlands (CBS) figures during the current OP-ERDF. The CBS figures show that the annual average indexation is 1.94 %. As a result, the nine-year indexation is expected to be 18.92 %. The average rate of EUR 44,41 is therefore indexed by 18.92 %. In addition, the average size of employers' reports has also been assessed on the basis of figures from the CBS. The average rate of EUR 44,41 refers</p>

	<p>to 32 % of employers' addictions. Figures from the CBS show that the average social security contributions in the period 2014/2019 were 27.3 %. As a result, including holiday pay, the storage for workers was 37.5 % over the past programme period. For this reason, the average hourly rate based on the gross salary of EUR 44,41 is recognised, the size being 37.5 % for employers' addicts.</p> <p>This amendment to Appendix 1 adjusts the fixed hourly rate of SCO1 from EUR 55 to EUR 60 because the above indexation over nine years of 18.92 % – as incorporated in the fixed hourly rate – is underestimated. The index rate has been redetermined as part of the Mid Term Evaluation on the basis of recent figures (up to October 2023) from the CBS and over the same nine-year period is: 29.67 %. With the processing of the current indexation rate, the hourly rate of SCO1 is EUR 60. This brings the monthly rate of SCO3 to EUR 8.600.</p>
<p>10. Verification of the achievement of the units delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered - describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications - describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store relevant data/documents 	<p>A statement of employers must be provided in support of the statement of hours.</p> <p>Every six months, the management authority receives from the grant beneficiary the costs declared in the online system (Business Central). These costs also relate to the hours declared by the beneficiary. The management authority checks by means of the audit methodology that the hours declared correspond to the underlying documents (employer's statement). The underlying documents are stored in the online system. If the hours declared correspond to the employer's declaration, they are declared.</p> <p>These audits were also limited in the current programming period. This method is not new and is already applied in the current programming period after amendment of the CPR (OMNIBUS) in 2018. The only new one is the standard rate. The employer's statements are stored in the online system.</p>
<p>11. Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures(4) and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low)</p>	<p>Perverse use of the standard rate is not expected. The standard rate is lower than the average rates in national schemes (the commonly used EUR 60 rate of RVO). Although this national rate is not 100 % comparable to the unit price of EUR 55, this indicates that it is in line with the nationally used tariff. The unit price is EUR 55 lower (thus on the safe side) compared to the national EUR 60 rate. This effect affects the monthly rate of EUR 7.800.</p>

The risk of matching when participating in several projects remains the same compared to the current methodology of the 2014-2020 period and will be mitigated by additional checks (risk-based and also using data analysis) in line with the fraud assessment. In addition, the current methods (risk mitigation measures) remain in place. This risk of mitigating measures could include a capping of 1.720 hours per person per year in a declaration, or the self-declaration of beneficiaries would have allowed the same person to participate simultaneously in the same projects. Adjustments to the automated system for data analysis of individuals across the programmes are also foreseen.

Counterproductive incentives could be that beneficiaries use low-skilled staff on projects, making the actual wage costs lower than the standard rate. However, the use of low-skilled staff could negatively affect the outcome of the project. Beneficiaries have no interest in this. It is possible that beneficiaries receive a higher remuneration based on a flat rate than on the basis of the current methodology (wage costs + a fixed mark-up). However, this is also the case vice versa. Based on the data analysis, there is no indication of over- or underfunding at global level. The fixed hourly rate is calculated on the basis of the average weighted hourly rate. If during the current programme the ERDF OP 2014-2020 were to declare the hours on the basis of the average rate for indexation (EUR 44,41), the overall deviation is well below 1 %. In the dataset, 58 % of the declared rates have a range between EUR 30 and EUR 60. The rates declared under EUR 30 concern 25 % of the dataset. This is compared to 17 % above EUR 60. Of this 25 %, 3 % are below the EUR 20 rate. It follows from the above that the majority of declarations are concentrated around the average hourly rate. The lower (below EUR 30) and higher (above EUR 60) rates are evenly distributed, with a negligible impact on the overall programme. If previous analysis is carried out at project level, 66 % of projects have a deviation = < EUR 50.000 should the average hourly rate for indexation (EUR 44,41) have been applied during the OP ERDF. The total chargeable costs at project level are significantly higher than EUR 50.000. It follows from the above that the majority of the hourly rates declared are around the average rate calculated, with the overall financial impact being negligible. The average hourly rate is comparable for the different parts of the country (West, South, East and North). The monthly amount of EUR 8.600 is based on the fixed hourly rate. The

	<p>impact assessed on the hourly rate therefore also applies to the monthly rate of EUR 8.600.</p> <p>A possible counterproductive incentive may be for an employee to work fewer hours than indicated in the employer's certificate. However, a lower level of commitment will also mean that the project will not be implemented as set out in the project plan. The beneficiary has no interest in this. In addition, the employer's certificate is applied only to staff who (at the time of appointment to the project) can be justified as having a firm commitment to the project during the project period. (See below in annex.)</p> <p>As a result, staff with varying levels of commitment will not use an employer's certificate. The risk of lower levels of commitment than indicated in the employers' statement is therefore assessed as limited. In addition, the monthly amount of EUR 8.600 is applied proportionately to the part-time percentage and to the project turnover. If an employee is employed at 50 % (for a full 40-hour working week) and 25 % is assigned to the project, the monthly amount is EUR 1.075 (EUR 8.600 x 50 % x 25 %).</p>
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B. Details by type of operation

Operation type short title	SCO 4; standard monthly amount based on employer's statement EUR 10400
The managing authority received support from an external company to set out the simplified costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of external company	nvt
1. Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation (1)	<p>This SCO is widely used for types of projects to be defined as development projects, which also incur costs other than personnel costs. In Table A, the description for the picture focuses on development projects corresponding to the main category of intervention by specific objective, but also for the other categories of intervention, the development projects and thus the SCO concerned apply to the same extent.</p> <p>Development projects are characterised by the type of activities and mainly consist of personnel costs of the project partners. All personnel costs, except those of knowledge institutions using the national IKS system *, of all projects qualifying as development projects within the programme shall be</p>

	<p>covered by the first four types of SCO (SCO1 to SCO4 of this Appendix). This SCO is based on the same calculation as the standard rate of EUR 73 (SCO2), which is again calculated on the basis of the standard rate of EUR 60 (SCO1). For further substantiation, please refer to the justification under SCO1.</p> <p>The type of operations to which this SCO (standard monthly rate EUR 10.400) applies is the same as the SCO to which the standard rate of EUR 73 (SCO2) relates. The type of staff and type of operations is the same. The monthly rate was calculated on the basis of the fixed hourly rate of EUR 73.</p> <p>* IKS (Integrale Kostensystemregeling) is an integral cost system approved by the Minister for allocating direct and indirect costs to cost carriers, such as working hours. Organisations that systematically use an IKS to allocate costs may request approval from the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) for the use of this system to calculate the eligible wage costs within subsidy projects. This is a system which is applied to national subsidies (Article 12 (1) of the Framework Decision on national EZK and LNV-subsidies) and which complies with Article 53 (3) (d) of Regulation 2021/1060. It is a system which was already in place in the previous programming period and therefore not new. Knowledge institutions with IKS approved by RVO justify their eligible labour costs not against the SCOs 1 to 4 listed in this Appendix, but on the basis of their own IKS rates.</p>
<p>2. Specific objective(s)</p>	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p> <p>RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature</p> <p>RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein</p> <p>RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E</p>
<p>12. Total amount (national and Union) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis</p>	<p>2,100,000.00</p>

Indicators

3. Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)	Months declared
4. Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	months
5. Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Unit cost
6. Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the SCO	10400
7. Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	<p>Labour costs including own labour and other eligible costs of beneficiaries/project partners (direct and indirect), excluding the wage costs of beneficiaries with IKS.</p> <p>Note that this SCO may be present in combination with SCO2 within one operation. This means that the total cost of development projects within the same operation can be declared on the basis of SCO2 (hourly rate) and on the basis of SCO4 (monthly rate). These two SCOs are based on the same calculation and only differ from each other in terms of indicator triggering the payment (hours vs months) and therefore in terms of verification method (hour records vs employer's statement). Project partners may therefore declare the costs for employee A on the basis of SCO2 (hourly rate with hourly registration) and for employee B on the basis of SCO4 (monthly rate with employer statement).</p> <p>Addition to question 8 below: Yes, if none of the beneficiaries incur IKS expenditure. Otherwise, the eligible expenditure of the operation also includes IKS wage costs.</p>
8. Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation?	Yes
9. Adjustment(s) method (3)	<p>The methodology shall not be adjusted during the programme period. The indexation has been taken into account in advance in the same way as the European Commission does when allocating resources to the ERDF programmes. The data analysed to arrive at an average hourly rate are based on the OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020. This concerns the dates up to the ACR 2020 of the current programme. As a result, the average rates declared are 2016 as a base year. The rates will be used in the period 2021 to 2029. In order to fix the rates for the entire programme once, account should be taken of the increase in labour costs over this period. As a result, the indexation of tariffs should take place</p>

	<p>until 2025. The indexation is therefore based on a nine-year period. In addition, the average size of employers' reports was also determined during the current OP-ERDF programme 2014-2020 and included in the calculation. The evolution of labour costs has been made clear on the basis of Statistics Netherlands (CBS) figures during the current OP-ERDF. The CBS figures show that the annual average indexation is 1.94 %. As a result, the nine-year indexation is expected to be 18.92 %. The average rate of EUR 44,41 is therefore indexed by 18.92 %. In addition, the average size of employers' reports has also been assessed on the basis of figures from the CBS. The average rate of EUR 44,41 refers to 32 % of employers' additions. Figures from the CBS show that the average social security contributions in the period 2014/2019 were 27.3 %. As a result, including holiday pay, the storage for workers was 37.5 % over the past programme period. For this reason, the average hourly rate based on the gross salary of EUR 44,41 is recognised, the size being 37.5 % for employers' addictions. The fixed mark-up of 40 % is not indexed and has been chosen in accordance with Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No 2021/1060.</p> <p>This amendment to Appendix 1 adjusts the fixed hourly rate of SCO1 from EUR 55 to EUR 60 because the above indexation over nine years of 18.92 % – as incorporated in the fixed hourly rate – is underestimated. The index rate has been redetermined as part of the Mid Term Evaluation on the basis of recent figures (up to October 2023) from the CBS and over the same nine-year period is: 29.67 %. With the processing of the current indexation rate, the hourly rate of SCO1 is EUR 60. This brings the monthly rate of SCO4 to EUR 10.400.</p>
<p>10. Verification of the achievement of the units delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered - describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications - describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store relevant data/documents 	<p>A statement of employers must be provided in support of the statement of hours.</p> <p>Every six months, the management authority receives from the grant beneficiary the costs declared in the online system (Business Central). These costs also relate to the hours declared by the beneficiary. The management authority checks by means of the audit methodology that the hours declared correspond to the underlying documents (employer's statement). The underlying documents are stored in the online system. If the hours declared correspond to the employer's declaration, they are declared.</p>

	<p>These audits were also limited in the current programming period. This method is not new and is already applied in the current programming period after amendment of the CPR (OMNIBUS) in 2018. The only new one is the standard rate. The employer's statements are stored in the online system.</p>
<p>11. Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures(4) and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low)</p>	<p>Perverse use of the standard rate is not expected. The standard rate is lower than the average rates in national schemes (the commonly used EUR 60 rate of RVO). Although this national rate is not 100 % comparable to the unit price of EUR 55, this indicates that it is in line with the nationally used tariff. The unit price is EUR 55 lower (thus on the safe side) compared to the national EUR 60 rate. This effect affects the hourly rate of EUR 67 (SCO2) calculated on it and the monthly variation of EUR 9.600 (SCO4). The risk of matching when participating in several projects remains the same compared to the current methodology of the 2014-2020 period and will be mitigated by additional checks (risk-based and also using data analysis) in line with the fraud assessment. In addition, the current methods (risk mitigation measures) remain in place. This risk of mitigating measures could include a capping of 1.720 hours per person per year in a declaration, or the self-declaration of beneficiaries would have allowed the same person to participate simultaneously in the same projects. Adjustments to the automated system for data analysis of individuals across the programmes are also foreseen.</p> <p>Counterproductive incentives could be that beneficiaries use low-skilled staff on projects, making the actual wage costs lower than the standard rate. However, the use of low-skilled staff could negatively affect the outcome of the project. Beneficiaries have no interest in this. It is possible that beneficiaries receive a higher remuneration based on a flat rate than on the basis of the current methodology (wage costs + a fixed mark-up). However, this is also the case vice versa. Based on the data analysis, there is no indication of over- or underfunding at global level. The fixed hourly rate is calculated on the basis of the average weighted hourly rate. If during the current programme the ERDF OP 2014-2020 were to declare the hours on the basis of the average rate for indexation (EUR 44,41), the overall deviation is well below 1 %. In the dataset, 58 % of the declared rates have a range between EUR 30 and EUR 60. The rates declared</p>

under EUR 30 concern 25 % of the dataset. This is compared to 17 % above EUR 60. Of this 25 %, 3 % are below the EUR 20 rate. It follows from the above that the majority of declarations are concentrated around the average hourly rate. The lower (below EUR 30) and higher (above EUR 60) rates are evenly distributed, with a negligible impact on the overall programme. If previous analysis is carried out at project level, 66 % of projects have a deviation = < EUR 50.000 should the average hourly rate for indexation (EUR 44,41) have been applied during the OP ERDF. The total chargeable costs at project level are significantly higher than EUR 50.000. It follows from the above that the majority of the hourly rates declared are around the average rate calculated, with the overall financial impact being negligible. The average hourly rate is comparable for the different parts of the country (West, South, East and North). The monthly amount of EUR 10.400 is based on the flat rate including flat rate for other eligible costs. The impact assessed on the hourly rate therefore also applies to the monthly rate of EUR 10.400.

A possible counterproductive incentive may be for an employee to work fewer hours than indicated in the employer's certificate. However, a lower level of commitment will also mean that the project will not be implemented as set out in the project plan. The beneficiary has no interest in this. (See below in annex.)

In addition, the employer's certificate is applied only to staff who (at the time of appointment to the project) can be justified as having a firm commitment to the project during the project period. As a result, staff with varying levels of commitment will not use an employer's certificate. The risk of lower levels of commitment than indicated in the employers' statement is therefore assessed as limited.

In addition, the monthly amount of EUR 10.400 is applied proportionately to the part-time percentage and to the project turnover. If an employee is employed at 50 % (for a full 40-hour working week) and 25 % is assigned to the project, the monthly amount is EUR 1.300 (EUR 10.400 x 50 % x 25 %).

B. Details by type of operation

Operation type short title	SCO 5: Surcharge for third party costs below EUR 250
The managing authority received support from an external company to set out the simplified costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of external company	Nvt
1. Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation (1)	<p>This SCO is widely used for types of projects to be defined as development projects. In Table A, the description for the picture focuses on development projects corresponding to the main category of intervention by specific objective, but also for the other categories of intervention, the development projects and thus the SCO concerned apply to the same extent.</p> <p>The definition of development projects is presented under SCO1. For these projects, experience shows that a similar proportion of small costs are declared by third parties (below EUR 250 per invoice). These costs are relatively high in terms of administrative and control time. During the OP-ERDF 2014-2020, a significant amount of costs were declared by third parties (invoices or documents of equivalent probative value) with an individual low size. If there are findings in relation to these costs, the beneficiary does not consider the search or additional explanation to be proportionate. This is due to the often minimal size of an invoice. For the MAs too, declaring such costs leads to a relatively high level of work. For this reason, it has been examined whether a SCO is possible to replace costs for third parties with an individual size < EUR 250.</p>
2. Specific objective(s)	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p> <p>RSO1.7. Enhancing industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, prioritising capabilities of a dual-use nature</p> <p>RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein</p> <p>RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at outside TEN-E</p>
12. Total amount (national and Union) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis	400,000.00

3. Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)	Other costs declared by third parties exceeding EUR 250 per invoice
4. Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	EURO
5. Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Flat rate
6. Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the SCO	1
7. Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	Costs of third parties less than EUR 250 per invoice
8. Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation?	No
9. Adjustment(s) method (3)	The methodology shall not be adjusted during the programme period.
10. Verification of the achievement of the units delivered - describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered - describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications - describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store relevant data/documents	<p>The management authority checks the declared costs third parties. These costs are submitted by the beneficiary to the online system. In doing so, beneficiaries can only submit third party costs (invoices) with a volume greater than EUR 250. The management authority calculates 1 % of the audited and approved costs for third parties.</p> <p>The management authority will check the underlying documents of the costs of third parties in excess of EUR 250 every six months on the basis of an audit methodology using the audit methodology used. To justify third-party costs, beneficiaries must submit an invoice (or document of equivalent probative value) and proof of payment. These audits also took place in the previous programming periods. The justification of the costs of third parties is stored in the online system.</p> <p>The methodology for the 1 % storage is proposed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the project is established, 1 % is calculated on declared and approved costs third parties. In this way, adjustments to third party costs are prevented from always leading to an adjustment to the calculated mark-up of 1 %. 2. Third party costs (invoices or documents of equivalent probative value) with a volume < EUR 250 can no longer be declared. These are considered ineligible. 3. Whether the limit of EUR 250 is crossed is

	<p>assessed on the basis of the individual document. For example, several invoices cannot be added together and declared as a total. However, it is possible to declare an aggregate invoice or a periodical warehouse issue, if the individual size is at least EUR 250.</p>
<p>11. Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures(4) and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low)</p>	<p>Perverse use of the flat rate is not expected. Based on the dataset for OP-ERDF 2014-2020, the total declaration of costs for third parties without corrections is EUR 94.869.802. If this SCO were to be applied, the total declaration would amount to EUR 94.907.718. There is a minimum difference of EUR 37.916. As a result, there are no indications for either over or under funding.</p> <p>The impact of simplification is estimated to be high, as the number of invoices with a size < EUR 250 covers a total of 38 % of the current dataset. Beneficiaries may apply the SCO where in reality there are limited costs < EUR 250. However, this effect is also reversed. At project level, the average deviation is EUR 62,53.</p> <p>The SCO covers 1 % of the total costs of third parties. If there is a project with EUR 1.000.000 in third-party costs, 1 % of this amount is EUR 10.000. In the case of a subsidy rate of 30 %, this is EUR 3.000. The risk of abuse with a high financial impact is therefore considered to be low.</p>

(1) Envisaged starting date of the selection of operations and envisaged final date of their completion (ref Article 63(5) CPR).

(2) For operations encompassing several simplified cost options covering different categories of costs, different projects or successive phases of an operation, the fields 3 to 11 need to be filled in for each indicator triggering reimbursement.

(3) If applicable, indicate the frequency and timing of the adjustments and a clear reference to a specific indicator (including a link to the website where the indicator is published, if applicable).

(4) Are there any potential negative implications on the quality of the supported operations and, if so, what measures (e.g. quality assurance) will be taken to offset this risk?

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc.)

Historical data of all 4 OPs in the Netherlands from the period 2014-2020 are the data source. Data comes from the Navision management system of the four ERDF Management Authorities in the Netherlands. Through Business Object, the data were analysed by a working group of the four management authorities. Analyses and calculations were generated by MA North for all four management authorities. They can be generated again each time and the date underlying the calculation is fixed by the management authority in

the north and is kept.

The data was also provided to the audit authority for validation in the assessment centre at this SCO. The calculations are based on the actual declared wage costs by the beneficiaries for the ERDF 2014-2020 OP declared by the management authorities to the EC. In total, the dataset used for the calculations included EUR 115. 879. 277 labour costs + storage costs (storage for workers and overheads). For the sake of completeness, we note that IKS labour costs are not included in this dataset.

The data used are connected to SFC at a global level. The population thus falls within the scope of the annual checks carried out by the audit authority. A number of declarations have been taken from the survey population. For example, the adjustments to the survey population relate to declared hourly rates partially corrected by the management authorities or not declared in the appropriate proportion (at the overall level submitted by the beneficiary i. p. at hourly rate level). These dates distort the outcome of a weighted average hourly rate by overstating or understating the hourly rates declared. It is not immediately apparent from those dates what the hourly rate actually declared is. For the purpose of the quality of the dataset, disruptive data have been taken from the research population, so that the calculation is based on data reflecting reality.

Based on the above, it is ensured that the data used are reliable and relevant.

For conclusion on reliable and relevant data, please also refer to the report resulting from the assessment of the audit authority.

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) CPR is relevant to the type of operation.

For all types of actions listed under A, they are characterised as development projects. The SCO applies to this type of operation. From innovation to first applications and demonstrations. Irrespective of the external investment, which is not covered by this standard price, the type of staff employed by beneficiaries is comparable in terms of work and thought. It is explicitly not standard work carried out by staff within the type of action. It is developing. For all types of actions, this is due to the deployment of staff, in particular at the level of HRF.

The type of operations is expected to be similar to the current OP ERDF 2014-2020. This means a high use of own hours of staff, in particular at HBO level. In order to prevent a payee from declaring the same number of hours for each payment request for the same assistant, a monthly rate has been set. This reduces the administrative burden, control pressure and error sensitivity when calculating an hourly rate (and, by extension, a monthly rate) per employee.

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission.

The calculations are based on the data related to the hourly rates from the 2014-2020 programme period of all four Dutch OPs, only the hourly rates declared as “labour costs plus fixed mark-up” in the current OP.

Broadly speaking, the calculation was carried out as follows:

- (1) non-relevant data has been taken from the data file (such as hourly rates subject to a correction).
- (2) an average hourly rate (overarching for all MAs) has been calculated on the basis of the dataset for the period up to ACR 2020. The result concerns the hourly rate base.
- (3) the employer's reports have been adjusted according to the average employer reports as shown by the CBS during the current programming period 2014-2020. The average hourly rate base has been adjusted accordingly.
- (4) the average hourly rate (base rate) is indexed on the basis of the average indexation as shown by the CBS.

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.

We ensured this by taking only corrected and accepted costs into account. See also the first step referred to in question 3 above; not relevant data has been taken from the dataset.

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

Audit Service Assessment is attached (see annexes)

Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Category of region	The amount covered by the financing not linked to cost	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Indicator		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary(ies)
					Code (1)	Description		Code (2)	Description		

(1) This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I to the CPR and the Annex IV to the EMFAF regulation

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

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B. Details by type of operation

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In the period 2021-2027, we highlight at least 5 strategic projects: of which at least 1 per transition (energy, raw materials, climate, agriculture and food and health) and minimum 1 per selected specific policy objective (see H. 1). Strategic projects are projects that work towards innovative solutions within the 5 societal transitions and contribute to strengthening regional strength in terms of economy, entrepreneurship and innovation with the aim of both societal and economic impact. Visible societal impact could include: work towards a flexible energy system, more biobased materials, improved water quality and safety, healthy affordable nutrition and longer healthy lives. They are demonstration and development projects such as living labs and pilots where innovation is technological, societal and/or organisational. The projects are a showcase of cooperation with a broad target group in and between regions and make a significant contribution to the programme's result and output indicators. These are above all projects we are proud of! Strategic projects are special and appealing for their social recognition [1].

We expect to be able to award the first 3 Strategic Projects by the end of 2023 and the remaining 2 in 2024. Communication on Strategic Projects starts after grant award and will be intensified once a project is implemented and proves itself as a project of strategic importance. Communication takes place through the channels of Stimulus and relevant provinces. These projects will also be part of our issuance campaign with the aim of raising their societal profile and thus increasing the visibility of EU support and the added value of European programmes among public audiences.

[1] This is not a criterion taken into account in the assessment of grant award projects.

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
2021-2027 additional annex due to error message: Implementing Decision of the Commission	Mid-term review assessment	25 Jun 2025			2021-2027 additional annex due to error message: Implementing Decision of the Commission		

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