Fact Sheet 23 - Indicators

	Valid from	Valid to	Main changes
Version 1	27.04.15		
Version 2	22.02.16		Number of deliverables clarified to 7 **per work package** (Background)

Core message: This Fact Sheet brings together all of the indicator information for the programme. Projects only need to consult the relevant sections. Most projects will have no more than about 15 indicators total! The diagram below sets out the process for developing indicators and refers you to the correct tables.
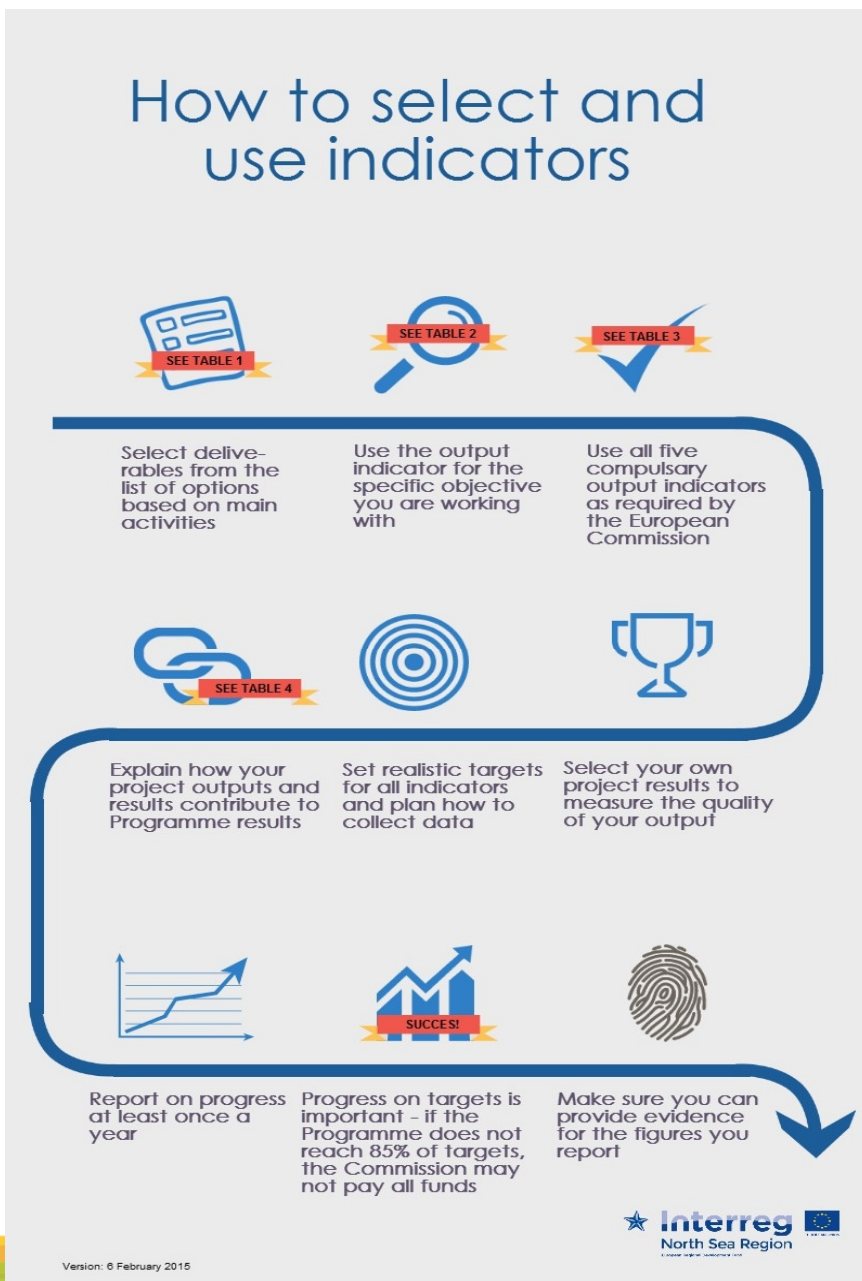
How to select and use indicators

SEE TABLE 1 Select deliverables from the list of options based on main activities

SEE TABLE 2 Use the output indicator for the specific objective you are working with

SEE TABLE 3 Use all five compulsary output indicators as required by the European Commission

SEE TABLE 4 Explain how your project outputs and results contribute to Programme results

Set realistic targets for all indicators and plan how to collect data

Select your own project results to measure the quality of your output

Report on progress at least once a year

SUCCES! Progress on targets is important – if the Programme does not reach 85% of targets, the Commission may not pay all funds

Make sure you can provide evidence for the figures you report

Interreg North Sea Region

Version: 6 February 2015

Contents

Background

This is a long document but each project will only need to look at small parts of it to find the information they need!

The fact sheet gathers together for easy reference all of the information on indicators that is included in the different tables in the Cooperation Programme. Only a small part of this information will be necessary for each project. This means, for example, that each project will only need to read one of the seven indicator descriptions included in Table 2. It is expected that each project might use a total of about 15 indicators to measure all aspects of its work broken down as follows:

- **Approx. 7 deliverable indicators per work package**. These are very simple measurements of activities like number of meetings, number of pilots etc. They are used to assess how the project will deliver its aims and whether it is progressing according to plan

- **5 output indicators**. These are selected automatically for you based on the Specific Objective you are applying under. If one of these indicators is not relevant for you, you just set the target to zero

- **Approx. 2 project result indicators**. Chosen by you to measure the most important benefits delivered by your project

The online application system will guide you through indicator selection and tell you what kinds of indicators you need to select and when.

Indicators do matter! They demonstrate what your project really expects to achieve and will therefore be an important factor in deciding whether you should receive funding and later in assessing whether it has been a success.

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What you need to measure

The programme supports joint development of new and improved solutions, which combine knowledge, experience and resources from each of the partner countries. The tangible benefits delivered by each project (for example, a carbon emissions reduction) will be small because the projects are small. The real value of these projects lies instead in validating new approaches and communicating successes to a wider audience so the whole North Sea Region can benefit from the work carried out. In this way, projects can be expected to have a major effect – though the full effect may not be felt for many years. It is this process of experimentation and communication which needs to be measured by the output and result indicators.

All of the indicators should help to provide answers to three key questions regardless of theme:

1. Have beneficiaries effectively pooled their ideas, experience and resources to arrive at new and better transnational knowledge and proposals on the theme in question?
2. Have they validated this new knowledge through piloting and/or consultation with target groups?
3. Have the findings been effectively communicated to other members of relevant target groups elsewhere in the programme area?

Project indicators focus on whether the pooled resources of the transnational partnership have resulted in improvements to existing practices in participating organisations / regions. These outputs serve as a proof of concept, which validates the project's approach and therefore justifies other organisations in duplicating it. Project indicators should also measure the success of actions to communicate these results.

Programme indicators focus mainly on the third element: If the improvement delivered by the project is limited to project organisations, the benefit for the North Sea Region as a whole will be small. Projects therefore need to make results available in a way that effectively targets other organisations and enterprises which could implement the same improvements, and actively encourage them to take up project results. If an improvement is eventually implemented across the programme area, the cumulative effect will be significant.

The indicators cannot capture all aspects of all projects. They aim instead to provide some core facts and figures that can be collected and compared across a range of projects. In addition, results are generally transferred partially and stakeholders will rarely be able to pinpoint the precise source of all different inputs or to identify one point in time when a change has been clearly adopted. The programme understands and accepts these limitations. Projects are asked to report according to the best data available to them and to be ready to justify the figures reported.

The pictogram on the first page will guide you through the process while the following tables contain all of the information and definitions you need. The Online Monitoring System will also direct you towards the appropriate indicators for different parts of the application. At the end of the Fact Sheet there is one example of a complete set of project indicators.

Table 1: List of Deliverable Indicators and definitions

These indicators are used in the work packages to measure the activities that project staff deliver. Indicators are selected from a drop-down list. Note that selection of some indicators will automatically lead to selection of an additional indicator.

Name of deliverable	Description
Exchange of information event (internal)	Includes all events for exchange on the content (rather than the management) of the project. The events counted should be those used to develop a common understanding of the exact challenges to be tackled, the current situation in each partner organisation, and the solutions that should be attempted to improve the situation. 'Internal' means that the majority of participants are from partner organisations.
Must also use: **Number of participants**	Number of participants per event. The same people attending multiple events can be counted twice.
Exchange of information event (external)	As above but with external participants. 'External' means that the majority of participants are from outside the partner organisations and are instead representatives of the target group(s).
Must also use: **Number of participants**	As above
Report/strategy	Includes all written conclusions/partial conclusions published on the project content. Includes digital publication. Does not include reporting to the programme.
Must also use: **Number of readers**	Either through physical copies distributed (not number printed) or number of hits on digital versions
Policy change	Includes not just political agreements but all changes to the general operating principles of organisations inside and outside the project partnership. Projects should be able to describe the before/after situation and link this directly to the project.
Working practice change	Includes all changes to standard working practices related to the project content. For example, adoption of new processes, new standards, new tools etc.
Pilots/demonstrations	Number of solutions tested – either through physical testing or piloting of new approaches with target groups. This includes testing of new training offers related to other project activities. Projects will be expected to provide details.

New services	Launch of new services that will continue after the close of the project and are open to the 'public' (i.e. members of the target groups outside the project partnership).
Must also use: **Number of users**	At the time of reporting. It is important that these services continue after project closure. One-off services like an advisory workshop should be reported under 'Events'
Communication initiative	Brochures, leaflets, web content, social media contributions and other communication initiatives. Project activity plans should provide details.
Must also use: **Number of users**	Measurement depends on the media being used.
Dissemination event	Events run purely as dissemination activities (such as many final conferences) and attendance at external events to publicise the project.
Must also use: **Number of participants**	
Other (Define)	Wherever possible, projects should use the standard list. Where an important activity cannot be included using the standard list, projects should define their own deliverable. This should be done in consultation with the Joint Secretariat.

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Table 2 – Output indicators for the Specific Objectives

There is one output indicator for each specific objective and this will be automatically selected for you. Read the definition of the relevant indicator for a full picture of what is (and is not) covered.

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting	Definitions / Comments
1.1	Number of enterprises cooperating with new / improved knowledge partnerships	Enterprises	500	Project reporting	Annual	A cooperating enterprise should be engaged in regular two-way contact with the knowledge partnership regarding product / process / service innovation. It is not enough to be e.g. a recipient of a newsletter. Only enterprises starting such cooperation after the start of the project should be counted. A knowledge partnership is a formal cooperation of enterprises, researchers, the public sector, NGOs and/or end users. It should provide the knowledge needed to create new products and services and accompany development to the point when these products can be introduced to the

						market. Partnerships also promote improvements to existing processes and the adoption of new technologies. New / improved means that the knowledge partnership has been established as a result of the project or that it has significantly changed the way it operates as a result of the project.
1.2	Number of improved or new innovation support measures launched for enterprises	Innovation support measures	21	Project reporting	Annual	Innovation support measures are initiatives or schemes (other than a knowledge partnership) which aim to encourage more enterprises to innovate or to increase the amount of innovation in already innovating enterprises. Projects should report the number of measures for this indicator rather than the number of participating enterprises. In this context a measure is a clearly defined set of actions in support of innovation. For example, one measure could be an innovation audit. Another could be a graduate recruitment scheme for SMEs. Projects should provide a breakdown of these measures when reporting on this indicator.

						New / improved means that the measures has been implemented as a result of the project or that it has been significantly changed as a result of the project.
1.3	Number of improved or new innovation support measures launched for public service delivery	Innovation support measures	21	Project reporting	Annual	As above but targeted at for public sector organisations. Includes measures which aim to encourage more public administrations to innovate or to increase the amount of innovation in already innovating authorities. Projects should report the number of measures for this indicator rather than the number of participating authorities. Projects should provide a breakdown of these initiatives when reporting on this indicator.
2.1 & 2.2	Number of green products, services and processes piloted and/or adopted by the project	Green solutions piloted / demonstrated	54	Project reporting	Annual	A 'green' product, service or process is one that offers improved environmental performance in terms of preserving natural capital, using better production methods, and / or changing consumption patterns. Green solutions should provide a demonstrable reduction in carbon and other emissions and/or resource use. Piloted or adopted means that projects can report

						completely new solutions developed and tested by the project, or solutions developed outside the project but more widely adopted as a result of the project. Projects should provide a breakdown of these solutions when reporting on this indicator.
3.1	Number of new and/or improved climate change adaptation solutions demonstrated	Climate change adaptation solutions	21	Project reporting	Annual	A climate change adaptation solution is a method that prevents climate change damage to a target site or reduces the negative impact of such damage. New / improved means that the solution has been developed as a result of the project or that it has been significantly changed as a result of the project. Demonstrated means that the solution has been tested in the field and a professional analysis carried out of its costs, advantages, disadvantages and potential improvements. Projects should provide a breakdown of these

						solutions when reporting on this indicator.
3.2	Number of sites managed using new solutions supporting long-term sustainability	Sites	35	Project reporting	Annual	This output aims to capture the take-up of new environmental management solutions across the North Sea Region. A 'site' means a geographically separate area managed in line with the new solution (e.g. a river, a national park, a harbour). Projects should be able to provide lists of sites if required and the size of these sites. A new solution means that the solution has been developed as a result of the project.
4.1 & 4.2	Number of new and/or improved green transport solutions adopted	Green transport solutions	54	Project reporting	Annual	Green transport solutions mean environmentally friendly and low carbon transport solutions. New / improved means that the solution has been developed as a result of the project or that it has been significantly changed as a result of the project. Adopting solutions means changing existing practices / procedures or equipment as a result of the project either by modifying existing practices

					or introducing completely new practices.
					Each improved green transport mode/method on a route is reported as one solution. For example, 3 reduced emission ships on one shipping route count as one solution. Introducing improved load management on the same route counts as an additional solution etc. Projects should provide a breakdown of these solutions when reporting on this indicator.

Table 3 – Compulsory Output Indicators

All projects will have to complete the compulsory indicators as most of these data are aggregated by the European Commission to provide information on the performance of programmes throughout the European Union. Projects report on all 5 indicators – even if the target is zero.

ID	Indicator *(name of indicator)*	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting	Definitions / *Comments*
Used by all projects	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	80	Project reporting	Annual	Commission definition: Number of enterprises that cooperate with research institutions in transnational R&D projects. At least one enterprise and one research institution participates in the project. One or more of the cooperating parties (research institution or enterprise) may receive the support but it must be conditional to the cooperation. The cooperation may be new or existing. The cooperation should last at least for the duration of the project.

Enterprise: Organisation producing products or services to satisfy market needs in order to achieve profit. The origin of the enterprise |

						(inside or outside of the EU) does not matter. In case one enterprise takes the formal lead and others are subcontractors but still interacting with the research institution, all enterprises should be counted. Enterprises cooperating in different projects should be added up (provided that all projects receive support); this is not regarded as multiple counting. Research institution: An organisation for which R&D is a primary activity.
Used by all projects	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	80	Project reporting	Annual	Commission definition: Number of research institutions in transnational R&D projects. The cooperation may be new or existing. The cooperation should last at least for the duration of the project. Research institution: An organisation for which R&D is a primary activity.
Used by all	Number of organisations / enterprises adopting new	Organisations and enterprises	780	Project reporting	Annual	Adopting new solutions means changing existing practices / procedures or equipment as a result of the project either by modifying

projects	solutions by project end					existing practices or introducing completely new practices. New in this context means new to the organisation / enterprise concerned. All new solutions must introduce new functionality or fundamentally different technologies compared to existing practices. In the case of process innovation, the new process must introduce demonstrable improvements in efficiency and / or effectiveness. If an organisation or enterprise introduces several new solutions, it is still counted as one organisation / enterprise.
Used by all projects	Number of organisations / enterprises informed about new solutions by project end	Organisations and enterprises	7800	Project reporting	Annual	Informed about new solutions means obtaining sufficient information to consider a change to existing practices / procedures or equipment as a result of project information activities. Requires that the enterprise / organisation has actively sought the information by e.g. attending an event, visiting a website, or requesting a publication.

Table 4 - Programme result indicators

The programme has a result indicator for each specific objective. Projects do not need to report on these but the application and subsequent reports do need to explain how the project should logically contribute to the relevant result.

IMPORTANT NOTE – DEFINITION OF CAPACITY
Capacity: All result indicators target 'capacity development '. This means understanding and acting on the obstacles that inhibit stakeholders in relevant target groups from realizing their goals, while at the same time enhancing the abilities that will allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results. Obstacles may be organizational, technical/technological, infrastructural, operational, logistical or service-related, financial and economic, or political.

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Base-line value	Base-line year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting	Definition / *Comments*
	1.1 Capacity of knowledge partnerships in the North Sea Region to deliver marketable product, service and	Capacity scale		2015		Expert consultation during evaluation	2017, 2019 and at programme close	A knowledge partnership is a formal cooperation of enterprises, researchers, the public sector, NGOs and/or end users. It should provide the knowledge needed to create new products and services and accompany development to the point when these products can be

	process innovations							introduced to the market. Partnerships also promote improvements to existing processes and the adoption of new technologies. A marketable innovation is a new or improved product or service which can be traded to satisfy market needs in order to achieve profit.
	1.2 Capacity of authorities / practitioners to increase the scope and quality of innovation in enterprises	Capacity scale		2015		Expert consultation during evaluation	2017, 2019 and at programme close	Authorities are public organisations supporting innovation in enterprises. Practitioners are other organisations with this role such as universities, incubators, business associations etc. The scope of innovation regards the amount of innovation being carried out in enterprises. The quality of innovation regards whether this innovation results in marketable products and services.

	1.3 Capacity of authorities / practitioners to increase the scope and quality of innovation in public service delivery	Capacity scale		2015		Expert consultation during evaluation	2017, 2019 and at programme close	As above except that the target group is public authorities and other organisations delivering services for the public good. Improved quality means improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.
	2.1 Capacity of enterprises and organisations to adopt new or improved green products, processes and services	Capacity scale		2015		Expert consultation during evaluation	2017, 2019 and at programme close	Adopting new or improved solutions means changing existing practices / procedures or equipment either by modifying existing practices or introducing completely new practices.

A 'green' product, service or process is one that offers improved environmental performance in terms of preserving natural capital, using better production methods, and / or changing consumption patterns. Green solutions should provide a demonstrable reduction in carbon emissions and/or resource use. |

| | 2.2 Capacity of authorities / practitioners around the North Sea to identify and implement new solutions for reducing their environmental footprint | Capacity scale | | 2015 | | Expert consultation during evaluation | 2017, 2019 and at programme close | Authorities are public organisations. Practitioners are other organisations other than enterprises.

New in this context means new to the organisation concerned. New solutions must introduce new functionality or fundamentally different technologies compared to existing practices. In the case of process innovation, the new process must introduce demonstrable improvements in efficiency and / or effectiveness.

Environmental footprint is the cumulative negative environmental impacts of human activity in the region concerned. |
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| | 3.1 Capacity of relevant authorities / practitioners around the North Sea to identify and implement solutions for improving climate change resilience | Capacity scale | | 2015 | | Expert consultation during evaluation | 2017, 2019 and at programme close | Authorities are public organisations. Practitioners are other organisations. In the context of this indicator, practitioners may include enterprises seeking to climate-proof their activities.

Identifying solutions means finding effective and realistic methods for addressing the various effects of climate change.

Implementing solutions means the ability to put new solutions in place and manage the associated costs, disadvantages and potential improvements needed.

Improving climate change resilience means reducing the risk of negative events, reducing the severity of unavoidable events, and reducing the damage caused during all events. |
| | 3.2 Capacity of North Sea regions to improve the quality | Capacity scale | | 2015 | | Expert consultation during | 2017, 2019 and at programme | This indicator addresses all relevant stakeholders in the North Sea |

	of the environment					evaluation	close	programme area. Improving the quality of the environment is defined as reducing negative impacts, repairing past damage and/or promoting ecosystem services and biodiversity.
	4.1 Capacity of transport and logistics stakeholders to increase the proportion of long-distance freight carried on sustainable modes in the North Sea Region	Capacity scale		2015		Expert consultation during evaluation	2017, 2019 and at programme close	Transport and logistics stakeholders are all those concerned with providing transport and logistics services and infrastructure, those regulating or setting policy for such services, and the users of these services. Long distance freight in this context means freight travelling more than 150 km. Sustainable modes in this context means transport modes with the best possible Greenhouse Gas and emissions profile. The proportion of freight means that this result targets an increase in the overall share of goods carried by sustainable

							modes rather than a simple increase in overall tonnage.
	4.2 Capacity of authorities and enterprises to increase the use of green transport services	Capacity scale		2015		Expert consultation during evaluation	2017, 2019 and at programme close	Green transport services means transport choices with the best possible Greenhouse Gas and emissions profile. This result targets an increase in the overall share of people and goods carried by sustainable modes.

Table 5 – Overview of Specific Objectives and Programme Result Indicators

This table maps the programme intervention logic and shows how the general objectvies in the regulations have been translated into specific targets for results. It is provided primarily for background information.

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
Priority 1: Thinking Growth: Supporting growth in North Sea Region economies	1) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	b) Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialization, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies	1.1 Develop new or improved knowledge partnerships between businesses, knowledge institutions, public administrations and end users with a view to long-term cooperation (post project) on developing products and services 1.2 Enhance regional innovation support capacity to increase long-term innovation levels and support smart specialization strategies 1.3 Stimulate the public sector to generate innovation demand and innovative solutions for improving public service delivery	1.1 Capacity of knowledge partnerships in the North Sea Region to deliver marketable product, service and process innovations 1.2 Capacity of authorities / practitioners to increase the scope and quality of innovation in enterprises 1.3 Capacity of authorities / practitioners to increase the scope and quality of innovation in public service

		and diffusion of general purpose technologies		delivery
Priority 2: Eco-innovation: Stimulating the green economy	6) Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	g) Supporting industrial transition towards a resource efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors	2.1 Promote the development and adoption of products, services and processes to accelerate greening of the North Sea Region economy 2.2 Stimulate the adoption of new products, services and processes to reduce the environmental footprint of regions around the North Sea	2.1 Capacity of enterprises and organisations to adopt new or improved green products, processes and services 2.2 Capacity of authorities / practitioners around the North Sea to identify and implement new ways of reducing their environmental footprint
Priority 3: Sustainable North Sea Region: Protecting against climate change and preserving the environmen	5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management & 6) Preserving and protecting the environment	a) Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches & d) Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through NATURA 2000, and green infrastructure	3.1 Demonstrate new and/or improved methods for improving the climate resilience of target sites 3.2 Develop new methods for the long-term sustainable management of North Sea ecosystems	3.1 Capacity of relevant authorities / practitioners around the North Sea to identify and implement solutions for improving climate change resilience 3.2 Capacity of North Sea regions to improve the quality of the environment

t	and promoting resource efficiency			
Priority 4: Promoting green transport and mobility	7) Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	c) Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	4.1 Develop demonstrations of innovative and/or improved transport and logistics solutions with potential to move large volumes of freight away from long-distance road transportation 4.2 Stimulate the take-up and application of green transport solutions for regional freight and personal transport	4.1 Capacity of transport and logistics stakeholders to increase the proportion of long-distance freight carried on sustainable modes in the North Sea Region 4.2 Capacity of authorities and enterprises to increase the use of green transport services

Table 6 - Indicators in practice: Example of indicators for one project

The example below shows how the system works in practice for a project. As can be seen, there are relatively few indicators and almost all are selected from drop down menus as part of the application writing process.

Type	Indicator	Target		Comments
Deliverable	Exchange of information event (internal)	6		*Project selects from drop down menu when completing application*
Deliverable	Number of participants	120		*Auto selected because events has been selected*
Deliverable	Exchange of information event (external)	2		
Deliverable	Number of participants	200		*Auto selected because events has been selected*
Deliverable	Report/strategy	4		*Number of separate published documents*
Deliverable	Numbers of readers	2000		*Auto selected because events has been selected*
Deliverable	Pilots/demonstrations	10		
Deliverable	Working practice change	30		
Deliverable	Communication initiative	4		
Deliverable	Number of users	4000		*Auto selected because communication has been selected*
Deliverable	Dissemination event	1		
Deliverable	Number of participants	120		*Auto selected because events has been selected*
Output	Number of sites managed using new solutions supporting long-term	20		*Normally mandatory though there is very limited choice for the transport priority*

	sustainability			
Output	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0		*Mandatory indicator*
Output	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	7		*Mandatory indicator*
Output	Number of organisations / enterprises adopting new solutions by project end	100		*Auto selected for all output indicators*
Output	Number of organisations / enterprises informed about new solutions by project end	250		*Auto selected for all output indicators*
Result	Reduction in heavy metals in harbour sediments (copper, mercury and lead)	50%		*Project selected but essential for programme reporting as it validates the project pilots*