Dear Interreg Partners,

Spring is almost in the air, the Annual Meeting 2017 is approaching and we have the usual load of super-interesting news for you. Enjoy the reading and suggest it also to your friends... Interreg is a place where you always welcome new friends!

Private sector and Interreg: a French view on this "relationship"

A study performing a quantitative and qualitative analysis on the 2007-13 programming period, to reflect on the lessons learnt about private sector participation in Interreg and to help improving this involvement in the current programming period, has been published at the beginning of the year in France: it was commissioned by French CGET (Commissariat Général à l'Egalité des Territoires) and it is available also in English at the following link. Have an interesting reading!

Save the Date: EU funding for the integration of third countries nationals

DG HOME is organising an Information Day on the funding opportunities for integration of non-EU nationals in our Member States. The event will also be a chance to share good practices and network with actors that have potentially good and innovative ideas on integration. The original deadline for registration has been extended to 15 March 2017... so not many days left if you are interested!
Public Consultation on Smart Specialisation: make your voice heard!

The European Commission is planning a Communication on Smart Specialisation, coordinated by DG REGIO. To make it richer and more accurate a public consultation has been launched to collect views and suggestions, to understand challenges and to identify good practices and lessons learnt from the different categories of stakeholders and regions. Hopefully this will lead to further development of "research and innovation driven growth" through "Smart specialisation strategies". The public consultation is open until 24 March and you are encouraged to participate. Business, public authorities, training institutions, incubators: these are only some of the actors whose voice will be particularly important in shaping the document. Eager to give your views on this important subject? This is the link to the webpage where to find more information and start the survey!

Regio Stars Awards 2017: make Interreg shine!

Note this down in your calendar, put a reminder on your smartphone, and tag it with spray on your office wall: 10 April is the deadline to send your application to the RegioStars Awards 2017. The Award categories for this year are the following five: 1) Smart Specialisation for SMEs innovation; 2) Energy Union: Climate Action; 3) Women Empowerment and Active Participation; 4) Education and Training; 5) CityStars: City in digital transition. We are sure you have excellent projects that could be likely winners so... enrol, people, enrol! Applications can be submitted by the project beneficiaries with the endorsement of the responsible Managing Authority or by the regional or local Managing Authority. The dedicated website can be found here. The Award ceremony will take place on Tuesday 10 October in Brussels, during the European Week of Regions and Cities.
Closure deadline: 31 March 2017 is so close!

We know you are already working like crazy on the preparation of the closure package, we would just like to remind you that all documents should reach us by 31 March. Some of you are already sending them and we are sure you are doing a great job! This is the last piece of the puzzle, the last effort... After that, we will "only" focus on implementing the 2014-2020 period (easy task, no?). For last minute questions, your desk officers in our team will be available to help, of course.

Good stories from #Interreg: a twitter campaign on your great projects

As we are looking back at 2007-2013 we thought it would be a nice thing to celebrate some of the many successes of Interreg projects. That's why we commissioned to a communication company the preparation of 52 infographics (one for each of the 52 programmes in our unit) showcasing some of these successes. The infographics are launched on a daily basis through our Twitter account @Regio_InterregA so... follow us to discover which of your projects are being promoted!

Interreg Annual Review Meeting: Time to register!

Registrations are going on at full speed so if you have not registered... hurry up! We do not want you to be left out! Have a look at this additional info to encourage you to go right now to the InfoRegio page on the Annual Meeting and register: a description of the project visits is available, including
now also the third one. The workshops presentation is available here. It will be a really packed and exciting agenda, you will not regret being there!

Good to know: territorial dimension codes in Annual Implementation Report

Some of you may be already thinking about the Annual Implementation Report 2017. Congratulations, you are great planner! To give full recognition to your enthusiasm, we would like to remind you this important guidance note, that gives a lot of useful information on the reporting on the territorial dimension of financed interventions and the calculation of the programmes’ contribution to the climate change objective. Keep this info at hand when you are preparing your 2017 AIR! And do not forget – this year we go for the full strategic report.

Interreg Volunteers Initiative: the call for volunteering projects is open! Make Interreg a great experience for young people!!!

We are proud to announce that the Interreg Volunteer Youth Initiative officially started on 1st March. The Association of European Border Regions is starting the implementation of the action and it is ready to match your proposed projects for volunteers with the database of young people (more than 23,000 registered!). You will be receiving in your mailbox the materials to apply and all the information needed about this process, but if you want to ask specific questions you can contact Alessandra Cardaci at ivy@aebr.eu

Some volunteers will be deployed already in March, we will keep you posted about their experience!

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