Interreg Europe
Summary

- Key programme features
- Results of previous calls
KEY PROGRAMME FEATURES
Interreg Europe rationale

Objective set in the ETC Regulation - Article 2(3)(a) for interregional cooperation:

- “to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy”

- “identification and dissemination of good practices with a view to their transfer principally to operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal but also, where relevant, to cooperation programmes”
Interreg Europe rationale

Exchange of experience to improve performance of policies for regional development, in particular Structural Funds (SF) programmes

EU Cohesion policy

Goal 1:
Investment for growth & jobs
EUR 340 billion

Goal 2:
European Territorial Cooperation
EUR 10.2 billion

INTERREG EUROPE
EUR 359 m
Improving performance of policy instruments

What is a policy instrument?

- Means of public intervention (policy, strategy or law) developed by public authorities
- Example: Structural Funds Operational Programmes

How to improve a policy instrument?

1. Implement new projects
2. Change programme governance
3. Change programme content
   \[\text{May not require funding!}\]
1. Implement new projects

Practice:

Research & development Card: advisory & financial support to SMEs for the development of innovative products

From: Västra Götaland (SE)      To: Lower Silesia (PL)

5.4 million zł (MEUR 1.35) financed from the ESF Operational Programme of Lower Silesia
2. Change programme governance

Modification of the monitoring system for the evaluation of the innovation measures in the regional operational programmes of:

- Bretagne (FR)
- PACA (FR)
- Puglia (IT)
- Wielkopolska (PL)
3. Change programme content

Partner
Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Improved policy
Bulgarian ESF development programme

ESF ‘Development’ programme tackling unemployment after mass redundancies in enterprises. Thanks to the project, the programme was modified to include preferential treatment to people age 50+.
Geographical & thematic focus

The only Interreg covering EU 28 + NO & CH

A thematic programme
Target groups

Managing authorities

Regional / local authorities

Agencies, institutes, private non-profits

Learn from each other to improve policies
Supported actions

A. Policy learning platforms

B. Projects
A. PLATFORMS
Platforms: objectives

facilitate continuous **policy learning** across EU by creating a community of **policy makers & practitioners** to improve regional policies.

- Better exploit projects’ results
- Open up the programme results to anyone interested

**Internal capitalisation**

**External capitalisation**

#policylearning
Platforms: definition

A service-portfolio provided per priority axis via:

- Online collaborative tool
  - With relevant functionalities
- Expert team
  - Content and coordination role

Research and innovation
SME competitiveness
Environment and resource efficiency
Low-carbon economy
Services accessible to all public

Knowledge bank
- Good practices
- Database
- Policy recommendations
- EU policy news
- Thematic studies

Networking opportunities
- Practitioners Database
- Matchmaking events
- Discussion forums
- Partnering events

Services accessible to registered members

Expert helpdesk
- Policy advice
- Guidance in the databases
- Analysis data
- Updated information

Expert support
- Peer reviews
- Benchmarking exercises
- Thematic workshops
- Capacity building events

www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning

#policylearning
Platforms: launch at EWRC

Policy learning lab: Practical approaches for smart and sustainable regions

The Policy Learning Platforms form the second pillar of initiatives under the Interreg Europe Programme, alongside the interregional cooperation projects. They offer a space for continuous learning where any organisation dealing with regional development policies in Europe can find solutions to improve the way they manage and implement policy advice regarding regional development issues, guidance in good practices and practitioners’ databases. The expert support increases in complexity through a choice of policy learning events, thematic workshops, online e-learning geared to users’ interests and an exclusive offer of peer reviews and benchmarking exercises.

Workshop code
IIA49

Workshop day/time
October 11, 14:30 - 17:00

Organiser(s)
Interreg Europe

Moderator
Ieva Kalnina, Community Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, Latvia

Chair
Peter Heydebreck, Lead Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, Germany

Speakers
Erwin Siweris, Programme Director, Interreg Europe Programme, France
Peter Heydebreck, Lead Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, Germany
Platforms: activities

First thematic content **online**: articles, news, events

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16/02/2017

Help us shape the Policy Learning Platforms!

The Interreg Europe Programme needs your input in shaping the details of the Policy Learning Platforms.

Type: Platform

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15/02/2017

Policy Brief on industrial symbiosis

Industrial symbiosis is one of the tools European regions and cities can use when building a circular economy model. Read our Policy Brief to learn how?

Type: Platform

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08/02/2017

Silver economy and Interreg Europe projects

Ageing population is one of the challenges faced by EU regions. Meanwhile, it is also an opportunity for growth and jobs in what is called “Silver Economy”.

Type: Platform

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29/01/2017

Policy Brief on the SME policy of the European Union

This Policy Brief sums up the key initiatives and policies forming the SME policy of the European Union.

Type: Platform
Platform: how to get involved?

- Sign up to Interreg Europe community
  [www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning](http://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning)

- Follow the upcoming events in 2017:
  - Networking events combined for TO1+TO3 & TO4 +TO6
  - Policy Learning events per TO
  - Thematic Workshops per TO
B. PROJECTS
Projects: main features

Definition

- Partners from different countries working together on a shared regional policy issue (within the thematic scope of the programme).....

Objective

- ....to improve the effectiveness of the policy instruments of the regions involved in the project (in particular their Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes)
Projects: features

Implementation in 2 phases

**Phase 1**
Policy exchange of experience (1 to 3 years) ending with production of 1 action plan per region

**Phase 2**
Monitoring of action plan implementation (2 years) + possible pilot actions

Focus on Structural Funds
At least half of policy instruments addressed must be SF
Projects: partnership requirements

- Min 3 countries represented
  Recommendation: between 5 to 10 partners

- Involvement of policy responsible organisations
  - Directly as partners
  - Indirectly through letter of support (and through participation in stakeholder groups)

- Creation of stakeholder groups
  - Contribute to success of learning process by involving all relevant organisations
  - Reduce obstacles to action plan implementation
Projects: who is eligible?

- Public bodies (main target group) (e.g. local, regional, national authorities)
- Bodies governed by public law (Directive 2004/18/EC)
- Private non profit bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-financing rates</th>
<th>According to legal status or location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85% ERDF</td>
<td>Public or public equivalent from EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% ERDF</td>
<td>Private non-profit from EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% Norwegian funding</td>
<td>Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss funding</td>
<td>Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from CH</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Projects: what do we finance?

Exchange of experience activities among project partners

- such as study visits, peer reviews, staff exchanges

How?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget line</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>the core of the budget (usually 50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>15% flat rate of staff costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and accommodation</td>
<td>only for the staff members of the partner organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External expertise and services</td>
<td>any services needed outside the partner organisation + travel and accommodation for stakeholder groups/external experts (usually below 50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>office equipment (not exceeding EUR 5000-7000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Projects: what do we finance?

Estimate the budget based on your activities!

Average ERDF budget per project is between 1 - 2M€
Projects: simplifications

Online (OLF) system
- Application, report, request for changes

More budget flexibility
- 20% flexibility rules within approved budget
- No financial reporting per component

Fewer control steps
- No reconfirmation of partnership cost on lead partner level

Simpler administration
- Lump sum preparation costs (EUR 15,000)
- Flat rate administration costs (15% of staff costs)
Two interrelated actions

Policy Learning Platforms
Open to all regions

Enrich

Contribute

Interregional cooperation projects

Project 1
Project 2
Project 3
CALL 1 & 2 RESULTS
Call results

472 submitted
130 approved
27.5 % success

EUR 180 million

- Innovation: 31%
- SMEs: 25%
- Low carbon: 24%
- Environment: 20%
Call results

Geographic coverage

- 100% partner countries
- 91% NUTS 2 regions

Partners by legal status

- Governed by private law: 9%
- Governed by public law: 91%
Call results

Budget allocation so far

![Budget allocation chart](chart.png)
Partners in approved projects

N° of partners per country

All partner states represented in approved projects.
Examples of ‘topics’ in the two calls

Innovation and research

- RIS3 - sector/ governance (e.g. P2L2, HIGHER)
- Social innovation (e.g. OSIRIS)

SME competitiveness

- Microfinancing (e.g. ATMforSMEs)
- Internationalisation (e.g. SIE)
- Social enterprises (e.g. SOCIAL-SEEDS)
Example of ‘topics’ in the two calls

Low-carbon economy

- Energy efficiency in social housing (e.g. Social Green)
- Near zero CO2 emission buildings (e.g. ZERO CO2)

Environment and resource efficiency

- Biodiversity information management (e.g. BID-REX)
- Circular economy (e.g. RETRACE)
- Waste management in heritage cities (e.g. INOTHERWASTE)
For more information

Programme website

- www.interregeurope.eu

Programme manual

- www.interregeurope.eu/help/programme-manual/

Interreg Europe community

- www.interregeurope.eu/account/dashboard/
Thank you!