

DNSH in future Interreg programmes

Consultation on the future application of the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle under the 2028–2034

August 2026

Background

The European Commission has launched a targeted consultation on the future application of the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle under the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The objective is to prepare, by 1 January 2027, a single and simplified guidance for applying the DNSH principle across EU-funded programmes and activities, where feasible and appropriate. The new approach is expected to replace the current fragmented framework and provide clearer and more predictable rules for the next programming period.

The consultation also includes a dedicated Interreg chapter, recognising the specific context in which European Territorial Cooperation programmes operate.

The European Commission's consultation is based on a Concept Paper, available [HERE](#), and remains open until 16 September 2026.

Given the specific characteristics of European Territorial Cooperation, Interact is facilitating an exchange among Interreg programmes on the concept paper, providing a space to discuss different perspectives and arguments and, where possible, coordinate approaches before programmes submit their feedback.

We are inviting you to contribute to an Interreg community perspective.

Building a joint Interreg perspective

The outcomes of the discussion can help illustrate how DNSH has worked in practice across Interreg programmes and provide relevant evidence and considerations to be shared with the DG REGIO.

Interact is therefore organising the consultation process in three steps.

Step 1 – The online survey | Please submit your feedback by 1 September 2026

The online survey is open until **1 September 2026**, and comprises two distinct parts:

Part I – Feedback on the Concept Paper

This part focuses directly on the individual sections and proposals presented in the European Commission's Concept Paper. We invite programmes to comment on the proposed approach and identify elements that could be improved or adapted to better reflect the specificities of ETC.

Part II – Experience with DNSH implementation (optional)

The second, voluntary part provides an opportunity to share practical experience with applying DNSH during the current programming period.

We consider this experience particularly valuable, especially where it can identify: Practical challenges; impact of administrative burden; successful approaches, and; opportunities for simplification. These will allow us to present **evidence from programme practice** into the consultation, and hopefully improve the proposal for the next period.

You can contribute to the Interact consultation [HERE](#).

Step 2 – Online focus group | 2 September

The collection of practical experience will be complemented by an online focus group on **2 September at 10am CET**.

The focus group will allow us to explore programmes' experiences in greater depth, discuss common challenges and identify concrete examples that can support the proposed changes.

Combining the questionnaire with the focus group will help us collect an evidence-based cases for an approach to DNSH that is proportionate and better adapted to the specific characteristics of Interreg.

Step 3 – Public hearing and consultation | 8 September

On **8 September at 10am CET**, we invite the Interreg community to an online discussion.

Interact will present the preliminary results of the questionnaire and focus group and discuss the emerging recommendations with programmes. The meeting will provide an opportunity to validate and align the ETC position paper before its finalisation.

Interact will also share the position directly with the European Commission unit responsible for Interreg programmes.

Your experience matters

The development of new DNSH guidance for the 2028–2034 period provides an important opportunity to learn from the current programming period and contribute to a framework that is clearer, simpler, and better suited to the realities of European Territorial Cooperation.

We therefore strongly encourage Interreg programmes to contribute their views and, wherever possible, share your experience with DNSH implementation.

Join the Interact consultation [HERE](#).

For any questions regarding the consultation process, please contact:

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