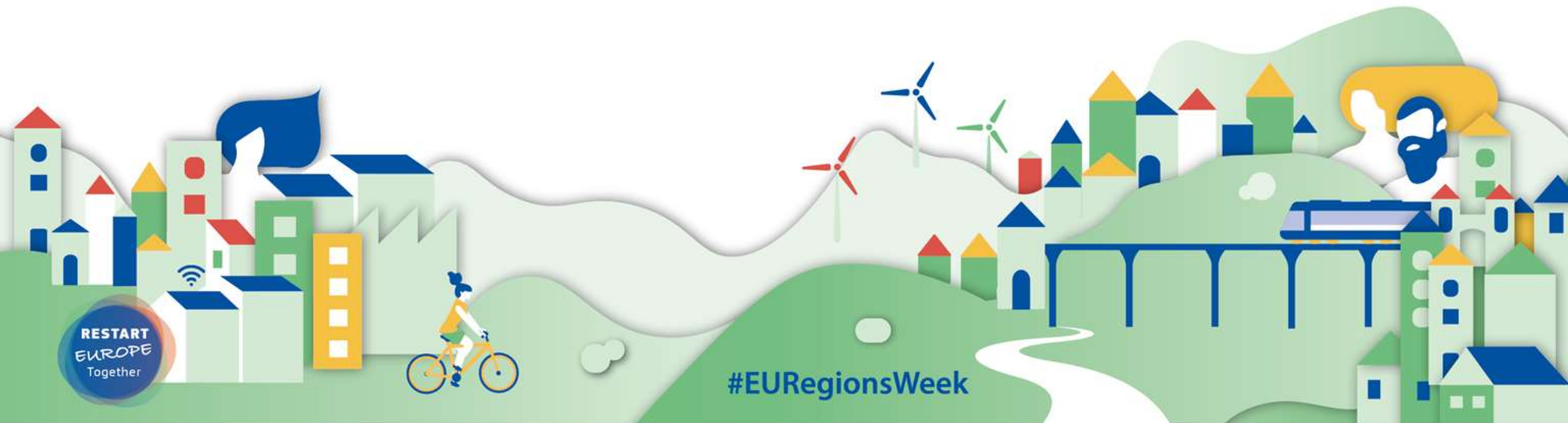


Keep up with interregional cooperation



RESTART
EUROPE
Together

Interreg in times of COVID

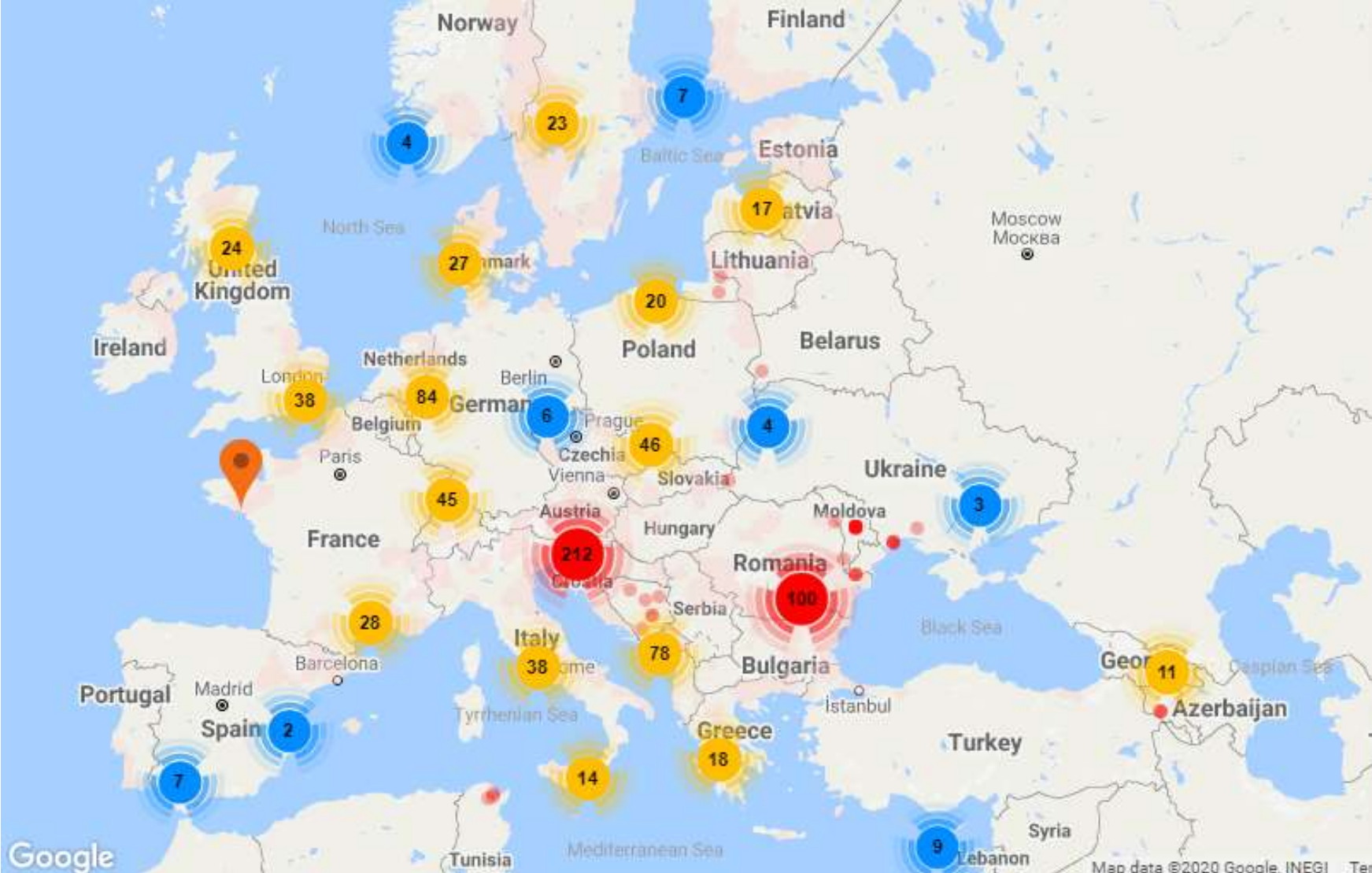
13 October 2020

Mercedes Acitores, Interact

mercedes.acitores@interact-eu.net



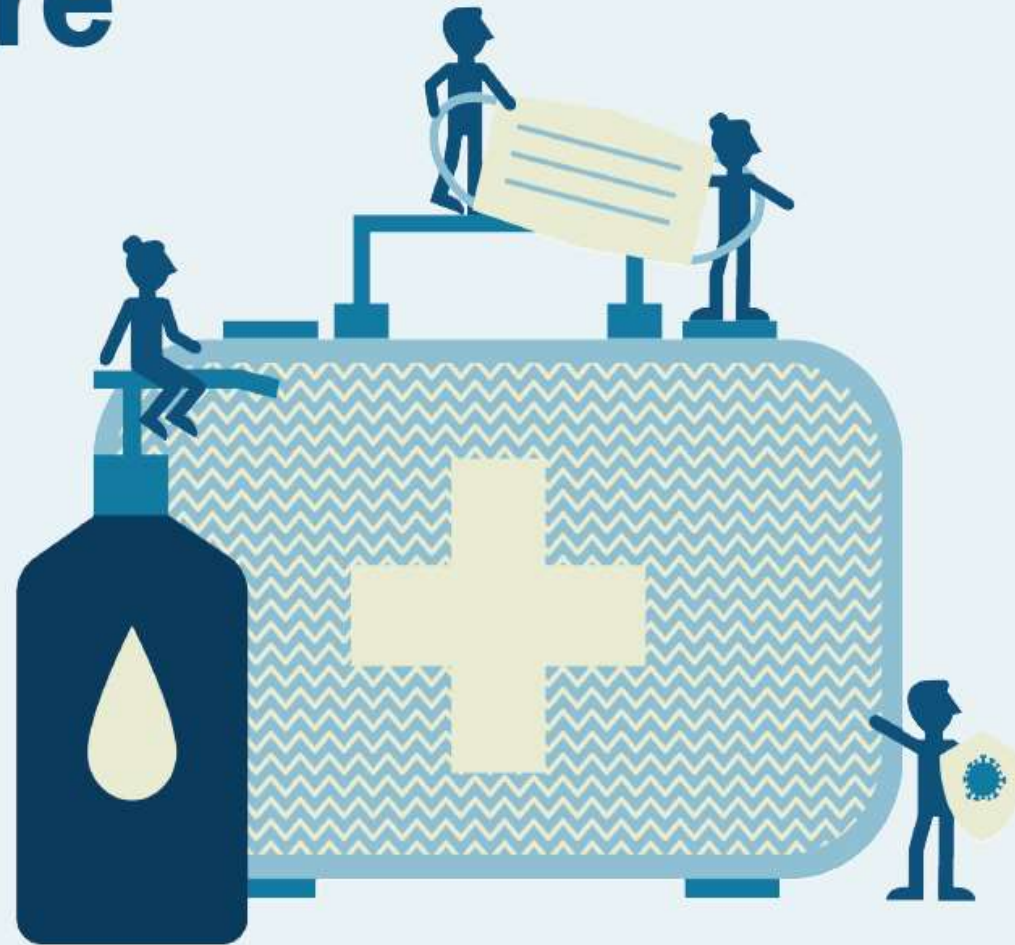
Keep.eu Project with potential to mitigate COVID-19 impact



Interreg supports healthcare

How Interreg projects and partners helped during the early stages of COVID-19

Short case-study examples of how cooperation joined the response to COVID-19, and supported frontline medical services.



Modernisation and life-saving equipment

The Your health matters! project supported the modernisation of equipment in two hospitals, equipment that proved to be life-saving.

When the Caritas Rosiorii de Vede Municipal Hospital in Romania was designated a support hospital for the treatment of patients infected with coronavirus, it faced the same challenges as other hospitals in ensuring sufficient equipment to meet increasing levels of demand.

To ensure it could meet any such increase in critically ill patients, Zimnicea City Hospital lent 2 injectomates, 3 vital functions monitors and 1 general anesthesia device. All this equipment was purchased through the Your Health Matters project, and is on loan for the duration of the emergency.

This project is financed by Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria



Patients in need, accessing medical services across international borders

The SHG-Kliniken Voelklingen hospital in Germany, on the border of France and Luxembourg, helped to save lives by taking COVID-19 positive patients.

The SHG-Kliniken Voelklingen hospital is a key part of the cross border cooperation in the Grand Region. It has received funding from two Interreg projects, including one that aims to better enable cross border healthcare access for residents.

Located just a few kilometers from Germany's border with France, the hospital saw the pressure neighbouring medical centres were under, from the rapid spread of COVID-19, and was able to support them.

The hospital directly receive COVID-19 positive patients from across the border in France. These patient transfers helped clinics ensure they were not overwhelmed. The SHG-Kliniken also made equipment available to help meet acute need.

Whilst still serving its own local community, ventilators and other life saving equipment that was in critical shortage was made available for other hospitals in the area.

The commitment of the project partners to ensuring cooperation continues, even in the most challenging times, ensured that life saving equipment was available when and where it was needed.

The SKG-Kliniken hospital receives Interreg EU funding as a partner in the SANTRANSFOR and COSAN projects.

SANTRANSFOR, in particular, focuses on enabling cross border access to medical services.



Scarce medical equipment provided by Interreg

Masks, visors and key parts of ventilators were among the many items produced by the FILA project's 3D printer, which is hosted at the Inovaciono Preduzetnički Centar Tehnopolis, Montenegro.

The acute shortage of key equipment was the urgent challenge for health care providers in spring 2020. Global demand for equipment far outstripped production, which also faced new challenges as lockdowns and travel bans disrupted the foundations of global logistics.

During the emergency, the FILA project's 3D-printer, used by the project to explore innovation in agriculture, were repurposed to provide medical equipment. This included protective visors, which were donated to the Institute of Public Health, Montenegro.

The application of 3D-print technology to provide urgent medical equipment is being further explored. In the future, approved templates could enable anyone with a 3D-printer to provide medical equipment.



The FILA project is funded by the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme

Similar experience; different countries. COVID-19's urban versus rural divide

Doctors in rural areas quickly realised their challenges were more similar across international borders than with urban doctors in their own countries.

One of the realities of COVID-19 is how similar the experiences can be of places located very far away from each other. While international cities were often the hot spots for COVID-19, the most vulnerable were often living in rural communities.

Whereas video call appointments were a trend in some cities even before COVID-19, rural communities are typically less digitally connected. The challenges of rural practitioners, in training themselves and their patients to digitally engage, is one example of how shared knowledge enabled medical care to continue in these challenging times.

The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme enabled the creation of a COVID-19 response group, an informal group who already knew

each other through cooperation in the area.

The group shared knowledge, solutions and best practice in responding to COVID-19 in the early stages of the virus.

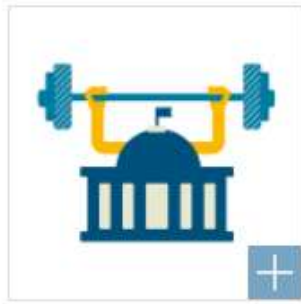
The group continues to meet to discuss clinical challenges, health and well being, technological solutions, citizen and community engagement as well as the economic impact of COVID-19.

In each of these five areas, the rural setting provides a very different outlook when compared to more urban environments.

You can read more about this work and the benefits of a more regional approach at: <https://interreg.eu/interreg-highlights>



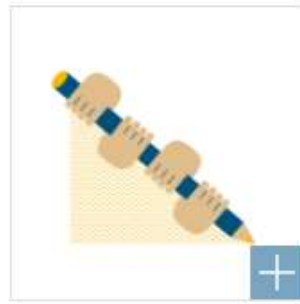
Capitalisation



Better governance



Climate change



Inclusive growth network



Knowledge of the seas

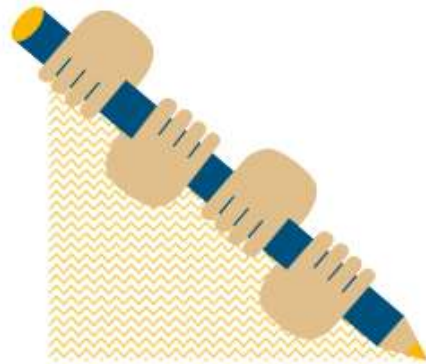


Migration



Sustainable transport


Inclusive growth network



The **Inclusive growth network** is addressed to the Interreg community, thematic experts, stakeholders and other EU co-funding programmes that are interested in working on several matters, such as employment and self-employment, labour mobility, social inclusion, improving professional skills and lifelong learning. This platform will focus on making available relevant data, facilitating the exchange of practices and gaining knowledge about the current experiences and themes, with the aim to support a common Interreg response to the EU Inclusive Growth policy. **Reach out to the network leader(s) to be part of this group.**

See Inclusive growth projects in keep.eu for 2000-2013 and 2014-2020.

 [EC Report | ESI funds for a health](#)

 [EC Report | European cross-border cooperation on health](#)

Show contacts

Show library items

Share this:



To keep updated, join us at the Inclusive Growth Network !.
Send me an email mercedes.acitores@interact-eu.net

Full-text search

Fields of expertise

Network

Inclusive growth network



Filter

Reset

Publications



INTERREG responses to COVID 19 emergency | Your health matters!
20/04/2020



INTERREG responses to COVID 19 emergency | COSAN and SANSTRANSFOR
20/04/2020



Presentation | Health in Cross-Border Cooperation | Valeria Cenacchi
09/12/2019



Factsheet | Health and Ageing in Cooperation Programmes
28/08/2019



Report | Health and Ageing in Cooperation Programmes
28/08/2019

Videos



Video | Interreg's contribution to healthier citizens in Europe
08/04/2020



Interreg adds value to Health and Ageing in Europe
08/04/2020



Video | Interreg innovative solutions in ageing projects
08/04/2020



Video | Interreg contribution to a healthier and more active elderly
08/04/2020



Video | Interreg Contribution to Health and Ageing. Impact in the territory
08/04/2020

Cooperation works

www.interact-eu.net

18th EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

05>09 OCTOBER 2020

12>16 OCTOBER 2020

19>22 OCTOBER 2020

RESTART
EUROPE
Together

#EURegionsWeek



European Committee
of the Regions

