

Welcome

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

Besiana Ninka, Daniela Minichberger, Stoyan Kanatov | Interact

2-3 July 2026 | Vienna

Interact



**Co-funded by
the European Union**
Interreg

Agenda

Thursday 2 July

01

**Welcome,
introduction &
objectives**

02

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

03

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

04

Lunch break

05

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

Agenda

Friday 3 July

01

Navigating challenges and obstacles

02

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

03

Wrap up and outlook



Why are we here?

Objectives of this event

- Take stock of where we stand with PO5 implementation
- Learn from successful experiences across programmes
- Explore what makes a strong PO5 project
- Exchange on challenges and possible solutions
- Reflect on the future of PO5 beyond 2027

Two days of learning, exchange and strategic reflection

Our collective PO5 journey

2022 – 2023: Foundation and Capacity Building



October 2022 – January 2023: Developing the system

Focused on developing the system, evaluation, and finalizing implementation arrangements.



March – July 2023: Enhancing capacities

Workshops for Bulgaria and Romania focused on project selection and life cycle management.

April – November 2023: Cross-Border Learning

Experience sharing with Greater Region, Bavaria, and study tours to Italy-Austria.



2024 – 2026: Strategic Expansion



December 2023 – 2024: Capacity building and initial reflections

Bulgaria-Türkiye and harvesting events in Riga and Brussels.

Riga

Brussels



2025: Mapping Territoriality

Hosting the “Let’s put territoriality on the map” event in Vienna.



February 2026: Future Strategy

Capacity building session for the Strategy Board Bulgaria – Serbia.



July 2026: Taking stock and looking ahead

What is PO5 about?

Bringing Europe closer to citizens by supporting:

The ambition: create lasting change through integration

Integrated territorial development

Strong stakeholder involvement

Place based solutions

Local ownership

Sustainable territorial transformation



Where do we stand today?

11 Interreg programmes currently implementing PO5:

- CBC POCTEFA (Spain – France – Andorra) (5.2)
- CBC POCTEP (Spain - Portugal) (5.2)
- CBC ALCOTRA (France – Italy) (5.2)
- CBC Grande Région (5.2)
- CBC Italy – Austria (CLLD) (5.2)
- CBC Austria – Bavaria (5.2)
- CBC Romania – Bulgaria (5.2)
- IPA CBC Bulgaria – Türkiye (5.2)
- IPA CBC Bulgaria – North Macedonia (5.2)
- IPA CBC Bulgaria – Serbia (5.2)
- OMR Interreg Caraïbes (5.1)



Learning from examples: Success stories and good practices

Our panellists:

Lisa Stauer,
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 RS,
MK, TR

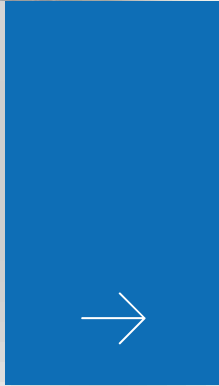
Our questions:

- **What** is your success story?
- **Why** is it considered successful?
- **How** was it implemented in practice?

Lunch Break



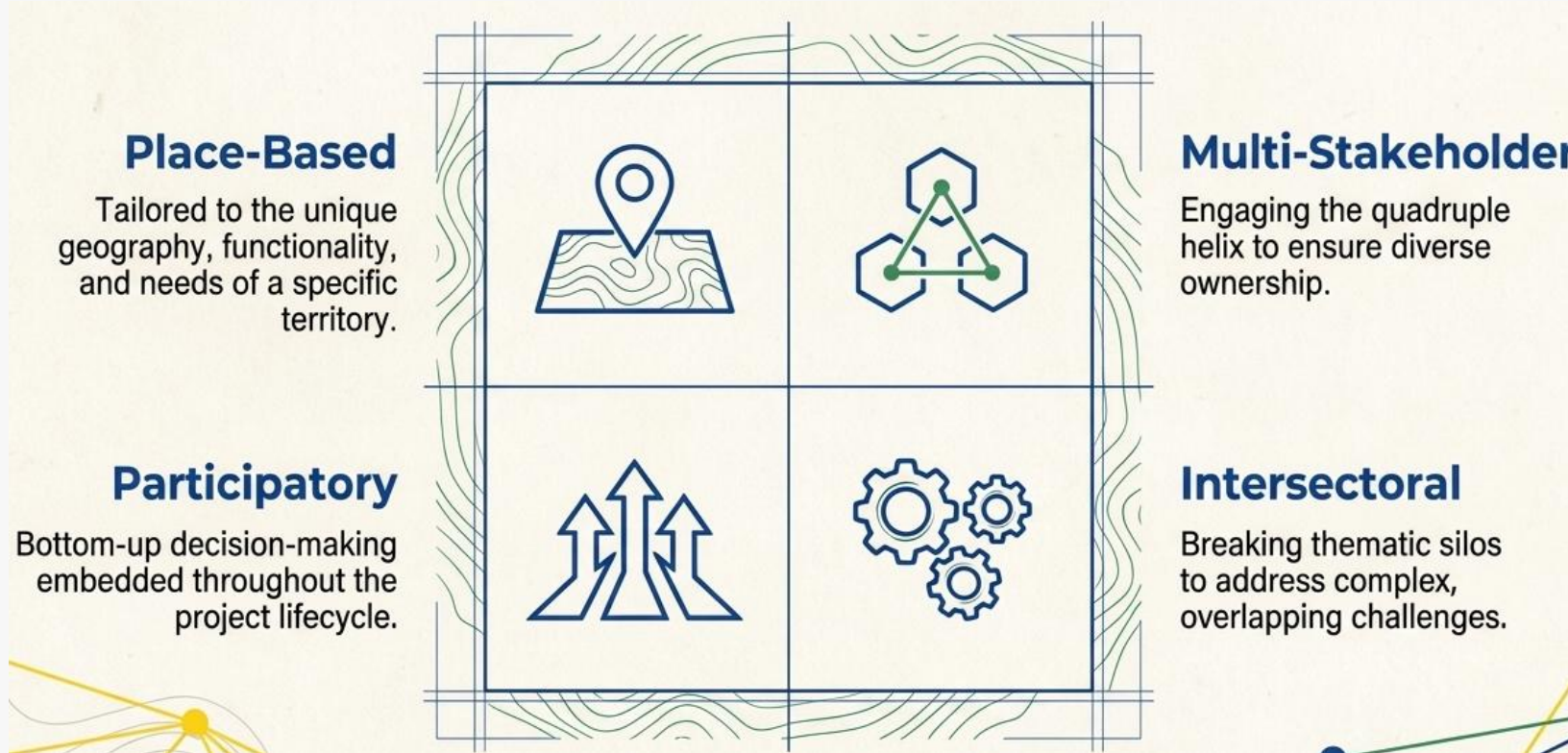
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What makes a strong PO5 project?

The integrated approach in practice

The characteristics of a PO5 project



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Defining what “strong” looks like

Step 1 - Individual reflection (3-5 minutes):

- For each of the dimensions write **3 to 5 key aspects** on sticky notes.
- One aspect **per sticky note** (short and clear).

Step 2 – Collect & cluster. Group activity (20 minutes)

- Share and discuss your views within the group
- Place the sticky notes on the flipchart
- We will group similar ideas together and identify patterns



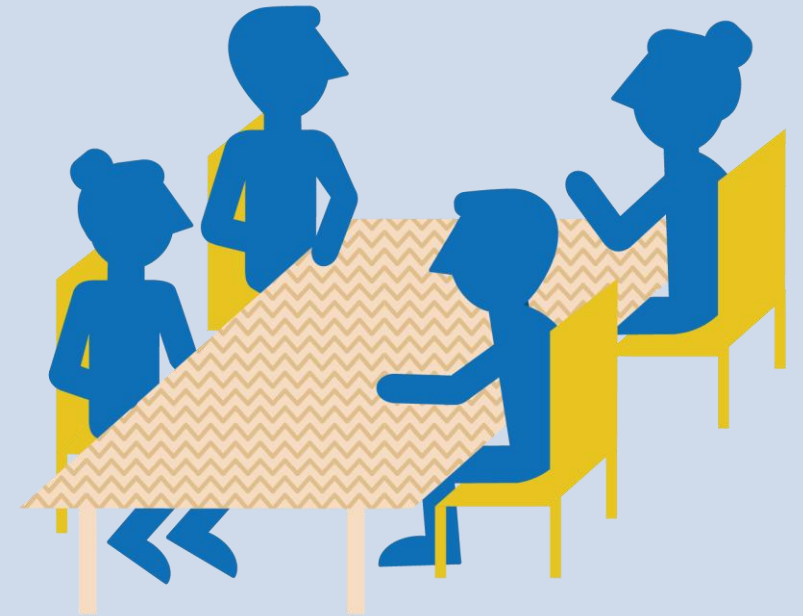
PO5 project assessment lab

Step 3 – As a table, think of projects from your experience. Analyse them using the four PO5 dimensions developed earlier.

Step 4 – Identify strengths and gaps

Reflect critically on your project:

- What is already working well?
- Which elements are particularly strong?
- Where are the main gaps or weaknesses in relation to the four dimensions?



**Thank you very
much for your
active
participation!**



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Wrap up and outlook



Navigating challenges and obstacles



World café – how we will work

First round

Please choose which corner/topic you would like **to start with**

Second round

After the bell rings, please **move to a different topic/corner**

Third round

After the bell rings again, please **move to the last topic/corner**

Final round

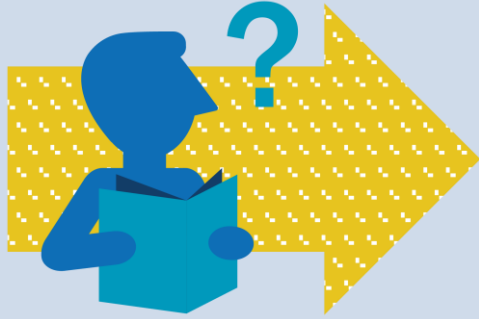
Plenary harvest

Discussion in the corners

**Governance
and strategy
boards**

**Administrative
hurdles**

**Technical
obstacles**



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

Sharing reflections



Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

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Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:
Interact.eu/Library

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Portal.Interact.eu | Programme and Project Management

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Primary knowledge area

Localism and A Europe closer to citizens (PO5)

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