

Art of Cooperation - Governance of the electronic management systems used in Interreg panel discussion summary

This workshop offered insight to key aspects of monitoring system models used by cooperation programmes in different areas of Europe.

We focused on the background and the history of monitoring systems including main factors that influenced the choice of system model and development, the organisational set-up including stakeholder involvement, as well as strengths and lessons learnt. Demonstration and discussion of functionalities were beyond the scope of the session, however.

Our panellists introduced their monitoring systems in detail:

- **INTERREG+**, the system developed for the cross-border programmes hosted by Hungary (**four programmes**: Hungary-Slovakia CBC Programme, Hungary-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, Hungary-Croatia CBC Programme and Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme). It not only supports the whole programme and project life-cycles by the means of its strong workflow engine, but also acts as a banking system – with more than 3 000 users at the moment covering both 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programme periods.
- **Jems** is the community monitoring system developed by Interact for the 2021-2027 programme period based on the legal framework and Interact's Harmonised Implementation Tools. This open-source system is available free of charge for programmes who sign the license agreement – so far **52 programmes**, more than half of the existing programmes signed up. Out of these programmes, 34 had already launched a call and the individual installations have up to approximately 4000 users in total (status of May 2023).
- **BAMOS+** is the monitoring system of the **Baltic Sea Region programme** that supports the entire workflow of the MA and JS of the programme including support for multiple funds and financing instruments. The system has more than 3 400 users and supported so far 10 calls and around 400 applications.
- **MS2021+** is used by **13 programmes** – almost all programmes in which the Czech Republic is involved – including the **Czech-Poland Interreg Programme**. The entire system has more than 33 000 users and in the CZ-PL Programme, it supported 30+ calls and up to 300 projects.

As it is clearly visible from the above, monitoring systems used in cooperation programmes exist along a scale, one end of which is a system tailor-made for the requirements of a single programme (BAMOS+), representing the highest level of customisation and the other being a national system designed for mainstream programmes in mind and also used by an Interreg programme (MAS2021+).

In between we find two other models: a system based on the needs of several cross-border programmes (INTERREG+) and the other, more generic system (Jems) that aims to satisfy the requirements of most programmes from all strands.

All four systems represent a different evolutionary path, but the predecessor systems and the national legal framework always play a decisive role. The team dealing with the IT system development is also a key element to succeed.

Decision-makers should ideally look into different monitoring systems/models now – not only their functionalities but also their background, organisational setting, project management setup, budgetary limits, strengths and lessons learnt – before kicking off the monitoring system project for their post-2027 programmes. We know very well that such projects cannot be launched early enough.

