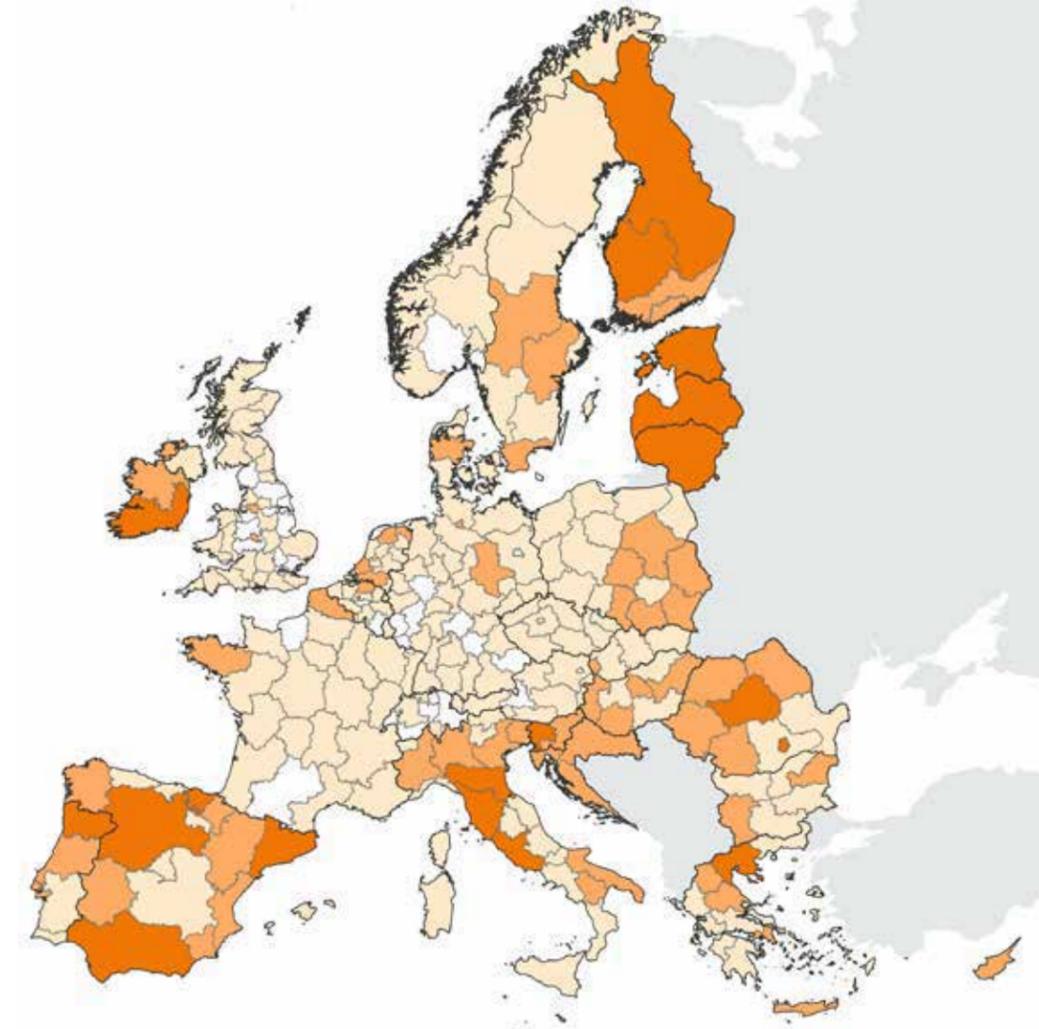




CITIZENS' SUMMARY

This is a summary of a report on Interreg Europe's activities in 2021. It presents key points and highlights from the year.



Number of project partners in NUTS 2 regions

- None (0)
- Low (1 - 8)
- Medium (9 - 22)
- High (23 - 49)



What we do

The European Union strives to reduce disparities in the levels of development, growth and quality of life in and across Europe's regions. Interreg Europe contributes directly to this objective by supporting the exchange of policy experience and good practices between EU regions.

Interreg Europe helps public authorities to share solutions across Europe in order to deliver better policies. The programme runs from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of MEUR 359 from the European Regional Development Fund. Norway and Switzerland also participate and contribute funds. The programme supports policy learning among public institutions from 30 countries (the EU27, plus Norway, Switzerland and the UK). Institutions in the programme's projects come from 88% of European regions.

Two policy learning actions in four thematic areas

Interreg Europe helps policymakers inspire each other and improve their policies, either within interregional cooperation projects or via the Policy Learning Platform.

The programme co-financed **258 cooperation projects** with over 2,000 organisations from European regions. In 2021, 129 of them were closed or under closure. These projects from the first three calls prepared **1,164** action plans, **translating** the lessons learnt in the projects into concrete actions in their own regions.

The Policy Learning Platform, a place for continuous policy learning in the Interreg Europe's four thematic areas, made the programme's knowledge available to over **20,000** community members. Its good practice database presented over **2,700 expert-validated** policymaking practices. The Platform further developed its on-demand services such as the region-to-region peer reviews and matchmaking sessions, which are particularly appreciated by the programme beneficiaries.



The programme is on target

The programme's efficient use of funds

In 2021, the COVID-19 crisis continued and affected Interreg Europe's implementation. All activities stayed largely online both for the **projects** and the Platform. The projects adapted their exchange of experience activities to the online format and shared their new approaches with each other in an online workshop in the fall.

The projects performed well despite the pandemic and reported achievements going beyond the initial programme targets. 99% deliver on their activities as planned. With 1,164 action plans and 16,681 people with increased capacity, they exceeded the targets by 126% and 139% respectively.

However, the programme had to adapt to a drop in projects' spending rate due to the limits on travel. In order to use the funds efficiently, Interreg Europe opened a fifth call only for its projects. 78 of them received funding for their additional activities linked to COVID-19. Some extended duration to implement these activities.

Policy learning ever more active

The online format suited well the **Policy Learning Platform** too. The number of policy learning events increased again in 2021 thanks to the efficiency of online work. With 170 thematic events, the initial programme target was already exceeded by 152%. The tailored expert services were provided online too while keeping high satisfaction rate among the participants.

Sound management confirmed again

The programme audit in 2021 resulted in an error rate of 0.22% and confirmed that the management and control system work well. In spite of COVID-19, the programme kept the underspending risk in check. The programme exceeded by 55% the cumulative decommitment target for 2021.



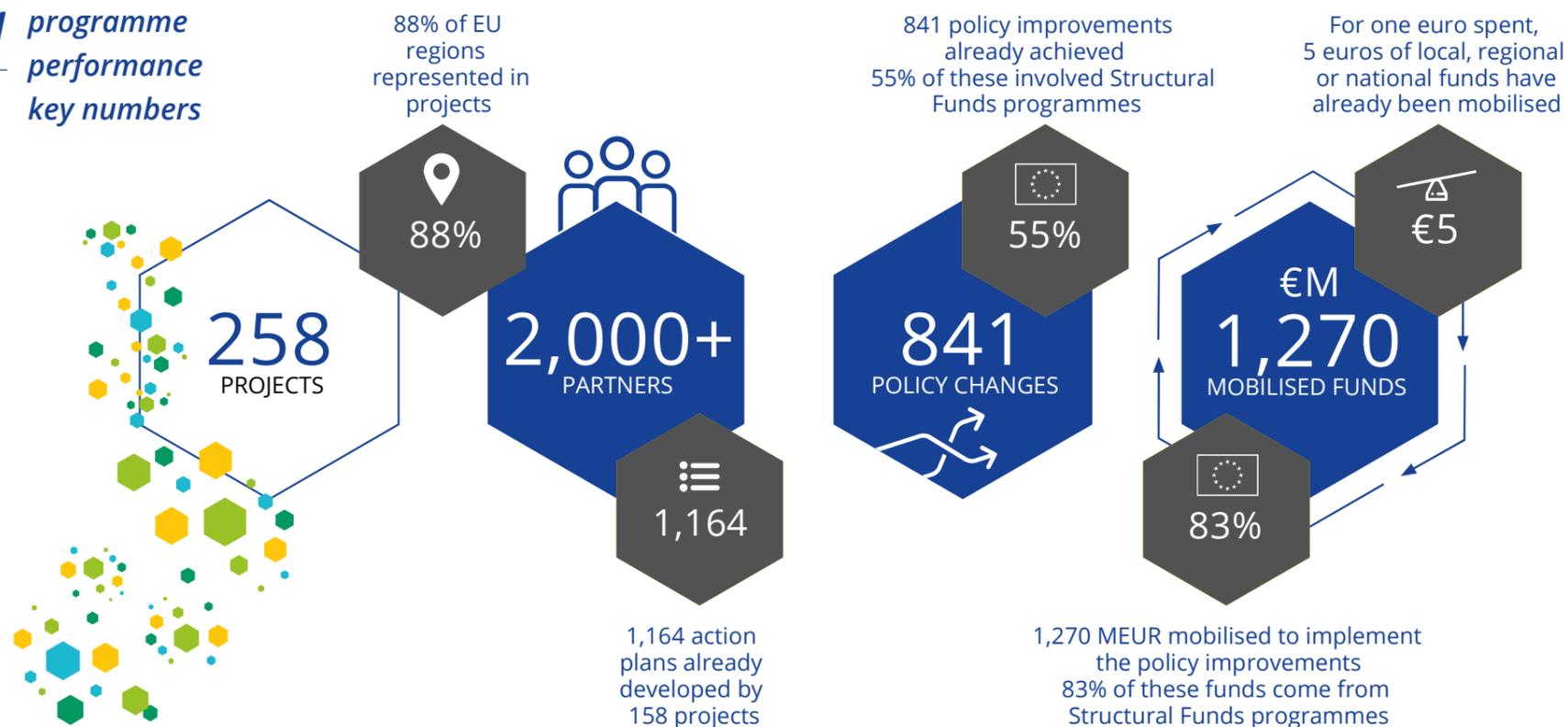
For more information

The latest programme news and details about activities can be found on the programme website: www.interregeurope.eu

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2021 programme performance key numbers



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