

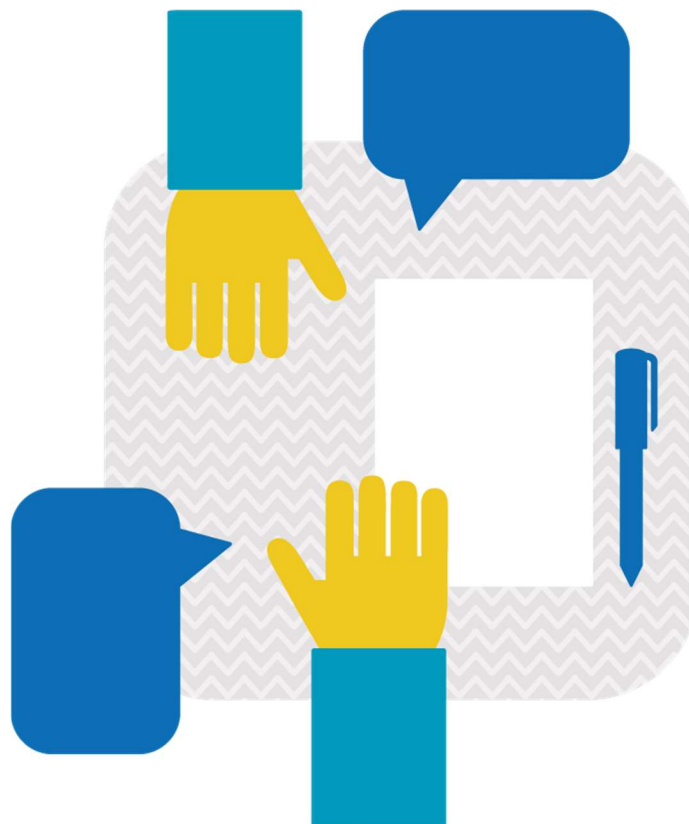
Bridging the periods – keeping the momentum



16-17 September 2026

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Outlines

2021-2027 period is approaching its final stages. Programmes have already committed most of their resources and not that many calls for proposals are still planned. Soon most of the projects will be also finalised. At the same time many programmes have started working on their next iteration in 2028-2034 - yet this process is at a very initial stage. Such situation might create a significant gap between both funding periods, meaning that potential beneficiaries may lose interest in the programme, resulting in a slow start to the next programme. Therefore, it is of utmost importance keeping the momentum between Interreg periods.

This workshop constitutes a spinoff event of the last year's workshop "Maximising programme achievements and spending levels" where practitioners discussed different methods "how to reach mythical 100% of programme achievement". As a result, it was concluded that one of the solutions is to "invest" some of the remaining resources of 2021-2027 in "seed money" projects which could on one hand cover the funding gap between the periods and on the other allow programmes to smoothly start with more projects and of higher quality submitted in the first call. However, "seed money" facility can be regarded only as example of different methods that can be used to keep the interest of the beneficiaries. Therefore, during this workshop we will work towards a joint understanding of the challenges involved with keeping the programmes alive in the eyes of beneficiaries during the "dry" period – and the different methods for keeping this momentum

Objectives

We foresee that the workshop will be based on the contribution of all participants in the form of active participation in discussions and in the form of presentation of programme practices used to bridge the gap between the periods. Interact will mainly facilitate the workshop and lead the discussion to conclusions that can be shared Europe-wide.

Participants are encouraged to indicate in the registration form which practice / experience they would be willing to present to fellow participants. The length of presentations should be max 15 minutes. Once registration is confirmed, Interact staff will contact the participants to discuss the details of their presentations.

For whom is it for?

The event is mainly intended for experienced Interreg programme staff, from Joint Secretariats, Managing Authorities and other programme bodies which are directly involved in programme implementation practices.

To ensure fair representation of participants from all over Europe, and secure the best possible outcome, we will limit the number of participants from each zone (north, south, east, and west) and programme.



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Please note: The event will build on the outcomes of each discussion, thus it is not certain that all points on the agenda will be fully discussed. First, we would need to agree what we are looking for to be able to discuss how we want to achieve it.

Day One	Wednesday, 16 September 2027
08.45 – 09.00	Registration and Welcome Coffee / Tea
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome and introduction <i>Interact</i>
09.30 – 12.30	Session 1: State of play – the current stage of the programme life cycle. a) Update on the state of play concerning programme implementation. b) Summary of the previous workshop c) Importance of taking a strategic approach <i>Objective of the session is to build common understanding of the challenges related to the current stage of the programme life cycle and importance of taking a strategic approach.</i> <i>Coffee break (included in the session)</i>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	Session 2: Understanding challenges, opportunities and consequences related to the funding gap between the programming periods. The session will concentrate on the following issues: a) Why it is crucial to keep interest in the programme among beneficiaries during the “dry” period? b) What are the consequences of not communicating with potential beneficiaries? c) What are the benefits of starting planning those actions now? <i>Objective of the session is to agree on the key characteristics of the “bridge between periods” and to acknowledge the opportunities and challenges connected to the lack of funding between the periods.</i>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break
13.30 – 17.00	Session 3: Solutions - opportunities and limitations of current practices What can be done to keep interest in the programmes during the “dry” period, exchange on current and previous practices, taking into consideration the following elements e.g.:



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	• Capabilities (strengths and weaknesses), • Feasible measures, • How to streamline the process? • Mistakes to avoid. <i>Objectives: To discuss and recognise the most appropriate measures taking into account programme specific contexts - with the main aim to smoothly start the next period.</i>
Day Two	Thursday, 17 September 2026
09.00 – 12.20	Session 4: Solutions – a deeper analysis - Having identified potential solutions on Day 1, the final session of the event will focus on the technical considerations for setting up these solutions in practice.
12:20 – 12:30	Wrap-up and conclusions
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch