

Meeting of Baltic Sea region CBC programmes – Focus on eastern border



4 June 2024 13:00 – 14:45 CET

Online





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Outlines

This funding period has not only started with high interest in cooperation as shown by the first call experiences, but also with changes across the Interreg programmes in the Baltic Sea Region, notably with the incorporation of new regions adjacent to the Russian and/or Belarusian borders and/or increase of programme budget. The involvement of these regions in the cooperation actions is a priority shared by all.

The Commission aims to ensure that potential beneficiaries from the bordering regions are facilitated in the identification of suitable partners and have sufficient administrative and financial capacities and equal opportunities to fully benefit from the internal Interreg programmes funding.

Despite the shared commitment, it is clear that integrating these regions into the programmes presents its unique set of challenges. These regions often find themselves on the periphery of the functional areas of the programmes they have joined, and fostering a sense of belonging and full participation requires concerted effort and strategic planning.

In recognition of these challenges and to support programmes' work with the new regions and partners, Interact in cooperation with DG Regio, is organising this second dedicated meeting continuing the debate opened in the hybrid meeting in January 2024 in Tartu in situ and online.

Objectives

The objective of this session is to provide a platform for an open exchange on the various implementation practices and challenges, as well as to open perspectives for the future. It will help reporting on progress achieved so far in the implementation of the programmes in supporting regions bordering RU and BY and the participation of partners from those regions.

If you have any questions, please contact us:

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Tuesday, 4 June 2024

13.00 – 13.05

Opening and technical set up

Interact

13.05 – 13.20

Introduction and setting the scene

Jean-Pierre Halkin, Head of INTERREG, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders Unit D.2, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Feedback from the missions of the Commission to the regions bordering RU and BY – common features

13.20 – 14.00

Situation update to programmes followed by discussion

Interact presenting the information collected from programmes

Discussion: all

Objective: To establish an overview to the efforts taken by programmes on working with the regions bordering RU and BY, share good practices and discuss further measures needed

14.00 – 14.20

Joint declaration on programmes' support to border regions

Introduction of the concept (Interact) and ideation by programmes

Objective: Following the discussions in Tartu, to agree on a common declaration by programmes focusing on the support to regions bordering RU and BY.

14.20 – 14.40

Introduction of a proposed joint session in the EUSBSR 2024 annual forum in Visby

Introduction of the session (Interact) and further ideation by programmes

Objective: To introduce the session proposed for EUSBSR 2024 annual forum dedicated to the new challenges that the regions on the BSR eastern border are facing. Further ideation of the concept including also a visibility perspective for the joint declaration.

14.40

Closing the meeting and the way forward

Jean-Pierre Halkin, European Commission

Discussion all the programmes