



TAKING
COOPERATION
FORWARD

-  *“Europa post 2020: quale futuro per le Regioni nelle Politiche di Coesione UE?”*
Venice | 15 June 2018
-  **Le prospettive della Cooperazione Territoriale Europea nel quadro della programmazione 2021-2027**
-  Luca Ferrarese | Head of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Joint Secretariat

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**Architecture
and budget**



**Thematic
focus**



**Simplification
and delivery**



THE INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME



146 MILLION
CITIZENS

9 PROGRAMME
COUNTRIES

76 REGIONS
AND CITIES

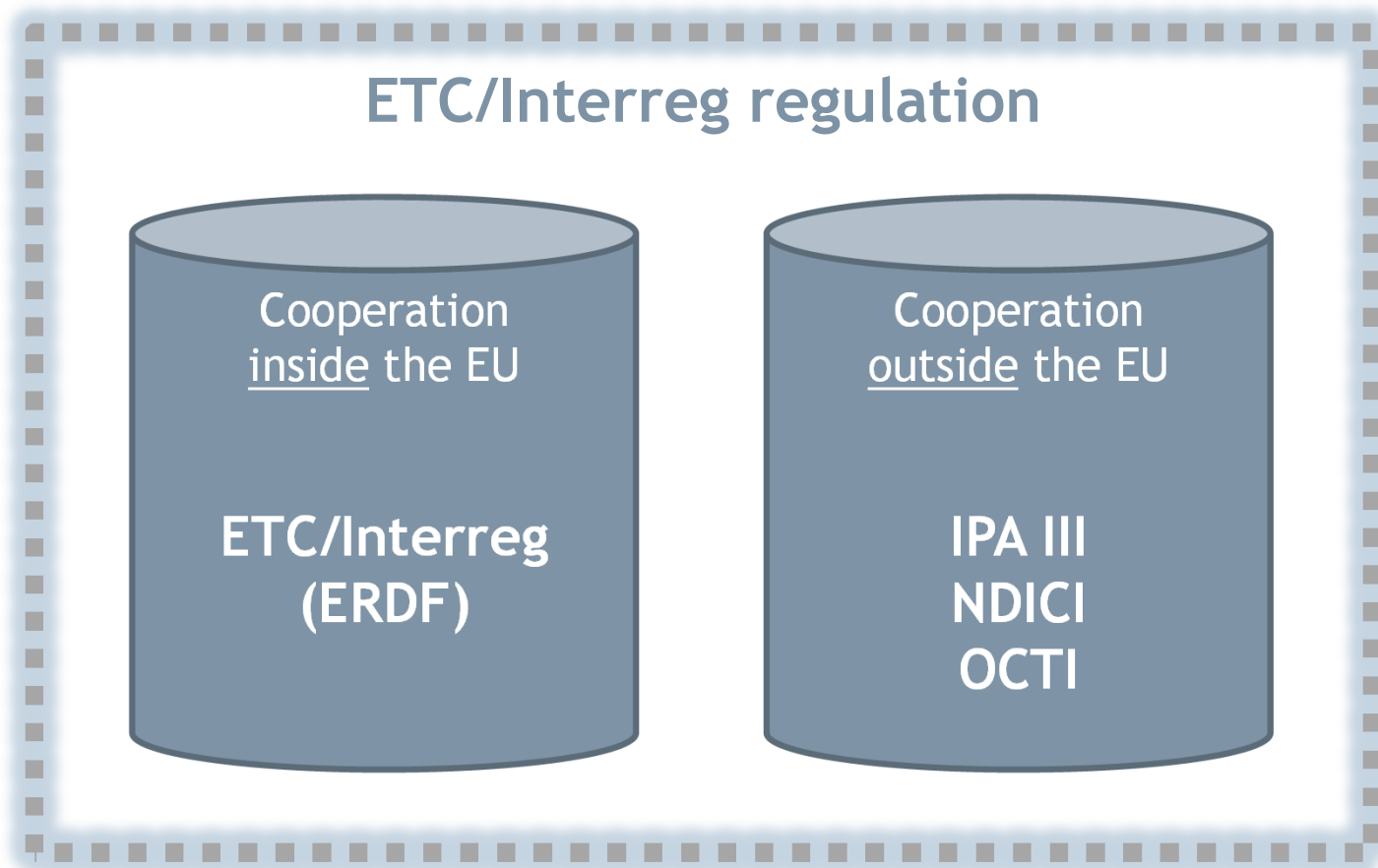
246 MILLION
EUROS ERDF

4 THEMATIC
PRIORITIES

10 SPECIFIC
OBJECTIVES

- 85 projects funded in 2 calls
- 160 m EUR allocated (70%)
- 900+ partners involved

EU COOPERATION IS UNDER A SAME UMBRELLA



A NEW ARCHITECTURE FOR INTERREG



Component 1:
“Land” cross-
border
cooperation

1.A
internal cross-
border
cooperation

1.B
external cross-
border
cooperation

Component 2:
Transnational
and maritime
cooperation

2.A
inland
transnational
cooperation

2.B
maritime
transnational
cooperation

Component 3:
Outermost
regions'
cooperation

*Direct or
indirect
management*

Component 4:
Interregional
cooperation

4.A
capacity
building for IGJ
and ETC
objectives
(INTERACT)

4.B
territorial
analyses
(ESPON)

Component 5:
Interregional
Innovation
Investments

*Direct or
indirect
management*

*(Smart
Specialization)*

CONSIDERATIONS ON ARCHITECTURE



CBC+TNC

- CBC limited only to “land borders” → maritime CBC integrated into Transnational Cooperation (Component 2B)

Others

- Shifting of Interreg from shared to direct or indirect management
- All 4 cooperation requirements (joint development, implementation, financing, staffing) are mandatory (with exceptions)
- Exclusion of Large Enterprises from ERDF funding (which definition of LE?)

Interregional

- Interregional programmes **URBACT** and **Interreg Europe** are discontinued
- **INTERACT** reinforced → capacity building for MAs of mainstreaming programmes
- Project-based interregional cooperation limited to the new “**Interregional Innovation Investments**”



BUDGET



Land CBC (C1)	Land TNC (C2A)	Maritime (C2B)	Outermost (C3)	Interregional (C4)	Innovation (C5)
4.440	1.460	1.190	270	100	970

= 8.430 mn ERDF

- Direct comparison with 2014-2020 **difficult** (indexation, UK-share)
- Whatever perspective taken, **drastic budget cut** (by more than 10 %)
- Reduction of CBC by one third → ca. - **2,5 bn ERDF**
- Increase of transnational component (+ 600 mn ERDF) with maritime CBC does by far **not compensate loss in CBC**
- Reduced co-financing rate of Interreg → max **70 %** (with exceptions)



ALLOCATION PER MEMBER STATE (ANNEX XXII CPR)



Land CBC (C1)

→ NUTS3 population within **25 km** from the border

Land TNC (C2A)

→ Whole Member State population (= TNC envelope x Member State population share in the EU)

Maritime TNC (C2B)

→ Whole Member State population + NUTS3 population within **25 km** from the border coastline (up to **150 km** from the overseas coastline)

Interregional (C4, C5)

→ 1.070 mn ERDF not allocated per Member State



THE DESIGN OF TRANSNATIONAL FUNCTIONAL AREAS



Paradigm

Cohesion policy is a place-based policy



Change

New regulation drafts introduces the concept of “functional areas”.
Programmes should be shaped on the basis of this concept



Challenge (1)

What is the “right level” to define a functional area?
Macro-regional, national, regional or local?
Only TNC programmes?



Challenge (2)

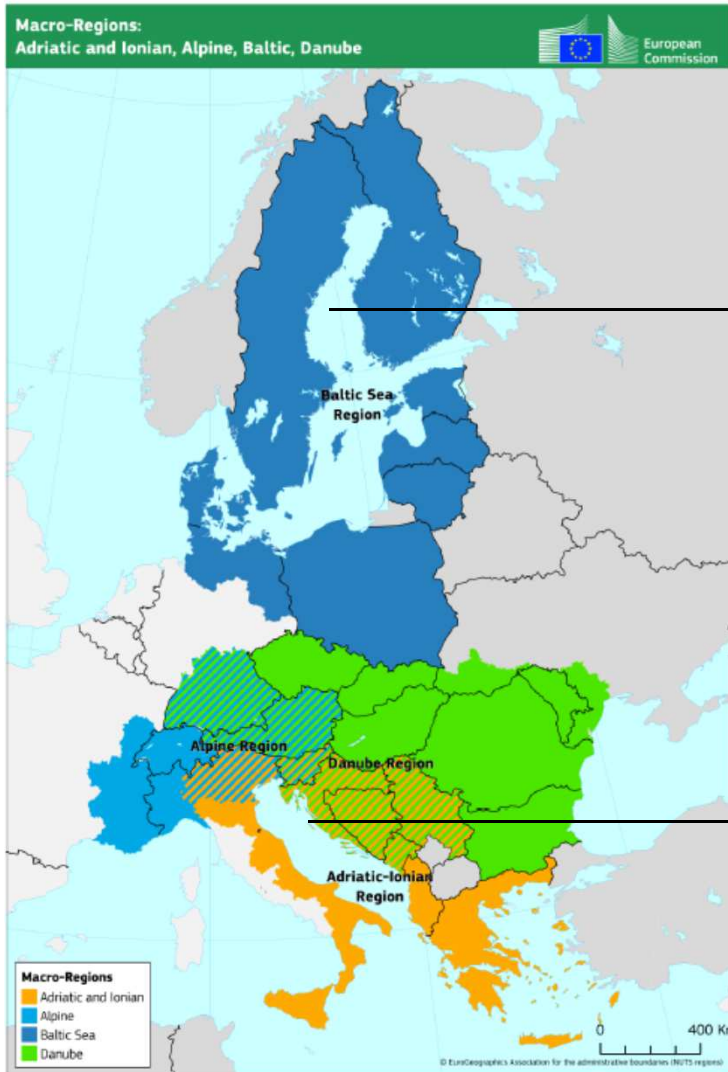
Which criteria make an area “functional”?

Are these only geographic “hard” features or also “soft” ones such as socio-economic features, common identity and shared values?

Continuation of some transnational programmes is put in question by the European Commission (CENTRAL EUROPE, South-West Europe, Balkan Med)



TRANSNATIONAL FUNCTIONAL AREAS: AN EXAMPLE

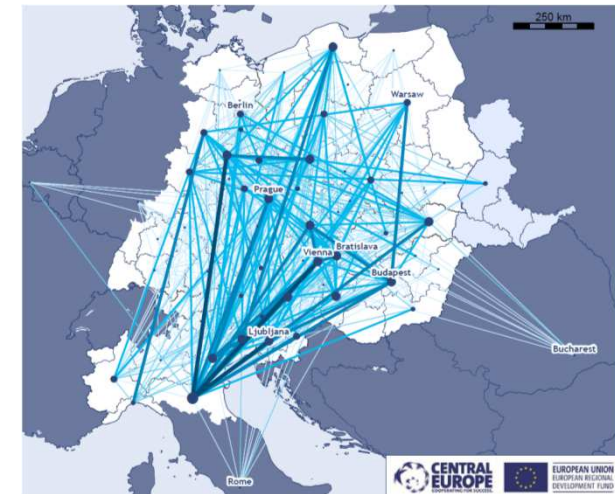


Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



- CE is the industrial core of the EU, therefore...
- there are strong flows along the Baltic-Adriatic corridor



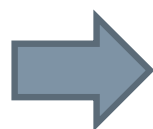
- The former “iron curtain” divide remains a shared challenge (7 Cohesion Report),
- ...however shared values and a common identity are building territorial integration

BROADER EU THEMATIC FRAMEWORK



2021-2027

- 5 Policy Objectives:
 1. *a smarter Europe*
 2. *a greener, low-carbon Europe*
 3. *a more connected Europe*
 4. *a more social Europe*
 5. *a Europe closer to citizens*
- 21 Specific Objectives for ERDF
- 2 Specific Objectives for Interreg (3 actions)
- 5 Specific Objectives of PO4 for Interreg



Thematic priorities at EU level are broader, therefore...

2014-2020

- 11 Thematic Objectives:
- 38 Investment priorities for ERDF
- 8 Investment priorities for Interreg



THEMATIC FOCUS FOR INTERREG



Policy Objectives

1. a smarter Europe
2. a greener, low-carbon Europe
3. a more connected Europe
4. a more social Europe
5. a Europe closer to citizens



≥ 60%
to 3 POs



Interreg Specific Objectives

- a better Interreg governance (internal cooperation)
- a safer and more secure Europe (external cooperation)



≥ 15%

Transnational cooperation

Alignment with objectives of macro-regional strategies by:

- 100 % if inland cooperation (2.A)
- 70 % if maritime cooperation (2.B)



SIMPLIFICATION: A STEP FORWARD



▪ Communication

- All ETC programmes to be branded with “Interreg”

▪ Eligibility

- In CPR, substantially the same provisions (not yet) introduced by “Omnibus”
- New simplified cost options introduced for Interreg

▪ Control and audit

- Single audit principle (mainstreaming)
- Centralization of audit sampling and extrapolation of errors (Interreg)
- Stronger role of the MA

▪ Governance

- No longer certifying authority
- No longer designation

Gold plating (from EC and MS)
has to be avoided



BETTER DELIVERY: MORE CAN BE DONE



Pre-financing to programmes has been further reduced, thus limiting the possibility to make advance payments to beneficiaries → should be increased (linking to commitment of funds)



There is room for further cutting red tape. For example:

- Harmonise and simplify management verifications (FLC) by aligning rules to centrally managed programmes
- Apply “progressive” annual accounting requirements
- State aid: enlarge the scope of GBER and align it to Interreg



CONCLUSIONS

Transnational cooperation and Interreg as such build trust across borders and foster European integration for a more competitive Europe



- 1 **Budget for Interreg/ETC should be increased** also recognizing **new functions** (innovation investments)
- 2 **Functional areas and programmes** should be designed in order to build **territorial integration at all levels**
- 3 Even more can be done on **simplification**





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