

# Preparation of the calls: strategic building blocks

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Interreg Knowledge Fair / 23-24.05.2023

**Interact**



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# Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is a **pilot activity** for Interact, testing a new approach to our service delivery – and **whether it works for you!**

While you are here, you will be asked to **rate individual sessions** (in Whova) and to respond to a **4-question survey** at the end of each day.

Please share your feedback with us!





# Objective of the session

- ✓ Provide a snapshot of calls for proposals in 2021-2027;
- ✓ Discuss the main building blocks for a call for proposals;
- ✓ Reflect on the initiatives and dynamics that give greater visibility to the call;



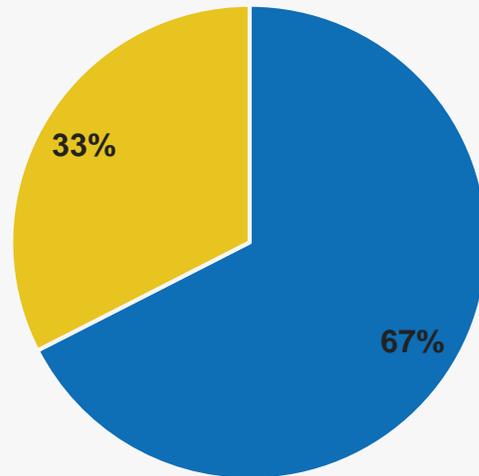


**Let's get to know  
each other**



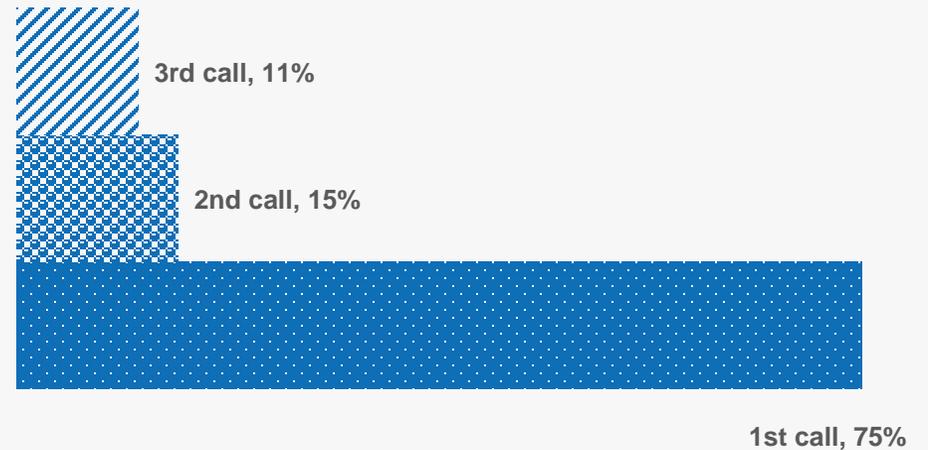
# Snapshot of calls for proposals in 2021-2027 (1/3)

Programmes that have/have not launched call(s) for proposal(s)



■ Programmes with calls   ■ Programmes without calls

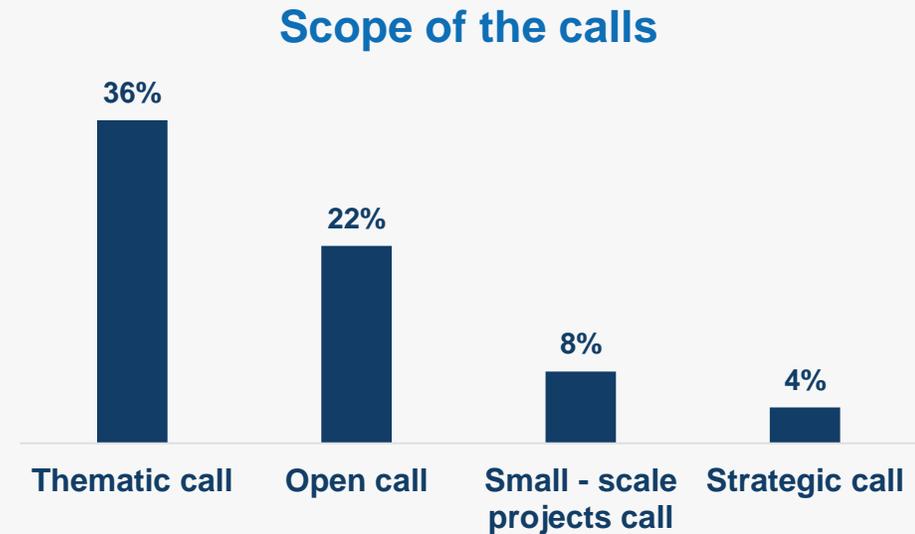
Number of the calls launched so far



# Snapshot of calls for proposals in 2021-2027 (2/3)

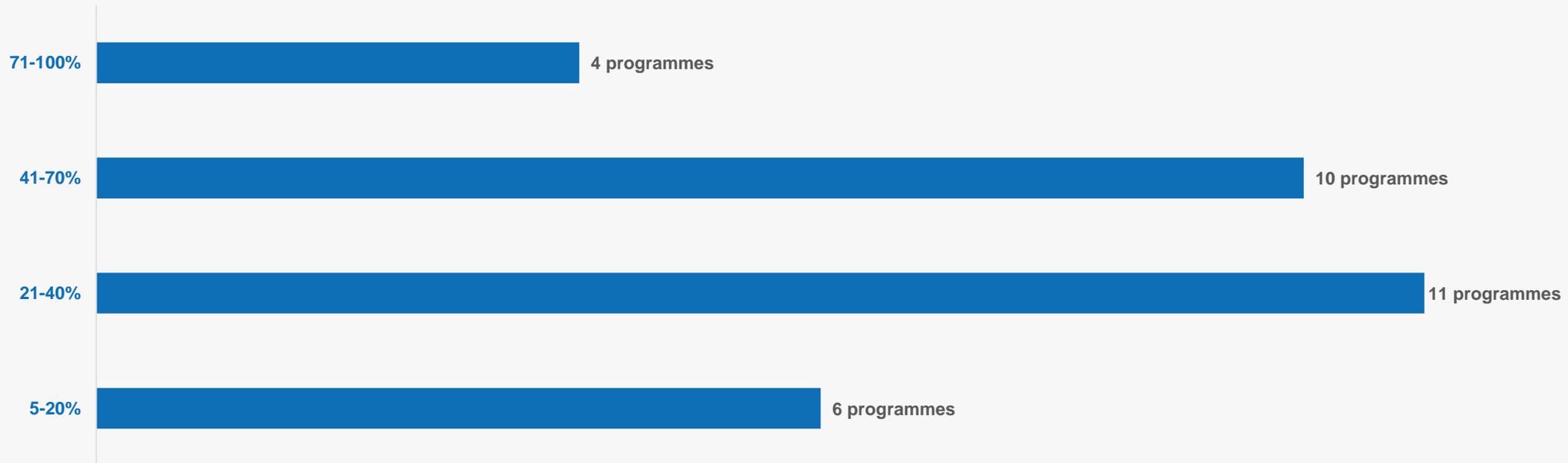
16% - ongoing calls

84% - restricted calls



# Snapshot of calls for proposals in 2021-2027 (3/3)

Programme's budget allocated\* so far to call(s)  
(\*cumulative for programmes that have launched more than one call for proposals)



# Which are the building blocks?

Definition of the **scope** /thematic of the call

Definition of the **assessment criteria**

**Launch and promotion** of the call for proposals

Support the involvement of **new partners**

Definition of the **budget** of the call

Preparation of **application documents**

Support to **project applicants**

**Ensuring proper human resources**

Set the **timeframe** of the call

Support of the **development** of project ideas

Agreement on the **type** of the call, e.g. ongoing/ restricted

# Key take away 1/2

- ❖ Prepare and provide to potential applicants all the relevant supporting documents such as application form, Programme implementation manual/fact sheet and tools in order to prepare good project proposals pipeline;
- ❖ Simplify the manuals procedures and tools for the potential applicants and providing thorough interpretation/explanation of the Programme's indicators, objectives and envisaged results;
- ❖ Enhance the coordination between all the programmes bodies (especially JS and CPs) to ensure the same information is disseminated to potential applicants;
- ❖ Ensure proper planning of resources needed especially with regard to human resources (both internal and external);

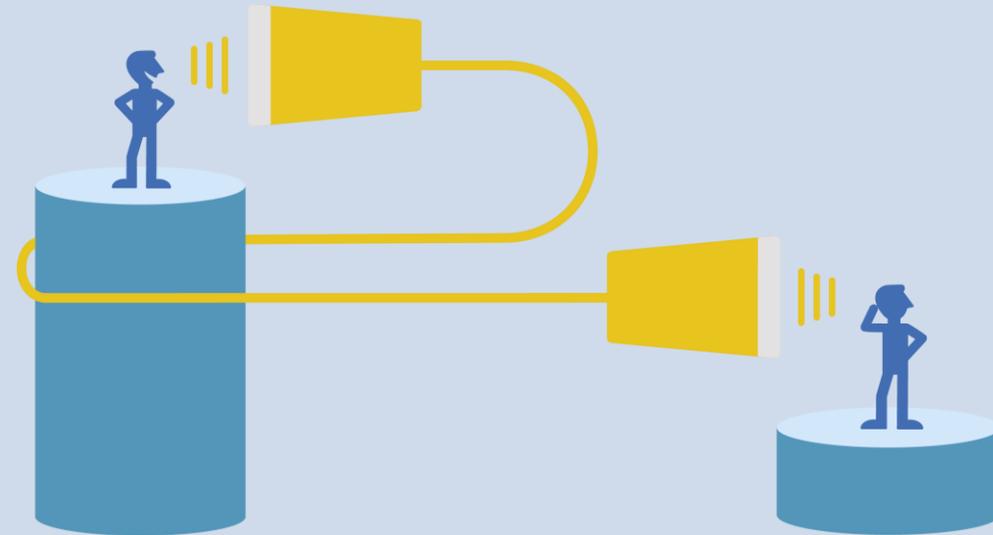
# Key take away 2/2

- ❖ Choose the “right moment” to launch your call for proposal by avoiding holiday periods and make sure that potential applicants have the proper time to prepare and submit quality project proposals;
- ❖ Coordinate call(s) calendar with other Interreg programmes and/or other funds in order to avoid any overlaps and attract relevant project applicants and project ideas;
- ❖ Set up of match-making communities or best project’ outputs/results database in order to ease partner search and attract/inspire new applicants;
- ❖ Capitalisation strategy is important especially when combined with the communication plans and activities to enhance the quality of the proposals;
- ❖ Get the balance right between meeting the programme indicators, respecting decommitment targets, ensuring a stable cash flow and involving capable applicants.

# Communication is everybody's task!

Each table should:

- ✓ Create an attractive slogan about the Call for Proposals
- ✓ Write a Twitter post announcing the Call!
  - ➔ Maximum 280 characters (we translate it into 40 words)



# Tips for your post



**Plain language**



**Clarity**



**Include multimedia elements**



**Whenever possible, tag users**



**Replace words with hashtags**



**Abbreviate URLs via free clipping platforms**



**Add emojis instead of words**



**Highlight calls to action**

# Call for Proposal challenge

## Overall Goal

- The overall goal is to improve the capacities of public actors on strategies, innovation policies and actions for supporting and promoting the circular bioeconomy in the agricultural/livestock/ fisheries sectors on the programme area

## Topic

- Circular economy

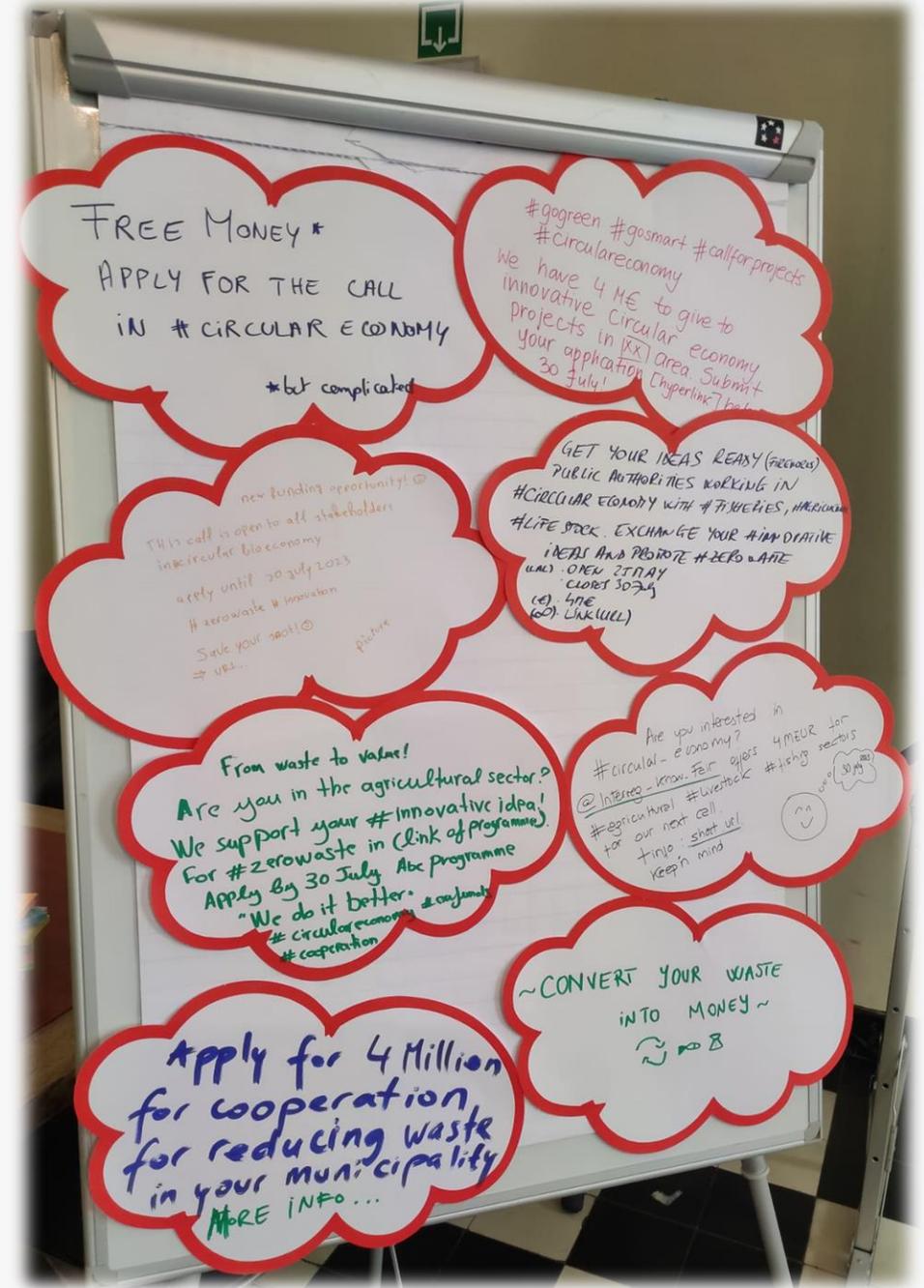
## The project proposals shall focus on

- Establishing and enhancing linkages to support the zero waste agri-food sector
- The exploitation of technology and innovation to take advantage of all the waste generated in the agricultural/ livestock/ fishing sectors to convert it into high added value products for industry

## Extra info

- Opening: 25 May 2023 at 10:00 – CEST time
- Closure: 30 July 2023 at 10:00 – CEST time
- Total budget of the Call : 4 MEUR

# Thank you for your amazing group work!



# Some useful materials

## Briefing note on project selection – Interreg 2021-27

Version 1, August 9, 2022

**Disclaimer:**  
The document has been prepared by Interact following discussions with services of DG Regio. It is, thus, not an official document of the European Commission nor an official position of the European Commission.

This document is a guideline to help programmes. It does not impose a 'one-size-fits-all' as programmes have different practices. It highlights some elements against which the Commission may review the admissibility/eligibility / quality criteria.

This note has been prepared as a follow-up to the two webinars on the selection we had in May 2022 (May 12 and 19, 2022). With this note, we want to illustrate the requirements, perspectives and considerations for the selection process. The document consists of two parts:

- Part A: Principles, legal requirements, procedures, and roles.
- Part B: Requirements for assessment and selection criteria.

When taking a closer look at the assessment and selection criteria the Commission will be particularly vigilant on the following five aspects:

- (1) Cross-border impact as eligibility criteria;
- (2) Economic and social durability;
- (3) Horizontal principles (gender equality, accessibility, human rights);
- (4) Eco-conditionality to ensure environmental sustainability (linked with the Do-No-Significant-Harm (DNSH) principle and the role of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)), and
- (5) Scoring and ranking.

Please note that this document covers the legal requirements for the selection of standard and small-scale projects.<sup>1</sup> Provisions for the selection procedures for small projects in the Small Project Fund (SPF) are covered in Article 25 of the Interreg Regulation and have been presented and discussed in an ongoing series of webinars on SPF.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> We use the term 'small-scale projects' for the second option to meet the requirements according to Article 24 of the Interreg Regulation. Cross-border programmes have to go either for small projects in the SPF or for other projects of limited financial volume. We use the term small-scale projects for the second option.

<sup>2</sup> Further information: e.g. [Publication on the small project fund: presentations from the SPF workshop](#) (December 2021). Another information offer is our online community for small-scale projects and SPF: in case you are interested to join, please send an email to [small.projects@interact.eu.net](mailto:small.projects@interact.eu.net).



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## Fact Sheet: Project Selection Process

Period 2021-27: Version 2, November 2022

This is the revised fact sheet on the complaints procedure, updating previous guidance in the 2014.2020 period to reflect the position in 2021-2027. We recommend to read also the briefing note on project selection<sup>1</sup> since it provides tips on issues of particular importance for the Commission.

### What is project selection about?

The aim of the selection process is to select those projects that contribute best to the achievement of programme objectives. It starts with the received project applications and ends with the selection of the projects. There are three phases in the selection process: (1) call for proposals with received project proposals; (2) assessment process divided in three steps - (a) administrative check, (b) eligibility check, and (c) quality assessment; (3) selection procedure followed by a vote from the Monitoring/Steering Committee. The next step in the project life cycle is the contracting of selected projects.

### Why we are discussing it?

The selection process is a crucial part of the programme life cycle, because good and well performing projects are the decisive element for sound programme results. The programme needs to determine to what extent each project will contribute to the achievement of programme objectives and if the partnership is able to implement the project with the given resources.

Due to the nature of Interreg programmes, several agreements regarding the selection process need to be negotiated already at the programming stage and before the first call for proposals opens.

### Reference to the regulations & major novelties

The limited funding for Interreg underpins the need for a quality approach along all steps of the project cycle. Selection criteria should support the selection of operations having a lasting impact. Also, a recent Special Report of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) on project selection in cross-border cooperation programmes<sup>2</sup> emphasises the need for sound, fair and transparent selection systems at programme level.

Interreg Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 (Art. 22) describes the selection of operations in Interreg programmes. According to this article (22.1) operations under cooperation programmes shall be selected by a monitoring committee (MC), which in turn may set up a steering committee (SC) that acts under its responsibility for the selection of operations. There is one exception to the general rule of decision-making by the MC:

*When all or part of an operation is implemented outside the programme area inside or outside the Union, the selection of that operation shall require the explicit approval by the managing authority in the monitoring committee or, where applicable, the steering committee (cf. article 22 (1) Interreg).*

Article 73 in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) on the selection of operations by the managing authority (MA) **does not apply** to Interreg.<sup>3</sup>

For the selection of operations, the MC or, where applicable, the SC shall establish and apply non-discriminatory and transparent criteria and procedures. Prior to selection the MC has to verify compliance with several well-known principles such as contribution to programme objectives and value for money or the so-called horizontal principles<sup>4</sup>, non-infringement of operations with the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU, i.e. the fundamental EU-law). Interesting novelties among these principles are:

<sup>1</sup> See the Note under: [https://www.interact.eu.net/library?title=brief+note&field\\_fields\\_of\\_expertise\\_tid=All&field\\_networks\\_tid=All#4125-fact-sheet-project-selection-process-0](https://www.interact.eu.net/library?title=brief+note&field_fields_of_expertise_tid=All&field_networks_tid=All#4125-fact-sheet-project-selection-process-0)

<sup>2</sup> See the report under: [https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21\\_14/SR\\_cross-border\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21_14/SR_cross-border_EN.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See article 115) on the exemptions for Interreg programmes in the CPR.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. provisions in article 22.2 (...) ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities, gender equality and take account of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the principle of sustainable development and of the Union policy on the environment [...]

European Regional Development Fund



## Towards simplification Analysis of selection of operations

Taking stock of practices in the EU Member States



by Andrea Cifolli, Georgia Pini, Andrea Naldini (supra), Roberto Lugari, Fabian Linder, members of the Interreg (Ecorys) February 2023



# Today



**How programmes  
can support the  
development of  
new project ideas?**

**11:30 – 13:00**

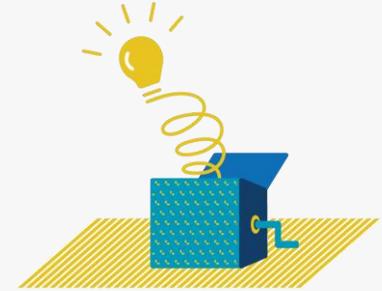
**Partnership  
models in Interreg  
projects**

**14:00 – 15:00**

**How to build on  
results from  
previous  
calls/projects**

**15:30 – 16:30**

# Tomorrow



**Project life  
cycle in SPF**  
**09:00 – 10:00**

**How to involve  
new partners to  
Interreg  
projects?**  
**10:30 – 12:00**  
**16:30 – 17:30**

**Project  
assessment  
with a focus on  
value for  
money**  
**13:00 – 14:30**

**Eval, Cap, Com**  
**15:00 – 16:00**

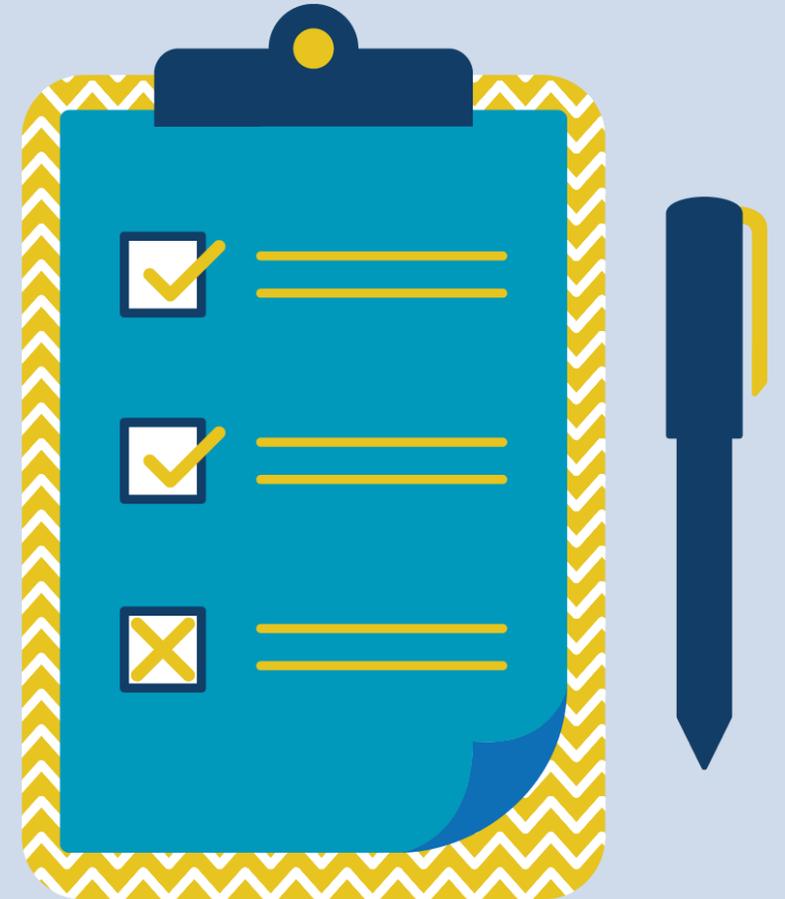
# Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

Log into the **Whova app**, go to the **relevant session**, and tell us what you think in the **session Q&A**.

You can also talk to us at the Conference Support stand in the networking area.



# Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

[Interact / Events / Interreg Knowledge Fair \(23-25 May 2023\)](#)