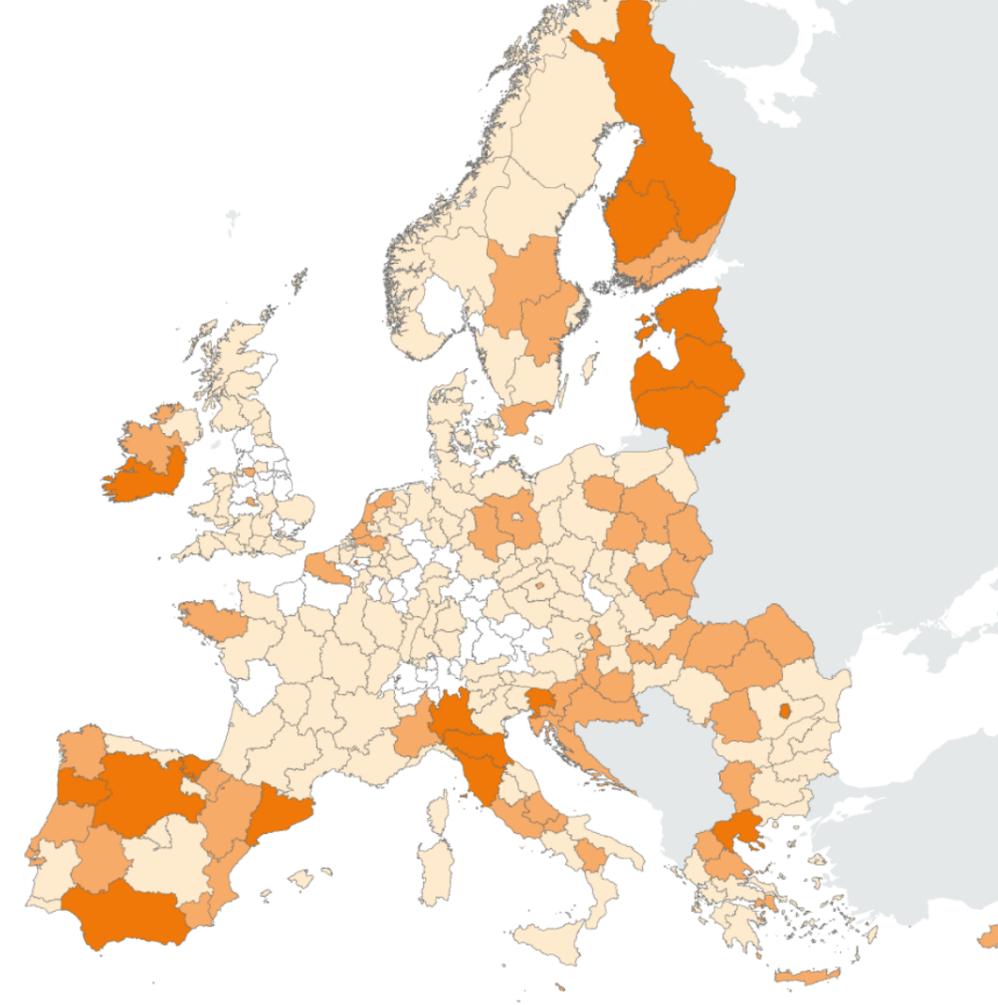




CITIZENS' SUMMARY

This is a summary of a report on Interreg Europe's activities in 2018. It presents key points and highlights from the year.



Number of project partners in NUTS 2 regions

- None (0)
- Low (1 - 6)
- Medium (7 - 17)
- High (18 - 35)



What we do

The European Union strives to reduce disparities in the levels of development, growth and quality of life in and across Europe's regions. Interreg Europe contributes directly to this objective by supporting the exchange of policy experience and good practices between EU regions.

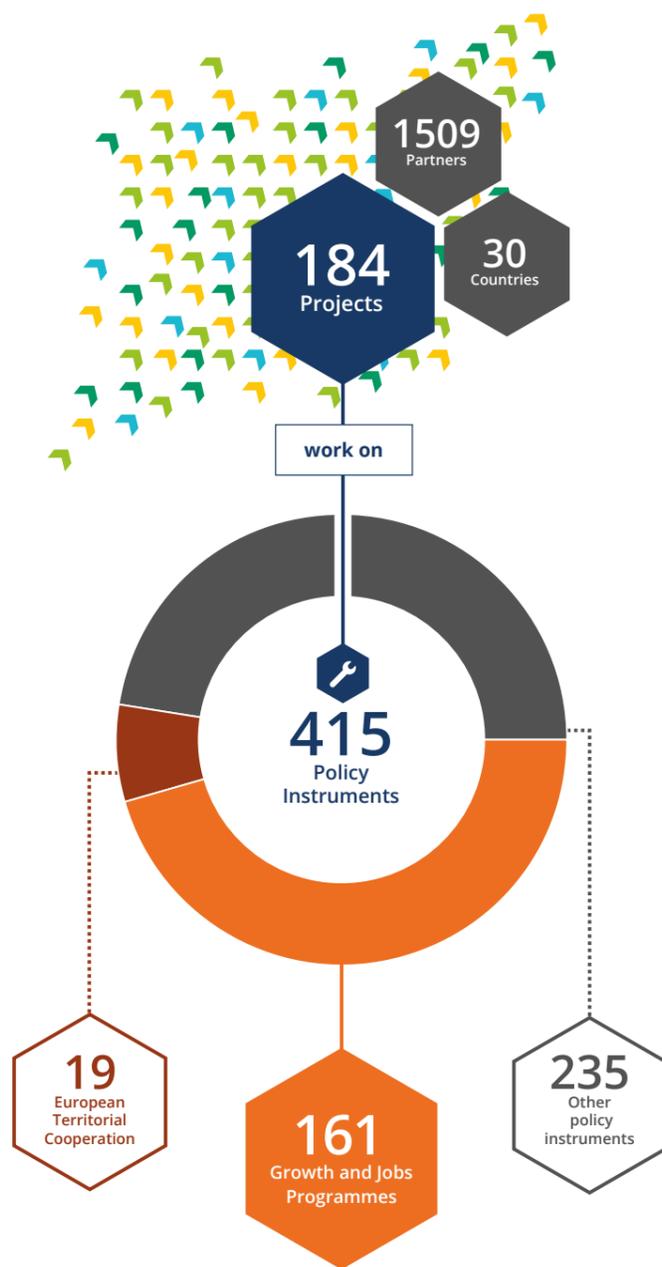
Interreg Europe helps public authorities to share solutions across Europe in order to deliver better policies. The programme runs from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of MEUR 359 from the European Regional Development Fund. Norway and Switzerland also participate and contribute funds. The programme supports policy learning among public institutions from 30 countries (the EU28, plus Norway and Switzerland) and 88% of European regions have participated in the programme to date.

Two policy learning actions in four areas

Interreg Europe helps policymakers inspire each other and improve their policies, either within interregional cooperation projects or via the Policy Learning Platform. Policy learning is available on research and innovation, SME competitiveness, low-carbon economy, and environment and resource efficiency.

In 2018, **184 cooperation projects** saw over 1,500 organisations from European regions working on shared policy challenges. The 33 most advanced projects have now prepared 274 action plans for their regions to ensure that the lessons learnt in the projects are translated into concrete actions in their own regions.

The Policy Learning Platform is a venue for continuous policy learning in Interreg Europe's four policy areas. In 2018, it opened up the programme's knowledge base to 16,000 members. Its good practice database presented over 700 expert-approved policymaking practices. The Platform also introduced an on-demand service offering region-to-region peer reviews and policy matchmaking.



Interregional cooperation in numbers

This infographic presents an overview of the types of policies that the 184 running projects are feeding good practices into. 161 out of the **415 are Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes**, the main EU support tools for regional development.

2018 programme performance key numbers:

- 121** improved policies
- 320** MEUR of more effective regional spending
- 726** expert-approved good practices
- 2,892** people with improved skills after participating in cooperation projects
- 0.07%** the error rate detected by the programme auditors



Solutions for better regional policies

The partners in cooperation projects exchange smart and sustainable solutions that have been developed and successfully implemented by other regions. They often transfer these solutions into their own policies. The inspiration they gain from others is built into the action plans that each region draws up to integrate the lessons into their policies.

More than 700 good practices submitted by the projects have now been approved by Interreg Europe Platform experts. Interested readers can consult them in the [good practice database](#).

The RaiSE project helps social enterprises become more competitive

“For social enterprises, the journey to competitiveness is as difficult as climbing a mountain” ... “thanks to interregional cooperation, we can help social enterprises to be more competitive in the global market.”

Paula Santarén, RaiSE project manager

In **RaiSE**, partners from six regions have been sharing experience and good practices on supporting social enterprises. Examples include a biscuit factory employing people with disabilities in Catalonia, Spain, or a child care institution offering therapy and emotional education for families in Hungary. Since 2017, RaiSE partners have worked together on better ways to support social enterprises from a business performance perspective, for example, with doing business internationally.

The project's first result is a policy improvement in Sweden. Social enterprises are now one of the top priorities in the Örebro region's new Regional Development Strategy (RDS). Good practices shared in the RaiSE project have played an important role in improving the strategy. The Irish **Clann Credo** good practice, for example, inspired Örebro policy-makers to put in place a two-year project (2019-2020) to provide financial support for social enterprises.

And the project's success has gone beyond the Interreg Europe community as RaiSE also won the **Project Slam** contest organised during the #EURegionsWeek 2018!

The programme is on the right track

The programme's mid-term evaluation

The evaluation checked the programme's **performance and first results**. Its conclusions were largely positive. The programme was found to be both effective and efficient in its support to all beneficiaries. Its initial results showed that it is going in the right direction and that it is likely to achieve its key performance targets before its close. Evaluators provided some recommendations to improve the programme further.

Simplification of rules

The programme **simplified its rules and procedures** again in 2018, especially with a new 'lump sum funding' introduced for the 4th call projects. This funding means that all projects receive the same amount per policy they work on for their second-phase activities. This is easier because payments no longer depend on the provision of invoices, but instead rely only on proof that the pre-defined outputs were delivered. The programme's constant aim is to make rules and procedures easier so that beneficiaries' time and resources can focus on delivering results.

Good management and control

The low error rate (0.07%) confirmed that the programme's **management and control system** is functioning well, that the rules for expenditure reporting are being respected by funded projects and that errors are being prevented and detected. The **online reporting and monitoring system** (known as iOLF) supported 5890 users in 2018. Both project partners and controllers (who check the projects' declarations) highlighted the user-friendliness and intuitiveness of the system in their feedback. The reliability and legality of the system's functions was confirmed by the system audits.

Communication

In 2018 **communication activities** began to shift from awareness raising about the programme's funding opportunities to communicating on the results of the cooperation projects. In early 2018 programme and national events provided information on the fourth call and facilitated partner search. Later, the focus of the programme's events shifted to reviewing project results: initially from the previous programming period (**Study on INTERREG IVC**) and, as they became available, to the results from running projects.



2018 communication performance key numbers:

- 51,131** Average number of sessions (when a visitor uses the site) per month on the programme website
- 16,008** Number of Interreg Europe online community members
- 13,500** Number of Interreg Europe newsletter subscribers
- 6,694** Total number of media appearances by the 184 running projects
- 1,509** Total number of participants in Interreg Europe online events and webinars

For more information



The latest programme news and details about activities can be found on the programme website: www.interregeurope.eu

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