

Interact III annual implementation report 2019
Annexe 7 – Citizen’s summary

Citizen’s summary of the 2019 annual implementation report of the Interact III 2014-2020 programme

What is the Interact III cooperation programme (Interact III) about?

The European Union cohesion policy has made substantial amounts of financial support available in the 2014-2020 programming period, most of which is used to finance national and regional programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal. In addition, a smaller amount is available for the second goal of the cohesion policy; namely, European Territorial Cooperation (ETC, also called Interreg).

Interreg is a key instrument in addressing the common challenges and obstacles existing at border regions, transnational and interregional cooperation areas, in sharing experiences, and in elaborating common development strategies within the EU cohesion policy. Interact III is one of these Interreg programmes.

Compared to national or regional programmes, Interreg programmes operate in a more complex multi-national environment. Furthermore, their budget is usually smaller that make their results less tangible and visible. In order to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency, new and simplified programme management approaches are necessary and there is a great deal of lessons that Interreg programmes can learn from each other.

And this is exactly where Interact III supports the other Interreg programmes. The overall objective of our programme is therefore to exchange experience and identify and transfer good practises in implementing territorial cooperation. In doing so, we focus on improving three specific areas:

- The management and control capacity of Interreg programmes;
- Interreg’s capacity in capturing and communicating programme results;
- The capacity to implement innovative approaches to cooperation (e.g. through European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, macro-regional strategies and cooperation with national or regional programmes.

Interact has four decentralised offices around Europe in Turku (Finland), Valencia (Spain), Viborg (Denmark) and Vienna (Austria) that are in charge of providing the above-mentioned support to our target groups. Our management bodies (Managing Authority and interact Secretariat, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority) are based in Bratislava, Slovakia.

What did we do in 2019?

In 2019 we delivered to our target groups – the bodies responsible for managing Interreg programmes:

- 109 events (from tailor-made advisory services on specific issues through trainings, seminars, workshops and network meetings);
- 53 tools (such as handbooks, studies, document templates, online information, databases, monitoring system software, training videos, EU-wide promotional campaigns, etc.).

We also operate a number of online communities where Interreg programme managers can seek answers for their operational or strategic issues, share their experiences and good practises.

Some examples

Here are some examples of our outputs from 2019:

- **Online learning:** we launched our online learning tool at the end of 2017 and the number of available courses has been steadily growing ever since. 2019 highlights include courses on the Interreg project cycle, e.g. [Interreg programme management 2014-2020 for beginners](#), [Project development in Interreg](#) as well as practical topics like [How to make your writing work](#). All our courses are available for everyone free of charge.
- **Interreg highlights blog:** we created a new portal that presents information of all Interreg programmes at one place, a 'one-stop-shop' for potential beneficiaries and the general public back in 2017. In 2018, we extended the portal with a continuously updated blog called 'Interreg highlights' to showcase success stories of Interreg projects from all over Europe.
- **European Cooperation Day:** 2019 saw the eight edition of our annual communication campaign that aims at introducing what Interreg programmes do and what impact European cooperation has on the life of citizens by means of local promotional events all over Europe. Interact coordinated the campaign and supported 51 cooperation programmes organising in total 107 events in 31 European countries. Interact itself organised local events in Valencia, Bratislava and Turku. Please have a look at the [evaluation report](#) of the 2019 campaign for more highlights.
- **keep.eu:** A huge, constantly updated, searchable database of territorial cooperation projects and beneficiaries that is freely accessible online for everyone. Apart from extending the database with new projects over the year we also implemented changes improving the usability of the system.

To learn more, check out our [Events calendar](#) where you can learn about our past and future events as well as our easily searchable [Library](#) with all our publications, event reports, presentations and videos.

What about spending?

The total expenditure of the programme certified until the end of 2019 amounts to EUR 20,383,933 (i.e. 44% of the total budget).

Do you need further information?

Should you need further information about Interact III, please don’t hesitate to visit our [website](#) or get in touch with us at interact@interact-eu.net.