

# Why is it important to fund interregional cooperation projects post 2020?



Interreg Europe



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

Stakeholders from all over Europe express their opinion.

Interreg Europe projects are a **great opportunity to learn from good practices in other regions**. Staff exchanges and interregional learning workshops have given us an opportunity to see how organisations in other regions promote and support businesses to innovate. It has given us the knowledge to **make positive impact to our Regional Operational Programme and related policies**.

**Patrick Devine**  
Ireland

The Interreg Europe principle of **intensely involving regional stakeholders** is really a key instrument to not only learn from other regions but to make sure that the outputs really **reach those people responsible for/ affected by the issue** tackled by the individual project.

**Sabine Eling-Saalmann**  
Germany

If regions represent the bricks of Europe, the interregional cooperation, by a joint exchange of knowledge and mutual learning process, represents their cement. Interreg Europe deals with policy instruments and regional strategies - the backbone of the cooperation.

**Lorenzo Sabatini**  
Italy

The interregional cooperation must be continued. This is the only programme of its type, where **all EU regions can equally collaborate, exchange, learn, network, influence policies and improve their region's and peoples' lives**.

**Zane Zeibote**  
Latvia



One of the most important things in the interregional cooperation projects is the **knowledge transfer from well developed countries to less developed countries, also the exchange of experience.** It would be more than a pity if such a programme no longer existed in the new period for 2021-2027.

**Jolanta Dvarioniene**  
Lithuania

Interregional cooperation programmes are important for knowledge sharing but also - and this is sometimes forgotten - **for boosting integration in Europe** which is politically becoming more and more important in the next decades. ... The Interreg Europe programme has always been **efficiently managed and for very little money great impacts have been achieved.**

**Hen Gerritse**  
Netherlands

Territorial cooperation through Interreg Europe programme (and its predecessors) has been a **key tool for less developed regions** to learn from other regions and **improve the implementation of structural funds** over the past programming periods. The discontinuation of this programme ... is indeed bad news for a large number of regions that find in the mutual learning process a source of inspiration.

**Lucila Castro Rovillard**  
Spain

Cooperation in the European context is crucial because we all face the same challenges. Thanks to Interreg Europe we have opportunity to **work with pan-European network of experts and inspire one another.** Through exchange of experience we can learn what works best and **innovate our approaches and policies. Through collaboration you can go further!**

**Piotr Swiatek**  
United Kingdom

Interreg Europe is the only EU programme that helps regional authorities across the whole of Europe to cooperate on such a **wide range of topics.** Interreg Europe projects are crucial to spread good practices and make **direct links between policymakers at the regional level.**

**Małgorzata Steckiewicz**  
Poland

Beyond the very important exchange of know-how, it is the best platform to **become familiar with different working approaches and culture difference across Europe.** To abolish this in these times would be in our opinion a very bad idea.

**Christian Kayser**  
Luxembourg