Introduction to INTERREG EUROPE

Petra Geitner & Nicolas Singer
Joint Secretariat
INTRRREG EUROPE
CONTEXT

Overall strategic framework: EU2020 strategy

SMART GROWTH
Economy based on knowledge & innovation

GREEN GROWTH
Resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy

INCLUSIVE GROWTH
High-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion

3 pillars translated in 11 Thematic Objectives in 2014-2020 regulation
EU cohesion policy:

- Goal 1: Investment for growth and jobs
- Goal 2: European Territorial Cooperation

2014 - 2020 Regulation

Objective set for interregional cooperation

Concentration & result orientation principles
Exchange of experience to improve performance of policies for regional development, in particular Structural Funds programmes

EU Cohesion policy

Goal 1: Investment for growth & jobs
EUR 340 billion

Goal 2: European Territorial Cooperation
EUR 10.2 billion

INTERREG EUROPE
EUR 359 m
Eligible area

EU28 + Norway & Switzerland
Thematic focus

- Research & Innovation
- Low Carbon Economy
- SME Competitiveness
- Environment & Resource Efficiency
2 actions

A. Interregional Cooperation Projects

B. Policy Learning Platforms
Projects

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

**Objective**
....to improve the effectiveness of the policies of the regions involved in the project (in particular their Investment for Growth and Jobs goal programmes)
Projects: structure and duration

Implementation in 2 phases

- **Phase 1**: From 1 to 3 years
- **Phase 2**: Fixed to 2 years

**Maximum duration: 5 years**
Projects: structure

Phase 1

‘Interregional learning’

Interregional exchange of experience

e.g. seminars, workshops, site visits, staff exchanges, peer reviews

1 Action Plan per region

✓ measures to be implemented
✓ timeframe
✓ work steps
✓ responsible players
✓ costs and funding resources (if applicable)
Projects: structure

Phase 2

‘Monitoring the action plan implementation’

- **Monitor** the implementation of the different action plans
- Pilot actions (only in justified cases)
Projects: partnership composition

- Primary target group: bodies in charge of the policies addressed within the project
  If not involved, letter of support required

- Creation of one stakeholder group per region
To contribute to policy learning across EU in particular on Structural Funds implementation

- Better exploiting projects’ results
- Opening up programme results to anyone interested
Platforms: what is it?

A service provided per priority axis via:

Online collaborative tool
With relevant functionalities

Expert team
Content and coordination role
Platforms: examples of services

- **Advice** regional stakeholders and running projects
- Organise and facilitate **peer reviews** among regions
- Organise and facilitate **thematic workshops**
- Analyse and disseminate the **content of projects** through dedicated events & publications
- Facilitate **knowledge sharing** and networking among regions on the collaborative tool
Platforms

Stakeholders involved in the implementation of Growth & Jobs or cooperation programmes

Other stakeholders relevant to the topics

Targets groups

Implementation

- Sub-contracting arrangement
- Through procurement procedure
- Launched in the course of 2015
2 interrelated actions

Policy Learning Platforms
Open to all regions

Enrich

Contribute

Interregional cooperation projects

Projects

Platforms
Projects partnership: who is eligible?

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

Confirmation of the eligibility status: Partner States’ responsibility
Projects partnership features

• From **at least** 3 countries, from which at least 2 partners from EU-MS

• Lead partner: public or public equivalent only from EU countries or Norway

• Recommendation: **between 5 to 10 partners**
Funding

• Programme ERDF budget: MEUR 359
  o ERDF budget for platforms: MEUR 15.3 (max)
  o ERDF budget for projects: MEUR 322.4 equally shared over 4 priority axis (MEUR 84)

• ERDF budget recommended per project: between MEUR 1 to 2
# Project funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-financing rates</th>
<th>According to legal status or location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85% ERDF</td>
<td>Public or public equivalent from EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% ERDF</td>
<td>Private non-profit from EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% Norwegian funding</td>
<td>Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss funding</td>
<td>Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project budget

Building on positive IVC experience

Low error rate in INTERREG IVC – rules understood and applied

→

No fundamental changes in INTERREG EUROPE
(5 Budget lines: staff, administration, travel & accommodation, external expertise, equipment)
Project eligible costs

- Staff
- Administration
- Travel and Accommodation
- Equipment
- External Expertise

for personnel employed by partners in project
Rules and procedures for projects

Decreasing project management and control costs

Harmonisation & simplification

- Online Application Form
- No financial allocation per component
- Flat rate administration costs (15% of staff costs)
- Lump sum preparation costs (EUR 15,000 total budget)

- Lower administrative effort
+ More resources dedicated to content & results
Next step: First call for proposals

- **Provisional timing**: April 2015 - September 2015
- **No thematic restrictions**: call open to all Investment priorities
- **No specific requirement in terms of geographical coverage**
- **One third ERDF budget available**: MEUR28 priority axis
For more information, please, follow us on:

www.interregeurope.eu

Thanks for your attention!