

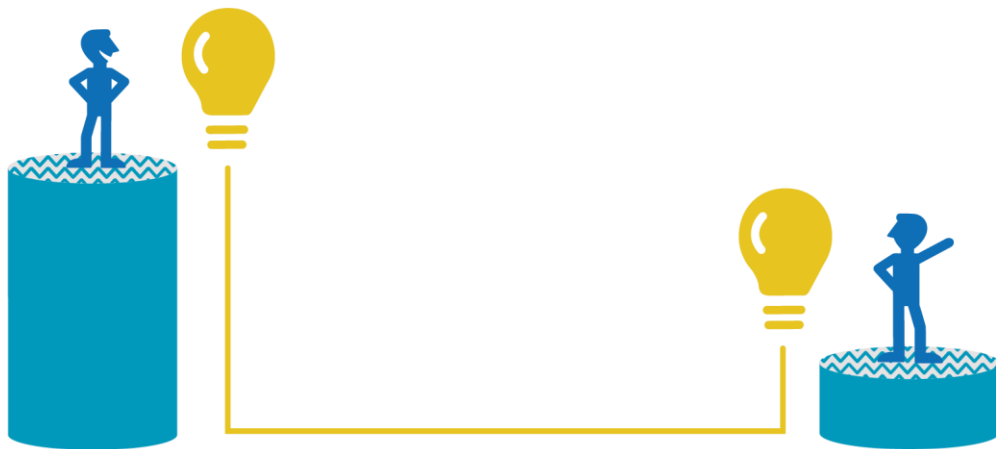
# Europe closer to citizens under PO5: Taking stock and looking ahead

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Agenda

**2-3 July 2026**

**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 and the programmes' representatives*

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**

*Panel discussion with:*

- Lisa Staufer, Interreg Italy – Austria
- Jean Louis Valls, Interreg POCTEFA
- Dominik Hartmann, Interreg Bavaria - Austria
- Olivier Bichel, Interreg Grande Région
- Marcela Glodeanu, Interreg Romania – Bulgaria
- Desislava Tencheva, Interreg-IPA CBC Programmes of Bulgaria with Serbia, North Macedonia and Türkiye

Objective of the session: This session will showcase success stories and good practices in implementing PO5. 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**

*All*

Objective of the session: 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



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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**

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**

*All*

- **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?

Objective 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**

*All*

Objective 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



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experience to become more strategic, more coherent, and better tailored to the specific needs of territories.

12.45 – 13.00

**Wrap up and outlook**

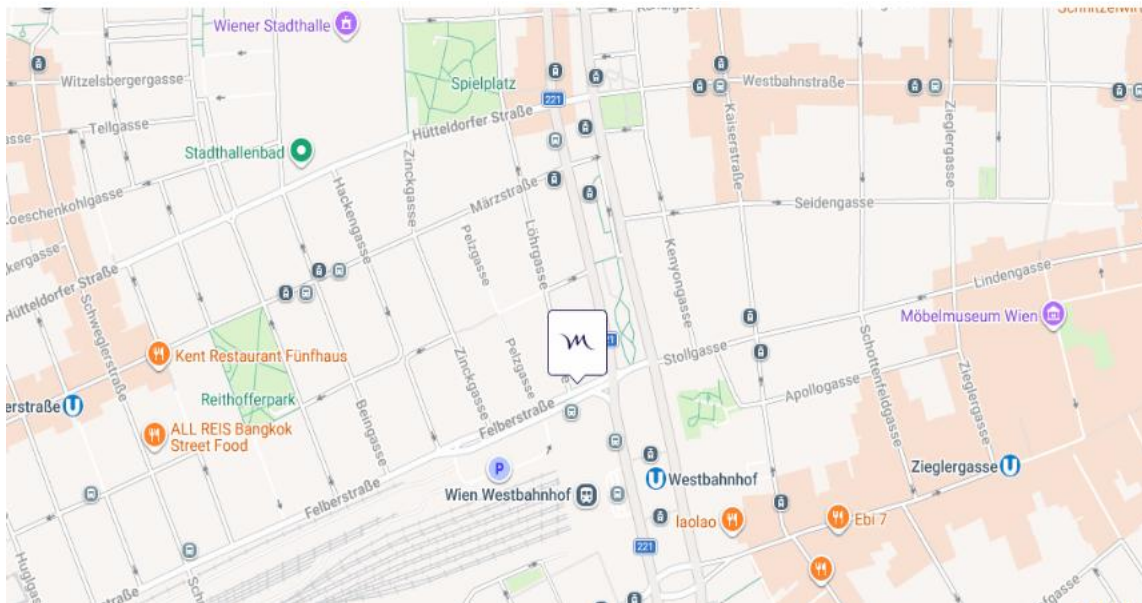
### Practicalities

**Please note: Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements!**

### Venue

**Hotel Mercure Wien Westbahnhof**

[Felberstrasse 4, 1150 Vienna, Austria](#)



### How to reach the venue?

The meeting venue is located 2-3 minutes walking distance from the train and metro station **Westbahnhof**.

### Travel

Travel to and from Vienna: The closest airport is Vienna International Airport. Vienna has direct flight connections with most of the European capitals. For more information please visit: [www.viennaairport.at](http://www.viennaairport.at)

Transfers to and from the airport to the city centre



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- S-Bahn or REX (Suburban rail): Train between the Airport and Station Landstrasse/Wien-Mitte (20-25 minutes); Tickets can be purchased in ticket machines at stations and the ticket costs 5.20 EUR (<https://shop.oebbtickets.at/en/ticket/timetable>).  
From **Landstraße/Wien Mitte**, take the **U3 metro (orange line)** in the direction of **Ottakring** and get off at **Westbahnhof**.
- Railjet trains – direct connection from the Airport to the Vienna main train station (Hauptbahnhof). It takes 15-17 minutes, and the ticket costs 5.20 EUR (<https://shop.oebbtickets.at/en/ticket>).  
From **Hauptbahnhof**, take the **U1 metro (red line)** to **Karlsplatz**, then change to the **U3 (orange line)** in the direction of **Ottakring** and get off at **Westbahnhof**.
- CAT – City Airport Train: Train between the Airport and Station Landstrasse/Wien-Mitte (16 minutes); The ticket costs 14.90 EUR and can be purchased in the ticket machines at the airport or online at [www.cityairporttrain.com](http://www.cityairporttrain.com).
- Airport Bus: Buses to Westbahnhof (45 minutes) or Morzinplatz/Schwedenplatz (30 minutes); Ticket can be purchased on the bus; [www.postbus.at](http://www.postbus.at).
- Taxi (about 35 EUR if pre-ordered): [www.airportdriver.at](http://www.airportdriver.at); [www.ck-airportservice.at](http://www.ck-airportservice.at); and others.

For more details please see: [www.viennaairport.at](http://www.viennaairport.at) and [www.wienerlinien.at](http://www.wienerlinien.at).

### Accommodation

Please note: Interact has not agreed on any special rates. Vienna has a variety of accommodation, to suit all tastes and budgets. The hotels below are only recommendations based on location, comfort and convenience.

[Hotel Mercure Wien Westbahnhof](#) – venue of the event

[Motel One Wien-Westbahnhof](#) – 3 minutes walking distance

### Other information

Should you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact: Besiana Ninka [besiana.ninka@interact.eu](mailto:besiana.ninka@interact.eu)

**We are looking forward to welcoming you in Vienna!**