

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

The engagement of civil society in Interreg

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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

02

Key findings of
the pilot study

03

Sharing
reflections

04

What is in the
pipeline?

05

Wrap up and
next steps

From 1 to 5 : What's the level of your programme engagement with citizens and CSO?

1

Very little
engagement

2

3

4

5

Very high
engagement

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

The programmes that contributed to the study

Questionnaire	Interviews	Focus group
Interreg Greece-Italy	Interreg Alpine Space	Interreg Flanders-The Netherlands
Interreg Euregio Maas-Rhein	Interreg Greece-Italy	Interreg Central Europe
Interreg Central Baltic	Interreg Central Europe	Interreg Alpine Space
Interreg IPA South Adriatic	Interreg Euregio Maas-Rhein	
Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia	Interreg IPA Greece-North Macedonia	
Interreg Estonia-Latvia	Interreg IPA Romania- Serbia	
Interreg IPA Greece-North Macedonia	Interreg IPA South Adriatic	
Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak		
Interreg Flanders-The Netherlands		
Interreg Aurora		
Interreg Romania-Bulgaria		
Interreg Euro MED		
Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin		
Interreg France-Switzerland		
Interreg Central Europe		
Interreg Alpine Space		

Keep.eu overview of projects

Keywords	Search results
“participatory”	252 projects
“public participation”	13 projects
“public engagement”	6 projects
“civic engagement”	15 projects
“civic participation”	8 projects
“Bürgerbeteiligung”	8 projects
“participación ciudadana”	7 projects
“participation citoyenne”	8 projects
“co-creation”	19 projects
“co-design”	99 projects
“citizen science”	30 projects
SUM	~450 projects



“*Public participation and engagement*” is understood very differently in projects.

Different levels of participation (information, consultation, engagement) and objectives (promotion of civic engagement as core focus, means of delivery, dissemination or capitalisation).

Working definition

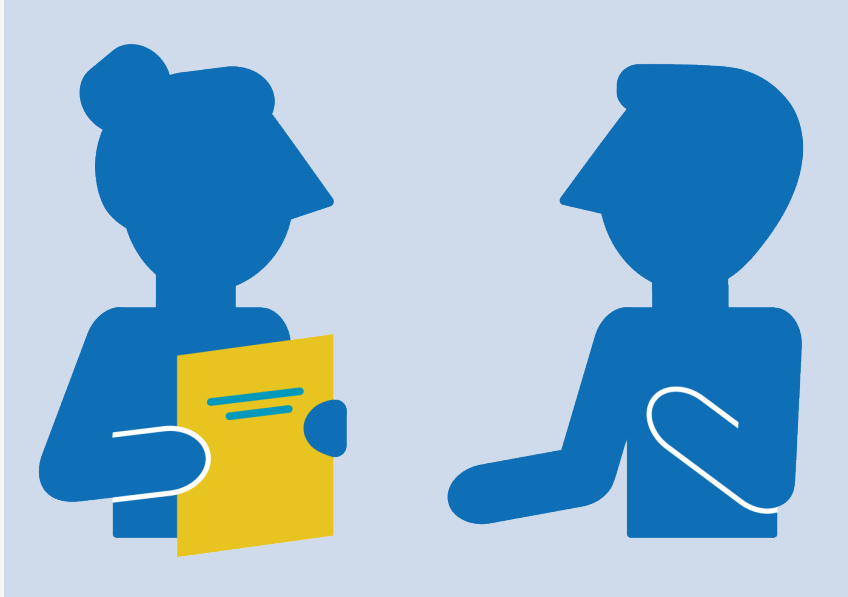
“Civic engagement refers to the active engagement of (organised & unorganised) civil society in decision-making that concerns issues of public interest”.

- Civic engagement can be difficult to define
- Taken into account differentiation between public engagement and more targeted civil society engagement
- Mindful of the different contexts
- Aim to pick up on more in depth engagement

Study pilot

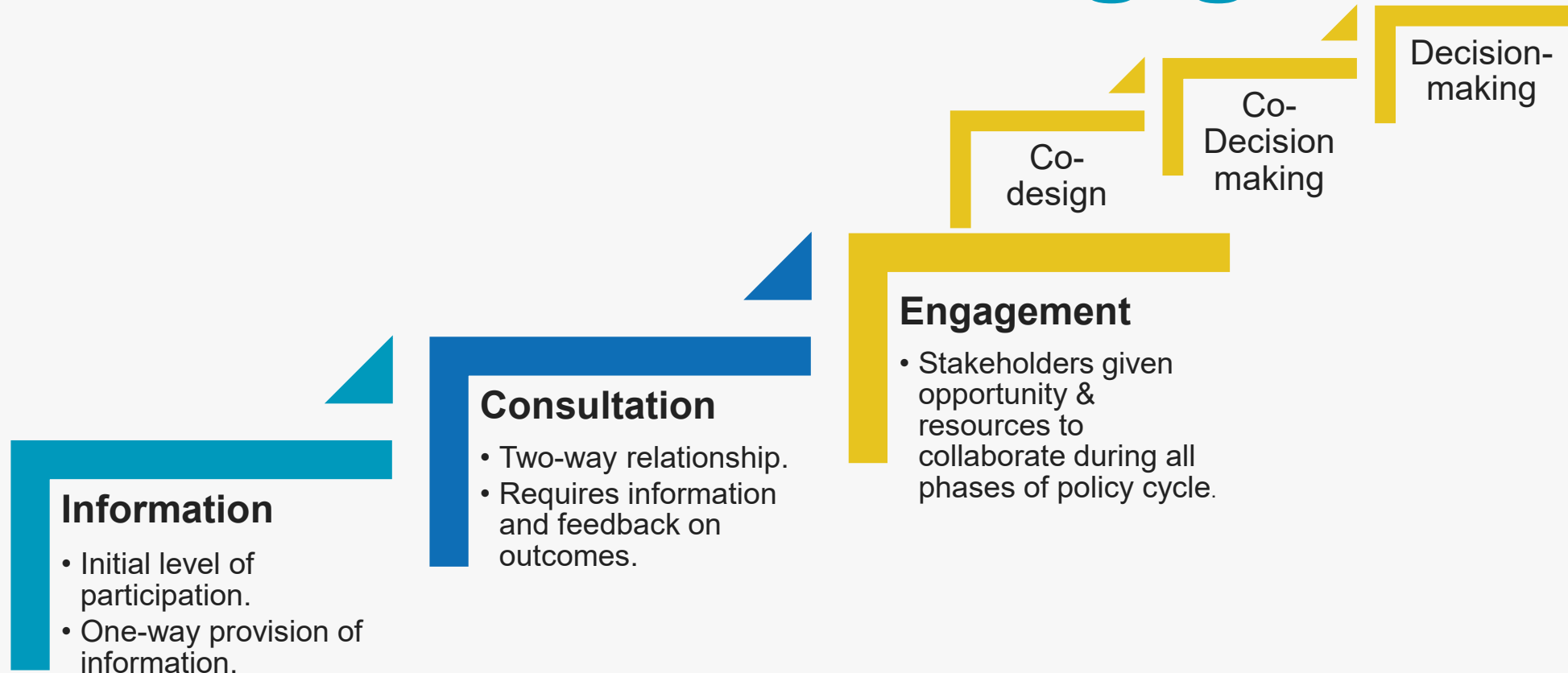
The engagement of civic and civil society in Interreg

Key findings



- Barriers and successes
- Good practice

Pillars and levels of engagement



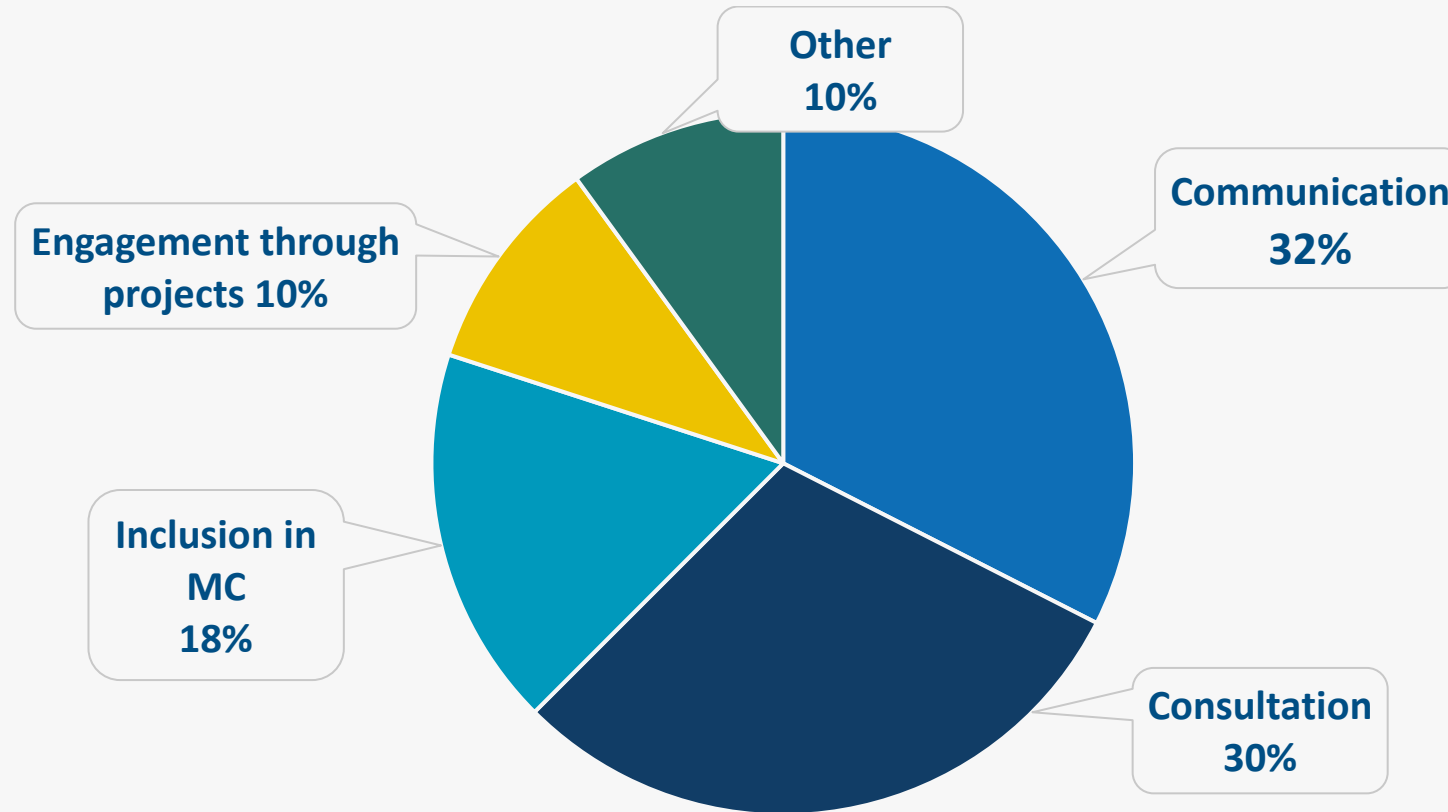
Source: Author illustration drawing on OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government (2017) and Ruiz-Villaverde, A. & García-Rubio, M.A. (2016) *Public Participation in European Water Management: from Theory to Practice*, *Water Resource Management* (2017) 31:2479–2495

Barriers to engagement

- Limited CSO/citizen capacity
- Lack of trust
- Lack of awareness/'relatability'
- Challenge of covering multiple countries
- Time and resource intensive



Involvement of civil society in programmes responding to survey



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

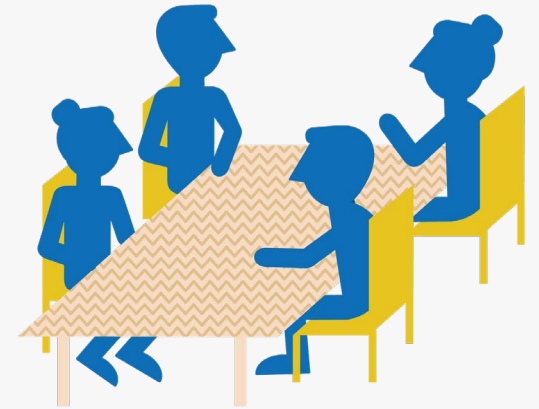
- CSO oriented projects
- Activities to boost CSO engagement in projects

Programme actions to maximise CSO involvement in projects



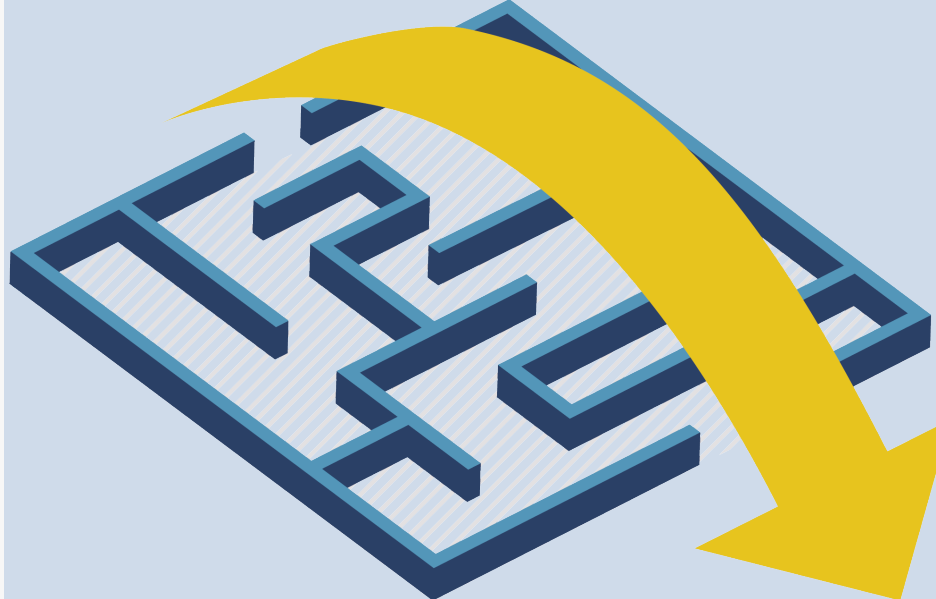
Floor is open for discussion

- 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?

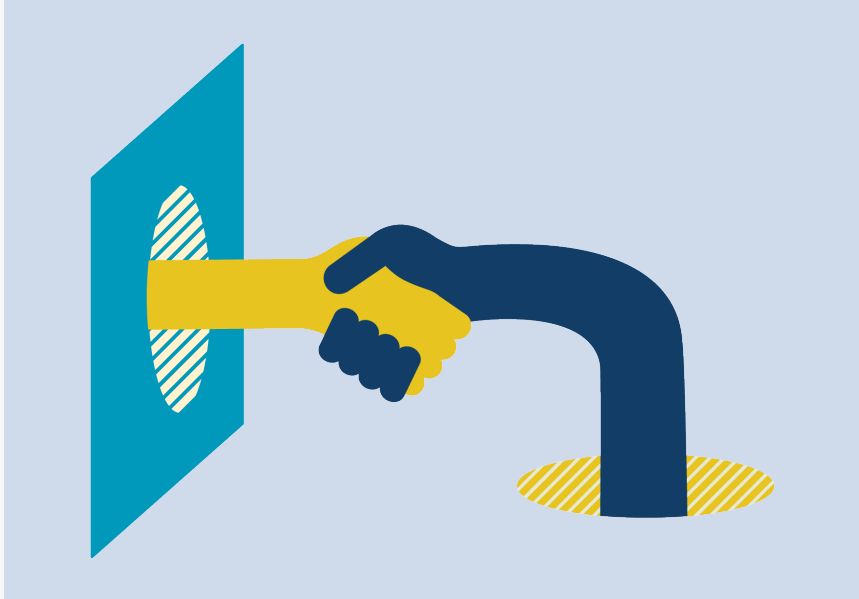


What is in the pipeline?

Keep.eu



How can we support you?



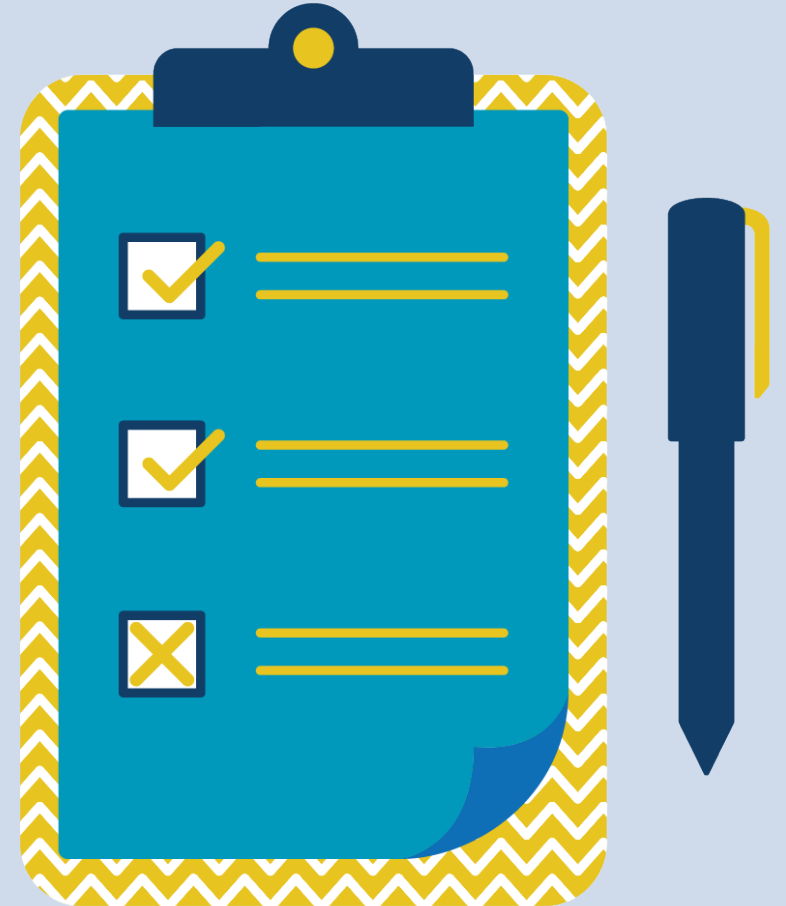
Thank you for being here!

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