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**Communication**

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**Subject: New document type in SFC2021 for operations of strategic importance**

Dear national communication coordinators,

In reference to our discussion at the Inform EU Expert Group meeting (5 June 2023, Zagreb), I would like to notify you about the roll out of the new document type available in SFC2021 concerning operations of strategic importance.

In the new programming period, SFC2021 is the electronic data exchange system for all official exchanges of information between the Member States and the Commission concerning the CPR Funds management (Article 69(9) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060). As explained in the previous [Ares note \(2022\)5554980](#), SFC2021 includes a dedicated module for Visibility, transparency and communication (overview of the module's elements can be found in the annex).

Within this module a new document type is developed, which should be used for providing information on selected operations of strategic importance as outlined in Article 73(5) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Managing authorities are requested to inform the Commission about selected operations of strategic importance within one month and provide relevant information.

Therefore, national communication coordinators are invited to use the new document type in line with Article 73(5) and disseminate it to managing authorities that implement this type of operations <sup>(1)</sup>. Providing information via the document type will support the Commission in keeping track of selected operations of strategic importance in a structured way. A template to be used for the document type is prepared and annexed to this letter. Lastly, national coordinators are invited to keep track of the state of play of operations of strategic importance in their Member State, including their communication events / activities.

In line with the above, Commission services count on your cooperation and commitment to use the module. Providing updated information will in particular support the Inform EU network, the Kohesio platform and visibility of operations of strategic importance.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Operations of strategic importance are part of programmes funded by the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund, the ESF+, the JTF and the EMFAF (based on Article 22(3) of the CPR), and also of Interreg. Article 73 of the CPR does not apply to Interreg programmes; however, Interreg programmes are encouraged to use the new document type in SFC2021 and share the same information.

Below please find a list of references to support you in using the module:

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1060](#)
- [SFC2021 Application and Support Portal](#)
- [SFC2021 Support Portal: Access Rights](#)
- [SFC2021 Support Portal: Quick Guide for Documents in the Visibility, transparency and communication module](#)
- [SFC2021 Visibility, transparency & communication - templates](#)
- [Communicating Operations of Strategic Importance: A Practical Toolbox](#)

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued efforts in communicating EU policies.

Yours faithfully,

Electronically signed

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Enclosure: Annex I - overview of requirements in the Visibility, transparency and communication module of SFC2021  
Annex II - template for information on selected operations of strategic importance

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