



**Interreg**  
España - Portugal

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional  
Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
UNIÃO EUROPEIA

**EPICAH**

**Interreg Europe**



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# VIRTUAL SEMINAR: COVID19 – CHALLENGES FACED AND EMMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BORDER TERRITORIES

Belén Muñoz Briongos

*Ministerio de Hacienda y Función Pública*

POCTEP Management Authority

04 April 2022

## Brief description of the organisation

## Interreg España-Portugal (2014-2020)



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## Interreg España-Portugal (2014-2020)



- **Management Authority & Audit Authority based in [Madrid](#)**
- **Joint Secretariat (JS) based in [Badajoz](#)**
- **Certifying authority based in [Lisbon](#)**
- **6 cooperation areas: each region (4 SP and 4 PT) and National Authorities are grouped into 6 cooperation areas and are represented in the Monitoring Committee**

## Interreg España-Portugal (2014-2020)

### The Programme area:

- Very different needs
- +16 M people
- 79% rural area
- 658 km river border
- 1,6 M ha. protected areas



Updates on our policy instrument implementation by the end of 2021

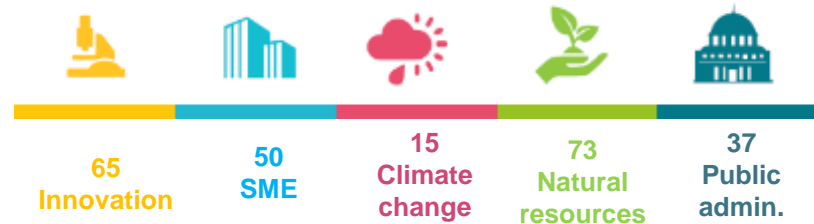
Interreg España-Portugal (2014-2020)

  
**6 calls**

**779 submitted projects**  
**+1 600 partners**

**238**  
Approved projects

**5** thematic objectives





## The same cooperation area

Updates on our policy instrument implementation by the end of 2021

### Political Objectives (OP)



**OP1. Smarter Europe**



**OP2. Greener, low carbon Europe**



**OP4. A more social Europe**



**OP 5. Europe closer to citizens**



**ISO1. A better governance**

**17 Specific Objectives (SO)**

Updates on our policy instrument  
implementation by the end of  
2021

# 2021-2027

## Financial plan

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**427 M€** Total  
**320 M€** FEDER

## How strongly did the pandemic crisis affect POCTEP?

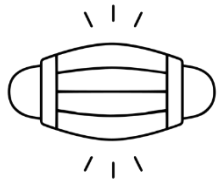
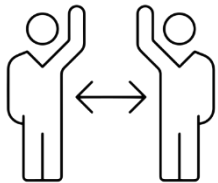
**TRAVEL  
RESTRICTIONS**

- After the first wave (spring 2020) of the pandemic, **border restrictions** in our cross-border region have known successive **stages** of tightening and softening until now.
- Impact on:
  - **Cross-border mobility** and work
  - **Economic** activities and **administrative** procedures
  - **Social & cultural** activities
- Both countries have established restrictions based on **health checks**



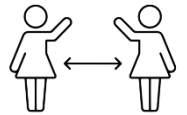
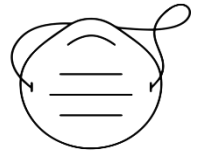
## Interreg España-Portugal (2014-2020)

What measures has been taken by POCTEP on the pandemic situation?



The pandemic posed an unprecedented **adaptation challenge** for both the Programme and the projects.

For this reason, a series of **special measures** were put in place to provide an agile response to continue with a certain degree of "normality" and to promote **financial execution**.



## Emergency 'COVID measures'



### Automatic extensions & flexibility of actions

- Interruption of **deadlines** for administrative procedures during states of alarm and emergency in Spain and Portugal.
- Automatic **extensions** for project implementation.
- **Flexibility** of actions foreseen in the projects, substituting, for example, the face-to-face format for the virtual format.
- **Communication** activities went **online**.
- Possibility of carrying out **on-site verifications** after the project completion date.
- Exceptional **eligibility rules**: cancellation of activities and adaptation of working methods.

# United against COVID

The pandemic forced us all to change plans: POCTEP projects went further, **adapted, contributed and responded** to urgent needs

**"+400 'makers' produce Protection Equipment for health workers"**

**"Cloth hangers turned into shields against COVID"**



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 ADMINISTRACIÓN  
 ENMARCADO EN EL PROYECTO  
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CV19\_Makers\_Extremadura  
 @cv19makers\_ex  
 Soñad tranquilxs, ellxs os cuidan ❤️  
 12:34 AM · Apr 7, 2020

**1234\_REDES**



EL MOVIMIENTO MAKER ANTE LA PANDEMIA DE LA COVID-19  
**Interreg** España - Portugal  
 Emprande **MAKERS**  
 DEPUTACIÓN OURENSE  
**SEMANA MAKER:**  
 Emprendimiento y Tecnología en Ourense  
 JULIO 15, 16, 17  
**EMPRENDE\_MAKERS**

# United against COVID

The pandemic forced us all to change plans: POCTEP projects went further, **adapted, contributed and responded** to urgent needs

**"Iberian Eurocities face coronavirus"**




**EUROCITY TALKS**  
 IDEAS FOR THE POST COVID FUTURE  
 #StrongerTogether

**WEBINAR**  
 IBERIAN EUROCITIES

CROSS-BORDER SOLUTIONS TO FIGHT THE COVID19 CRISIS

17H CEST | MAY 5, 2020.

Valença-Tui, Monção-Salvaterra, Cerveira-Tomiño, Chaves-Verin, Ciudad Rodrigo-Almeida, EUROBEC (Badajoz-Elvas-Campo Maior), Guadiana (VRSÁ-Castro Marim-Ayamonte)



**EUR CIDADE**





# Sucessful experiences on Cross-Border heritage and tourism management held on pandemic times

Projects **visibility** is a priority, and sharing experiences is a necessity. POCTEP collaborated with EFE and LUSA **news agencies** also during the pandemic

**'Euragora Forum' on Tourism & COVID**  
 Feat. EU Comission, Madrid & Lisbon Majors and  
 "Gerês-Xurés Dinámico" project partner.

**EFE:** Agencia EFE

Edición España | Portugal

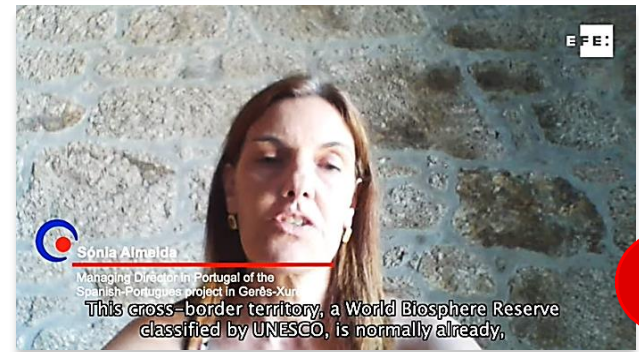
EURAGORA TURISMO

El impacto de la COVID-19 en el turismo, a debate en un foro de EFE y Lusa

EFE/Lusa | Madrid | 8 jul. 2020



**LUSA**  
 Agência de Notícias de Portugal, S. A.



This POCTEP project, featured at EFE and LUSA event is a **good example** of adaptation to the pandemic

## Successful experiences on Cross-Border heritage and tourism management held on pandemic times

### Gêres-Xurés Dinámico (POCTEP project)



EL PAIS

#### Aquis Querquennis, el campamento romano que aparece y desaparece

No son unas ruinas más. Este yacimiento de Ourense, además de ser el asentamiento militar mejor estudiado de la época, queda sumergido varios meses al año por las aguas del embalse de Las Conchas



El campamento de legionarios de Aquis Querquennis está



Instagram



- **Adaptation:** support for all tourist establishments to obtain the **"clean and safe" label**.
- **Promotion** of tourism based on historical and natural heritage.
- **Social** dimension: tourists have to be safe, but specially local & older population

**"Green Trip"**  
**2020 location**

## The opportunity of Sustainable, Rural & Nature Tourism

Many POCTEP projects develop activities in areas where the Spain-Portugal border has **competitive advantages**. Sustainable and nature tourism is one of them.



### Sustainable tourism:

- At least 45 projects develop activities to promote **ecotourism**, green routes or cultural heritage and support **entrepreneurs**.



CENCYL / NORCYL projects  
Cultural heritage



RDC\_LA2020 project  
Stars & nautical Tourism



ORNITURISMO project  
Ornithology Tourism



MOVELETUR project  
Low carbon routes on natural spaces



**COVID** has hit the economy,  
specially **Cultural and Tourism**  
sectors, very hard



How can POCTEP support cultural and natural heritage to become resilient?

**Changes  
needed**

**To increase the attractiveness of the cross-border area**

- Encouraging and promoting sustainable and ecological tourism, adapted to CC
- Improving seasonality levels
- Promoting territorial attractiveness in areas affected by the phenomenon of depopulation.

**To transform Tourism and Cultural sectors**

- Promoting the use of TICs and "data mining" allowing rapid adaptation to new requirements of the global economy, as well as remaining resilient during adverse situations





## How to re-establish Cross Border relationships and trust on neighbouring countries?



### “BETTER COOPERATION GOVERNANCE”

- A stronger **involvement** of key territorial stakeholders will be promoted.
- A focus on **solutions** to border obstacles will be adopted.
- Small Project funds will be implemented in order to **increase mutual trust** across border



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Thank you!

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