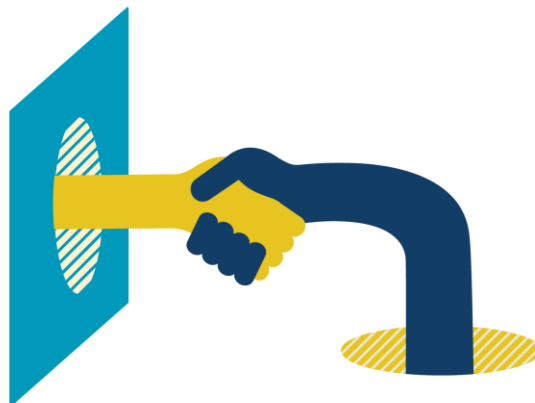


The partnership principle and its application in Interreg – taking stock

Agenda

9 April 2025

Online





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9 April 2025
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Outline and objectives

The partnership principle and multi-level governance are the cornerstone of Interreg programmes. They ensure that diverse stakeholders – ranging from public authorities and civil society organizations to businesses and academia – are actively engaged at every stage of programme design, implementation, and evaluation. By bringing together a wide range of perspectives and expertise, these principles enable Interreg programmes to deliver more inclusive, innovative, and impactful solutions to shared challenges.

The applicability of the partnership principle is set out in Article 8 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR), but its scope and added value extend well beyond this legal requirement. In particular, the Monitoring Committee – explicitly highlighted in Article 8 CPR – plays a key role in ensuring effective stakeholder participation throughout programme implementation and oversight. In the 2021–2027 programming period, various approaches and instruments – such as Policy Objective 5 (PO5), Interreg-specific Objective 1 (ISO1), and Small Project Funds (SPF) – have been introduced to further enhance and operationalise the partnership principle.

Together with programme representatives and colleagues from DG REGIO, we will exchange on the ongoing application of the partnership principle in the 2021 – 2027 period.

This online session provides an opportunity to deepen understanding of the principle, discuss its practical application, and address challenges such as conflict of interest and pitfalls while upholding it. Participants will share their practices for its implementation in Interreg programmes and explore key conditions for effective stakeholder involvement.

Moreover, we will start reflecting on how the application of the partnership principle can evolve in the post-2027 period, ensuring it remains a cornerstone of future Interreg programmes and continues to address shared challenges effectively.

This workshop addresses experienced staff members from Managing Authorities (MA) and Joint Secretariats (JS) who are involved in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Interreg programmes, with a focus on fostering effective stakeholder engagement and applying the partnership principle.

We extend a warm welcome to representatives from other programme bodies and stakeholders engaged in Interreg programmes.



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CET

Wednesday, 9 April 2025

09.25 – 09.30

Onboarding

09.30 – 09.45

Welcome and introduction

Interact

09.45 – 10.15

The partnership principle and the importance of its application

Simona Pohlová, DG REGIO

Q&A

Objectives of the session: exchange and discuss the legal framework, the strategic importance of the partnership principle and how it strengthens programme design, implementation and evaluation.

**10.15 – 11.45
(incl. comfort
break)**

Partnership in action: experience sharing. Different approaches to implementing the partnership principle.

Olivier Baudelet, DG REGIO

Anja Lansberg, Interreg Germany – Denmark

Johannes Gabriel, Interreg Danube Region

Alice Bornot, Interreg ALCOTRA

Desislava Tencheva, Interreg IPA Bulgaria – Serbia

Myrna van Wolven, Rosa Hendriks, Interreg Meuse – Rhine (NL-BE-DE)

Q&A and open discussion

Objectives of the session: Facilitate mutual learning by sharing experiences on applying the partnership principle from engagement in programmes' Monitoring Committee, to project assessment, youth engagement to implementation of PO5 and SPF/OSI and creating a collaborative space where experiences, challenges and successes are openly shared.

11.45 – 12.20

Challenges for partners' involvement and approaches to tackle them

Anna Modzelewska DG REGIO

Q&A and open discussion

Objectives of the session: Gain insights into overcoming common barriers to effectively engage socioeconomic partners and civil society (e.g., conflict of interest)

12.20 – 12.30

Wrap up, closure and next steps