

inter act



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autumn 2014

weaving the fabric of cooperation: the new generation of interregional programmes



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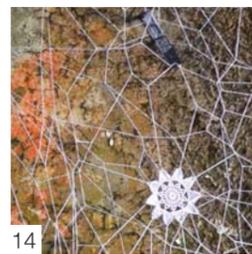
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weaving the cooperation web



I. Kalnina
INTERACT

You can define Europe in many ways. To me, Europe is a network of networks! It unites 500 million people, around 100 nationalities, close to 300 regions and 500 cities. And to make these networks work some help is needed.

Interreg is the EU's initiative to support cooperation among cities and regions and the four networking (strand C) programmes – Interreg Europe, URBACT, ESPON and INTERACT – help to support this cooperation.

As for the future of these programmes, here is the good news: little is changing! ESPON will continue with research, URBACT with sustainable urban development, Interreg Europe (former INTERREG IVC) will bring European regions together to exchange best practices and capitalise on them and INTERACT will continue to support Interreg programmes throughout their life-cycle.

The four programmes have been very productive in their missions so far. Between 2007 – 2014, INTERACT engaged the Interreg community in improving programme management approaches, in amending the legal framework for 2014 – 2020, in supporting capacity building across programmes, in working together on capturing and showcasing the results of cooperation in joint branding initiatives and so on. Around 400 events have been organised, 221 advisory services and 845 information services provided, 24 studies and 47 newly developed tools delivered.

ESPON has supported 66 research assignments and carried out 16 projects with more than 73 actions. 25 were applied research projects, 23 targeted analyses for stakeholders using ESPON results to provide a European outlook, ten projects delivered data tools including

the ESPON Database, mapping facilities and quick scan opportunities, and eight transnational capitalisation projects were implemented by ESPON Contact Points.

For URBACT, exchange and learning in the previous programming period means 61 networks, with more than 550 cities and 7000 active participants from 29 countries.

As a result of INTERREG IVC more than 400 good policy practices have been transferred to benefitting regions, around 430 local and regional policy tools and instruments have been designed or improved.

The fourth generation of interregional programmes will see some changes: greater attention will be paid to maximising the results (via Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms and INTERACT's cross-programme capitalisation activities); Interreg Europe and URBACT have ambitions to boost the involvement of the private sector; the management of the programmes will be leaner (ESPON plans to set up an EGTC to reduce the administrative burden). Budgets have also changed – some being the winners (URBACT will see a 40% increase), and yet others (Interreg Europe) have to split their share among 28 EU Member States plus Switzerland and Norway now. There is also a trend to support more direct implementation, i.e. not only collect and learn from good practices, but implement the changes inspired by them. URBACT, for example, wants to see more networks, which will implement the Local Action Plans they developed. Interreg Europe will also encourage implementation of the Action Plans.

The four programmes also collaborate among themselves. They meet at least once a year to discuss synergies and joint communication activities. One such annual “Jour Fixe” is a common workshop during the Open Days. In 2014 it will explore how to “Get the most of pan-European cooperation programmes”. You are welcome to join the workshop, to explore the details in this Newsletter, and to take part in interregional cooperation!

strengthening the links between the four interregional programmes

Interview with Michel Lamblin, Programme Director, INTERREG IVC/Europe; Emmanuel Moulin, Head of Secretariat, URBACT; Peter Mehlbye, Head of ESPON Coordination Unit and Petra Masáčová, Head of the Managing Authority, INTERACT. The four discussed the changes in the structure and mandate of their programmes and what makes them different from the others in the programming period 2014 – 2020.

By **Dorothee Fischer**, Communications and European Affairs Expert

What are the main achievements of your programme and what evidence do you have for it?

Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC/Europe

Currently, under INTERREG IVC, more than 400 good policy practices have been transferred from one region to another and around 430 local/regional policy tools or instruments have been developed or improved thanks to the knowledge shared through cooperation. EUR 710m – more than double the programme budget – was

spent by national/regional funds to implement the good practices learned under INTERREG IVC. More than 6000 staff members of local and regional bodies increased their capacity in regional policy implementation.

“The programme was questioned in 2006, as it was addressing too many themes in all fields of regional development, now it is an integral part of the Cohesion Policy framework – the added-value has now been demonstrated.”

Michel Lamblin
INTERREG IVC/Europe

Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT

One of the big achievements for URBACT is the impact of the **Local Action Plans** that the cities have to produce as one of the main outputs of their network activities. According to a recent study, one year after the end of their network activities, 90% of respondent cities declared their Local Action Plan was being implemented. And one third of these respondents have declared having implemented over 50% of the actions outlined in their action plan. This is of course to the benefit of cities and their citizens, the final beneficiaries of all our networks.

Another important result for URBACT for 2007 – 2013 is the impact of the knowledge produced by the programme through its capitalisation activities. A survey launched this spring on our capitalisation and communications activities demonstrates URBACT's capacity in promoting sustainable urban development not only to URBACT beneficiaries (cities and regions) but also to non-URBACT cities and organisations around Europe. From over 400 respondents, city decision-makers, practitioners and urban experts, 85% of them declare to have increased their knowledge on integrated urban development.

These are some strong elements that we will continue to develop in the future.

Petra Masáčová, INTERACT

Between 2007 and 2013 INTERACT provided *tangible support* primarily to European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes as well as to other territorial cooperation stakeholders (among others national authorities, actors of the multi-level governance systems of macro-regional strategies and the European Commission) in several areas, including

- Management and control of 2007-2013 programmes (programme set-up, programme, project and

- financial management, including first and second level control);
- Macro-regional strategies;
- Capitalisation;
- Communication of programme and projects results;
- Preparations for the 2014-2020 programming period.

All ETC programmes have – although to a different extent – directly benefited from INTERACT services. An average satisfaction rate of 4.19 out of 5.00 of INTERACT event attendees shows that the programmes highly appreciate the support provided.

There are aspects of INTERACT services that are difficult to demonstrate by hard facts and numbers, nevertheless, we can say that INTERACT also contributed extensively to the harmonisation and simplification of the programmes and made their work more visible.

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON



Credit: ESPON

ESPON is an ETC programme with the special role of providing policy development with comparable pan-European evidence about territorial structures, trends, perspectives and impacts of policies.

Between 2007-2014 the knowledge base for informed policy-making improved significantly thanks to more than 100 project activities and the involvement of a large number of researchers and experts from all over Europe in transnational project groups.

“ESPON shall be seen as a provider of territorial evidence with a European perspective that can support a successful and intelligent policy implementation in all parts of Europe, in its regions and cities”

Peter Mehlbye
ESPON

The evidence was used in policy contexts and in targeted analyses together with groups of

stakeholders from regions, cities, national authorities and other ETC programmes. The tools made available were further developed, such as the ESPON Database, and the awareness and use of territorial evidence adding a European perspective to considerations by policy-makers and practitioners increased. Furthermore, the involvement and interest of academics across Europe increased in the territorial development phenomena.

If you look back at the programming period 2007 – 2013, what are in your opinion the lessons learned with respect to your programme? What needs to be improved and what needs to be maintained?

Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT

Between 2007-2013 we developed and fine-tuned what we call the **URBACT Method** that is a key element of all our exchange and learning activities. It is a mix of ingredients such as the involvement of local stakeholders and the use of participatory tools, the focus on the production of local action plans and the transnational environment for learning. This method is increasingly becoming a trademark of URBACT and while its ingredients are relatively simple, cities appreciate it greatly and regularly give evidence of its success.

In terms of improvement we need to look more to what becomes of the Local Action Plans produced by the cities, once the URBACT networks end. For this reason, we are already testing a **new type of network** focused on the **delivery and implementation** of Action Plans and at the same time we are performing an on-going evaluation of these networks. We hope to take this idea further and mainstream it through URBACT III.

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON

The main lessons learned for the next and third generation of ESPON are that a renewal is necessary that ensures three major improvements: (1) a stronger outreach and use of ESPON results in practical policy for cities, regions and other ERDF-funded programmes (2) more capacity to internalise analyses, transfer knowledge and communicate ESPON results rapidly when policy processes demand this, and (3) a profound overhaul of the administrative setting reducing the administrative burden within the programme implementation.

However, the production of new territorial evidence through applied research activities and the maintenance and improvement of the knowledge base and tools needs to continue providing new evidence for capitalisation efforts and outreach activities which target all administrative levels with comparable information on regions, cities and larger territories, seen from a European perspective.

How do you define capitalisation and what will be your future capitalisation work look like?

Petra Masáčová, INTERACT



Credit: INTERACT

Capitalisation deals with the effective use of knowledge and experience previously gained by oneself or others. Capitalisation, as we see it at INTERACT, is an integrated process aimed at consolidating the capital built by Territorial Cooperation/Interreg projects and programmes (we understand capital, within this framework, as the outputs/results/knowledge/know-how). INTERACT's

“INTERACT represents a further step ahead within territorial cooperation. As part of the interregional cooperation “family” it covers the whole European Union and beyond.”

Petra Masáčová
INTERACT

goals for capitalisation are, predominantly, to improve the visibility and accessibility of knowledge and results generated by Territorial Cooperation/INTERREG projects and programmes. This is an important goal in itself but also as a support to the goal of promoting the re-use and / or transfer of this knowledge and these results, which, in turn, will ultimately promote an improvement of performance and delivery.

INTERACT's contribution to the overall Territorial Cooperation capitalisation efforts starts with KEEP, a multi-criterion searchable, geo-referenced database of Territorial Cooperation/Interreg projects and partners. Besides that, INTERACT has been working and analysing different topics (i.e. energy, culture and creative industries, various topics under the Mediterranean lab group).

In the future, INTERACT III will continue to work in these fields. One of our specific objectives will focus on how to improve the capturing and communication of programme results, and it is there that our thematic capitalisation efforts will be included. For that, we will have to be well coordinated with the rest of the interregional

programmes, especially with INTERREG Europe.

Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC/Europe

The INTERREG IVC thematic Capitalisation Initiative is an approach that focuses on collecting, analysing, benchmarking and disseminating the thematic knowledge gained from projects working on the same topic. In-depth analysis reports, along with easy-to-use policy recommendations, are available for use and re-use by any organisation involved in policymaking in one of the 12 topics examined by our experts.

In INTERREG EUROPE, this knowledge base evolves into **policy learning platforms**, open to any interested organisation looking to exchange or learn on a particular thematic field.

In practice, Managing Authorities of Structural Funds, local and regional authorities, agencies, research institutes, also individual policymakers and practitioners will have an access to the platform services through online tools and expertise support. Knowledge management services will include peer reviews, case studies, discussion forums, and expert advice. Institutions will be also invited to thematic events such as good practice fairs, workshops and webinars to learn, share, and exchange their experiences.

Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT



Credit: URBACT

Since 2007, URBACT II has been the first interregional co-operation programme with a dedicated operation and budget for capitalisation purposes. For us, capitalisation is the production of new urban knowledge building on existing experience and knowledge coming not only from the URBACT partners but also from similar or

complementary European projects/programmes.

“According to a recent study, one year after the end of their network, 90% of respondent cities declare their Local Action Plan was being implemented.”

Emmanuel Moulin
URBACT

URBACT III will continue its capitalisation activities. We aim to ensure that practitioners and decision-makers at all levels (EU, national, regional and local) have increased access to URBACT thematic knowledge, and that they share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban policies.

To do so, we will develop actions that consolidate and share knowledge on sustainable urban development. We created for example ‘workstreams’ i.e., workgroups, for a limited period of time that bring together ‘doers’ and ‘thinkers’ on a specific theme aiming the transfer of knowhow and the production of policy recommendation on urban issues, a new *interactive* website, that we plan to have for the beginning of next year, operating as a knowledge platform with the help of thematic experts, *URBACT National Points* to involve the different levels of governance concerned (national, regional, local) in the share of knowledge.

We also count on strengthening the **cooperation with other organisations** (programmes, networks, etc.) operating in the area of sustainable urban development. Of course we will also contribute to national and EU initiatives as part of the European Urban Agenda.

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON

Capitalisation was for the ESPON 2013 programme seen as the communication of results, awareness raising, involvement and the use of ESPON results in policy development. The future ESPON 2020 programme will develop an outreach strategy that will be implemented in the yearly work plans. It is planned that outreach activities towards the European level will be ESPON EGTC's responsibility and activities at transnational and national level be done in collaboration with the national ESPON Contact Points.

Based on this experience, the intention is to put more emphasis on web-based communication and use analyses targeting themes defined by stakeholders and other ERDF programmes, and last but not least, the new products, policy briefs and working papers etc., to be delivered swiftly by the ESPON EGTC upon policy demand. The latter shall improve the delivery of territorial evidence to policy development with the right timing, which so far has been difficult due to in-house resource shortages.

What kind of projects will you finance in the future and is there any change in the new programming period?

Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC/Europe

We will continue to finance interregional cooperation projects, the difference from INTERREG IVC being that all projects have a requirement to develop an action plan, and to follow-up on the implementation of this

action plan in their region. This extended monitoring phase will allow the programme to capture the impacts of policy change when they actually take effect (often a couple of years after the project actively ends).

In terms of partnerships, we still target public authorities and those responsible for implementing policy. There is a particular focus on those bodies involved in structural funds implementation, such as Managing Authorities and Implementation Bodies. A new development is that private non-profit organisations relevant to policymaking/implementation will also be eligible for funding.

Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT

Three types of networks for action planning, for implementation and for exchange of good practices will be financed and not only networks for action planning as for the previous programming period.

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON

The renewed ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme will formally only have one project contracted to the Single Beneficiary, the ESPON EGTC.

The actions and activities will continue to produce territorial evidence through applied research and more analysis defined by policy need, and will include wider outreach activities and a leaner implementation by procuring certain services externally.

Are there any changes in the budget? What are the consequences for the programme?

Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT

The budget will increase by 40% in comparison with the previous period. This means more budget for capacity building actions (one of the main requirements that came out of the consultation process) and for exchange and learning.

Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC/Europe

In absolute terms the budget has increased from €321m to €359m, but in real terms this is a decrease. Plus it now serves 30 countries (not 29) and is spread over 9 years (not 8). This means the programme activities will be more focused on where real impacts can be made.

We expect to finance a similar number of projects as under INTERREG IVC (around 200), and the new activity of policy learning platforms should ensure a wider participation and sharing of knowledge outside of formal project partnerships. Administrative procedures and processes are being streamlined to reduce as far as possible the burden on the project applicants, and on the JTS resources to evaluate and monitor projects.

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON

Overall, the new ESPON 2020 budget is expected to be approximately €3m higher than the current one. The main change is related to the new administrative setting and the financing of more in-house capacity at the ESPON EGTC, which put emphasis on knowledge transfer and use of ESPON results in practice in policy processes and by stakeholders and other ERDF programmes. This was in terms of number of activities to be implemented, otherwise no major changes are foreseen compared to the ESPON 2013 Programme.

What makes your programme different from the other networking/interregional programmes?

Petra Masáčová, INTERACT

The INTERACT programme is unique in that we do not finance projects, but we support other Interreg programmes, including IPA CBC and ENI, as well as macroregional and sea basin strategies. We promote cooperation as a tool for growth and change through policy development and strategic orientation, within territorial cooperation and beyond.

INTERACT is the hub for exchanging information and best practices among cooperation programmes. We also work to make project results more visible.

Our services, seminars and advice help streamline the work of cooperation programmes, allowing them to devote more time and energy to their projects.

Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT

URBACT is the unique interregional programmes' ETC programme dedicated to cities for integrated and sustainable urban development.

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON

ESPON has the specific role within ESIF being the only programme with the task of improving the European territorial evidence base. At the same time it offers intelligent knowledge transfer to policy processes, providing the European territorial dimension for regions, cities and larger territories.

Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC/Europe

INTERREG EUROPE has the distinction of being the only Europe-wide programme focusing in particular on the improvement of structural funds policies, allowing exchange and transfer of good practices across all territorial levels in the topics most relevant to them.

What are in your opinion the most important assets of interregional cooperation?

Petra Masáčová, INTERACT

Interregional cooperation, by working at pan-European level, allows collaboration between European areas that would not otherwise have the possibility to cooperate and exchange.

In addition, while cross-border cooperation fosters sharing of problems and common challenges in quite limited geographical territory and transnational cooperation aims at developing coordinated actions and strategies, interregional cooperation focuses on transfer of competences from successful regions to others, still investing in a large spectrum of themes.

In this sense, INTERACT represents a further step ahead within territorial cooperation. As part of the interregional cooperation „family“ it covers the whole European Union and beyond. But more than that it translates the principle of the transfer of competences to all Interreg programmes.

A successful interregional programme in the future should keep in mind this transversal approach, allowing more inputs and exchanges with the other strands to further take advantages of successful experiences.

Emmanuel Moulin, URBACT

Interregional cooperation programmes can create a spiral of change through their activities focusing on exchange of good practices and a continuous learning culture at city, regional and EU levels. To do so they need to ensure an articulation between the different types and stages of support they provide. In particular there must be bridges between early-stage European Territorial Cooperation programmes, innovative actions, research and development, territorial strategies, etc., and the mainstream axes of the operational programmes.

Peter Mehlbye, ESPON

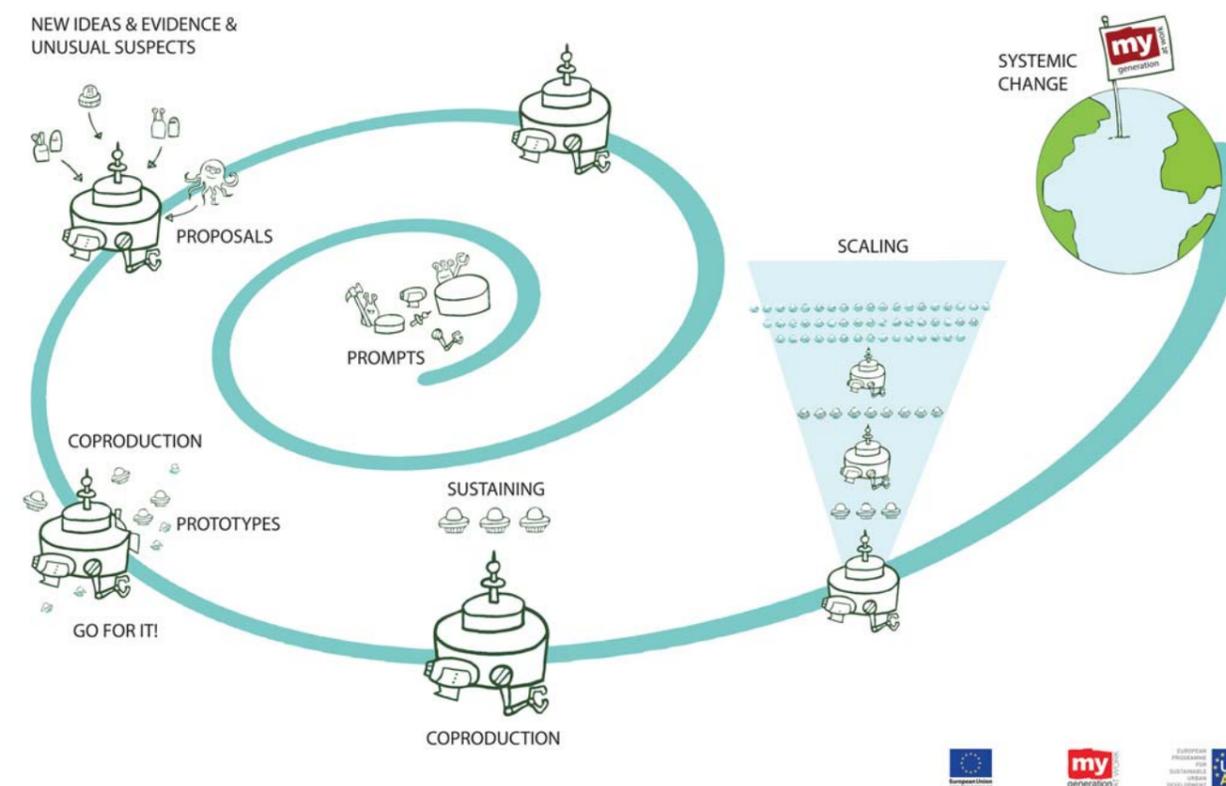
In fact, interregional cooperation programmes have a true European perspective by covering the entire Union and even more countries. By this nature they contribute to the basic ambitions behind the European cooperation project.

“Interregional cooperation programmes have a true European perspective by covering the entire Union and beyond. By this nature they contribute to the intentions behind the European cooperation project.”

Peter Mehlbye
ESPON

The success of interregional cooperation programmes and projects is closely connected to their ability to increase the conditions of citizens in regions and cities and thereby support the ownership of the European idea.

My Generation at Work - Social Innovation Spiral



generation recovered

Work contracts are changing, new global and technological opportunities are arising, but not everybody is a winner in this new dynamic labour market. For young people in Europe it is particularly difficult to find a job, even more so when they live in the South. The 'My Generation at Work' network financed by the URBACT II Programme therefore promotes the employability of young people with a special focus on enterprising skills and attitudes.

By **Dorothee Fischer**, Communications and European Affairs Expert

Sometimes I envy my parents: they grew up in a peaceful Europe, they got a good education and found a job for life. Everything was easy peasy, no questions asked about where to live and how to live. Security and stability were life-given facts with all the economic wealth and freedom that go with them.

never been a post-war generation of young people in Europe with a higher unemployment rate – reaching up to 50 or 60% in some of the Southern European countries. Is this another 'lost generation' as Angela Merkel warned recently? How can we give young people orientation and provide a path to a promising future?

Today's world has changed. On the one hand, there are more opportunities than ever – we are living in a globalised world, we can work and travel anywhere and anytime. Nonetheless, there has

'Today everybody everywhere is affected by often sudden and highly unpredictable changes in the labour market. Nobody is safe in this sense, no matter how well you have



The URBACT Method and the Local Support Groups

The URBACT II Programme has developed a special methodology for their exchange and learning networks, called the URBACT Method, one of its main elements being the “Local Support Groups”(LSG). Set-up in each partner city, the LSG brings together a variety of local actors like local authorities, NGO, beneficiaries/users, public agencies, the private sector and civil society. In the case of My Generation at Work, they also include young people and give them a say in the development of innovative tools to bridge the gap between the educational and business world. The results will be concrete solutions and policies summarised in “Local Action Plans” which the local partners aim to implement, during and after their involvement in an URBACT network.

More info: <http://urbact.eu/en/about-urbact/our-organisation/local-support-groups/>

been educated or how committed you are to your job,’ says Robert Arnkil, lead expert of the ‘My Generation at Work’ network. This means that young people need to acquire new skills and be motivated to adapt to changes and transitions throughout their whole life. Whereas in the past, you changed your career and job only a few times, perhaps only once in your life, today you typically change jobs every few years, continuously learning new skills, also outside formal education, for example through peers, interests and hobbies. Consequently, new ‘hybrid careers’ are becoming the norm. ‘In simple terms it means not having your eggs in one basket,’ Robert explains, ‘for example, having a set of skills up your sleeve, and skills to move on or acquire new ones. Like a hybrid car you are able to run on different energies.’

In addition, the type of work contracts are no longer the same. There are not only two options – being employed or an entrepreneur – people are often alternating between these two types of career paths, or they work part-time in both. The partners of the network ‘My Generation at Work’ have called these skills and attitudes ‘enterprising’ to emphasize that you need to ‘create’, or ‘carve out’ your work, more like an entrepreneur than an employed worker. Even as an employed person, it is more useful to have skills to act as

an “entrepreneur of your own life” using every opportunity to acquire new skills instead of relying on the lessons learned. ‘This is not panacea against unemployment, but prepares you better for rough weather,’ summarises Robert.

The ‘My Generation at Work’ network wants to bridge the gap between what young people learn during their formal education and the skills needed for a dynamic labour market. It is sometimes surprising that you can still graduate from university without knowing how to draft a CV or a business plan or how to build up professional networks. Also, attitudes towards self-employment can be anything from ignorant to fearful. The partner cities therefore lobby to develop enterprising skills and attitudes in every aspect of education in order to prepare young people for ‘real life projects’ and to be open for new possibilities.

Specifically, each partner city has set-up a number of social innovation pilots, called ‘Go For It’. These are small, bold experiments/pilots, or ‘mini-projects’ with different priorities in each city. They always involve young people in the co-creation process. Currently, 44 ‘Go For Its’ are being tested in the twelve partner cities, that, together with Local Support Groups, attracted more than 1000 young people in addition to private companies and

local authorities. local events are expected in the upcoming months.

Go enterprise, dude!



The good news is that this methodology can be easily transferred to other cities or regions in Europe. The key idea was to encourage rapid, practical experimentation to promote youth employment, leaving it to each city to find the most appropriate way for them. And this was not like doing your obligatory homework in school – the youngsters were very grateful for this mind-opening opportunity. Or in the words of one participant: ‘My parents never taught me what to do after leaving college, nor did my teachers or professors at university. I was pretty lost and after having participated in the ‘My Generation at Work’ workshops I am no longer afraid to follow my passions or take unusual decisions in my future career.’

Website: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/my-generation-at-work/homepage/>

Lead partner: City of Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

Contact person: Cleo Pouw

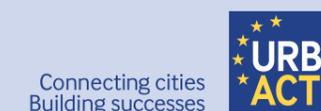
E-mail: cc.pouw@rotterdam.nl

Partner cities: Antwerp (Belgium), Riga (Latvia), Glasgow (United Kingdom), Gdansk (Poland), Warsaw (Poland), Tampere (Finland), Valencia (Spain), Braga (Portugal), Maribor (Slovenia), Turin (Italy), Thessaloniki (Greece)

Budget: €701,740

ERDF contribution: €512,818

Project Duration: February 2013 – March 2015



fostering the programme's joint vision: the interreg logo

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is present all over the EU and beyond, including Norway and Switzerland. What makes it strong - its local implementation, is also an obstacle regarding its visibility. Interreg does not appear as the major tool it represents to European integration, but rather a mosaic of local initiatives. Aspiring to be visible also at a larger scale, ETC programmes have joined forces to develop a joint brand mark that could represent them better to the outside world and be recognised in an easier way by their target audiences from their stakeholders to potential beneficiaries, but also the general public.

By **Guillaume Terrien**, Communication Manager, INTERACT

Promoting Interreg cannot be limited to showcasing project results. Achieving those results requires most of all the implementation of highly qualitative projects. Year after year, in all European regions, a greater number of potential project partners need to be involved to guarantee innovative and relevant projects to achieve Interreg's ambition. Potential project partners are an important target group for the programmes.

The promotion of Interreg achievements is a requirement together with the funding and partnership opportunities it offers. These are often not clearly visible. In the last INTERACT newsletter, we presented the necessity to create a common brand for Interreg with the added value this brings to all stakeholders involved (potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries, programmes and policy and decision-makers) and how it would help the understanding and visibility of European Territorial Cooperation towards a larger audience.

More than 50 programmes out of 70 have already agreed to use the joint Interreg brand mark in their corporate image, among those, 38 from all strands will use this logo as their programme logo; from the Northern Ireland-Ireland-Scotland to Greece-Cyprus along with North West Europe, Alpine Space and Interreg Europe (former Interreg IVC) and many more. IPA programmes are also following a similar process. However, the number of participating programmes is not final as the process remains open and more might join.

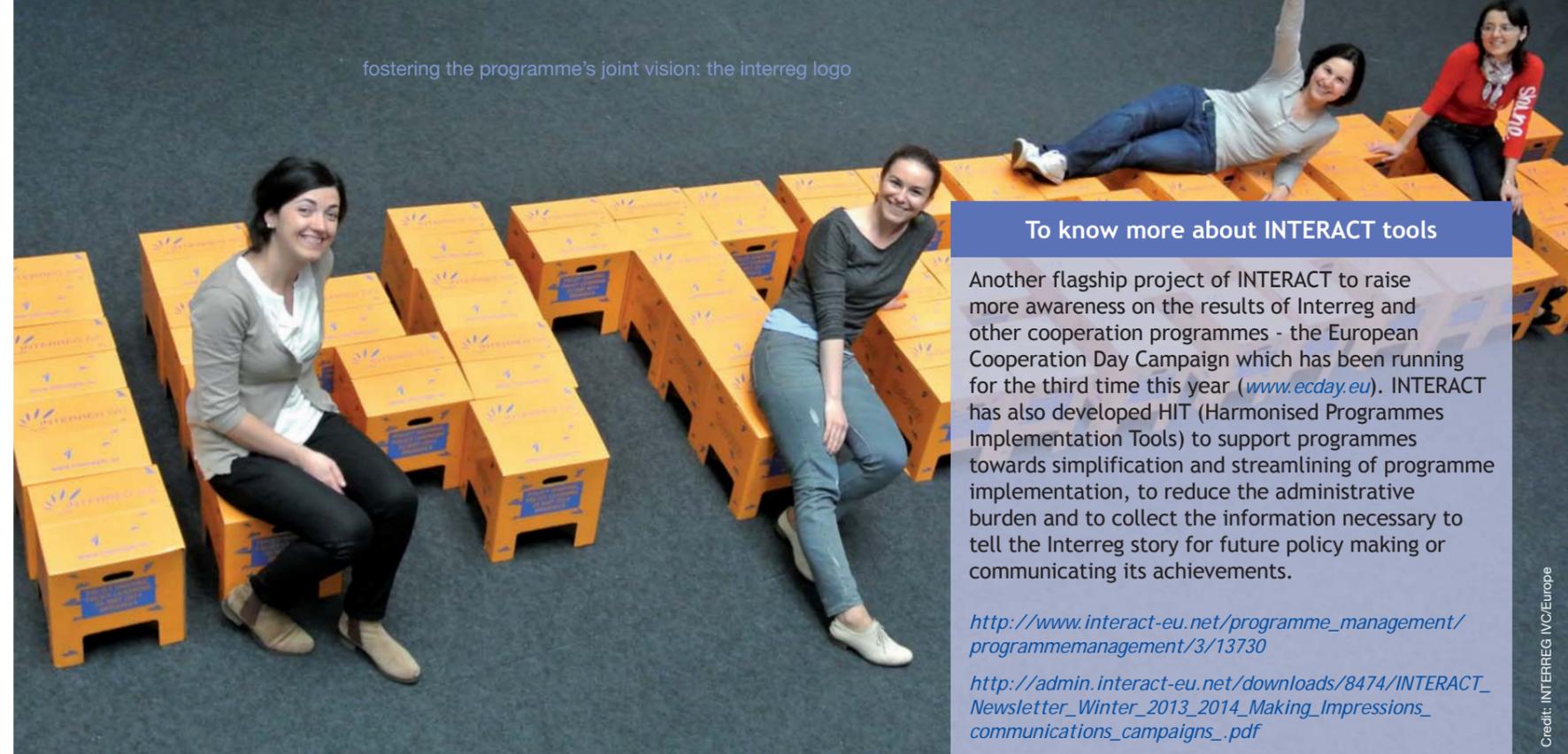
Along with this process, the European Commission and programmes also agree to harmonise whenever possible the naming of the programmes, i.e. always including Interreg e.g. Interreg Austria Czech Republic or Interreg Central Europe. Beyond a joint logo/brand mark and a common simple name across languages, it is a very important step allowing actors to speak about the same initiative across Europe and also to benefit from cross-fertilisation of the new "Interreg brand", including on the Internet.

This need had been identified by several programmes, but alone they did not have the capacity to initiate and coordinate the process. It became INTERACT's role to evaluate the need and from the positive result of this analysis, to initiate and coordinate the process involving all core actors of Interreg 70 ETC programmes, 28 Member States and the European Commission from the technical services to the Cabinet of the Commissioner.

Officially launched in June 2013, the process can be complex due to the high number of parties involved in such a sensitive topic, which can often be "personal" and so far intentionally bound to the single programme area. Programmes accepted to exchange some of their local specificity for greater visibility.

This process is now reaching its final stages where a logo for Interreg has been developed. All participating programmes accepted that the joint logo could only be built on a consensus and taking into account regulatory requirements. The Commission has been supportive at all levels since the very start of the work and has now endorsed the new logo as fitting all legal requirements.

fostering the programme's joint vision: the interreg logo



To know more about INTERACT tools

Another flagship project of INTERACT to raise more awareness on the results of Interreg and other cooperation programmes - the European Cooperation Day Campaign which has been running for the third time this year (www.ecday.eu). INTERACT has also developed HIT (Harmonised Programmes Implementation Tools) to support programmes towards simplification and streamlining of programme implementation, to reduce the administrative burden and to collect the information necessary to tell the Interreg story for future policy making or communicating its achievements.

http://www.interact-eu.net/programme_management/programmemanagement/3/13730

http://admin.interact-eu.net/downloads/8474/INTERACT_Newsletter_Winter_2013_2014_Making_Impressions_communications_campaigns_.pdf

Credit: INTERREG IVC/Europe

General Interreg brand mark:

Interreg 
EUROPEAN UNION

From this logo a majority of Interreg programmes from all strands have already decided to use it as a programme logo:

Interreg 
Alpine Space EUROPEAN UNION

Interreg 
Eesti-Läti EUROOPA LIIT

The number of programmes participating validates the legitimacy of this initiative. Considering the past situation where each programme and each project developed their own individual logo, one can only acknowledge the mind change approved by the programmes.

However, due to local specificities some programmes could not use this logo in the full integration but decided to use it in parallel with their existing programme logos. Eventually, only programmes can decide for their logo and opting in and opting out remains their own decision.

As a natural extension of the logo and still to increase the visibility of Interreg opportunities across Europe, a joint visual colour coding and iconography of the Thematic Objectives have also been developed. When used by the different programmes, this will facilitate potential beneficiaries to rapidly get an overview of funding available across the different programmes, even independently of the use of the joint logo.

What are the next steps?

As a natural continuation to this process to increase the visibility of the programmes towards potential applicants or potential partners, it should be easier to understand the different programmes and the various funding opportunities.

As already suggested by several programmes, a natural continuation to the branding process would be the creation of a joint online portal where relevant information about Interreg and the programme would be centralised and structured allowing the visitors to find all the opportunities available, receive information on the programmes and their direct contact details. Again, INTERACT could play a vital role to assess the feasibility of such an endeavour and eventually be in charge of its implementation.

INTERACT continues to support the active exchange of experience between programmes and develops a joint vision and joint tools for the future of Interreg (e.g. HIT, European Cooperation Day, joint e-MS, etc.) and provides tailor-made advisory services.

we want it all!

In the jungle of INTERREG programmes, you may ask yourself why do we actually need four different interregional or “networking programmes” instead of having one “super-programme” combining all the different functions of the four? We asked **Pavel Lukeš**, Head of the Unit of International Inter-Relations within the Department of European Territorial Cooperation at the Czech Ministry of Regional Development, and **Sabine Stölb** from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure in Luxembourg. They gave us their opinion on the complementarity and achievements of INTERREG IVC, URBACT, ESPON and INTERACT in the programming period 2007 – 2013, which also gives us an idea of their future function in the current programming period.

By **Dorothee Fischer**, Communications and European Affairs Expert

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“We often forget that seemingly intangible results can create tangible changes in regional policy. This is the main added value of those programmes.”

Pavel Lukeš

Head of the Unit of International Inter-Relations within the Department of European Territorial Cooperation at the Czech Ministry of Regional Development



Credit: Milena Nohejlova

In how far are the four programmes complementary in your opinion?

Pavel Lukeš

The four programmes are highly complementary to each other. There are programmes which focus on disseminating good practices in order to improve regional/urban development in different thematic fields (INTERREG IVC, URBACT). They are complemented by other programmes (INTERACT, ESPON), which, on the other hand, focus on the transfer of good experiences in implementing European Territorial Cooperation programmes and providing comparable data on EU territorial development trends. In other words, the thematic-oriented approach of INTERREG IVC and URBACT is complemented by the process-related approach of the INTERACT programme and by the analytical and research-oriented focus of the ESPON programme.

“The ESPON projects have produced remarkable amount of comparable territorial data and analysis for the benefit of policy-makers at the European, national, regional and local level.”

Pavel Lukeš

Head of the Unit of International Inter-Relations within the Department of European Territorial Cooperation at the Czech Ministry of Regional Development

Sabine Stölb

The ESPON programme is filling a unique niche among the networking/interregional programmes, as ESPON is providing applied research, policy analysis, scenarios, data and tools for the observation of European territorial development. This is for policy-makers and practitioners in order to support informed policy-making at EU and at regional levels. ESPON’s added value is in bridging the gap between research and policy regarding the territorial dimension of policy making.

INTERREG IVC/Europe is the broadest of the four programmes. It supports exchange and transfer of good practices among public (in the future also private and non-profit) European bodies on topics relevant for the EU2020 strategy and regional development. Thus, stakeholders across Europe, across thematic sectors and across different geographical levels are part of policy learning for improved regional policies. Lessons learned materialise among others in action plans tailored to the needs of the regions involved. In addition, the future programme will also offer a policy-learning platform in order to allow access to knowledge and good practices to an even wider group of stakeholders, especially regional programmes within the Structural and Investment Fund.

The URBACT programme works in a similar way to INTERREG IVC/EUROPE, but topics are much more focused on urban issues, related to urban development. This is also reflected in the respective partnerships of the projects.

The **INTERACT** programme provides assistance and expertise to all European Territorial Cooperation programmes, based on their demands. It is a knowledge pool also for ENPI and IPA programmes at the external borders. The KEEP tool, developed by INTERACT, has a database of all INTERREG programmes that use and add to knowledge-management. INTERACT plays also an important role in promoting and communicating European Territorial Cooperation (ETC). An additional field of activity is the support of the development of macro-regional strategies.

Why are they all important?

Pavel Lukeš

The main importance of the networking programmes, in my opinion, lies in the fact that despite limited financial resources they produce great results. Furthermore, their results and achievements are not only for the benefit of project beneficiaries directly involved in the projects but much larger audiences can benefit from those results as well. They harness and build knowledge, which is then available to anyone who is interested in finding innovative solutions for common problems. We often forget that seemingly intangible results can create tangible changes in regional policy. This is the main added value of those programmes.

Sabine Stölb

ESPON: Europe’s territorial diversity is not an obstacle but an asset for the overall successful European development. Many policy approaches in the framework of the EU 2020 strategy and cohesion policy highly value

the diversity and search for a better use of the variety of territorial assets by e.g. place-based policies, integrated territorial development or macro regional approaches. An important pre-condition for a targeted and effective policy-making is, however, sufficient knowledge about the European territory and its development trends and the impacts of European and national (sector) policies. This is where ESPON is linking in and providing decisive input to the debate.

INTERREG IVC/Europe: Many of the social, environmental and economic challenges for European territories demand policies and actions on a regional and local level. Despite the diversity of territories, there is also a lot of similarity with regard to the types of territories, challenges and possible solutions. The added value of INTERREG IVC/Europe is that it brings together regions that can learn from and exchange with each other in a structured way. From this they develop proposals for actions, which meet the demands in the territories. This saves time and money compared to developing similar solutions in parallel – but it does not happen automatically. There is no other European policy mechanism/instrument, which supports exchange and learning between European regions in such an integrated (cross-sectorial, geographical) and cooperative way.

URBACT: More and more European citizens choose to live in cities and in addition migration is mostly targeted towards cities. Designing cohesive and sustainable cities is increasingly challenging and an exchange of knowledge between European cities is important in order to find the best-tested solutions. Again, this saves time and money



Credit: F.-J. Stölb

“The added value of INTERREG IVC/Europe is that it brings together regions that can learn from and exchange with each other in a structured way. From this they develop proposals for actions, which meet the demands in the territories.”

Sabine Stölb
Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
in Luxembourg

Credit: www.behance.net/mespoon

in comparison to cities developing their solutions in parallel. A coherent way of working and communicating in the framework of a European programme facilitates the learning process for the whole of Europe.

INTERACT: With 13 transnational, 53 cross-border and 4 interregional/networking programmes all over Europe, there is an obvious need to pool training and knowledge and to provide a platform for exchange. Also when it comes to new innovative activities of cooperation between European territories like macro-regional strategies or EGTCs it is important to provide experienced support on European level.

What are the main achievements of the four programmes in the programming period 2007 – 2013?

Pavel Lukeš

All four programmes proved that great results can also be achieved with a rather limited budget. The INTERREG IVC programme produces a remarkable volume of good practices, which were identified in more than 200 projects. In order to harness the knowledge from projects working on similar topics, the Monitoring Committee of the programme decided to launch thematic programme capitalisation. The results of this exercise are 12 thematic reports, which can serve as a source of knowledge, good examples and innovative solutions for any local/regional authority in Europe.

INTERACT has done a great job in the field of simplification of the implementation of the upcoming cooperation programmes in the period 2014 –

2020. The result of the simplification exercise is HIT (harmonised implementation tools), aiming at harmonising documents and forms used in INTERREG programmes and thus reduce the administrative burden for project beneficiaries and programme bodies. Another achievement of the INTERACT programme is the KEEP database which tries to gather all INTERREG/European Territorial Cooperation programmes and project results from the periods 2000 – 2006 and 2007 – 2013. The ESPON projects have produced remarkable amount of comparable territorial data and analysis for the benefit of policy-makers at the European, national, regional and local level.

“INTERACT has done a great job to simplify the implementation of the upcoming cooperation programmes in the period 2014 – 2020.”

Pavel Lukeš
Head of the Unit of International Inter-Relations within the
Department of European Territorial Cooperation at the
Czech Ministry of Regional Development

Sabine Stölb

ESPON reached in its second funding period a major step by maturing and consolidating its supply of territorial

we want it all!

evidences in data, studies, tools and capitalisation efforts and the impact of the supply in the territorially relevant policy-making. It became obvious that the necessary territorial evidence has to be made available to the practitioners and policy-makers, easily understandable in order for it to be used in the practical work where ESPON is now in the position to deliver. The ESPON brand is finding its way as an important reference in territorial policy making.

The INTERREG IVC programme supported 204 projects with 2276 partners from 90% of all Nuts 2 regions in cooperating on regional solutions for challenges in the fields of the Innovation & Knowledge economy as well as environment and risk-prevention. This does not only answer the question “how much did we do?”, but it also gives an indication of the contribution to social, economic and territorial cohesion, as for each project it was requested to involve strong and weak regions and also to spread the partnership across the European territory. More than 850 good practices have been identified and exchanged from all over Europe. Within a capitalisation process all projects were grouped within 12 thematic fields. Thematic workshops and expert reports, brochures and policy briefs complemented cooperation and communication of projects and the programme. With regard to the question “is anyone better off, has anything improved”, all the project participants could profit from personal learning and many did contribute to institutional learning. More than 200 action plans ready for implementation are now available for the participating regions. In the action plans the good practices of the European partners have been taken on board.

URBACT: Again, there is some similarity with the INTERREG IVC programme with regards to the type of achievements: 700 local action plans have been developed for the cities involved and capitalisation reports have been drafted focusing on key themes. Through the URBACT programme, increased awareness and knowledge on urban issues was created on a regional, national and European level. The creation and strengthening of European networks of cities and their relevant stakeholders is part of an enhanced capacity of the cities to find timely and sophisticated solutions to complex challenges.

INTERACT: Based on the ETC programmes’ and users’ needs, INTERACT has offered hundreds of seminars in order to spread knowledge and good practices with regard to programme and project management, finance and strategy as well as communication, to name a few issues relevant for European Cooperation. This has led to an increased capacity of the people involved in Interreg programme implementation. It has also helped to create a common understanding of ETC across Europe. For the new programming period harmonised instruments for the new programmes have been jointly elaborated in

a participative process, based on the lessons learned. European Cooperation Day is adding to the visibility of ETC across Europe. KEEP is by now developed so far, that it is possible to analyse territories across Europe (also with the integration of ESPON maps) with regard to ETC activities. Without INTERACT the development of macro-regional strategies to their present state would not have been possible.

“The creation and strengthening of European networks of cities and their relevant stakeholders is part of an enhanced capacity of the cities to find timely and sophisticated solutions to complex challenges.”

Sabine Stölb
Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
in Luxembourg

All these Territorial Cooperation Activities have created partnerships and networks of different quality all over Europe, which can be compared with the fine network of mushroom “roots” (mycelium) in the soil. The mycelium is not as visible as the mushroom, but it creates an extensive functional system, connecting and exchanging with its specific environment. With its networks and cooperation partnerships ETC plays a role in developing a vital basis for the European model!



Credit: ©iStockphoto.com/Dimos_istock

INTERREG IVC capitalises on regional policy achievements: why reinvent the wheel?

In the current programming period, numerous European regions from 30 countries got involved in one of the 204 projects co-financed by the INTERREG IVC programme and worked on common solutions to similar challenges. Why not benefit from the knowledge and good practices available and transfer them to other regions wherever possible? The programme started a Thematic Capitalisation Initiative to gather the best project results.

By *Irma Astrauskaite*, Communication Officer, INTERREG IVC

If you are involved in regional policy, you have several challenges to deal with. You have to bring innovations to your region to have more entrepreneurs, to involve people in policy – making and offer them better electronic services. You need to stimulate competitiveness of your region. As energy prices are rising, your desire to have more renewable energy sources grows. You also need to find solutions on how to improve the traffic flows in the cities and reduce CO2 emission, to keep regions green and sustainable. There is a lot to do...

Manchester knows how to achieve 48% reduction in CO2 emissions. Western Macedonia found out how to make best use of different types of bioenergy. Schleswig-Holstein is an expert in community wind farms. The local government of Birmingham signed the largest finance initiative contract in the UK and replaced street lighting with LEDs. Extremadura in Spain achieved a 41% reduction in energy use of its public buildings. Hannover created a non-profit cooperative store run by long-term unemployed people with no public funding. Over 300€ million were invested creating more than 800 businesses and more than 5000 jobs in Munich since 1997. Lyon has achieved a high new business start-up rate (18% more than the national average) offering advice and networking services for entrepreneurs at the support points that can be reached in 15 minutes.



Peter Heydebreck
INTERREG IVC
Thematic Expert
for the Innovation
Systems theme,
Founding Partner and
Managing Director of
the inno-AG

Copenhagen has developed one of the world's leading cleantech clusters, which helps to attract foreign companies to the region. Those are just a few examples of thousands of similar good practices available all around Europe.

The smartest regions understand that it is easier to learn from the solutions that worked in other regions and transfer relevant good practices than start reinventing the wheel. Over the last seven years the interregional cooperation programme, INTERREG IVC, enabled over 2000 public institutions all over Europe to 'learn through cooperation'.

Therefore, in June 2012, the **Thematic Capitalisation Initiative** was launched in order to exploit and consolidate project results. A team of 30 thematic experts has analysed, benchmarked, and capitalised on the wealth of knowledge generated by projects working on similar regional development issues. Altogether, 12 policy themes, ranging from innovation to the environment, have been covered and the results are presented in brochures, reports and policy papers, and recommendations for the benefit of all regions.

The wide range of innovative good practices and policies implemented by the projects are covered in publications offering a timely inventory of



up-to-date evidence and experience to help regional authorities and interested stakeholders introduce or develop their regional policies. Policy-makers and practitioners at all levels – regional, national and European – will find theme-specific recommendations tailored to them.

Peter Heydebreck, the expert on innovation systems, advises regional policymakers to work on international profiling and positioning of their region, and to specialise on the region's strong points. The thematic publications provide invaluable insight into recent policy trends, potential joint activities between INTERREG IVC and EU stakeholders and a detailed description and analysis of good practices that have contributed or are contributing to overcoming the particular challenges of each specific field.

Regions must build on existing strengths and seek inspiration from policies that have been tried-and-tested elsewhere they can progress more quickly. 'So why reinvent the wheel trying to find a solution alone? It is much smarter to re-use the knowledge!' – advises Magdalini Anagnostou, INTERREG IVC Capitalisation Officer. She invites everyone involved in regional policy to check the 12 reports, get inspired, benefit from ideas others generated and get ready to join the four thematic platforms.

The future programme called INTERREG EUROPE will continue to support local and regional governments to be more effective when planning and implementing policies for the benefit of citizens through projects and Policy Learning Platforms on Research and innovation, SME competitiveness, Low carbon economy, Environment and Resource efficiency. The programme seeks to build professional networks where experts, relevant public and private institutions and other interested parties could exchange their experience and knowledge. The representatives from European regions will get professional advice, access to a variety of events, publications and other supporting initiatives that will enable them to better share their knowledge and will help policy-makers do their job in a better way.



For more information, please see www.interregeurope.eu

knocking on the cohesion door: trends for a better complementarity and coordination between programmes

Complementarity between regional programmes financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (ETC) is a challenge for each new EU programming period.

By **Ivano Magazzù**, Project Development and Knowledge Management Officer, INTERACT



A seminar about how to coordinate ETC and regional programmes was organised by the EUROP'ACT Programme and EGTC in Paris on 25 June 2014. During the seminar, many of the topics treated in this article were discussed among representatives of the French government, regions and programmes, both mainstream and ETC.

For the 2014-2020 period, Annex 1 of the 'Common Provisions Regulation'¹ states that in order to strengthen the effectiveness of cohesion policy Member States shall ensure coordination and complementarity between the programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation and Investment for Growth and Jobs (IGJ) goals, in particular to allow coherent planning and facilitate the implementation of large-scale investments.

Partnership agreements drawn up by Member States for 2014-2020 contain a number of provisions in this direction, with different positions and settings. Furthermore, regional and Interreg Programmes have the obligation to report operational arrangements for achieving this coordination - that's the point! Geographic overlaps of programmes, geographic flexibility, common priorities, reduction of the administrative burden to ease life for applicants, all these issues make the coordination efforts more difficult as so many actors are involved: challenging brainstorming sessions and a consequent effort to coordinate implementation are knocking on the 'Cohesion Door'. Let's try to provide some input to this task.

The drafting of Partnership Agreements has revealed that this process should be as pragmatic as possible. Many Member States tried to figure out some of the most relevant principles to be used for this aim: France, for example, establishes synergies in a form

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)

of contracts to be included in the regional programme documents. Another principle is the mutualisation of these formal agreements among both regional and Interreg Programmes. Last but not least, a regular contact and the implementation of specific tools aimed to ensure that this regularity of exchanges could be envisaged.

Let's see how it could work in reality. In a cross-border context, coordination would be quite easy: sharing of information should lead to actions aimed to capitalise and transfer practices and results from Interreg to mainstream programmes, but a way for a reversed process still needs to be defined.

On the other hand, in a transnational context, coordination is a little more difficult due, especially to the larger governance scale of the programmes: in that case Interreg is supposed to provide inputs to the regional programmes, but this process would be easier if effective coordination was assured. Yes, but, how? Of course, it is not only with the creation of ad-hoc tools and networks as a bridge for inter-funds and inter-goal links; this is the best way but, in the past programming period, it reached a very low score of success. During the last programming phase for 2014-2020 programmes, many Member States tried to ensure a strategic exchange of information beforehand, and it has reached a relative success, among Interreg especially, as a consequence of the different national orientations about Interreg itself. An essential element to be also considered is the role of wider strategic contexts (e.g. macro-regional and sea-basin strategies), where Programmes should make

knocking on the cohesion door: trends for a better complementarity and coordination between programmes

sure their contribution to those mechanisms. From a legislative point of view, it is primarily Interreg which is obliged to serve the regional programmes, no obligation seems to exist for regional programmes in this sense.

Regions developing the next generation programmes seem to follow the trend of stronger inter-fund and inter-goal communication: in the framework of regional actions and programmes, coordinated information actions will provide a first step towards coordination and complementarity. Of course, the need of a stronger and more focused support to applicants should be taken into account by those regional instances in charge of coordinating both IGJ and Interreg Programmes, especially when dealing with the definition of the proposals' needs and objectives.

National coordination should play a key role in the complementarity process, supporting the will of the Regulation. Not only in terms of monitoring and coherence with the Partnership Agreements, but also in translating what are the main messages and priorities that sub-national/regional authorities are supposed to address, by providing them specific support and assistance.

As an example, art. 96.3.d) of CPR could represent a key to this coordination when thematic input would be needed for regional programmes, especially if Interreg would serve as a tool to open up to other themes in the mainstreaming. INTERACT wishes to boost the process by promoting capitalisation in this field.

The possibilities offered by this article are not known throughout the EU but represent a useful methodology offered by the European institutions, in order to link regional policy and European Territorial Cooperation. This article allows regions to cooperate with other European partners in the framework of Objective 1, while using tools and methodologies that are typical of Objective 2. The added value of this methodology is that the mainstreaming involves and benefits from the entire Cohesion Policy and turns the regional programmes into a catalyst for pro-European activities. Nevertheless, it would be seen as the starting point to seed complementarity and capitalisation of synergies among programmes.

Links to INTERACT activities and related events:

Event: http://www.interact-eu.net/events/kick_off_96_3d_milano/14/16978

Information Pages:
http://www.interact-eu.net/governance/capitalisation_governance/409/16999

http://www.interact-eu.net/governance_2007_2013/pilot_governance_cooperation_art37_6_b_2007_13/580/6136

http://www.interact-eu.net/governance_2014_2020/cooperationigj2014_20/581/16997

the INTERACT ENPI project: facilitating networking and exchange at the external borders of the EU

The INTERACT ENPI project was set up in 2008 with the aim of improving the management and implementation of the 13 operational ENPI CBC (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Cross-Border) programmes, thus ensuring better cooperation between the Member States and the Partner Countries. The project is contracted and managed by DG Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) of the European Commission and coordinated by the Managing Authority of the INTERACT II programme through the INTERACT ENPI Point in Turku, Finland.



Sharing Expertise ENPI CBC



By *Aisling Walsh*, Liaison Manager, INTERACT ENPI

INTERACT ENPI seeks to stimulate existing expertise and help programmes share knowledge, good practices and solutions by providing a common forum where programme representatives can meet and interact. Among other activities, the project has created programme community wide exchange networks between different types of target groups and programme management bodies. These exchange networks are both ENPI CBC wide and regional, depending on the level of common interest or technical details in questions addressed.

The project works in the complex and challenging environment of the ENPI CBC programmes. As the number of programmes to be served is not large, this opens possibilities for proximity and flexibility in service delivery. These two principles are guiding the basic project approach in its activities.

Programme Management

INTERACT ENPI supports programme structures on programme management issues using a double-fold approach. Tailor-made trainings take place on a regular basis and allow for in-depth discussions at every stage of the programme cycle. Such proximity services additionally facilitate the involvement of

a broader number of staff members and stimulate the definition of efficient internal procedures or the improvement of existing ones.

The second pillar is represented by the different networks that operate since 2009. The network of Joint Managing Authorities (with the participation also of representatives of Joint Technical Secretariats) of ENPI CBC programmes provides a forum where programme implementation issues as well as possible synergies of ENPI CBC with other instruments and strategies are discussed. The focus of these network meetings has evolved according to the needs of these bodies and are lately characterised for dealing with very specific subjects (e.g., project closure).

Audit and Financial Management

The Audit and Finance Network of ENPI CBC programmes was the first of the networks established by the INTERACT ENPI project. Its aim is to support programmes through the provision of guidance in financial management at programme and project level. This is done through the identification of successful practices and methods related, amongst others, to the control of expenditure and audit. In addition to networking, written guidance in the

the INTERACT ENPI project: facilitating networking and exchange at the external borders of the EU



This article is dedicated to
Ms. Riitta Ahdan, 1956 — 2014,
INTERACT ENPI Project Coordinator
(pictured centre)

form of information notes and templates of tools to be used by programmes is made available on a regular basis. Furthermore, INTERACT ENPI organises trainings for auditors and national controllers.

Procurement and Large Scale Projects

To assist programmes in properly applying public procurement rules, INTERACT ENPI has elaborated a Guide on Secondary Procurement in ENPI CBC Programmes¹ which describes the relevant rules and provides guidance for their practical application. It also presents a comparative analysis of the national procurement legislation of Belarus, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova with PRAG rules and explains the necessary adjustments needed in order to comply with best international practice.

The INTERACT ENPI experts are providing guidance for the beneficiaries and partners of Large Scale Projects on different topics through regular trainings organised in collaboration with the concerned programme bodies. Additionally, a LabGroup has been operating since September 2009 in order to

discuss issues related to the identification and the preparation of the technical documents which are essential for the implementation of this type of project. The first part of the survey on Large Scale Projects, dealing with the identification, selection and contracting of this specific type of project has been issued and circulated to all stakeholders in early 2014.² A mapping of running Large Scale Projects and a survey on key points to consider when implementing them will follow.

Monitoring and Evaluation

INTERACT ENPI has been giving support on monitoring and evaluation issues since 2009, when the first meeting of the Laboratory Group on Monitoring and Evaluation took place. Its overall aim is to coordinate efforts and find synergies between the three different levels of monitoring and evaluation

¹ The Guide on Secondary Procurement in ENPI CBC Programmes is available at the following link: <http://enpi.interact-eu.net/>

² The first part of the survey on Large Scale Projects is available at the following link: <http://enpi.interact-eu.net/>

(project, programme and EU) applicable to ENPI CBC programmes. This work has been focused on monitoring methodologies, the aggregation of indicators as well as project and programme evaluation, with particular attention to the integration of the Results Oriented Methodology (ROM) in the programmes' own monitoring systems.

With a view to the future period, a "Study on the utilisation of monitoring indicators in ENPI CBC programmes 2007-2013" has been issued in April 2014.³ INTERACT ENPI is also working closely with the European External Action Service on the guidance on indicators for ENI CBC programmes 2014-2020 and will also support DG DEVCO in the identification and implementation of adequate monitoring systems.

Communication

To support ENPI CBC programmes on communication matters, the Network of Communication Managers has been set up. The participants of this network share their experience and lessons learnt from the implementation of information activities in order to improve programme communication. Contents have concentrated on issues related to the use of different communication tools and implementation of strategies in order to maximise awareness about the programmes as well as on how to provide guidance on visual identity to project beneficiaries and partners.

Trainings on capitalisation matters are the newest entry in the INTERACT ENPI portfolio and are delivered on-demand to the interested programmes. Moreover, INTERACT ENPI will support the implementation of capitalisation activities/strategies of ENPI CBC programmes using, where applicable, the already existing experience of ETC programmes in this field.

Since 2012, INTERACT ENPI along with the INTERACT II Programme has been coordinating the European Cooperation Day communication campaign. This initiative aims to increase the visibility of cross-border cooperation among the broader public and non-EU specialists. The ENPI CBC programmes have played a very active role in this campaign to date. For further information please visit the website: www.ecday.eu

³ The Study on the Utilisation of Monitoring Indicators in ENPI CBC Programmes 2007-2013 is available at the following link: <http://enpi.interact-eu.net/>

⁴ The consultation paper is available at the following link: <http://enpi.interact-eu.net/>

⁵ The new ENI regulation and the Common Implementing Rules for External Actions are available at the following link: <http://enpi.interact-eu.net/>

In order to ensure that communication is given an even stronger emphasis by ENI CBC 2014-2020 programmes, a Communication Guide will be published in autumn 2014.

Strategic Programming

Since 2011, INTERACT ENPI has been actively involved in the preparation of the ENI CBC 2014-2020 regulatory framework and has provided extensive support to the European External Action Service and DG DEVCO in this respect, as well as to programme bodies and participating countries, with special attention being devoted to Partner Countries.

The preparation of the new programming period started in 2011 resulting in a consultation paper being presented by INTERACT ENPI to the respective Commission services⁴. The new ENI regulation and the Common Implementing Rules for External Actions have been adopted on 11 March 2014.⁵ The preparation of the ENI CBC Programming Document (Strategy Paper in the 2007-2013 period) by the European External Action Service is in its final stages and INTERACT ENPI is elaborating methodological guidance on indicators, which should allow for better communication of what all ENI CBC programmes will deliver in the future period.

In parallel, INTERACT ENPI has been an active player in the drafting process of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules. In addition to the provision of comments to the proposals elaborated by DG DEVCO, INTERACT ENPI has strongly contributed in verifying the applicability of these proposals in the participating countries. Notably, technical briefings have now taken place in nearly all Partner Countries throughout and several Member States. For Partner Countries, this has represented a major novelty and has allowed their opinions to be taken on board in the process of elaboration of the regulatory framework.

Finally, INTERACT ENPI is currently playing an important role in the preparation of the new ENI CBC programmes for the future period. In addition to the provision of direct support to individual programmes, INTERACT ENPI has already issued three chapters of the ENI CBC Programming Guide, with the preparation of additional guidance well advanced.

INTERACT ENPI: Looking Ahead

The current contract of the INTERACT ENPI project is due to expire at the end of June 2015. However, services to ENPI CBC/ENI CBC programmes will be continued and the structure of the delivery of these services should be announced in the coming months.

team

meet the team

Philipp Schwartz
INTERACT

Hailing from over 15 different countries and having a wide range of backgrounds, the INTERACT team is a diverse group of people who are passionate about cooperation in Europe. The purpose of this section is to let you know a bit more about us by introducing you to a different team member in each issue of the newsletter.

Name: Philipp Schwartz

Nationality:

German, with both German and Finnish passports

Working at INTERACT Point Turku since:

September 2013

Can you tell me about a cross-border experience that has impacted your life?

During a family vacation in winter of 2013 in Germany, our son got seriously ill and was hospitalised for three weeks. After he was released, we returned home to Finland and the local hospital took over the follow-up care for several months – with our son having fully recovered. One might expect that such 'cross-border hospital treatment' would have resulted in a lot of paper work, bills to be paid in Germany and afterwards claimed back in Finland – a real hassle for parents when they are worried about their child. But in fact, there was only one single A4 sheet to fill in during the first days in hospital plus providing a copy of our passports and the European Health Insurance card. There was not one single bill to be paid (and reclaimed) by us. And the hospital in Germany at an early stage started to communicate with our local hospital in Finland to ensure a smooth return home and follow-up care. What could be a better proof of how an ordinary person can directly benefit from European cross-border cooperation?

Why did you decide to work in the field of territorial cooperation?

From the very beginning of my (Law) studies in Germany, my private and professional career took an international direction and beginning with my first real job in Latvia, my work revolved around international cooperation. 'Ending up' in territorial cooperation was kind of a natural development, starting as a project manager in an INTERREG transnational project co-financed by the Baltic Sea Region Programme many, many years ago, and followed by six years as Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013.

Why did you decide to switch from your previous position to INTERACT?

After six years in a managerial position and with the programme cycle coming to its end, I had the feeling that it was time for a change and for a step forward in my personal and professional development. Having been an INTERACT 'customer' myself for many years, I considered working with INTERACT as the natural next step. I have broadened my scope of work from one single programme and programme area to working with programmes across Europe, from one strand to the whole of ETC/INTERREG and, in the context of macro-regional strategies, an even wider range of institutions.

What is your favourite part of your job?

I really enjoy the combination of working as an expert – requiring both taking initiative and independent work when it comes to the concrete task in question – and the close exchange and interaction with colleagues both in INTERACT Point Turku, the other INTERACT Points and beyond.

What has been your favourite project at INTERACT so far?

The project I have been and still am most heavily involved in during the past half-a-year is somewhat a heritage from my previous job. It is a Europe-wide survey leading to a study on 'Inter-programme capacity and competence in ETC/INTERREG'. The study focuses on if and how working across programmes and funds is mastered and implemented by 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 ETC/INTERREG programmes' staff and is anchored in the programmes' human resource management.

What do you like to do in your free time?

As a father of three, I don't have much free time as my life is rich and full of activities. There are rarely moments when I think "What could I do now?" But if my family and work still leave some room for 'egoistic choices', then I am very much into genealogy and Latvian Civil Law history in the 20th century.

What type of music do you like to listen to?

I used to always bring home a Jazz CD from each place I travelled to on business. But for the time being, there is no need to invest money into music as I recently inherited a collection of about 400 to 500 vinyl records dating from the 1960s to 1980s. It is now great fun to listen to one after the other, never knowing what comes next and be surprised.

welcome to INTERACT!

The following new staff members joined the INTERACT team in 2014.

Sarie Bongers



Position: Project Development and Communication Officer
Office: Valencia
Nationality: Dutch
Studied: European Studies
ETC Background: Former project coordinator and financial manager of different EU cooperation projects
Fun fact: Plays field hockey

Michela Gaifami



Position: Developer and ner
Office: Viborg
Nationality: Italian
Studied: European Studies, Communication
ETC Background: Former project officer at the Secretariats of the ETC programmes Northern Periphery and Alpine Space; former ETC projects manager
Fun fact: Tried to grow a vegetable garden in her apartment but only the basil plant survived

Sylvie Godard



Position: INTERACT Communication Manager
Office: Vienna
Nationality: French
Studied: Foreign Applied Languages, International Business Negotiations
ETC Background: Former project and communication officer at the Joint Technical Secretariat of the France (Channel) – England Programme; former INTERREG project coordinator
Fun fact: Is a huge fan of zumba, ballet and Eeyore

Janne Kiilunen



Position: Project Officer
Office: Turku
Nationality: Finnish
Studied: Telecommunication
Professional Background: Former consultant in the telecommunication industry
Fun fact: Is really into badminton

Ivano Magazzù



Position: Project Development and Knowledge Management Officer
Office: Valencia
Nationality: Italian
Studied: Political and International Sciences, Political Governance with a focus on EU Studies
ETC Background: Former Programme and Project Officer of the National Contact Point for the MED Programme; former Project and Communication Officer for the Joint Technical Secretariats of the MED and IT-FR “Maritime” Programmes and the INTERREG III A IT-FR “Islands” Programme
Fun fact: Makes the best lasagna ever

Malgorzata Zdunek



Position: Project Manager | Financial Management
Office: Turku
Nationality: Polish
Studied: Physics, Accountancy
ETC Background: Former Financial Manager at the Joint Technical Secretariat of the South Baltic Programme
Fun fact: Loves to read thrillers, particularly Swedish and Norwegian ones at the moment, and also likes knitting



The INTERACT Staff during their Team Meeting in Turku, June 2014

interregional event highlights

National Infodays URBACT

Between September 2014 and January 2015 | Europe-wide
 More information: <http://urbact.eu/en/news-and-events/urbact-events/national-infodays/>

Open Days 2014 - 12th European Week of Regions and Cities organised by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission's DG REGIO

6-9 October 2014 | Brussels (Belgium)
 The four interregional programmes are organising various events including the joint workshop on „Get the most of pan-European cooperation programmes“.

ESPON Day “What European Territory Today and Tomorrow?”

10 October 2014 | Brussels (Belgium)

INTERACT event on “Designation Procedures for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes”

22 October 2014 | Brussels (Belgium)

INTERACT Workshop on Financial Instruments and Repayable Assistance in European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

23 October 2014 | Brussels (Belgium)

INTERACT Network Meeting of Programme and Project Managers

28 and 29 October 2014 | Helsinki (Finland)

INTERACT Project Generation & Development Seminar for European Territorial Cooperation

Programmes

4-5 November 2014 | Rome (Italy)

INTERACT II 14th Monitoring Committee, 13th National Contact Points Meeting, and 4th INTERACT III Programming Committee
 5 and 6 November 2014 | Thessaloniki (Greece)

Launch Conference of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
 18 November 2014 | Brussels (Belgium)

ESPON Workshop “European Urban Fabric”
 25 November 2014 | venue to be confirmed

Interregional Cooperation Forum, Interreg IVC/ Europe
 2 and 3 December 2014 | Bologna (Italy)

Storytelling workshop back-to-back with an INFORM network meeting on 2 and 3 December
 4 and 5 December 2014 | Brussels (Belgium)

ESPON Seminar
 4 and 5 December 2014 | Rome (Italy)

INTERACT Network Meeting of Heads of Managing Authorities and Secretariats
 4 and 5 December 2014 | North-East Germany

If you have any additional questions, please contact the respective programme in charge of an event. You can also check out all INTERACT events on: www.interact-eu.net



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Publisher: INTERACT Programme Secretariat
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Graphic design: Martina Vrablová



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