

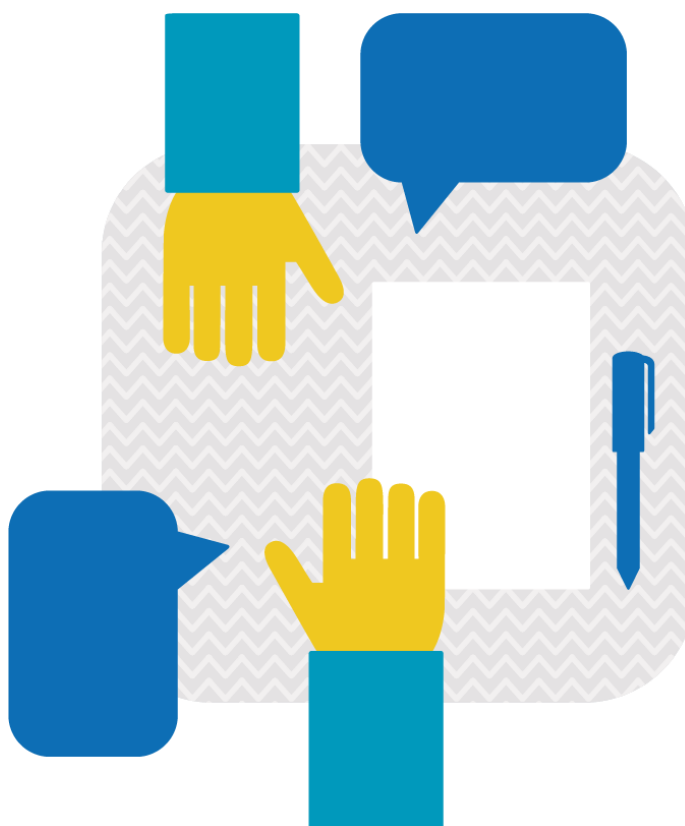
Meeting with programmes sharing a border with Russia / Belarus



4 July 2025 09:00 – 12:00 EET

Venue: Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of Latvia,
Peldu iela 25, Rīga

Online option provided





Meeting with programmes sharing a border with Russia and Belarus

4 July 2025

Hybrid meeting

Outlines

Building on the discussions initiated during the previous meeting in June 2024, this follow-up event continues the exchange on efforts taken by Interreg programmes with the regions bordering Russia and Belarus along the year.

Over the past year, significant steps have been taken to integrate newly included regions into the cooperation framework. Notably, projects involving partners from these regions have been launched across programmes, providing practical examples of how cooperation is taking shape on the ground. These initiatives mark important milestones and offer valuable insights into both the opportunities and challenges of inclusion.

These efforts have been accompanied by a growing understanding of the structural and strategic challenges involved, especially for regions situated at the periphery of programme functional areas. Ensuring meaningful participation, administrative readiness, and strong partnership-building capacities remains a shared priority.

As the EU moves toward the post-2027 financial period, this meeting also serves as a forward-looking platform to discuss the role of these regions in shaping the recent and upcoming regulatory and strategic frameworks. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that rules for the future Interreg continue to support inclusion, balanced development, and cross-border cohesion.

Objectives

The objective of this session is to:

- Inform the Interreg programmes' authorities about the planned Commission initiative to support EU Eastern regions and Mid-Term Review process
- Take stock of progress made since June 2024 meeting in supporting the participation of partners from regions bordering Russia and Belarus;
- Exchange experiences on implementation practices, challenges, and solutions;
- Identify key needs and priorities for the post-2027 EU financial period to ensure continued integration and support for these regions.

This event is organised by Interact in cooperation with DG Regional and Urban Policy to sustain momentum, foster dialogue, and support strategic planning in this evolving area of cooperation.

If you have any questions, please contact us:

Marko marko.ruokangas@interact.eu

Monika monika.balode@interact.eu

Ilze ilze.ciganska@interact.eu



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Friday, 4 July 2025

09.00

Opening and technical set up

Interact

09.05 – 09.20

Introduction and setting the scene

Jean-Pierre Halkin, Head of INTERREG, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders Unit D.2, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Feedback from the missions of the Commission to the regions bordering RU and BY

09.20 – 10.20

Situation update to programmes

Presentation by Interact on the involvement of Northern Eastern EU regions (NEBR) in the Interreg programmes

Update to the developments on the work with the regions bordering Russia and Belarus (tour de table of all Interreg programmes present). Practical examples, success stories and challenges

10:20 – 10:40

Coffee break

10.40 – 11.10

Update to Mid Term Review and initiatives focusing on eastern border challenges (Peer review-RegioSilience, Chanebo and the Capacity building project by World Bank)

European Commission, Interact, representatives of projects tbc.

Objective: To get an overview on how Mid term review reflects on eastern border regions, and to hear the update on work that has been done with the regions under other initiatives / project.

11.10 – 11.40

Future perspectives with the Eastern Border regions/follow up on the High-level event in Bialowieza

European Commission

Objective: To reflect on the future perspectives on the work with the eastern border regions: What initiatives are considered?



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11.40 - 11.50

What next?

Planned and foreseen next steps. Needs and expectations by the programmes. Discussion with participants.

11.50

Wrap up and closure of the meeting

Jean-Pierre Halkin, European Commission