

Welcome to the

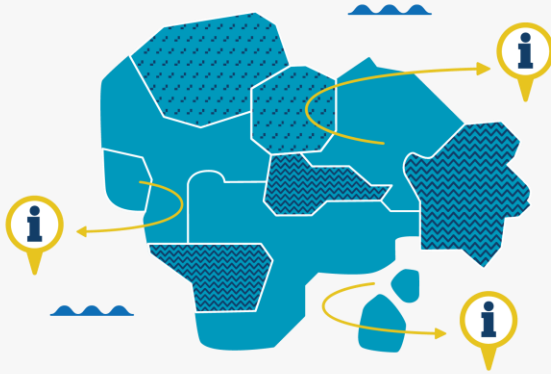
7th Contact Point (NCP) network meeting

Besiana Ninka | Interact | 09.09.2026

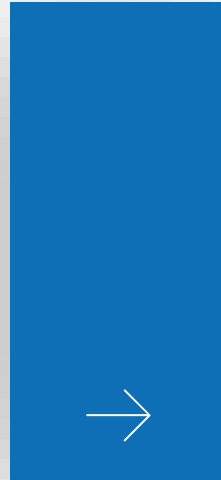
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Aim of the meeting



- ✓ Take stock
- ✓ Exchange practical experience
- ✓ Strengthen the focus on results
- ✓ Showcase emerging approaches and initiatives
- ✓ Look ahead to post-2027
- ✓ Strengthen the network

Our way of working together

- Contribute actively – share your questions, insights and experiences.
- Engage in open and informal exchange – this is a space to learn from one another.
- Respect diverse perspectives – there is no single right or wrong approach.
- Be curious, constructive, and patient with colleagues.
- Value all contributions – every input adds to the quality of our discussion.



Agenda

9 September

01

**State of play
across the
network**

02

**Preparing for
project
closure:
Experiences
and
approaches**

Group work

03

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

Group work

04

**Territorial
cooperation in
practice:
Insights from
the
InterregGov
and the
Danube
Strategy Point**

05

**Social
activity?**

Agenda

10 September

01

**AI-assisted
analysis:
From
programme
topics to key
outputs**

02

**Interreg
beyond 2027:
What comes
next?**

03

**The evolving
role and
responsibilities
of National
Contact Points**

04

AOB

05

**Future plans
of the
network**

Who is with us today

13 Interreg Programmes
15 Countries

6 CBC

5 TN

4 IPA

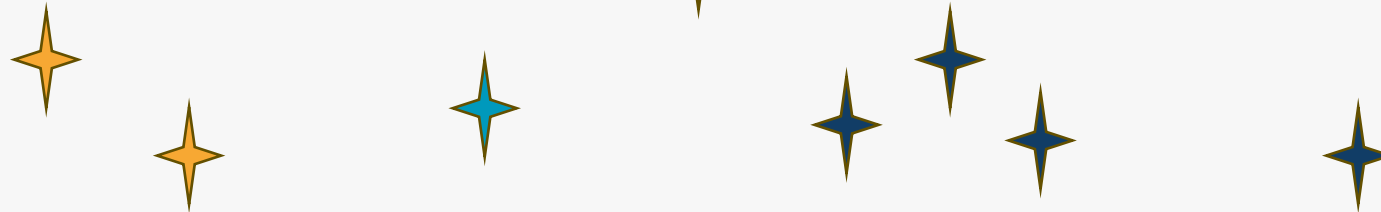
1 NEXT

2 IR

Beyond the badge: the NCP constellation

NEW TO INTERREG

LONG INTERREG JOURNEY



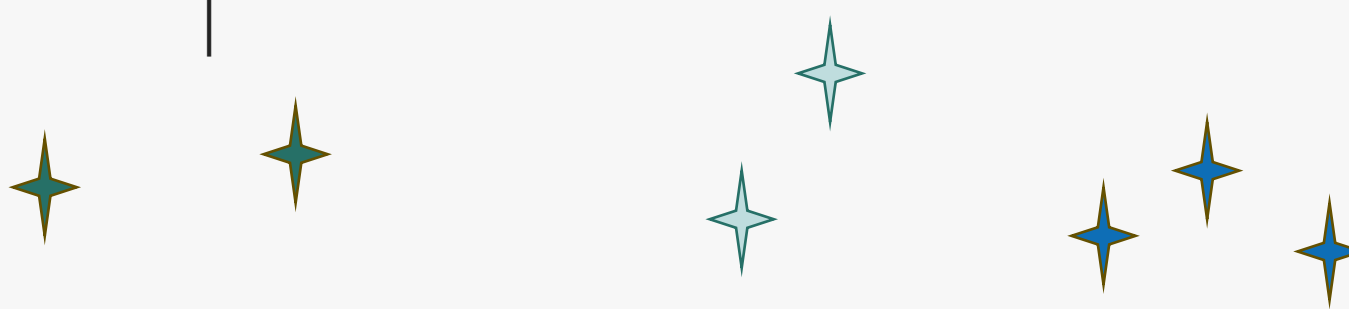
← Find your place in the constellation →

Then connect with someone standing far from you

Beyond the badge: the NCP constellation

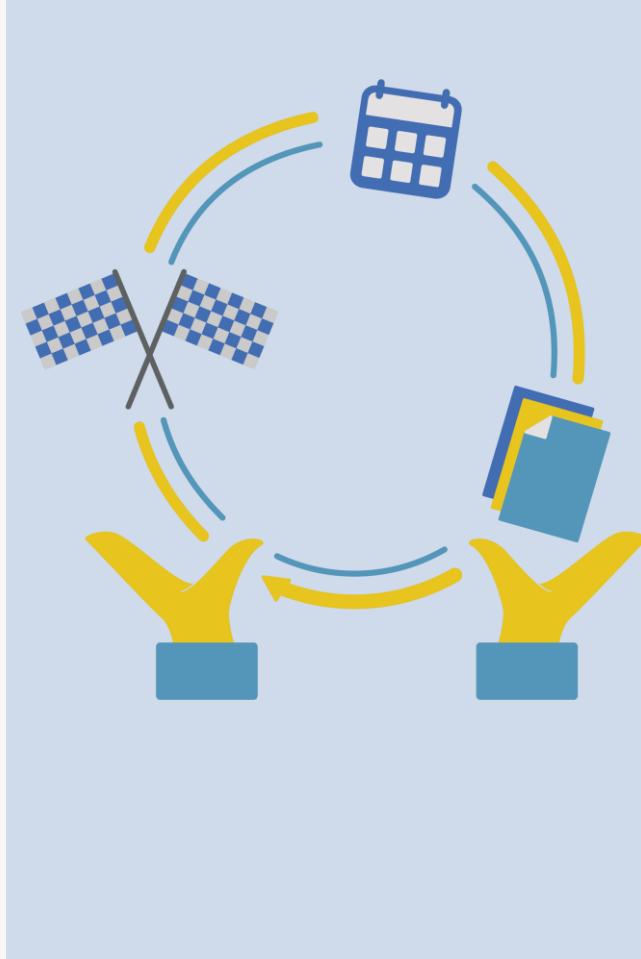
MORE STRATEGIC/COORDINATION

MORE OPERATIONAL/PROJECT FOCUSED



← Find your place in the constellation →

Then connect with someone standing far from you



State of play: Where does the NCP network stand?

- ☐ Where are we now?
- ☐ What is keeping you busy?
- ☐ What is becoming important for the months ahead?

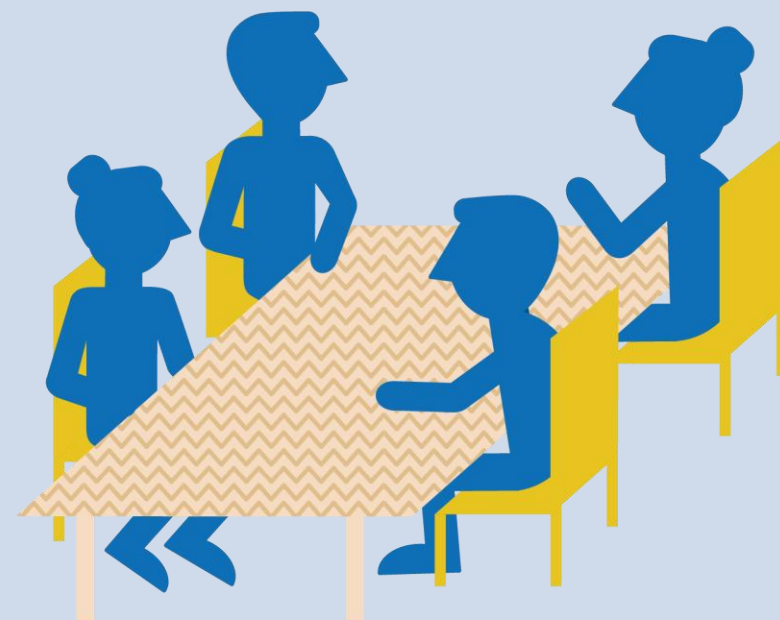


Where are we now?

Step 1 - Individual reflection (2- 3 minutes):

Complete the following short statements (one a separate sticky note; add the programme(s) and/or your country)

- **My programme is currently...**
(one phrase)
- **My NCP role is currently...**
(one phrase)
- **The biggest shift I notice compared to last year is...**
(one phrase)



What the network said:

My programme is currently focused on...

- **Implementation:** programmes are simultaneously launching final calls, contracting projects, onboarding beneficiaries and implementing projects.
- **Closure and capitalisation:** first-call projects and strategic projects are entering closure, with programmes increasingly looking at how to use and transfer results.
- **Future programming, already on the agenda:** several programmes have started preparations for **2028–2034**, including assessing territorial needs, future priorities and possible simplifications.
- **Multiple priorities which are running in parallel:** programmes are balancing delivery and closure of the current period with preparations for the next one and wider European developments, including enlargement and the next MFF.

The feedback reflects a diverse implementation landscape across the Interreg community. While some programmes are still focused on launching calls, contracting projects and onboarding (new) beneficiaries, others are moving towards project closure, capitalisation and the uptake of the results.

At the same time, preparations for the 2028–2034 programming period are already underway in several programmes, running in parallel with the delivery of the current period.

What the network said:

My NCP role is currently...

1. Focus on capitalisation and results

- **Promoting and showcasing results:** A significant part of current NCP work focuses on project capitalisation, promoting tangible results and organising events to showcase achievements and outputs.
- **Supporting capitalisation calls:** NCPs are supporting project partners in responding to capitalisation calls and identifying, capturing and communicating project results.
- **Project closure and continued support:** Responsibilities include supporting ongoing activities while also contributing to project closure processes.

2. Different roles across the project lifecycle

- **Implementation support:** NCPs are involved at different stages of the project lifecycle, from consultation and proposal assessment to implementation and communication support.
- **Supporting quality:** Their work includes helping programmes and project partners address implementation needs and improve the quality of project delivery.
- **Partner guidance and evaluation:** NCP responsibilities can include implementation workshops and guidance for project partners, as well as project proposal assessment.

What the network said:

3. Strategic programming and future preparation

- **Interreg post 2027 and the next MFF:** Some NCPs are involved in national preparations for Interreg post 2027 and discussions around the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- **Macro-regional and wider cooperation:** Areas of strategic focus include supporting EU enlargement, cooperation across Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS) and cooperation across programmes.

4. Dedicated functions and operational challenges

- **Specialised functions:** NCP roles vary from broad programme coordination to more specialised functions, such as communication and outreach.
- **Administrative capacity:** Some NCPs report a significant administrative workload, which can limit the capacity available for direct project support and other activities.
- **Programme complexity:** NCPs are also dealing with the practical complexities of programme delivery, including assessing calls, managing different programme requirements and addressing situations involving overlapping or multiple project partnerships.

What the network said:

The biggest shift compared to last year...

1. Future programming

- Managing **current implementation alongside 2028–2034 preparations**.
- Navigating **the knowns and unknowns** of the next programming period.

2. Calls, funding & Capitalisation

- Moving from preparation into active call implementation.
- Increasing focus on capitalisation where funding for new calls is exhausted.

3. Partner Support

- **Fewer operational questions** from project partners.
- More **tailored support** to respond to programme and partner needs.

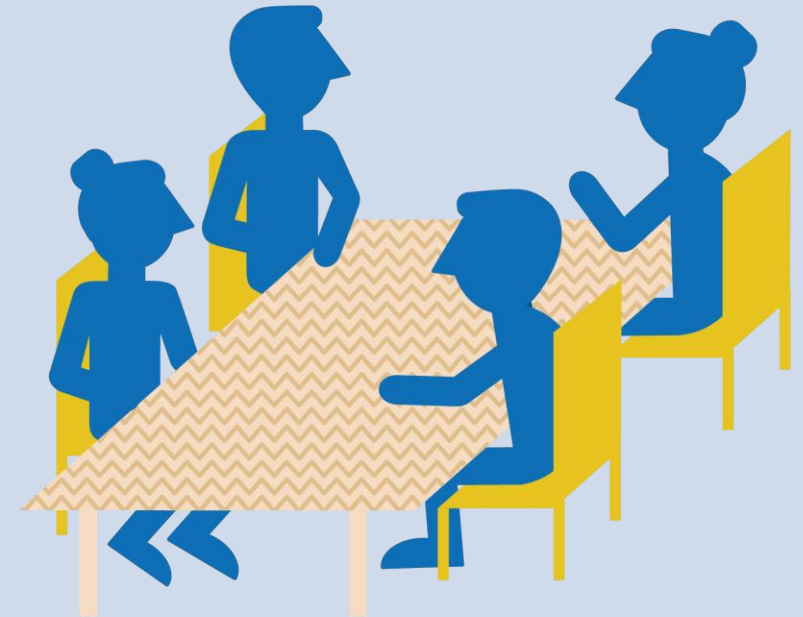
What is keeping you busy?

Step 2 - Individual reflection (3-5 minutes):

- Write **3 to 5 key activities** on sticky notes.

Think about:

- What is taking up most of my attention?
- What keeps coming back?
- What would I like to give more attention to?



What the network said:

What takes up most attention (current workload)

- **Administrative & financial tasks:** General administration, financial management, technical assistance (TA) funds, certifications, and handling audit or control inquiries.
- **Project monitoring & closure:** Reviewing progress reports, conducting site visits, tracking procurement, and managing project closures and consultations.
- **Governance & Monitoring Committee duties:** Handling MC and NCP tasks, as well as managing the operational overlap between two programming periods.
- **Call preparation & future planning:** Preparing for upcoming calls, supporting ongoing project activities, and planning for the post 2028 period.
- **Stakeholder communication:** Disseminating project milestones and results, keeping stakeholders interested in the programme, and organizing thematic or capitalisation events.

What the network said:

What keeps coming back (recurrent challenges)

- **Public procurement related issues:** Recurring procurement mistakes, delays, and compliance issues ("the ghost of public procurement").
- **Beneficiary capacity & support needs:** Ongoing demands for beneficiary guidance, capacity building, and fixing reporting errors.
- **Uncertainties around policy changes:** Frequent questions from organizations about upcoming changes for the 2028–2034 programming period.
- **Resource constraints:** Implementation delays and a lack of funding allocated for in-person networking and events.

What the network said:

What deserves more attention (desired priorities)

- **Direct project & beneficiary engagement:** Dedicating more focus to core projects, helping beneficiaries build ownership, and supporting their implementation process.
- **Programme promotion and preparation:** Finding more attractive ways to promote the programme, enhancing visibility, and creating room to discuss the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- **Rule harmonization & Capitalisation:** Harmonizing national rules to reduce implementation uncertainty and integrating capitalisation insights across programmes.
- **Networking & personal development:** Making time for site visits, networking meetings, direct partner engagement, and personal development goals.

What is becoming important?

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

What do you think will require more attention from NCPs over the coming 12 months?

- Write **3 to 5 ideas** on sticky notes (one idea per sticky note).



What the network said:

What is in the horizon...

Key themes and strategic priorities

- **Capitalisation and results uptake:** Strengthening the focus on results, transfer and uptake throughout the project lifecycle, including better integration into applications and more active support to beneficiaries.
- **Preparing for 2028–2034:** Contributing to the programming process, identifying practical simplifications and ensuring that beneficiary and stakeholder feedback feeds into future programme design.
- **Managing closure and transition:** Supporting the closure of 2021–2027 projects and programmes while preparing for the launch of the next generation of calls and completing evaluation and governance processes.
- **Strengthening the Interreg community:** Reaching new potential beneficiaries, strengthening national networks and maintaining engagement during the transition between funding periods, including by developing new project ideas and responding to emerging needs.

The priorities point to a period of **transition and consolidation**, with a strong focus on making better use of current results while preparing programmes, partners and stakeholders for the next programming period.

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

Interact.eu/Library/ 7th NCP Network Meeting

Want to discuss it? Join our MS Teams environment!

Portal.Interact.eu | National Contact Points Network

Interact



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Disclaimer

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Author(s)

Interact Programme

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Programme management and communication

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