



INTERREG 2021-2027

Interreg AURORA stakeholder webinar

*Dorota Witoldson,
European Commission
DG REGIO*

Interreg



February 2021

Interreg 2021-2027

- **Stronger strategic focus**
 - Focus on a greener, low-carbon Europe
 - Focus on a more social Europe
 - Focus on cooperation governance
- **Less money:** EUR 8.05 bn (2014-2020: 10.1 bn)
- **Simplification** (simplified reimbursement, fewer controls)

Five policy objectives for Cohesion Policy

1. **A smarter Europe** (innovative & smart economic transformation and ICT connectivity)
2. **A greener, low-carbon Europe** (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management, sustainable urban mobility)
3. **A more connected Europe** (mobility)
4. **A more social and inclusive Europe** (the European Pillar of Social Rights)
5. **A Europe closer to citizens** (integrated development of all kinds of territories and local initiatives)

! Two additional specific objectives for Interreg:

- 1) **Better cooperation governance** and 2) **A safer and more secure Europe**

ISO1: Better cooperation governance

- Objective: to facilitate cross-border cooperation
 - *Institutional capacity of public authorities*
 - *Legal and administrative cooperation*
 - *People-to-people actions for increased trust*
 - *Institutional capacity to manage macro-regional strategies*
 - *Other actions to support better cooperation governance*
- Improving governance is of key importance for the EU – the heart of cooperation
- Governance has a structural nature = high potential to lead to real change

ISO2: Safer and more secure Europe

- "Safer and more secure Europe" for all Interreg strands
- Protection and economic and social integration of third country nationals including migrants and beneficiaries of international protection

Thematic concentration

- Thematic concentration for strand A (cross-border cooperation programmes):
 - At least 60% to 4 POs / Interreg Specific Objectives
 - Of which PO2 and PO4 are compulsory for strand A internal land borders, (including programmes with mixed land and maritime borders)
- ISO: Interreg Specific Objectives
 - Voluntary
 - ISO1: Better cooperation governance: Max 20%
 - ISO2: Safer and more secure Europe: Max 5%

Culture and tourism

- New specific objective under PO4 (A more social Europe) to recover and strengthen culture and tourism after the Covid crisis:

“Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation”

Small-scale projects

- Small-scale projects compulsory for cross-border cooperation programmes
- Facilitate the participation of small actors in projects
- Ensure small local projects close to people
- Simplified reimbursement methods for projects up to EUR 200 000, e.g. lump sums
- Possibility to set up *Small project funds* for further simplification

Commission Border orientation papers

- Commission proposal (2018) to split Interreg programmes into land border and maritime border programmes
 - Land borders: Close daily interactions, border obstacles important
 - Sea basins: The sea is the main border and challenges/solutions are valid for the whole sea basin
- 39 border orientation papers for land borders (i.a. Interreg Nord area)
- Three maritime orientation papers (i.a. the Baltic Sea including the Botnia-Atlantica and Nord area)

Orientations for Aurora

- Orientations for the programme partnership to consider – not official position of the European Commission
- European level data
- Provide an external bird's view of the needs and potential for cooperation

Main orientations relevant for Aurora

- Map border obstacles
- Support multilingualism
- Support innovation in selected areas of comparative advantage and promote partnerships across the whole cross-border area
- Support integrated cross-border tourism

Main orientations relevant for Aurora

- Improve connectivity, especially east-west connections
- Environment (fight pollution, protect biodiversity, disaster risk management)
- Harmonise certification and skills for certain professions
- Develop cooperation networks between hospitals

Main orientations relevant for Aurora

- Involve Sami and Sami objectives in development strategies and action plans
- Increase visibility of Sami and their contribution to the economy and culture of the cross-border region (targeting schools, visitors, general public)
- Consider small project fund(s) for trust-building, cooperation of micro-enterprises and SMEs, inclusion of underrepresented groups like associations, schools, Sami research) and cross-border data collection

Thank you for your attention!

[Inforegio: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm)



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

