

Harmonized approach to capture & highlight the added value of Interreg

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Agreements from the last meeting



- The group found the list of key elements and the proposed working definition of "added value" to be very useful.
- It was agreed that a single working definition is sufficient; a more detailed version is not needed for stakeholders outside the Interreg context.
- Interact will update both the key elements and the working definition. Participating programmes of the pilot will then have the opportunity to provide further input on these in a shared document.
- The next meeting is scheduled for mid-December or early January (exact date to be decided via Doodle). Agenda items will include finalising the list and definition, as well as preparing for the next discussion on evaluation questions/impact pathways.

Develop a common working definition of "added value"



Key elements of the added value of Interreg programmes (1/4)

1. Uniqueness and additional benefit of the programme

- Unique achievements and outcomes

2. Strengthening partnerships

- Enhancing partnership maturity
- Improving cooperation quality
- Strengthening long-term cooperation and governance

3. Tangible impacts of cooperation

- Direct benefits for citizens
- Addressing cross-border/transnational/interregional challenges
- Building capacity and innovation
- Economic and regional synergies

Key elements of the added value of Interreg programmes (2/4)

1. Uniqueness and additional benefit of the programme

- **Unique achievements and outcomes:** The projects, outputs, and achievements realized through Interreg would not have occurred without this specific policy instrument. Interreg enables unique benefits for regions that could not be achieved otherwise, highlighting its essential role in regional development.

Comment/improvement:

The only way how Interreg projects, outputs, and accomplishments are possible is jointly through cooperation and collaboration. Interreg delivers unique results by enabling cross-border cooperation to deliver results that cannot be achieved through other mechanisms.

Key elements of the added value of Interreg programmes (3/4)

2. Strengthening partnerships

- **Enhancing partnership maturity:** Interreg fosters the development of long-term, cross-border/transnational/interregional partnerships that go beyond individual projects, creating lasting collaborations that would not have formed without Interreg support.
- **Improving cooperation quality:** Interreg programmes raise the quality and effectiveness of cross-border/transnational/interregional cooperation by establishing structures and practices for productive partnerships.
- **Strengthening long-term cooperation and governance:** By building institutional and governance capacities, Interreg programmes create a sustainable foundation for ongoing collaboration between regions, promoting forward-looking cross-border governance and strengthening cohesion across Europe.

Key elements of the added value of Interreg programmes (4/4)

3. Tangible impacts of cooperation

- **Direct benefits for citizens:** Interreg brings concrete benefits to citizens on both sides of borders, from building mutual trust to improving the quality of life in border regions.
- **Addressing crossborder/transnational/interregional challenges:** It enables solutions to common cross-border and transnational (CBC/TN) challenges that **can be effectively tackled only in cooperation between countries**, facilitating collective approaches to shared issues.
- **Building capacity and innovation:** Interreg strengthens local capacity by providing access to new skills, knowledge, and tools, while fostering innovation and knowledge exchange across borders.
- **Economic and regional synergies:** Interreg programmes drive economic growth, regional synergies, and sustainable development through joint efforts, resulting in broader regional benefits and enhanced competitiveness

What could be a common working definition of added value?

*Added value refers to the unique contributions that cross-border and transnational/interregional cooperation initiatives deliver, which would not have been possible without the programme's support. This includes strengthening cross-border partnerships, fostering innovation and knowledge exchange, building capacity for sustainable development, addressing shared challenges jointly, and generating long-lasting socio-economic and environmental impacts that go beyond the scope of individual, local, regional, national or interregional actions. **Because cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation projects by definition stimulate meaningful cross-border contacts and interactions, people and professionals discover opportunities across the border and thereby break down the mental barrier that borders to a large extent still are, becoming less dependent on just their nation's central regions. (proposal: Brams De Kort, Interreg Flanders-Netherlands)***

Updated common working definition of added value

Added value refers to the unique benefits and impact that cross-border, transnational, and interregional cooperation brings, which could not be achieved without the Interreg programme's support.

This added value is characterized by for example the formation and strengthening of sustainable cross-border/transnational/interregional partnerships, the development of shared solutions to common challenges, and the promotion of knowledge exchange and innovation across borders, building capacity for sustainable development, addressing shared challenges jointly, and generating long-lasting socio-economic and environmental impacts.

Interreg programmes go beyond the scope of individual, local, regional, national or interregional actions and create synergies that generate lasting socio-economic and environmental impacts.

By enabling people and professionals to collaborate across borders, Interreg programmes reduce barriers, broaden perspectives, and strengthen regional cohesion, ultimately benefiting communities beyond the limits of individual, national, or regional initiatives.

Floor is open for discussion



- Do you agree with the key aspects highlighted above?
- Are there any additional elements you believe should be included?
- How have you demonstrated, or how do you plan to demonstrate, the added value of your programme?

Key Updates and Next steps

- The working definition and key elements were largely finalised during the event, with only minor adjustments remaining.
- This largely finalised version of the **key elements of added value** and the **working definition** is available in the [Google document](#).
- The next meeting is scheduled for April and will focus on **impact pathways**. Interact will provide preparatory materials well in advance, and an online poll will be sent out to finalise the date.
- Participants have proposed a one- or two-day in-person workshop to collaboratively develop and finalise the impact pathways.
- The goal is to have the impact pathways and related questions prepared by the end of 2025.



Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

Interact connections / Interact library / Harmonized approach to capture & highlight the added value of Interreg