Interreg Europe: what you need to know

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What is the programme about?

**Exchange of experience** to improve regional development policies, in particular **Structural Funds** (SF) programmes

An accelerator for regional development
Where does the programme fit in?

Interreg Europe: a programme for the programmes

EU Cohesion policy

Goal 1: Investment for growth & jobs
EUR 340 billion

Goal 2: European Territorial Cooperation
EUR 10.2 billion

INTERREG EUROPE
EUR 359 m
A pan European programme

30 countries
28 EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway
Improving performance of policy instruments

Policy instrument?
- Means of public intervention (policy, strategy or law developed by public authorities)

How to improve a policy instrument
1. Implement new projects
2. Change programme governance
3. Change programme content

May not require funding!
A thematic programme

- Research and innovation
- SME competitiveness
- Environment and resource efficiency
- Low-carbon economy
A programme for policy makers

Managing authorities

Regional / local authorities

Agencies, institutes, private non-profits

Learn from each other to improve policies
Supported actions

A/ Policy learning platforms

B/ Projects
A/ PLATFORMS
Platforms: objectives

facilitate continuous **policy learning** across EU by creating a community of **policy makers & practitioners** to improve regional policies

**Online collaborative tool**
With relevant functionalities

**Expert team**
Content and coordination role

#policylearning
Platforms: services

Accessible to all public

Knowledge bank
- Good practices Database
- Policy recommendations
- Policy news
- Thematic studies

Networking opportunities
- Practitioners Database
- Matchmaking events
- Discussion forums

Accessible to registered members

Expert helpdesk
- Policy advice
- Guidance in the databases

Expert support
- Peer reviews
- Benchmarking exercises
- Thematic workshops

#policylearning
Platforms: activities

First thematic content **online**: articles, news, events

**12/12/2016**
Innovation Union spurs Europe's innovation capacities and...

The rise of new technologies is challenging Europe and its readiness for embracing the revolutionary technologies.

Type: Platform

**30/11/2016**
How to turn Europe's large research infrastructures into...

Europe has the opportunity to enhance its innovation capacity by strengthening cooperation between analytical research institutes and companies.

Type: Platform

**30/11/2016**
New actions to help close the gap in research excellence...

Ten new centres of excellence were selected for funding from Horizon 2020.

Type: Platform

**16/11/2016**
Innovation ecosystems and role of frontrunners in mutual...

Europe needs pioneering cities and regions to test ground breaking ideas and validate innovative products, services and policies.

Type: Platform
B/ PROJECTS
Projects: main features

Definition

Partners from different countries working together on a shared regional policy issue (within the thematic scope of the programme)…….

Objective

….to improve the effectiveness of the policy instruments of the regions involved in the project (in particular their Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes)
Projects: main features

Implementation in 2 phases

 Phase 1  
Policy exchange of experience (1 to 3 years) ending with production of 1 *action plan* per policy instrument

 Phase 2  
*Monitoring* of action plan implementation (2 years) + possible pilot actions

Focus on Structural Funds (SF)
At least half of policy instruments addressed must be SF
Projects: partnership requirements

- Min: 3 countries to be represented
  Recommendation: between 5 to 10 partners

- Involvement of policy responsible organisations
  - Directly as partners
  - Indirectly through letter of support (and through participation in stakeholder groups)

- Creation of stakeholder groups
  - Contribute to success of learning process by involving all relevant organisations
  - Reduce obstacles to action plan implementation
Projects: who is eligible?

- Public bodies (main target group) (e.g. local, regional, national authorities)
- Bodies governed by public law (Directive 2004/18/EC)
- Private non profit bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-financing rates</th>
<th>According to legal status or location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85% ERDF</td>
<td>Public or public equivalent from EU</td>
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<tr>
<td>75% ERDF</td>
<td>Private non-profit from EU</td>
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<td>50% Norwegian funding</td>
<td>Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from NO</td>
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<td>Swiss funding</td>
<td>Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from CH</td>
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Projects: what do we finance?

Exchange of experience activities
such as study visits, peer reviews, workshops, seminars

How?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget line</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>the core of the budget (usually 50%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>15% flat rate of staff costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and accommodation</td>
<td>only for the staff members of the partner organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>External expertise and services</td>
<td>any services needed outside the partner organisation + travel and accommodation for stakeholder groups/external experts (usually below 50%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>office equipment (not exceeding EUR 5000-7000)</td>
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Projects state of play

2 calls: 472 applications / 130 projects approved (27.5%)
Projects geographic coverage

100% partner countries

78% NUTS 2 regions
Projects: country involvement

Partners in approved projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Call 1</th>
<th>Call 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>IT</td>
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<td>CH</td>
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Cyprus in the two calls

![Pie chart showing partners by topic and legal status]
For more information

Programme website

- www.interregeurope.eu

Programme manual

- www.interregeurope.eu/help/programme-manual/

Interreg Europe community

- www.interregeurope.eu/account/dashboard/
Thank you!