

Monitoring Committee 2021-2027

Summary of meeting decisions

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MC 1 - 14 & 15 September 2022 – Saarbrücken (Germany)

Item 1 – Official opening

Welcome speech by Mrs Elena Yorgova-Ramanauskas (Saarland State Secretary for Economics, Innovation, Digital Affairs & Energy) and Mrs Vera Moosmayer (Head of the Directorate for Spatial Planning and Regional Policy at the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building, Germany).

Item 2 – Regulatory requirements

Decision: MC took note of the regulatory requirements to be met by the Programme.

Item 3 – MC rules of procedure

Decisions:

- MC approved the MC rules of procedure (<https://www.nweurope.eu/programme-bodies>).
- MC took note of the list of the members of the NWE monitoring committee (<https://www.nweurope.eu/programme-bodies>).
- MC commented and took note of the planning of the next MC meetings.

Item 4 – Decisions and actions NTF18

The NWE Task Force (NTF) was set up by the 6 NWE Member States to prepare the 2021-2027 NWE Programme. In total, 18 meetings took place from November 2019 and June 2022.

Decision: MC approved the NTF18 decisions and actions.

Item 5 – Official confirmation of previous NTF decisions

Decision: MC approved the eligibility and quality assessment criteria (see sections 3 & 4 of the Programme Manual).

Item 6 – Small-scale projects

Decision: MC approved the main features of the first small-scale projects call.

Item 7 – Call 1 step 1

Decision: MC approved 34 project applications (out of 76) which are invited to the second step of the application procedure.

MC 2 – 22 & 23 March 2023 – Strasbourg (France)

Item 1 – MC1 minutes

Decision: MC took note of the approved MC1 minutes, the follow-up of actions and the update on the written procedures.

Item 2 – Management and Control System Description

Decisions:

- MC approved the procedure for partners outside the NWE area (see section 2.5.1 of the Programme Manual).
- MC approved the complaint procedure (see section 7 of the Programme Manual).
- MC approved the framework to deal with State aid (see section 5.7 of the Programme Manual).
- MC approved the project subsidy contract.
- MC approved the risk-based management verification's methodology.
- MC discussed and approved the irregularity and recovery procedure.

Item 3 – Call 1 step 2

Decision: MC approved 14 project applications (out of 32).

More details on <https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/14-projects-approved-38>

Item 4 – Planning of calls

Decision: MC agreed with the provisional planning of calls presented at the meeting.

MC 3 – 20 & 21 April 2023 – Lille (France)

Item 1 – MC2 minutes

Decision: MC approved the MC21 minutes.

Item 2 – Communication

Decision: MC approved the 2021-2027 communication strategy.

Item 3 – Evaluation plan

Decisions:

- MC approved the evaluation plan.
- MC agreed to set up an Evaluation Task Force made of representatives from the Member States, the Managing Authority, the Contact Points and the Joint Secretariat.

Item 4 – 2024-2029 Technical Assistance budget

Decision: MC approved the TA budget for 2024-2029.

Item 5 – Contact Points

Decisions:

- MC approved the final version of the MA-MS subsidy contract on CPs.
- MC approved the CP network vision and mission.

Item 6 – Call 2 step 1

Decision: MC approved 27 project applications (out of 76) which are invited to the second step of the application procedure.

More details on:

<https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/call-2-step-1-27-projects-approved-42>

Item 7 – Strategic MC reflection on calls beyond 2023

Decision: MC took note and commented upon the proposals regarding the two proposed strategic reflections moments aimed at preparing and shaping the next calls.

MC 4 – 21 & 22 November 2023 – Nantes (France)

Item 1 – MC3 minutes

Decision: MC took note of the approved MC3 minutes, the follow-up of actions and the update on the written procedures.

Item 2 – Programme monitoring

Decision: MC took note of the current Programme monitoring state of play (budget and output & result indicators).

Item 3 – Programme management – controller's checklist, report and certificate

Decision: MC agreed to validate those documents via a written procedure.

Item 4 – Call 2 step 2

Decision: MC approved 17 project applications (out of 26).

More details on:

<https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/call-2-step-2-17-projects-approved-80>

Item 5 – Call 3 small scale projects

Decision: MC approved 15 project applications (out of 41).

More details on: <https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/call-3-15-projects-approved-81>

Item 6 – Member States reflection meeting

Decisions:

- MC took note of and comment upon the main conclusions and learnings from the 18-19 October 2023 Reflection Meeting.
- MC took note of the follow-up actions planned by the Joint Secretariat to take the results of the 18-19 October 2023 Reflection Meeting further.

Item 7 – AOB

Decisions:

- MC took note of the latest information regarding post27 preparations at the Interreg Annual event.
- MC took note of the reasons and legal basis that currently excludes an approved step 1 applicant from submitting a step 2 application under a later call. This information will be conveyed as general reply in case applicants would ask questions around this.

MC 5 (part 1) – 15 April 2024 – online

Item 1 – 2024 Technical Assistance

Decisions:

- MC approved the workplan and the TA budget for 2024.
- The decision on taking EUR 1 million from the reserve to cover the 2024-2029 Technical Assistance funding gap will be discussed at the next MC meeting.

MC 5 (part 2) – 28 & 29 May 2024 – Limerick (Ireland)

Item 1 – Previous meetings

Decisions:

- MC took note of the approved MC4 minutes.
- MC took note of the conclusions of the Reflection meeting No 2.
- MC took note of the approved MC5 (part 1) minutes.

Item 2 – Programme monitoring

Decisions:

- MC took note of the budget monitoring.
- MC took note of the Programme indicator profile and recommendations made.

Item 3 – 2024-2029 Technical Assistance

Decisions:

- MC approved the 2024-2029 TA budget.
- MC agreed to take EUR 1 million from the Programme reserve to cover the 2024-2029 TA funding gap

Item 4 – Risk management

Decision: MC took note of the risk matrix and its purpose.

Item 5 – Project modification procedure

Decisions:

- MC decided that all the modifications related to investments should be treated as “substantial +” (requiring the approval of both JS and MS hosting the partner concerned by the modification)
- MC approved the general project modification procedure (with the above change) including the specific approaches proposed for call 3 Small Scale Projects.

Item 6 – Terms of reference call 5

Decision: MC approved the terms of reference for call 5.

Item 7 – Capitalisation strategy

Decision: MC approved the capitalisation strategy.

Item 8 – NWE Annual Event – 5 & 6 November 2024

Decision: MC took note of the overall concept for the NWE Annual Event.

Item 9 – Call 4 step 1

Decision: MC approved 42 project applications (out of 101) which are invited to the second step of the application procedure.

More details on:

<https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/call-4-step-1-42-projects-approved-252>

MC 6 – 10 & 11 December 2024 – Cork (Ireland)

Item 1 – MC5 minutes

Decision: MC took note of the approved MC5 minutes, the follow-up of actions and the update on the written procedure.

Item 2 – VB Programme closure

Decision:

MC took note of the projects and the VB Programme closure.

Item 3 – Programme monitoring

Decisions:

- MC took note of the budget monitoring.
- MC took note of the Programme indicator profile and recommendations made.
- MC decided to choose for an overcommitment of EUR 23 million ERDF. The overcommitment budget will be actively monitored and regularly reported upon.

Item 4 – Post 2027 consultation

Decision:

MC took note of the and commented the draft stakeholder consultation report an next steps.

Item 5 – Call 4 step 2

Decision: MC approved 25 project applications (out of 38).

More details on:

<https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/call-4-step-2-25-projects-approved-612>

MC 7 – 2 & 3 April 2025 – Luxembourg City (Luxembourg)

Item 1 – MC6 minutes

Decision: MC took note of the approved MC6 minutes, the follow-up of actions and the update on the written procedures.

Item 2 – VB Programme closure

Decision: MC took note of the projects and the VB Programme closure.

Item 3 – Programme monitoring

Decisions:

- MC took note of the budget monitoring.
- MC took note of the Programme indicator profile and recommendations made, including the submission of a Programme modification to the EC.
- MC took note of the updated version of the gap analysis and its main conclusions and recommendations.

Item 4 – 2025 Technical Assistance

Decision: MC approved the 2025 Technical Assistance work plan and budget.

Item 5 – Risk management

Decision: MC took note of the risk follow-up approach.

Item 6 – Staff without employment contract – Simplified Cost Option (SCO)

Decision:

MC took note and commented on the imminent implementation of this new programme specific SCO for call 5 – step 2 applicants.

Item 7 – Capitalisation strategy

Decisions:

- MC took note of the main capitalisation activities for 2025.
- MC approved the indicative timeline for two calls for capitalisation.
- MC confirmed the amount of 10 MEUR ERDF for a capitalisation call and took note of the available alternative sources to eventually add to that amount.
- MC took note and prepared for an informal Member States Reflection meeting by the end of June 2025 which will address modalities of capitalisation calls, in particular, the targets for a capitalisation call and selection criteria.

Item 8 – Project implementation (calls 1 to 3)**Decisions:**

- MC took note of the project modifications overview.
- MC took note of the update on project CIRCULAR RENO.

Item 9 – Call 4 – step 2 update**Decisions:**

- MC decided that the “Re-Heat-Appartment” project application did not meet its technical requirements by the set deadline in a substantial manner.
- With this, the MC also decided not to proceed with the signature of the subsidy contract and hence not to fund the “Re-Heat-Appartment” application.

Item 10 – Call 5 step 1

Decision: MC approved 39 project applications (out of 136).

More details on:

<https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/call-5-step-1-39-projects-approved-972>

MC 8 – 18 November 2025 – Basel (Switzerland)

Item 1 – MC7 minutes

Decision: MC took note of the approved MC7 minutes, the follow-up of actions and the update on the written procedures.

Item 2 – VB Programme closure

Decisions:

- MC took note of the VB Programme closure.
- MC took note of the project closure follow-up.
- MC took note of the VB Programme bank accounts' situation.
- MC agreed to pay EUR 5,847,601 to the UK as part of the closure of the accounts for the IVB and VB Programmes.
- MC agreed to transfer the balance of the VB ERDF bank account to the Programme reserve account.
- MC agreed to transfer the balance of the VB TA bank account to the VIB TA bank account.

Item 3 – Programme monitoring

Decisions:

- MC took note of the budget monitoring.
- MC took note of the Programme indicator profile.
- MC took note of the Call 4 indicator contributions.
- MC took note of the implication of a possible Programme modification.

Item 4 – Evaluation of the application process

Decisions:

- MC took note of the evaluation report.
- MC took note of the recommendations' follow-up.

Item 5 – Risk management

Decision: MC took note of the current Programme Health check.

Item 6 – Audit

Decision:

MC took note of the 2025 audit campaign and the system audits.

Item 7 – None

Item 8 – Project implementation (calls 1 to 4)

Decisions:

- MC took note of the project modifications overview.
- MC took note of the update on project issues.

Item 9 – Call 5 step 2

Decision: MC approved 21 project applications (out of 37).

More details on:

<https://www.nweurope.eu/blog/programme-news-1/call-5-step-2-21-projects-approved-1434>

MC 9 – 10 March 2026 – Utrecht (the Netherlands)

Item 1 – MC7 minutes

Decision:

- MC took note of the approved MC8 minutes.
- MC took note of the follow up of actions and the update on the written procedures.

Item 2 – VB closure

Decision:

- MC took note of the Programme and project closure update.
- MC agreed to report as soon as possible to the EC that the EYES project is partially non-functioning.
- MC agreed not to launch a recovery procedure towards the EYES project.
- MC took note of the current situation of the closure of the accounts with the UK.

Item 3 – Programming monitoring

Decision:

- MC took note of the budget monitoring.
- MC took note of the Call 5 indicator contributions.
- MC took note of the Programme indicator profile.
- MC agreed to go forward with the Programme modification.

Item 4 – Risk management

Decision:

- MC took note of the current Programme “Health check” (6-month periodic review of a group of risk).

Item 5 – Technical Assistance

Decision:

- MC approved the 2026 Programme Assistance work plan.
- MC approved the 2026 Technical Assistance budget.
- MC approved the 2024-2029 Technical Assistance budget.

Item 6 – Project implementation

Decision:

- MC took note of the project modification overview.
- MC took note of the update on the CIRCULAR RENO project.

Item 7 – Gap analysis**Decision:**

- MC took note and commented the update of the gap analysis and its main conclusions and recommendations.

Item 8 – Operation of Strategic Importance (OSI)**Decision:**

- MC approved the proposal to have the actions of “Supporting thematic clustering of projects” as the Programme’s “Operation of Strategic Importance”.

Item 9 – Report from Annual Event 2025 on ensuring project long-term effects**Decision:**

- MC took note of the ideas and suggestions made by NWE stakeholders on how to ensure project long-term effects.

Item 10 – 2028-2034 MA designation process**Decision:**

- MC approved the MA designation process and calendar for the future programming period.

Item 11 – 2028-2034 Programme preparation – working method**Decision:**

- MC approved the working method for the 2028-2034 Programme preparation.
- MC agreed to launch preparation on the 28-34 programme from MC9 onwards.
- MC agreed to organise a first Task Force meeting before the end of June 2026.
- MC agreed to mandate the JS to launch preparations for a first Task Force and to prepare in order of urgency the relevant tender documents for tasks requiring an external provider.
- MC agreed to ringfence a provision of EUR 300,000 from the Programme reserve to cover for preparation costs of the new 28-34 Programme.
- MC exchanged on elements considered relevant to share at this stage regarding the general state of play in each Member State on 28-34 preparations.

Item 12 – AOB – Project Street2030**Decision:**

- MC approved the JS proposal to contract the Steet2030 project in its current state and to address afterwards the new partners joining the partnership through a project modification.

MC 10– 21 May 2026 – online

Item 1 Managing Authority function for the 2028-2034 NWE Programme

Decision:

- MC approved the Hauts-de-France application to take up the 28-34 Managing Authority function following the set-up presented in its application.