

Evolution of Partnering Beyond Regulatory Requirements

PO5 UNDER THREE INTERREG IPA PROGRAMMES OF BULGARIA WITH SERBIA, NORTH MACEDONIA AND TURKEY

Meeting the Rules (CPR Art. 28 & 29)

- Territorial bodies participate in PO5 project selection;
- Established an **informal territorial representative body** (Strategy Board, SB), with members nominated by third-party organizations;

Going Beyond the Rules

- **Expanded Role:** From PO5 projects selection in 2022 to PO5 **calls design** and **projects ranking in 2025**.
- Stronger territorial relevance

No Conflict of Interest

- The SB operates as a **collective decision-making body**
- No conflict of interest issues under **subsidiarity and territoriality** – what matters is **impartiality and transparency**

Stronger Governance

- **The Governance Project** – a dedicated **capacity-building initiative** to empower SB members in driving **integrated territorial development** effectively

Key Takeaways

- **Stay on the Same Page:** Keep everyone moving in the same direction throughout the programme cycle.
- **No Titles, Just Teamwork:** All partners matter – no hierarchy, just open and equal collaboration

