



**2018/0199(COD)**

16.7.2018

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg)  
supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing  
instruments

(COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Marlene Mizzi

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## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 3

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) In order to support the harmonious development of the Union's territory at different levels, the ERDF should support cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, maritime cooperation, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg).

###### *Amendment*

(3) In order to support the harmonious development of the Union's territory at different levels, the ERDF should support cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, maritime cooperation, outermost regions' cooperation and interregional cooperation under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg), ***with a particular focus on strengthening human skills and capabilities as key enablers of economic and social development, whilst also giving due regard to training programmes that may require added funding.***

Or. en

### Amendment 2

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 4

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas as evidenced in the Communication of the Commission 'Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions'<sup>23</sup> ('Border Regions Communication'). Consequently, the cross-border component should be limited to cooperation on land borders and cross-

###### *Amendment*

(4) The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges, ***including cultural differences and language barriers***, identified jointly in the border regions, ***as these may hinder integration, restrict interaction and scale down opportunities for people and businesses on both sides of the border***, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas as evidenced in the Communication of the Commission

border cooperation on maritime borders should be integrated into the transnational component.

'Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions'<sup>23</sup> ('Border Regions Communication'). Consequently, the cross-border component should be limited to cooperation on land borders and cross-border cooperation on maritime borders should be integrated into the transnational component.

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<sup>23</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions' - COM(2017) 534 final, 20.9.2017.

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<sup>23</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions' - COM(2017) 534 final, 20.9.2017.

Or. en

### Amendment 3

#### Proposal for a regulation Recital 7

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(7) Based on the experience with cross-border and transnational cooperation during the programming period 2014-2020 in outermost regions, where the combination of both components within a single programme per cooperation area has not brought about sufficient simplification for programme authorities and beneficiaries, a specific outermost regions' component should be established in order to enable outermost regions to cooperate with their neighbouring countries and territories in the most effective and simple way.

##### *Amendment*

(7) Based on the experience with cross-border and transnational cooperation during the programming period 2014-2020 in outermost regions, where the combination of both components within a single programme per cooperation area has not brought about sufficient simplification for programme authorities and beneficiaries, a specific outermost regions' component should be established in order to enable outermost regions to cooperate with their neighbouring countries and territories in the most effective and simple way ***so as to establish strong and sustainable bonds based on cooperation and mutual understanding;***

Or. en

## Amendment 4

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 8

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(8) Based on the experience with the interregional cooperation programmes under Interreg and the lack of such cooperation within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal during the programming period 2014-2020, the interregional cooperation component should focus more specifically on boosting the effectiveness of cohesion policy. That component should therefore be limited to two programmes, one to enable all kind of experience, innovative approaches and capacity building for programmes under both goals and to promote European groupings of territorial cooperation ('EGTCs') set up or to be set up pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>24</sup> and one to improve the analysis of development trends. Project-based cooperation throughout the Union should be integrated into the new component on interregional innovation investments and closely linked to the implementation of the Communication from the Commission 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth'<sup>25</sup>, in particular to support thematic smart specialisation platforms on fields such as energy, industrial modernisation *or* agrifood. Finally, integrated territorial development focusing on functional *urban areas or* urban areas should be concentrated within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal and in one accompanying instrument, the 'European Urban Initiative'. The two programmes under the interregional cooperation component should cover the whole Union and should also be open for the participation of third countries.

#### *Amendment*

(8) Based on the experience with the interregional cooperation programmes under Interreg and the lack of such cooperation within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal during the programming period 2014-2020, the interregional cooperation component should focus more specifically on boosting the effectiveness of cohesion policy. That component should therefore be limited to two programmes, one to enable all kind of experience, innovative approaches and capacity building for programmes under both goals and to promote European groupings of territorial cooperation ('EGTCs') set up or to be set up pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>24</sup> and one to improve the analysis of development trends. Project-based cooperation throughout the Union should be integrated into the new component on interregional innovation investments and closely linked to the implementation of the Communication from the Commission 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth'<sup>25</sup>, in particular to support thematic smart specialisation platforms on fields such as energy, industrial modernisation, agrifood, *the strengthening human skills and capabilities, preservation and dissimination of common cultural heritage*. Finally, integrated territorial development focusing on functional urban areas should be concentrated within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal and in one accompanying instrument, the 'European Urban Initiative'. The two programmes under the interregional cooperation component

should cover the whole Union and should also be open for the participation of third countries.

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<sup>24</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) (OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 19).

<sup>25</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth' - COM(2017) 376 final, 18.7.2017.

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<sup>24</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) (OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 19).

<sup>25</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth' - COM(2017) 376 final, 18.7.2017.

Or. en

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 11

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(11) IPA III assistance should mainly focus on assisting the IPA beneficiaries to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination. IPA assistance should continue to support the efforts of the IPA beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through the implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. In addition, IPA assistance should address security, migration and border management, ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, enhancing border control and pursuing common

#### *Amendment*

(11) IPA III assistance should mainly focus on assisting the IPA beneficiaries to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination, ***to develop inclusive and sustainable education systems with the aim to provide more opportunities of a better quality for young people, through horizontal youth policies.*** IPA assistance should continue to support the efforts of the IPA beneficiaries to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through the implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. In addition, IPA assistance should address security,

efforts in the fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

migration and border management, ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, enhancing border control and pursuing common efforts in the fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

Or. en

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 17

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(17) The ERDF should contribute, under Interreg, to the specific objectives under the cohesion policy objectives. However, the list of the specific objectives under the different thematic objectives should be adapted to the specific needs of Interreg, by providing for additional specific objectives under the policy objective 'a more social Europe by implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights' in order to allow for ESF-type interventions.

##### *Amendment*

(17) The ERDF should contribute, under Interreg, to the specific objectives under the cohesion policy objectives. However, the list of the specific objectives under the different thematic objectives should be adapted to the specific needs of Interreg, by providing for additional specific objectives under the policy objective 'a more social Europe by implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights' in order to allow for ESF-type interventions, ***with a particular focus on the access to education, creation of more opportunities of a better quality for young people and cultural integration.***

Or. en

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 19

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(19) This Regulation should add two Interreg-specific objectives, one to support an Interreg-specific objective strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing legal and

##### *Amendment*

(19) This Regulation should add two Interreg-specific objectives, one to support an Interreg-specific objective strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing legal and

administrative cooperation, in particular where linked to implementation of the Border Regions Communication, intensify cooperation between citizens and institutions and the development and coordination of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, and one to address specific external cooperation issues such as safety, security, border crossing management and migration.

administrative cooperation, in particular where linked to implementation of the Border Regions Communication, intensify cooperation between citizens, ***civil society organisations*** and institutions and the development and coordination of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, and one to address specific external cooperation issues such as safety, security, border crossing management and migration.

Or. en

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) improving access to ***and the*** quality of education, training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment ***and*** skills ***levels thereof as to be recognised across borders***;

*Amendment*

(b) improving access to quality education, training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment, ***youth and researchers mobility and strengthening human*** skills ***and capabilities***;

Or. en

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point b a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(b a) promoting mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates, skills and competences in order to increase opportunities for education, training and employment across borders***;

Or. en



## Amendment 10

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point e a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(e a) improving access to cultural services and sport infrastructures, promoting artist mobility and cultural exchanges, which contribute to preservation and dissimulation of common cultural heritage and to combating different, usually persistent prejudices and stereotypes, increase social integration and tackle social and language barriers;***

Or. en

## Amendment 11

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point c

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(c) under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes supported by the Interreg funds, in addition to points (a) and (b): building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions, by enhancing sustainable democracy and by supporting civil society actors and their role in reforming processes and democratic transitions;

(c) under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes supported by the Interreg funds, in addition to points (a) and (b): building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions ***and youth mobility experiences***, by enhancing sustainable democracy and by supporting civil society actors and their role in reforming processes and democratic transitions;

Or. en

## Amendment 12

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 14 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

5. Under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union shall also contribute to the external Interreg-specific objective 'a safer and more secure Europe', in particular by actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection of migrants.

*Amendment*

5. Under external cross-border and component 2 and 3 Interreg programmes the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union shall also contribute to the external Interreg-specific objective 'a safer and more secure Europe', in particular by actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection of migrants, ***intercultural mediation and linguistic facilitation***;

Or. en

**Amendment 13**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point b – point i**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(i) economic, social and territorial disparities;

*Amendment*

(i) economic, social, ***demographic*** and territorial disparities;

Or. en

**Amendment 14**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 17 – paragraph 4 – point b – point i a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(i a) new cultural, educational and linguistic specificities and barriers***;

Or. en

## Amendment 15

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 18 – paragraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1 a. When assessing each Interreg programme the Commission shall take into account the overall positive effect of the programme on the society and local communities, with a particular focus on social and economic development and inclusiveness and intercultural dialogue mutual understanding.***

Or. en

## Amendment 16

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 21 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Community-led local development ('CLLD') under point (b) of Article [22] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] may be implemented in Interreg programmes, provided that the relevant local action groups are composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, in which no single interest group controls the decision-making, and of at least two participating countries, of which at least one is a Member State.

Community-led local development ('CLLD') under point (b) of Article [22] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR] may be implemented in Interreg programmes, provided that the relevant local action groups are composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, ***including civil society organisations***, in which no single interest group controls the decision-making, and of at least two participating countries, of which at least one is a Member State.  
***Local action groups shall be representative of all socio-economic and age groups including minorities, people with disabilities and with fewer opportunities.***

Or. en

## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 26 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

4. For Interreg programmes with a total allocation below EUR 30 000 000, the amount needed for technical assistance expressed in **EUR** and the resulting percentage shall be fixed in the Commission decision approving the Interreg programme concerned.

*Amendment*

4. For Interreg programmes with a total allocation below EUR 30 000 000, the amount needed for technical assistance **shall be** expressed in **euro** and the resulting percentage shall be fixed in the Commission decision approving the Interreg programme concerned.

Or. en

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 34 – paragraph 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

6. The managing authority shall submit the evaluation plan to the monitoring committee no later than **one year** after the approval of the Interreg programme.

*Amendment*

6. The managing authority shall submit the evaluation plan to the monitoring committee no later than **12 months** after the **date of** approval of the Interreg programme.

Or. en

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 35 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The managing authority shall ensure that, within six months of the Interreg programme's approval, there is a website where information on each Interreg programme under its responsibility is available, **covering** the programme's objectives, activities, available funding

*Amendment*

2. The managing authority shall ensure that, within six months of the Interreg programme's approval, there is a website where information on each Interreg programme under its responsibility is available, the **information provided shall cover** programme's objectives, activities,

opportunities and achievements.

available funding opportunities and achievements.

Or. en

## Amendment 20

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 56 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Where the implementation of an operation requires procurement of service, supply or works contracts by a beneficiary, the following rules shall apply:

##### *Amendment*

1. Where the implementation of an operation requires procurement of service, ***contracts of*** supply or ***contract of*** works ***or both*** by a beneficiary, the following rules shall apply:

Or. en

## Amendment 21

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 56 – paragraph 1 – point a

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) where the beneficiary is a contracting authority ***or a contracting entity*** within the meaning of ***the Union law applicable to public procurement procedures***, it shall apply national laws, regulations and administrative provisions adopted in connection with Union laws;

##### *Amendment*

(a) where the beneficiary is a contracting authority within the meaning of ***Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1a</sup>***, it shall apply national laws, regulations and administrative provisions adopted in connection with Union laws;

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<sup>1a</sup> ***Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC. (OJ L94, 28.3.2014, P.96)***

Or. en

