Dear Interreg Partners,

Please, let us share a few highlights/information with you,

- **New Director for Interreg**
  
  We are pleased to inform you that, as of 1 August 2014, Lena Andersson Pench has been appointed Director in charge a.o. of European Cross-Border Cooperation in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, following the retirement of José Palma Andrés.

- **European Cooperation Day 2014**

  Regions across Europe are celebrating Interreg in a series of events taking place to mark the third edition of European Cooperation Day on 21 September 2014. Activities organised to celebrate European Cooperation Day in 2014 include film festivals, cross-border hikes, bike-rides and cruises, photo competitions, exhibitions and quizzes. Details of all this year's events are available @ [http://www.ecday.eu/](http://www.ecday.eu/)

- **Interreg Video competition results**

  For the 1st time, INTERACT and the European Commission co-organised an Interreg video contest under the theme 'Border issues, border solutions'. The winners participated in an award ceremony during the kick-off event in Milan on 16 September. All eligible entries to this competition will be shown during the Open Days on the 8th and 9th October 2014 in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions Cinema Room. Find out who the four winners are here @: [http://www.ecday.eu/news/announcement-winners-european-cooperation-day-2014-video-contest/](http://www.ecday.eu/news/announcement-winners-european-cooperation-day-2014-video-contest/)

- **Shortage of payment appropriations**

  The European Commission is currently facing insufficient payment appropriations in the 2014 European Union budget to pay claims received from Interreg IV programmes. Even though Amending Budget 3/2014 may be voted towards year end only and therefore more cash may be available only then, **please make sure you keep on submitting all duly certified payment requests via SFC by 31/10/2014**. Payment claims submitted by end October may then be paid in December. Delayed payments by the Commission have no impact on the application of the automatic decommitment rule and every claim submitted counts towards meeting your specific financial objective for the end of 2014.

- **Submission of Interreg IVA programmes**

  For your information, as of mid-September, **16 Interreg V-A programmes have been submitted to the Commission**. Many more programmes are expected to meet the deadline of 22 September 2014. Busy days ahead for everyone...
• **ARACHNE: The new software tool to fight fraud**
  Many countries will install and use a new Commission funded and developed proactive risk scoring tool called ARACHNE which helps with the detection of potential fraud. Project ARACHNE aims at providing the Member States' authorities involved in management of the Structural Funds with an operational tool to identify their most risky projects. For more information please contact the competent ministry/institution in your Member State. The utilization of ARACHNE is not mandatory but is highly recommended.

• **OPEN DAYS 2014**
  We invite you to participate in this year’s Open Days. The REGIO D2 team is directly organising two workshops:
  - **07C02 Arctic Cooperation: Getting the most out of EU funding** on 07/10/2014 [09:00-10:45]
  - **08C12 Solving border obstacles - Cross-border cooperation and multilevel governance** on 08/10/2014 [11:15-13:00]


• **New Interreg logo**
  The newly developed Interreg logo will help us to get people to easily recognise our programmes and projects. We encourage all cooperation partners to make use of this new Interreg logo, so that we can present a coherent and memorable image of our programmes and projects. Here is the new logo:

![Interreg logo](image)

• **Meet the REGIO D2 Team**