FOCUS SUI PROGRAMMI COMUNITARI PER LA COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
Through its European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), the EU works with its southern and eastern neighbors to achieve the closest possible political association and the greatest possible degree of economic integration. This goal builds on common interests and on values, democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and social cohesion. The ENP is a key part of the European Union's foreign policy. The ENP proposes joint priorities for cooperation suited to the challenges of our time and adapted to the regions evolutions between Governs and the EU concerning their relations with 16 of the EU's closest Eastern and Southern Neighbors:

Partner countries agree with the EU An ENP action plan or an association agenda demonstrating their commitment to democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development. The EU supports the achievement of these objectives.

**financial support** – grants worth €12 bn were given to ENP-related projects from 2007 to 2013

**economic integration** and access to EU markets – in 2011 trade between the EU and its ENP partners totalled €230bn

**easier travel to the EU** – 3.2 m Schengen visas were issued to citizens, and in particular to students from ENP countries in 2012

The EU also supports the civil society which plays an important role in bringing about deep and sustainable democracy in partner countries.

- **South**: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

- **East**: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Russia takes part in Cross-Border Cooperation activities under the ENP and is not a part of the ENP as such.
The ENI provides the bulk of EU funding to the 16 ENP partner countries. It builds on the achievements of the previous European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The vast majority of ENI funding is used for bilateral cooperation, tailor-made to each Neighborhood partner country.

**Key element:**

Bilateral ENP Action Plans (AP), which is mutually agreed between the EU and each partner country. The AP sets out an agenda of political and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities and serves as the political framework guiding the priorities for cooperation with short and medium-term priorities of 3 to 5 years. It reflects the country's needs and capacities, as well as its and the EU’s interests.
In addition to bilateral Cooperation, ENI funding also supports regional, Neighborhood-wide and Cross Border Cooperation programs. 37.5% of the EU population lives in border areas, along some 38 internal borders made up of geographic, linguistic barriers often bearing the scars of European wars.

**European Cross-border cooperation** aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purpose of the overall harmonious development of the Union.

These programs are designed to complement bilateral cooperation programs. Cross Border Cooperation supports sustainable development along the EU’s external borders, helps reducing differences in living standards and addressing common challenges across these borders. What characterizes the CBC programs and makes them a unique cooperation mechanism is the participating countries' strong commitment and ownership based on balanced partnership between the participating countries on either side of a border: Member States and neighbouring countries have an equal say in the programs decisions and projects receive funding only if implemented by partners on both sides.
There are 60 cooperation programs involved in a wide variety of activities linked to the maturity of border cooperation. Cross-border cooperation programs support regions laying directly on the borders, or adjacent to them. They are managed by joint structures, situated in one of the countries, responsible for the whole program.

- Promoting economic and social development in border areas;
- Addressing common challenges (environment, public health, safety and security);
- Putting in place better conditions for persons, goods and capital mobility.

**Budget:**

Over € 209 million granted by the European Union to the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Program for the period 2014-2020.
Additional EU initiatives and programs under the ENI, supporting civil society in the region:

- **EIDHR** *(European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights)*
- **NSA-LA** *(Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic program)*
- **ENI Civil Society Facility**
The EIDHR instrument can grant aid where no established development cooperation exists, and can intervene without the agreement of the governments of third countries. It can support groups or individuals within civil society defending democracy as well as intergovernmental organizations that implement the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights. Work with, for and through civil society organizations gives to the EIDHR its critical profile. Assistance under EIDHR complements other tools which are used to implement EU policies for democracy and human rights. These range from political dialogue and diplomatic initiatives to various instruments for financial and technical cooperation.

Assistance under the EIDHR may take the following forms:
- projects and programs,
- grants to finance projects submitted by civil society and/or international/intergovernmental organizations
- small grants to human rights defenders,
- grants to support operating costs of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization (EIUC)
- human and material resources for EU election observation missions

Based on the new Financial Regulation, the EIDHR includes the possibility under certain circumstances to finance not only registered organizations, but also non-legal entities. It furthermore provides the possibility of "re-granting" meaning that in order to enhance human rights in situation were they are most at risk, civil society organizations in charge of the project implementation can award small grants to other local organizations, non-legal entities or individual human rights defenders.
The NSA-LA program supports civil society organizations and local authorities as drivers of development. It enables beneficiaries to hone their ability to provide help and encourages long-term partnerships linking civil society and local authorities. It also co-finances projects in areas as diverse as health, education and rural development.

The program's strategy outlines three objectives:
Promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries that will facilitate non-state actor and local authority participation in poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies (Objective 1);
Raising awareness of development issues and providing development education in the EU and acceding countries (Objective 2);
Strengthening the coordination of non-state actor and local authority networks in EU and acceding countries and enhancing the communication between these networks (Objective 3).
Objective 1 is implemented through two main strands of activity: interventions in individual countries (objective 1a) and multi-country, multi-regional or international initiatives (objective 1b)
The Facility aims to strengthen civil society actors in partner countries and contribute to promoting an enabling environment for their work. It will seek to promote their involvement in policy dialogue and increase interaction between them and the authorities.

It will also seek to increase civil society actors' involvement in programming, implementation and monitoring of EU assistance and policies in the region.

**What does it do?**

The Facility will financially support projects led by civil society which are relevant in the context of the Neighbourhood Policy. It will also strengthen the capacities of civil society actors in the region to enhance their role in promoting reform and increasing public accountability in their countries. Last but not least, it will seek to increase civil society involvement in sector policy dialogues and implementation of EU cooperation in relevant fields.

**Actions in brief**

- Identifies and analyses civil society actors' needs and capacities in the region, as well as the way in which these actors can contribute to specific sector policy dialogues;
- Supports capacity-building activities (trainings, seminars, workshops, exchange of good practices, ad-hoc support, etc.) for civil society actors, so as to enhance their capacities and their role in promoting reform and increasing public accountability in ENP policy areas;
- Supports the organization of multi-stakeholder consultations at national and regional level involving civil society actors, national authorities and EU Delegations so as to facilitate their participation in sector policy dialogues between the EU and partner countries and in implementation of relevant bilateral projects and programs;
- Supports civil society actors-led monitoring and advocacy activities regarding fulfilment of ENP commitments, at regional, sub-regional or national level, as well as the activities of platforms and networks of civil society organizations;
- Seeks to strengthen the role of civil society actors in the policy-making process, and to promote a more favorable attitude of governments and local authorities towards them, through participatory approaches and consultations.
What makes this instrument **more effective**, is that, under the ENI, assistance to Neighbors will:

- Become faster and more flexible, reducing the complexity and length of the programming process so that the relevance of the assistance is not undermined;
- Offer incentives for best performers through the more-for-more approach that allows the EU to increase its support to those partners that are genuinely implementing what has been jointly agreed;
- Be increasingly policy-driven based on the key policy objectives agreed with the partners, mainly in the ENP bilateral action plans;
- Allow for greater differentiation so that the EU allocates a greater proportion of funds where aid can have the highest impact;
- Aim for mutual accountability so that it takes greater account of human rights, democracy and good governance when it comes to allocating assistance.

The ENI will also encourage closer links between the EU and partner countries to enable their citizens to participate in successful EU internal programs, such as on student mobility, youth programs or support to civil society. Special emphasis will be given to engagement with civil society.
How does it work?

The **European Neighborhood Instrument** (ENI) and the **European Neighborhood Policy** (ENP) have the objective of assisting progress towards “an area of shared prosperity and good neighborliness” between EU Member States and their neighbors, as set out in the framework on which the Strategy of the Program is founded. The sections that follow offer an outline of the **Strategy** and the main outcomes of the analyses and consultation process. In particular, they include:

- **a socio-economic analysis of the area**, which outlines main trends in terms of demographic, economic growth and social cohesion, also reflecting strengths, weaknesses and medium-term needs;
- **an analysis of the environmental state of the area**, based on a number of environmental sectors (namely water management, energy, waste management and integrated coastal zone management), which are considered as most relevant for the area by participating countries;
- **a wide consultation with participating countries and other stakeholders**, in harmony with principles of ownership and partnership, as briefly outlined in the introductory section to the present Program. This wide consultative process is the basis of the Strategy and has also oriented and focused the desk analysis on a number of key sectors for the area;
- **a description of overarching and thematic objectives** as well as of the related priorities;
- **an analysis of the main EU and non-EU funded programs in the area.**
Six ENI targets

1. Fostering human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, equality, sustainable democracy, good governance and a thriving civil society.

2. Achieving progressive integration into the EU internal market and enhanced co-operation including through legislative approximation and regulatory convergence, institution building and investments.

3. Creating conditions for well managed mobility of people and promotion of people-to-people contacts.

4. Encouraging development, poverty reduction, internal economic, social and territorial cohesion, rural development, climate action and disaster resilience.

5. Promoting confidence building and other measures contributing to security and the prevention and settlement of conflicts.

6. Enhancing sub-regional, regional and Neighborhood wide collaboration as well as Cross-Border Cooperation.
Priority areas

Some of the ENI cooperation areas that will be given high priority are:

• Boosting small businesses
• Civil-society engagement
• Climate change action
• Easier mobility of people
  • Energy cooperation
• Gender equality promotion
• Gradual economic integration
• People-to-people contacts
• Transport connections
• Youth and employment
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Overarching objectives</th>
<th>Thematic objectives</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Promote economic and social development</strong></td>
<td><strong>Business and SMEs development</strong></td>
<td>Support innovative start-ups and recently established enterprises, with a particular focus on young and women entrepreneurs and facilitate the protection of their intellectual property rights and commercialization where applicable</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Support to education, research, technological development and innovation</strong></td>
<td>Strengthen and support euro-Mediterranean networks, clusters, consortia and value-chains in traditional (agro-food, tourism, textile/clothing, etc.) and non-traditional sectors (innovative ideas solutions for urban development, eco-housing, sustainable water-related and other clean technologies, renewable energy, creative industries, etc.)</td>
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<td>Encourage sustainable tourism initiatives and actions aimed at diversifying into new segments and niches</td>
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<td><strong>Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty</strong></td>
<td>Support technological transfer and commercialisation of research results, strengthening the linkages between research, industry as well as private sector actors</td>
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<td>Support SMEs in accessing research and innovation also through clustering</td>
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<td>Provide young people, especially those belonging to the NEETS and women, with marketable skills</td>
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<td>Support social and solidarity economic actors, also in terms of improving capacities and co-operation with public administrations for services’ provision</td>
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<td>Overarching objectives</td>
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<td>Address common challenges in environment</td>
<td>Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation</td>
<td><strong>Water</strong>&lt;br&gt;Support sustainable initiatives aimed at finding innovative and technological solutions to increase water efficiency and encourage use of non-conventional water supply</td>
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<td><strong>Waste</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reduce municipal waste generation, promote source separated collection and optimal exploitation in particular of organic component</td>
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<td><strong>Renewable energy and energy efficiency</strong>&lt;br&gt;Support cost-effective and innovative energy rehabilitations relevant to building types and climatic zones, with a focus on public buildings</td>
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<td><strong>Integrated Coastal Zone Management</strong>&lt;br&gt;Incorporate the Ecosystem-Based management approach to ICZM into local development planning, through the improvement of intra-territorial coordination among different stakeholders</td>
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People to people cooperation as a modality to achieve the above

Institutional capacity building as a transversal priority
How support is given

- Bilateral programs covering support to one partner country;
- Multi-country programs which address challenges common to all or a number of partner countries, and regional and sub-regional cooperation between two or more partner countries;
- **Cross-Border Cooperation programs** between Member States and partner countries taking place along their shared part of the external border of the EU (including Russia).

The **ENI CBC "Mediterranean Sea Basin" Program** is part of the cross-border cooperation component of the ENI.
How is it financed?

Over € 209 million have been granted by the European Union to the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Program for the period 2014-2020. According to the Programming document, a fifth of the financial allocation for Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) under the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) total budget - € 1 billion - is dedicated to the Mediterranean Sea Basin Program. This makes the Program the largest one from a financial point of view out of 16 other programs to be implemented with Partner Countries to the East and South of EU’s external borders.
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<th>Land border programmes</th>
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<td>Karelia/Russia</td>
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<td>Estonia/Russia</td>
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<td>Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus</td>
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<td>Poland/Belarus/Ukraine</td>
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<td>Hungary/Slovakia/Romania/Ukraine</td>
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<td>Romania/Moldova</td>
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<td>Romania/Ukraine</td>
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<td>Sea-crossing programme</td>
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<td>Italy/Tunisia</td>
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<td>Sea-basin programmes</td>
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<td>Baltic Sea Region[^6]</td>
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<td>Black Sea</td>
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<td>Mediterranean</td>
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<td>Mid-Atlantic</td>
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The Black Sea Basin Program 2014-2020 is part of European Union’s Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) under its European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI). **ENI CBC** receives funding from ENI as well as from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) which is pooled together. All sources of funding may be used on either side of the EU external border for actions of common benefit.

The Black Sea Basin ENI CBC program 2014-2020 builds upon the previous cooperation framework, the Black Sea Basin ENPI CBC program 2007-2013, under which 62 projects were awarded and implemented in 8 countries surrounding the Black Sea Basin.
Objectives and Priorities

2. Environmental Protection and Reduction of Marine Litter

2.1 Improve Joint Environmental Monitoring

2.2 Promote Common Awareness-Raising and Joint Actions to Reduce River and Marine Litter
Eligible Area

Romania: South-East;
Bulgaria: Severoiztochen, Yugoiztochen;
Greece: Kentriki Makedonia, Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki;
Turkey: Istanbul, Tekirdağ, Kocaeli, Zonguldak, Kastamonu, Samsun, Trabzon;
Russia*: Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Krai and Adygea republic;
Ukraine*: Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporosh'ye and Donetsk Oblasts, Crimea Republic, Sevastopol;
Rep. Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan**: the whole country.

* General EU restrictions on cooperation in regions that are illegally occupied by Russia are also applicable to CBC. Therefore, regions of Sevastopol and Crimea Republic are not currently eligible.
** Azerbaijan decided to withdraw from the Programme at the end of the programing process.
Improving the welfare of the people in the Black Sea Basin regions through sustainable growth and joint environmental protection

Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin

Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter within the BSB
Potential Beneficiaries

- authorities at regional and sub-national administrative levels;
- civil society organisations based within the eligible programme area;
- chambers of commerce;
- academic and educational community.
Budget 2014-2020

ENI Budget: 39 mil. Euro
IPA Budget: 10 mil. Euro
Total EU contribution (ENI+IPA): 49 mil. Euro
National co-financing (10%)
Total funding 54 mil. Euro
The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. Focuses its investments on several key priority areas. This is known as 'thematic concentration':

- Innovation and research;
- The digital agenda;
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- The low-carbon economy

The ERDF resources allocated to these priorities will depend on the category of region.

- In more developed regions, at least 80 % of funds must focus on at least two of these priorities;
- In transition regions, this focus is for 60 % of the funds.
Specific Territorial Characteristics

The ERDF also gives particular attention to specific territorial characteristics. ERDF action is designed to reduce economic, environmental and social problems in urban areas, with a special focus on sustainable urban development. At least 5% of the ERDF resources are set aside for this field, through 'integrated actions' managed by cities. Areas that are naturally disadvantaged from a geographical viewpoint (remote, mountainous or sparsely populated areas) benefit from special treatment. Lastly, the outermost areas also benefit from specific assistance from the ERDF to address possible disadvantages due to their remoteness.
ETC
European Territorial Cooperation

INTERREG 2014-2020

1 OF THE 2 GOALS OF EU COHESION POLICY
10.1 BILLION OUT OF 351.8 BILLION FOR COHESION POLICY (2013 PRICES)
2.8% OF THE TOTAL COHESION POLICY BUDGET
107 COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

- CROSS-BORDER INTERREG VA
  - 60 COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
  - INTERNAL BORDERS
  - 6.6 BILLION

- INTERREG IPA
  - 12 INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION
  - 242* MILLION

- INTERREG ENI
  - 16 EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD INSTRUMENT
  - 634* BILLION

- TRANSNATIONAL INTERREG VB
  - 15 COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
  - 2.1 BILLION

- INTERREGIONAL INTERREG VC
  - 4 COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
    - INTERREG EUROPE
    - INTERACT
    - URBACT
    - ESPON
  - 0.5 BILLION
2014-2020 period – Interreg V
In accordance with the new design of the European Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 and the targets set out in Europe 2020, Interreg has significantly been reshaped to achieve greater impact and an even more effective use of the investments. Key elements of the 2014-2020 reform are:
- Concentration
- Simplification
- Results orientation

The fifth period of Interreg is based on 11 investment priorities laid down in the ERDF Regulation contributing to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. At least, 80% of the budget for each cooperation programme has to concentrate on a maximum of 4 thematic objectives among the eleven EU priorities:
Research and Innovation

Information and Communication technologies

Competitiveness of SMEs

Low-carbon economy

Combating climate change

Environment and resource efficiency

Sustainable transport

Employment and Mobility

Social inclusion

Better education, training

Better public administration
European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg, is one of the tools of cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. The overarching objective of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole. Interreg is built around three strands of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A), transnational (Interreg B) and interregional (Interreg C).
Cohesion Policy

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs
4. Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
7. Promoting sustainable transport and improving network infra-structures
8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination
10. Investing in education, training and lifelong learning
11. Improving the efficiency of public administration
Cross-border cooperation
Important elements for successful, sustained and inclusive cross-border cooperation:

- ‘People-to-people’ actions
- Promotion of local and regional good governance
- Promotion of regional integration/coordination
- The use and development of relevant information and communication technologies
- Promotion of gender equality, and opportunities for youth.

Two calls for proposals are expected to be launched during the program lifetime, in 2016 and 2018. The recommended financial size of projects will be further defined in the calls for proposals.
Programmi di cooperazione transnazionale
The European Commission in its Regulation No 1299/2013 defines in the preamble that “transnational cooperation should aim to strengthen cooperation by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development linked to the Union’s cohesion policy priorities”. All projects receiving funds have to meet the following quality requirements:

• Transnational relevance;
• Partnership relevance;
• Concrete and measurable results;
• Durable outputs and results;
• Coherent approach;
• Sound project communication strategy and tools;
• Effective management;
• Sound budget.
• Coordination with CEF, ENI, IPA and EDF
What is the ADRION?

The Interreg V-B Adriatic-Ionian 2014-2020 (ADRION), approved on 20 October 2015 and set up in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) - one of the objectives of the cohesion policy - includes 31 regions from four different ERDF Partner States and four IPA Partner States (hereinafter all referred to as Partner States).

The overall objective of the ADRION Program is to act as a policy driver and governance innovator fostering European integration among Partner States, taking advantage from the rich natural, cultural and human resources surrounding the Adriatic and Ionian seas and enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Program area. Taking into account the potential role of the ADRION Program as a coordination mechanism for Instruments, its elaboration has been made with reference to Partnership Agreements of the involved ERDF Partner States, National/Regional structural funds Operational Programs, IPA II Multi-country and Country Strategy Papers of the Partner States and International Agreements concluded for the development of the Western Balkans (e.g.: Treaty on Energy Community.)
For the period 2014-2020, the overall Program budget amounts to EUR 117,918,198 including:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**
  EUR 83,467,729

- **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)**
  EUR 15,688,887

- National contributions
  EUR 18,761,582.
**ADRION** Program will seek to conciliate the demand and pressure of different uses, promote low input/low emissions activities, exploit in a sustainable way renewable resources, reduce the impact of human activities on natural resources, and improve the protection of maritime and terrestrial biodiversity and habitats. As a transnational cooperation program, its main contribution will be to exchange and transfer experiences between regions, support transnational interventions and capacity building, and ensure that results are disseminated and used beyond project partners reaching a large number of end-users.

The Program takes into consideration the experience of the 2007-2013 Operational Programs (OPs), in particular the transnational South-East Europe programs (SEE) and the cross-border programs IPA CBC Adriatic whose eligible areas overlap with those of ADRION. Following the European Commission decision drawing up the list of eligible regions and areas for the transnational strands of the ETC, the ADRION Programs covers the following areas:
The ERDF Partner States:

- IT Italy: 12 regions and 2 provinces;
  - SI Slovenia: 2 regions;
  - EL Greece: 13 regions;
  - HR Croatia: 2 regions;

The IPA Partner States:

- AL Albania;
  - BA Bosnia and Herzegovina;
  - ME Montenegro;
  - RS Serbia.
The ADRION Program will seek coordination with ENI CBC MED and Alpine Space if relevant for some of the eligible area. The Coordination will be implemented through the following measures:

- MAs and JSs of IPA and ENI CBC programs will be addressed by the ADRION Program improving exchanges of information on applications and approved operations, in order to activate synergies between complementary operations being implemented at the EU external borders;

- Taking into consideration also the forthcoming implementation of IPA Rural Development II (IPARD II) programs in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia, the ADRION Programs will ensure that 118/131 overlapping between activities financed by the respective programs (ADRION and at one side, IPARD programs at the other side) will be avoided and all the potential complementarities assessed.
The ADRION Program exemplifies the broad policy framework channeling the development efforts on macro-regional and national levels. Goals and priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy (EU2020), an instrument to coordinate the national and EU policy levels in order to produce and maintain European development, focusing on the three pillars of the concept of growth: **smart, sustainable and inclusive**.

- **SMART GROWTH**: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation. Smart growth means improving the EU’s performance in education, research/innovation and digital society.

- **SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy. Sustainable growth means building a low-carbon economy that makes sustainable use of resources.

- **INCLUSIVE GROWTH**: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. Inclusive growth means raising Europe’s employment rate – more and better jobs, especially for women, young people and older workers, helping people of all ages to raise the employment rate.
The mechanism needed to achieve the above-mentioned goals includes the **National Reform Programs**, the objectives of which pursue the EU2020 objectives at national level. The EU Strategy for the **Adriatic-Ionian Region - EUSAIR** described in two documents:

1. The Communication from the European Commission to the other EU institutions, (COM (2014) 357 final of 17.06.2014);


**The strategy focuses on four (4) Pillars:**

1. Blue growth,
2. Connecting the Region,
3. Environmental quality,
4. Sustainable tourism.
The **Action Plan** is one of the outputs of the Strategy. Its aim is to go from “words to actions” by identifying the concrete priorities for the macro-region. It is structured so as to reflect the four pillars, as well as the topics selected under each of them, also including an indicative list of eligible actions and project examples. The structure of the governance will be defined in order to identify and support actions and projects with a macro regional value. In the framework of the Action Plan, the governance structure shall identify the actions and the projects with a macro-regional value and the sources of financing, looking at the other funds available on the area (EU, national, regional and public, financial instruments, loan and private funds).
MEDITERRANEAN (MED) COOPERATION PROGRAMME
The MED transnational program supports the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and the improvement of public policies between national, regional and local authorities and other territorial actors of the MED area eligible regions. The program is bilingual (English and French). It includes 57 regions from 10 different EU countries and 3 candidate countries. Its main purpose is to contribute to the long term development of the Mediterranean area and to strengthen transnational cooperation between regions and participating countries. This program takes into consideration the experience of the 2007-2013 period, the results of the in itinere evaluation and the capitalization of the overall program achievements.
How does it work?

Following the Commission’s decision to draw up the list of eligible regions and areas for the transnational strands of the European territorial cooperation objective, the Med Program covers the following areas:

**The Member States:**

- **Cyprus**: Entire country
- **France**: 5 regions: Corse, Languedoc-Roussillon, Midi-Pyrénées, Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes
- **Greece**: Entire country
  - **Malta**: Entire country
- **Portugal**: 3 regions – Algarve, Alentejo, Area Metropolitana de Lisboa
  - **Slovenia**: Entire country (Western and Eastern Slovenia)
- **Spain**: 6 autonomous regions – Andalusia, Aragon, Catalonia, Balearic islands, Murcia, Valencia – and 2 autonomous cities – Ceuta and Melilla
  - **United-Kingdom**: 1 region of economic programming – Gibraltar
  - **Croatia**: Entire country
The Partner States:

The program has also invited Mediterranean candidates or potential candidate countries to the European Union to join the program. These countries participate with the IPA European funds (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance). The eligible area thus includes the following IPA countries with their entire territory:

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Montenegro
The program is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and its total budget is of € 224,322,525 million ERDF for the 2014-2020 period.

The co-financing rate for partners not concerned by state aid is 85%. The co-financing rate for economic operators and structures concerned by state aid is 85% or 50%.

An integrated management of ERDF and IPA funds will be (further) implemented.
In the period 2014-2020, **Interreg MED Program** will promote cooperation between a varied typology of actors of these thirteen Mediterranean countries. The aim lies in optimizing existing results achieved in the previous period as well as facilitating new cooperation frameworks for all partners situated in the Program cooperation area. Accordingly, Interreg MED Program establishes the following key cooperation principles aiming at consolidating the character of future projects and their related activities. These fundamental principles represent the DNA of the Interreg MED Program and are coherent with the promotion of development, of good governance and supported by the European Union Cohesion Policy.

1. Thematic concentration
2. Result-orientation
3. Transnationality
4. Territorial relevance
5. Sustainability
6. Transferability
7. Capitalisation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main challenges</th>
<th>Main needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smart growth</strong></td>
<td>Need for stronger investments in R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increasing competition from other countries and areas in the world</td>
<td>- Need to improve competitiveness of businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Challenge to reach the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy with lower innovation level in Mediterranean regions than the EU average</td>
<td>- Need to strengthen the connection and cooperation between research, innovation and businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Good development potential in the sector of blue and green growth that would deserve to be better promoted</td>
<td>- Need to improve connections between regional networks and clusters to generate critical mass in terms of research and innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increasing climate change consequences on MED regions</td>
<td>- Need to improve the capacity of SMEs to use the results research and innovation produced by large research and innovation poles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increasing scarcity of water resources</td>
<td>- Need to better focus interventions on common innovation sectors throughout the MED area (blue growth, and green growth sectors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Potential to improve the production of renewable energy but very diverse situations between MED regions and MED countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increasing urban pressure requiring long term sustainable and integrated urban development (energy, water, planning, transports, waste management, health)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increasing pressure of economic activities on natural and cultural resources and on coastal areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Important impact of the agriculture on landscapes and natural resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Important pollution of the Mediterranean Sea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainable growth</strong></td>
<td>Need to improve observation capacities, norms, technics and cooperation between stakeholders to reduce the vulnerability of MED regions to natural risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Important consequences of demographic change on economy, employment and quality of life (aging population)</td>
<td>- Need for a more sustainable management of Mediterranean cities (energy, water, spatial planning, transports, waste management, health management)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increasing difficulties for the socioeconomic inclusion of young people, in particular in time of crisis</td>
<td>- To bring specific answers to the needs of islands regarding energy and water management (small scale solutions, independence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Need to improve the resilience of coastal areas, biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage in front of human pressure and climate change consequences (awareness raising, change of habits, protection measures...)</td>
<td>- Need to improve the resilience of coastal areas, biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage in front of human pressure and climate change consequences (awareness raising, change of habits, protection measures...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Important pollution of the Mediterranean Sea</td>
<td>- Need to reduce marine pollution and marine litter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusive growth</strong></td>
<td>Need to better promote social innovation in connection with key socioeconomic sectors (tourism, energy, transports...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Need to better take into account socioeconomic issues and needs of end users in the conception and implementation of sustainable development policies (environment, energy, transports)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the Interreg Central Europe Program?

The Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Program, approved by the European Commission on 16 December 2014, is part of the European Union’s cohesion policy and will co-finance cooperation projects to strengthen regional innovation, promote low-carbon strategies, protect and valorize natural and cultural resources and improve sustainable transport connections. Key variables of the program were agreed by the participating Member States following thorough consultation with relevant partners and stakeholders throughout the past two years.

Nine European Union (EU) Member States cooperate in the program, including all regions from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as eight Länder from Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen) and nine regions from Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma Trento, Valle d’Aosta, Veneto). In total, the programme area is made up of 76 regions.
How does it work?

The project builds regional capacities by involving and coordinating relevant players from all governance levels and by following an integrated bottom-up approach involving and coordinating relevant actors from all governance levels. In doing so, it will coordinate with other efforts in the regions including, amongst other, national and regional programmes supported by structural and investment funds, macro-regional strategies, the Horizon 2020 program or the European Investment Bank. In the program, capacities are to be understood as the combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals. Strengthening capacities is therefore understood as creating an enabling environment through improved:

- Policy frameworks as well as legal and economic frameworks
- Institutional and human resources development
- Managerial systems

The focus will be on policy-learning and implementation-oriented approaches at the transnational level. More concretely, actions will include the development and implementation of strategies and action plans, the development, testing and implementation of tools, the preparation of larger investment, the implementation of pilot actions – including pilot investments – as well as capacity building measures including training.
Priority 1: Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

Investment priority 1b: promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education. In particular product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation and public service applications... 

Specific objective 1.1
To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe

Expected result
Increased and more sustainable linkages of actors in the innovation systems strengthening the innovation capacity within central European regions

Result indicator 1.1
Status of linkages among actors of the innovation systems achieved through transnational cooperation in central European regions

Examples of actions:
- Establishing and further strengthening transnational innovation networks and clusters, also supporting their internationalisation
- Enhancing the transfer of R&D results from research institutions to the business sector (in particular SMEs) leading to new services and products
- Building transnational links for improving existing and developing new services which support innovation in businesses
- Strengthening links between the public sector, finance institutions as well as the business sector (in particular SMEs) to design and test new structures and services that facilitate the access to financing of innovation
- Increasing cooperation between research, the public and private sectors to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. reduction of administrative barriers of innovation, public procurement of innovative products and services, social innovation, etc.)

Output indicators:
- Number of strategies and action plans developed and/or implemented for strengthening linkages within the innovation systems
- Number of tools and services developed and/or implemented for strengthening linkages within the innovation systems
- Number of innovation networks established
- Number of pilot actions implemented for strengthening linkages within the innovation systems

Target groups:
Enterprises (with a specific focus on SMEs) and their employees, entrepreneurs, the public sector, intermediaries as well as private and public research institutions, R&D facilities, centres of R&D excellence; public and private actors dealing with social and economic innovation as well as all population groups which are affected by the issue

Specific objective 1.2
To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions

Expected result
Improved skills and competences of employees and entrepreneurs driving economic and social innovation in central European regions

Result indicator 1.2
Status of capacities of the public and private sector for skills development of employees and entrepreneurial competences achieved through transnational cooperation driving economic and social innovation in central European regions

Examples of actions:
- Increasing skills of employees in the business sector (particularly SMEs) regarding novel technologies (e.g. eco-innovation, low-carbon technologies, ICT, key enabling technologies, etc.), innovative products, services or processes and social innovation contributing to regional smart specialisation strategies
- Developing and implementing strategies and tools to improve creativity and entrepreneurial mind-sets building on different business cultures and on all levels of education
- Developing and implementing strategies and tools for improving technological and managerial competences for entrepreneurship for economic and social innovation (e.g. healthcare, social inclusion of minorities, disabled persons, elderly, etc.)
- Adapting, developing, and testing innovative learning systems for increasing skills and entrepreneurial competences considering demographic change challenges (e.g. ageing society, youth unemployment, shrinking regions facing skills shortages, etc.)
**Priority 3: Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in CENTRAL EUROPE**

**Investment priority 6c:** conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

**Specific objective 3.1**

To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

**Expected result**

Improved integrated environmental management capacities of the public and related entities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources in central Europe

**Result indicator 3.1**

Status of integrated environmental management capacities of the public sector and related entities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

**Examples of actions:**

- Developing and implementing integrated strategies and tools for the sustainable management of protected or environmentally highly valuable areas (e.g., biodiversity, landscapes, water systems, etc.)
- Developing and implementing integrated strategies and tools for the sustainable use of natural resources for regional development, thus avoiding potential use conflicts (e.g., with tourism, transport, industry, agriculture, energy, etc.)
- Developing and testing the application of innovative technologies and tools that facilitate effective integrated environmental management (e.g., monitoring technologies, monitoring tools, etc.)
- Developing and testing applications to improve the efficient management of natural resources in public institutions and enterprises (e.g., reduction of natural resource consumption, closed-loop systems)
- Harmonizing concepts and tools at the transnational level to reduce negative climate change impacts on the environment and human life (e.g., adaptation measures)

**Output indicators:**

- Number of strategies and action plans developed and/or implemented for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources
- Number of tools developed and/or implemented for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources
- Number of pilot actions implemented for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources
- Number of training implemented on the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

**Target groups:**

Public and private actors, such as policy makers and planners and organizations dealing with the protection, management and valorisation of natural and/or cultural heritage and resources as well as owners and users of natural and/or cultural heritage sites, additionally all population groups which are benefiting from the improved management of natural and cultural heritage and resources

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**Investment priority 6e:** action to improve the urban environment, revitalisation of cities, regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites (including conversion areas) and reduction of air pollution and promotion of noise-reduction measures

**Specific objective 3.3**

To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more liveable places

**Expected result**

Improved integrated environmental management capacities of the public sector and related entities in central Europe's functional urban areas regions for making them more liveable places

**Result indicator 3.3**

Status of integrated environmental management capacities of the public sector and related entities for the protection and sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources

**Examples of actions:**

- Developing and implementing strategies and tools (including innovative financing and investment models) to manage and improve environmental quality (air, water, waste, etc.) in functional urban areas
- Strengthening the capacity for environmental planning and management (e.g., participatory planning mechanisms and decision-making processes) at the level of functional urban areas
- Developing and implementing integrated strategies, policies and tools to reduce land-use conflicts in functional urban areas (e.g., urban sprawl, shrinkage and fragmentation also in the view of social implications)
- Developing and implementing integrated strategies and pilot applications for the rehabilitation and reactivation of brownfield sites
- Developing concepts and implementing environmental pilot applications to support the development of eco-smart cities (e.g., ICT applications, environmental technologies)

**Output indicators:**

- Number of strategies and action plans developed and/or implemented for the improvement of environmental quality in functional urban areas
- Number of tools developed and/or implemented for the improvement of environmental quality in functional urban areas
- Number of pilot actions implemented for the improvement of environmental quality in functional urban areas
- Number of training implemented on the improvement of environmental quality in functional urban areas

**Target groups:**

Public and private actors, such as policy makers, planners, environmental facilitators, infrastructural managers and operators as well as other organisations influencing the development of functional urban areas, additionally all population groups within functional urban areas
Priority 4: Cooperating on transport to better connect CENTRAL EUROPE

Investment priority 7b: enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

Specific objective 4.1
To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks

Expected result
Improved and coordinated planning capacities of the public sector and related entities for regional passenger transport systems in central Europe linked to national and European transport networks

Result indicator 4.1
Status of coordinated planning capacities of the public sector and related entities for regional passenger transport systems linked to national and European transport networks

Examples of actions:
- Developing and implementing strategies (including innovative financing and investment models) to link sustainable passenger transport in particular in peripheral areas to the TEN-T network as well as to the primary, secondary and tertiary transport nodes
- Developing and implementing coordinated strategies, tools and pilot applications to improve regional public transport systems for passengers in particular across borders (e.g. commuter connections, interoperability, etc.)
- Developing concepts and testing pilot applications for smart regional mobility (e.g. multimodal ticketing, ICT tools, routes on demand, etc.)
- Developing coordinated concepts, standards and tools for improved mobility services in the public interest (e.g. for disadvantaged groups, for deserting regions, etc.)

Output indicators:
- Number of strategies and action plans developed and/or implemented for the improvement of regional passenger transport
- Number of tools and/or services developed and/or implemented for the improvement of regional passenger transport
- Number of pilot actions implemented for the improvement of regional passenger transport

Target groups:
Public and private sector, such as institutions responsible for planning and managing regional transport networks, public transport operators, infrastructure providers and other local or regional transport actors, additionally all population groups which can benefit from improved regional passenger transport services (e.g. commuters, tourists, etc.)

Investment priority 7c: developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

Specific objective 4.2
To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions

Expected result
Improved coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions in central Europe

Result indicator 4.2
Status of coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions

Examples of actions:
- Developing and implementing coordinated strategies (including innovative financing and investment models) for strengthening the multimodality of environment-friendly freight transport systems (e.g. rail, river, or sea transport)
- Developing and implementing coordination and collaboration mechanisms between multimodal freight transport actors
- Developing and implementing coordinated concepts, management tools and services aimed at increasing the share of environmentally friendly logistics through optimised freight transport chains (e.g. multimodal transnational freight transport flows)
- Developing and testing coordinated strategies and concepts for "greening" the last mile of freight transport (e.g. logistics planning)

Output indicators:
- Number of strategies and action plans developed and/or implemented for multimodal environmentally-friendly freight transport
- Number of tools and services developed and/or implemented for multimodal environmentally-friendly freight transport
- Number of pilot actions implemented for multimodal environmentally-friendly freight transport
- Number of strategies implemented on multimodal environmentally-friendly freight transport

Target groups:
Public and private sector, such as providers and operators of freight transport and logistics services, commercial customers of freight transport systems, institutions planning and managing freight transport, infrastructure providers and other local or regional freight transport actors
How is it financed?

With a budget of 246 million Euro from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), it supports partnerships made up of public and private institutions from nine countries: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
What are the benefits?

The program will help strengthening potentials of technology-oriented areas that are destinations of foreign investments and capital flows, notably through better linking actors of innovation systems. This will enhance the transfer of research and development (R&D) results and the set-up of cooperative initiatives and clusters. It will also address regional disparities in knowledge and education such as brain drain, and strengthen capacities and competences for entrepreneurship and social innovation, also responding to challenges related to demographic change.
What is the Alpine Space program?

The Alpine Space program is a European transnational cooperation program for the Alpine region. It provides a framework to facilitate the cooperation between economic, social and environmental key players in seven Alpine countries, as well as between various institutional levels such as: academia, administration, business and innovation sector, and policy making. The program addresses public authorities on national, regional and local level, institutions of higher education, as well as enterprises, business support organizations, NGOs and associations.
How does it work?

The Alpine Space program connects actors from various sectors and different policy levels from the program’s 7 countries. They cooperate to tackle common challenges, exchange ideas and develop new working methods, with the aim of influencing policy-making. Sharing their experiences and expertise, they work towards improving the quality of life for 66 million people in one of the most unique areas of Europe. Actions supported by the program help to make the Alpine Space more innovative, CO2-friendly, better connected and they contribute to an improved governance.

On the Alpine Space program the cooperation area remains the same as for the ASP 2007-2013. The participating states and regions are:

- **Austria**: whole country;
- **France**: Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Franche-Comté, Alsace;
- **Germany**: districts of Oberbayern and Schwaben (in Bayern), Tübingen and Freiburg (in Baden-Württemberg);
- **Italy**: Lombardia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige, Valle d’Aosta, Piemonte and Liguria;
- **Liechtenstein**: whole country;
- **Slovenia**: whole country;
- **Switzerland**: whole country.
How is it financed?

The program is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as well as through national public and private co-funding of the Partner States. In the current programming period, 2014–2020, the program is investing €139 million in projects through which key actors develop shared solutions for prevalent Alpine issues. The thematic fields of cooperation are predefined for each programming period of seven years, during which several calls for project proposals are launched.
What are the benefits?
What is the Danube Transnational Program?

The **Danube Transnational Program (DTP)** is a financing instrument with a specific scope and an independent decision making body and supports the policy integration in the Danube area in selected fields under the CPR/ERDF regulation linked to the EUSDR strategy. The strategic vision is “policy integration” below the EU-level and above the national level in specific fields of action. Transnational projects should influence national / regional / local policies (“policy driver”). In order to achieve a higher degree of territorial integration of the very heterogeneous Danube region the transnational cooperation program will act as a policy driver and pioneer to tackle common challenges and needs in specific policy fields where transnational cooperation is expected to deliver good results through the development and practical implementation of policy frameworks, tools and services and concrete pilot investments whereby strong complementarities with the broader EUSDR will be sought.
How does it work?

The program area covers nine Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany – Baden-Württemberg and Bayern, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and five non-EU Member States (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine – 4 provinces), being composed of 69 NUTS2 regions.

The success of program implementation will depend on targeted selection of the most relevant interventions and a further increase in the efficiency of administrative procedures and a reduction of the administrative burden for the beneficiaries. One clear lesson learnt during the period 2007-2013 was, that the number of institutions which are able to take over the function of a lead partner is clearly limited for a variety of reasons. Thus, the program for the period 2014-2020 has to be developed with a view to cooperation areas in which competent actors and feasible ideas can be expected in sufficient numbers.
Types of actions to be supported under the cooperation program:

- Development of **common orientations, frameworks and strategies** in fields of transnational relevance where early policy development is needed (i.e. in fields which until now have not been touched by significant projects in the previous programming periods);

- Development and practical implementation of **transnational tools and services** (e.g. analytical tools, management tools, technical tools, software tools, monitoring tools);

- **Preparation of transnational investments** (infrastructure, equipment) to be subsequently financed through other sources;

- **Pilot activities** including small-scale fixed investments (of testing or demonstration nature);

- Development and practical implementation of **training and capacity building** (e.g. training seminars and courses, study visits, peer reviews);

- Accompanying **information, dissemination, capitalisation and publicity measures** to inform stakeholders and/or the general public about project activities and outcomes.
How is it financed?

The overall **Union** support for the cooperation program is of around EUR 222 million, with an **ERDF** contribution of around EUR 202 million and an **IPA** contribution of around 20 million. Complementary investments will be done by national public and private funding.
What is the Interreg Baltic Sea Region?

**Interreg Baltic Sea Region** is an EU funding program that facilitates transnational cooperation in the region. Partners from countries around the Baltic Sea work together in transnational projects to address common key challenges and opportunities. The funding is mainly directed at public authorities, research and training institutions, NGOs, sectoral agencies & associations and enterprises. The Program is funded by the European Union and involves the EU member states **Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden** and **northern parts of Germany**, as well as the partner countries **Norway, Belarus** and the **north-west regions of Russia**. The Program is agreed by the participating countries and approved by the European Commission.
How does it work

The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Program 2014-2020 supports integrated territorial development and cooperation for a more innovative, better accessible and sustainable Baltic Sea region. Partners from countries around the Baltic Sea work together in transnational projects on common key challenges and opportunities.

In the period 2014-2020, the Baltic Sea Region Program is offering funding in four thematic fields, the so called Priorities:
• **Priority 1**, “Capacity for innovation”, will offer support for e.g. development of innovation infrastructures, implementation of smart specialization strategies and development of non-technological innovations.

• **Priority 2**, “Management of natural resources”, highlights the need to manage natural resources more efficiently. Resource efficient blue growth, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and clear waters are examples of the areas that will receive support.

• **Priority 3** will concentrate on “Sustainable transport”. Here themes such as accessibility of remote areas, maritime safety, environmentally friendly shipping and urban mobility will attract project proposals.

• **Priority 4**, "EU Strategy support" offers support to the stakeholders of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Assistance to the Priority Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Leaders, seed money projects of the EU Strategy, organization of Strategy Forums and other implementation tasks will be co-financed.

The Program will group thematically linked projects into clusters. Clustering will help to coordinate activities and increase the impact of the projects. Project clusters will run as and in parallel to the “regular” projects.
How is it financed?

The Program funds come from:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**, EUR 263.8 million,

- **European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI)**, EUR 8.8 million,

- **Norwegian national funding**, EUR 6.0 million.

Project partners co-finance activities with their own resources. The co-financing from the Program is between 75% and 85% (for ERDF funds).

At least three partners from three countries in the region can form a project. Projects should demonstrate clear links to needs and assets in regional development. Successful projects have transferable results and high visibility - others should benefit from the achievements of a single project. Public authorities from local, regional and national levels, research and training institutions, NGOs, sectoral agencies and associations and, new in this period, enterprises can also take part in projects and receive funds.
The **Baltic Sea Region (BSR)** features different levels of innovation performance. A number of regions, mainly in the northwest of the BSR, are innovation leaders ranking high on the EU Innovation scoreboard. They are knowledge and innovation producers, specialized in general purpose technology, and are strong in R&D activities, as well as possess science-based local knowledge. Other regions, mainly concentrated in the southeast of the region, can be described as innovation followers. Nevertheless, they present a high degree of local competences and strong creative potential, which can be used for the acquisition of external innovation.

There is a wide range of research and innovation infrastructures across the BSR. However, the existing facilities are not equally distributed and interconnected, as well as their management and usage patterns differing significantly on the BSR level. In addition, there is a lack of an overall regional coordination framework ensuring better links between research resources within the BSR, and outside it. Given the remoteness of the region, the cooperation between BSR countries and regions on research and innovation infrastructures becomes especially relevant. Therefore, the BSR demonstrates a great opportunity for utilization of synergies between research and innovation policies needed to improve competitiveness and economic performance, and the policies needed to resolve large societal challenges. In line with Europe 2020 Strategy, innovation policy and R&D activities are to respond to the challenges facing our society at large, such as climate change, energy and resource efficiency, food supply, welfare, health and demographic change. Propelled by its diversity, the BSR offers strong potential for a more place-based and market-driven approach to fostering innovation, which can be realized through instruments such as smart specialization. The challenge, however, here is to mobilize internal assets and resources in fields where a country or a region has a specific specialization. These include those of higher technology and research, but also those relating to growing non-technological innovations.
Programmi italiani di cooperazione transfrontaliera
I territori italiani risultano eleggibili a **19 programmi di cooperazione territoriale europea**. In Italia, la cooperazione territoriale è attuata attraverso:

- **quattro programmi di cooperazione transnazionale**: Central Europe, Med, Alpine Space, Adrion.

Quasi tutte le regioni italiane sono interessate, in tutto o in parte, dai programmi transfrontalieri (ne sono escluse soltanto il Lazio, la Campania, la Basilicata e la Calabria)

* Solo per ESPON.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>ERDF Allocation</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT-FR/Italy-France ALCOTRA</td>
<td>198,876,285</td>
<td>9,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT-FR/Italy-France- maritime</td>
<td>169,702,411</td>
<td>7,84</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT-CH/Italy-Confederation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helvetica</td>
<td>100,221,466</td>
<td>4,63</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT-AT/Italy Austria</td>
<td>82,238,866</td>
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<td>IT-SI/Italy-Slovenia</td>
<td>77,929,954</td>
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<td>GR-IT/Greece-Italy</td>
<td>104,700,362</td>
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<td>IT-MT/Italy-Malta</td>
<td>43,952,171</td>
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<td>IT-H R/I/Slovenia-Croatia</td>
<td>201,357,220</td>
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<td>Adriatic-Ionian</td>
<td>83,467,729</td>
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<td>Alpine Space</td>
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<td>Central Europe</td>
<td>246,581,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>224,322,525</td>
<td>10,36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interreg Europe</td>
<td>359,326,320</td>
<td>16,60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interact</td>
<td>39,392,587</td>
<td>1,82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbact</td>
<td>743,019,090</td>
<td>3,43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Espon</td>
<td>41,377,019</td>
<td>1,91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL European Territorial Cooperation</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,164,383,402</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Obiettivi principali

Il programma promuoverà l’imprenditorialità, un ambiente più sicuro, la valorizzazione delle risorse naturali e culturali, la mobilità sostenibile e l’inclusione sociale attraverso lo sviluppo economico. Al tempo stesso, affronterà questioni legate al cambiamento climatico, la connessione di nodi secondari e terziari alla rete RTE-T e i programmi comuni di formazione nella zona transfrontaliera. Le azioni in queste aree prioritari saranno integrate dagli sforzi per promuovere una cooperazione più stretta ed efficace delle amministrazioni.
Il programma sarà incentrato sulle quattro priorità indicate di seguito:

1. Promozione della competitività delle imprese nei settori transfrontalieri prioritari
2. Conservazione e valorizzazione del patrimonio naturale e culturale e gestione dei rischi
3. Miglioramento dell’accessibilità e sostenibilità delle attività portuali sul territorio
4. Aumento delle opportunità di occupazione e maggiore inclusione sociale attraverso l’attività economica

**BUDGET:**

Regional Development Fund (ERDF):
169,702,411.00 €

Total budget: 199,649,897.00 €

Total EU contribution: 169,702,411.00 €
Alcuni risultati attesi

- Sostegno a 1 000 nuove imprese
- Adozione di strategie per i rischi ambientali da parte di altre 57 istituzioni pubbliche
- Realizzazione di 10 ulteriori azioni di gestione comune per la conservazione e promozione del patrimonio naturale e culturale
  - Progettazione di 6 ulteriori piani d’azione per la riduzione dell’inquinamento acustico nei porti dell’area transfrontaliera
- Ulteriori 9 piani d’azione per attuare misure che puntino a una navigazione marittima meno inquinante
  - Incidenti marittimi in meno nell’area di cooperazione.
Il programma sarà incentrato sulle quattro priorità indicate di seguito:

1. Innovazione applicata
2. Un ambiente più sicuro
3. Attrattività del territorio
4. Inclusione sociale e cittadinanza europea

**BUDGET:**

Regional Development Fund (ERDF):
198,876,285.00 €

**Total budget:** 233,972,102.00 €

**Total EU contribution:** 198,876,285.00 €
Alcuni dei risultati attesi

• 20 nuovi progetti di cooperazione transfrontaliera e servizi di innovazione creati
• 95 istituzioni pubbliche aggiuntive che adottano strategie per affrontare il cambiamento climatico
  • 226 comuni coinvolte in progetti di conservazione e valorizzazione del territorio
• 65 piani di azione transfrontalieri per la sensibilizzazione nel settore della biodiversità e gestione della stessa
  • 400 corsi di formazione e percorsi formativi di «professionalizzazione» sviluppati a livello transfrontaliero
• 21 strategie di mobilità sostenibile implementate.
Obiettivi principali

Dal punto di vista strategico, il programma favorirà la competitività delle PMI, la tutela e la promozione del patrimonio naturale e culturale e lo sviluppo e la promozione dei mezzi di trasporto sostenibili sotto il profilo ambientale. Al contempo prevede investimenti in infrastrutture sociali e sanitarie allo scopo di promuovere l’inclusione sociale e ridurre le disparità di condizioni di salute tra i diversi settori di popolazione. Il programma, inoltre, accrescerà la cooperazione istituzionale e amministrativa con l’obiettivo di migliorare il rapporto tra cittadini e istituzioni.
Priorità di finanziamento

Il programma sarà incentrato sulle cinque priorità indicate di seguito:

1. **Competitività delle imprese.** Il programma mira a migliorare la cooperazione transfrontaliera tra le imprese allo scopo di modernizzare il sistema economico dell’area e di accrescerne la competitività.

2. **Promozione del patrimonio naturale e culturale.** Il programma promuoverà l’uso integrato e lo sviluppo delle risorse naturali e culturali, individuando un sistema sostenibile per sfruttare l’immensa ricchezza del paesaggio alpino.

3. **Mobilità integrata e sostenibile.** Il programma mira a identificare soluzioni di trasporto nuove e più efficienti e reti multimodali per migliorare la qualità della mobilità transfrontaliera.

4. **Servizi per l’integrazione delle comunità.** La migliore qualità dei servizi sanitari, educativi e sociali e la loro maggiore accessibilità da parte delle persone svantaggiate e degli anziani migliorerà l’integrazione sociale di tutte le comunità dell’area.

5. **Rafforzamento della governance transfrontaliera.**

**BUDGET:**

- **Regional Development Fund (ERDF):** 100,221,466.00 €
- **Total budget:** 117,907,611.00 €
- **Total EU contribution:** 100,221,466.00 €
Alcuni risultati attesi

- Quasi 200 imprese finanziate dal programma di cooperazione
- 300 000 visitatori in più nei siti del patrimonio naturale e culturale dell’area interessata dal programma
- 50 istituzioni coinvolte in iniziative congiunte di gestione delle acque
- 50 istituzioni coinvolte nella pianificazione strategica del trasporto
- 20 ulteriori soluzioni congiunte per il miglioramento della qualità e dell’accessibilità dei servizi nei settori sociale, educativo e sanitario
- 400 dipendenti in più nel settore pubblico coinvolti in iniziative volte al miglioramento della capacità amministrativa a livello transfrontaliero.
Obiettivi principali

Il programma di cooperazione intende affrontare le principali sfide transfrontaliere che interessano la zona di confine italo-austriaco incentrandosi sulle potenzialità di sviluppo. La regione è caratterizzata da confini montuosi.
What is the South East Europe Program (SEE)?

The SEE 2020 Strategy reflects the determination of all the governments in South East Europe to embrace the bold policy approaches required to attain the levels of socioeconomic growth necessary to improve the prosperity of all its citizens and to facilitate eventual integration with the European Union (EU). SEE 2020 focuses on stimulating the key long-term drivers of growth for the region (innovation, skills and trade integration) through five main pillars that shape its foundation: integrated, smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth, underpinned by good governance.

Inspired by the Europe 2020 strategy, the economies of South East Europe endorsed their own 2020 vision at the 2011 Ministerial Conference held at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris. The conference, ‘Building a 2020 Vision for South East Europe’, brought together SEE Ministers in charge of the economy and this vision was reinforced in 2012 when the Ministers met again in order to adopt 11 regional and 77 national headline targets and chart out a comprehensive cooperation agenda. The RCC was mandated to develop the South East Europe 2020 Strategy as a regional response to Europe 2020 and this mandate was reconfirmed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) at their meeting held in Ohrid on 31 May 2013.
### Table 1

**OVERVIEW OF THE SEE 2020 STRATEGY**

**Overall targets:**
(i) Increase SEE average GDP per capita relative to the EU average: from 36.4% to 44% in 2020
(ii) Boost total SEE trade in goods and services: from EUR 94.4 billion to 209.5 EUR billion in 2020
(iii) Reduce SEE trade deficit: from -15.7% (the average in 2008-2010) to -12.3% of GDP in 2020
(1 million new jobs to be created in the SEE region)

**Pillars:**
- Integrated Growth
- Smart Growth
- Sustainable Growth
- Inclusive Growth

**Pillar-specific targets:**
- Increase SEE intra-regional trade in goods by more than 140%
- Increase overall annual FDI inflows to the region by at least 160%
- Increase GDP per person employed by 32%
- Add 300,000 highly qualified people to the workforce
- Increase net enterprise creation (new businesses per year) from 30,107 to 33,760
- Increase exports of goods and services per capita from the region from EUR 1,780 to EUR 4,250
- Increase in the overall employment rate, as a percentage of the 15+ population, from 39.5% to 44.4%
- Improve government’s effectiveness as measured by the World Bank Governance Index from 2.33 to 2.9 by 2020

**Dimensions:**
- A. Free Trade Area
- B. Competitive Economic Environment
- C. Integration into Global Economy
- D. Education and Competences
- E. R&D and Innovation
- F. Digital Society
- G. Culture and Creative Sectors
- H. Energy
- I. Transport
- J. Environment
- K. Competitiveness
- L. Employment (labour mobility, labour market policies, social economy)
- M. Health
- N. Effective Public Services
- O. Anti Corruption
- P. Justice
Figure 1

LOGICAL FLOWCHART OF THE SEE 2020 STRATEGY

- CATCHING UP
  - Intra-regional trade FDI inflows
    - Trade enhancement

- TRADE EXPANSION
  - Productivity growth High-skilled workforce
  - Entrepreneurship Sustainable exports

- BALANCED TRADE
  - Inclusive labour market
    - Labour input

INSTRUMENTS, MEASURES

- Governance for Growth
  - FDI
  - Export
  - Anti-corruption and justice

- Sustainable Growth
  - Infrastructure
  - Employment
  - Competences

- Inclusive Growth
  - Catch-up
  - Competitiveness

SEE 2020 INSTRUMENTS AND MEASURES
What are the benefits?

The Strategy defines as its main objective the achievement of high and sustained economic growth through greater competitiveness. Through stronger regional cooperation and integration with Europe, this should lead to more jobs being generated and to rising prosperity in the region. In practical terms, in the period 2010–20, the Strategy should allow the following tangible socioeconomic outcomes to be achieved:

- South East Europe should manage to narrow the gap with the EU in terms of its per capita GDP level and by 2020 it should stand at 44% of the EU-27 average.
- Total South East Europe trade turnover should more than double, to reach 210 billion EUR.
- There should be a shift towards an export-led type of growth, which should help narrow the region’s overall trade deficit to some -12% of GDP by 2020.

Achieving these targets should contribute to generating 1 million new jobs in South East Europe by 2020.
What is the Southwest Europe Cooperation Programme (SUDOE)?

The Southwest Europe Cooperation Programme (INTERREG V-B SUDOE) is developed based on the “Europe 2020” Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, which contributes to the achievement of greater economic, social and territorial cohesion. The Program has accumulated the experience of the four previous generations of programs, which means that it has wide experience and knowledge of the territory, its actors and the understanding of the development modes of its projects.
What are the benefits?

- **The concentration of investments** – taking into account the challenge of smart specialization, it is considered that the INTERREG V-B SUDOE Program should concentrate its efforts on areas and sectors in which the territory has competitive advantages and endogenous potential, either because of its intrinsic characteristics or because of the productive structure of the cooperation area.

- **The fight against asymmetries** – the SUDOE space includes regions with very different levels of economic and industrial development, of scientific and technological production, and of labor qualifications and employability, among other asymmetries. The INTERREG V-B SUDOE Program expounds the encouraging of the rapprochement between these regions so as to facilitate the exchanging of experiences and the learning of good practices, and also the making of their contribution to the search for solutions to these imbalances.

- **The capitalization of results from previous programming periods, in particular those of 2007-2013** – For 2014-2020 it has been considered beneficial to continue with the tendency of this line of specialization, going more deeply into the development of areas of cooperation that have been shown to be successful, and putting faith in new cooperation areas allowed in the regulations, such as the competitiveness of SMEs which will allow the strengthening of competitiveness actions. These actions also reinforce the need indicated in the diagnosis to act on the labor market and the economic sectors in the interest of economic reactivation as a means to help to end the crisis that has had such a negative effect on the cooperation area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Area 1</th>
<th>Intervention Area 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smart Development</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sustainable Development</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Axis 1 - OT1: Promoting research, technological development, and innovation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Axis 3 - TO4: Encouraging the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IP 1b</td>
<td>- IP 4c</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Promoting business investment in R&amp;I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies</em></td>
<td><em>Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Axis 2 - TO3: Improving the competitiveness of SMEs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Axis 4 - TO5: Encouraging adaptation to climatic change and risk prevention and management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IP 3a</td>
<td>- IP 5b</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators</em></td>
<td><em>Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems</em></td>
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<td>- IP 3b</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Axis 5 - TO6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources</strong></td>
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<td>- IP 6c</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>- IP 6d</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure.</em></td>
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</table>
Programmi di Cooperazione Interregionale
What is the Interact?

Interact has become a well-established organization that plays an important role in Interreg, in cooperation between EU Member States and EU regions, and along the external borders of the EU. The slogan for the 2014-2020 programming period is: “cooperation works”.

Interact III (2014-2020) goes in line with the new requirements of the Interreg initiative striving towards a more result-oriented approach. Its work has impacted new regulations, and will continue to do so. The focus of the current program is on thematic objective 11 – namely, Capacity Building – with three specific objectives:

- improve the management capacity of Interreg programs
- improve the Interreg capacity in capturing/communicating project results
- improve the implementation of new ways of cooperation
How does it work?

The Interact program’s specific mission is to support programs in their daily work. So to help them successfully navigate the Interreg world, it provides advice, organizes learning events and develops a wide range of tools on:

• How to manage a European cooperation program or project and comply with EU rules on finance and controls.
• How to communicate funding opportunities, as well as program and project results.
  • How to use new cooperation tools.
To classify the maturity of cooperation INTERACT has defined a scale to measure the degree of cooperation. It has the following 6 levels starting with the least developed (1) through to advanced maturity (6):

1. Meeting: Getting to know each other, learning about motivation, interests, needs, skills, expectations, cultural and structural aspects;

2. Information: Delivering (targeted) exchange of information, building basic cooperation structures and trust, shaping common ideas

3. Coordination/Representation: Creating a joint partnership structure, first allocation of functions and roles

4. Strategy/Planning: Defining joint objectives and developing concrete actions

5. Decision: Binding commitments of partners, partnership agreement

6. Implementation: Joint implementation of actions, efficient joint management, fulfillment of requirements by each partner
How is it financed?

Interact is one of the Interreg programs – which are financed under the European Territorial Cooperation goal of the European Structural and Investment Funds. It is also financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by the 28 EU member states, Norway and Switzerland, and it has a total budget of 46,3 million EUR for the 2014-2020 period (85% ERDF funding and 15% national contributions).
What are the benefits?

Interact harmonizes processes to help programs work more efficiently and to make the life of project applicants easier. It acts as a hub to allow programs to exchange experiences and network. Finally, it constantly explores and encourages innovative ways of cooperating in Europe by supporting macro-regional and sea basin strategies as well as legal structures and initiatives to facilitate cooperation activities.

Interact provides services free of charge to all Interreg stakeholders: managing authorities, joint secretariats, monitoring committees, national contact points, first level controllers, certifying authorities, and audit authorities. It also collaborates closely with EU-wide, national and regional cooperation organizations, institutions and networks.
What is the ESPON 2020?

Adopted by the European Commission on 12 February 2015, the ESPON 2020 Program aims at promoting and fostering a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels.

Mission:

ESPON 2020 shall continue the consolidation of a European Territorial Observatory Network and grow the provision and policy use of pan-European, comparable, systematic and reliable territorial evidence.

Main objectives:

The objective of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Program is to support the reinforcement of the effectiveness of EU Cohesion Policy and other sectorial policies and programs under European Structural Investment (ESI) funds as well as national and regional territorial development policies, through the production, dissemination and promotion of territorial evidence covering the entire territory of the 28 EU Members States, as well as 4 Partner States of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
How does it work?

**Target Groups**

Primary target groups are:

- European policymakers, in particular in the field of Cohesion Policy as well as other relevant sectorial and thematic policies and programs, particularly those currently not fully articulating their territorial approach.
  - National policymakers and practitioners responsible for territorial cohesion, ETC programs, macro-regional strategies and Cohesion Policy preparation and implementation at national level, as well as other relevant policy fields.
  - Authorities implementing ESI Funding programs and preparing periodical reporting.
  - Regional and local policymakers and practitioners responsible for territorial development and planning and/or involved in cross-border, transnational and macro-regional cooperation.
As secondary target groups, the following actors are important as receivers and users of territorial evidence:

- Organizations promoting different regional/urban interests at EU level.

**Member and Partner States** will ensure that **ESPON 2020** innovates, continues and contributes further to evidence informed policy making. This view is shared by the **European Commission (EC)**, the **European Parliament**, the **Committee of the Regions**, the **European Economic and Social Committee** as well as a growing number of regions and cities as active stakeholders and users of European territorial evidence and by more and more **Structural Funds** programs financed by the **ERDF**.
What are the benefits?

The **ETC Regulation** requests that interregional cooperation support the:

“*strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of development trends.*”

The aim of the **ESPON 2020 Program** is to take up this task and to meet this demand by producing, delivering and disseminating analyses and information on European, national, regional and local territorial trends and characteristics whether in terms of, for example, employment and labor market, business structures (such as SMEs) and investment patterns, the geography of digital roll-out, functional urban regions, commuting patterns, population ageing and demographic shifts, cultural, landscape and heritage features, climate change vulnerabilities and impacts, land use and resource constraints, institutional and governance arrangements, infrastructures, connectivity and accessibility, service provision, metropolitan regions, smaller and medium-sized cities and towns and linkages between rural and urban areas.
Regions and cities of Europe can make an important contribution to the objectives to the growth and jobs agenda of the Europe 2020 Strategy and to a European territory well-balanced in terms of economic, social and territorial cohesion. Such policy efforts will require robust, comparable and analytical territorial evidence. This is where the ESPON 2020 Program can bring added value by having a clear focus on evidence production, knowledge transfer, analyses support and outreach to potential users. The ESPON 2020 program will, through this approach, contribute to continuous policy learning and uptake of a pan-European territorial perspective which will reinforce the effectiveness of Cohesion Policy through new insights on development opportunities and challenges at European level (including with a global context), in Member and Partner States or in cross-border, and in regional and local development strategies, and ultimately contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.
What is the Interreg Europe?

Interreg Europe supports interregional cooperation projects. These are projects that involve partner policy organizations from at least three different countries in Europe who come together for three-five years to learn from each other and to address a regional policy issue of common concern.

To reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy, the Interreg Europe program promotes exchange of experience on thematic objectives among partners throughout the Union on the identification and dissemination of good practice with a view to its transfer principally to operational program under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal but also, where relevant, to program under European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) goal.
INTERREG EUROPE will work on the following four topics, all related to regional development:

1. Research, technological development and innovation
2. Competitiveness of SMEs
3. Low carbon economy
4. Environment and resource efficiency
INTERREG EUROPE will finance two actions:

a. **Interregional Cooperation projects**: partnerships coming from different countries in Europe work together for 3 to 5 years to exchange their experiences on a particular policy issue. Each region involved in the cooperation project will produce an Action Plan. Projects are also asked to monitor what happens to the Action Plan, to see how well the cooperation has worked.

b. **Policy Learning Platforms**: a space for continuous learning where any organization dealing with regional development policies in Europe can find solutions to improve the way they manage and implement their public policies in the four topics above.
An interregional cooperation project is designed in two phases:

- **Phase 1 – Interregional Learning**

This phase can last one-three years and is dedicated to:

- **Exchange of experience**: typical activities supported are seminars, workshops, site visits, staff exchanges, peer reviews, stakeholder meetings etc. The learning process is based on the identification, analysis and exchange of knowledge and practices in the field of policy tackled by the project.

- **Production of an action plan**: produced by each partner region, the action plan is a document providing details on how the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument that is addressed within their region. It specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs (if any) and funding sources (if any). If the same policy instrument is addressed by several partners, only one action plan is required.

- **Communication and dissemination**: each project must develop a communication strategy covering both internal and external activity e.g. website development, conference organization, policy briefings, print materials

- **Management and coordination**: related to the administrative, legal and financial activities necessary for running an Interreg Europe project.
- **Phase 2: Monitoring the implementation of each action plan**

To better assess the results of interregional cooperation, this phase is dedicated to monitoring the implementation of the action plans. This phase lasts two years, during which time projects are required to organize the following activities:

- **Monitoring the implementation of the action plan:** by maintaining contact with stakeholders and organizing one project meeting at the end of each year
- **Communication and dissemination:** updating the website and organizing a final event
- **Management and coordination:** preparing progress reports, managing expenses, project closure
- When relevant, **pilot actions may also be tested and supported** during this phase. The budget for pilot actions is usually between EUR 10,000 and EUR 80,000.
How is it financed?

The program covers the whole territory of the European Union (EU) and Norway and Switzerland. The program is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a budget of €359 million for the 2014-2020 period. Interreg Europe co-finances up to 85% of project activities. Depending on the number of partners involved, duration of interregional learning etc., the average total budget of a project is expected to be EUR 1-2 million. To be eligible for Interreg Europe financial support, at least half of the project partners must work on Structural Funds. Organizations based in the 28 EU member states, Norway or Switzerland are eligible for Interregional Europe funding if they are: National, regional or local public authorities- Other institutions governed by public law (e.g. universities, regional development agencies, business support actors, etc.) - Private non-profit bodies. Each country defines which institutions are eligible according to national regulations.
What are the benefits?

The potential thematic scope of Interreg Europe is provided by 11 thematic objectives described in the Common Provisions Regulation. The European Territorial Cooperation regulation and the Common Strategic Framework outline that the program should aim to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by encouraging exchange of experience between regions on thematic objectives. In particular the program should contribute to the transfer of good practices principally into operational programs under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal of Cohesion policy, but also, where relevant, to programs under the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) goal. The program should also integrate and build on results generated through previous EU initiatives in relation to innovation and cluster support, for instance the "Regions of Knowledge" initiative. Next to this framework of EU Cohesion policy, Interreg Europe can also contribute to the aims of several other sectoral and thematic policies and programs, such as the EU Roadmaps for Low Carbon and Resource Efficiency and the Horizon2020 and COSME programs.
Norway and Switzerland can directly benefit from this program. As a result of this, the citizens and groups impacted by those policies will benefit from improved governance or implementation.

What exactly will change?

Individual staff members and organizations will be better equipped to propose new policies or implement improved techniques. Institutions on regional, national and EU-level will be more effective in implementing regional policies and programs.
What is the URBACT III?

For more than ten years, the URBACT program has been the European Territorial Cooperation program aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the 28 Member States, Norway & Switzerland.

URBACT’s mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another’s experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies.

Following the success of the URBACT I and II programs, URBACT III (2014-2020) has been developed to continue to promote sustainable integrated urban development and contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.
The URBACT III program area consists of:

- EU 28 Member States
- **Norway and the Helvetic Confederation**. Partners from Norway and from the Helvetic Confederation cannot make use of ERDF allocations, but can participate at their own cost.
- **Instrument for Pre Accession (IPA) countries**. Partners from IPA countries can participate in operations using IPA funding, without receiving ERDF co-financing
- **Other countries**. Partners from other countries, anywhere in the world, can participate with their own funding.
How does it work?

*URBACT III program will be organized around four main objectives:*

1. **Capacity for Policy Delivery:** To improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way.

2. **Policy Design:** To improve the design of sustainable urban policies and practices in cities.

3. **Policy Implementation:** To improve the implementation of integrated and sustainable urban strategies and actions in cities.

4. **Building and Sharing Knowledge:** To ensure that practitioners and decision makers at all levels have access to knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban development policies.
To reach these objectives, **URBACT III** will develop **three types of interventions**:

1. transnational exchange,
2. capacity-building,
3. capitalisation & dissemination.

Each of these interventions will be built upon the strengths developed in **URBACT II**.
The URBACT Prism

URBACT Ressources & Know-how

Building Institutional Capacities In cities

Outputs for specific objectives
How is it financed?

The European Commission defines and coordinates the overall activities linked to structural fund use in European regions. As part of these actions, the URBACT program and its projects are partly financed by the Commission, which contributes of the budget via the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), with a budget of 74.302 million EUR for the 2014-2020 period. It also plays a consulting role in URBACT Monitoring Committee, where it is represented by the Regional and Urban Policy Directorate General (Policy Development Directorate). More than half of the program ERDF (EUR 38 636 954 €) shall be dedicated to exchange and learning activities undertaken by cities with a further 42% of the ERDF budget dedicated to program activities such as capacity building for urban stakeholders, expertise at project and program level and National URBACT points.

The total eligible budget of URBACT III is EUR 96 324 550€.

SECTION 3 THE FINANCING PLAN FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

3.1. A table specifying for each year, in accordance with Article 53,110 and 111 of the CPR, the amount of the total financial appropriation envisaged for the support from the ERDF

Table 15 3.1 Annual Allocations of ERDF

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERDF</td>
<td>3 685 435 €</td>
<td>5 381 234 €</td>
<td>7 684 742 €</td>
<td>13 963 118 €</td>
<td>14 242 380 €</td>
<td>14 527 228 €</td>
<td>14 817 772 €</td>
<td>74 301 909 €</td>
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<td>IPA (where applicable)</td>
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<td>ENI (where applicable)</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>3 685 435 €</td>
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<td>14 527 228 €</td>
<td>14 817 772 €</td>
<td>74 301 909 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

Category
- Less developed regions (GDP/head < 75% of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP/head between >= 75% and < 90% of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head >= 90% of EU-27 average)
What are the benefits?

The European Territorial Cooperation Program URBACT III will contribute to the Europe 2020 goals by providing a mechanism for stakeholders involved to develop and implement better policies and actions for smart, inclusive and sustainable urban policy in cities.

URBACT facilitates the sharing of knowledge and good practice between cities and other levels of government. The purpose is to promote integrated sustainable development and improve the effectiveness of regional and cohesion policy.
INTERREG – IPA CBS – ENI CBC

http://www.interact-eu.net/#cooperation-programmes

ENP – ENI – CBC - MED

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/overview/index_en.htm

ERDF – ETC

http://www.interreg-baltic.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/about_programme/Programme_in_brief/esi_funds_country_factsheet_etc_en.pdf

➢ PROGRAMMI DI COOPERAZIONE TRANSFRONTALIERA

BLACK SEA BASIN

http://blacksea-cbc.net/black-sea-basin-2014-2020/

MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN

PROGRAMMI ITALIANI DI COOPERAZIONE TRANSFRONTALIERA

ELENCO PROGRAMMI

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/programmes?search=1&keywords=&periodId=3&countryCode=ALL&regionId=ALL&objectiveId=13&tObjectiveId=ALL

http://www.regione.piemonte.it/innovazione/images/stories/europa/alpino/Presentazione_DPS.pdf

(INTERREG V-A) IT-FR – ITALY-FRANCE (MARITIME)


(INTERREG V-A) FR-IT – FRANCE-ITALY (ALCOTRA)


INTERREG V-A) IT-CH – ITALY-SWITZERLAND


(INTERREG V-A) -IT-AT – ITALY-AUSTRIA


(INTERREG V-A) IT-SI – ITALY-SLOVENIA

(INTERREG V-A) IT-HR - ITALY-CROATIA


(INTERREG V-A) EL-IT - GREECE-ITALY


(INTERREG V-A) IT-MT - ITALY-MALTA


IPA CBC ITALY – ALBANIA – MONTENEGRO


PROGRAMME DE COOPERATION TRANSFRONTIERE (CT) ITALIE-TUNISIE 2014-2020


PROGRAMMI DI COOPERAZIONE TRANSNAZIONALE

ADRIATIC-IONIAN (ADRION) COOPERATION PROGRAMME

http://www.adrioninterreg.eu/
http://www.energycommunity.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME
INTERREG BALTIC SEA REGION

http://www.interreg-baltic.eu/home.html
http://www.interreg-baltic.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/about_programme/Programme_in_brief/Programme_Fact_Sheet_web.pdf

INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME


MEDITERRANEAN (MED) COOPERATION PROGRAMME

http://interreg-med.eu/en/home/

ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME

http://www.alpine-space.eu/

DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME

SOUTHWEST COOPERATION PROGRAMME (SUDOE)


SOUTH EAST EUROPE (SEE)

http://www.rcc.int/pubs/20/south-east-europe-2020-strategy

➢ PROGRAMMI DI COOPERAZIONE INTERREGIONALE

INTERACT

http://www.interact-eu.net/

INTERREG EUROPE

http://www.interregeurope.eu


ESPON 2020

https://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_About/


URBACT III

http://urbact.eu/

http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/pm_complete_v5_may_2016.pdf

CBC Cross Border Cooperation programs
DPT Danube Transnational Program
EIDHR European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
ENI European Neighborhood Instrument
ENP European Neighbourhood Policy
ERDF European Regional Development Fund
NSA-LA Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic program
ETC European Territorial Cooperation
IPA Instrument for Pre-Accession
Grazie