CBC Flash news October 2016

Dear Interreg Partners,

Positively energized by the European Week of Regions and Cities, that provided interesting feedbacks and food for thought for our work, we come back with a new Flash News issue which is full of opportunities announcements, some interesting policy-related news and an annex: fasten your seat belt and enjoy it!

Twitter, Facebook and other accounts... share them!

Social media activity is becoming increasingly important for Interreg programmes. But keeping track of the accounts of every programme is a bit challenging. Linda Talve of Interact had the great idea to create a common repository where you can store, for the availability of each and everyone, the basic info about your social media accounts. This will certainly help in sharing contents in an easier and quicker way. So the suggestion is to visit this link and provide your info as soon as you can!

Connecting Europe Facility: 1.9 billion to support key European transport projects.
One of the many good news in the EWRC week: the third round of CEF call for proposals dedicated to transport has been launched on 13 October. The financial envelope is rich, with 1.1 billion earmarked for projects in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund. For more details, this is a nice reading with interesting comments from Commissioner Bulc, MEP Kramer and CoR member Cattaneo.
Check the past, manage the present, prepare the future: the 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation

Learning from experiences is fundamental in human life... Cohesion Policy also follows this rule: in a moment in which the present (2014-2020 programmes) just kicked off and the future (post-2020 scenario) starts to be reflected upon, looking at the results of the ex-post evaluation for the 2007-2013 can be incredibly telling. The ex-post evaluation analysis procured by the Commission has a work package dedicated to Interreg: among other things, 12 specific case studies are presented, lessons are illustrated and strengths and weaknesses are presented focusing on several fields such as scientific research, protection of the environment and capacity building of institutions. For more information you can visit this page and also read the Commission press release here.

Two new Smart Specialisation Platforms ready to kick off.
Industrial modernisation, Agri-Food: these are two Smart Specialisation Platforms that will soon be operating, adding to the one on Energy which is already up and running. Kick off events for both platforms are foreseen before the end of the year: Barcelona will host on 16-17 November the platform meeting for industrial modernisation. Florence will be the hosting city of the kick off meeting of the Agro-Food Platform on 6-7 December. Note it down in your calendar and give a thought at attending if interested!

Border Needs Study: video of the presentation available on line!

On 18 October the consortium led by SWECO that Unit D2 has contracted to carry out the Border Needs Study made a presentation of its work in Centre Borschette, in Brussels. Member States, border associations, Interreg programmes and other interested DGs of the European Commission attended the presentation. This is, in our intention, an essential work to understand the need of border regions for the next programming period. You missed the
opportunity to follow the event in webstreaming? Don't worry! This is the link to the video that will allow you to re-live the action as it happened!

Focus on Youth: call for proposals for NGOs
Youth has surely been one of the main focuses of the State of the Union Speech delivered last month by President Juncker at the European Parliament. In addition, recalling the Eurobarometer on border regions published last year, youth is one of the sensible target audience in border regions where we need to invest more effort. It is only fair then for us to signal the opportunities happening in this field, such as this interesting call for proposals launched under the Erasmus+ programme, Key Action 3, about Civil Society Cooperation in the filed of youth. Deadline for applications is 29 November 2016.
You can find all the details here.

Annual Implementation Report and Macro-Regional Strategies: a follow up information
We would like to thank all those programmes that last May took the time to fill in the excel checklists requested in parallel to the Annual Implementation Report. Next year, such information will have to be included in the comprehensive 2017 AIR. The most significant findings of this year's exercise will feed into the Commission Report on implementation of Macro-Regional Strategies, due for the end of 2016.

eGovernment at regional and local level: save the date!
How to support the implementation of eGovernment at regional and local level? There are now various funding mechanisms available but the information about them should for sure be promoted and improved. This is one of the reasons behind the organization by DG CONNECT of a seminar on the implementation of eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020: the event will be held in Brussels on 15 November, with an informative morning session and an exchange of practice session foreseen for the afternoon. Interested in participating? Click on this page!
Mid-Term Review: what’s in it for us
The Commission adopted on 14 September the proposal for amendment of the Multiannual Financial Regulation, including amendments to provisions applicable to the ESI Funds. Reduction of administrative burdens for beneficiaries, improving synergies with other EU instruments, flexibility in tackling the migration crisis and some clarifications concerning also ETC are among the proposals made by the Commission. The full package of this legislative proposal can be found here.

Migration related challenges: an exchange platform established by Interact
Last 5 July Interact co-organised with the European Commission a seminar on migration related challenges in Vienna. The event was well attended by Interreg programmes. One concrete outcome of that discussion is the creation of a web platform where programmes can share their experiences of successful projects and practices developed for tackling the current challenges. We firmly believe that the dissemination of good examples could improve the way in which, in the medium term, we face this issue. The platform is hosted on Basecamp, and to get access you have to contact either Ivano (Ivano.magazzu@interact-eu.net) or Ivana (ivana.lazic@interact-eu.net) from Interact: they will be happy to enlarge the circle to new actors!

State Aid in transport: thematic seminar to be held in Brussels
The fourth of a series of thematic seminars on State Aid in the management of the ESI Funds will be held in Brussels on 1 December. It will be a great opportunity to discuss how and when State Aid rules affect investment in transport sector. The seminar is co-organised by DG REGIO and DG COMP at the Hotel Crowne Plaza in Brussels. More info in the initiative can be found here.

The REGIO D2 Team

You can find this Flash News and previous issues on our webpage
Annex - Our organisation chart updated!

The D2 Team underwent quite some changes in the last months... So we think it is a good idea to share with you our updated Organisation Chart!