

Circular Solutions powered by Cooperation



Interreg's Role in Building a Competitive and Sustainable Europe

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Interact – 11 June 2025

Interact



**Co-funded by
the European Union**
Interreg



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the European Union

Interreg for Circular Economy

€600
million
(2021–2027)
across 37
programmes

120+
ongoing
projects

900+
partners



PREUSE

Interreg North West Europe

Did you know? In 2017, it was estimated that less than 1% of building components in the EU were reused after their first use. This figure highlights the urgent need for more sustainable material management in the construction sector. The Interreg North-West Europe PREUSE project is tackling this challenge by supporting public authorities in integrating material reuse into their building management practices. Targeting cities, regions, and public actors, the project aims to develop and pilot reuse centres, dedicated spaces for storing and processing materials – enabling these actors to organise salvage and reuse internally.



THREADs

Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic

THREADs aims to reduce textile waste in the Northern Periphery and Arctic region. The project will implement a range of innovative approaches across the textile lifecycle—from design to disposal. This initiative includes piloting smart waste collection, enhancing circular practices, and integrating social inclusion initiatives in circularity efforts. Additionally, the project will explore new business models to support sustainable practices.



VIRIDI

Interreg Slovenia-Austria

VIRIDI helps small businesses in the border region between Slovenia and Austria adopt circular economy practices. It tackles problems like low recycling of materials, limited digital tools, and weak cross-border cooperation. The project builds a network of companies, supports the use of renewable energy and local supply chains, and launches a bilingual digital platform to share green solutions and work together on sustainable innovation.



Re-Water

Interreg Greece Italy

Remove from wastewater every trace of drugs, pesticides, hormones that usually escape treatment, and reuse the water to wash streets and irrigate urban gardens. A new technology achieved thanks to the cooperation between Greece and Italy. In Greece, the reuse of clean and safe wastewater is now possible by the innovative pilot plant operated by ReWater project in Galaxidi, an historical tourist town in Iulia. A concrete step towards purer waters and a more protected marine environment.



CIRCULAROCEAN

Interreg MAC

It is a territorial cooperation project involving 18 partners from three European regions and three African countries. The project aims to establish solutions to improve marine litter management with a circular economy approach, promoting the cooperation of coastal and marine areas in the eastern central Atlantic through the generation of knowledge on the issue, the exchange of good practices, the development of pilot projects and demonstrators for treatment and recycling, and the raising of awareness among stakeholders involved in the waste management chain and society in general.



DIC - Data, Information and Circularity

Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak

The purpose of the DIC project is to test and implement actions at company level in Denmark, Sweden and Norway to align with the EU waste strategy and the Digital Product Passport (DPP) expected to be implemented by 2035. The project aims to strengthen the adoption of circular business models. This will be facilitated through pilot projects involving digital product passports and the development of data solutions for traceability and transparency.



TransFarm

Interreg Central Baltic

The TransFarm project fosters the spread and adoption of circular and soilless farming methods, such as Aquaponics, which is a farming method where fish and vegetables are grown in symbiosis. The project adopts a holistic approach that works across the three dimensions of sustainability to build a more resilient food system. Bringing circular food production to cities and growing vegetables and fish around will reduce environmental impact, use of water and improve access to healthy food.



FASHION FORWARD

Interreg SUDOE

To help all the agents of the value chain of the textile-fashion sector carry out the transition towards sustainability. To achieve this, Fashion Forward develops a transnational holistic strategy that combines training, awareness, mentoring, information and 5 pilot projects in companies, municipalities and local bodies, waste managers, schools and consumers.



X-Lives

Interreg Deutschland-Niederland

In the partially open project X-Lives, innovative circular approaches to solutions for the use of renewable and recyclable raw materials (e.g. recycled denim) in the fields of polymer, fiber and mineral products are being developed. These will be investigated and tested in practical applications by sub-partners in 20 development projects (sub-projects) from across the entire Interreg Deutschland-Niederland program area. The goal is to exceed the current regional level of innovation and to develop products, processes and services for sustainably operating customers.



CEO - Circular Economy Office

Interreg North Sea

The CEO project is transforming the way we design, use, and dispose of office furniture in the North Sea region. Tackling an industry still dominated by linear 'take-make-dispose' practices, CEO introduces circular models that promote modularity, adaptability, and reuse to dramatically cut waste and extend product life. With seven innovative pilots and a focus on collaboration between cities, companies, and public institutions, CEO paves the way for a smarter, more sustainable office furniture market. By scaling circular solutions and addressing legal, logistical and design barriers, the project helps make circularity the new standard in workplace design.



RECIRCLE

Interreg Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro

The project promotes circular and resource-efficient waste management practices across the programme area by enhancing waste separation, recycling, and recovery processes. RECIRCLE will upgrade local waste management systems with advanced infrastructure, including underground and semi-underground containers, waste collection vehicles, and reverse vending machines. As part of the project, partners will carry out a joint pilot action to test separate waste collection methods in both urban and rural areas. Additionally, a Circular Economy Digital Knowledge Platform will be developed to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange among key stakeholders.



CI-HUB

Interreg Danube

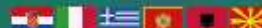
The Circular Innovation Hub (CI-HUB) project acts as a catalyst for circular transition, collaboration, and transformative ideas. It aims to boost innovation in less developed, non-urban industrial regions with low innovation performance. The project will establish a reliable testing environment through a two-tiered open innovation system, involving quantitative hubs stakeholders to accelerate circular technology adoption and cross-border market uptake.



JOINABLE

Interreg IPA Adriatic-Ionian

JOINABLE supports the transition to a blue circular economy in the Adriatic-Ionian region by tackling marine and freshwater plastic pollution. The project combines innovative digital tools and citizen engagement to monitor and remove plastic waste, promotes recycling through SME-led production of new goods, and develops policy recommendations and a roadmap for circular practices. It is also part of the EU Mission 'Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030'.



Open Circular

Interreg Italia-Francia Marittimo

The Open Circular project, led by the Var Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIOU) with its seven cross-border partners, aims to support companies through an open innovation process that will lead them to adopt new sustainable and competitive business models. Living Labs will be at the heart of the open innovation process, based on sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.



Inno.Circle

Interreg Italy-Austria

INNO.CIRCLE aims to help companies integrate the principles of the circular economy into their business models through knowledge transfer, knowledge sharing, open-source tools, a coaching program, networking and inspiration.



STAND Up!

Interreg NEXT MED

In a region like the Mediterranean, with a long tradition in textile production and fashion design, the STAND Up project supported nearly 300 young entrepreneurs to shift towards circular, resource-efficient business models and reduce their environmental footprint. The project also contributed to national policy roadmaps to foster a green startup ecosystem and support a just transition to a more sustainable textile and clothing sector.



COP – Circular Ocean-bound Plastic

Interreg South Baltic

COP tackles ocean plastic pollution in the South Baltic Sea, where 80% of the waste comes from land-based sources. It focuses on identifying solutions for collecting, reusing, and recycling ocean-bound waste, involving blue and green SMEs, NGOs, universities, and maritime clusters. The initiative raises awareness of environmental challenges and fosters innovation in plastic waste management across the region.



AQUAFISHo.o

Interreg Atlantic Area

AQUAFISHo.o promotes a circular approach to marine food production by reusing waste and maximizing resource use. The project embraces a 'zero waste' philosophy, transforming parts of the catch that are typically discarded into highly value-added products such as fish-based hamburgers. Through research and innovation, AQUAFISHo.o develops sustainable processing methods, updates regulatory frameworks to support circular practices, and raises awareness—especially among younger generations—about the importance of using marine resources responsibly and minimizing food waste.



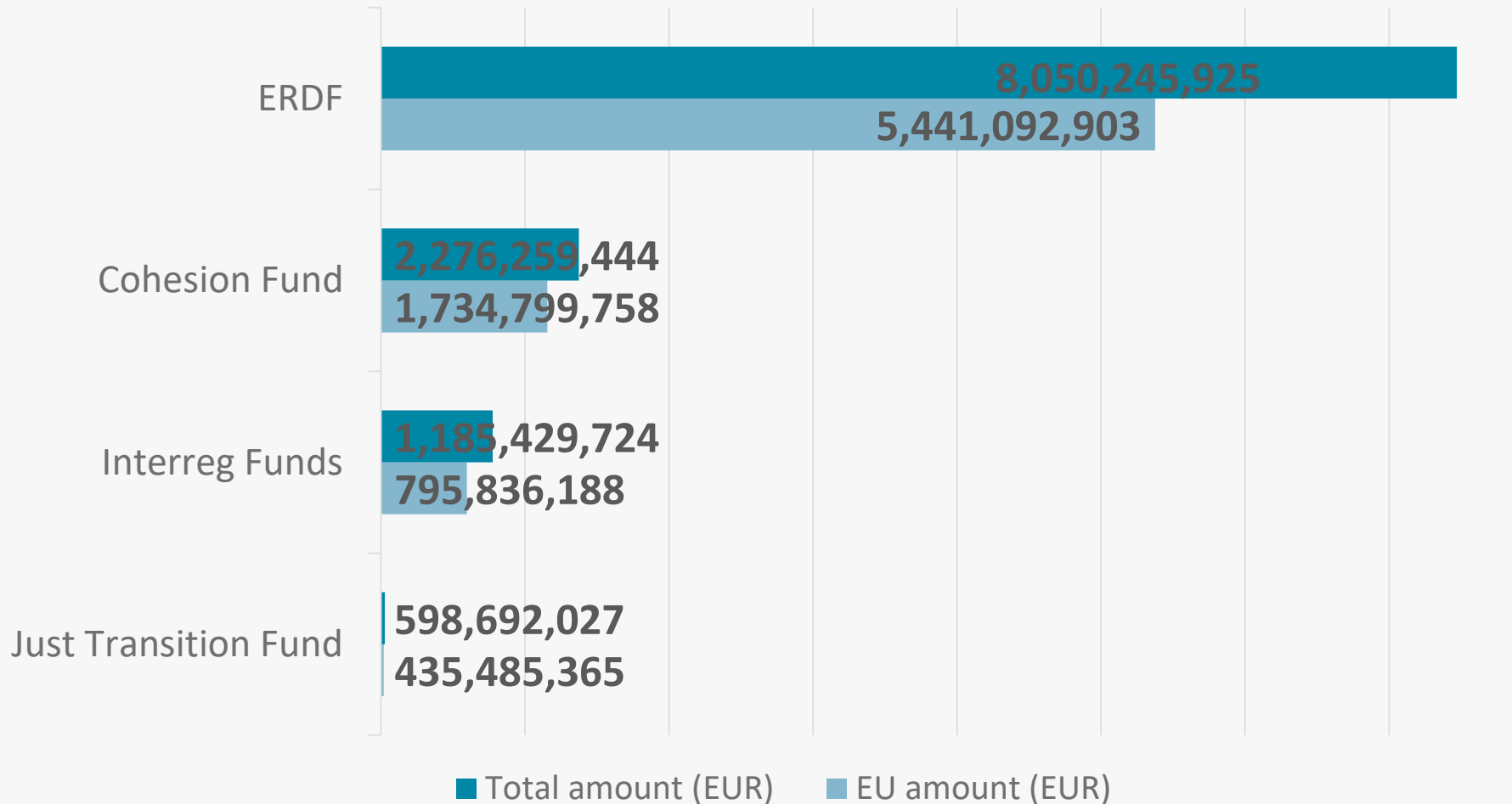
PO2 Greener Europe Planned vs Implemented



| Specific Objective Name | EU Amount | Total Amount | EU Eligible Costs of Selected Operations (estimated) | EU spend share (Eligible Expenditure Declared) | Number Of Operations | % Total cost selected | % Total cost spending |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| RSO2.1 Energy efficiency | 251.606.022 | 342.421.699 | 91.904.739 | 15.142.438 | 104 | 37,8 | 6,2 |
| RSO2.2 Renewable energy | 230.284.347 | 323.219.754 | 138.985.572 | 9.852.308 | 89 | 62,0 | 4,8 |
| RSO2.3 Smart energy systems | 34.749.685 | 56.409.997 | 10.087.576 | 408.006 | 5 | 28,0 | 1,2 |
| RSO2.4 Climate change adaptation | 1.191.705.836 | 1.551.201.501 | 603.758.077 | 23.604.226 | 718 | 52,4 | 2,2 |
| RSO2.5 Sustainable water | 283.971.955 | 353.976.110 | 160.635.896 | 15.920.632 | 111 | 56,5 | 5,6 |
| RSO2.6 Circular economy | 544.357.158 | 765.558.654 | 253.737.343 | 35.160.372 | 245 | 47,7 | 6,7 |
| RSO2.7 Nature protection and biodiversity | 953.012.618 | 1.253.080.945 | 387.523.143 | 23.286.445 | 452 | 41,7 | 2,7 |
| RSO2.8 Sustainable urban mobility | 120.442.642 | 157.356.289 | 73.197.929 | 12.395.345 | 51 | 64,6 | 11,4 |
| PO2 Greener Europe | 3.610.130.263 | 4.803.224.949 | 1.719.830.275 | 135.769.771 | 1.775 | 48,9 | 4,0 |

21-27 Circular economy & waste management

Planned amounts by fund



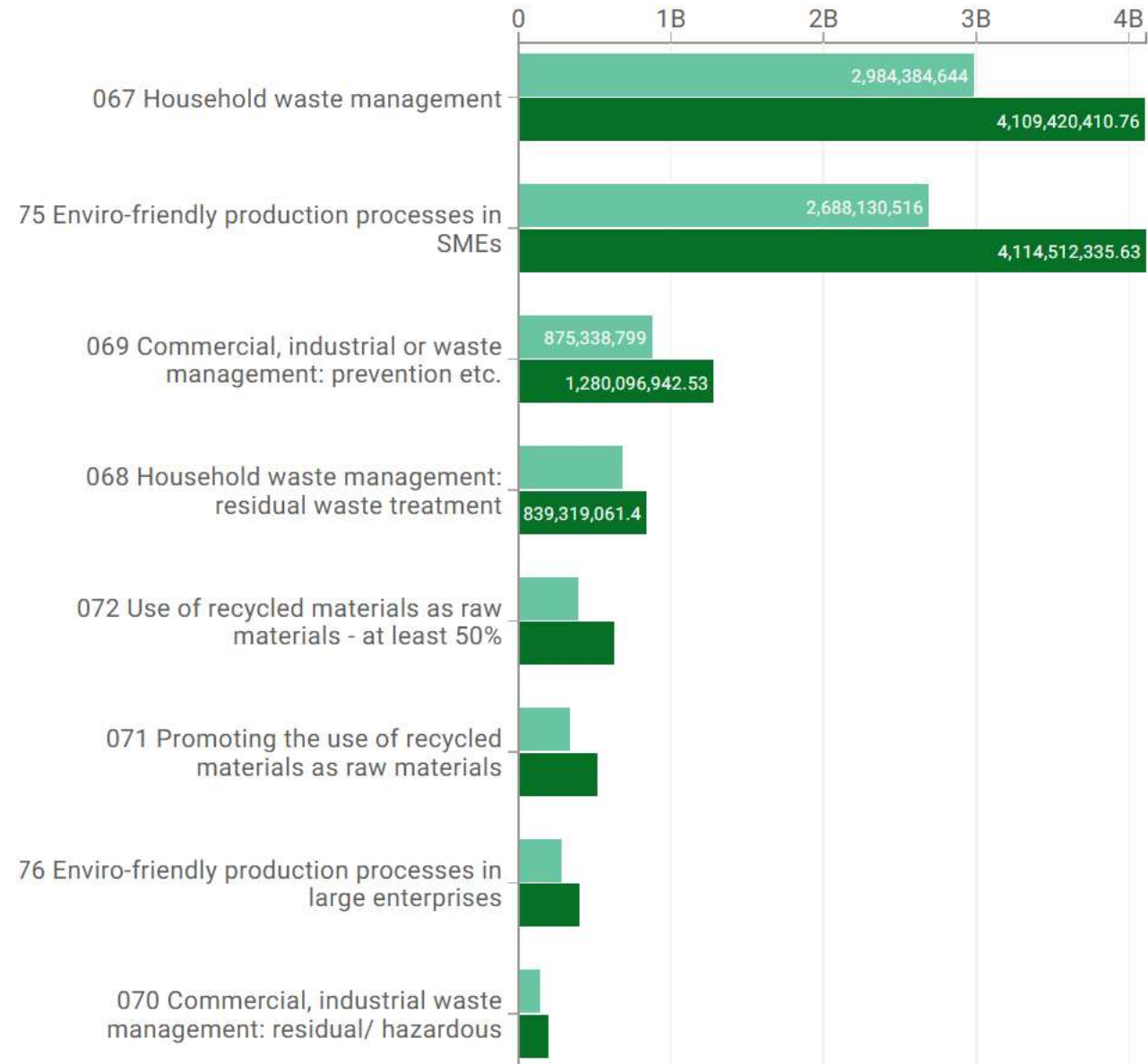
**EUR 12.5 billion
investment
through EU
Cohesion Policy**

**Over 2.5 % share of
the total
programmed
cohesion policy
funding**

Supporting CE/WM solutions within SO2.6

Types of investment

21-27 Circular economy and waste management intervention fi...



Paving the way for a cleaner and more competitive Europe

EU Strategic Framework

Circular Economy Action Plan

European
Industrial
Strategy

EU Waste
Framework
Directive

Zero Pollution
Action Plan



Plastics
Strategy

Packaging
Directive

EU Strategy for
Sustainable and
Circular Textiles

Ecodesign for
Sustainable Products
Regulation

REACH
Regulation
(Chemicals)

Navigating the current state of play European Commission



Olga Pozlevic

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW)



Where do we stand...

Keynote



The Circular Economy: Navigating new developments and future priorities

Nicola Cerantola

Founder and Director of [Ecologing](#)

Solutions powered by cooperation

Circular economy solutions across Europe



MAHTUT

Interreg Aurora

Mari Viinikainen
University of Lapland
Rovaniemi, Finland

Sámi knowledge and
practices in the era of
green transition

FASHION FORWARD

Interreg SUDOE

Lídia Morcillo Jordana
Agrupació Catalana del
Tèxtil i Moda – ModaCC
Barcelona, Spain

Promoting circularity in the
fashion industry in South-
West Europe

Interreg North- West Europe

David Grzegorzewski
Joint Secretariat
Lille, France

One Interreg programme
that made circular
economy a priority

Next opportunities to meet and discuss

Wednesday 22 October, Salzburg (AT)

Full Circle: From Lessons Learned to Future Possibilities
Circular Economy and Interreg

Register here: interact.eu/events/280



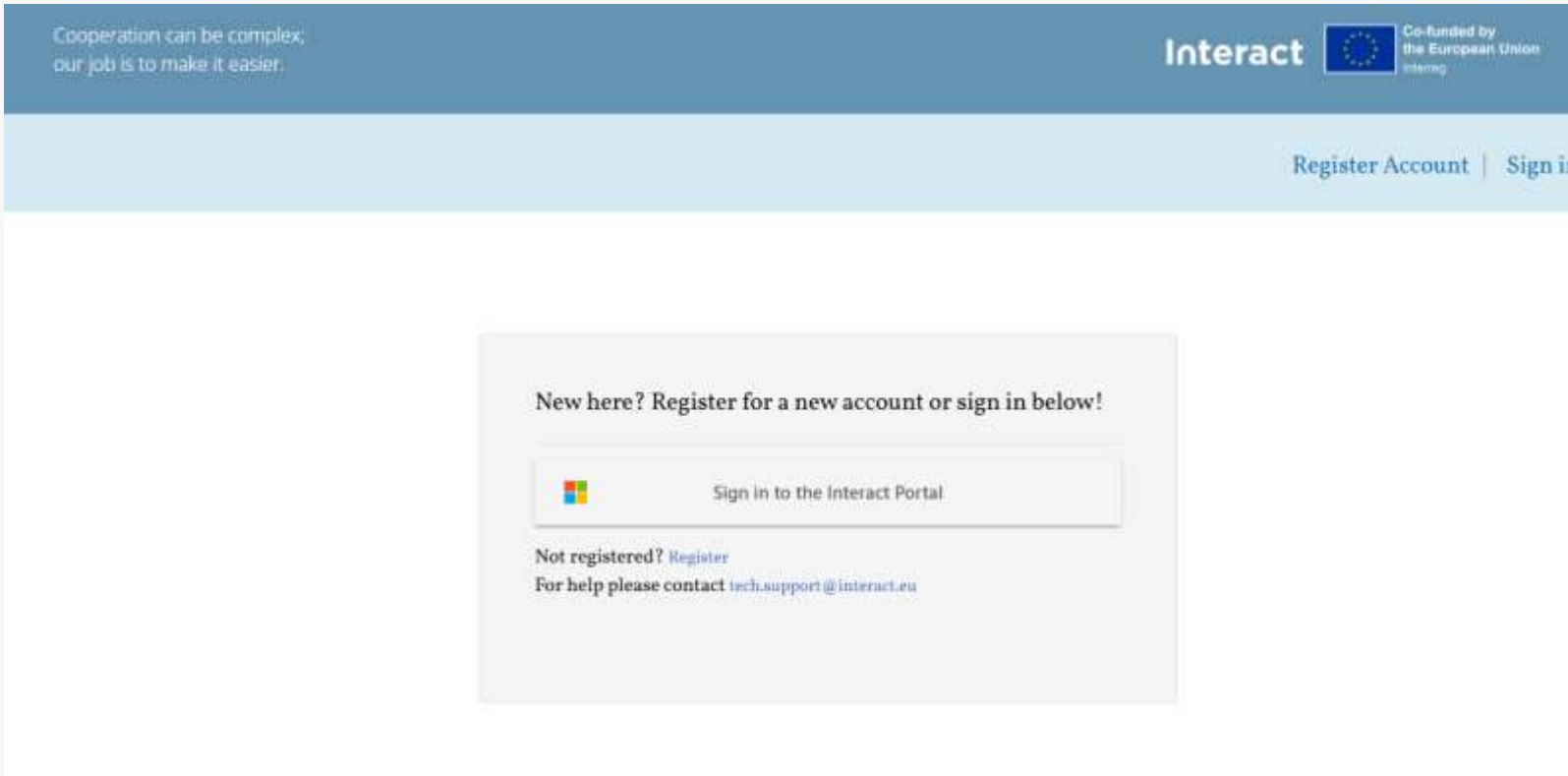
Next opportunities to meet and discuss



Create your
account on the new
Interact portal
portal.interact.eu

Join our PO1 and
PO2 Networks

Dedicated channels
coming soon



Cooperation works

Thank you!

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