



# State of Interreg Report 2023

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December 2023

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Furthermore, understanding and knowledge evolves throughout the programming period. If you spot something out of date or inconsistent, please contact us at [communication@interact.eu](mailto:communication@interact.eu)

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**Publisher** Interact Programme

**Date updated** 15 March 2024

**Primary knowledge area:** Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting

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**Interact**



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

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# 1. Executive summary

## 1.1. Overview

Interreg has already opened more than 150 calls, and made 4.5 billion euros available for projects. These figures show just how quickly Interreg has moved quickly forwards in implementing in the 2021-2027 period.

If the plans shared by Interreg programmes are implemented, by the end of 2024 more than 300 calls will have opened, and the majority of Interreg funds will be in selection processes.

This information was gathered by Interact's keep.eu team in their research, and further verified (where possible) by Interact's communication team with the programmes themselves.

Of course, it is important to note that for these funds to be viewed as allocated, due process must be followed. Projects must apply, be selected, approved and then contracted. These additional steps in each individual programme are taken before official data can exist. Not all funding available in each call is allocated to the selected projects, and of course, it is also possible for budgets to be increased by Monitoring Committees. So, this report shows a general picture, rather than a detailed, auditable dataset.

We are grateful to all Interreg programmes for their cooperation, and in their confidence in sharing information on intentions that are still subject to approval by monitoring committees. Nothing included in this report should be read to undermine or question the role and responsibilities of Monitoring Committees and other such bodies to oversee and approve the actions of individual programmes.

We set out in detail the limitations of our research and reliability of the data gathered. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of any programmes' own data. We urge caution in using the figures presented as anything more than a demonstration of a 'healthy pipeline' of potential projects which should appear in official data in due course.

## 2. About the State of Interreg Report

### 2.1. Overview

In this report, Interact seeks to provide an overview of the state of implementation of Interreg.

While individual programmes are aware of their own position, few have the capacity to research and explore other programmes in their territory. Interact offers insights here on the wider picture of implementation in Interreg.

We hope this report is interesting and helps to make the data available in keep.eu and the Open Data Platform more accessible, as well as providing new data collated from Interreg programme websites.

While official data offers a more confident position in implementation, the data from calls opened by Interreg programmes is useful to inform where programmes are in the period. As the funding period moves on, the question we seek to answer in this report will change from where things are being done already, to where there is still capacity to take actions and bring forward new projects and ideas.

In this first report, we highlight the position of Interreg near the start of the period. We include information about which programmes are active in which Policy Objectives, and how quickly programmes have launched calls and made funding available.

Interact will continue to facilitate the exchange of knowledge within thematic areas, which in 2021-2027 are represented through the policy objectives. Information in this report includes how many programmes are working in each policy area, and highlight the programmes with the largest funding volumes in each area. This data is available for further research via the Open Data Platform.

Further information about the way in which Interact will support the exchange of information within the Policy Objectives of 2021-2027 will be available shortly on Interact.eu.

We hope that future editions of this work will further help Interreg.

One way forward would be to show where funding remains available, and under which policy objectives. This is one use of data which could help individual programmes find new projects ideas and partners. In order to do this, we need to strengthen the cooperation around the availability of data, and the harmonisation of data in Interreg, and in the wider context of other EU funding mechanisms under the Common Provisions Regulation.

### 2.2. The two types of data in the report

In order to compile this report, data has been taken from the Commission's Open Data Platform, as well as the keep.eu database managed by Interact. The Interact programme is grateful for the positive cooperation with the Open Data Platform and Kohesio team, and with our keep.eu team, in ensuring that work to make Interreg's contribution easier to research and analyse is, in itself, a cooperative undertaking.

This data is live, but it is reliable and built on agreements made within programmes, and importantly, then filed with the Commission through official reports.

In addition to the above data, this report compiles additional secondary data, collected from programme websites, verified to the extent possible, and included in this report as such. It is not possible to interpret this data as equivalent in reliability to the official data.

### **2.3. Data collection methodology**

The keep.eu research exercise analysed the websites of every Interreg programme and national funding portal during August 2023.

This information was compiled, and then shared with programmes in September 2023, and again in October 2023 for verification of the research.

Interact sought either direct feedback from the programmes, or from Interact colleagues working closely with specific types of programmes such as the Stand D programmes.

In all, 55 programmes, 63% of all programmes, verified their data.

In all of these cases, the data gathered was either accurate, or additional information was provided on top of what was in the public domain. On this basis, the verification process demonstrates that there is reasonable confidence in the data presented.

However, 37% of the data is unverified. Within these figures, 8% represents programmes where no data is available at all – so no calls are recorded and no financial volume exists. The other 29% is data publicly available and included, but currently unverified.

Due to the verification process, Interact is confident in the general picture being presented in this publication. In each chapter we expressly state key information on the reliability of the data set presented, and the reliability of the data changes in different chapters.

### **2.4. What this report can and cannot be used for**

This report uses the volumes of funding in calls to indicate an approximate position for Interreg. It provides insights into the potential position of Interreg in the future, once the calls have closed and projects have been selected.

Although it can be used to demonstrate there is a potential healthy pipeline of projects ahead, it cannot be assumed that these projects exist until additional steps are taken.

In particular, from an open call, projects need to apply, be selected by Monitoring Committees, contract with the programme and partners and more.

This report cannot be used to infer the state of play of any individual programme, and cannot contradict official programme data.

## 3. Interreg in 2021-2027

### 3.1. Overview

The overall number of Interreg programmes has been reduced in the 2021-2027 period.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, all cooperation with Russia and Belarus was suspended, and the funding allocated to programmes has been redistributed. This meant nine envisaged Interreg programmes will not exist.

The EU funding planned for these programmes has been refocussed on other programmes to strengthen cooperation, particularly with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. We do not believe that any other programme is impacted by this, which means we hope to see 87 programmes exist in the 2021-2027 period.

#### **Data reliability | Strong**

*Live data, but reliable*

The data set out in this chapter is based on both the Open Data Platform and keep.eu.

### 3.2. Strands of cooperation

As Interreg is one community, this report includes the Interreg IPA and Interreg NEXT programmes, alongside the internal border programmes. Interact continues to support Interreg IPA, and is working in close partnership with the TESIM project to support Interreg NEXT programmes.

Following the logic of the regulations, in this report the Outermost Region programmes are treated as their own strand (D), and not merged into the Cross-border (A) or Transnational (B) strands as applies to IPA and NEXT programmes.

### 3.3. Strand A | Cross Border Cooperation

There are 64 Interreg programmes operating within Strand A. These programmes cover the physical land borders as well as maritime border of the European Union, and with IPA and NEXT countries.

The programmes manage a total budget of approximately 6.4 billion Euro.

While most programmes in this strand operate between two countries (52/64), there are three, four and even five country programmes.

*Table of Strand A programmes with 3 or more participant countries.*

Programme name	Number of countries
Interreg Poland - Denmark - Germany - Lithuania - Sweden (South Baltic)	5
Interreg France - Belgium - Germany - Luxembourg (Grande Région/Großregion)	4
Interreg Germany - Austria - Switzerland - Liechtenstein (Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein)	4
Interreg NEXT Hungary - Slovakia - Romania - Ukraine	4
Interreg France - Germany - Switzerland (Upper Rhine)	3
Interreg IPA Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro	3
Interreg IPA Greece - North Macedonia	3
Interreg IPA Italy - Albania - Montenegro (South Adriatic)	3
Interreg Maas-Rijn/Meuse-Rhin/Maas-Rhein (Netherlands - Belgium - Germany)	3
Interreg Spain - France - Andorra (POCTEFA)	3
Interreg Sweden - Denmark - Norway (Öresund - Kattegat - Skagerrak)	3
Interreg Sweden - Finland - Norway (AURORA)	3

In addition to the diversity of programme geographies, over land and sea borders, Strand A also includes significant financial diversity. The largest programme budget being in excess of 300 million Euros, compared to the smallest programme with a budget of around 14 million Euros.



*Strand A programmes with the largest budget, EU funding (in euros), including Technical Assistance*

Programme name	Budgets (Largest five Strand A programmes)
Interreg Spain - Portugal (POCTEP)	320.6 million
Interreg Belgium - France (Wallonie - Vlaanderen - France)	286.9 million
Interreg Spain - France - Andorra (POCTEFA)	243.1 million
Interreg Germany - The Netherlands	240.8 million
Interreg NEXT Poland - Ukraine	235.9 million
PEACE PLUS Programme (Ireland - Northern Ireland/United Kingdom)	234.5 million

**PEACE PLUS Programme**

The PEACE PLUS programme has a much larger budget than the above table presents. This is due to the unique way the external funding works for this programme.

While other programmes manage other ERDF equivalent amounts, the volume and approach in declaring the funds in PEACE PLUS are unique.

In all, PEACE PLUS has the largest single programme budget, and around 10% of the total Interreg budget. The programme is 74-26 co-funded, and includes match funding from each jurisdiction.

The budget consists of 915 million euros from ERDF and equivalent funds. In this case, 681 million EUR is UK equivalent to ERDF funds.

The match funding of 229 million national contributions come from the government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive.

The programme works to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

*Strand A programmes with the smallest budget, EU funding (in euros), including Technical Assistance*

<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Budgets (Smallest five Strand A programmes)</b>
Interreg Estonia - Latvia	27.9 million
Interreg IPA Greece - North Macedonia	26.7 million
Interreg IPA Greece - Albania	26.7 million
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - North Macedonia	26.5 million
Interreg Slovenia - Hungary	14.1 million

Cooperation within Strand A includes not only the 27 Member States of the European Union, but also various third countries and principalities. While IPA and NEXT enable cooperation on external borders, they are not the only types of programmes working with non-member states and territories.

### 3.4. Strand B | Transnational Cooperation

There are 14 Interreg programmes operating within Strand B. These programmes cover large areas of the European continent and adjacent areas, and manage 2.4 billion euros.

While cross border programmes obviously include, or not, external countries, the situation for transnational programmes is more diverse.

There are three expressly external transnational programmes, Interreg IPA Adriatic-Ionian, Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin, and Interreg NEXT MED. In addition, the Alpine Space and Danube programmes also benefit from IPA funding and work outside the borders of the European Union.

*The fourteen Transnational programmes, EU funding (in euros), including Technical Assistance*

Programme name	Budgets
Interreg EURO Mediterranean (EURO MED)	234.9 million
Interreg Baltic Sea Region	251.0 million
Interreg Danube	224.6 million
Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic	43.7 million
Interreg IPA Adriatic-Ionian	136.7 million
Interreg NEXT Mediterranean Sea Basin (NEXT MED)	263.1 million
Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin	85.0 million
Interreg NEXT Mid-Atlantic	72.5 million
Interreg Alpine Space	107.1 million
Interreg Atlantic Area	113.1 million
Interreg Central Europe	224.6 million
Interreg North Sea	171.2 million
Interreg North West Europe	310.5 million
Interreg South West Europe (SUDOE)	125.2 million

Alongside the Baltic Sea Region, and the Adriatic-Ionian, Alpine Space and Danube programme also host the EUs Macro-regional strategies and support the implementation of cross-border solutions within their territories on shared challenges define in the strategy.

Like the Strand A programmes, transnational programmes are able to cooperate with third countries, both within the IPA and NEXT structure and outside of it.

### 3.5. Strand C | Interregional programmes

There are four Strand C Programmes who seek to boost the effectiveness of cohesion policy.

Each programme has a defined role, per Article 3 (3) of the Interreg regulation (2021/1059) focusing on different aspects to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy.

*The four Interregional programmes, EU funding (in euros), including Technical Assistance*

Programme name	Budget
ESPO 2030	48.0 million
Interact	45.0 million
Interreg Europe	384.5 million
URBACT IV	86.8 million

One of the original purposes of the Interact programme was to support the ascension of 8 new member states, which was extended to support the future IPA territory. This purpose continues in Interact through more than 15 years of cooperation with the IPA countries. This work is done within the ERDF budget of the programme.

As a novelty of the 2021-2027 period, the other Interreg Europe and URBACT will also have IPA funds available, and will be working within the IPA territories.

### 3.6. Strand D | Outermost regions

There are five Strand D Programmes. While referred to as the Outermost Region programmes, they more often go by “Régions Ultrapériphériques” or RUP, owing to the main language of these programmes being French, Spanish and Portuguese, rather than English.

The Outermost Region programmes are strategic assets for Europe, occupying an important space as European outposts in the global area. With a base in the territory of an EU Member State, they are a form of external cooperation, working with Europe’s more distant neighbours, strengthening cooperation in the wider world.

The programmes operate in three geographic areas.

- Interreg Amazonia and Caribbean operate and build partnerships in central and south America.
- Interreg Indian Ocean and Mozambique Channel operate in their clear geographical areas.
- Interreg Madeira – Azores – Canaries forms the core of a cooperation throughout the Atlantic and including parts of Western Africa.

Programme name	Budget
Interreg Amazonia	18.9 million
Interreg Caribbean	67.9 million
Interreg Indian Ocean	62.3 million
Interreg Madeira-Azores-Canary Islands (MAC)	169.9 million
Interreg Mozambique Channel	10.2 million

These five programmes are challenged to build and ensure funding for the non-ERDF contribution. This entails an additional challenge for these programmes in identifying and building cooperation with the providers of the EU external cooperation funds (NDICI, through DG INTPA and the EU Delegations), and in engaging with their partner areas, attracting the necessary beneficiaries from neighbouring countries.

This is part of the challenges these programmes face in starting to work, and is a key part of the reason why only one, MAC, has yet been able to open calls.

Alongside the Commission, Interact offers bespoke support for Strand D programmes, and helps them connect with their neighbours.

## 4. Interreg's focus in 2021-2027

### 4.1. Overview

At the start of the programming period, each programme has published a statement of intent about the impacts it is seeking to have in its territory. This is set out in text in the programme documents, and in financial terms by the allocation of budget per Policy Objective.

The selection of which of the five Policy Objectives and Interreg Specific Objectives sets a direction for the impact that Interreg will have over the period. Of course, allocations per objective may be adjusted by the programme, responding to changing and evolving needs.

#### **Data reliability | Strong**

*Live data, but reliable*

The programme data set out in this Chapter is based on the Open Data Platform only.

Please note, as the Open Data Platform includes the UK ERDF equivalent funds in its data. As such, the figures cited in this chapter for PEACE PLUS are based on the larger budget as stated in the Open Data Platform.

### 4.2. The seven Policy Objectives

The regulations set down seven objectives, five Policy Objectives and two Interreg Specific Objectives. The two Interreg specific objectives are designed to respond to unique elements in the cooperation context.

- Policy Objective 1: A smarter Europe – innovative and smart economic transformation
- Policy Objective 2: A Greener, low-carbon Europe
- Policy Objective 3: A more connected Europe – mobility and regional ICT connectivity
- Policy Objective 4: A more Social Europe – implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Policy Objective 5: A Europe closer to citizens – sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas through local initiatives
- Interreg Specific Objective 1: A better Interreg governance
- Interreg Specific Objective 2: A safer more secure Europe

### 4.3. Policy Objective 1

#### A smarter Europe – innovative and smart economic transformation

Under Policy Objective 1, 56 programmes will invest 1.8 billion euros, meaning almost 20% (18.6%) of all Interreg funds are being directed at actions within this Policy Objective.

*Programmes with 50m plus budget (EU funding) in PO1*

Programme	Budget
Interreg Germany - The Netherlands	108.3 million
Interreg Spain - Portugal (POCTEP)	86.6 million
PEACE PLUS Programme (Ireland - Northern Ireland/United Kingdom)	82.4 million
Interreg Belgium - France (Wallonie - Vlaanderen - France)	82.0 million
Interreg Madeira - Azores - Canary Islands (MAC)	74.8 million
Interreg NEXT MED	73.3 million
Interreg Belgium - The Netherlands (Vlaanderen - Nederland)	72.6 million
Interreg North West Europe	67.7 million
Interreg Central Europe	67.4 million
Interreg Baltic Sea region	63.9 million
Interreg Spain - France - Andorra (POCTEFA)	54.6 million
Interreg EURO MED	52.7 million
Interreg North Sea	52.6 million

In addition to raw funding, for several programmes this objective is the largest single objective. The 10 programmes most focussed on this Policy Objective, as a percentage of their overall budget, are:

*Programmes with most focus on PO1 (EU funding), expressed in percent of total budget*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Interreg Indian Ocean	47%
Interreg Sweden - Norway	46%
Interreg Germany - The Netherlands	45%
Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic	45%
Interreg Madeira - Azores - Canary Islands (MAC)	40%
Interreg Sweden - Finland - Norway (AURORA)	38%
Interreg Belgium - The Netherlands (Vlaanderen - Nederland)	35%
Interreg Euregio Maas-Rijn/Meuse-Rhin/Maas-Rhein (Netherlands - Belgium - Germany)	35%
Interreg Sweden - Denmark - Norway (Öresund - Kattegat - Skagerrak)	35%
Interreg Black Sea	33%



## 4.4. Policy Objective 2

### A Greener, low-carbon Europe

As this Policy Objective represents one of the most existential challenges to the planet, it was a mandatory field for Interreg programmes. The only exceptions were to the four Interregional Programmes – ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe and URBACT.

The remaining programmes will spend 3.4 billion euros, some 34.3% of all Interreg funds on this objective.

#### *Programmes with 100m plus budget (EU funding) in PO2*

Programme	Budget
Interreg North West Europe	204.5 million
Interreg EURO MED	167.4 million
Interreg Baltic Sea region	159.8 million
PEACE PLUS Programme (Ireland - Northern Ireland/United Kingdom)	126.2 million
Interreg Central Europe	112.3 million
Interreg NEXT MED	106.7 million
Interreg Spain - Portugal (POCTEP)	105.8 million
Interreg North Sea	103.0 million

Reflecting the scale of the challenge, many programmes are devoting the majority of their total budget to this Policy Objective. The Alpine Space programme has assigned more than two-thirds of its programme budget to this priority, alongside the Black Sea and EURO MED programmes.

*Programmes prioritising PO2 with 50% or more of their programme budget.*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Interreg Alpine Space	68%
Interreg Black Sea	67%
Interreg EURO MED	66%
Interreg Baltic Sea region	64%
Interreg North West Europe	61%
Interreg North Sea	60%
Interreg Greece - Cyprus	60%
Interreg IPA Adrion	54%
Interreg Atlantic Area	52%
Interreg Central Europe	50%

## 4.5. Policy Objective 3

### A more connected Europe – mobility and regional ICT connectivity

Together, 20 programmes will spend 0.5 billion euros on this Policy Objective. While for many programmes this is one of the smaller areas of priority, it is one that is being pursued by several programmes to a significant extent.

From the total of 20 programmes, half are spending more than 20 million developing actions under this Policy Objective. Additionally, two are devoting one-third of the overall programme budget to these operations.

#### *Programmes with 20m plus budget (EU funding) in PO3*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
PEACE PLUS Programme (Ireland - Northern Ireland/United Kingdom)	151.1 million
Interreg Czechia - Poland	39.4 million
Interreg Italy - Croatia	37.3 million
Interreg France - Germany - Switzerland (Upper Rhine)	27.3 million
Interreg Greece - Bulgaria	26.6 million
Interreg Poland - Slovakia	24.6 million
Interreg Central Europe	22.5 million
Interreg Belgium - France (Wallonie - Vlaanderen - France)	21.9 million
Interreg Romania - Bulgaria	21.4 million
Interreg Sweden - Denmark - Norway (Öresund - Kattegat - Skagerrak)	21.2 million

*Programmes prioritising PO3 with 20% or more of their programme budget.*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Interreg Greece - Bulgaria	37%
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - North Macedonia	33%
Interreg IPA Greece - North Macedonia	26%
Interreg France - Switzerland	23%
Interreg Czechia - Poland	22%
Interreg France - Germany - Switzerland (Upper Rhine)	22%
Interreg Italy - Croatia	21%

## 4.6. Policy Objective 4

### A more Social Europe – implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

The fourth Policy Objective was the most chosen policy objective for Interreg programmes, noting that PO2 was a mandatory undertaking. In all, just three cross-border programmes did not choose this objective.

The policy objective was less popular with Transnational programmes, with less than half (6 out of 14) opting to undertake actions under this Policy Objective.

For the 69 programmes seeking projects under this objective, 2.5 billion euros will be made available.

#### Programmes not working under PO4

##### Interreg VI-A

IPA Bulgaria - North Macedonia, IPA Bulgaria - Serbia, IPA Bulgaria - Turkey.

##### Interreg VI-B

Alpine Space, Baltic Sea region, NEXT Black Sea, Central Europe, EURO MED, IPA Adrion, North Sea, Northern Periphery and Arctic.

##### Interreg VI-C

ESPO, Interact, Interreg Europe, URBACT.

##### Interreg VI-D

Madeira-Azores-Canary Islands (MAC).

#### Programmes with 70m plus budget (EU funding) in PO4

Programme	Budget
PEACE PLUS Programme (Ireland - Northern Ireland/United Kingdom)	572.6 million
Interreg NEXT Poland - Ukraine	99.3 million
Interreg Belgium - France (Wallonie - Vlaanderen - France)	79.0 million
Interreg Romania - Hungary	78.8 million
Interreg Spain - Portugal (POCTEP)	77.0 million
Interreg Hungary - Slovakia	74.3 million
Interreg Spain - France - Andorra (POCTEFA)	71.9 million
Interreg Czechia - Poland	71.5 million

As with PO2, several programmes view this as the most significant challenge that they can address, and are devoting the majority of the programmes total budget to tackle issues under this objective.

*Programmes prioritising PO4 with 50% or more of their programme budget.*

Programme	Budget
Interreg Slovakia - Czechia	63%
Interreg Poland - Germany/Saxony	59%
PEACE PLUS Programme (Ireland - Northern Ireland/United Kingdom)	58%
Interreg Romania - Hungary	56%
Interreg NEXT Romania - Ukraine	56%
Interreg Hungary - Slovakia	56%
Interreg Slovenia - Hungary	55%
Interreg NEXT Poland - Ukraine	53%
Interreg Germany/Brandenburg - Poland	52%
Interreg Poland - Slovakia	51%

## 4.7. Policy Objective 5

### **A Europe closer to citizens – sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas through local initiatives**

While Policy Objective five was only chosen by 11 programmes, spending less than 0.3 billion euros overall, it is nonetheless interesting. In particular, three Bulgarian hosted programmes have adopted PO5 in a highly significant way and are implementing PO5 through local agendas. Interact was invited to explore the approach undertaken, and continues to follow the progress of this innovative work.

PO5 requires the involvement of local and regional stakeholders and building strategies for cross-border territories – for most of the 10 programmes this has been done for the first time. It is expected that this funding will take a little longer to be committed as these strategies need to be developed first.

*Programmes adopting PO5, with total budget (EU funding)*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Interreg Romania - Bulgaria	55.6 million
Interreg France - Belgium - Germany - Luxembourg (Grande Région/Großregion)	50.9 million
Interreg Spain - France - Andorra (POCTEFA)	45.1 million
Interreg France - Italy (ALCOTRA)	36.5 million
Interreg Spain - Portugal (POCTEP)	25.7 million
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - Turkey	21.1 million
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - Serbia	19.8 million
Interreg Italy - Austria	15.5 million
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - North Macedonia	13.2 million
Interreg Austria - Germany/Bavaria	12.8 million
Interreg Caraïbes	5.0 million

*Programmes prioritising PO5, and percentage of budget allocated to PO5.*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - Turkey	72%
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - Serbia	61%
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - North Macedonia	50%
Interreg Romania - Bulgaria	34%
Interreg France - Belgium - Germany - Luxembourg (Grande Région/Großregion)	28%
Interreg Italy - Austria	21%
Interreg Austria - Germany/Bavaria	21%
Interreg France - Italy (ALCOTRA)	20%
Interreg Spain - France - Andorra (POCTEFA)	19%
Interreg Spain - Portugal (POCTEP)	8%
Interreg Caraïbes	7%



## 4.8. Interreg Specific Objective 1

### A better Interreg governance

Recognising unique challenges in Interreg, two specific objectives were created to explore improvements to the Interreg governance. In total, 1.3 billion euros are allocated to this objective by 68 programmes.

However, there is an oddity in this data as the Interreg C programmes are fully within this objective. Included in this data set is four programmes spending more than 0.5 billion euros. As such, removing these four programmes from the analysis gives a more accurate figure of 64 programmes with a budget of 0.8 billion euros.

Excluding the Interregional programmes (budgets set out in 3.5 above), other programmes active under this Policy Objective have the following financial approach to the ISO1:

#### *Programmes with 25m plus budget (EU funding) in ISO1*

Programme	Budget
PEACE PLUS Programme (Ireland - Northern Ireland/United Kingdom)	47.6 million
Interreg Danube	44.6 million
Interreg Germany - The Netherlands	42.1 million
Interreg Czechia - Poland	35.8 million
Interreg EURO MED	33.6 million
Interreg Madeira - Azores - Canary Islands (MAC)	28.0 million
Interreg Baltic Sea region	27.2 million
Interreg Belgium - France (Wallonie - Vlaanderen - France)	27.1 million
Interreg Germany/Saxony - Czechia	26.2 million
Interreg Spain - Portugal (POCTEP)	25.7 million

*Programmes prioritising ISO1 with 20% or more of their programme budget.*

Programme	Budget
Interreg Lithuania - Poland	33%
Interreg IPA Hungary - Serbia	25%
Interreg Danube	21%
Interreg Poland - Germany/Saxony	20%
Interreg Germany - Denmark	20%
Interreg Germany/Brandenburg - Poland	20%
Interreg Germany - Austria - Switzerland - Liechtenstein (Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein)	20%
Interreg Czechia - Poland	20%

## 4.9. Interreg Specific Objective 2

### A safer more secure Europe

The most niche of the Policy Objectives is ISO2, which is adopted by 7 programmes and will have a total budget of 39 million euros.

*Programmes operating with ISO2, by budget (EU funding)*

Programme	Budget
Interreg NEXT Poland - Ukraine	9.4 million
Interreg Madeira - Azores - Canary Islands (MAC)	9.3 million
Interreg IPA Romania - Moldova	7.7 million
Interreg IPA Hungary - Serbia	6.4 million
Interreg NEXT Romania - Ukraine	2.7 million
Interreg Greece - Cyprus	2.3 million
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - Turkey	1.7 million

*Programmes operating with ISO2, by percentage of total budget (EU funding)*

Programme	Budget
Interreg NEXT Romania - Moldova	9%
Interreg IPA Hungary - Serbia	8%
Interreg IPA Bulgaria - Turkey	6%
Interreg Greece - Cyprus	5%
Interreg Madeira - Azores - Canary Islands (MAC)	5%
Interreg NEXT Romania - Ukraine	5%
Interreg NEXT Poland - Ukraine	5%

## 5. Implementation of Interreg 2021-2027

### 5.1. Overview

Interreg programmes have moved swiftly into the implementation phase of the programme life-cycle.

The data gathered in this report reflects that programmes have largely not only started up, but have made significant progress in selecting projects and creating the partnerships that will implement the objectives set out in their programme documents.

This chapter seeks to set out the approximate position of Interreg programmes by Strand. For both Strand A and B programmes, this is a comfortable analysis. However, not all Strand C programmes fit this model.

The **ESPON** programme funds an implementation unit, the EGTC, which implements the programme. This entity spends the EU funding, minus the operating cost of the MA unit, and other related costs.

The **Interact** programme's Managing Authority signs partnership agreements with four implementing offices. These offices spend the EU funding, minus the operating costs of the programme's Managing Authority and Interact Secretariat, and costs related to these programme units.

The data includes both ESPON and Interact programmes' whole budgets, on the basis that there is a surety about the delivery, and no more 'calls', or applications, will take place to invest the funds.

Both the Interreg Europe and URBACT programmes run calls to fund projects. They are more comfortable fitting into the model of funding in calls to date, and as such they are included in a manner similar to the other strands.

#### **Data reliability | Medium**

*Secondary data, mostly verified by data owners*

The data set out in this Chapter is secondary data researched by Interact via keep.eu, and it is verified by 64% of the data owners.

The data set out in this Chapter should be used only for an overview of the current position of Interreg. It should not be used to infer any specific amount of funding has been allocated in any individual programme.

Furthermore, as the data in this chapter is about allocated funding prior to submission and approval of projects, it can only indicate potential positions after those processes.

## 5.2. Overview of calls to date

Since the start of the programming period, there have been around 148 calls for projects, whether through formal calls, or through submission rounds.

These calls included a financial volume of more than 4.5 billion euros. This represents more than 45% of Interreg's total funding. It is worth noting that there are some discrepancies still in the final programme budget totals – in particular for the PEACE PLUS programme which has a unique arrangement.

Most programmes have already run two or more calls. This is sometimes achieved by running parallel calls for standard projects, alongside an additional call for small projects. However, there are significant numbers of programmes already on the third call, with some moving even further forward.

Number of calls	Programmes at this stage
1	30
2	20
3	13
4	6
5 or more	2

Two programme have run five or more calls: Germany-The Netherlands programme have had seven submission rounds open for projects; and the PEACE PLUS programme are running multiple calls simultaneously against 6 themes for the programme and 22 Investment areas, which are linked back to the programmes chosen four Policy Objectives.

As they are running calls with nine separate opening and closing dates, these have been interpreted as nine individual calls.

## 5.3. Cross Border Cooperation | Calls and financial volume

The 64 Cross-Border Cooperation programmes have collectively run 116 calls, and have made more than 2.8 billion of EU funding available.

This represents just under 42% of the total budget of CBC programmes.

The data from CBC programmes was validated by 38 programmes (59%).

#### **5.4. Transnational and Interregional Cooperation | Calls and financial volume**

The 14 Transnational programmes and the two Interregional Programmes who run calls have collectively run 33 calls, and have made more than 1.5 billion of EU funding available.

This represents more than 56% of the total budget of these programmes.

The data from these programmes was validated by 11 programmes (69%).

#### **5.5. Outermost Regions | Calls and financial volume**

The 5 Outermost Region programmes have additional challenges to meet before they can run calls. As previously highlighted, they must ensure partnership funding from the non-ERDF contribution. This is a key challenge for the OMR programmes.

One Strand D programme has successfully opened its first call, with 78 million euros available, representing 23% of the total budget of this strand.

The data from these programmes was internally validated by Interact, which is in close contact with these programmes.

## 6. Forward calendar of planned calls in 2024

### 6.1. Spring 2024

During the research for this report, the following indicative plans for calls were shared by programmes, which plan to open or have a submission deadline in Spring 2024.

Programme (Short name)	Indicative date	Additional Information
Germany - The Netherlands	22 January 2024	Submission deadline
Atlantic Area	Early 2024	
AURORA	February 2024	
Austria - Germany(Bavaria)	February 2024	Submission deadline 30 million Small/medium
France - Switzerland	February 2024	Submission deadline
South Baltic	February 2024	SSP
SUDOE	February 2024	48.1 million
Hungary - Slovakia	March 2024	33 million in a two-round call
Italy - Austria	March 2024	23.5 million
South Baltic	April 2024	
Central Baltic	Spring 2024	30 million
IPA Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro	Spring 2024	30 million
IPA Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro	Spring 2024	8 million for Small Projects
EURO MED	Spring 2024	22 million
Germany (Brandenburg)-Poland	Spring 2024	
Interreg Europe	Spring 2024	
Maas-Rhein	Spring 2024	
Vlaanderen - Nederland	Spring 2024	

Please note, this list is indicative only. Programmes retain the right to modify or cancel such calls. Please consult individual programme websites for more information.

## 6.2. Summer 2024

During the research for this report, the following indicative plans for calls were noted in Summer 2024.

Please note, this list is indicative only. Programmes retain the right to modify or cancel such calls. Please consult individual programme websites for more information.

Programme	Indicative date	Additional Information
Germany - The Netherlands	27 May	Submission deadline
Adriatic - Ionian	Mid 2024	
Alpine space	Mid 2024	Small Scale Projects
Austria – Germany(Bavaria)	July 2024	Submission deadline Major projects
Hungary - Slovakia	July 2024	15 million
EURO MED	Summer 2024	51 million
Italy - Croatia	Summer 2024	27 million
Latvia - Lithuania	Summer 2024	
POCTEFA	Summer 2024	PO5 call
POCTEP	Summer 2024	



### 6.3. Autumn 2024

During the research for this report, the following indicative plans for calls were noted in Autumn 2024, or before the end of the year.

Please note, this list is indicative only. Programmes retain the right to modify or cancel such calls. Please consult individual programme websites for more information.

Programme	Indicative date	Additional Information
Germany - The Netherlands	16 September	Submission deadline
Central Europe	Autumn 2024	
IPA Romania - Serbia	Autumn 2024	8.8 million
South Baltic	December 2024	
IPA Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro	End 2024	25 million
IPA Croatia - Serbia	End 2024	
Italy - Croatia	End 2024	18 million
POCTEFA	End 2024	
POCTEP	End 2024	
Slovenia - Austria	End 2024	Standard projects
Slovenia - Hungary	End 2024	Standard projects
SUDOE	End 2024	5.3 million ISO1
IPA South Adriatic	2024	
NEXT MED	2024	Green transition
Romania - Bulgaria	2024	15 million PO4

# Annex 1: Article 49, Common Provisions Regulation

## Article 49

### Responsibilities of the managing authority

1. The managing authority shall ensure that, within 6 months of the decision approving the programme, there is a website where information on programmes under its responsibility is available, covering the programme's objectives, activities, available funding opportunities and achievements.

2. The managing authority shall ensure the publication on the website referred to in paragraph 1, or on the single website portal referred to in point (b) of Article 46, of a timetable of the planned calls for proposals, that is updated at least three times a year, with the following indicative data:

- (a) geographical area covered by the call for proposal;
- (b) policy objective or specific objective concerned;
- (c) type of eligible applicants;
- (d) total amount of support for the call;
- (e) start and end date of the call.