

Progress report Q&A

07.06.2017

Nr	Question	Answer
Structure, length		
1	What is the expected length and structure of the progress report?	<p>The progress report model¹ establishes the basic structure of the progress report. It also contains character limits for free text which define the maximum length of the report to be submitted.</p> <p>It would be preferable for Member States however to focus and structure the submitted information and not necessarily use character limits to the maximum. The Commission will summarise Member State progress reports in the strategic report, which the Commission intends to keep a concise document.</p> <p>It is also advised for Member States to structure input with regard to each question or element within a section (<i>e.g. separate replies to the questions with headings, bullets, etc.</i>). This is useful as often there is only one text field for several questions in the progress report model or there are multiple elements within a question. Structuring the narrative so that achievements and challenges can be clearly identified would also facilitate analysis.</p>
2	Are there any special requirements regarding Part III of the progress report?	<p>Part III of the progress report model provides an option for Member States with no more than one operational programme per Fund to include certain information in the progress report instead of the annual implementation reports submitted in 2017 and 2019 (see Art. 111(4) last subparagraph CPR).</p> <p>The preferred solution however would be to submit all information earlier in the annual implementation report, as this would facilitate the aggregation of data.</p>

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/207 of 20 January 2015, Annex I

	The progress report template does not specifically ask for reporting on sustainable urban development (Article 7 ERDF). Where can Member States report related information?	Member States are kindly advised to report on sustainable urban development under 5(a) of the progress report model (" <i>General commentary and assessment</i> ") as a separate block in a consistent and sufficient manner.
Reporting on ex ante conditionalities		
3	Most Ex-Ante Conditionalities (ExAC), not fulfilled at the date of adoption of the PA/OPs, have already been reported to the EC through SFC and the EC has accepted the fulfilment with an official letter. For those should we insert in AIR/Progress report the fulfilment assessment and justification action by action or only make a reference that the ExAC as a whole is fulfilled and accepted by the EC as such (in order not to duplicate the valid MS assessment and EC confirmation)?	It is sufficient to insert in the " <i>Commentary (for each action)</i> " column of the tables under Section 3 of the progress report model a reference to the letter by the Commission confirming fulfilment.
4	Some ExAC not fulfilled in PA were fulfilled later, at stage of adoption of OP and included as fulfilled in the OP. For those should we insert in the Progress report the fulfilment assessment and justification action by action or only make a reference that the ExAC is fulfilled and included in the respective OP/OPs as such (in order not to duplicate our assessment and EC confirmation)?	<p>The justification for each action is required, unless fulfilment has already been reported to the Commission and the Commission has issued an agreement of fulfilment. In such a case, a reference to the correspondence from the Commission confirming fulfilment is sufficient in the "<i>Commentary (for each action)</i>" column.</p> <p>The Commission's decision adopting an operational programme with a specific ex ante conditionality regarded as fulfilled has equivalent value to such agreement, therefore in those cases a reference to the decision would suffice.</p>
5	If there is an ExAC that is not fulfilled by 30 June 2017, should the AIR only state that this ExAC will be reported in the Progress Report?	All the columns of the corresponding tables of the annual implementation report model need to be completed (i.e. " <i>Action completed by the deadline (Y/N)</i> ", " <i>Criteria fulfilled (Y/N)</i> ", " <i>Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions, if applicable</i> "). The " <i>Commentary (for each action)</i> " column can state that fulfilment will be reported in the progress report.
6	While Article 19 CPR requires the completion of the ex ante conditionality action plans by the end of 2016, how should Member States proceed in case the last actions were completed after this date but still before the submission of the progress report?	Regarding the progress in completing the ex ante conditionality action plans, Member States should provide the most up-to-date information both in the annual implementation report and the progress report. The actual timing of the completion of relevant actions can be inserted in the " <i>Commentary (for each action)</i> " column.

7	How to report on the completion of action plans for the ex ante conditionalities not fulfilled at programme adoption, when certain actions under the same ExAC were included in the operational programmes and other actions in the Partnership Agreement?	The annual implementation report should contain information on those actions which were included in the programme. The progress report should contain information on the completion of actions included in the Partnership Agreement.
<i>Involvement of partners</i>		
8	Can you provide information on the application of the partnership principle during the progress report process? Regarding the information in p. 8 (a and b) of the model for a progress report, should partners be selected specifically for the preparation of the report, or those already selected for the PA monitoring (incl. for the participation in the Monitoring Committee) can be involved in the preparation?	It is not necessary to initiate a new procedure to select partners specifically for the preparation of the progress report; the ones already selected for PA monitoring and Monitoring Committee participation can be involved. The partnership principle regarding the progress report should however be implemented fully in line with the Code of Conduct on Partnership. ²

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014