

Promoting Sustainable Prosperity: Interreg for an Ever Greener Europe (Post-27)



3-4 November 2026

Meeting of the Greener Europe Policy Network

Guimarães, European Green Capital 2026
Portugal





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Interreg for an Ever Greener Europe**
3-4 November 2026
Guimarães | Portugal

Event description

This meeting will bring together Interreg programmes working across the current Policy Objective 2 themes to explore the future role of Interreg in supporting a greener and more prosperous Europe.

Building on programmes' and projects' experience from the 2021-2027 period, participants will discuss how the proposed post-2027 priority framework can support the development, implementation and wider uptake of green solutions through its more transversal thematic objectives.

Through open exchanges with Interreg programmes, projects and European Commission representatives, informed by the harvesting exercise and regulatory developments to date, the meeting will examine what has worked and what is currently working under the present framework, where implementation challenges remain, and what conditions will be needed to turn the new priorities into effective cooperation projects with tangible territorial and policy impact.

Hosting the meeting in Guimarães, European Green Capital 2026, will provide an especially relevant setting for these discussions. An extended project visit will offer a practical perspective on how cooperation and local action translate green ambitions into solutions on the ground.

Main objectives

- Take stock of current experience in designing and delivering projects across the Greener Europe specific objectives.
- Explore the opportunities and implications of the proposed post-2027 Interreg priority framework within “sustainable prosperity”.
- Identify practical conditions, approaches and lessons that can strengthen the implementation, transfer and impact of future green solutions.



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Guimarães | Portugal

Day One

2021-2027 so far, taking stock of current implementation

09:00 - 09:15

Welcome and introduction

09:15 - 10:15

State of play: delivering a Greener Europe by Interreg

Interact & European Commission

- Overview of current programme and project implementation
- Main findings from and since the harvesting exercise
- Emerging achievements, trends and implementation issues

Objective: Review the current implementation of the Greener Europe specific objectives across Interreg.

10:15 - 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 - 12:15

What is working, and what remains difficult?

Interact – contributions by programmes

- Types of projects and solutions delivering meaningful results
- Implementation challenges encountered by programmes and projects
- What factors support or limit cooperation, transfer and territorial impact?

Objective: Take stock of programmes' practical experience in designing, selecting and implementing green cooperation projects.

12:15 - 13:00

Lessons from the current framework

Interact – contributions by programmes

- What should be retained from the current approach?
- Where has the current framework created limitations or gaps?
- What would programmes and projects need to work more effectively?

Objective: Identify the main lessons that should inform the design and implementation of the next programming period.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 14:30

Looking ahead: introducing sustainable prosperity

Interact & European Commission

- Initial overview of the new proposed framework for Interreg
- Position of "green cooperation" within sustainable prosperity
- Key questions to consider during the project visit and Day 2 discussions

Objective: Connect the lessons from the current period with the proposed post-2027 priority framework.



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Day One

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14:30 - 18:30

Project visit: green cooperation in practice

Objective: Explore how Interreg cooperation translates green ambitions into practical solutions and territorial impact.

Evening

Informal networking dinner TBC

Day Two

Preparing green territorial cooperation for post-2027

09:00 - 09:15

Introduction to Day 2

09:15 - 10:15

Green cooperation within sustainable prosperity

European Commission

- Presentation of the latest regulatory proposal
- Main changes compared with the current Greener Europe framework
- Questions and initial reactions from programmes

Objective: Explore the opportunities and implications of the proposed post-2027 framework.

10:15 - 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 - 12:00

Making transversal objectives work in practice

All

- Maintaining sufficient thematic focus within broader priorities
- Connecting climate, environmental, economic and social dimensions
- Defining clear territorial challenges and expected results
- Building cross-sectoral and multilevel partnerships
- Supporting integrated solutions without increasing unnecessary complexity

Objective: Discuss how broader and more transversal thematic objectives can be translated into focused and effective cooperation projects.

12:00 - 13:00

Design clinic: from framework to implementation

All

- How should green challenges be reflected in programme strategies and intervention logic?
- How can calls encourage integrated, innovative and transferable solutions?
- What should future project selection and assessment prioritise?
- What support will projects need during implementation?
- How can programmes strengthen transfer, scaling-up, investment and policy uptake?



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Day Two

Preparing green territorial cooperation for post-2027

13:00 - 13:30

Conclusions and messages for the future

- What should be preserved, adapted or changed?
- What can programmes already begin preparing?
- What follow-up is needed through the Greener Europe Policy Network?

Objective: Agree on the main recommendations emerging from the meeting.

13:30

Closing lunch

Practicalities

Location

Guimarães, Portugal. The meeting is planned in the context of Guimarães' year as European Green Capital 2026, offering a highly relevant setting for discussion and exchange on future green cooperation.

Venue and project visit

The exact meeting venue and project visit site will be confirmed. The visit will be designed with local partners to showcase practical green solutions, implementation experience and territorial impact.

Travel and accommodation

Guimarães is located in northern Portugal, approximately 50 km from Porto. The most convenient airport is **Porto – Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport (OPO)**, which offers a wide range of European connections. From the airport, Guimarães can be reached in approximately **40-50 minutes by road**, with direct coach/transfer services available. Alternatively, participants can travel via Porto city centre and take a train to Guimarães, with the rail journey taking around **one hour**.

Further practical information on local transport and recommended connections will be shared closer to the event.

Accommodation recommendations will be shared once the venue is confirmed.