

NCP Network Meeting | Bucharest

AI assisted analysis

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Interact



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Let's start with breaking the ice

The question you could not answer.

Think of a real situation. A ministry official, a politician, or a journalist asked you a question about your programme's projects or results - and you had to say 'I'll get back to you.' What was that question?

30 seconds to think and then write them down as they come in.



Source: MidJourney AI



One idea

AI reads fast and finds patterns. You know what the patterns mean. The bottleneck in NCP work has never been lack of data - programme websites, MC summaries, Keep.eu are all public and free. The bottleneck is time to read, structure, and interpret.

3 demos. 2 real programmes. 0 coding. 45 minutes.

Beneficiary geography

Projects distribution

The question

Which regions lead - and which are always junior partners?

Every NCP has been asked by a national ministry: "Is our country getting a fair share?" This sounds political and answering this question needs a lot of preparation.

Data source:

- Keep.eu export for Danube Region and Black Sea Basin.
- The data is public and no login is required.
- Filter by programme, download the project list.

Step 1. Get the data from Keep.eu

1. Go to keep.eu
2. Click "Projects and Documents" search.
3. Filter: "Projects from specific programme"
4. Select Interreg Danube Region Programme 2021-2027. The list shows all approved projects with lead partner country visible.
5. Copy or export the project list.
6. Repeat for Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027.

This data is public. Any NCP in this room can do this today.

Step 2. The Prompt to Claude AI

I am giving you a list of Interreg programme projects. Each has a lead partner country and partner countries. (Upload the file from Keep.EU)

Do the following:

1. Count how many times each country appears as lead partner, sorted highest to lowest.
2. Count how many times each country appears as any partner.
3. Identify countries that appear frequently as partners but rarely or never as leads.
4. Write three sentences summarising what a national ministry should know about their country's participation pattern.

AI output: Danube

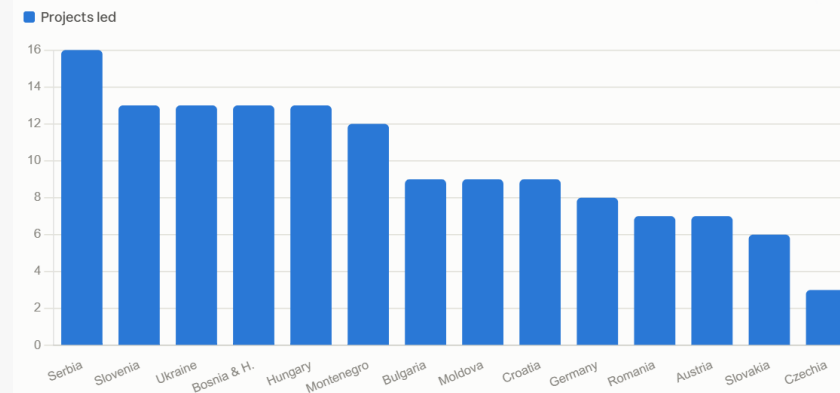
1. Lead partner frequency - Serbia leads the most (16), followed by a cluster of Slovenia, Ukraine, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary, Montenegro. Romania, despite being active, leads only 7 times.

2. Total appearances - Serbia and Hungary are each in 98 projects, Romania in 95, Slovenia in 92. These four are the backbone of the programme's partnership network, followed by Ukraine (33) or Moldova (33).

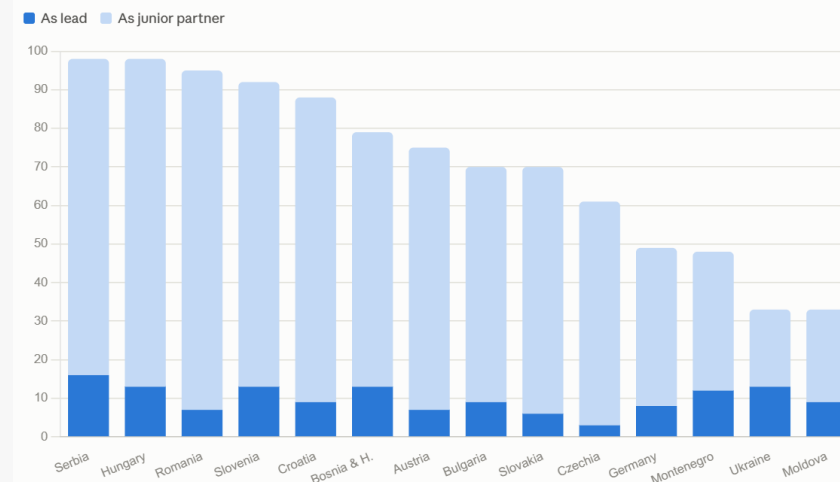
3. Rarely leads despite frequent presence:

- **Czechia** (61 projects, 3 leads, 5% lead rate) is the most extreme case in the programme by this measure.
- **Romania** (95 projects, 7 leads, 7%) is the second most-partnered country yet has the second-lowest lead rate.
- **Austria** (75 projects, 7 leads, 9%) and **Slovakia** (70 appearances, 6 leads, 9%) follow the same pattern.

LEAD PARTNER COUNT BY COUNTRY — 138 PROJECTS



TOTAL PARTNER APPEARANCES — LEAD VS JUNIOR ROLE

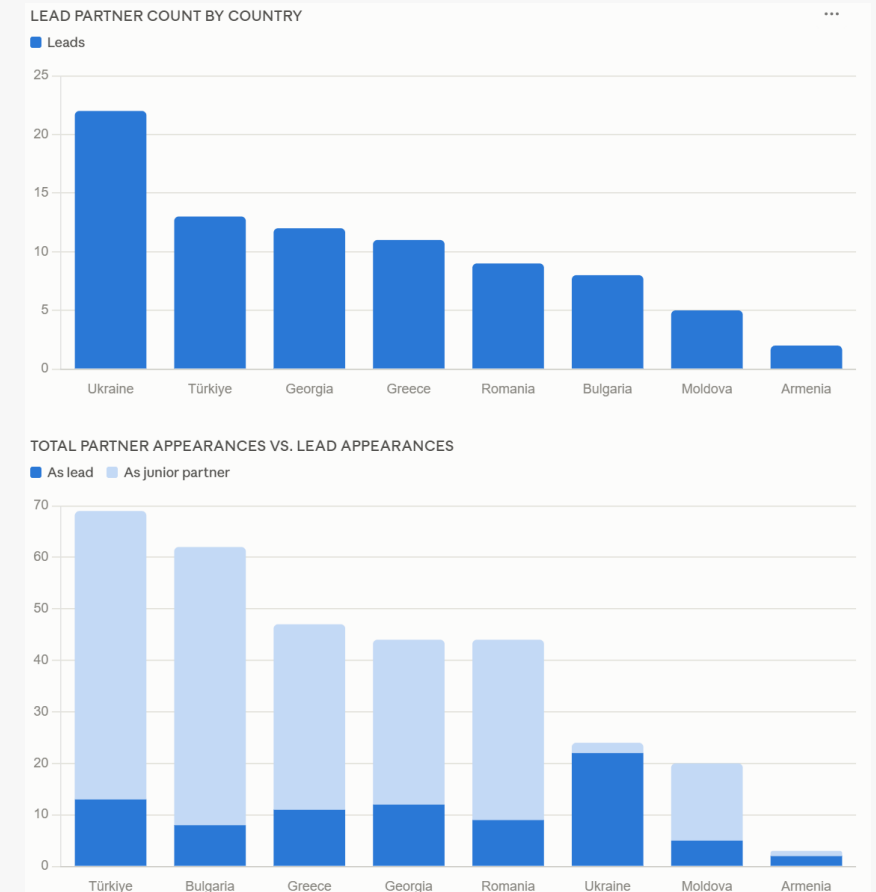


AI output: Black Sea

The standout case is **Bulgaria**: in 62 projects but leads only 8. **Türkiye** follows the same pattern: 69 total projects but only 13 leads. Both countries are clearly preferred as junior partners rather than organisational anchors.

Greece and **Romania** are similar - high total involvement but lower lead rates.

Ukraine is the opposite: it leads 22 of the 24 projects, making it almost exclusively a lead rather than a supporting partner.



Gap analysis

Interest in priorities

The question

Which programme priorities are actually being funded?

NCPs advise applicants and beneficiaries every day. Knowing where the programme priority gaps are turns general guidance into precise, useful advice.

Data source:

- Keep.eu export for Danube Region and Black Sea Basin.
- Data on programme websites

Step 1. Get the data from **interreg-danube.eu** or **blacksea-cbc.net**

1. Open interreg-danube.eu/what-we-finance or <https://blacksea-cbc.net/interreg-next-bsb-2021-2027/priorities-and-objectives>.
2. Walk through the priorities.
3. Show all specific objectives by name.
4. Copy the SO names into the AI chat as a numbered list - this becomes the reference framework OR just paste the link.

This is what the programme committed to finance. Now let's see what it actually funded.

Step 2. The Prompt to Claude AI

Here are the specific objectives of the Interreg Danube Region Programme / NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme and a list of approved projects showing which specific objective each falls under.

Do the following:

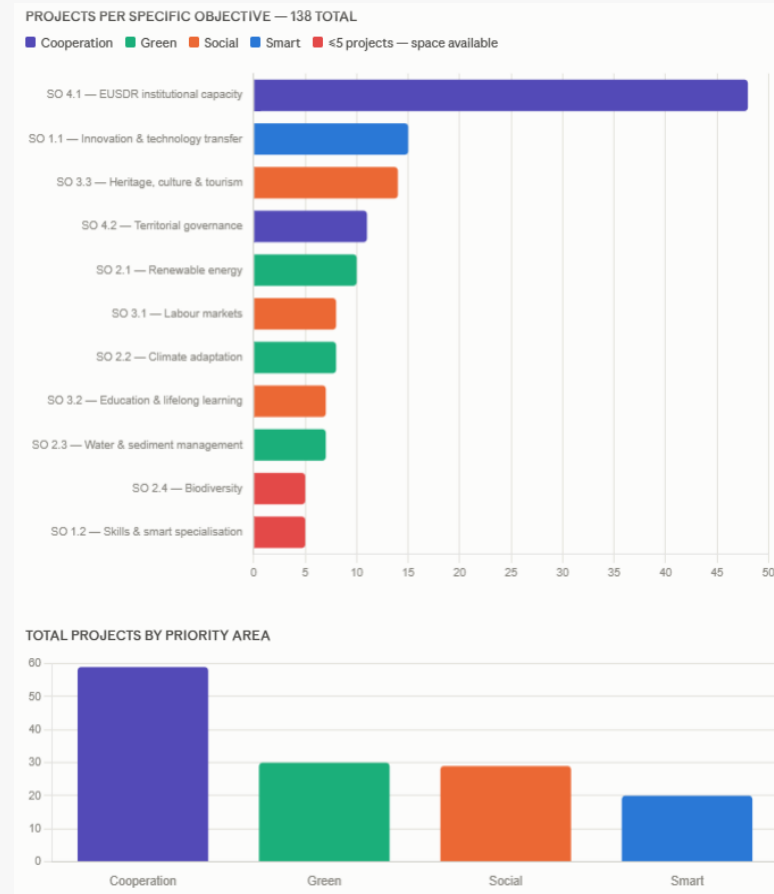
1. Count how many projects were funded per specific objective.
2. Flag any specific objectives with zero or very few projects.
3. Identify which priority area attracted the most projects overall.
4. Write one paragraph advising a potential applicant where there is space in the programme and where competition is likely highest.

Advice for applicants: Danube

Avoid SO 4.1 unless you are directly embedded in EUSDR governance structures - that space is largely occupied by projects with established partnerships and institutional mandates, making it the hardest to enter as a new applicant. The clearest opportunities are SO 2.4 (biodiversity) and SO 1.2 (skills and smart specialisation), both undersubscribed relative to the programme's stated ambitions and the eligible partner pool.

Within the Green priority, SO 2.3 (water management) and SO 2.4 are genuinely open, but 2.3 has a narrow eligible organisation type - water authorities, river basin management bodies - so the low count reflects a structural barrier more than lack of interest.

SO 3.3 (heritage, culture and tourism) is the most subscribed Social objective and will be competitive, while SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 (labour markets and education) still have room for strong proposals from organisations with a track record in social inclusion or vocational training.

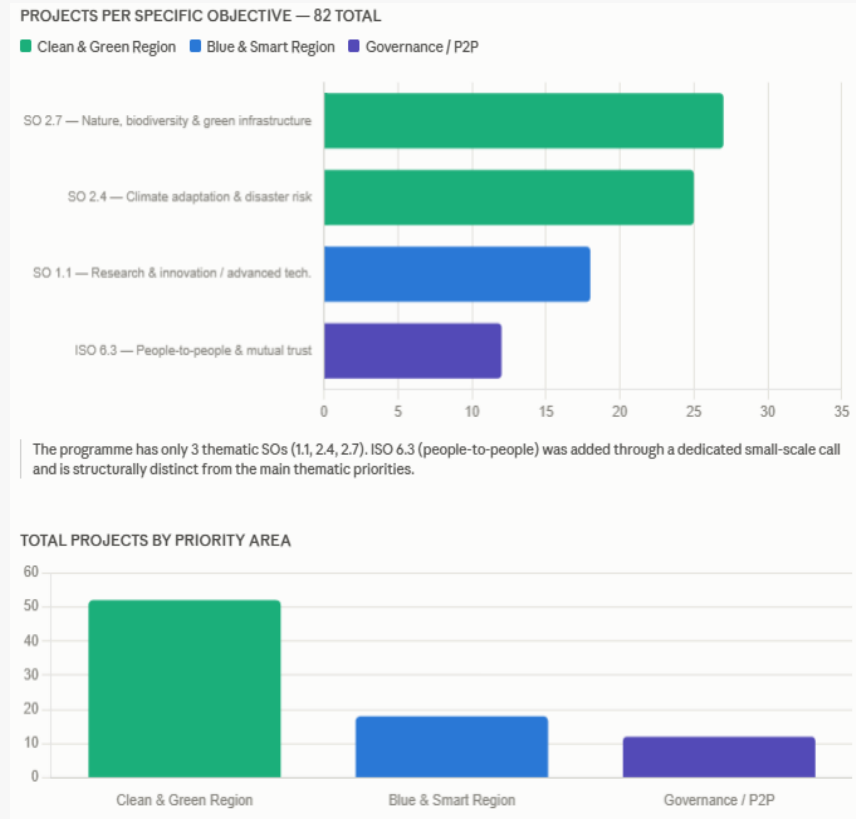


Advice for applicants: Black Sea

The Clean & Green priority is where the programme has concentrated most of its budget and where the largest number of projects have been approved, making SO 2.4 and SO 2.7 the natural home for most proposals, competition in the third call will be stronger and the programme will be scrutinising additionality carefully.

The clearest opportunity is SO 1.1 (research and innovation), and covers a broader thematic range including blue economy, coastal zone management, smart fisheries, and AI-supported environmental monitoring. An applicant with a strong research institution as lead and a genuinely transnational innovation angle would face less crowding in SO 1.1 than in either green objective.

The people-to-people ISO 6.3 projects are small-scale by design and operate through a separate call mechanism, so they are not directly comparable with regular projects.



MC prep

MC context

The question

What were the decisions, and what should I prepare for next time?

Neither Danube Region nor Black Sea publishes pre-meeting agenda packs. Both publish post-meeting news summaries. That is what we use - and naming this limit is itself a lesson.

Data source:

- Data on programme websites

Step 1. Get the data from **interreg-danube.eu** or **blacksea-cbc.net**

1. Open interreg-danube.eu/news/monitoring-committee-approves-second-call-projects or blacksea-cbc.net/communication/news/news-2025.
2. Walk through the information
3. Copy the text of each summary into the AI chat OR just paste the link.

This is what is publicly available after a meeting. Watch what AI does with it in under a minute.

Step 2. The Prompt to Claude AI

Here are the published summaries of two recent Monitoring Committee meetings: Interreg Danube Region (December 2024, Zagreb) and Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin (April 2025, Thessaloniki).

For each programme:

1. List the main decisions made.
2. Identify any issues flagged for future discussion.
3. Suggest two questions an NCP should come prepared to answer at the next meeting.
4. Write one sentence summarising where the programme currently stands.

MC cards: Danube

Interreg Danube Region Programme Zagreb · 17 December 2024

Part 1 of 3 – stats and decisions

30

projects approved

162

applications received

150

deemed eligible

18%

approval rate

MAIN DECISIONS

- Approved 30 projects from the second call; award letters with conditions to be sent 9 January 2025.
- Reviewed and approved the stakeholders' consultation report on the post-2027 programming period for submission to the European Commission.
- Held an extensive discussion on the design of the third call for proposals, planned for 2025.
- NCP network meeting held in parallel – focused on improving communication flows so national authorities systematically leverage project results.

MC cards: Danube

Interreg Danube Region Programme Zagreb · 17 December 2024

Part 2 of 3 -- issues flagged

ISSUES FLAGGED FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- **Third call design**
Scope, thematic priorities, and timeline still to be finalised for 2025 launch. No concrete parameters agreed yet.
- **Post-2027 architecture**
The submitted consultation report opens the next phase of programme strategy discussion. Structural decisions to come.
- **NCP communication flows**
The network identified a systemic gap in how national authorities pick up and use project results -- no concrete action agreed at the meeting.

MC cards: Danube

Interreg Danube Region Programme Zagreb · 17 December 2024

Part 3 of 3 – NCP questions and status

TWO QUESTIONS AN NCP SHOULD BE READY TO ANSWER

- 1 Of the applications submitted from your country in the second call, how many were rejected at the eligibility stage -- and what were the most common grounds, so that the pattern can inform third-call applicant guidance?
- 2 Which project results from your country's first- and second-call projects have been taken up by national authorities or policy processes, and where does that chain remain broken?

WHERE THE PROGRAMME STANDS

The Danube Region Programme has approved two full calls of projects and is moving simultaneously into third-call design, post-2027 reflection, and active implementation monitoring -- a mature mid-cycle position with the emphasis shifting from selection to results.

MC cards: Black Sea

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme Thessaloniki · 9-10 April 2025

Part 1 of 3 -- stats and decisions

52

projects approved

28

regular projects

24

small-scale projects

€46.6M

EU funding committed

MAIN DECISIONS

- Approved 52 projects from the second calls (28 regular + 24 small-scale), committing €46.6 million in EU Interreg funding to 224 partners.
- Fund transfers and allocation distribution discussed and agreed following the assessment of 258 submitted applications.
- Progress on programme implementation reviewed, including indicator target achievement against agreed milestones.
- Two showcase projects highlighted: wildfire resilience and early warning; marine technology transfer for the blue economy.

MC cards: Black Sea

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme Thessaloniki · 9-10 April 2025

Part 2 of 3 -- issues flagged

ISSUES FLAGGED FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- **Programme indicator targets**
Progress reviewed against agreed milestones -- any gaps will carry into the next MC as a formal performance discussion.
- **Fund allocation balance**
With 52 new projects approved alongside 33 from the first call, the programme is near full commitment. Any further calls require careful planning or a programme amendment.
- **Implementation quality**
Follow-up training for second-call beneficiaries (November 2025) signals that procurement compliance and financial management remain active concerns across partners.

MC cards: Black Sea

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme Thessaloniki · 9-10 April 2025

Part 3 of 3 -- NCP questions and status

TWO QUESTIONS AN NCP SHOULD BE READY TO ANSWER

- 1 How are the 52 newly approved projects distributed across your country's partner organisations, and are there capacity gaps in those organisations' ability to handle financial management and procurement requirements?
- 2 With the programme now near full budget commitment after two calls, what is your country's position on whether a third call is feasible, and under which specific objective would demand be strongest?

WHERE THE PROGRAMME STANDS

After two calls and 85 approved projects in total, the Black Sea Basin Programme has committed the bulk of its €67.8 million budget and is entering a dense implementation phase where the focus moves from project selection to delivery, compliance, and results.

Open question

Of the three tasks we just showed,

which one would have saved you

the most time in the last six months?

Prompts to take home

Demo 1 - Beneficiary geography

"Count lead partner appearances per country, sorted. Count total appearances. Identify countries frequent as partners but rare as leads. Write 3 sentences for a national ministry."

Demo 2 - Programme document gap analysis

"Count projects per specific objective. Flag SOs with few or no projects. Name the most-subscribed priority. Write one paragraph advising a potential applicant on where space exists."

Prompts to take home

Demo 3 -- MC meeting prep

"For each programme: list the main decisions made. Identify issues flagged for future discussion. Suggest two questions an NCP should come prepared to answer at the next meeting. Write one sentence summarising where the programme currently stands."

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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Primary knowledge area

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Programme management and communication

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