Interreg Europe success stories

Highlights from
the 2014-2020 programme
ex-post evaluation

21 Success stories

November 2024

Interreg Europe is an interregional cooperation programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund with 359 million euros in 2014-2020.
Interreg Europe is one of the European Territorial Cooperation programmes, known as Interreg, contributing to the second goal of the EU cohesion policy.

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Introduction

How to demonstrate the usefulness of capacity building activities? Does interregional exchange of experience bring any added value? How can a programme without investment lead to concrete results? These are some of the questions Interreg Europe has been addressing since its creation more than 20 years ago.

Due to this pressure to demonstrate its usefulness, Interreg Europe developed a result-oriented approach from its very beginning in the 2000-2006 period. The first integrated monitoring system was developed then. Ever since, the programme's intervention logic and indicator system have continuously improved.

The Interreg Europe's impact evaluation in 2020 anticipated that the programme would exceeded all its initial targets set for the 2014-2020 period, both in terms of outputs and results. This was partly due to an underestimation of the initial assumptions linked to the total number of approved projects. Instead of the initially forecasted 192 projects, the programme supported 258 projects.

Good performance of the 2014-2020 programme was confirmed by the 2014-2020 ex-post evaluation carried out in 2023. This publication presents the highlights from that evaluation.

First, you can find the evaluation summary, followed by 21 stories of projects' cooperation success in different regions all over Europe. The stories are the outcome of in-depth interviews with selected project partners.

Next you will find the results of the projects' survey and the external experts' report on territorial effects which demonstrate the programme's direct contribution to improving the situation in European regions. The experts provided the programme with a set of recommendations on how to better monitor and mainly classify the territorial effects triggered by the policy improvements of the Interreg Europe projects. They also looked at the regions lagging behind and their involvement in cooperation.

Then, you can look closer at the evaluation results of the Platform's peer review service. The follow-up interviews with the peer review beneficiaries suggested that they appreciated this relatively new service of the Interreg Europe's Policy Learning Platform. The ex-post evaluation confirmed the usefulness of this Platform's service.

We wish you a good and inspiring read.

Regions in interregional cooperation

Interreg Europe is **open to all**

The Interreg Europe programme area covered 30 countries in 2014-2020 programming period. Over 2,000 beneficiaries from the EU27, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom took part in the programme.

Almost **90% of the regions** in the programme area were represented in the **258 interregional cooperation projects,** **c**o-financed by the programme. The programme map shows the intensity of the regions' involvement in the projects: the darker the colour, the higher the number of project partners from the region.

Through the **Policy Learning Platform**, the programme opened the benefits of cooperation to anyone who wished to participate in the good practice sharing and learning from policy solutions developed in other parts of Europe.

It **boosts cohesion** across Europe

Interreg Europe enabled over **2,000** organisations from regions at different levels of development to exchange experience and learn from each other to ensure that public investment is optimised and leads to a more sustainable impact on the ground. In Interreg Europe, all regions benefit. The less developed 'climb the curve' more quickly; the more developed find new ideas on how to grow in a smarter and more sustainable way.

Research and innovation
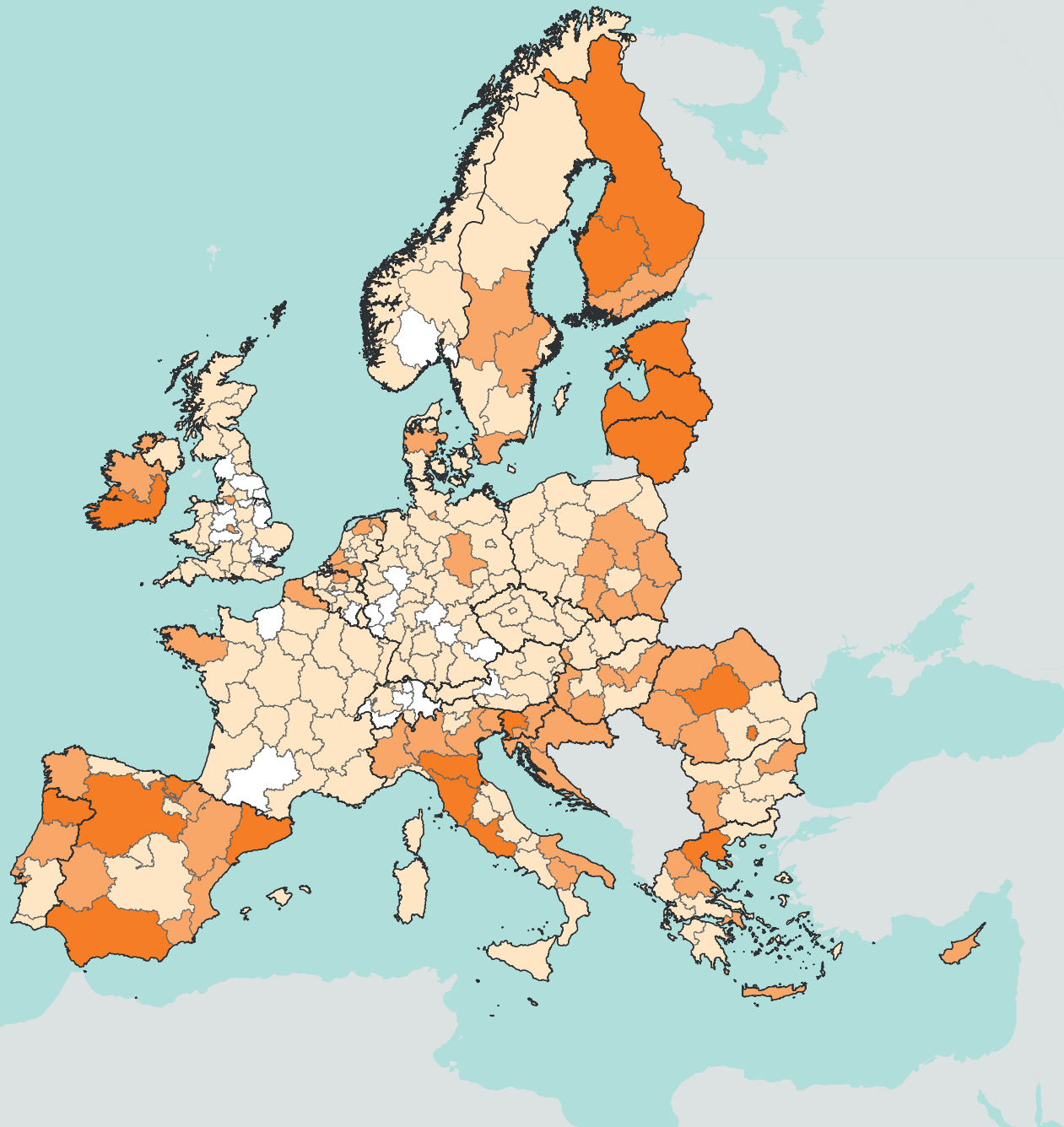
SME competitiveness

Low-carbon economy

Environment and resource efficiency

Evaluation summary

In mid-2023, the Interreg Europe programme launched an ex-post evaluation of the 2014-2020 period. The objective was:

- To get a more systematic analysis of the **projects'** territorial effects to illustrate how policy improvements contribute to positive changes in the project partners' regions;
- To check the usefulness of the Policy Learning Platform's **peer review** service;
- To look at the involvement and benefits from projects and the Platform in the less developed regions/ lagging regions.

The core objective of the projects and to some extent the Platform's peer reviews was the **improvement of regional development policies** through exchange of good practices and interregional policy learning.

In 2014-2020, the programme supported 258 projects and 58 peer reviews. Interreg Europe, together with a team of external evaluators, conducted surveys among all project partners and all peer review beneficiaries.

- The project survey reached 2,230 project partners. 503 received responses (23%) represented 227 different projects with partners from 29 countries. Project lead partners submitted 22% of the responses.
- The peer review survey reached all 58 beneficiary contacts. Responses represented 24 different peer reviews with beneficiaries from 17 countries.

Project survey overview

Almost 80% of respondents indicated that a **policy improvement** took place in their region thanks to the interregional cooperation project:

- 40% indicated that their project led to a new project or initiative;
- 23% answered that it led to a change in the policy management;
- 22% confirmed that the policy itself was modified.

48% of respondents who reported a policy improvement confirmed a measurable **territorial effect** in their region. Territorial effects were reported in 28 different countries, which shows a broad geographical spread across Europe.

The external evaluators looked closely at 275 cases of territorial effects reported to the programme. Their analysis showed that:

- There was a wide variety of reported effects;
- There was a close link between the topic of the policy improvement and its related territorial effect;
- Most territorial effects resulted from a new project or initiative (type 1 of policy improvements).

It was not possible to aggregate data on the projects' territorial effects in 2014-2020. But the evaluators suggested four new

categorisations for reporting on territorial effects for the future:

- Effects on institutions - governance
- Effects on business - economy
- Effects on habitat - land and resource use
- Effects on people - social

26 projects were invited for an in-depth interview. 20 interviews are in this report as project stories, illustrating how the interregional cooperation projects made difference in the regions thanks to inspiration from other parts of Europe.

Peer review survey overview

The Policy Learning Platform launched the peer review service in 2016 and by the time of this evaluation implemented 58 peer reviews in 24 countries.

The evaluation survey focused on the beneficiaries of the peer reviews. First, they rated the different features of the peer review service:

- On overall **usefulness**, the service got an **aggregate score of 4.8**/5
- On content and expertise, the score was 4.7/5
- On relevance of the peer review's recommendations, score 4.6/5

- On organisation and preparation, score 4.8/5,
- On meeting itself, score 4.8/5, and
- On the follow-up, score 4.6/5.

The survey also asked about the policy improvements triggered by the peer review. 20 respondents (77%) indicated that their peer review contributed to a policy improvement in their region:

- 14 respondents (82%) indicated that the peer review contributed to an implementation of a new project;
- 29% answered that it led to a change in the policy management;
- 24% confirmed that the policy itself was modified.

Among the additional effects the peer review had in the regions, respondents indicated:

- Better cooperation among local stakeholders (15 respondents/ 65%);
- Increased capacity on the peer review topic in the organisation (52%);
- The challenge addressed by the peer review increased in importance on the political agenda of the region (43%);
- A new partnership with one or several of the involved peers (26%).

Improving
research and innovation
in European regions

In this policy field, over **550 partners** from all over Europe exchanged experience and inspired each other in **65 interregional cooperation projects.** These projects demonstrated impressive achievements.

They identified over **1,350 good practices.** Almost a half have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.

1,353
Good practices

65
PROJECTS

Over 5,190 people declared that they **increased their professional capacity** thanks to their participation in the project's activities.

5,194
People

Through **65 projects,** the partners **improved 378 policies** supporting innovation infrastructure and delivery; 235 of these improvements were in the Structural Funds programmes.

These 65 projects spent 88.3 MEUR ERDF of Interreg Europe budget. This EU investment had a **leverage effect of 5.1 euros** in terms of mobilistion of local, regional, or national funds.

564
PARTNERS

454
Action plans

Inspiration generated by the projects led to the development of **454 action plans.**

62%
Structural Funds

378
POLICY CHANGES

The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be more than 449 MEUR, with 84% of these funds coming from the **Structural Funds programmes.**

84%
Structural Funds

€

5.1
Leverage

€M
449.6
MOBILISED FUNDS

Read stories from **four countries** and find out how the projects improved public safety with drones, entrepreneurship in cultural and creative industries, access to assisted living technologies, or funding for innovative clusters.

€
26,500
ERDF

Safety with the help of drones

Civil and commercial usage of drones is a reality in the City of Osijek, Croatia, thanks to the inspiration from Sweden. Two drones are now monitoring the traffic in the city to ease the public transport flows and help in public safety situations.

The **Removing barriers to the uptake of innovative unmanned aerial systems in the EU** (AERIAL UPTAKE) was a project with nine partners from six countries. Their common goal was to exchange and transfer knowledge to unleash the potential of drones, unmanned aerial system (UAS) technology, for civil and commercial usage.

The City of Osijek in Croatia joined the project with the aim to learn from good practices in drone applications in other European towns and cities. Later they planned to finance their own drone initiative under the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) scheme, subject to the Strategy of Osijek Functional Urban Area Development till 2020.

The City of Osijek succeeded in learning from experiences of the others and mobilising the ITI funds for their own drone projects. Inspiration from Sweden and Spain were instrumental in these changes brought by AERIAL UPTAKE to Croatia. During a study visit at a Swedish drone factory, the City's representatives saw firsthand examples of the military and medical usage of drones. Exchanges with the Spanish partners then provided inspiration on how to improve collaboration between universities and enterprises.

Thanks to the AERIAL UPTAKE project and successful work with all relevant stakeholders, the City introduced several initiatives for drone usage in their territory. For example, the City bought two drones for the traffic control and trained several drone operators as part of their strategic e-mobility project aimed at improving their public transport system. EUR 27,500 were mobilised from ITI for this e-mobility project.

The City used the two drones also for monitoring situations affecting public safety. In case of a factory fire, the drones were used for the local fire brigade to extinguish the fire more efficiently.

Osijek's improved development strategy also included forward-looking awareness-raising campaigns among the general public on the usage of drones, engaging mainly the youth and children. Local farmers have also adopted the use of drones for their commercial activity.

The City's flourishing IT sector, the presence of a leading drone-specialising company and an early drone education among the general public are a promise of further development opportunities in this high-technology sector.

CROATIA

AERIAL UPTAKE
Interreg Europe

Boost to culture and creativity

Cultural and creative industries entrepreneurs in the Basque Country, Spain, boost their innovative potential. Better statistical data and pilot projects, inspired by Italy, Belgium and Greece, match them with universities.

€ 5,156,000 ERDF

The **Smart specialisation creative districts** (CREADIS3) project brought together six partners from six countries. Their goal was to boost the contribution of cultural and creative industries (CCIs) to their regions' development through better institutional governance. The partners looked for new ideas how to connect their technological sectors with culture-based creativity.

The Regional Government of the Basque Country in Spain developed and later led the project with the aim to learn from good practices from the partner regions and improve the collaboration between CCIs, innovation and research centres in their own region.

Exchanges on good practices from Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Wallonia (Belgium) and Western Greece soon helped the Regional Government to strengthen the Basque cultural and creative sector. The Regional Government together with the local stakeholders created the Basque District of Culture and Creativity (BDCC) which now integrates local cultural and creative industries (CCIs) in one place and has a steering group to pilot promising innovation projects. The inspiration from Belgium and Greece also helped in developing a Basque statistical system on financing and public expenditure for the CCIs. Both actions were integrated in the Basque Country Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS3). The RIS3 is now fostering a more cohesive, innovative, and competitive ecosystem for the CCIs in the region.

This change in the regional strategy has already had several effects in the region. The Euskadi Creative Steering Group is now a key player in the RIS3 of the Basque Country and a model for others both in Spain and other countries in Europe. Stakeholder engagement and management have improved.

There is a successful grant scheme matching universities with entrepreneurs. 52 cooperation projects have already been completed and over MEUR 5 was mobilised for them thanks to CREADIS3's policy improvement. KSIgune, the Basque Cluster for Higher Education and Research for Cultural and Creative Industries, was set up thanks to the project. Moreover, the new focus on innovation led also to the Contrast project which brought an input from industry players into the CCIs.

Thanks to CREADIS3 project, the management of the Basque RIS3 improved and the strategy now prioritises projects with high innovation potential and market applicability. The internationalisation of the CCIs is also growing with new partnerships and exchanges with organisations worldwide.

SPAIN

CREADIS3
Interreg Europe

Test site for smart healthy ageing

© Barrierefrei leben e.V.

SMEs and start-ups working on assisted living technologies in Hamburg, Germany, have a new showroom now where they can present their products and let their users test them. The inspiration came from Denmark.

The **Europe enabling smart healthy age-friendly environments** (EU_SHAFE) was a project with nine partners from six countries. Their common goal was to develop a comprehensive approach to smart, healthy, and age-friendly environments and create a cooperative, inclusive ecosystem between public authorities, European networks and user's associations for the growth of community-based services and "ageing at home" around Europe.

The Ministry of Social Affairs of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg in Germany joined the project to find inspiration for a new, more effective, more integrated and more result-oriented project framework, which will increase the quantity and the quality of the local projects and initiatives related to demographic change adaptions.

One of the key steps towards a better project framework was the improvement of the Hamburg's regional programme 2021-2027. The programme's managing authority adapted the management and control system for smaller projects, limiting the financial controls. This made the programme more attractive to SMEs and start-ups which are often producing the tools for assisted living.

In Hamburg, Barrierefrei leben e.V. has been organising an exhibition on technical aids and home adaptations for over 30 years. Since 2018, smart homes and digital assistance systems have played an increasingly important role in both Aarhus and Hamburg. During a study visit to Denmark, those responsible for assisted living technology in Hamburg were able to visit a showroom in Århus. This resulted in a close exchange between the two showrooms and the colleagues are still in close dialogue about new innovations in the context of new AAL technologies.

The opportunity to test assistive devices on site is of great relevance for people who are dependent on support services. It is particularly important for small companies that manufacture special aids for assisted living and do not have their own exhibition space to be able to exhibit their innovations.

GERMANY

EU_SHAFE
Interreg Europe
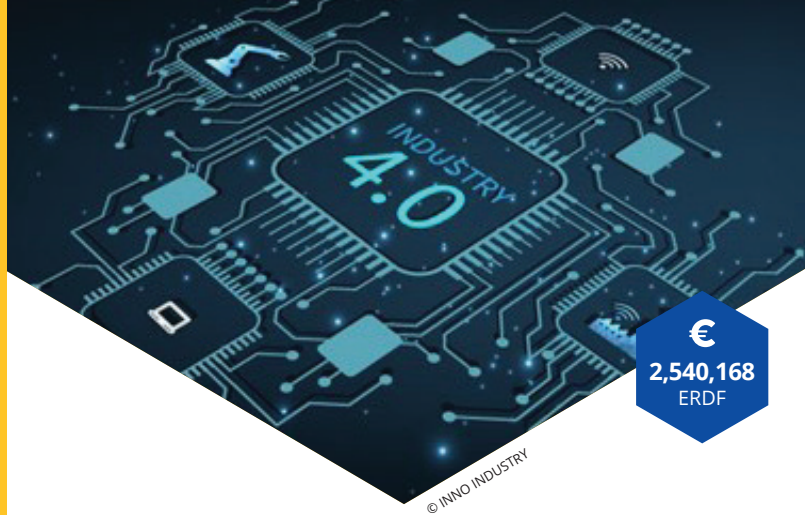
Road to Industry 4.0 clusters

€
2,540,168
ERDF

© INNO INDUSTRY

Clusters in Slovakia made a big step towards Industry 4.0 thanks to innovation vouchers, inspired by examples from Portugal and Slovenia. Clusters can also get grant support based on their performance evaluation, inspired by Austria and Hungary.

The **Improving innovation delivery of policies within 4.0 industry in Europe** (INNO INDUSTRY) project brought together ten partners from ten countries. They were brought together by the necessity to transform the current industry sector into a smarter one. Their goal was to increase the rate of clusters that develop activities to support the transformation towards Industry 4.0.

The Slovak Business Agency, a specialised non-profit organisation for the support of SMEs in Slovakia, joined the project with the aim to consolidate and modernise the use of existing infrastructures and to promote the activities of excellent research. The Agency's ambition was to improve how the Slovak Operational Programme Research and Innovation, merged in 2019 with the Operational Programme for Integrated Infrastructure, supported clusters, cluster organisations and their activities leading to innovation in line with the smart specialisation strategy, as well as the transition to Industry 4.0.

Inspired by the project's work, especially a SWOT analysis for each region, the Slovak Business Agency prepared an action

plan. Together with the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, with the support of the Slovak Ministry of Economy and other local stakeholders, they put this plan in place with two specific measures inspired by good practices shared by the project partners. First, ideas from Hungary and Austria helped in improving the evaluation of effectiveness of clusters. Effectiveness of clusters serves now as a criterion for the Slovak Ministry of Economy, the managing authority of the operational programme, in their decision on whether to provide a cluster with financial support. Second, the Ministry introduced innovation vouchers in the operational programme, inspired by good practices from Portugal and Slovenia.

The Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency distributed MEUR 2.5 worth of innovation vouchers through five calls which were prepared and managed by the Agency within a national project "inovujme.sk", applying the lessons learned from INNO INDUSTRY. Outcomes of some of the supported projects are already on the market, for example 3D printing of tooth implants or bio-based creams for skin illnesses. First cluster performance assessment for deciding on the cluster support grants was also put in place.

SLOVAKIA

INNO INDUSTRY
Interreg Europe

Improving
SME competitiveness
in European regions

In this policy field, over **530 partners** from all over Europe exchanged experience and inspired each other in **66 interregional cooperation projects.** These projects demonstrated impressive achievements.

They identified over **1,480 good practices.** Almost a half have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.

Through **66 projects,** the partners **improved 280 regional and local policies** supporting SMEs; 137 of these improvements were in the Structural Funds programmes.

These 66 projects spent 79.4 MEUR ERDF of Interreg Europe budget. This EU investment had a **leverage effect of 4.2 euros** in terms of mobilisation of local, regional, or national funds.

1,484
Good practices

66
PROJECTS

536
PARTNERS

49%
Structural Funds

280
POLICY CHANGES

€M
330
MOBILISED FUNDS

€
4.2
Leverage

5,479
People

441
Action plans

88%
Structural Funds

Over 5,470 people declared that they **increased their professional capacity** thanks to their participation in the project's activities.

Inspiration generated by the projects led to the development of **441 action plans.**

The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be 330 MEUR, with 88% of these funds coming from the **Structural Funds programmes.**

Read stories from **three countries** and find out how the projects improved SMEs' access to foreign markets, green transition in construction sector, or networking among idea makers in a new business hub.

Transition towards green cities

Companies working on their green transition got a boost in Kristiansand, Norway. A new Green City - Green Buildings initiative, inspired by Italy, facilitates search for the best green and circular solutions for the construction sector and performance indicators.

The **Green startup support** (GRESS) project brought together five partners from five countries. Their common goal was to strengthen their regions' capacities to trigger and support formation of sustainable and competitive start-ups and spin-offs within the green economy.

The Municipality of Kristiansand in Norway developed and later led the project with the goal to boost the number of start-ups within clean-tech sectors in their region and increase the survival rate of the new businesses. The Municipality's ambition was to feed into their Strategic Business Development Plan new ideas coming from the other partners' regions. The Municipality was looking for new approaches, methods, and tools for encouraging, supporting and sustaining green start-ups.

The most inspiring for the Municipality were good practices from Italy, especially their Green technology centre and Green Observatory. Following the Italian examples, the Norwegian Municipality developed further their competence centre and launched the Green City - Green Buildings initiative. The Bølgen centre evolved from a broad sustainability-related meeting place into a co-working space for around 50 in-house green innovators, offering regular trainings and networking opportunities for students and startups in the green sectors. The Bølgen centre remained a meeting place for SMEs but dedicated the events and meetings to topics such as green public procurement or emission-free construction sites. The centre has served as a public-private meeting place since March 2020, with regular meetings fostering dialogue on green and circular solutions for businesses in the building and construction sector, accelerating the green transition in the region.

The Green Monitor, launched by the Municipality to generate scientific knowledge on the region's green economy and growth following the Green Observatory example from Italy, has been compiling relevant statistics, reports, and surveys for the benefit of policymakers and regional leaders. Even though it is still in a pilot phase, the efforts to identify the best indicators for all businesses aiming at green transition are ongoing.

Thanks to the GRESS project, the Municipality set more ambitious targets for a green, circular, and sharing economy in their Business Development Plan updated in 2022. They also improved their City Masterplan in 2020 and shaped the local Climate and Environment Strategy.

NORWAY

GRESS
Interreg Europe

New hub for local SMEs

The Podkarpackie region in Poland has built a new hub for local businesses. The new business park, inspired by one in Norway, provides business support services and also the place for networking among the idea makers, businesses and science.

€ 1,456,365 ERDF

© Podkarpackie Business Park

The **One stop shop towards competitive SMEs, focusing on the ecosystem for the first line service system** (OSS) was a project which had eight partners from seven countries. Their common goal was to improve SMEs growth and entrepreneur skills through an attractive tailor-made ecosystem for start-ups and thus increase their number and quality.

The Rzeszow Regional Development Agency and the Regional Centre of Social Policy in Poland joined the project with the aim to boost the economic development in Podkarpackie region by increasing the level of entrepreneurship in the region though the development of financial instruments, possibilities and motivation for starting a business by people especially endangered with social exclusion (including migrants). The Polish partners also wanted to mobilise the funds from the Regional Operational Programme for Podkarpackie region's business development.

First, the two Polish partners decided to develop a business park with various business support services to create the ecosystem for start-ups. This inspiration came from Norway, from the Maritime Competence Centre.

In order to bring this idea to Podkarpackie region and finance it, the two partners worked closely with the Operational programme's managing authority, and as a result a new type of project was added to the programme. After the call for proposals under the new Entrepreneurship support 'business parks' measure closed in 2019, the construction of the new businesses park started. Close to MEUR 1.5 was allocated to this new project.

The Podkarpackie Business Park in Rzeszów, built on the premises of the Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park AEROPOLIS, was established in 2022 and opened for activities in 2023. Since then, the park has been connecting idea makers with business and science. It is well located. It is close to the motorways, railway station and also the airport. Its focus is on aerospace sector.

The Podkarpackie Business Park in Rzeszów is now one of the main economic and business centres of Rzeszow. It provides opportunities for networking, advisory services and a training room. There are restaurants and also plans to start a kindergarten at the premises. The interest of the local businesses is so high that a special committee decides on which companies can join based on applications.

POLAND

OSS
Interreg Europe

Opening foreign markets for SMEs

Innovative and fast-growing SMEs in Hungary are receiving more comprehensive support to enter foreign markets than before thanks to a new programme shaped by ideas from Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain.

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in Hungary.

€ 2,460,000 ERDF

The **Improving policy instruments supporting innovative SME performance** (UpGradeSME) project brought together eight partners from six countries. Their aim was to improve the SME internationalisation policies in their regions based on learning from good practices of the others.

The Pannon Business Network Association together with the Ministry of Public Administration and Spatial Development (former Ministry of Finance) of Hungary developed and later led the project to improve the international competitiveness of their SMEs and increase the number of their foreign trade relationships.

The Hungarian partners learned from good practices shared in the project, for example the PIPE programme in Spain for training SMEs on foreign trade. They also found inspiring practices about the role of innovation agencies in SME support from Germany and the international trade support from the Netherlands. A good practice from Romania on the SME promotion in the Enterprise Europe network was also useful when improving the Economy Development and Innovation Operational Programme (EDIOP) 2014-2020 and the calls open under this programme for support of SME internationalisation.

Thanks to these ideas shared in the project, the Ministry of Public Administration and Spatial Development as the key decision-maker introduced new calls under the Hungarian large enterprises programme under EDIOP. They moved the focus from SME internationalisation support to a more comprehensive support to fast-growing enterprises, so-called gazelles. The new approach to SME support covered targeted mentoring with the involvement of experts in the focus of internationalisation including international business visits, managerial skills, product development, as well as financing. The new activities specifically assisted in the preparation of SMEs to enter foreign markets.

The Ministry of Public Administration and Spatial Development also improved the management procedures in the EDIOP programme. They introduced the use of unit costs and maximum costs to prevent overpricing, along with a simplified and normative call for proposals.

Over 200 SMEs received support in three new calls open under the improved programme: two calls at the national level and the third one focusing on central Hungary. Close to MEUR 2.5 was mobilised for this SME support.

HUNGARY

UpGradeSME
Interreg Europe

Improving
low-carbon economy
in European regions

In this policy field, over **470 partners** from all over Europe exchanged experience and inspired each other in **60 interregional cooperation projects.** These projects demonstrated impressive achievements.

They identified over 1,350 good practices. Three quarters have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.

1,351
Good practices

Through 60 projects, the partners improved 281 policies supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy; 130 of these improvements were in the Structural Funds programmes.

These 60 projects spent 77.3 MEUR ERDF of Interreg Europe budget. This EU investment had a leverage effect of 6.3 euros in terms of mobilisation of local, regional, or national funds.

46%
Structural Funds

€
6.3
Leverage

60
PROJECTS

476
PARTNERS

281
POLICY CHANGES

€M
489
MOBILISED FUNDS

6,095
People

383
Action plans

73%
Structural Funds

Over 6,090 people declared that they increased their professional capacity thanks to their participation in the project's activities.

Inspiration generated by the projects led to the development of 383 action plans.

The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be 489 MEUR, with 73% of these funds coming from the Structural Funds programmes.

Read stories from nine countries and find out how the projects improved mobility with open data, electric vehicles, charging stations or new modes of transport, or the energy efficiency in buildings through heat pumps or monitoring.

Greener mobility with open data

Public transport in the Centro Region, Portugal, is now using new management and information systems with open data and real-time information. Thanks to ideas from Spain, Sweden and Romania, passengers can make greener mobility choices.

€ 1,437,000 ERDF

© CISMOB

The **Cooperative information platform for low carbon and sustainable mobility** (CISMOB) was a project with six partners from five countries. Their ambition was to promote innovative ways to reducing the carbon footprint by improving the efficiency of urban transport infrastructure through ICT. They wanted to contribute to greener and more accessible public transport and motivate citizens to make more sustainable mobility choices.

The University of Aveiro supported the Municipality of Agueda in Portugal in developing and later leading the project. They were looking for inspiration on how to encourage synergies between European Structural Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research programmes to implement sustainable mobility plans with green mobility projects based on ICT. They also wanted to test real-time information in public transport in a pilot action to decide whether and how to implement it in the Centro region.

The two Portuguese partners found many inspiring practices in the partner regions. They learned, for example, from an open data public transportation platform in Cáceres, Spain, or the Swedish Trafiklab, a community for open traffic data, made to inspire and foster transportation entrepreneurship, or from the Timisoara Public Transport Management System in Romania with real-time passenger information, e-ticketing and more. They compiled their lessons learned in a publication called ICT towards low carbon

and sustainable mobility - a multiscale perspective.

This publication was decisive in motivating the managing authority of CENTRO2020, Portugal's Structural Funds programme, to change the way submitted projects were considered. The managing authority of CENTRO2020 adopted more realistic CO2 reduction goals for evaluating submitted project applications and added four new criteria for the area of intelligent transport systems seeking to take advantage of ICT tools to improve public transport services by using open data platforms, real-time information systems or citizen assistive technology.

Four different projects, inspired by CISMOB, consequently received funding: a real-time information system for public transport users in the Leiria community, a management and information system for innovative and experimental transportation solutions in Águeda, information systems for public transportation, and the implementation of a real-time information system. Thanks to CISMOB, close to MEUR 0.8 from the Structural Funds was used to implement the lessons learned from other parts of Europe.

Additionally, the pilot action testing the use of real-time information for public transport had good outcomes and was later implemented in Cantanhede and Penacova, in the Centro region in Portugal.

PORTUGAL

CISMOB
Interreg Europe

24

Less pollution with e-mobility

E-mobility in the State of Vorarlberg, Austria, has been booming thanks to a new energy autonomy strategy. Inspiration from Greece and Germany led to tests of e-buses in public transport and a launch of grid projects improving the e-mobility infrastructure.

© FHV/ Preissinger

The **Integrated actions towards enhanced e-mobility in European regions** (E-MOB) project brought together nine partners from eight countries. Their common goal was to enhance e-mobility solutions in regional passenger transport systems through coordinated policy learning and planning.

The Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences in Austria with its energy research centre joined the project to support the State of Vorarlberg in improving the electromobility strategy in the region. They were looking for inspiration on how to reduce the CO2 emissions by analysing the interaction between electric vehicles and the electric grid. They wanted to prepare recommendations for a joint expansion and development of e-mobility and infrastructure connected to loading devices, renewable energy generation, and electric grid.

They found inspiration in good practices from Greece and Germany. The Greek peer review encouraged the policymakers in Vorarlberg to merge the e-mobility strategy with the energy and climate strategies into one energy autonomy strategy. As a result, a new Energy Autonomy+ 2030 was adopted in 2021, integrating the lessons learned on e-mobility from the project.

A German good practice on the use of electric buses inspired the State to support a test of electric buses in the region's hilly terrain. Following the test, they decided to purchase 100 e-buses within three years for public transport. Thanks to the strategic shift in the region shaped by the E-MOB project, regional funding became available also for electric taxis and installations of charging stations. The number of electric cars increased by over 300%, reducing pollution from the mobility sector in Vorarlberg. They also have nearly 600 Type 2 charging stations and 103 fast charging stations, providing a comprehensive charging infrastructure for the e-mobility users.

Thanks to the project and especially a German good practice addressing high load issues with e-buses, the State was aware of the grid stabilisation challenges linked to e-mobility infrastructure and integrated the interconnectedness of electro-mobility and energy generation in the new merged energy autonomy strategy. The grid operator recognised the work on grids, which lead to collaboration on a specific grid project.

The annual monitoring by the State of Vorarlberg shows a clear decrease in CO2 emissions.

AUSTRIA

E-MOB
Interreg Europe

Saving energy in public buildings

24 refurbished public buildings in Podravje, Slovenia, save energy and costs for the region thanks to better CO2 data monitoring and public private partnership project. Ideas from Portugal, Ireland and Germany played an instrumental role in shaping the new monitoring system.

€ 2,039,622 ERDF

The **More carbon reduction by dynamically monitoring energy efficiency** (EMPOWER) project had nine partners from nine countries. Their goal was to achieve more carbon reduction and improve low-carbon economy policies in their regions by dynamically monitoring energy efficiency in buildings. They also wanted to boost financing for energy refurbishment projects by using innovative financial instruments.

The Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje in Slovenia developed and later led the project with the aim to find inspiration in the partner regions for a good monitoring and management system. The Agency wanted to bring to the region ICT tools and processes based on the principle of plan–do-act-check to sustain the energy savings and CO2 reductions in the new or renovated buildings.

Thanks to the project, the Agency contributed to improving energy management of public buildings, including their monitoring and other measures for CO2 reduction. The Podravje region also implemented a public private partnership project for energy refurbishment of 24 public buildings and developed a system of energy and financial monitoring and data collection for energy use, all based on lessons learned from EMPOWER.

The Portuguese good practice, Almada Less Carbon Climate Fund, served as an inspiration on how to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. Ireland's action plan developed during the project was inspirational with its focus on social aspects of public buildings' refurbishments. Exchanges with the German partner, the Development Bank of Saxony-Anhalt, brought insights into financial risks and better understanding of the private sector, both instrumental in developing the public private partnership project.

Thanks to the project, the Agency established a practice of annual monitoring and reporting of the energy use data and financial reporting on the costs. Over time, all of Slovenia turned that annual reporting into law, and collecting data for that reporting has become not only a routine but also a criterion for public money grants and other funding. Each public building must state now how much money was used in previous year for the energy based on their monitoring. The energy monitoring data play important role in discussing, educating, and presenting the state of energy efficiency and the changes to the key stakeholders who see the added value of monitoring now.

EMPOWER helped in improving energy efficiency of 24 public buildings which now save 6,000 MWh/year. So far, they saved MEUR 3.5 of Cohesion funds and MEUR 1.9 of municipal financing.

SLOVENIA

EMPOWER
Interreg Europe

Developing 10-minute towns

Irish communities are becoming better connected to public transport, shops, services, green spaces and other neighbourhoods thanks to 10-Minute-Town concept, developed thanks to ideas from Germany, Portugal and Romania.

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in Ireland.

€ 4,099,250 ERDF

© Southern Regional Assembly

The role of modal interchange to foster a low-carbon urban mobility (MATCH-UP) project brought together five partners from five countries. Their common goal was to find the best approaches to the development of sustainable multimodal mobility in their regions. They wanted to combine low-carbon means of transport such as walking and cycling, rail transport, public transport, and green vehicles to connect communities into more compact and permeable urban forms and reduce the need to travel.

The Southern Regional Assembly in Ireland joined the project with the aim to learn from the partners on how to multiply the benefits of the low-carbon transport modes. The Assembly wanted to improve the definition of the strategies for integrating all the multimodal urban mobility initiatives in their regional operational programme 2014-2020, especially with respect to the projects' content and selection.

Study visits and exchanges with the project partners provided a lot of inspiration to the Irish Regional Assembly. For example, inspiration from a German good practice on assessing the transport connectivity and accessibility of disused rail tracks or a Portuguese one on intelligent crosswalks with LED lights enhancing pedestrians' safety contributed to low carbon modal interchange improvements projects implemented in two cities and financed by the regional operational programme. Moreover, exchanges during several

policy-learning events with another Interreg Europe project, TRAM, on bike-sharing schemes and pedestrianisation of cities also contributed to developing the Assembly's '10-Minute-Town' concept for their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, one of the main achievements of the project in the region.

The concept was tested during the MATCH-UP project in a pilot action in three key towns in the region. The Assembly turned the lessons learned into a new implementation tool for local authorities to undertake the 10-Minute-Town assessment of their key towns. This new methodology for prioritising the pedestrian environment, cycle investments, public transport infrastructure and services and road enhancements is helping to improve the low carbon urban mobility and encourage a modal shift in the region. Since the project's end, additional seven towns and six local authorities incorporated the MATCH-UP 10-Minute Framework and Methodology into their Local Development Plans. Over MEUR 4 was mobilised for the implementation of this new concept in the region.

This new methodology contributed also to the National Sustainable Mobility Policy for Ireland. This is the overarching policy for sustainable transport investment in Ireland up to 2030. It now includes a strategic focus in support of 10-minute/ 15-minute neighbourhoods and the Town Centre First approach for the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages.

IRELAND

MATCH-UP
Interreg Europe

© Kiur Kaasik

€
2,650,000
ERDF

Less carbon with bike sharing

People in Tartu City and surrounding towns in Estonia are limiting their car use thanks to available low CO2 public transport alternatives such as bike sharing and on-demand buses. Ideas for the changes came from Italy, Greece, Spain and Germany.

The **Optimisation of public transport policies for green mobility** (OptiTrans) project had seven partners from seven countries. Their ambition was to reduce the carbon footprint of mobility in their regions by strengthening the public transport especially in rural and suburban areas. They were looking for ideas on how to reduce bottlenecks in public transport networks.

The Tartu City Government in Estonia joined the project with the aim to improve their main planning tool for the city's public transport system, the Transport Development Plan of Tartu City 2012-2020. The City was looking for inspiration on how to better integrate the residential areas in the public transport system and address the increasing use of private cars for transport between the urban centre and the expanding city outskirts and surrounding municipalities.

The OptiTrans project helped to improve the Tartu City Development Plan 2018-2025. Thanks to the project, the plan included the building of mobility centres in the city's border areas, building a network of bicycle paths and creating high-speed bus connections between the city centre and the outskirts of the city. The plan focused on modifying the moving habits of Tartu residents by establishing a network of light traffic roads

connecting different districts in the City and creating convenient and environmentally friendly public transport system, including bike sharing. The bike-sharing system, demand-based buses and bus lines connecting surrounding municipalities were intended to reduce the number of cars entering the city.

Inspiration for these changes came from several project partner countries. For example, ideas linked to cycling and regional cycling paths network came from Italy, connecting of different transport modes from Greece, demand-based transport and more attractive bus stops and public transport in general from Spain. Inspiration from Germany about cooperation among municipalities was extremely useful for developing better working relationships with the municipalities surrounding Tartu.

Implementation of the plan and mainly the OptiTrans ideas mobilised MEUR 2.65 of local funds. As a result, the number of cars entering the city has visibly decreased. The bike-sharing system has close to 25,000 users, 25% of the city dwellers. As of early 2024, the total mileage of bike share reached 10.5 million kilometres. The demand-based transport also has its users which further limits the car use.

ESTONIA

OptiTrans
Interreg Europe

Less carbon with electric boats

Maritime activities in the Strait of Otranto and the Strait of Corfu in the Vlora region, Albania, are now regulated according to new procedures aiming at reducing the CO2 emissions of the boats. Inspiration came from Italy and Denmark.

€
82,750
ERDF

The **Public authorities supporting low-carbon growth in European maritime border regions** (PASSAGE) project brought together 11 partners from eight countries with maritime borders. Their common goal was to find the best way to promote low-carbon initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of maritime and logistics flows, port operations and related industries in strait areas.

The Regional Council of Vlora in Albania joined the project to find inspiration for improving their Strategic Plan of Vlora Region 2010-2020 with the ambition to become a zero emission territory by 2020. Maritime activities in the Vlora region affect the Strait of Otranto with Italy and the Strait of Corfu with Greece.

The Council found many inspiring ideas among the good practices shared by the project partners. The Council decided to adopt the ecolabel for tourism structures and use LED systems in those structures, an idea shared by the Italian partners. They also incorporated in Vlora a solar-powered automated system for charging batteries of electric ships which reduced their charging time, inspired by a good practice from Denmark.

Informed by a joint research study done in the PASSAGE project, the Council updated their strategic plan. The new plan included nine strategic lines focusing on tourism, agroindustry and light networks, as well as aligned indicators used during the project in a joint research study of the straits. The new policy changed economic activity procedures in the Otranto maritime strait under Albanian authorities, for example, requiring vessels in the Bay of Vlora to obtain environmental permissions from Port Authorities.

The study provided data on maritime activities and the coastline regarding CO2 emissions. Results showed that approximately 85% of emissions are from coastal activities like tourism, ports and oil depots. Based on these findings, the Agency prepared several new projects, some of which have already been funded. They incorporated CO2 reduction measures such as photovoltaic panels for energy production in the new passenger terminal of passengers in the Port of Vlora.

Local universities, ports, municipalities, traffic monitoring agencies and NGOs formed a consultative network utilizing a quadruple helix system and functioning like a maritime cluster. The network has been working for the past three years now. PASSAGE project also influenced the professional education content, universities and professional institutions revised their curricula and proposed new modules to incorporate greener transport concepts in higher education.

ALBANIA

PASSAGE
Interreg Europe

New charging stations for e-cars

€
1,285,000
ERDF

© Cyprus Energy Agency

Businesses and local authorities in Cyprus are building publicly accessible charging stations for electric vehicles through a grant scheme inspired by a good practice from Portugal. Many communities also will have their Joint Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans now.

The **Supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy in European islands and remote regions** (RESOR) project had eight partners from five countries. Their ambition was to support energy efficiency and renewable energy use in businesses of the secondary and tertiary sector in European islands and other remote regions.

The Cyprus Energy Agency joined the project with the goal to find inspiration in the project partner regions for new energy efficiency actions to be funded by the country's operational programme Competitiveness and Sustainable Development 2014-2020. The Agency wanted these actions for energy upgrade of secondary and tertiary sector to contribute to reducing the energy costs and enhancing competitiveness of businesses in Cyprus.

The main inspiration for the Agency's actions came from Portugal. The project partner from the Azores islands shared their experience in promoting public charging infrastructure for electric vehicles with a large publicity campaign which explained the benefits of electric vehicles (EV) which increased the interest in the offered support.

The Agency engaged the relevant Cypriot ministries in the RESOR project, specifically in discussing the good practice from Portugal. That latter led to the initiation of a grant scheme for businesses and local authorities to install up to 1,000 publicly accessible EV charging stations. 350 charging points under this charging stations' grant scheme have already been approved in Cyprus. This measure mobilized close to MEUR 3.7 from the NextGenerationEU - Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The Agency also supported the local authorities in developing their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs). The Agency worked closely with the Union of Cyprus Communities and the Union of Municipalities in the project's stakeholder group assessing the needs of local communities which revealed a lack of proper strategies as a prerequisite for funding energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Thanks to the RESOR project, 348 communities in Cyprus will have 30 joint action plans addressing their long-term sustainability until 2026.

CYPRUS

RESOR
Interreg Europe

Energy-efficient heritage buildings

Owners of ancient buildings in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region in France can receive funding and guidance for energy efficient renovation of their property. Good practices from Cyprus and Spain shaped the new support system in the French region.

€
10,000
ERDF

The **Preserve traditional buildings through energy reduction** (VIOLET) project brought together six partners from six countries. Their common goal was to promote a building culture that protects architectural heritage and is sympathetic at the same time to modern requirements of reinstatement and conservation for improved energy usage and reduced carbon emissions.

The Local Energy and Climate Agency in Bordeaux metropolitan area in France joined the project with the aim to integrate energy refurbishment and heritage preservation in their regional strategy for energy transition. The Agency wanted to direct the regional EU funds towards projects improving energy efficiency and reducing the final energy consumption of public buildings and housing in the region. However, when the project started in 2017, a new Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region had just been created merging three regions into one and, at the same time, a new regional planning tool for energy efficiency had to be developed. The Agency and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region saw the opportunity to contribute with VIOLET to this new policy development.

The new planning tool, the Regional Program for Energy Efficiency (PREE), was developed in March 2020. Thanks to the VIOLET project, it stated that particular attention had to be paid to ancient buildings in the various operational measures. Before launching the new regional programme, the new Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region initiated four calls for proposals planned to shape the new regional policy. VIOLET helped to clarify the definition of ancient buildings in these calls. The calls on energy renovation offered extra financial assistance to owners of traditional buildings.

The inspiration for shaping the calls came mainly from Cyprus. The Agency learned how they shaped the incentives for protecting, conserving and enhancing historic built environments in Cyprus. They offered extra financial assistance to owners of listed buildings to preserve and restore it. Later on, the Agency found some inspiration on the financial incentives for owners of old buildings, where they promoted the renovation of disused residential buildings in the historical centre and encouraged new inhabitants to move in.

Thanks to the VIOLET project, the Agency facilitated extra assistance in financing energy efficiency works in ancient buildings, provided guidance for condominiums and social housing public and private companies owning such buildings, introduced trainings for civil servants on energy efficiency in ancient buildings and prepared a toolbox for ancient building owners.

FRANCE

VIOLET
Interreg Europe

New grants for heat pumps

The housing sector in Malta, especially public buildings, is becoming more energy efficient thanks to a new grant scheme for heat pumps and plans for deep renovation of social housing blocks. Inspiration came from Germany, Italy and Slovenia.

€
1,500,000
ERDF

© Housing Authority of Malta

The **Promotion of near zero CO2 emission buildings due to energy use** (ZEROCO2) was a project with eight partners from eight countries. Their ambition was to identify the best working financial tools, and renewable energy and energy efficient technologies to promote the near zero CO2 emission public buildings at the local, regional and national levels, including social housing.

The University of Malta joined the project to help their government find the best approaches to funding renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in public infrastructure, public buildings, public social housing and housing sector in general, relying on the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 Malta's Operational Programme.

The Maltese partner found inspiring approaches in Slovenia during a study visit at the public school projects using renewable energy technologies, in Italy showcasing successfully operating heat pumps in a gym project and in Germany demonstrating an effective process of external insulation in social housing without displacing residents.

Thanks to this inspiration, the University collaborated with the Energy and Water Agency, the Government's energy policy advisory arm, to develop several support schemes: one for heat pump water heaters in dwellings and the other for energy and water efficient actions at voluntary organisation where a number of sports facilities invested in heat pump water heaters. A grant scheme for installation of the heat pumps in residences saw increase in interest from zero to an average of about 100 grants annually since 2018. Together with funds available for improving energy efficiency in sports facilities, MEUR 1.5 was mobilised thanks to these new initiatives.

ZEROCO2 has also contributed to consolidating the Housing Authority's ongoing commitment to decarbonisation, by launching the first deep renovation project in public social housing. As of September 2024, the key tender was undergoing adjudication, with a budget of up to MEUR 2. Construction, including substations for grid input from photovoltaic panels, is expected to be completed by mid-2026. The renovation project is fully funded by the Housing Authority through national funds.

Malta

ZEROCO2
Interreg Europe
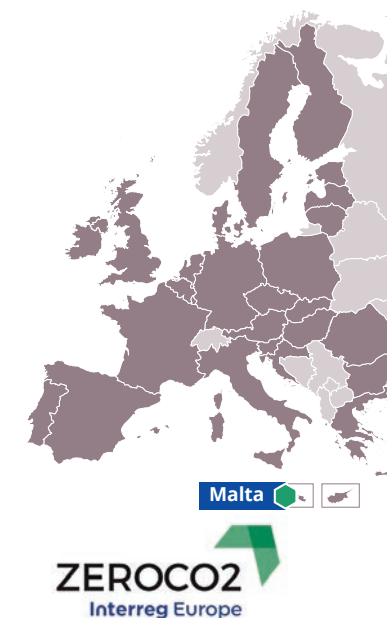
Improving
the environment
and resource efficiency
in European regions

In this policy field, over **530 partners** from all over Europe exchanged experience and inspired each other in **67 interregional cooperation projects.** These projects demonstrated impressive achievements.

They identified over **1,690 good practices.** Over three quarters have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.

Through **67 projects,** the partners **improved 351 policies** protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency; 131 of these improvements were in the Structural Funds programmes.

These 67 projects spent 81.6 MEUR ERDF of Interreg Europe budget. This EU investment had a **leverage effect of 2.5 euros** in terms of mobilisation of local, regional, or national funds.

1,695
Good practices

67
PROJECTS

533
PARTNERS

37%
Structural Funds

351
POLICY CHANGES

€M
204.9
MOBILISED FUNDS

€
2.5
Leverage

5,639
People

423
Action plans

78%
Structural Funds

Read stories from **five countries** and find out how the projects improved recycling through repair and reuse, the bio-based circular economy development, the cultural heritage preservation through zoning or through new, more sustainable tourism offers.
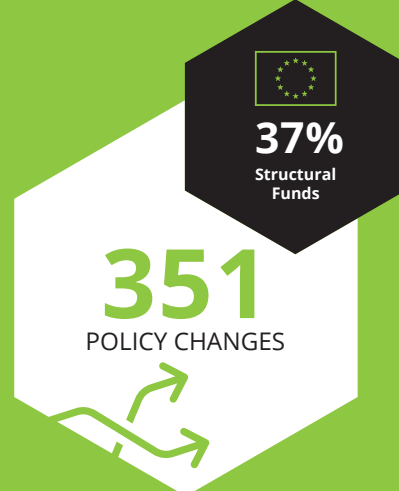
Over 5,630 people declared that they **increased their professional capacity** thanks to their participation in the project's activities.

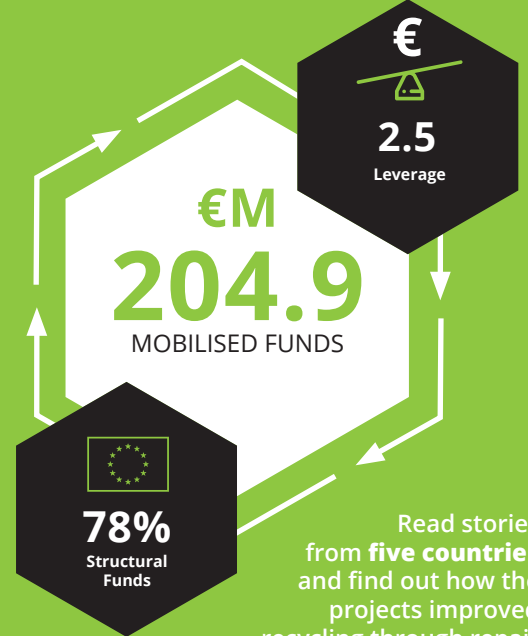Inspiration generated by the projects led to the development of **423 action plans.**

The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be more than 204.9 MEUR, with 78% of these funds coming from the **Structural Funds programmes.**

New repair cafés and re-use sites

€ **106,400** ERDF

© Kredsløb A/S

People and companies in Aarhus, Denmark, can now easily recycle reusable construction material or learn how to repair things in numerous repair cafés across the whole country, all thanks to inspiration from Spain, Italy and Hungary.

The **Promoting re-use from the public policies** (2LIFES) project brought together seven partners from seven countries. Their ambition was to accelerate the EU's entry into the era of re-use with public administrations promoting waste prevention through repair and re-use activities.

Kredslob, a utility company providing sustainable waste management and carbon neutral district heating to Aarhus in Denmark, joined the project to find inspiration for re-use and repair innovations. Their goal was to improve the Waste Plan for Aarhus with measures promoting re-use of construction material and raise awareness about the benefits of repair in the region.

The exchange of experiences with the project partners was fruitful for Aarhus. Inspiration from Spain, Italy and Hungary helped Kredslob launch two new projects: a mobile repair cafe and a construction material recycling. Inspired by a Hungarian example of a mobile library, the Danish partner adapted it to their needs and turned it to a mobile repair café. The Danish utility company acquired a van and fitted it with tools and material needed for simple repairs. Around 25 volunteers took part and staffed the van on various occasions such as town markets and festivals where they helped people repair their things. This project was funded with EUR 106,400 from the local waste plan updated for 2021-2026 with new ideas from the 2LIFES project.

The van with the mobile repair café was very popular and became a symbol of re-use and repair in the region. The national association of repair cafés was set up in Denmark and took over the repair idea further. It gave the van a new life and spread the repair cafés across the whole country. 80% of Danish municipalities now have repair cafés in various formats, mobile or stationary.

The second idea for improving the construction material recycling came from Spain and also Italy. Study visit in these countries showed Kredslob how to move forward with their recycling plans. They set aside a special area for construction material at their existing recycling centers in the region. These are bring-and-take areas where people and companies can leave reusable construction material and/or pick up for free what was deposed for re-use by someone else. Six such recycling centers exist in the region now.

Thanks to the 2LIFES project, the city's recycling ambitions increased. The improved Waste Plan for Aarhus set the goals which facilitated the implementation of the two projects. Moreover, the plan now foresees to recycle three times more material in the future than initially.

DENMARK

2LIFES
Interreg Europe

€
2,617,507
ERDF

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in Finland.

© Oona Rouhiainen

Boost to bio-based economy

The Päijät-Häme Region in Finland has strengthened its role as a frontrunner in bio-based circular economy with several projects developed thanks to inspiration from Greece, Romania and Spain.

The **Regional circular economy models and best available technologies for biological streams** (BIOREGIO) project had eight partners from six countries. Their common goal was to boost bio-based circular economy in their region through transfer of expertise about best available technologies and cooperation models.

The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme in Finland together with the LAB University of Applied Sciences developed and later led the project with the aim to draw more attention to bio-based circular economy in the region. They wanted to support systemic development of closing nutrient cycles, increase the rate of biowaste recycling in the region, as well as the investment in research and development from the Sustainable Growth and Jobs 2014-2020 Finland's Structural Funds programme.

In Päijät-Häme, they have a regional road map towards circular economy which set targets and actions for the region. Site visits to Spain and Greece during the BIOREGIO project led to an update of this road map, which focused more on the bio-based content and on developing bioenergy solutions in the region.

Thanks to BIOREGIO, they developed several new projects focusing on bio-based circular economy which the Regional Council decided to fund under the local Structural Funds programme with over MEUR 2.6. For example, the RAKIKY (Improving competitiveness by recycling nutrients) project was influenced by a good practice from Romania on composting of plant waste, domestic organic waste and sewage sludge.

The circular bioeconomy project BIOSYKLI, which aimed at and also succeeded in strengthening Päijät-Häme's role as a frontrunner in bio-based circular economy, was developed to implement the BIOREGIO action plan, focusing on piloting effective biowaste collection, exploiting organic waste as a raw material for biodegradable products, developing use of biobased plastics, developing carbon dioxide cycles and promoting the use of biogenic carbon dioxide.

The Regional Council also developed additional projects inspired by BIOREGIO and funded by the REACT-EU funds. Without BIOREGIO, the Päijät-Häme Region Circular Economy roadmap would not have had such a strong bio-based circular economy orientation.

FINLAND

BIOREGIO
Interreg Europe

€
300,000
ERDF

Preserving heritage with zoning

Historic castles, manors and estates in Gelderland, the Netherlands, are better preserved and managed now thanks to a new estate zoning approach. The inspiration came from Belgium.

The **Innovating policy instruments for historic castles, manors and estates** (Innocastle) project brought together five partners from five countries. Their ambition was to unlock the potential of historic castles, manors and estates in their regions to act as drivers of job creation and better education to improve life quality and reduce social inequalities.

The Province of Gelderland in the Netherlands joined the project to look for inspiration in the partner regions on how to improve their Policy Programme "Culture and Heritage" enhancing the conservation of protected heritage in the region. The Province wanted to better address the needs of owners regarding the economic viability, sustainability and financing of the necessary measures, as well as the needs of municipalities with respect to applying the legislation and other rules on the cultural heritage.

The inspiration came from Flanders, Belgium, where key stakeholders from Gelderland went for a study visit and could observe successful execution of estate zoning, collaboration with farmers, and recreation planning.

The Province then decided to shift from treating historic estates and country houses as individual monuments towards considering them as part of zones. They defined the zones in their Policy Program "Culture and Heritage". This strategic move aimed to bridge the gap between heritage preservation and spatial planning, emphasizing both conservation and development.

Following the policy change, specific estate zones emerged. A newly created map now outlines eight of these zones. They are also integrated in regional plans. The Province has allocated around MEUR 1-2 of heritage funds per year for the area- and task-oriented work. This financial backing ensures that heritage remains a priority, even in the face of other pressing demands.

More support could come also from the local waterboards which started cooperating also thanks to the Innocastle project which played a pivotal part in connecting heritage to critical tasks like climate adaptation.

NETHERLANDS

Innocastle
Interreg Europe

New cultural package for tourists

Cultural heritage in the Paggaio municipality in Greece is better preserved and used now with more efficient and sustainable public funding combined with tourism income thanks to inspiration from Poland and Italy.

€
42,780
ERDF

© Municipality of Paggaio

The **Effective policies for durable and self-sustainable projects in the cultural heritage sector** (KEEP ON) was a project with seven partners from six regions. Their common goal was to improve public policies in the cultural heritage sector in terms of delivering high quality projects with sustainable results, reasonable public funding and a long-lasting impact on regional development.

The Municipality of Paggaio in Greece joined the project with the aim to learn from good practices protecting cultural heritage and stimulating local economy at the same time. By improving the Strategic Planning of the Operational Programme of the Municipality of Paggaio (2016-2019), they wanted to help in developing a more extensive local tourism offer and encourage new jobs' creation.

The Municipality found inspiration mainly in the project's study visits showing how cultural heritage sites could use public funds efficiently and sustainably combined with the income from tourism. Good practices from Poland, the Royal Castle of Chęciny or the Entnographic part in Tokarnia, or from Italy, the Landscape

Museum of Magliano Alfieri, shaped the changes introduced in Paggaio's strategic planning document.

As a result, the Municipality invested in renovating a previous army building in the Eleftheroupolis, the seat of the Municipality, repurposing it for cultural activities as well as public service. They also decided to focus on the cultural centre building in Nea Peramos, an area with a rich history and stunning natural beauty, allocating significant funds for its development, to upgrade the cultural heritage product for tourists and use the income from tourism to cover some of the building's maintenance.

The Municipality invested over 40,000 euros in creating and promoting a new cultural heritage package for tourists. The Municipality built on the inspiration from KEEP ON when they joined an Interreg cross-border project with partners from Bulgaria and created the #visitpageo platform. #visitpageo presents various cultural assets in the region and promotes its rich cultural heritage as key part of the tourism experience. It encourages visitors to explore beyond Paggaio's renowned beaches, discovering the area's vibrant history and traditions.

GREECE

KEEP ON
Interreg Europe

Promoting heritage along the river

Tourism sector SMEs along the Meschio river in Veneto region, Italy, can now sell their local tourism experience offers jointly with others through a new portal and a tourism app. Inspiration came from Finland, Hungary and the Netherlands.

€
1,011,652
ERDF

The **Authentic tourism based on local cultural flavours** (Local Flavours) project had nine partners from eight countries. Their common goal was to explore the specific local and regional potentials and bottlenecks in promoting small and medium sized towns with rich but undervalued cultural heritage to create a more even distribution of tourism and more cohesive regional economies.

The Municipality of Vittorio Veneto in Italy joined the project to look for inspiring ideas in the project partner regions on how to improve the available tourism offer in the region. More specifically the Municipality's ambition was to mobilise funds from the ERDF Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 and the Operational Programme European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020 of Veneto Region for projects promoting currently underdeveloped or underexploited historic locations, favouring authentic forms of tourism which sustain and promote cultural heritage.

Thanks to the inspiration from Finland, Hungary and the Netherlands, they prepared two projects: Veneto Rivers Experience and Enjoy the Rivers. Experience from Finland inspired the Municipality to consider their river Meschio as a blue route connecting different attractions and use restored old buildings along the river. The idea of choosing the river as a unifying element came also from a study visit in the Netherlands. A good practice from Hungary then inspired the Municipality to link tourism to the local producers along the river.

The Enjoy the Rivers project focused on collaboration, training and capacity building for companies, leading to increased capacity for SMEs linked to the tourism sector, for example with slow food movement offers. The Veneto Rivers Experience project brought offers of these and other SMEs together in a Product Club based on river-tourism supported by a portal selling touristic experiences all over the world. The municipality of Vittorio Veneto then funded, with its own resources, a tourism app harmonising the tourism offers across 11 municipalities at the local and subregional levels.

The 2 projects were funded by the ERDF and ESF funds with close to MEUR 1 in total. Moreover, building on the Local Flavours project, the Municipality developed a brand-new City Tourism Plan 2021-2027 and obtained MEUR 2.27 from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan for local tourism-related activities, also inspired by the Interreg Europe project.

ITALY

Local Flavours
Interreg Europe

Survey on interregional cooperation projects

About respondents

The ex-post evaluation survey was sent out to all partners involved in the Interreg Europe 2014-2020 projects. The survey was open from 28 September to 16 October 2023. 538 valid replies were received in total representing:

- 234 projects (91% of all approved projects)
- 29 countries (only Switzerland missing)

The survey was successful in terms of level of responses and geographical coverage. As confirmed by the external experts, it provides a robust basis to analyse the achievements of the 2014-2020 projects.

Policy improvements

504 respondents completed question 4 of the survey which asked whether a policy improvement had been achieved within the project. 79% of respondents confirmed that their project led to policy improvement(s) in their region.
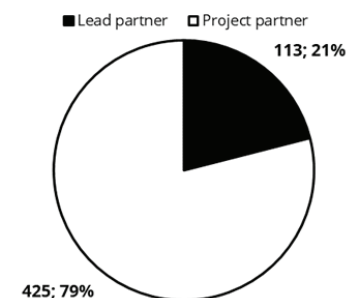
People had then the opportunity to describe the nature of the policy improvement and the way the project has contributed to this success. The outcomes for these questions confirm the experience gained by the programme through the assessment of the project's progress reports: the achievement of policy improvements through interregional cooperation is a complex process. The identification of relevant experience and inspiration from other regions through the interregional exchanges supported by Interreg Europe is essential since it is the start of the process. But the local process within the stakeholder group (also supported by Interreg Europe) to mobilise the relevant institutions and adapt the inspiration to the local context is also crucial to achieving policy improvements.

A quote from the survey:

"Based on the knowledge gained and good examples shared during the project, a shared Vision Leisure Economy Destination South Limburg 2030 was developed for the first time. This vision was adopted by all 17 municipalities in our region in 2020. The implementation of this strategy lies largely with Tourist Board South Limburg (Visit Zuid-Limburg) and here, too, we use the knowledge and insights gained from the project."

Respondents by partner status

■ Lead partner ☐ Project partner

113; 21%

425; 79%

Policy change

■ Yes ☐ No

107; 21%

397; 79%

Type of policy change

Type 1: New project(s)/ initiative(s)	159
Type 2: Improved governance	91
Type 3: Structural change	89
Another type of policy change	19

Why no policy change

Other reason (please explain in the comment field below)
Lack of funding to implement the policy change
Lack of support from decision makers to make the policy change
Our organisation was mainly involved as a contributor of goodpractice
None of the good practices identified were relevant for our context

■ 1 - most important □ 2 ■ 3 □ 4 □ 5 - least important □ n/a

Question 9 of the survey asked about the type of policy improvements achieved by the project. 258 people completed this question.

The most frequent type of change was the implementation of new projects or initiatives based on the inspiration gained through the other regions involved in the projec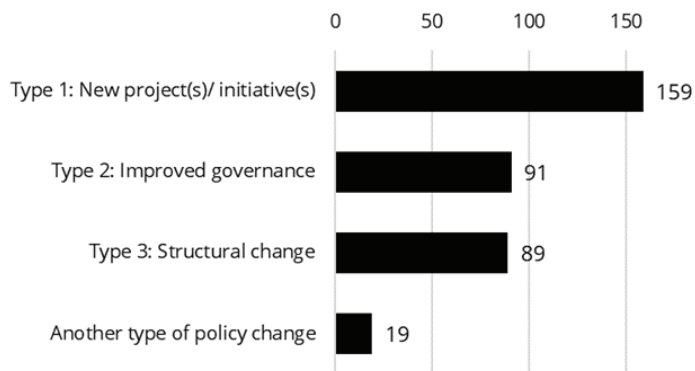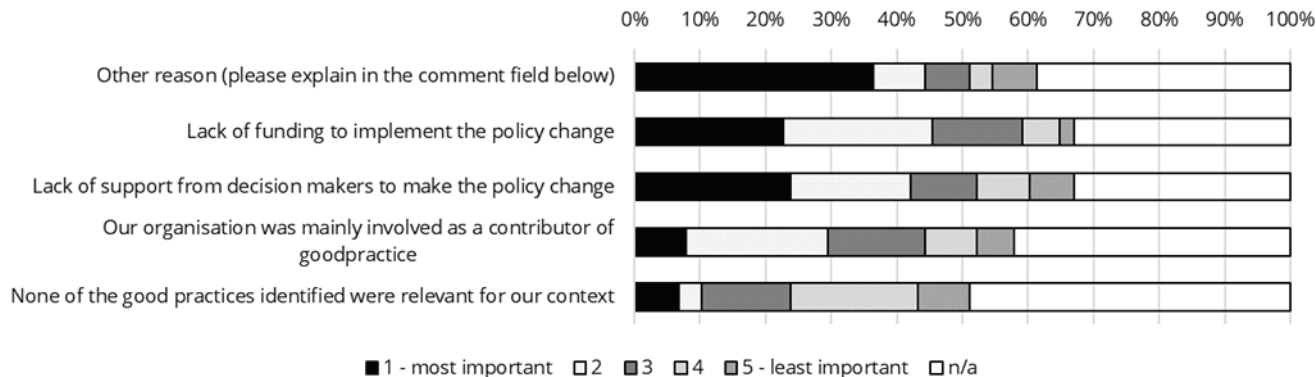t. This is in line with the type of policy improvements validated by the programme through the projects' progress reports. Policy improvements in the form of improved governance or structural change were represented almost equally among the responses. 19 people selected 'Another type of change', but their written contribution showed that they could have selected one of the three types as defined in the question.

The fact that more than one third of the respondents selected Type 3 demonstrates the capacity of interregional cooperation to also achieve structural policy change in the regions.

Finally, the respondents who indicated that they did not achieve any policy improvements had the possibility to rank the reasons why they did not reach their objectives. 88 people completed this part of the survey.

The lack of funding to implement the policy improvement and the lack of support from decision makers were ranked as the most important reasons. 47 respondents listed their own reasons such as:

- Timeframe too short to see the policy changes approved;
- Other results achieved (e.g., spin-off projects);
- Operational programme's budget committed/ call closed;
- COVID 19 – funds redirected to recovery.

Despite not reaching their initial objective, several respondents confirmed that their projects still had various positive effects for their regions (e.g., improved dialogue among local stakeholders, increased professional capacity of people and organisations, or involvement in new international networks or initiatives).

Territorial effects

Questions 10 to 14 were dedicated to the territorial effects of the policy improvements.

256 people completed this part of the survey. 73% of the respondents indicated that the policy improvement achieved thanks to the project already had a territorial effect in their region.

One of the objectives of this question was to gather as much background information about the territorial effects of individual projects to select the most promising cases for in depth interviews and turn them to stories of cooperation success (pages 12-40 in this publication).

The survey contributions on the territorial effects confirm the experience of the programme when monitoring the project's progress reports:

- The reporting on the territorial effects of policy improvement is very challenging for two main reasons. First, there is often a lack of data and measurable elements which would allow to grasp this effect precisely. The fact that the people in charge of implementing the policy improvements are often different from the people involved in the Interreg Europe project does not help in this regard. Second, the territorial effect the partners are aware of cannot always be fully and clearly attributed to the policy improvement alone. There are often other parameters that play a role in the identified effects.

- The nature of the territorial effects is of an extremely high variety, also reflecting the richness of the type of projects financed under Interreg Europe. In most cases, these effects are specific to each project, making any aggregation impossible.

Territorial effect

■Yes ☐No

68; 27%

188; 73%
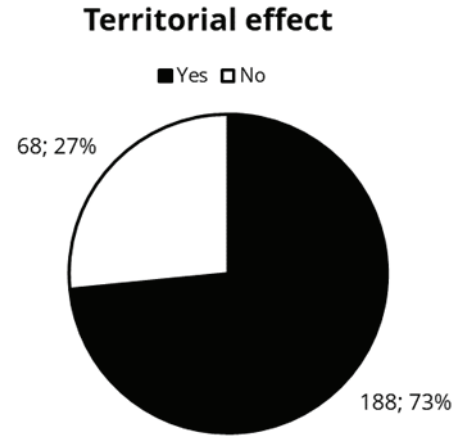
A quote from the survey:

"Thanks to the newly implemented cycle paths in our area, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people using bikes for both commuting and leisure activities. Although we currently lack specific numerical data, the impact is evident simply by observing the bustling cycle paths on sunny days and listening to the feedback from local entrepreneurs operating in the area."

To a large extent, these lessons learnt are also confirmed in the analysis carried out by the external experts and presented as part of this publication (page 45-51).

Report on territorial effects

January, 2024

Prepared by SAFEGE BALTIJA, SIA &
NORDEVAL, OY

Background

The evaluation was carried out during October 2023 – January 2024 as a joint exercise between the external evaluation experts and the joint secretariat for the Interreg Europe programme.

According to the intervention logic of Interreg Europe, the learning generated through the projects' activities should lead to policy improvements in the regions involved. These improvements can therefore be directly atributed to the programme's support. The 258 projects have demonstrated a total of 1,283 policy changes, 50% of them (631) occurring within Structural Funds programmes. For the first time, the programme has also collected information concerning the territorial effects of the policy improvements although these effects cannot be directly atributed to the programme's intervention.

The evaluation was conducted at a time when all projects had been finished. Thus, it was a fruitful time to explore the medium and long-term achievements of the 2014 – 2020 programming period and to assess the territorial effects in the participating regions.

The external evaluation experts provided methodological support to the joint secretariat's evaluation team and carried out specific tasks:

- appraised and validated the data collection instruments (survey of project partners, survey of peer review hosts, and interview scripts), and proposed selection criteria for the mini case studies.
- analyzed programme data on territorial effects and produced a concise report on the findings.
- analyzed the results of the project partners survey in the light of policy and territorial effects and provided a short report on the findings.
- supported the joint secretariat's evaluation team in the mini case study process by assisting in the interview process and preparing short overviews of the interview results.

Territorial effects

As the Interreg Europe programme aims at improving regional development policies, the Programme is expected to contribute to the achievement of EU-wide policy goals and regional/local development objectives. Indirect effects in the socio-economic or environmental conditions of regions participating in Interreg Europe projects are considered **territorial effects.** These territorial effects are consequences of actual improvements that are fostered by policy changes achieved by projects. Assessment of available evidence about these territorial effects was carried out as a part of this evaluation to illustrate how policy improvements contribute to positive changes on the ground in the concerned regions.

The analysis is based on self-reported data from project progress reports about the achieved policy change, description of influence, self-defined performance indicators and description of territorial impact. For further analysis of territorial effects, 275 cases were selected that had:
- provided descriptions of territorial effects, and
- reported at least minor progress in achieving self-defined indicators.

Analysis of territorial effects was done from two perspectives:
(i) inductively, by qualitative coding of provided narratives and self-selected indicators to identify various effects, and
(ii) deductively, by sorting cases and identifying effects in a few selected key categories:

Effects on institutions (governance)
#Efficiency #Empowerment #Stakeholder collaboration #Ecosystem and platforms #Data
Effects on business (economy)
#Revenue growth #Connections #Competitiveness #Innovations #Knowledge# Jobs
Effects on habitat (land & resource use)
#Less harm #(Wiser) resource use #Climate #Energy
Effects on people (social)
#Services (better, accessible) #Connections (digital, mobility) #Accessibility #Quality of life

Policy improvements facilitated by the Programme can be categorised as:
(i) implementation of new projects/ initiatives, based on good practices or lessons coming from the project
(ii) change in the management of the policy instrument (improved governance) and
(iii) change in the strategic focus of the policy instrument (structural change).

Evidence of improved situation in regions thanks to policy changes achieved by the projects

As reflected in the case studies carried out as part of the evaluation, there is some evidence of territorial effects. However, it is challenging for the projects to grasp these effects as project intervention may be only one of several factors contributing to later effects. Also, the evidence around territorial effects is varied as it relies on the reports of the projects, and the reporting quality does vary significantly between projects and even project partners. The projects themselves tried to define the indicators for measuring territorial effects. They are thus heterogeneous and cannot be aggregated.

The thematic analysis revealed a **time sequence in and connections between reported territorial effects**. Management-related changes alone do not directly lead to territorial effects but require a combination of structural changes or new projects (or both) for territorial effects to become observable.

Trends and categories among a variety of territorial effects collected

The thematic analysis revealed a clear connection between specific objectives (SOs) and the domains in which territorial effects are reported. Projects under SO 1.1 and 1.2 primarily reported effects in the business domain only. Projects under SO 3.1, 4.1, and 4.2 focused on the environmental/ habitat domain but also demonstrated influence on other domains. For projects under SO 3.1, 4.1, and 4.2 it is easier to identify territorial effects. These usually have a shorter causal chain and effects can be measured sometime during or shortly after the project ends.

For interventions focusing on business development, the causal chains between the intervention and reported territorial effects usually are longer.

SO 1.1 Improving innovation infrastructures policies
Projects implemented under SO 1.1 created effects primarily in the **business domain** that are related to innovations (in projects, products, services), industry and research collaboration, created and more widely used R&D infrastructure and collaboration solutions.

E.g. the project CREADIS3 began with the creation of Basque region's Creative and Cultural industries (CCI) strategy. In collaboration and learning process with project partners and regional stakeholders the strategy has now resulted in the Basque Cultural and Creative District, providing space and services for the CCIs of the Basque Country and serving as an important focal point.

SO 1.2 Improving innovation delivery policies
Projects mainly created effects in the business domain, which are primarily industry and research collaborations combined with new infrastructure solutions that are leading to various innovations in products and services. Innovations are often seen in combination with shared knowledge that leads to such effects as increased competitiveness and revenue growth.

E.g. project ClusterFY focused on training and capacity building of stakeholders and representatives from clusters and designed specific cluster-supporting measures under the new OP. These policy changes have transferred in significantly higher number of applicants to the calls of the new OP.

SO 2.1 Competitiveness of SMEs

Effects are visible mainly in the business domain, e.g., the number of supported SMEs, acquired knowledge, improved collaboration, connections and networking. In some cases, these effects are hopefully leading to increased competitiveness (in the foreseeable future). Under the governance domain are reported improved efficiency of measures, procedures, or services for SMEs, and closer stakeholder collaboration that is enabled by creating platforms and ecosystems.

E.g. the project GRESS developed strategic planning documents for green and sustainable building. The previously established sustainability centre was transformed into a green and sustainable one, which regularly brings together representatives of the region's building and construction industry for various training and capacity building activities.

SO 3.1 Low-carbon economy

Effects related to the habitat domain: emission reduction, increased renewable energy capacity, created mobility infrastructure, and energy efficiency. Under the people domain changes in mobility behaviour and modal shift, improved services, and cost savings, are noted. Under the governance domain, we see the empowerment of stakeholders and stakeholder collaboration.

E.g. the project MATCH-UP assisted in the improvement of regional strategic planning documents and developed a new implementation tool under the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy to assist local authorities in undertaking a "10 Minute Town" assessment. Implementation of this tool has resulted in the annual allocations of significant funding for infrastructure improvements.

SO 4.1 Improving natural and culture heritage policies

Under habitat domain effects are related to protected biodiversity, preserved heritage, created tourism infrastructure or green infrastructure. Under the governance domain, improved stakeholder collaboration, efficiency of new measures, capacity building and new data tools.

E.g. the project Innocastle inspired by the experience of neighbouring partners has introduced a new heritage policy premise allowing historic estates and country houses to be approached as zones, not just as individual monuments. The novel approach in connecting heritage to spatial challenges has opened new broader collaboration possibilities.

SO 4.2 Improving resource-efficient economy policies

There is a connection between effects in the business domain (industry/ research collaboration resulting in new projects, innovations, new products and services thanks to reached and supported SMEs and their closer integration in value chains) and the habitat domain (beter resource use, re-use and circularity leading to reduced emissions, less waste and cost savings, as well as protected areas and created waste-related infrastructure). These effects are enabled by governance effects.

E.g. the project BIOREGIO in Päijät-Häme region (FI) set up the circular economy roadmap as part of the regional strategy closely involving local and regional stakeholders in that process. Project inspiration boosted the regional development initiatives and started the region's internationalisation in the circular economy field, contributed to wider understanding and thus facilitated several initiatives.

Policy changes and territorial effects

Interreg Europe 2014-2020 programme financed a total of 258 projects. These projects had altogether 2,109 partners (258 lead partners and 1,851 project partners). The ex-post evaluation survey to project partners received 568 responses, which represented 94% of the total projects. Results of the survey and the interviews with the selected projects (22) have been used to draw an analysis of the policy changes supported by the projects and the contribution of the Programme.

79% (396) of the respondents confirmed that the project had achieved changes in the chosen policy instrument during the project or since its closure.

A total of 25 projects (e.g. 2LIFES, CISMOB, 40Ready, GRESS, BIO4ECO, OSIRIS, SUBTRACT, Blue Green City, CONDEREFF, EMPOWER, InnoHEIs, REBUS, CLEAN, COCOON, COHES3ION, INNO INDUSTRY) reported all three types of changes resulting from the project.

As the main reasons for no policy change respondents indicated a lack of funding, lack of support from decision-makers, and lack of organizational contribution. Additionally, the policy instruments not being open for changes and the impact of COVID-19 were mentioned as reasons why some projects did not lead to policy change.

Type of Policy Changes achieved
The policy changes reported by projects fall into distinct categories across the Strategic Objectives. Under SO 1.1, changes revolve around methodological advancements, governance enhancements, sector-specific focuses, cross-sectoral collaborations, and visibility improvements. SO 1.2 projects highlight strategic redesigns, stakeholder engagement, innovation strategy influence, targeted sector development, and regional program integration. SO 2.1 initiatives encompass entrepreneurship support, green practices integration, governance improvements, regional development promotion, and skills enhancement. SO 3.1 efforts concentrate on energy efficiency, urban development, strategic framework enhancements, social and community development, and funding scheme modifications. SO 4.1 projects emphasize biodiversity protection, ERDF fund utilization, cultural heritage integration, policy management enhancements, and sustainable tourism promotion. Lastly, SO 4.2 initiatives center on circular economy principles, policy alignment and updates, collaborative efforts, waste management reforms, and behavioural shift fostering initiatives.

Interreg Europe project contribution to the policy change
Good practice examples and technical or digital solutions learned from other European regions were highly significant in the policy changes. Interaction and learning from each other have greatly contributed to the policy changes. Namely, engaging practitioners and stakeholders in the study visits and project events were mentioned to be important for influencing the policies. The same goes for the inclusion of policy-makers in the project events and meetings, as well as disseminating project outcomes clearly to them. Other important activities included supporting the networking of enterprises and holding local policy focus group meetings and policy learning dialogues.

Territorial effects occurred due to policy change
The analysis confirmed a connection between SOs and the territorial effects domains explained in the previous chapter. Policy improvements lead to territorial effects primarily through

the implementation of new projects in the concerned regions.

For instance, some projects already report on tangible effects, such as increased use of renewable energy, amount of collected liter, the number of created jobs, and increased number of cyclists. In other cases, policy changes fostered by projects have created an enabling environment for the start of new projects or initiatives through which territorial effects are expected to occur. The new projects mentioned in the responses focused on a variety of issues such as sustainable transport, urban development, energy poverty, culture and creative industries, circular economy, and renewable energy.

The factors that have contributed to the effects, included communication, timing (e.g. being able to influence a new policy), availability of funding for the changes, and sufficient human resources allocated to the project.

Lagging regions

Out of the 275 cases reporting at least minor progress after achieving policy changes, 116 (42%) represent more developed regions, 60 (22%) transition regions, and 82 (30%) less developed regions. All regions most often report 'structural change' (new strategy, programme, plan etc.). Almost half of the policy changes (48%) reported by the less developed regions focused on structural change, which is more than that reported by the developed or transition regions (45% and 37% respectively). Conversely, the less developed and transition regions reported fewer changes related to improved governance (30% and 22% respectively than the more developed regions (33%).

The less developed regions have reported changes related to information, management, interventions, projects, and plans less frequently than the other regions. However, they have reported on changes related to programmes, selection criteria, monitoring, regulation, and guidance similarly to the other regions. This may indicate that in the less developed regions, there are fewer opportunities to influence changes in the form of new projects or improved management but more opportunities for influencing more general structural changes.

Partners from less developed regions account for up to 34% of all reported territorial effects. Breaking down by specific objectives partners from less developed regions reported most effects under projects supported by SO 3.1 (60%) and 4.1 (40%). But under SO 2.1, 1.1, and 4.2 they have reported more or equal number of effects as partners from transition regions.

SO	1.1	1.2	2.1	3.1	4.1	4.2		
more developed	9	42	25	19	13	36	**144**	42%
transition	4	21	22	5	14	16	**82**	24%
less developed	5	14	22	36	18	19	**114**	34%
Total	**18**	**77**	**69**	**60**	**45**	**71**	**340**	

In total, most territorial effects are reported under the domain Economy (42%), followed by Governance (29%), Habitat (20%) and People (9%). Partners from less developed regions reported more effects on the People domain (58%) than partners from the other regions and accounted for 38% of effects under the Habitat domain, 33% under the Governance domain and 27% under the Economy domain.

Recommendations

The external evaluators consider that the Interreg Europe programme has done very well in pioneering systematic monitoring of territorial effects of the policy and projects, which should be an ambition for other EU cross-border programmes as well. Yet, the system could be improved to ease the monitoring, analysis, and demonstration of the territorial effects.

To that effect, the external evaluators recommend to:

1. Clarify and visualise the expected territorial effects of the projects and the sequence of territorial effects. To structure the changes clearly, it is recommended to use predefined change categories (domains). The territorial effects may be structured along the four dimensions revealed during the thematic analysis. This will help both the project promoters as well as the programme communication to understand the policy effects.

2. Update the monitoring system in such a way that it is easier to disaggregate the information on outcomes and effects. This could, for instance, be done by using some commonly defined indicators for different types of policy change, or by using the ERDF indicators. Furthermore, the system should be designed so that the extraction of information from different reports and tracking the sequence of change is possible.

3. Include a consideration for the strength of evidence in the project reporting. Namely, to judge, whether the project caused the change or contributed to it, strong evidence linked to meeting minutes, strategies etc, where the project is mentioned, would strengthen the validity of the reported information.

4. Consider applying a story-based participatory monitoring approaches (e.g. Outcome Mapping, Outcome Harvesting, or Most Significant Change) in the programme. This could provide evidence that covers wider causal chains and contexts, and potentially allows a clearer view of the programme's contribution and effects in the longer term.

Survey on the Platform's peer review service

About respondents

The ex-post evaluation reached out to all beneficiaries of the peer review service provided by the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform since 2018. There were 58 peer reviews carried out by the time of the survey. The survey was open from 5 October to 26 October 2023.

The 26 responses represented 24 different peer reviews with beneficiaries from 17 countries.

Most respondents (77%) indicated that their main **motivation** to apply for the peer review was to get inspiration from other European regions on the best way to solve a challenge in their region. This reflects the core objective of the Platform's peer review service. Improving a specific policy instrument is the main motivation for 15% of the respondents.

Satisfaction of beneficiaries

The objective of the first part of the survey was to assess the satisfaction of the peer review's beneficiaries with the service.

The average score given by the respondents to the overall usefulness of the peer review reached **4.8** (out of 5).

Motivation for peer review

- ■ Get inspiration from other European regions to solve a challenge in my region
- □ Improve a specific policy instrument in my region
- ■ Find potential partners for future cooperation
- □ Mobilise my local stakeholders around an issue of regional importance
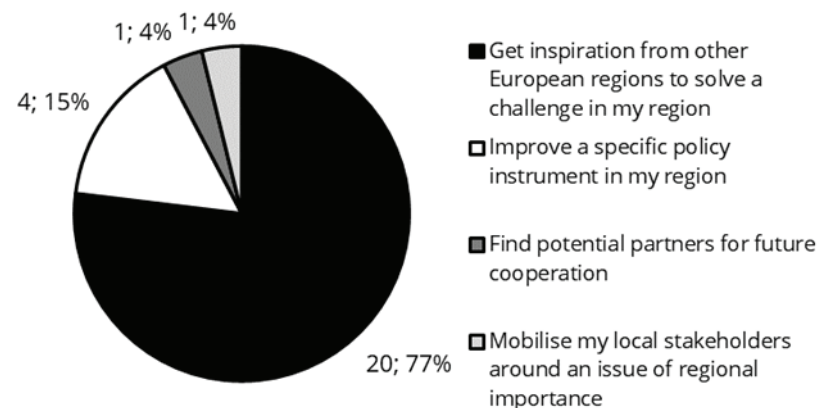
A few quotes:

"Peer Review was a great tool for taking an outside perspective on the situation of our fortress heritage in the state capital of Magdeburg."

"Great experience in all ways. We got insight into the most relevant and successful cases in our area of interest available in the EU."

The respondents also had the possibility to rate different aspects of the peer review on a scale from 1 to 5, from not good at all to very good.
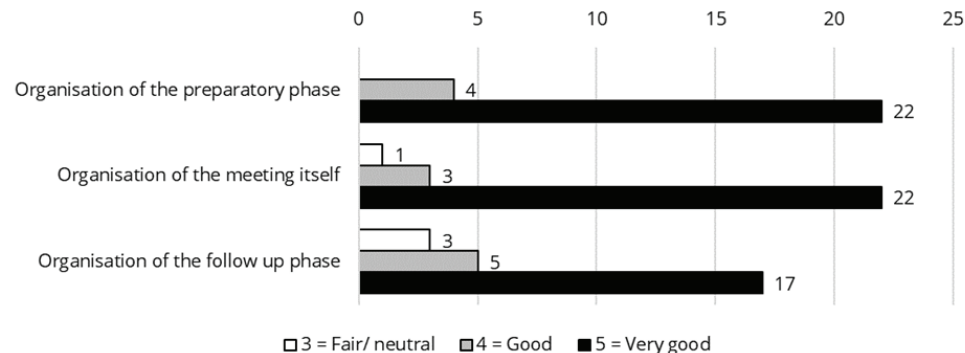
Respondents rated the preparatory phase of the peer review, the meeting itself and the organisation of the follow-up phase. The first two received an average score of 4.8/5 and the follow-up phase a score of 4.6/5. In the comments, respondents appreciated the constant availability of the Interreg Europe experts as well as their flexibility and professionalism in the organisation and selection of peers. On the other hand, some asked for more involvement of the beneficiary in the peers' selection. Some also commented on the difficulty in demonstrating policy improvement within the timeframe of the peer review follow-up.

Respondents also provided feedback on the expertise of the peers and the relevance of the final recommendations. Their rating of these two aspects reached average scores of 4.7/5 and 4.6/5 respectively. Most comments recognised the quality and relevance of the peers. Even thought the peer review recommendations were usually well received, sometimes it was not possible to implement them in the local context of the beneficiary.

Finally, under question dedicated to the possible improvements for the future, more than one out of four respondents (5 out of 16) considered the service good as it is with no need for improvements. Most of the suggestions for improvements referred to the timing of the peer review itself and the possibility to have more time for exchanges. Several respondents also mentioned the importance of in-person meetings, as several peer reviews were organised online.

Rating of peer review organisation

□ 3 = Fair/ neutral   ▨ 4 = Good   ■ 5 = Very good

Rating of peer review content

□ 3 = Fair/ neutral   ▨ 4 = Good   ■ 5 = Very good

Policy improvement

Yes ◼ No ◻

6; 23%

20; 77%

Type of policy change

Type	Value
Type 1: New project(s)/ initiative(s)	14
Type 2: Improved governance	5
Type 3: Structural change	4
Another type of policy change	3
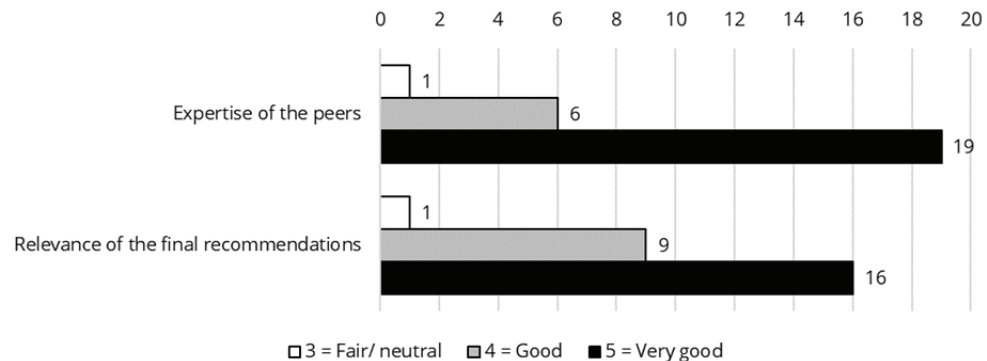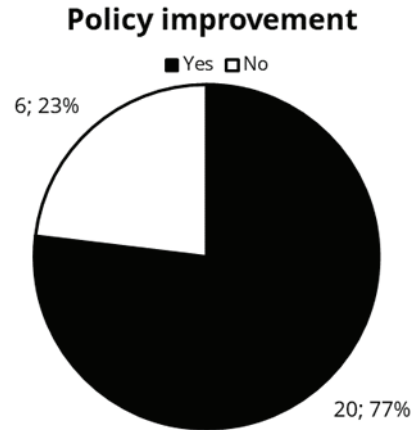
Achieved results

The second part of the peer review survey was dedicated to the results achieved through the peer review.

Most respondents (77%) declared that their peer review contributed to a policy improvement. According to the intervention logic of the programme, policy improvements were not necessarily expected from the Platform activities and more specifically from the peer review service.

This survey outcome confirmed the added value of the peer review service.

17 respondents indicated what kind of policy improvement their peer review contributed to. The most frequent type of change was the implementation of new projects or initiatives based on the good practices shared by the peers during the review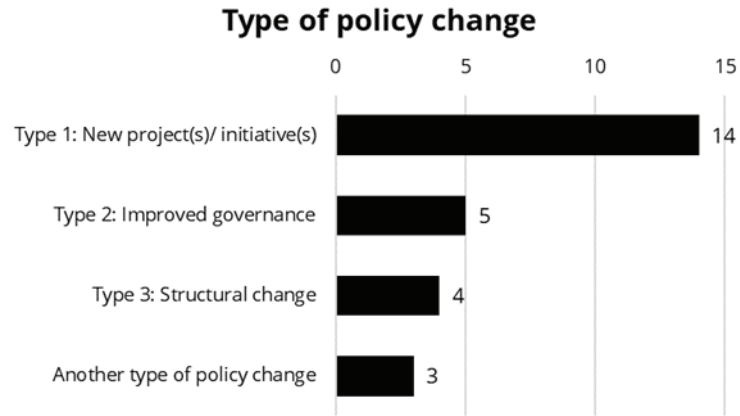. Policy changes in the form of an improved governance or structural change were represented almost equally among the responses. Three respondents indicated creation of partnerships with their stakeholders as their policy improvement.

16 respondents provided more details about their policy improvements. For instance, the peer reviews contributed to:

- The creation of a local partnership for ecotourism;
- A website/ platform for knowledge exchange between science and business;
- A regional strategic programme;
- The Platform of Flemish Fortified Cities;
- A housing startup incubator for cultural and creative industries/ co-working space;
- Grants for climate projects organised by municipalities;
- European Urban Initiative project on sustainable tourism;
- The Czech National Smart Cities Strategy and an Interreg Danube project;
- Magdeburg's masterplan for its fortress heritage; or
- An updated SECAP plan.

Other effects of peer review

Category	Value
Better cooperation among local stakeholders	15
Increased capacity on the peer review topic in our organisation	12
The addressed challenge increased in importance on the political agenda of the region/ territory	10
New partnership with one/several of the peers who presented their good practices and experiences	6
The peer review had other effects than described above	5
The peer review didn't have any other effects	0

23 respondents shared their input on the other effects the peer review had in their region.

65% of respondents saw better cooperation among local stakeholders as the side-effect of the peer review. Some saw it as the main improvement in their region. 52% indicated that their organisation increased capacity on the peer review topic thanks to this Interreg Europe service. For 43%, the challenge addressed by the peer review increased in importance on the political agenda in the region or territory after the peer review. Six respondents formed a new partnership with the peers who presented good practices and experiences during the peer review.

Among the other effects of the peer review were:

- Increase in capacity among the stakeholders;
- Openness to regional development ideas from other parts of Europe;
- Participation in EU projects based on the peer review learning.

Project list

A list of all 258 Interreg Europe cooperation projects in 2014-2020, each with a link to find out more information about them.

65 Research and innovation projects

INNOVATION CAPACITY (17)

AERIAL UPTAKE ▶ *page 12*
Removing Barriers to the Uptake of Innovative Unmanned Aerial Systems in the EU
www.interregeurope.eu/aerialuptake

BETTER
Stimulating Regional Innovation through Better e-Government Services
www.interregeurope.eu/better

Digital Regions
Regional policies adopting Industry 4.0 for their Digital Transformation
www.interregeurope.eu/digitalregions

INNO INFRA SHARE
Sharing Strategies for European Research and Innovation Infrastructures
www.interregeurope.eu/innoinfrashare

INNO PROVEMENT
Translating Industry 4.0 to Improved SME Policy Instruments Targeting Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/innoprovement

InnoBridge
Bridging the Innovation Gap through Converting R&D Results into Commercial Success in a More Effective and Efficient Way
www.interregeurope.eu/innobridge

Islands of Innovation
Innovation Policies for Sustainable European Islands
www.interregeurope.eu/islandsofinnovation

MANUMIX
Innovation Policy-Mix Learning for Advanced Manufacturing in European Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/manumix

NMP-REG
Delivering Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials and Production to Regional Manufacturing
www.interregeurope.eu/nmp-reg

P2L2
Public Policy Living Laboratory
www.interregeurope.eu/p2l2

P-IRIS
Policies to Improve Rural Areas' Innovation Systems by Professionalising Networking Activities and Use of Innovation Tools
www.interregeurope.eu/p-iris

RATIO
Regional Actions to Innovate Operational Programmes
www.interregeurope.eu/ratio

REMIX
Smart and Green Mining Regions of EU
www.interregeurope.eu/remix

S34GROWTH
Enhancing Policies through Interregional Cooperation: New Industrial Value Chains for Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/s34growth

SMARTY
Smart SMEs for Industry 4.0
www.interregeurope.eu/smarty

STEPHANIE
Space Technology with Photonics for Market and Societal Challenges
www.interregeurope.eu/stephanie

Urban M
Urban Manufacturing - Stimulating Innovation Through Collaborative Maker Spaces
www.interregeurope.eu/urbanm

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS (12)

CARPE DIGEM
Catalysing Regions in Peripheral and Emerging Europe towards Digital Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/carpedigem

DIALOG
Dialog for Innovation And Local Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/dialog

ERUDITE
Enhancing Rural and Urban Digital Innovation Territories
www.interregeurope.eu/erudite

iBuy
Fostering the Role of Public Authorities as Demanders of Innovation through Public Procurement
www.interregeurope.eu/ibuy

INNO INDUSTRY ▶ *page 15*
Improving Innovation Delivery of Policies within 4.0 Industry in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/innoindustry

InnoHEIs
Improving Research and Innovation Infrastructure Performance: from Fragmented to Integrated and Sustainable Cooperation
www.interregeurope.eu/innoheis

MARIE
Mainstreaming Responsible Innovation in European S3
www.interregeurope.eu/marie

Next2Met
Increasing Attractiveness of Next2Met Regions with Soft Digitalisation Measures
www.interregeurope.eu/next2met

OSIRIS
Open Social Innovation Policies Driven by Co-Creative Regional Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/osiris

PASSPARTOOL
Key Tools to Assess and Improve Soft Innovation Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/passpartool

SUPER
Supporting Eco-Innovations towards International Markets
www.interregeurope.eu/super

TraCS3
Fostering Interregional Collaboration and Support for Innovation Infrastructure in S3 Key Priority Areas through the Improvement of Regional Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/tracs3

INNOVATION IN SECTOR (21)

Agri Renaissance
Innovation-Driven Agri-Food Sectors for a European Industrial Renaissance
www.interregeurope.eu/agrirenaissance

CREADIS3 ▶ *page 13*
Smart Specialisation Creative Districts
www.interregeurope.eu/creadis3

Digitourism
Digitourism
www.interregeurope.eu/digitourism

EU_SHAFE ▶ *page 14*
Europe Enabling Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments
www.interregeurope.eu/eushafe

FoodChains 4 Europe
Strengthening Regional Innovation Policies to Build Sustainable Food Chains
www.interregeurope.eu/foodchains4eu

HELIUM
Health Innovation Experimental Landscape through Policy Improvement
www.interregeurope.eu/helium

HoCare
Delivery of Innovative Solutions for Home Care by Strengthening Quadruple-Helix Cooperation in Regional Innovation Chains
www.interregeurope.eu/hocare

Inno4Sports
Sport for Growth and Healthy & Vital Communities
www.interregeurope.eu/inno4sports

INNOTRANS
Enhancing Transport Innovation Capacity of Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/innotrans

InnovaSPA
Innovative Health Solutions for Thermal Spa Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/innovaspa

INTENCIVE
Innovation and Technology Enhancing Customer Oriented Health Services
www.interregeurope.eu/intencive

ITHACA
Innovation in Health and Care for All
www.interregeurope.eu/ithaca

iWATERMAP
Water Technology Innovation Roadmaps
www.interregeurope.eu/iwatermap

Medtech4 Europe
Optimizing the Impact of Public Policies in Favour of Research and Innovation Facilities in the Field of Medical Technologies
www.interregeurope.eu/medtech4europe

NICHE
Building Innovative Food Value Chains in Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/niche

RECORD
Regions in Europe Coordinate and Optimize Innovation and Competitiveness Policy Instruments towards Improving the Sustainability of Transport - Study Case of SMEs in the Railway Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/record

REGIONS 4FOOD
Regional Strategies for Food 4.0 Revolution
www.interregeurope.eu/regions4food

RESET
Research Centers of Excellence in the Textile Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/reset

S3Chem
Smart Chemistry Specialisation Strategy
www.interregeurope.eu/s3chem

SmartPilots
Improving Policies in Support of Shared Pilot Facilities to Increase Their Impact on the Key Enabling Technology Industrial Biotech and the European Bioeconomy
www.interregeurope.eu/smartpilots

TITTAN
Network for Technology, Innovation and Translation in Ageing
www.interregeurope.eu/tittan

RIS3 (15)

Beyond EDP
Improve the RIS3 Effectiveness through the Management of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)
www.interregeurope.eu/beyondedp

BRIDGES
Bridging Competence Infrastructure Gaps and Speeding up Growth and Jobs Delivery in Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/bridges

ClusterFY
Fostering Clusters' Interregional Collaboration and Integration into International Value Chains
www.interregeurope.eu/clusterfy

Clusterix 2.0
New Models of Innovation for Strategic Cluster Partnerships
www.interregeurope.eu/clusterix2

ClusterS3
Leveraging Cluster Policies for Successful Implementation of RIS3
www.interregeurope.eu/clusters3

COHES3ION
Integrating the Territorial Dimension for Cohesive S3.
www.interregeurope.eu/cohes3ion

ecoRIS3
Policies & Measures to Support Local & Regional Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/ecoris3

ELISE
European LIfe Science Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/elise

HIGHER
Better Policy Instruments for High Innovation Projects in the European Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/higher

IMPROVE
Improving Structural Funds for Better Delivery of R&D&I Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/improve

INKREASE
Innovation and Knowledge for Regional Actions and Systems
www.interregeurope.eu/inkrease

MONITORIS3
Exchange of Experiences in Monitoring Mechanisms, Indicators and Methodologies Addressed to Improvement in the Delivery of Policies and Instruments in the Framework of Regional RIS3 across Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/monitoris3

RELOS3
From Regional to Local: Successful Deployment of the Smart Specialization Strategies
www.interregeurope.eu/relos3

RUMORE
Rural-Urban Partnerships Motivating Regional Economies
www.interregeurope.eu/rumore

STRING
Strategies for Regional Innovative Food Clusters
www.interregeurope.eu/string

66 SME competitiveness projects

ENTREPRENEURSHIP (12)

ABCitiEs
Area Based Collaborative Entrepreneurship in Cities
www.interregeurope.eu/abcities

ECoC-SME
Actions for Inducing SME Growth and Innovation via the ECoC Event and Legacy
www.interregeurope.eu/ecoc-sme

E-COOL
Entrepreneurial and Intrapreneurial Mindset in Young People through the Dynamisation of Competences, Teaching Methodologies and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
www.interregeurope.eu/e-cool

FEMINA
Female Participation in High-Tech Enterprises
www.interregeurope.eu/femina

GRESS ▶ *page 18*
Green Startup Support
www.interregeurope.eu/gress

iEER
Boosting Innovative Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Regions for Young Entrepreneurs
www.interregeurope.eu/ieer

OSS ▶ *page 19*
One Stop Shop towards Competetive SMEs, Focusing on the Ecosystem for the First Line Service System
www.interregeurope.eu/oss

REBORN
Embracing Failure to Encourage Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness
www.interregeurope.eu/reborn

Rural SMEs
Policies to Develop Entrepreneurship and Innovative SMEs in Rural Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/ruralsmes

SOCENT SPAs
Social Entrepreneurship in Sparsely Populated Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/socentspas

SPEED UP
Supporting Practices for Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in the Development of Urban Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/speedup

START EASY
Smart Tools for Quick and Easy Business Start-up in Europe: the Once-Only Challenge
www.interregeurope.eu/starteasy

INNOVATION CAPACITY OF SMES (9)

40Ready
Strengthening SME Capacity to Engage in Industry 4.0
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ACSELL
Accelerating SME Innovation Capacities with a Living Lab Approach
www.interregeurope.eu/acsell

Design 4 Innovation
Design for Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/design4innovation

GROW RUP
Entrepreneurship Development and Capacity Building Policies for Business Creation and Growth in Outermost Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/growrup

INNOGROW
Regional Policies for Innovation Driven Competitiveness and Growth of Rural SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/innogrow

Innova Foster
Fostering Startup & Innovation Ecosystems in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/innovafoster

KISS ME
Knowledge & Innovation Strategies Involving SME in the Context of Interreg
www.interregeurope.eu/kissme

RegionArts
Enhancing SME Growth by the Integration of Artists in ICT Projects
www.interregeurope.eu/regionarts

TRINNO
Business ecosystem for Tradition and Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/trinno

SUPPORT TO SECTOR (24)

ALICE
Animation League for Increased Cooperation in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/alice

BRANDTour
Building Regional Actions for New Developments in Tourism
www.interregeurope.eu/brandtour

BRESE
Border Regions in Europe for Social Entrepreneurship
www.interregeurope.eu/brese

CLAY
Cross Sector Support for Innovative and Competitive Artistic Ceramic SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/clay

CLIPPER
Creating a Leadership for Maritime Industries - New Opportunities in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/clipper

CRAFTS CODE
Creative Actions For Tailoring SMEs' Competitive Development
www.interregeurope.eu/craftscode

CRE:HUB
Policies for Cultural Creative Industries: the Hub for Innovative Regional Development
www.interregeurope.eu/crehub

Cult-CreaTE
Cultural and Creative Industries Contribution to Cultural and Creative Tourism in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/cultcreate

CYBER
Regional Policies for Competitive Cybersecurity SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/cyber

Destination SMEs
Destination SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/destinationsmes

EUREGA
European Regions of Gastronomy Building Resilience and Creating Economic Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/eurega

EXTRA-SMEs
Improving Policies to Boost SME Competitiveness and Extraversion in EU Coastal and Rural Areas where Aquaculture is a Driver of the Regional Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/extra-smes

FRiDGE
Development of Food Industry SME Competitiveness for Better Potentials in Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/fridge

QUALIFY
Quality Standards and Authenticity to Foster Competitiveness of Agrifood SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/qualify

RaiSE
Enhancing Social Enterprises Competitiveness through Improved Business Support Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/raise

RCIA
Regional Creative Industries Alliance – From European Recommendations to Better Regional CCI Policies for a More Competitive Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/rcia

RECREATE
Reinforce Competitiveness of Regional Transport SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/recreate

RuralGrowth
Increasing Competitiveness of SMEs in the Rural Visitor Economy Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/ruralgrowth

SARURE
Save Rural Retail
www.interregeurope.eu/sarure

SILVER SMEs
Identification and Implementation of Regional Policies to Take Advantage of the Silver Economy Derived Opportunities to Engage SMEs in Growth and Entrepreneurship Spirit
www.interregeurope.eu/silversmes

SinCE-AFC
Enhancing the Entrepreneurship of SMEs in Circular Economy of the Agri-Food Chain
www.interregeurope.eu/since-afc

SME ORGANICS
Enhancing SME Competitiveness and Sustainability in the Organic Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/smeorganics

SOCIAL SEEDS
Exploiting Potentials of Social Enterprises through Standardized European Evaluation and Development System
www.interregeurope.eu/socialseeds

SUBTRACT
Sustainable Reuse Centres
www.interregeurope.eu/subtract

SUPPORT TO SMES (21)

ATMforSMEs
Access to Microfinance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
www.interregeurope.eu/atmforsmes

COMPETE IN
Competitive Territories through Internationalisation: SMEs Competitiveness in Globalised Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/competein

DEVISE
Digital Tech SMEs at the Service of Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies
www.interregeurope.eu/devise

DigiBEST
Digital Business Ecosystem Transformation
www.interregeurope.eu/digibest

EIS
Everywhere International SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/eis

ESSPO
Efficient Support Services Portfolios for SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/esspo

FFWD EUROPE
Fast Forward Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/ffwdeurope

FOUNDATION
Building Regional Resilience to Industrial Structural Change
www.interregeurope.eu/foundation

Future Ecom
Exploiting Digitisation to Increase B2B e-Commerce
www.interregeurope.eu/future-ecom

Innova-FI
Financial Instruments for Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/innova-fi

Inside Out EU
New Approaches to Improve SME Internationalisation Support Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/insideouteu

INTER VENTURES
Policies to Promote the Internationalisation of SMEs for More Competitive Regional Ecosystems in Border Areas of the EU
www.interregeurope.eu/interventures

INTRA
Internationalisation of Regional SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/intra

PURE COSMOS
Public Authorities Role Enhancing Competitiveness of SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/purecosmos

Road-CSR
A Roadmap for Integrating Corporate Social Responsibility into EU Member States and Business Practices
www.interregeurope.eu/road-csr

SCALE UP
Supporting Concentration and Robustness of SMEs within the Renewed EU Industrial Policy
www.interregeurope.eu/scaleup

SIE
SME Internationalisation Exchange
www.interregeurope.eu/sie

SKILLS+
Supporting Knowledge Capacity in ICT among SME to Engage in Growth and Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/skillsplus

STOB regions
Succession and Transfer of Business in Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/stobregions

SUCCESS ROAD
Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of European SMEs through Succession Procedures and Models
www.interregeurope.eu/successroad

UpGradeSME ▶ *page 20*
Improving Policy Instruments Supporting Innovative SME Performance
www.interregeurope.eu/upgradesme

60 Low-carbon economy projects

ENERGY EFFICIENCY (14)

BUILD2LC
Boosting Low Carbon Innovative Building Rehabilitation in European Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/build2lc

CLEAN
Technologies and Open Innovation for Low-Carbon Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/clean

EMPOWER ▶ *page 26*
More Carbon Reduction by Dynamically Monitoring Energy Efficiency
www.interregeurope.eu/empower

ENERSELVES
Policy Instruments for Energy Self-Consumption in Buildings
www.interregeurope.eu/enerselves

FINERPOL
Financial Instruments for Energy Renovation Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/finerpol

LOCARBO
Novel Roles of Regional and Local Authorities in Supporting Energy Consumers' Behaviour Change towards a Low Carbon Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/locarbo

REBUS
Renovation for Energy Efficient Buildings
www.interregeurope.eu/rebus

RESOR ▶ *page 30*
Supporting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in European Islands and Remote Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/resor

S3UNICA
Smart Specialisation Univercity Campus
www.interregeurope.eu/s3unica

SET-UP
Smart Energy Transition to Upgrade Regional Performance
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SMEPlus
Improving Policy Instruments to Increase the Energy Efficiency in Industrial SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/smeplus

Social Green
Regional Policies towards Greening the Social Housing Sector
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VIOLET ▶ *page 31*
Preserve Traditional Buildings through Energy Reduction
www.interregeurope.eu/violet

ZEROCO2 ▶ *page 32*
Promotion of Near Zero CO_2 Emission Buildings due to Energy Use
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LOW-CARBON STRATEGIES (11)

COALESCCE
Community Owned and Led Energy for Security Climate Change and Employment
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Green Screen
Greening the Creative Industries: Improving Policy Practices for the European Audiovisual Industry
www.interregeurope.eu/greenscreen

INTENSIFY
More Carbon Reduction through Intense Community Engagement
www.interregeurope.eu/intensify

LC Districts
Towards Low Carbon City Districts through the Improvement of Regional Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/lcdistricts

MOLOC
Low Carbon Urban Morphologies
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PASSAGE ▶ *page 29*
Public Authorities Supporting Low-Carbon Growth in European Maritime Border Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/passage

POTEnT
Public Organisations Transform Energy Transition
www.interregeurope.eu/potent

SmartEdge
Sustainable Metropolitan Areas and the Role of the Edge City
www.interregeurope.eu/smartedge

SME POWER
SMEs Powering a Low Carbon Future
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SMOOTH PORTS
Reducing CO_2 Emissions in Ports
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SUPPORT
Support Local Governments in Low Carbon Strategies
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RENEWABLE ENERGY (9)

AgroRES
Investing in Renewable Energies for Agriculture
www.interregeurope.eu/agrores

APPROVE
Advancing Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement for the Improvement of Renewable Energy Policies
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BIO4ECO
Sustainable Regional Bioenergy Policies: a Game Changer
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DeCarb
Supporting the Clean Energy Transition of Coal-Intensive EU Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/decarb

FIRESPOL
Financial Instruments for Renewable Energy Investment
www.interregeurope.eu/firespol

IRENES
Integrating Renewable Energy and Ecosystem Services in Environmental and Energy Policies
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POWER-TY
Renewable Energies for Vulnerable Groups
www.interregeurope.eu/powerty

RESINDUSTRY
Policies for Renewable Energy Sources in Industry
www.interregeurope.eu/resindustry

SHREC
Shifting towards Renewable Energy for Transition to Low Carbon Energy
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SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (26)

2050 CliMobCity
2050 Climate-friendly Mobility in Cities
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CISMOB ▶ *page 24*
Cooperative Information Platform for Low Carbon and Sustainable Mobility
www.interregeurope.eu/cismob

CYCLEWALK
Sharing Best Practices and Experience on Data Collecting and Processing and Involvement of Users in order to Improve Planning of Cycling and Walking as Modes of Transport in Urban and Functional Urban Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/cyclewalk

DEMO-EC
Development of Sustainable Mobility Management in European Cities
www.interregeurope.eu/demo-ec

DESTI-SMART
Delivering Efficient Sustainable Tourism with Low-Carbon Transport Innovations: Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility and Responsible Travel
www.interregeurope.eu/desti-smart

E-BussED
Building Capacities for European-Wide e-Bus Deployment
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E-MOB ▶ *page 25*
Integrated Actions towards Enhanced e-Mobility in European Regions
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E-MOBICITY
Increase of Energy Efficiency by Electric Mobility in the City
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e-MOPOLI
Electro Mobility as Driver to Support Policy Instruments for Sustainable Mobility
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e-smartec
Enhanced Sustainable Mobility with Marketing Techniques
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EU CYCLE
Cycling for Development, Growth and Quality of Life in European Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/eucycle

EV Energy
Electric Vehicles for City Renewable Energy Supply
www.interregeurope.eu/evenergy

InnovaSUMP
Innovations in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for Low-Carbon Urban Transport
www.interregeurope.eu/innovasump

LAST MILE
Sustainable Mobility for the Last Mile in Tourism Regions
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MATCH-UP ▶ *page 27*
The Role of Modal Interchange to Foster a Low-Carbon Urban Mobility
www.interregeurope.eu/match-up

OptiTrans ▶ *page 28*
Optimisation of Public Transport Policies for Green Mobility
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PE4Trans
Public Engagement for Sustainable Public Transport
www.interregeurope.eu/pe4trans

PriMaaS
Prioritizing Low Carbon Mobility Services for Improving Accessibility of Citizens
www.interregeurope.eu/primaas

PROMETEUS
Promotion of e-Mobility in EU Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/prometeus

REFORM
Integrated Regional Action Plan for Innovative, Sustainable and Low Carbon Mobility
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REGIO-MOB
Interregional Learning towards Sustainable Mobility in Europe: the REGIO-MOB Experience
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RESOLVE
Sustainable Mobility and the Transition to a Low-Carbon Retailing Economy
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SCHOOL CHANCE
School Mobility Challenge in Regional Policies
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SMART HY AWARE
Smart Solutions for Hydrogen Potential Awareness Enhancing
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SMART-MR
Sustainable Measures for Achieving Resilient Transportation in Metropolitan Rregions
www.interregeurope.eu/smart-mr

TRAM
Towards New Regional Action Plans for Sustainable Urban Mobility
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BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION (4)

BID-REX
From Biodiversity Data to Decisions: Enhancing Natural Value through Improved Regional Development Policies
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BioGov
Celebrating Biodiversity Governance
www.interregeurope.eu/biogov

INVALIS
Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species
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Night Light
Improving Regional Policies to Reduce Light Pollution and Protect and Valorise Dark Night Skies
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CIRCULAR ECONOMY (11)

BIOREGIO ▶ *page 37*
Regional Circular Economy Models and Best Available Technologies for Biological Streams
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CECI
Citizen Involvement in Circular Economy Implementation
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CESME
Circular Economy for SMEs
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CircE
European Regions toward Circular Economy
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CircPro
Smart Circular Procurement
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COLOR CIRCLE
Connecting and Empowering Local Authorities with Research Capacities to Unlock the Full Potential of Circular Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/colorcircle

REDUCES
Rethinking Sustainable Development in European Regions by Using Circular Economy Business Models
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REPLACE
Regional Policy Actions for Circular Economy
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RETRACE
A Systemic Approach for Regions Transitioning towards a Circular Economy
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SYMBI
Industrial Symbiosis for Regional Sustainable Growth and a Resource Efficient Circular Economy
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TRIS
Transition Regions towards Industrial Symbiosis
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NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (28)

Blue Green City
Blue and Green Infrastructure for Sustainable Cities
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CD-ETA
Collaborative Digitization of Natural and Cultural Heritage
www.interregeurope.eu/cd-eta

CHERISH
Creating Opportunities for Regional Growth through Promoting Cultural Heritage of Fishing Communities in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/cherish

CRinMA
Cultural Resources in the Mountain Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/crinma

Cult-RInG
Cultural Routes as Investment for Growth and Jobs
www.interregeurope.eu/cult-ring

Delta Lady
Floating Cultures in River Deltas
www.interregeurope.eu/deltalady

EPICAH
Effectiveness of Policy Instruments for Cross-Border Advancement in Heritage
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FINCH
Financing Impact on Regional Development of Cultural Heritage Valorisation
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Green Pilgrimage
Green Pilgrimage Supporting Natural and Cultural Heritage
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HERICOAST
Management of Heritage in Coastal Landscapes
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IMPACT
Innovative Models for Protected Areas: Exchange and Transfer
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INNOCASTLE ▶ *page 38*
Innovating Policy Instruments for Historic Castles, Manors and Estates
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KEEP ON ▶ *page 39*
Effective Policies for Durable and Self-Sustainable Projects in the Cultural Heritage Sector
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Land-Sea
Sustainability of the LandSea System for Eco-Tourism Strategies
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MOMAr
Models of Management for Singular Rural Heritage
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OUR WAY
Preservation and Promotion of Cultural and Natural Heritage through Greenways
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PERFECT
Planning for Environment and Resource Efficiency in European Cities and Towns
www.interregeurope.eu/perfect

PROGRESS
Promoting the Governance of Regional Ecosystem Services
www.interregeurope.eu/progress

PROSPERA
Promoting Sustainable Development and Regional Attractiveness through Peri-Urban Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/prospera

RENATUR
Improving Regional Policies to Better Protect Natural Heritage of Peri-Urban Open Spaces
www.interregeurope.eu/renatur

RFC
Recapture the Fortress Cities
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SHARE
Sustainable Approach to Cultural Heritage for the Urban Areas Requalification in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/share

STAR Cities
Sustainable Tourism for Attractivity of Riverside Cities
www.interregeurope.eu/starcities

SWARE
Sustainable Heritage Management of Waterway Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/sware

ThreeT
Thematic Trail Trigger
www.interregeurope.eu/threet

UL2L
Urban Links to Landscape
www.interregeurope.eu/ul2l

WaVE
Water-Linked Heritage Valorization by Developing an Ecosystemic Approach
www.interregeurope.eu/wave

WLE
Wildlife Economy: Nature as a Viable Economic Alternative
www.interregeurope.eu/wle

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY (24)

2LIFES ▶ *page 36*
Promoting Re-use from the Public Policies
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AQUARES
Water Reuse Policies Advancement for Resource Efficient European Regions
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BIGDATA 4RIVERS
Improving the European Rivers Water Quality through Smart Water Management Policies
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CAPonLITTER
Capitalising Good Coastal Practices and Improving Policies to Prevent Marine Litter
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CHRISTA
Culture and Heritage for Responsible, Innovative and Sustainable Tourism Actions
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CityZen
Enhancing Scalable Innovations and New Business Models Based on Urban Farming Ecosystem Values
www.interregeurope.eu/cityzen

COCOON
Consortium for a Coherent European Landfill Management Strategy
www.interregeurope.eu/cocoon

CONDEREFF
Construction & Demolition Waste Management Policies for Improved Resource Efficiency
www.interregeurope.eu/condereff

ECO-CICLE
European Network for the Promotion of Cycle Tourism in Natural Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/eco-cicle

ECOWASTE 4 FOOD
Supporting Eco-Innovation to Reduce Foodwaste and Promote a Better Resource Efficient Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/ecowaste4food

ENHANCE
EMAS as a Nest to Help and Nurture the Circular Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/enhance

EURE
Effectiveness of Environmental Urban Policies to Improve Resources Efficiency
www.interregeurope.eu/eure

GPP4Growth
Green Public Procurement for Resource-Efficient Regional Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/gpp4growth

GPP-STREAM
Green Public Procurement and Sustainability Tools for Resource Efficiency Mainstreaming
www.interregeurope.eu/gpp-stream

INTHERWASTE
Interregional Environmental Integration of Waste Management in European Heritage Cities
www.interregeurope.eu/intherwaste

LCA4Regions
Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through Use of Life Cycle Instruments for Implementation of Regional Policies of the European Union
www.interregeurope.eu/lca4regions

LINDANET
European Network of Lindane Waste Affected Regions Working Together towards a Greener Environment
www.interregeurope.eu/lindanet

Local Flavours ▶ *page 40*
Authentic Tourism Based on Local Cultural Flavours
www.interregeurope.eu/localflavours

OptiWaMag
Optimization of Waste Management in Urban Spaces and in Households
www.interregeurope.eu/optiwamag

PLASTECO
Supporting EU Regions to Curb Plastics Waste and Littering
www.interregeurope.eu/plasteco

RAMSAT
Revitalizing Remote And Mountainous Areas through Sustainable Alternative Tourism
www.interregeurope.eu/ramsat

SMART WASTE
Innovation in Waste Management Policies
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TANIA
Treating Contamination through Nanoremediation
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WINPOL
Waste Management Intelligent Systems and Policies
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