

Interreg Knowledge Fair 2025

Putting the draft MFF in focus



4 - 5 November 2025
Dubrovnik | Croatia





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Outlines

Following the publication of the draft legal package for 2021-2027, Interact will focus the planned Knowledge Fair 2025 on the topic of the MFF. With support from DG REGIO, this two-day event will focus on the future, including what's known, what's unsure and what's not mentioned.

Topics to be covered include the start-up of programmes as well as roles and responsibilities in Post 2027. It will also explore the key changes proposed in July and elaborated in the Webinar on 12 September 2025.

The event objectives below set out how this event can build a better shared understanding, explore the vision of Interreg in the future period, and seek paths ahead to ensure the most effective Interreg yet.

Please note, the agenda below is draft, and may still be updated following further development.

Target audience

The topics for the event will concern the practical application of the proposed rules, as well as reflect on what's missing. Experienced Interreg colleagues who are able to reflect on how the regulations will likely be applied in their programme will be best placed to participate in the Fair.

Objectives

The event shall:

1. Build on the shared understanding of the draft proposals
2. Bring experienced Interreg experts together to discuss the implementation of the proposals
3. Explore some of the key changes, and how Interreg could adapt to them
4. Enable wider exchange and networking between programmes
5. Help Interact understand where further interventions can add more value for Interreg Post 2027



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Day One

Tuesday, 4 November 2025

08.30 – 09.00

Registration and Welcome Coffee / Tea

09.00 – 10.00

Plenary | MFF and a vision for Interreg
Interact, DG REGIO

10.00 – 10.30

Coffee break

10.30 – 12.15

Interreg and the performance-based approach
Introduction to the performance-based approach

12.15 – 13.45

Lunch

13.45 – 15.00

Programming Post 2027
Two tracks available, full details to be confirmed:
Design - How to start development of 2028-2034
Roles and responsibilities in programme management and implementation
– Partnership principles, management and control

15.00 – 15.30

Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00

Programming Post 2027
Two tracks available, full details to be confirmed:
Design - How to start development of 2028-2034
Roles and responsibilities in programme management and implementation
– Partnership principles, management and control

17.00 – 17.30

Plenary | Closing Day one
Interact, DG Regio

Social activity

A social activity is planned for Tuesday evening. Details of this will be confirmed shortly.



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Day Two

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

09.00 – 10.30

Parallel sessions | Session registration available 6 October

Participants shall choose from the following options:

- New waters ahead: strengthening synergies and capitalisation
- Interreg Specific Objectives 2 and 3
- Exploring the known and unknown financial aspects
- Interreg visibility, going beyond the regulations

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30

Parallel sessions | Session registration available 6 October

Participants shall choose from the following options:

- External cooperation
- Territoriality and ISO1
- Data 'beastie' or 'bestie' in Post 2027
- Soft skills in Interreg

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Post 2027 Grand Tour (Open Discussion Room)

This session will enable participants to add to the discussions, including to cover new topics and other elements not yet discussed.

It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the discussions over the past two days, and to define the key takeaways from the discussions.

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00

Plenary | Taking stock, and what next?

Interact, DG REGIO



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Elective agenda | Part One

Day One PM Please choose between the following two options:

Programming Post 2027 | Design

This session will focus on the programme design. We invite representatives of Interreg programmes to engage in a discussion around the questions **what, when, and who** should start programming, how to plan and conduct the process. We aim also to have first insights at the **intervention logic** and its building blocks and see what **reforms** could mean into the context of Interreg.

Important is to present and have exchange on the regulatory changes and what effects it can impose on Interreg programming. Certain aspects of programming will stay the same therefore we aim to take the stock what is still relevant and build on the previous experience.

Programming Post 2027 | Roles and responsibilities in programme management and implementation

This session will bring together programme representatives to discuss the evolving roles of key programme bodies – MA, MC, JS, NA, Controllers, and AA – in the 2028–2034 period.

The discussion will explore how the new regulatory requirements, including the strengthened partnership principle, will shape programme governance and implementation throughout the lifecycle, from decision-making to management verification, payment, audit, communication and visibility. Building on lessons from previous periods, we will also address key challenges and identify practical ways to enhance coordination, transparency, and efficiency across programme structures and partners.



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Elective agenda | Part Two

Day Two AM Please choose between the following four options:

Please note, sessions start at 9.00am in the designated room, which will be confirmed once session registration is completed.

New waters ahead: strengthening synergies and capitalisation.

Improving synergies and capitalising on results are vital to Interreg's future impact and legacy. Building on earlier reflections, this session will explore how programmes' needs for capitalisation and synergies should be tackled in the future period: systematic integration, clearer requirements, flexible guidance, others?

Interreg Specific Objectives 2 and 3

The session highlights the new ISO3 on strengthening resilience in Eastern border regions, building on Interreg experience and the Eastern Border Pact. It also explores ISO2 on a safer and more secure Europe, reflecting the broader security focus in the MFF proposal. Session also connects to wider concept on resilience.

Exploring the known and unknown financial aspects

We explore both known and unknown aspects in future regulation proposals in terms of finances. We brainstorm what is missing and what Interreg programmes would like to take from current period to the new one.

Interreg visibility, going beyond the regulations

As Interreg looks beyond 2027, consistent communication across programmes is more important than ever. We will examine the current approach, and the implications of the draft regulations, to identify ways to highlight our collective achievements and ensure they resonate with our audiences.



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Elective agenda | Part Three

Day Two AM Please choose between the following four options:

Please note, sessions start at 11.00am in the designated room, which will be confirmed once session registration is completed.

External cooperation

This session explores the future of Interreg external cooperation under the Global Europe umbrella. Discussion will address enlargement prospects, evolving neighbourhood challenges and outermost regions specificities but also the technical implications that the MFF proposal brings.

Territoriality and ISO1

The new regulation is out and Interreg found its place in the Interreg plan. In this session, we'll explore together what has changed, what remains unclear, and how territorial impact can be guaranteed through instruments such as ISO1 in a post27 era.

Data 'beastie' or bestie' in Post 2027

After exploring the new requirements as they are understood, this session will zoom out and explore how open data approaches can strengthen programme implementation.

Soft skills in Interreg

Cooperation succeeds because of people. Interreg professionals thrive through both technical expertise and soft skills. These build trust, enable adaptability, and form the foundation of effective cooperation. Join us to explore and define the skills essential for successful Interreg implementation.



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Practical details

Venue

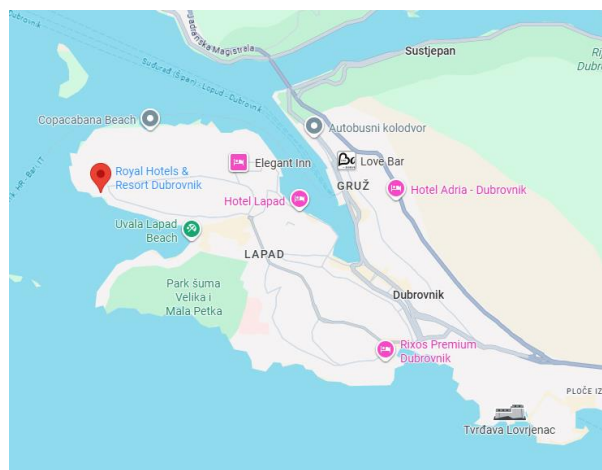
Our venue is the Royal Hotels and Resort, Dubrovnik. There are around four hotels within this complex.

The Conference will take place in both the Coral and Princess Meeting rooms.

The venues website is available on the link below and has four hotels within the 'Royal' complex.

<https://www.royaldubrovnik.com/en/>

The hotel address is: Ul. kardinala Stepinca 31a, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia



Travel

The Dubrovnik Ruđer Bošković Airport, also referred to as Čilipi Airport Dubrovnik is the nearest airport. It is approximately 20 km from the venue and has connections from major hub airports.

Other travel options to Dubrovnik are limited, due to its seasonal nature. The agenda has designed to offer best value for a full-day of travel to arrive, and a full-day to return home.

Accommodation

The hotel complex includes four hotels. Additionally, there are also a number of hotels in the vicinity of the venue, in the Babin Kuk district of Dubrovnik. It is also possible to stay in or near the old town and travel to the venue using public transport.

Other Information

Please note, the plan was to hold the Knowledge Fair in Belgrade, Serbia. This was cancelled due to the on-going situation in Belgrade. You can see Interact's official [News item](#) on this on our website.