

Breaking **border barriers**: ISO1 practices & opportunities.

Kelly Zielniewski, Besiana Ninka / 10.03.2026

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Events for 2026

Webinar 1

How Interreg programmes have used **ISO1 to overcome legal and administrative obstacles**, harmonise procedures, and set up joint solutions across borders.

Webinar 2

How ISO1 has strengthened institutions, by creating durable cooperation structures. Concrete examples of institutional set-ups **that ensure alignment, sustainability, and long-term impact** and how well-designed structures can evolve into effective solutions for better governance and long-term collaboration will be shared.

Webinar 3

How ISO1 acts as a driver for developing and sustaining cross-border public services. By tackling legal and administrative barriers, strengthening institutional cooperation, and fostering trust, ISO1 projects pave the way for joint solutions that directly benefit citizens in border regions.

Material for 2026

Publication

A collection of programmes approaches and project stories to inspire the Interreg community and the implementation of ISO1 in the future.

Infographics

Key figures and facts, concrete and practical examples as well as remaining challenges for the Interreg programmes when implementing ISO1 in the current programming period.

Social media campaign & articles

Ongoing examples, testimonials and facts to show how Interreg acts as a driver to better governance. Material published on our social media platforms and on the interreg.eu website.

Agenda/ day one

09:40 – 10:00

**InterregGov:
A new ISO1 initiative**

10:00 – 11:00

**Interreg approaches &
practices to cooperation
obstacles**

11:00 – 11:25

**Discussion on
InterregGov &
ISO1 Post27**

InterregGov: A new ISO1 initiative

Olivier Baudalet, DG REGIO

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Interreg approaches to border obstacles

Anne-Carine Pierrat, Interreg France – Switzerland

Belén Muñoz Briongos, Interreg Spain – Portugal (POCTEP)

Javier Figueiredo Capuz, GIT EUROACE CON VIDA (Interreg project)

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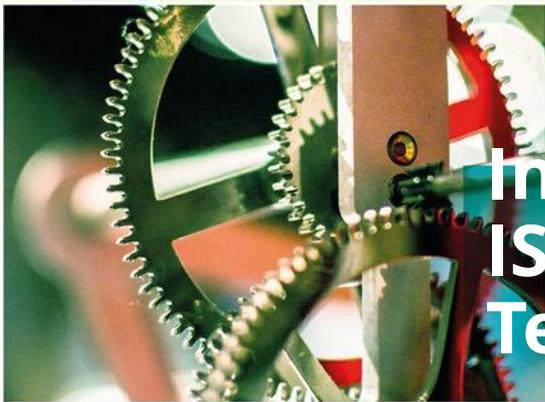


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Interreg France-Switzerland ISO1 approach : Integrated Territorial Cooperation Plans

Interact webinar – Breaking border barriers :
ISO1 practices & opportunities

10 March 2026

IFS programme's approach to ISO1

Goal ISO1 : Remove obstacles to the implementation of cross-border projects

Thought to adress obstacles in the following thematic areas :

- Training and employment
- Health and rescue services
- Green transition and circular economy
- Mobility

⇒ Facilitate cross-border projects structuring

IFS programme's approach to ISO1

Priority 5 of the programme = Reduce obstacles at the french-swiss border

2 types of actions supported :

- « **Classic** » **Interreg projects which aim at identifying and removing obstacles** to improve the efficiency of cross-border public policies (e.g. common studies, common tools to collect information and data, experience sharing ...)
- Development and implementation of **integrated territorial strategies (PTIC** – Plans territoriaux intégrés de coopération) for regional functional areas

Integrated Territorial Cooperation Plans (PTIC)

- First **call for application** launched mid-2023
- 2 phases :
 - **Phase A « Emergence »** : development of the territorial strategy with a diagnosis of the territory and definition of an action plan
1 year
 - **Phase B « Implementation »** : support to PTIC coordination especially its governance + structuring of 2 individual Interreg projects
3 years

PTIC – Funding mechanism

Costs reimbursed through flat rates (SCOs) :

| Phase | Total costs | Financial support in France (ERDF) | Financial support in Switzerland |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Emergence | 75 000 € + 75 000 CHF | 60 000 € | Max. 75 000 CHF |
| Implementation | 200 000 € + 200 000 CHF | 160 000 € | Max. 160 000 CHF |

Implementation flat rate :

| | Step | % | Project deliverables |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Coordination | Launching committee and steering committees (showing the action plan status) | 12.5% per annual committee | Reports of the committees |
| Development of individual projects | Approval of individual projects | 25% for project 1 25% for project 2 | Individual projects subsidy contracts |

Currently, there are :

- 5 PTIC « Emergence »
- 1 PTIC « Implementation »



PTIC example

PTIC S.T.A.R.T :

- First project to apply for the Emergence phase
- Only project at the moment which applied for the Implementation phase
- Project lead = **local grouping for cross-border cooperation** (10 towns – 2 in Switzerland, 8 in France)
- Action plan with **5 thematic areas identified** (3 priority thematic areas = environment, living conditions and culture/tourism + mobility and economics)
- 2 classic Interreg projects planned : a cultural project and a project concerning sustainable tourism and preservation of the environment
- **Governance solution** : 2 committees to monitor the action plan, working groups on concrete actions/projects

Challenges and recommendations

- Important to identify obstacles to tackle
- **SCO** : major simplification measure for beneficiaries but it takes time to set it up
- Leave **flexibility** in the choice of **local cooperation areas**
- Common work of territories from each side of the border (e.g. conduct a common study and not 2 separate ones to set up the action plan)

Thank you for your attention



<https://www.interreg-francesuisse.eu/>

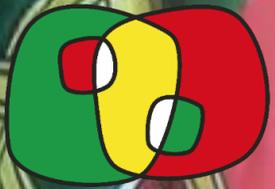


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POCTEP 2021-2027

ISO 1 – overcoming border obstacles



More than 3 decades promoting Institutional Cooperation



For more than three decades, institutional cooperation has been at the very heart of POCTEP's priorities



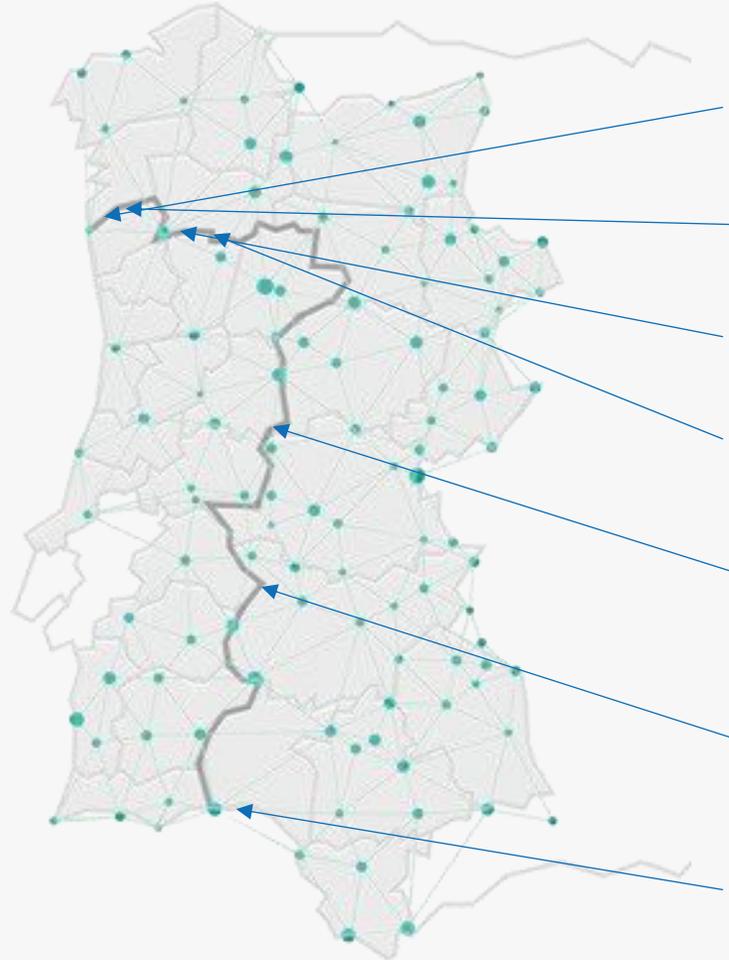
- **Long-term** cross-border teams: laying the **foundations** for joint initiatives
- Institutional **relationships** and Cooperation Structures: EGTCs, Working Communities, Euroregions and Eurocities

**Eurorregion
Galicia-Norte
(AECT)**

**Comunidad de
Trabajo NORCYL
Comunidad de
Trabajo CENCYL**

**Eurorregión
EUROACE**

**Eurorregion
EUROAAA**



Eurocidade Vila Nova de Cerveira – Tomiño

Eurocidade Valença – Tui

Eurocidade Monção – Salvaterra de Miño

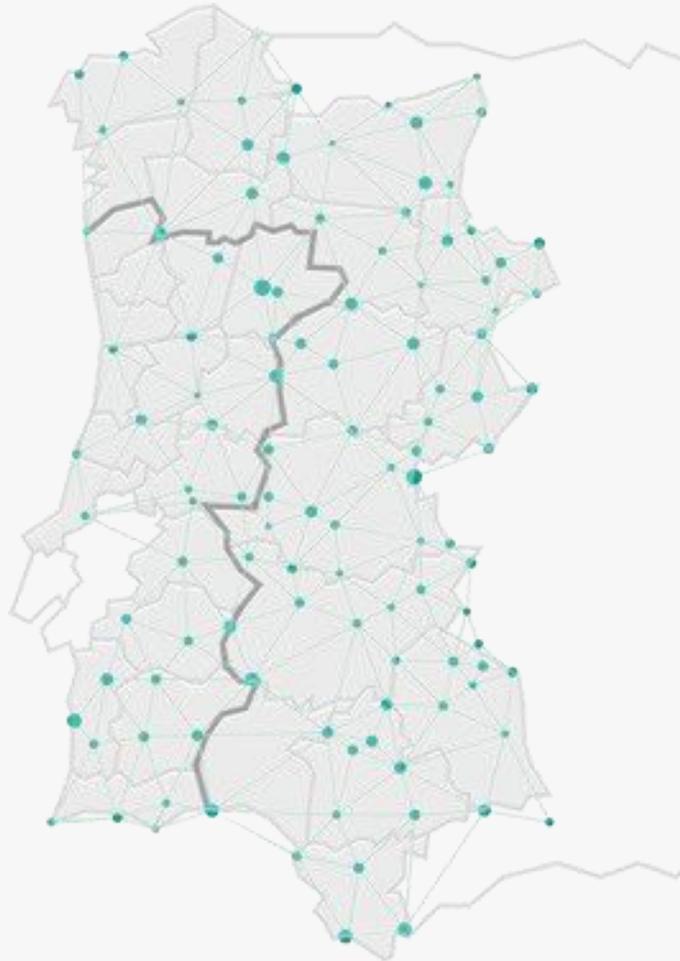
Eurocidade Chaves – Verín

**Eurocidade Puerta de Europa: Ciudad Rodrigo –
Fuentes de Oñoro – Almeida**

Eurocidade Badajoz – Elvas – Campo Maior

**Eurociudad del Guadiana: Ayamonte – Vila Real de
Santo António – Castro Marim (AECT)**

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)



AECT Galicia–Norte de Portugal

AECT Río Miño

AECT Eurocidade Chaves–Verín

AECT León–Bragança

AECT ZASNET

AECT Duero–Douro

AECT Eurociudad del Guadiana



Common services

 **Healthcare services – proximity services that facilitate access for citizens on both sides of the border**

RED MAY Project: cross-border mobile units providing healthcare and psychological support.

NUMA Project: pharmacies acting as care and monitoring points for chronic patients on both sides of the border.





Eurocities (EuroGuadiana – Tui/Valença – Chaves/Verín – Cerveira/Tomiño)

Education and culture

- School intercultural exchanges and programs to promote bilingualism
- Joint cultural and sports activities

Mobility and connectivity

- Physical connectivity through international bridges.
- Sustainable mobility: cycling routes, cross-border trails, active mobility.
- Coordination in urban planning, transport access, and public information signs.

Public services

- Shared access to facilities such as swimming pools and community infrastructures.
- Cross-border citizen cards and one-stop service points (*ventanilla única*)

Social governance

- Cross-border participatory budgeting.
- Cross-border mediators: community facilitators that help overcome linguistic, administrative, and cultural barriers



The longest border, the Largest CBC Programme

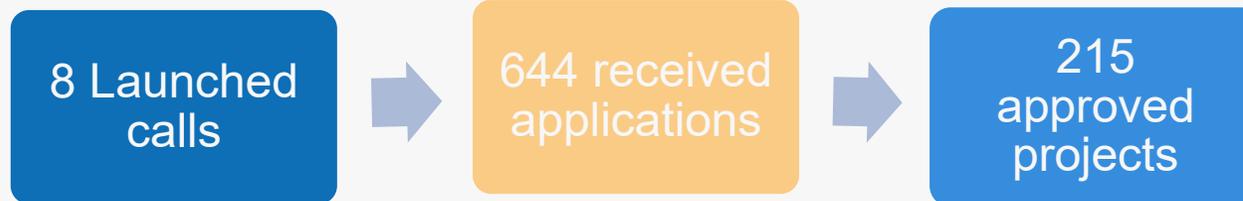


35
6

Approved Financial Plan

475
M€ (TOTAL)

356
M€ (ERDF)





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POCTEP 2021-2027

Thank You!



Breaking border barriers: ISO1 practices and opportunities

10 March 2026
Online

Cooperation obstacles: ISO1 inspiring approaches and practices opportunities

Javier Figueiredo

Project: GIT EUROACE CON VIDA
Alentejo (P) – Centro (P) – Extremadura (E)

Breaking border barriers:
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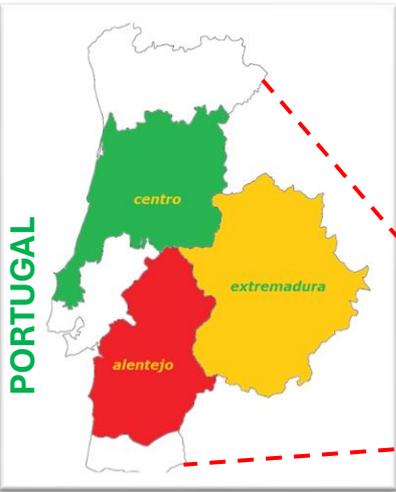
Aveiro (Região Centro)



Mérida (Extremadura)



Marvão (Alentejo)



PORTUGAL

SPAIN

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PORTUGAL
AND SPAIN:
40 YEARS
IN THE EU

Portugal and
Spain sign
their accession
to Europe
June 1985

Interreg
was
launched



Cooperation
agreement signed
between Centro
Region and
Extremadura

1985

1986

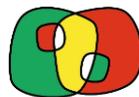
1989

1992

1994



On 1 January
1986, both
countries
became full
members of the
European
Economic
Community



PROGRAMA
COOPERACIÓN TRANSFRONTERIZA
ESPAÑA - PORTUGAL
COOPERAÇÃO TRANSFRONTEIRIÇA



Cooperation
agreement signed
between Alentejo
and Extremadura



España - Portugal

Sectoral Commissions and Subcommittees: a key tool for developing better governance in the field of cross-border cooperation.



Health Sectoral Commission



Demographic challenges and Depopulation Sectoral Commission



Subcommittee on Addictive Behaviours, Gambling, Drugs, Mobile Phones,...



Civil Protection Sectoral Commission



Education Sectoral Commission



Statistics Sectoral Commission



Youth and Sport Sectoral Commission

Cross Border Initiatives Offices

Through various Interreg projects, the Cross-Border Initiatives Offices (GITs) created the conditions for bringing together administrations and economic, social and cultural actors from both sides of the border to cooperate jointly.



Getting to know the language and culture of our neighbours:

“Learn Portuguese, it will open many doors for you”.



Portuguese has become the second foreign language taught in schools in Extremadura.

Spreading the **culture** of the neighbouring country



Portugal forms part of the cultural programs in Extremadura region.

Agora, the peninsular debate



From 2000 to 2010, 'Agora, the peninsular debate' brought together experts from both countries to address issues of common interest, fostering connections between authorities and experts in the political, administrative, scientific, academic and cultural spheres.



DIÁLOGOS DE FRONTEIRA

Border Dialogues



B-Solutions

Presentation of **two B-Solutions projects**, an initiative funded by the European Commission to find solutions to the legal and administrative obstacles that hinder cross-border interactions:



2021 **Improving conditions for aerial interventions in border forest fires:** a study of two problems that hinder aerial interventions in border fires, related to the homologation of certificates and the language of communication between Spanish and Portuguese pilots.



2023 **Healthcare for cross-border workers:** a study of the dysfunctions in the procedures for providing healthcare to cross-border workers.



Our experience in **cooperation governance**

- We still have some obstacles that may be common to other border areas in the European Union.
- We have tools to analyse the obstacles identified and find a solution for them: B-Solutions, for instance.
- We need to continue the task of uncovering hidden obstacles,
- Bringing together those responsible for each area on both sides of the border has been a success both for cross-border cooperation and for improving the living conditions of those who live near the borders.
- Governance should be a fundamental element for the future of European cooperation: it is the driving force that encourages and enables actors in each country and region to discover that borders have long since disappeared to be an obstacle and have become opportunities.

Breaking border barriers: ISO1 practices and opportunities

10 March 2026

Online

Thank you very much

Javier Figueiredo C.

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(Regional Government of Extremadura)
Consejería de Presidencia, Interior y Diálogo Social
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Plaza del Rastro s/n
06800 Mérida

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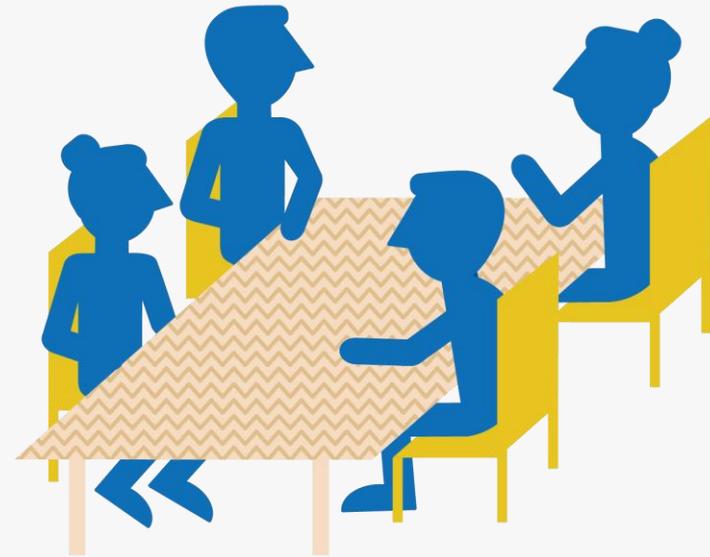


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Floor is open for discussion



Cooperation works

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Interact.eu/Library

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