

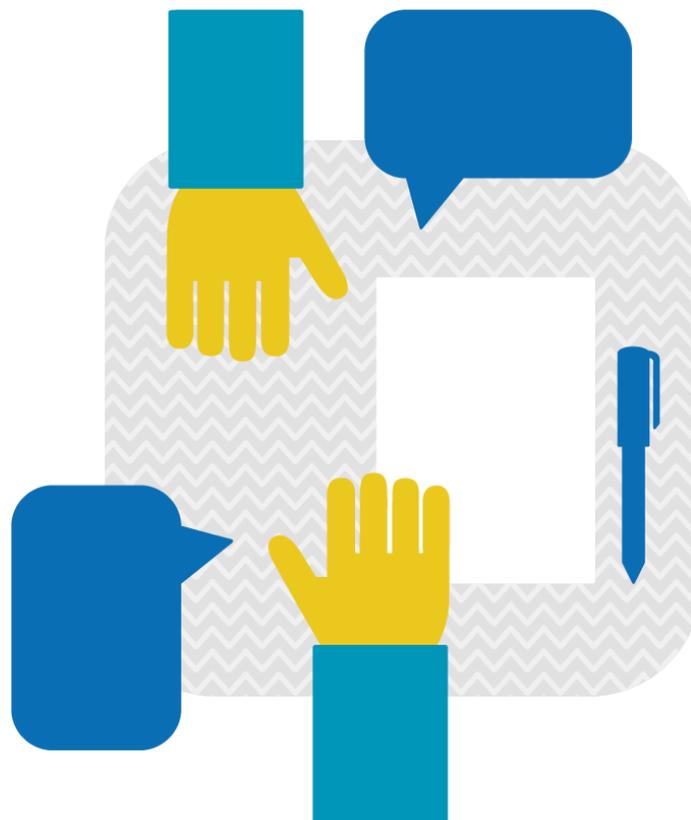
Cooperation actions: How to bring down barriers to build sustainable partnerships among EU IJG Goal Managing Authorities



02-03 July 2024

Agenda

Palermo | Italy





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Outlines

In a time when regional challenges extend beyond borders, the need for joint efforts is more pressing than ever. Traditionally, there has been a desire for better synergy and cooperation between regions and funding programmes, but turning these plans into real results has often been a tough challenge. The programming period from 2021 to 2027 has highlighted this goal, requiring member states to include cooperation actions in each specific objective, thus expanding the range of required collaboration (Reg. EU No. 2021/1060 Art. 22 3 d) vi).

However, the implementation of cooperation actions projects requires a lot of partnership effort and also knowledge and exchange of good practices in the EU context. Oftentimes stakeholders are locked on the partnership they currently operate and lack possibilities to exchange with others, which might become the missing key for the success of their cooperation action.

We are reuniting to present and discuss different ways how to bring down barriers to build sustainable partnerships with cooperation actions. It is a complex and multi-level topic, so it is important to spend some time discussing your persisting barriers and share practical solutions to overcome them. It is particularly important as programmes are now briskly stepping into the implementation of the current programming period.

During this two-day workshop, we will share practical capitalisation and communication tools and techniques, with a particular focus on setting up mechanisms for cooperation action support, discussing practical challenges related to cooperation action planning, implementation and partner identification.

Objectives

This workshop aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and foster collaboration among programme officers managing Investment for Jobs and Growth programmes, specifically those responsible for coordinating cooperation actions and having their role in embedding cooperation.

Through these dynamic sessions, we aim to address common challenges, encourage you to make the most of Interest's tools supporting the cooperation actions - Interactive map tool, coaching and expert assistance, Guidelines on cooperation actions and publication on current good practices in the field. It will also serve as a basis for further coordination and harmonisation of the approach to cooperation actions, and as a good occasion to meet your future partner.

The event is intended towards Managing Authorities of national or regional programmes of the Investment for Jobs and Growth goal with the intention to start building-up active cooperation action partnerships in 2024 and 2025, and proceed with their implementation in 2025.



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Day One

Tuesday, 02 July 2024

09.30 – 10.00

Registration and Welcome Coffee / Tea

10.00 – 10.15

Greetings

Interact's Cooperation actions team and official greeting from Renato Schifani, President of the Sicily Region

10.15 – 10.25

Cooperation beyond Interreg

Vincenzo Falgares, ERDF and Interreg MA, Sicily Region

- "Building Bridges: The Role of ERDF in regional development and in the socio-economic growth of 3 neighbouring areas (Sicily, Malta Tunisia) development"

Objective of the session: to share the common ground for cooperation actions.

10.25 – 10.45

Cooperation actions in the 2021-2027 context

Stoyan Kanatov and Ilze Ciganska, Interact and European Commission

- Blitz interview with Miguel Avila, representative of DG Regional and Urban Policy, EC

Objective of the session: to share the common ground for cooperation actions.

10.45 – 12.00

Cooperation actions in Italy: an evolving approach

Domenico Stigliano, Managing Authority of the ERDF OPs of Basilicata, Italy

- The pioneer experience in 2014-2020 for the implementation of cooperation actions within the ERDF Basilicata Regional Programme
- "MEDicinalPLAntsin a SUstainableSupply chain. Experience of land-use practices" ME.PLA.SU.S. (M. Assunta D'Oronzio - CREA-PB)
- "The BEGIN project: idea development, partner cooperation and results" (Fabrizio T. Gizzi - ISPC-CNR, Mario Bentivenga – UNIBAS)

Monica Bellisario and Viviana Russo, Department for cohesion policies and Southern Italy, Presidency of the Council of Ministries

- The support to cooperation actions at national level and the "Synergies" pilot project

Sandra Sodini, International relations and European programming Unit of Friuli Venezia Giulia:

- Enhancing 2021-2027 cooperation through synergies between cohesion programmes and beyond. Innovative solutions to build bridges between Interreg and mainstream programmes: the experience of Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region.



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Objectives of the session: to share good practices of implemented cooperation actions, lessons learned and inspiration stories.

12.00 – 13.00

Lunch break

13.00 – 14.00

Tools for cooperation – services by Interact

Stoyan Kanatov and Ilze Ciganska, Interact

- Introduction of what Interact has to offer to support cooperation actions
- Practical experience
- Group work

Objective of the session: To promote Interact's tools and services supporting cooperation actions.

14.00 – 14.30

How to find the right approach for supporting cooperation actions?

Stoyan Kanatov and Ilze Ciganska, Interact

- How to define objectives for the cooperation with other regions, and find the most suitable approach
- What are the steps to make it happen
- Cooperation actions approach - Open discussion on strategic steps

Objectives of the session: Based on group reflections, share views on how to build cooperation with partners in other regions, steps to be taken.

14.30 – 15.00

Coffee break

15.00 – 16.30

Supporting cooperation actions in practice

Thorsten Kohlisch and Nicolas Singer, Interreg Europe

Lars Wirbatz Head of Unit "EU Economic and Financial Policy, Coordination of EU Funds", Brandenburg Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs

- Showcasing tools for support from Interreg Europe
- Stories of cooperation for inspiration

Cooperation actions and macro-regional strategies

Ilze Ciganska, Interact

- Link between cooperation actions and macro-regional strategies - How we can learn lessons from both

Role of National contact points

Ninka Besiana, Interact

- Possibilities to receive support with the National contact points network. How they can support your partner search or even search for capitalisation/synergies
- Practical information for the network



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Objectives of the session: To share practical tools and services outside of Interact, supporting cooperation actions.

17.00 - 18.00

Visit to the Royal Palace and the Palatine Chapel

Day Two

Wednesday, 03 July 2024

09.30 – 10.30

Partner search forum

Stoyan Kanatov and Ilze Ciganska, Interact

- Grouping participants according to their potential partner's profile
- Role-play game of Speed dating

Objectives of the session: To support the participants in finding their future partner.

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.45

The future of cooperation actions

Miguel Avila, DG Regio, European Commission and Monica Bellisario/Viviana Russo, Department for cohesion policies and Southern Italy, Presidency of the Council of Ministries

- Place of cooperation actions in the future regulation – what do we need to change
- Next steps to make it happen
- Open discussion

Objectives of the session: Based on group reflections, share views on how cooperation actions should be considered in the next programming period.

12.45 – 13.00

Wrap up

Interact's cooperation actions team



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Venue

Albergo dei Poveri

Address: **Corso Calatafimi N. 217, 90129, Palermo, Sicily, Italy**

Map link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/w8sKK5isQkW2By7F9>

