

# Embracing sustainability in the Interreg: **programme** and **project management**

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**Interact**



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# Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is the **second edition** of the Interreg Knowledge Fair, it is still a new approach for us.

The **Conference Support** stand in the Exhibition Room is a one-stop shop for your questions.

At the end of this session, you are asked to rate the **session experience**.

At the end of the event, you will be asked your **overall feedback**.



# Objective of the session

## We are the driver of change Could we do more to be the driver of sustainability?

Share, learn and define best on hand practices, discuss the possibilities for change and action together



### Introduction (20 m.)

Ice breaking, glimpse into context



### Testimonials (40 m.)

Personal perspective:  
Merike Niitepold

Programme perspective:  
Sophie Scarvelis, Interreg Euro-MED  
Interreg Aurora

### Group work (45 m.)

Exchange of experience (personal, team, project, programme)

Need/possibility for change

Action together



### Closing (15 m.)

Summary and next steps

**Do you have a  
responsible person  
assigned in your  
programme for the  
sustainability?**



**During programme  
events do you  
promote  
sustainability  
approaches beyond  
simply mentioning  
the necessity to meet  
requirements?**



**Do you monitor (plan to) or assess sustainability aspect of project activities?**



# Sustainability: context



Article 9  
DNSH Principle  
(do no significant harm)

by 2027 90 mln people in project management (HBR)

Art 17 EU Taxonomy Regulation

big companies big goals vs less what is achieved

It is not just responsibility but also opportunity



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Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive

complexity

PROJECT  
MANAGEMENT



INTEGRATION

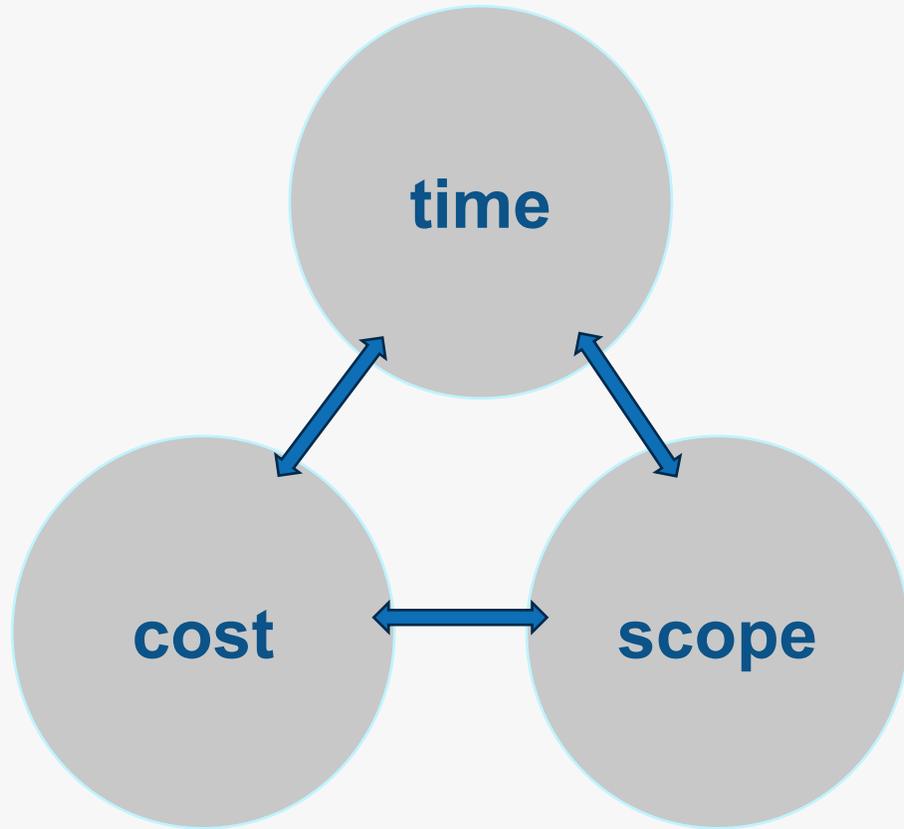
ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABILITY

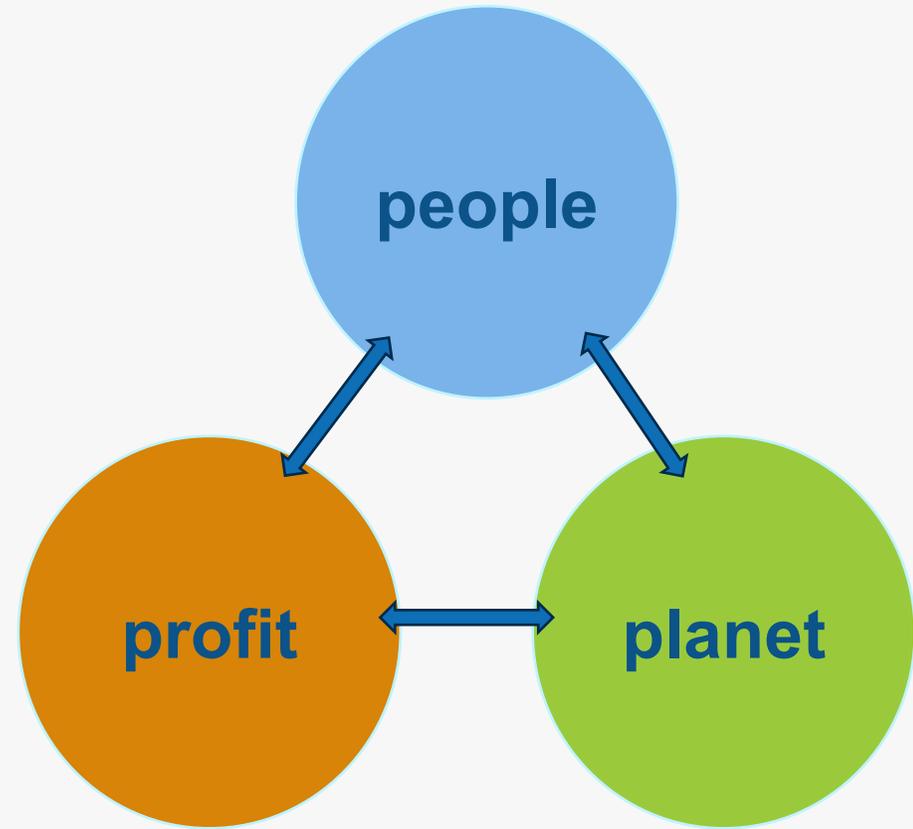
SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

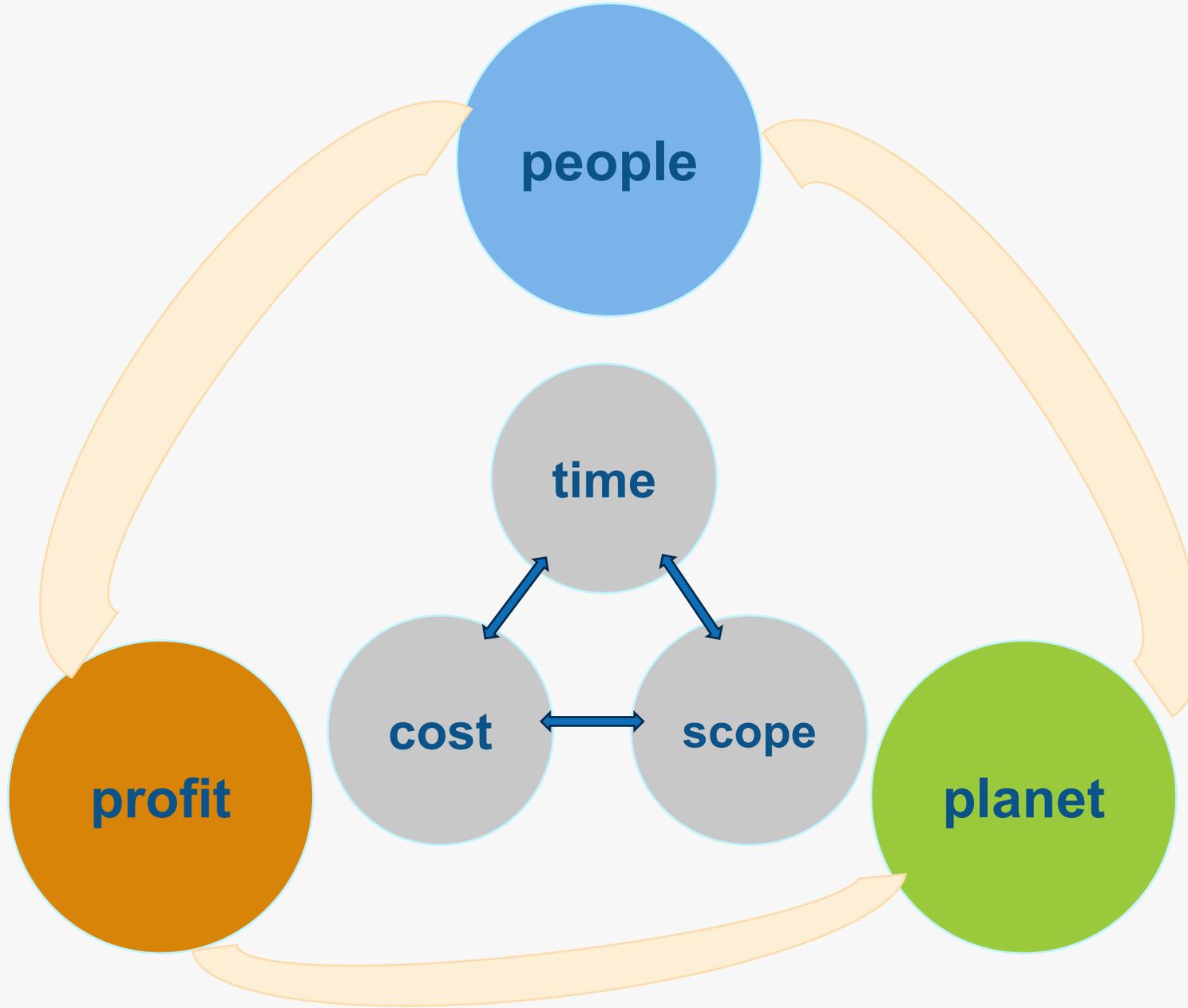
# Project triple constraint

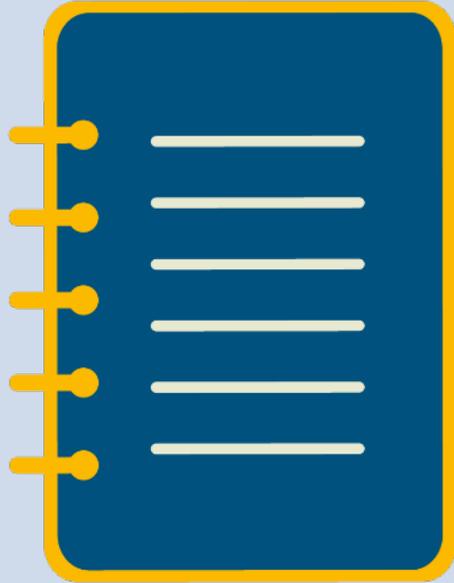


# Sustainability 3Ps



# Project triple bottom line





# Definition

## \*sustainable project management

“.. the planning, monitoring and controlling of project delivery and support processes, with consideration of the **environmental, economical and social aspects of the life-cycle** of the project’s resources, processes, deliverables and effects, aimed at realising **benefits for stakeholders, and performed in a transparent, fair and ethical way that includes proactive stakeholder participation.**”

*(A.J. Gilbert Silvius, Martin Kampinga, Silvana Paniagua, Herman Mooij)*



...highlight the role of the project manager in sustainability

Various studies

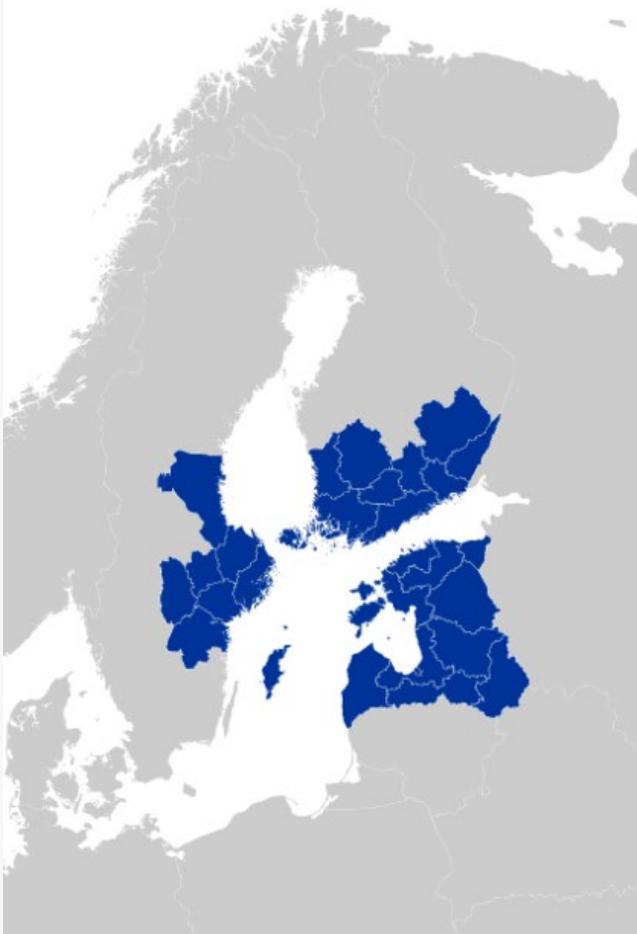
# Sustainable project management

## approaches

- ❖ PRiSM

a principle-based methodology that integrates sustainability into the entirety of the project lifecycle.

- ❖ P5 Standards by Green Project Management



# Testimonials

**Merike Niitepold**  
(Central Baltic programme)



# MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT

**x1 Me** ●

**x2-10** Family and friends

**x10-30** Hobbies and communities

**x30-500**  
Social media

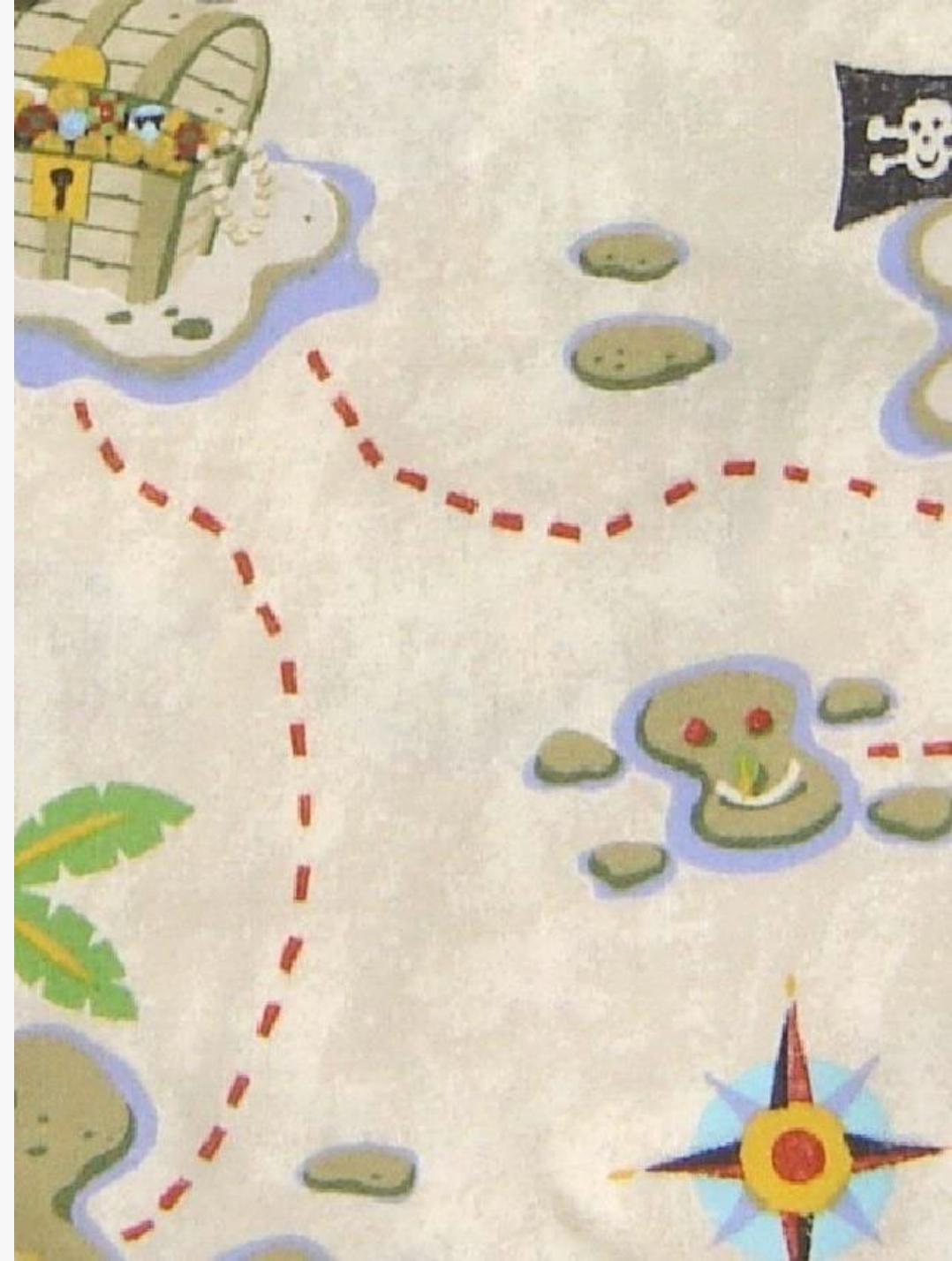
**x50-1000**  
Place of work

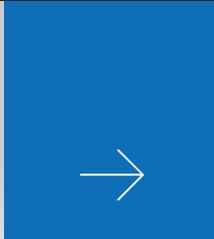
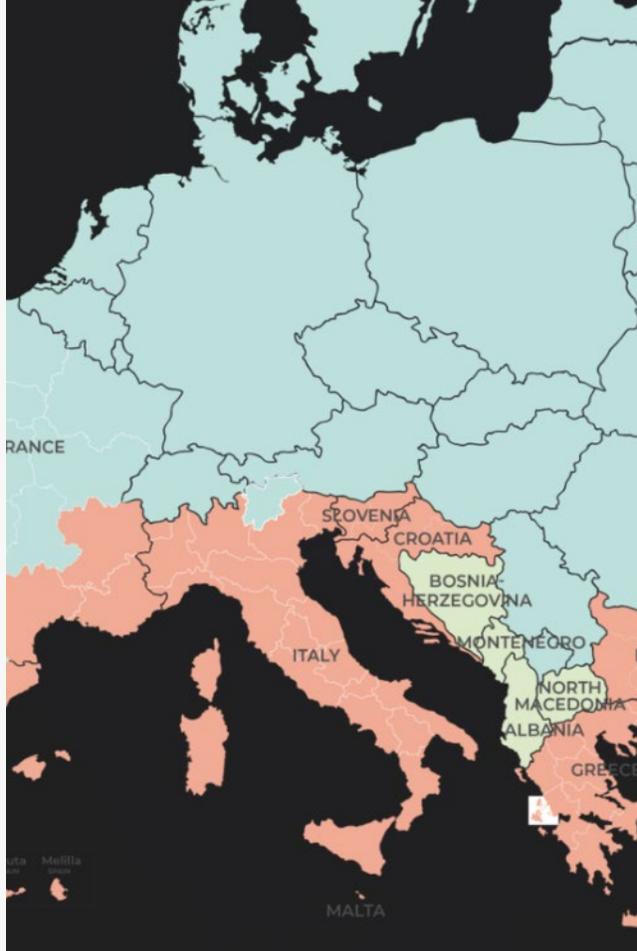
# sustainability actions hunt

List sustainability actions or features you observed/you took during your trip to Riga or time here Riga

As many examples as possible in 3 min.

Prize!





# Testimonials

**Sophie Scarvelis**  
(Interreg Euro-MED)



# How to enhance project sustainability ?

## Examples from Interreg Euro-MED Programme

Sophie Scarvelis

# The approach since 2014-2020

The Interreg MED and Euro-MED supports punctual initiatives and practices going towards the reduction of carbon footprint:

**Air travel:** eligibility of costs for carbon emissions compensation

**Guidelines for sustainable events**  
Recommendations in Programme Manual

**Assessment of Horizontal Principles**  
implementation in projects



**Reference documents:**  
Chapter "Designing project activities" of the Programme Manual  
Chapter « Reporting »

# Sustainability in the design of the project

## Communication/ Project publications and dissemination products

- Publications can be disseminated electronically
- “Eco-friendly” version
- Consider transportation distances for printed materials



CONCRETE  
EXAMPLES

## Organisation of project events

- Consider if a phone or a video conference could be organised instead of a meeting
- Green public procurement procedures are applied
- Try to organize several events together / back to back to meetings
- Participants are encouraged to use sustainable ways of travelling
- Use reusable badges, made from recycled paper and other recycled material



**Reference documents:**  
Chapter "Designing project activities" of the  
Programme Manual  
ANNEX C : Recommendations for Green events

# Sustainability in the design of the project

CONCRETE  
EXAMPLES

## Energy Consumption

- Use electronic devices (PC, video projectors, photocopiers, etc.) with low energy consumption, low emissions and low noise
- Reduce energy consumption of devices by turning them off when no longer needed

## Food and Drinks

- Local and seasonal products
- Avoid single-use bottles and the use of plastic
- Provide the proper infrastructure for the collection of waste and ensure that it is recycled

## Environmental education

- Sensitize stakeholders / citizens
- Communicate on sustainability



**Reference documents:**  
Chapter "Designing project activities" of the  
Programme Manual  
ANNEX C : Recommendations for Green events

# The approach of Interreg Euro-MED Programme 2021-2027

The Euro-MED promotes **systematic measures** to reduce carbon emissions promoting a clear framework for carbon emissions monitoring and implementation of mitigation actions in all approved projects:

-  Same methodology of calculation
-  A tool used for the monitoring and calculation of carbon emissions
-  An incentive to reduce carbon emissions
-  A range of viable compensation actions

**For a contribution to a climate-neutral society**



PRESENTATION

**Interreg**  
Euro-MED



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# How to monitor the project carbon footprint

# The approach of Interreg Euro-MED Programme 2021-2027

The carbon footprint monitoring methodology and tool have been designed and tested within the Interreg MED 2014-2020 Programme by two projects: ZeroCO2MED methodology and tool were adopted



## General rules:

-  Projects must first think of **reducing carbon footprint from the designing phase** of the project
-  Projects have to include **one activity to calculate the carbon footprint, using the tool provided by the Programme**
-  Projects are invited to monitor their carbon footprint during implementation and try to reduce it
-  Examples of **offsetting** actions are proposed

**Reference documents:**  
Chapter "Designing project activities" of the Programme Manual

# The starting point

A **questionnaire** on «green» practices of MED projects and partners showed that:

-  Around 70% of Interreg Med projects follow sustainable guidelines, but only 10% track/report project-related travel carbon emissions and waste.
-  Around half of project partners monitor the sustainability of their meetings and events, but less than 30% track/report travel, electricity, water and waste.

**ALL PROJECTS ARE CONCERNED  
and ALL PARTNERS ARE INVOLVED**



# Carbon Footprint - the tool – user expectations



## Main conclusions on user requests:

- An easy interface and a smooth data collection, simple to use
- Monitoring travel emissions/food and water consumption during project/organisation meetings
- Recommendations and good practices for mitigating project emissions
- Materials and training to build capacity
- Downloadable and printable results
- Capacity to measure the digital carbon footprint of office work (internet-related footprint)
- Flexibility of the tool (possibility to have a blank response when data is not available)
- A tool adaptable to the reality and activities of partners and projects
- Limited budget requirements

# The structure



Online tool – Footprint calculator



Data to be inserted by the Carbon Footprint reference person appointed by the project, and to be reported for each partner, and linked to AF WP and activities



Results to be displayed in CO<sub>2</sub> / hectares equivalent, with detailed analysis per category



Recommendations – general guidelines + specific actions based on results that projects should implement



PRESENT

# Carbon Footprint - the tool



Calculate CO<sub>2</sub>



Recommendations



Compensation

# Carbon Footprint - the tool

The screenshot displays the ZeroCO2MED web application interface. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://zc1-gsbko7yeha-ew.a.run.app/home>. The interface features a sidebar on the left with navigation options: Project information, Carbon Footprint calculator, Carbon Footprint results, Recommendations, CO<sub>2</sub> compensation, and Summary dashboard. A large CO<sub>2</sub> icon is positioned at the bottom of the sidebar. The main content area is a grid of seven cards, each representing a different carbon footprint category:

- Office & smart working**: The project's workers and the emissions related to their office or home workspace.
- Travel**: Project-related travel (including travel to meetings, events, and conferences) and recurrent mobility (e.g. sampling campaigns).
- Accommodation**: Accommodations for meeting, event, and conference-related travel.
- Event venue**: Event venue emissions for meetings, events, and conferences which are hosted and/or organized by project partners.
- Food & drinks**: Includes reported restaurant tickets, as well as catering for meetings, events, and conferences.
- Communication material**: Materials related to project communications. Does not include basic office materials.
- Other emission sources**: All activities which are not covered in a prior category. Includes processes (e.g. chemical) or flour to...

Carbon Footprint results

Recommendations

CO2 compensation

Summary dashboard



Università die Medicina ▾

Office & smart working information

Each line must include data on workers working in the same office. Add a line for each additional office if a partner has workers in multiple locations.

Number of project workers	Country	Average working surface area per person (m2)	Office type	Energy saving practices ⓘ	Description
2	Italy ▾	15	Office ▾	Choose option ⓘ ▾	Description ⓘ

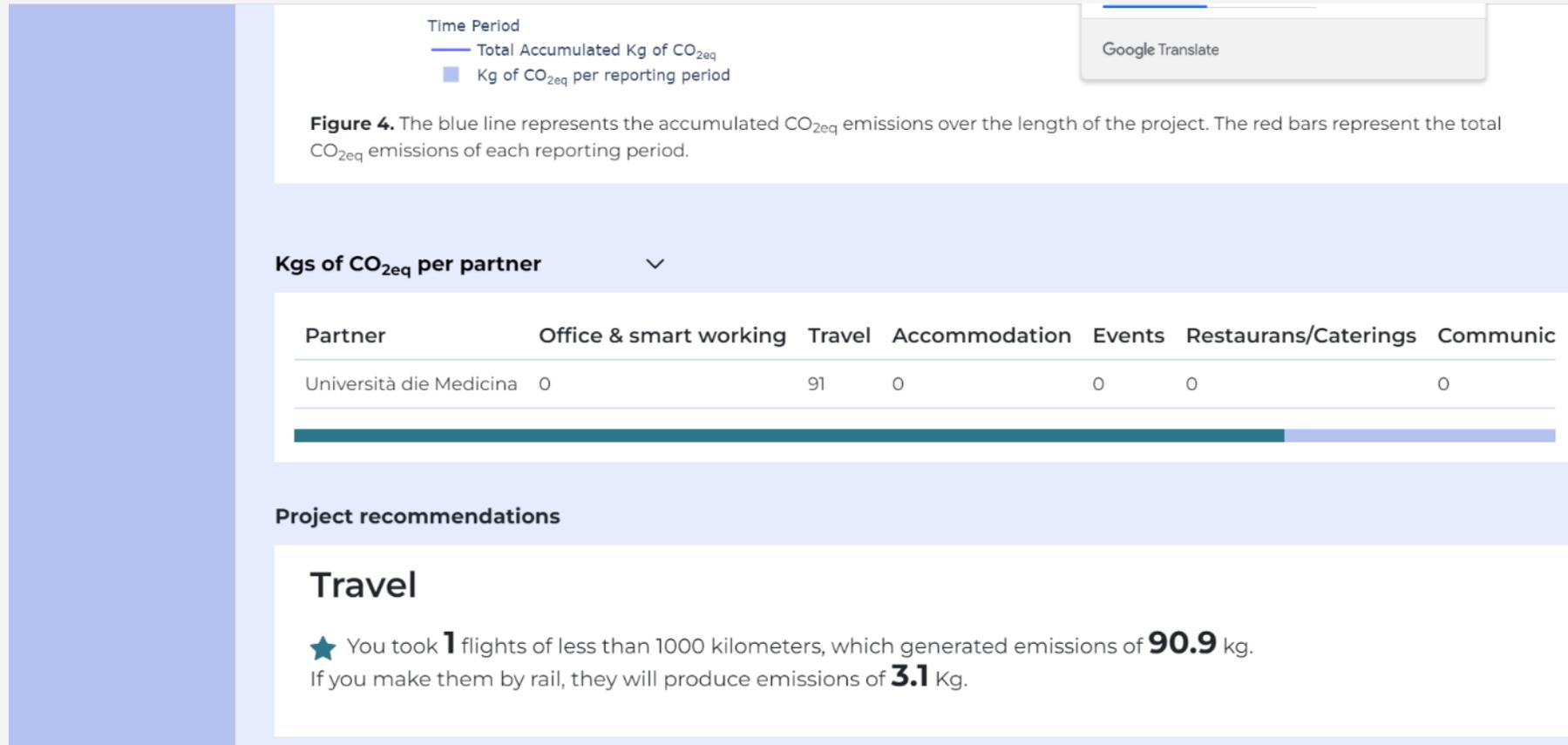
Insert data for every participant in the project

	Working hours ⓘ	Dedication (%) ⓘ	Work home (%)	Work office (%)	Online conferences (%) ⓘ	Online research (%) ⓘ	Other online uses (%) ⓘ	Work offline	Allocation
Person 0	<input type="text" value="40"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="80"/>	<input type="text" value="15"/>	<input type="text" value="25"/>	<input type="text" value="40"/>	<input type="text" value="20.0"/>	
Person 1	<input type="text" value="40"/>	<input type="text" value="50"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="80"/>	<input type="text" value="25"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="50"/>	<input type="text" value="5.0"/>	



Save

# Carbon Footprint - the tool



# Carbon Footprint - user guide

## How to use it

### Download the ZeroCO2MED carbon footprint methodology

 [Click here to download ZeroCO2MED Carbon Footprint Methodology.](#)

### Youtube tutorials

Take a look to our youtube video tutorials:

-  [Log in](#)
-  [Project information](#)
-  [Calculator - Office & smart working](#)
-  [Calculator - Travel](#)
-  [Calculator - Accommodation](#)
-  [Calculator - Events](#)
-  [Calculator - Food & drinks](#)
-  [Calculator - Communication](#)
-  [Calculator - Other emissions](#)
-  [Results](#)
-  [Recommendations](#)
-  [Compensation](#)
-  [Dashboard](#)

# Mandatory activities and Carbon Footprint coordinator for every project

## The coordinator for carbon footprint:

- defines the strategy for the reduction and potential offsetting of the project's carbon footprint
- ensures that all partners implement the methodology
- ensures that project activities are designed to minimise emissions
- supports the full project partnership in using the carbon footprint monitoring tool
- validates the eventual offsetting activities of the project.

# Reporting on Carbon Footprint

## Continuous carbon assessment

- every six months
- all partners that have participated in project activities

## What?

- carbon footprint balance provided by the tool (downloadable report)
- evolution** of the project carbon footprint emissions since the begin of the project
- outlook **on follow-up measures** foreseen, which should be in line with the recommendations provided by the carbon footprint tool

PRESENTATION

**Interreg**  
Euro-MED



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**MERCI**  
**THANK YOU**

**Interreg**



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**Aurora**

# **Interreg Aurora for INTERACT - about working with the UN Sustainable Development Goals**





# Sustainable development is our overarching goal

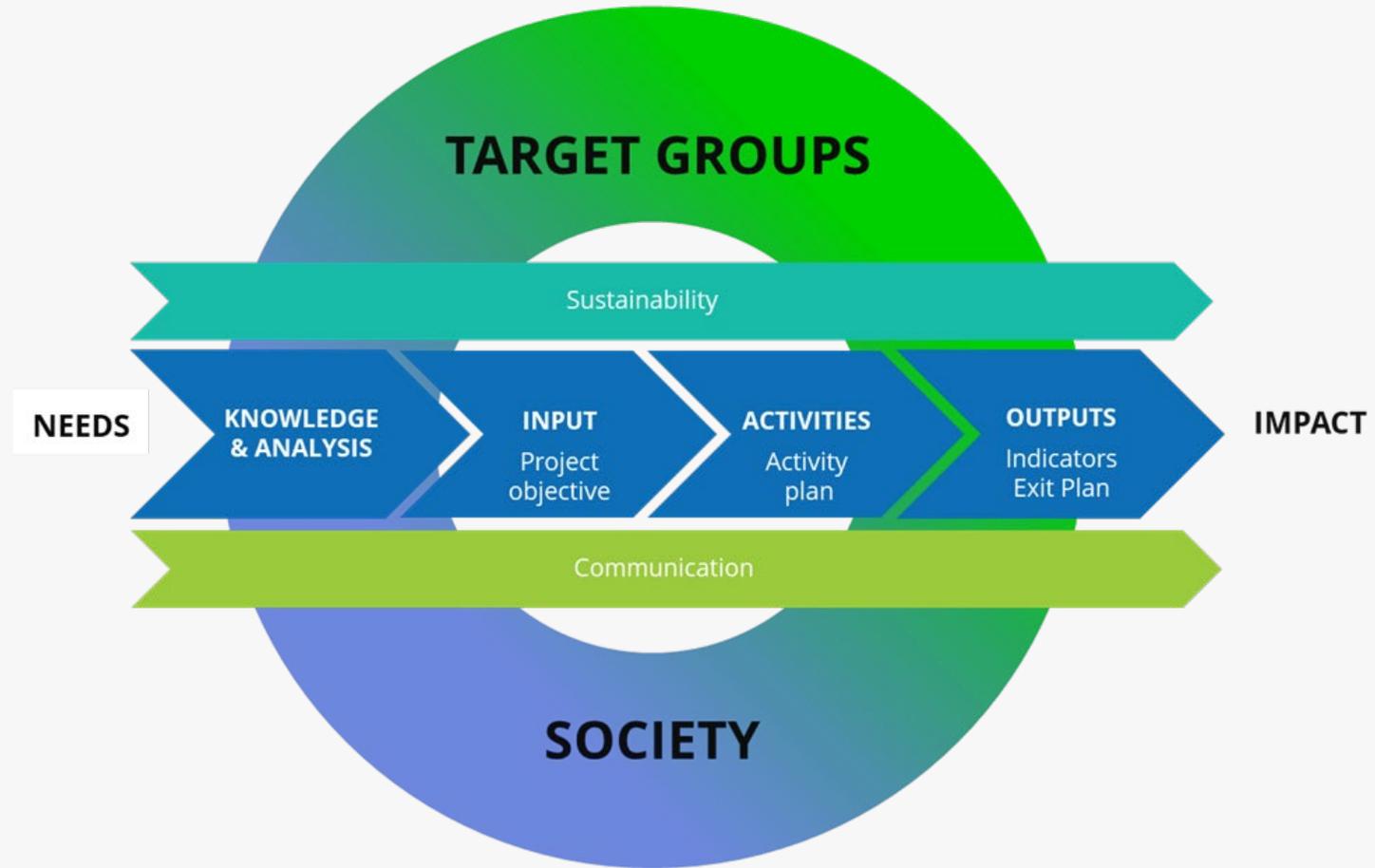




# Programming Interreg Aurora



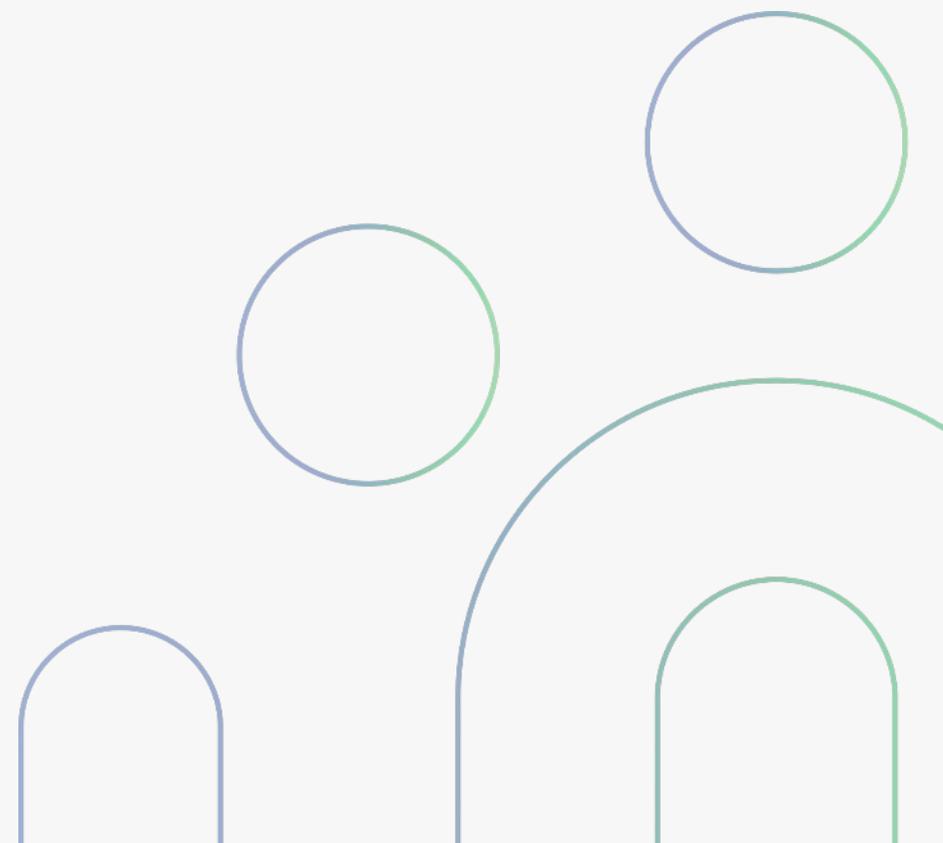
# Plan your project





# What signifies a good Interreg Aurora project?

- Relevance for the Programme
- Cross-border cooperation
- Sustainable development
- Partnership
- Project logic
- Relevance to target group
- Value for money
- Dissemination of project results





# Apply for a project





# A transformation process

See yourself from the perspective of society

See yourself and the project outside of your core mission/ordinary business - through the “SDG eyeglasses”

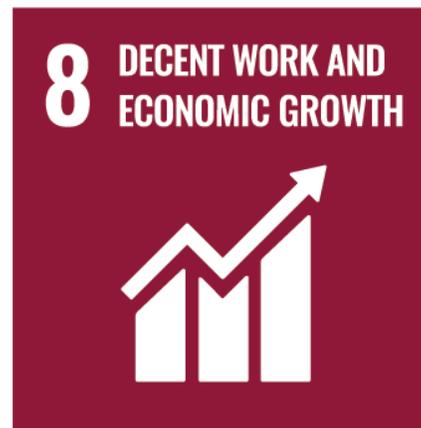




# Implement your project

## Sustainability in your Aurora project

- Webinar with Interreg Aurora for all approved regular projects in each call
- Project internal SDG-workshop
- Ongoing project communication
- Ongoing monitoring in progress reports



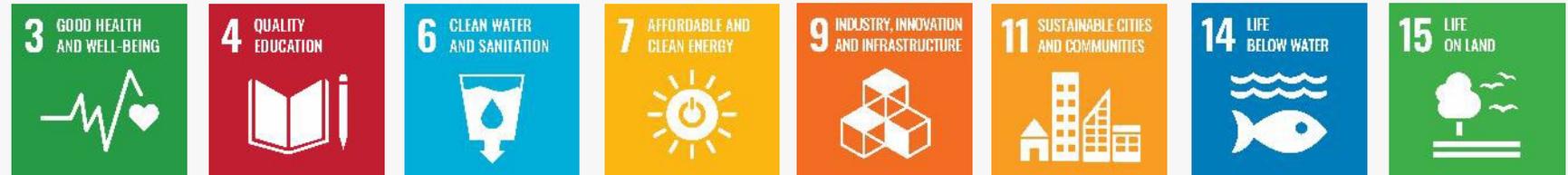


# Create your SDG pyramid

Primary goals – sums up  
the essence of what you do  
every day



Secondary goals – highly  
relevant for your work



These goals are relevant but  
maybe not something you  
work towards very  
systematically



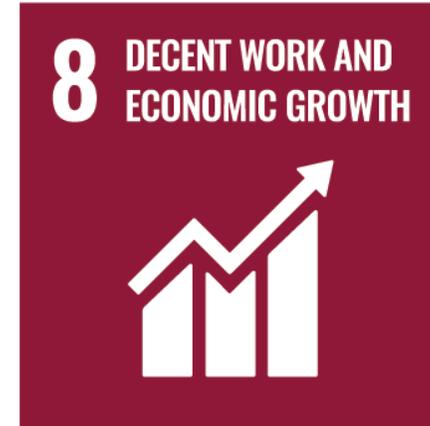


# Why is a common picture important?

We all think we think alike

- but we don't. We need to talk to each other in order to create a picture

The Sustainable Development Goals are a good tool for cross-border communication and cooperation.





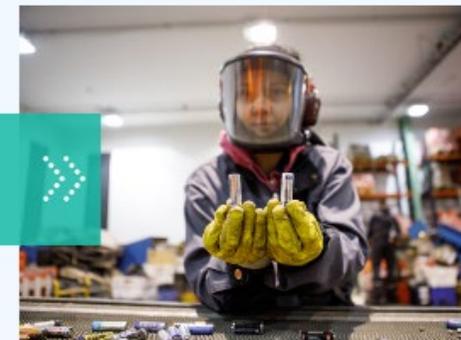
# Communication

## Show your colours!

At the Interreg Aurora website, the projects have their own project page, with a section to highlight the project specific SDGs.

### EcoLIB

## ECO-FRIENDLY RECYCLING OF SPENT LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES



SMART

### EcoLIB

Photo: Paristokierrätys/Recser Oy

EcoLIB - Eco-friendly and sustainable method for recycling of spent lithium-ion Batteries is a collaborative multidiscipline project aiming to develop an innovative sustainable, cost effective, and eco-friendly solution for spent Li-ion batteries (LIBs) recycling.

EcoLIB's main objective is to overcome the common deficiencies in today's recycling technologies, i.e., inefficient separation of valuable metals, high costs of multiple recycling steps, and hazardous effect of fluorine accumulation and emission during recycling.

The key idea of EcoLIB is to develop an innovative and cost-efficient thermal pretreatment method to improve the recovery of valuable components from spent lithium-ion batteries. This pre-treatment step facilitates efficient separation of valuable cathode metals, graphite and recovery of the electrolyte, binder and other volatile matter.

Finally, EcoLIB will investigate the production of a new cell prototype from solely recycled materials including electrolyte.

#### TYPE OF PROJECT

Regular project

#### SUB-AREA

Aurora

#### PRIORITY

Smart and sustainable growth

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

Smart specialization, research and innovation

#### PROJECT DURATION

2023-01-01 - 2025-12-31

#### TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

816 724 Euro

#### EU-FUNDING, INTERREG AURORA

530 871 Euro

#### STATUS

Ongoing

#### Lead Partner EU

University of Oulu

#### Project Partners

Luleå University of Technology

Akkuser Oy

Ennergrow Oy

### Sustainable development

Social, ecological and economic sustainable development is an overarching goal in the Interreg Aurora Programme.

The EcoLIB project contributes primarily to the following UN Sustainable Development goals.





# Communicating Sustainable Development

We made a checklist for some guidance and inspiration!




## Communicating Sustainable Development

Social, ecological and economic sustainable development is an overarching goal in the Interreg Aurora Programme - this is a requirement from the European Commission.

All Interreg Aurora projects contribute to sustainable development, you can also make impact in the way you implement the project.

Implementing of the UN:s sustainable development goals in the project plan and project implementation adds value to a project in terms of credibility and it can also increase effectiveness and reduce costs. Win-win!



**Interreg Aurora Requirements**

The project staff in a regular Interreg Aurora projects **MUST** perform a mandatory workshop to concretize the work with sustainable development in the project and define which of the UN Sustainable Development goals the project will contribute to. Your project specific goals will be highlighted in the project bank on the Interreg Aurora Programme website.

When you write the progress reports to Interreg Aurora you also **MUST** describe how the sustainable thinking has been considered in your project management and activities.

With this checklist, we hope to give you some guidance and inspiration!

1

## Checklist Social Sustainability

Social sustainability means promoting a society that respects the fundamental rights of all people and fostering a fair, equal, and inclusive society. Your project must contribute to gender equality and non-discrimination.

- Do you have knowledge about equal opportunities and non-discrimination? Does everyone in the project organisation know the discrimination laws? Gender, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion etc. Many companies have discovered that diversity among the staff is an asset that gives an increased attractiveness.
  - If there are available statistics on men and women in the field of your project, it might be a good idea to compare the statistics and aim at arranging specific activities in order to enhance equality.
  - When arranging conferences and seminars, try to find both male and female speakers. If you don't find speakers of both genders locally, widen the search.
  - When planning conferences and such, do you make sure that everyone can participate? Are the facilities accessible? Is it possible to order special meals?
  - What kind of photos and illustrations are you using? And which language? Symbolism is really important.
  - Read about the rules that apply to your organisation regarding accessibility.
  - Do the project activities include all gender?
  - There are female-dominated and male-dominated professions. Can your project contribute to break these stereotypes in any way? To break traditional stereotypes is one of the most important things in order to reach equality between genders.
- You can find more information on:
- [www.digg.se](http://www.digg.se)  
[www.savvustettavissuavaastimukset.fi](http://www.savvustettavissuavaastimukset.fi)  
[www.vldgdr.no](http://www.vldgdr.no)

## Checklist Ecological Sustainability

Projects should strive to reduce consumption and the impact on the earth's ecosystems. It is important to make more efficient use of resources for all daily activities through electronic management, paperless communication, more on-line trainings and events and use of in-house equipment.

What else can your project do in order to limit the negative environmental effects and reduce climate impact?

- Find out if your organisations have environmental guidelines or an environmental management system you can implement in your project.
- Maybe you need to participate physically, but do you need to fly? Can you fly one way? Can you take public transportation? Can you share car with another participant? If you are many participants could it be better to rent a bus?
- Solutions with online meetings are practical, timesaving, gives the possibility for more people to join the meeting and can reduce your projects environmental impact. It is important to agree about a tool for online meetings that works for all project partners.
- Do you need specific equipment in the project? Before you order new equipment consider if you can:
  - Re-use?
  - Rent?
  - Lend?
  - Swap? Rather than looking to buy a specific product, investigate what kind of function you are looking for.
- Do I need to participate physically or can I participate digitally?
- Maybe your organisations have in-house equipment you can use.



# Reporting

# Progress report

<b>Project name</b>	
<b>Nyps-ID</b>	
<b>Reporting period</b> (YYMM-YYMM)	
<b>Web and social media</b>	
<p>By submitting this report, we hereby confirm that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The mandatory A3-poster is displayed and clearly visible to the public (in the premises of each partner)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Interreg Aurora logotype is used in all communication material</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The project team carried out the mandatory project internal workshop about the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</li> </ul>	

**Which actions or achievements would you like to highlight regarding your transformation process towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals?**

*Describe actions or achievements during the reporting period. If this is your first progress report, attach your completed SDG workshop template.*

*(Maximum 2 000 characters)*



# Lifelong learning – and doing, at programme level

- Introduction to our SDG-work for new colleagues
- Telling about our SDG-work in the respective organisations of the Joint Secretariat
- Knowledge exchange with other Interreg programmes and other public organisations
- Continuous evaluation and development of our own work
- Further training and inspiration for the Interreg Aurora team

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Aurora

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& BEYOND

GREAT IDEAS  
KNOW NO  
BORDERS.

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# Thank you for your time!

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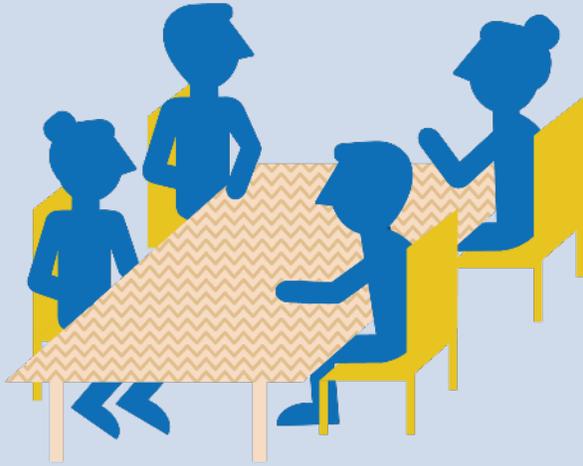
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## Group work \*30 min.

- Do we do enough for sustainability? If not, what hinders it?
- Current sustainability approaches
- What else could be done for sustainability?
- Should Interreg have joint sustainability related targets?



# How

- ❖ Integrating sustainability into all stages of project and programme management
- ❖ Capacity building
- ❖ Continuous quality improvement to boost project success rates
- ❖ Project relevance – consideration of communities and local stakeholders
- ❖ Engage with suppliers who adhere to environmental standards (ISO 14001, fully recyclable, FSC-approved packaging, etc.)
- ❖ Develop resilient solutions through green procurement practices

**Would you be  
interested to work  
together on this  
topic?**



**What could be the next  
steps?**

# Greener Europe - New steps for Thematic Working Group 2021-2027



## Facilitate the exchange

- IKF
- Network meetings
- Project visits
- Webinars

## Gain knowledge

- Thematic Analysis
- Online community

## Join forces on promotion

- Representation at events
- Promotion at EU stands
- Communication campaign:
  - Social Media
  - Website Visibility

# Water soul

Jaume Plensa

...**one drop** of water is quite alone, like a single person, but **many drops** can create a tidal wave or immense rivers and oceans, much like individual people come together to create community, exchange ideas and build something incredibly powerful

