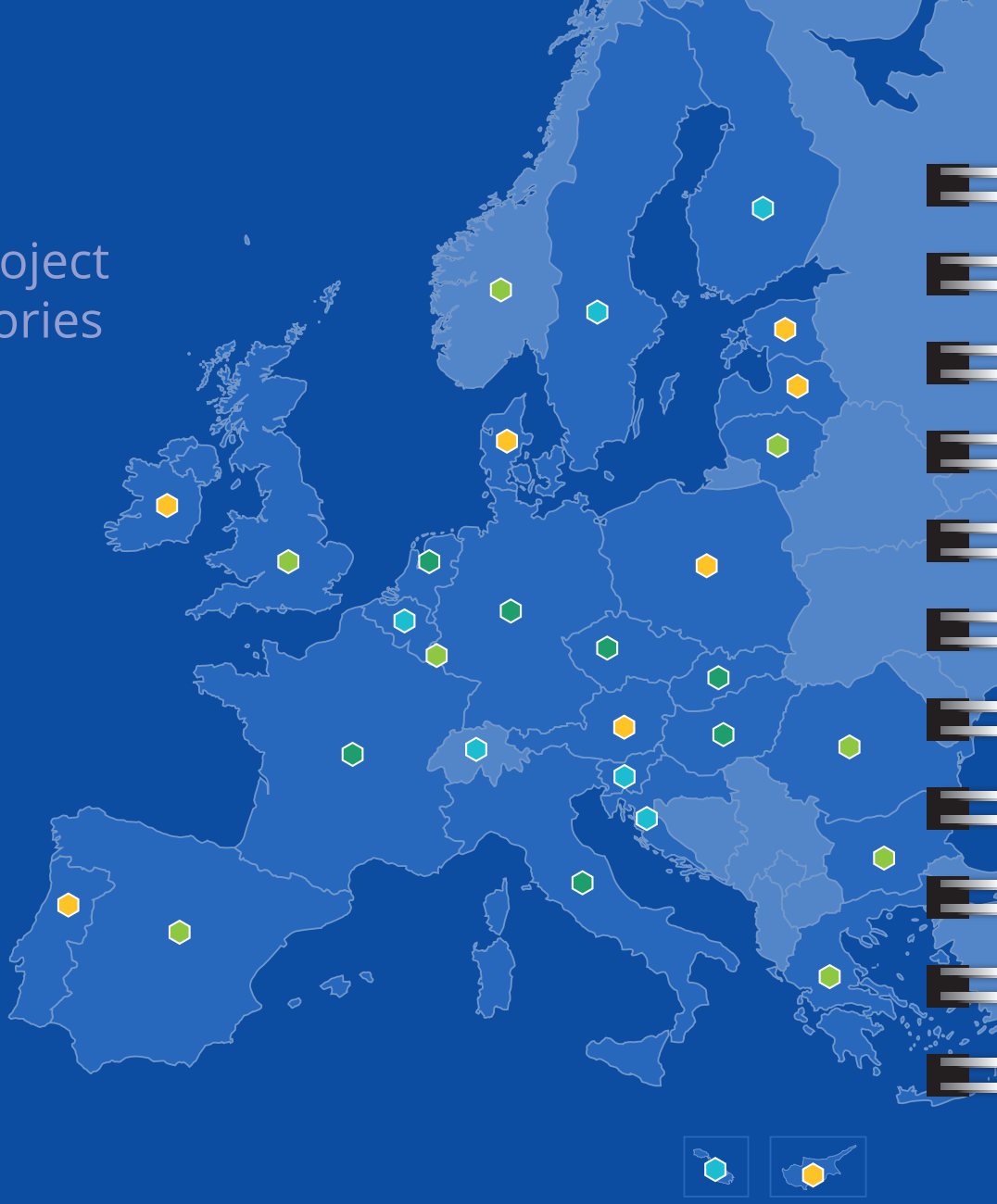
Interreg Europe

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

When Europe cooperates, regions benefit

30 stories about the results of cooperation

30 Project stories



October 2020

Interreg Europe is an interregional cooperation programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund with 359 million euros for 2014-2020.
Interreg Europe is one of the European Territorial Cooperation programmes, known as Interreg, contributing to the second goal of the EU cohesion policy.

Interreg EUROPEAN UNION 30 years together

Table of contents

5 **Foreword**

6 **Cooperation helps regional and local governments develop and deliver better policies**

7 **Cooperation strengthens cohesion**

8 **Cooperation accelerates regional development**

9 **Cooperation builds policymakers' capacity**

Stories about policy learning

12 **Improving research and innovation**

14 ***Poland:*** *Connecting bio-based SMEs with the latest research*
15 ***Ireland:*** *Helping business and academia to collaborate*
16 ***Cyprus:*** *Independent ageing with telemedicine*
17 ***Austria:*** *Supporting innovation with digital data*
18 ***Denmark:*** *Better climate adaptation through CO_2 accounting*
19 ***Estonia:*** *Developing new healthy food products*
20 ***Latvia:*** *Bringing innovation to rural areas*
21 ***Portugal:*** *Weaving environmentally friendly textiles*

22 **Improving SME competitiveness**

24 ***Croatia:*** *Modernising a development centre for SMEs*
25 ***Sweden:*** *Going global with local support*
26 ***Malta:*** *Giving space to creativity*
27 ***Finland:*** *Helping young entrepreneurs take off*
28 ***Belgium:*** *Creating an incubator for creative growth*
29 ***Switzerland:*** *Enhancing the distribution of organic products*
30 ***Slovenia:*** *Bringing traditional SMEs into digital age*

32 **Improving low-carbon economy**

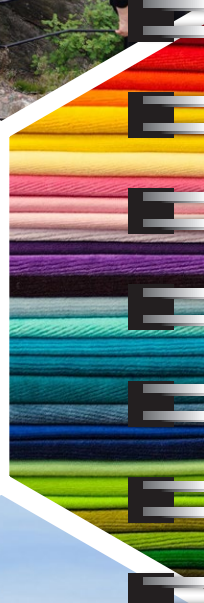
34 ***Czech Republic:*** *Cutting pollution with electric buses*
35 ***Slovakia:*** *Information terminals for better public transport*
36 ***Hungary:*** *Obtaining better energy efficiency data*
37 ***Italy:*** *Info-mobility for greener transport*
38 ***The Netherlands:*** *Rolling out green mobility for retail*
39 ***France:*** *Setting up smart energy storage and consumption*
40 ***Germany:*** *Cutting CO_2 through better data sharing*

42 **Improving the environment and resource efficiency**

44 ***Bulgaria:*** *Preserving memories in the digital age*
45 ***Greece:*** *Helping SMEs to use resources efficiently*
46 ***Spain:*** *Giving landfills a better cover*
47 ***United Kingdom:*** *Harnessing the power of green tourism*
48 ***Norway:*** *Better stewardship of the coast*
49 ***Lithuania:*** *Protecting nature for responsible tourists*
50 ***Luxembourg:*** *Protecting nature by darkening the skies*
51 ***Romania:*** *Promoting high-tech recycling in SMEs*

52 **Policy cooperation goes on**

54 **Project list**



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Foreword

Dear reader,

30 years of territorial cooperation across European borders is an achievement to celebrate. The health crisis this year was yet again a reminder that today's challenges cannot be solved by turning inwards or closing borders. We need to work ever more together across internal and external borders.

Cooperation and sharing across borders symbolise the very own essence of the European project. This is also at the core of Interreg Europe, a unique framework for territorial cooperation covering all EU Member States as well as Norway and Switzerland. Interreg Europe brings together partners from regions at different levels of development and helps them to improve conditions on the ground, sharing good practices and learning from each other about solutions to the common challenges they face. Through this cooperation, regions build their capacity to shape their sustainable, competitive and socially inclusive future development. This is cohesion at work.

I am proud to show you some concrete examples of solidarity and cooperation among regions, supported and funded by Interreg Europe. The 30 stories of success presented in this publication illustrate the broad impact of our projects: we help hospitals to introduce telemedicine solutions; we support enterprises to reap the benefits of innovation; we foster the digital economy in rural communities; we reduce the carbon footprint with electric mobility solutions; we promote cultural heritage with digital technology; and we improve waste management through circular economy.

This collection of examples is a source of inspiration and renewed enthusiasm for European integration. It also shows how cohesion policy improves people's everyday lives and brings Europe closer to our citizens. I invite you to read for yourself and maybe start a project in your region. Europe is you.

Elisa Ferreira
European Commissioner
for Cohesion and Reforms

Cooperation helps regional and local governments develop and deliver better policies

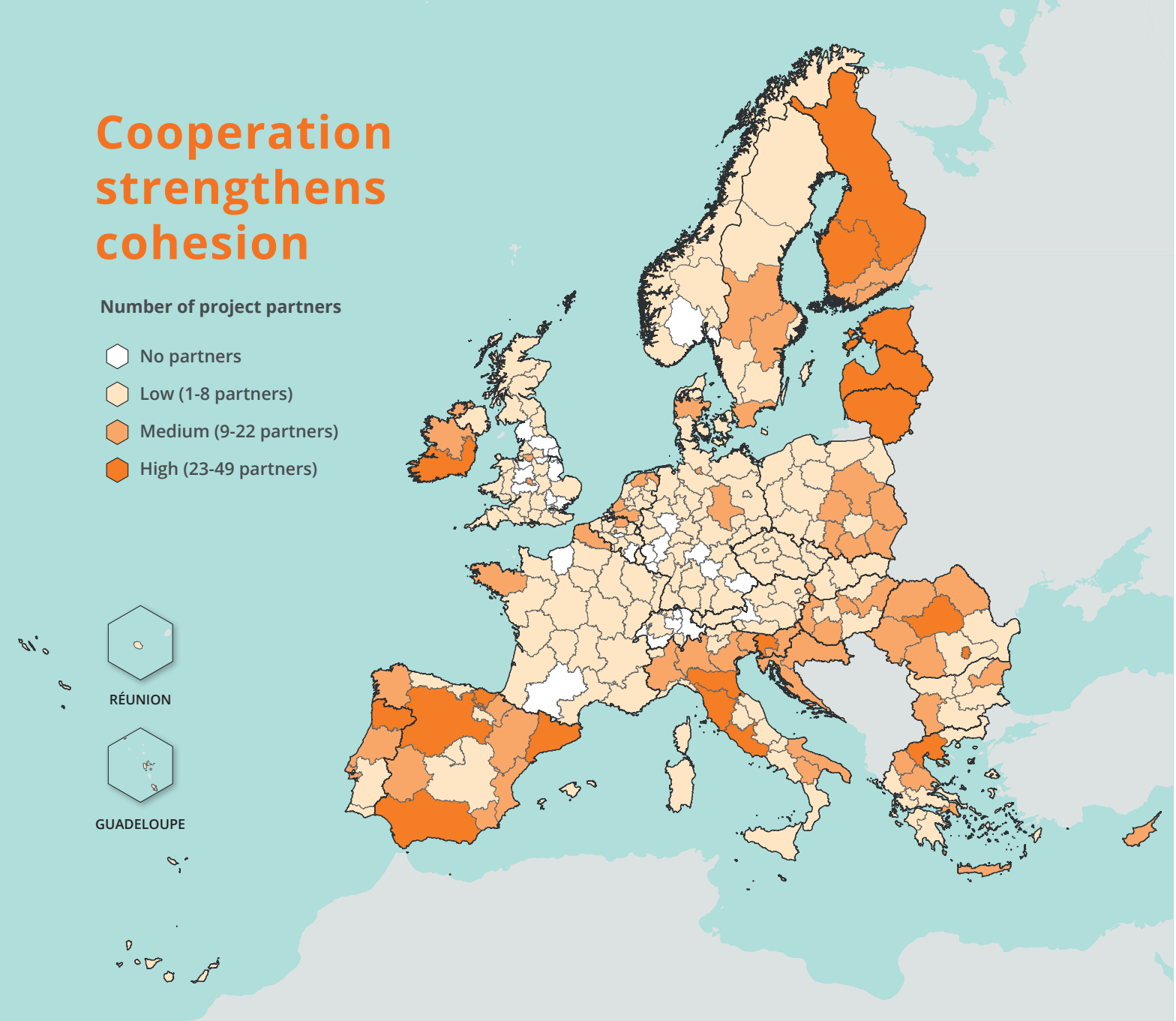
At Interreg Europe, we support 258 interregional cooperation projects and the Policy Learning Platform. Together, they create a unique policy learning environment in which national, regional and local governments can share solutions and best practices in four areas of regional development policy.

Our objective is to help government at all levels improve their regional development policies, including their Structural Funds programmes, through involvement in the cooperative environment created by our projects and the Platform.

Our current programme runs until 2023. But we can already proudly say that our cooperation activities have led to many positive changes to regional and local development policies. And more is to come in the years ahead.

You can get a glimpse of the first results of our cooperation programme as well as a selection of the changes cooperation has inspired in Interreg Europe's 30 partner countries.

Cooperation strengthens cohesion



The Interreg Europe programme is **open to all.**

The programme area covers 30 countries - the EU, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Almost **90% of the regions from this area are represented in our 258 approved projects.** Through the Platform, the programme is open to anyone who wishes to participate in the sharing of good practice and learn from available policy solutions.

The Interreg Europe programme **boosts cohesion** across Europe.

We have enabled over **2,000** organisations from regions at different levels of development to exchange experience and learn from each other to ensure that public investment is optimised and leads to a more sustainable impact on the ground. All regions benefit: the less developed 'climb the curve' more quickly; the more developed find new ideas on how to grow in a smarter and more sustainable way.

Cooperation accelerates regional development

In each project, on average eight partners from different European regions work together for 3-5 years on a shared policy issue. The first projects started in 2016; the last in 2019. By 2020, projects have already demonstrated impressive results and more will be achieved by 2023, once all **258 projects** close.

The project partners develop action plans, one for each region. The plans contain actions for each region, inspired by the solutions and good practices shared by the other partners. Partners have already developed **873 action plans in 130 projects.**

The project partners work closely with their stakeholders to improve regional development policies by adapting the solutions and practices that have proved successful in other regions. **412 policy changes** have been delivered so far; **64%** of these changes have involved Structural Funds programmes.

The partners look for available local, regional, national or European funding to deliver the actions developed by their projects, if the actions require funding. **649 MEUR** has already been mobilised to implement the project changes; **84%** of those funds have so far come from Structural Funds programmes.

Our cooperation projects demonstrate a **good return on investment** for European Union funds. The 322 MEUR we have allocated to our projects for cooperation activities and mutual learning have acted as a multiplier generating a total of 649 MEUR, which is now available to spend on delivering improved policies and programmes. In other words 1 EUR invested in interregional cooperation leads to 2 EUR of investment in new and innovative policy solutions. We believe that this ratio can only improve because as projects progress more funds will be mobilised.

Cooperation builds policymakers' capacity

In projects, the partners learn from each other over several years. Together with the key stakeholders, they participate in project activities and learn from the successful practices from other parts of Europe. Apart from building strategic alliances across their regional policy communities, people from the partner and stakeholder organisations also increase their professional capacity and expertise in the policy field addressed by the project. **11,967 people** have already declared that their professional capacity increased.

Through the Platform, partners from projects working on similar topics learn from each other and continue their exchange of experience as part of a wider community. Thematic workshops and focused online discussions enable mutual learning and generate synergies among the projects and beyond. **31 thematic meetings** have already brought different projects together.

Anybody can learn from the projects' good practices and experience without being part of them. A database of over **1,800 good practices,** over 26 thematic webinars, and a growing selection of 35 policy briefs are available to all interested publics.

The institutions that are responsible for policymaking in their regions can request tailored advice, available as a peer review of their particular policy issue. The Platform experts carefully select up to five peers to meet in the region for two days, to advise and offer solutions on the particular policy issue. Some institutions opt for a lighter version of the peer review, available as a two-hour matchmaking session. **17 peer reviews and 13 matchmaking sessions** have taken place so far.

Read **two stories** about policy learning

Fertile ground for creative synergies

Our Policy Learning Platform is bringing projects together. The Platform's events provide fertile ground for the sharing of good practices and policy solutions beyond the limits of single project partnerships.

Meeting people from similar projects at the Platform events opens a door to cooperation. For example, partners in the **Regional Creative Industries Alliance (RCIA)** project have already met people from 16 different projects, six of them working, like RCIA, in the creative and cultural industries (CCI). At one workshop, they discussed good practices for fostering entrepreneurship and business creation. Inspired by the discussions, RCIA's Polish partner improved their existing programme for boosting entrepreneurship - Entrepreneurship Kids - by extending it to other age groups: older kids, young people and students.

Platform events are never a one-way street. Their participants learn about the good practices of their counterparts and in return share their own. During a workshop on the CCI, RCIA presented the Austrian Creative Industries Voucher programme, a good practice 'transferred in' by most of RCIA's partners and tested as a pilot action by two of them. Participants from the other projects have also contacted the RCIA's Austrian partner for more information.

The Platform events have gradually become a demand-driven service. The projects are now proposing topics for online or physical meetings themselves. For example, during a workshop in early 2019, RCIA, together with the other six projects were keen to discuss creative hubs in more detail. By the end of that year, the Platform had organised an online meeting for the projects to discuss how creative hubs can support the CCI. The meeting helped RCIA's Belgian partner to rethink the way they collect data and how they present the impact of their creative hub in the region.

Meetings among similar projects are generating synergies. Projects learn about what their counterparts are doing and where their interests meet. For example, RCIA set up a LinkedIn group with other CCI projects where they could exchange on topics of common interest. Follow-up meetings either in person or online can then generate additional opportunities to share solutions on issues of strategic importance, such as changes in political support, or practices that don't work.

To date, the Platform has organised 31 thematic workshops and online discussions which have brought partners from different projects together to talk to each other and thereby discover relevant policy solutions. The meetings are generating new partnerships and ideas, which makes the Interreg Europe policy learning environment a true wellspring of cooperation opportunities.

A simple route to policy learning

Our Policy Learning Platform is open to all organisations with responsibility for policymaking in their regions. The Platform offers these organisations policy development and policy learning services.

The organisations are often eager to learn from others to improve their policies. Some join our cooperation projects. For others, a long-term commitment to such a project may not work out or be possible. For example, in 2018 the **German-speaking community of Belgium,** which represents nine municipalities, was interested in cooperative learning. They then took part in an application for an Interreg Europe project on renewable energy with the goal of reducing their CO_2 emissions by 40% by 2030. The project proposal was not however approved.

Thanks to the Platform, a learning alternative was still available. The German-speaking community contacted the Platform experts for help and advice which they received in the form of a peer review of the implementation of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP).

The review took place on 8-9 May 2019 in Eupen, Belgium. Members of the community's SECAP steering group met a team of four peers and discussed their plan and its implementation with them. The peers from Italy, Germany, Finland, and West Flanders in Belgium were carefully selected by the Platform experts for their relevant experience. Thanks to their combined experience, they understood the issues facing the German-speaking community and were able to provide valuable recommendations.

The German-speaking community has already put in place some of these recommendations. They adapted the SECAP's governance structure to improve its delivery, creating three working groups on mobility, climate adaptation and renewable energy. Thanks to the peer team's suggestion of taking a bottom-up approach to the constitution and organisation of these groups, they each now have committed members ready to engage in focused discussions on concrete projects. The local SECAP stakeholders have communicated with each other more regularly since the peer review.

The German-speaking community also examined existing monitoring and reporting tools shared by the peer team before preparing a monitoring system tailored to their own needs.

On financing, following the peer team's recommendations, the German-speaking community has connected with the Structural Funds programmes in the region. Their goal is to have the thematic priorities set out in their SECAP included in the programmes' future priorities.

During the two peer review days, the German-speaking community learned about relevant and useful policy solutions from the four European regions. The peers learned from the meeting too. Moreover, they all found new partners to work with on common policy challenges and to turn to if in need of advice.

The Platform's peer review was a simple, effective and efficient way to enhance the community's strategic policy development and generated new co-operation opportunities. This service is now available online and its methodology is regularly reviewed based on users' feedback.

Improving **research and innovation** in European regions

In this policy field, over **550 partners** from all over Europe exchange experience and inspire each other in **65 interregional cooperation projects.** By September 2020, these projects had already demonstrated impressive achievements.

*They have identified over **800 good practices.** Almost a half have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.*

802
Good practices

65
PROJECTS

3210
People

*Over 3,200 people declared that they have **increased their professional capacity** thanks to their participation in the project's activities.*

553
PARTNERS

275
Action plans

*Inspiration generated from the projects has already led to the development of **275 action plans.***

*Through **39 projects,** the partners have already **improved 127 policies** supporting innovation infrastructure and delivery; 97 of these improvements have been in Structural Funds programmes.*

76%
Structural Funds

127
POLICY CHANGES

*The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be more than 117 MEUR, with 83% of these funds coming from the **Structural Funds programmes.***

*Considering these 39 projects were granted 53 MEUR ERDF budget by Interreg Europe, this investment had a **leverage effect of 222%** in terms of mobilisation of local, regional or national funds.*

222%
Leverage

€M
117
MOBILISED FUNDS

83%
Structural Funds

Read stories from **eight countries** and find out how the projects improved cooperation between research institutions and business, or access to innovation for SMEs in textiles, the bioeconomy or the food sector, including SMEs in rural areas.

© Marshal Office of Lubelskie Voivodeship

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in the Lubelskie region.

Connecting bio-based SMEs with the latest research

Bio-based SMEs in the Polish Lubelskie region can now innovate with the latest research results. Some 63 SMEs, which, according to a tool inspired by a Greek practice, have innovation potential, are now receiving tailored support to help them innovate.

The project **'Bridging competence infrastructure gaps and speeding up growth and jobs delivery in regions' (BRIDGES)** brings together nine partners from six countries. Their common goal is improving support to bioeconomy SMEs. They want to connect regional research and development infrastructure with targeted SMEs and to help these SMEs to exploit commercially valuable bioeconomy research.

For Poland's Lubelskie region (Voivodeship) the project was an opportunity to learn how to boost their regional bioeconomy. They were looking for ways to identify and then link their innovation-ready bio-based SMEs to the latest relevant research results. They also wanted to align the innovation support under their regional operational programme to the existing needs in the bio-based sector.

The Voivodeship found a useful tool for assessing an SME's innovation potential in a good practice from Greece: *'the Autodiagnostic tool for agri-SMEs'.* This tool, adapted to the Polish needs, helped them identify 63 relevant SMEs. The Voivodeship mobilised these SMEs with innovation potential to boost their production through joint work with the research and development partners. The SMEs are making use of the region's innovation measures such as the innovation calls and influence the criteria for the innovation vouchers. They are also now accessing research results relevant to the bioeconomy, for example, photonics.

BRIDGES
Interreg Europe

Helping business and academia to collaborate

The Cyber Ireland cluster helps SMEs in south-west Ireland to exploit public research results and bridge the cyber skills gap. Good practices from Italy, Latvia and Lithuania have been influential in inspiring the development of the cluster.

© Cork Institute of Technology

© Gerd Altmann (Pixabay)

In the project **'Policies and measures to support local and regional innovation ecosystems' (ecoRIS3),** eight partners from eight countries have worked on improving the transfer of innovation and knowledge from research institutions to local and regional businesses. The partners believe that regional and local authorities should play a proactive role as intermediaries. Their ambition is to improve their regional innovation ecosystems.

The Cork Institute of Technology in the South West of Ireland joined the project to learn from partners across Europe about how they can help companies to exploit science and technology. The Institute's ambition was to strengthen industry engagement, increase value to industry and connect local development agencies with good practices.

Through ecoRIS3, Cork was able to learn about cluster programmes in Italy, Latvia and Lithuania, and this proved invaluable in the development of the Cyber Ireland cluster. This helped the Cork Institute, which hosts the new cluster, to go beyond networking to support industry with innovation, internationalisation and training services.

Cyber Ireland's stakeholders mobilised 340,000 euros of regional Structural Funds to set up the cluster, which is national in scope and involves the entire Irish higher education sector. Moreover, the project also helped in the development of co-working spaces in the region.

ecoRIS3
Interreg Europe

Independent ageing with telemedicine

Elderly people in Cyprus are benefitting from telemedicine. A good practice from Slovenia inspired Cypriot health providers to set up telecare services to enable their ageing population to preserve their independence and continue to live at home.

© HoCare

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The project **'Delivery of innovative solutions for home care by strengthening quadruple-helix cooperation in regional innovation chains' (HoCare)** brings together eight regions from eight countries. Their ambition was to bring together their home care users, businesses, research institutes and public authorities as 'quadruple-helix' stakeholders. They wanted to organise cross-fertilisation to generate new ideas and have these ideas tested and prototyped in real-life settings.

The Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL) led the project partnership. The agency's goal was to examine how the quadruple-helix approach could help in enhancing e-health care in Cyprus, one of the priorities of their *'Competitiveness and Sustainable Development Operational Programme'*.

The Agency took inspiration from the Slovenian good practice, Ekosmart. Ekosmart delivers telecare and telehealth services for the elderly and for physically less able people using technology that detects a need for intervention if a user cannot make an urgent call due to a fall or other health condition. This technology enables the elderly and chronically ill to continue to live independently in their own homes.

The Development Agency's work led to interest from the Cypriot Ministry of Health, which mobilised 400,000 euros of local Structural Funds to enable Cypriot hospitals to adopt similar telemedicine technology.

CYPRUS

HoCare
Interreg Europe

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Supporting innovation with digital data

Lower Austria has opened a 'House of Digitalisation' for local companies, which provides a service to help them with their digital innovation needs. A good practice from France has been instrumental in setting up this support service.

The project **'The innovation and knowledge for regional actions and systems' (INKREASE)** aims to improve the innovation ecosystems in six regions of Europe. Its seven partners share best practice solutions to help science and industry to work together to turn research into economic value.

ecoplus, the business agency of Lower Austria, joined the project to improve its local Technopol programme. The programme is creating technology-oriented economic areas in Austria, where education, research and business work together. ecoplus was looking for inspiration for how to develop new value chains in those areas and provide new support services in their Technopol programme.

A good practice from France, CRAFT, provided the inspiration. CRAFT is an innovation platform with data about innovative companies and academic institutions in Brittany, about their know-how, market application, value chains and equipment. The platform fosters collaboration and the exploitation of new and emerging technologies in products, processes and services.

Inspired by this practice, ecoplus developed a similar service focusing on exploiting digital opportunities in Lower Austria. With 351,800 euros of local Structural Funds, ecoplus has set up a network of 'digital nodes', which are the people who reach out to businesses; ecoplus is also setting up a data sharing platform, the *House of Digitalisation (www.virtuell-haus.at).* Local innovation partners have already proposed several new digitalisation projects thanks to the support from the new system.

INKREASE
Interreg Europe

Better climate adaptation through CO_2 accounting

The Danish island Samsø has tested a new tool to calculate the entire CO_2 emissions and climate impacts of new local developments.
A practice from Portugal helped Samsø to go beyond a purely energy-centred approach.

© Guido Könsgen (Pixabay)

© Per Dreyer - FærgenHou vedkaj

€
180,000
ERDF

The project **'Innovation policies for sustainable European islands' (Islands of Innovation)** brings together six island regions or archipelagos from six countries. Their aim is to become innovation test-beds and generate new job opportunities.

Samsø Energy Academy joined the project with a vision to turn societal challenges linked to climate adaptation, circular economy and the bio-economy into business opportunities on the island. Samsø aims to become a role model in the region and to speed up business and job creation there, drawing on ideas from other European islands.

A good practices from Portugal's Madeira enabled Samsø to develop a new tool which calculates all the CO_2 emissions generated on the island. It goes beyond energy consumption to include emissions from agriculture, industry and the waste cycle. The tool will help Samsø to ensure that any future developments on the island contribute positively to Samsø's climate balance and to its strategy to become fossil fuel free.

Samsø and the island's developers received 180,000 euros to test and validate the tool's performance on Samsø before rolling it out in all of Central Denmark's municipalities. Eventually, all 98 municipalities in Denmark might benefit.

Islands of Innovation
Interreg Europe

Developing new healthy food products

Estonian SMEs in Tartu County are today receiving improved support to develop innovative food products. Thanks to ideas from Finland and the UK, the food SMEs can now use new forms of knowledge transfer.

Images © Ülle Jukk - Toidukonv_2019

In the project **'Building innovative food value chains in regions' (NICHE),** seven regions from seven countries want to provide better and more coordinated support to SMEs in the food sector in order to help them face the current demographic and environmental challenges. They want to encourage their food SMEs to adopt more research and innovation-led solutions and by doing so contribute to regional growth.

The Tartu Science Park Foundation joined the project to improve technology and knowledge transfer to the food sector SMEs in the county. The county's goal was to help small food businesses to develop and market new products and services, and to find new export opportunities.

The Foundation was inspired by ideas from several countries involved in the project. The Finnish model for developing and marketing 'free from' products (gluten free, lactose free, no allergens) is now helping Tartu SMEs to develop their own innovative healthy food products. Tartu also learned from the Finnish Food Workshop about new forms of co-operation between research organisations and food companies. The Technology Development Centre in Tartu developed new support schemes for small food businesses, for example for developing new food or drink products, inspired by practices from similar centres in Northern Ireland.

NICHE
Interreg Europe

Bringing innovation to rural areas

SMEs in rural areas of Latvia now have more flexibility to choose their research and development provider using an innovation voucher. Ideas from Italy, Ireland, Poland and the Czech Republic have helped to reshape the local innovation support system.

© DJI-Agras (Pixabay)

© Quinn Kampschroer (Pixabay)

The project **'Regional actions to innovate operational programmes' (RATIO)** brings together nine partners from eight countries. Their goal is to help rural SMEs with innovative potential to grow and to expand their activities. They believe that thriving and innovative SMEs can limit the depopulation occurring in rural areas.

For Latvia's Vidzeme Planning Region, RATIO was an opportunity to learn from the good practices of others about how to increase the number of SMEs in rural areas which engage in innovation - technological and non-technological - or which invest in research and development. The region's ambition was to encourage private sector investment in innovation through their *Operational Programme 'Growth and employment'.*

The Vidzeme region and its stakeholders found plenty of inspiring ideas for improving their support programmes. The Ministry of Economics, for example, has modified their innovation vouchers for SMEs drawing on ideas from Ireland, the Czech Republic and Poland. The changes to the voucher involved: the freedom to choose the innovation provider, faster contracting, longer validity and a higher share of support earmarked for first-time innovation users. These changes have stimulated demand for the vouchers, which has exceeded three times the available funds allocated to them in their operational programme. And ideas from Italy have also helped Vidzeme to better coordinate its innovation support to SMEs and to develop new training schemes for them to support their innovation in products, services and processes.

RATIO
Interreg Europe

Weaving environmentally friendly textiles

Textile companies in Portugal's Norte region are testing innovative and sustainable solutions to the challenges facing textile production. In three projects, inspired by ideas from Spain and the Czech Republic, they test new technologies, such as reusing algal waste in textiles.

© kesie91 (Pixabay)

The project **'Research centers of excellence in the textile sector' (RESET)** brings together ten partners from nine countries. They aim to support their leading-edge textile sectors in their transition to more sustainable and environmentally friendly production models. Their ambition is to identify new ways to limit textile's environmental footprint, in particular in the use of raw materials, water, energy and chemicals, and in the pollution of the air, water and soil.

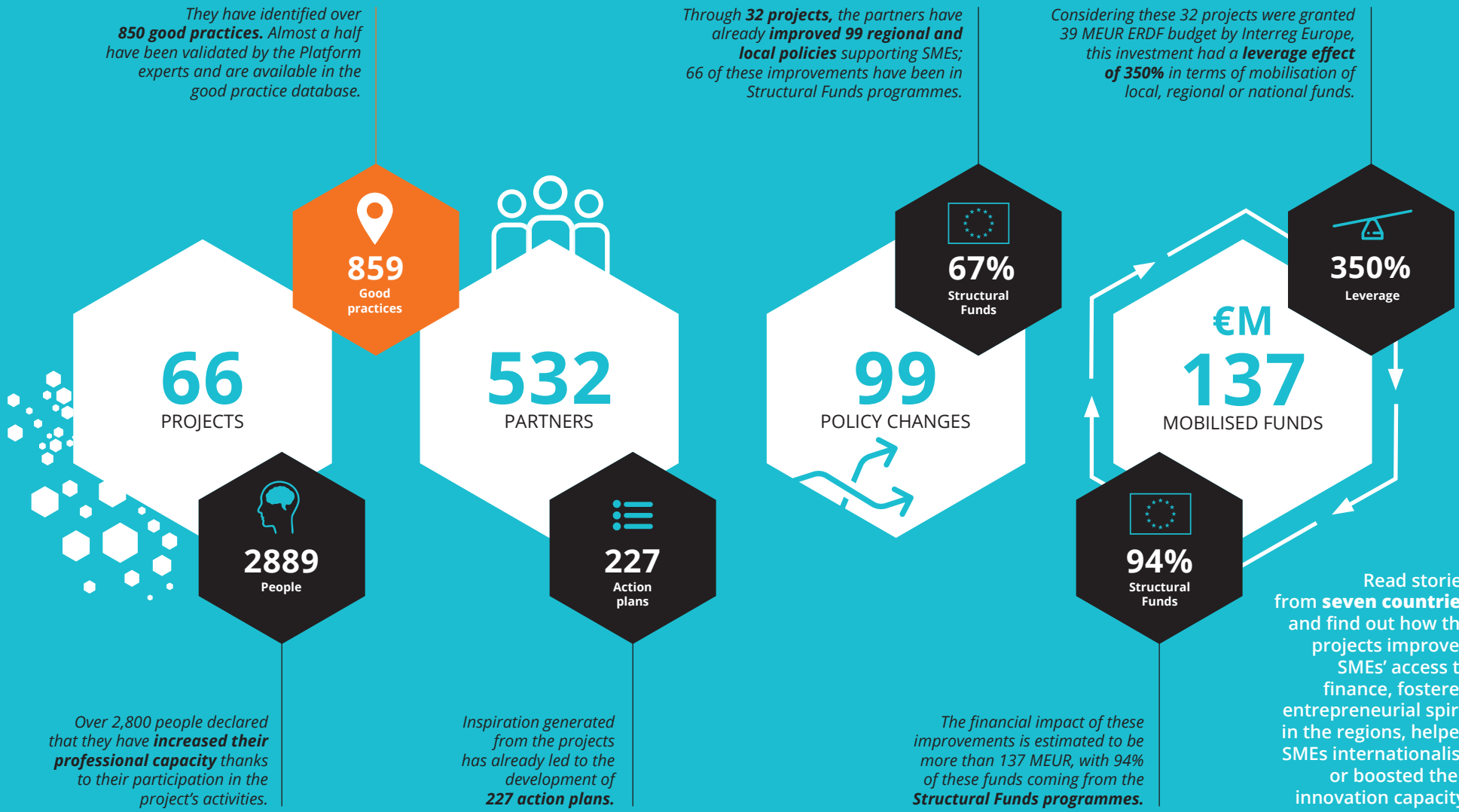
The Portuguese Technological Centre for Textiles and Clothing (CITEVE) joined the project to help their textile companies upgrade their capabilities. In particular, their goal was to find new ways to translate the already close cooperation between industry and research into more environmentally friendly textile products.

From the outset of the project, CITEVE has been keen to build on the good practices of others to achieve their goals. The Centre submitted six different project proposals for funding to the *Operational Programme PORTUGAL 2020*; all were inspired by RESET. CITEVE has successfully obtained 1.97 million euros for three of them. For example, the project ipVEST, which builds on a Czech practice for the production of technical and functional clothing with intelligent multi-risk protection. Another of its projects, ErCoSys, was inspired by a good practice from Spain and looks at the use of algal waste in the production of non-woven and composite materials with special mechanical properties and durability.

RESET
Interreg Europe

Improving **SME competitiveness** in European regions

In this policy field, over **530 partners** from all over Europe exchange experience and inspire each other in **66 interregional cooperation projects.** By September 2020, these projects had already demonstrated impressive achievements.


They have identified over **850 good practices.** Almost a half have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.
859
Good practices
66
PROJECTS
2889
People
Over 2,800 people declared that they have **increased their professional capacity** thanks to their participation in the project's activities.
532
PARTNERS
227
Action plans
Inspiration generated from the projects has already led to the development of **227 action plans.**
Through **32 projects,** the partners have already **improved 99 regional and local policies** supporting SMEs; 66 of these improvements have been in Structural Funds programmes.
67%
Structural Funds
99
POLICY CHANGES
Considering these 32 projects were granted 39 MEUR ERDF budget by Interreg Europe, this investment had a **leverage effect of 350%** in terms of mobilisation of local, regional or national funds.
350%
Leverage
€M
137
MOBILISED FUNDS
94%
Structural Funds
The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be more than 137 MEUR, with 94% of these funds coming from the **Structural Funds programmes.**
Read stories from **seven countries** and find out how the projects improved SMEs' access to finance, fostered entrepreneurial spirit in the regions, helped SMEs internationalise or boosted their innovation capacity.

© Križevci Development Center and Technology Park

Modernising a development centre for SMEs

New businesses in Koprivnica-Križevci County are now accessing early development guidance; thanks to Norway, the County's Development Centre and Technology Park has expanded its service portfolio to include non-financial services.

The project **'Access to Microfinance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (ATM for SMEs)** tackles a serious obstacle to business creation in Europe: a lack of microfinancing for SMEs and support for social entrepreneurship. Nine partners from seven countries are working in the project on improving their support tools to SMEs. They believe that this work can contribute to sustainable employment and reduce disparities and poverty in their regions.

The PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica-Križevci County in Croatia joined the project to bring new practices in SME microfinancing to the region. The agency's ambition was to identify new support tools for SMEs among those that have been successful in other parts of Europe and which are in line with the County's development strategy. They also wanted to use the Structural Funds in Croatia to provide these new SME services.

PORA identified several relevant non-financial services for SMEs among the solutions from Norway. These solutions enabled PORA to provide technical support to the Entrepreneurial Centre Križevci Ltd. in preparing a project on how to equip the Križevci Development Centre and Technology Park.

With 220,000 euros from the *Competitiveness and Cohesion Operational Programme 2014-2020,* the Centre is now equipped with new video conferencing tools, translation cabins, tables, chairs and computers. Entrepreneurs currently working in the incubator use this equipment and it will also be available to future entrepreneurs. They will be able to use the incubator to get their businesses off the ground. Entrepreneurs can also benefit from incubation and start-up mentoring.

ATM for SMEs
Interreg Europe

Going global with local support

The Gävleborg Export Centre, in North Central Sweden, has adopted a more demand-driven approach to supporting SMEs with export potential. Among its new services, inspired by Poland and Italy, the new centre now provides financial incentives and business advice.

In the project **'Competitive territories through internationalisation: SMEs competitiveness in globalised regions' (COMPETE IN),** seven partners from six countries are working to improve their support to SMEs striving to go global. The partners' ambition is to help the public authorities in their cities and regions to become better facilitators of the internationalisation process.

The Municipality of Gävle, together with the Region of Gävleborg, joined the project to learn from other European regions about how to better support exporting companies in North Central Sweden. Gävle's goal is to create a system bringing together SMEs, research centres, local and regional governments and other relevant organisations, so that companies have straightforward access to needs-based support.

Gävle identified applicable ideas from export support centres in Poland and Italy. These ideas shaped the concept and final proposal for a Regional Export Centre in Gävleborg. The proposal was approved and the Centre should be fully functional in 2021. The Centre will help to coordinate the support activities for SMEs and will provide export related advice and capacity building.

The Centre has already mapped the needs of local SMEs and increased the funds available to SMEs through business support cheques for internationalisation. Altogether, Gävleborg has already mobilised 1.36 million euros from the *North Central Sweden Regional Operational Programme* to fund the Centre and other SME support schemes.

COMPETE IN
Interreg Europe

Giving space to creativity

Malta now has a brand-new Valletta Design Cluster with new co-working spaces for cultural and creative micro entrepreneurs. The space layouts, activities and also management were inspired by a similar creative cluster in the UK.

Images © Alex Attard - VDC

In the project **'Design for innovation' (Design4Innovation),** eight partners from eight European countries are working together on promoting design as a tool for user-centred innovation. The partners' ambition is to help SMEs invest in design to create more desirable products and services, and become more competitive. They know that companies investing in design tend to be more profitable and grow faster.

The Valletta Cultural Agency joined the project to make the case for design-driven innovation in Malta. The Agency's goal was to learn from others how to shape the Valletta Design Cluster initiative to offer the best support to entrepreneurs in the creative sectors. They saw the initiative as an important part of the broader innovation support system in Malta and worth funding by the local operational programme.

The Agency found a number of useful ideas during the project's study visits, especially the one to East Wales in the UK. They took back ideas for the design and layout of the cluster's spaces. They also learned from the management and institutional set-up, including about establishing links with the public and with research institutions.

The Valletta Design Cluster's building will be completed in 2020. Soon, Maltese micro entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sectors will benefit from the new networking environment and improved access to knowledge in the sector. They will be able to use, for example, a maker-space, co-working and meeting spaces, a community food space and a roof garden. The cluster has received 2.72 million euros from the local operational programme so far.

Design 4 Innovation
Interreg Europe

Helping young entrepreneurs take off

A new dedicated Priority using pooled funds is strengthening Finland's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Thanks to ideas from Spain, France and Denmark, young entrepreneurs and startups in the Helsinki-Uusimaa region are now receiving enhanced support.

© Gerd Altmann (Pixabay)

The project **'Boosting innovative entrepreneurial ecosystem in regions for young entrepreneurs' (iEER)** brings together ten European entrepreneurial regions. The ambition is to deliver high-quality support for young entrepreneurs. The project involves all those who play a role in helping entrepreneurs succeed, such as universities, local and regional authorities, entrepreneurship support organisations, and SMEs.

Finland's Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council led the partnership. The Council's goal was to learn how to better use their regional Structural Funds and other funding resources to support entrepreneurs in the region.

The Region found relevant ideas in Denmark and Spain. These ideas sparked the creation of a Priority dedicated to entrepreneurship and startups in the Uusimaa regional programme. This Priority is now supported by pooled resources from the regional operational programme and other funds. In autumn 2017, for instance, the Region opened a specific call for projects to develop support for entrepreneurship. Four projects were selected and have received approx. 880,000 euros from the regional operational programme to enhance business skills in the region.

Lastly, a Spanish good practice, *'Aula Emprende'*, designed to boost entrepreneurship skills at universities, is also being rolled out as a pilot action, both in Helsinki, and in the project's other partner regions.

iEER
Interreg Europe

© Leslie Artamonow - Hub Creatif Charleroi Métropole

€ 255,000 ERDF

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in Wallonia.

Creating an incubator for creative growth

Creative industry SMEs in Wallonia, Belgium, can now count on support from a new incubator inspired by ideas from Latvia and Spain. The incubator provides SMEs with a portfolio of services, including access to the leaders in their field.

The project **Regional Creative Industries Alliance (RCIA)** brings together eight regions from eight countries. Their ambition is to learn from each other about how to strengthen SMEs in the cultural and creative industries (CCI) and improve their competitiveness. The project's partners see creative SMEs as one of the keys to unlocking their regional economic growth and believe they make their regions more attractive and innovative.

The Public Service of Wallonia joined the project to improve the creative hubs policy in the Belgian region. They were looking for new ideas for their nine creative hubs to help creative SMEs to grow, in particular through schemes to connect them to SMEs in other sectors.

The Public Service of Wallonia supported the Creative Hub of Charleroi Metropole to create a CCI incubator for the hub drawing inspiration from Riga's CCI and Barcelona's 3D incubators. This included ideas about the organisation, staffing, business model, target publics and also the results they could expect from such an incubator. They then mobilised 255,000 euros of the regional Structural Funds to set up the incubator.

Thanks to the project, the Creative hub of Charleroi Metropole will soon be offering a portfolio of new incubation activities. SMEs in cultural and creative industries will receive tailored coaching as well as tailored collective and CCI expert support for developing their business activities. The hub will also give SMEs access to companies and experts at the forefront of their fields of activity, especially in the cultural and digital industries.

RCIA
Interreg Europe

© Jill Wellington (Pixabay)

Enhancing the distribution of organic products

Thanks to ideas from France, Italy and Romania, Switzerland's Aargau Canton is now offering SMEs in its organic sector support with distribution. This support takes the form of new platforms for product promotion and logistics.

The project **'Enhancing SME competitiveness and sustainability in the organic sector' (SME ORGANICS)** brings together 11 partners from nine countries. They sought to identify the best policy and funding mix to support their organic sectors and to prioritise organic SMEs in their regions.

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) joined the project to help the Canton Aargau improve the performance of local organic farms and other organic agri-food entrepreneurs. The Institute looked to the partner countries to identify good practices that would develop the organic sector as a whole and which would boost SME competitiveness.

The Institute found what it was looking for during study visits in France, Italy and Romania. They learned about the important role of distribution centres for organic products in France and identified ideas for improving their own logistics through cooperatives. They also took lessons from Finland and Romania about promoting short-supply-chain products on social media or via a special online marketing platform.

The Canton reallocated 85,000 euros worth of local funds for an SME Organics coordination office to implement the measures from the project and to develop an organic value chain in the region.

SME ORGANICS
Interreg Europe

Bringing traditional SMEs into digital age

SMEs in traditional sectors in Slovenia now have a new voucher scheme to help them develop new products and services using digital or other innovation tools. Ideas from Ireland helped in setting up the scheme and in making the innovation support simpler and more accessible.

Images © Matej Povse

The project **'Business ecosystem for tradition and innovation' (TRINNO)** brings together seven partners from five countries. Their regions still suffering from the effects of the economic crisis need a dynamic business support system. The partners' ambition is to help their SMEs and aspiring entrepreneurs in traditional sectors to adopt digital innovations, such as digital manufacturing, the internet of things, or big data.

The Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia saw the project as an opportunity to learn from other European countries how to link tradition with innovation when promoting entrepreneurship or developing new business models for SMEs. Their special interest was in improving the financial incentives for innovation in SMEs and in upgrading traditional craft knowledge and skills.

Thanks to the project, the Slovenian Ministry of Economic Development and Technology saw first-hand a voucher scheme in practice in Ireland and this experience influenced their own local innovation voucher scheme for SMEs. The application for the vouchers is now online. The selection of innovation experts is simpler and includes regional consultants. The scheme is delivered through the national operational programme and 3.58 million euros of vouchers have already been distributed. There have been 14 calls so far and SMEs have received 988 vouchers. SMEs can use, for example, a voucher for digitalisation to set up their website.

The Centre has also developed a new training project for local crafts people. It helps them to shift from traditional skills to modern rural tourism. Six municipalities in Slovenia are learning from ideas from Italy and Ireland to exploit their crafts in the tourism sector through digital innovation. The Centre will run 12 training courses in 2020.

TRINNO
Interreg Europe

Improving **low-carbon economy** in European regions

In this policy field, over **470 partners** from all over Europe exchange experience and inspire each other in **60 interregional cooperation projects.** By September 2020, these projects had already demonstrated impressive achievements.

*They have identified over **680 good practices.** Three quarters have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.*

683
Good practices

60
PROJECTS

3473
People

*Over 3,400 people declared that they have **increased their professional capacity** thanks to their participation in the project's activities.*

475
PARTNERS

203
Action plans

*Inspiration generated from the projects has already led to the development of **203 action plans.***

*Through **28 projects,** the partners have already **improved 83 policies** supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy; 56 of these improvements have been in Structural Funds programmes.*

67%
Structural Funds

83
POLICY CHANGES

*The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be more than 317 MEUR, with 78% of these funds coming from the **Structural Funds programmes.***

*Considering these 28 projects were granted 35 MEUR ERDF budget by Interreg Europe, this investment had a **leverage effect of 887%** in terms of mobilisation of local, regional or national funds.*

887%
Leverage

€M
317
MOBILISED FUNDS

78%
Structural Funds

Read stories from **seven countries** and find out how the projects brought new sustainable transport solutions to towns and cities, improved the management of energy demand or the monitoring of CO_2 emissions in buildings.

Cutting pollution with electric buses

Prague's citizens and tourists can now contribute to cutting CO_2 emissions in the city by taking the first electric bus in town, line 140. Ideas from Cyprus and Italy helped the City to launch electric bus trials and the purchase of a new fleet of buses.

© Kwan Fung (Unsplash)

© Andy Leung (Pixabay)

€ 13,600,000 ERDF

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in Prague.

The project **'Innovations in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for low-carbon urban transport' (InnovaSUMP)** brings together nine partners from eight countries to decarbonise transport, which is the main source of CO_2 in their cities. The partners are looking for innovative sustainable mobility solutions that will cut CO_2 and air pollution and lead to a more sustainable use of energy.

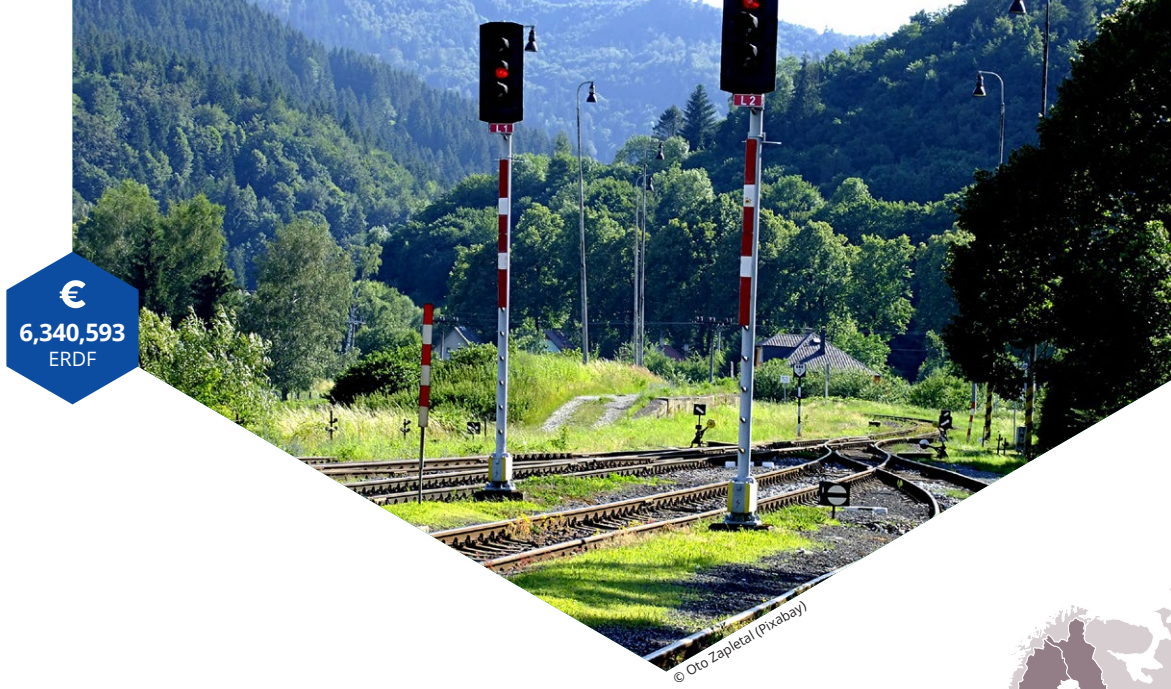
The City of Prague joined the project with the objective of increasing the share of public, pedestrian and cycling traffic to above 70%. So the City has looked for new ways to make its public transport system more attractive and accessible as well as to discourage car use.

This led the City to modify the *Operational Programme Prague the Growth Pole of the Czech Republic*, and to open two new calls on sustainable mobility and the smarter use of energy. The inspiration came from Cyprus and Italy. One call aimed specifically at pilot testing the electrification of the 140 bus line and was inspired by the project discussions in Cyprus on integrating mobility, energy and climate planning. The second call was for the purchase of the electric vehicles, and was inspired by the system in Ravenna, Italy. The overall allocation for the two calls was 13.6 million euros.

InnovaSUMP
Interreg Europe

Information terminals for better public transport

Inhabitants and visitors to Slovakia's Košice region are enjoying new flexible transport options when visiting the local natural heritage. And they will soon use new public transport information terminals, inspired by ideas from Austria and Luxembourg.



© Oto Zapletal (Pixabay)

The project **'Sustainable mobility for the last mile in tourism regions' (LAST MILE)** brings together seven partners from seven countries who are interested in public transport solutions for tourists and citizens, especially in remote areas. They are particularly interested in covering the 'last mile' in people's travel chains with low-emission and energy efficient alternatives to cars.

The Agency for the Support of Regional Development Košice joined the project to learn from other countries about how to improve its local public transport infrastructure. The Agency's objective was to propose new solutions for sustainable mobility and make these more attractive.

The Agency found a number of effective 'last mile' solutions: during study visits in Luxembourg and Austria, it was able to see modern bus and train stations with attractive information boards at the stations as well as on the buses and trains. Together with the Košice Self-governing Region, the Agency then prepared two plans: one for the construction of intermodal public transport terminals and another for an information system with integrated trip solutions. The managing authority of the *Integrated Regional Operational Programme* approved 6.34 million euros to deliver these plans.

Moreover, the Agency has encouraged new initiatives to make transport more sustainable and flexible. A seasonal train now takes people to Dobšinská Ice Cage, a seasonal bus serves local UNESCO sites, and a public bus now serves a route from the northern end of the national park to the southern end.

LAST MILE
Interreg Europe

Obtaining better energy efficiency data

The Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County in Hungary is progressing towards a low-carbon economy by renovating its public buildings and by better monitoring their resulting energy efficiencies. All this is thanks to good practices from Italy, Romania, Greece, Sweden and the UK.

© BORA 94

The project **'Renovation for energy efficient buildings' (REBUS)** brings together eight partners from eight countries. Their ambition is to save energy and public funds through good practices that will help public authorities upgrade the energy efficiency of their public buildings.

The Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Development Agency Nonprofit LLC (BORA 94) joined the project to learn how to improve the energy efficiency of their local government buildings. Their ambition was to lower their CO_2 emissions with the help of good practices from other regions, all with the support of Structural Funds.

The exchange of experience with public authorities in Italy and Romania proved especially fruitful, which meant that BORA 94 was able to help the Hungarian managing authority of the *Territorial and Settlement Development Programme* to review their indicator definitions. The improved data collection, processing and monitoring methodology for energy efficiency projects is now providing the managing authority, as well as the County, with more accurate information about energy savings.

In addition, ideas from study visits and staff exchanges with the UK, Sweden and Greece on alternative data collecting methods are helping BORA 94 to prioritise which public buildings to renovate. BORA 94 was also able to build its capacity for long-term strategy development for the shift towards the low-carbon economy in the county, which used to depend on mining.

REBUS
Interreg Europe

Info-mobility for greener transport

People in Italy's Lazio region now have an improved travel planner and an integrated ticketing system enabling them to travel in a more sustainable way. Lazio is also planning more mobility options in its Park & Ride schemes. These changes were inspired by ideas from Slovenia and the UK.

© Calin Stan (Unsplash)

© Anastasia Dulgier (Unsplash)

The project **'Interregional learning towards sustainable mobility in Europe: the REGIO-MOB experience'** brought together six partners from six countries. Their goal was to increase the use of sustainable transport in their regions. Above all, they were seeking new ways to promote intermodality, technical innovation, and the use of cleaner and more efficient transport systems.

The Regional Association of Lazio Municipalities (ANCI Lazio) led the partnership. The Association wanted to identify mobility solutions which would make more efficient use of the infrastructure, vehicles, and logistics platforms in and around Rome to reduce the traffic congestion and pollution caused by commuting. The regional operational programme would fund these public transport solutions that would better connect peri-urban and rural areas to the city.

ANCI Lazio identified several relevant mobility solutions. Ideas from Slovenia influenced the extension of the info-mobility system across the whole Lazio region. Now people can access real-time information about public transport options going beyond the city of Rome. They also have access to a user-friendly trip planner and an integrated ticketing system, which facilitate the use of public transport instead of the car.

ANCI Lazio also amended regional legislation to enable the creation of more extensive and sustainable Park & Ride schemes. In this respect, on top of the existing car-train and car-bus-train combinations, they plan to include electric car-sharing and charging points for electric mobility, car-pooling, and bike-sharing. 2 million euros of Structural Funds has already been mobilised to finance these new mobility solutions in the Lazio region.

REGIO-MOB
Interreg Europe

© Gemeente Roermond - Interconnect

© Gemeente Roermond - cityhub

Rolling out green mobility for retail

The inhabitants of the Dutch city of Roermond are enjoying a new bike sharing system because the City has improved its mobility policy with several sustainable transport solutions inspired by ideas from Sweden, the UK, and also from Rotterdam.

In the project **'RESOLVE: sustainable mobility and the transition to a low-carbon retailing economy',** nine partners from eight countries have been working to strengthen their retail sectors while also reducing their CO_2 emissions from car use linked to retail. Their ambition is to connect people from the retail and mobility policy fields in order to resolve these two urgent problems facing their cities.

The City of Roermond leading the partnership hoped to identify smart solutions which would lower carbon emissions from retail-related traffic. The City needed compelling ideas in order to obtain support from the *Dutch Operational Programme Zuid.* RESOLVE helped them to achieve this and so implement solutions which would reduce carbon emissions and support the retail economy inside the city at the same time.

The City initiated three projects inspired by ideas from several study visits. In Sweden, they saw how a tour brochure incorporating retail advertising can link retail and recreation. In Rotterdam they learned how to prepare and run a bike sharing system. And from the UK they copied a step-by-step roadmap which they followed to create a coherent mobility policy with Park & Bike and Sustainable Urban Logistics. The three actions, if successful in Roermond, could soon spread across the whole Limburg province.

Thanks to the project, the Province of Limburg also recognised retail-related traffic as an important factor for the transition to sustainable mobility and low-carbon economy. This lesson will be reflected in the new priorities of the regional operational programme.

RESOLVE
Interreg Europe

Setting up smart energy storage and consumption

Bretons will soon be enjoying greater energy security thanks to smarter management of energy demand. Ideas from Spain, the UK and Portugal inspired the French region to fund new ways of storing, converting and consuming energy.

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in Brittany.

© Dominique Leroux

The project **'Smart energy transition to upgrade regional performance' (SET-UP)** brings together six regions from six countries around the theme of energy performance. The project partners share solutions for better energy demand management, which can reduce energy consumption and provide greater energy security, and has other socio-environmental and economic benefits.

The Regional Council of Brittany and Bretagne Development Innovation joined the project with the ambition of accelerating the energy and ecological transition in their region. Participation in the project has helped them to develop smart grids in the region, one of the key priorities in Brittany's energy transition strategy.

SET-UP also helped the Council to fine tune the approach and content of two calls for proposals under its regional Structural Funds programme. Close study of cases from the UK and Spain taught Brittany that a wider range of energy storage and conversion technologies needs to be covered by the first call. The inspiration from Portugal influenced the second call, which included individual energy self-production and consumption loops as an alternative to centralised energy production. Now Brittany has a call for collective energy self-consumption, promoting sharing of energy between different sites with complementary consumption profiles.

SET-UP
Interreg Europe

Cutting CO_2 through better data sharing

The inhabitants of German towns in Rhineland-Palatinate will soon be able to take part in monitoring their local greenhouse gas emissions using widely accessible data portals, thereby helping to protect the climate. The portals were inspired by a system developed in Romania.

€
550,400
ERDF

Images © Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz

The project **'Support local governments in low carbon strategies' (SUPPORT)** brings together 11 partners from nine countries. Their goal is to use available structural and other funds to implement their national and regional energy efficiency programmes at the local level. They believe that their regions can play a stronger coordination and support role for their respective municipalities.

The Energy Agency of Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany joined the project to find a way to align their regional operational programme priorities with those in Rhineland Palatinate's local Climate Protection Strategy. They wanted to strengthen information sharing between the region and its municipalities, and between the public and private sectors. This exchange of information would enhance the energy management capacity of all stakeholders and help them to prepare new projects for funding more strategically.

The Energy Observatory, a good practice from Romania, inspired the Agency to develop a strategic project called the *'Municipal greenhouse gas balancing and regional climate protection portals' (KomBiReK).* The portals collect the data needed for energy balances in a more open and consistent way than in the past, and the public will also have access to them. The regional operational programme supported the project with 550,400 euros.

SUPPORT
Interreg Europe

Improving **the environment and resource efficiency** in European regions

In this policy field, over **520 partners** from all over Europe exchange experience and inspire each other in **67 interregional cooperation projects.** By September 2020, these projects had already demonstrated impressive achievements.

*They have identified over **670 good practices.** Over three quarters have been validated by the Platform experts and are available in the good practice database.*

677
Good practices

67
PROJECTS

2395
People

*Over 2,300 people declared that they have **increased their professional capacity** thanks to their participation in the project's activities.*

528
PARTNERS

132
Action plans

*Inspiration generated from the projects has already led to the development of **132 action plans.***

*Through **27 projects,** the partners have already **improved 103 policies** protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency; 37 of these improvements have been in Structural Funds programmes.*

36%
Structural Funds

103
POLICY CHANGES

*The financial impact of these improvements is estimated to be more than 76 MEUR, with 90% of these funds coming from the **Structural Funds programmes.***

*Considering these 27 projects were granted 33 MEUR ERDF budget by Interreg Europe, this investment had a **leverage effect of 226%** in terms of mobilisation of local, regional or national funds.*

226%
Leverage

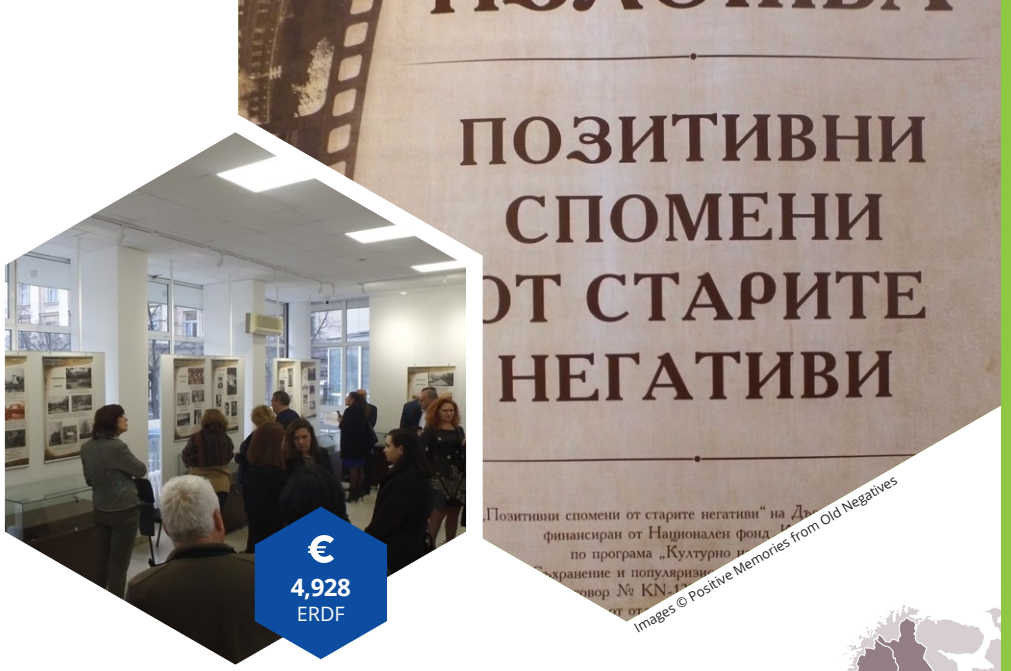
€M
76
MOBILISED FUNDS

90%
Structural Funds

Read stories from **eight countries** and find out how the projects improved the preservation and protection of cultural or natural heritage through digitalisation or better information sharing, or how the projects improved resource efficiency with reuse and recycling solutions or better recovery of landfills.

Preserving memories in the digital age

Inhabitants and visitors to the Bulgarian Euroregion Pleven-Olt can now discover the past hidden in old photos. Inspired by Spain, the regional State Archives decided to digitise their old photograph negatives and display them to the public.



Images © Positive Memories from Old Negatives

In the project **'Collaborative digitisation of natural and cultural heritage' (CD-ETA),** partners from eight regions in seven countries are improving public access to information about their natural and cultural heritage. The mass digitisation of heritage objects will also contribute to improving their heritage management.

The Euroregion Pleven-Olt has led the partnership in its search for creative ways to improve the management of natural and cultural heritage. For the Euroregion, its cultural heritage is an important source of sustainable growth, so it was interested in learning about strategies to make it more accessible to the public.

They found an inspiring good practice during a seminar in Spain on the digitisation of libraries and archives. The practice, on managing the old negatives of photographs in Spanish libraries and archives, helped the Euroregion prepare a project proposal called *'Positive Memories of Old Negatives with the Regional State Archives'.* The project was approved and received local funding of 4,928 euros.

The State Archives in Pleven-Olt now have a vast number of old negatives, some from early 1920s, scanned and stored. Moreover, they turned many of the negatives into prints and display them to the general public in an exhibition.

CD-ETA
Interreg Europe

€ 920,000 ERDF

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in Central Macedonia.

© Globelet Reusable (Unsplash)

© Bernard Hermant (Unsplash)

Helping SMEs to use resources efficiently

SMEs in Greece's Central Macedonia have been adapting their business practices for the circular economy with the help of a new one-stop liaison office and a voucher scheme. Inspired by ideas from Denmark, the office is promoting resource efficiency in the region through networking among SMEs.

In the project **'Circular economy for SMEs' (CESME),** nine partners from six countries have helped their SMEs transform environmental challenges into business opportunities. Their goal has been to bring their regional and local authorities and business development agencies together to design SME support solutions to help them make the most of the circular economy.

Development Agency of Eastern Thessaloniki's Local Authorities joined the project together with the Region of Central Macedonia to identify circular economy solutions for Greek SMEs. They wanted an effective mechanism for promoting the circular economy in the region and thereby generate resource efficiency initiatives by SMEs, which would be funded through the regional operational programme.

Thanks to ideas from Denmark, they developed a 'one-stop' liaison office at the Region's premises to promote the circular economy to SMEs. The office organises seminars and workshops about various good practices and open calls for funding. The liaison office puts SMEs in contact with each other, so that they can discover whether their waste can be someone else's raw material, or vice versa.

The regional operational programme provided 920,000 euros for the liaison office. Moreover, SMEs can apply for innovation coupons which they can use to improve the resource efficiency of their facilities or to adopt other circular economy practices.

CESME
Interreg Europe

€ 2,365,006 ERDF

Images © SADECO

Giving landfills a better cover

Landfills in Spain's Andalusia region will soon provide their towns with a new land, safely recovered in novel ways using ideas from Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium. 2.36 million euros from the Structural Funds is making better landfill management in the region possible.

The project **'Consortium for a coherent European landfill management strategy' (COCOON)** brings together eight partners from six countries. Their goal is to improve landfill management in their regions and turn it into an economic opportunity with new jobs, more safe recovered land, and a more efficient use of resources, such as landfill gas or water.

Sanitation Cordoba (SADECO) joined the project to bring good practices in landfill management from other countries in Europe to Andalusia in Spain. They looked for resource-efficient and environmentally-sound landfill management solutions which could be funded by the regional operational programme.

SADECO brought several ideas to the region. During a site visit in Germany, they saw a safe yet less expensive and faster method for sealing a landfill using construction and demolition waste. The Baena landfill in Cordoba is now being sealed the same way.

Another idea came from the Netherlands, where landfills are partially excavated so that the land can be better recovered for safe use. SADECO developed a similar landfill mining project for Dehesas Viejas, which will provide the town in Granada with additional usable space. SADECO also decided to map their landfill sites for a better overview for their management, inspired by similar IT tools used in Germany and Belgium.

The three projects received in total over 2.36 million euros from the regional operational programme.

COCOON
Interreg Europe

Harnessing the power of green tourism

Norfolk County will soon be attracting pilgrims with an off peak tourism offer built around the local traditions and sustainability. Practices from Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the UK inspired a project to develop this offer and measure its sustainability.

€ 5,800,000 ERDF

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in the East Anglia region.

© Green Pilgrimage

The project **'Green pilgrimage supporting natural and cultural heritage' (Green Pilgrimage)** brings together seven partners from five countries. Their goal is to protect the natural and cultural heritage along their pilgrimage routes. Through low impact tourism, digitalisation, pilgrim accommodation and strengthening local traditions, they also want to create jobs in their regions.

Norfolk County Council joined the project to discover smart ways to reap the economic and cultural benefits of pilgrimage for their county. The Council was also keen to develop better indicators to analyse these benefits from a sustainability perspective.

At a study visit in Spain, the Council identified techniques for measuring the economic and sustainability impacts of pilgrim-based tourism on regional heritage, enabling them to review their own indicators. Case studies on off-season tourism in Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden and neighbouring Kent also informed discussions between the Council and the *Interreg France (Channel) England Programme* about a project to develop an innovative experiential off-season tourism offer. The project they developed, called EXPERIENCE, later received 5.8 million euros from the Programme.

The project aims to show how activities such as pilgrimage can take place outside the peak season and generate a greater economic benefit for the local area. The new indicators measure visitor numbers as well as the relative benefits and sustainability of tourists visiting during the off peak season.

Green Pilgrimage
Interreg Europe

Better stewardship of the coast

The fragile beauty of the coast of Agder in Norway is better protected now, while also keeping the coastal landscapes open to tourists. Ideas from Spain and Italy showed the local communities how to improve the stewardship of their coastal heritage.

Images © Kåre Kristiansen - Agder County Council

The project **'Management of heritage in coastal landscapes' (HERICOAST)** tackles the challenges to cultural heritage in maritime and fluvial regions. Eight partners from six countries have worked together on solutions to better balance the use of the coastal landscapes with their preservation.

The Agder County Council developed the project with its European partners to improve the public management of the coastal heritage of two counties and several municipalities in Norway. The Council looked for new ideas on how to engage all the key stakeholders in the management of these heritage assets, which are under intense pressure from recreational development.

The Council initiated a project *'Ports as destinations'*, inspired by practices from Spain, to improve collaboration among all the different institutions involved in managing Agder's coastal heritage. Thanks also to a good practice from Italy, the *'Ports as destinations'* has now developed into a three-year project bringing together the local communities and public authorities on the Agder coast. They received local funding of 243,210 euros to support their conservation and development activities.

The environment along the coast of Agder, with its fragile biodiversity and highly attractive landscapes, is now being preserved for the future.

HERICOAST
Interreg Europe

Protecting nature for responsible tourists

The biodiversity in lagoons and dunes in two nature parks in Lithuania is now better protected thanks to ideas from Romania and France. Eco-tourists will soon be able to admire lagoons with cleaner water and more frogs or enjoy an instructive walk across the moving dunes.

€
195,100
ERDF

Images © EUCC Baltic Office

The project **'Innovative models for protected areas: exchange and transfer' (IMPACT)** brought together six partners from six countries who had each prioritised preserving biodiversity in their region's Natura 2000 areas. They also came together to look for smart ways to create green jobs in these areas, in eco-tourism or outdoor sports for example, without compromising their natural heritage.

The Baltic Office of the Coastal and marine union association (EUCC) joined the project to identify good practices in other countries which would reduce the pressure on coastal ecosystems and preserve the services they provide in Lithuania. The EUCC Baltic Office's ambition was to develop an innovative cross-sectoral policy toolbox for both regional development and nature conservation, and to contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The EUCC Baltic Office identified several inspiring ideas within the partnership and prepared three new projects for two parks: Kuršių Nerija National Park and Pajūrio Regional Park. For example, pond management ideas from Spain inspired a project for building floating islands and barriers in the local lagoon to create a better habitat for frogs and other freshwater amphibians. Practices from Romania and France also helped to reconcile the conservation of a UNESCO World Heritage mobile dune with its sustainable use in local tourism. The three projects received support from the *Interreg South Baltic Programme* with 195,000 euros in total.

IMPACT
Interreg Europe

Protecting nature by darkening the skies

Birds and other animals can be disturbed by excessive light, but in Luxembourg's Natura 2000 nature parks action is being taken. Thanks to input from Hungary, Luxembourg's park management plans are now addressing light pollution.

Images © Night Light

The project **'Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorise dark night skies' (Night Light)** brings together nine partners from eight countries. Their goal is to limit the loss of natural darkness as this has a negative impact on biodiversity and the environment. The partners also see the protection of dark skies in their regions as an opportunity for sustainable economic development and eco-tourism.

The Our Nature Park joined the project to improve the climate, nature and landscape policy guidance followed by Luxembourg's municipalities. Their main goal was to reduce the negative effects of artificial light in the park and other protected nature areas in the country.

The Park invited the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures and the Nature and Forestry Administration to project meetings to participate in identifying solutions to light pollution. Ideas from a peer review of the local situation by the project partners, as well as a good practice from Hungary, led the Ministry to integrate light pollution as a parameter in the national Natura 2000 management plan. From 2018, the authorisation procedure for future construction projects in the Natura 2000 areas in Luxembourg has to include an impact study on light pollution.

The Ministry also developed a national guide on the management of light pollution and adapted the Climate Pact, a national programme for climate and nature protection.

Night Light
Interreg Europe

Promoting high-tech recycling in SMEs

SMEs in Romania's North-East region can access funding to eliminate their waste by reusing or recycling it with the help of the latest scientific research. The regional operational programme broadened the support to SMEs' transition to a circular economy, thanks to ideas from Slovenia.

Policy improved directly by the Managing Authority for EU Structural Funds in the North-East Region.

Images © REDU

The project **'A systemic approach for regions transitioning towards a circular economy' (RETRACE)** brings together eight partners from five countries all eager to design sustainable production systems where material and energy outputs from one productive process become inputs in another. Their common goal is to prevent the release of waste into the environment.

The North-East Regional Development Agency joined the project to find inspiration for new initiatives that would help Romanian SMEs transition to a circular economy in the region's priority sectors such as agri-food, clothing or timber. The Agency's goal was to make the circular economy model more prominent in the calls opened by the regional operational programme.

The Agency discovered a way to do this in Slovenia. The idea was to change the eligibility criteria for funding of technology transfer from research centres to SMEs. The regional operational programme now offers support to a broader range of SMEs, eager to improve their resource efficiency by adopting the circular economy and exploiting the latest scientific research results at the same time.

Moreover, the scope of the eligible technology transfer activities was also broadened. Now the spectrum of possible activities goes beyond own waste reduction. The technology transfer calls also encourage collaboration on the cascade use, reuse, and recycling of materials.

RETRACE
Interreg Europe

Policy cooperation goes on

Erwin Siweris, Interreg Europe Programme Director, answers a few questions about the future of interregional cooperation.

This publication presents the first programme results. Is there more to come?

Yes, definitely! Only around 40% of our projects have completed their cooperation activities, which generate positive changes in policies as illustrated in the 30 stories in this publication. With each project progress report we receive, we get new information about the changes our partners are making in their regions, as well as about the funds they are mobilising to deliver these policy changes.

By 2023, when our last projects officially close their activities, we expect that we will have exceeded all our initial objectives, both in terms of the number of policy improvements and the funds mobilised. The programme is particularly successful in leveraging investment from Structural Funds so that new ideas inspired by cooperation can be supported in the different European regions.

The current programme activities – the projects and the Platform – close in 2023. What comes next?

Interreg Europe will go on. The new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 is counting on us to continue our support for projects and policy learning in the interregional context. Budget negotiations are ongoing. I hope that we will get a similar financial allocation to what we have at present to be able to support future interregional cooperation projects.

And I can already tell you that the Partner States of our programme have expressed their desire to:

- **keep the focus on improving local, regional or national policies and programmes;**
- **enlarge the thematic scope of the programme;**
- **continue supporting cooperation among regions from different levels of development and geographical locations;**
- **provide more opportunities for learning by doing through pilot actions and experimentation**

Why should the interregional cooperation programme continue?

Because cooperation works. There are so many good ideas and smart people around Europe. Bringing them together around a policy issue of interest to them, be it for several hours, several days, or several years, is like the tide that lifts all boats. It increases the professional capacity and expertise of everyone involved and leads to concrete improvements for regions and their communities.

Working together across different regions of Europe builds trust. People realise that if we all share our ideas, we can find good solutions more quickly and spend public funding more efficiently for the benefit of all.

When can people expect the new Interreg Europe to offer new funding opportunities?

We hope to have a budget for the new programme by the end of 2020. We have made a lot of progress on the text of the new cooperation programme. If all goes well, we will be ready to propose our new programme to the European Commission for approval in early 2021. By the end of 2021, we hope to be ready to launch the new programme and soon after that open the first call for project proposals.

We have a dedicated page for the new programme at https://www.interregeurope.eu/about-us/2021-2027/.

You can find all updates there.

What would be your final word for the readers of this publication?

I would refer readers to the title of this publication, which summarises it well: When Europe cooperates, regions benefit. So, join in the cooperation!

Project list

A list of all 258 Interreg Europe cooperation projects in 2014-2020, each with a link to find out more information about them.

65 Research and innovation projects

INNOVATION CAPACITY (17)

AERIAL UPTAKE
Removing Barriers to the Uptake of Innovative Unmanned Aerial Systems in the EU
www.interregeurope.eu/aerialuptake

BETTER
Stimulating Regional Innovation through Better e-Government Services
www.interregeurope.eu/better

Digital Regions
Regional policies adopting Industry 4.0 for their Digital Transformation
www.interregeurope.eu/digitalregions

INNO INFRA SHARE
Sharing Strategies for European Research and Innovation Infrastructures
www.interregeurope.eu/innoinfrashare

INNO PROVEMENT
Translating Industry 4.0 to Improved SME Policy Instruments Targeting Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/innoprovement

InnoBridge
Bridging the Innovation Gap through Converting R&D Results into Commercial Success in a More Effective and Efficient Way
www.interregeurope.eu/innobridge

Islands of Innovation ▶ *page 18*
Innovation Policies for Sustainable European Islands
www.interregeurope.eu/islandsofinnovation

MANUMIX
Innovation Policy-Mix Learning for Advanced Manufacturing in European Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/manumix

NMP-REG
Delivering Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials and Production to Regional Manufacturing
www.interregeurope.eu/nmp-reg

P2L2
Public Policy Living Laboratory
www.interregeurope.eu/p2l2

P-IRIS
Policies to Improve Rural Areas' Innovation Systems by Professionalising Networking Activities and Use of Innovation Tools
www.interregeurope.eu/p-iris

RATIO ▶ *page 20*
Regional Actions to Innovate Operational Programmes
www.interregeurope.eu/ratio

REMIX
Smart and Green Mining Regions of EU
www.interregeurope.eu/remix

S34GROWTH
Enhancing Policies through Interregional Cooperation: New Industrial Value Chains for Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/s34growth

SMARTY
Smart SMEs for Industry 4.0
www.interregeurope.eu/smarty

STEPHANIE
Space Technology with Photonics for Market and Societal Challenges
www.interregeurope.eu/stephanie

Urban M
Urban Manufacturing - Stimulating Innovation Through Collaborative Maker Spaces
www.interregeurope.eu/urbanm

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS (12)

CARPE DIGEM
Catalysing Regions in Peripheral and Emerging Europe towards Digital Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/carpedigem

DIALOG
Dialog for Innovation And Local Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/dialog

ERUDITE
Enhancing Rural and Urban Digital Innovation Territories
www.interregeurope.eu/erudite

iBuy
Fostering the Role of Public Authorities as Demanders of Innovation through Public Procurement
www.interregeurope.eu/ibuy

INNO INDUSTRY
Improving Innovation Delivery of Policies within 4.0 Industry in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/innoindustry

InnoHEIs
Improving Research and Innovation Infrastructure Performance: from Fragmented to Integrated and Sustainable Cooperation
www.interregeurope.eu/innoheis

MARIE
Mainstreaming Responsible Innovation in European S3
www.interregeurope.eu/marie

Next2Met
Increasing Attractiveness of Next2Met Regions with Soft Digitalisation Measures
www.interregeurope.eu/next2met

OSIRIS
Open Social Innovation Policies Driven by Co-Creative Regional Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/osiris

PASSPARTOOL
Key Tools to Assess and Improve Soft Innovation Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/passpartool

SUPER
Supporting Eco-Innovations towards International Markets
www.interregeurope.eu/super

TraCS3
Fostering Interregional Collaboration and Support for Innovation Infrastructure in S3 Key Priority Areas through the Improvement of Regional Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/tracs3

INNOVATION IN SECTOR (21)

Agri Renaissance
Innovation-Driven Agri-Food Sectors for a European Industrial Renaissance
www.interregeurope.eu/agrirenaissance

CREADIS3
Smart Specialisation Creative Districts
www.interregeurope.eu/creadis3

Digitourism
Digitourism
www.interregeurope.eu/digitourism

EU_SHAFE
Europe Enabling Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments
www.interregeurope.eu/eushafe

FoodChains 4 Europe
Strengthening Regional Innovation Policies to Build Sustainable Food Chains
www.interregeurope.eu/foodchains4eu

HELIUM
Health Innovation Experimental Landscape through Policy Improvement
www.interregeurope.eu/helium

HoCare ▶ *page 16*
Delivery of Innovative Solutions for Home Care by Strengthening Quadruple-Helix Cooperation in Regional Innovation Chains
www.interregeurope.eu/hocare

Inno4Sports
Sport for Growth and Healthy & Vital Communities
www.interregeurope.eu/inno4sports

INNOTRANS
Enhancing Transport Innovation Capacity of Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/innotrans

InnovaSPA
Innovative Health Solutions for Thermal Spa Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/innovaspa

INTENCIVE
Innovation and Technology Enhancing Customer Oriented Health Services
www.interregeurope.eu/intencive

ITHACA
Innovation in Health and Care for All
www.interregeurope.eu/ithaca

iWATERMAP
Water Technology Innovation Roadmaps
www.interregeurope.eu/iwatermap

Medtech4 Europe
Optimizing the Impact of Public Policies in Favour of Research and Innovation Facilities in the Field of Medical Technologies
www.interregeurope.eu/medtech4europe

NICHE ▶ *page 19*
Building Innovative Food Value Chains in Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/niche

RECORD
Regions in Europe Coordinate and Optimize Innovation and Competitiveness Policy Instruments towards Improving the Sustainability of Transport - Study Case of SMEs in the Railway Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/record

REGIONS 4FOOD
Regional Strategies for Food 4.0 Revolution
www.interregeurope.eu/regions4food

RESET ▶ *page 21*
Research Centers of Excellence in the Textile Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/reset

S3Chem
Smart Chemistry Specialisation Strategy
www.interregeurope.eu/s3chem

SmartPilots
Improving Policies in Support of Shared Pilot Facilities to Increase Their Impact on the Key Enabling Technology Industrial Biotech and the European Bioeconomy
www.interregeurope.eu/smartpilots

TITTAN
Network for Technology, Innovation and Translation in Ageing
www.interregeurope.eu/tittan

RIS3 (15)

Beyond EDP
Improve the RIS3 Effectiveness through the Management of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)
www.interregeurope.eu/beyondedp

BRIDGES ▶ *page 14*
Bridging Competence Infrastructure Gaps and Speeding up Growth and Jobs Delivery in Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/bridges

ClusterFY
Fostering Clusters' Interregional Collaboration and Integration into International Value Chains
www.interregeurope.eu/clusterfy

Clusterix 2.0
New Models of Innovation for Strategic Cluster Partnerships
www.interregeurope.eu/clusterix2

ClusterS3
Leveraging Cluster Policies for Successful Implementation of RIS3
www.interregeurope.eu/clusters3

COHES3ION
Integrating the Territorial Dimension for Cohesive S3.
www.interregeurope.eu/cohes3ion

ecoRIS3 ▶ *page 15*
Policies & Measures to Support Local & Regional Innovation Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/ecoris3

ELISE
European LIfe Science Ecosystems
www.interregeurope.eu/elise

HIGHER
Better Policy Instruments for High Innovation Projects in the European Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/higher

IMPROVE
Improving Structural Funds for Better Delivery of R&D&I Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/improve

INKREASE ▶ *page 17*
Innovation and Knowledge for Regional Actions and Systems
www.interregeurope.eu/inkrease

MONITORIS3
Exchange of Experiences in Monitoring Mechanisms, Indicators and Methodologies Addressed to Improvement in the Delivery of Policies and Instruments in the Framework of Regional RIS3 across Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/monitoris3

RELOS3
From Regional to Local: Successful Deployment of the Smart Specialization Strategies
www.interregeurope.eu/relos3

RUMORE
Rural-Urban Partnerships Motivating Regional Economies
www.interregeurope.eu/rumore

STRING
Strategies for Regional Innovative Food Clusters
www.interregeurope.eu/string

66 SME competitiveness projects

ENTREPRENEURSHIP (12)

ABCitiEs
Area Based Collaborative Entrepreneurship in Cities
www.interregeurope.eu/abcities

ECoC-SME
Actions for Inducing SME Growth and Innovation via the ECoC Event and Legacy
www.interregeurope.eu/ecoc-sme

E-COOL
Entrepreneurial and Intrapreneurial Mindset in Young People through the Dynamisation of Competences, Teaching Methodologies and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
www.interregeurope.eu/e-cool

FEMINA
Female Participation in High-Tech Enterprises
www.interregeurope.eu/femina

GRESS
Green Startup Support
www.interregeurope.eu/gress

iEER ▶ *page 27*
Boosting Innovative Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Regions for Young Entrepreneurs
www.interregeurope.eu/ieer

OSS
One Stop Shop towards Competetive SMEs, Focusing on the Ecosystem for the First Line Service System
www.interregeurope.eu/oss

REBORN
Embracing Failure to Encourage Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness
www.interregeurope.eu/reborn

Rural SMEs
Policies to Develop Entrepreneurship and Innovative SMEs in Rural Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/ruralsmes

SOCENT SPAs
Social Entrepreneurship in Sparsely Populated Areas
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SPEED UP
Supporting Practices for Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in the Development of Urban Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/speedup

START EASY
Smart Tools for Quick and Easy Business Start-up in Europe: the Once-Only Challenge
www.interregeurope.eu/starteasy

INNOVATION CAPACITY OF SMES (9)

40Ready
Strengthening SME Capacity to Engage in Industry 4.0
www.interregeurope.eu/40ready

ACSELL
Accelerating SME Innovation Capacities with a Living Lab Approach
www.interregeurope.eu/acsell

Design 4 Innovation ▶ *page 26*
Design for Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/design4innovation

GROW RUP
Entrepreneurship Development and Capacity Building Policies for Business Creation and Growth in Outermost Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/growrup

INNOGROW
Regional Policies for Innovation Driven Competitiveness and Growth of Rural SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/innogrow

Innova Foster
Fostering Startup & Innovation Ecosystems in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/innovafoster

KISS ME
Knowledge & Innovation Strategies Involving SME in the Context of Interreg
www.interregeurope.eu/kissme

RegionArts
Enhancing SME Growth by the Integration of Artists in ICT Projects
www.interregeurope.eu/regionarts

TRINNO ▶ *page 30*
Business ecosystem for Tradition and Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/trinno

SUPPORT TO SECTOR (24)

ALICE
Animation League for Increased Cooperation in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/alice

BRANDTour
Building Regional Actions for New Developments in Tourism
www.interregeurope.eu/brandtour

BRESE
Border Regions in Europe for Social Entrepreneurship
www.interregeurope.eu/brese

CLAY
Cross Sector Support for Innovative and Competitive Artistic Ceramic SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/clay

CLIPPER
Creating a Leadership for Maritime Industries - New Opportunities in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/clipper

CRAFTS CODE
Creative Actions For Tailoring SMEs' Competitive Development
www.interregeurope.eu/craftscode

CRE:HUB
Policies for Cultural Creative Industries: the Hub for Innovative Regional Development
www.interregeurope.eu/crehub

Cult-CreaTE
Cultural and Creative Industries Contribution to Cultural and Creative Tourism in Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/cultcreate

CYBER
Regional Policies for Competitive Cybersecurity SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/cyber

Destination SMEs
Destination SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/destinationsmes

EUREGA
European Regions of Gastronomy Building Resilience and Creating Economic Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/eurega

EXTRA-SMEs
Improving Policies to Boost SME Competitiveness and Extraversion in EU Coastal and Rural Areas where Aquaculture is a Driver of the Regional Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/extra-smes

FRiDGE
Development of Food Industry SME Competitiveness for Better Potentials in Growth
www.interregeurope.eu/fridge

QUALIFY
Quality Standards and Authenticity to Foster Competitiveness of Agrifood SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/qualify

RaiSE
Enhancing Social Enterprises Competitiveness through Improved Business Support Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/raise

RCIA ▶ *page 28*
Regional Creative Industries Alliance – From European Recommendations to Better Regional CCI Policies for a More Competitive Economy
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RECREATE
Reinforce Competitiveness of Regional Transport SMEs
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RuralGrowth
Increasing Competitiveness of SMEs in the Rural Visitor Economy Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/ruralgrowth

SARURE
Save Rural Retail
www.interregeurope.eu/sarure

SILVER SMEs
Identification and Implementation of Regional Policies to Take Advantage of the Silver Economy Derived Opportunities to Engage SMEs in Growth and Entrepreneurship Spirit
www.interregeurope.eu/silversmes

SinCE-AFC
Enchancing the Entrepreneurship of SMEs in Circular Economy of the Agri-Food Chain
www.interregeurope.eu/since-afc

SME ORGANICS ▶ *page 29*
Enhancing SME Competitiveness and Sustainability in the Organic Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/smeorganics

SOCIAL SEEDS
Exploiting Potentials of Social Enterprises through Standardized European Evaluation and Development System
www.interregeurope.eu/socialseeds

SUBTRACT
Sustainable Reuse Centres
www.interregeurope.eu/subtract

SUPPORT TO SMES (21)

ATMforSMEs ▶ *page 24*
Access to Microfinance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
www.interregeurope.eu/atmforsmes

COMPETE IN ▶ *page 25*
Competitive Territories through Internationalisation: SMEs Competitiveness in Globalised Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/competein

DEVISE
Digital Tech SMEs at the Service of Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies
www.interregeurope.eu/devise

DigiBEST
Digital Business Ecosystem Transformation
www.interregeurope.eu/digibest

EIS
Everywhere International SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/eis

ESSPO
Efficient Support Services Portfolios for SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/esspo

FFWD EUROPE
Fast Forward Europe
www.interregeurope.eu/ffwdeurope

FOUNDATION
Building Regional Resilience to Industrial Structural Change
www.interregeurope.eu/foundation

Future Ecom
Exploiting Digitisation to Increase B2B e-Commerce
www.interregeurope.eu/future-ecom

Innova-FI
Financial Instruments for Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/innova-fi

Inside Out EU
New Approaches to Improve SME Internationalisation Support Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/insideouteu

INTER VENTURES
Policies to Promote the Internationalisation of SMEs for More Competitive Regional Ecosystems in Border Areas of the EU
www.interregeurope.eu/interventures

INTRA
Internationalisation of Regional SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/intra

PURE COSMOS
Public Authorities Role Enhancing Competitiveness of SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/purecosmos

Road-CSR
A Roadmap for Integrating Corporate Social Responsibility into EU Member States and Business Practices
www.interregeurope.eu/road-csr

SCALE UP
Supporting Concentration and Robustness of SMEs within the Renewed EU Industrial Policy
www.interregeurope.eu/scaleup

SIE
SME Internationalisation Exchange
www.interregeurope.eu/sie

SKILLS+
Supporting Knowledge Capacity in ICT among SME to Engage in Growth and Innovation
www.interregeurope.eu/skillsplus

STOB regions
Succession and Transfer of Business in Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/stobregions

SUCCESS ROAD
Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of European SMEs through Succession Procedures and Models
www.interregeurope.eu/successroad

UpGradeSME
Improving Policy Instruments Supporting Innovative SME Performance
www.interregeurope.eu/upgradesme

60 Low-carbon economy projects

ENERGY EFFICIENCY (14)

BUILD2LC
Boosting Low Carbon Innovative Building Rehabilitation in European Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/build2lc

CLEAN
Technologies and Open Innovation for Low-Carbon Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/clean

EMPOWER
More Carbon Reduction by Dynamically Monitoring Energy Efficiency
www.interregeurope.eu/empower

ENERSELVES
Policy Instruments for Energy Self-Consumption in Buildings
www.interregeurope.eu/enerselves

FINERPOL
Financial Instruments for Energy Renovation Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/finerpol

LOCARBO
Novel Roles of Regional and Local Authorities in Supporting Energy Consumers' Behaviour Change towards a Low Carbon Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/locarbo

REBUS ▶ *page 36*
Renovation for Energy Efficient Buildings
www.interregeurope.eu/rebus

RESOR
Supporting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in European Islands and Remote Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/resor

S3UNICA
Smart Specialisation Univercity Campus
www.interregeurope.eu/s3unica

SET-UP ▶ *page 39*
Smart Energy Transition to Upgrade Regional Performance
www.interregeurope.eu/set-up

SMEPlus
Improving Policy Instruments to Increase the Energy Efficiency in Industrial SMEs
www.interregeurope.eu/smeplus

Social Green
Regional Policies towards Greening the Social Housing Sector
www.interregeurope.eu/socialgreen

VIOLET
Preserve Traditional Buildings through Energy Reduction
www.interregeurope.eu/violet

ZEROCO2
Promotion of Near Zero CO_2 Emission Buildings due to Energy Use
www.interregeurope.eu/zeroco2

LOW-CARBON STRATEGIES (11)

COALESCCE
Community Owned and Led Energy for Security Climate Change and Employment
www.interregeurope.eu/coalescce

Green Screen
Greening the Creative Industries: Improving Policy Practices for the European Audiovisual Industry
www.interregeurope.eu/greenscreen

INTENSIFY
More Carbon Reduction through Intense Community Engagement
www.interregeurope.eu/intensify

LC Districts
Towards Low Carbon City Districts through the Improvement of Regional Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/lcdistricts

MOLOC
Low Carbon Urban Morphologies
www.interregeurope.eu/moloc

PASSAGE
Public Authorities Supporting Low-Carbon Growth in European Maritime Border Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/passage

POTEnT
Public Organisations Transform Energy Transition
www.interregeurope.eu/potent

SmartEdge
Sustainable Metropolitan Areas and the Role of the Edge City
www.interregeurope.eu/smartedge

SME POWER
SMEs Powering a Low Carbon Future
www.interregeurope.eu/smepower

SMOOTH PORTS
Reducing CO_2 Emissions in Ports
www.interregeurope.eu/smoothports

SUPPORT ▶ *page 40*
Support Local Governments in Low Carbon Strategies
www.interregeurope.eu/support

RENEWABLE ENERGY (9)

AgroRES
Investing in Renewable Energies for Agriculture
www.interregeurope.eu/agrores

APPROVE
Advancing Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement for the Improvement of Renewable Energy Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/approve

BIO4ECO
Sustainable Regional Bioenergy Policies: a Game Changer
www.interregeurope.eu/bio4eco

DeCarb
Supporting the Clean Energy Transition of Coal-Intensive EU Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/decarb

FIRESPOL
Financial Instruments for Renewable Energy Investment
www.interregeurope.eu/firespol

IRENES
Integrating Renewable Energy and Ecosystem Services in Environmental and Energy Policies
www.interregeurope.eu/irenes

POWER-TY
Renewable Energies for Vulnerable Groups
www.interregeurope.eu/powerty

RESINDUSTRY
Policies for Renewable Energy Sources in Industry
www.interregeurope.eu/resindustry

SHREC
Shifting towards Renewable Energy for Transition to Low Carbon Energy
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SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (26)

2050 CliMobCity
2050 Climate-friendly Mobility in Cities
www.interregeurope.eu/2050climobcity

CISMOB
Cooperative Information Platform for Low Carbon and Sustainable Mobility
www.interregeurope.eu/cismob

CYCLEWALK
Sharing Best Practices and Experience on Data Collecting and Processing and Involvement of Users in order to Improve Planning of Cycling and Walking as Modes of Transport in Urban and Functional Urban Areas
www.interregeurope.eu/cyclewalk

DEMO-EC
Development of Sustainable Mobility Management in European Cities
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DESTI-SMART
Delivering Efficient Sustainable Tourism with Low-Carbon Transport Innovations: Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility and Responsible Travel
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E-BussED
Building Capacities for European-Wide e-Bus Deployment
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E-MOB
Integrated Actions towards Enhanced e-Mobility in European Regions
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E-MOBICITY
Increase of Energy Efficiency by Electric Mobility in the City
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e-MOPOLI
Electro Mobility as Driver to Support Policy Instruments for Sustainable Mobility
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e-smartec
Enhanced Sustainable Mobility with Marketing Techniques
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EU CYCLE
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www.interregeurope.eu/eucycle

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Electric Vehicles for City Renewable Energy Supply
www.interregeurope.eu/evenergy

InnovaSUMP ▶ *page 34*
Innovations in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for Low-Carbon Urban Transport
www.interregeurope.eu/innovasump

LAST MILE ▶ *page 35*
Sustainable Mobility for the Last Mile in Tourism Regions
www.interregeurope.eu/lastmile

MATCH-UP
The Role of Modal Interchange to Foster a Low-Carbon Urban Mobility
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www.interregeurope.eu/prometeus

REFORM
Integrated Regional Action Plan for Innovative, Sustainable and Low Carbon Mobility
www.interregeurope.eu/reform

REGIO-MOB ▶ *page 37*
Interregional Learning towards Sustainable Mobility in Europe: the REGIO-MOB Experience
www.interregeurope.eu/regio-mob

RESOLVE ▶ *page 38*
Sustainable Mobility and the Transition to a Low-Carbon Retailing Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/resolve

SCHOOL CHANCE
School Mobility Challenge in Regional Policies
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SMART HY AWARE
Smart Solutions for Hydrogen Potential Awareness Enhancing
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SMART-MR
Sustainable Measures for Achieving Resilient Transportation in Metropolitan Rregions
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TRAM
Towards New Regional Action Plans for Sustainable Urban Mobility
www.interregeurope.eu/tram

67 Environment and resource efficiency projects

BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION (4)

BID-REX
From Biodiversity Data to Decisions: Enhancing Natural Value through Improved Regional Development Policies
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BioGov
Celebrating Biodiversity Governance
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INVALIS
Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species
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Night Light ▶ *page 50*
Improving Regional Policies to Reduce Light Pollution and Protect and Valorise Dark Night Skies
www.interregeurope.eu/nightlight

CIRCULAR ECONOMY (11)

BIOREGIO
Regional Circular Economy Models and Best Available Technologies for Biological Streams
www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio

CECI
Citizen Involvement in Circular Economy Implementation
www.interregeurope.eu/ceci

CESME ▶ *page 45*
Circular Economy for SMEs
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CircE
European Regions toward Circular Economy
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CircPro
Smart Circular Procurement
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www.interregeurope.eu/reduces

REPLACE
Regional Policy Actions for Circular Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/replace

RETRACE ▶ *page 51*
A Systemic Approach for Regions Transitioning towards a Circular Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/retrace

SYMBI
Industrial Symbiosis for Regional Sustainable Growth and a Resource Efficient Circular Economy
www.interregeurope.eu/symbi

TRIS
Transition Regions towards Industrial Symbiosis
www.interregeurope.eu/tris

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (28)

Blue Green City
Blue and Green Infrastructure for Sustainable Cities
www.interregeurope.eu/bluegreencity

CD-ETA ▶ *page 44*
Collaborative Digitization of Natural and Cultural Heritage
www.interregeurope.eu/cd-eta

CHERISH
Creating Opportunities for Regional Growth through Promoting Cultural Heritage of Fishing Communities in Europe
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Cultural Resources in the Mountain Areas
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Cultural Routes as Investment for Growth and Jobs
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FINCH
Financing Impact on Regional Development of Cultural Heritage Valorisation
www.interregeurope.eu/finch

Green Pilgrimage ▶ *page 47*
Green Pilgrimage Supporting Natural and Cultural Heritage
www.interregeurope.eu/greenpilgrimage

HERICOAST ▶ *page 48*
Management of Heritage in Coastal Landscapes
www.interregeurope.eu/hericoast

IMPACT ▶ *page 49*
Innovative Models for Protected Areas: Exchange and Transfer
www.interregeurope.eu/impact

INNOCASTLE
Innovating Policy Instruments for Historic Castles, Manors and Estates
www.interregeurope.eu/innocastle

KEEP ON
Effective Policies for Durable and Self-Sustainable Projects in the Cultural Heritage Sector
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Sustainability of the LandSea System for Eco-Tourism Strategies
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MOMAr
Models of Management for Singular Rural Heritage
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RESOURCE EFFICIENCY (24)

2LIFES
Promoting Re-use from the Public Policies
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AQUARES
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Enhancing Scalable Innovations and New Business Models Based on Urban Farming Ecosystem Values
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COCOON ▶ *page 46*
Consortium for a Coherent European Landfill Management Strategy
www.interregeurope.eu/cocoon

CONDEREFF
Construction & Demolition Waste Management Policies for Improved Resource Efficiency
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Effectiveness of Environmental Urban Policies to Improve Resources Efficiency
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Green Public Procurement for Resource-Efficient Regional Growth
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Green Public Procurement and Sustainability Tools for Resource Efficiency Mainstreaming
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Interregional Environmental Integration of Waste Management in European Heritage Cities
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LCA4Regions
Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through Use of Life Cycle Instruments for Implementation of Regional Policies of the European Union
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European Network of Lindane Waste Affected Regions Working Together towards a Greener Environment
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