Dear Interreg Partners,

Spring time is ahead with many exciting things to happen in the Interreg world. This new issue of the Flash News will give you a flavour of some of them: events, competitions, challenges and... well, also a bit of reporting (just to avoid losing the habit 😊)

The game is on! RegioStars award 2016 has been launched!

You have a best practice? You have an innovative and inspiring project? Time to show off then! RegioStars Award 2016 has been launched, with five categories in which you can compete:

- Smart Growth: Emerging opportunities in the global economy
- Sustainable Growth: Circular Economy
- Inclusive Growth: Integrated living
- CityStar: Innovative solutions for sustainable urban development
- Effective Management: Making a difference by managing differently.

Application should be submitted online before the 15 April 2016. Be numerous, be proactive, be proud: let’s build upon the 2015 vintage and have Interreg winners again in 2016!
12-13 April, let's gather in Gdansk: Interreg Communication seminar by Interact

INTERact

This year it will be hosted in Gdansk, Poland and it will be a great opportunity to share info, views and perspectives on important communication topics such as branding, evaluation of programmes and the role of communication officers. A training session on photography will also be organised. Here you can find the draft programme and here you have the link to register, before 1 April. See you there in one month!

From Open Days to European Week of Regions and Cities: new name, same great opportunity

Regions and cities for sustainable and inclusive growth: under the new name of "European week of Regions and Cities" the traditional October week of workshops, seminars and meetings will take place this year from Monday 10 to Thursday 13 October. Three thematic strands foreseen: sustained and sustainable economic growth, inclusive economic growth, making ESI funds simpler. More info on the detailed programme and registration in the weeks to come, but you can already SAVE THE DATE!
How to report on programmes' contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

Let's focus on the nitty-gritty now: a letter has been recently sent to Managing Authorities by our Director, asking for the completion of a checklist on the contribution of the programmes to the relevant macro-regional and sea basin strategies. Deadline for this exercise is 31 May 2016 (same as Annual Implementation Reports). Filled checklists should be sent to the functional mailbox REGIO-CHECKLISTS-FOR-MRSS-AND-SBS@ec.europa.eu.

If you missed the communication, you can request the letter, the checklist and the guidelines document for completion to your desk officer.

EFSI and ESIF: how to make them dance together

Since the launch of the so called Juncker Plan, a lot of questions have been raised on how to make the European Fund for Strategic Investment work together with the investment foreseen by our ESI Funds: the Commission is answering these questions through a lot of communication tools, last but not least this brochure about the complementarities between EFSI and ESIF. Enjoy the reading!

A reminder: SFC uploading of communication info

A topic we already touched upon in the last editions of the Flash News: once you have approved your programme Communication Strategy, do not forget to upload it in SFC! There is also a module to upload the designation of the communication officer… this information should also be uploaded as soon as possible. Thanks in advance!
Another… reminder: Eurobarometer factsheets per programme

Just in case you missed it: we published a series of factsheets for Interreg CBC programmes at EU internal borders where the main findings of the Eurobarometer survey on border regions have been analysed in a visual way: we believe it is a good tool to target your communication activities.

And the winner is…? Interreg website awards at the Annual Event

Most of you already have new programme websites online – and some are currently working on it. To acknowledge your creative ideas and communication efforts (and to inspire the late comers), we will reward the best new websites at the Annual Event in Brussels on 6-7 June. All 2014-2020 websites will be reviewed in terms of originality, user-friendliness, transparency and focus on results. The winners will receive a special mention and be given the stage during the event. What do you have to do to be considered? Nothing much- just have your website online by 30 April!

More details in the coming weeks!!!

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

The Regio D2 Team