Summary of Interact V Programming Committee meetings

Updated September 2026

PC01 – first Interact V Programming Committee meeting 27 November 2025, Oslo, Norway

The first Interact V Programming Committee (PC) meeting took place on 27 November 2025 in Oslo, Norway. Representatives attended the meeting to launch planning for the next programming period (2028-2034).

The meeting started with an interactive session looking back at Interact's development from Interact I to Interact IV. Speakers shared how Interact has grown into a trusted, strategic actor supporting Interreg community, offering practical tools, shared knowledge, and strong cooperation across Europe. Participants agreed that Interact should keep this open, collaborative approach and continue to innovate in the next programming period.

The Committee then discussed and approved its Rules of Procedure. These rules explain how the Programming Committee works and how it makes decisions. Members confirmed that the Committee takes decisions by consensus. They also clarified how countries are represented and agreed to share short summaries of decisions after each meeting. The Committee agreed that some topics, such as meeting formats and the possible extension of the programme area, should be discussed again in the future. For now, representatives of Interact's participating countries representatives will continue discussions at the national level.

In the final session, the Committee reviewed the next steps in the programming process and the planned timeline. Members agreed that the next Programming Committee meeting will take place on 28-29 April 2026 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

PC02 – second Interact V Programming Committee meeting 28-29 April 2026, Bratislava, Slovakia

The second meeting of the Interact V Programming Committee (PC) took place on 28-29 April 2026 in Bratislava, Slovakia, bringing together representatives from 27 countries and observers to continue preparations for the 2028-2034 programming period.

The meeting opened with an update from the European Commission on negotiations concerning the future Interreg regulations. Participants were informed that Interreg, including Interregional cooperation (Strand C), has been reintroduced into the draft regulatory framework. The discussion also focused on the new Performance-Based Approach, which represents one of the most significant changes for the next programming period.

The Committee approved the approach for drafting the future Interact programme document, combining internal expertise with targeted external support in areas such as digitalisation,

knowledge management and AI tools. Members also agreed that the Committee will review the terms of reference before procuring any external expertise.

A key discussion focused on the future of the Joint electronic monitoring system (Jems), the community monitoring system for Interreg programmes of the 2021-2027 programming period. The Committee confirmed Jems' strategic importance and mandated Interact to initiate preparations for adapting the system to the requirements of the new 2028–2034 programming period. Preparatory work and development of the new system will start under Interact IV to ensure readiness for the next programming period and continue under Interact V.

The Committee also discussed requests from candidate countries interested in joining Interact V. So far, Albania, Montenegro and Serbia have expressed their interest in participating. The Managing Authority will further develop a detailed implementation proposal for the extension of the programme area, including legal, technical, governance and financial arrangements.

In addition, the members approved an updated version of the Programming Committee's

Rules of Procedure, incorporating several technical amendments.

The meeting concluded with the launch of a SWOT analysis for Interreg, which will support the preparation of the Interact V programme.

Photos from the meeting are available at: https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCSLue.

PC03 – third Interact V Programming Committee meeting
27 May 2026, online, chaired by Denmark

The third meeting of the Interact V Programming Committee (PC) took place online on 27 May 2026, chaired by the representative of Denmark. Representatives from 26 countries and observers met to continue discussions on the future Interact programme for the 2028-2034 programming period.

The meeting began with a discussion on the possible extension of the Interact programme area. So far, Albania, Montenegro and Serbia have indicated their interest in joining Interact V, and Committee members expressed openness towards the enlargement and recognised that candidate countries are already active participants in Interreg cooperation. Subject to national approvals by participating countries, the Rules of Procedure could be amended in September, allowing the three countries to participate as observers in future meetings.

Participants also received an update on the post-2027 regulatory negotiations. The European Commission indicated that negotiations are entering their final phase, with a partial Council agreement expected in 2026, trilogue negotiations planned for early 2027, and the new regulations potentially entering into force around mid-2027. Members noted, however, that timing will depend on negotiations on the broader Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

A key outcome of the meeting was the launch of the process to designate the Managing Authority for Interact V. The current Managing Authority, the Bratislava Region, confirmed its intention to continue in this role. Participating countries will be invited to express their interest

in taking over the role of the Managing Authority by the end of July 2026. If no alternative candidates come forward, the prospective Managing Authority will be designated at the next Programming Committee meeting in September.

The Committee continued the discussion started at the previous meeting on adapting the Jems monitoring system for the 2028-2034 programming period. Further discussions on the costs and timeline of the new system will continue at the upcoming Interact IV Monitoring Committee meeting on 8 June 2026, along with the decision on launching the preparatory phase.

In addition, members discussed Interact's big digital tools, including keep.eu, interreg.eu and INDEX, in a workshop setting. The Committee agreed to launch an external assessment of these tools to identify opportunities for further development and improvement, with several PC representatives volunteering to contribute to the process.

The meeting concluded with an agreement that the 4th Interact V Programming Committee meeting will take place online on 29 September 2026. Participants also provisionally agreed on holding the 5th Programming Committee meeting on 3-4 December 2026 in Cyprus, back-to- back with the 10th Interact IV Monitoring Committee meeting.

PC04 – fourth Interact V Programming Committee meeting
29 September 2026, online, chaired by Cyprus

The 4th meeting of the Interact V Programming Committee was held online on 29 September 2026 and chaired by Cyprus. Representatives from 24 participating countries attended the meeting. Following the approval of the participation of three EU candidate countries in the programming process, representatives from Albania and Serbia also joined the meeting.

The Committee approved the meeting agenda without any objections. The Committee also approved Version 3.0 of the Rules of Procedure. The main update was the inclusion of Albania, Montenegro and Serbia as participating countries, following their earlier expression of interest to join the Interact V programme.

Under the agenda item on programme management arrangements, the Committee designated the Bratislava Region as the prospective Managing Authority for Interact V. This decision followed the closure of the nomination period on 31 July 2026, during which no other participating country expressed interest in taking on the Managing Authority role.

The meeting also included the first workshop session on the Interact V SWOT analysis. This exercise launched the process of identifying the programme's future strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The completed SWOT analysis will be an important contribution to the development of the Interact V Interreg Chapter. Detailed workshop feedback will be included in the draft meeting minutes, and Committee members will have the opportunity to review the draft SWOT analysis at the next meeting.

The fifth Interact V Programming Committee meeting will take place on 3-4 December 2026 in Limassol, Cyprus, back-to-back with the tenth Interact IV Monitoring Committee meeting.