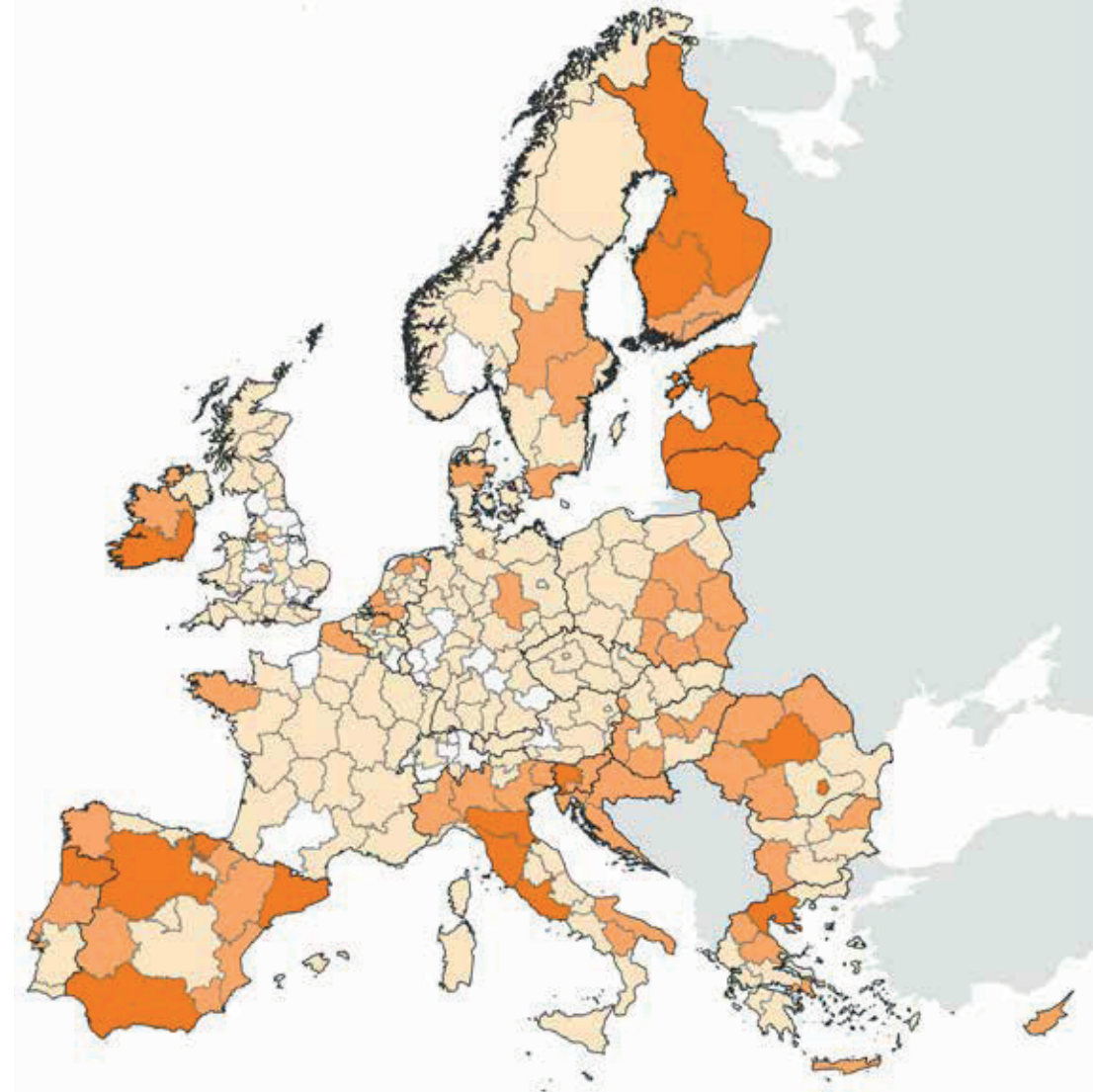


# CITIZENS' SUMMARY

*This is a summary of a report on Interreg Europe's activities in 2020. It presents key points and highlights from the year.*



Number of project partners  
in NUTS 2 regions

None (0) ☐  
Low (1 - 8) ☐  
Medium (9 - 22) ☐  
High (23 - 49) ☐

## 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 EU27, plus Norway, Switzerland and the UK). Institutions in the programme's projects come from 88% of European regions.

## Two policy learning actions in four thematic areas

Interreg Europe helps policymakers inspire each other and improve their policies, either within interregional cooperation projects or via the Policy Learning Platform.

In 2020, **258 cooperation projects** with over 2,000 organisations from European regions continued working on shared policy challenges, despite the COVID-19 crisis. Projects from the first three calls have prepared 1,026 action plans, translating the lessons learnt in the projects into concrete actions in their own regions.

**The Policy Learning Platform**, a place for continuous policy learning in the Interreg Europe's four thematic areas, made the programme's knowledge available to over 20,000 community members. Its good practice database presented over 2,300 expert-validated policymaking practices. The Platform further developed its on-demand services such as the region-to-region peer reviews and matchmaking sessions, which are particularly appreciated by the programme beneficiaries.

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

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## The programme goes on

### The programme's resilience

In 2020, Interreg Europe faced an unprecedented crisis due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All activities had to move online. Yet, both the **258 projects** and the Platform faced the pandemic restrictions well, adapted their exchange of experience activities, and even developed new approaches to sharing inspiration for better regional policies.

The programme approved a set of flexibility measures, which made the projects' adaptation to the new situation easier and relevant for the partner regions' contexts. Both the projects and the Platform put forward good practices relevant for the recovery from the crisis.

At the same time, the programme's evaluation confirmed that Interreg Europe performs well and will reach its targets set for 2023 when the programme's activities officially end. 30 success stories in the programme's publication **'When Europe cooperates, regions benefit'**, a contribution to the 30 Years of Interreg initiative, presented concrete evidence.

### Policy learning continues

The **Policy Learning Platform** turned the COVID-19 challenge into an opportunity and offered its tailored expert services to policymakers online, which was well appreciated by many. The number of thematic events (23) increased thanks to the flexibility of being online. Most of the events were developed with the contribution from the programme's community members.

### Sound management confirmed

The programme audit in 2020 resulted in an error rate of 0.1% and confirmed that the management and control system work well. In spite of COVID-19, the programme kept the underspending risk in check. In order to use all funds efficiently, Interreg Europe will give a chance to its projects to apply for funding for additional activities in 2021.



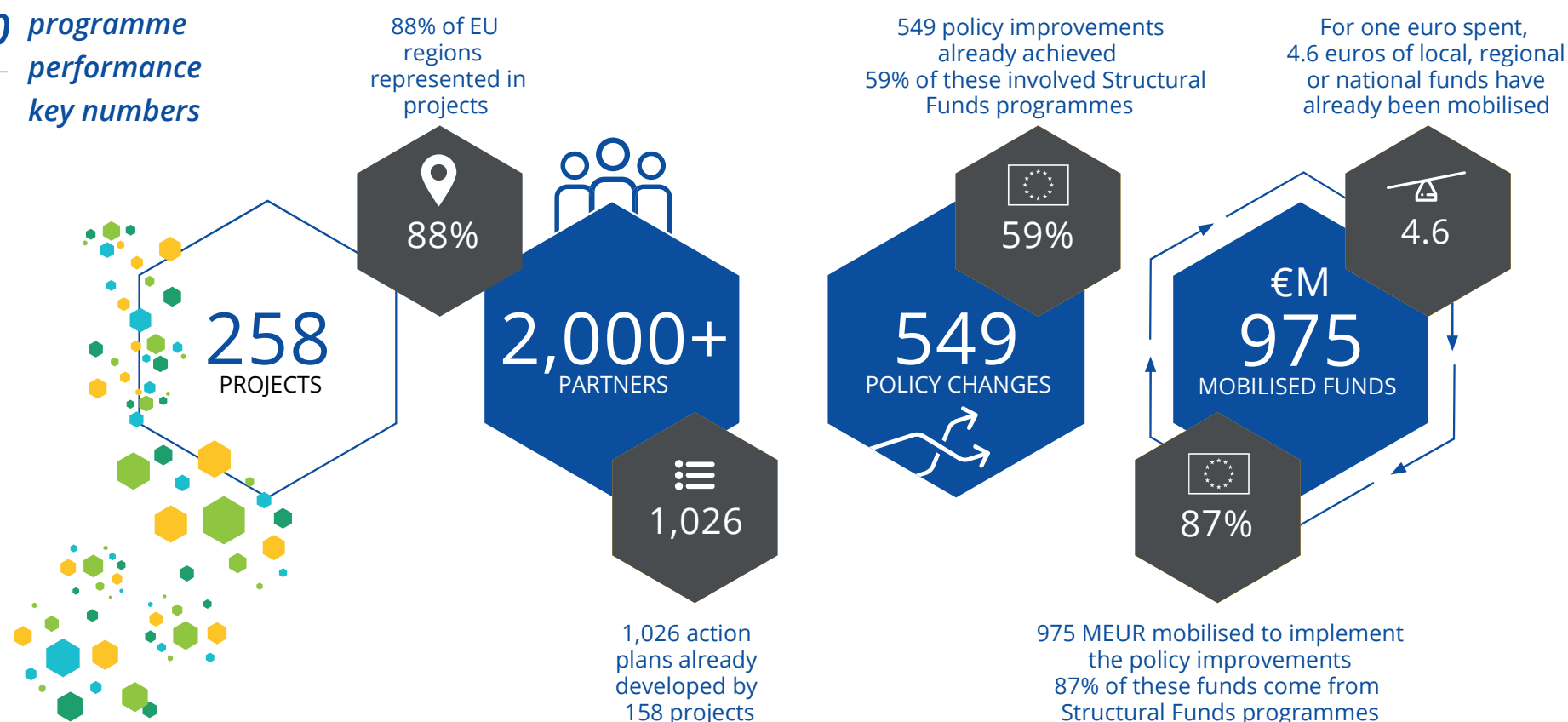
## For more information

The latest programme news and details about activities can be found on the programme website: [www.interregeurope.eu](http://www.interregeurope.eu)

For any queries, please contact:  
**Interreg Europe Secretariat**  
45 rue de Tournai, Entrée D  
59000 Lille – France

Tel: +33 328 144 100  
Fax: +33 328 144 109  
[info@interregeurope.eu](mailto:info@interregeurope.eu)

## 2020 programme performance key numbers



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