



Interact



Conference

Interreg: developing a vision for the future

14 May 2024, Šibenik, Croatia

Amadria hotel complex, Hoteli Solaris 86, 22000 Šibenik

Working language is English. The event will be streamed.

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) stands firm behind a robust Cohesion Policy and strong European Territorial Cooperation (ETC). To influence the debate on the future of EU policies after 2027, the CoR is organising a conference in cooperation with INTERACT to bring the attention of decision-makers to the new challenges that regions and cities are facing and to debate the role of ETC in helping to address these challenges, today and in the future.

The 2021-2027 policy and legislative framework for ETC has yet to fully satisfy regions and cities, and the ETC is constantly under pressure and underfunded - something the CoR strives to change. However, the ETC's strong local and regional dimension, which allows cities and regions to develop together on an equal footing in cross-border, transnational, outermost and interregional activities, should be well recognised even beyond EU funding.

This conference will, therefore, provide an opportunity to take stock of experience across all strands of ETC to date, exchange views on optimising implementation during the 2021-2027 period and develop a vision for post 2027.

This conference will precede the **9th EUSAIR Forum**, hosted by the Croatian Presidency and organised jointly by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of Croatia, and the Facility Point Project Partner from Croatia (Ministry of Tourism and Sport of Croatia), in close cooperation with the European Commission and supported by the EUSAIR Facility Point.

The Forum's official opening will be on the morning of 15 May 2024, followed by a **High-Level Panel** and the Presidency handover ceremony. The topic of the High-Level Panel will be "Post-2027 Cohesion – what's needed for the EUSAIR macro-region?".

Participants who register for the conference "Interreg: developing a vision for the future" will also be invited to the events of the Forum on 15 and 16 May.

Day 1

Arrivals and networking

Arrivals to Split and Zadar airports throughout the day.

Transfers will be organized to and from the Split and Zadar airports to the Amadria hotel complex. Pick up location and more details will be available closer to the event. You will be asked to indicate your arrival airport.

If you are flying to other Croatian airports, please organise your arrival to the Amadria hotel complex individually.

Arrivals to Amadria hotel complex.

Please book your accommodation in the Amadria hotel complex as the conference will be at this location. The complex has hotels in different price ranges; [Ivan](#), [Jure](#), [Jakov](#) or [Niko](#).

20:00 **Informal gathering & networking**
Mediterranean square, Amadria hotel complex (TBC)

Day 2

Conference day

09:30 Registrations
Please bring your national ID/passport

10:00 **Welcome**

Danijel Marušić, President of the Croatian Association of Regions (tbc)
Vasco Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions (tbc)
Petra Masacova, head of the INTERACT Managing Authority

10:30 **9th Cohesion Report: Key take aways for Interreg**

Presentation: European Commission (tbc)
Views from the EU regions: **Emil Boc**, Chair of the CoR's COTER Commission, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca and Rapporteur on the "Future of the Cohesion Policy post 2027" (tbc)

11:15 **Involvement of regions in Interreg**
Presentation: INTERACT

11:45 Coffee break

12:15 **Interreg: 4 strands developing future perspectives and visions**

This session is planned as panel bringing together the view of programmes and regions. In the panel we will have representatives from the programmes covering the four

Interreg strands and several representatives of regions. Firstly, we want to initiate a vivid debate along the 'why' for Interreg; secondly, we want to brainstorm about options to make it work better.

The discussion will move along three key blocks:

- 1) Initial reflections on the value added and meaning of cooperation for regions
- 2) Outlook to the coming decade: Interreg as a strategic instrument - What are the most pressing issues for cooperation?
- 3) Interreg as a cooperation instrument: How can we make it better and simpler?

The audience is invited to raise questions to the panelists (either via Slido or in person).

13:30 Lunch & networking coffee

15:00 **Why Interreg matters and the views from the regions and cities on its future**
Discussions with **Slawomir Tokarski**, Director of DG REGIO

With inputs from the participants present and those online.

15:45 **Panel discussion : The future of Interreg**
Moderated by **tbc**

Šime Erlić, Minister of Regional Development, Croatia (tbc)

Karsten Uno Petersen, Region of South Denmark

Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis, President of the Corsica Council (tbc)

Slawomir Tokarski, Director of DG REGIO

Juraj Droba, President of the Bratislava Region (tbc)

16:45 End of the programme of the conference

Programme continues with the opening reception of the 9th Forum of EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region on 15 May 2024, at the same location.

Please consult the programme of the Forum for more information.

All participants of the Conference will be invited to attend the Forum.