University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Electrical Engineering

Using INTERREG to enhance innovation support through ERDF – The example of digital service development in rural areas (ERUDITE)

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ERUDITE
Interreg Europe

Interreg Europe
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

The problem

- Interreg IVC ENGAGE (2012-2014)

Develop a series of resources, tools and strategies to enable HSB networks to be developed at efficient cost, translating partner best practices into **effective and efficient policies** to help **all of rural Europe be better connected**.

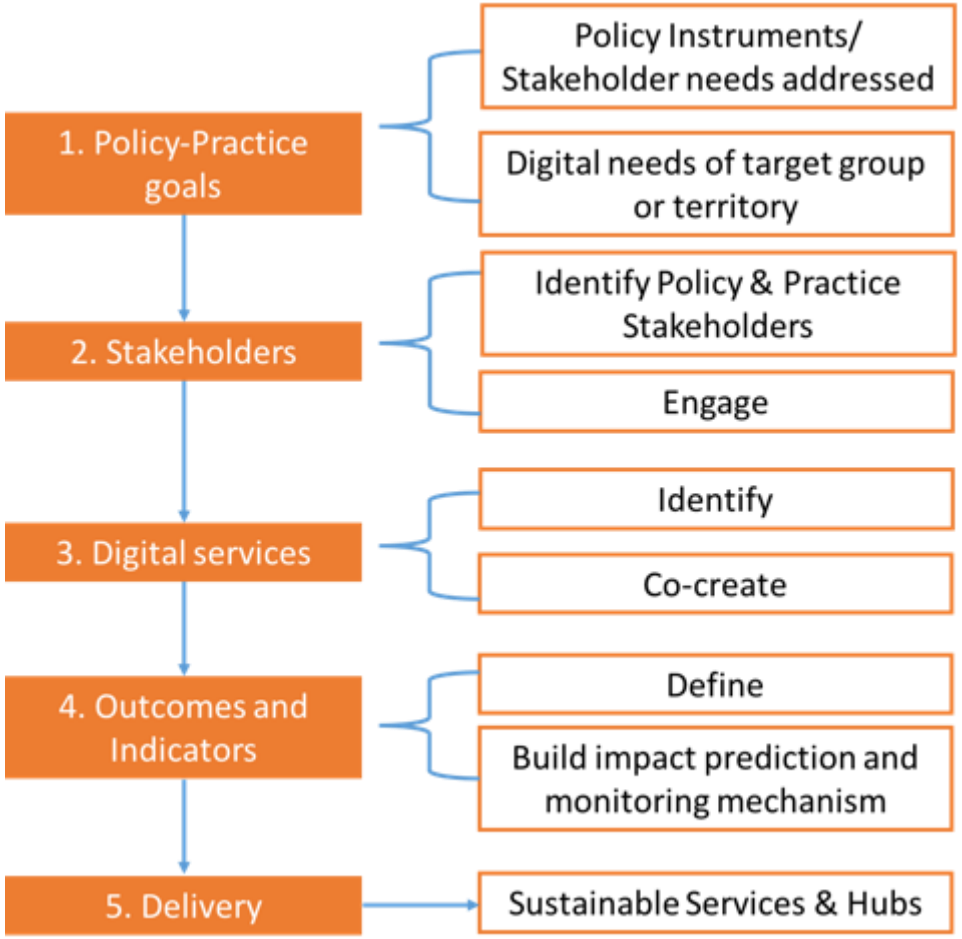
http://www.engage-interreg.eu/

- Interreg Europe ERUDITE (2016-2019)

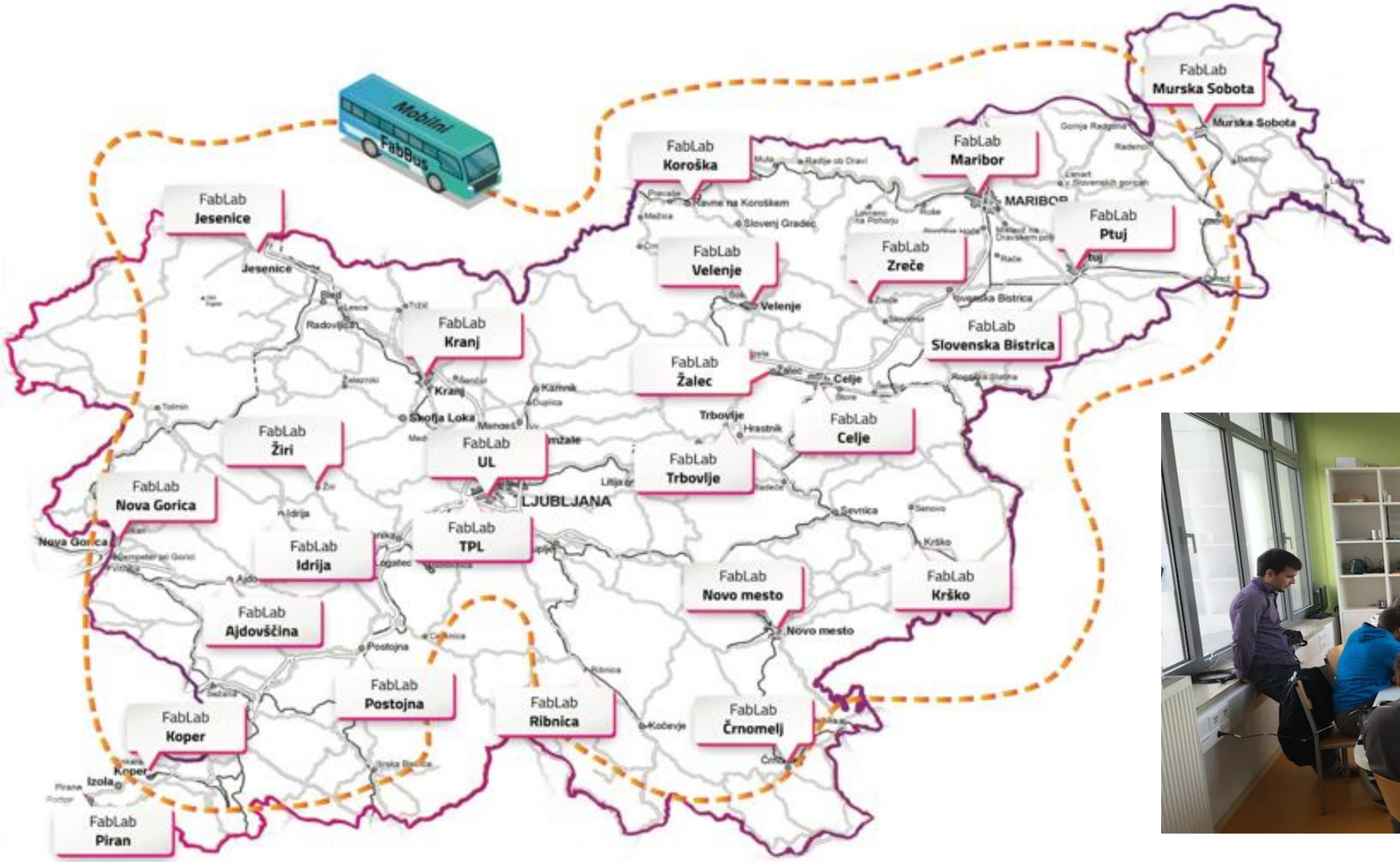
Assist rural regions across Europe **design**, **develop** and **deliver digital services** that capitalise on the potential offered by HSB Networks and catalyse regional innovation capacity to support longterm territorial prospects.

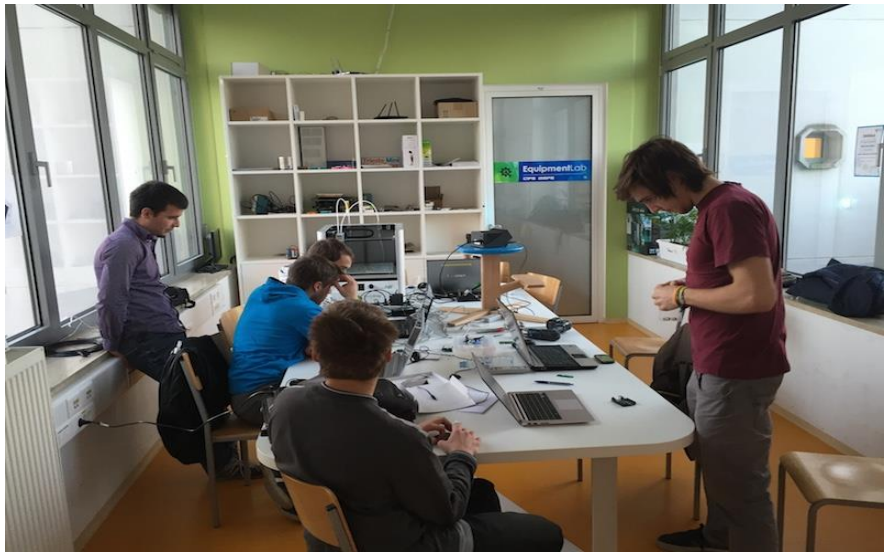
https://www.interregeurope.eu/erudite/

Main objectives

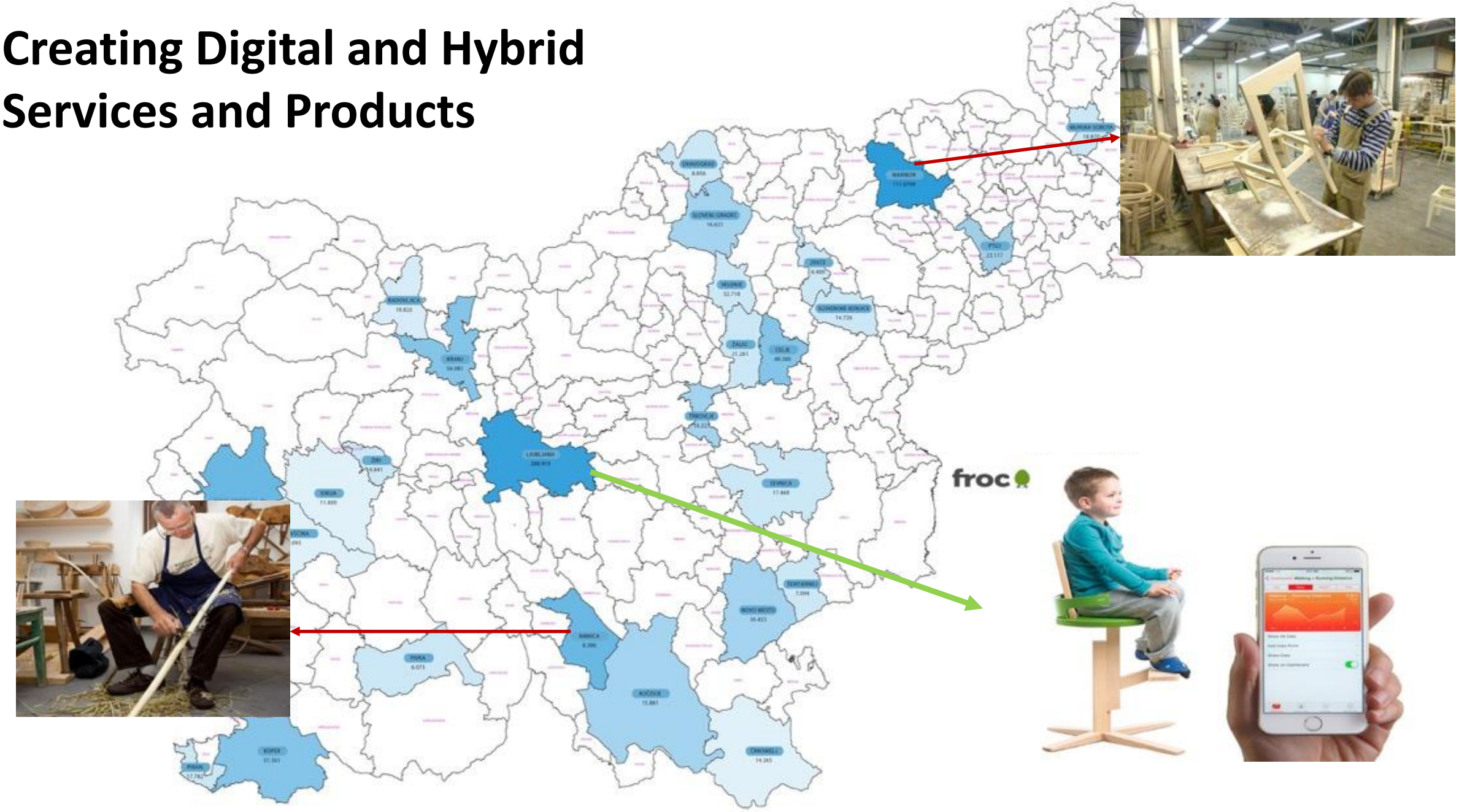


Results: Slovenian Fab Lab Network





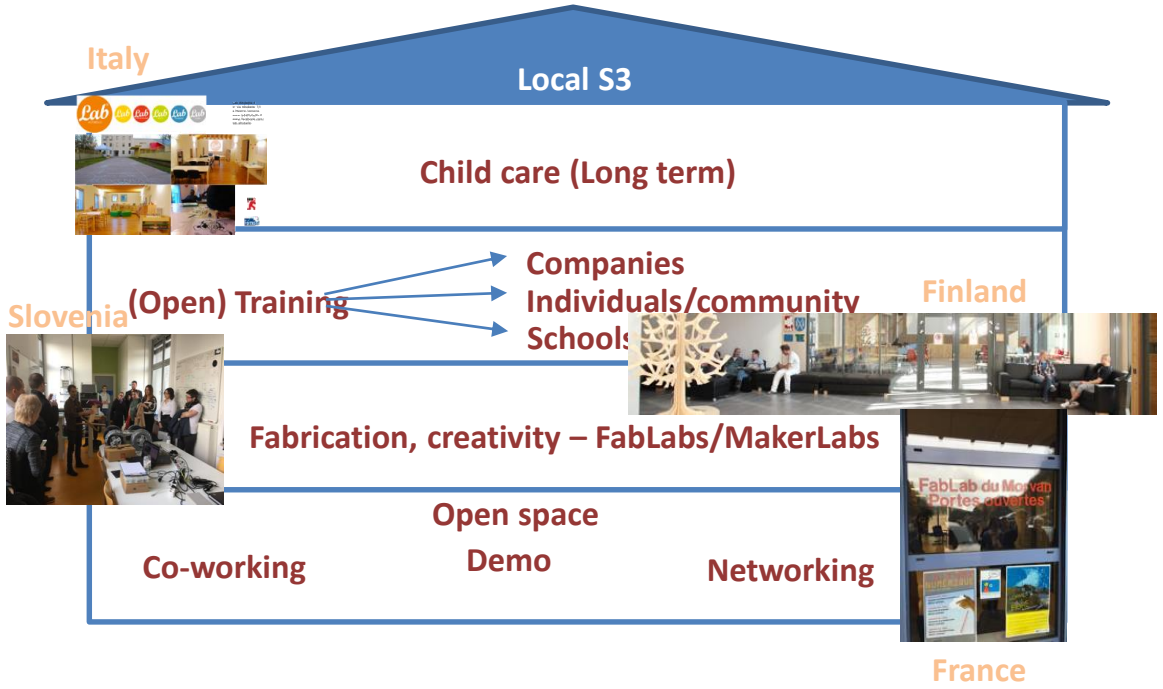
Creating Digital and Hybrid Services and Products



Innovation for everyday life and work

- T.A.F.R. - Autonomous electrical farming robot, which will monitor the plants, apply fertilisers and pesticides and help with everyday work

Advantages and disadvantages



- Advantages:
  - Best practice, knowledge and experience exchange ➞ **innovation: service, process and methodology development**
  - "forced" collaboration with policy makers and public authorities builds knowledge, trust and understanding ➞ **Investments for innovation and regional development**
  - Leads to new RIA projects (ex. Horizon 2020 LiveRUR)
  - Get your voice and ideas heard
- Disadvantages:
  - Rigid FLC

Recommendations in using Interreg

- Make sure you understand your national/regional policy instruments and Interreg programme **very well.**
- Discover who are the responsible bodies for the policy instruments and make friends with them ☺
- Learn from other partners and regions about their solutions, best practices, problems…and check if this could be useful in your region. Make adaptations when necessary.
- Make friends with other Interreg projects and find out how you can collaborate together.
- Go for multi-discipline, multi-stakeholder, multi-actor and multi-sectoral networking and collaboration: regional, interregional and international
- When relevant and possible - become involved in the innovation ecosystem
- Discover how to correlate with Smart Specialisation Strategies and wider economic, social and environmental development plans
- Share your work with others – let them know what your project is about, what problem are you trying to solve, how, and what results are you achieving
- **Stay open for new ideas and collaboration.**

More information

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www.fablab.si
https://www.interregeurope.eu/erudite/ @InterregErudite

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