Interact tools and services
We make cooperation easier – here's how
February 2026

Interact is a unique programme in EU funding. We are a shared-management Interreg programme (Managed by Member States and the Commission), and our role is to make it easier to implement Interreg. We do so by providing practical services and tools such as harmonised templates, shared IT systems, training, and communication support to the programmes and people who manage cooperation. Our work gives programme staff the possibility to exchange ideas and information between them.

We also help Interreg speak as a community – not as individual projects or programmes, but as a collective voice. When Interreg programmes speak with one voice, instead of many separate ones, they are more visible and more influential at the European level.

In addition to the tools listed below, the Interact Academy is a one-stop-shop that supports your learning. The Academy helps you to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence you need to deliver your work most effectively in Interreg. The courses and certified trainings are designed for the Interreg community and are open to that community. They cover practical topics such as programme management, financial management, communication, monitoring, evaluation and more.

1. Project Harmonisation and Simplification

Each Interreg programme manages hundreds, if not thousands, of partners. Several of these partners will be active in more than one Interreg programme. Without harmonisation and simplification at project level, the partners may be confused about whether they are working with the same thing. Different application forms, different reporting requirements and such like can create this confusion. This same logic applies to the financial controllers and auditors of Interreg.

1.1. HIT | Foundation of project harmonisation

Since the 2014-2020 period, Interreg Programmes have been using HIT (Harmonised Implementation Tools). These shared, simplified tools enable Interreg to build and adopt standard practices. HIT is a tool for making sure programmes use the same basic structure for managing their projects. This includes common application forms, check lists, reporting templates, partner declarations and budget structures.

These standard practices implement EU Rules (giving legal certainty on the EU level) as shared practice. They respond to the need for a common framework: when programmes use similar documents and definitions, it becomes easier to work together across borders and manage projects efficiently.

The act of Harmonising also makes more cooperation possible. For example, a project partner working in two different programmes does not need to learn two completely different systems. This reduces confusion and administrative burden.

Looking back on the evolution of modern Interreg, the run up to 2014 was a crucial point in setting the direction for Interreg programmes to work in a more harmonised way.

1.2. Jems | Joint Electronic Monitoring Software / Support for other Monitoring Software

Jems is a shared electronic monitoring system used by Interreg programmes to manage the full life cycle of projects. It allows programmes to launch calls, receive and assess applications, monitor project implementation, check expenditure and process payments — all within one system.

Without HIT, and an agreed harmonised structure for project management, it would not be possible to create software for multiple programmes. Because programmes have agreed, defined and followed common processes, Jems can exist as a shared system, instead of 86 separate monitoring systems being required.

Jems is a free-license software that can be used 'as-is', with customisation, or built from the source code up for a more bespoke approach. Programmes can adapt certain elements to their specific legal or administrative needs, while keeping the core harmonised structure.

We also support the exchange between those programmes managing other monitoring systems.

1.3. INDEX | Interreg Data Exchange

INDEX is a data exchange platform for Interreg programmes. It allows them to share key information about project applications at an early stage.

Built from HIT, INDEX takes application stage data and enables programmes to share and see that data. It can be sent directly from Monitoring Systems, without requiring additional intervention.

This data is then shared with programmes who work in a wider territorial environment, so they can see what else is being done in the area when they are considering what to fund.

Being able to do this means a programme can see whether a potential project has already been approved, or a similar project has been approved in another programme, how many projects have been submitted in a shared geographical area, and which partners are involved. INDEX can therefore help to identify potential double financing, or enable synergies – putting project ideas together, or connecting them, to build on each other's work. It also enables programmes to compare the quality of projects across programmes.

INDEX is a new tool in the 2021-2027 programming period, currently only available in one of three geographic pilots (Baltic Sea, Mediterranean and the Western Balkans). Programmes need to sign up to use INDEX together with other programmes in an identified shared geography. They must also create methods for data to be transferred and managed. The foundation of this is HIT, meaning INDEX can support data from any programme that has adopted HIT without modifying the core of the templates.

The future of INDEX depend on the results of this pilot phase.

1.4. Keep.eu

Keep.eu is a public online platform where anyone can find information about Interreg programmes, projects and partners. It is a database, and a historical archive of more than 20 years of Interreg – mapping who did what, where, when and with whom.

Only contracted projects with verified information are included in the database, which ensures reliability and makes keep.eu a trusted reference source.

Keep.eu was a forerunner for the Open Data platform and Kohesio platforms, which combine wider data from the Cohesion policy.

Unlike INDEX, which is a closed tool for programmes, keep.eu is fully public. It is widely used by the European Commission, researchers, academics and other stakeholders who analyse cooperation results and trends.

You can check the progress of keep.eu in capturing information in the current period in the [Representativeness](#) section. Keep.eu is used extensively, by the Commission, by academia and other audiences, and being up to date is a key challenge for us all.

1.5. Interact Academy | Learning for Interreg

The Interact Academy provides certified online and in-person interactive training for everyone in Interreg. It covers topics such as programme management, finance, communication and monitoring. The objective is simple: to help programmes apply the rules correctly, work more efficiently and build shared knowledge across countries.

2. Programme Harmonisation and Simplification

While project management has been harmonised, it is less so on a programme level. Practices in individual programmes often reflect different administrative approaches from across Europe.

Most harmonisation occurs around new approaches and 'novelties' such as SCOs in the 2021-2027 programming period, where new concepts are introduced in legislation, and need to be interpreted and applied.

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) are fixed amounts or standard rates used instead of reimbursing real costs. They reduce the administrative burden but require common interpretation across countries.

In Interreg, when at least two countries are involved, shared understandings, interpretations and definitions are vital.

We support Interreg programmes (and other cooperation actors) in their work to exchange and build shared knowledge and improved practices through regular online or in-person exchanges. We offer events, as well as an MS Teams environment, available to everyone working in or in cooperation with Interreg.

2.1. Programme and project management

This broad MS Team environment covers everything from the building blocks of programming, monitoring and evaluation work (at programme and project level), as well as implementation challenges and closure. This is the space for things that you need in your own programme.

In practical terms, this space allows programme staff to ask questions, share templates, discuss audit findings, compare approaches to reporting or evaluation, and find examples from other programmes facing similar challenges.

2.2. Inter-programme collaboration

Where we support programmes working together, we maintain an MS Teams environment for them to exchange and work together. Whether the basis of this is geographic, policy area and objectives, or something else, this is the space where programmes can cooperate with each other on shared areas.

2.3. Programme finance

This MS Teams environment is a closed space for those working on the programme side of financial management. It is not open to others (i.e., controllers) who have their own space to exchange on other topics.

2.4. Communication and Visibility

We maintain one MS Teams space for everything and anything to do with communication in your programme, as well as our joint campaigns. If you work on the visibility of your programme, this space is for you.

3. Interreg Communication and Visibility

Part of our work is to promote Interreg as a community. While individual programmes are best placed to reach out to local audiences, in the right language, with the right tone, there is a need to bring together these interventions at an EU level, and to advocate for Interreg.

This includes not only harmonised branding, but also harmonised communication practices — such as shared messages, joint campaigns and coordinated visibility efforts at EU level.

We offer core services in communication, just as we do for other specialisms.

This is where Interreg speaks and works together as one community — across geographical areas, policy objectives or shared challenges.

3.1. Harmonised branding

Interreg developed a harmonised brand narrative, and from that narrative a wider brand book, including the harmonised logo. Interreg programmes receive special treatment in the regulations which enables us to represent their work as Interreg, and not just within the EU co-funding statement. These documents were co-created with Interreg and endorsed by the Commission.

3.2. Communication capacity building

The annual ICON (Interreg Communication Network) meeting(s) offers specific training for those working in Communication. In addition, many Academy services target specific communication skills and knowledge.

We strengthen communication capacity at programme level by offering tools, training sessions, conferences, practical guidance and peer exchange.

3.3. Joint Campaign | Cooperation Day

Cooperation Day is a joint annual campaign where Interreg programmes and projects organise local events for citizens to show the results of cross-border cooperation. It takes place on or around 20 September every year. We support this, we by producing materials and providing a theme. This enables programmes and projects to easily organise events for the public, to highlightthe impact of projects linked to the European annual themes or wider priorities. The campaign kicks off in the early spring.

3.4. Joint Campaign | Interreg Slam

The Interreg Project Slam is like a poetry slam for projects. Shortlisted projects receive specialist training to support them in producing videos and a live-performance at a major EU-wide event. The Slam has taken place as part of EU Regions Week, at Interreg Annual Events

and more. Meanwhile, the videos have been used to support social media competition, securing millions of views and tens of thousands of reactions.

3.5. Interreg.eu as our central hub

The recently re-launched Interreg.eu is now the one-stop-shop gateway to Interreg. The site has the latest programme information, and a strong focus on storytelling about the impact of Interreg across Europe. The website also hosts any call information we have, as well as being a space to advertise vacancies in Interreg.

Interreg.eu is the central public website presenting all Interreg programmes, news and results. It supports Interreg in speaking with one voice and ensures coherent visibility across Europe.

4. Interreg Community and how Interact works

Interact plays a key role in supporting Interreg to work together as a community. As part of this, our aim is to deliver events and activities that are informal, friendly and interactive.

We rely on building a constructive community where people working in Interreg feel confident sharing their experience and understanding – even their experience of when things go wrong.

You are always invited to contribute your experience and understanding!

Join our online spaces via our Portal – Portal.interact.eu