

Interreg Knowledge Fair session

EU external cooperation under Global Europe

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Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair 2025



Objectives for the session

Seek for clarity – what the new regulatory frame and its potential implications mean for future external cooperation?

Understand the Global Europe policy implications - how does Global Europe reshape Interreg's role? How to ensure streamlining with wider Global Europe policy objectives?

Provide a platform for exchange – sharing concerns, insights and ideas with the colleagues - and identifying the areas where further support is needed

Agenda/ External cooperation

01

Opening and
introduction

02

EC setting
the scene

03

Programme
reflections

04

Talking walls
– working in
groups

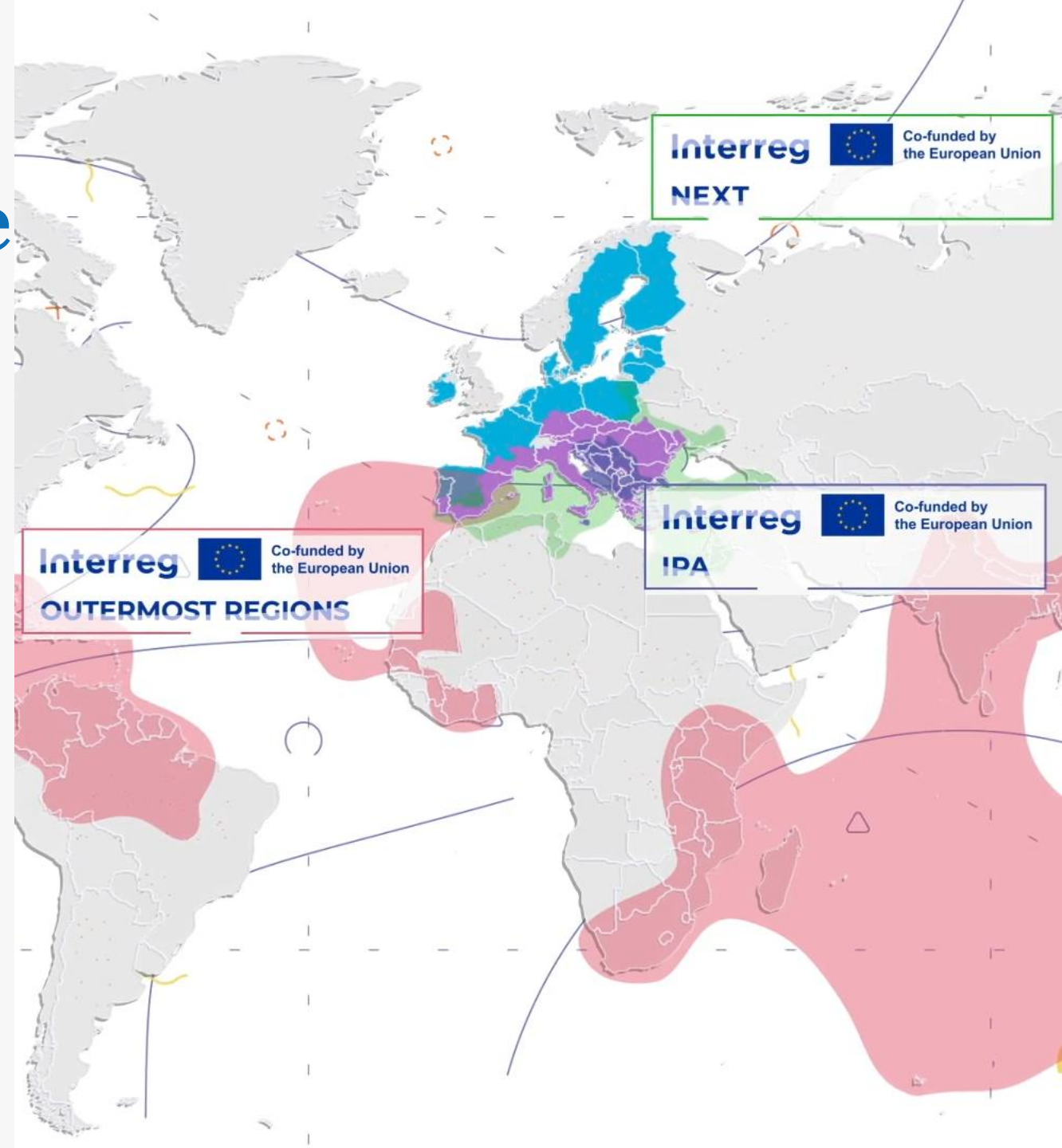
05

Conclusions

Cooperation on the EU external borders

Cooperation between EU Member States and Enlargement and Neighbourhood Countries and between the EU's outermost regions and their neighbourhoods

From IPA, NEXT and OMR to Global Europe Umbrella





Setting the scene: Interreg external cooperation under Global Europe

Oana Dordain

DG Regio, Unit D1



Interreg external cooperation under Global Europe

Oana Dordain

Deputy Head of Unit, REGIO D1,

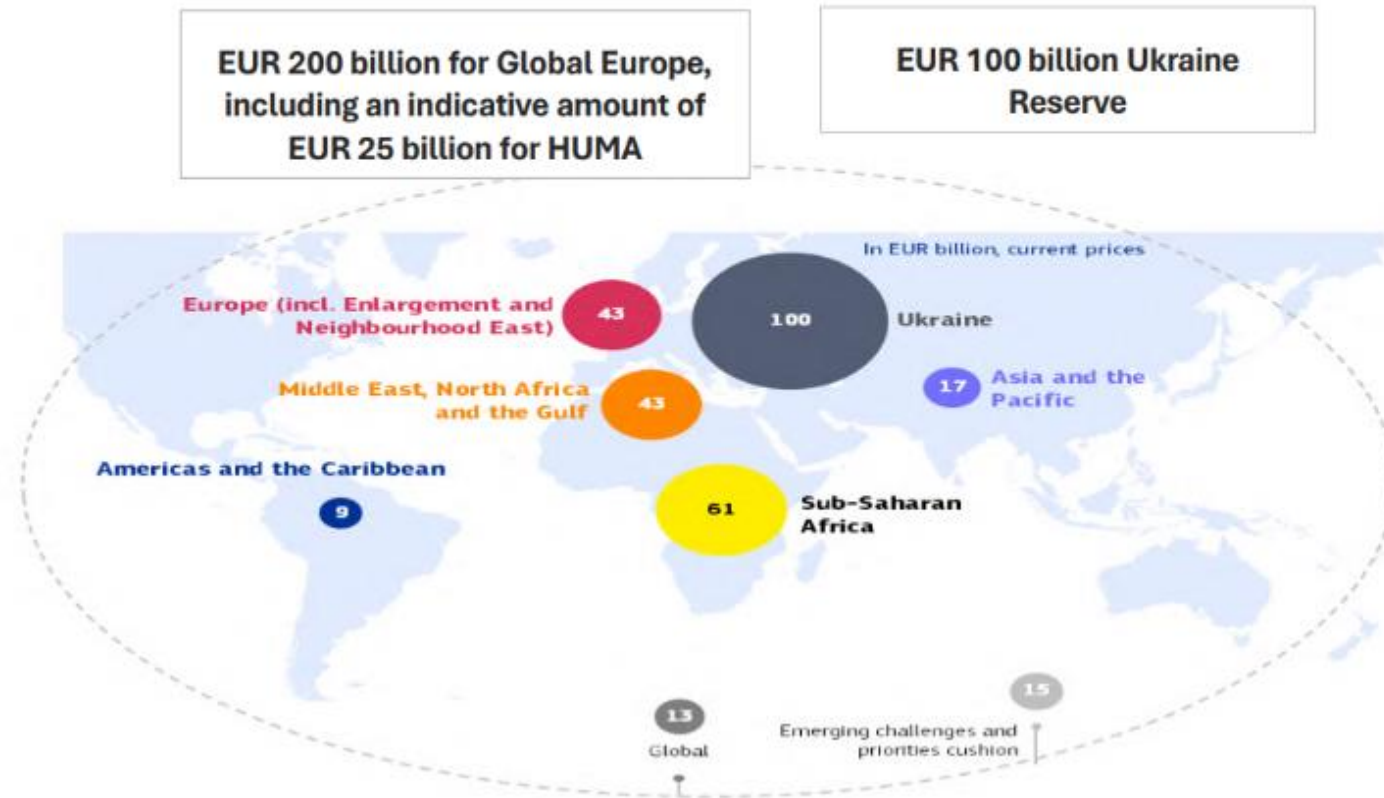
5 November 2025, Dubrovnik

Interreg Knowledge Fair 2025

A strong Europe in a changing geopolitical context: the new Global Europe instrument



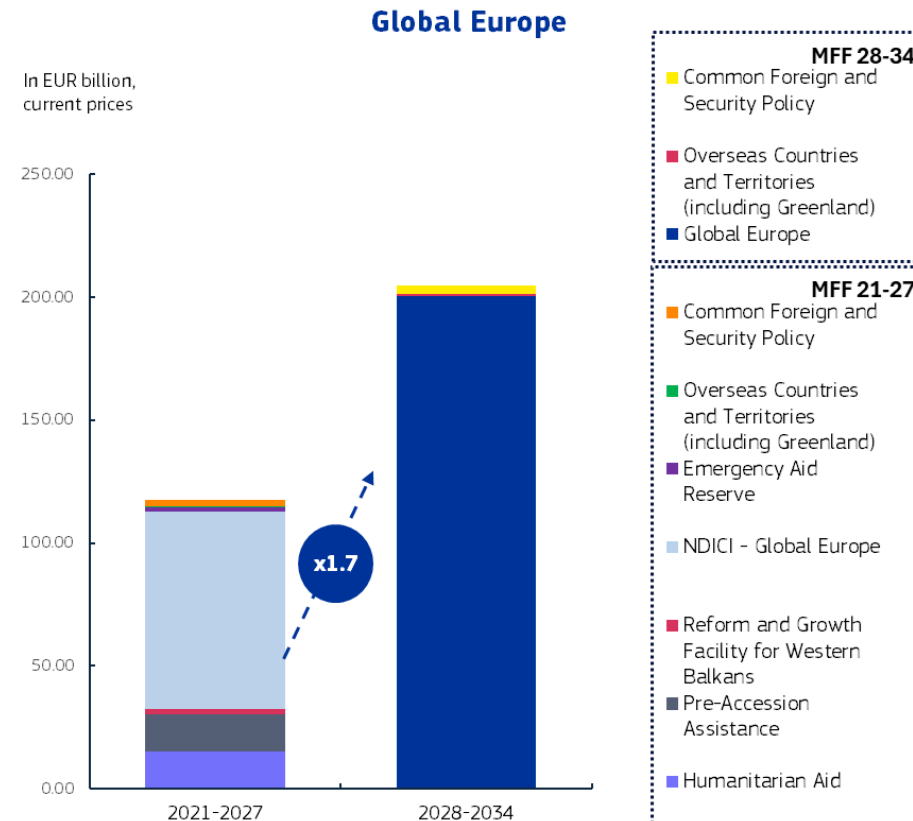
Financial framework



A strong Europe in a changing geopolitical context: the new Global Europe instrument



- The new Global Europe will **optimise, consolidate, and streamline** EU external action financing under the next long-term budget.
- **Enlargement is a political and geostrategic imperative.** Global Europe will provide essential financial and policy-based support to help candidate countries and potential candidates progress along this path.
- The EU will **support Ukraine for as long** as it takes.
- Strengthening ties between EU and its Southern Mediterranean partners is a **core strategic objective**. The aim is to build a **Common Mediterranean Space** that is connected, prosperous, resilient and secure.



Interreg and Global Europe (1)

Same approach as for 2021-2027:

- implementation and management and control system under Interreg rules;
- equal-footing participation of non Member States;
- possibility to use indirect management for Global Europe funds included in chapters supporting outermost region cooperation;
- financing agreements required (apart from parts of outermost cooperation implemented under indirect management);
- public procurement – new possibility of national rules for non-Member States
- Specific rules to apply with regard to pre-financing for external border programmes and outermost regions

Global Europe funding is available from the outset based on Article 7(2) ERDF/CF : all strands

Interreg and Global Europe (2)

Provisions under Article 11(1) ERDF/CF

Contributions from ERDF and Global Europe Instrument:

- Are agreed between the Member States concerned and the Commission;
- Should not be subsequently reallocated between the Member States concerned;
- Should be granted to external cooperation chapters provided that proportionate amounts are provided by the Global Europe Instrument;
 - “proportionate” means: depending on the specific situation of each cooperation (mainly, in line with the current contributions). Cross-border amounts should be matching; other strands will depend on the balance of countries and populations covered.
- Return of resources in case of non-submission retained, but extended to cover all chapters, including on internal borders

Outermost region cooperation

Key provisions & upcoming strategy

NRPP: Art. 22 & 46

Member States to implement measures to address challenges that each of their outermost regions is facing

ERDF/CF: Art. 6

Obligation to develop measures covering :

structural support & operating costs or compensation offsetting the additional costs stemming from their unique geographical characteristics

Dedicated Interreg strand and chapters in the Interreg Plan to cooperation among outermost regions and with their neighbouring non-Member States or regional integration and cooperation organisations to facilitate their regional integration

Strategy for the outermost regions:

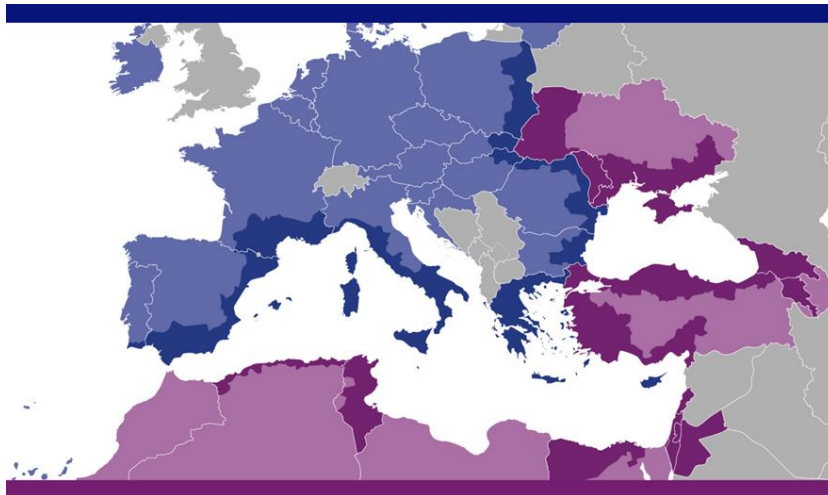
Key priority for 2026

- Ongoing consultation process & Call for evidence to be released soon : input essential to truly reflects their needs, ambitions and realities.



Interreg cooperation with the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods

- Expect continuity of programmes at EU's external land and sea borders as a **unique form of cooperation between EU and its neighbourhood**
- Interreg programmes play a particular role in the EU's foreign policy toolbox. They enable cooperation, which would have otherwise not taken place or would have faced difficulties due to geopolitical constraints.
- Continue enhancing synergies and complementarities.
- Continue fostering multi-level governance and strengthening the roles of regional, local and third sector actors.



EAST – Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Türkiye

SOUTH – Türkiye and 7 MENA countries (Transnational/CBC)

Interreg cooperation with Western Balkans within the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube EU macro-regions

- In addition to the key principles described for the Eastern and Southern Neighborhoods cooperation, Interreg will aim at fostering the integration and enlargement of the partner candidate countries into the EU.
- Future Interreg programmes in the macro-regions will therefore be strongly encouraged :
 - to focus on a robust reform dimension through their future projects and embed the relevant EU macro-regional strategies' (EUSAIR and EUSDR) priorities.
 - to enhance diplomacy in action, policy alignment in progress and public trust in the making.



FUTURE INTERREG PROGRAMMES IN THE MACRO-REGIONS WILL CONSOLIDATE RESULTS THAT ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS ALONE CAN'T ACHIEVE.



Thank you



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Programme reflections: bridge to the future

Ingrid Bucsa NEXT Romania-Ukraine

Malgorzata Chetko , NEXT Poland-Ukraine

Evdokiya Dimitrova, IPA Bulgaria-Türkiye

Ildefonso Socorro, Interreg MAC

Talking walls: working in groups

Wall 1

Regulation concerns : what issues or gaps do you see in the proposed regulations?

Wall 2

Policy implications and complementarities: how does Global Europe reshape Interreg's role? How to ensure streamlining with wider GE policy objectives?

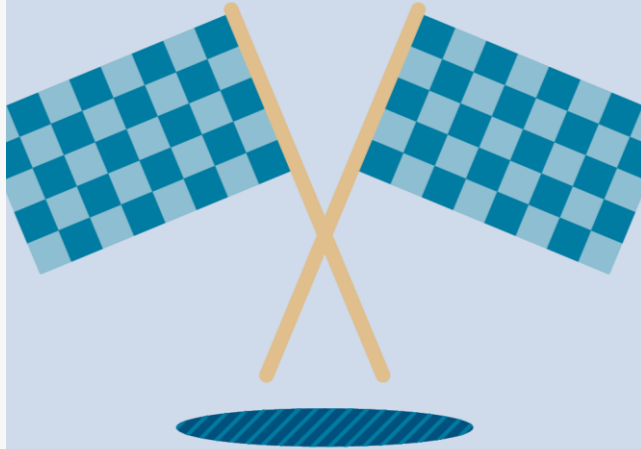
Wall 3

Programme needs: What guidance, tools, support or clarifications would be needed?

How we work in groups?

- 30 minutes for discussion
- Rotation every 10 minutes
- Reporting from the groups





Conclusions

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Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:
Interact.eu/Library

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Author(s)

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Programme own consultation

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