from INTERREG IVC (2007-2013)

‘Learning by sharing’

Local / regional authorities exchange the experience with others in Europe facing similar challenges in order to improve their practices / policies.

Public authorities
Bodies governed by public law

EU 27
Norway
Switzerland
From 2007 to 2013, 14000 local authorities applied in 1357 projects!

**204** projects approved

**2295** partners

**Innovation and the knowledge economy**

- Innovation, research and technology development: 37 (31%)
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs: 20 (17%)
- Information Society: 18 (16%)
- Employment, human capital and education: 44 (36%)

**Environment and risk prevention**

- Natural and technological risks: 16 (19%)
- Water management: 10 (12%)
- Waste management: 9 (11%)
- Biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage: 7 (8%)
- Energy and sustainable transport: 5 (6%)
- Cultural heritage and landscape: 38 (44%)
Main achievements (as of 2014)

Objective: EU wide exchange of experience / capacity building

- 90% of EU NUTS 2 regions covered
- 7,935 staff with increased capacity
- 407 ‘spin-off activities’

Objective: Identification / sharing / transfer of good practices

- 6,475 good practices identified
- 511 successfully transferred

Overall objective: Improvement of regional and local policies

- 1,943 policies addressed
- 571 policies improved

See illustrations of results in the programme Annual Report!
Thematic programme capitalisation

12 sets of reports, brochures & policy papers

All available at: www.interreg4c.eu/capitalisation/
WHAT IS INTERREG EUROPE
**Policy learning** among public authorities to improve performance of policies & programmes for regional development, in particular **Structural Funds programmes**

**EU Cohesion policy**

**Goal 1:**
Investment for growth & jobs (G&J)
EUR 340 billion

**Goal 2:**
European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)
EUR 10.2 billion

**Interreg Europe**
EUR 359 m
Eligible area

EU28

+ Norway

+ Switzerland
Thematic focus

- Research and innovation
- SME Competitiveness
- Low carbon economy
- Environment and resource efficiency
Why? Rationale

Interreg Europe:
dedicated to improving policy instruments

Public administrations:
organisations responsible for policy design and implementation

Public administrations:
core target group of Interreg Europe
ACTIONS WE SUPPORT
2 actions supported

Policy Learning Platforms

Interregional Cooperation Projects
Policy Learning Platforms

EU-wide capacity building on:

- Research & innovation
- Low-carbon economy
- SME competitiveness
- Environment & resource efficiency

A **service** provided per theme via:

- Online collaborative tool  +  Expert team
Examples of services

- **Advice** regional stakeholders and running projects
- Organise and facilitate **peer reviews** among regions
- Organise and facilitate **thematic workshops**
- Analyse and disseminate the **content of projects** through dedicated events & publications
- Facilitate **knowledge sharing** and networking among regions on the collaborative tool
Users

Bodies involved in management and implementation of Growth & Jobs and European Territorial Cooperation programmes

Bodies involved in policy implementation relevant to the four programme themes

Beneficiaries of G&J and ETC programmes

Two access levels

- **Public** information for all users
- **Restricted** area for registered users for extra services
Interregional Cooperation Projects

(subsidy = 85% of eligible costs)

1. Implementation in 2 phases

**Phase 1**
Policy exchange of experience (1 to 3 years) ending with production of 1 action plan per region

**Phase 2**
Monitoring of action plan implementation (2 years) + possible pilot actions

2. Creation of local ‘stakeholder groups’

+ involve all organisations linked to policy process
+ reduce administrative/legal obstacles
Who should get involved?

**Managing Authorities**
Find tried and tested measures to implement in your programme

**Regional/local authorities**
Share and implement good practices coming from across Europe

**Agencies, institutes, private non-profit bodies**
Get involved with your policymaker and contribute to better policy implementation

*Confirmation of the eligibility status: check with your contact point*
How do you improve policies?

- Support **new projects**
- Change programme **governance**
- Change programme **structure**
Support new projects

**Practice**

Research and Development Card: advisory & financial support to SMEs for the development of innovative products

From: Västra Götaland (SE)  
To: Lower Silesia (PL)

5.4 million zł (MEUR 1.35) financed from the ESF Operational Programme of Lower Silesia
Change programme governance

Modification of the monitoring system for the evaluation of the innovation measures in the ROP of:

- Bretagne (FR)
- PACA (FR)
- Puglia (IT)
- Wielkopolska (PL)
Change programme structure

Sub-theme: Employment, human capital, education

Partner concerned: Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Policy improved: Bulgarian ESF development programme modified

Vasil Asenov from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria

“In the beginning, the ESF ‘Development’ programme was designed only to tackle unemployment after mass redundancies in enterprises. The foreseen budget was EUR 75 million. Thanks to ESF6 CIA, we were able to redesign the programme and include preferential treatment to people age 50+. It helped a lot, as it gave us a good idea how people in these target groups could be included in trainings.”
Other benefits

- Cooperation between actors who would normally compete
- Visibility / international recognition / Attractiveness
- Capacity building / contribution to creativity and innovation
How is it reflected at project level?

Participation of public administration: **pre requisite**

- e.g. When Structural Funds programme addressed, Managing Authorities (MA) / Intermediate Bodies (IB) should be involved

- If organisation responsible for the policy instrument addressed is not a partner, it should provide a **letter of support:**
  - a commitment to fully support and closely follow the project implementation
Letter of support

Required for a partner when:

- Structural Funds programme is addressed, but the MA/IB (or other relevant bodies) in charge of the management of this Structural Funds programme is not directly involved in the project as a partner

- Another policy instrument (outside Structural Funds) is addressed, but the organisation responsible for this instrument is not directly involved in the project
New role for MAs/IBs*

- Active participation as project partners
- Political endorsement as providers of letters of support
- Active involvement in phase 2 of projects (roll-out of the action plan)
- Strategic communication to relevant stakeholders
- Active use of policy learning platforms

*Managing Authorities / Intermediate Bodies*
Thank you!