

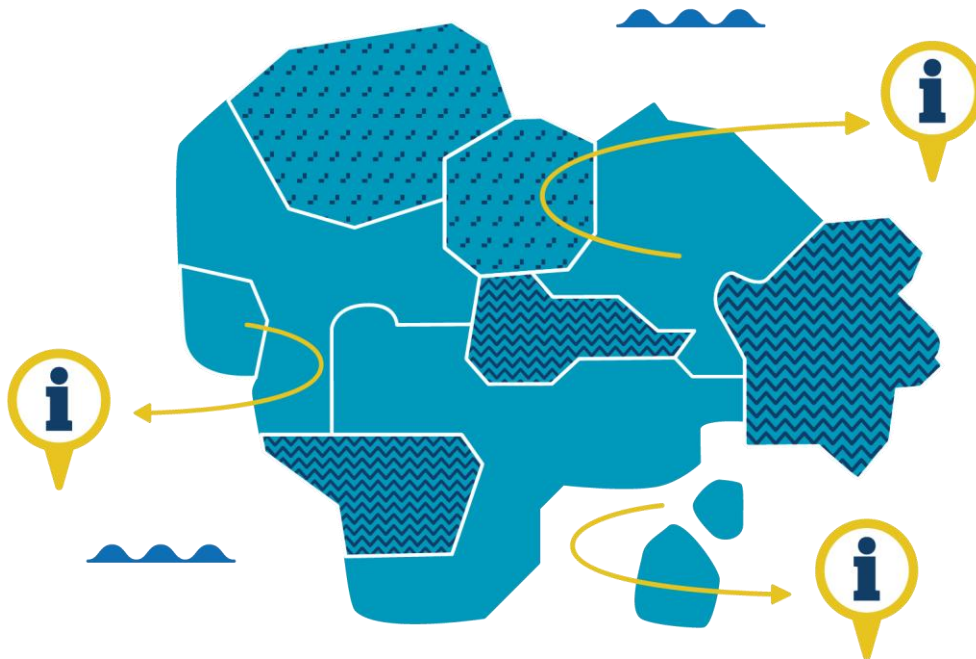
7th Contact Point (NCP) network meeting

Final agenda



9-10 September 2026

The Marmorosch Bucharest, Autograph Collection
Strada Doamnei 2
Bucharest | Romania





7th Contact Point (NCP) network meeting
9-10 September 2026
Bucharest | Romania

Outline and objectives

We are pleased to invite you to the 7th NCP Network Meeting, bringing together National Contact Points from across Interreg programmes for two days of exchange, reflection, and forward-looking discussion on programme implementation, results, and the future of cooperation.

At a key moment in the programming cycle, as programmes continue to advance in implementation and move towards closure and capitalisation, the meeting offers a valuable opportunity to come together, take stock of progress, discuss common challenges, and share practical solutions from across Interreg programmes. It also provides a chance to reflect on how Interreg results can be better used, transferred, and further developed beyond project lifetime.

Over 1.5 days, we will address key stages of the implementation cycle, including project closure and finalisation, capitalisation of results, and ways to further strengthen the uptake and visibility of Interreg achievements.

The meeting will also showcase emerging developments such as the Interreg Governance Facility (InterregGov), which supports Interreg cross-border cooperation (CBC) programmes in implementing ISO1, as well as the important role of macro-regional strategies (MRS) in scaling up and transferring project results across territories and policy levels.

We will also explore forward-looking themes that are increasingly relevant for the Interreg community, including the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in programme and project management, as well as early reflections on the post-2027 perspective and what it may mean for cooperation, governance, and the evolving role of NCPs.

Built as a peer exchange format, the meeting relies on the active contribution of participants. We warmly encourage NCPs to bring in their experiences, challenges, and practical examples from daily programme work, ensuring a rich, hands-on discussion rooted in real implementation practice.

This is an opportunity to connect, learn from peers, and turn shared experience into stronger Interreg delivery and better results across programmes.

Target group

National Contact Points (NCPs) of Interreg programmes and representatives of programme bodies (MA, JS, NA) working directly with NCPs on implementation, coordination and stakeholder support.



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Day One

Wednesday, 9 September 2026

09.00 – 09.30

Registration

Meet your fellow NCPs from across Europe

09.30 – 09.45

Welcome and purpose of the network meeting

Interact

09.45 – 10.15

Beyond the badge: who is in the room?

All the participants

Objectives of the session: This session is about getting to know who is in the room and connecting the different backgrounds, roles, and experiences present across the network. It helps set the basis for collaboration and shared understanding

10.15 – 11.00

State of play across the network

Interact and all the participants

Objectives of the session: This session aims to take a quick, structured snapshot of where Interreg programmes stand in implementation at this stage of the programming period. It will help identify common priorities, shared challenges, and emerging trends across National Contact Points.

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee/Tea break

11.30 – 12.30

Preparing for project closure: Experiences and approaches

Interact and all the participants

Programme approach - Helene Schabasser, Interreg North-West Europe

Objectives of the session: To reflect on the role of National Contact Points in supporting beneficiaries through project closure, sharing practical experiences, challenges, and solutions related to finalisation, communication of achievements, sustainability of results, and future cooperation opportunities.

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch break

13.30 – 15.15

National Contact Points as facilitators of capitalisation and uptake of Interreg results

Interact and all the participants



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Objective of the session:

- Help National Contact Points recognise their potential role in supporting capitalisation and uptake of Interreg results.
- Move beyond a focus on “promotion and communication only” towards a more strategic role in the project lifecycle.
- Clarify where NCPs can add value in supporting capitalisation processes across programmes.
- Showcase practical examples and emerging practices from programmes and NCP work.
- Explore how NCPs can better connect projects with national ecosystems, including relevant policies, stakeholders, and funding instruments.

15.15 – 15.40

Coffee/Tea break

15.40 – 16.50

Territorial cooperation in practice: Insights from the Interreg Governance Facility (InterregGov) and the Danube Strategy Point

Presentation and Q&A

Alicia Richert, InterregGov

Cristina Cuc, Danube Strategy Point

Objectives of the session: Provide a practical exchange with the Interreg Governance Facility (InterregGov) and the Danube Strategy Point on how territorial cooperation initiatives and macro-regional governance structures operate in practice, and to explore how they contribute to territorial development and stronger coordination between strategies, programmes, projects, and stakeholders.

16.50 – 17.00

Wrap-up and closure of Day 1

19.00

Social activity to be agreed on the day – Participants are responsible for covering their own expense!

Day Two

Thursday, 10 September 2026

09.00 – 09.15

Recap of the first day and introduction to the second day

09.15 – 10.15

AI-assisted analysis: From programme topics to key outputs

Interact and all the participants



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Objective of the session: This session offers a practical look at how AI can support structured analysis: from scoping a question and gathering relevant inputs, to identifying patterns, synthesising findings, and producing outputs that are useful for decision-making and learning.

Participants will explore real examples drawn from Interreg programme management contexts and leave with a clearer sense of where AI adds genuine value - and where human judgement remains essential.

10.15 – 10.40

Coffee/Tea break

10.40 – 11.40

Interreg beyond 2027: What comes next?

Interact and all the participants

Objectives of the session: This session will provide a forward-looking exchange on the post-2027 Interreg framework as it is being finalised, focusing on its main novelties and the shift towards a more performance-based approach.

11.40 – 12.20

The evolving role and responsibilities of National Contact Points

Interact and all the participants

Objectives of the session: This session will explore how the role of National Contact Points may evolve in the context of the post-2027 Interreg framework, focusing on their future responsibilities in supporting programmes, beneficiaries, and stakeholders throughout implementation. It will also look at how the partnership principle continues to guide the way programmes are implemented and how different actors work together, and what this means in practice for NCPs in supporting cooperation between programmes, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders.

12.20 – 12.40

AOB

Interact and all the participants

Objectives of the session: Discussion of other topics highlighted during the registration.

12.40 – 13.00

Wrap up, key takeaways and next steps for the NCP network



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Practicalities

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

Venue

The Marmorosch Bucharest, Autograph Collection

Address: Doamnei Str. 2, Bucharest, Romania, 030053

Tel: +40 371-533-100

Website: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/buhak-the-marmorosch-bucharest-autograph-collection/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

Toll Free: +40-311-1091010



Travel

Located in the heart of Bucharest's Old Town, the hotel is easily accessible from both the airport and main transport hubs.

By plane

From Henri Coandă International Airport (OTP)

Distance: approx. 17–18 km

Travel time: 30–50 minutes depending on traffic



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- **Taxi service**

There are many **official licensed taxi companies**, and their cars are yellow with the name of the company on the hood. Fares and rates are calculated per km. Available directly outside arrivals. Official taxis are metered.

- **Public transport**

Bucharest airport shuttle

STB (Bucharest's public transport company) operates **the only airport shuttle bus** from Otopeni Airport to Bucharest city centre (final stop in Piata Unirii) number **100**. To check the route and timetable, you can use the Info TB mobile app or visit <https://www.stb.ro/linie?100>. Due to ongoing infrastructure works at the airport, the shuttle bus currently departs from the Departures area.

Step-by-step guide: from arrivals to the departure's bus station

- **Starting Point (Arrivals):** After collecting your luggage and exiting into the public Arrivals Hall (Ground Floor), do not go outside the building.
- **Direction:** Turn right and look for the overhead illuminated signs reading "Plecări / Departures".
- **Indoor Pathway:** Follow the yellow signs on the floor indoor commercial corridor/gallery that connects the two terminals. The walk is about 200–300 meters long.
- **Change Levels:** Once you reach the end of the corridor at the Departures terminal, head up to the 1st Floor (the Check-in area) using the escalators or elevators.
- **Exiting to the Bus:** From the Departures terminal (1st Floor), exit through the main glass doors onto the outdoor pavement. The Bus 100 stop is located directly in front of the terminal.



The bus runs **every 15 minutes** on weekdays (Monday–Friday) between **06:00 and 23:00**, and **every 30 minutes** between **23:00 and 06:00**, as well as on weekends and public holidays.

Tickets can be purchased **on board the bus** by contactless payment using a credit or debit card at the ticket machine. A one-way ticket costs **3 lei (approximately €0.57)**.

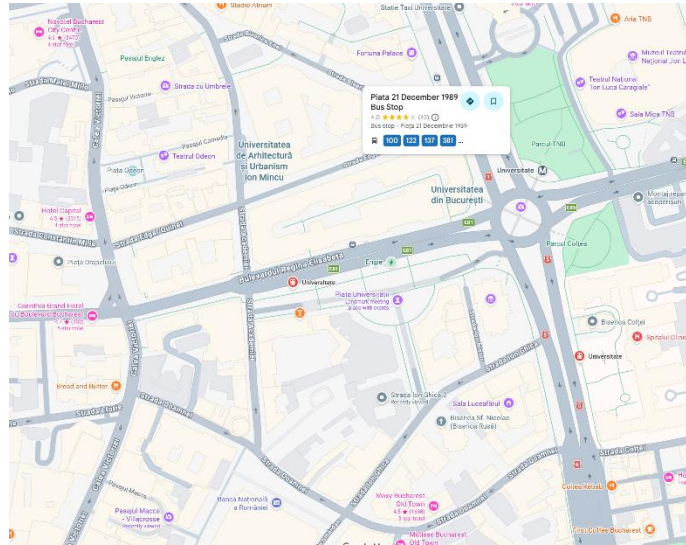
The route passes close to several major Bucharest hotels, metro stations and the Old Town. If you are staying near the meeting venue, you should get off at **Universitate Square**, at the **Piața 21 Decembrie 1989** bus stop.



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Walk or short taxi ride

5–10 minutes by taxi

~10–15 minutes on foot depending on drop-off point

Train from the Airport to Bucharest North Train Station

There is a direct train connecting Bucharest Otopeni Airport with Bucharest Gara de Nord (main train station) with no other stops along the way. The airport train station is located outside the terminal building on a suspended platform with a green cover. Once you get out of the airport from the arrivals hall you'll see it.

The train runs every 40 min from these stations. You can check the schedule [here](#). The ride takes 25 min and the ticket costs 5.5 Lei (just over 1 Euro).

Train tickets can be bought when on the platform, in Gara de Nord from an automatic ticket machine or online [here](#) or directly on the train.

While the ride to the city is fast, Gara de Nord is relatively far from the city center or the Old Town area. However, the train station has a metro station of its own and plenty of reliable taxi cabs waiting outside.

By train

The main train station in Bucharest is Gara de Nord (translated simply as North Train Station). This is where all national and international trains arrive and depart.

From Gara de Nord to Bucharest city centre. When arriving in the train station look for signs leading to the 'authorised taxis' station which is down the very long, wide and tall corridor as you arrive.



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Travel tips

Cards widely accepted (transport, taxis, shops)

Traffic in Bucharest can be heavy during peak hours (08:00–10:00 / 16:30–19:00)

Avoid unsolicited taxi offers inside the terminal

Google Maps works well for all public transport navigation

Currency: Romanian Leu (RON). Exchange rate 1 EUR ≈ 5.10–5.25 RON

Cash machines at the arrival area at the airport

Always use official taxis or reputable apps to avoid unregulated offers.

Other information

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

We are looking forward to meeting you in Bucharest!