

# 21<sup>st</sup>

## European Week of Regions and Cities

Thriving Regions, Stronger Europe



9-12  
October  
2023

#EURegionsWeek



21<sup>st</sup>

European Week of  
Regions and Cities

Thriving Regions, Stronger Europe

**Workshop 10WS23519**

10 October 2023

09:30-10:30

SQUARE Brussels Meeting Centre

Room 311-312

# Reaching out to new regions

Solidarity and cohesion through  
interregional cooperation

#EURegionsWeek

Interreg  
Europe



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# Agenda

- 1. Welcome & introduction**  
Irma Astrauskaite-Denis, Interreg Europe
- 2. Why interregional cooperation matters?**  
Anne Wetzel, Hauts-de-France region
- 3. Cohesion through cooperation: the European context**  
Gilles Kittel, DG Regio
- 4. Interreg Europe: programme rationale and funding opportunities**  
Erwin Siweris, Interreg Europe
- 5. Discussion & perspectives from present and future beneficiaries**  
Tetiana Yehorova-Lutsenko, Kharkiv Regional Council

# Why interregional cooperation matters?

Anne Wetzel

Director of the European department, Hauts-de-France region  
(managing authority of Interreg Europe)





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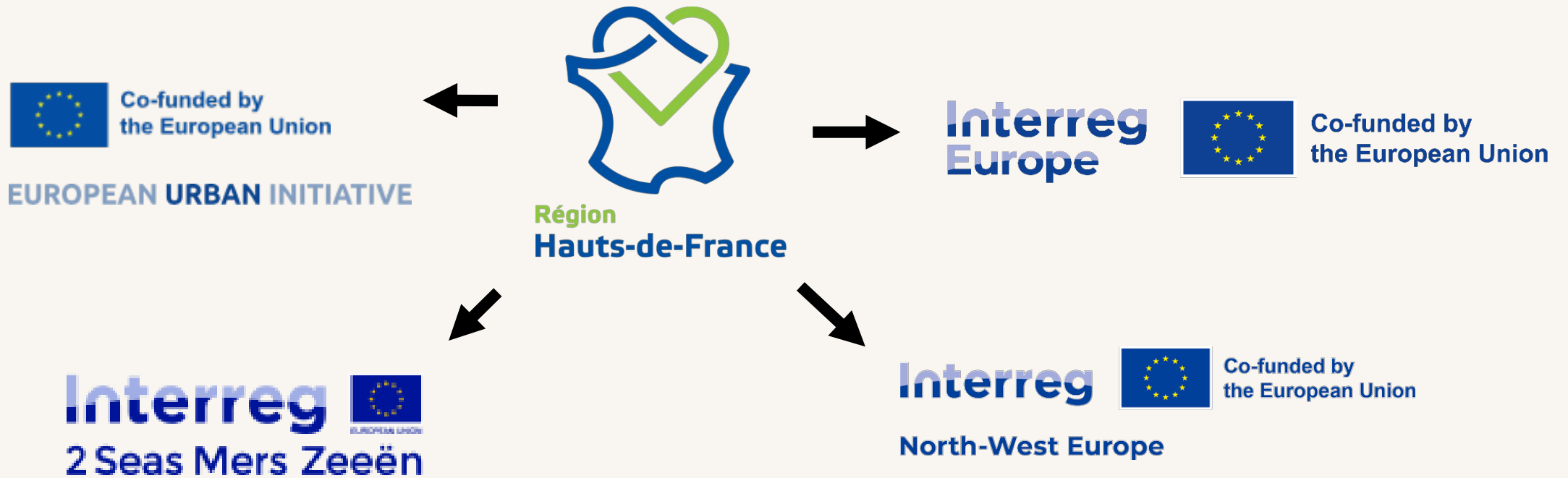
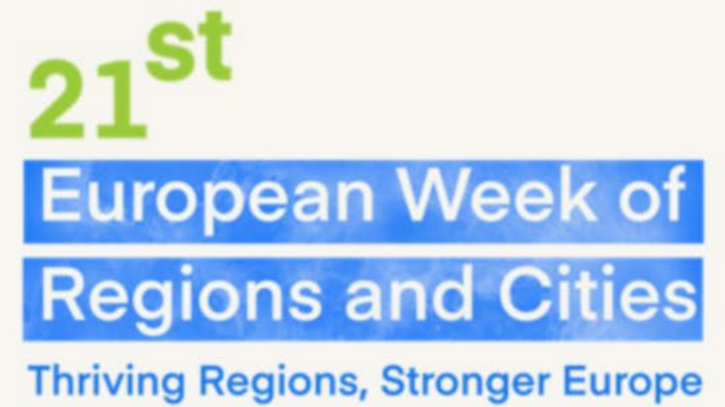


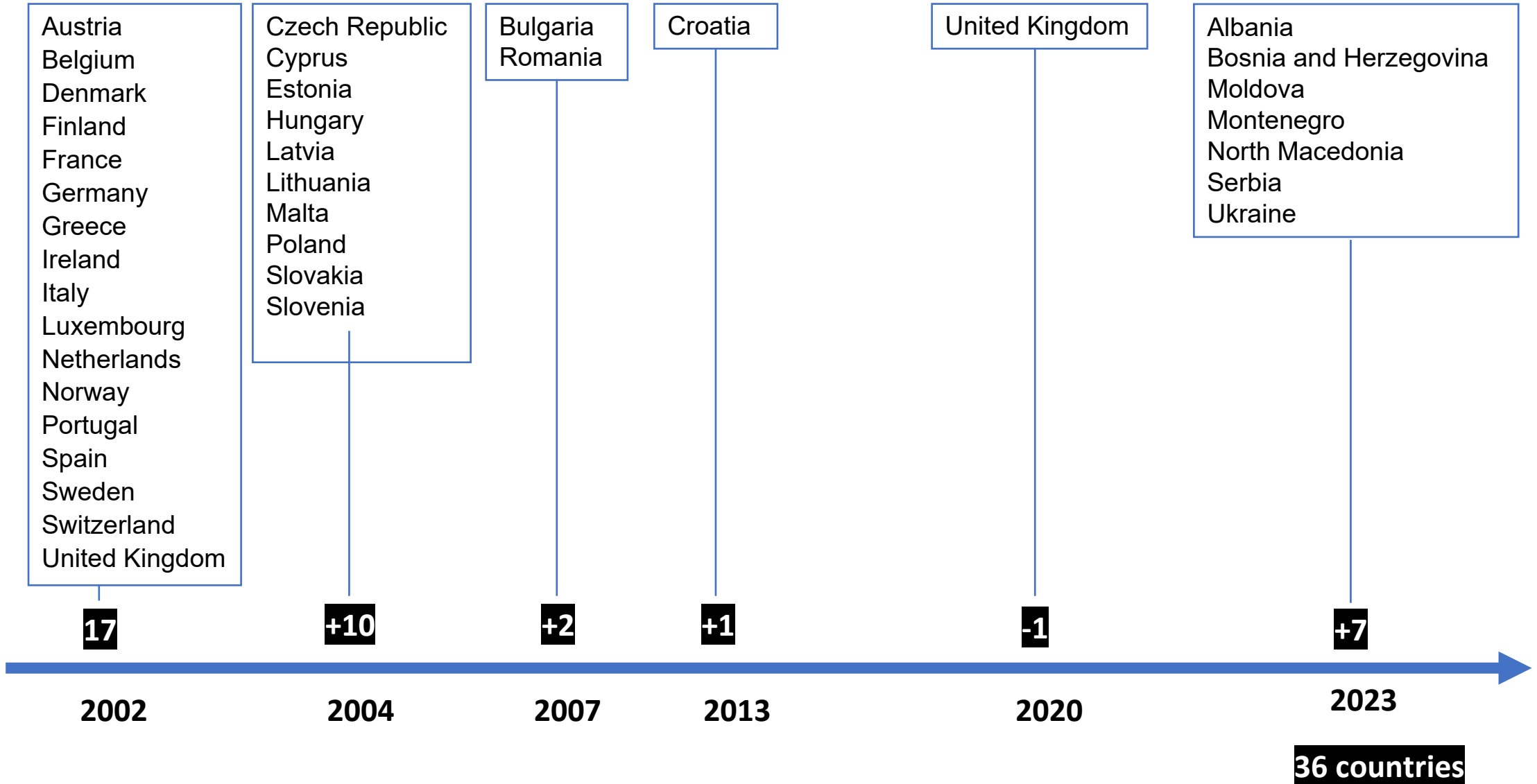
Région  
Hauts-de-France

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# Hauts-de-France: Experienced managing authority





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# Interreg Europe: programme rationale & funding opportunities

Erwin Siweris

Programme Director, Interreg Europe

**Interreg  
Europe**



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# Interreg Europe: Programme rationale and funding opportunities

10 Oct 2023

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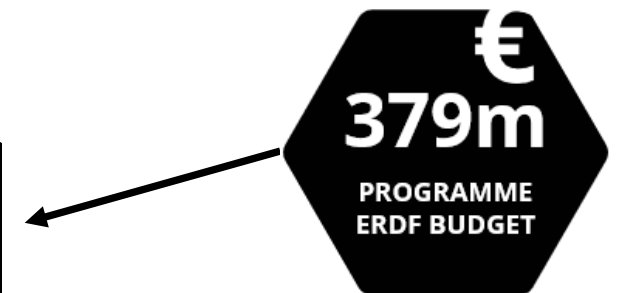


@InterregEurope

# Cohesion policy & Interreg programmes

- 4 strands, each strand with its own scope and objectives
- 86 programmes, 10 billion euros ERDF

<b>A</b>	Cross-border	<b>64</b> programmes EUR 6.7 billion	
<b>B</b>	Transnational	<b>13</b> programmes EUR 2.3 billion	
<b>C</b>	Interregional	<b>4</b> programmes EUR 560 million	Interreg Europe Urbact, Interact, Espon
<b>D</b>	Outermost regions	<b>5</b> areas EUR 330 million	



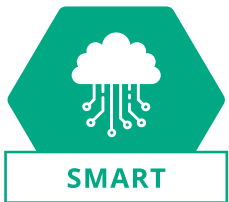
# Programme **scope**

## Eligible area

All EU, Norway, Switzerland + *Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine*

## Topics covered

All topics of regional development covered



# Interreg Europe **rationale**

Supports the identification and transfer of good practices among 'regions' in order to **improve regional development policies**

Helps policymakers to find new solutions to their challenges

- Primarily dedicated to public authorities
- Focus on exchange of experience



Different from cross-border/ transnational cooperation (Interreg A & B)



# Result example

## Independent ageing with telemedicine

Elderly people in Cyprus are benefitting from telemedicine. A good practice from Slovenia inspired Cypriot health providers to set up telecare services to enable their ageing population to preserve their independence and continue to live at home.

C  
400,000  
ERDF



The project **'Delivery of innovative solutions for home care by strengthening quadruple-helix cooperation in regional innovation chains' (HoCare)** brings together eight regions from eight countries. Their ambition was to bring together their home care users, businesses, research institutes and public authorities as 'quadruple-helix' stakeholders. They wanted to organise cross-fertilisation to generate new ideas and have these ideas tested and prototyped in real-life settings.

The Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL) led the project partnership. The agency's goal was to examine how the quadruple-helix approach could help in enhancing e-health care in Cyprus, one of the priorities of their *'Competitiveness and Sustainable Development Operational Programme'*.

The Agency took inspiration from the Slovenian good practice, Ekosmart. Ekosmart delivers telecare and telehealth services for the elderly and for physically less able people using technology that detects a need for intervention if a user cannot make an urgent call due to a fall or other health condition. This technology enables the elderly and chronically ill to continue to live independently in their own homes.

The Development Agency's work led to interest from the Cypriot Ministry of Health, which mobilised 400,000 euros of local Structural Funds to enable Cypriot hospitals to adopt similar telemedicine technology.



CYPRUS

HoCare  
Interreg Europe

[www.interregeurope.eu/hocare](http://www.interregeurope.eu/hocare)

[www.interregeurope.eu/project-results](http://www.interregeurope.eu/project-results)

# Two actions



## Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue



## Policy Learning Platform

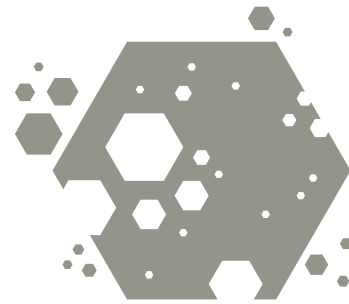
Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all



# 1. Projects



# Projects' features



## WHY?

To find **inspiration** and new **policy solutions** to solve **regional development** challenges

## Partnerships of European regions



## WHO?

**Policy makers** from different **European regions**



## HOW?

Through **exchange** of **experience** activities

The partners work together for 4 years (3 years of core phase + 1 year of follow-up)

# Project example



## Waste Management Intelligent Systems and Policies

Technology is revolutionising how waste is collected and treated

But the degree of adoption of innovative equipment and practices varies significantly from one territory to another



## Project Partners

- 1 EMULSA – Municipal Company of Urban Environment Services of Gijón (ES) - *Lead partner*
- 2 ACR+ - Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (BE) - *Advisory partner*
- 3 City of Antwerp (BE)
- 4 Region of Crete (EL)
- 5 Municipality of Heraklion (EL)
- 6 ERA, Environment and Resources Authority (MT)
- 7 Drobeta Turnu Severin City Hall (RO)
- 8 Mehedinti County Council (RO)
- 9 SNAGA, Company for waste management and other utility services (SI)



## Focus areas

WINPOL aims to mainstream good practices and policies related to three main themes:

✓ New technologies and efficient use of information (Big Data)



✓ Innovative models for waste collection, prevention and recycling



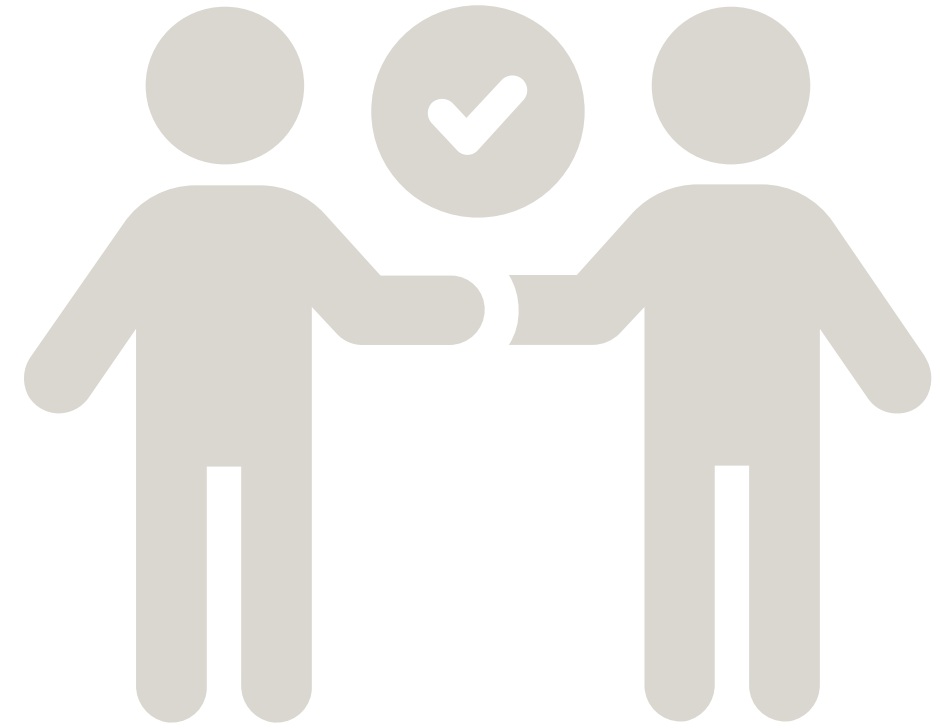
✓ Different models for waste generation fees





# Projects: who is **eligible**?

- **Public authorities**
- **Public law bodies**  
(bodies governed by public law)
- **Private non-profit bodies**



# Projects **co-financing** rates

<b>Co-financing rates</b>	<b>According to legal status or location</b>
<b>80% Interreg funding</b>	Public or public equivalent from the EU & 7 new countries
<b>70% Interreg funding</b>	Private non-profit from the EU & 7 new countries
50% Norwegian funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway (NO)
Swiss funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland (CH)

# **Funding** opportunities in **new projects**

Upcoming calls fully open to organisations from new Partner States:

- **Third call** planned in spring 2024
- **Fourth call** possibly in the first half 2025 (depending on the third call results)

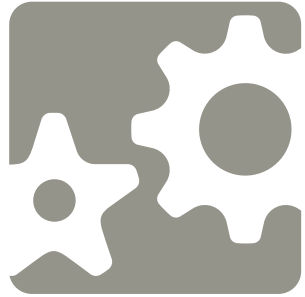
Normal programme's rules and requirements apply



# Funding opportunities in existing projects

Early 2024: restricted call open to first and second call projects

- Possibility to add **max 2 partners** from the new countries per project (using existing procedure under the monitoring system - [Portal](#))
- Possibility to **increase the original total project budget by up to 3%** of the initial amount (in addition to the additional budget for the new partner(s))
- Revised proposal can be submitted **at any time** during the call
- Decision to be made through regular **MC written procedure**



## **2. Policy Learning Platform**



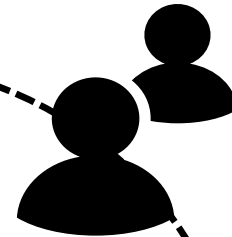


# Platform in a nutshell

**Policy-learning** services through access to:

## KNOWLEDGE

Find **policy solutions**  
*(good practice database,  
publications)*



## PEOPLE

Meet our **community**  
*(thematic events)*



## EXPERTISE

Get **policy advice**  
*(peer reviews, policy helpdesk)*



# Platform: get **policy advice**



## Policy Helpdesk



**34 matchmaking** sessions organised

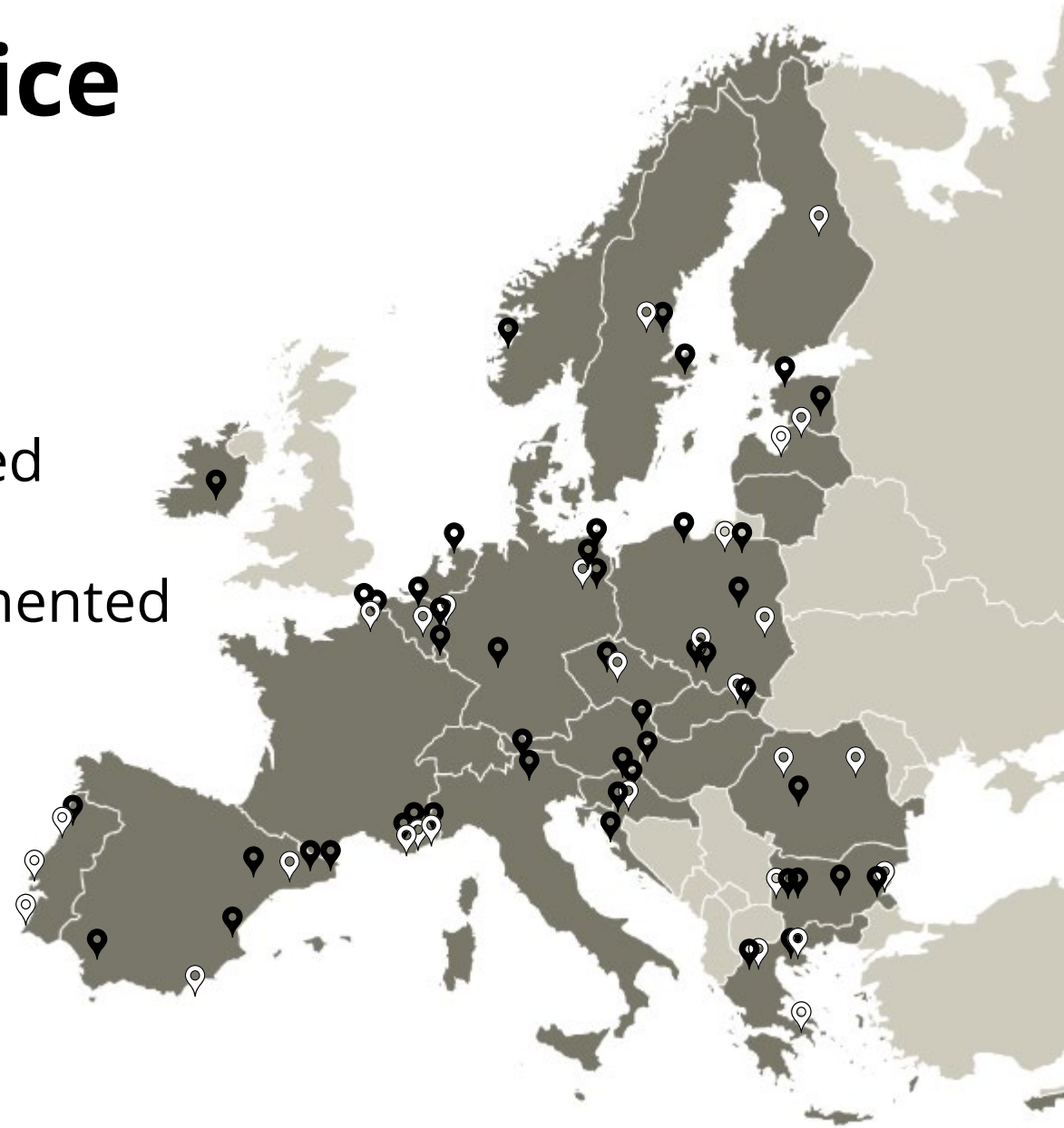


**More than 50 peer reviews** implemented

- Call permanently open
- Assessment of application within 1 month
- Tailored to the needs of the beneficiary

**Apply** to benefit from expert support any time -

[www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice](http://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice)



# Peer review example

## Cooperation with enterprises and universities for new Smart City services



Talinn, Estonia

**Beneficiary:** City of Tallinn, Estonia

### Recommendations:

- Consider **multi-annual contracts** for city-university cooperation, with fixed contact points on both sides
- **Involve businesses** in workshops and trainings for city staff
- **Go hyper-local** when collecting ideas and inputs from citizens

Peers from:



# Access to Platform services

Most services already available to new Partner States

- Use our tools to find **policy solutions** (e.g., good practice database, policy briefs)
- Join our **events** (e.g., thematic webinars, workshops)

From early 2024: access to expert services (peer reviews) also open

**Join our community** on [www.interregeurope.eu](http://www.interregeurope.eu)


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# Thank you!

# Any questions?

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