

Interreg Knowledge Fair 5-7 March 2024, Riga (Latvia)

Interreg for people: Engaging European citizens

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Interact



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Interreg

Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is the **second edition** of the Interreg Knowledge Fair, it is still a new approach for us.

The **Conference Support** stand in the Exhibition Room is a one-stop shop for your questions.

At the end of this session, you are asked to rate the **session experience**.

At the end of the event, you will be asked your **overall feedback**.



Agenda for today

01

Intro
Setting the scene

02

Programmes testimonials

03

**Group work -
Sharing reflections**

04

Wrap up and next steps

Study pilot

The engagement of civic and civil society in Interreg

Why?

- Past experience
- 2021-27 Regulations
- Opportunities

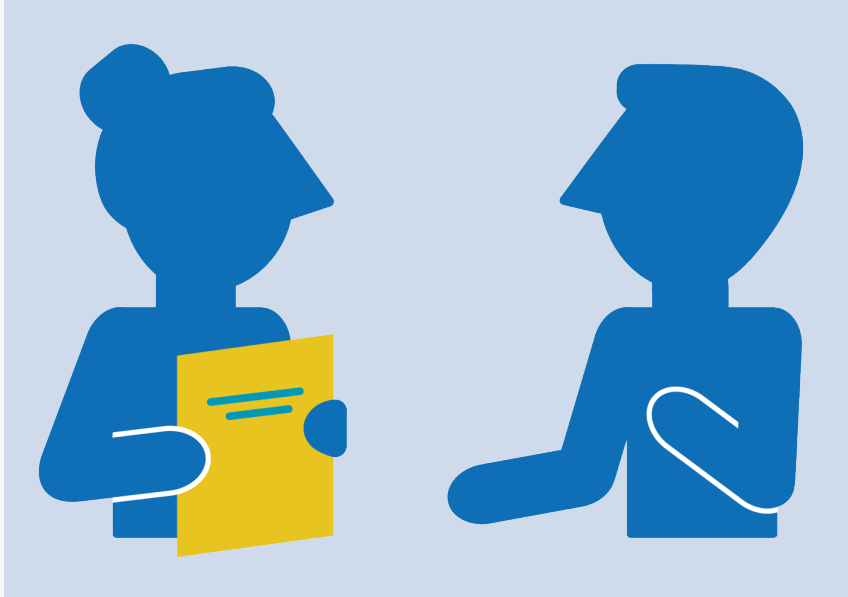
How?

- Keep.eu
- Questionnaire
- Focus group
- Interviews

Study pilot

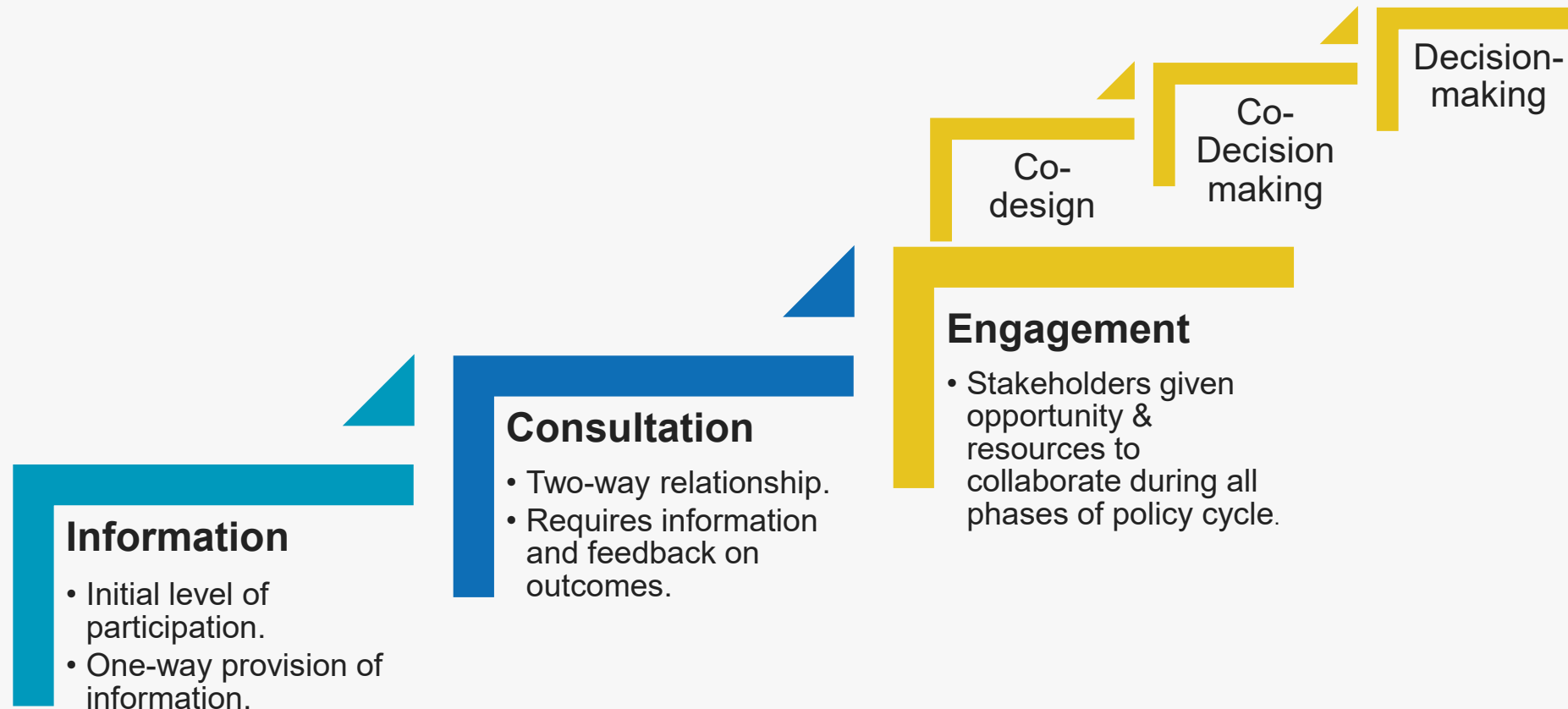
The engagement of civic and civil society in Interreg

Key findings



- Barriers and successes
- Good practice

Pillars and levels of engagement



Source: Author illustration drawing on OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government (2017) and Ruiz-Villaverde, A. & García-Rubio, M.A. (2016) *Public Participation in European Water Management: from Theory to Practice*, *Water Resource Management* (2017) 31:2479–2495

How to attract civil society and citizen engagement...

Actions can be taken linked to:

Programme management

- Partnership principle
- Activities financed under the TA

Programme priorities

- ISO1
- PO5
- PO 1-4

Project activities

- CSO oriented projects
- Activities to boost CSO engagement in projects

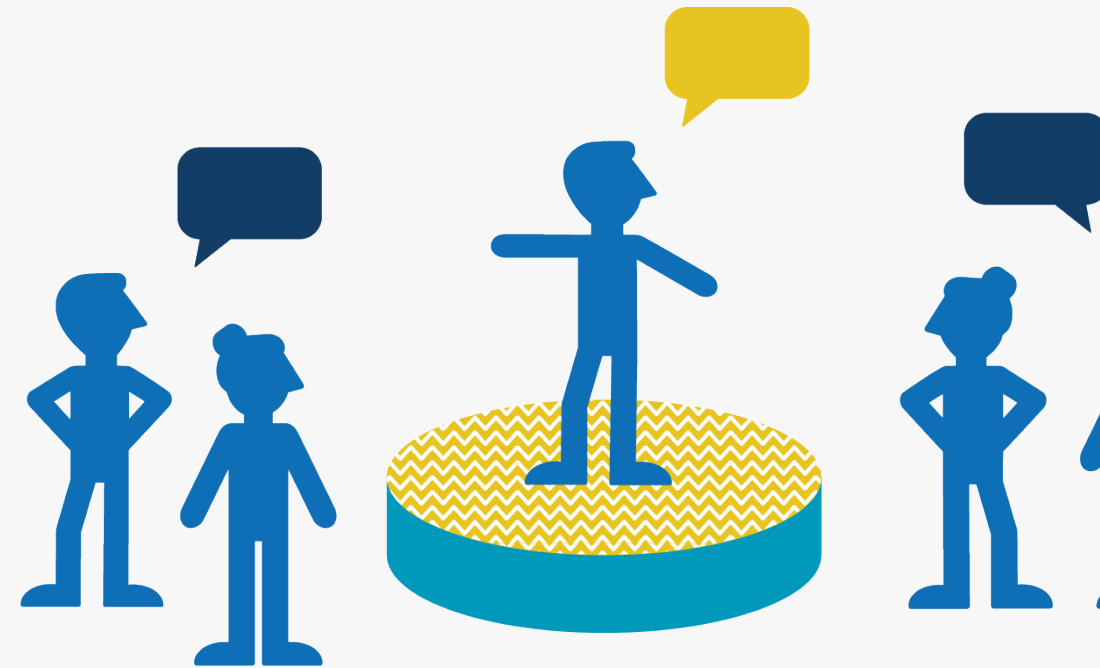
Programme actions to maximise CSO involvement in projects



- Monitoring and mapping CSO engagement
- Simplification
- Digital platforms
- Small-scale projects and Small Projects Fund
- CSO as project observers
- Communication and capitalisation support
- Guidance and training

Video testimonials

Interreg for people:
citizens' voice



Programmes testimonials

Anna Galyga, Interreg Baltic Sea Region
Denise de Roux, Interreg Alpine Space

Group work

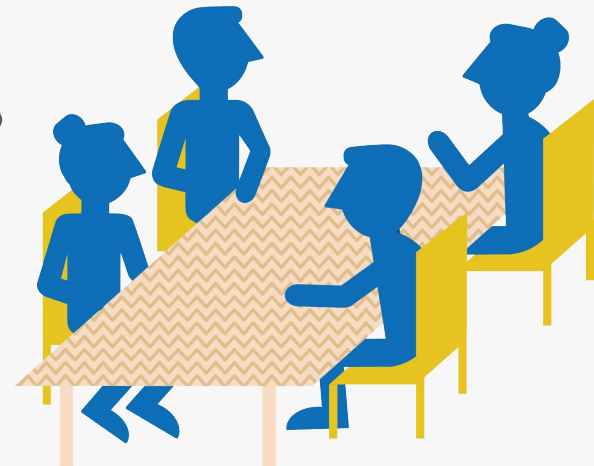
Let's exchange and discuss on the following questions:



- ✓ Why is it important to engage with citizens?
- ✓ What are the challenges you find?
- ✓ How do you overcome these challenges? And
- ✓ What do you need to do to get to the next level of engagement?

Joint reflection

- How do you consider engaging with citizens and civil society in your programme?
- What are your perceptions and potential next steps?
- Which stage(s) of the programme's lifecycle are you willing to explore to ensure citizen and civil society engagement?



Civil society organisation testimonial



Which civil society organization do you represent?

Our Organisation is the Initiative for the Self-Employment of Immigrant Women join the SIforREF (Social Innovation for Refugees) as a partner from civil society/ an NGO



What issue did your association tackle in SiforREF?

(...) Our association exists since 33 years. These women have few social networks when they arrive. Overtime, they look for how they could use their talent potentially to set up a business in Germany. And this is the objective of our association.



How your active participation in the project helped you to address this issue?



SlforREF offered opportunities to work together. Social innovation for refugees, brought potential changes in local policies. And, if not immediately because of the links in the chain, it will in the long-term. Activation with an interdisciplinary team to meet social challenges is extremely inspiring.

How your active participation in the project helped you to address this issue?

The SIforREF brought together a group of key players who desired to work together to find better solutions. Specifically, solutions that would suit the immigrant women.



Why should other civil society organisation participate in Interreg projects?

Together, we must work with other civil society organisations and the refugee women themselves to achieve initiatives and regular programs to be made available. Within SIforRef we found small solutions for individual cases. But this needs to be institutionalized at the local level.



Steps forward

Ongoing dialogue – conclusions drawn in Spring 2025

Discussions with Programmes and the consultations taken by the Programmes with stakeholders and citizens.

Milestone event in November offers a chance to test ideas



Knowledge Fair – ideation and visioning

Collect ideas, map expectations and needs



Summary and mapping

Drawn of IKF and hot topics for further discussion collected



Targeted discussions

With groups of programme representatives on the identified topics



Milestone event in November

Test and challenge the discussions taken after IKF

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.

Log into the **Whova app** and tell us what you think in the **session Q&A, from 1 (bad) to 5 (amazing)**
Please check which session you are in!

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 \(5-7 March 2024\)](#)