

Welcome to the

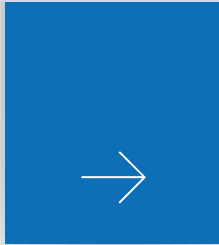
Interreg Knowledge Fair 2024: Future of Interreg day

Riga, Latvia | 06.03.2023

Interact



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



Interreg Knowledge Fair 2024

Plenary session

Hosted by

Petra Masacova

Ivana Lazic

Agenda

01

Welcome

02

**Interreg and
Post 2027**

**Slawomir
Tokarski**

**Director,
Interreg**

03

**Cohesion and
wider context**

John Bachtler

**Director,
EPRC**

04

Q&A panel

**Nathalie
Verschelde**

**Simona
Pohlova**

**Wiktor
Szydarowski**

05

**Coffee break,
followed by
break out
rooms**

Dr. Slawomir Tokarski

Director, Interreg

Prof John Bachtler

Director, EPRC



THE FUTURE OF EU COHESION POLICY POST-2027: REFLECTIONS ON THE DEBATE

Professor John Bachtler

**Interreg Knowledge Fair 2024
National Library of Latvia, Riga**

6 March 2024

Interact

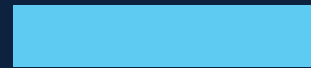


**Co-funded by
the European Union**
Interreg

THE FUTURE COHESION POLICY

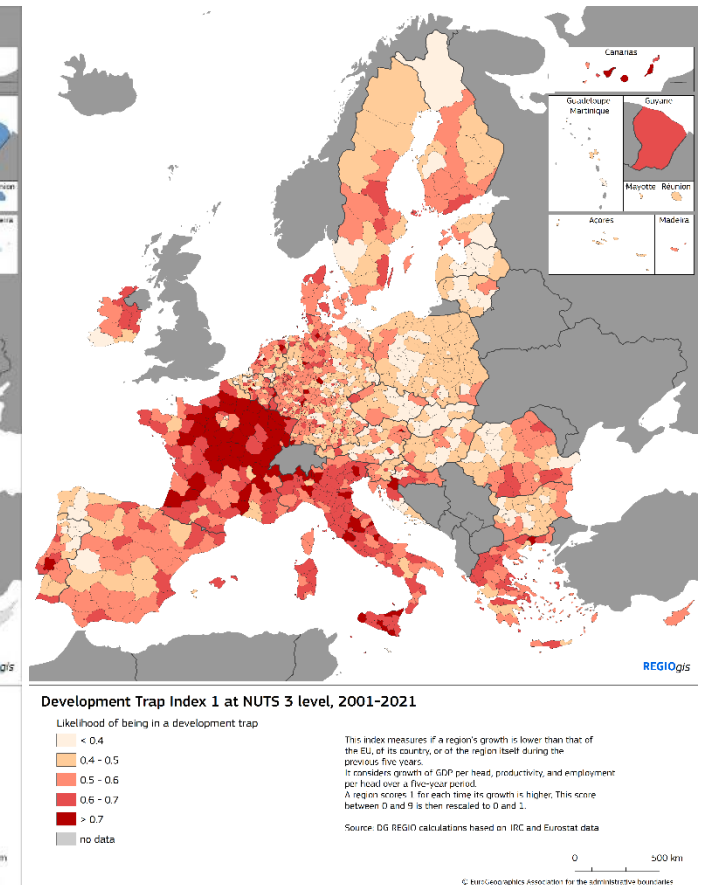
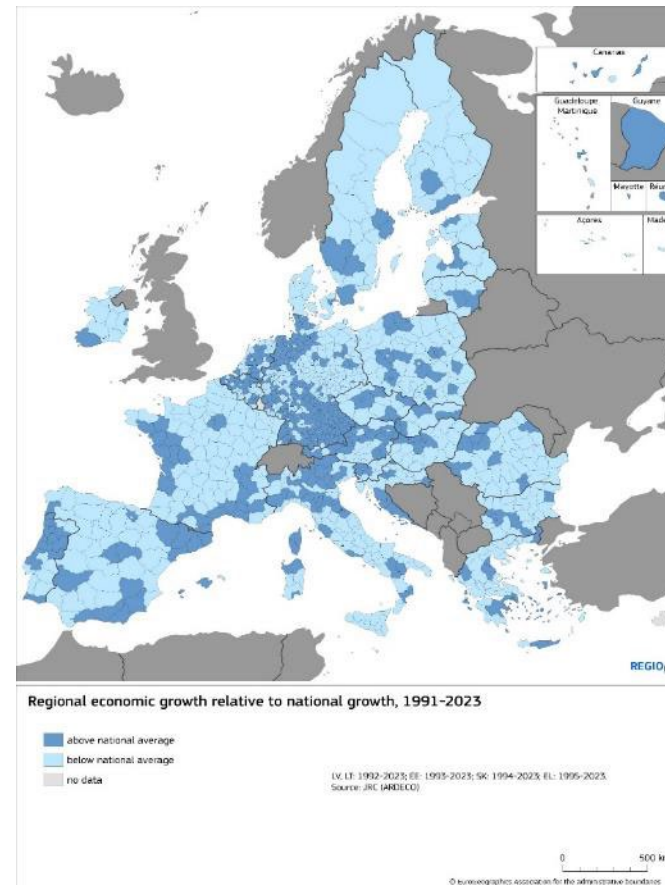
- Context for the post-2027 reform debate: challenges facing the EU
- Key themes in the evolving debate
- Quo vadis: the High-Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy
- Issues for Interreg

The post-2027 reform: Context

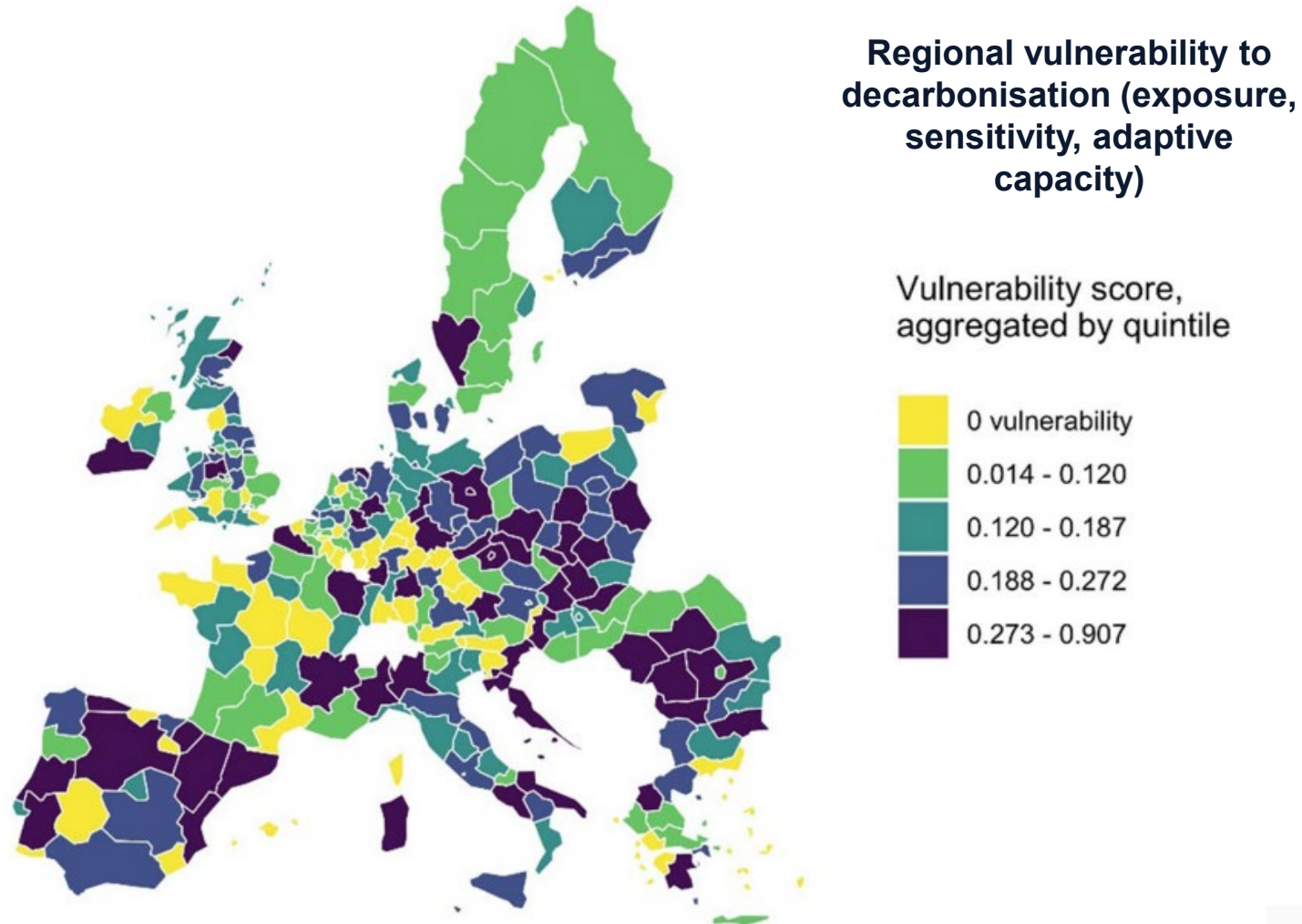


GEOGRAPHICAL CHALLENGES – POLARISATION

- growth increasingly concentrated in a few large urban areas
- many regions falling into 'development traps'
- as stagnation increases, so does popular discontent
- development traps affect:
 - middle-income regions (DK, FR, IT, NL, SE)
 - lagging regions (EL, ES, IT, PT, RO)



GEOGRAPHICAL CHALLENGES: GREEN TRANSITION MAY CREATE NEW VULNERABILITIES



Source: McDowall et al (2023)



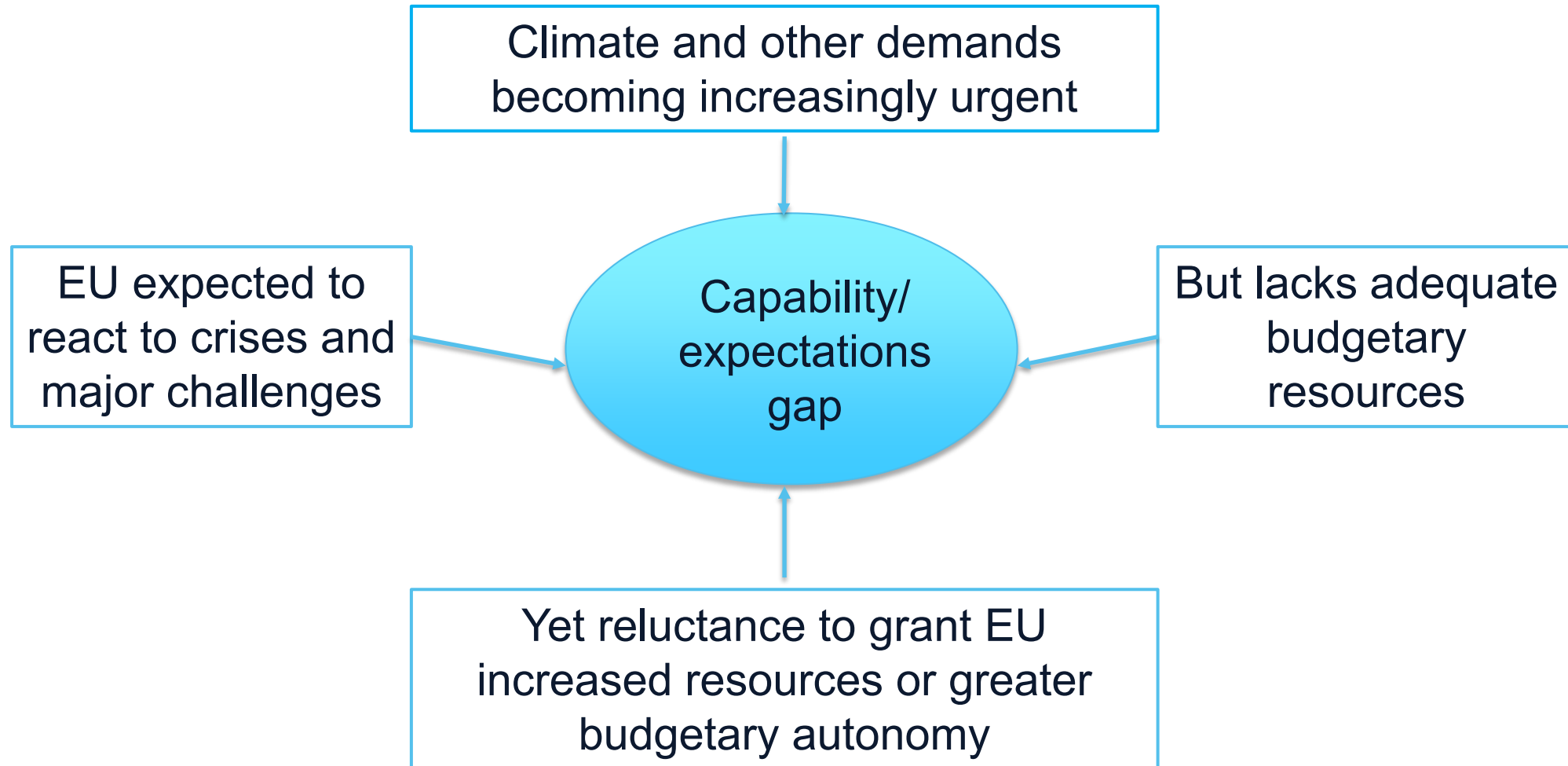
NEW CHALLENGES - ENLARGEMENT: 2030?

- Varied progress with accession
- Most candidates have GDP per head below EU average:
 - Montenegro: 50%
 - Serbia: 44%
 - North Macedonia: 42%
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina: 35%
 - Albania: 34%
 - Moldova: 27% ?
 - Ukraine: 25% ?
- Challenging institutional reforms and policy adjustments esp. CAP/CP
- Most new members would have Less Developed Regions

The screenshot shows the Financial Times website interface. At the top, the 'FINANCIAL TIMES' logo is visible. Below it is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for stories, topics or securities'. A navigation menu includes links for COMPANIES, TECH, MARKETS, CLIMATE, OPINION, WORK & CAREERS, LIFE & ARTS, and HTSI. The main article headline reads 'EU common budget + Add to myFT' followed by 'EU estimates Ukraine entitled to €186bn after accession'. A sub-headline below the main title states: 'Internal calculations suggest farm subsidies would fall 20% following enlargement to nine new member states'.

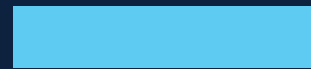


PROBLEMS IN MEETING EU CHALLENGES: EU AMBITIONS > RESOURCES



Begg (2023)

Evolving debate on the reform of Cohesion Policy



REFORM TIMELINE: 2023-2028



Consultations (2023-2025):

- MFF mid-term review (Dec 2023?)
- High-Level Group report (Feb 2024)
- 9th Cohesion Report (April 2024)
- EP elections and new Commission (2024)



Legislative negotiations (2025-2027):

- COM proposals – mid-2025
- negotiations in Council - decisions on MFF/ Cohesion by 2027 (?)



New Cohesion Policy launch (2027-2028):

- New CP Regulations, negotiation of post-2027 Partnership Agreements and programmes



MEMBER STATE PERSPECTIVES

Ongoing discussions

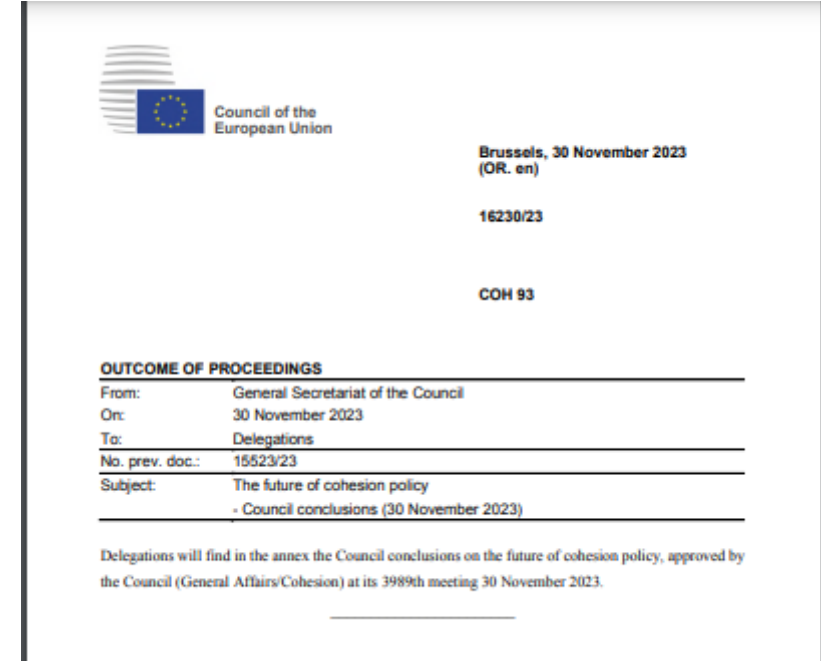
- Presidencies exploring issues and options
- National deliberations and structures for consultation
- Regions (e.g. DE, PL) are developing perspectives and papers with recommendations

Key themes


- Balancing structural change and crisis management
- Synergy between EU funding instruments
- Fewer funds
- Simplification for beneficiaries
- Focus on transformation issues

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS: GAC Cohesion 30 Nov 2023

- Cohesion Policy is a ‘key pillar’....a policy for all regions
- More targeted & adaptable support for different types of regions
- Long-term focus but responsible to unexpected events
- Need options to manage new challenges
- Key principles are shared management, partnership, place-based approach
- Further efforts to simplify management
- Ensure complementarities between cohesion policy and other relevant European policies



**Quo vadis?:
High-Level Group on the
future of Cohesion Policy**

A solid blue horizontal bar is positioned below the main text, centered horizontally.

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

- Initiative of Commissioner Ferreira
- Independent group - process led by DG REGIO and managed with DG EMPL
- Mission:
 - reflection on how to **maximise the effectiveness of Cohesion Policy** with a view to tackling the multiple challenges on cohesion identified in the 8th Cohesion Report; and
 - supporting a **fair digital and green transition** and regional recovery and growth



On the left side of the slide, there are two vertical bars: a yellow one on the left and a dark blue one on the right, both of varying heights.

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP: 18 MEMBERS

- **Chair** - Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Pose – London School of Economics
- Dr László Andor - Foundation for European Progressive Studies, former EU Commissioner for Employment
- Professor John Bachtler – European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde
- Ms Pervenche Berés - Association Europe-Finances-Regulation (AEFR)
- Professor Riccardo Crescenzi – London School of Economics
- Ms Aleksandra Dulciewicz – Mayor of Gdańsk, European Committee of the Regions
- Ms Alva Finn – European Liberal Forum (formerly Social Platform)
- Ms Jasne Gabrič – Member of Municipality Council of Trbovlje (SI), European Committee of the Regions
- Ms Rodi Kratsa - Governor of the Ionian Islands Region
- Ms Constanze Krehl – former MEP and Rapporteur of the REGI Committee
- Professor Karl-Heinz Lambertz – former COR President, Vice-President of the Council of Europe
- Dr Joaquim Oliveira Martins - Special Advisor to the EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- Mr Petr Osvald – Councillor, City of Plzeň (CZ), former Member of the COR
- Ms Sari Rautio - Member of Hämeenlinna City Council, Member of the COR
- Professor Enrico Rossi – President of Tuscany Region
- Ms Zorritsa Roussinova - President of the Economic and Social Council
- Ms Andreea-Alexandra Scioşteanu – European Youth Forum
- Dr Helga Trúpel – Member of the Alliance '90/The Greens, former MEP

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP: THEMATIC MEETINGS

1. Developing the European Growth Model
2. Enhancing resilience of regions against emerging challenges
3. Addressing different developments of European regions
4. Role of place-based policies and development strategies
5. Reinforcing territorial cooperation
6. European semester, reforms and synergies with other EU policies
7. Increasing policy effectiveness and reassessment of conditionalities
8. Revisiting the delivery mechanisms taking into account priorities
9. Enhancing capacity to respond to sudden shocks and crises



A decorative horizontal bar at the top left of the slide, composed of a dark blue segment followed by a light blue segment, and a yellow segment below the dark blue one.

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP – KEY QUESTIONS



Why do we need cohesion now more than ever?



What should Cohesion Policy do?



How should Cohesion Policy change?



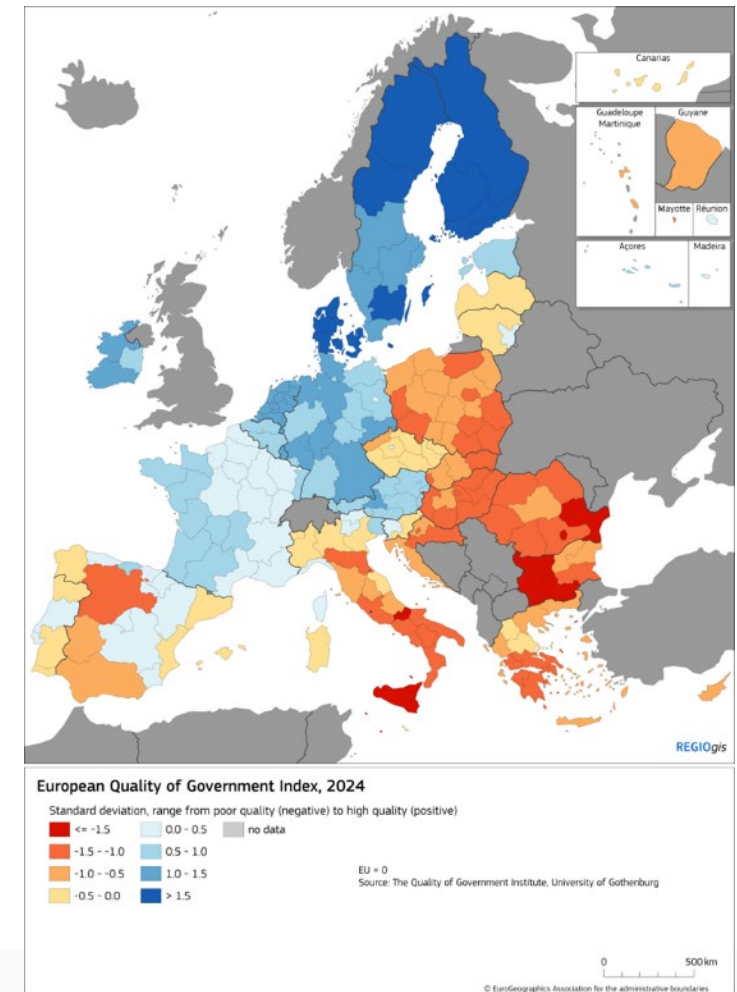
With whom should Cohesion Policy collaborate?

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP: SOME KEY MESSAGES

- Cohesion is critical to achieving EU objectives
 - recognise territorial dimension
 - focus on exploiting untapped economic potential
 - concentrate on the main structural challenges – low development, long-term economic stagnation, lack of opportunities
 - address geography of discontent

- All regions should remain eligible
 - LDRs should continue to be the main focus
 - but target regions in development traps

- Policy needs to be adaptable but is not a crisis instrument



On the left side of the slide, there are three vertical bars of varying heights and colors: a yellow bar at the top, a light blue bar in the middle, and a dark blue bar at the bottom.

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP: SOME KEY MESSAGES

- build a genuinely place-based & people-based policy approach
- develop strong institutions and governance
- harness global opportunities
- delivery should focus more on results and performance
- meaningful simplification
- strategic framework uniting policies for competitiveness and cohesion

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP: SOME KEY MESSAGES

UPGRADING TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

- enhance inter-regional links & collaboration to facilitate knowledge transfer and innovation
- strengthen interaction between more dynamic and more vulnerable regions
- improve CBC governance to overcome historical & institutional development constraints
- external border issues: dealing with migration flows, political instability, war, enlargement



ISSUES FOR INTERREG TO CONSIDER



- How to maximise the impact of ETC in dealing with current and new challenges?



- Can Interreg do more to build bridges between dynamic and vulnerable places?



- Scope for more place-based responses – more diverse forms of intervention?



- Stronger links/synergies with other programmes and policies (EU/national)?



- Capitalise on 35 years of experience - build on results, reinforce distinct identity/role?

References

High-Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy, Forging a sustainable future together – Cohesion for a competitive and inclusive Europe, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024.

Bachtler J and Mendez C, Navigating Stormy Waters: Crisis and Cohesion Policy beyond 2027, European Policy Regional Policy Research Consortium (EoRPA) Paper 23/3, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow & EPRC Delft, 2023.

Begg I, Le Cacheux J, Liscai A, Rispal N and Benedetto G (2023) Options for a Stronger and More Agile EU budget, Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, PE 755.099, October 2023, European Parliament, Brussels

McDowall, W., Reinauer, T., Fragkos, P. *et al.* Mapping regional vulnerability in Europe's energy transition: development and application of an indicator to assess declining employment in four carbon-intensive industries. *Climatic Change* **176**, 7 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-022-03478-w>

McMaster, I, EPRC blogs: Interreg – finally in a good place and All grown-up – what's next for Interreg? European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow & EPRC Delft.





Interreg Knowledge Fair 2024

Plenary session



Interreg COOPERATION DAY

A pathway to your Citizens' Consultation Post 2027



Panel discussion

Welcome

Nathalie Verschelde

Deputy Head D1, DG REGIO

Simona Pohlova

Deputy Head D2 , DG REGIO

Wiktor Szydarowski

Director, ESPON EGTC

Questions

What is next: Break, and then breakout rooms

The conversation continues
in the following sessions:

Kurzeme

Future of Interreg:
Scope, content
and purpose

[Full]

Vidzeme

Interreg: How to
evolve and
improve the
structure

Zemgale

Having more
impact: Stronger
complementarity
CB-TN

Latgale

Interreg for
people:
Engaging
citizens

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.

Stay in Slido and tell us what you think in the **Plenary session**.

Star rating, 1 (bad) to 5 (amazing)

You can also talk to us at the Conference Support stand in the networking area.



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

[Interact / Events / Interreg Knowledge Fair \(5-7 March 2024\)](#)