

Workshop

Cooperation actions in action: **How ideas lead to impact**

Stoyan Kanatov, Ilze Ciganska/ 06-07.05.2026

Interact



Co-funded by
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Event structure

Content plenary

Facilitated discussion

Labs & group work

Study visit

Breaks

Day 1 · Wednesday 6 May

Afternoon only · 13:30–17:30

Registration & Welcome Coffee

13:30–14:00 · icebreaker cards

Opening & Framing the Challenge

14:00–14:50 · welcome, icebreaker, EC framing

Cooperation Actions: From Regulation to Reality

14:50–15:30 · interactive plenary

Coffee / Tea Break · 15:30–16:00

Peer Exchange Labs

16:00–17:00 · 3 parallel groups

Group 1 · MRS cooperation, strategic level
Group 2 · Early stage & ongoing actions

Groups Reporting Back

17:00–17:15 · rapporteurs to plenary

Wrap-Up of Day 1

17:15–17:30 · threads & frames for Day 2

Day 2 · Thursday 7 May

Full day · 09:00–17:00

Registration & Arrival Coffee

09:00–10:00 · interviews parallel

Welcome Back & Day 2 Orientation

10:00–10:30 · bridge from Day 1

Turning Experience into Transferable Models

10:30–12:30 · mixed groups

Transferability Matrix (group work)
Gallery Walk
Cooperation Action Design Canvas

Plenary Wrap-Up: From Ideas to Action

12:30–12:45 · key takeaways & next steps

Lunch Break · 12:45–13:30

Study Visit

13:30–17:00 · on-site in Nice

Presentation & Q&A with host project, structured observation walk
Event synthesis & closing

Introduction

Legal context

- **CPR Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, art. 22(3), p. (d) (vi):** Each programme shall set out, for each specific objective, the interregional, cross-border and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State or outside the Union. (Annex V, p. 2.1.1.1.1. Interventions of the Funds)
- **ETC Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, art. 3(3), p. (c) (ii):** Under Interreg, the ERDF and the external financing instruments of the Union, shall support the interregional cooperation to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by promoting exchange of experiences, innovative approaches and capacity building with a view to (the 'INTERACT programme') harmonising and simplifying the possible cooperation actions referred to in p. (d) (vi) of art. 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

A question?

**Raise your hand if you have read
Article 22(3)(d)(vi) of the CPR more
than once?**

DEGREES OF COOPERATION

1

1. One-sided cooperation

The interest for cooperation with potential partners from other regions is defined in the programme document, without identified reciprocal interest in the programmes of the partnering regions.

2

2. Mirror cooperation

The interest in cooperation with potential partners from other regions is defined in the programme documents of all partnering regions.

3

3. Agreed cooperation

Regions from different countries define not only potential partners for cooperation, but also the same topic(s) of cooperation in their programme documents, using similar description and specifying common and agreed interests.

4

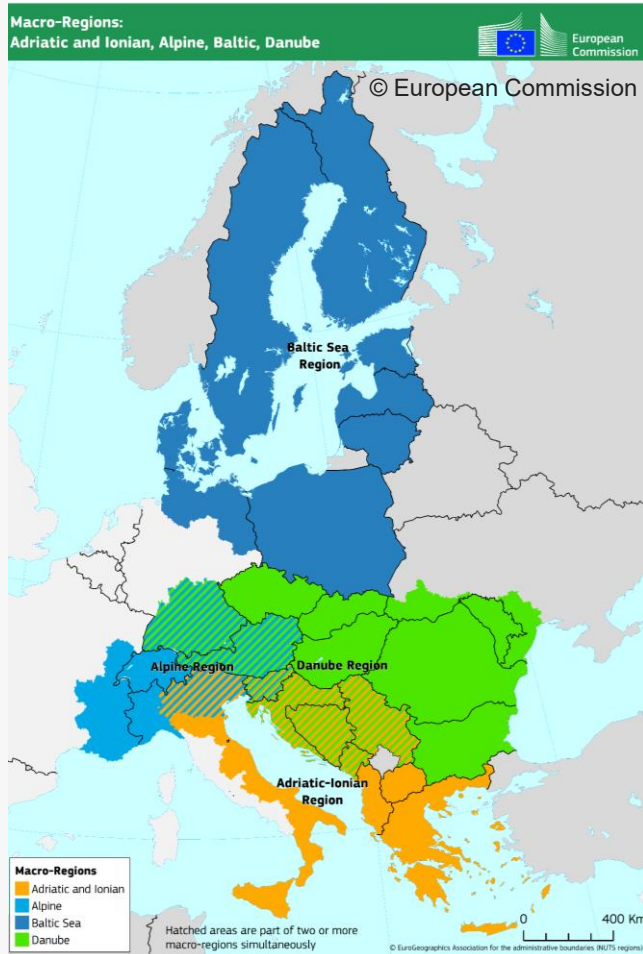
4. Joint informal cooperation

Cooperation may go further when regions decide not only to plan together, but to act in parallel, defining joint rules for project selection.

5

5. Joint formal cooperation

Regions planning and acting with complete agreement on partners, subject, type of actions and procedures, as well as possibly with joint finances.



The EU macro-regions

Macro-regional strategies provide orientation for investments and established cooperation frameworks.

They help link territorial needs, thematic priorities and implementation experience across borders, sectors and governance levels.

*The Council has tasked the EU Commission to develop the Atlantic MRS by mid 2027



Practical work

Peer exchange labs

Discuss and fill in the questionnaire.

Note down open questions.





Main conclusions

Wrap up Day 1

Reports from the groups: 1) One element/point your group agreed on. 2) One point your group disagreed on or left unresolved. 3) The question you are carrying into tomorrow.

What to expect on Day 2?



Cooperation actions in action: How ideas lead to impact

Welcome to day 2

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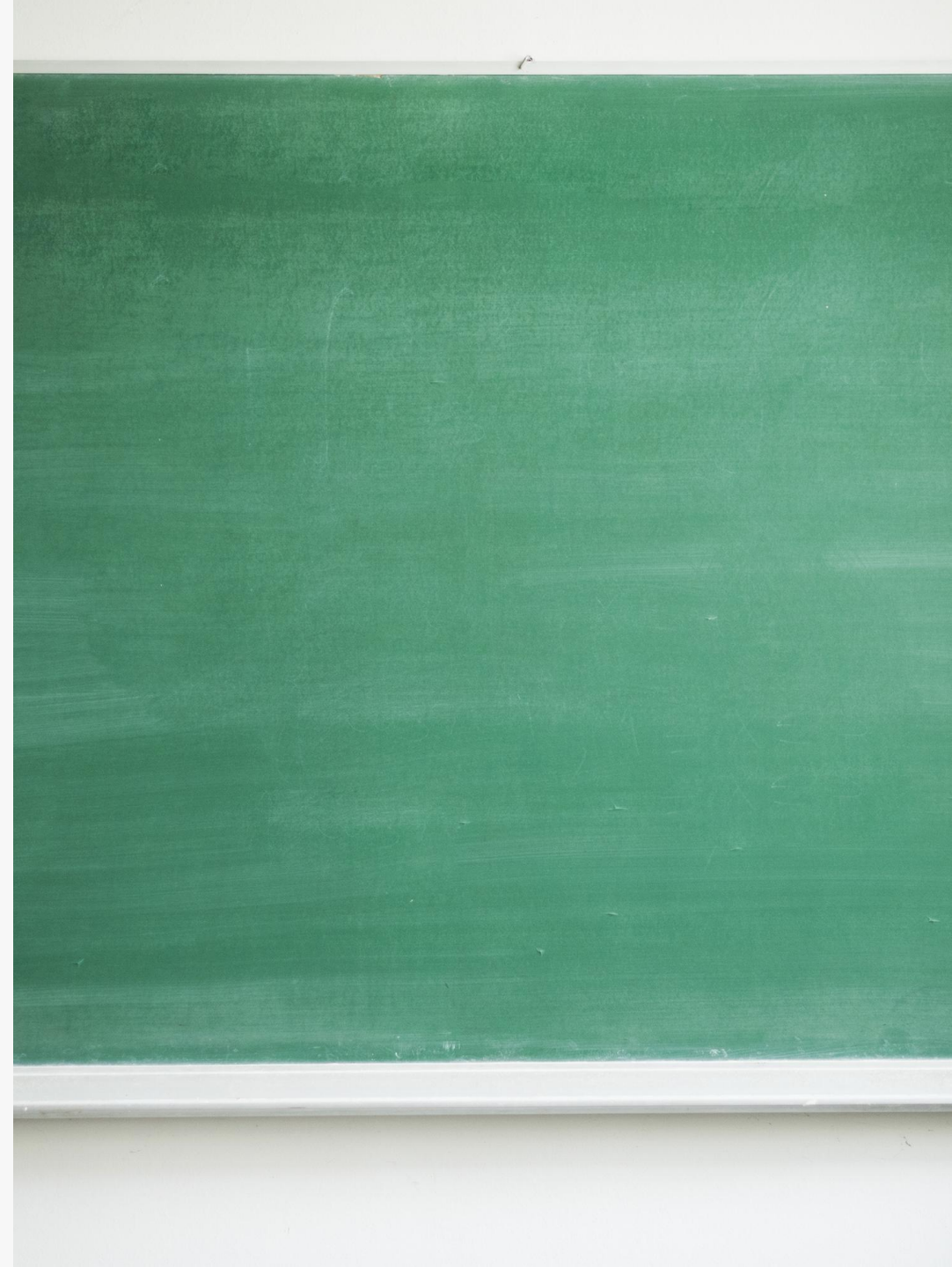
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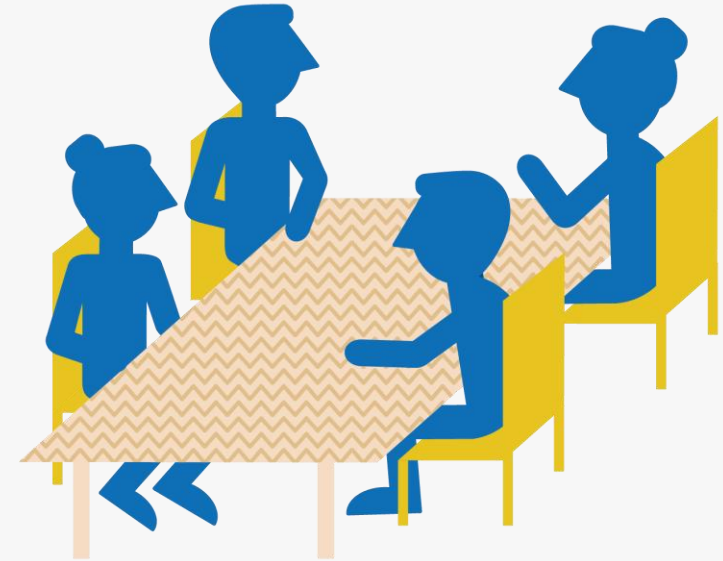
Open Questions

Joint discussion about questions raised by
the other group.



Practical work Transferability matrix

Discuss and agree on the transferability potential.



Discussion

Transferability matrix

- What would need to be true, e.g., in terms of partners, governance, regulatory clarity, and strategic support, for this to work?
- What is the scope and added value? What would not happen without cooperation?
- What are the hard regulatory constraints versus the soft ones?
- What are the first three steps any programme would need to take to attempt this?

A Practical Guide to Cooperation Actions: First Steps of the Craft

1	<p>Is cooperation right for my programme? Practical question: how do I know if my programme is ready - and what degree of cooperation makes sense?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Art. 22 in plain language - what it says, what it leaves open) and what it is not · The 5 degrees of cooperation - which one fits where your programme stands right now · Readiness self-check (decision tool): political will / regulatory clarity / partner appetite / internal capacity <p>Format: short explainer + readiness checklist + decision map</p>
2	<p>How do I find the right partner? Practical question: who should I cooperate with — and how do I know the partnership will hold?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Where to look: Interreg networks, MRS action groups, thematic platforms, Interact map tool · Partnership health check (and red flags): shared objectives / contribution / decisions / alignment / trust · First contact: what to discuss before committing — agenda for a scoping call <p>Format: checklist + partner scoring + scoping call template</p>
3	<p>How do I plan and set up the cooperation action? Practical question: what needs to be agreed, written and organised before the action starts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Joint rules for project selection: what needs agreement and how to formalise it · Cooperation Action Design Canvas: who / what / how / when / with what resources · Regulatory grey areas to address early: eligibility, partner expenditure, administrative barriers <p>Format: annotated template + design canvas (fillable) + grey areas Q&A</p>
4	<p>How do I manage it once it runs? Practical question: what does day-to-day management look like - and what do I do when it stalls?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Managing cross-border partnerships: practical coordination rhythm (meetings, decisions, reporting) · When things go off track: early warning signs and what to adjust first · Who can help: EC / Interact / peer programmes - when and how to ask <p>Format: coordination template + troubleshooting guide + contact map</p>
5	<p>How do I communicate it? Motivating policy-makers · framing · key messages</p>
6	<p>What comes next? Scaling · replication · post-2027 outlook</p>

Thank you for being here!

Time for your questions

