CBC Flash news January 2016

Dear Interreg Partners,

Happy New Year!!!

Since we are all eager to start this 2016 with a BANG, we decided to come up with another Flash News already in January… we cannot wait to tell you some Important stuff and… we missed you so much already!

The Interreg team: new players, new roles

Some news on the Interreg Team you may like to be aware of: Joanna KISZKO joined the team on 16 December. She will be in charge of the Interreg Czech Republic-Poland programme and of the Interreg Rhin Supérieur programme. She is also our new Quality officer. Following Kypros’ move to the Greece/Cyprus Unit within REGIO, Martha CAMBAS is taking over the Greece-Cyprus programme. Nathalie VERSCHELDE will temporarily take over the Romania-Hungary programme, while Zsolt SZOKOLAI will do the same for the Romania-Bulgaria programme. We will keep you posted on any additional change that may come, of course. (here the colleagues’ faces in “order of appearance” in this Flash News!)
Clear, transparent... ESIF!

It is taking shape and here at DG REGIO we are particularly proud of it! We are talking about the new Open Data Platform: its ambitious goal is to be the entry point to track EVERYTHING that is happening in the EU thanks to ESI Funds in the 2014-2020 period: it covers all European Structural and Investment Funds programmes. That means also Interreg, of course. The platform gathers financial data but also indicators, achievements, sorted by programme, country, thematic objective. It will be regularly updated and improved during 2016 and it can already be reached at this link. If you want to know more about it, we suggest you to pay a visit to this comprehensive FAQ page on Inforegio.

A new challenge ahead: the designation process

With all programmes up and running we can focus now on the next challenges: some programmes still need to adopt their communication strategies (more on this later on), the vast majority is now working on their evaluation plans. Another essential step you have to deal with this year is the designation procedure: you have been asked in these days to give us a hint about your schedule. If you have doubts about the procedures, it may be worth referring to this document.

Good to... remember: Reporting on financial data by 31 January

Another thing for your busy “to do” list: in accordance with art.112 of the CPR, 31 January is the first deadline to report on financial data: total and public eligible cost of selected operations, number of selected operations, total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries are the info that are expected to be reported on. The data have to be broken down by category of intervention. We are here to help if you have doubts!

Good to... know: Monitoring Committee composition

According to Art 48(2) of CPR “the list of the members of the Monitoring Committee shall be published”. We just delivered an interpretation of this rule, clarifying that “the obligation to publish the list of members of the MC requires the publication of the names of the representatives, i.e. of the persons representing the authorities, intermediate bodies and partners”. This is in line with the ultimate aim of ensuring transparency, therefore we kindly ask you to stick to this interpretation.
Good to... think about: Annual reporting

This is the first year in which, by 31 May 2016, all 2014-2020 Interreg programmes are requested to approve and send to the Commission an Annual Implementation Report. If you want to start reflecting on it, we can suggest you to look at the Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/207: a model with the characters limits for each field is annex X of the CIR.

For 2007-2013 programmes, as per the Closure Guidelines, no need to submit an Annual Implementation Report this year if your programme does not resort to financial engineering instruments. The Final Report is only due by 31/03/2017, for which you will also be invited to report on a single page on what the programme has achieved, for whom, accompanied by evidence.

Communication strategy and communication officer: what to do

As mentioned earlier in this Flash News, some programmes still need to adopt their communication strategy and designate the communication officer. When this step is finalised (deadline: six months after programme adoption) you should also remember to upload both information (the adopted communication strategy and the designated Communication officer) on SFC. Please be aware that as of beginning of February a new and easier module for uploading the information about the Communication officer on SFC will be in place: that could be a good time for the late comers 😊

Closure: Interact is working for you

Closure of the 2007-13 programmes will be for sure one of the most important activity this year. If you still have questions and wish to know more about this important step, INTERACT is organising on 18 February 2016 an event in Copenhagen to talk about it and clarify the most tricky issues. Information can be found here. DG REGIO will be present...

Initial pre-financing: when it will happen?

The answer is... now! DG REGIO intends to pay initial pre-financings 2016 by the end of January.
This is just to give you good news and not only things to do or to remember :-)  

Interreg Annual event is taking shape.

As already announced, we are working on the organisation of the 2016 Interreg Annual Event, which will take place on 6-7 June in Brussels, starting and ending at the Charlemagne Building in the European quarter. One thing that you may want to note down is that the structure of the event will change: this time, we will have a morning session on Monday 6 June, followed by two visits of projects worth sharing in border areas not so far from Brussels and another morning session on Tuesday 7 June. We hope you will join in numbers!

Suggestion of use of the logo manual.

For the programmes that are using the Interreg logo as designed by Interact: we invite you once again to follow the suggestions provided in the logo manual. Since we are now seeing the first communication deliverables from programmes, we also advise you, whenever possible, to opt for the ideal logo dimension suggested by that manual: this makes the logo bigger, more readable and... nicer!

So... a lot of things to do for all of us in 2016! (who said that after adoption it would be quieter?) and new challenges to overcome together. Let's keep up the good work together-- border regions deserve it!

The Regio D2 Team

You can find this Flash News and previous issues on our webpage