

EU Neighbours in action: Knowledge across borders

# From reactive crisis management to resilient programmes beyond 2027

Guilherme Johnston | Interact | 20.05.2026

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# Objectives of the session

## Objective 1

Enhance knowledge on the concept of resilience and what it means for cooperation.

## Objective 2

Support to deliver a more resilient post-27, including the overall EU resilience related objectives of competitiveness, strategic autonomy, green transition, digital sovereignty and social inclusion.

# Agenda/ 20/5/2026

09:30 - 09:45

Concept of  
resilience in  
our context

09:45 - 10:00

Debate on  
resilience and  
preparedness

10:00 - 10:20

Ideas for  
ensuring a  
resilient post-27

10:20 - 10:30

Session  
summary and  
what's next

# Agenda/ 20/5/2026

11:00 - 11:15

Concept of  
resilience in  
our context

11:15 - 11:30

Debate on  
resilience and  
preparedness

11:30 - 11:50

Ideas for  
ensuring a  
resilient post-27  
Interreg

11:50 - 12:00

Session  
summary and  
what's next

# Resilience

**Whitstanding shocks  
and stressess you  
cannot anticipate  
and go back to some  
form of function**

The etymological roots of the resilience stem from the Latin word *resilio*, meaning 'to bounce back' (Klein, Nicholls and Thomalla, 2003.)



# Resilience

**No longer only “bounce back” after crises. But also the ability of societies, economies and institutions to adapt, endure and remain functional under conditions of sustained uncertainty and pressure. Multiple crisis faced by Europe now!**



# Shocks

**Sudden, intense, and often short-term events that pose a direct threat.**

- Natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes, floods, droughts, heatwaves)
- Man-made crises (e.g., terrorist attacks, infrastructure failures, cyber-attacks)
- Pandemics

# Stresses

**Chronic, day-to-day or cyclical hardships that erodes social and economic fabric, generating more vulnerabilities**

- Economic inequality and poverty
- High cost of housing
- Aging or inadequate infrastructure
- Chronic unemployment

# Resilience Lags

- Time lags: where costs must be incurred today but benefits only materialise decades later ( for example investments in water retention or grid flexibility).
- Political cycles.
- Spatial Lags: where investments in one region (I.e flood management upstream) generate benefits in another (flood safety downstream).
- Issue is who pays, who benefits, and how can political legitimacy be secured when payoffs are delayed or displaced.
- Innovation in governance is needed to ensure resilience.

# Good Practices

Erzin, Türkiye (Governance)



Spain, Portugal Border (Emergency Response)



# Interreg Post-27 – Resilience is a priority

- Promote sustainable prosperity
- Strengthen defense
- Fostering social cohesion and inclusion
- Disaster risk management
- Climate resilience
- Safer and More Secure Europe
- More Resilient Regions Bordering Belarus, Russia, Ukraine

# Why Cooperation?

- Help to reduce territorial injustice: Usually resilience related funds may cluster in metropolitan areas that are already capable. Interreg can help to ensure no regions are left behind in what regards resilience.
- Rural, peripheral and cross-border regions often lack the granular data needed for effective stress testing. Interreg funds may support addressing that.
- Europe's resilience will not be decided solely by European or national policy makers. Rather, it will be forged in border towns managing new dependencies; in mountains valleys exposed to climate hazards; in industrial regions navigating painful transitions; in shrinking areas struggling to maintain essential services, etc...
- Interreg can help territories design strategies that accept uncertainties, anticipate long-term risks and pursue new equilibriums.
- Interreg can support practical experience at local and regional level on how to innovate governance of forward-looking resilience efforts.

# Cooperation and Places

- Places matter for Resilience
- Shocks are experienced locally, responses are implemented regionally, and long-term transformations depend on the capabilities and constraints of specific territories.
- Border regions are exposed to geopolitical tensions and disruptions to mobility and trade.
- Shrinking rural areas are affected by demographic decline, an ageing population, and inadequate service provision.
- Metropolitan hubs concentrate infrastructure and political functions, making them both innovation engines and systemic risk hotspots.

# Resilience and External Borders

- Climate-related hazards,
- Conflict spill-overs (e.g., Ukraine),
- Migration pressures,
- Economic disruption from geopolitical tensions (Russia/Belarus),
- Demographic decline,
- Fragile infrastructure,
- Disaster Risk Management.

**Enlargement is a strategic investment on resilience.**

# Resilience and External Borders

## How can cooperation support?

- Territorial cooperation
- Governance
- Localizing and testing solutions
- Economic development and right to stay
- Economic resilient regions

# Resilience Debate

# Can you be prepared for the unexpected?

- Introduce yourself to your neighbors at the table
- Reflect on your experience
- Debate on how you can be prepared for the unexpected?

# Can you be prepared for the unexpected?

- Anyone would like to share some thoughts with the wider group?

# To be resilient means to be as prepared as possible to the unexpected by:

- Proactive preparedness and anticipation, rather than waiting for crisis to happen, actively scan and develop scenario plans.
- Bounce forward, not back: use disruptions as catalysts for reforms.
- Be robust and adaptable.
- Achieving resilience means new forms of coordination and decision making, as well as long term commitment in all levels of government.

# Resilient Post-27

# Ideas to build a resilient post-27:

- How can cooperation support resilience at external borders?
- How can cooperation support climate resilience?
- What other ways (not related to environment or external borders) could cooperation help make Europe more resilient?

**Please add your suggestions at the different flipcharts using the available post-it notes. Feel free to move around the stations.**

# Reporting Back

# What's Next?

- Further programme collaboration and exchanges
- Factsheet on resilience
- Preparing for Post-27
- Let's explore additional ideas



# Thank You

# Cooperation works

**All materials will be available on:**  
[Interact.eu/Library/EU](https://Interact.eu/Library/EU) **Neighbours in action: Knowledge across borders**

**Want to discuss it? Join our MS Teams environment!**  
[Portal.Interact.eu](https://Portal.Interact.eu) | **External cooperation**

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Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg

# Disclaimer

Publisher

Interact Programme

Date updated

20 May 2026

Primary knowledge area

External cooperation

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