

INTERREG IVC

Thematic Capitalisation

Evaluation Survey

April 2015



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www.interreg4c.eu/capitalisation

Introduction

Setting the scene

The INTERREG IVC launched in 2012 the Thematic Programme Capitalisation initiative in order to share the Programme's policy achievements and know-how with a wider group of regional policy stakeholders in Europe. The aim of the initiative was to exploit and disseminate the thematic knowledge and experience gathered by the INTERREG IVC projects working on a similar regional development issue.

For this purpose, a team of 30 senior thematic experts was commissioned to collect, analyse, benchmark and promote the results of the projects. 12 policy themes ranging from innovation to the environment were covered. 12 detailed reports were produced that showcase a timely inventory of tried-and-tested policies and practices that have been shared through the INTERREG IVC projects and can help regional authorities and interested stakeholders introduce or improve regional policies. Furthermore, targeted policy messages and recommended actions in a usable way for the policy-making communities in all governance levels were identified and widely disseminated.

Scope and methodology

There were two main interrelated results expected from the two years of the Capitalisation initiative according to which the Programme is also reporting to the European Commission:

1. an increase in understanding and visibility of the programme's thematic achievements;
2. an increase in the influence of INTERREG IVC on the policy-making process at regional, national, and EU levels (for the analysed thematic fields).

Accordingly, the indicators set to measure these expected results were:

1. Increased understanding and visibility
 - N° of thematic policy recommendations resulting from programme capitalisation
 - N° of appearances of programme capitalisation in press and media
2. Increased influence on the policy-making process
 - N° of policy documents at regional, national, or EU levels referring/ taking into consideration the lessons learnt from the capitalisation
 - N° of EU programmes adopting the approach of Thematic Programme Capitalisation

In view of collecting feedback and evaluating the overall impact of the Thematic Capitalisation initiative, the Programme circulated in December 2014 a Capitalisation Survey to more than 2000 stakeholders that were identified as beneficiaries:

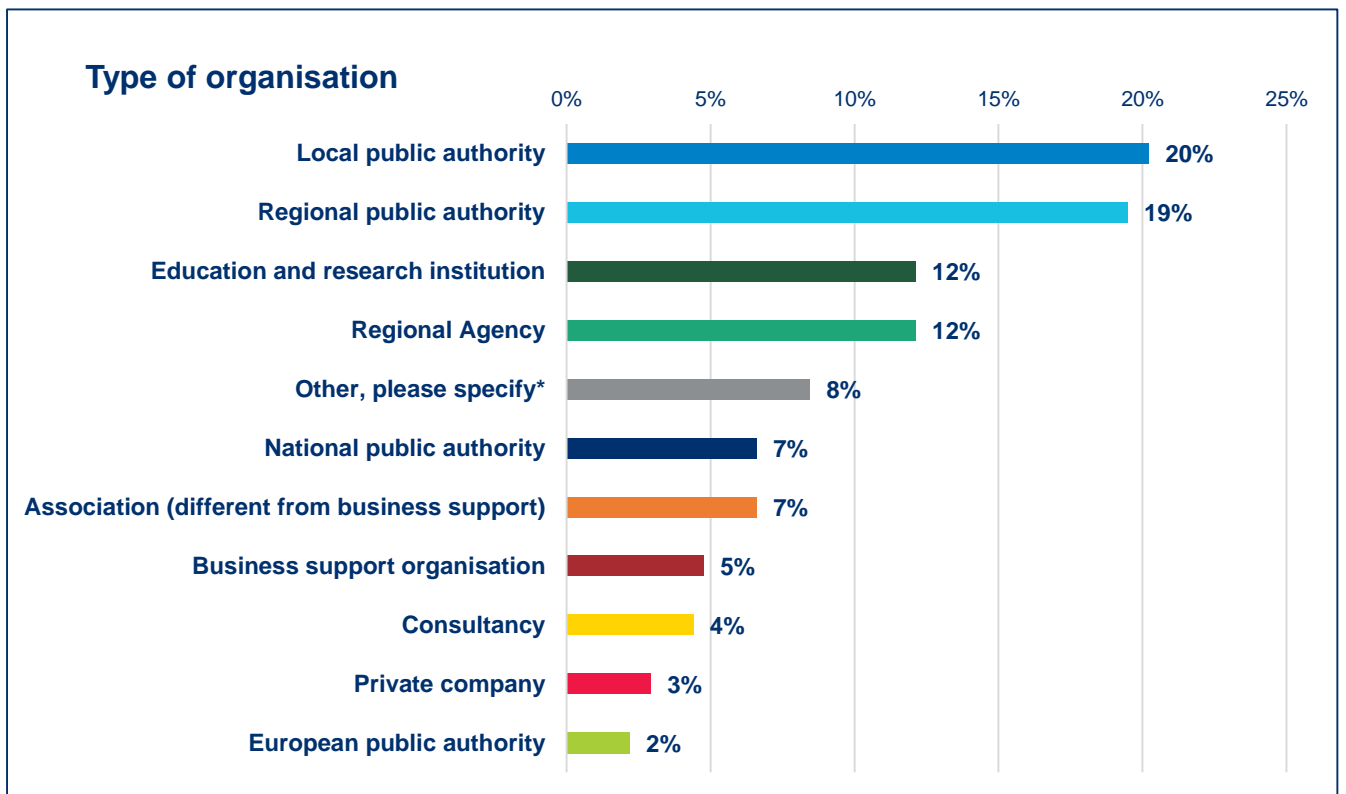
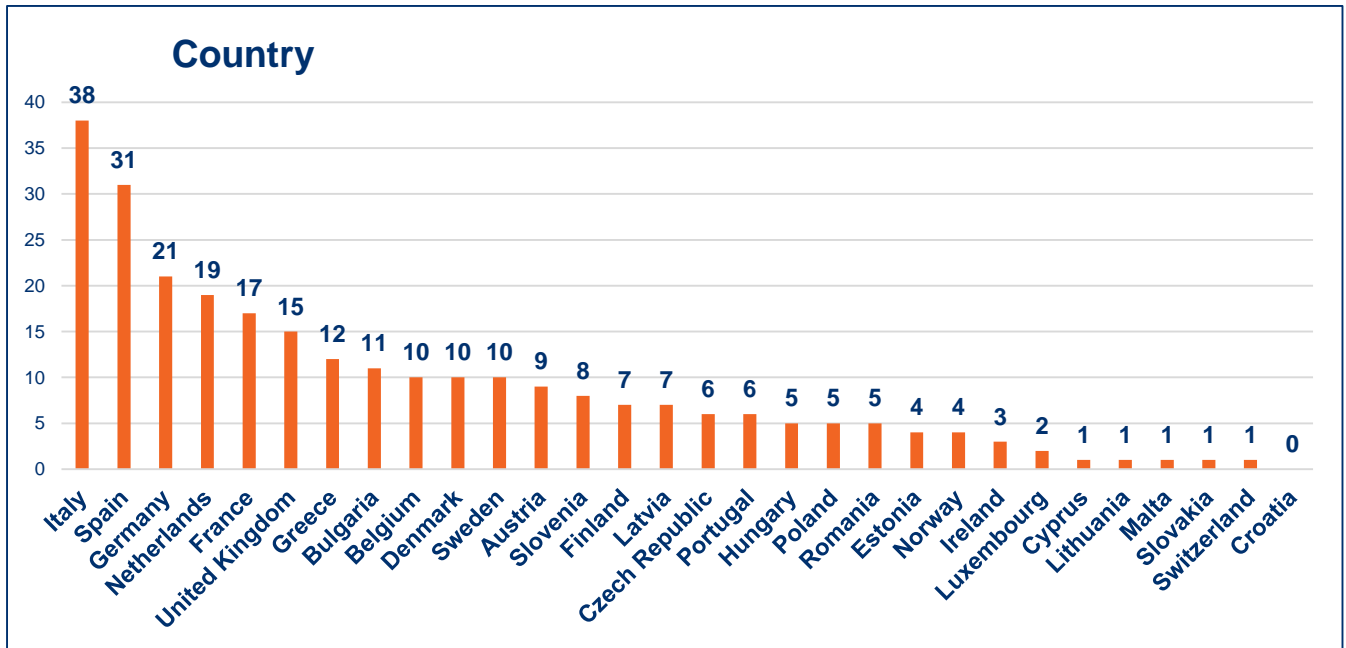
- “Thematic Communities”, i.e. existing networks, platforms, communities, EU initiatives, as well as policy makers, practitioners and representatives of relevant EC Directorates-General working in the 12 analysed policy fields;
- all 204 INTERREG IVC Project Partners;
- all the Regional offices of the EU member States in Brussels;
- members of the INTERREG IVC Committees;
- INTERREG IVC Newsletter subscribers.

The questionnaire was organised around the following points:

- mapping the interest in the policy areas;
- visibility and dissemination effectiveness of the capitalisation results;
- relevance, use and quality of capitalisation outputs and activities;
- impact of the capitalisation initiative on regional, national and European policy-making processes.

This report provides an overview of the 426 received responses to the evaluation of the INTERREG IVC Thematic Programme Capitalisation.

1. Information about respondents

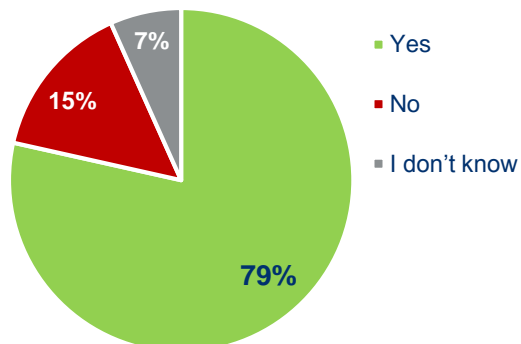


Type of organisation:		
<i>Answered question 272</i>		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Local public authority	55	20%
Regional public authority	53	19%
National public authority	18	7%
European public authority	6	2%
Education and research institution	33	12%
Regional Agency	33	12%
Business support organisation	13	5%
Association (different from business support)	18	7%
Private company	8	3%
Consultancy	12	4%
Other, please specify*	23	8%

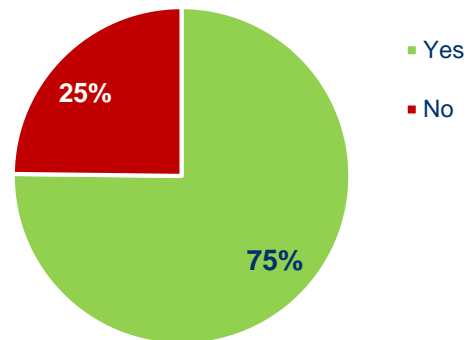
***Other, please specify:**

- Association supported by a not-for-profit company
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Drama
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Culture Heritage and NGO organisations
- Development Agency (Body governed by public law)
- Energy Agency
- European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programme
- Federation of Municipalities Regions and Province (FAMCP)
- Foundation semi-governmental
- Innovation agency of chamber of commerce
- INTERACT Programme, INTERREG Animation, Communication and Transfer
- International Non-profit organisation
- Local action group (leader)
- NGO with a contractual mission from the regional authorities
- Non-profit (private) research foundation
- Public equivalent body
- Research Company

Was your region involved in the INTERREG IVC programme?



Was your organisation involved in an INTERREG IVC project?



If yes, which project?

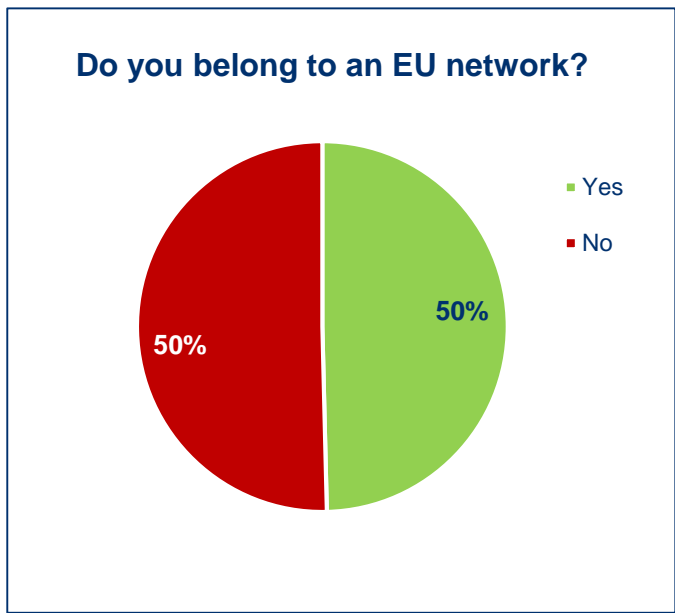
123 INTERREG IVC projects:

Priority 1: Innovation & knowledge economy

B3 REGIONS, Bordwiis+, CASA, CCIC, CIE, Cleantech incubation Europe, Clusterix, COGITA, CREA.RE, Cross Innovation, DAA, DANTE, DE-LAN, DESUR, DIFASS, DLA, E-COOP, ECOREGIONS, e-Create, ENGAGE, Erik action, ERMIS, FIN-EN, FRESH, GRISI Plus, HEALTH4GROWT, ICT-VN, IMAGEEN, IMMODI, INN.O.V.Age, Innocrafts, InnoFun, INNOPOLIS, Innovation4welfare, INOLINK, Know-Hub, KnowMan, KTFforce, Labour Plus, LOCFood, Medi@TIC, MESSE, Micropol, Mini Europe, MITKE, MKW, Next Generation Science Parks (DISTRICT+ sub-project), ORGANZA, OSEPA, PADIMA, PASE, PERIA, PIKE, PROSESC, PROSPECTS, RAPIDE, Recommend, Regio Crafts, RTF - Regional Telemedicine Forum, Ruraland, Scinnopoli, Smart EUROPE, SMART+, SolidarCity, SPWW Science Park Without Walls (District + sub-project), TOOL QUIZ, TRES, URMA, VERSO, Working4Talent, YES, Young SMEs.

Priority 2: Environment and risk prevention

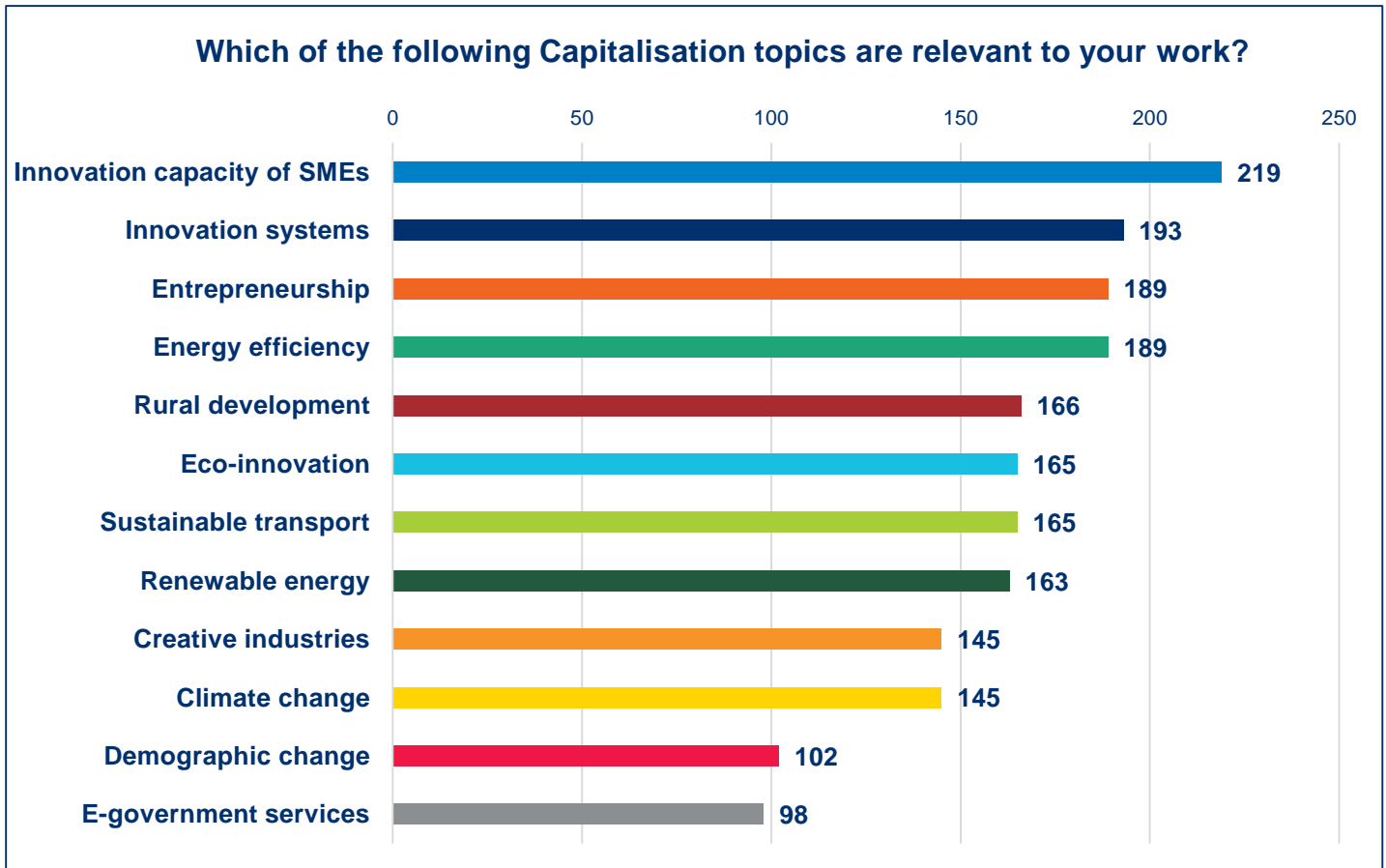
AQUA-add, BIO EN AREA, BIOMAP, C2CN, CHARTS, CITEAIR, CLUE, CO2Free, CycleCites, D-AIR, ECOTALE, EFFMIS, EPTA, ERCIP, FUTUREforest, GRaBS, HISTCAPE, Hybrid Parks, Imagine 2050, IMEA, INVOLVE, LAKE-ADMIN, LoCaRe, MOG, MORE4NRG, Move on Green MOG, NOSTRA-Network Of STRits, PIMMS CAPITAL, PIMMS Transfer, PLUS, POLITE, POSSE, Preserve, PROMPT, R4R Regions for Recycling, REGIOCLIMA, Regions4GreenGrowth, RE-GREEN, RENERGY, RENREN, RITS – NET, SERPENTE, Sigma for Water, STEP, SUM, SURF Nature, TRAP, W2E, Waterways Forward, ZEN, Zerotrade (LoCaRe sub-project).



If yes, which EU network?

AEBR, AER, ALDA, ARC, Assembly of European Regions, Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC), BIO EN AREA Network, BlasNET, Business roaming agreement, CEMR, Cité des Métiers, CiViNET Poland, Climate KIC, CoR, CORAL, Council of Europe, CPMR North Sea Commission, CVAA, CVPP, DIFASS, EAEA, EAI network, EBN, EEN, EFRO, EGHN, eip aha, EIP SCC, EIP-AHA, ELSIR, Energy Cities, Enrd, Enterprise Europe Network, EPOMM, ERIAFF, ERRIN, ERTICO, ETC community, EUniverCities, EURACOM, EURADA, Euraxess, Eurocities, Euromontana, Europe Mobility, European Cluster Collaboration Platform, European commission, European Innovation Network, European Innovation Partnership on Water EIP Water, European Network of Cultural Tourism, EUROTOWNS, FEDARENE, FEHRL, IBERTUR, Iclei, Interact, KIC Raw Materials, Leader approach, LGA European Officers Network, ManagEnergy network of European Energy Agencies, Market Place of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities, Mecine, Metrex, MITIN, NECSTOUR, Neebor, Nereus, Network of European Medium Sized Cities, NIWE - Network for Inland Waterways in Europe, NOSTRA, NSPA, POLIS, R4R, RED, RENREN Network, Ruract, Ruraland, S3 Platform, SEEIT, Smart regions, SPACE, Textile ETP, TEXTRANET, TOOL QUIZ, UIIN, UK European Officers Network, United Network, VANGUARD, ZEN network.

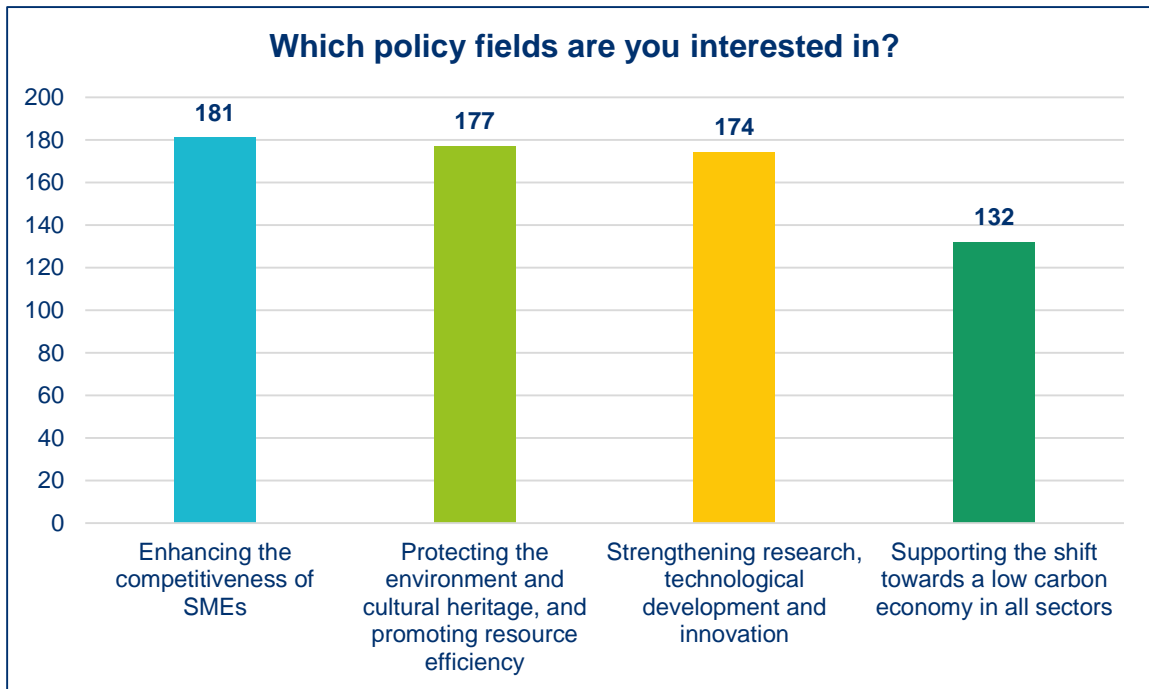
2. Mapping the interest in the policy areas



1. Which of the following Capitalisation topics are relevant to your work? (Please select all applicable)

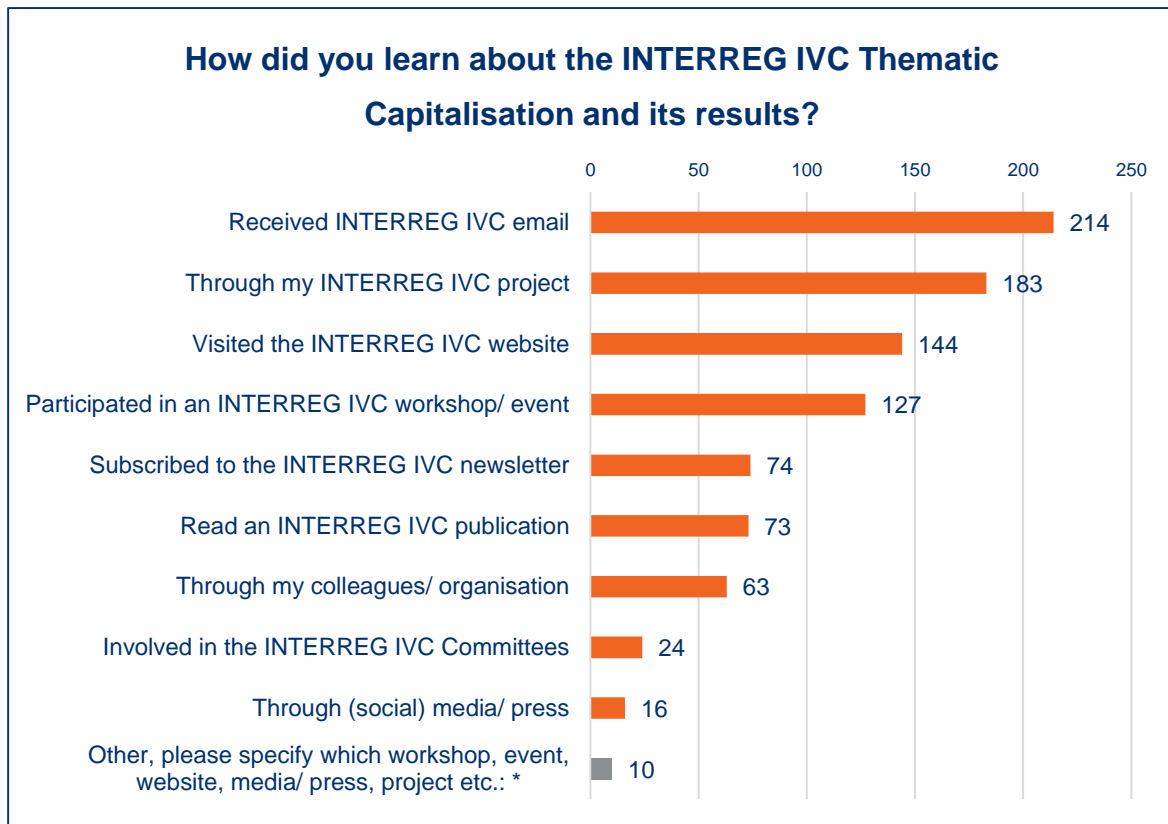
Answered question 426

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Innovation systems	193	10%
Innovation capacity of SMEs	219	11%
Eco-innovation	165	9%
Creative industries	145	7%
Entrepreneurship	189	10%
E-government services	98	5%
Demographic change	102	5%
Rural development	166	9%
Climate change	145	7%
Energy efficiency	189	10%
Renewable energy	163	8%
Sustainable transport	165	9%



Which policy fields are you interested in? (Please select all applicable)		
<i>Answered question 270</i>		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	174	26.2%
Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	181	27.2%
Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	132	19.8%
Protecting the environment and cultural heritage, and promoting resource efficiency	177	26.6%
None	1	0.2%

3. Visibility and dissemination effectiveness of results



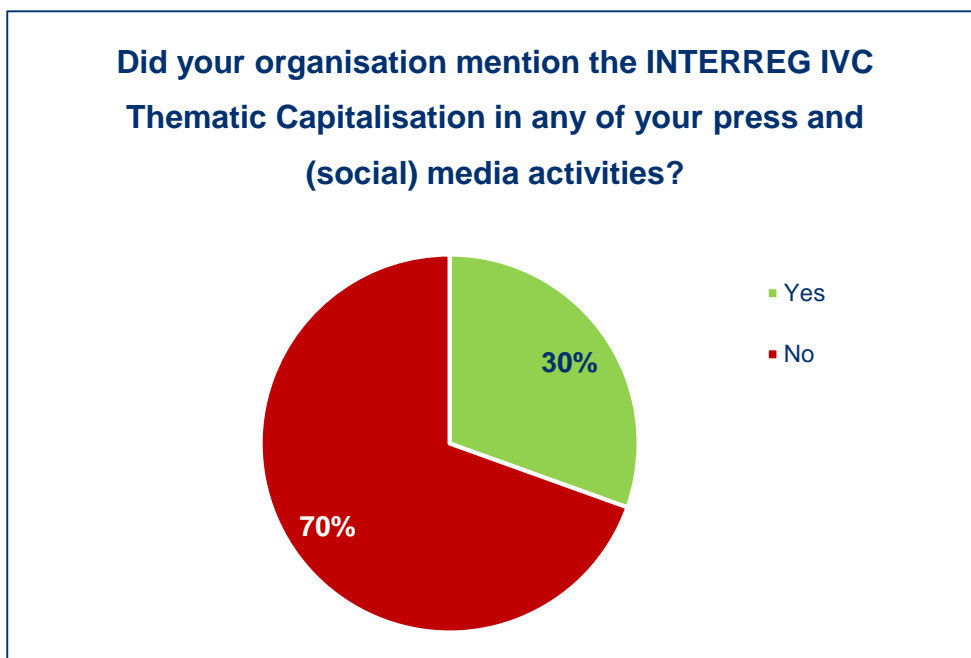
2. How did you learn about the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation and its results? (Please select all applicable)

Answered question **387**

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Received INTERREG IVC email	214	23%
Visited the INTERREG IVC website	144	16%
Participated in an INTERREG IVC workshop/ event	127	14%
Read an INTERREG IVC publication	73	8%
Subscribed to the INTERREG IVC newsletter	74	8%
Involved in the INTERREG IVC Committees	24	3%
Through my INTERREG IVC project	183	20%
Through my colleagues/ organisation	63	7%
Through (social) media/ press	16	2%
Other, please specify which workshop, event, website, media/ press, project etc.: *	10	1%

*** Other, please specify:**

- Connection between DG Research and Innovation and DG REGIO within the European Commission (EC);
- Connection between the team dealing with the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7) "Regions of Knowledge" and INTERREG IVC Joint Technical Secretariat;
- Through our European network NIWE (Network of Inland Waterways in Europe);
- Through direct contact with an INTERREG IVC officer;
- Participated in "Europe let's cooperate" event, Bologna, 2/3 December 2014;
- Knowing the INTERREG IIC.

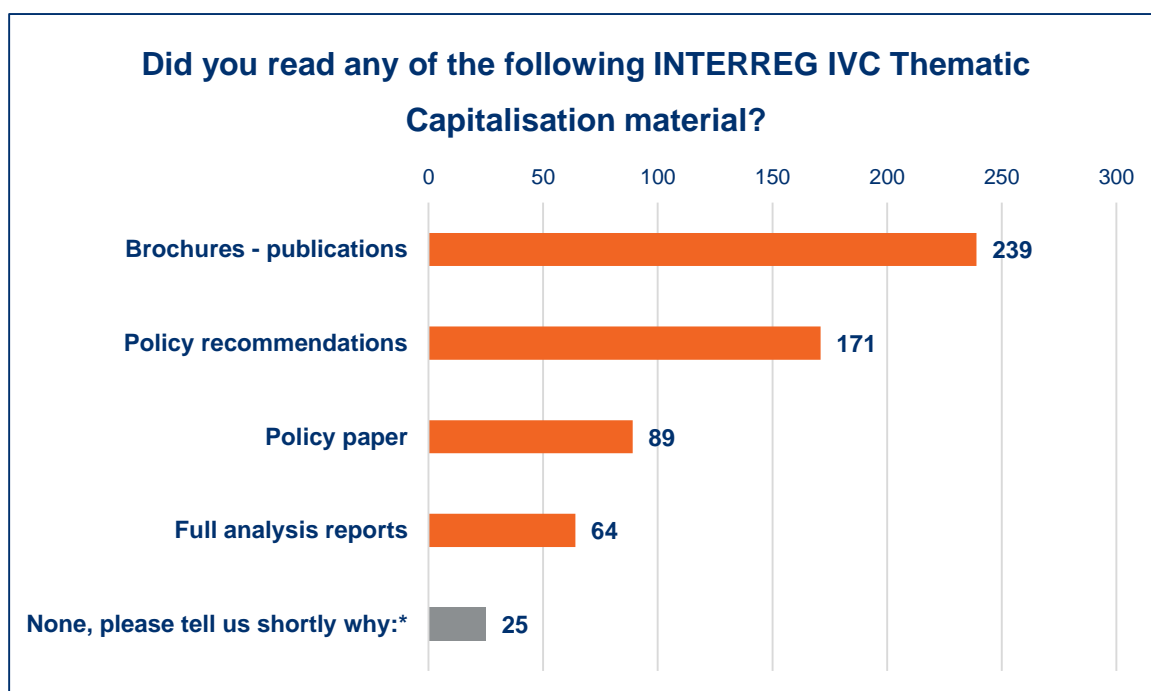


3. Did your organisation mention the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation in any of your press and (social) media activities?		
<i>Answered question 387</i>		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	118	30%
No	269	70%

If yes, please specify which:

<p>Press release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press briefing about our participation in an INTERREG project. • Regional Ministry Press Communication. • Our Grüne Werkstatt Wendland - Green Workshop Wendland open innovation platform is a result of our INTERREG IVC project CREA.RE. We always mention this in our press statements. • In press releases dedicated to our project. 	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Capitalisation event in Brussels, 22 May 2014. • EuroVértice Consultants has lectured at the University of San Antonio in Murcia, within a Master on Smart Cities for which information on these best practices were disseminated. At the same time, in the Capitalisation events the best practices and compilations have been named and the audience informed. • Infodays, workshops.
<p>Website / Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province of Sassari website. • MESSE project website. • SDA website, Facebook profile and e-bulletin. • Official Swiss regional policy communication platform. • Company / Organisation website, newsletters. • Project / Region website, newsletters. 	<p>Information Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EuroVértice Consultants has provided a course on the Programming Period 2014-2020 aimed at regional administration civil servants, third sector organizations and civil servants in municipalities. We have made reference to the thematic capitalisation compilation in the materials of the course. • Through publications made with the outcomes of the INTERREG IVC "Hybrid Parks" project. • In the annual activity report of the organisation. • In the activity report of the capitalisation thematic workshop.
<p>Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local media in the city of Drama in Northern Greece. • Cities homepage, cities magazine HEROLD. • Local newspaper. • Regional Press. 	<p>Social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We posted information on our Facebook page. • We report on the training actions in our website and LinkedIn. • We have disseminated information through our ministry blog. • Through our project/ region/ company Facebook, Twitter profile.

4. Relevance, usefulness and quality of the results



4. Did you read any of the following INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation material?
(Please select all applicable)

Answered question 332

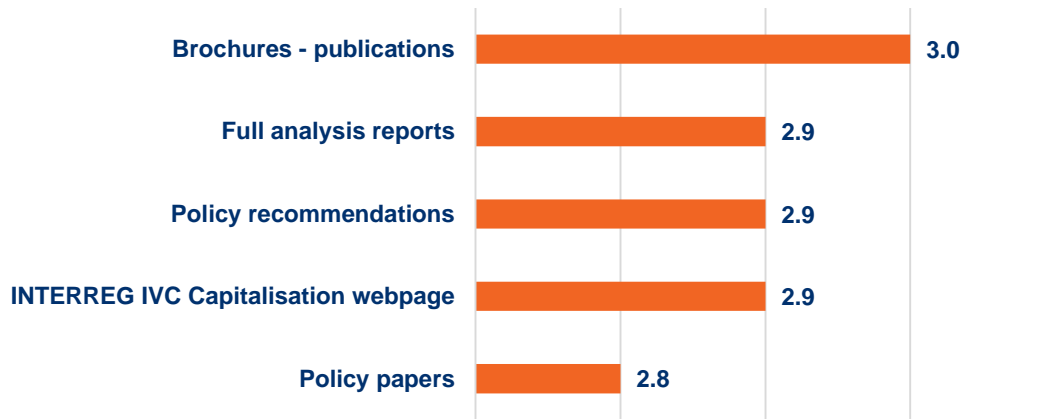
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Full analysis reports	64	11%
Policy recommendations	171	29%
Brochures - publications	239	41%
Policy paper	89	15%
None, please tell us shortly why:*	25	4%

***If none, please tell us shortly why:**

- Lack of time;
- It is on my “to do” list;
- Did not received it;
- I did not know about it;
- It was not a priority at that time;
- It is real difficult to spread this type of information to targeted people outside European Affairs Departments (especially in France, where people speak very poor English);
- Other colleague was responsible of the Capitalisation;
- Suggestion: Read as an e-magazine would be welcome to allow also downloading.

How would you rate the usefulness and quality of the following INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation results?

Rating Average from 1 (poor) to 4 (very good)

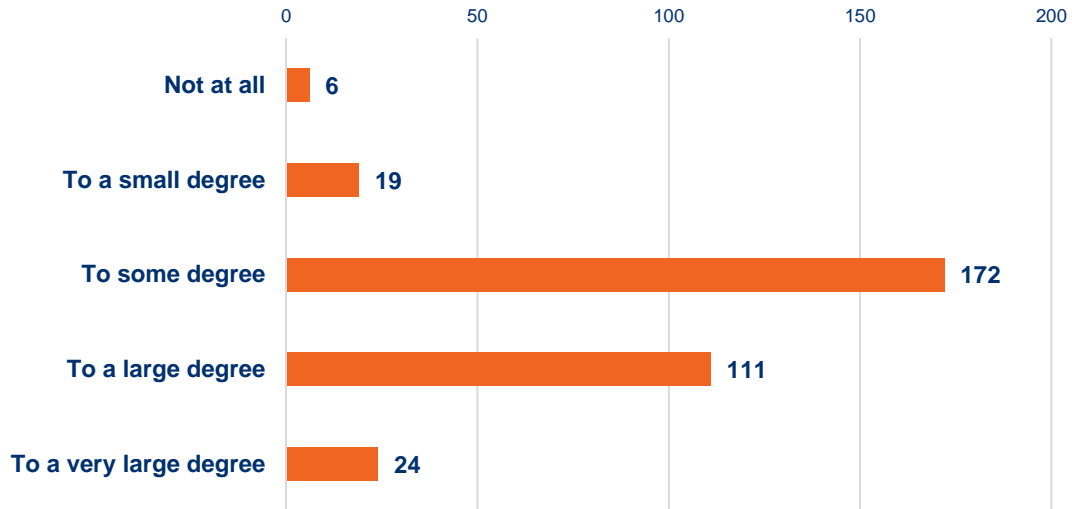


5. How would you rate the usefulness and quality of the following INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation results?

Answered question 332

Answer Options	Full analysis reports		Policy recommendations		Brochures-publications		Policy papers		INTERREG IVC Capitalisation webpage	
Don't know	182	55%	91	27%	53	16%	155	47%	95	29%
Poor	5	2%	7	2%	4	1%	11	3%	5	2%
Fair	41	12%	55	17%	55	17%	37	11%	47	14%
Good	74	22%	133	40%	168	51%	102	31%	145	44%
Very good	30	9%	46	14%	52	16%	27	8%	40	12%
Rating responses	150		241		279		177		237	
Rating average	2.9		2.9		3		2.8		2.9	

Are the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation policy recommendations, good practices and results of relevance to your work or your organisation?



6. Are the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation policy recommendations, good practices and results of relevance to your work or your organisation?

Answered question 332

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent	Rating Average
Not at all	6	2%	
To a small degree	19	6%	
To some degree	172	52%	
To a large degree	111	33%	
To a very large degree	24	7%	

If you wish, please explain how!

<p><i>Get new ideas and inspiration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To intensify some policy initiatives which were already running well and to propose some new ones in the bioenergy regional planning. • I'm involved in the programme as a Research Institution and I work with Local Authorities. The documentation was very useful to have a broader vision of the main issues tackled in the project and get new ideas for further developments. The policy guidelines are also useful to better tailor the actions at local scale. • As intermediary organization providing innovation to many public organizations, we find them as a source of inspiration. • They give me advices to improve further projects. • Added value on the ideas for new projects, as well as high level policies transfer to Regional authorities. • Sometimes, you need to know how to do something, and in books or leaflets like these you can find useful hints. Other times, you are not really looking for anything, but reading them may bring some inspiration. • In order to prevent to "rediscover the wheel" and to be more efficient in the view of drafting new project proposals. 	<p><i>Source of know-how</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is very useful and efficient to gain from the experience and conclusions being made by all those projects and people involved. We do not want to start at zero, but continue from what is available on common EU level already. The dissemination is highly appreciated. • As cities' practitioners in European cities we always learn about how other cities are doing things, this shows us what / what not we are doing similarly / different. • Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) is not a public body but rather a good practice network, focussing on intelligent transport systems. While the INTERREG IVC documents do not add depth to the guidance we provide, they do contextualise it by providing a broader range of recommendations. These documents may therefore be useful for us to share with our cities community if they are having difficulties with this contextualisation. • The recommendations should improve our knowledge on the themes covered. • Interesting source of know-how; problem: generalising from various projects leads to too general conclusions, difficulty to apply in a specific context.
<p><i>Improving policy-making</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By using the analysis of the results and good practices of interregional cooperation projects we can suggest policy recommendations for regional policymakers and other stakeholders to improve rural development. • The policy recommendations and good practices help our organisation in implementing regional policies as well as in developing new activities and projects. The Thematic Capitalisation material shows, what has already been analysed in former INTERREG IVC projects. The common results and recommendations of these projects can be directly applied in our region. 	<p><i>Giving practical experiences</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My organisation is an ancient university and in some areas of study they do not have the links with industry they should have. Some schools within the university find it difficult to work with SMEs and much of the tuition is theoretical and academic there is not a great deal of practical work. My own background is in Further Education and Vocational Education and I am trying to introduce some of the practical experiences and qualifications I feel the students should have available to them, so Entrepreneurship and Innovation in SMEs are of interest to me. • That is a useful data bank to identify and contact to real initiatives in order to network with them in new projects to come. It's also

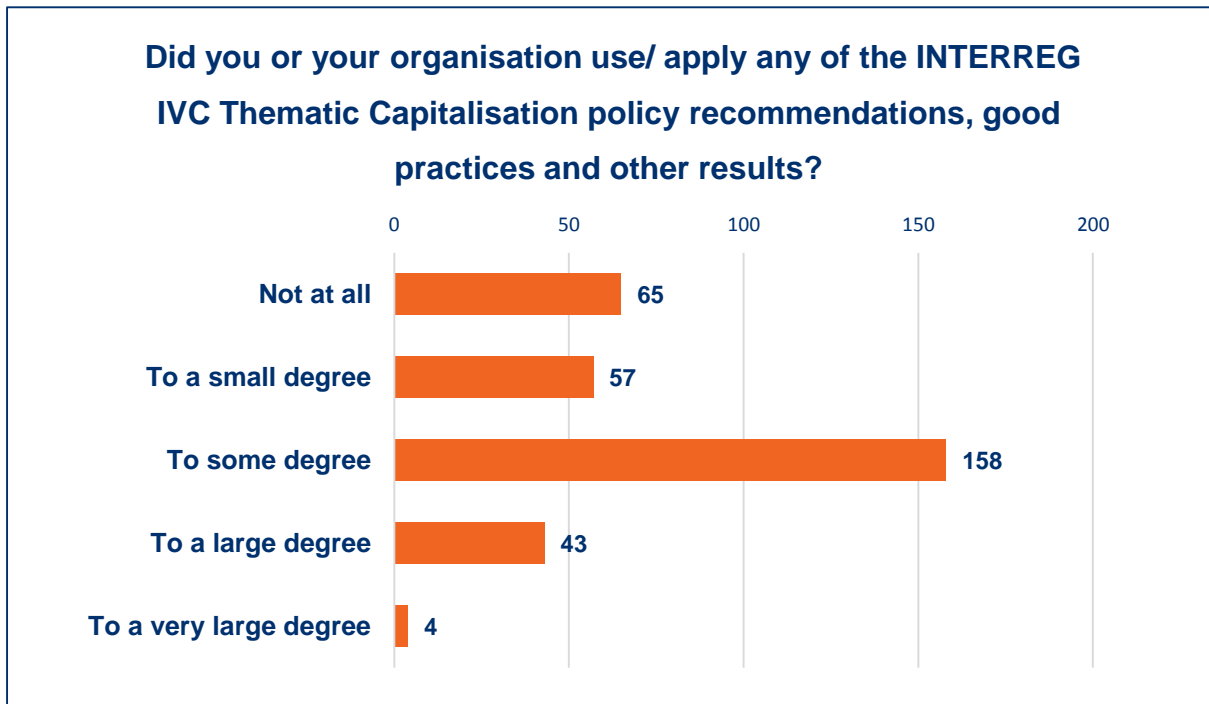
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The themes are corresponding well to the remit of regional authorities in Norway, and the capitalisation exercise is an efficient way of accessing results and main findings of INTERREG IVC projects. • Good references for local policy development and providing information on good practices for national stakeholders. • Policy recommendation can never be implemented in a direct way, there is always "work" and dialogue necessary between new suggestions for policy making from external sources and the work done in a city. 	<p>a useful guide to prepare domestic policy recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are really useful in as much as they help to complete the learning through cooperation and reuse vital lessons learnt. <p>Promoting cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My organization is a R&D textile centre. Many results and outcomes from R&D activities can be applied for fostering and promoting cohesion.
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Learning by sharing

INTERREG IVC has enabled the organisation, its partners and stakeholders to undertake Research, Design and Development of key programmes and projects which have been delivered to across priority sectors, clusters and themes. The capitalisation benefits has accelerated innovation, stimulated entrepreneurship and increased the scope, scale and geography from the City of Birmingham to the whole of West Midlands.

1. In particular, the INTERREG IVC "*Making Knowledge Work*" project has helped us to recognise the challenge of knowledge paradox where existing goods could be brought to fruition and develop routes to market.
2. The INTERREG IVC "*COGITA*" project has helped us to bring large companies and smaller SMEs closer together to recognise and generate 'social' value and how this could be promoted and progressed further within a business environment.
3. The INTERREG IVC "*CCIC*" project came at a time when the organisation (Birmingham City Council) like many other corporate bodies across EU were undergoing change and renewal due to financial crisis and helped to identify what activities we should grow, continue, reduce and stop, re-prioritising the pecking order of the agenda.
4. The INTERREG IVC "*Science Park Without Walls*" project was led by Birmingham City Council to explore the concept on how virtual and electronic forms of support could help to stimulate enterprise and access to global markets via telepresence and video-conferencing, whilst remaining local. The transfer of good practice to both partners in and around Gothenburg was established under this project. The capitalisation value has led to a successful bid to fund a purpose-built infrastructure e.g. Icentrum and Digital Plaza facility within one of Europe's largest Science Park (Birmingham Science Park Aston).
5. The "*Next Generation Science Parks*" helped to share good practice across EU and exchanged experience and knowledge which was benchmarked against a non-partner region (Barcelona) and Espoo (Helsinki) to establish gaps in innovation systems and incubator development.

5. Impact of thematic capitalisation exercise

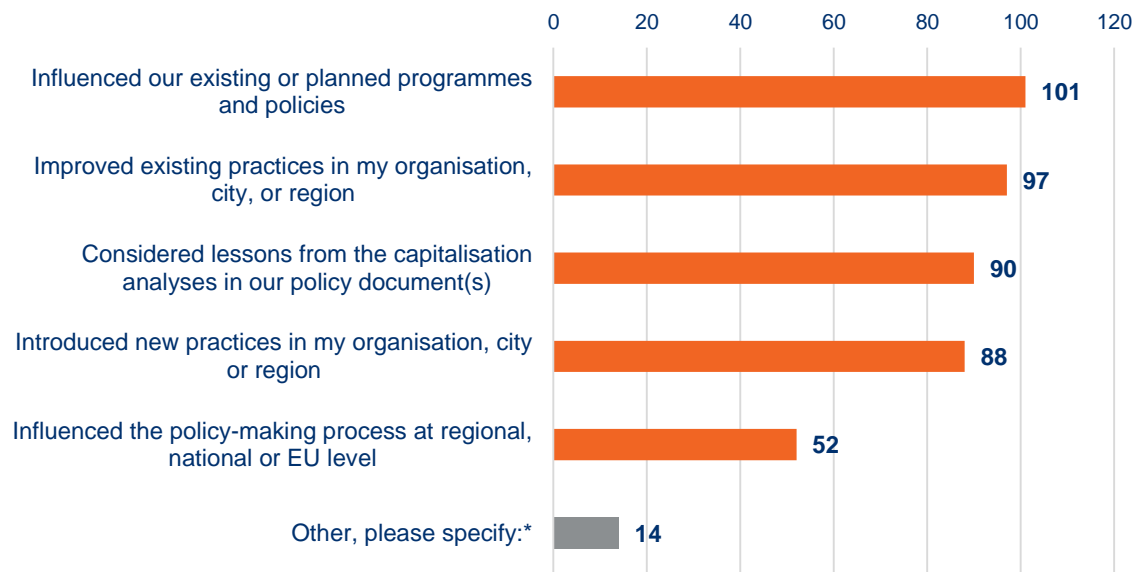


7. Did you or your organisation use/ apply any of the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation policy recommendations, good practices and other results?

Answered question 327

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent	Rating Average
Not at all	65	20%	
To a small degree	57	17%	
To some degree	158	48%	
To a large degree	43	13%	
To a very large degree	4	1%	

Let us know how did you/ your organisation used/ applied these results



7a. Let us know how did you/ your organisation used/ applied these results. (Please select all applicable)

Answered question 234

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Improved existing practices in my organisation, city, or region	97	21.9%
Introduced new practices in my organisation, city or region	88	19.9%
Considered lessons from the capitalisation analyses in our policy document(s)	90	20.4%
Influenced our existing or planned programmes and policies	101	22.9%
Influenced the policy-making process at regional, national or EU level	52	11.8%
Other, please specify:*	14	3.2%

7b. Thank you for explaining further your choices above:

Improved existing practises

- Thanks to INTERREG IVC, we had the great chance to developed two good practices already relevant to the regional tourism policies: cycling for tourists and accessibility.
- Evaluating the performance of associated projects is essential to improving on any existing shortcomings regarding implementation, output quality, long-term sustainability aspects and so forth. The report offers a wide range of useful information that allow related institutions and individuals to minimize trial and error mistakes.
- This approach is very useful for our organization in order to create synergies, to promote a real exchange of existing practices and to stimulate the transfer or the redesign of them.
- By influencing regional administrative bodies to adjust some restrictions that hinder the application of technical measures that limit CO2 and ammonia emissions from agriculture.
- We used the recommendations to better organize our policy practices.
- Our organization is involved in an INTERREG IVC project and this has given us new knowledge through good practices. Also our organization have also implemented the Smart Specialization into the newly developed Innovation strategy.
- Our participation at capitalisation projects allows us to perfect some of our knowledge about regional smart specialization strategies allowing some improvements at our participation in the region design process. At the same time we could access important tools to monitories its implementation.
- Analysis of good practices pool in order to replicate partially if possible in our region or at least have them as a reference about what other European regions are developing.
- The results of INTERREG Capitalisation projects, as well as the synergies among partners which arise from these projects, provide a useful database of good practices in reforming and improving certain procedures and policies.
- Use relevant results to improve existing policies.
- Due to the recommendation of the Difass project we overwork the concept of the Co-Work; a support activity for creative industry. Furthermore we start to implement a crowd funding tool.
- The impact of various INTERREG IVC projects has touched on all above aspects improving the systemic and knowledge / learning platform of infrastructure, policy, strategy, governance.
- We had the chance to be partners within two projects financed by INTERREG IVC and the success of both was based on practices we were already running but that could be improved adopting part of best practices identified during the projects activities in our cooperation area. At the same time, our local and regional regulations enabled us to improve our practices while "contaminating" in parallel the policies themselves due to similarities in terms of SMART Specialization strategies, for instance, to policy priorities (...) that made this happen. To sum up, improvement and influence at both technical- practical level and at political level is more effective when there are common "grounds" and objectives supporting the comparison and exchange of practices between territories in order to improve the local economic development and competitiveness.

Introduced new practices

- Most important way to use results of the capitalisation process would be to introduce the recommendations to project planners during the next programme period.
- Introduced digital pitch videos as a service for a local incubator (Innofun project).
- The results served mainly as food for thought and for get ideas for new projects.
- The partner collaboration and the exchange of good practices helpful to introduce new practices in my organization.
- Introduced new practices in climate change assessment and mitigation at national and regional level, use of renewable energy for sustainable development of the business and the housing sectors.
- Our participation in an INTERREG IVC project led to the awareness within our organisation that we can learn a lot from the experiences of other European regions. The information provided through INTERREG IVC project is very useful. We will use this knowledge to write a new policy on sustainable transport in the coming year and plan to include other regional public bodies in this process. Also colleagues in other fields of expertise within our organisation became interested in participating in European network and projects, as well other local and regional authorities that participated locally in our project.
- We developed new ways to approach sustainable mobility plans.
- The results and conclusions are the basis for our future projects and programmes on behalf of the territorial, social and economic development of our region.
- Good practices and transfer of know how have been used for planning future services of the development agency as well as integrated in strategic documents of the region.
- We will introduce new practices in our organisation.
- New practices in e-mobility were promoted and disseminated in West-Transdanubia region thanks to our INTERREG IVC project.
- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programme of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia adopted some best practices coming from the INTERREG IVC project called "DIFASS".
- Used lessons learnt as an inspiration and starting point for new projects.
- The capitalisation conclusions were helpful in planning future projects and thinking about future objectives which can be obtained through EU projects using experience from other cities and adopting best practice to our own circumstances.

Considered lessons from the capitalisation analyses in our policy documents

- The observations raised in the capitalisation analysis were taken into consideration for several documents drafted by Italian provinces addressing the opportunities set by the new EU financial framework for the period 2014-2020.
- Some results and outputs were incorporated in our organization's policy documents, mainly concerning the strategic framework for regional development. Also, we strived to involve the Managing Authorities of several Operational Programmes which had relation to the subject of the project, throughout the implementation of project activities and the delivered outputs. Finally, the final output of the project were presented with the Action Plan to these MAs.

- The results from the Capitalisation analysis reports are valuable inputs to the strategic work of our city's planning especially regarding our City's Comprehensive Plan. The policy outlines influence our thinking and how we see what will be important to consider in the next decade.
- We have improved our (both organizations and city) development plans according to lessons learned from INTERREG papers.
- The findings from the INTERREG IVC thematic capitalisation exercise have been used in INTERACT's work - as further evidence how knowledge sharing and capacity building works and what results it produces. Also, in thinking how the results and deliverables of INTERREG programmes could be better linked to efforts of other actors (e.g. Goal 1 programmes). Furthermore, in designing the future capitalisation framework of INTERACT programme and in starting the brainstorm how to cooperate with INTERREG Europe as regards Goal 2 programmes and projects.
- Municipality of Florence is still working on some items and procedures, however lessons learnt from capitalisation analysis documents improved in some way the impacts of existing policies and give at the same time an instrument for European benchmarking analysis.
- Lessons were useful for preparation of strategic documents.
- The results of the INTERREG IVC thematic capitalisation has strengthened the focus in terms of content within a few policy documents and provided additional arguments for policy choices.
- This is the first step we are taking to try to incorporate some of the learning from these documents which in time will help us in our approach to demographic change. These have been really clear lessons to come out of an excellent INTERREG programme and demonstrate the value of territorial cooperation. For us as a public authority these have proved vital as we cannot get involved in everything and yet in a clear concise method we can start to learn from the experience from others.
- During the writing of the regional Operational Programme, we considered the lessons learnt from the capitalisation analyses, but more from the results of our INTERREG projects.
- The lessons from the capitalisation were integrated into the regional planning documents.
- The results of the capitalisation exercise are considered potentially useful for improving regional policy instruments, but it would take some time before the results are fully integrated in these instruments. We are thus looking forward to apply this exercise as a bridge to the Policy Learning Platforms to be established under INTERREG Europe.
- Inspiration - but for instance the good practices and policy recommendations can't usually not be transferred 1:1.
- We are increasingly giving great value coming from learnings and the participation in transnational European projects. We are applying learnings on Quadruple Helix and Local Support Groups processes.
- We integrated recommendations and good practices of European Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the Operational Plans for development at regional and local levels.
- Lessons learnt had been taken into consideration during the elaboration of a regional natural risks management plan.
- Best practices were used and benchmarked against our current practices. Some lessons learnt were somehow incorporated into new internal procedures and policy design.

Influenced our existing or planned programmes and policies

- As explanation, we consider as very useful to get an overview on the various projects implemented in the frame of the INTERREG IVC in terms of capitalisation actions. By this way, some examples of good practices of capitalisation can be introduced our own approaches and policies.
- Influencing our policies and strategic documents with some innovations and green ideas is just step ahead in the regional development!
- Since through the capitalisation documents the connections between EU goals and activities in regional projects are explained very well - it helps to reconsider own plans and future proposals in regard to the already available experience. Since there is not only good hints, but also how-to-avoid-traps it can save a lot of efforts and spoilt money in upcoming projects and new procedures. Really highly appreciated!
- Refocus the ERDF funds in line with renewable EU future guidelines.
- Information were used to help future user-driven innovation actions as part of new approach to planning strategic policy development.
- The results were transferred in the regional development programme for the programming period 2014-2020.
- It has been useful in order to introduce some new approaches and perspectives in our regional debate, in our specific projects (i.e. within the Symbios Project, European Social Fund - ESF) and at some degree in the political agenda related to the demographic change issue.
- While I work in the University of Glasgow, I am currently in the Centre for Open Studies which is the Adult Learning side of the University. I am trying to establish a programme of CPD options including industry approved qualifications such as Institute of Leadership and Management, PRINCE 2 etc. to offer our Adult Learners. However, an assessment for the needs of these courses was carried out with the rest of the University and there was a great deal of interest shown and many comments such as any increased links with industry must be a good thing. It is a start and I hope it will grow and become a part of the many planned programmes and policy. This links to 2 different points in your Innovation Capacity for SMEs: Innovation Management - people with degrees gaining management skills early in their careers and improved working with external partners, In turn this could lead to improved access to research for SMEs as the relationship builds with the University.
- The thematic capitalisation initiative is allowing the Metropolitan area of Brasov to improve its existing mobility policy.
- As a university we use the results in education and research as well.
- We are a University and we also do projects and design applications on sustainable transport. So we need to be informed about the other projects achievements.
- The exchange of expertise and "best practice" with the European partner regions offers interesting chances for all participating offices. The partner regions involved have their own extensive experience in the incorporation of water as a separate component in the urban planning and the marketing of locations on the water. Bremerhaven benefits from the exchange with the "Aqua-Add" network and the new interdisciplinary approaches.
- The capitalisation exercise was considered for own capitalisation activities.
- The INTERREG IVC good practices influenced and supported us in implementing other INTERREG IVC / SEE projects and elaborating RIS3 strategy.

- An implementation strategy was evolved from the results of the INTERREG IVC project Regional Action Plan. It is now being used step by step.
- My Administration used the results of the project to improve some call for proposals of the ERDF Regional Operational Programme for the period 2007-2013 in the Tuscany Region.
- The documents I have read helped us in understanding the possible next steps and changes in vision that could define future calls and actions. As we are operating in areas that cross over silos (support to innovation through design and territorial development), we find it difficult to build consortia and to develop projects that can fit within the tight criteria of evaluation. Also, as an NGO, our experience puts us to think that INTERREG projects are best suited for large / public institutions that can stand for the extensive delays of payment.
- Our Prefecture improved existing practises by publicity and info days to target groups, introduced new practises to the Council of the Prefecture and influenced our existing or planned programmes and policies through the new RIS programme.
- Provided valuable reference material when developing policies.
- We always learned something from these results: understanding, highlight on an unknown point, ideas to improve a good practice or introduce a new one. On the other hand, it could be difficult to put the results in practice, due to difference or a lack of competences or money.
- We used the lessons learnt in order to confirm or infirm our own analysis and improve them.
- The capitalisation themes touch content of many of our activities. As a European organisation trying to be among the first ones to make the change, the capitalisation findings are useful for evaluate our activities and create a link with the European and national policies as well.
- Make a review of the bioenergy planning taking into account some ideas which come from the transference process of good practices.

Influenced the policy-making process at regional, national or EU level

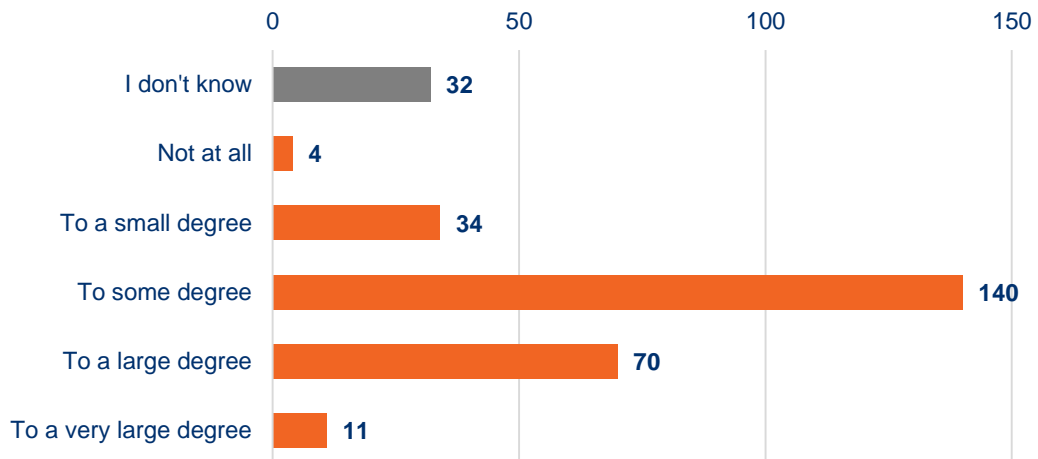
- We are still waiting for a political decision in order to start the development of a Regional Digital Agenda. But we have not given up and hope that we can start this year and using the main findings of INTERREG projects as a catalyst to get the political decision as well as to launch the process for developing an action plan for our regional digital agenda.
- Common and already applied practices of other regions, which already face climate related problems, such as water scarcity and droughts, may serve as suitable adaptation strategies in our region in the future.
- Our organisation is preparing the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) for our region. The policy recommendations were introduced to our regional stakeholders and we can try to work with them in the phase of implementation of RIS3.
- To contextualise the regional policy in own study report.
- Overall we are trying to influence regional and sub-regional stakeholders to develop an integrated territorial approach on 2014-2020 EU Thematic Objectives. INTERREG IVC references helped us develop a diverse and interconnected thematic approach to national urban policy that will influence sub-regional sustainable urban development instruments.

- We use evidence from other projects in discussions about regional and local development strategies, support measures and future projects. The experience in INTERREG project has helped us to bring the discussion about telework in rural regions to a new degree in Latvia and has facilitated an establishment of network of interested parties and potential partners for future projects.
- Within our INTERREG IVC project, in its implementation plan, we have aimed to impact some of policies under development on city, regional and national levels. Since beginning we have had capitalisation in our minds and the implementation is planned in this way, too.
- Our INTERREG IVC project experience resulted in both specific policies and practices being improved, as well as entering a pool of expertise/resources that allowed us to further work on other policies/processes/practices using a wide sphere of references and good practices. The policy recommendations were used in our strategic planning too.
- We used the documents in the political preparation process of our regional development plans.
- As an actor in the regional innovation system we feed the policy making process with the knowledge acquired during the projects and the capitalisation process.
- Have influence in the national rural development policy - i.e. choice of measures and priority actions.
- The INTERREG Projects have some consequences both in our methodology (improvements) and stimulate some purposes for a better use of structural funds (ESF, ERDF).

***Other, please specify:**

- Influenced our way to communicate.
- It allowed to cross-check the policy recommendations generated on our own project.
- Explore how the "Regions of Knowledge" experience could help to improve further INTERREG programmes in the future.
- Reinforce meetings with stakeholders in a strategy for boosting heating and cooling with renewables.
- We took some good practices from our partners, as Great Britain, Finland, and Italy to use in our community.
- Include as transfer practices to third countries.
- Established new contacts with other projects during the capitalisation workshops to exchange good practices.
- In grant applications / proposals.
- In current planning work and visionary work with climate and energy issues play a major role.

Overall, in the coming 1-3 years, do you expect to use / apply further the policy recommendations, good practices and other results of the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation in your activities/ projects/ programmes?



8. Overall, in the coming 1-3 years, do you expect to use/ apply further the policy recommendations, good practices and other results of the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation in your activities/ projects/ programmes?

Answered question **291**

Rating responses **259**

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent	
I don't know	32	11%	
Not at all	4	1%	
To a small degree	34	12%	Rating Average 3.19
To some degree	140	48%	
To a large degree	70	24%	
To a very large degree	11	4%	

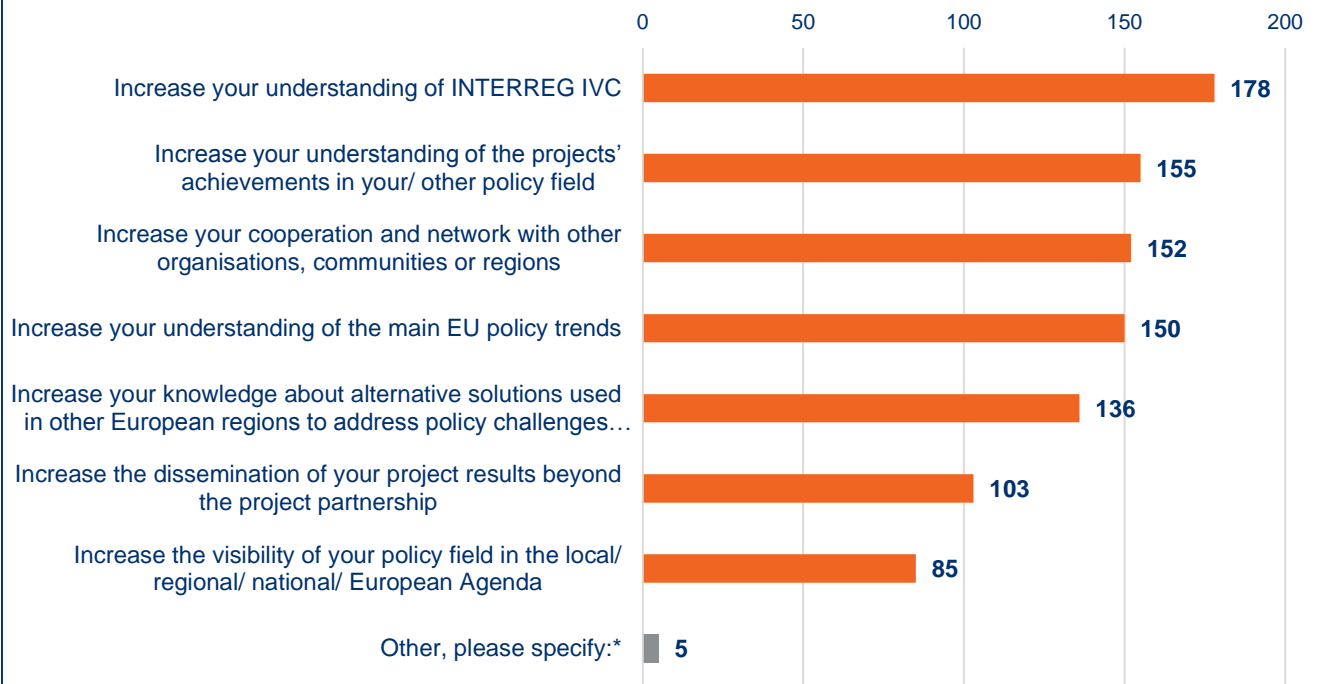
If you wish please explain how!

<p><i>Developing new projects and taking part in new calls.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will use the results and good practices as guidelines for new or coming project ideas. • Expand our international cooperation through the implementation of new projects. • To make better project proposals (contents and methods). • Using the knowledge-experience for INTERREG Europe projects. • We will have all the recommendations in mind for future policies and / or projects to be developed in the region. • We are planning to introduce new practise. • It is a good starting point for the diagnosis stage of any proposal, allowing to confirm the common diagnosis and to have access to a pool of successful and proven good practices and experiences for overcoming identified challenges at the EU field. • For us, the use of the recommendations resulting of the lessons of the INTERREG IVC programme will be one of the sound basis of the preparation of an INTERREG Europe project. 	<p><i>Implementing good practices</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like to implement good practices identified within the project. First of all through the new projects possibilities made in cooperation with interregional partners but also as a tests and implementation in regional policy - recommendations to local policies, local programs. • First of all we would adopt some of good practices from EU (such as Innovation Assistant model from Lower Austria) to West-Transdanubia region in Hungary and influence regional and national innovation policy and innovation system sharing experiences and ideas with other EU regions. • At least two good practices identified in our own project will be developed in local scale. • In projects based on evidence and good practices from other projects. • Implementing the mentioned learnings in our methodologies of work at local level as Local Administration. • We will further share, use and apply the recommendations given in the INTERREG IVC "CIE" (Cleantech Incubation Europe) project wherever and when possible.
<p><i>Advising policy makers and relevant stakeholders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the advising to the public sector civil servants for the next period. • Continuing providing information and examples to the policy makers concerning the possible way to improve our innovation ecosystem. • Systematic and regular consultation, and directing stakeholders directly to relevant approaches. • We will use all these information in order to specialise business environment to attract young people or new businesses to rural regions. • As stated we are not a public body or an operational delivery agency. We expect to point our community members towards the INTERREG IVC documents on sustainable transport where relevant. 	<p><i>Integrating into strategic/planning documents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including them in our projects and programmes and raising awareness on a larger decision-making level. • Through their integration in strategic documents for regional and local development. • Through the regional operational programmes. • We want to incorporate the findings within our approach to Demographic Change. • In my region, the results will be considered in the drafting of a regional plan on sustainable value creation and innovation. Our region has recently registered at the S3 Platform, and we believe that the results could also be beneficial for our participation there. • During the implementation of RIS3 (the topics relevant to support of regional innovation).

Learning from the others

Taking into account when the scenario permit the recommendation for renewable, energy efficiency and sustainable transport. Learning to some ideas of projects references. Contacting with partners from projects to learn more about some initiative (investment project or policy). We hope this could help us to overcome the gap of multi-level governance of collaboration between national level and regional level in sustainable energy matters (mainly through energy agencies in the past), which is happening now in Spain.

Please tell us if the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation work allowed you to:



9. Please tell us if the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation work allowed you to:
(Please select all applicable)

Answered question **281**

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Increase your understanding of INTERREG IVC	178	18%
Increase your understanding of the main EU policy trends	150	16%
Increase your understanding of the projects' achievements in your/ other policy field	155	16%
Increase your cooperation and network with other organisations, communities or regions	152	16%
Increase the dissemination of your project results beyond the project partnership	103	11%
Increase the visibility of your policy field in the local/ regional/ national/ European Agenda	85	9%
Increase your knowledge about alternative solutions used in other European regions to address policy challenges you face	136	14%
Other, please specify:*	5	1%

9a. Thank you for explaining further your choices above:

Increase your understanding of INTERREG IVC and the main EU policy trends

- The project delivered better understanding of INTERREG IVC Programme and the EU policies it supports. Also, improved significantly the cooperation and networking with different partners. Respectively, increased awareness of alternative solutions in partnering territories and their organizations. Effort was made to expand and disseminate the results of the project to a larger audience of local, regional and central stakeholders.
- The partnership cooperation was deeply used for increasing the understanding of INTERREG IVC, and other solutions used in other EU regions.
- Capitalisation is useful to understand project and give practical information and examples on what's going on in the main EU policy trend and in my field.
- By the INTERREG capitalisation we could improve our understanding of the focussed EU goals, since concrete examples always help to get an idea of the aimed track.
- In a way the interregional cooperation projects showcase what's best in the EU (and sometimes globally) in the selected topic area. In that sense the capitalisation exercise helped to obtain a good overview of latest developments and future trends + possibilities. Findings of the capitalisation work help to reflect on what regional cooperation does, how it works and where it can be particularly successful? Capitalisation exercise highlighted the areas of particular interest to European regions.
- Helpful to understand where policy shifts have already taken place in other areas to know where to look for innovation and new inspiration.
- As mentioned previously we cannot take part in everything and what this exercise has done is to give us a chance to see valuable lessons from other INTERREG Programmes.
- I needed brought up to date with EU policy and trends in order to be able to suggest future project ideas to the University and to build partnerships in time for a submission date.
- Now we have more Information about EU policy and the policies of the project partners from different countries. We will use this for our work.
- Capitalisation works when you can participate into it by yourself and this is most valuable to increase your understanding in general (INTERREG Programme, EU policies and trends) and broaden your understanding of project's achievements and different approach.
- The work helped us to identify forward looking trends and strategies.
- European level of trends was definitely improved thanks to the thematic capitalisation work. It is too soon to assess whether our regional policies will be improved thanks to that and what kind of impact it will have.
- They helped to strengthen the EU policy and to make us more aware of how to put those policy in practice.
- Our entity's participation in Thematic Capitalisation initiative enhanced our capabilities in understanding specific EU policies, especially ones related to Eco-Innovation, SMEs innovation, sustainable transport, climate change and others. Moreover, it provided an opportunity to interact with a wide range of international partners, learning from their good and bad practices and disseminating our work to a broader area.

Increase your understanding of the projects' achievements in your/ other policy field

- We welcomed the opportunity to learn from others, find out about challenges and successes. Particularly useful was understanding how other projects had effectively transferred good practice and how they assessed the suitability for transfer.
- For my opinion, the increase of understanding of the projects achievements in the policy field of "demographic change" was the most important gain for me.
- To get information of projects connected with the idea to increase sustainable mobility.
- We are seeing that the international work through the INTERREG is important for us, both in term of gaining new knowledge and understanding directly by participating in projects, but also by connecting to different regions of Europe.
- The thematic capitalisation report gives a good overview of the "status quo" of European projects (e.g. in the field of climate and energy) and the possibility to reflect on one owns current work and achievements.
- Participation in one of the workshops was a valuable opportunity to increase understanding of capitalisation methodology and share best practices with fellow IVC stakeholders.

Increase your cooperation and network with other organisations, communities or regions

- One of the best outcomes of INTERREG IVC Programme is the network building; there are so many good lessons to be learnt by project partners.
- The programme has definitely provided possibilities for new networking and sharing knowledge, experiences / learning. As our organisation has not coordinated an INTERREG IVC project, I couldn't answer that we would have disseminated own results (more relevant to the project coordinator). But it has been definitely useful to see also what the current state in Europe is.
- The possibilities to network are the most important contribution.
- Capitalisation event has allow me meet more projects involved in the same topic and to create a new project partnership for a potential project in the next period. This way I know better about his experiences and allow me to consider lessons from the capitalisation analyses.
- The workshops allowed us to meet other partnerships and learn about their results and regions.
- Increase our capacity to networking and cluster management.
- One of the strengths of the Capitalisation process is to allow participants to gain a new European, broader perspective. Issues and challenges are shared by a community of regions. We are not alone. Cooperation and sharing helps to adopt new news and approaches. I.e.: not to fight against the inevitable, but to handle the situation properly and smartly.
- In my point of view interpersonal contacts / meetings allow to exchange and explain different issues much better than just by reading materials or even looking on very rich resources in internet.
- The program has helped me to increase our network and also to companies connected to us to reach new markets.

- Thanks to the initiative we have touched in contact with several European organizations.

Increase the dissemination of your project results beyond the project partnership

- Good practice examples from our project were used in the capitalisation report on renewable energy, which increased the dissemination of our project. As mentioned before, the capitalisation workshops allowed us to meet partners from other project and exchanging knowledge, which, in my opinion, is more effective than written reports.
- Through our project INNOCRAFTS we participated to Capitalisation activities meeting and one of the Good practices selected has been inserted in the Policy recommendation papers, giving more visibility and possibilities of interaction and growth.
- The market for intelligent transport systems (ITS) is highly diverse and rapidly changing. This is a challenge for cities and our work attempts to smooth this process by facilitating understanding, deployment and interoperability. To do this effectively we need to ensure that we maintain a good visibility of where others are innovating, and also to share our own innovations and lessons learned. Specifically for policymakers, it is important that they have a clear view of the practicalities of designing, selling, buying and using ITS. Simplistic top-down political "diktat" solutions are not likely to be any more effective than a totally anarchic laissez-faire approach.
- We have used capitalisation events to spread the project results.
- It has been worth to be involved in the process because it allowed to further disseminate our results, to compare our solutions with others, to know better about other achievements and to explore other possible solution to the weaknesses identified in our territory.

Increase your knowledge about alternative solutions used in other European regions to address policy challenges you face

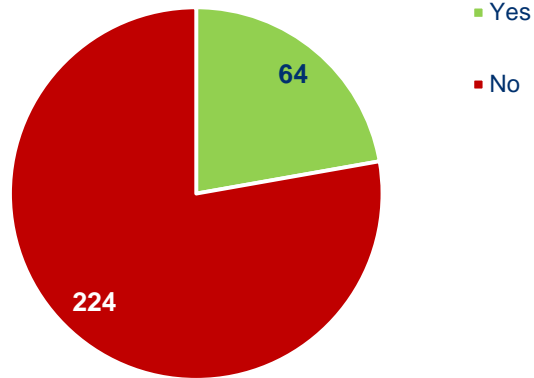
- We use capitalisation results and documentation as references for renewables, energy efficiency and sustainable transport regional strategies.
- You can learn a lot from different partners and regions and this is really the "cheapest" way to learn and may be also not to repeat the same mistakes in development.
- I learned, how rapid the demographic change will influence our social system and learned much about creating ideas and measures and also adapting rural and societal strategies to gain individual and social welfare.
- For my town is very important to increase our policy field because our local economy is improving in tourism. It is also very important to improve the knowledge of alternative solutions in other European regions about environmental policies for technical solutions.
- Currently starting a new INTERREG project, it is useful to learn from previous experiences.
- Administrative bodies are likely to adopt new approaches by showing them alternative solutions adopted successfully in other regions.
- The knowledge-experience generated in 2007-2013 must be useful to better address and achieve the challenges of new period in the best effective way to be as much successful as possible. Thematic capitalisation is a great tool to achieve this goal.

- For us help a lot in order to create a joint action in order to study policy recommendations, good practices and other results of the INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation for a large degree for the next years.

***Other, please specify:**

- To wonder about the intricate obsolescence of much of our work.
- “*Glocalisation*” - whereby local problems. Issues and challenges can be resolved, tackled and better understood from solutions of EU partners and its cities where more commonality is found than indigenous cities.
- Spill-over - where we can unlock the creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial talent and link this to other sectors, clusters and industries to generate new ideas and promote the 'new economy.
- To better understand the demand from EU regions.

Have you or your organisation applied a capitalisation approach similar to INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation in any activity/ initiative/ project/ programme?



If yes, please name your capitalisation initiative and describe your experience:

- After the INTERREG IVC project organisation, we are planning to implement some good practices through a new developed project in order to test and improve the solution of integration of the health and care system. Our organisation would like also to keep the experience in the region through next projects with interregional partners (in action).
- ManagEnergy – *Directors of Energy Agencies Meeting*, EUSEW 2014. The 3rd edition of the event was dedicated to Regional and Local Energy Agencies as key partners of the Covenant of Mayors through the support that they can bring both to signatory municipalities in developing and implementing their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPS), and to provinces and regions (Covenant Territorial Coordinators) in technically coordinating the action and thus implementing the energy policy of the territory. This meeting was useful, but some ideas seemed quite repetitive.
- As attendance at *Innovative financing for public authorities from European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF) – A role model fund for energy efficiency investment*; in order to know new financing solutions which can be implement at regional level. The fact that some of the financing tools are considered as debt could represent a real problem.
- During the drafting of application plans for projects in the IPA Adriatic Cross-border cooperation Programme and in the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE).
- Under the INTERREG IVB SUDOE Territorial Cooperation Programme / project.
- We have carried out an INTERREG IVA and we are considering to apply for a new project, in the same programme and perhaps in Interreg Europe.
- Project IMMODI is next step after project MODI and it will include the thematic capitalisation approach.
- INTERACT works through networks of INTERREG stakeholders in two directions: operational (i.e. project management, financial management, programme evaluation, control, audit, IT tools, communication, cross-border networks, transnational networks,

etc.), thematic (latest - on maritime, energy and cross-border labour mobility issues) and geographic (macro-regional, sea-basin strategies, certain geographical zones). The approach has been evolving gradually and has not been formally established. Online networks are used, regular possibilities to meet are used, and analytical work is part of the exercise and feeds into the work of networks. The overall objective of this work is to improve the quality and effectiveness of INTERREG programmes and their delivery. We have closely followed the INTERREG Europe (and other similar) approach (es) and are learning from it + considering which elements to apply to our target groups and how.

- We have been the technical assistance for the implementation in the Region of Murcia of two projects within INTERREG IVC: *SUM Sustainable Urban Mobility*, *STEP Improving Sustainable Energy Policies and Communities*.
- As a lead partner in the INTERREG IVC IN-EUR project - *measuring innovation in Europe sub-regions*.
- The general approach of applying good practices and policies has been undertaken in the fields of eco-innovation, benchmarking, sustainable transport and climate change.
- The University has areas such as Medicine, Veterinary and Life Sciences who have very innovative capitalisation approaches to their research.
- We have made an attempt together with our INTERREG IVC capitalisation project (PLUS) partners to develop a project for pre-commercial procurement. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, mainly lack of experience and information resources, we were unable to complete it.
- In the ERDF Regional Operational Programmes for the period 2007-2013 – Tuscany Region.
- Financial resources from EU-funding and from association of the Promotion of Science and Humanities in Germany.
- We organised capitalisation workshops within our partnership and their stakeholders.
- As a project partner in NOSTRA project financed by the INTERREG IVC Programme: good experience.
- In the projects that we are working for the Cultural Routes initiative created with the Partial Agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Commission.
- Two projects we are actually running: NoE Sport and 50/50 Euronet Max within the Intelligent Energy Europe programme (IEE).
- We participated in a sort of capitalisation seminar organised by INTERACT/IEE, to exchange experiences between INTERREG projects and IEE projects. This was a very interesting event, which was more focused on different ways of peer learning than on thematic issues.
- Preparation of integrated regional development plans at NUTS 2 level, monitoring and evaluation of results.
- We have applied it by mainstream activity started in another INTERREG programme around Silver Economy / Entrepreneur.
- In the Working4Talent INTERREG IVC project.
- We are doing a capitalisation analysis on the achievements of EU funded initiatives on the topic of Clusters and companies networks internationalisation in the framework of the Alpine Space Programme.

- Our experience on an INTERREG IVC project have change some of our practices and we are reproducing the capitalisation process on some of our thematic (deep geothermic, wood energy, buildings,...) and our target public (public building managers, co-ownerships, ...).
- Our local authority will build on the results of our official policy developed as a direct result of the INTERREG IVC project, by moving to the implementation phase - *Talk the Talk to Walk the Walk*.
- Utilization of good practices pool from Mini Europe project within the Smart Europe project.
- The INTERREG IVC Know-Hub project has provided an opportunity to exchange good practices, and also to implement one of them.
- In TRAP project we are trying to capitalise on certain of the good practices by applying to the European Innovation Partnership on Water (Water EIP) focusing on policy integration of ecosystem services.
- INTERREG IVA France Channel England programme within the Channel Mor capitalisation project.

Additional comments and suggestions for INTERREG IVC / Europe

Lessons learnt

- It is a very needed to keep interregional cooperation. It gives the possibility to "open your mind", see, check and know and then improve your regional and local approach to policy.
- The thematic capitalisation strand of the INTERREG IVC / Europe programme is a useful tool and should be continued and developed further.
- Is not so necessary looking for innovative solutions, but for solutions which can work in most of the European regions (or other equivalent entities). It has to be looked for harmonized European energy solutions, where all actors can play in similar conditions. At least in the energy matters, renewable frame conditions vary a lot from some to others, energy efficiency policies as well and the big gap is when "new" financial tools are named.
- Very efficient to work with similar partners (we are a local energy agency). Always very difficult and time consuming to find relevant projects partners for a little non-profit organisation while our influence is so obvious on local policies.
- The recommendations are too generic and general to really work, but they could be used to some extent.
- We appreciated the opportunity to be involved in this process because it allowed us to know and get in touch with many different experiences and to discuss with the experts of these practices, in a very open and friendly environment.
- Very useful, especially the involvement of politicians in the projects. Our project required politicians in the 7 participating cities to meet on a regular basis, allowing friendships to develop. This was very worthwhile as many events can be confusing when they are confronted with an alien situation. Project officers are often familiar with these meetings between cities, but not politicians.
- The reports are well done and good for the JTS to show what was achieved within INTERREG. However, most of the recommendations are obvious and no transfer of good practice will happen because of the report. Transfer of knowledge and change of behaviour only can be achieved with personal interaction and therefore the number, target group and quality of the capitalisation workshops must be very much approved.
- A missed opportunity? No: it's the very nature of the interregional cooperation programme which makes it difficult to draw universal conclusions. Project-partners transfer "good" (= subjectively defined) not best (objectively-defined) practices, so the lessons learned are specific to those partners. Only by detailed (and unfeasibly expensive) analysis could anything of true value be gained from trying to capitalise from these. The thematic capitalisation work for sustainable transport was poorly undertaken and the reports and recommendations were generalised to the point of banality. The outcomes are insubstantial compared with those of other EC initiatives, for example the Intelligent Energy programme, the Eltis database or CIVITAS, which offer much more substantive "capitalisation" material for practitioners and policy-makers alike.
- In principle, and as far as I am concerned, capitalisation at European level is always important. In reality, it is much harder. Because of budget constraints, European cooperation seems to be less and less a priority for local authorities. The benefits of the INTERREG programmes are not obvious for everyone at local level, and the complexity and the delays of processing do not help convincing them.
- The capitalisation exercise for sustainable transport analysed 15 projects (the largest number of any of the topics). These were so diverse that the analysis could deliver only generalisations and imperfect databases; presumably this was even more the case for the other topics. The added-value of INTERREG IVC / Europe does not lie in capitalisation,

but in effective transfer of good practices between project-partners. Please “stick to the knitting” – stay with what you are really good at.

- Too early to comment. Nevertheless, surveys like the present one are a helpful way to express one's views and should continue as the INTERREG IVC / Europe programme advances.
- It is a good programme but it is still a lot of paperwork.
- The policy recommendations are on such global level, that they seem a bit “open door”.
- Grand remarks on the Bologna event! It was very well organised, allowing everyone to focus not only on his/her ideas, but to identify in an easy way, people that want to share their experience and new ideas.

Suggestions for the future

- Next period goals in the effective implementation of EU 2020 require to connect effectively the overall European policies with their implementation in the next steps at regional and local level. There are different gaps between policies at European level, the midterm implementation at national level and the final and effective implementation at regional and local level. There is a big goal for Capitalisation initiative of INTERREG in the next period in giving support to overcome the future gaps among policy levels.
- Apart from exchanging experiences and good practices between the European regions, it is important to support and assist the resulting transfer activities and the implementation of identified measures in order to guarantee / allow for measurable benefits and outputs of INTERREG projects in the regions.
- Try to involve weak regions and cities, which doesn't have necessary absorption capacity.
- Interreg Europe should continue to make it possible to create innovative European wide projects which allow a very fruitful exchange of knowledge, learning from each other and jointly developing new solutions in the partner regions. Interreg Europe should again offer a capitalisation platform to stimulate exchange and offer additional services for mutual learning from the program period.
- To operate effective partner search and meeting throughout the Programme implementation.
- Simplify procedures: reporting and application procedure are complicated and bureaucratic especially for small partners.
- To integrate the results of the capitalisation exercise into the policy learning platforms in a systematic way, to kick-start the work of the platforms. The programme should also use the results of the capitalisation exercise as a basis/benchmark for assessing applications to Interreg Europe, in terms of determining their innovative character and added value.
- The creation of a network of pivotal innovation actors for public policies in the Regions of Europe. I think the need to achieve the goal of "think globally, act locally" needs from a network of networks, with peer groups. I would also suggest that the compilation could be translated to all the languages of the Programme, the language barrier is still present to make the message clear to some civil servants who could benefit having most of the information in national languages, at least in Spain.
- A further cooperation between both DGs is needed.
- Adopting a more declared stance on the territorial perspective, especially focusing on governance resources and mentalities and developing integrated approaches within the

sub-regional territorial framework. Establishing a specific axis related to GIS information and spatial analysis, including innovative tools for diagnostic and monitoring results and promoting information systems interoperability and integration. Create an optional dissemination and implementation phase subsequent to the 3 year cooperation structure, supporting the persistence of individual results and perspectives obtained by partners. This could be done either within the program itself or aligning with thematic or regional Operational Programs.

- Best of luck in 2014-2020 period. As for the capitalisation, it is important to start the process. Think of the big objective, but start doing things, start small and allow networks to take the process forward (i.e. crowd-based approach is the best - engage the customers and stay continuously aware of what are their wishes + engage them in delivering the activities and sharing their knowledge, expertise, future visions, innovative ideas, etc.).
- The administrative systems can be further improved even if one can claim that there were great improvements in this period.
- Countries, as Romania, Bulgaria, etc. should be more involved in EU projects. It is also important to consider the reality of each region, each community which have the power to take the measures to improve the life of the EU citizens.
- Please keep supporting us and we will all be able to learn from each other and avoid wasteful resources which is invested in "re-inventing the wheel". Birmingham has more in common with EU cities than London for example, therefore it is important that we can share experience and knowledge.
- Don't take your eye off of demographic change.
- For the topics "Sustainable Transport", do not forget to take into account heavy goods vehicles.
- Take into consideration the double control system in some countries as the First Level Control + Ministry of Economics.
- Open it to the private no-profit sector.

Conclusions

Overall, the feedback on the capitalisation initiative had been very positive and the respondents confirmed the need and the value of this exercise.

In that sense, most of the respondents affirmed that the capitalisation initiative allowed to obtain better understanding of INTERREG IVC Programme and a good overview of EU latest developments and future trends. Findings of the capitalisation work helped to reflect on what regional cooperation does, how it works and where it can be particularly successful. Also, it improved significantly the cooperation and networking with different partners. Respectively, the initiative increased awareness of alternative solutions in partner territories and their organizations.

“One of the strengths of the Capitalisation process is to allow participants to gain a new European, broader perspective. Issues and challenges are shared by a community of regions. We are not alone. Cooperation and sharing helps to adopt new news and approaches. I.e.: not to fight against the inevitable, but to handle the situation properly and smartly.”

- The 426 people who completed the electronic valuation questionnaire were mostly representatives from regional and local authorities (respectively 19% and 20%), regional agencies and research institutes (12%). National public authority, business support organisation and associations shared their opinion by filling the survey as well with a smaller percentage.
- All the countries involved in the programme gave their feedback with a high percentage of respondents from Italy, Spain, Germany, Netherlands and France.
- Most of those had been involved in the INTERREG IVC Programme and in the INTERREG IVC co-financed projects, notably in 72 projects under Innovation & knowledge economy priority and 51 under environment and risk prevention priority.
- About half of the respondents are members of a European network, the most cited ones being: European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), European Associations of Development Agencies (EURADA), Eurocities and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN).
- The distribution of interest among the different capitalisation topics shown a greater attention towards *Innovation capacity of SMEs, Innovation systems, Entrepreneurship and Energy efficiency*. This is also reflected in the expression of interest in the future policy fields that will be tackled by the Interreg Europe and its policy learning platforms with *Competitiveness of SMEs and Environment & Resource efficiency* on the top.

Visibility and Dissemination

Considering the variety of the roles and the involvement of the identified end users, different dissemination tools have been implemented by the programme, from targeted emails to posted news and organised events. Their effectiveness has been confirmed by the survey answers.

- Namely, the majority of the respondents found out about the capitalisation initiative and its results by receiving INTERREG IVC email (214), visiting the website (144), participating in an INTERREG IVC workshop or event (127).
- As 111 Projects were analysed and involved in the Capitalisation initiative, they have been also an important information channel: 183 responders learned about the results through their INTERREG IVC project.
- Social media remained a feeble dissemination tool, as only the 2% highlighted that they had come across the capitalisation results via this source.
- Nevertheless, 30% said that their organisation has mentioned the capitalisation initiative in several press releases and information material of the INTERREG IVC projects, in regional and local newspapers and newsletters.

Relevance, usefulness and quality

Overall, the thematic capitalisation results and materials have been well appreciated and the content is of high relevance to the different beneficiaries.

- The majority of the respondents (96%) have read at least one of the INTERREG IVC capitalisation materials. The percentages regarding the most read outputs show a preference for shorter informative documents: the brochures-publications and the policy recommendations. Regarding the usefulness and the quality, all the documents received positive scores from 2.8 to 3 (rating scale from 1 to 4).
- There was however a small percentage of people who did not have the opportunity to read any of the material provided due the lack of time or they were not aware of it or in another cases they did not received the information. In that sense, since there is already so much written information, several respondents suggested to use different means of information transfer, for instance interactive sessions, face to face, short films and videos recording policy recommendations, etc.
- Concerning the full analysis reports, despite the small percentage who read the materials (11%), the feedback was quite positive affirming that the reports are well done and they provided useful information that influenced the work of the responders and made accessible what was achieved within INTERREG. However, few people remarked that even though the quality is good, it has been difficult to put into practice some of the recommendations because of their general character.
- In general, most of the respondents stated the thematic capitalisation results and materials were relevant to their work or organisation: some degree (52%) and to a large degree (33%). Looking in more detail the responses, they affirmed that the documentation was very useful to get new ideas and inspiration for drafting new project or to improve running initiatives. Moreover, some of them considered the outputs an interesting source of know-how and a way for learning from the practical experiences and conclusions made by the others projects. It was also pointed out the high relevance of the materials and results in the policy making process by providing detailed and practical information on good practices for regional and national stakeholders.

Impact

Overall, it appears that the initiative had a considerable impact as more than the half of respondents have used or applied with some and large degree the capitalisation results in the respective organisations.

- The importance and the positive impact of the capitalisation initiative has been confirmed by the several comments that the respondents left. They gave an overview on the effects of the analysis carried out during the capitalisation initiative mentioning their practical experiences, improved practices and strategic documents influenced by the thematic capitalisation results. However, some responses could refer either to the impact of the capitalisation analysis - as it showcased the project results - or directly to the impact of the project itself. Indicatively:

“Due to the recommendation of the DIFASS project we overwork the concept of the co-work; a support activity for creative industries. Furthermore we start to implement a crowd funding tool.”

- In particular, the findings from the capitalisation exercise were valuable inputs during the writing of regional operational programmes and starting point for new projects. The lessons learnt from the capitalisation analysis were useful for preparing strategic documents as well as for planning future services. Indicatively:

“The results from the Capitalisation analysis reports are valuable inputs to the strategic work of our city's planning especially regarding our City's Comprehensive Plan. The policy

outlines influence our thinking and how we see what will be important to consider in the next decade.”

“Municipality of Florence is still working on some items and procedures, however lessons learnt from capitalisation analysis documents improved in some way the impacts of existing policies and give at the same time an instrument for European benchmarking analysis.”

- Furthermore, most of the responders (76%) expect in the coming 1-3 years to use or apply further the capitalisation results in their future activities and programmes to some and large and degree. Indicatively:

“In my region, the results will be considered in the drafting of a regional plan on sustainable value creation and innovation. Our region has recently registered at the S3 Platform, and we believe that the results could also be beneficial for our participation there.”

“The Capitalisation conclusions were helpful in planning future projects and thinking about future objectives which can be obtained through EU projects using experience from other cities and adopting best practice to our own circumstances.”

“We will further share, use and apply the recommendations given in the INTERREG IVC CIE (Cleantech Incubation Europe) project wherever and when possible.”

- It is worth noticing that the knowledge-experience of the capitalisation allowed the respondents to increase their understanding of INTERREG IVC and the projects' achievements in specific policy fields. Several respondents highlighted that the most important contribution were the possibilities to network, to meet other partnerships and learn about their results. Indicatively:

“For us, the most useful part of the capitalisation were the workshops, where we met people from other projects and heard about their policies and practices.”

“Our organisation is in close collaboration with a variety of Regional and Local authorities, as well as with scientific and research institutions of our Region. So, we think that such collaboration is the best way to gain from capitalisation of the INTERREG results.”

- Finally, the success of the initiative is confirmed by the fact that the INTERREG IVC thematic capitalisation approach was already taken up and applied in their project or programme activities by 64 responder. Indicatively:

“We are doing a capitalisation analysis on the achievements of EU funded initiatives on the topic of Clusters and companies networks internationalisation in the framework of the alpine Space Programme.”

“Our experience on an INTERREG IVC project have change some of our practices and we are reproducing the capitalisation process on some of our thematic (deep geothermic, wood energy, buildings, ...) and our public target (public building managers, co-ownerships, ...)”

Lessons learnt – suggestions for the future

- In term of relevance and usefulness of the initiative, few people found difficulty in applying the results of the analysis in their specific context as the conclusions and recommendations seemed sometimes generic. However, with time and interpretation is possible to create the circumstances for accommodating the recommendations, which were globally much valued.
- In order to improve the visibility of the results some respondents suggest to translate the dissemination materials since the language barrier is still present in some of the countries involved in the programme. This could help to provide clearer message to some civil

servants who could benefit having most of the information in their national languages. Moreover they propose a wider use of visual and digital elements like short videos rather than paper to make the information more accessible. More events for dissemination and networking in the respective regions would considerably increase access to the Capitalisation results.

- The thematic capitalisation is considered a useful tool and should be continued and developed further as highlighted in several feedbacks. In that sense, it is pointed out that Interreg Europe should offer a “capitalisation platform” to stimulate exchange and offer additional services for continuous mutual learning throughout the programming period. Some of the respondents suggest to integrate the results of the capitalisation exercise into the 4 thematic platforms in a systematic way to kick-start the work.
- Furthermore, the capitalisation initiative is considered a good starting point not only to set up the future policy learning platforms, but also for the new programme in general. For example, the programme could also use the results of the capitalisation exercise as a benchmark for assessing applications to Interreg Europe, in terms of determining their innovative character and added value.
- However, the benefits of the INTERREG programmes are not obvious for everyone at local level due to the complexity and different levels of process. Few respondents stress that there are different gaps between policies at European level, the midterm implementation at national level and the final and effective implementation at regional and local level. There is an important challenge for the future programme in providing support for overcoming those gaps among different policy levels. It is also emphasized the need of focusing on the territorial perspective and on the local needs and trying to involve the regions and cities, which do not have the necessary absorption capacity.
- The support to the exchange of experiences and good practices is necessary, but some responders consider also important the assistance during the resulting transfer activities and the implementation of identified measures in order to guarantee measurable and valuable benefits.
- Finally, few respondents recommend to simplify the procedures of the programme in general, since reporting and application procedures are considered complicated and bureaucratic, especially for small partners.

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