

Interreg a smarter Europe network meeting

Online | Interact | 15.12.2025

Interact



Co-funded by
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Interreg

Agenda

01**Onboarding &
welcome***(Interact)***02****i3 instrument &
Interreg***(EISMEA and
BALTIC
MUPPETS)***03****Comfort break****04****Updates from
Brussels***(DG REGIO)***05****Wrap up and
look ahead***(Interact)*



This meeting will be recorded.

Please turn off your video if you do not want to be recorded.
Recording meetings helps us share content with those who cannot be here.

Thank you

Support to interregional innovation projects **I3 Instrument**

Kirill DIMANOPOULOS

*European Innovation Council and
SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)*



From Interreg to I3 Instrument Baltic Muppets

Angela SCHULZ-ZEHDEN, CEO

*SUBMARINER Network for Blue
Growth*



Floor is open for discussion



Break

11:15 - 11:30

Insights from the European Commission on PO1

Blagovestka RIISER

DG REGIO - unit D1



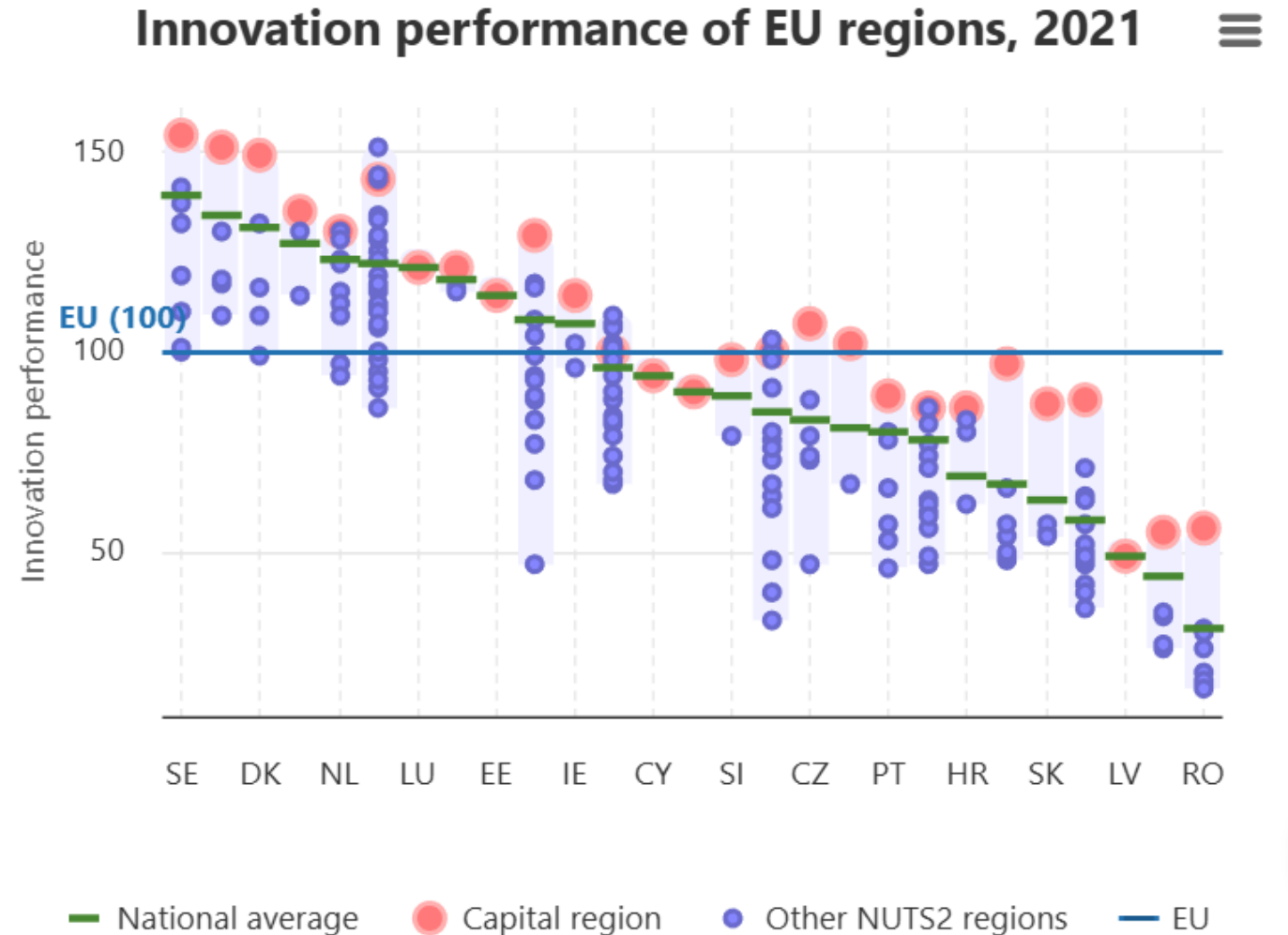
Policy Objective 1:

Implementation update 2021-2027 and
Outlook MFF 2028-2034 proposal

Blagovestka Riiser

Policy Officer
European Commission | DG REGIO

- There are large disparities in innovation between EU regions, with capital regions performing best
- **The innovation divide between less and more developed regions is growing**
- Europe's innovation divide is still present in terms of R&I investments, capacity, skills and performance
- **European Regional Development Fund redress regional imbalances**



AT, BE, FR: N1

Source: Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2021 (N1/N2), European Innovation Scoreboard 2021 (N0)

REGULATION (EU) 2021/1058 on the ERDF and on the CF (2021-2027)

Article 3: Specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund

PO 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity by:

- (i) developing and enhancing research and innovation **capacities** and the **uptake** of advanced technologies;
- (ii) reaping the benefits of **digitisation** for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities;
- (iii) enhancing **sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs** and **job creation in SMEs**, including by productive **investments**;
- (iv) developing **skills** for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship;
- (v) enhancing **digital connectivity**

Focus of support in PO1

- In the context of PO 1: R & I is not about “excellence” but more about “**catching up**”
- **Applied research**
- **Place based**
- **Uptake-, testing-, development of new technologies and solutions** by firms, public administrations and citizens, **in relation to societal challenges** - climate change, circular economy or health, better public services, value chains
- **Diffusion** of knowledge, technologies, innovations and by digitalisation
- **Development of skills** for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.
- Linking regional research and innovation actors to industrial stakeholders from different Member States should stimulate interregional cooperation in **new cross-border value chains**.
- **Complementarity** with other EU funding programmes
- Shall **build on smart specialisation strategies** that reflect the strengths and assets of the regions concerned.
- Interregional initiatives in the framework of smart specialisation shall promote shared strategic interest and common priorities.
- Specific attention to be paid to development of capabilities of less developed regions to allow them to move towards higher innovation performance by triggering necessary structural reforms, improving their R&I systems and governance of their innovation eco-systems(in terms of quadruple helix).
- It is also essential to identify relevant bottlenecks for innovation creation and diffusion.

COHESION OPEN DATA PLATFORM

filter button
major them

Fund **Interreg** ▼

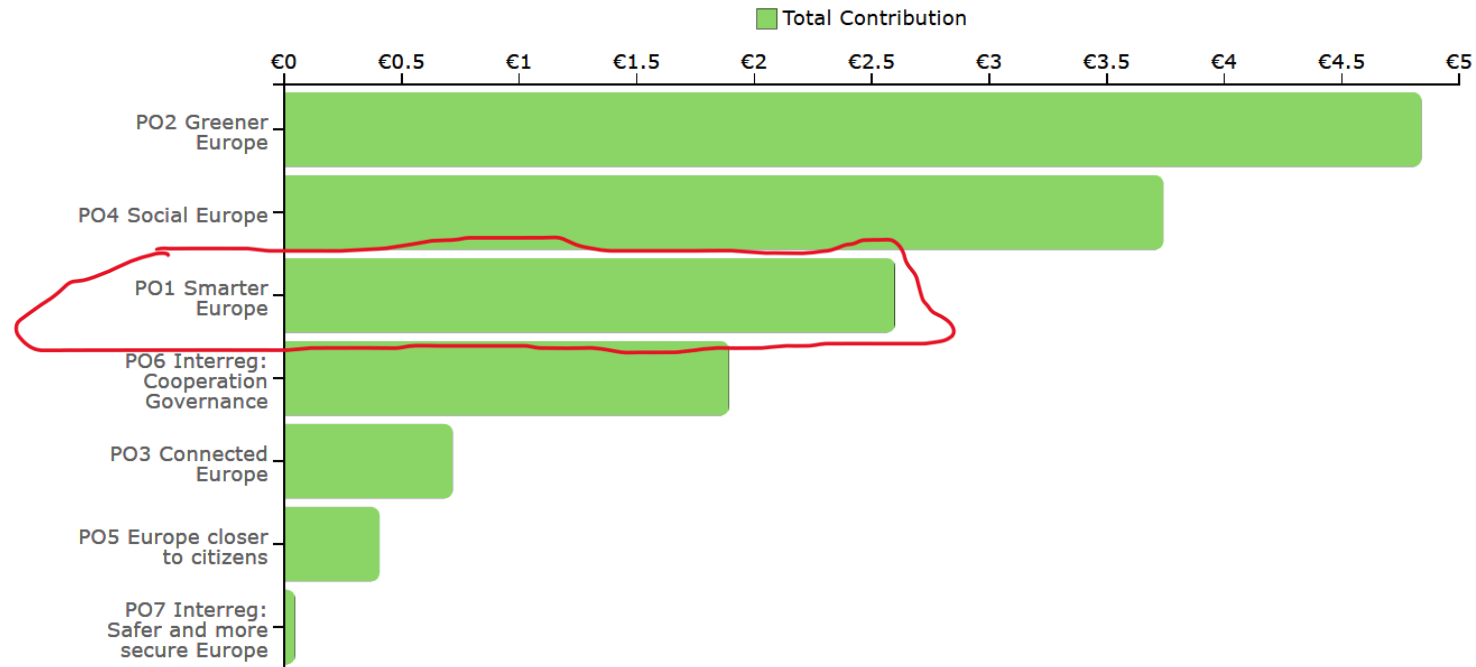
Funding Period **2021-2027** ▼

filter chosen the planned financing 2021-2027
the source dataset is available on the link "Expl

Total Budget by Theme (daily update): Interreg, EUR billion

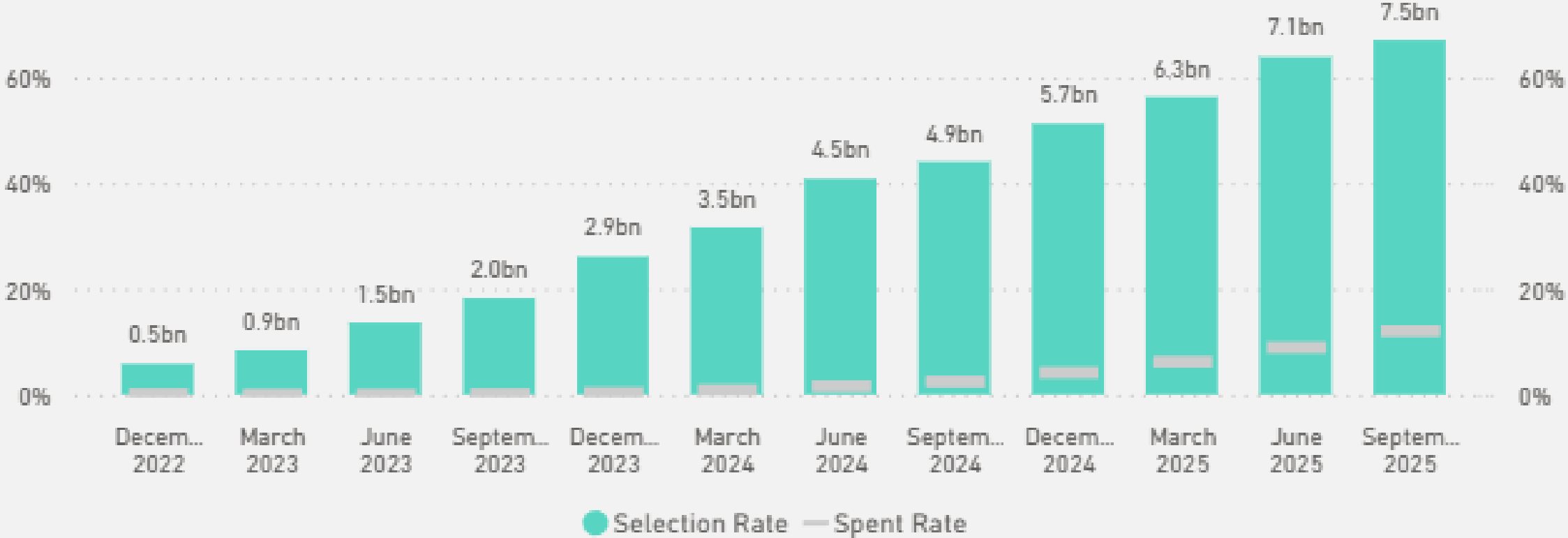
[Explore this Data](#)

[Export Image](#) [Share to twitter](#) [Embed Chart](#)



Refresh Date: 12/12/2025

Evolution Over Time



Total Allocation (€M)

11 153

vs YoY ▲ 0.4%

Total Selected (€M)

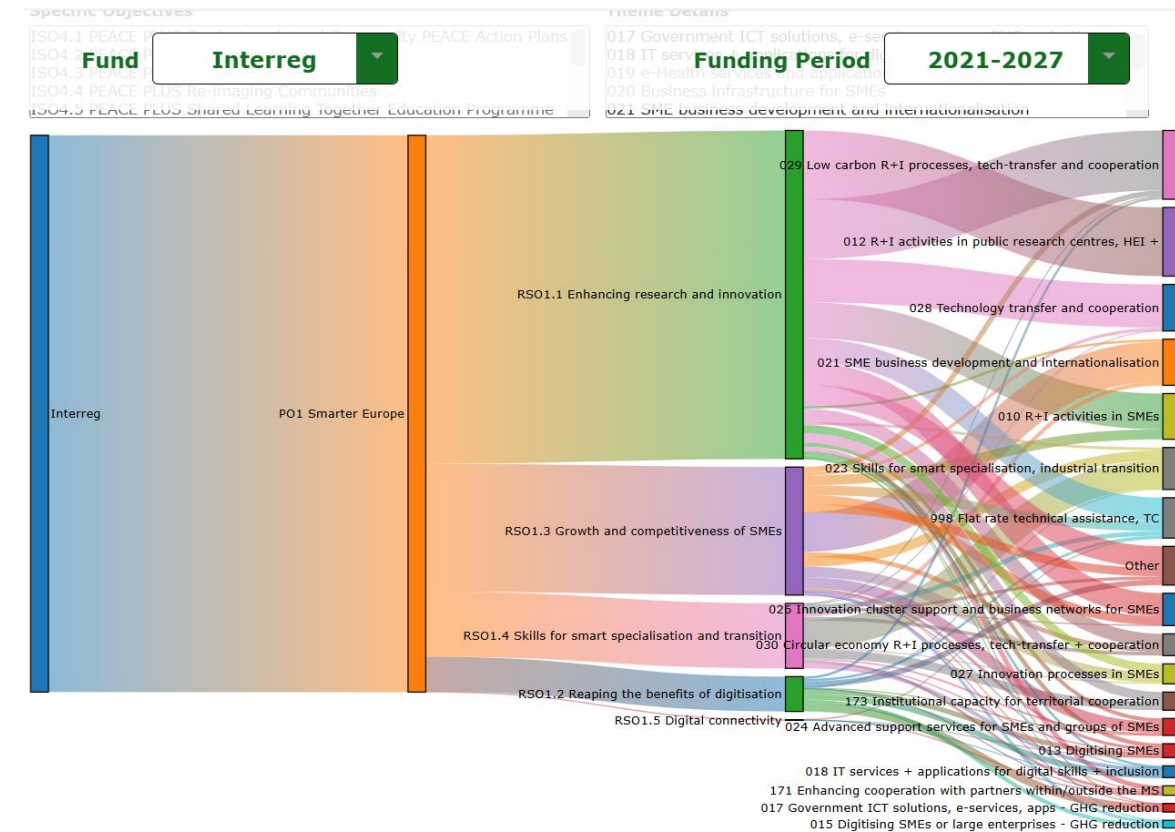
7 477 (67.0%)

vs YoY ▲ 52.8%

	Total Allocation	EU Allocation	Selected	% Total	Spent	% Total
P01 Smarter Europe	2 272	1 588	1 648	72.5%	361	15.9%
RS01.1 Enhancing research and innovation	1 359	933	1 085	79.8%	235	17.3%
RS01.2 Reaping the benefits of digitisation	159	117	73	45.8%	16	10.4%
RS01.3 Growth and competitiveness of SMEs	462	326	289	62.6%	49	10.5%
RS01.4 Skills for smart specialisation and t...	289	210	201	69.3%	61	21.1%
RS01.5 Digital connectivity	3	2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
P02 Greener Europe	3 962	2 878	2 711	68.4%	538	13.6%
RS02.1 Energy efficiency	281	198	168	59.7%	48	17.1%
RS02.2 Renewable energy	283	197	220	78.0%	43	15.1%
RS02.3 Smart energy systems	60	37	17	28.8%	3	4.2%
RS02.4 Climate change adaptation	1 234	913	908	73.6%	137	11.1%
RS02.5 Sustainable water	203	155	132	65.1%	42	20.9%
RS02.6 Circular economy	672	464	474	70.6%	116	17.3%
RS02.7 Nature protection and biodiversity	1 083	803	690	63.7%	114	10.5%
RS02.8 Sustainable urban mobility	146	111	100	68.8%	35	24.2%
P03 Connected Europe	430	303	246	57.2%	27	6.2%
RS03.1 Sustainable TEN-T	2	1	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
RS03.2 Sustainable transport	428	302	246	57.4%	27	6.2%
P04 Social Europe	2 587	1 903	1 606	62.1%	191	7.4%
RS04.1 Labour market infrastructure	314	210	157	49.9%	27	8.7%
RS04.2 Education and training infrastructure	416	303	258	62.0%	44	10.6%
RS04.3 Integration of marginalised commu...	29	22	17	58.5%	2	7.4%
RS04.5 Access to health care	354	252	219	61.9%	17	4.9%
RS04.6 Culture and sustainable tourism	1 474	1 116	956	64.9%	100	6.8%
P05 Europe closer to citizens	346	247	144	41.7%	11	3.2%
RS05.2 Integrated development in rural an...	346	247	144	41.7%	11	3.2%
Total	11 153	8 114	7 477	67.0%	1 340	12.0%

COHESION DATA PLATFORM

- 1. SME business development and internationalisation:** Planed € 108 mill; Decided 55%, Spent 9%
- 2. R + I activities in SMEs:** Planned € 153 mill; Decided 103%, Spent 20%
- 3. Skills for smart specialisation and industrial transition:** Planned € 141 mill; Decided 66%, Spent 16%
- 4. Innovation cluster support and business networks for SMEs:** Planed € 108 mill; Decided 70%, Spent 10%
- 5. Innovation processes in SMEs:** Planed € 67 mill; Decided 103%, Spent 19%
- 6. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs:** Planed € 57 mill; Decided 47%, Spent 13%
- 7. Digitising SMEs:** Planed € 47 mill; Decided 56%, Spent 16%



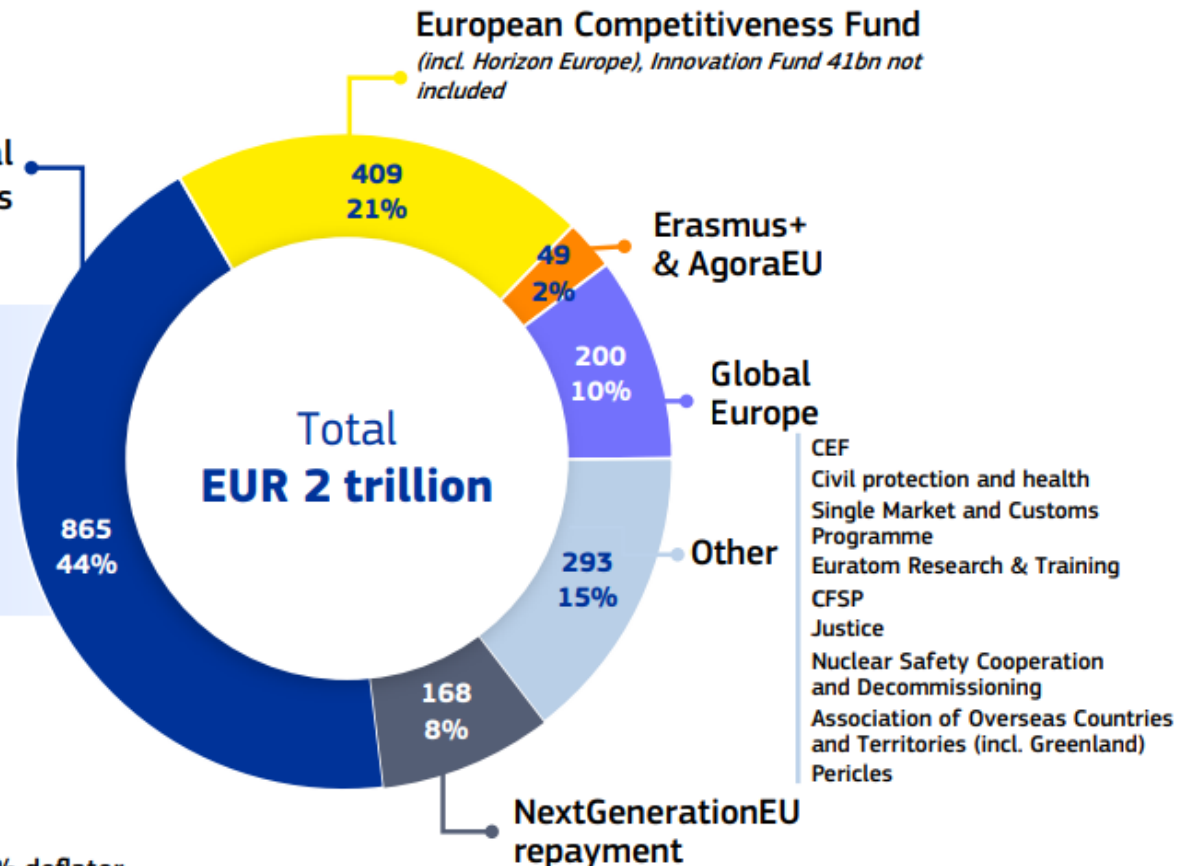
MFF 2028-2034

An ambitious budget with a credible proposal for reforming the revenues to finance it.

**EU funding INTERREG:
EUR 10.264 billion**

- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results** oriented
- More **agile**

National and Regional
Partnership Plans



All amounts in EUR billion, **current prices**, adjusted with 2% deflator

MFF 2028-2034 proposal

Specific objectives

1. Europe's sustainable prosperity across all regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Fostering the attractiveness of territories to support the right to stay 1.2. Strengthening the Union's industrial base, supply chains and manufacturing 1.3. Supporting a just transition 1.4. Supporting the digital transformation 1.5. Supporting research, development and innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.6. Furthering the Saving and investments Union and developing market-based funding options 1.7. Supporting social and affordable housing 1.8. Enhancing Union transport infrastructure 1.9. Support for tourism, including sustainability 1.10. Supporting water management, environment and climate
2. Europe's defence capabilities and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Reinforcing the Union's defence industrial base and military 2.2. Strengthening the Union's preparedness to crises and disasters 2.3. Strengthening the Union's security (including Home affairs policies) 	
3. Supporting people, strengthening Europe's societies and Europe's social model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Supporting employment, access to the labour market, better working conditions and labour mobility 3.2. Enhancing labour supply and improving education and lifelong acquisition of skills 3.3. Promoting equal opportunities, supporting social safety nets, fostering social inclusion and fighting poverty and homelessness, supporting investment in social infrastructure 3.4. Facilitating access to services and associated infrastructure 3.5. Addressing the challenges of demographic change 3.6. Addressing the social impacts of the inclusion of buildings and road transport to ETS2 (SCF) 	
4. Sustaining Europe's quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Supporting income for farmers and their long-term competitiveness 4.2. Contributing to long-term food security 4.3. Improving the attractiveness and living standards in rural areas 4.4. Ensuring sustainability, competitiveness and resilience of the Union fisheries and aquaculture sector 4.5. Enhancing sustainable agriculture and forestry management practices 	
5. Protecting Europe's democracy and enhancing institutional capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Sustaining and further developing open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies 5.2. Promoting and upholding the rule of law 5.3. Enhancing the efficiency of public administration and the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders 5.4. Promoting culture and supporting a vibrant and diverse cultural sector 	

MFF 2028-2034 Interreg specific objectives

1. Better cooperation governance
2. A safer and more secure Europe
- 3. NEW:** More resilient regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine

Let's wrap up 2025

Valeria Cibrario

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Interreg **Smarter Europe** (PO1) Network Meeting

Online, 29.01.2025

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

PRESENTATION



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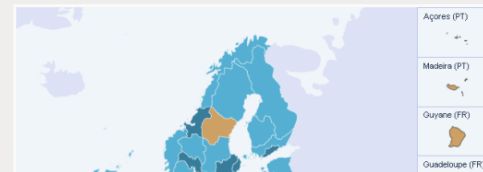
Smarter Interreg

Overview of Policy Objective 1 in Interreg

PO1: A Smarter Europe

Art 5 (a) of Reg. (EU) 2021/1060 establishes policy objective 1: "A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity."

EU regions performance



Interreg

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la

Circular Economy and Interreg



Full Circle: From Lessons Learned to Future Possibilities

Valeria Cibrario & Nicolas Garnier - Interact
22 October 2025

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Co-funded by the European Union Interreg



European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

Interact is a member of
the new ECESP
Coordination Group
2025-2028



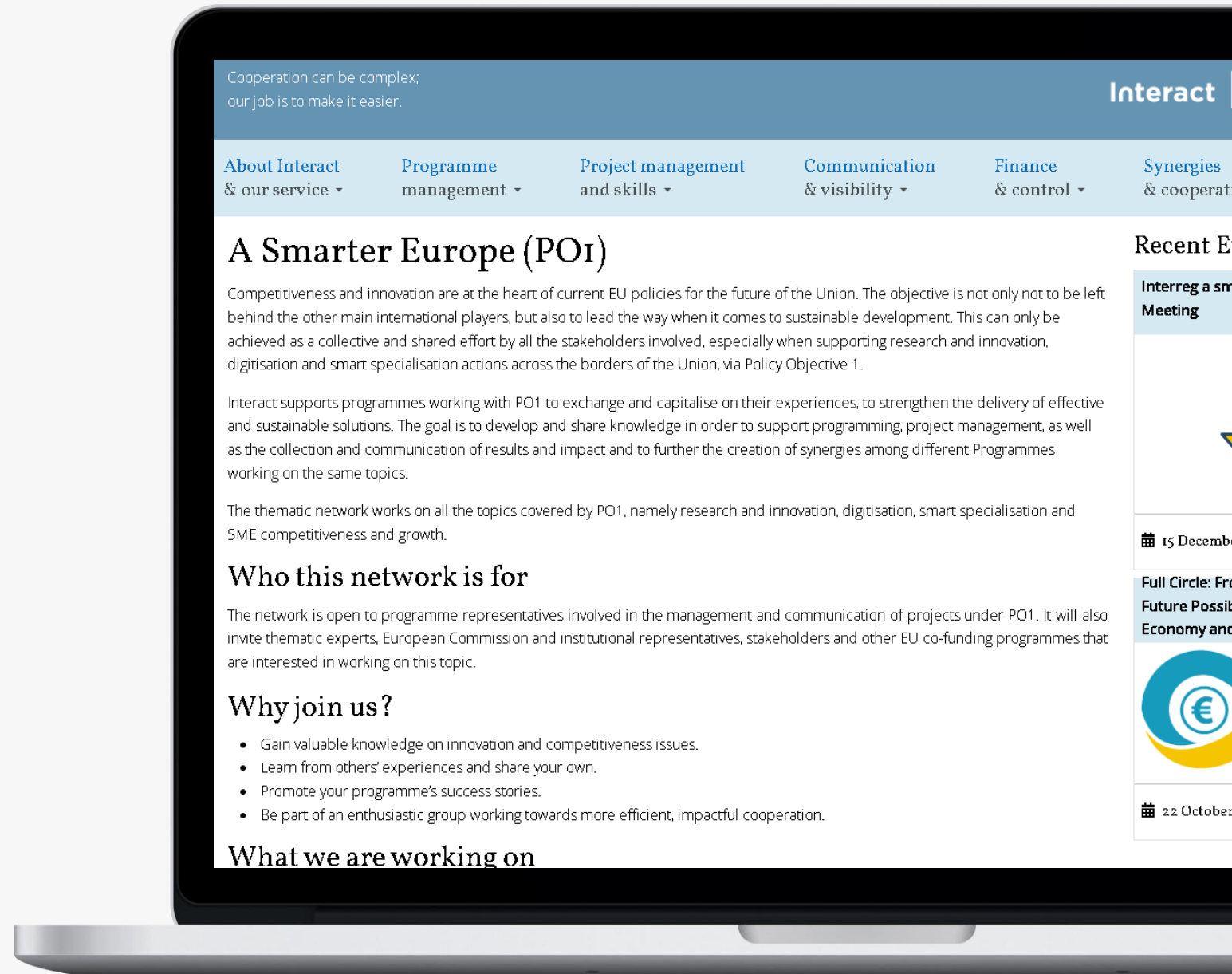
Coordination Group 2025-2028



[Sin título]



PO1 at your fingertips



Looking forward to 2026

Valeria Cibrario
Nebojsa Nikolic
Guilherme Johnston

Interact

Proposed Workplan



Continued support to programmes' **implementation of PO1** throughout the year



Managing **disruptive innovation** in PO1, at programme level, in-person event planned for **week 16** (tbc)



Support to **SMEs and private sector** in PO1 (webinar **week 27** and roadshow **week 43** tbc)



Communicating results and outputs throughout the year on **interreg.eu** and **social media**

Smarter Europe Private Sector Engagement **Activities for 2026**

Factsheet – Supporting programmes with private sector, particularly SME engagement in line with the preparations for Post-27 and need to further include private sector stakeholders as both beneficiaries and project partners.

Webinar – On private sector and SME engagement as a pre-event for the Roadshow scheduled for October.

Roadshow – Practical examples of successful programmes engaging with the private sector, particularly SMEs as both partners and beneficiaries. Target group will be programmes willing to enhance their capacity on private sector engagement. Mid to end of October tbc.

Any Christmas wishes from the PO1 network?



PO1 programme managers are always welcome to reach out to us to:

- **Suggest topics** to be included in events and workplan
- Propose **projects** and **outcomes** to be showcased in interreg.eu and our social media channels
- Requesting **support and collaboration** for their own events and tools
- For **a chat** and anything else that might be of support within the scope of PO1 while carrying out your tasks, don't hesitate to reach out to us!

Thank you for being here!



Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

Interreg "a smarter Europe" (PO1)
Network Meeting | 15 Dec 2025 |
Online



Registration is closed



Interreg Evaluation Foundations

Interreg Evaluation: Foundations

Online certified training

13 Nov 2025 - 12 Dec 2025

[View Training](#)

Registration is open



Interreg Programme Management: Strategic Perspectives

Interreg Programme Management: Strategic Perspectives

In-person certified training: France
28,29/Jan/2026

09 Jan 2026 - 29 Jan 2026

[View Training](#)

Registration is open



Video making in Interreg

Video-Making in Interreg

In-person certified training: Barcelona, Spain
25,26/Feb/2026

09 Feb 2026 - 09 Mar 2026

[View Training](#)



Registration opens December 15, 2025



Simplified Cost Options Practitioners

Simplified Cost Options: Practitioners

In-person certified training: Zagreb, Croatia
14,15/Apr/2026

04 Feb 2026 - 15 Apr 2026

[View Training](#)

Registration opens January 8, 2026



Interreg Project Management

Interreg Project Management

In-person certified training: Bologna, Italy
24,25/Mar/2026

06 Mar 2026 - 27 Mar 2026

[View Training](#)

Registration opens January 20, 2026



Interreg Evaluation Foundations

Interreg Evaluation Foundations - cohort 4

Online certified training

25 Feb 2026 - 25 Mar 2026

[View Training](#)

Registration opens March 19, 2026



Fundamentals of Programme Communication

Fundamentals of Interreg Programme Communication

In-person certified training: Greece
29,30/Jun/2026

15 Jun 2026 - 30 Jun 2026

[View Training](#)

Registration opens September 9, 2026



Interreg Evaluation Practitioners

Interreg Evaluation: Practitioners

In-person certified training: Germany
01,02/Dec/2026

05 Nov 2026 - 03 Dec 2026

[View Training](#)

Registration opens September 21, 2026



Plain Language for Interreg

Plain Language for Interreg - An Introduction

Online certified training

19 Oct 2026 - 13 Nov 2026

[View Training](#)

Registration opens January 23, 2026



Interreg Management Verifications

Interreg Management Verifications

Online certified training

02 Mar 2026 - 30 Mar 2026

Registration opens March 11, 2026



Generative AI for Interreg Communication

Generative AI for Interreg Communication

Online certified training

16 Apr 2026 - 28 Apr 2026

Registration opens March 13, 2026



Storytelling in Interreg

Storytelling in Interreg

Online certified training

20 Apr 2026 - 20 May 2026

Registration opens September 21, 2026



Project Assessment, Monitoring and Verification

Interreg Project Assessment, Monitoring and Verification

In-person certified training: Bucharest, Romania 08,09/May/2026

academy.interact.eu

More support available

Interact Academy

Online course

Gateway to Capitalisation

academy.interact.eu



Cooperation works

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

Want to discuss it? Join our MS Teams environment!
Portal.Interact.eu | Inter Programme collaboration

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Publisher

Date updated

Primary knowledge area

Author(s)

Interact Programme

15 December 2025

Programme(s) own consultation

Valeria Cibrario

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