

**Interreg
Europe**



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Cooperation actions & embedding Interreg Europe support

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Interreg Europe secretariat | Policy Learning Platform

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Cooperation actions: Shared knowledge towards greater impact
Arnhem | Netherlands



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Programme in a nutshell

36 Partner States

Eligible area

All EU, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine

Topics covered

All topics of regional development covered



SMART



GREEN



CONNECTED



SOCIAL



CITIZENS



GOVERNANCE

C

Interregional

4 programmes
EUR 560 million

Interreg Europe
Urbact, Interact, Espon

MEUR 394
PROGRAMME
BUDGET



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the European Union concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Kosovo: This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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Interreg Europe **objective**

To improve **regional development policies** through the identification and transfer of good practices among EU regions

Helps policymakers to find new solutions to their challenges

- Primarily dedicated to policymakers
- Focus on exchange of experience



Different from cross-border or transnational cooperation

Two **actions**



Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue

4 years /exchange of experience activities/ improved policy instruments



Policy Learning Platform

Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all

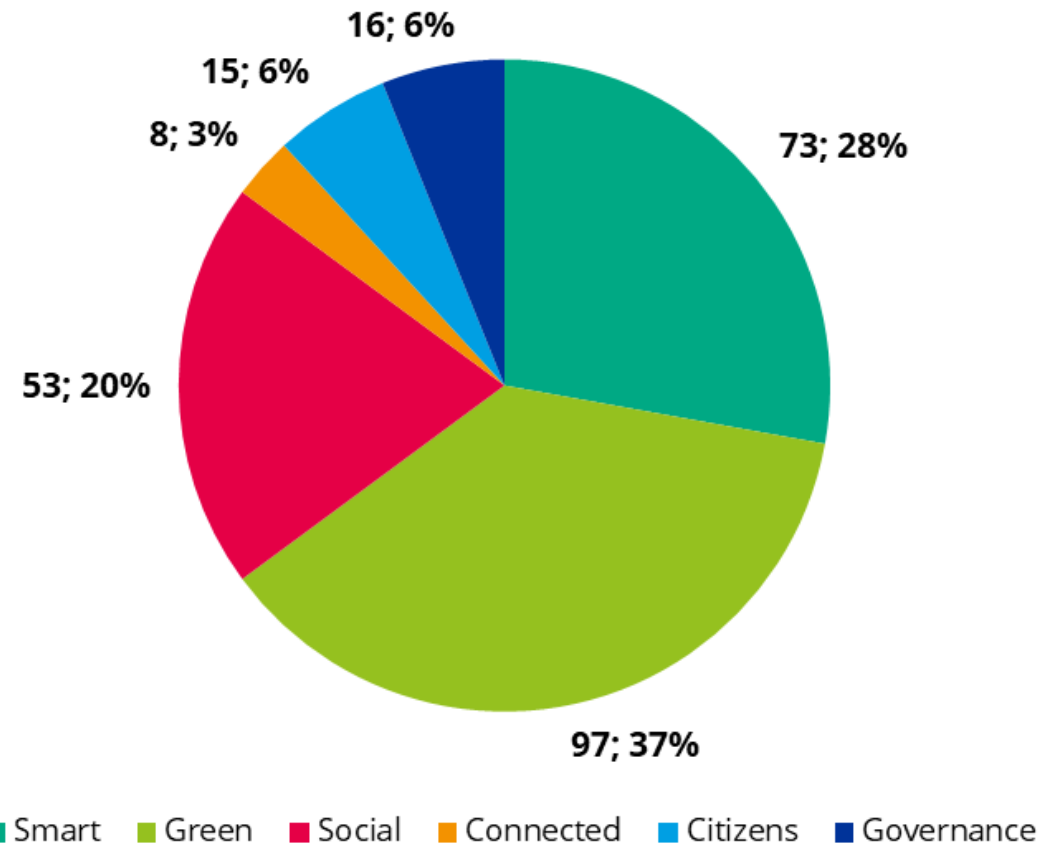


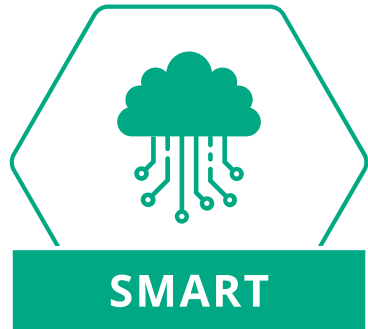
Interregional Cooperation Projects

262 approved projects

- 2,257 project partners
- 36 countries
- 89% NUTS2 regions
- After three calls

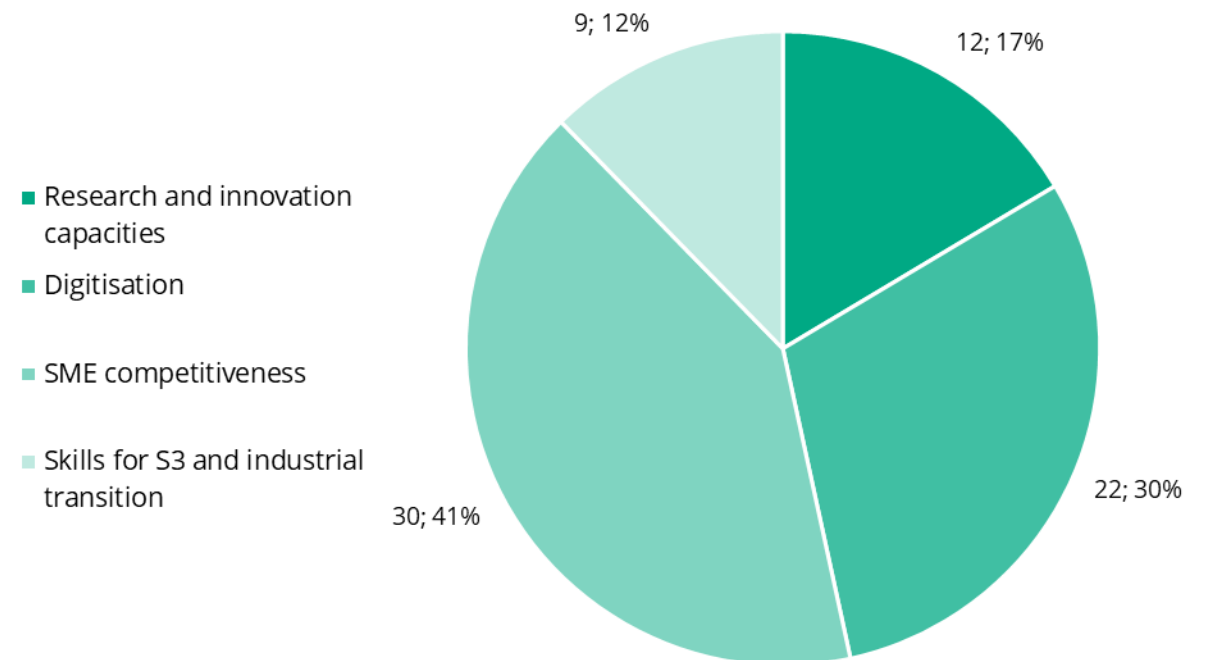
**100% of funds already
committed - no further calls
planned**

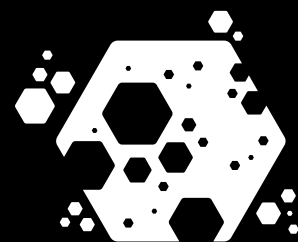




- **Research and Innovation capacities**, uptake of advanced technologies
- **Digitisation** for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities
- Sustainable growth and **competitiveness of SMEs** and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments
- **Skills for smart specialisation**, industrial transition & entrepreneurship

MEUR 104 committed



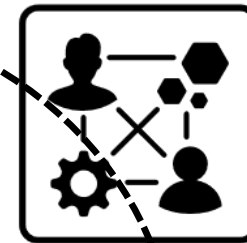


POLICY LEARNING
PLATFORM

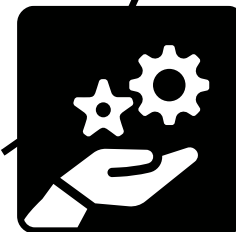
Platform **in a nutshell**

Capacity-building tool for all policymakers through access to:

Knowledge
Find policy solutions



People
Meet our community



Expertise
Get expert support

Peer learning in practice



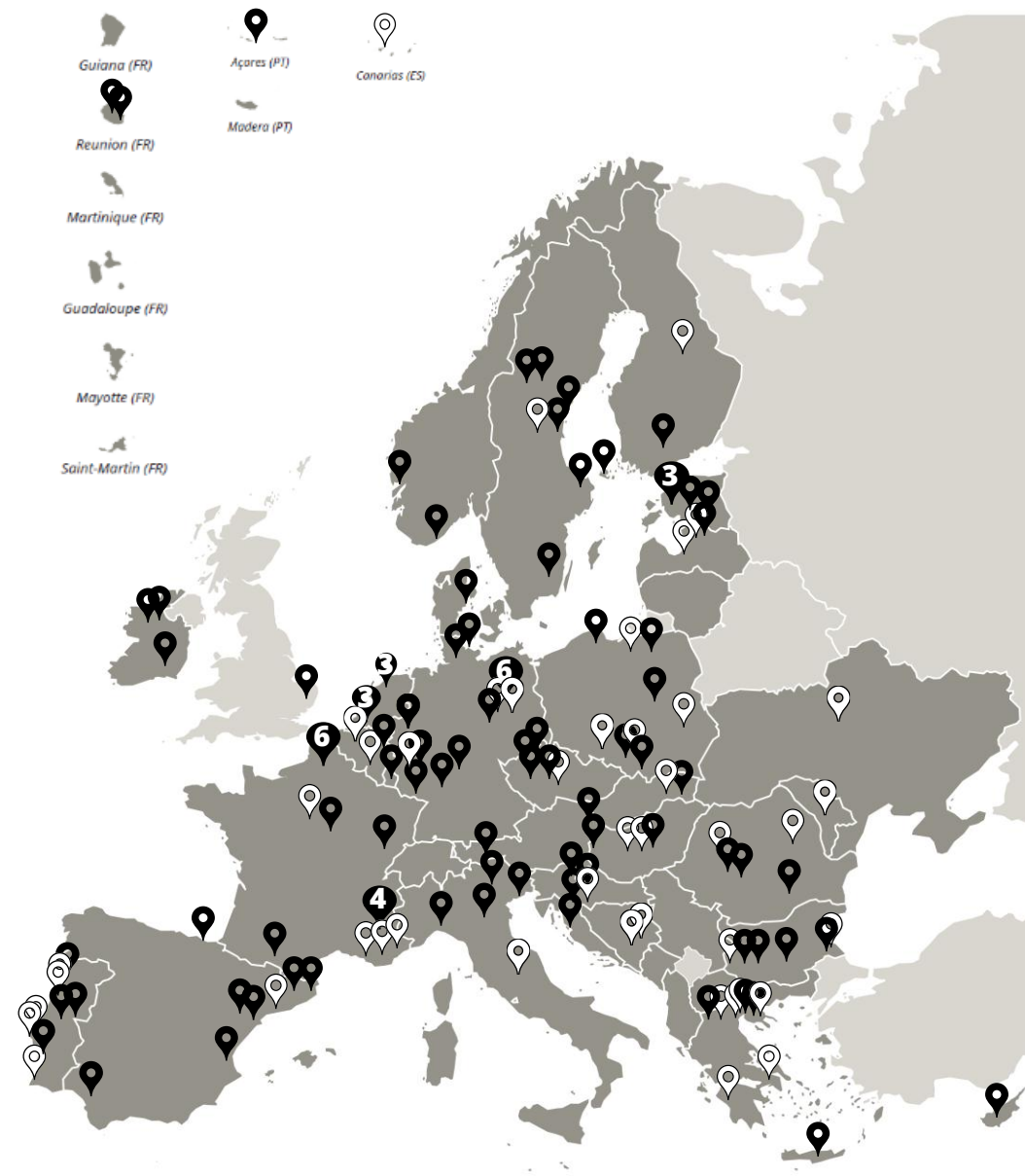
104 peer reviews since 2018



55 matchmaking sessions

Apply to benefit from expert support any time

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Two recent PLP Peer reviews focused on designing interregional voucher schemes in support of SME innovation

- Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs of **Brandenburg**, Germany ERDF for interregional innovation projects in 2023
- **Basque Country** Government Financing Interregional Innovation Cooperation through mainstream programmes in 2024
- Full meeting reports can be found on PLP [here](#)

Peer review: How to finance interregional innovation through cooperation?

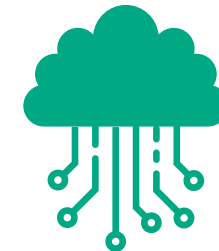
► Regional Government of the Basque Country, Spain

Peers from: **Sweden, Finland, Spain, Germany, Netherlands, Italy**

Recommendations:

- Programmes for innovation require **financial management flexibility** to offer easy access for companies
- **Mobilise your innovation ecosystem actors**, especially your clusters as facilitators to prepare SMEs to access finance, prioritise cascade funding and engage in interregional cooperation

More information available [here](#)



Basque Country Peer Review Good practices shared by Peers – Region of Galicia

Specific chapter in the definition of the regional ERDF 2021-2027 – **20 M€ for synergies.**

Mechanisms as described in the ERDF document include:

- **Vouchers to support the elaboration of project proposals**
Beneficiaries: Companies, RTOs and other I+D+I stakeholders
- **Seals of Excellence**
Beneficiaries: Companies, RTOs and other I+D+I stakeholders
- **Co-funding** the participation of Galician stakeholders in HE Partnerships and in other European Commission R+D+I strategic actions
Beneficiaries: Companies, RTOs and other I+D+I stakeholders
- **Transnational R+D+I collaboration projects**
Beneficiaries: Companies, RTOs and other I+D+I stakeholders

Brandenburg, Germany

Using ERDF for Innovation Express Calls (IEC)

IECs published in 2021 & 2024

- Within the framework of Interreg B (DRP & ASP)
- On the topics of digitalisation, healthcare & circular bioeconomy
- Using existing funding programmes for R&D&I

= Cooperate with committed partners

Support regional stakeholders

- Using exception (grants instead of loans) as incentive
- Close relationship with potential beneficiaries
- „What if the relevant funding scheme does not fit?“

= Prioritise interregional projects

Notion of synchronised calls also adopted by Vanguard partners in recent Vinnovate calls

From theory to practice – the example of the Basque Country

- Participation in the 2nd call of Vinnovate
- Visit to the Swedish ESF Council and PAC Education
- Common position of the Spanish regions on cohesion policy – programme mgmt. flexibility for the regions
- Political declaration of the Atlantic Arc regions – commitment to exploring the possibilities of funding collaborative projects – focus on the integration of funding streams for flagship projects
- Peer review follow-up : analysis of successful models for the Atlantic macro-region

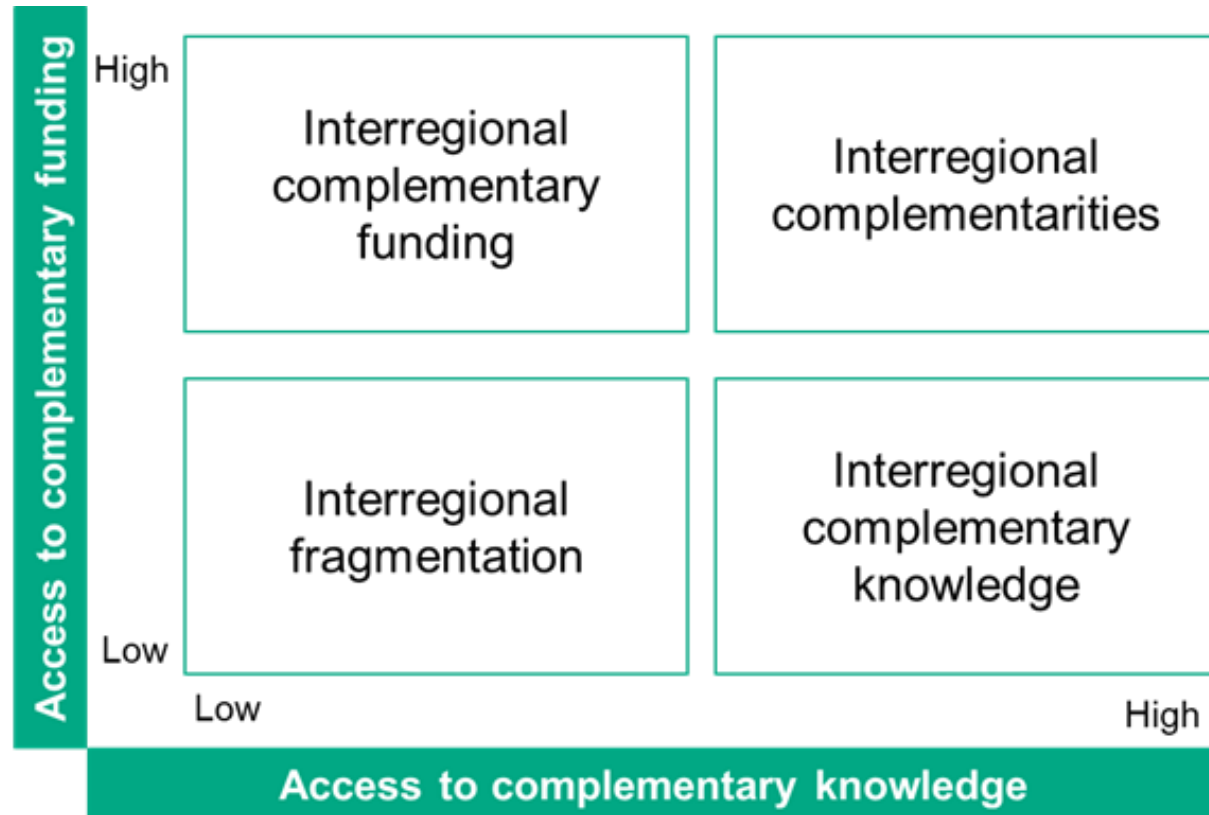
The Policy Learning Platform can help you design better policy instruments !



POLICY BRIEF

Interregional complementarities in innovation

Discover how your region can use its complementarities to collaborate with regions across Europe. In this policy brief, you'll find good practices from Interreg Europe and policy recommendations.



Interregional complementarities involve regions forging connections with others that possess complementary expertise, enabling them to leverage each other's resources and capabilities in specific segments of value chains aligned with their S3 priorities.

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Thank you!

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