



Output and result indicators guidance for Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)

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1. Introduction

This document contains the output and result indicators within the four priorities and eleven specific objectives to be addressed by the cross-border cooperation programme **Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)** for the **2021-2027** programming period. Output indicators relate to the specific deliverables of the intervention. For each output indicator, a final target value has been set for 2029, when the programme ends. Result indicators match the immediate effects of the intervention with particular reference to the direct addressees. For each result indicator, a final target value for 2029 has been determined. The definitions and numbering are based on the European Commission's staff working document "Performance, monitoring and evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund in 2021-2027" (SWD(2021) 198 final).

At the application stage, each project needs to select the relevant indicators (output and related result indicators) and include a realistic quantification of its targets in the application form. During the implementation of the project, the progress and final achievement of these targets have to be reported through periodic activity progress reports. It is therefore of outmost importance for applicants and beneficiaries **to understand the meaning of indicators and how their achievement shall be counted**. For this reason, the programme has prepared this document to provide you with additional guidance to understand and apply the different indicators.

General guidelines

- Choose your indicators carefully out of the set of defined common indicators taken up in the programme document: be **ambitious**, but also **realistic**.
- Do not select too many indicators: only select those where your project can make an **active contribution**.
- Keep in mind that you will have to report on the indicators throughout the project implementation and that you will have to provide **evidence**.
- When defining your project indicators, ensure that they **fit** to the selected output and/or result indicator. Your project indicator will function as a sub-indicator.
- Pay attention to **measurement units**: your project indicator must use the same measurement unit.
- Have a close look at the **programme target values**: they give you an indication what the programme as a whole aims to achieve (all projects together).
- Only select indicators that belong to the **specific objective** that your project fits under. You cannot choose indicators from other specific objectives.
- Avoid **double-counting** under the different activities, i.e. counting the same enterprises twice.
- Clearly **define** your project indicator. If the overall indicator refers for example to the number of enterprises, your project indicator should specify what kind of enterprises and in what field are meant.
- The contribution to the selected indicators should be clearly backed-up with the information provided in the entire **application form** (e.g. work plan). If your indicator is for example about the number of participants, the way these participants are involved and participate needs to be clearly visible in the description of the activities.
- For all output and result indicators, data will be counted, interpreted, substantiated and saved in the **Monitoring System JEMS**.
- Ask your **regional antenna (during the application phase)** or the **joint secretariat (during the implementation phase)** if you need extra guidance.

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- This is a **dynamic guidance**. The frequently asked questions will be updated and answered in the **Section 5 Q&A**. Please take a moment to have a look at this section as it may contain answers to the questions you have in mind.

2. Overview programme output and result indicators

You can find the overview of the output indicators on **page 5** and the overview of the result indicators on **page 6**.

The overviews contain the following information:

- 1) Which output or result indicators can be selected under a certain specific objective. Applicable output indicators are indicated in green, while applicable result indicators are indicated in blue.

E.g. Under the specific objective SO 1.i, the applicable output indicators are RCO 01, RCO 02, RCO 04 and RCO 10 and the applicable result indicators are RCR 02 and RCR 05.

RCO 01 and RCR 02 are the indicator codes. You can find the definitions of the indicator codes in **section 3 (Output indicators)** and **section 4 (Result indicators)**.

- 2) What are the final programme target values of a certain output or result indicators under a certain specific objective.

E.g. The final programme target values for the output indicator RCO 01 under the specific objective SO 1.i is 373 enterprises supported.

The overview only displays the numerical values. To understand the definitions of the measurement units, please refer to **section 3 (Output indicators)** and **section 4 (Result indicators)**.

- 3) Quick access to indicator information. By clicking on the indicator code in the overview, you can directly access to the corresponding indicator information through a hyperlink.

Overview of programme output indicators:

Specific objective	Indicator code												
	RCO 01	RCO 02	RCO 04	RCO 10	RCO 77	RCO 81 - INT	RCO 83 - INT	RCO 84 - INT	RCO 85 - INT	RCO 87 - INT	RCO 115 - INT	RCO 117 - INT	
SO 1.i Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	373	298	75	94									
SO 1.iii Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments	400	320	80										
SO 2.ii Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein	37	37						15					
SO 2.iv Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches							12	36		48	6		
SO 2.vi Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy	37	37						6					
SO 4.i Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy							7	21		40			
SO 4.ii Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training							6	18	750	35			
SO 4.v Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care								8		18			
SO 4.vi Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	25	20	5		9					36			
ISO 1.ii Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions						750				80		15	
ISO 1.iii Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions						250				60			

Overview of programme result indicators:

Specific objective	Indicator code	RCR_02	RCR_03	RCR_05	RCR_72	RCR_77	RCR_79 - INT	RCR_81 - INT	RCR_82 - INT	RCR_84 - INT
SO 1.i Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies		€ 3,19 million		101						
SO 1.iii Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments				108						
SO 2.ii Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein		€ 1,6 million	30							
SO 2.iv Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches							9			
SO 2.vi Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy		€ 0,8 million	30							
SO 4.i Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy							5			
SO 4.ii Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training							5	600		
SO 4.v Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care					500					13
SO 4.vi Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation						22.500				25
ISO 1.ii Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions									10	56
ISO 1.iii Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions										42

3. Output indicators

Output indicator RCO 01: Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)

What it counts?

The indicator counts all enterprises that receive monetary or in-kind support from ERDF.

Definition:

The enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational unit producing goods and services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit. Legal units include legal persons whose existence is recognised by law independently of the individuals or institutions which may own them or are members of them, such as general partnerships, private limited partnerships, limited liability companies, incorporated companies etc. Legal units as well include natural persons who are engaged in an economic activity in their own right, such as the owner and operator of a shop or a garage, a lawyer or a self-employed handicrafts-person. (ESTAT in references, based on Council Regulation (EEC) No. 696/93, Section III A of 15.03.1993)

Classification of enterprises:

Micro enterprise (≤ 10 employees and annual turnover $\leq \text{€ } 2$ million, or balance sheet $\leq \text{€ } 2$ million);

Small enterprise (10-49 employees and annual turnover $> \text{€ } 2$ million - $25 \leq \text{€ } 10$ million or balance sheet in $> \text{€ } 2$ million - $\leq \text{€ } 10$ million);

Medium enterprise (50-249 employees and annual turnover $> \text{€ } 10$ million - $\leq \text{€ } 50$ million or balance sheet in $\text{€ } > \text{€ } 10$ million - $\leq \text{€ } 43$ million);

Large enterprises (> 250 employees and turnover $> \text{€ } 50$ million or balance sheet $> \text{€ } 43$ million). If either of the 2 thresholds (employees and annual turnover/balance sheet) is exceeded the enterprises shall be categorised in the size category above. (ESTAT based on EC Recommendation 2003/361/EC, Annex, Articles 2- 3) Size of the enterprise supported is measured at the time of the application.

All of the above forms of enterprise are to be counted in this indicator.

Attention points:

RCO 01 is the umbrella indicator for RCO 02 and RCO 04, thus $\text{RCO } 01 = \text{RCO } 02 + \text{RCO } 04$ - number enterprises with multiple forms of support (i.e. remove double counting).

If RCO 4 is not applicable, then $\text{RCO } 01 = \text{RCO } 02$.

An enterprise is counted once regardless how many types of support (ex: grants and non-financial support) it receives from operations in the same project.

Time measurement achieved: It depends on the type of support:

RCO 02: Completion of monetary support in the form of grants;

RCO 04: The first time the enterprise received the non-financial support under the programme.

Output indicator RCO 02: Enterprises supported by grants**What it counts?**

Number of enterprises receiving monetary support in the form of grants. In case of a voucher scheme, it can also be vouchers in monetary form.

Definition:

For the definition of an **enterprise** see RCO 01.

Attention points:

Use together with RCO 01. RCO 01 is the umbrella indicator for RCO 02 and RCO 04, thus $RCO\ 01 = RCO\ 02 + RCO\ 04 - \text{number enterprises with multiple forms of support (i.e. remove double counting)}$.

If RCO 4 is not applicable, then $RCO\ 01 = RCO\ 02$.

An enterprise is counted once regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same project.

Time measurement achieved: Completion of monetary support in the form of grants.

Output indicator RCO 04: Enterprises supported with non-financial support**What it counts?**

Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support. Enterprises are counted in the indicator if they receive the non-financial support in a structured manner such as, for example, an SMEs receiving incubator services. The support provided needs to be documented. Examples of non-financial support include services such as (non -exclusive list): advisory services (consulting assistance and training for the exchange of knowledge and experience etc.) or support services (provision of office space, websites, data banks, libraries. market research, handbooks, working and model documents etc.).

Definition:

For the definition of an **enterprise** see RCO 01.

Attention points:

One-off interactions (ex: phone calls for information requests; Meet and Greet event) are not included.

Time measurement achieved: The first time the enterprise received the non-financial support under the programme.

Use together with RCO 01. RCO 01 is the umbrella indicator for RCO 02 and RCO 04, thus $RCO\ 01 = RCO\ 02 + RCO\ 04 - \text{number enterprises with multiple forms of support (i.e. remove double counting)}$.

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An enterprise is counted once regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same project.

Example $RCO\ 01 = RCO\ 02 + RCO\ 04$

Assume in a project:

- Partnership, consisting of 2 Universities, 2 Business support organisations, 1 large enterprise, 2 medium enterprises and 1 micro-enterprise having been granted an ERDF-amount to carry out project activities contributing to programme goals – **4 enterprises should be counted in RCO 02**
- WP 1 – Meet and Learn
 - Activity 1.1: Meet and Greet event with participation of 100 companies - **One-off interactions cannot be counted in RCO 04 or any of these indicators, so no contribution to RCO 04 for this activity.**
 - Activity 1.2: Advisory talks to improve cross-border operations for 25 companies, of which 5 did not participate in the event – **25 enterprises supported with non-financial support should be counted in RCO 04**
- WP 2 – Guidance
 - Activity 2.1: 8 companies contribute to publication 'Enhancing cross-border export' – **No support is provided to enterprises, therefore there is no contribution to any of these indicators.**
 - Activity 2.2: Providing additional guidance to 5 out of 25 companies in Activity 1.2- **As these 5 companies have already been counted in RCO 04 under Activity 1.2, they shouldn't be counted again. Double accounting is not allowed.**
 - Activity 2.3: Vouchers to hire advice and guidance from business support organisations within consortium for 10 companies, which are being supported for the first time – **10 enterprises supported with non-financial support should be counted in RCO 04. In case they would already have been supported in activity 1.2, they should not be double counted. But that is not what the information over activity 2.3 says.**

Thus $RCO\ 02 = 4$ enterprises, $RCO\ 04 = 25 + 10 = 35$ enterprises,
 $RCO\ 01 = 4 (RCO\ 02) + 35 (RCO\ 04) = 39$ enterprises supported

Output indicator RCO 10: Enterprises cooperating with research organisations

What it counts?

Number of enterprises that cooperate in joint research projects with research organisations. Cooperation in R&D activities may be new or existing and it should last at least for the duration of the project supported. The indicator covers active participations in joint research projects, and it excludes contractual arrangements with no active cooperation in the supported project.

Definition:

For the definition of an **enterprise** see RCO 01.

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Research organisations are bodies with a primary goal to conduct independently fundamental research, industrial research and experimental development and to disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Examples include universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented or virtual collaborative entities, and they can be public or private. (Commission Regulation 651/2014).

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: upon completion of the supported R&D cooperation activity.

Output indicator RCO 77: Number of cultural and tourism sites supported**What it counts?**

Number of cultural and tourism sites supported by the grant.

Definition:

Cultural and tourism sites consist of specific cultural and tourism locations being supported in projects by means of providing ERDF-money. The amount of actual locations / sites which are supported within a project have to be counted, where the entire set of activities carried out at a certain location / site and receiving support in a project is to be counted as 'one'.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: Upon supported project finalisation.

Output indicator RCO 81 Interreg: Participations in joint actions across borders**What it counts?**

The number of participations in joint actions across borders implemented in the supported projects.

Definition:

Joint actions across borders could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits organised with partners across borders. Participations (i.e. number of persons attending a joint action across borders - e.g. citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, public officials, etc.) are counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification. A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organisations from at least two participating countries.

Attention points:

Participations in public events organised in supported projects or the participations in internal project meetings of the partners should not be counted in this indicator.

Time measurement achieved: Upon project finalisation.

Output indicator RCO 83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed

What it counts?

The number of joint strategies or action plans developed by supported projects.

Definition:

A jointly developed strategy aims at establishing a targeted way to achieve a goal oriented process in a specific domain.

An action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into actions.

Jointly developed strategy or action plan implies the involvement of organisations from at least two participating countries

Attention points:

If a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only for the dominant specific objective.

Revision or update of existing strategies/action plans cannot be counted under this indicator.

Time measurement achieved: Upon project finalisation.

Output indicator RCO 84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

What it counts?

The pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects.

Definition:

The scope of a **jointly developed pilot action** could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or the transfer of practices. Jointly developed pilot action implies the involvement of organisations from at least two participating countries.

Attention points:

In order to be counted by this indicator, - the pilot action needs not only to be developed, but also implemented within the project and - the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project.

Time measurement achieved: Upon project finalisation.

Output indicator RCO 85 Interreg: Participations in joint training schemes

What it counts?

The number of participations in joint training schemes.

Meuse – Rhine (NL – BE – DE)**Definition:**

Participations in a joint training schemes are intended to be counted as registered participants who started the training. A joint training scheme implies the involvement of organisations from at least two participating countries.

Attention points:

A joint training scheme requires building knowledge in a certain topic and involves the training of participants over several sessions. A one-off meeting/event/internal session where information is disseminated should not be considered as a training scheme.

Time measurement achieved: Upon project finalisation.

Output indicator RCO 87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders**What it counts?**

The organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities including project partners, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the application. Organisations cooperating formally in small projects (for instance under a Small Project Fund) are also counted.

Definition:

Project partners are the legal entities included in the application form who receive financial support from the programme (Interreg funds).

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: Upon project finalisation

Output indicator RCO 115 Interreg: Public events across borders jointly organised**What it counts?**

The number of events across border which were jointly organised by the partners in supported projects or by interregional programmes, and not the number of participations in public events.

Definition:

A **public event across borders** is understood as a joint action which has been advertised through relevant means, to the general public of the area covered by the programme. A public event across borders should have participants from at least two countries of the programme area.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: Upon project finalisation.

Output indicator RCO 117 Interreg: Solutions for legal or administrative obstacles across border identified**What it counts?**

The number of solutions identified for resolving/alleviating such legal or administrative obstacles across borders.

Definition:

Legal or administrative obstacles refer to rules, laws or administrative procedures which obstruct everyday life and the development of those border regions eligible under ETC goal. The identified solution(s) should be customised according to the specificities of each territory and cooperation context. In order to be counted in the indicator, an identified solution should be accompanied by indications of possible actions to be taken for its potential implementation.

Attention points:

In order to avoid double counting, the solutions relevant for this indicator should have the main topics linked to administrative or legal frameworks.

Time measurement achieved: Upon project finalisation

4. Result indicators

Result indicator RCR 02: Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)

What it counts?

Total private contribution co-financing the supported project where the form of support has to be a grant. The indicator covers also the non-eligible part of the project cost, also including VAT. For state owned enterprises, the indicator covers the co-financing contributions from their own budget. The indicator should be calculated based on the private co-financing foreseen in the financing agreements.

Definition:

See above.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: Reference to the grant letter, which states amount of private investments. This needs to be updated at project closure, indicating the final private contribution to the project.

Result indicator RCR 03: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation

What it counts?

Number of SMEs introducing product or process innovation due to the support provided. The indicator covers also micro enterprises, but no large enterprises.

Definition:

Product innovation is the market introduction of a new or significantly improved good or service with respect to its capabilities, user friendliness, components or sub-systems.

Process innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved production process, distribution method, or supporting activity.

Product or process innovations must be new to the enterprise supported, but they do not need to be new to the market. The innovations could have been originally developed by the supported enterprises or by other enterprises or organisations.

For **enterprise** definition - see RCO01

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: At most one year after the completion of output in the supported project.

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Double counting removed at the level of the project. An enterprise is counted once regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same project.

Result indicator RCR 05: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) innovating in-house**What it counts?**

Number of enterprises which innovate in-house. The indicator covers also micro enterprises, but no large enterprises.

Definition:

The innovation activities are carried out in-house by the supported enterprise, and not contracted out to other enterprises or other research organisations. Software development that meets these requirements is included.

For **enterprise** definition - see RCO01

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: At most one year after the completion of output in the supported project. Double counting removed at the level of the project. An enterprise is counted once, regardless how many times it receives support from operations in the same project.

Result indicator RCR 72: Annual users of new or modernised e-health care services**What it counts?**

Annual number of registered unique users of the e-health care services newly created or modernised. e-Health care services is defined as the delivery of healthcare services by means of information and communication technologies.

Definition:

Modernised services are to be considered in terms of significant new functionalities added to an existing e-health care application offered to the users. 'New' does not necessarily refer to new to the market, but it has to be new to the organisation. In both cases of newly created and modernized e-health care services, the achieved number of users is to be calculated over a period of one year after the completion of the intervention.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: One year after the completion of output in the supported project. The obligation to do so will be taken up in the grant letter and in the closure letter.

Result indicator RCR 77: Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported**What it counts?**

Estimated number of annual visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported. The estimation of the number of visitors should be carried out ex post one year after the completion of the intervention.

Definition:

See above.

Attention points:

The estimation has to be substantiated with factual input(s).

Time measurement achieved: At most one year after the completion of output in the supported project. The indicator does not cover natural sites for which an accurate estimation of number of visitors is not feasible.

Result indicator RCR 79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations**What it counts?**

The number of joint strategies and action plans (not individual actions) adopted and implemented by organisations during or after the project completion.

Definition:

See above.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: Up to one year after project completion. At the time of reporting this indicator, the implementation of the joint strategy or action plan need not to be completed but effectively started. The organisations involved in take-up may or may not be direct participants in the supported project. It is not necessary that all actions identified are taken-up for a strategy/action plan to be counted in this context. The value report should be equal to or less than the value for "RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed"

If a strategy or action plan covers several specific objectives, it should be counted only for the dominant specific objective.

Result indicator RCR 81 Interreg: Completion of joint training schemes**What it counts?**

The number of participants completing the joint trainings schemes organised by supported projects. Completion should be documented by the training organisers either through a record of the confirmed completions or by issuing certificates of completion of the training.

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The certificates of completion do not necessarily require a previous national certification process of the issuing organisation.

Definition:

See above.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: At project completion

Double counting of participants in more than one training schemes organised by the same project should be excluded.

Result indicator RCR 82 Interreg: Legal or administrative obstacles across borders alleviated or resolved**What it counts?**

The number of legal or administrative obstacles that are alleviated or resolved based on solutions identified through supported projects.

Definition:

Legal or administrative obstacles refer to rules, laws or administrative procedures which obstruct everyday life and the development of border regions, eligible under ETC goal.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: During project implementation / up to one year after project completion. The obligation to do so will be taken up in the grant letter and in the closure letter.

Result indicator RCR 84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion**What it counts?**

The organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects.

Definition:

The **organisations** are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.

Attention points:

Time measurement achieved: During project implementation / up to one year after project completion. The obligation to do so will be taken up in the grant letter and in the closure letter.

5. Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Question about result indicator RCR 72: Annual users of new or modernised e-health care services

Question 1. What is the actual definition of an user in the result indicator RCR 72? Is it a person or an organisation? Can the registrations for the pilot phase of a prototype already be counted for this indicator?

Answer 1. This result indicator is actually about the number of users in the sense of ‘natural persons’ of new or modernised e-health care services. So, how many natural persons are going to benefit from this new or modernised e-health care services? Since the achieved number of users has to be calculated over a period of one year after the completion of the project, the partnership has to monitor and register for a period of one year after the project the effect on this indicator and to report it then to MA/JS. Registrations for the pilot phase of the prototype cannot be counted for the achievement of this indicator, as it has to be about achieved operational new and/or modernised e-health care services.