Interreg Europe

Co-funded by
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Designing project **methodology**

Part 1: Learning process

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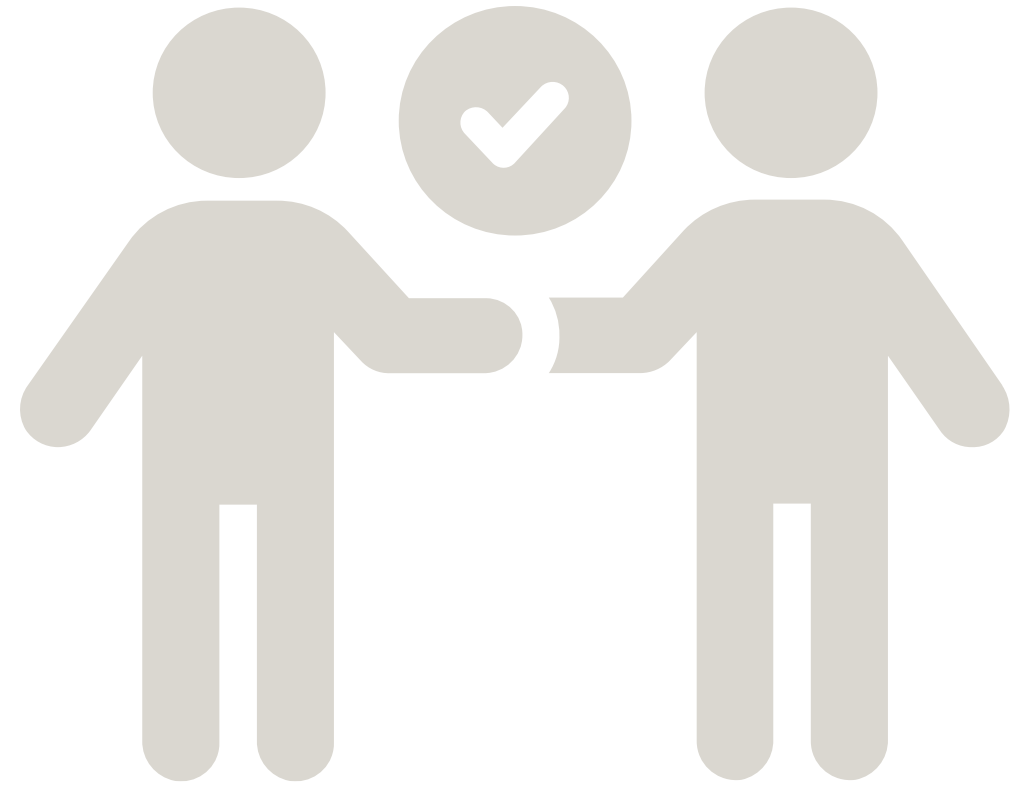# Session content

1. Organising the **interregional learning process**

2. Evaluating **performance**

1. **Learning** process

What is a **learning process**

?

- An **exchange of experience** among different regions

Related to **good practices**:
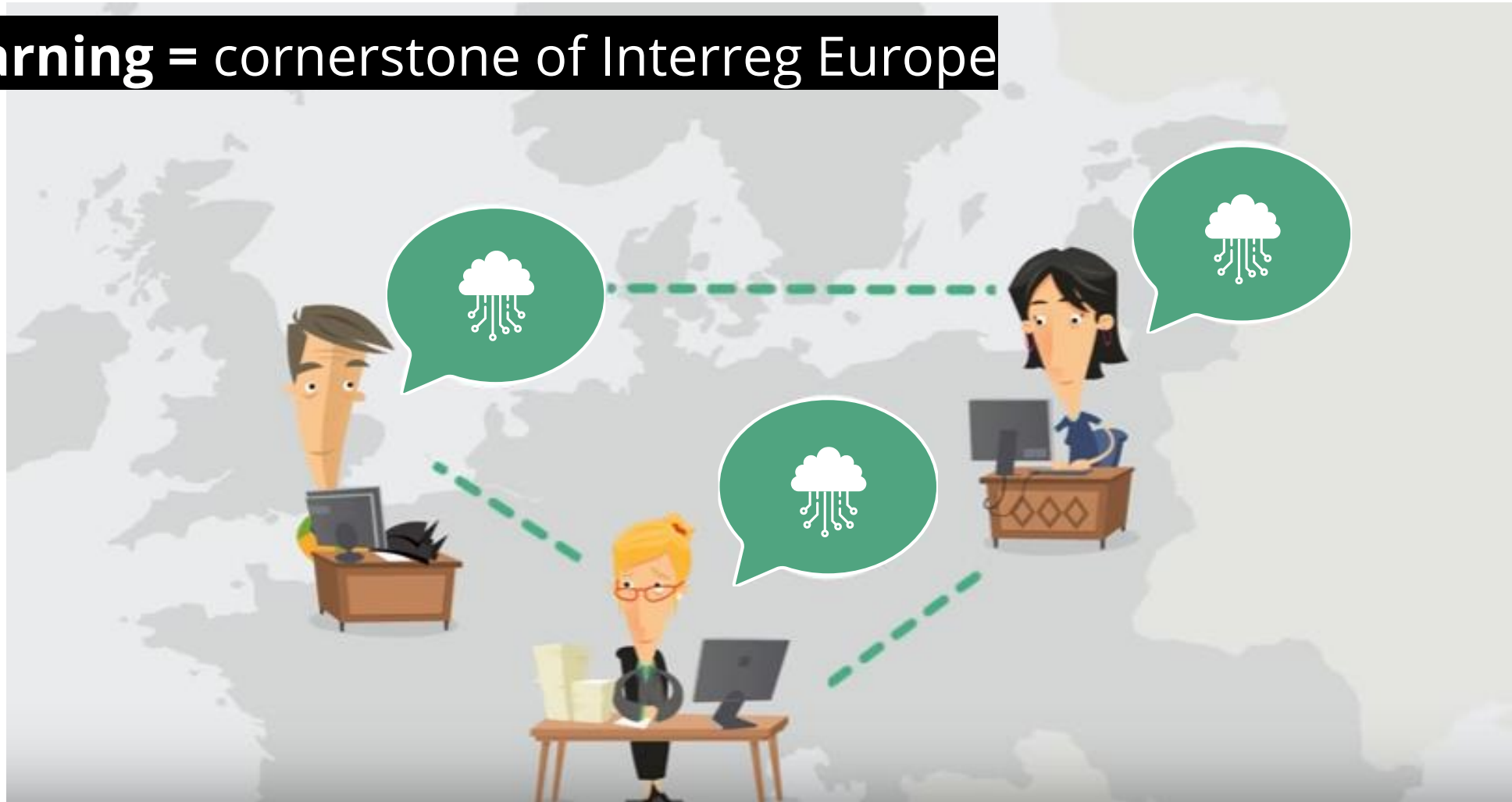
- Identification
- Analysis
- Transfer

Why is learning **important**

Territorial need

Why is learning **important**

Learning = cornerstone of Interreg Europe

Why is learning **important**

Results

Learning is the catalyst for achieving policy improvements in involved regions

Activities of the learning process

- Joint thematic surveys/ studies/ analysis

- Interregional study visits

- Interregional thematic seminars/ workshops

- Interregional peer-reviews

- Interregional staff exchanges

- Meetings with the stakeholder group – **compulsory**!

- Joint pilot actions

- Participation in the Policy Learning Platform activities

Testing new approaches

Pilot actions = **learning by doing**

- Possible from the **start** of the project **or** at **mid-term**

- Maximum **one pilot** per policy instrument

- **Fully integrated** in the learning process

Specific **requirements** for being approved:

  - Policy relevance and durability

  - Interregionality and contribution to the learning process

  - Testing character

  - Additionality

Example of a **pilot action**

DIY kit for mini vertical gardens

The pilot action is based on experiences from partners in Greece, Spain and Portugal. It aims at improving the **SOfiaGREEN Programme** by promoting **urban farming** for more efficient use of resources in urban environment.

Four **vertical garden models** are designed and built by students and teachers from the University of Architecture at the local Makerspace in Sofia (Bulgaria). The gardens are installed in **6 demo sites** and planted with herbs, spices, seeds and seedlings of vegetables and fruits.

In case of success, the city of Sofia will integrate this initiative into the revision of their new SOfiaGREEN Programme for 2022-2023.

How to organise the learning

2 phases over 4-year implementation

CORE	FOLLOW UP
3 years	**1 year**
Exchange of experience to achieve policy improvements	Monitor policy improvements

How to organise the learning

- **Action plans** only for regions which did not achieve results by the end of core phase

- Some **flexibility** in the follow-up phase:

  - Up to each project to define the exact activities

  - Exchange of experience still possible

How to organise the learning

No one size fits all!

- Different parameters influencing the process:

  - History of the partnership

  - Number of partners

  - Topic addressed

  - ....

How to organise the learning

A. Ensure different **levels of learning** and capacity building

B. Focus on **quality**

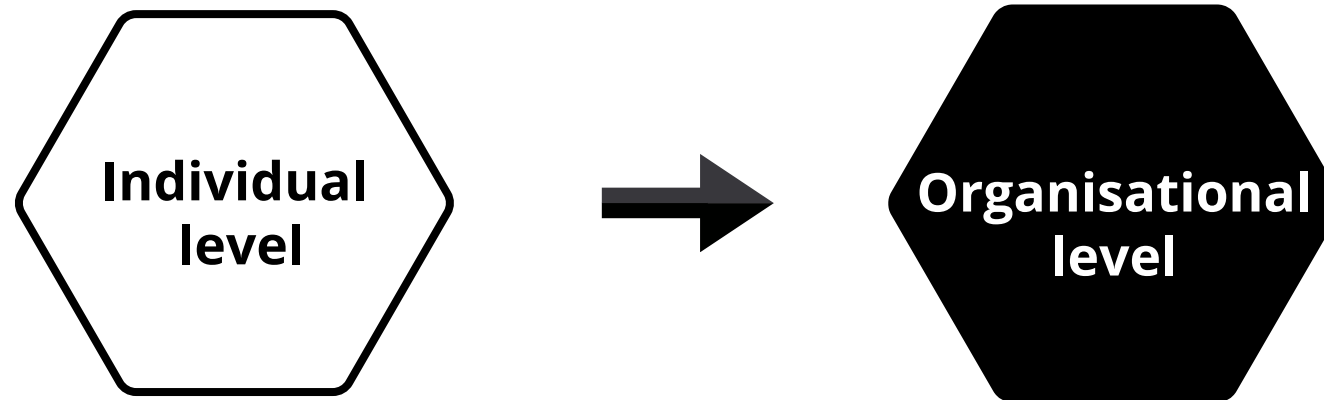C. Use an **integrated approach**

... to reach **project results**

A. Different **levels of learning**

The process of learning needs to occur at different levels:

Partners + Stakeholders

Individual level → **Organisational level**

A. Different **levels of learning**

B. Focus on **quality**

For all learning activities, importance of:
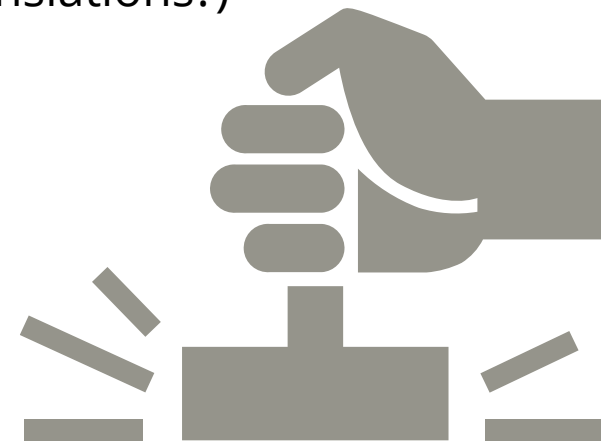
Preparation – Before

e.g. agenda and supporting documents clear and sent sufficiently in advance
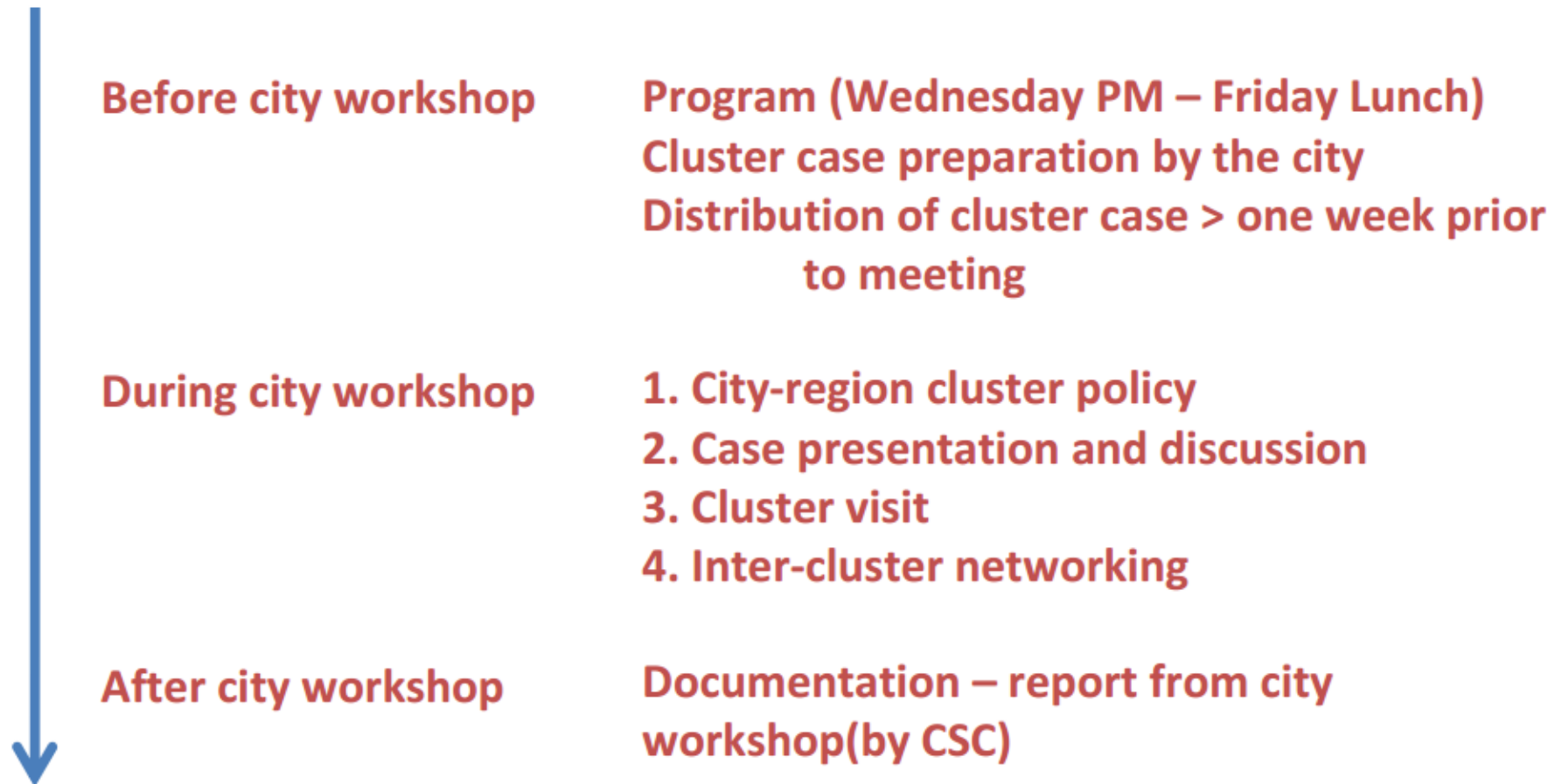
Implementation – During

e.g. quality of speakers/ presentations; quality of venues/ logistics (translations?)

Follow-up (documentation and monitoring) - After

e.g. evaluation/ satisfaction questionnaire, activities, proceedings

Example **workshop about ICT clusters**

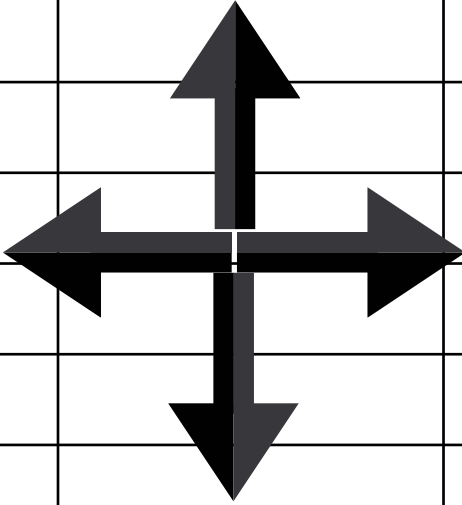|	
Before city workshop	**Program (Wednesday PM – Friday Lunch)** **Cluster case preparation by the city** **Distribution of cluster case > one week prior to meeting**
During city workshop	**1. City-region cluster policy** **2. Case presentation and discussion** **3. Cluster visit** **4. Inter-cluster networking**
After city workshop	**Documentation – report from city workshop(by CSC)**

C. Use an **integrated approach**

- What are the **main steps** to reach the objectives and ensure the improvement of the policy instruments addressed?

- What are the **activities** needed? In which order?

- How to ensure **overall coherence** in the learning process?

C. Use an **integrated approach**

- Ingredients: activities

  Think of **interrelation** among them!

- Recipe: way to mix the activities

	Objective?	When?	For whom?
Site visit			
Seminar			
Workshop			
Joint analysis			
Peer review			
….			

C. Use an **integrated approach**

No one-size fits all but **three commonly adopted steps**:

Step 1
- Analysis of partners' situations and **identification** of valuable experiences

Step 2
- Experiences further **analysed** through activities such as study visits and thematic workshops

Step 3
- Preparation for the **transfer** of practices into the policy instruments

C. Use an **integrated approach**

Two approaches:

1. **Simple** process based on typical networking activities such as workshops, seminars, study visits

2. **More elaborated** process which can include sophisticated tools such as joint analyses, case studies, peer reviews

Both proven to be successful but => **simple is beautiful!**

Section C.4 Project approach

C.4 Project approach

Please describe the approach/methodology adopted to achieve the project's objectives within the core phase. * How is the learning process organised at regional and interregional levels? If applicable, please describe the different steps you envisage to reach the project's objective.

- What is the purpose of the different types of activities proposed? In particular, how do they contribute to individual and/or organisational learning? How are these activities interrelated?
- How do you ensure the involvement of stakeholders in the learning process?

0/4000

This field is required.

Please explain the approach/methodology envisaged for **the follow-up' phase** (i.e. last year of the project)? To what extent are the stakeholders expected to be involved in the follow-up phase?

0/1000

This field is required.

Section E Workplan

E.1 Core phase "Exchange of experience"

Semester	Start month	End month
1	Jun 2022	Nov 2022
2	Nov 2022	
3	Jun 2023	
4	Nov 2023	
5	Jun 2024	
6	Nov 2024	

E.2 Follow-up phase

Semester	Start month
7	Jun 2025
8	Nov 2025

Semester 1 (Jun 2022 - Nov 2022)

Describe the planned activities related to the exchange of experience process at interregional and regional (stakeholders) levels. Please be as specific as possible with details on the main features of these activities (e.g., type of meeting, topic tackled, duration, location/host).

Exchange of experience

0/3000
This field is required.

Pilot action for policy instrument 1 (test)

0/1500

Communication

0/1000
This field is required.

Management

Ongoing management activities to ensure smooth implementation and reporting of the project

N° of interregional policy learning events organised

1

N° of good practices identified

0

Cancel   Save

Section D1.4 Pilot action

D.1 Policy instrument 1

D.1.1 Territorial context and general description   D.1.2 Addressing partners   D.1.3 Stakeholders   D.1.4 Pilot action   D.1.5 State aid

D.1.4 Pilot action under policy instrument

Is a pilot action proposed to improve this instrument?

Yes ▾

Is this pilot action also proposed to be implemented in other partner region(s)?

Please select... ▾

This field is required.

D.1.4.1 Core features

Title of the pilot action

0/150
This field is required.

Nature of the test

Please describe what will be tested in the region(s)? What is the precise nature of the pilot action envisaged?

0/2000
This field is required.

Interregionality and contribution to the learning process

How is the pilot action linked to the interregional exchange of experience process? How will the implementation and lessons learnt from the pilot action be shared among the partnership to enrich the interregional exchange of experience?

0/1000
This field is required.

D.1.4.2 Link to the policy instrument

Policy relevance and durability

How will the pilot action contribute to improving the above policy instrument? In case of success, how will the initiative be continued/ generalised within this policy ins
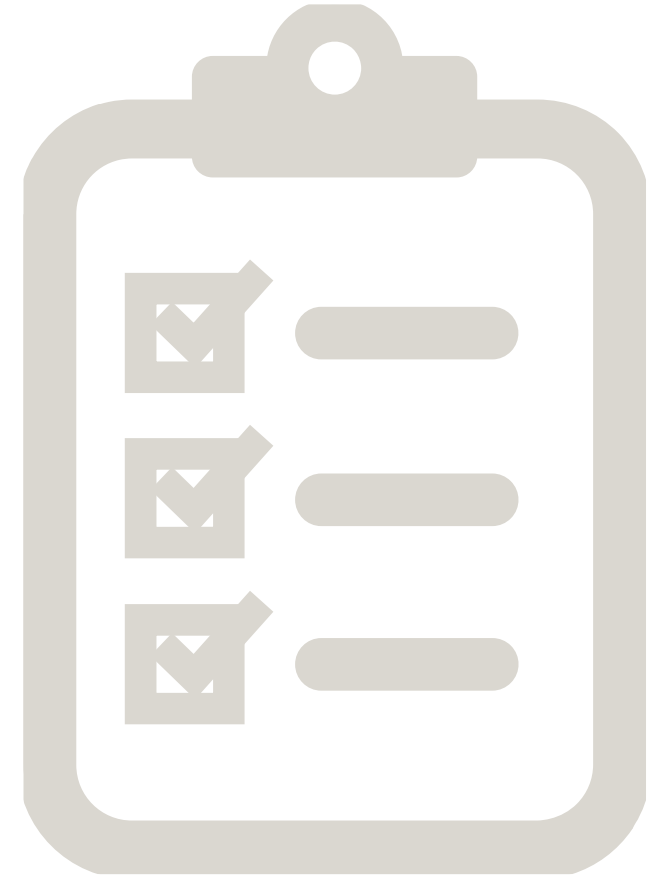
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Additionality

By clicking this box, the partner(s) concerned confirms that the pilot action cannot be financed by the above policy instrument or by other local, regional or national fu

Please select...

2.

Evaluating performance

Why to **evaluate**

Projects should **transform learning into actions!**

- Achieve policy improvements by the **end of the core phase** at the latest.

- Project achievements **demonstrate the added value** of interregional cooperation

How to **evaluate**

Three key concepts:

Outputs: **tangible deliverables** which contribute to achieving the project objectives

(e.g., good practices identified/ policy instruments addressed)

Results: the **immediate effects** of project implementation deriving from the outputs

(e.g., policy instruments improved)

Impacts: the **medium- and long-term effects** of the project/ of the policy improvements

(e.g., funds influenced)

Performance framework and **indicators**

Output indicators	**RCO87**: Organisations cooperating across borders **RCO84**: Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects **OI4**: Policy instruments addressed **OI5**: Interregional policy learning events organised **OI6**: Good practices identified
Result indicators	**RI2:** Organisations with increased capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation **RI3:** Policy instruments improved thanks to Interreg Europe
Impact indicator	**II1:** Funds influenced

Section C.5 Project indicators - outputs

C.5 Project indicators

Output indicators

Code	Target	Title	Target
RCO87	5	N° of organisations cooperating across borders	5
RCO84		N° of pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	0
OI4		N° of policy instruments addressed	2
OI5		N° of interregional policy learning events organised	0
O16		N° of good practices identified	0

- **Automatically** calculated
- OI5 and OI6 come from the **workplan** for each semester

N° of interregional policy learning events organised

| 1 |

N° of good practices identified

| 0 |

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Section C.5 Project indicators - results

Result indicators

Code	Title	Target
RII2	N° of organisations with increased capacity due to their participation in project activities	*This field is required.*
RI3	N° of policy instruments improved thanks to the project	*This field is required.*

- **Define** your result targets

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Thank you!

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