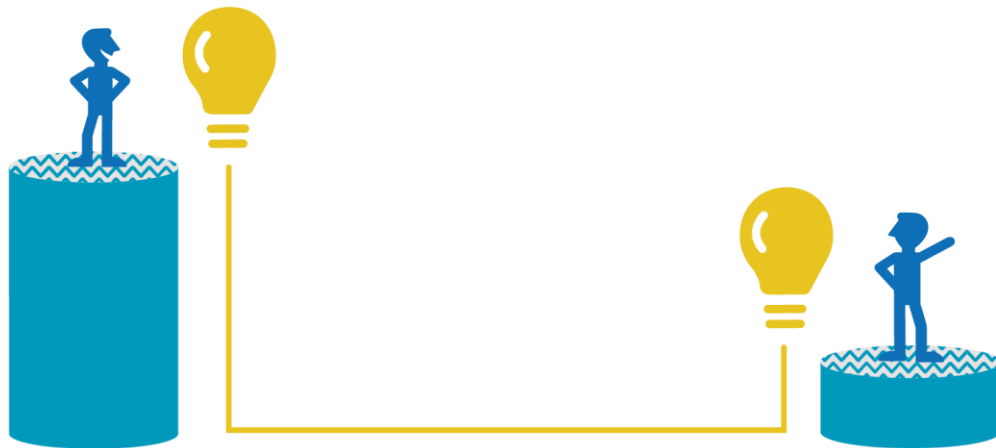


# Europe closer to citizens under PO5: Taking stock and looking ahead

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**2-3 July 2026**  
**Draft agenda**  
Vienna, Austria





## PO5: Taking stock and looking ahead

2-3 July 2026

Vienna, Austria

### Outline and objectives

Policy Objective 5 (PO5) focuses on bringing Europe closer to citizens by supporting the integrated and sustainable development of all types of territories. It places a strong emphasis on place-based approaches, local needs, and the active involvement of stakeholders.

This event will bring together Interreg programmes and stakeholders working on, or interested in, PO5 to exchange experiences, take away practical insights for implementation, and explore future perspectives. It will provide a dedicated space for mutual learning and strategic dialogue on how PO5 is being applied across different programme contexts.

We will begin by **setting the scene** with an overview of the 11 Interreg programmes currently implementing PO5, highlighting the diversity of approaches developed so far. This will be followed by **success stories and good practices**, showcasing concrete examples and allowing participants to learn from practical experience and reflect on approaches that may be transferable to other contexts.

A key focus will be on what makes a strong **PO5 project**, encouraging discussion on how to move beyond stand-alone initiatives towards more integrated approaches that combine infrastructure, soft measures, and stakeholder engagement to identify common lessons and transferable approaches across programmes.

On the second day, the focus will shift to discussing key **challenges in implementation**, including administrative, technical, and governance-related aspects, providing space for exchange on possible solutions and shared learning among programmes.

Finally, we will look ahead to the future of **PO5 beyond 2027**, exploring possible directions for the next programming period and discussing how future approaches could be both more strategic and more adapted to the needs of territories.

### Target group

The event is aimed at all those working on, or interested in, Policy Objective 5 (PO5), including representatives of Managing Authorities, Joint Secretariats, National Authorities, and other relevant stakeholders.

### Registration:

Registration is now open! You can access it [here](#).



## **PO5: Taking stock and looking ahead**

**2-3 July 2026**

Vienna, Austria

**Day 1**

**Thursday, 02 July 2026**

**09.00 – 09.30**

**Registration**

**09.30 – 09.45**

**Welcome, introduction & objectives**

*Interact and Olivier Baudelet, DG Regio*

**09.45 – 10.00**

**Setting the scene: Where do we stand**

*Interact*

Objectives of the session: A review of the 11 Interreg programmes currently implementing Policy Objective 5 (PO5) and the wide variety of approaches taken.

**10.00 – 13.00**

**Incl. coffee  
break**

**Learning from examples: Success stories and good practices**

*Interact, programme representatives (tbc with the programmes)*

Objectives of the session: This session will showcase success stories and good practices in implementing PO5 and CLLD. It will allow participants to learn from concrete examples, exchange experiences, and reflect on how successful approaches could be applied in other programme contexts.

**13.00 – 14.00**

**Lunch break**

**14.00 – 16.45**

**Incl.  
Coffee break**

**What makes a strong PO5 project? The integrated approach in practice**

*Interact, programme representatives (tbc with the programmes)*

We will identify and discuss the key features of strong and high-quality PO5 projects, including how they respond to territorial needs, integrate different types of actions, and involve relevant stakeholders throughout the process. We will explore the four key dimensions of the integrated approach in PO5, namely place-based, multi-stakeholder, participatory, and intersectoral. We will reflect on criteria for success, share perspectives, and identify common elements that contribute to impactful and sustainable PO5 projects, while highlighting approaches that can be applied across different programme contexts.

**16.45 – 17.00**

**Closure of the first day**



## PO5: Taking stock and looking ahead

2-3 July 2026

Vienna, Austria

Day 2

Friday, 03 July 2026

9.15 – 9.30

Recap of day 1 and intro to day 2

9.30 – 11.00

**Navigating challenges and obstacles**

*Interact, programme representatives (tbc with the programmes)*

- **Governance and strategy boards:** How are strategy boards functioning in practice, and what lessons can be drawn on their role in steering implementation, engaging stakeholders, and supporting integrated territorial development?
- **Administrative hurdles:** How are strategies being implemented in practice, and what lessons are emerging where administrative capacity, procedures, or experience are still evolving?
- **Technical obstacles:** How are administrative and operational complexities being managed by beneficiaries and programme bodies and what solutions are proving effective?

Objectives of the session: This session aims to identify the main challenges and obstacles in implementing PO5 and to provide a space for participants to exchange experiences and practical solutions. It will help participants reflect on common administrative, technical, and governance-related difficulties, while encouraging peer learning on how to address them effectively.

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.45

**Looking ahead: The future of PO5 in 2028-2034 programming period**

*Interact, programme representatives (tbc with the programmes)*

Objectives of the session: This session aims to reflect on the future of PO5 beyond 2027 and explore possible directions for the next programming period. It will provide space to discuss how the principles of PO5 can be further strengthened and simplified, and how future approaches can build on existing experience to become more strategic, more coherent, and better tailored to the specific needs of territories.

12.45 – 13.00

Wrap up and outlook