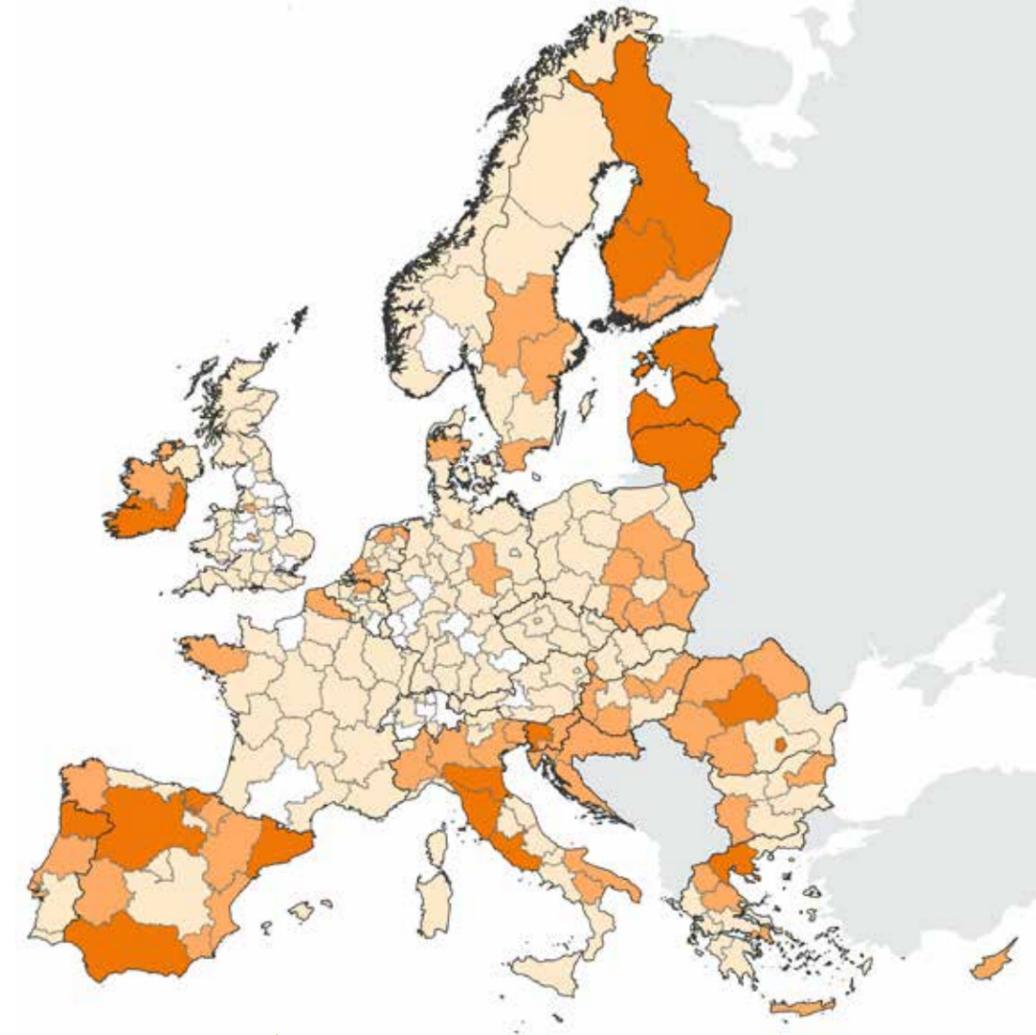




CITIZENS' SUMMARY

This is a summary of a report on Interreg Europe's activities in 2019. It presents key points and highlights from the year.



Number of project partners in NUTS 2 regions

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



What we do

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

Interreg Europe helps public authorities to share solutions across Europe in order to deliver better policies. The programme runs from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of MEUR 359 from the European Regional Development Fund. Norway and Switzerland also participate and contribute funds. The programme supports policy learning among public institutions from 30 countries (the EU28, plus Norway and Switzerland). Institutions participating in the programme's projects come from 88% of European regions.

Two policy learning actions in four thematic areas

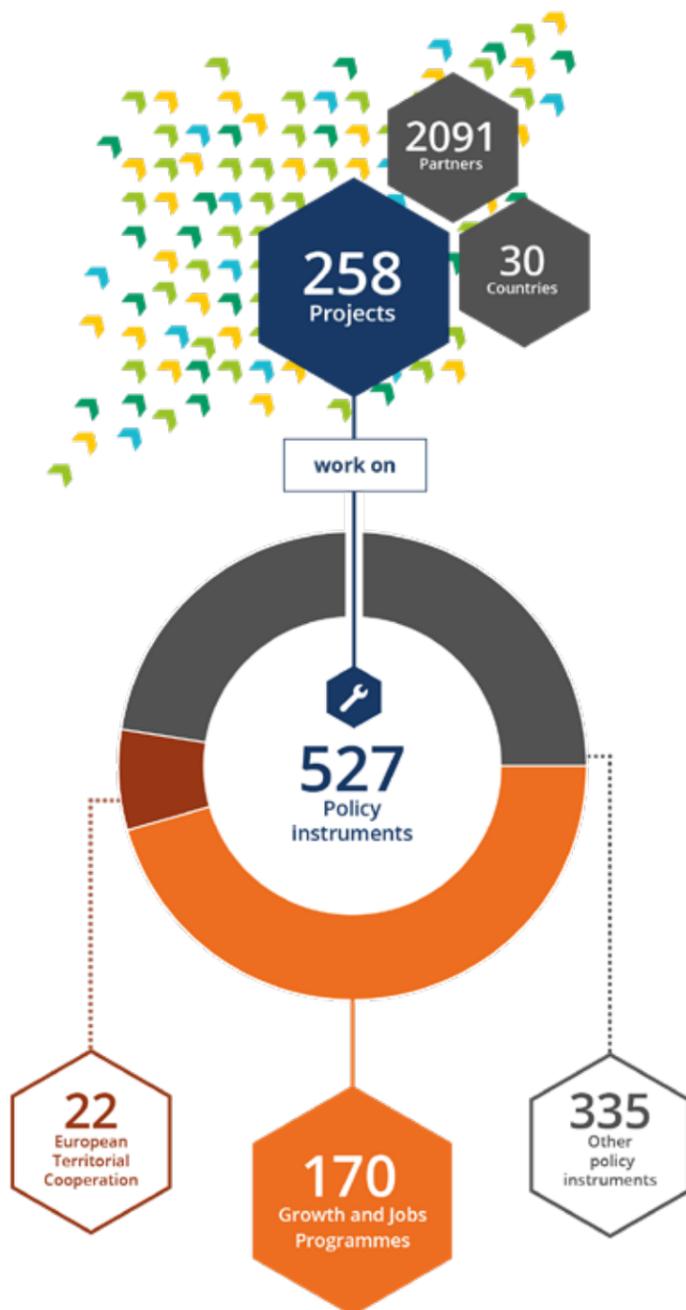
Interreg Europe helps policymakers inspire each other and improve their policies, either within interregional cooperation projects or via the Policy Learning Platform.

In 2019, **258 cooperation projects** saw over 2,000 organisations from European regions working on shared policy challenges. 130 most advanced projects have now prepared 598 action plans for their regions to ensure that the lessons learnt in the projects are translated into concrete actions in their own regions.

The Policy Learning Platform, a place for continuous policy learning in the Interreg Europe's four thematic areas, made the programme's knowledge base available to over 18,000 members. Its good practice database presented over 1,000 expert-approved policymaking practices. The Platform further developed its on-demand services such as the region-to-region peer reviews and matchmaking sessions, which are particularly appreciated by its members.

Interregional cooperation in numbers

This infographic presents an overview of the types of policies that the 258 running projects are feeding good practices into. There are 527 of them in total. **170 are Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes**, the main EU support tools for regional development.



The programme performs well

The programme's achievements

In 2019, Interreg Europe's monitoring committee approved the last set of projects. Now the programme is supporting a total of **258** of them, which exceeded the initial target of 200. The programme committed all available funds to the projects, which share smart and sustainable solutions for better regional policies.

The projects were very active in 2019 with 7,875 policy learning events and 2,472 good practices identified. 130 projects finalised their phase 1 and developed 598 action plans. Many project partners succeeded in improving their local, regional or national policies. Altogether, there were **299 policy changes**; 194 of them in Structural Funds operational programmes.

Many of the changes require funding. According to the projects, **419 million euros** was mobilised to finance activities inspired by the projects' exchange of experience. 395 million euros comes from the Structural Funds. It is an investment in solutions tried and tested in other regions. It is an efficient use of the Structural Funds.

Accelerated policy learning

The Policy Learning Platform offered a variety of on-demand services to its wide community of policymakers and practitioners. First regions had their peer reviews and received valuable recommendations for solutions to their local policy challenges. Expert help desk was available for tailored advice.

Improved monitoring and guidance

In 2019, the programme put in place many useful measures following the recommendations of the 2018 evaluation. In particular, the programme improved its monitoring system to collect better data from its projects. The programme also prepared further guidance for the projects about their action plans and phase 2 activities.

2019 programme performance key numbers:

- 299** improved policies
- 419** MEUR of more effective regional spending
- 1,042** expert-validated good practices
- 8,200** people with improved skills after participating in cooperation projects
- 0.26%** the error rate detected by the programme auditors



For more information

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

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