



# INTERREG IVC

INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENT  
REGIONS OF EUROPE SHARING SOLUTIONS



EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

## EU Interregional Cooperation

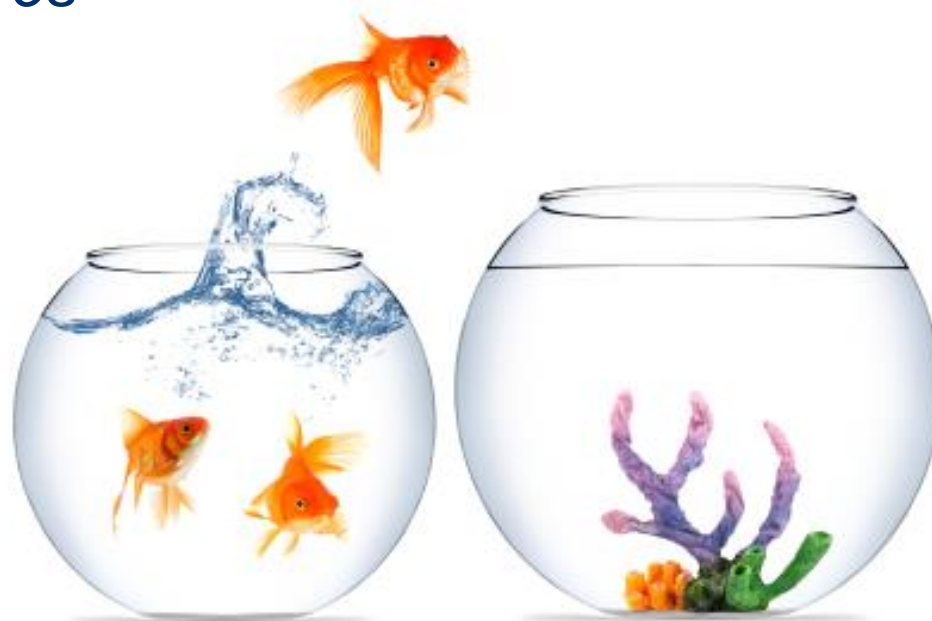
*State of play and perspectives*

**Akos Szabo** | *Project Officer*

Joint Technical Secretariat

**CESR final conference**

7 October 2014, Brussels



# Summary

1. INTERREG IVC state of play
2. CESR project
3. Future: INTERREG EUROPE

## 1. INTERREG IVC programme

*‘Learning by sharing’*

**Local / regional authorities access the experience of others in Europe facing similar issues to improve their practices / policies**

in the fields of

**Innovation and the knowledge economy**

**Environment and risk prevention**

## Overview approved projects

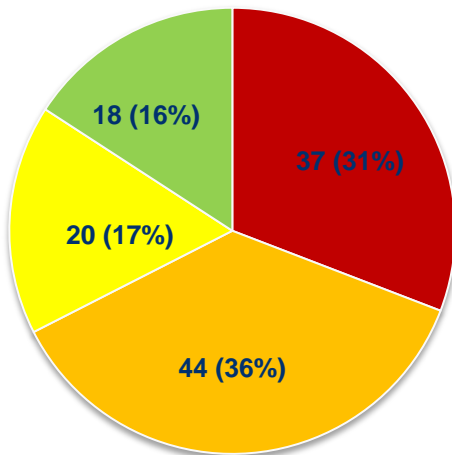
**204**  
projects

**2 274**  
partners

**90% of 271 NUTS 2**  
regions covered

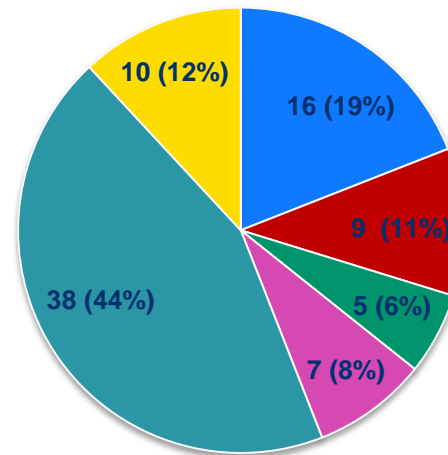
**All funds (302 M€) committed**

### Priority 1



- Innovation, research and technology development
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- Information Society
- Employment, human capital and education

### Priority 2



- Natural and technological risks
- Water management
- Waste management
- Biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage
- Energy and sustainable transport
- Cultural heritage and landscape

## Thematic Programme Capitalisation

To exploit and build on knowledge  
from projects **working on a similar topic**  
for the benefit of local and regional authorities all around Europe

Experienced **thematic experts** analyse projects in order to:





- identify synergies & complementarities
- discover innovative approaches & make them available to all EU regions
- draw policy recommendations for regional, national & EU levels

## 12 capitalisation topics 111 projects involved

### Priority 1

-  Innovation Systems – 10  
(triple helix & open innovation)
-  Innovation capacity of SMEs – 7
-  Eco-innovation – 7
-  Creative industries – 14
-  Entrepreneurship – 8
-  E-government services – 6
-  Demographic change – 9
-  Rural development – 9

### Priority 2

-  Climate change – 7
-  Energy efficiency – 12
-  Renewable energy – 7
-  Sustainable transport – 15

*CESR participating in capitalisation lot on 'Rural development'*

## Main achievements (as of June 2013)

Objective:

**EU wide exchange of experience / capacity building**

**90%** of EU NUTS 2 regions covered

**6,188** staff with increased capacity

**369** 'spin-off activities'

Objective:

**Identification / sharing / transfer of good practices**

**4,709** good practices identified



**403** successfully transferred

Overall objective:

**Improvement of regional and local policies**

**1,943** policies addressed



**432** policies improved

**See illustrations of results in the programme Annual Report!**

### TOPIC & METHOD

Sustainability of employment in the rural services sector  
+  
Intense interregional exchange process



### PARTNERSHIP

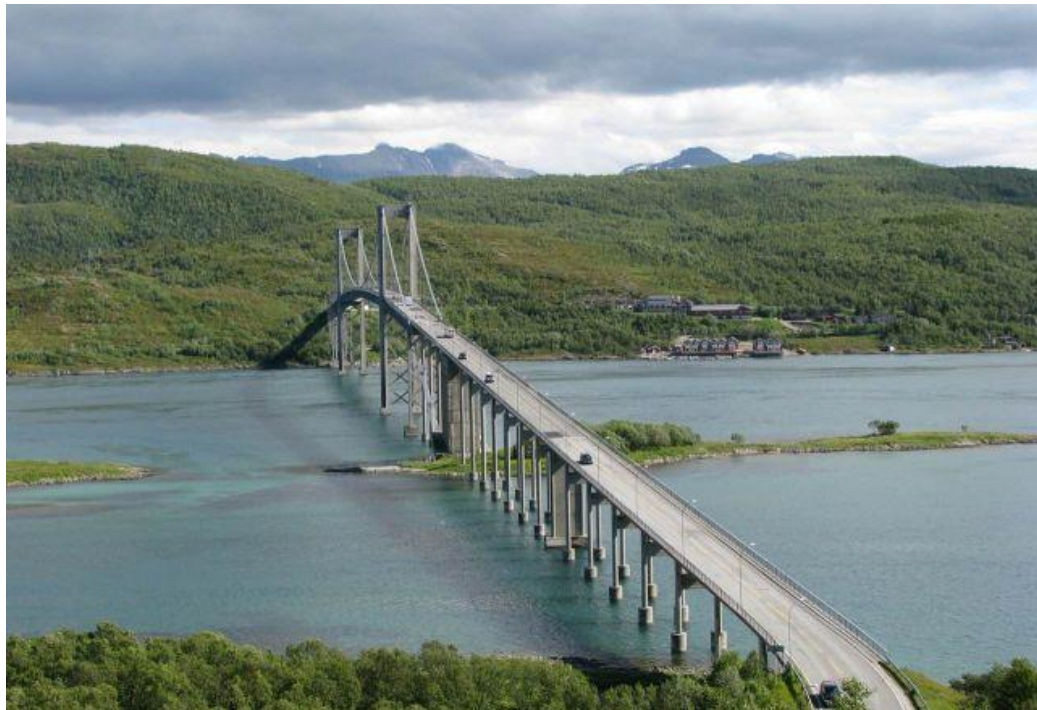
8 committed partners from  
8 Member States  
representing a good  
balance in terms of type of  
partners and experience  
Excellent and very  
cooperative management  
team

### RESULTS (so far)

3 good practices identified  
and many others in progress



## 3. Future: INTERREG EUROPE



## Context

1. New objective set for interregional cooperation



2. Concentration principles



**INTERREG  
EUROPE**

3. Smart Specialisation strategies

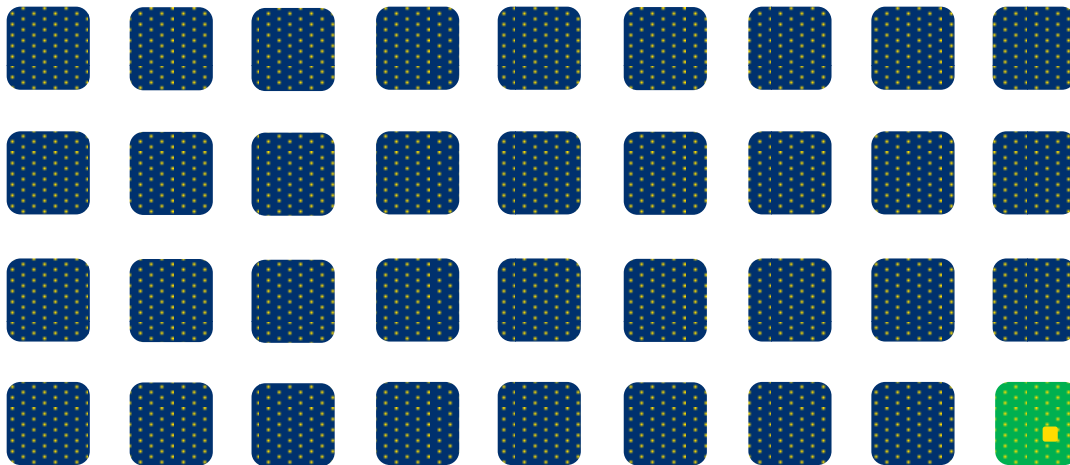


4. Integration of Regions of Knowledge (RoK)



**Policy learning** among public authorities  
to improve performance of policies & programmes for regional development,  
in particular **Structural Funds programmes**

## EU Cohesion policy



**Goal 1:**  
Investment for growth & jobs  
**EUR 316 billion**

**Goal 2:**  
European Territorial Cooperation  
**EUR 8.9 billion**

**INTERREG EUROPE**  
**EUR 359 m**

## Main features

- Eligible area: EU28 + Norway & Switzerland
- Who is eligible?
  - Public bodies
  - Bodies governed by public law
  - Private non-profit bodies (RoK 'heritage')
- Co-financing rates
  - 85% for public or public equivalent
  - 75% for private non profit



## Four themes

**Research &  
innovation**

**SME  
competitiveness**

**Low-carbon  
economy**

**Environment &  
resource efficiency**

## 2 actions

### Interregional Cooperation Projects



### Policy Learning Platforms





## A. Interregional Cooperation Projects

Implementation in **2 phases**

**Phase 1**

Policy exchange of experience (1 to 3 years)  
ending up with production of 1 **Action Plan** / Region

**Phase 2**

**Monitoring** of the Action Plan's implementation +  
possible **pilot** actions (up to 2 years)

Creation of '**local stakeholder groups**'





## B. Policy Learning Platforms

EU-wide capacity building on:

Innovation

SME competitiveness

Low-carbon economy

Resource efficiency

1 service provider per thematic objective via:

**Online collaborative tool** + **Expert team**





## Platforms: objectives

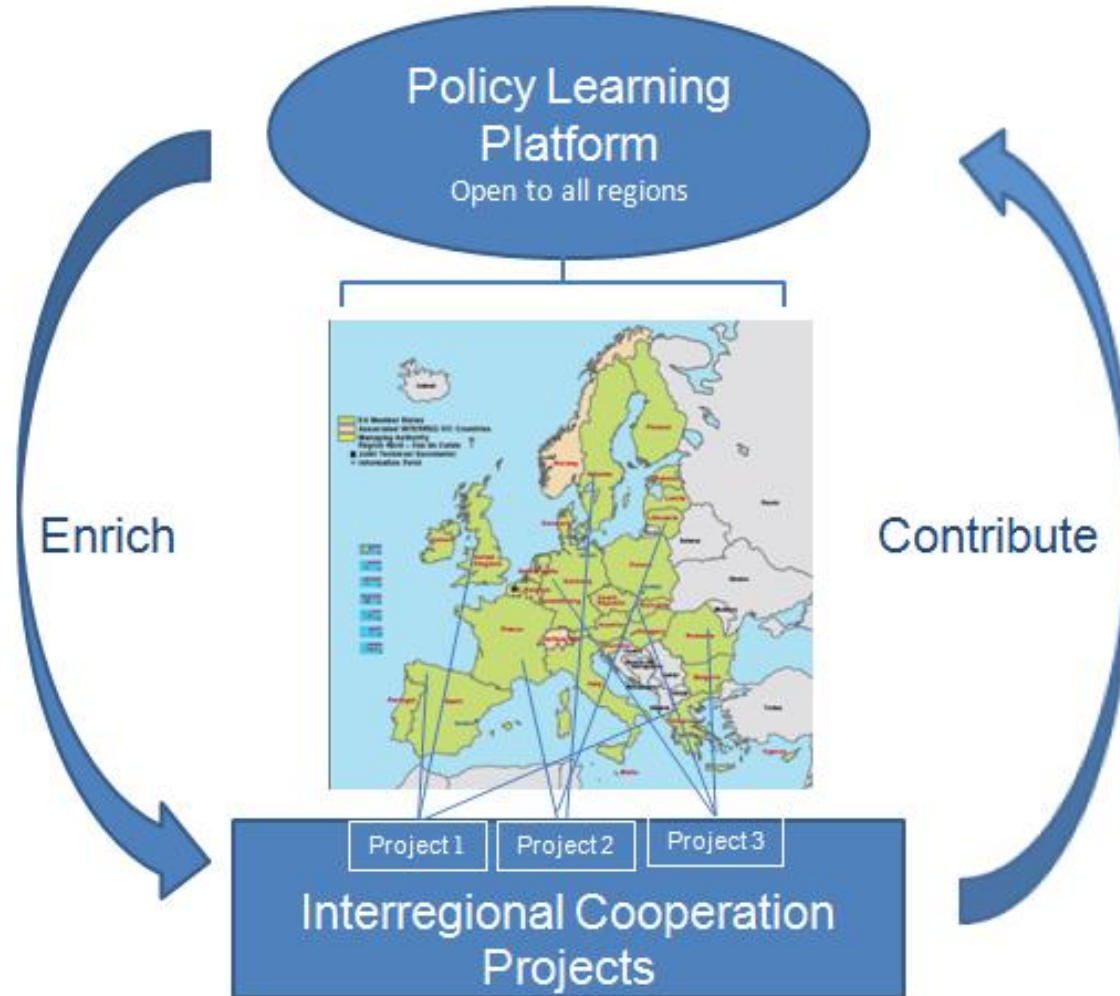


Overall objective: To ensure policy learning across EU

Specific objective:

- a) To contribute to EU-wide capacity building } 'External capitalisation'
  - b) To optimise the exploitation of project results
  - c) To improve the quality of the programme content
- } 'Internal Capitalisation'

## 2 interrelated actions



# Programming – Indicative timeline



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