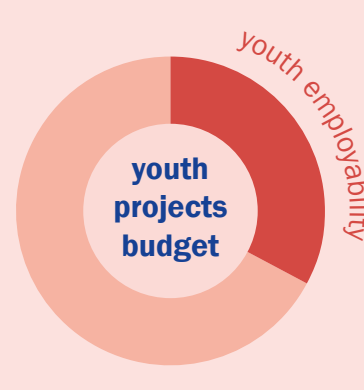


# 160 projects

During the period 2014–2020, Interreg has carry out 160 regional cooperation projects aiming to tackle employability skills and improvement of young people's access to the labour market.

# 116 million €



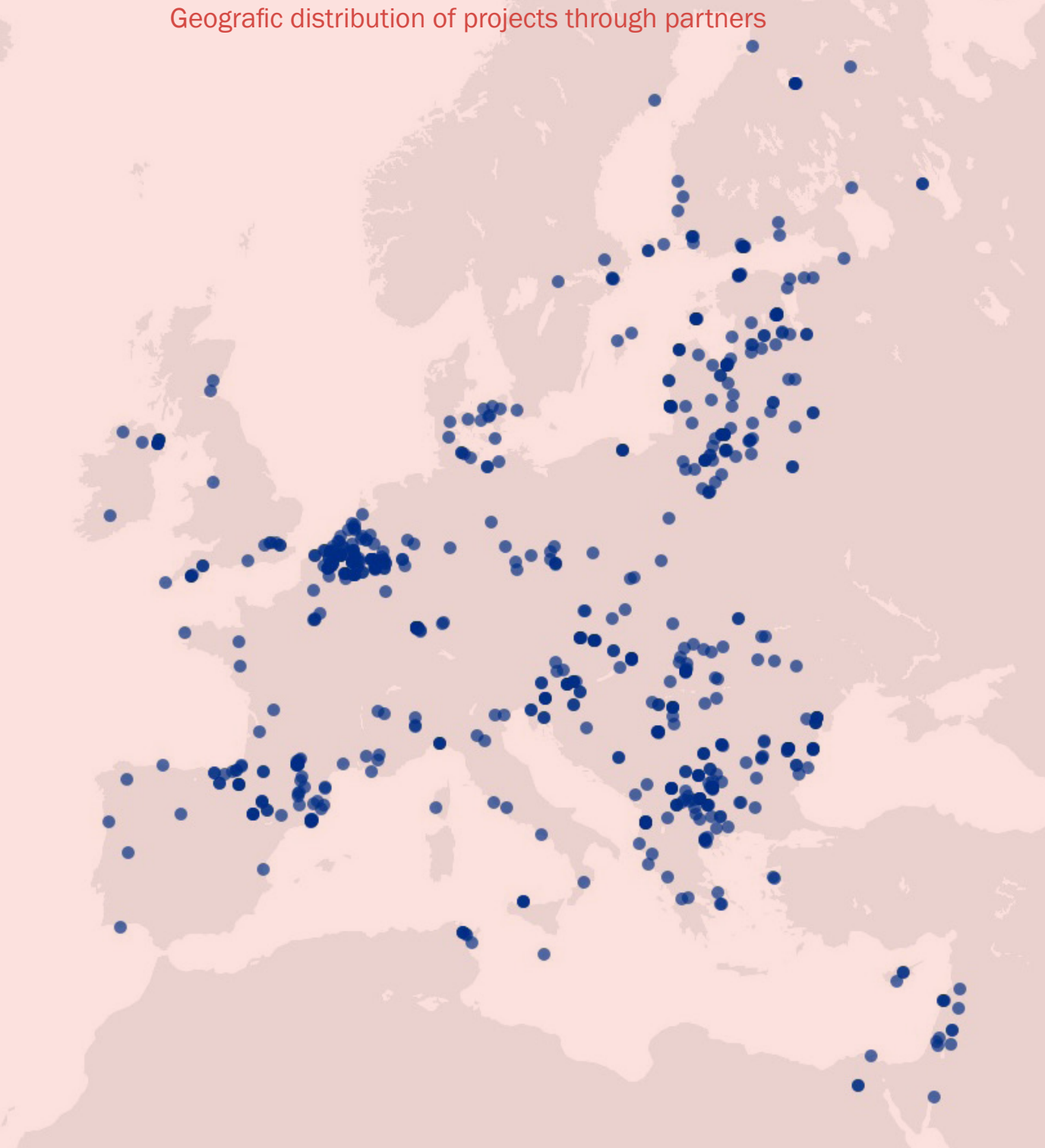
33% of the budget devoted to young people was allocated to improving their employability (116 million euros).

## Projects mapping

The highest project density corresponds to the Benelux area. However, the areas where the most projects are carried out in absolute terms are within the cooperation programmes namely in the Balkan and Baltic regions.

In economic terms (EU funding), the distribution is slightly modified, since the size of the projects carried out by central and western countries is greater than that of projects carried out in the countries further to the East.

Geografic distribution of projects through partners



## Projects per strand



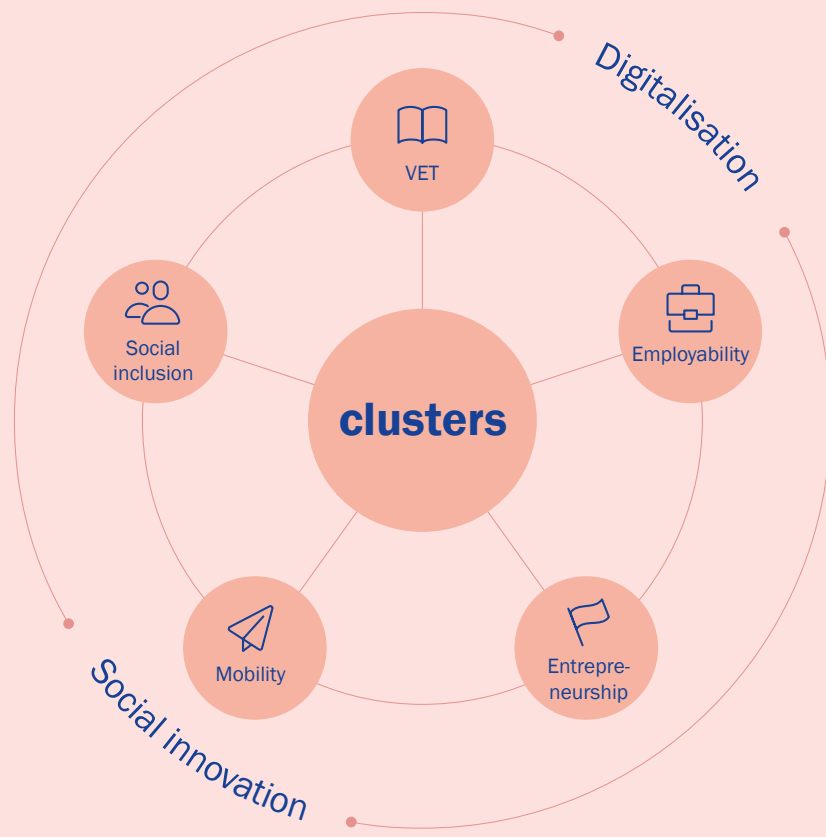
The Cross-Border programmes carried out the largest number of projects in absolute terms. This position is maintained in relative terms when calculating the ratio of projects carried out per number of programmes in each strand.

# 5 clusters

The projects have been classified into five groups that highlight what they do to improve the employability of young people.

- Educational and vocational training (VET)
- Employability
- Entrepreneurship
- Mobility
- Social inclusion

There are two transversal elements to young people's problems that are also present in many of the Interreg projects: digitalisation and social innovation.



There are intersections between the different clusters. As the actions they perform fit into different clusters, a project generally ends up being classified within two or more clusters. For this reason, in the figures analysed below, the total sum is higher than the total number of projects (160) and financing (116 million) in the database.

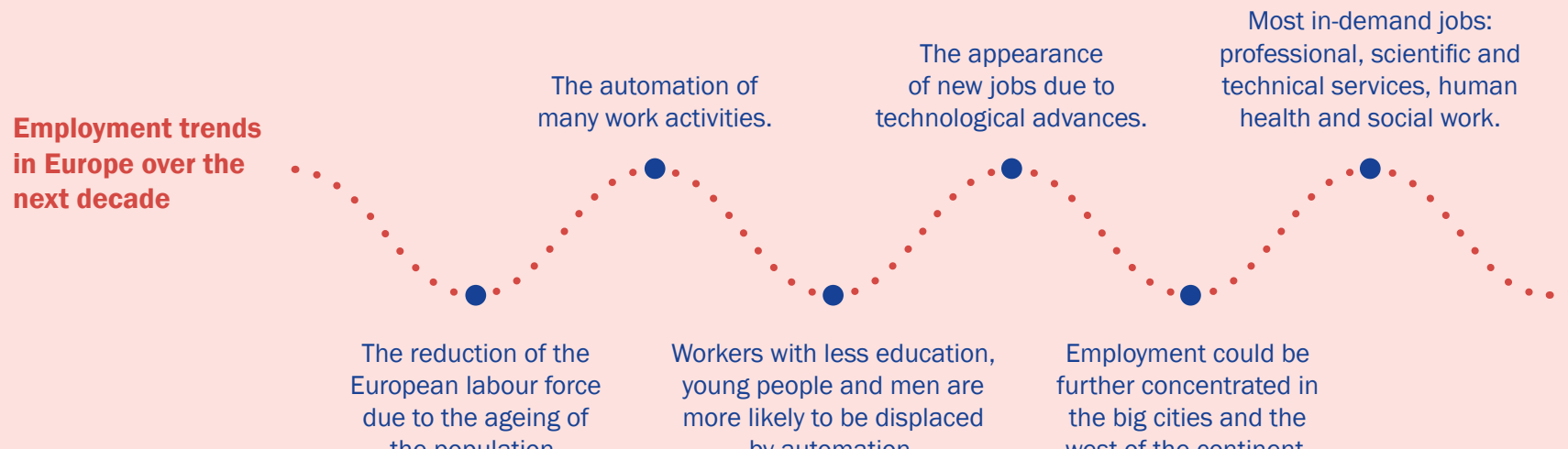
## Benchmarking: Erasmus+, ESF/YEI, Interreg

Probably, **the biggest difference between the programmes lies in the territorial approach of the projects; Interreg is the only one where the regional and cooperative aspect acquires a relevance that distinguishes it from the others.** This approach allows projects to tackle problems that occur in border areas or problems common to different regions, such as issues relating to labour regulations between adjacent regions of different countries, knowledge of languages, etc.

Programme	Territorial Framework	Main Themes	Fund
Interreg	Across regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility;</li> <li>• Social inclusion, fighting poverty and any discrimination;</li> <li>• Education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning</li> <li>• Entrepreneurship and SME's</li> </ul>	ERDF
Erasmus+	Across countries	Youth mobility	Erasmus
YEI	Whitin one co'untry and/or region	NEETs	ESF
ESF	Whitin one country and/or region	Employment, learning and inclusion to all citizens.	ESF

There is a **high degree of complementarity between the activities carried out by Interreg and the projects developed by the ESF and YEI.** Complementarity with Erasmus+ is minor and is limited to some of its Key Actions. This complementarity does not necessarily mean duplication, because although the themes and objectives of the projects may be the same, the way of approaching them and especially the geographical scope is different in each of the programmes, which allows responses to specific problems where the territorial aspect is a very important element.

## Trends & recommendations



- Thematic dimension**  
Interreg should focus its objectives on promoting the employability of young people in aspects such as: technology and digitization, green economy, transversal skills that allow them to adapt to a changing world, innovation and creativity, and social inclusion.
- Territorial dimension**  
Interreg should play a relevant role in those problems where the regional and especially the cross-border sphere is a key aspect of the problem. For this, it must continue to deepen the coordination between the different strands, especially the Transnationals and CBC.

## Recommendations

- Take advantage of its differential element (great territorial deployment) so that its projects address problems that are closely linked to the territory.
- Programmes should work more among themselves and with other funds seeking for complementarities.
- Reinforce the dialogue between DG Regio and DG Youth and DG Employment.
- Managing Authorities should open a constant dialogue with their regional authorities leading ESF+.
- Incorporate transversal dimensions more intensively into all projects (digitalisation skills, new jobs, the green economy, knowledge of languages).
- Be aware of the future employment trends in Europe in order to guide young people in the right direction.
- Increase investment in projects that seek to improve the balance between rural and urban areas.
- Delve deeper into the concept of "project chain". This will require greater coordination between the different strands of Interreg.
- Reinforce the involvement from the transnational programmes into topics of youth and employability
- Expand and systematize consultations with young people about their vision of their problems, Interreg, their proposals, etc.
- Include more partners with direct responsibility for the policy instruments addressed.