

INTERNAL RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERREG VI-D INDIAN OCEAN PROGRAMME

The management of European programs for the 2021-2027 period is marked by significant developments resulting from EU regulations. For this period, the “European Territorial Cooperation” (INTERREG) objective includes Component D, dedicated to cooperation between European Outermost Regions (RUP/ORs) and third-party countries, partner countries or neighbouring Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), or with regional integration and cooperation organizations. This provides a framework conducive to regional integration and the harmonious and sustainable co-development of the Outermost Regions of Reunion, Mayotte, and their neighboring territories.

The Interreg VI-D Indian Ocean program (CCI 2021TC16FFOR004) was adopted on **December 13, 2022**, by the European Commission (**Decision - C(2022) 9625**).

Under Implementation Measure (EU) 2022/75 of January 17, 2022, the geographical area covered by the Interreg VI-D Indian Ocean program includes two French Outermost Regions: Reunion (*Managing Authority*) and Mayotte and thirteen third-party countries: Madagascar, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (OCT), Mauritius, Comoros, Seychelles, Maldives, Australia, Mozambique, India, Kenya, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.

The Interreg VI-D Indian Ocean program, adopted on **December 13, 2022**, includes two French Outermost Regions : Reunion (*Managing Authority*) and Mayotte and eleven third-party countries: Madagascar, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (OCT), Mauritius, the Comoros, Seychelles, Maldives, Australia, Mozambique, India, Kenya, and Tanzania.

If an agreement is reached with South Africa in accordance with Article 16.5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the program will be amended to include them as full participants.

Considering:

- Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and European Council of June 24, 2021, establishing common provisions for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, and setting out financial rules applicable to these funds, as well as to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund, and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy;
- Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and Council of June 24, 2021, laying down specific provisions for the “European Territorial Cooperation” objective (INTERREG) of the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (in particular articles 2, 22, 28 to 30 and 37) ;
- Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and Council of June 24, 2021, regarding the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI - Global Europe)
- Decree No. 2021-1884 of December 29, 2021, concerning the management of European programs related to cohesion policy, fisheries, and maritime affairs for the period 2021-2027;
- Implementation Measure (EU) 2022/74 of the European Commission of January 17, 2022, establishing the list of Interreg programs and indicating the total financial support from the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments of the EU for each program, as well as the list of amounts transferred between sections under the “European Territorial Cooperation” objective for 2021-2027;
- Implementation Measure (EU) 2022/75 of the European Commission of January 17, 2022, defining the geographical areas covered by the Interreg program eligible for support from the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments of the EU, distributed by component and by Interreg program under the “European Territorial Cooperation” objective;
- The General Local Authorities Code, particularly Articles L.1511-1-2 and L4221-5;
- Law No. 2014-58 of January 27, 2014, regarding the modernization of public territorial action and affirmation of metropolitan areas;
- Article 6 of Law No. 2017-1339 of September 15, 2017, regarding trust in political actions;
- Deliberations No. DCP2019_1082 of the Regional Council on December 10, 2019, and No. DCP2022_004 of February 25, 2022, concerning the Managing Authorities of European funds for the 2021-2027 programs, and the acknowledgment of receipt from the Prefect of Reunion dated May 6, 2022;
- The Interreg VI-D Indian Ocean program (CCI 2021TC16FFOR004), adopted on December 13, 2022, by the European Commission (Decision - C(2022) 9625) amended by implementing decision C(2025)4759 of 14/07/2025,
- The Contribution Agreement signed between the Commission and the Regional Council of Reunion island on 07/07/2025,

ARTICLE 1 – ESTABLISHMENT

In accordance with Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the following territories:

Réunion, Mayotte, Madagascar, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Mauritius, Comoros, Seychelles, Maldives, Australia, Mozambique, India, Kenya, and Tanzania, in agreement with the Managing Authority of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean Cooperation Program, represented by the President of the Regional Council, establish the Monitoring Committee for the Interreg VI-D Indian Ocean 2021-2027 program, named “CSI 21-27” and approve the present internal rules of procedure, to be published on the website: <http://www.reunioneurope.org>.

ARTICLE 2 - COMPOSITION

In accordance with Articles 8 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1060 and 29 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1059, the Monitoring Committee for the Interreg 2021-2027 program (CSI 21-27) consists of:

- Full members (with voting rights), listed in the annex of the present. This list may be updated as necessary.
- Advisory members participating in monitoring committee activities (without voting rights) are also listed in an annex to the present regulations.

Additionally, depending on the agenda, experts and qualified individuals may be invited to participate in the CSI 21-27.

The list of Monitoring Committee members can be consulted on the website: <http://www.reunioneurope.org>.

ARTICLE 3 – PRESIDENCY, FUNCTIONING, AND DECISION-MAKING

The Monitoring Committee for the Interreg 21-27 program (CSI 21-27) is chaired by the President of the Regional Council (or their representative), as the Managing Authority.

The Managing Authority determines the agenda for the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg program.

The Managing Authority convenes meetings, leads discussions, grants speaking rights, and announces decisions.

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 program meets at least once per year and more frequently if necessary, at the initiative of the Managing Authority.

Meetings of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee are held preferably in person, online (video-conference), or in a hybrid format (in person and video-conference).

All potential costs related to participation in the Monitoring Committee are covered by participating members. However, for delegations from overseas and to facilitate the participation of third-country delegations of the 21-27 Interreg programme, the basic principle is that accommodation costs for the Minister of Foreign Affairs (or designated representative) and the officially appointed focal point ("Interreg 21-27 focal point") will be covered, in accordance with Article 54 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059.¹

Each third-party State partner of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme will be asked to appoint a person as the contact point.

The presidency notes the decisions made by the full members during the plenary session of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee, according to the consensus rule, after consulting all members of the 21-27 CSI.

In the absence of a consensus, the presidency notes the decisions made during the plenary session of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee, after consulting all members of the CSI 21-27 (having voting rights), in application of the two-thirds majority rule. All members will be informed of the observations made during the consultation process.

The members of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee are invited via an invitation letter from the Managing Authority sent electronically, three weeks before the meeting. They will also have access to working documents and the agenda no later than two weeks before the meeting through a downloadable link on the website <http://www.reunioneuropa.org/>.

The draft minutes of the Interreg 21-27 monitoring committee conclusions will be sent in writing to the members within one month following the meeting.

In the absence of comments within fifteen days from the distribution date, the draft minutes will be considered approved. The minutes will be published by the Managing Authority on its website and on the website <http://www.reunioneuropa.org/> for the public.

The Interreg 21-27 monitoring committee can also be consulted in writing, in exceptional cases, to address urgent matters, as appreciated by the Managing Authority. In such cases, members' opinions must be provided within two weeks of the consultation launch date. If no response is received by that deadline, the opinion will be considered favorable. The members will be informed of the consultation results through a meeting report.

¹ The costs of accommodation will be covered as from the day preceding the work of the CSI Interreg 21-27 monitoring committee and up to the day following the plenary session.

ARTICLE 4 - RESPONSIBILITIES²

The Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee examines:

- a) the progress made in implementing the programme and achieving the intermediate values and target values of the Interreg programme;
- b) the issues affecting the performance of the Interreg programme and the measures taken to address them;
- c) the progress made in conducting and synthesizing assessments, as well as actions taken based on the findings;
- d) the implementation of communication and visibility actions;
- e) the progress made in implementing strategic Interreg operations;
- f) the progress made in strengthening the administrative capacities of public institutions and beneficiaries, where applicable.

The Interreg 21-27 monitoring committee approves:

- a) the method and selection criteria for ERDF and ERDF-NDICI operations, including any modifications made;
- b) the assessment plan and any changes to it;
- c) any proposed amendments to the programme presented by the Managing Authority, including a transfer in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 5;
- d) the final performance report.

In accordance with Article 22 of EU Regulation No. 2021/1059, the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee forms a steering committee, which acts under its responsibility for selecting operations. The steering committee is chaired by the representative of the Regional Council, Managing Authority.

The Interreg Indian Ocean Steering Committee 2021-2027 is divided into two parts:

- Part 1: Interreg Steering Committee (COFIL INTERREG OI);
- Part 2: NDICI-Interreg Steering Committee (COFIL INTERREG-NDICI).

Its members are as follows :

- a representative of the Regional Council of Reunion,
- a representative of the Departmental Council of Reunion,
- a representative of the Prefecture of Reunion,
- the President of the Regional Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (CESER) of Reunion or their representative,
- the President of the Council for Culture, Education, and the Environment (CCEE) of Reunion or their representative,
- a representative of the Departmental Council of Mayotte,

² In application of article 30 of (UE) regulations n°2021/1059

- a representative of the Prefecture of Mayotte,
- a representative of the CESER of Mayotte,
- a representative of the CCEE of Mayotte,
- a representative of the IOC,
- a representative of the IORA.

The joint secretariat will organize the Copil Interreg 21-27 in hybrid format (in-person and remote) to facilitate the participation of all members, if technical conditions allow.

Functions :

Part 1 - COPIL INTERREG OI:

- to collect co-financing intentions relating to national counterparts;
- to select operations subject to co-financing of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme subject to co-financing intentions.

Part 2 - COPIL INTERREG-NDICI:

- to collect co-financing intentions relating to national counterparts;
- to examine the terms of reference for joint ERDF-NDICI calls for projects, after detailed advice from the European Union delegations (within the framework of the concertation committee) ;
- to select operations submitted for co-financing by the ERDF (Interreg VI Indian Ocean program) and the NDICI, following detailed advice from the European Union delegations (within the framework of the concertation committee).

The Copil Interreg 21-27 reviews all files upstream, or in some specific cases downstream, in the form of a list of files (files not presented to the committee, with reasons indicated).

A report is prepared if necessary, highlighting any points of discussion. The conclusions of the committee are entered in SYNERGIE (ERDF-ETC operations).

The decisions of the Steering Committee are forwarded to the Monitoring Committee, which is responsible for monitoring and implementing the program.

All selected projects will also be communicated during the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee meeting.

An online information platform will be implemented to provide details of the selected projects (with their main characteristics) on the website <http://www.regionreunion.com> and on the website <http://www.reunioneurope.org>.

ARTICLE 5 – COORDINATION WITH THE INTERREG MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL PROGRAMME

Within three months of validation of the Interreg Mozambique Channel programme, the Monitoring Committee of this programme, in agreement with the Interreg IO 21-27 Monitoring Committee, will establish a technical committee responsible for coordinating the two programmes.

It will bring together at a minimum the managing authorities of the Interreg IO and Mozambique Channel programmes and their joint secretariat. The committee will meet by video-conference bi-monthly (or more frequently if necessary) to enhance information sharing on projects supported by these programmes.

ARTICLE 6 – INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION

The project manager for France/Réunion, assigned to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) by the Managing Authority (MA), may, in consultation with and after approval from the General Secretary, initiate and monitor NDICI/INTERREG projects and serve as a liaison for the MA, ensuring on-site communication with the EU delegation in Mauritius.

ARTICLE 7 - REGIONAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Regional Assessment Committee is the operational body for implementing the assessment plan mentioned in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. Its secretariat is provided by the Joint Secretariat.

To ensure coherence in public policies in Reunion, it is proposed that the Multi-fund Regional Assessment Committee will also have jurisdiction over the Interreg VI programme.

The Committee is co-chaired by the State (represented by the General Secretary for Regional Affairs), the Regional Council (represented by the Director General of Services), the Departmental Council of Reunion (represented by the General Director of Services), and includes the CESER, the CCCE, the regional INSEE office, as well as representatives of urban authorities. For the assessments of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme, a representative of the Departmental Council of Mayotte, the CESER and the CCEE of Mayotte will also be invited to this committee.

ARTICLE 8 – SECRETARIAT

In accordance with Article 46.2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 and Article 4 of Delegated Regulation No. 240/2014 concerning the European Code of Conduct on Partnership under the ESIF, the Managing Authority establishes a Joint Secretariat that considers this partnership and assists in the performance of its missions, acting under its authority.

The information tasks for potential beneficiaries concerning funding opportunities under the Interreg programmes and support for beneficiaries and partners in implementing operations are carried out by the Managing Authority.

The Joint Secretariat is notably responsible for assisting the Managing Authority in organizing and preparing documents related to meetings of the Interreg monitoring committee, steering committee, and regional assessment committee.

The Joint Secretariat is provided by AGILE, which, since 2016, has benefited from provisions implemented during the 2014-2020 period, enabling the involvement of third-party States members of the COI, as well as India.

The contact points, known as "Interreg 21-27 focal points," will act as relays for the Joint Secretariat to the third-party States of the programme. Technical meetings may be organized on the sidelines of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee meetings, and information-sharing tools will be set up.³

Any change concerning the Interreg 21-27 focal points must be notified by the third-party State to the Managing Authority as soon as possible.

At the request of the Managing Authority, and in agreement with the IOC General Secretary, the France/Réunion project manager assigned to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) by the Managing Authority (MA) may participate in technical meetings organized on the sidelines of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committees.

It will also be proposed to the Department of Mayotte to appoint a technical contact person to represent Mayotte at the Joint Secretariat.

ARTICLE 9 - OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING AND STEERING COMMITTEES

To avoid conflicts of interest, each member of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee and its steering committee is subject to the same obligations as a public servant regarding confidentiality and impartiality concerning decisions taken. In particular, if an item discussed leads to a decision or opinion, the member or members concerned by a potential conflict of interest must inform the presidency and refrain from participating in the debate.

Each member of the monitoring and steering committees is required to act and take decisions aimed at the efficient implementation of the programme and in the public interest.

³ In order to support the active participation of all third-party States, an English translation will be provided for technical meetings if necessary, the staff of the joint secretariat of the Managing Authority in charge of relations with third-party States being competent in English.

ARTICLE 10 – MODIFICATIONS AND VALIDITY

The provisions of the present regulations are intended to cover the period of validity of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean 21-27 program. Any modifications may be proposed by the Managing Authority or by any of the members, with the approval of the president, and will be submitted for approval by the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee.

ARTICLE 11 – APPLICATION

The president of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee is responsible for the application of the present regulations.

ANNEX: Composition of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee

List of full members of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean Programme Monitoring Committee

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme will be composed of the following full members, with voting rights, in accordance with Articles 8 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1060 and 29 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1059 :

Representatives of regional, local, and urban authorities

- The Prefect of Reunion
- The Prefect of Mayotte
- The President of the Regional Council of Reunion
- The President of the Departmental Council of Reunion
- The President of the Departmental Council of Mayotte
- The President of the Association of Mayors of Reunion
- The President of the Intercommunal Community of the North of Reunion (CINOR)
- The President of the Territory of the West Coast (TCO)
- The President of the Intercommunal Community of the East of Reunion (CIREST)
- The President of the Intercommunal Community of the South of Reunion (CIVIS)
- The President of the Urban Community of the South (CaSud)

Representatives of economic and social partners and the civil society

- The President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Reunion (CCIR)
- The President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Mayotte (CCIM)
- The President of the Chamber of Trades and Crafts of Reunion
- The President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Reunion
- The President of the Regional Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture of Reunion (CRPMEM)
- The President of the Regional Committee for Innovation of Reunion
- The President of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council of Reunion
- The President of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council of Mayotte
- The President of the Council for Culture, Education, and Environment of Reunion
- The President of the Council for Culture, Education, and Environment of Mayotte
- The Regional Director for Women's Rights and Gender Equality of Reunion

Representatives of third-party countries

Representatives of a third-party country have one vote (by delegation).

- **In accordance with Article 53 (paragraphs 1 and 2)**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the third-party country participates in the Monitoring Committee. Each third-party country may designate its contact point, referred to as the "Interreg 21-27 focal point."

The third countries participating in the program are: Madagascar, Mauritius, Maldives, Australia, Comoros, Mozambique, India, Kenya, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

Regional organizations:

- The General Secretary of the IOC (Indian Ocean Commission)
- The General Secretary of the IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association)
- The General Secretary of the SADC (Southern African Development Community)

The following also participate in the work of the Monitoring Committee (advisory basis) :

- The European MPs and MPs for Reunion and Mayotte;
- The Director for Territorial Cooperation of DG REGIO or his representative;
- Representatives of EU delegations in third countries covered by Commission implementing decision (EU) 2022/75;
- The Ambassador delegated to regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean zone;
- Representatives of the relevant Ministries: Directorate General for Overseas Territories (DGOM), National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT);
- Representatives of State services, the Regional Council, and the Departmental Council of Reunion and Mayotte;
- The French Development Agency (AFD).