

# ISO1: Evaluating governance achievements taking a more holistic perspective

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**Interact**



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# Agenda

01

**Introduction and  
brief summary of  
key findings from  
Interact on ISO1**

02

**Programmes  
approaches  
implementing  
ISO1**

03

**Wrap up &  
next steps**

# Objectives

- Focus on mutual learning
- Exchange different practices to understand how ISO1 is integrated into the programmes
- Agree on next steps

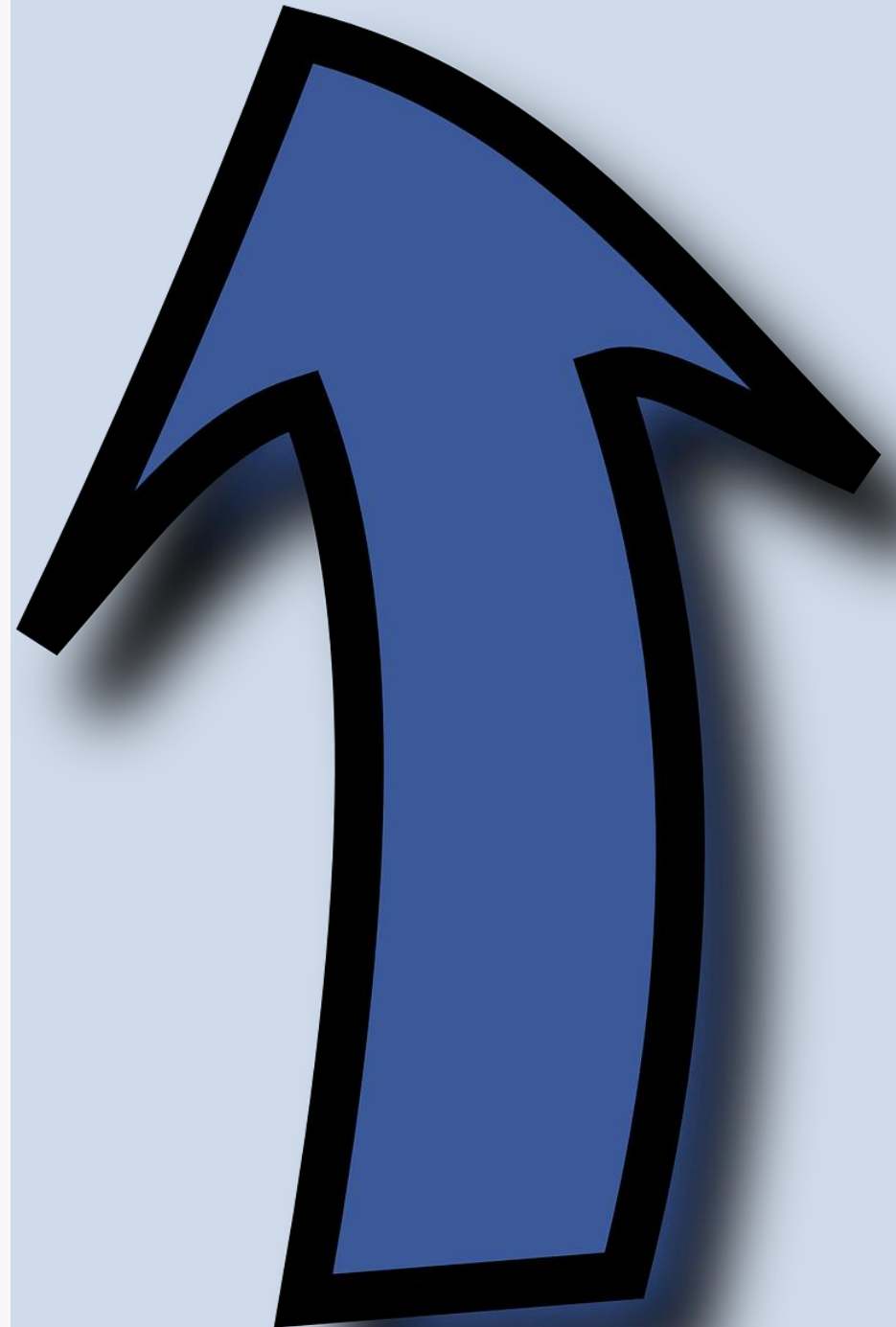


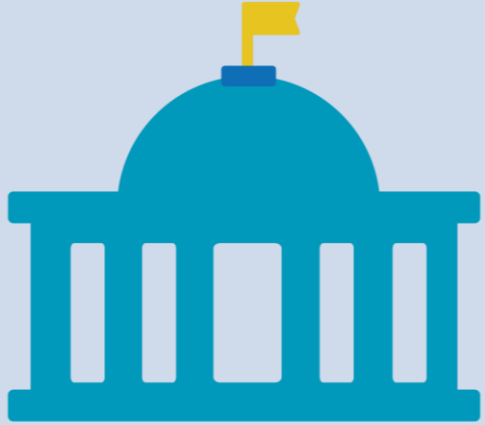
# Main Principles

This exercise adopts a **bottom-up approach**, allowing participating Interreg programmes to collaboratively select topics for exchange, reflection, and development. It is tailored **to address the specific needs, relevance, and interests of each participating programme**, with multiple pilots running in parallel based on these interests.

**Interact will facilitate exchanges within these pilots and engage external experts to support the development of methodologies**, such as approaches and impact pathways.

Through our collective efforts, we hope to **achieve greater visibility and impact**.





# Brief summary of key findings from Interact on ISO1 so far

- Interact supporting ISO1
- Findings up to now & source of information
- Upcoming plans



# Let's start with encouraging observations !

## ISO1 so far...

- sufficient coverage;
- widely used;
- flexibility allowed and appreciated;
- highly relevant to all Interreg strands;
- Interesting examples and practices already available.

# Positive effects & benefits

## ISO1 leads to...

- the creation of **effective and sustainable institutional partnerships** that go beyond individual projects;
- **innovative approaches and participatory processes**;
- **stakeholders better equipped** through capacity building;
- the **removal of legal and administrative obstacles** to cooperation;
- **mutual trust** reinforced across borders;
- valuable contribution to the **development of CPS**;
- capitalisation and **embedding of results**, as well as **stronger links with MRS/SBS**.

# Current challenges

- Confusion/overlap: **ISO1 Vs. PO5, and other POs;**
- **Extra efforts and guidance needed** to get the message through, and potential applicants on board;
- **Not enough knowledge and experience** among programmes;
- **Need to work** on calls for proposals;
- Need to **strengthen bottom-up approaches;**
- **Low level of engagement:** targeted campaigns needed, use of existing structures;
- **Links** between Interreg and other cooperation frameworks;
- How to best **quantify, measure governance-related improvements?**

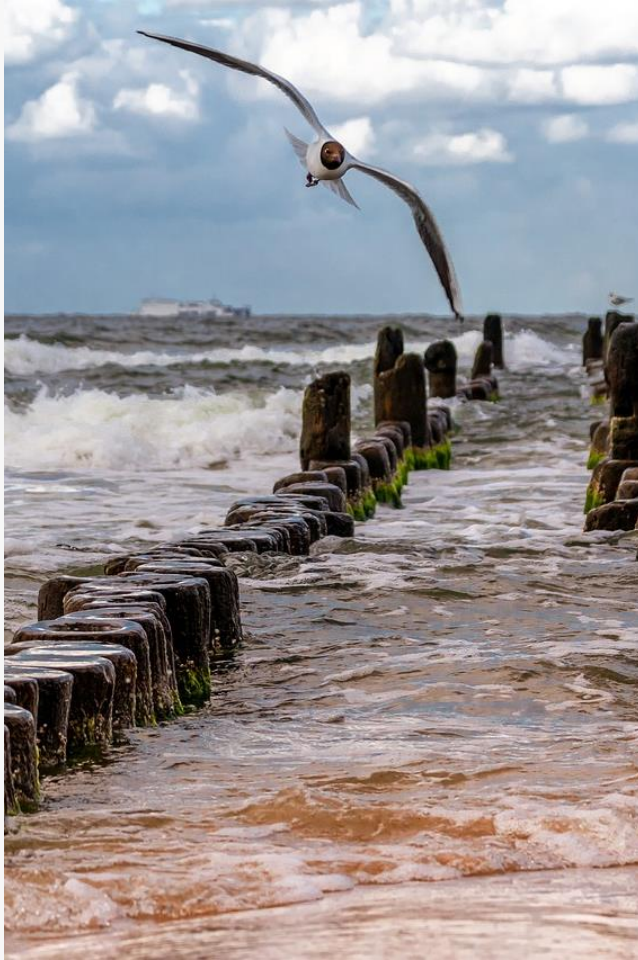


# Coming up for ISO1...

**Creation of a thematic community “A better cooperation governance”.**

**Specific events, communication material with project examples.**

**Pilot to be continued...**



# Programmes approaches implementing ISO1



# Floor is open for discussion



- Did you have a specific call for ISO1 projects? If so, what were the main challenges?
- How many projects have you selected under ISO1?
- Do you use ISO1 for people-to-people initiatives?
- What are the main topics of your ISO1 projects (e.g., tourism, culture, environment)?
- Could you highlight one outstanding project related to ISO1 and explain what makes them excellent?
- Which approaches have been most effective in your ISO1 implementation?
- What challenges have you encountered, and how have you addressed them?
- What key takeaways could benefit other programmes implementing ISO1?
- Any other questions or areas you'd like us to discuss?

# Next steps:

- What topic would you like to discuss in the next online meeting?
- When do you want to meet again?
- Any other suggestions?



# Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.



# Background

# Important factors evaluating ISO1

## Quest for impact

- The real world impact of the better governance projects
- Programme contribution to changes in initiatives and joint actions at local and regional level to address relevant legal and administrative issues and development needs. Whether the programme has produced the expected changes, impacts and results.
- Achievements and impact are extremely important. The evaluation of ISO1 should consider the possibility of its integration across all policy objectives for post-2027, leading to an action plan to improve the multi-level cross-border governance across all sectors

## On the methodology

- a multi-dimensional evaluation combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies focussing on the effectiveness of governance links, institutional capacity building, engagement of stakeholders, etc. aiming at a comprehensive understanding of the governance dimension.

## MRS and beyond

- Currently in use only for EUSBSR governance projects. We want to learn how ISO1 approaches could improve the capacity of regions lagging behind to take part & benefit from TNC
- Our programme's focus on ISO 1 is strongly related to macro-regional strategies and fostering synergies among the programs, making these factors naturally important to us.

# Your expectations

## Sharing

- Since this is an innovative priority for the programmes, sharing thoughts and ideas with other programmes seems very important
- Get a clear picture of the different logics of intervention for this objective in Interreg

## Showcase

- Demonstrate the added value of ISO1 and how its results can be applied to different topics than the one covered.

## Develop a common approach

- Discuss, develop and agree a common evaluation methodology and data collection process. This will ensure consistency and comparability across programmes.

## Post2027

- To identify the ways to address the governance issues in post-2027
- To get further inspiration how to eventually use ISO1 type of approach more widely in the future period.



# Cooperation works

**All materials will be available on:**

**Interact connections / Interact library / ISO1: Evaluating governance achievements  
taking a more holistic perspective**