

**Interreg  
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

# An accelerator for regional development



[www.interregeurope.eu](http://www.interregeurope.eu)

March 2016

**30**

**countries**

**28 EU Member States,  
Switzerland and  
Norway**

Interreg Europe helps **regional and local governments** across Europe to **develop and deliver better policy**.

We create a unique environment for sharing solutions by and for regions, to ensure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts lead to more sustainable impact on the ground.



**€359m**

Financed by the  
European Regional  
Development  
Fund

# Emphasis on improving regional policies & programmes

Interreg Europe aims to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular

**Investment for Growth and Jobs**

and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes.

**Four topics** were selected in order to make the best use of limited funds. The more focused the actions, the higher the chances they deliver effective results.



**Research &  
innovation**



**SME  
competitiveness**



**Environment &  
resource  
efficiency**



**Low-carbon  
economy**



## Research & innovation

Partners in this topic can work on:

1. Strengthening research and innovation infrastructure and capacities.
2. Innovation delivery through regional innovation chains in the chosen 'smart specialisation' field.

*e.g.*

- *improving financial instruments for innovation support*
- *increasing commercialisation of R&D results*





**SME  
competitiveness**

This topic allows regions to improve their policies in supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop and achieve growth, and engage in innovation.

*e.g.*

- *creating and boosting entrepreneurial spirit*
- *responding to obstructions to business growth*







## Low-carbon economy

Cooperation here addresses the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors.

This could be through policies aimed at raising the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix or promoting sustainable transport.

*e.g.*

- *increasing energy performance of public buildings*
  - *promoting alternative mobility behaviour*





## Environment & resource efficiency

Two distinct fields are open  
for cooperation:

1. Protection & development of  
natural and cultural heritage.
2. Transition to a resource-efficient  
economy, promoting green growth  
and eco-innovation.

*e.g.*

- *improving management of  
regional nature parks*
- *making the transition to circular economy*







**2**

**actions**




# 1. PROJECTS

Public organisations from different regions in Europe work together for 3 to 5 years on a shared policy issue.

An **action plan**, specific for each region, will ensure that the lessons learnt from the cooperation are put into action. Regional partners will **monitor** how far the action plans are implemented.

Calls for project proposals are launched throughout the programming period.





# 2.

## POLICY LEARNING PLATFORMS

Policy learning platforms open up the programme's knowledge for the benefit of all the **project partners and the whole community of regional policy makers**. There is one policy learning platform for each of the four topics covered by Interreg Europe.

The main aim is to provide a space for **continuous learning**, to improve regional development policies in Europe without engaging in a project.

This community of peers features a **knowledge bank, networking** and partnering opportunities and **expert support**.

# Who can participate?



## **Organisations responsible for Structural Funds programmes:**

find tried and tested measures to implement in your programme.



## **National/regional/local authorities:**

share and implement good practices coming from across Europe.



## **Agencies, research institutes, thematic and non-profit organisations:**

get involved with your policymaker and contribute to better policy implementation.

# How can I be involved?

Become a project partner

Join a stakeholder group

Sign up for the platforms



**Share** good practices, ideas,  
**learn** from the others.

**Find** solutions to **improve**  
your **regional development**  
strategies.



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