

S3 Partnerships and Cooperation under IGJ goal

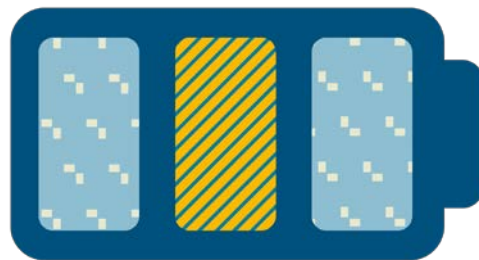
25 November 2020 | On-line

Ivano Magazzu – Interact Programme



State of the art

**Supporting activities implemented and
knowledge gathered**



Current knowledge available so far...



2007-2013

- Analysis of legislation (compendium)
- Articles and factsheets
- Pilot Group
- List of regions stating Art. 37.6 (b) in their OP
- Collection of practices
- FAQs and Guidelines
- Recommendations for policy makers

2014-2020

- Factsheet and publications
 - Seminars 2017, 2018,
 - **NEW PILOT 2019-2021**
 - **GUIDELINES 2021-2027...by Dec. 2020**
- www.interact-eu.net

<https://bit.ly/3hzwyOe>



ADDED VALUE

ETC is naturally based on cooperation and uses this not only as a methodology but also as an objective. On the contrary, **mainstream projects benefit from cooperation** as they imply it **as a methodology** and **instead of working on their own by working** with another European regional partner. In this way, the ETC/Interreg “acquis” can unlock a more **tailor-made cooperation** when it comes to **specific themes of regional interest and geographical scope**.

Advantages



- To fund joint cooperation actions outside the eligible area of the OP (your region!);
- To implement cooperation actions consistent with the OP priorities, therefore also on TO / PI excluded from the ETC/Interreg programmes;
- To cooperate with beneficiaries outside the eligible areas of the ETC Programmes;
- To integrate the actions funded by ETC Programmes, which often have very limited financial resources;
- To cooperate on focused topics and on a direct and bilateral basis.

Main challenges and positive effects

Challenging stuff

- Relatively unknown provision (by IGJ MAs and political level)
- Lack of interest due to administrative burden
- ROPs focus only on their local/territorial dimension
- Technical implementation (no clear guidelines on 'HOW'): eligibility, audit&control, commitment/trust
- Still weak organization assets and pitfalls of the regional administrations,
- Different regional administration governance model;
- Inadequate skills and knowledge (also linguistic)
- Lack of human resources with consequent overload for qualified officials

Positive effects

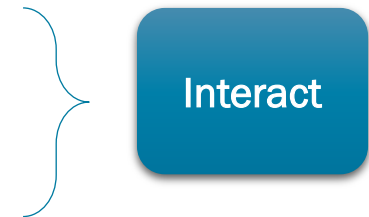
- Possibility to **focus on specific needs of each region (and avoid unspent funds)**
- **Flexibility** in the generation (and selection) process!
- **Less competition** for funding!
- Easing the **transfer of knowledge in specific themes**
- **Link to regional strategies** (cross-cutting synergies and complementarity)
- Involvement of **private and public** stakeholders
- **Win-win approaches** at benefit of regions and their **competitiveness**
- **Complementary** to Interreg C
- Unlocks **concrete coordination** and integration tools for regional planning and development
- Could guarantee a **continuation/extension of ETC pilots at regional level**

Outcomes and needs

Implementation of interregional cooperation actions should be sustained through:

- Map of EU OPs stating to apply Art. 96.3.d option and network;
- Specific and more detailed guidelines;
- Templates for selection procedures and application forms;

- Experimentation in pilot Regions;
- Definition of a plan of activities;
- Training for involved staff;
- Steering committee among MAs and internal structures involved in ETC activities;
- Partner search activities and Art. 96.3.d networking at EU level.

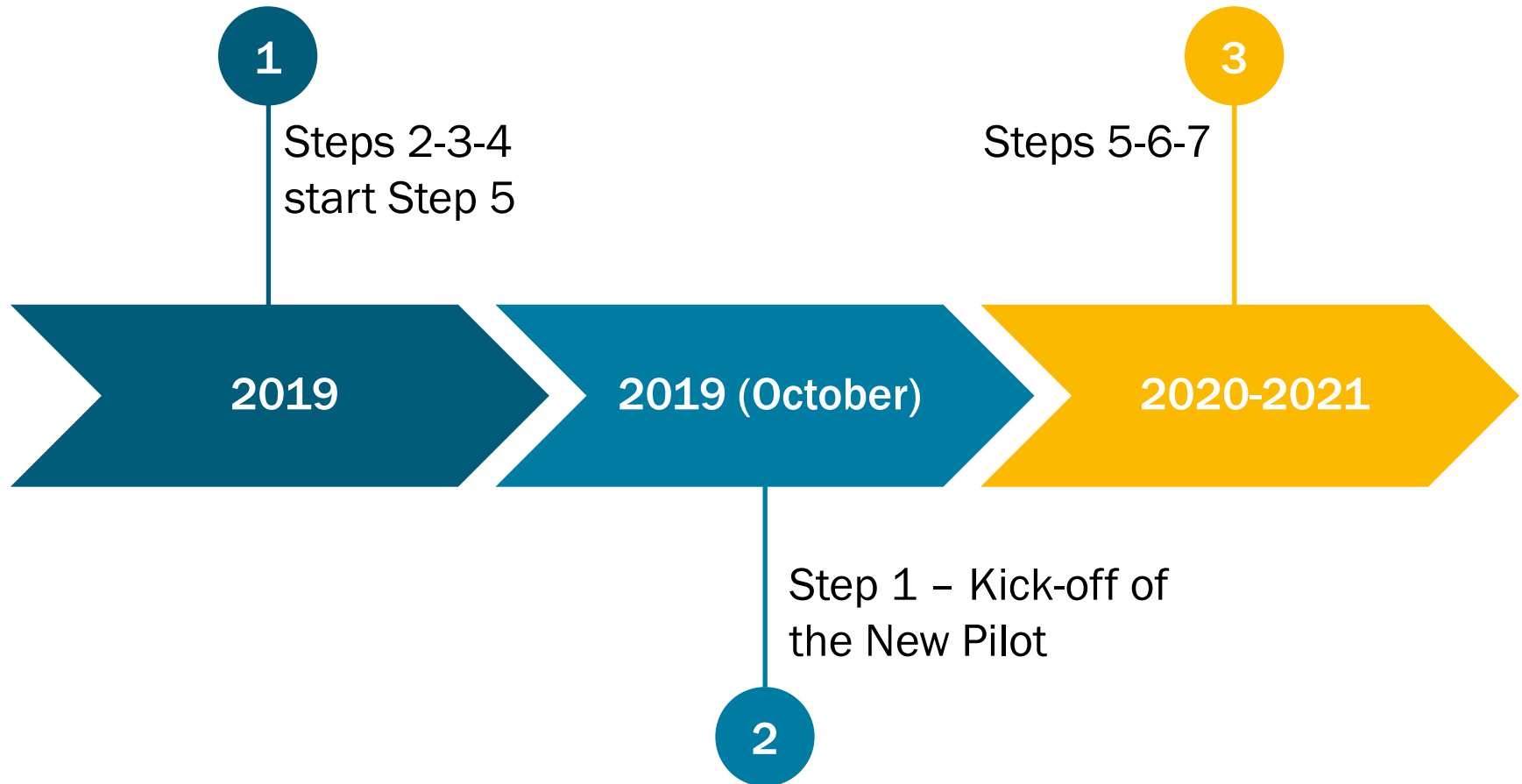


The current situation

1. Continuation of Art. 96.3.d networking activities
2. Update/refresh the already existing knowledge and documents about the lessons learned in the framework of the previous pilot
3. Follow-up initiatives from MS and other funds/initiatives
4. EURegions Week 2020/2021 Sessions (supported by EC DG REGIO)
5. Improvement of the Mapping/List of IGJ Programmes mentioning the use of the provision under Section 4.4 of the OP, using SFC 2014-2020 (supported by EC DG REGIO)
6. Identification of Programmes good and bad practices, lessons learned, additional actions → **NEW GUIDELINES DRAFT AVAILABLE!**
7. Definition of the possible support from Interact, also for 2021-2027:
 - Aspects to be covered?
 - Analysis of possible eligible costs?
 - Financial or in-kind contribution? Specific % of the total budget?
 - Application: AF (HIT?) + elements in the Partnership Agreement?

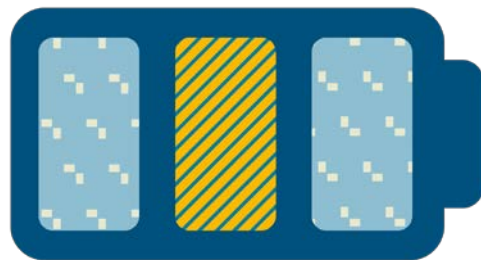
NEW PILOT
 Since 2019

The current situation (2)



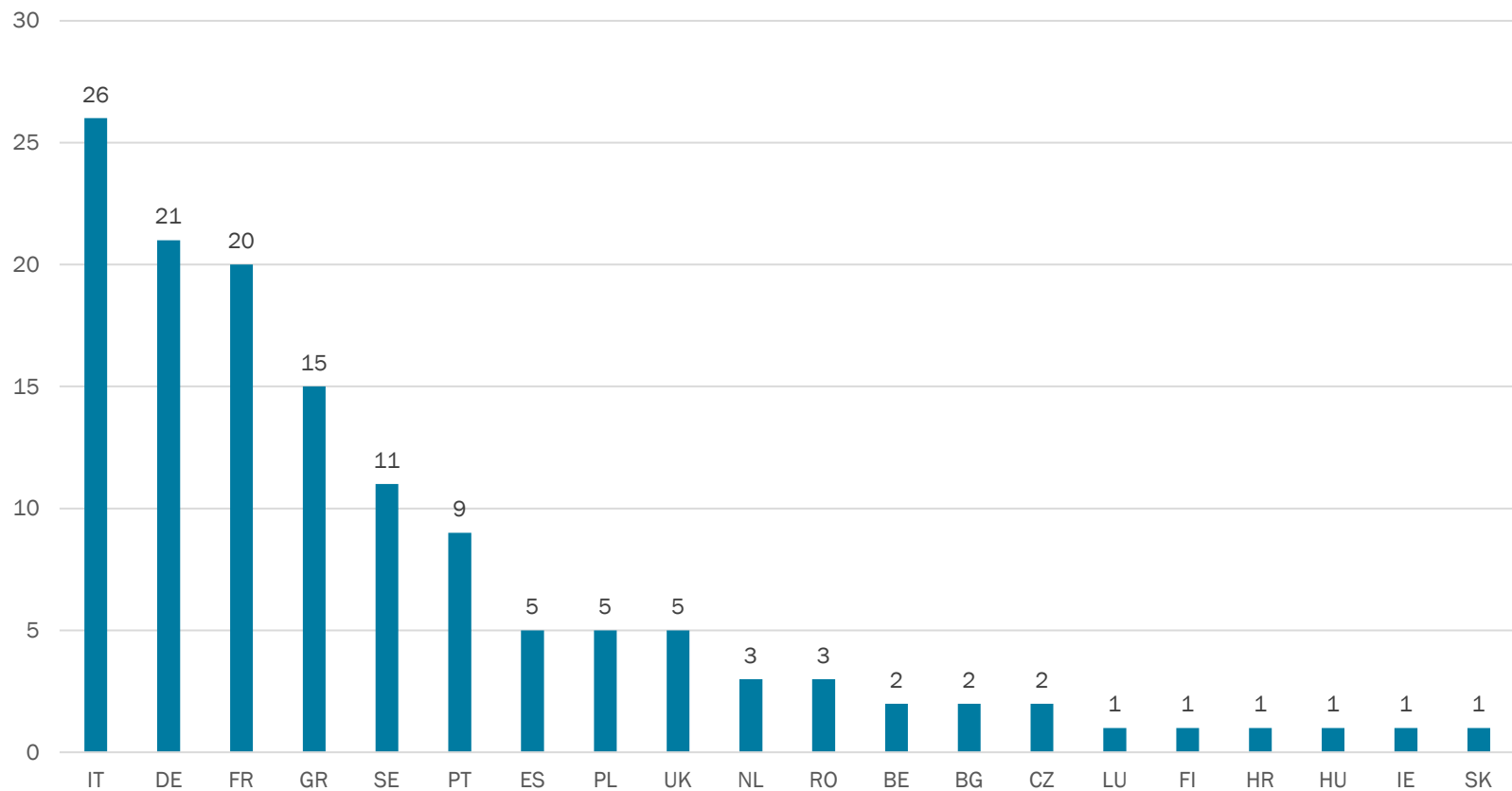
First findings from the mapping exercise

Out of the Pilot (since 2019)

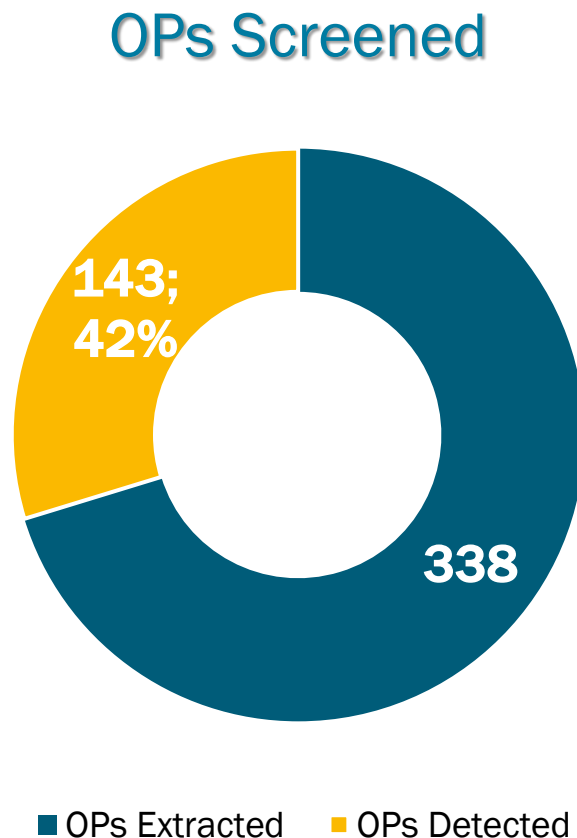


A first quantitative analysis...

Programmes per Country



A first quantitative analysis...

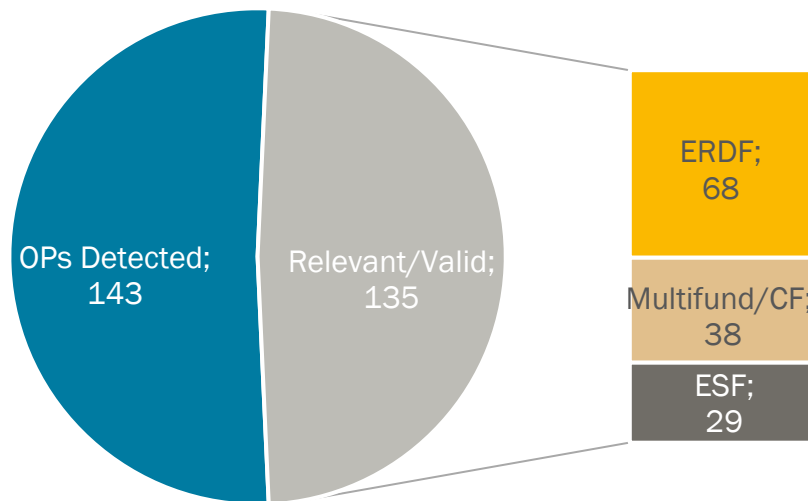


The mapping exercise started with an extraction of the contents of “Section 4.4” of all OPs, gathered from SFC and provided by the DG Regio.

- ✓ **Interact analysed 338 sections of OPs,**
- ✓ **143 contained valid information,**
- ✓ **135 contained relevant information to be analysed (including 5 from UK).**

A first quantitative analysis...

Relevant OPs Analysed

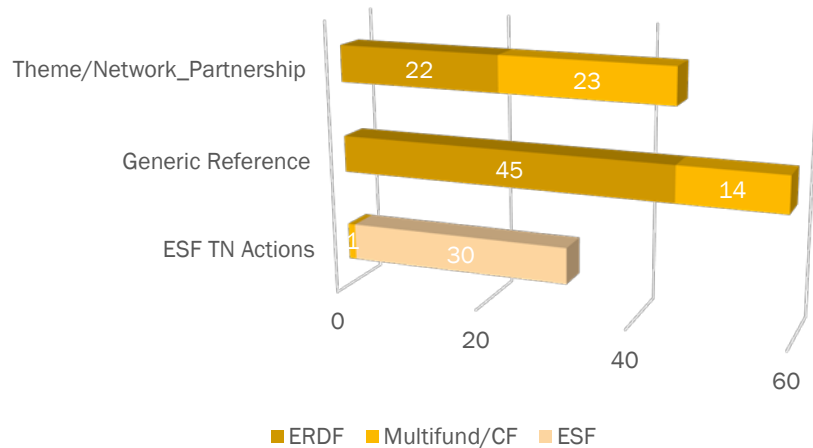


Out of 135 OPs' sections containing relevant/valid information:

- ✓ **ERDF funded = 68 (50%)**
- ✓ **Multifund/CF = 38 (28%)**
- ✓ **ESF funded = 29 (21%)**

A first qualitative analysis...

Findings in Descriptions



Out of 135 sections' descriptions:

- ✓ **Generic Reference = 59 (44%)**
- ✓ **Theme/Network/Partnership = 45 (33%)**
- ✓ **ESF TN Actions = 31 (23%)**

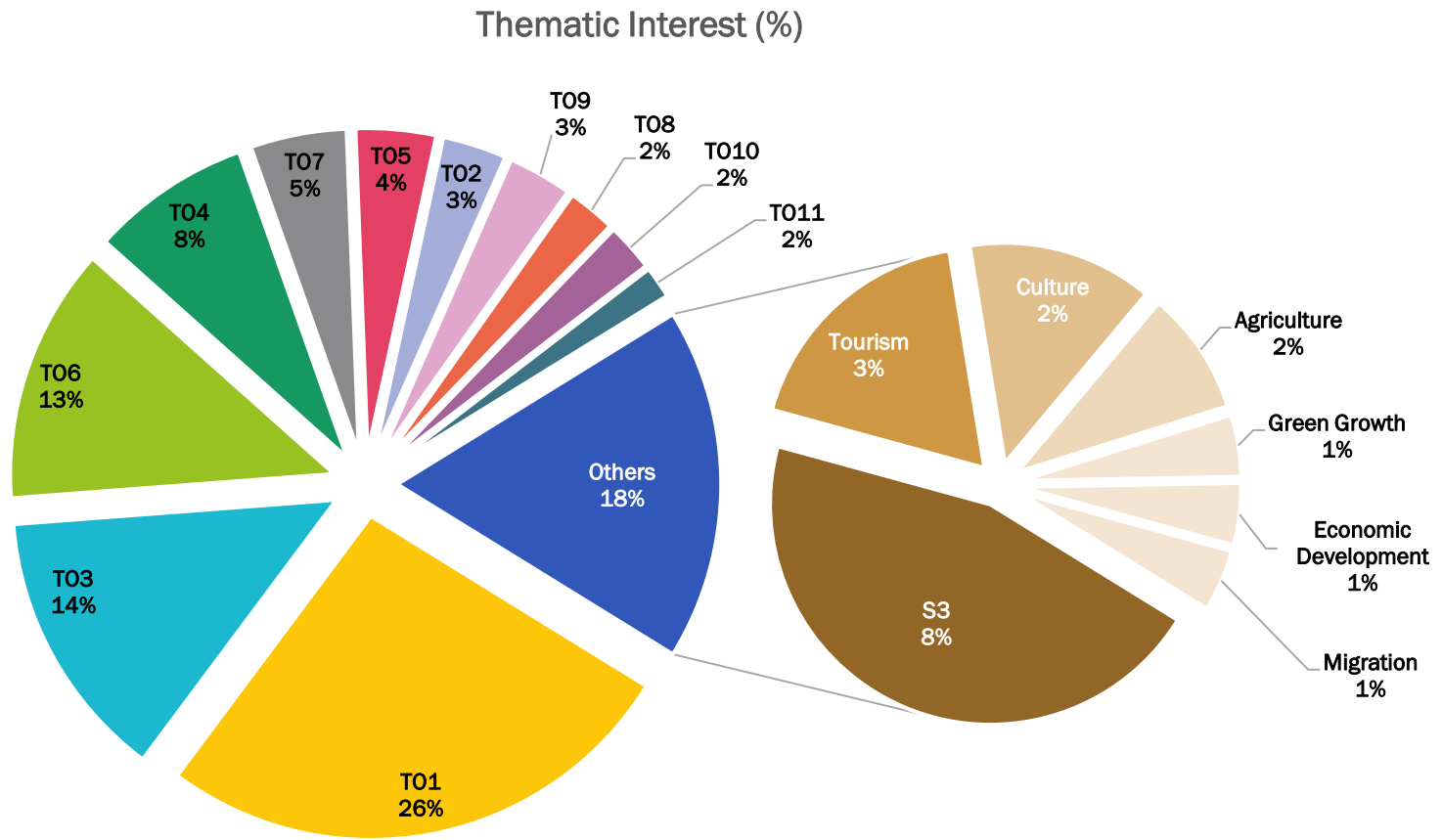
Thematic & geographic interest ...

Predominance:

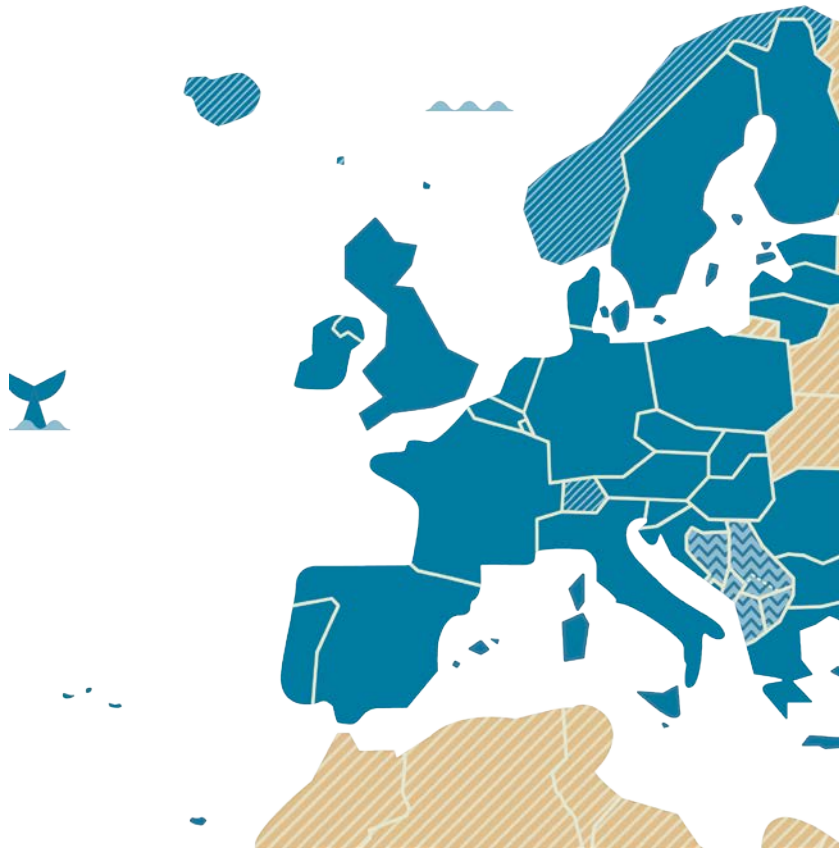
1. Innovation aspects, related to R&D&I as well as to S3,
2. Competitiveness of SMEs,
3. Environment protection, risk prevention, low-carbon economy and energy efficiency,
4. MRSs frameworks (EUSBSR, EUSAIR, EUSDR),
5. Bordering territories, adjacent regions within the same MS, Euroregions.



Thematic interest in detail...



Interest in partnerships



Predominance:

1. Territories involved in existing networks (S3, KICs, Vanguard Initiative)
2. Territories with similar conditions (Visegrad group, Outermost Regions, Mediterranean)
3. Specific, adjacent border regions and MS (cross-border challenges)

Other findings

- Unclear role and scope of cooperation in OPs strategies, unclear justification of the need and opportunity, unclear definition of the “contribution to the OP objectives”,
- Undefined separation and redundant reference among the scope for the use of this provision and ETC programmes in the Region (why do we need it? and what’s for?),
- Confusion with Section 6 of CPs (ETC),
- Ambiguous references to art. 65 and 70 CPR, confusion among the scope of these provisions,
- Unnecessary reference to ITI or territorial development tools and approaches,
- Blurry reference to its scope within MRSs (where applicable for embedding), a few ESF OPs have clear arrangements,



Other findings (2)



- Lack of match with possible partner regions,
- Mismatch and unforeseen expenditures by programmes who didn't mention the use of the provision, no budget allocations.
- Many programmes use a generic reference and they reserve the opportunity to implement the provision if applicable and demonstrated (by projects?)
- Some procedures and applicable rules, as well as % to be allocated, eligibility principles, **DEGREE OF COOPERATION ENVISAGED**
- Some unclear references for synergies and links with other direct management instruments
- Coordination from some MS is evident (Partnership Agreement): same approach, description and set-up (FR, SE, DE, GR, IT, PT, PL)



Main conclusion:

**...unclear understanding of
the provision!**

The (operational) Guidelines

1. Introduction
2. Legislative background
3. Elements to be considered
4. Degrees of cooperation
 - 4.a A possible scenario
5. Steps to follow to set-up the administrative procedure
6. Inspiring cooperation actions: first hints from pilot mapping
7. Starting from what? IGJ and ETC results' *'mainstreaming'*
8. Fund alignment and *'embedding'* for the support of territorial frameworks

The (operational) Guidelines

Final Version – Dec. 2020

www.interact-eu.net

DRAFT Version available

(send a request to ivano.magazzu@interact-eu.net)



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

www.interact-eu.net