

Greener Europe Community meeting – future outlook

Thematic Community for a Greener Europe

Rosa Escamilla, Nicolas Garnier, Guilherme Johnston | Interact 03.10.2024

Interact



**Co-funded by
the European Union**
Interreg

Post-27 Consultation

Where do we stand?



March 2024

Interreg Knowledge Fair

Greener Europe session
First reflections

Summer 2024

Consultation Survey

Feedback and ideas for Interreg delivering more efficient and coordinated Green solutions in post-27

October 2024

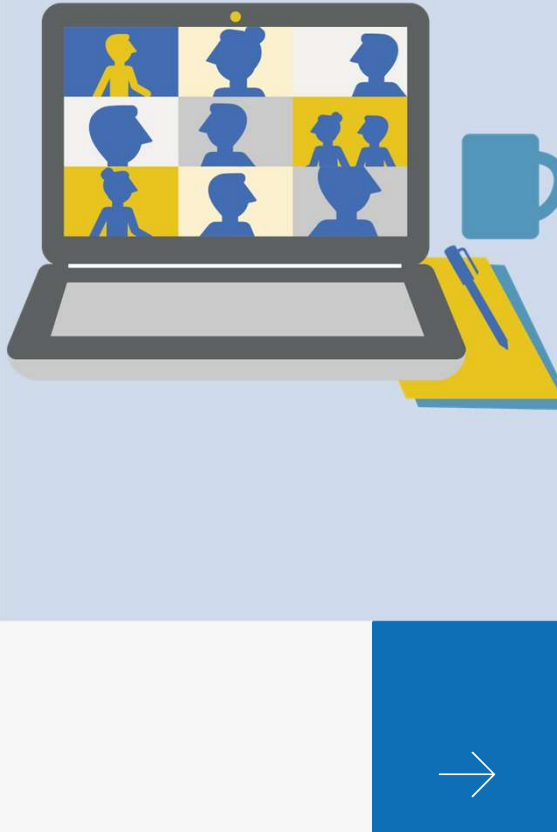
Harvesting report

Highlight key messages
Feed the reflection for future Interreg regulation

25-26 November 2024

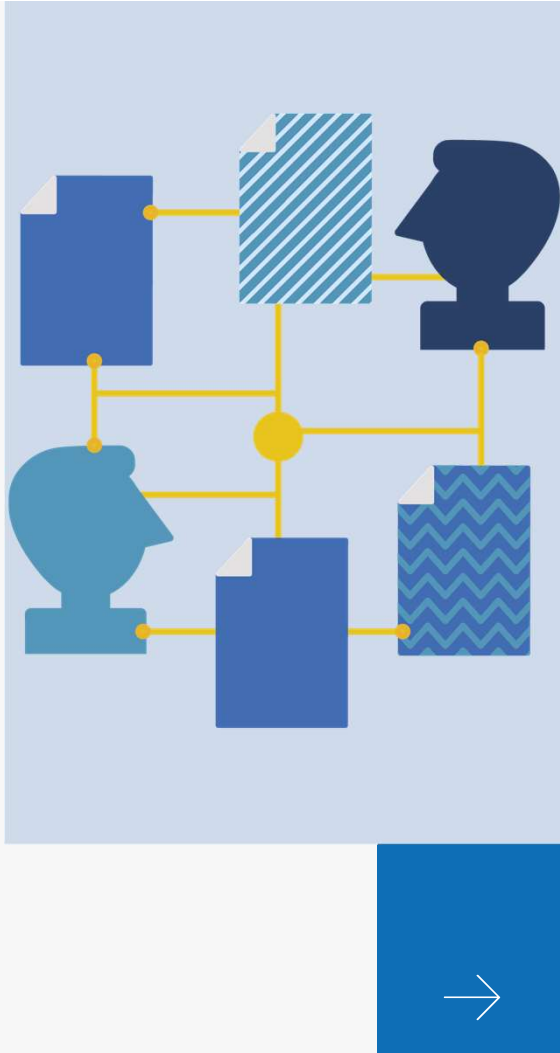
Harvesting event

Live exchange on messages and proposals for the future Interreg
With COM



Review of the Consultation Survey Interreg for a Greener Europe post-27

- Reflection on the current framework, based on your experience
- Considering all topics currently covered as specific objectives under PO2
- Highlight the prominence of green/climate change topic for our territories, and cooperation added-value
- Possible new ways and steps



Review of the Consultation Survey Interreg for a Greener Europe post-27

Respondents: **21 Interreg programmes (MA/JS):**

- **14 CBC** (strand A)
- **5 TN** (strand B)
- **1 IR** (strand C)
- **1 OMR** (strand D)

Big thanks!

What has worked well so far?

Spotlight on your key achievements



Extensive experience -

Climate change solutions provided by Interreg for several programming periods



Significant interest by stakeholders

– one of the most popular topics, thanks to engagement effort



Boosted capacity of programme teams – expert focus groups, thematic communities...



Integrating climate change as part of **programme strategy**



Result orientation – impact as key criteria, with clear indicators to measure change



Closely monitor environmental impact throughout project life



Pilot actions – tested solutions ready for wider adoption



Small-scale projects for targeted action

What needs to be improved to better respond to your climate challenges?

Integrated and cross-sectoral approaches allowing comprehensive climate-related actions

Longer-term monitoring and assessment of effectiveness/impact

Increase participation and capacity of key implementers of local solutions, e.g. municipalities

Reinforce the capacity to transfer relevant results

Increase capacity of adaptation to new climate reality and prominent challenges

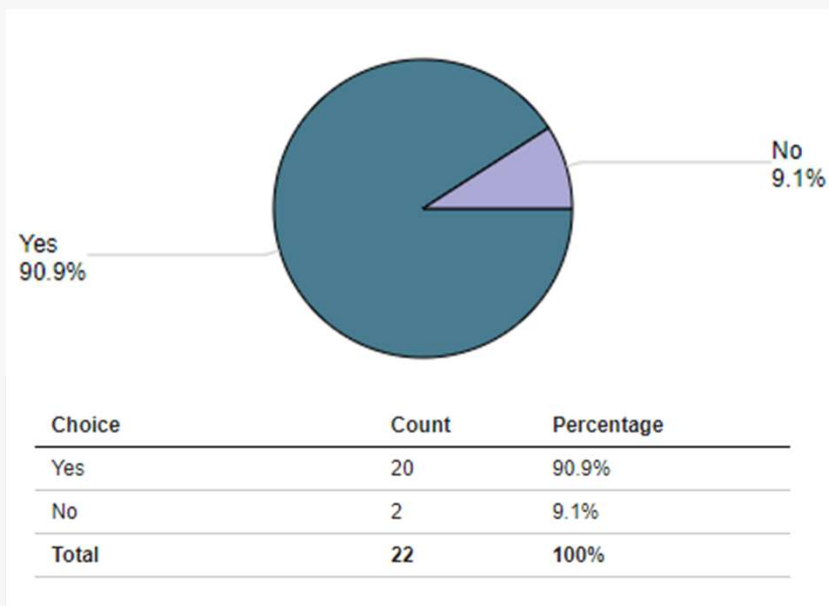
Enhance climate governance – better align strategy goals

More systematic approach - joint agreements across national borders

Better coordination of financing instruments

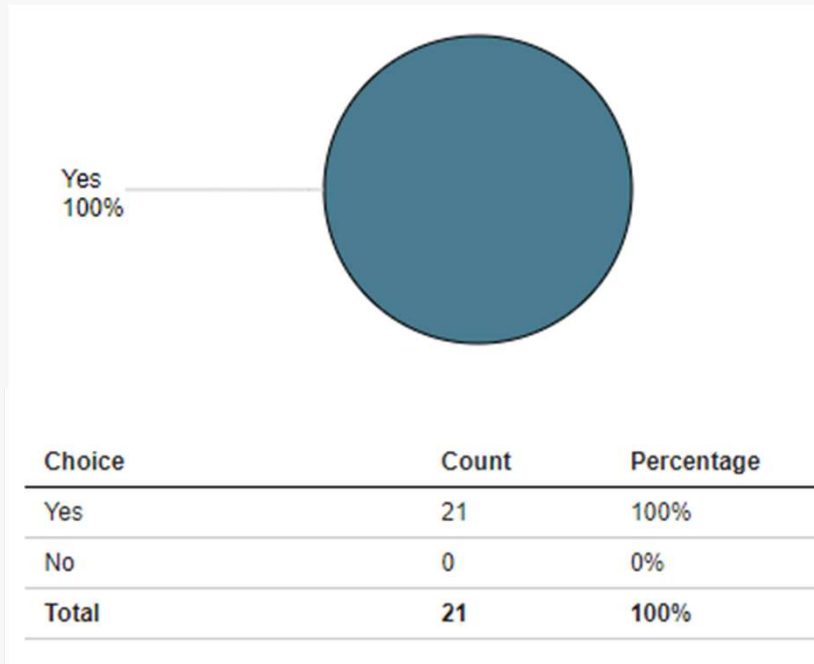
Recognise strand-specific approaches

Are you satisfied with the current level of quality of green projects?



- **More concrete actions for increased impact** – thematic platforms and capitalisation pathways to enhance transfer of results
- **Clarify programme expectations**, especially in terms of indicators, to better guide beneficiaries and increase relevance
- **Better selection criteria** to identify truly sustainable projects

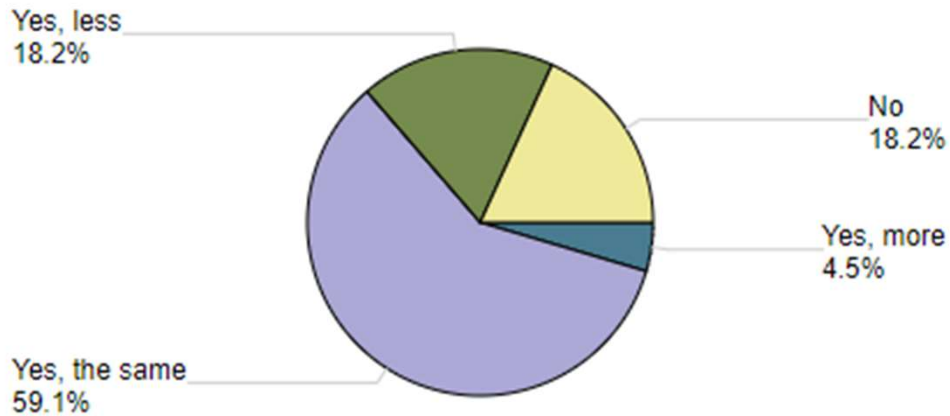
Are you satisfied with the current partnerships in green projects?



- Ensure **relevant stakeholders** are on board
- Strengthen the **role of public authorities**
- Research **organisations** somewhat **overrepresented**
- Need for **private sector involvement**
- Support the **involvement of specific target groups**

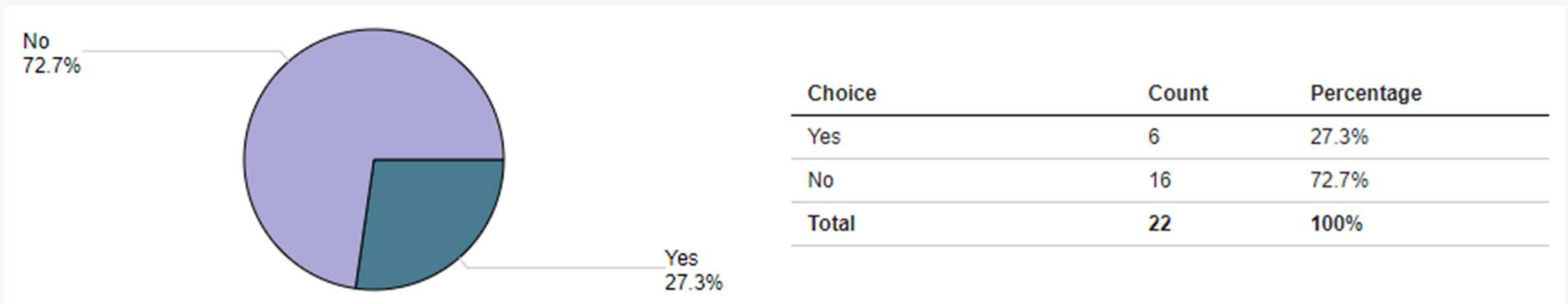
Should “green” be linked to a **minimum allocation of funds in programmes?**

Currently as per Article 15.1, at least 60% to PO2 for A, B, D, and combined with PO4 for A internal land borders



Choice	Count	Percentage
Yes, more	1	4.5%
Yes, the same	13	59.1%
Yes, less	4	18.2%
No	4	18.2%
Total	22	100%

Does PO2 pose any specific challenge in terms of **absorption**?

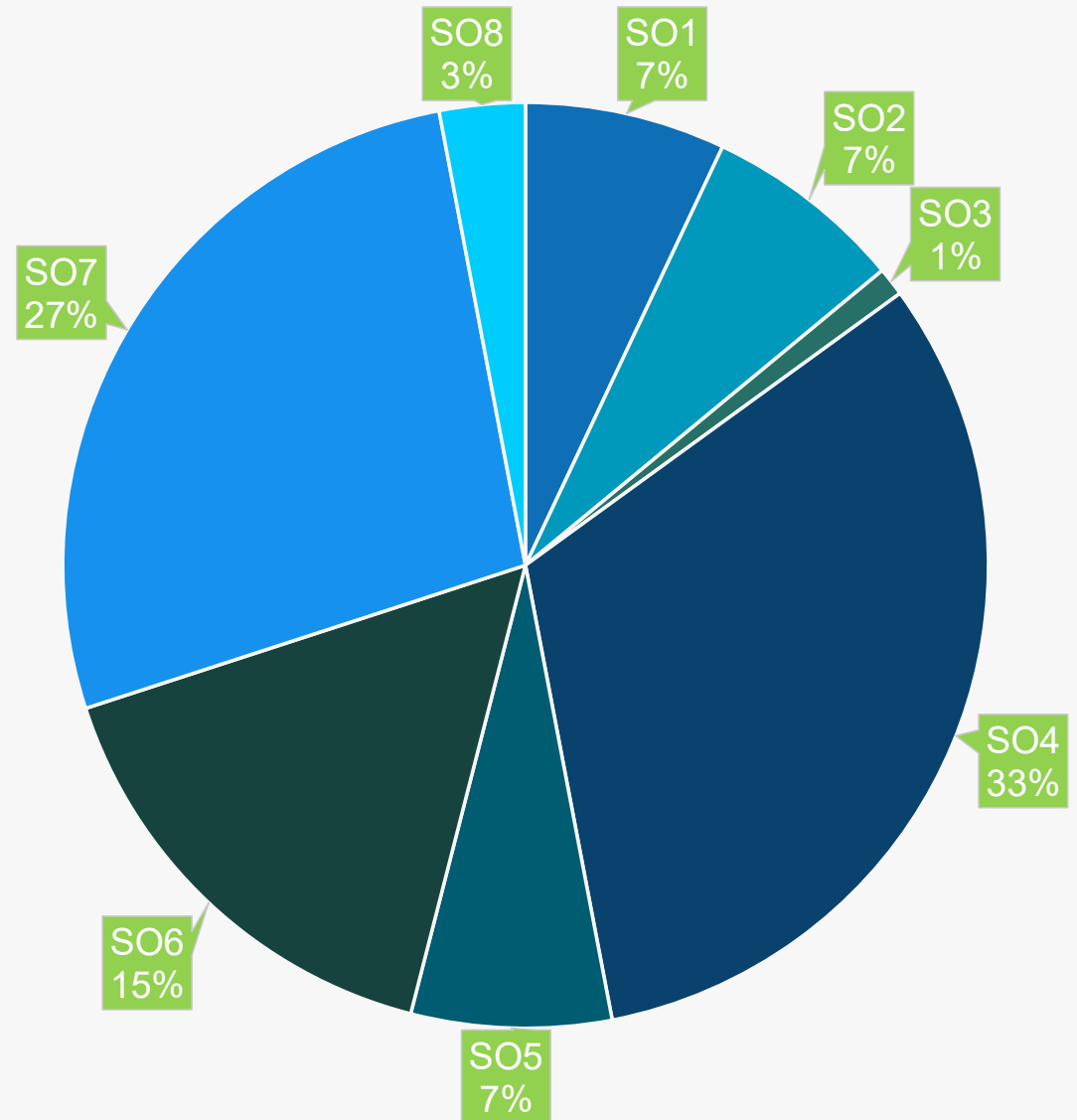


- **No particular issue overall** – strong interest from stakeholders and applicants
- **Some challenges** related to specific fields of intervention, or delivery model

Allocation PO2 per SO

Top ranks in terms of allocation:

- **SO4** Climate change adaptation with 33% accounts for the highest allocation
- **SO7** Biodiversity follows with 27% and
- **SO6** with 15%

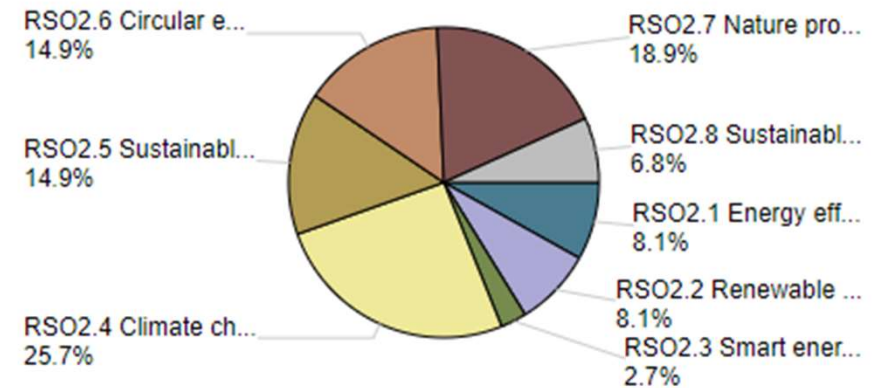


Closer look at allocation

PO	SO	Number of programmes	EU Amount	% within PO	% of total ERDF
PO2 Greener Europe	RSO2.1 Energy efficiency	17	224,144,502.05	7.02%	2.34%
	RSO2.2 Renewable energy	18	210,226,133.33	6.58%	2.19%
	RSO2.3 Smart energy systems	4	30,810,554.00	0.96%	0.32%
	RSO2.4 Climate change adaptation	70	1,045,832,613.54	32.75%	10.90%
	RSO2.5 Sustainable water	13	232,340,543.58	7.28%	2.42%
	RSO2.6 Circular economy	35	490,239,679.13	15.35%	5.11%
	RSO2.7 Nature protection and biodiversity	65	855,526,237.47	26.79%	8.92%
	RSO2.8 Sustainable urban mobility	7	104,134,851.00	3.26%	1.09%
PO2 Greener Europe		80	3,193,255,114	100%	33.28%

Out of the current SOs, which one(s) do you consider the most relevant?

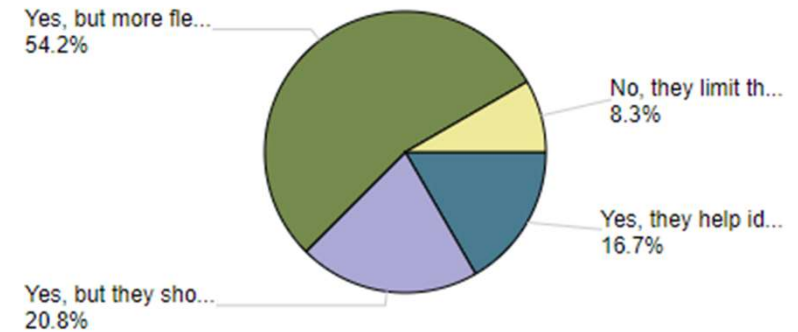
- The selected SOs are the most relevant for the programme area
- Flexibility to be ensured
- Potential diverging opinions between MA/JS and MS/regions
- Ensure relevance of SOs for all strands



Choice	Count	Percentage
RSO2.1 Energy efficiency	6	8.1%
RSO2.2 Renewable energy	6	8.1%
RSO2.3 Smart energy systems	2	2.7%
RSO2.4 Climate change adaptation	19	25.7%
RSO2.5 Sustainable water	11	14.9%
RSO2.6 Circular economy	11	14.9%
RSO2.7 Nature protection and biodiversity	14	18.9%
RSO2.8 Sustainable urban mobility	5	6.8%
Total	74	100%

Is the current breakdown by SO helpful to tackle green challenges?

- Some SOs very narrow, SO2.4 very wide
- Limits integrated cross-sectoral approaches
- Energy SOs to be merged
- SOs not always adapted to the local conditions, although the topic is relevant



Choice	Count	Percentage
Yes, they help identify/categorise/narrow the target action of projects	4	16.7%
Yes, but they should be fewer/broader	5	20.8%
Yes, but more flexibility is required to allow focus shift in implementation	13	54.2%
No, they limit the action of projects too much	2	8.3%
No, they are artificially selected/irrelevant/arbitrary	0	0%
Total	24	100%

Do the common Interreg indicators reflect the reality of green projects?

*Questions 9 & 10 from the survey

OPEN MIRO:

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Climate resilience as transversal policy – how to link with other POs?

- Broader, comprehensive objectives – integrate climate resilience in all topics
- Specific assessment criteria on how projects address climate issues
- DNSH void of sense
- Horizontal principle at programme level – sustainability and environment protection integrated “by design” in all projects activities
- Programme guidance supporting projects in sustainability practices
- OSI focused on climate resilience and addressing other POs.
- Circular economy as operational bridge – increase visibility and impact
- Governance (ISO1) could focus on climate resilience

How could green related challenges in Interreg be tackled differently?

*Questions 12 & 13 from the survey

OPEN MIRO:

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How could Interreg better contribute to the wider EU green policy framework?



Projects align with the EU thematic targets and policy framework – match and contribute



Alignment also means being realistic about what can be achieved



Difficult to **balance** with regional priorities and contexts



CBC level – setting priorities to support EU policy (and not contradict)



TN level – focus on tangible results, achieved through cooperation



Reflect on Interreg's true impact and added-value - achieves big impact with modest funds, increasing capacity of (small) public authorities to operate in a greener way.

Which policies/directives should be considered as priority...

Highly depend on territorial strategic focus

Needs a balanced approach – take into account all relevant policies tackled by projects

EU Green Deal...and connected policies...

EU Green Policy framework – shared objectives

EU Green Deal

Cohesion Policy

Just Transition Mechanism

Fit for 55 Package

Water Framework Directive

Nature Restoration Law

Energy Efficiency Directive

Renewable Energy Directive

Renovation Wave

New European Bauhaus

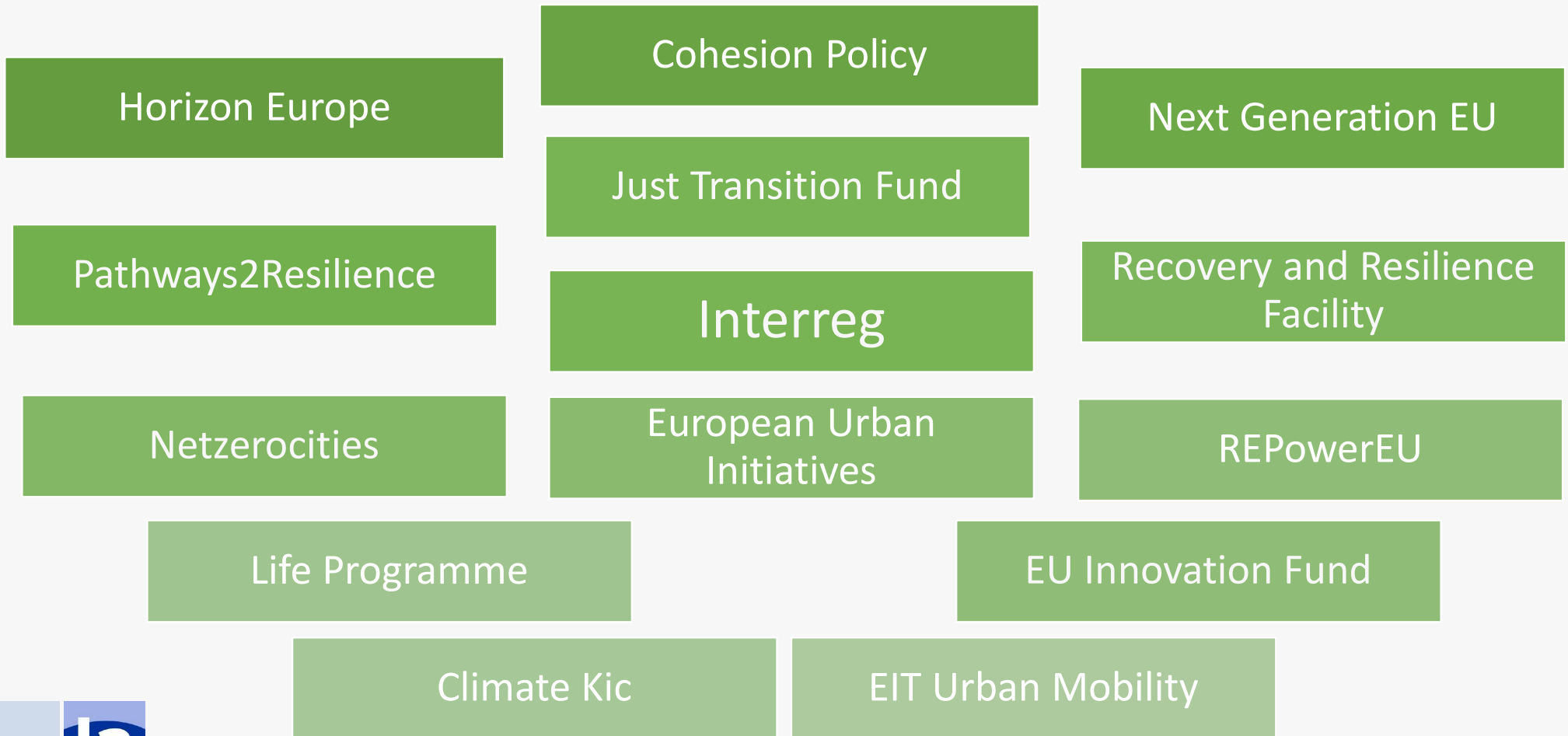
Circular Economy Action Plan

Macro-Regional Strategies

National energy and climate plans

And more...

Example of EU Climate Related Funding Mechanisms and related organisations



How should Interreg build synergies with other EU funds for climate action?

*Questions 16 & 17 from the survey

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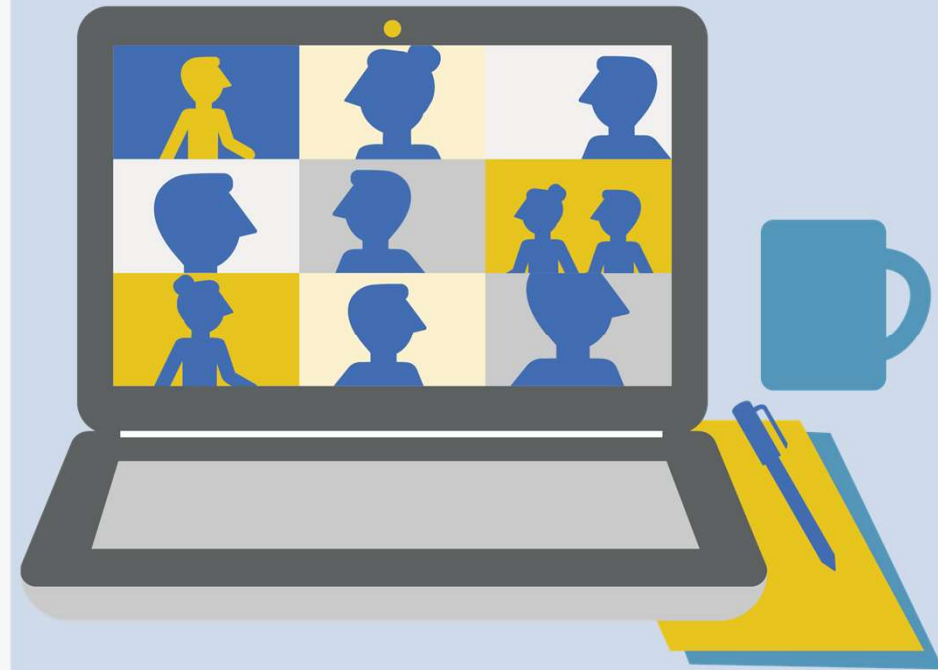


Summary

Key messages

Any other ideas?

Next steps!



Greener Europe Community meeting – future outlook

Thematic Community for a Greener Europe

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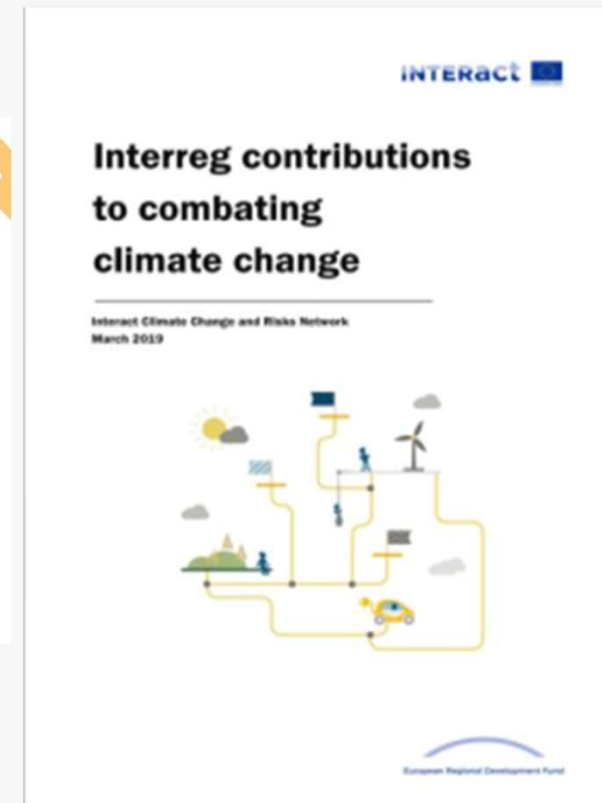
What is about

- ✓ Gain and share knowledge
- ✓ Facilitate the exchange
- ✓ Join forces on promotion



Gain and share knowledge

Publications



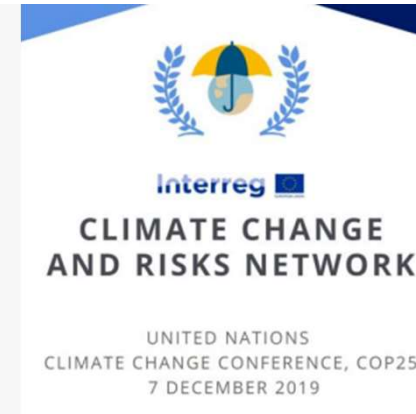
Facilitate the exchange

- Network meetings
- Project visits
- Webinars
- Trainings



Join forces on promotion


- Representation at **external events**. Examples from the past:
 - Interreg contributions to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP)
 - EU Green Week and EU Regions Week
 - European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA)
- Joint **Social media** campaign at interreg.eu
- **Website** visibility at interact.eu & interreg.eu
- Promo **videos**
- Infographic site



Come join us! Discover examples of European Cooperation projects that help tackle #ClimateEmergency. #EUatCOP25   EU Pavillion, Helsinki room @COP25CL

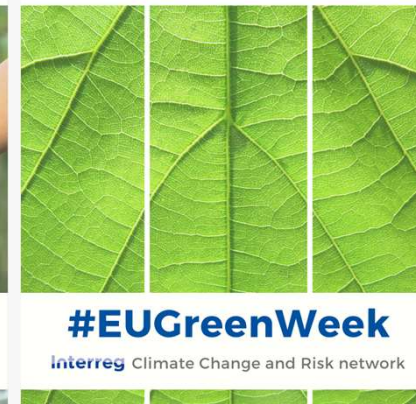
Traducir Tweet



 How Interreg helps to tackle Climate Change

Interreg Climate Change Network 

Watch on  YouTube





Who takes part

Community coordinator



Nicolas Garnier
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Greener expert



Guilherme Johnston
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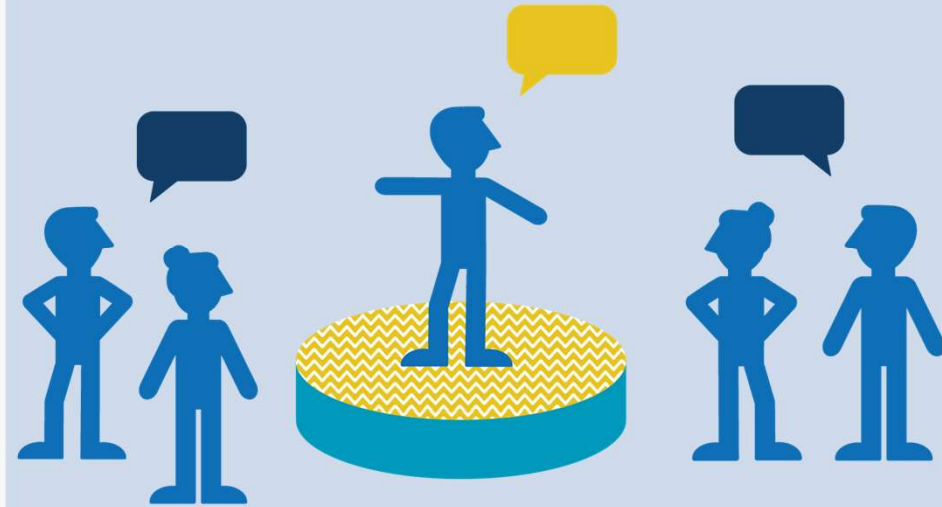
Communication responsible



Rosa Escamilla
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Who takes part

You programmes, with your
expertise, knowledge and energy



Upcoming events



November 2024

Post 2027 | Harvesting Event

Greener Europe session

December 2024

Greener Europe Network event

Online – refining
harvesting messages

March 2025

Interreg GO! | Annual event

Parallel session on
Green (water
management and
circular economy +
disaster risk
management)

Feb, May, Sept, Dec 2025

Greener Europe Webinar series (4)

One particular PO2 topic
on the spotlight

Expert guidance

Exchange of approaches
& expectations

Policy framework
reflections

Upcoming events



Spring 2025

Greener Europe Community event

Discuss challenges, best practices and Interreg strength in addressing PO2 issues

Autumn 2025

Greener Europe Community event

Follow-up on key messages and preparation steps for Post-27

October 2025

EU Regions Week

Applying for a stand and parallel session of Greener Europe at Interreg

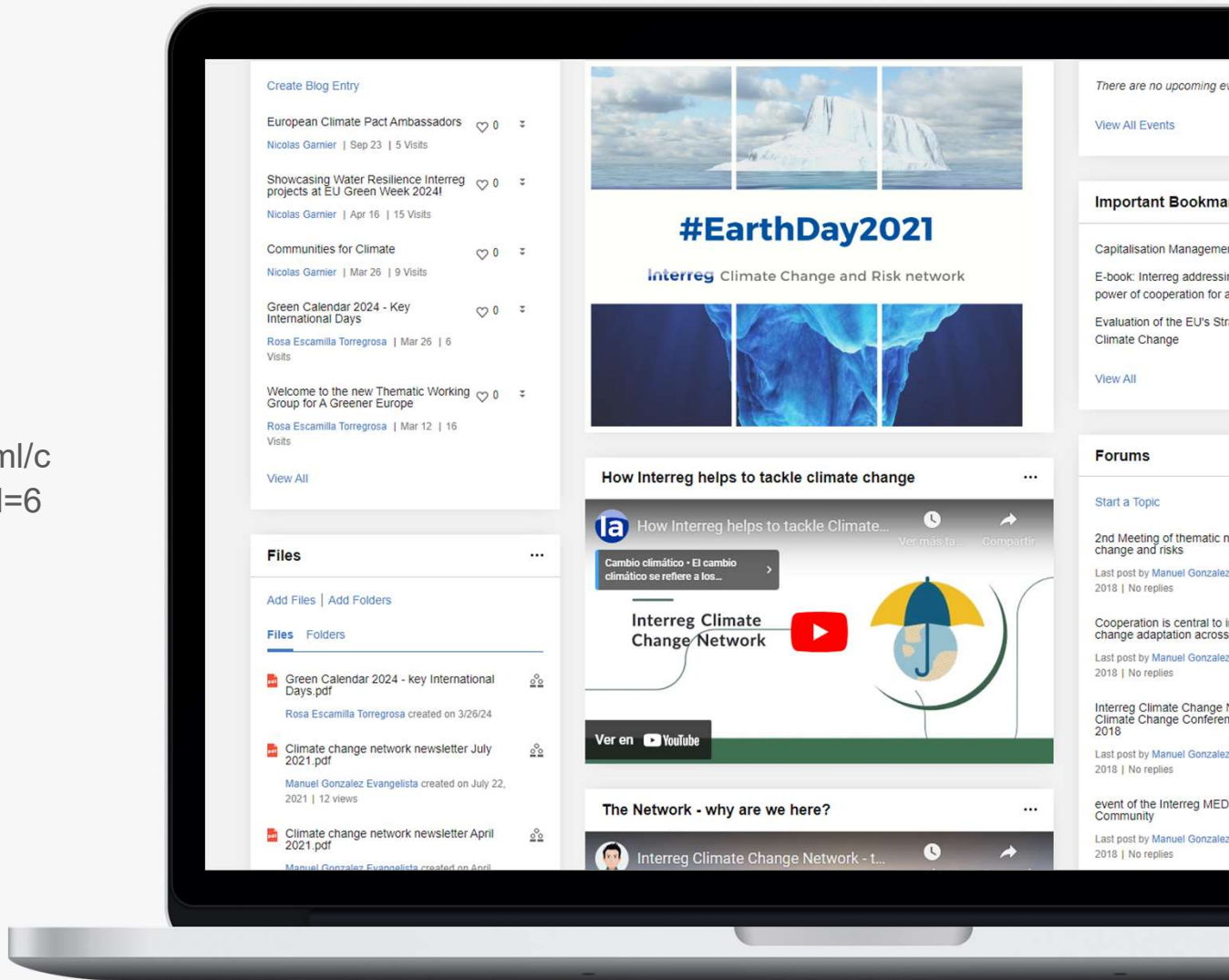
2025

Let's see!

Representation at external events is part of our 2025 agenda. We will keep you informed!

Stay tuned!

<https://connections.interact-eu.net/communities/service/html/communitystart?communityUuid=6b2a27c8-ab8c-4193-a01c-c815e21e13ec>



Any suggestion from members?



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:
[Interact / Events](#)