European Union | European Regional Development Fund

Sharing solutions for better regional policies

Designing project methodology

Interreg Europe Secretariat

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Session content

I. Organising the interregional learning process

II. Evaluating performance

I. LEARNING PROCESS

What is learning process?

Learning process

= interregional exchange of experience building on experiences and practices

Based on:

identification, analysis & transfer of knowledge and practices

How:

through a well-thought process supported by seminars, study trips, workshops, staff exchanges, peer reviews, etc.
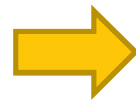
Why is it so important?

Cornerstone of an interregional cooperation project

Catalyst for generating policy change in the involved regions
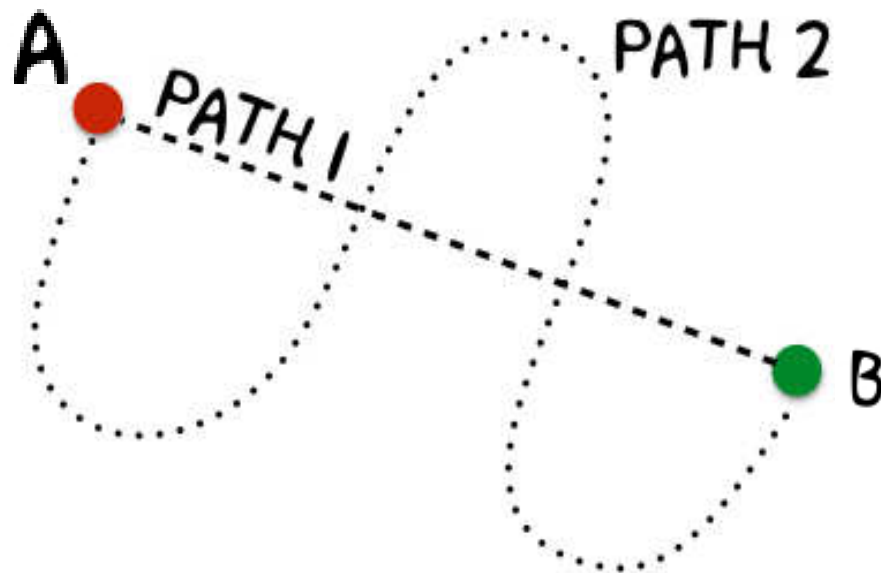
Territorial need

Results

How to organise it?

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

A

PATH 2

PATH 1

B

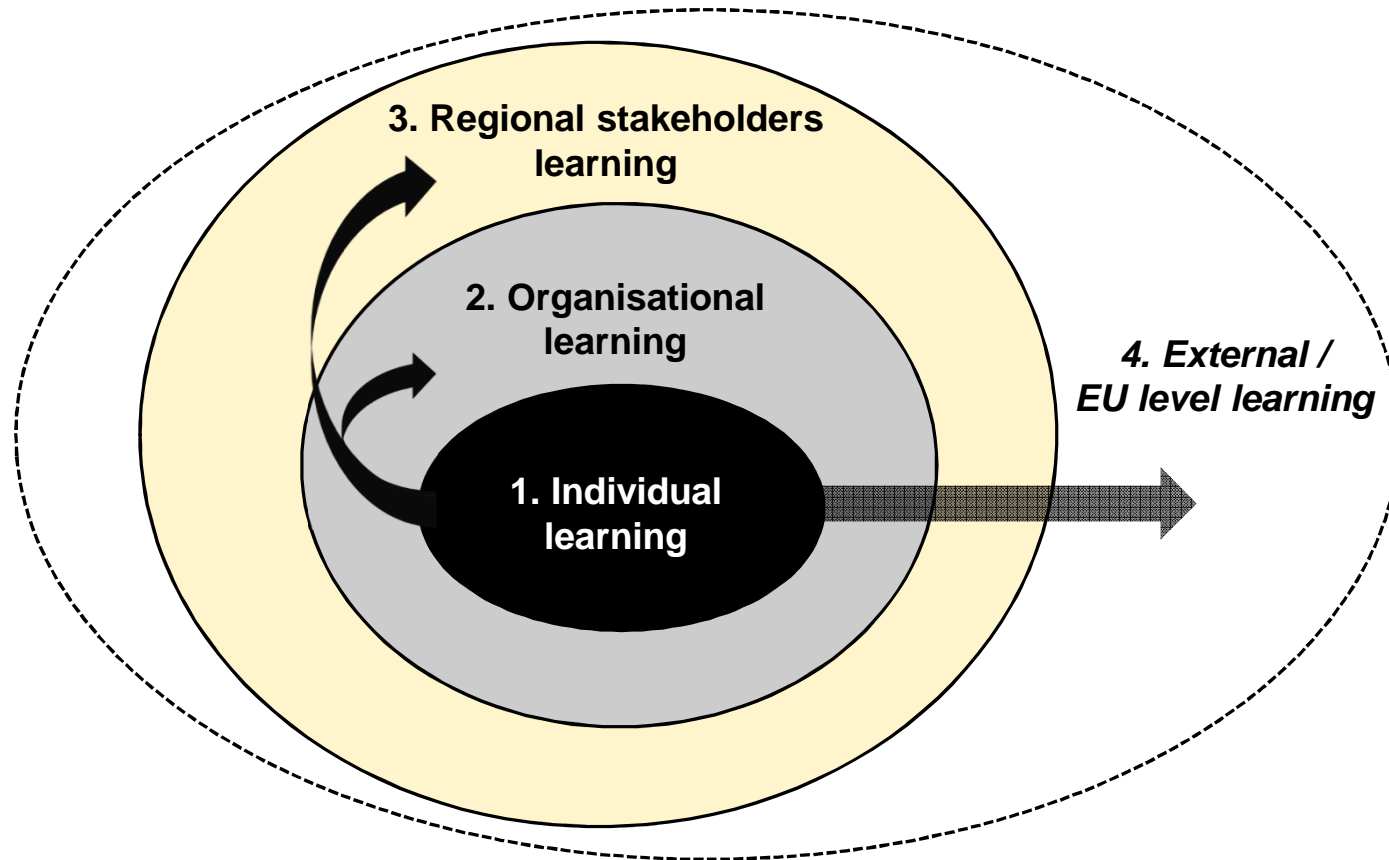ACTION PLAN

WHO | WHAT | WHEN | HOW

Learning

Acting

How to organise it?

No magic recipe but a few important ingredients:

A. Ensure learning at **different levels**

B. Ensure the **quality** of each learning activity

C. Ensure an **integrated approach**

A. Multidimensional aspect of learning

3. Regional stakeholders learning

2. Organisational learning

4. External / EU level learning

1. Individual learning

Go beyond individual / organisational learning!

A. Multidimensional aspect of learning

Policy making is complex:

- usually an organisation cannot change a policy alone

Stakeholder group:

- increase the chance of policy change

Necessity to involve **relevant stakeholders in the learning process**

(travel and accommodation costs eligible if paid by a partner)

B. Quality of activities
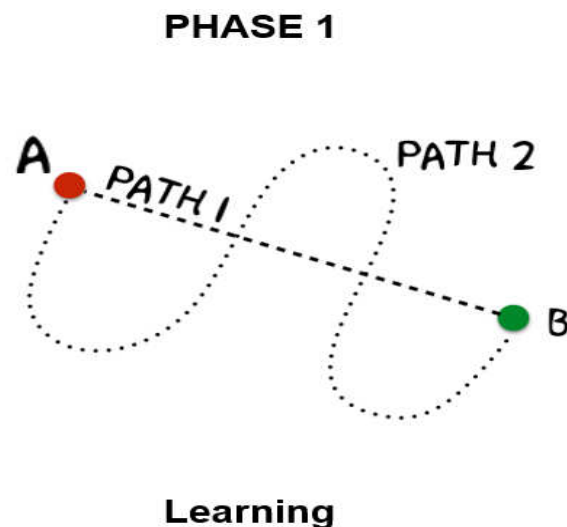
For all learning activities, importance of:

- Preparation - **Before**

- Implementation - **During**

- Follow-up (documentation and monitoring) - **After**

C. Integrated approach

- How to ensure the overall coherence of the learning process?

- What are the main steps to reach the objectives and ensure the quality of action plans?

- What are the activities needed and in which order?

PHASE 1

A
PATH I
PATH 2
B

Learning

Can be more or less complex but

simple is beautiful.

C. Integrated approach

No 'one-size-fits-all'

Different parameters influencing the process:

- History of the partnership

- Number of partners

- Duration of phase 1

- Topic addressed

- ….

C. Integrated approach

No 'one-size-fits-all' but 3 steps commonly adopted:

Step 1

    Analysis of partners' situations with local stakeholders and **identification** of valuable experience and practices

Step 2

    Review of identified practices supported by interregional exchange of experience activities (e.g. study visits, thematic workshops) ⟶ with view to **transfer**

Step 3

    Further **investigation** of good practices with local stakeholders and finalisation of **action plans** backed up with further interregional/ bilateral events

Ingredients in the application form

Overview in section C.4

C.4 Project approach ⓘ

Describe the project approach to achieve the project's objective and to produce the intended outputs and results. ⓘ

Describe the project approach proposed to achieve the project's objectives and to produce the intended outputs and results.

In particular:

- How do you organise the interregional learning process?
- How do the proposed activities interlink (sequence, combination, interrelation between activities)?
- What is the approach for developing the action plans and what is the role of the different stakeholder groups?

Ingredients in the application form

Detailed description of activities in section D.1

D.1 PHASE 1 'Interregional learning' - Detailed work plan per period

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
01/2016 - 06/2016	07/2016 - 12/2016	01/2017 - 06/2017	07/2017 - 12/2017

Semester 1

a) Exchange of experience ℹ️   Please describe in detail the period's activities and outputs related to exchange of experience

Please describe in detail the period's activities and outputs related to exchange of experience. Specify the responsibilities of each partner with regard to the activities and also add information on the involvement of local stakeholder groups.

b) Communication and diss...   ...ctivities and outputs related to communication and dissemination

c) Project management ℹ️   ...activities and outputs related to management and coordination

Main Outputs   Please describe in detail the outputs

More on communication

Follow webinar on 15 April at 10:00

Lead applicant webinar on project communication strategy

15/04/2016
A 1-hour webinar on how to design project communication strategy.
Type: Programme

Register at:

http://www.interregeurope.eu/news-and-events/event/105/lead-applicant-webinar-on-project-communication-strategy/

How do you plan to organise the learning process in your project?

Discussion (15 minutes)

II. EVALUATING PERFORMANCE

Evaluating performance of the learning process

Result oriented approach

Cooperation works: let's demonstrate it

From policy change to territorial impact

Evaluating performance

Two core notions:

Result: direct effect of the project

Output: deliverable of the project contributing to the results

Indicators

Simplification

- Decrease in number

  from 20 indicators under INTERREG IVC

  to 8 under Interreg Europe

- Concept simplified

  'good practices transferred and policies improved' replaced by 'policy change'

Results in the application form

Section C.6.2

Result indicators ℹ️	Target
No. of Growth & Jobs and/or ETC programmes where measures inspired by the cooperation were implemented in the field tackled by the project. ℹ️	
No. of other regional policy instruments where measures inspired by the cooperation were implemented in the field tackled by the project. ℹ️	
Amount (EUR) of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and/ or ETC) influenced by the project in the field tackled by the project	
Amount (EUR) of other funds influenced by the project in the field tackled by the project	

Results in the application form

Section C.6.2

Policies	Self-defined performance indicators ⓘ	Target
Policy W	*Increase of R&D investment from companies supported by the action plan's measures (%) – (target value: 0.50%)*	*1*
Policy X	*Increase of export turnover for enterprises supported by action plan's measures (%)*	*3*
Policy Y	*Reduction in GHG emission from buildings benefiting from action plan's measures (%)*	*5*
Policy Z	*Increase of protected natural areas further to action plan implementation (%)*	*2*
…		

Outputs in the application form

Section B.2

B.2 Policies addressed and territorial context ℹ		
Number	**Name**	**Structural funds link**
1	*Regional Operational Programme of Region Western Macedonia*	*Yes*
2	*Development Programme of Ústí Region 2014 - 2020*	*No*
…		

Outputs in the application form

Section C.6.2

Output indicators	Target
No. of policy learning events organised	
No. of good practices identified	
No. of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities in the field tackled by the project	
No. of action plans developed	
No. of appearances in media (e.g. press)	
Average number of sessions at the project pages per reporting period	

Insight into phase 2

PHASE 2

ACTION PLAN

WHO | WHAT | WHEN | HOW

Acting

- Evaluating the performance of the learning

- Monitoring territorial impact

- Importance of self-defined indicator

- **Results can occur before phase 2**

Insight into phase 2

- Activities **pre-defined** by the programme mainly:

  2 project meetings

  1 final dissemination event

- **No possibility to propose other activities!**

D.2 PHASE 2 - Detailed work plan per period

Semester 7	Semester 8	Semester 9	Semester 10
01/2019 - 06/2019	07/2019 - 12/2019	01/2020 - 06/2020	07/2020 - 12/2020

Semester 8

a) Action plan implementation follow-up	Each partner monitors the action plan implementation by contacting the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the different actions. All partners meet to learn from each other by exchanging on the success and difficulties met in the implementation of their action plan.
b) Communication and dissemination	The partners ensure regular updates of the project website with information on the action plans implementation.
c) Project management	Each partner reports the progress made in implementing the action plan. The lead partner compiles the information and prepares the report for the joint secretariat.
Main Outputs	1 project meeting Website updates 1 annual progress report

Insight into phase 2

- Although activities are predefined, phase 2 may be adapted at the end of phase 1

- Pilot actions only in exceptional cases:
  - Relevance?
  - Interregionality?
  - Additionality?

- Indicative budget per action: from EUR 10,000 to 80,000

Thank you!

Time for questions

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