Co-funded by the European Union

LAND BRANDENBURG

Policy learning in practice

Supporting cooperation actions in practice

Nicolas Singer
Head of Unit - Projects & Platform| Interreg Europe

Thorsten Kohlisch
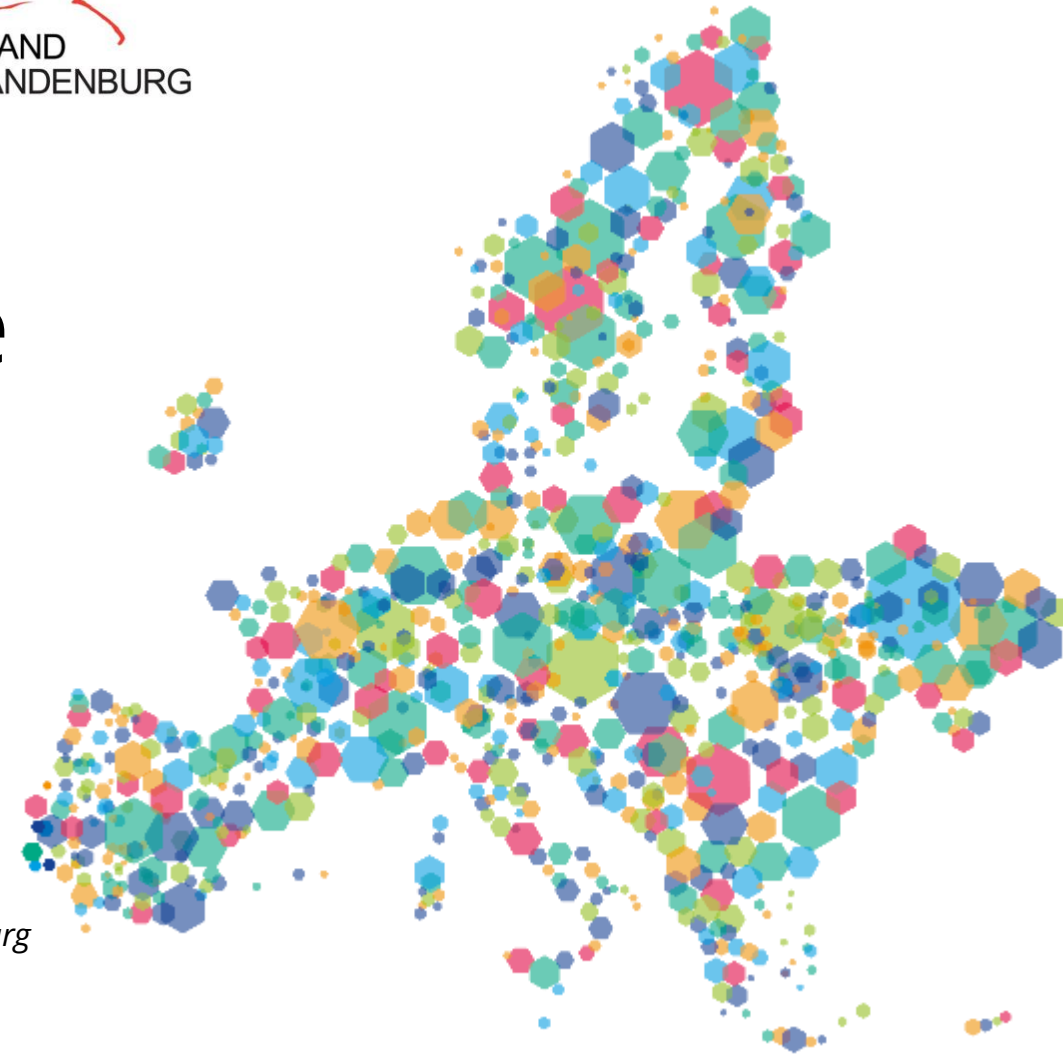*Lead Manager | Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform*

Lars Wirbatz
Head of Unit| Ministry of Finance and European Affairs of the Federal State of Brandenburg

02 JULY 2024

Cooperation actions: How to bring down barriers to build sustainable partnerships among EU IJG Goal Managing Authorities
Palermo, Italy

Follow us on social media

Interreg Europe

Co-funded by
the European Union

LAND
BRANDENBURG

Nicolas Singer
*Head of Unit
Interreg Europe
Projects & Platform*

Thorsten Kohlisch
*Lead Manager
Interreg Europe
Policy Learning Platform*

Lars Wirbatz
*Head of Unit
Ministry of Finance
and European Affairs of the
Federal State of Brandenburg*

Follow us on social media

Sharing solutions for better regional policy

MEUR 394

PROGRAMME BUDGET

1 priority

Dedicated to capacity building

36

COUNTRIES INVOLVED

2 actions

- Projects
- Policy Learning Platform

Interreg Europe OBJECTIVE

To improve regional development policies
(including Investment for jobs and growth goal programmes)

How?

Through exchange of experience, innovative approaches and capacity building (in relation to the identification & transfer of good practices)

- Primarily dedicated to **policymakers**
- Focus on **exchange of experience**

→ Different from cross-border or transnational cooperation

Focus on **mainstream**: unique feature of Interreg Europe

Objective of improving **mainstream programmes** always present

2000-2006 – topics for cooperation (including Objective 1 & 2)

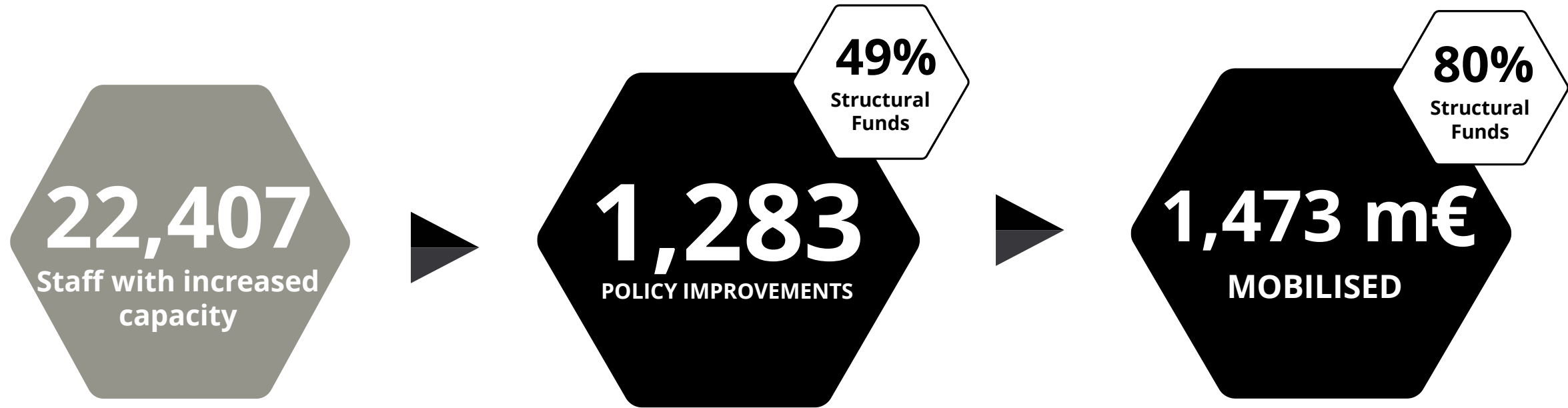2007-2013 – 'Capitalisation projects': transfer practices into mainstream programmes

2014-2020 – min requirement for all project to focus on maintream programmes

2014-2020 **achievements**

- 258 projects addressing **1,704** policy instruments

- **78%** are IGJ goal programmes

- In **33%** of the cases, MAs/Intermediate bodies are partners

- **98%** of projects mix more with less advanced regions

Interregional cooperation works!

258 projects supported during the 2014-2020 period

22,407
Staff with increased capacity

49%
Structural Funds

1,283
POLICY IMPROVEMENTS

80%
Structural Funds

1,473 m€
MOBILISED

90% of NUTS2 regions represented:
51 % come from more developed regions
9 % from in transition regions and
40 % from less developed regions

316m €
Interreg Europe ERDF spent on projects so far

x 4.7

leverage effect

Examples of achievement

ITHACA
Interreg Europe

CLUSTERS3
Interreg Europe

◎ Liverpool, UK

Telemedicine practice

Transferred into the **Malopoloska OP**: 'Tele-Angel' project (MEUR 8.9) dedicated to distance monitoring of dependant people

👍 Technology Supported Health Service at Scale

COPD service redesign and large scale deployment to support patients ability to self-care with digital technology.

Location: Merseyside, United Kingdom

◎ Piemonte, IT

Cluster management practice

Transferred into **Basque County OP**: new selection criterion introduced in TO1 calls to support the involvement of cluster organisations in the projects

👍 Regional Cluster support strategy

Establishement of seven regional innovation cluster in seven thematic areas in line with RIS3 in order to support SMEs competiteveness.
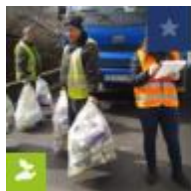
Location: Piemonte, Italy (Italia)

Examples of achievement

SMART WASTE
Interreg Europe

PERFECT
Interreg Europe

⌖ Zlatograd, BG

⌖ Amsterdam, NL

Waste separation practice

Sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) practice

Transferred into the **Lithuanian Multifund OP**: 'Depacker' project (MEUR 1.4) dedicated to create a sorting infrastructure for the collection of waste which allows to separate food waste from general waste stream.

Transferred into **Slovakia OP**: under Priority Axis 2 "Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection", launch of a call dedicated to 'green infrastructure' with new selection criteria based on adaptation measures (e.g., green roofs, rainwater gardens, swales)

Support for improvement of waste manageme...   15/07/2020
Separate municipal waste collection in South Central Bulgaria - mission possible
Location: Южен централен, Bulgaria (България)   Project: SMART WASTE

📅 Peer-to-peer meeting in Amsterdam
07/05/2018 - 08/05/2018
The City of Amsterdam hosted a two day peer-to-peer meeting for partners from...
Type: Project

Examples of achievement (embedding cooperation

S34Growth
Interreg Europe

4 policies improved

Basque Country ERDF ROP 2014- 2020

Basque Government (ES)

Launch of an **interregional** voucher scheme (EUR 300,000)

Finland's structural funds program 2014-2020

Council of Tampere Region (FI) & Baltic Institute of Finland (FI)

Launch of a calls dedicated to the application and exploitation of Artificial Intelligence

Lombardy ERDF ROP 2014-2020

AFIL - Intelligent Factory Lombardy Cluster (IT)

Improvements of the Innodriver S3-2017 voucher programme (fixed cost for the services, a standard cost for staff)

NORTE 2020 OP

National Innovation Agency (PT)

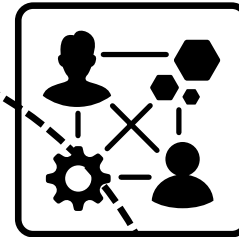New call "Demonstration Projects - Seal of Excellence", phase 2 of the SME Instrument (13.250.000 EUR)

Platform **in a nutshell**

Policy-learning services through access to:

People
Meet our **community**
(thematic events, webinars)

Knowledge
Find **policy solutions**
(good practice database,
thematic publications)

Expertise
Get **policy advice**
(peer reviews, matchmakings,
policy helpdesk)

The platform TEAM

Marc Pattinson

Arnault Morisson

Luc Schmerber

Erik Gløersen

Katharina Krell

Simon Hunkin

Rene Tõnnisson

Laura Varisco

Mart Veliste

Astrid Severin

Magda Michaliková

Thorsten Kohlisch

Elena Ferrario

Karine Gevorgyan

Mario Vadepied

Valentine Dufaye

Lotte van Meijel
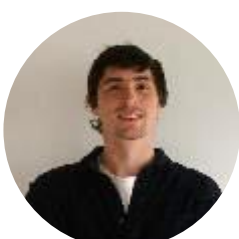
Vladimir Sestovic

Antoine Duquennoy

SMART

GREEN

CONNECTED

SOCIAL

CITIZENS

GOVERNANCE

Access to KNOWLEDGE

Wealth of **policy solutions** available
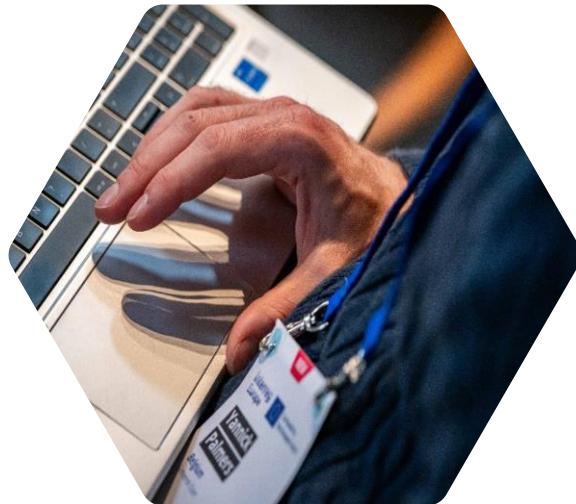
Database of +3,000
good practices from all EU

Analytical **policy briefs,**
news and publications

https://interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions

Online LEARNING POSSIBILITIES

Relevant good practices: concrete and practice-proven

- CENTROPE transnational innovation voucher (CENTROPE region)

- The Science Offensive – trinational financial instrument supporting cross-border R&I projects (France/Germany)

- Cross-border smart specialisation strategy Galicia - Northern Portugal

- Biobase Europe pilot plant (Belgium/Netherlands)

Access to PEOPLE
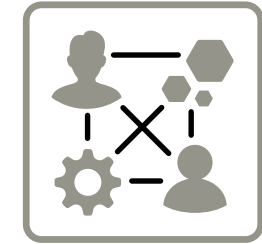
Policy inspiration **from practitioners to practitioners**

15,000+ Interreg Europe **community members**

Thematic **policy-learning** events

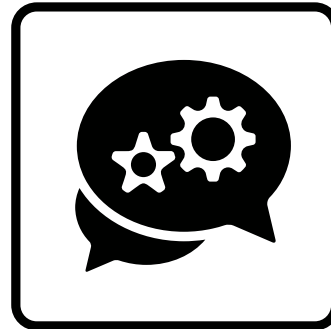https://www.interregeurope.eu/community

Access to EXPERTISE

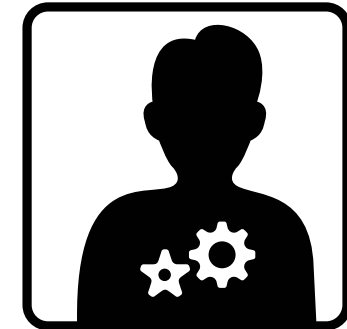## Policy advice services from our thematic experts (for newcomers)

Peer reviews
2-day meeting
in-dept analysis &
peer recommendations

Matchmakings
2-hour discussion
solutions on how to
resolve a policy challenge

Policy helpdesk
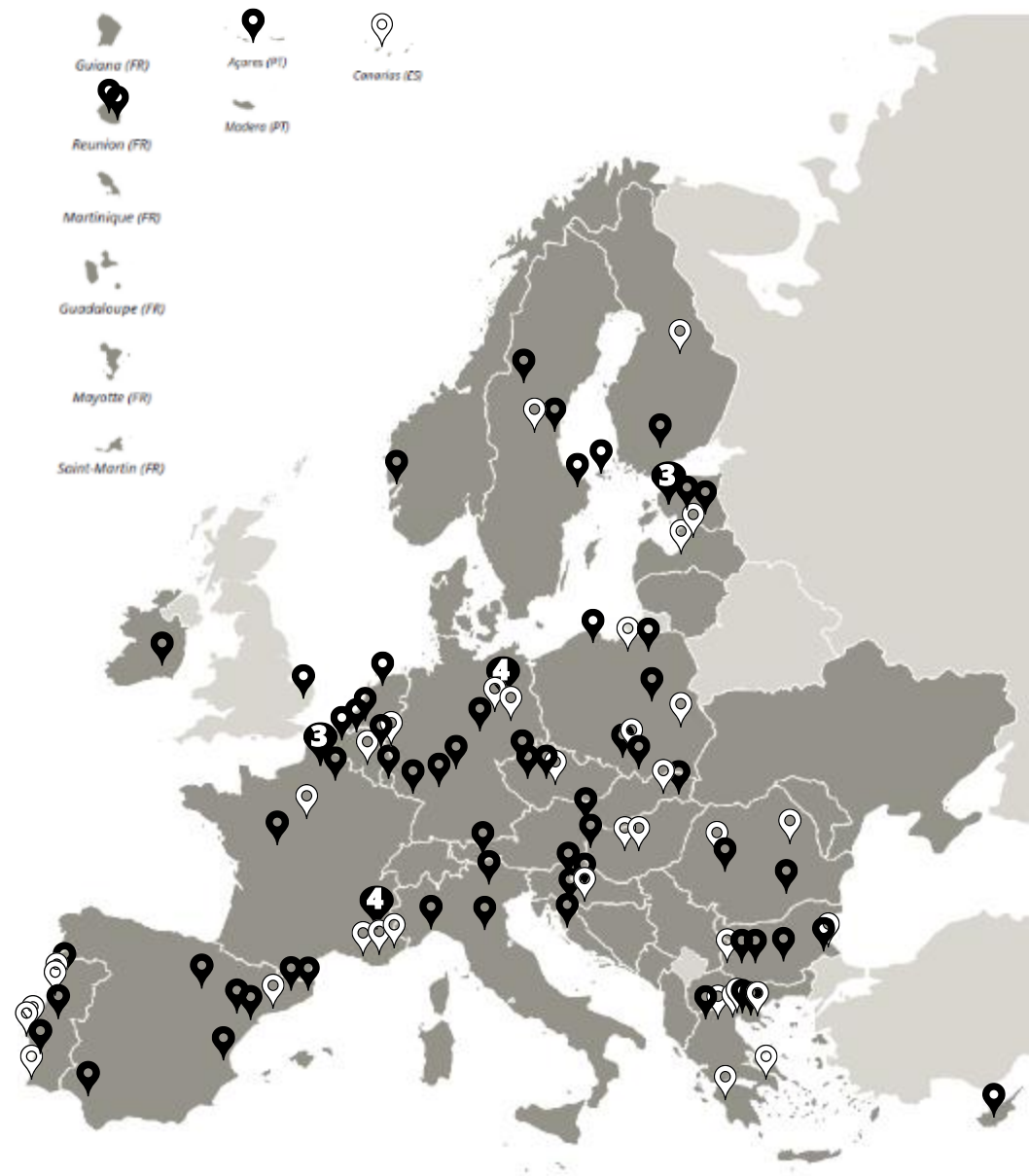Expert feedback with
ideas on how to resolve
a policy challenge

https://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice

Peer learning IN PRACTICE

📍 **76 peer reviews** implemented since 2019

8 peer reviews in the pipeline

◎ **47 matchmaking** sessions

Apply to benefit from expert support any time
https://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice

Guiana (FR)

Açores (PT)

Canarias (ES)

Reunion (FR)

Madera (PT)

Martinique (FR)

Guadaloupe (FR)

Mayotte (FR)

Saint-Martin (FR)

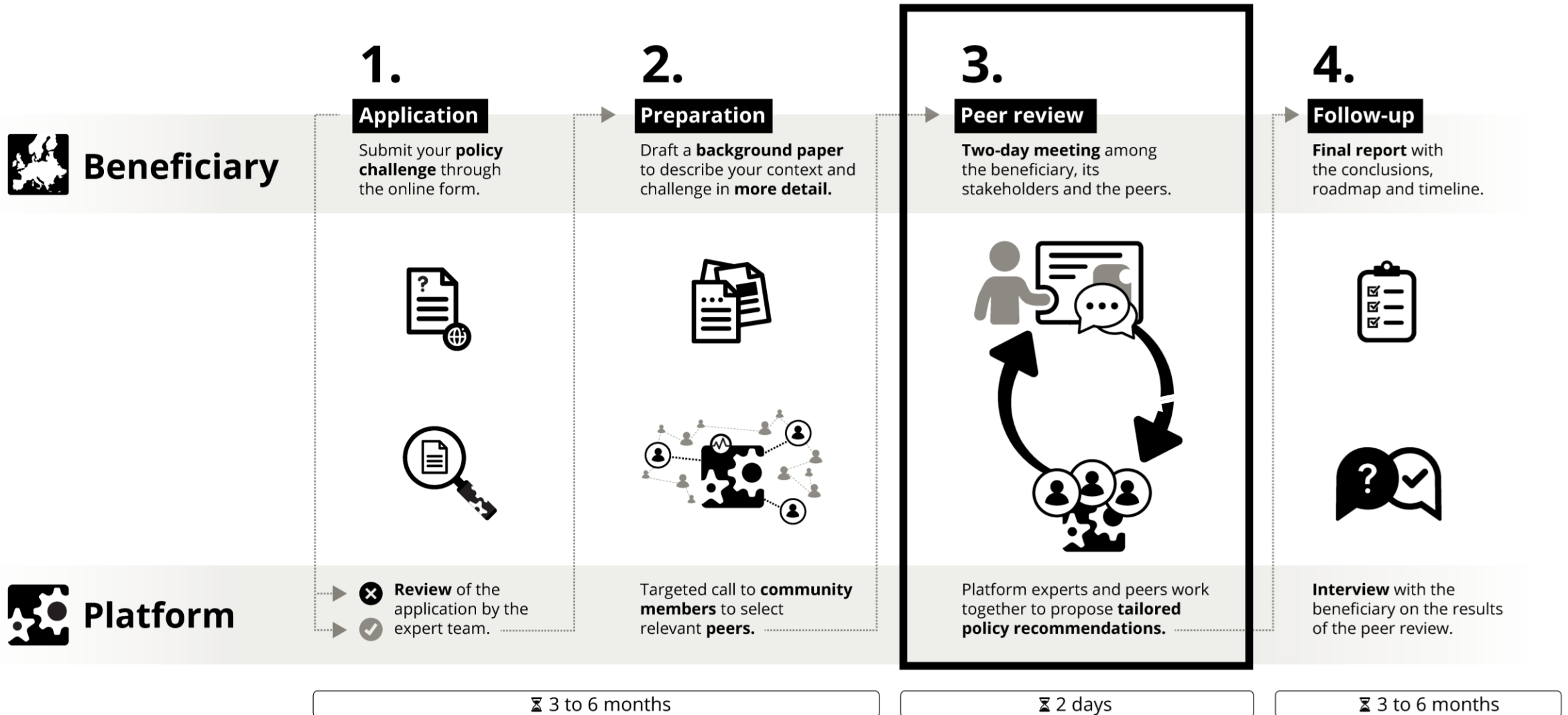# **Learning and sharing** as a peer

Brandenburg's motivation
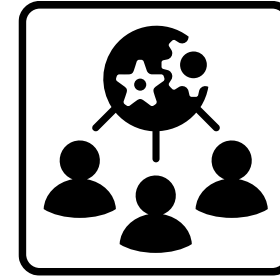
Why embedding cooperation ?

- **Internationalisation a key principle for all EU Funds in Brandenburg (i.e. business, innovation)**

- **Strategic priorities**
  - ➢ Broad and functional view on regional development along the border with PL
  - ➢ Strategic cooperation with Western Poland - Oder Partnership
  - ➢ Strategic partnerships with regions in the Baltic Sea Region

- **All funding measures include options to conduct transnational projects**

- **Strong demand for INTERREG funding**

- **How can we further promote projects in the field of innovation?**

Three strategic questions for the peer review

- **How to structure ERDF-support mechanisms for interregional innovation support ?**

- **How to better provide regional stakeholders with the necessary support to engage in interregional projects**

- **How to support SMEs to engage in interregional and/or international R&D&I projects?**

Peer review **step-by-step**

Beneficiary

Platform

1.

Application

Submit your **policy challenge** through the online form.

Review of the application by the expert team.

2.

Preparation

Draft a **background paper** to describe your context and challenge in **more detail.**

Targeted call to **community members** to select relevant **peers.**

3.

Peer review

Two-day meeting among the beneficiary, its stakeholders and the peers.

Platform experts and peers work together to propose **tailored policy recommendations.**

4.

Follow-up

Final report with the conclusions, roadmap and timeline.

Interview with the beneficiary on the results of the peer review.

⏳ 3 to 6 months   ⏳ 2 days   ⏳ 3 to 6 months

Peer review **KEY FEATURES**

- Careful preparation of all participants (host, peers)

- In-depth thematic exchanges over two days

- Opportunity for stakeholder involvement

- Onsite or online – adapted agenda and format

- In the host region or in one of the peer regions

The Peers

Ivano Magazzu
Generalitat Valenciana, Spain

Andreas Larsson
Swedish ESF Council, Sweden

Antonio Bernardo
Basilicata Region, Italy

Marta Marin Sanchez
Basque Government, Spain

Anders Bergström
Norden Association, EUSBSR, Sweden

Peer review: ERDF for interregional innovation projects

The elaborated recommendations – an excerpt

- **Long-term political support and roadmap**

    (data gathering to build evidence-base; bottom-up regional dialogue …)

- **Systematic policy planning and stakeholder coordination**

    (human and financial capacities for cooperation; permanent structure and networks …)

- **Enabling conditions and experimentation**

    (pilot projects; learning through regular evaluations; let decision-makers experience cooperation …)

- **Identification, onboarding and capacity-building of beneficiaries**

    (challenge-driven workshops to identify needs and opportunities; support during all phases …)

- **SME engagement through intermediaries and European networks**

    (diversifying funding paths for SMEs; synergies between funding instruments; storytelling …)

The follow-up

Host reflections and next steps

- **Peer review kicked-off new discussions on how to improve our efforts for interregional cooperation in the field of innovation**
- **New drive for stakeholders to participate in interregional projects**
- **Discussions at the Vice-minister level**
- **Next steps:**
  - ➤ Discussion with different directorates of the regional government
  - ➤ Dialogue with intermediate bodies how to adapt our funding measures for the 2021-2027 period
  - ➤ Further projects in the group of peers

- **The peer review helped us to learn from the best and disseminate best practice examples to improve our daily work**

The follow-up

- **Working group together with key players of the government on transnational cooperation projects**
  direct communication with line ministries how to solve obstacles

- **Strategic communication with partner regions**
  along value chains of the clusters of our regional innovation strategy

- **Conference with partners from PL of the Oder partnership**
  Session on transnational cooperation with stakeholders

- **Work towards synergies between ESIF and Horizon Europe**
  Conference with German stakeholders in October in Brandenburg

KNOWLEDGE how to contribute?

Submit your good practice

Climate Toolkit 4 Business

Climate Toolkit 4 Business helps SMEs get started on their zero-carbon journey by recommending the most impactful steps to address environmental impacts.

01 Dec 2023 | By project AccelerateGDT

⚙ Expert approved
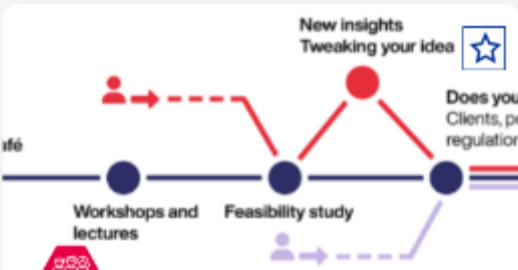
Andalusian Carbon Standard for the Certification of Blue Carbon Credits

Standard of Blue Carbon credits & supporting documents & Catalogue of projects approved to implement Blue Carbon sequestration projects in Andalusia

11 Aug 2023 | By project NACAO

⚙ Expert approved

StartUp Time

StartUp Time was introduced in 2021 as a long-term collaborative initiative that aims to enable more people born outside Sweden to start viable businesses.

01 Dec 2023 | By project MILEstone

⚙ Expert approved

https://www.interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions/good-practices

KNOWLEDGE how to contribute?

Share results & experiences

POLICY BRIEF
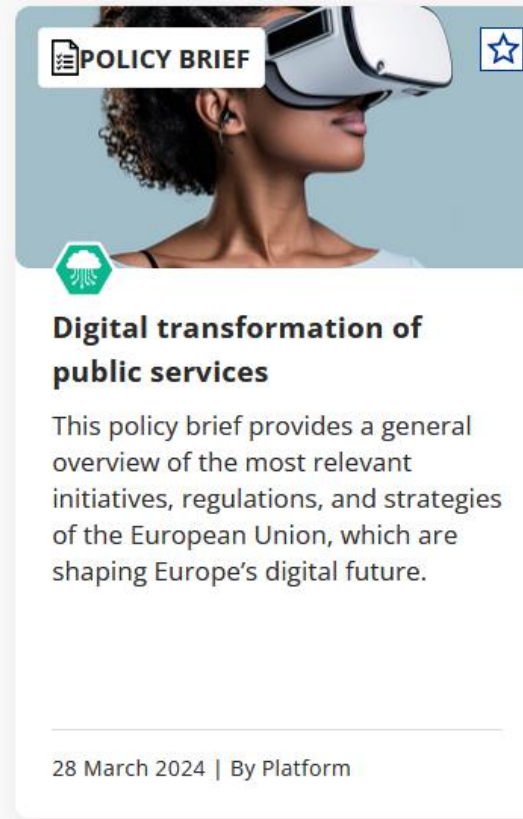
Business incubation: from startup to scaleup

In this policy brief, you'll explore examples from the Interreg Europe community on the diversity of business incubation programmes and recent trends in the area.
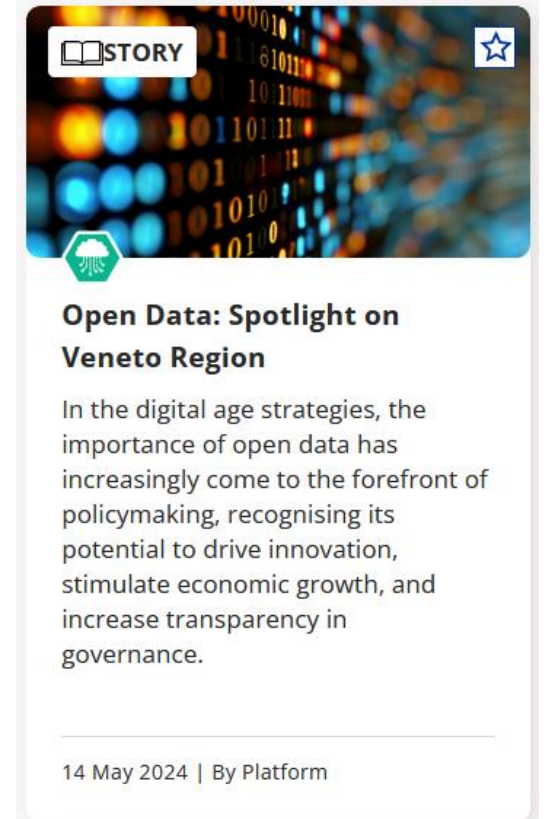
24 April 2024 | By Platform

POLICY BRIEF

Digital transformation of public services

This policy brief provides a general overview of the most relevant initiatives, regulations, and strategies of the European Union, which are shaping Europe's digital future.

28 March 2024 | By Platform

STORY

Open Data: Spotlight on Veneto Region

In the digital age strategies, the importance of open data has increasingly come to the forefront of policymaking, recognising its potential to drive innovation, stimulate economic growth, and increase transparency in governance.

14 May 2024 | By Platform

https://www.interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions/

Discover our **COLLECTIONS**

NEW

Grouping the **most relevant content** on a **specific topic**, hand-picked by our Thematic Experts.

- 3 collections available

- New topics coming soon

- Updated frequently

Digitalisation of the public sector

Optmise your processes. Collect data and information to promote informed decision-making. Explore our most pertinent content on this topic.

>

Renewable energy communities

Renewable energy communities empower citizens through their active engagement in the energy sector. Citizens can generate their own energy, participate in local energy production and make informed consumption decisions.

>

Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions tackle societal challenges by protecting, sustainably managing, and restoring natural and adjusted ecosystems. These solutions benefit people and nature at the same time.
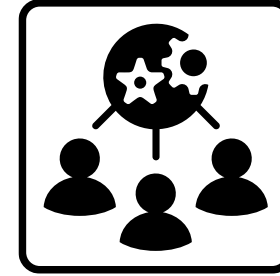
>

PEOPLE how to contribute?

Participate in platform events

https://www.interregeurope.eu/news-and-events/events

Ask for your **PEER REVIEW**!

- Contact the Platform experts

- Apply any time

- Assessment of your application within 1 month

- Expertise tailored to **your needs**!

https://www.interregeurope.eu/peer-review

Co-funded by
the European Union

LAND
BRANDENBURG

Thank you!

Nicolas Singer
n.singer@interregeurope.eu

Thorsten Kohlisch
t.kohlisch@policylearning.eu

Lars Wirbatz
lars.wirbatz@mdfe.brandenburg.de

02 July 2024

Cooperation actions: How to bring down barriers to build sustainable partnerships among EU IJG Goal Managing Authorities
Palermo, Italy
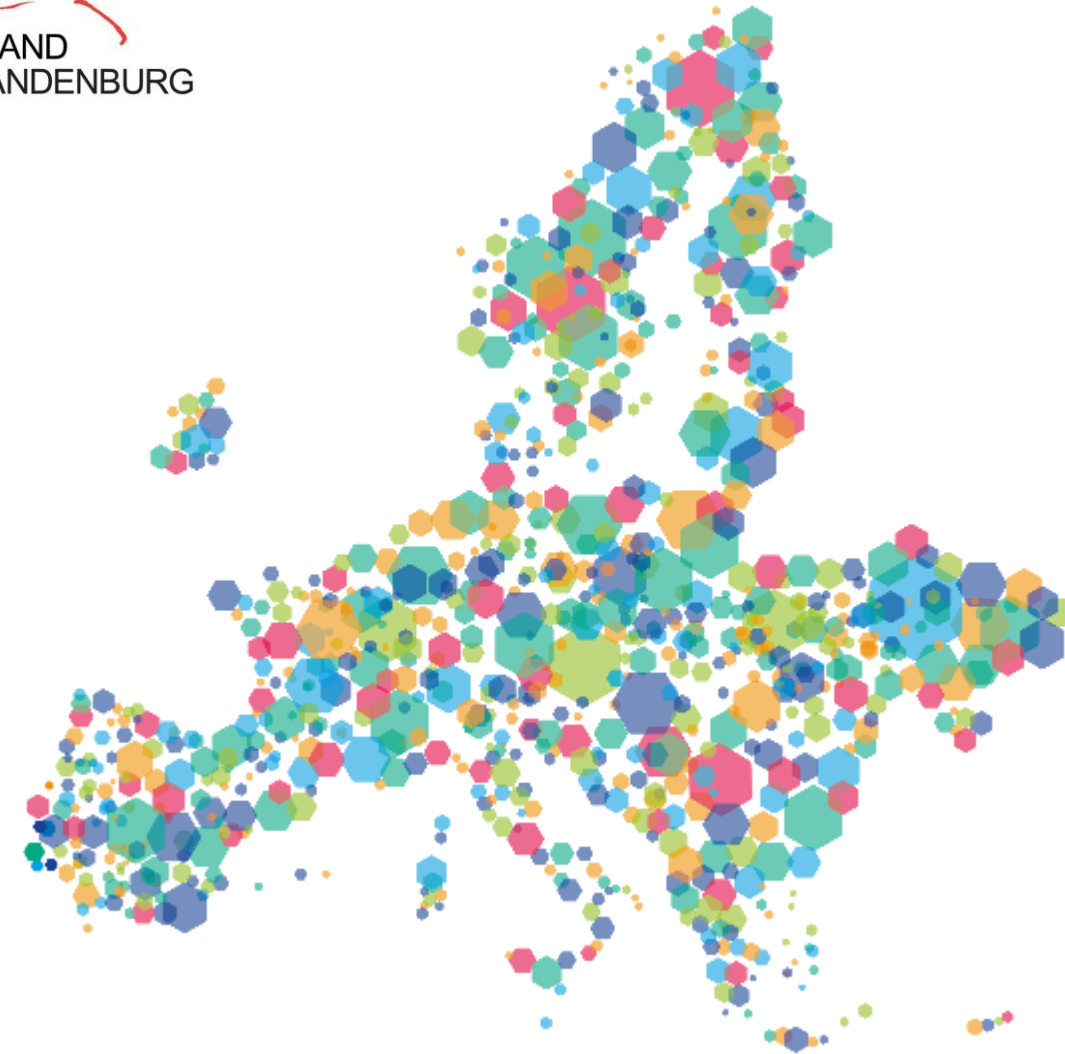
Follow us on social media

Examples from the peers

Example: Interact – systematic planning

Interact Guidelines on Cooperation underIJG Goal 2020+

Follow Interact's eight steps to set up a cooperation approach under IJG (pages 40-41) – <u>Link to the publication</u>

1. Compilation of needs and assessment of requirements

2. Outline specific advantages and design the approach

3. Definition of strategy and goals

4. Definition of the concept, methodology and procedure

5. Drafting the approach and its features

6. Set up internal administrative procedures

7. Approach's specific procedures and implementation

8. Project implementation and follow-up

Example: Basilicata Region – ROP cooperation actions

- ROP investments of **EUR 3,38m** in cooperation actions leading to European-wide partnerships

- Good practice of Basilicata Region showing a **success story** from an initiative receiving strong political support, operational commitment, and financial resources within the ROP ERDF Basilicata 2014-2020

- **Basilicata's funding guidelines in English**

Example: Basilicata Region – funded project

URGES - URBAN GREEN SHAPES. Quality, efficiency and wellbeing of the neighbourhood
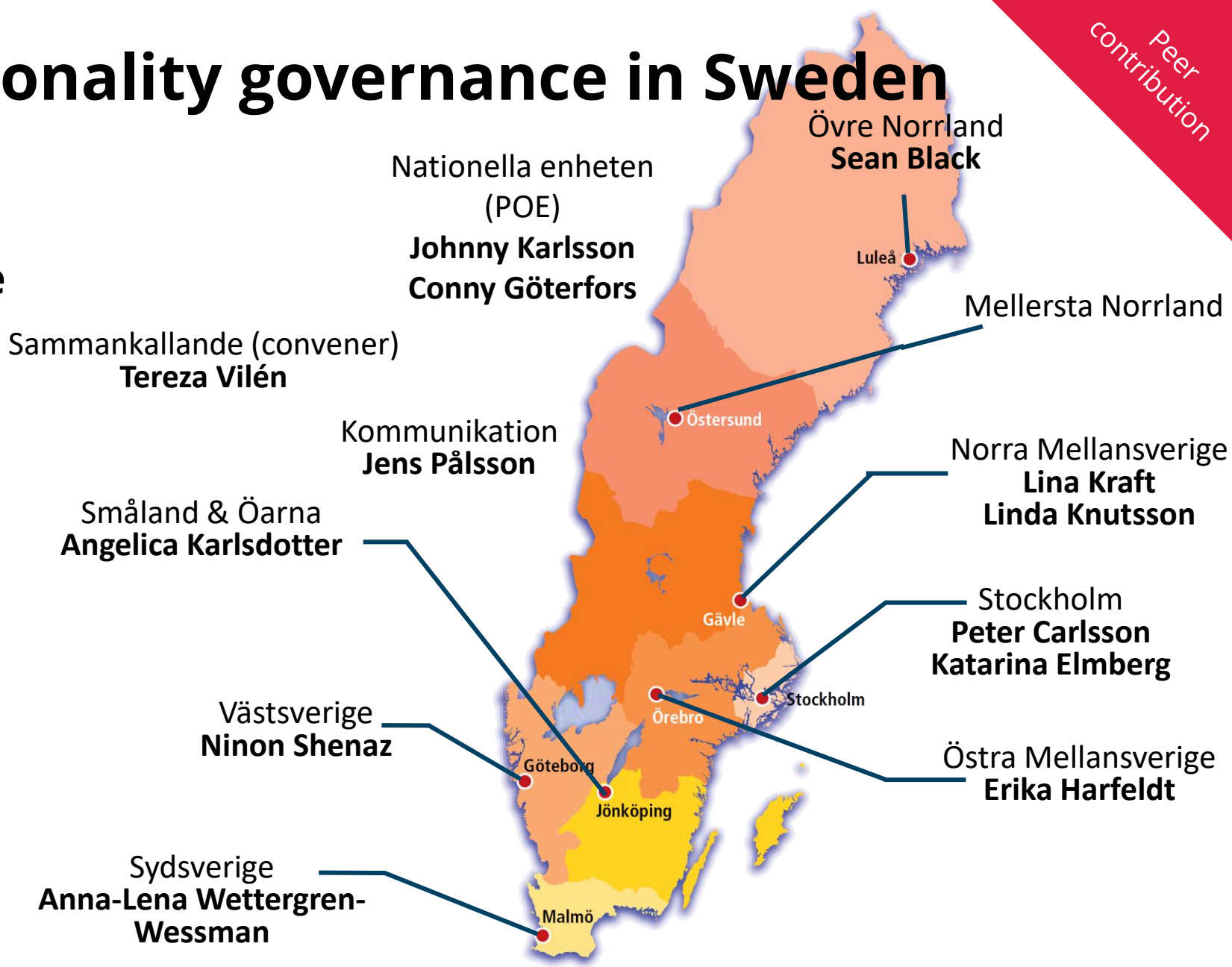
Project budget: EUR 300,000.00

1. PARTNERSHIP: 5 partners of which 1 EUSAIR area (EUSAIR pillar: environment quality):
    *   Regional Agency for Agricultural Development and Innovation of Basilicata
    *   4 universities: Chieti-Pescara, Reggio Calabria, Sevilla and Ljubljana

2. OBJECTIVE: The project aims to favour the wellbeing of the neighbourhood by developing urban green infrastructures within public housing (pilot site ATER Matera), through the creation of a network (Urban Green Network) on urban green infrastructure among leading scientific and institutional organisations which share a new approach on energy efficiency.

3. COOPERATION ACTIVITIES:
    *   Urban analysis of "pilot district" of Matera
    *   International and interdisciplinary-design workshop
    *   Interdisciplinary experimentation
    *   Study and selection of 25 native plant species

Example: Transnationality governance in Sweden

Capacity, expertise, structures and governance

Sweden's ESF internal network for transnational cooperation

Övre Norrland
Sean Black

Nationella enheten (POE)
Johnny Karlsson
Conny Göterfors

Mellersta Norrland

Sammankallande (convener)
Tereza Vilén

Kommunikation
Jens Pålsson

Norra Mellansverige
Lina Kraft
Linda Knutsson

Småland & Öarna
Angelica Karlsdotter

Stockholm
Peter Carlsson
Katarina Elmberg

Västsverige
Ninon Shenaz

Östra Mellansverige
Erika Harfeldt

Sydsverige
Anna-Lena Wettergren-Wessman

Example: Basque Country

Virtual common fund for SME-led interregional innovation projects

Funding interregional SMEs-led demonstration projects, through 'Virtual Common Pot'

- Connecting (and aligning) regional/national grants programmes/instruments/budget lines
- Towards (timely) activable combinations 'fundable' activities (e.g. 1 end-user region A, 2 technology providers region B, 1 research centre region C)

Regionally-led Decision and Funding-making processes

- Not a joint-fund; Not a centrally managed call
- Funds provided directly by the respective regional funding organisations
- 'Virtual Common pot' (no transfer, no overarching entity managing funds)
- 'Low risks' (retain control of funding decisions and funding in accordance with own standard rules and procedures)

Additionality

- Channelling 'newly' dedicated-reserved budget lines…
- …But not only (impacts maximizations)

No extra fee for calls preparation/management !

- Regional in-kind contributions (evaluations, information provision)
- Pilot resources and activities activated
- VI resources and activities activated