Dear Interreg Partners,

The summer gave us the opportunity to rest, relax... and think about sharing a lot of useful info with you. The coming months will be particularly dense in activities, tasks and deadlines in the cross-border cooperation world. Take five minutes to have a look to what we’ve prepared for you!

Reminder 1- The importance of designation

We know it is not nice to start with a reminder but we would like to recall that the level of notifications of designation remains worryingly low. These delays have serious implication in terms of readiness of programmes in submitting payment application. This could not only delay desirable results, increase workload and administrative burden in the months and years to come, but it bears the risk of passing a negative signal on the (lack of) need for Interreg budget ahead of post 2020 preparation. So the bottom line is: please, speed up designation.

Reminder 2- Final Implementation Report: assessing communication activities.

You are busy closing the 2007-2013 period. This task includes meeting various reporting requirements. We would like to recall one of them, based upon Art.4(2) of Regulation 1828/2006: "The annual implementation report for the year 2010 and the final implementation report shall contain a chapter assessing the results of the information and publicity measures in terms of visibility and awareness of operational programmes and of the role played by the Community, as provided for in point (e) of Article 2(2).” Therefore the Final Implementation report shall dedicate some space to the assessment of the effectiveness of your information activity. In addition, we would also like to remind you that a one pager presenting in a concise and effective way the programme achievements should also be provided, as per the August note of our Director. Don’t forget it!
Save the Date: Interreg Annual Meeting 2017 will be held in Malta

The event is still largely under construction, but we would like to inform you that:

1- Date: the Maltese Presidency has indicated its interest in hosting the event from 26 to 28 April in Malta

2- Based on your feed-back further to the 2016 meeting, we are eager to shape the next event in a definitely participative manner – more to come very soon!

ESIF Open Data Platform getting a new boost

The colleagues working at the ESIF Open Data Platform provided us all this summer with a new, important and awaited upgrade: individual programme output indicators are available also for Interreg programmes: you just need to visit this page and click on the programme name you are interested in. New year, the plan is to extend the platform to also record progress towards the output indicators announced for each programme, as recorded in the 2016 Annual Implementation Report!

Interreg in the spotlight at RegioStars Award 2016!

One final showdown on 11 October in Brussels, five categories to be awarded a prize: engines are about to be started on the RegioStars Award 2016 ceremony with a MASSIVE presence of Interreg finalists! The "Crossroads" project from Interreg Belgium-Netherlands is in the final of the category Smart Growth, the project "Circular Ocean" from the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme has made it to the final in the category Sustainable Growth. In the Inclusive Growth Category we have two (!) Interreg finalists, namely "Diversity4Kids" from Italy-Austria and "Barrierefrei" from Austria-Germany. Let's go for the gold medal in all three categories! Details about all the finalists can be found here.
**Looking for new players in the game? Good practice in promotion of calls**

You wouldn't mind opening up your Interreg programme to new actors, to new potential beneficiaries and new faces that could boost the degree of participation in your call? Interact has published an interesting document reporting on some best practices in the promotion of calls. Worth reading before planning your next big call for projects 😊

**Ekiden on 15 October: run Interreg, run!**

This year the Ekiden run will be exactly at the end of the European Week of Regions and City. A good occasion to stay a couple of days more in Brussels and do some sport in an engaging team atmosphere! You just need a team of six runners (3 for 5 km, 2 for 10 Km and 1 for 7,2 Km). Ah, you also need running shoes of course!

**European Cooperation Day: put yourself on the map!**

21 September, our special day, is approaching fast. This year it will be kicked off in Bratislava with a conference on 16 September in the context of the Slovakian Presidency of the EU. Interact has produced great communication products for the 2016 EC Day, like this promotional video. You also have an interactive map available here, where all the European Cooperation Day events and their
location can be easily found: 39 events are already there and counting. So do not wait too much to put yourself on the map 😊

**EWRC: do not forget to register to our workshops!**

Deadline for registration to this year European Week of Regions and Cities (former Open Days) is 26 September. As cross-border cooperation unit we are organizing two interesting events on "Jobs at the borders: how border regions can boost employment opportunities" and on "Mind the gap! Cross-border rail investment in EU border regions". If you are interested to attend (which we really recommend, of course 😊) the registration link is [here](#).

**Single Digital Gateway public consultation: make your voice heard**

A Single Digital Gateway that could provide easy access to Single Market information, procedures, assistance and advice for citizens and business. The idea is to provide in a single place all the information people need to do business cross-border, travel, live, study or work in another EU country. In view of its creation, DG GROW has launched a public consultation which will run until 21 November 2016: views of stakeholders on the identified problems and policy options will be collected to provide valuable input to the future Commission policy proposal. You can access relevant information and the public consultation page by clicking [here](#).

**Still wanting your video!**

By the way, we are still looking forward to receive your video showing us what Interreg is/has done for you, following the example we showed during the Annual Meeting. The mailbox waiting impatiently for the fruits of your wonderful creativity is the following: REGIO-INTERREG4U@ec.europa.eu

You can find this Flash News and previous issues on our [webpage](#).