

30 years of Interreg: stories of a greener, younger, embracing Europe

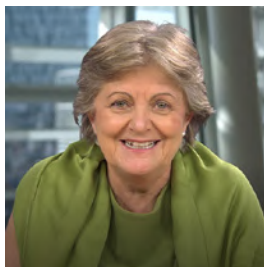
30 years of Interreg: stories of a greener, younger, embracing Europe



Contents

30 years Together: looking at the past, inspiring the future	7
Introduction	9
Interreg	10
Topics of the Interreg 30 years celebrations	12
Multimedia actions	14
How to read this e-book	15
Project index by topic	16
Project index per Interreg strand	17
Project map	18
Project figures	19
Concepts map	20
Green projects	23
Neighbour projects	39
Youth projects	55
Covid-19 projects	71

30 years Together: looking at the past, inspiring the future



Elisa Ferreira
Commissioner for
Cohesion and Reforms

In these challenging times that Europe is facing, I cannot value more what Interreg and cooperation policy have achieved in 30 years. At the heart of the European project, Interreg supports cooperation between regions, by removing obstacles and promoting joint action to bring citizens closer to each other.

The Interreg cooperation programmes and projects cover the entire European continent and the Outermost Regions. They are concrete realisations of Cohesion Policy. Since 1990, Interreg has enabled joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from the EU Member States and their neighbours.

By celebrating the 30 years of Interreg, we all have the chance to take stock of the achievements, but more importantly, we can all play our part in shaping the future of our policy.

I am deeply convinced that the three highlights of this campaign are meaningful for the European project as a whole. By demonstrating that we all have a neighbour, Interreg reminds us that we are all interdependent and that our prosperity and well-being has to be achieved collectively. Cross border and transnational cooperation is key not only within the EU but it also strengthens links and resilience of our neighbouring countries, from the Eastern flank to the southern rim.

Furthermore, Interreg ensures the involvement of citizens and young people in building our continent. Not only does cooperation policy need the voice of civil society to shape the future, but Interreg will also continue to support projects that will enable the next generation to live in a continent full of opportunities, by promoting employment, university exchanges, and equal access to quality services along borders.

Finally, territorial cooperation is crucial to tackle the challenges that know no borders. From the fight against climate change to preventing and addressing public health emergencies, territorial cooperation can offer practical solutions to global and every day's problems, notably in neighbouring regions.

Interreg is a European flagship programme that reinforces the capacity of regional policy to deliver on common public goods, such as sustainable energy, protecting biodiversity and natural heritage on land and in maritime areas or enhance healthcare cooperation across borders.

Interreg is also about leaving no one behind and consolidating the European integration. This is our mission, continually renewed. So let's use this anniversary to question and re-think Interreg. Let's give a new impetus to this fundamental value in the European Union: the spirit of cooperation, driven by the firm belief that we are stronger together.

We are proud to have led this work in cooperation with all programmes and project beneficiaries, and we wish you to enjoy discovering these project stories, about how TOGETHER, concrete solutions are found.

"30 years Together" is the motto of this campaign, it looks at the past but I am convinced that it will inspire all of us when looking towards the next 30 years to come and beyond.



Introduction

All along 2020, DG REGIO will celebrate 30 years of Interreg and cooperation in all its shapes. As the second pillar of the Cohesion policy, European Territorial Cooperation is at the heart of the European spirit because it encourages regions and countries to tackle challenges they can solve only by working together.

The celebrations throughout 2020 will provide the opportunity to demonstrate the achievements so far, but also the chance to focus on the future by launching the debate on cooperation policy post 2020 as we are entering a crucial phase to shape the future of the programming period.

While it is the time to think about Interreg funding covering cross-border (Interreg A), transnational (Interreg B) and interregional (Interreg C) cooperation, it is also the moment to go beyond funding and to use existing mechanisms in order to anchor cooperation in a more sustainable policy environment, such as the Macro Regional Strategies (MRS) or the Border Focal Point (BFP).

It is time to question, to re-think, and to give a new breath to what **we consider as a fundamental value in the European Union: cooperating between people, regions, and countries close to us.**

At a time when the European Union is facing a lot of changes, when political dialogue often questions its functioning, when new European leaders and new priorities are emerging, **Interreg has been acting now for 30 years to leave no one behind and to build Europe brick-by-brick.**

Interreg is already tackling climate change and contributes to a greener Europe, Interreg encourages young people to find their way to work or study abroad and supports initiatives to learn their neighbours' language or to volunteer in projects,

Interreg facilitates everyone to commute from a country to another, to find jobs in the border regions of Europe or outside the EU, or to access the closest public services to their homes.

We want to celebrate the past and we want to do more together in the future.

Interreg

A key philosophical question in the life of every person or organisation consists of defining who we are, why we exist, and what we intend to achieve within our lifetime.

The following stories of Interreg aim to show off what we do, why and for who. Through marking our 30th anniversary, we hope to inspire everyone within the Interreg community for many more years to come.

Now more than ever, the social nature of people and those who work and act “together” remind us that our work is priceless. And that even when times are hard, even in the face of paperwork, illness, social conflicts or daily struggles, it is all worth it.

This is a simple introduction to our world of dreams, hopes and beliefs. We invite you to read it, share it and enjoy it. This exhibition and its accompanying e-book bring to life the “stories of people working, acting and cooperating... TOGETHER FOR ALL OF US.”

The EU has made it possible for people and resources to travel freely within its boundaries, but it has not erased borders, nor eliminated cultural, religious and linguistic identities.

Borders may have been made invisible, but they still impact the lives of millions of citizens.

Like a gardener carefully watering their plants, the EU Cohesion Policy is dedicated to growing the seeds of cohesion and solidarity among EU countries.

Interreg is one of the instruments created to bring this vision of a united Europe to life – like a magnificent tree in the garden of peace.

We are but one tree in the forest of all EU programmes and funds that work tirelessly towards improving the lives of EU citizens.

We are part of a rich ecosystem where everything is connected in an endless cycle. Rooted in the very soil of every nation and region, the Interreg tree expands its branches into hundreds of programmes.

Each branch gives life to thousands of projects, like flowers destined to blossom – planting the seeds of a greener tomorrow.

We are helped in our mission by a myriad of local partners who – like bees carrying pollen – allow us to grow stronger and expand our reach further.

This is us. The Interreg community. We bring together professionals, public officials, academics and Interreg employees. We are united by the deep belief that no border should ever prevent the exchange of resources, ideas and knowledge. We work together across and beyond borders, to find common solutions to shared problems.

We find richness in our differences and opportunity in our challenges. We believe in sharing ideas and know-how, in learning from each other rather than reinventing the wheel, in order to grow together as people, as regions, and as the Interreg community.





OUR VALUES:

Together is better.

At Interreg, we value cooperation above all. That means working together as equals, regardless of borders. It means understanding that together we are greater than the sum of our parts.

We see cooperation as a means towards sustainable problem-solving; working together to achieve long-term benefits rather than short-sighted gains.

We value people who respect each other, regardless of differences, who include rather than exclude, and who ultimately put the wellbeing of the many before the interests of the few.

OUR ROLE:

Find and implement common solutions to shared problems.

Environmental, technological and social matters do not stop at geopolitical frontiers. This often creates shared challenges that affect citizens on all sides.

Whenever the safety, prosperity or freedom of an EU citizen is at stake, we will be there to find and implement common solutions to shared problems, one project at a time.

OUR VISION:

A European Union where people naturally cooperate across borders.

We envision a European Union in which all people will naturally work together regardless of physical, cultural or legal borders, to find long-term solutions, helping each other grow and prosper. Although our responsibility is towards EU citizens, it is a dream for everyone within the Interreg community to inspire people around the world to cooperate and overcome their differences to build together a world where borders become a little more "invisible".

We strive to improve life in the EU through cooperation across and beyond borders, one project at a time, just as we have for the last 30 years. Today we continue, for our future and for the future generations of Europeans.

Topics of the Interreg 30 years celebrations

The celebrations of Interreg's 30th anniversary will focus on three main topics which will be articulated on different occasions. These topics are interconnected in nature and can be demonstrated throughout all of the work we do all cooperation activities.

We believe that they represent the heart of what Interreg is about and illustrate the main concerns expressed by our citizens.

WE ALL HAVE A NEIGHBOUR

We all have neighbours – and they matter!

In good times and bad times, we cooperate, we work together and make decisions together. We face challenges together and we create new opportunities for a better future in a common space. No matter what, we stay together!

Never before has cooperation been so crucial, because never before have our challenges been so global.

Forest fires know no borders. They spread from slopes to valleys, never asking for a visa to cross a border. And neither do diseases, pollution or social unrest. If one side of the border is affected, the other will inevitably be too. Climate change epitomises this perfectly.

But we know that sharing borders involves more than finding solutions to common problems. It also means taking advantage of common opportunities, interests, lifestyles and cultural practices. Together, we create strong communities and build bridges between people across borders. Together, we make sure our citizens have better access to education, health care or jobs. Together, we improve connectivity and accessibility across borders, while preserving everyone's safety and protecting heritage and nature. We have a lot more in common with our neighbours than we might think. And Europe keeps us together.

For 30 years now, under Interreg, EU cooperation programmes have been helping neighbours work together to develop strong communities along internal and external borders. For 30 years, thousands of EU-funded projects have brought concrete benefits to EU border regions and beyond; building trust and respect amongst people from communities sharing a common space. Because all together as neighbours, we know that cooperation matters! As we know that neighbours matter!



[Click on the image to watch the Neighbour video](#)

YOUTH

Young people between 15 and 29-years-old made up 17% of the European Union population in 2018.

Irrespective of their gender, economic situation, social origin and age, they all face common challenges such as weak labour markets and lack of education and training opportunities.

They are not immune from other crises such as global warming, insecurity and the widespread lack of trust in public institutions. However, their desire for a better future is shared across the continent. Therefore, the European Union as a whole offers vast opportunities, especially to the increasing numbers of young people moving within the EU – and enabling youth mobility is crucial to strengthening its position as a knowledge-based economy.

For 30 years, Interreg and cohesion policy have found solutions for young people. How? By working together, building partnerships and sharing knowledge to improve educational levels, qualifications, skills, international competences and job opportunities for all and to make “an economy that works for people”.

Interreg facilitates youth mobility through cross-border internships, enhancing the ability of young people to work and

learn on both sides of the border, increasing their employability and fighting against youth unemployment. Youth mobility is a prime mechanism for fostering a sense of European identity and citizenship.

Interreg promotes networks and activities for helping young entrepreneurs to develop their skills, therefore unlocking youth's unexploited potential and competences. This also creates an enabling environment to make their innovative ideas become ventures with high social added value. Interreg also educates young people in and outside of Europe to make them aware of global warming and to adapt their habits towards a more sustainable way of life.

Interreg builds trust and confidence across borders by establishing common public services that young generations can easily access.

Young generations are the future of cooperation – and Interreg empowers the European spirit.



[Click on the image to watch the Youth video](#)

GREEN AND CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE

Humans have created borders to establish a sense of belonging and common identity throughout the years.

However, Mother Nature does not play by these rules. Borders do not limit rivers, mountains, forests or lakes, nor do they prevent flora and fauna from crossing them. Air, water, land pollution and the use of common resources do not recognise national boundaries. To preserve this treasure for generations to come, Interreg has fostered cooperation in environmental matters for 30 years.

The European Commission has just presented its Green Deal as Europe's new growth strategy with the objective of becoming climate neutral by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use. This will be Europe's 'man on the moon' moment in our fight against climate change and to protect the environment against the biggest threat to humanity in the 21st century.

And one thing is crystal clear: a green and climate neutral Europe cannot be achieved if we all work in isolation, but instead in cooperation. That is what Interreg stands for, and has stood for for the past 30 years.



[Click on the image to watch the Green video](#)



Multimedia actions



This is Europe New podcast

Stories of collaboration and cooperation from across the European Union, brought to you by the Interreg community. In this podcast series, broadcaster Shahidha Bari talks to the Europeans whose lives have been transformed by Interreg. Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2020, Interreg was created in the spirit of knowledge-sharing and collaborative thinking, both within the EU and beyond, to help create a peaceful and prosperous union.

Across the series you'll hear how the Interreg community works with everyone from fisherman to farmers, and city planners to entrepreneurs, forging stronger bonds across borders, tackling pressing issues such as climate change and investing in young Europeans.

Tune in and join us on our journey across this great continent.



Videos

New releases



Interreg has released four new videos on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The videos explain in a simple and enjoyable way the topics.

How to read this e-book

This publication allows you to better understand the diversity of projects carried out under the Interreg umbrella. The projects shown have been classified according to the three themes explained before. In addition, the following pages offer thematic, geographic indexes, as well as per programme strand, so that the reader can locate the different projects according to their own interests. In the illustration on the left you can see the type of information displayed for each project and how it is structured.

The screenshot shows the SAPOLL project page. Annotations point to various elements:

- Acronym and quote:** Points to the 'SAPOLL' title and the quote: *"Isolated actions across the border are unlikely to save pollinators – instead we must act together and mobilise as many people as possible in order to save essential wildlife."*
- Project picture:** Points to the image of a bee on a yellow flower.
- DESCRIPTION:** Points to the text describing the project's goals and activities.
- GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:** Points to the list of regions: East Flanders (Belgium), West Flanders (Belgium), Hainaut (Belgium), Namur (Belgium), Champagne-Ardenne (France), Picardie (France) and Nord Pas de Calais (France).
- PROGRAMME:** Points to the text: Interreg France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen.
- TOTAL BUDGET:** Points to the value: € 2,399,379.80.
- EU FUNDING:** Points to the value: € 1,199,689.90.
- Podcast QR code:** Points to the QR code and the text 'Interreg's new podcast'.
- Back to projects index:** Points to the page number '25'.
- Description of the project:** Points to the project title and description.
- Geographical and financial information:** Points to the 'GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE' and 'TOTAL BUDGET' sections.
- Programme and project website links:** Points to the 'PROGRAMME' section and the website links: <https://www.interreg-fvw.eu/fr> and <http://sapoll.eu/>.

Project index by topic

green connections

- 24 _ ZEWSGES
- 25 _ CleanAtlantic
- 26 _ coop MDD
- 27 _ SAPOLL
- 28 _ PESCAR
- 29 _ BIOVAL
- 30 _ INNsieme
- 31 _ Carnivora Dinarica
- 32 _ REW-BE-LAS
- 33 _ SUPER-LNG
- 34 _ ADAPTARES
- 35 _ ECOMARPORT
- 36 _ ReNovRisk-Cyclones
- 37 _ STEU

neighbour cohesion

- 40 _ Kaliningrad and Klaipeda maritime
- 41 _ Museums over the borders
- 42 _ SmartVillages
- 43 _ EUROCIDADE 2020
- 44 _ Take Care!
- 45 _ TOURISMED
- 46 _ In For Care
- 47 _ Reconnecting with Sorbian culture
- 48 _ Cross-border day-care
- 49 _ Preserving our heritage together
- 50 _ AFRIMAC
- 51 _ OCS - Oyapock, Coopération, Santé
- 52 _ CARIBSKY
- 53 _ GEO-IN

youth cooperation

- 56 _ EUR.friends
- 57 _ iEER
- 58 _ RYE CONNECT
- 59 _ ActiveGirls
- 60 _ SMART-UP
- 61 _ GHELP
- 62 _ Rampen/Ramppi
- 63 _ Strong Neighbours: German–Czech
- 64 _ PAREO
- 65 _ Peace Bytes
- 66 _ ELAN
- 67 _ Formaterra
- 68 _ Au fil des Iles

covid-19

- 72 _ Rescue
- 73 _ Fila
- 74 _ Your Health Matters
- 75 _ TEX-MED ALLIANCES
- 76 _ Innoplatform
- 77 _ Mediwarn

Project index per Interreg strand

CROSS-BORDER

27 _ SAPOLL
29 _ BIOVAL
30 _ INNsieme
31 _ Carnivora Dinarica
32 _ REW-BE-LAS
34 _ ADAPTaRES
35 _ ECOMARPORT
37 _ STEU
43 _ EUROCIDADE 2020
47 _ Reconnecting with Sorbian culture
48 _ Cross-border day-care
50 _ AFRIMAC
51 _ OCS - Oyapock, Coopération, Santé
52 _ CARIBSKY
53 _ GEO-IN
55 _ EUR.friends
60 _ SMART-UP
62 _ Rampen/Ramppi
63 _ Strong Neighbours: German–Czech
65 _ Peace Bytes
68 _ Au fil des Iles
74 _ Your Health Matters
76 _ Innoplatform
77 _ Mediwarn

TRANSNATIONAL

25 _ CleanAtlantic
26 _ coop MDD
33 _ SUPER-LNG
36 _ ReNovRisk-Cyclones
42 _ SmartVillages
45 _ TOURISMED
46 _ In For Care
58 _ RYE CONNECT
61 _ GHELP
64 _ PAREO
66 _ ELAN
67 _ Formaterra

INTERREGIONAL

57 _ iEER

IPA

28 _ PESCAR
44 _ Take Care!
49 _ Preserving our heritage together
59 _ ActiveGirls
73 _ Fila

ENI CBC

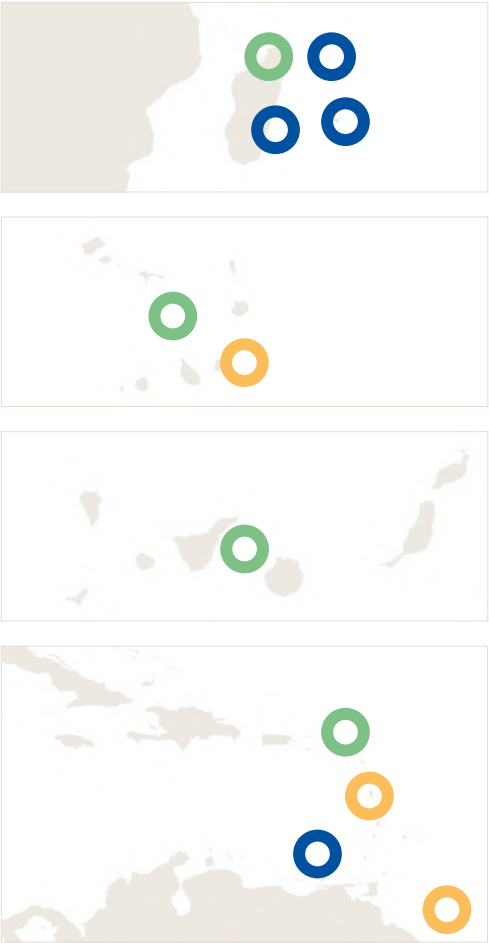
24 _ ZEWSGES
40 _ Kaliningrad and Klaipeda maritime
41 _ Museums over the borders
72 _ Rescue
75 _ TEX-MED ALLIANCE



Project map

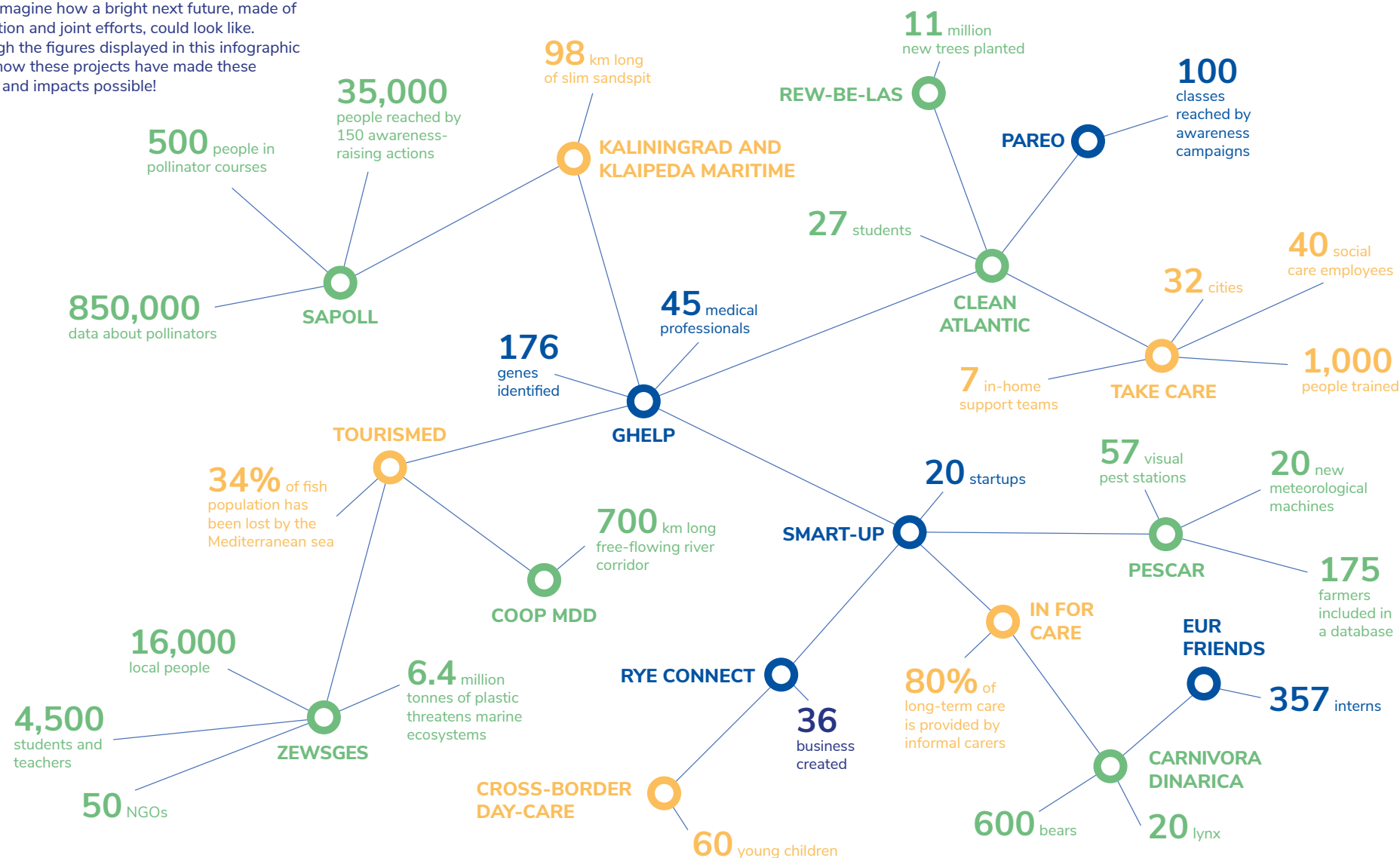
All over the last 30 years thousands of beneficiaries and citizens have been involved in cooperation actions, benefitting from common solution to shared problems with their neighbours. The whole continent and bordering countries have been able to experience cooperation at its best. This map wants to ideally display how, through cooperation among regions and citizens, the projects of this e-book are tackling the three topics of the

Interreg 30 years campaign all over Europe. Thanks to these actions, Europe could be greener, closer and looks forward to its future and the one of young generations. Cooperation, now more than ever allows its regions and citizens to share common values and traditions. Cooperation has both tangible and intangible aspects that altogether identify the uniqueness of the continent and people.



Project figures

This infographic shows all the interlinks and impactful results achieved by a sample of projects displayed in this e-book. Let's imagine how a bright next future, made of more cooperation and joint efforts, could look like. Browse through the figures displayed in this infographic and discover how these projects have made these achievements and impacts possible!



Concepts' map

These concepts represent the thematic diversity of projects shown in this e-book. By clicking on each concept you'll be redirected to the project related to it. The concepts are based on the main idea each project is focussing on.

maritime history marine ecosystems common history big data coral reef
biodiversity sporty girls young entrepreneurs fashion sustainable beer
air travel care services youth volunteering cyclone forecasting ageing
wastewater treatment cross-border citizens businesswoman youth employment
internships startups nature protection multicultural day care pesticide
socio-sanitary care childrens' healthcare biosphere reserve geotourism
fishing heritage culture & identity professional skills depopulation water use
sustainable ports archeological tourism smart villages forest conservation
agricultural training species protection social inclusion marine litter





green connections

green connections

“Litter picking parties and educational campaigns have mobilised communities and NGOs to reduce the levels of plastics and debris on coastlines and the bed of the Black Sea.”



DESCRIPTION

Marine litter, one of the ocean's biggest polluters, sees no borders. Each year 6.4million tonnes of discarded plastic threatens the world's marine ecosystems, but four countries bordering the Black Sea – Ukraine, Bulgaria, Georgia and Turkey – have acted to tackle this common enemy together.

With the help of 1,600 local people along with 330 fishermen, 4,500 students and teachers and 50 NGOs, the ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 has orchestrated ambitious 'Fishing For Litter' clean-up campaigns of coastlines and seabeds, and educational programmes.

It has empowered a generation of children to see that collaboration is fruitful – and helps us to protect our precious marine environments.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Tekirdag, Edirne, Kırklareli - (Turkey), Yugoiztochen (Bulgaria), Odessa (Ukraine) and Tbilisi (Georgia).

PROGRAMME

ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 872,118.00

EU FUNDING

€ 802,348.56



Interreg's
new
podcast

PLAY NOW

“Cooperation in the CleanAtlantic project is special because everyone, from children to researchers and decision makers, has a role to play in the Atlantic coast.”

CleanAtlantic

DESCRIPTION

What do cotton buds, foam food containers and plastic shopping bags have in common?

They're all typical forms of ocean litter – just ask any of the 300 school students from participating regions that conducted marine litter surveys for the CleanAtlantic project, which is working to prevent, monitor and reduce marine debris.

The project connects fishing communities and students in Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and the UK, and they've already shown great enthusiasm which will be crucial for changing behaviour – and levels of ocean litter.

The ongoing work includes building online databases and interactive maps to capitalize on the existent data and knowledge, developing tools to predict the movement of marine litter, running experiments to ascertain its environmental impact and trialling innovative technologies such as drones as a way of monitoring ocean pollutants.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (Portugal), Região Autónoma da Madeira (Portugal), Galicia (Spain), Comunidad de Madrid (Spain), Bretagne (France), Pays-de-la-Loire (France), Île-de-France (France), East Anglia (UK), Inner London – West (UK), Highlands and Islands (UK), Northern and Western (Ireland), Eastern and Midland (Ireland).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Atlantic Area.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3,249,241.04

EU FUNDING

€ 2,436,930.78

<http://www.cleanatlantic.eu/>

<https://www.atlanticarea.eu/>



Interreg's
new
podcast



“This cooperation project united civil society organisations and public institutions through one common passion: a love of nature and of the Mura, Drava, and the Danube river regions.”



DESCRIPTION

The space where the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers converge has become known as the 'Amazon of Europe', thanks to the incredible biodiversity and rare species found around this 700km long free-flowing river corridor. To protect the area's incredible wildlife and habitats, some of which are under threat, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia have tackled the management of the river and protected areas together.

Through the coopMDD project an ambitious cross-border action plan was developed, while a network of RIVER'SCOOL outdoor classrooms brought children, adults and families to learn about the rivers at the water's edge. The project made great strides, contributing towards UNESCO's decision to establish the Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve, the world's first such reserve, spread across five countries.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Vienna (Austria), Styria (Austria), Eastern Slovenia, Continental Croatia, Central Transdanubia (Hungary) and Vojvodina (Serbia).

Associated Partners: Western Slovenia, Continental Croatia, Veneto (Italy), Vienna (Austria), Freiburg (Germany), Southern Transdanubia (Hungary).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Danube.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 2,154,000.00

EU FUNDING

€ 1,830,900.00



Interreg's
new
podcast

PLAY NOW

SAPOLL

“Isolated actions across the border are unlikely to save pollinators – instead we must act together and mobilise as many people as possible in order to save essential wildlife.”



DESCRIPTION

Wild pollinators like bees, hoverflies and butterflies are essential for maintaining ecosystems across the world. But closer to home, in the France-Wallonia-Flanders cross-border area, partners are pulling together to save these threatened species and warn what might happen without our precious pollinators. So far, SAPOLL, which stands for Save Our Pollinators, has led more than 150 awareness-raising actions, reaching more than 35,000 people. Over 500 families have registered their gardens within a network of pollinator protection refuges, over 500 people have attended pollinator courses and three new working groups have brought together naturalists.

This incredibly exciting mobilisation also led to the creation of a valuable database, containing more than 850,000 pieces of data about pollinators across the region.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

East Flanders (Belgium), West Flanders (Belgium), Hainaut (Belgium), Namur (Belgium), Champagne-Ardenne (France), Picardie (France) and Nord Pas de Calais (France).

PROGRAMME

Interreg France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 2,399,379.80

EU FUNDING

€ 1,199,689.90



Interreg's
new
podcast

PLAY NOW

<https://www.interreg-fwvl.eu/fr>

<http://sapoll.eu/>



PESCAR

DESCRIPTION

With the increasing use of pesticides in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina's cross-border area, the PESCAR project worked with farmers to reduce use and stop the contamination of local environments. Limiting the use of pesticides can be tricky without proper data to target usage – and with climate change affecting production, this becomes even more difficult.

In response, PESCAR set up a pest and disease warning and forecasting system using information gathered from 57 new visual pest stations and 20 new meteorological machines. A database of 175 agricultural producers was also created, through which recommendations for pesticide use was shared, based on weather conditions and the development of diseases and pests. The network created through this sustainable plan is now used on a daily basis by farmers and agricultural professionals.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Adriatic Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

PROGRAMME

Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 601,639.26

EU FUNDING

€ 511,393.37



Interreg's
new
podcast



<http://www.interreg-hr-ba-me2014-2020.eu/>

<https://www.agroprogoza.eu/>

“Warning systems were created, enabling agricultural professionals to offer timely advice to farmers about the right amount and types of pesticides to be used.”



BIOVAL: upcycling of breweries' waste

“How can the waste material produced through beer manufacturing be used to create something new, thoughtful and exciting?”

DESCRIPTION

Next time you sip a Belgian or German beer, you may (or may not) wish to consider this: the brewing industry produces a lot of organic waste. In fact, 90% of it must be destroyed at a high cost. Luckily, the BIOVAL project is partnering breweries and universities across the Grande Région – which includes big beer-producing areas in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and France – to develop an innovative recycling solution for all of that waste. By turning by-product into new items like biodegradable cutlery or even producing new products like flour and vinegar, the industry is being encouraged to embrace the circular economy.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Kaiserslautern (Germany), Arrondissement de Liège (Belgium), Département de Meurthe-et-Moselle (France), Grand-Duché de Luxembourg and Regionalverband Saarbrücken (Germany).

PROGRAMME

Interreg VA Grande Région | Grossregion.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3,072,700.00

EU FUNDING

€ 1,843,620.00



Interreg's
new
podcast





INNsieme

“Through cooperation, Austria, Germany and Switzerland are coming together to overcome the ecological challenges faced by the Inn River catchment area.”

DESCRIPTION

Just like most rivers in Europe, large sections of the Inn river, which flows through Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, Germany, are in poor ecological condition. Until now, these separate countries have worked individually on parts of the river within their own boundaries, with little linking up with other regions.

The INNsieme project was set up for the regions to work more efficiently and intelligently to manage nature protection and water management with tourism, agriculture and sports – and sectors with a relationship to the river.

The INNsieme project, which is still in its early phases, will for the first time bring bird watchers, fishermen, beaver stewards and water engineers together to the table to discuss solutions for the problems they are all dealing with, working at the heart of this river.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Tyrol (Austria), Upper Bavaria (Germany) and Lower Bavaria (Germany).

PROGRAMME

INTERREG V-A Austria-Germany/Bavaria.

TOTAL BUDGET	EU FUNDING
€ 1,269,177.45	€ 882,255.13



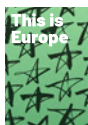
Interreg's
new
podcast

PLAY NOW



Carnivora Dinarica

“The project has reached the national and international general public through substantial media coverage.”



Interreg's
new
podcast



DESCRIPTION

Slovenia and Croatia share important populations of Eurasian lynx, wolf and brown bear, as their key habitats are the Dinaric forests of the transboundary region.

It marks a departure from previous projects because it is addressing issues of agricultural damage to better understand the threats to these habitats – aiming for harmonious coexistence between the humans and the animals.

The project has received considerable public attention, with the public and expert communities keen to follow its progress – households across the project area have received bulletins to give them a sense of involvement in this important work.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Western Slovenia, Eastern Slovenia, Adriatic Croatia and Continental Croatia.

PROGRAMME

INTERREG V-A Slovenia – Croatia.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 2,333,997.64

EU FUNDING

€ 1,983,897.99

<http://www.si-hr.eu/en2/>

<https://www.carnivoradinarica.eu/en/>





REW-BE-LAS

“Joint neighbourly involvement in improving the condition of the Beskid forest has made a real difference.”

DESCRIPTION

Fir and beech trees once dominated the Beskid forest, which covers the lower parts of the Beskid mountains across Poland and Slovakia. An important part of this project was restoring the depleted forest – and already 11million new trees have been planted across 1,900 hectares. The aim was to improve the condition of this beautiful natural environment and the quality of life for the people living locally.

The cross-border Beskid Green Path, which extends for 32km, was also created – making way for resting stops for walkers and visitors and educational information boards that share the significance and importance of this natural landscape. Thanks to the work, the next generations will already see a completely different forest in this region.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Cieszyn and Żywiecki district (Poland) and Čadca district, Namestovo (Slovakia).

PROGRAMME

Interreg V-A Poland-Slovakia.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 5,635,065.00

EU FUNDING

€ 4,789,805.25



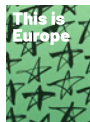
Interreg's
new
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SUPER-LNG

“It has been a very interesting experience working with universities, institutions, and companies from various EU Member States. Despite working in similar areas, the experts all have different approaches to the issue – creating a rich diversity of perspective.”



Interreg's
new
podcast



<https://www.adrioninterreg.eu>

www.superlng.adrioninterreg.eu

DESCRIPTION

Ports across the Adriatic-Ionian seas area are aiming to reduce the carbon footprint associated with shipping, as part of the SUPER-LNG project, which is working to increase the environmental sustainability of maritime transport.

Ports can reduce their CO2 levels through the safe use of liquefied natural gas, a cleaner-burning fuel derived from natural materials like plankton and algae.

A network of experts across academia and industry has come together to share their extensive knowledge to ensure best practice, harmonised standards and professional training about the use of LNG across the ports.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Attica (Greece), Region of Western Greece, Region of Western Slovenia, Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Apulia (Italy) and Italy (National representation).

PROGRAMME

Interreg V-B Adriatic-Ionian Programme - ADRIION.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 895,000.00

EU FUNDING

€ 760,750.00



ADAPTaRES



“In Cape Verde, we want to treat and reuse water like they do in the Canary Islands – with quality and without risks. ADAPTaRES allows us to work together and learn how to achieve this.”

Regla Hernández, project partner, Cape Verde

DESCRIPTION

Climate change is having a serious impact on water availability across the world – and the North Atlantic archipelagos Macaronesia is just one region already living with the reality of droughts and water shortages. The ADAPTaRES project is helping farming communities and the general population in Madeira, the Canary Islands and Cape Verde adapt to climate change through more responsible water use with awareness campaigns designed to change behaviours. Comics, online games, courses and workshops at schools were organised, while an app has been created to improve communication between farmers using irrigation and water management bodies.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Canary Islands (Spain), Autonomous Region of Madeira (Portugal) and Cape Verde.

PROGRAMME

Interreg Madeira - Açores - Canarias (MAC)

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,959,083.93

EU FUNDING

€ 1,665,221.34



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“ECOMARPORT provides the right framework in which public and private sectors work in partnership to develop technological solutions that meet the needs of the marine and maritime sector. It provides useful information, products and protocols equally across the area of interest that in this case affects the whole Macaronesia region.”

Carlos Barrera, Project Coordinator, Spain



ECOMARPORT

DESCRIPTION

Madeira, the Azores, the Canary Islands and Cape Verde may all be part of the Macaronesia oceanic archipelagos, but they are located remarkably far from each other. The islands are narrowing this physical distance with the collaborative ECOMARPORT project, which promotes marine and maritime R&D and innovation across regional ports, and monitors the quality of local marine environments. So far, a port flood forecasting and warning system has been created; real-time data visualisation has been made accessible free of charge; and sensors and data formats of observational platforms like buoys, ocean gliders and weather stations have been standardised. The project has also joined the Macaronesia Marine Observation Network, also known as the R3M Network – demonstrating that good things come from having more hands on deck.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Canary Islands (Spain), Madeira (Portugal), Azores (Portugal) and Cape Verde.

PROGRAMME

Interreg Madeira - Açores - Canarias (MAC)

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,360,713.09

EU FUNDING

€ 1,156,606.13



Interreg's
new
podcast

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ReNovRisk-Cyclones



“The organisation of the ReNovRisk-Cyclones experimental campaign in Maputo, Mozambique, has been a huge opportunity for our agents, who had never had the chance to carry out atmospheric radiosonde observations before.”

Francisco Nostado, project partner

DESCRIPTION

With climate change warming our oceans, researchers expect the number of intense tropical cyclones, like the 2016 Cyclone Fantala, to increase. As such, the ReNovRisk-Cyclones project was formed to assess the impact of climate change on cyclones – in order to improve existing cyclone forecasting and observation tools in the South-West Indian Ocean.

Led by the University of Réunion in partnership with Meteo France, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and meteorological and university institutions in Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius and Mozambique, the project is developing models to estimate the impact of cyclones on rainfall, wind and sea swell and has carried out unique climate simulations in the South-West Indian Ocean basin. These will be used to sharpen our understanding of how cyclones and their effects might change in the future. The project has also made possible the training of staff, students and a new generation of researchers in the fields of climatology, cyclone forecasting and experimental meteorology.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Réunion (France), Mayotte (France), Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Mozambique.

PROGRAMME

Interreg Indian Ocean

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,444,760.00

EU FUNDING

€ 1,228,046.00



Interreg's
new
podcast





STEU

“Supplying water and treating waste water are critical problems for both parts of Saint Martin. The goal here is to support the development of a common approach in the general interest of the population of both sides”.

Daniel Gibbs, President of the Collectivity of Saint Martin

DESCRIPTION

The island of Saint Martin is notoriously dry and relies on extracting drinking water from the sea. This ambitious project, a cooperation between the north and south sides of the island, aims to create one shared wastewater treatment plant for the whole of Saint Martin by pooling existing resources. Following the European Directive on Urban Waste Water Treatment, this project will improve the capacity of treatment stations and reduce the discharge of wastewater into natural environments – until now untreated water was directed into the Cole Bay lagoon. A new wastewater collection system is a positive step in the right direction towards protecting the environment and making public water supplies as resilient as possible.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Saint Martin (France) and Sint Maarten (Netherlands).

PROGRAMME

Interreg V-A France (Saint Martin - Sint Maarten)

ESTIMATED TOTAL BUDGET

€ 29,000,000.00

ESTIMATED EU FUNDING

€ 11,000,000.00



Interreg's
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<http://www.com-saint-martin.fr>



neighbour cohesion

neighbour cohesion

Kaliningrad and Klaipeda Maritime

“The unique lighthouse boat Irbenskiy, and fishing trawler Dubingiai SRT-3216 will be restored as part of this project between two regions that share a long, rich history of shipbuilding and navigation.”

DESCRIPTION

The Curonian Spit, a slim 98-km long sandspit is the border between the Baltic Sea and Europe's largest lagoon. This beautiful UNESCO World Heritage site is also what connects neighbours Klaipeda, Lithuania and Kaliningrad, Russia – two regions that share a long, rich history of shipbuilding and navigation.

To commemorate and sustain this maritime tradition, leading museums, Lithuania Sea Museum and Museum of the World Ocean, are renovating two historic ships.

The project will see new life breathed into the unique lighthouse boat Irbenskiy, and fishing trawler Dubingiai SRT-3216; a mapping of the light signals and 'voices' of Baltic Sea lighthouses; and illuminating holographic films to shine a light on the regions' important common heritage.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Kaliningrad region (Russian Federation) and Klaipeda region (Lithuania).

PROGRAMME

ENI CBC Lithuania-Russia.

TOTAL BUDGET EU FUNDING

€ 487,529,22

€ 252,435.07



Interreg's
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www.eni-cbc.eu/lr

<http://projects.world-ocean.ru/proekt-lt-ru-1-022/>



Funded by
the European Union and
Russian Federation



LITHUANIA - RUSSIA
CBC 2014-2020



Museums over the borders (Stage I and II)



“Both museums in Poland and Russia have been modernised and have new equipment and exhibitions, which has had a significant influence on the increased number of visitors to each institution.”

DESCRIPTION

Two museums in Elblag, Poland and Kaliningrad, Russia have modernised themselves to create a rich, joined-up tourist experience that shares the common history of the two areas. Through renovation works, a joint education programme, the purchase of innovative holographic technology and increased tourist information in the form of attraction guides, the Friedland Gate Museum, Kaliningrad, and the Museum of Archeology and History, Elblag are bringing stories from across the border to life. In the next phase of the project, the Centre of European Meetings “Światowid” has joined the partner museums. Together, they plan to collect interviews with the post-war residents of Elblag and Kaliningrad. It will form a unique collection of memories and testimonies from people who had to leave their homes and start the new life in the region after WWII.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Warmińsko-mazurskie region (Poland) and Kaliningrad Region (Russia).

PROGRAMME

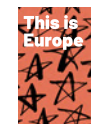
ENI CBC Poland-Russia / ENPI CBC Lithuania-Poland-Russia.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,869,002.27

EU FUNDING

€ 1,682,102.04



Interreg's
new
podcast

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www.plru.eu

<http://www.mob.elblag.pl/>



POLAND - RUSSIA
CROSS-BORDER
COOPERATION PROGRAMME
2014-2020



PROGRAMME
IS CO-FINANCED
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

“Cooperation in the Alps brings digital infrastructure in place – so that entrepreneurship and social innovation can flourish in rural Alpine communities”

SmartVillages



Interreg's
new
podcast

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DESCRIPTION

Who said smart cities should have all the fun? Across the Alps, a group of academics, businesses, policy-makers and the civic sector have put their heads together to make rural communities more liveable, innovative and better connected.

Through a smart village approach, SmartVillages is using digitisation to build infrastructure and jobs fit for modern life, tackle carbon emissions, retain younger generations and keep older people connected to their communities. The ambition? To make these Alpine communities across France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Austria and Slovenia the forerunners of digitalisation in Europe.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Espace Mittelland (Switzerland), Vzhodna Slovenija (Slovenia), Lombardia (Italy), Liguria (Italy), Niederösterreich (Austria), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France), Freiburg (Germany), Tirol (Austria), Oberösterreich (Austria) and Zentralschweiz (Switzerland).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Alpine Space.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 2,685,380.80



EUROCIDADE 2020

“This cooperation project has reinforced a feeling of camaraderie amongst Spanish and Portuguese citizens and reached into the everyday lives of local people.”

DESCRIPTION

The Galician town of Verín and the Portuguese city of Chaves are connected by more than just the Tâmega river. Just 25 minutes apart, they form the oldest 'Eurocity' on the border, which stands as a success story in cross-border cooperation. The aim is clear: to improve the quality of the lives of citizens and exchange cultural experience.

The sharing of services, creation of initiatives like the “Eurocitizen Card” allows inhabitants of the two neighbourhoods to enjoy discounts for public services, including swimming pools, hot springs, libraries and much more. In addition, the implementation of a free bus across the border connecting the two towns, the creation of a green corridor along the Tâmega river and the branding of Chaves-Verín as a tourist destination has strengthened the region's future through smart, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Certainly, the project has demonstrated that the institutional, economic, social, cultural and territorial integration of two border towns is perfectly doable and comes with major benefits for the communities concerned.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Galicia (Spain) and North of Portugal.

PROGRAMME

Interreg España-Portugal (POCTEP).

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,775,405.00

EU FUNDING

€ 1,331,553.75



Interreg's
new
podcast

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Take Care!

“Take Care! awakened a sense of social responsibility needed to create equal living standards for all disadvantaged people – whether in Croatia and Serbia.”

DESCRIPTION

“Last one to leave, please turn off the lights” is a saying heard often in Slavonia, Croatia and Srem, Serbia; two regions facing serious emigration of young people and a growing elderly population. The Take Care! project responded to the care needs of disadvantaged people in rural areas; many with families that have moved away. Hospitals, NGOs, development agencies and care homes combined service improvements with new economic opportunities to encourage migrating citizens to stay. As a result, 32 citizens from Croatia-Serbia border regions were employed as nurses, therapists and psychologists, 40 social care employees were given end-of-life care training and 1,000 people in Vukovar-Srijem County, Croatia, and Srem District, Serbia were supported. A new platform connected hospitals, 7 in-home support teams were mobilised and a new palliative ward for patients in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia, provided much-needed care.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Continental Croatia and Vojvodina (Serbia).

PROGRAMME

Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Serbia.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 921,709.48

EU FUNDING

€ 783,453.05



Interreg's
new
podcast



<http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia2014-2020.eu/>

<https://www.takecare-palliative.com/projekt>



TOURISMED



“142 fishermen and 33 vessels tested a new tourism business model, which shares the Mediterranean’s artisanal fishing heritage with tourists.”

DESCRIPTION

The Mediterranean Sea has lost 34% of its total fish population over the past 50 years and the livelihoods of fishermen in Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, France and Spain are under threat. In response, the TOURISMED project has created an economic alternative to diversify their incomes.

A new tourism offer, designed in collaboration with the fishermen, gives visitors the chance to experience and learn about traditional artisanal fishing. These activities promote sustainable practises and crucially preserve cultural identity without marginalising communities.

The important role of professional fishermen is celebrated, while reassuring fishing communities that their work is valued. Since the project ended, fishermen have continued with their tourism activities – and in doing so, are inspiring tourists to consider the sustainability of these time-tested traditional fishing methods.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Sicilia (Italy), Cyprus, Attiki (Greece), Albania, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur (France), Corse (France), Lazio (Italy) and Comunidad Valenciana (Spain).

PROGRAMME

- Interreg Mediterranean.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 2,157,900.00

EU FUNDING

€ 1,700,620.00



Interreg’s
new
podcast

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“In Turnhout, Belgium, neighborhoods piloted a new scheme to improve cooperation in their communities. As a result, kitchen gardens and shared petanque courts have been built.”



In For Care



Interreg's
new
podcast

PLAY NOW

DESCRIPTION

With increasing ageing populations, many European countries face a care crisis. It's estimated that 80% of long-term care in Europe is provided by informal carers, although many of them don't identify as such. This makes informal carers vulnerable to burnout due to the extra burden of care alongside other commitments like work.

With demand for care set to rise, the In For Care project tested a Norwegian tool for coordinating and engaging new people in volunteering within the health and care sectors. Regional campaigns have led to informal care rising on the political agenda in several of the partner countries, and life quality of next of kin carers was found to have improved. Every partner learned a lot about service design and a 'quadruple helix framework' that brings together academia, the private and public sectors, and civil society end-users.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Agder (Norway), Eastern Scotland, Groningen (Netherlands), Drenthe (Netherlands), North Middle Sweden, Southern Denmark, Antwerp (Belgium) and East Flanders (Belgium).

PROGRAMME

Interreg North Sea Region Programme.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 4,457,709.00

EU FUNDING

€ 2,228,854.50



Reconnecting with Sorbian culture

“Connected by our shared language roots and history, this project has helped younger generations in Poland and Saxony to rediscover their common Sorbian heritage.”

DESCRIPTION

This project set out to reconnect young generations in Poland and Saxony to Sorbian culture and identity. The Sorbs represent a Slavic minority living in the region of Lusatia, Eastern Germany, especially in the areas of Bautzen (Budyšin) and Cottbus (Chóśebuz). Many of the 60,000 Sorbs are still attached to their language and traditional culture with folk costumes and rural architecture. In this project, schools and museums worked together with children, young adults and families to exchange knowledge of Poland and Lusatia's common history, which includes centuries-old similarities in Slavic languages and in culture.

A video guide was created for children for the permanent exhibition at the Sorbian Museum in Bautzen, Germany, in which mythical characters shared stories about Sorbian history, customs and ways of life in Lusatia.

Polish-Sorbian student exchanges and performances of school plays also followed as part of the cultural exchange. People of all ages loved the video game; it was a way of better understanding and feeling more connected to this important joint cultural heritage.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Euroregion Neisse (Germany) and Nisa-Nysa (Poland).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Poland - Saxony.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 18,461.80

EU FUNDING

€ 15,692.53



Interreg's
new
podcast



<https://sorbisches-museum.de/>

Cross-border day-care centre Strasbourg-Kehl

“Bringing up young children from two different cultures together and enabling them to learn a second language is what cross-border cooperation is all about.”

DESCRIPTION

Every day, 60 young children aged between 10-weeks-old and 3-years-old are dropped off from both sides of the Rhine to a very special cross-border day-care centre. Here, children from Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany – which are less than 30 minutes apart – are brought up together in a multicultural environment in which two languages are spoken.

The seven French and seven German staff all speak their mother tongue, and the children learn about each other's cultures.

There can be challenges, such as differing attitudes about the age at which mothers return to work. In France, it's considered normal for them to leave 3-month-old babies in daycare, while in Germany this is more common after one year. Therefore, German educators were shocked to see young French parents leaving their babies all day long. But such obstacles represent a lesson for the children: that overcoming cultural difference through kindness and tolerance is the key to enriching, healthy interactions.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Strasbourg (France) and Kehl (Germany).

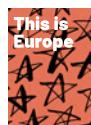
PROGRAMME

Interreg Upper Rhine (Rhin Supérieur / Oberrhein).

TOTAL BUDGET	EU FUNDING
€ 3,360,000.00	€ 1,680,000.00

<https://www.interreg-rhin-sup.eu/>

<https://www.interreg-rhin-sup.eu/projet/maison-de-la-petite-enfance-transfrontaliere/>



Interreg's
new
podcast





Preserving Our Heritage Together: Bulgaria - Turkey

DESCRIPTION

Two important neighbouring cultural institutions – both badly in need of restoration – teamed up to improve themselves as a new joint tourist destination for cultural and religious tourists, and to create new jobs in the region.

Between the medieval monastery of St Nicholas in Kırklareli, Turkey, and the Aquae Calidae thermal baths in Burgas, Bulgaria, there were important archaeological excavations, restorative works, 3D scanning of artefacts and even the creation of infrastructure like a new road and car park to encourage tourist footfall.

The results? Extensive media coverage, increased local and foreign tourism across both sites, a joint international scientific conference, and in Bulgaria, an influx of visitors coming to see the gloriously restored bath of Suleiman the Magnificent with their own eyes.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Burgas region (Bulgaria) and Kırklareli district (Turkey).

PROGRAMME

Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria-Turkey.

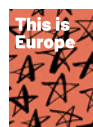
TOTAL BUDGET

€ 486,735.54

EU FUNDING

€ 413,725.20

“The restoration of the Aquae Calidae thermal baths, neighbouring Bulgaria and Turkey, created jobs and revived tourism to experience the shared cultural heritage of the cooperation area.”



Interreg's
new
podcast



<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/>

<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/projects-funded/together-common-cultural-and-historical-heritage-beyond-borders>

Interreg - IPA CBC
Bulgaria - Turkey
PARTNERSHIP



AFRIMAC

“AFRIMAC is a territorial cooperation project which unites people and organisations from various countries with different languages and cultures to create and develop business initiatives through constant communication.”

DESCRIPTION

Helping businesses in the Canary Islands and West Africa to become more competitive on a regional, national and even international stage was at the heart of the AFRIMAC project. Small and medium-sized businesses across the Canary Islands, Madeira, the Azores, Senegal, Mauritania and Cape Verde were supported to implement the necessary conditions for their success. Special attention was paid to improving innovation processes and regular training on cooperation. The AFRIMAC project also saw a two-week exchange between female entrepreneurs from Senegal and Fuerteventura. Organised through the AFRIMAC Tech Woman initiative, it aimed to proactively increase female representation across technological, economic and entrepreneurial activities. Promoting a greater participation of women in decision-making processes was just one of the key areas identified as crucial to the continued competitiveness of the region's businesses.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Canary Islands (Spain), Madeira (Portugal), Azores (Portugal), Senegal, Mauritania and Cape Verde.

PROGRAMME

Interreg Madeira - Açores - Canarias (MAC)

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 529,408.53

EU FUNDING

€ 449,997.25



Interreg's
new
podcast

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OCS - Oyapock, Coopération, Santé

“OCS is undertaking ambitious and necessary work within a territory where measures, actions and strategies in sexual and reproductive health are crucial.”

DESCRIPTION

For the most vulnerable populations in the French Guiana and Brazilian cross-border area, the OCS project (Oyapock Cooperation Health) is providing access to much-needed sexual and reproductive health care. The border area between French Guiana and the Brazilian state of Amapá is an active HIV-transmission zone and over a three-year period from 2017-2020, partners have worked together with the aim of stopping the HIV epidemic and preventing non-desired pregnancies and violence against women within the region. The project has responded to the Oyapock Basin's health and social issues through training and strengthening the skills of health professionals and workers. It has addressed prevention and protection through developing knowledge of sexual and reproductive health amongst inhabitants; and socio-sanitary care by improving the overall care of people with infectious diseases and better integrating them into a society that still stigmatizes HIV.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

French Guiana (France) and Amapá (Brazil).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Amazonia

TOTAL BUDGET	EU FUNDING
€ 1,791,805.00	€ 754,820.00



Interreg's new podcast

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<https://interreg.eu/programme/interreg-amazonia-cross-border/>

<https://idsante3.jimdo.com/>





CARIBSKY

“All stakeholders involved in CARIBSKY share a vision: to provide passengers with access to all Caribbean destinations, in a single ticket.”

DESCRIPTION

For the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Dominica, Antigua, Curaçao, Barbados and Saint Martin, the distance between islands can easily isolate communities. But the CARIBSKY project is simplifying inter-Caribbean travel with a brand-new network of interconnected airlines. The aim? To foster free movement of people at lower prices and offer easier access for intercontinental passengers – boosting economic growth across the region. Participating airlines are striving to provide customers with more services in the Caribbean region; with as many connection options as possible to travel between English, French, Dutch and Spanish territories; and to create a network specifically tailored to travellers' needs. A task force was created to harmonise European legal rules within Caribbean territories, and modernise current reservation systems, communications and marketing. The ultimate goal is to create a single ticket to give passengers access to all Caribbean destinations.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Guadeloupe (France), Martinique (France), Saint Martin (France), Barbados, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Antigua, Trinidad, Saint Vincent, Saint Kitts, Nevis, Saba, Grenada, Saint Thomas, Curaçao (Netherlands), Bonaire (Netherlands), Aruba (Netherlands).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Caribbean

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3,700,000.00

EU FUNDING

€ 2,267,500.00



Interreg's
new
podcast

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GEO-IN

“As part of this Greece-Cyprus cooperation project, common strategies have been created that incorporate issues that start from the rocks but pass through man, society and culture.”



Interreg's
new
podcast



DESCRIPTION

The UNESCO Global Geoparks of Psiloritis, Sitia and Lesvos Island in Greece and the Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark in Cyprus, are working together through their operators to preserve and protect their incredible natural environments through common goals.

In a bid to improve geotourism within the regions, their joined-up approach seeks to address challenges in areas that experience geological advantages but developmental disadvantages. The partners have shared common quality standards across the geoparks, working with local businesses on environmental management. They have also improved accessibility of park trails, landmarks and information centers and organised school visits and cultural and sporting tourism events to promote the incredible natural beauty and history this region share.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Crete (Greece), the North Aegean Region (Greece) and Cyprus.

PROGRAMME

INTERREG V-A GREECE-CYPRUS.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 912,087.06

EU FUNDING

€ 775,274.00



youth cooperation

youth cooperation



EUR.friends

“360 cross-border internships have taken place, matching skilled and motivated young trainees with regional organisations.”

DESCRIPTION

For young people beginning their careers, gaining experience, new skills and boosting self-esteem will get them ahead fast. For businesses suffering from talent shortages, special care and attention to apprentices is especially crucial for future-proofing. It's why the EUR.Friends initiative organised cross-border internships in a bid to counteract a regional 'brain drain' of young talent across the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. 368 motivated interns undertook traineeships in accountancy, technology, construction and hospitality, with the support of an app designed to help them overcome language and cultural barriers. Some as young as 16 years-old and with only a basic grasp of foreign language threw themselves into the traineeships – proving that the future is bright in the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Arrondissement of Liège (Belgium), Arrondissement of Hasselt (Belgium), Arrondissement of Verviers – municipalities of the German Community (Belgium), South Limburg (Netherlands) and Cologne (Germany).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3,301,423.08

EU FUNDING

€ 1,650,711.54



iEER

“The iEER has achieved a return on investment of more than 1500% of its Interreg Europe and EU funding thanks to cooperation amongst partners.”

DESCRIPTION

What makes or breaks a startup? And what happens when you reject the silo mentality? Those were some of the questions bounced around during the iEER project, which resolved to make European regions more entrepreneurial. Universities, local and regional authorities, entrepreneurship support organisations and small and medium-sized businesses worked together to drive enterprising activity, especially amongst young people. The learning camps, peer reviews and the iEER Boost Growth Handbook fostered the development of ten regional entrepreneurial ecosystems in which young people gain entrepreneurial skills and learn what makes a successful business. Thanks to its strong links to the EU's small and medium-sized business-related policies, the project showed that regional funding paired with European investment and structural funds can trigger transformation in the regions.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Helsinki-Uusimaa (Finland), Zachodniopomorskie (Poland), Vest (Romania), Brandenburg (Germany), Marche (Italy), Hauts-de-France (France), Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), Southern (Ireland), Syddanmark (Denmark) and Comunidad Valenciana (Spain).

PROGRAMME

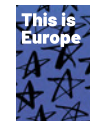
Interreg Europe

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 2,294,882.00

EU FUNDING

€ 1,950,649.70



Interreg's
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podcast

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<https://www.interregeurope.eu/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/ieer/>

RYE CONNECT



“The change in attitudes in these communities is clear. There is a new level of communication between organisations and young entrepreneurs across Northern Periphery & Arctic regions that was previously non-existent.”

DESCRIPTION

The rural regions of Greenland, Finland and Northern Ireland all share a common challenge: young people are leaving. The RYE Connect project set out to reverse this trend by encouraging younger generations to stay and create their own businesses in their communities.

They were given the tools – through face-to-face and online mentoring, workshops, collaboration with universities, and a new startup support system – to see business as a concrete possibility rather than an insurmountable barrier.

36 businesses were created across agriculture, creative arts, transport, digital infrastructure, media, healthcare and beauty and sports, which have given young people a greater chance to make rural communities more liveable for themselves and their peers.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

North and East Finland, Northern Ireland and Greenland.

PROGRAMME

Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,727,681.46

EU FUNDING

€ 1,122,992.94



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www.interreg-npa.eu

<http://ryeconnect.eu/>

ActiveGirls

“The project gathered positive, cooperative and ambitious people, who were all passionately motivated to get more young women into sport, sharing a new cross-border friendship.”

DESCRIPTION

There's a significant difference between girls and boys in the Hungary-Serbia border region – and that's how much sport they play. The ActiveGirls project sought to tackle the low participation of girls aged 7-15 in physical activity, an issue that's been neglected for years. Two successful cross-border summer camps gave girls the chance to try new sports, strengthen old friendships and make new ones.

A new app mapped places for them to play sports, and eight schools, sport clubs and communities were given new equipment. Importantly, the involvement of stakeholders, sports professionals, PE teachers and coaches has pushed discussion about getting more girls into sports up the agenda.

An early positive relationship with sports is essential for leading a healthy lifestyle, and this project marked the first steps towards an attitude change.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

North, Vojvodina (Serbia) and Southern Great Plain (Hungary).

PROGRAMME

Interreg IPA CBC Hungary Serbia.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 210,865.04

EU FUNDING

€ 179,235.28



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<http://www.interreg-ipa-husrb.com/>

<https://activegirls.eu/en/active-girls/>



Interreg - IPA CBC
Hungary - Serbia





SMART-UP

“A shared desire and enthusiasm to enhance innovation amongst startups in both Austria and Hungary has created a really dynamic atmosphere.”

DESCRIPTION

In a bid to reverse this trend, the project SMART-UP was launched to create a lively and sustainable community of businesses and startups called Startup Pannonia.

Special attention was given to boosting startups of less than five years-old, as well as young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs-to-be and students. 20 startups were assessed on their capacity to be innovative, which was then used to create a benchmarking study, and tailored R&D action plans for the businesses.

The project is stimulating ideas, offering tailored mentoring and coaching, and organising feedback from Hungarian and Austrian company executives in a targeted way, creating a framework that can be used again and again to the benefit of the business community.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Nyugat-Dunántúl (Hungary), Burgenland (Austria) and Steiermark (Austria).

PROGRAMME

Interreg V-A AT-HU.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,042,366.32

EU FUNDING

€ 886,011.33



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GHELP

“Thanks to cooperation in South West Europe regions, over 234 people and 27 prospective newborns have been studied as part of this cutting-edge research into hearing loss.”

DESCRIPTION

Around 466million people worldwide have disabling hearing loss (HL) and 34million of them are children. For children, hearing loss affects their ability to develop speech, language and social skills. Most cases of HL in babies are genetic, but there are few genetic tools for effective diagnosis. This is why GHELP was created – to innovate ways of detecting and treating hearing loss. The ultimate goal is to move from treatment to a personalised medicine to combat the problem. The project has already designed and developed a comprehensive genetic panel. Based on the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology, the later allows to study, in a single blood sample, the 180 most relevant genes in deafness, avoiding gene-to-gene study, maximizing the time of diagnosis and leading to an earlier treatment of kids. In addition, the project has organised a pioneering training programme addressed to health professionals to get familiarised with the genetic diagnosis through NGS technology. The first edition was attended by 45 medical professionals from Spain and Portugal, and was just one step towards educating healthcare professionals in this cutting-edge field of work.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Basque country (Spain), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (Spain), Principado de Asturias (Spain), Occitanie (France), Lisboa (Portugal) and North Portugal.

PROGRAMME

Interreg SUDOE.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,824,000.00

EU FUNDING

€ 1,328,000.00



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www.interreg-sudoe.eu

<http://ghelp.eu/>



Rampen/Ramppi

“The young people involved have taken the step from inactivity towards actively seeking work or education. Through cooperation, they have gained stronger self-confidence and now dare to make themselves heard.”

DESCRIPTION

In the twin cities of Haparanda, Sweden and Tornio, Finland, youth unemployment is at a high level compared to national levels. The Rampen/Ramppi project has worked across the border to improve the youths' professional networks and encourage them to seek employment, education and leisure activities on both sides of the border – in order to gain access to more opportunities.

The project has increased cross-border cooperation between organisations working with young people, and Folk high schools have played a crucial role. The collaboration has paid off – some of the young people involved in the project have applied for education, while others have established contacts with companies and employers and managed to secure jobs.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Haparanda (Sweden) and Tornio (Finland).

PROGRAMME

Interreg Nord.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 240,940.00

EU FUNDING

€ 156,611.00



Interreg's
new
podcast



www.interregnord.com

<https://sv-se.facebook.com/rampenramppi/>



“By the end of their service volunteers have shown enormous openness towards their host country and made lifelong friendships through cooperation.”



Strong Neighbours – German-Czech Partnerships by means of Voluntary Services

DESCRIPTION

For many people who volunteer the work goes on to positively influence their lives, careers and personal relationships in ways they may never have imagined. The Strong Neighbours project, which has two parts, has established a volunteer service for young people aged 18-26-years-old in Saxony, Germany and Northern Bohemia, Czech Republic. The young people get the opportunity to spend a year abroad volunteering in social institutions including schools, nursery schools and retirement homes. By doing so, they improve their language skills and knowledge of neighbouring regions – while also gaining valuable life experience and a broadening of their perspectives. In the future, the project plans to facilitate neighbour relationships as a means of promoting multilingualism across Germany's western borders.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Dresden (Germany) and Ústí nad Labem (Czech Republic).

PROGRAMME

Interreg V-A Saxony - Czech Republic.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 627,118.13

EU FUNDING

€ 407,050.41



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www.sn-cz2020.eu

<https://www.freiwillig-jetzt.de/angebote/imausland/>



Ahoj sousede. Hallo Nachbar.
Interreg V A / 2014 – 2020



PAREO

“Most of the messages we get are that the planet is doing badly, that there is not much more to do. Through entertaining games, I now know that there are solutions to protect the coral reefs, and that I can even implement them at my level.”

A little girl from Mauritius

DESCRIPTION

Reunion, Mauritius and Seychelles share an exceptional coral reef ecosystem, but it is being damaged. The PAREO project aims to enhance the protection of the reef, which is the source of many opportunities for local fisheries and the development of leisure and tourism. This innovative environmental and educational project combines knowledge sharing in a fun way using a teaching toolbox on coral reefs developed by scientists. New technologies to view reefs and conservation actions are also part of the project. Younger generations have been empowered to help take control of the future, with awareness campaigns reaching 100 classes from Reunion, Mauritius and Seychelles. They learned about the protection of coral reefs through artistic performance and virtual dives, emphasising that the future of the Indian Ocean's reef heritage is in their hands.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Réunion (France), Mauritius and Seychelles.

PROGRAMME

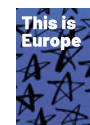
Interreg Indian Ocean

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 552,429.00

EU FUNDING

€ 469,564.65



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Peace Bytes

“Peace Bytes is transforming the lives of marginalised young people across Northern Ireland and the cross-border region on a daily basis.”

DESCRIPTION

Marginalised young people living in deprived areas of Northern Ireland can be vulnerable to being influenced by paramilitaries and radical issues around religious identity. In response, the Peace Bytes programme worked with young people aged 14-24-years-old to help them to become leaders and advocates for peace in and between local communities in Antrim and Newtownabbey, Derry/Londonderry and East Inishowen in Donegal. Through cultural exchange across communities, young people can earn qualifications and are supported by dedicated youth workers who encourage them to participate more actively within society. The programme provides a safe place for young people to explore their own identities, challenge discrimination and explore diverse cultural identities, while building mutual respect underpinned by acceptance.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Northern Ireland and Ireland.

PROGRAMME

PEACE Programme - Northern Ireland - Ireland.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3,795,063.93

EU FUNDING

€ 3,225,804.00



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ELAN

Encourage and promote school exchanges and student and professional mobility throughout the Caribbean

DESCRIPTION

Strengthening the skills of young people in the Caribbean to improve their access to the labour market is just one of the objectives of the ELAN project, which stands for Linguistic Exchanges and Innovative Learning through Mobility. The project underlines the importance of promoting a shared Caribbean identity, which is a key element in building efficient and sustainable regional integration. Improving foreign language skills, increasing access to higher education and training, facilitating internships and school exchange programmes, supporting school partnerships, teacher mobility and linguistic and cultural exchanges are all part of this important partnership. It is also in line with the 2013 Overseas Association Decision between the EU and overseas countries and territories.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Martinique (France), Guadeloupe (France), Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States), Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and Haiti.

PROGRAMME

Interreg Caribbean

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3,006,000.00

EU FUNDING

€ 2,254,500.00



Interreg's
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podcast



<https://www.interreg-caribes.fr/>

<http://www.elan-interreg.org/>

"I found myself in a stimulating environment, conducive to all forms of learning. This was an experience I will always remember for the knowledge I gained and the people I met there."

*Clotilde Laval, student, Martinique
(Exchange programme in Barbados)*





Formaterra

“Our students gain technical skills and open up to other cultures. This experience is a valuable addition on a CV and allows students to be more confident when an opportunity for studying abroad arises”.

Didier Ramay, Professor of Agronomy, Réunion

DESCRIPTION

Getting more young people into agricultural training is at the heart of the Formaterra project, run in partnership with REAP AAOI – the Network of Agricultural Establishments in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. The aim? To improve professional qualifications, skills and knowledge, as well as autonomy and openness to others. The project also aims to improve English language skills amongst students across Reunion, Madagascar, Comoros and Mauritius. The network encourages the open exchange of ideas and practices within the field of agricultural training. The hope is that by the end of the project, young people are more confident and better equipped to throw themselves into regional agricultural projects suited to their new skills.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Réunion (France), Madagascar, Comoros and Mauritius.

PROGRAMME

Interreg Indian Ocean

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 275,720.00

EU FUNDING

€ 234,362.00



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<https://www.regionreunion.com/sites/interreg/>

<http://reseaureapaoi.blogspot.com/>



Au Fil des Îles

Regional School of Fashion Industry

“Cooperation is built in an intelligent and intercultural way.”

DESCRIPTION

Mayotte, the French department that lies between Madagascar and Mozambique, is facing an important increase in the youth unemployment. One of the reasons for that is the ignorance of the regional employment market including one in particular: The Fashion Industry. Therefore, the Au Fil des Îles - École Régionale des Métiers de la Mode - project set out to answer the need of textile-fashion technicians in the regional industry and to create job opportunities for those unemployed youth. The aim was to make Mayotte a shared professional training space for the wider East Africa region's textiles and fashion industries – with neighbouring Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros also a part of the project. Local young people, small and medium-sized businesses, and the entrepreneurial sector were supported through training, employment and social integration with industry partners in East Africa.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Mayotte, Madagascar, Union of the Comoros.

PROGRAMME

Interreg V Mayotte-Comores-Madagascar

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,359,913.54

EU FUNDING

€ 1,024,830.84



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<https://www.europe-a-mayotte.fr/>





covid-19

covid-19



RESCUE

“The RESCUE project proves that when we work together no obstacle is impossible to face!”

DESCRIPTION

The RESCUE project was created to address common challenges faced by hospitals in the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine cross-border region. The lack of equipment and up-to-date medical knowledge, as well as low understanding of health-related issues among communities meant that assistance in crisis situations was often provided too late for people living in Tomaszów Lubelski and Hrubieszów, Poland, Żabinka, Belarus and the Sokal, Ukraine. Throughout the RESCUE project, hospitals and district councils worked together to improve the standards of emergency care offered in this cross-border region, using project funding to buy new ambulances, specialist medical equipment and arrange training for workers. This put the region in a much better shape to respond to regular medical challenges as well as the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, giving comfort and safety to the region's residents in uncertain times.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Lubelskie Voivodeship (Poland); Brest Oblast (Belarus); Lviv Oblast (Ukraine).

PROGRAMME

Poland-Belarus-Ukraine ENI CBC.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,721,560.30 €

EU FUNDING

€ 1,433,596.22



FILA

“The speed with which the FILA project pivoted to respond to COVID-19 shows that in hard times cooperation strengthens us.”

DESCRIPTION

The FILA project was originally intended to foster innovation within agro-food and SMEs in Italy, Albania and Montenegro, but it was nimble enough to adapt its offering when the COVID-19 crisis hit. At a time when essential medical equipment was in short supply, project partners at the FILA lab managed by IEC Tehnopolis, Montenegro quickly repurposed their 3D printer to produce HEPA filter masks, visors and essential parts of ventilators to be used by public health workers and patients in critical care. It was a fine demonstration of cooperation and solidarity across borders.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Italy (Puglia Region), Albania, Montenegro.

PROGRAMME

Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,044,547.80

EU FUNDING

€ 887,865.63



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<https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/>

<https://fila.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/>

Interreg - IPA CBC
Italy - Albania - Montenegro
FILA



YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

“Our partners were efficient and spontaneous, enabling them to collaborate and adapt to the challenging circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

DESCRIPTION

Although the two hospitals in Zimnicea, Romania and Svishtov, Bulgaria are separated by national borders and the Danube River, they shared many common challenges. Located in small towns, each hospital experienced a shortage of funding and medical staff and the local population tended to seek quality healthcare in other larger cities. The Your Health Matters! project facilitated collaboration between the two institutions, modernisation of facilities and the active exchange of best practice across the border. This development work was put to the ultimate test in the project's final year when the pandemic hit. But three years of successful collaboration had readied medical workers to deal with the challenges together; Zimnicea Hospital even stepped up to support Romanian hospitals when they struggled to care for overwhelming numbers of COVID-19 patients.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Teleorman County (Romania), Veliko Tarnovo District (Bulgaria).

PROGRAMME

Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,475,894.96

EU FUNDING

€ 1,254,510.72



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new
podcast



<https://www.interregrobg.eu/en/>

<https://www.interregrobg.eu/en/2-categorie-principala/214-robg-174.html>





TEX-MED ALLIANCES

DESCRIPTION

Strong relationships formed between Mediterranean, North African and Middle Eastern textiles companies funded by the TEX-MED ALLIANCES project allowed partners to respond quickly to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The demand for protective equipment while lockdowns disrupted textiles supply chains had created the perfect storm – but this professional consortium was well-placed to understand how each partner could respond. As such, TEX-MED ALLIANCES partners created a database of 150 textiles companies able to reliably produce masks, protective gloves and gowns for medical workers. Financial grants were awarded to eight initiatives for their emergency response, including the development of environmentally-friendly non-woven fabrics, the production of elastic parts for masks, medical caps and bibs and washable, recyclable masks, gowns and gloves.

“We’ve created a consortium of textiles professionals across many backgrounds, working together smoothly over many years. We know the strengths of every partner and we complement each other.”

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Cataluña (Spain), Toscana (Italy), Kentriki Makedonia (Greece), Ben Arous (Tunisia), Monastir (Tunisia), Al Iskandanyah (Egypt), Amman (Jordan), Palestine.

PROGRAMME

Mediterranean Sea Basin ENI CBC.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 2,822,733.83

EU FUNDING

€ 2,540,460.45



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INNOPLATFORM

“We have witnessed the extraordinary power of technology and collaboration in the face of medical supply shortages.”

DESCRIPTION

With levels of protective medical equipment running low in spring 2020, several research centres and a 3D printing lab in the Balkan-Mediterranean region collaborated to keep medical workers safe in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Working fast and from home, the team, which was supported by INNOPLATFORM at the Center for Knowledge Management, North Macedonia, redesigned 3D prototypes for a visor and modified N95 medical mask. The equipment was made using polylactic acid, a renewable plant-based plastic made from cornstarch, sugar cane, and potato starch. In just five days the team had assembled reusable protective equipment which were donated to healthcare workers in the Infectious Diseases Clinic, Skopje in a time of great need.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Skopje (Republic of North Macedonia), Patra, Thessaloniki (Greece), Burgas (Bulgaria), Limassol (Cyprus), Tirana (Albania).

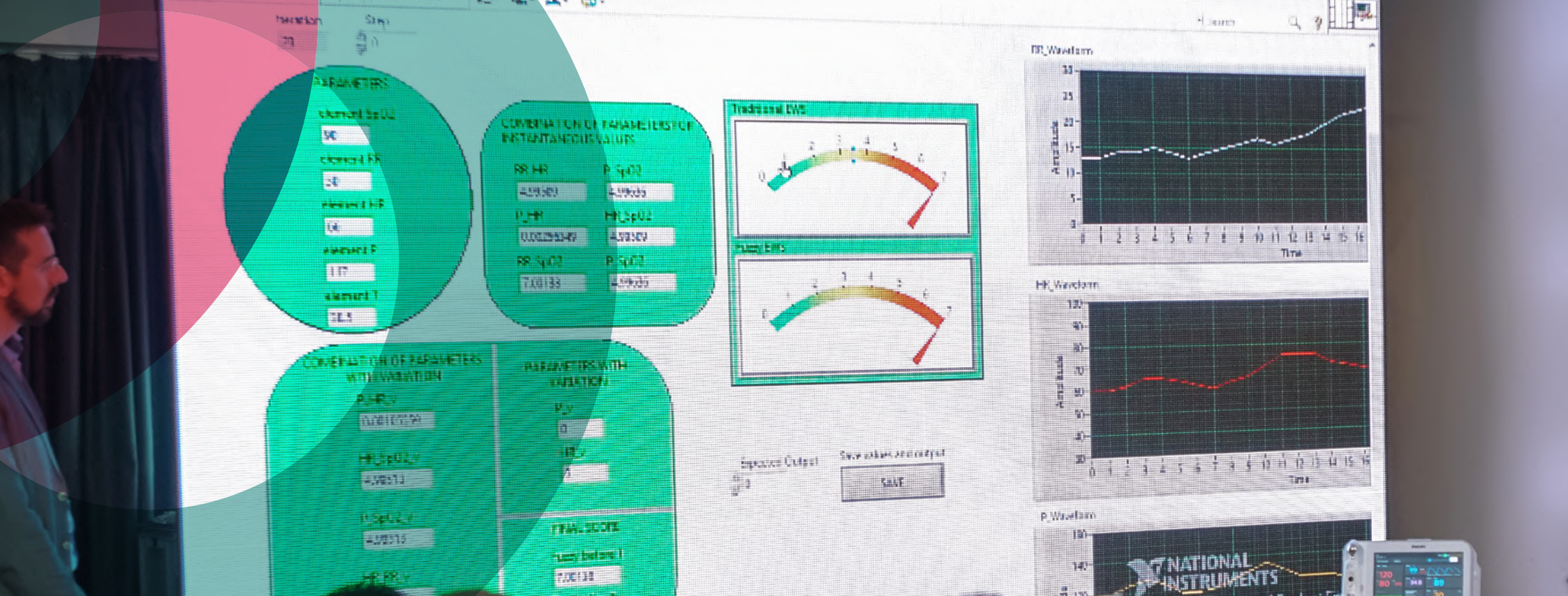
PROGRAMME

INTERREG V-A Balkan-Mediterranean.

TOTAL BUDGET	EU FUNDING
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€ 715,486.65

€ 608,163.65



MEDIWARN

“We’re so proud that this technology has made such a positive impact in Sicilian and Maltese hospitals during the pandemic. It will significantly improve the quality of safe medical care nurses can provide to patients in infectious units.”

DESCRIPTION

The development of an innovative piece of medical equipment enabling nurses to monitor patients' vital statistics remotely proved especially timely when the pandemic arrived. The console, created in collaboration by partners in Sicily and Malta, uses a system of biosensors to send patients' vital signs wirelessly to a nurse station, making real-time information about heart and breathing rates, blood pressure, body temperature and more easy to access. This invaluable technology arrived in Malta in January 2020, just before reported cases in Europe rapidly increased and is being used by staff at San Marco Hospital in Catania, the Mater Dei Hospital in Malta and the University of Catania. Once successfully tested, it will be ready for use in infectious diseases units, meaning nursing staff can closely monitor patients in isolation from a safe distance.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Malta, Sicily region (Italy).

PROGRAMME

Interreg VA Italia-Malta.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,711,235.74

EU FUNDING

€ 1,454,550.38



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<https://italiamalta.eu/?lang=en>

<https://mediwarn.net/en/>

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PROGRAMMES

ENI CBC Black Sea Basin
ENI CBC Lithuania-Russia
ENI CBC Poland-Russia & ENPI CBC Lithuania-Poland-Russia
Interreg Alpine Space
Interreg Atlantic Area
Interreg Danube
Interreg España-Portugal (POCTEP)
Interreg France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen
Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Interreg Europe
Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria-Turkey
Interreg IPA CBC Croatia-Serbia
Interreg IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia
Interreg IPA CBC Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro
Interreg Mediterranean
Interreg North Sea Region
Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic
Interreg Poland - Saxony
Interreg South-West Europe (SUDOE)

PROGRAMMES

Interreg Upper Rhine (Rhin Supérieur/Oberrhein)
Interreg Grande Région |Grossregion (Belgium - Germany - Luxembourg - France)
Interreg Austria - Hungary
Interreg Austria - Germany/Bavaria
Interreg Greece - Cyprus
Interreg Saxony - Czech Republic
Interreg Slovenia – Croatia
Interreg Adriatic-Ionian Programme (ADRION)
Interreg Nord
Interreg Poland-Slovakia
Interreg PEACE - Northern Ireland & Ireland and Interreg - Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland
Interreg Madeira - Açores - Canarias (MAC)
Interreg Amazonia
Interreg Caribbean
Interreg Indian Ocean
Interreg Saint Martin/Sint Maarten
Interreg Mayotte-Comores-Madagascar

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