

Interreg Knowledge Fair

Interreg in a **more social** **Europe**

Mercedes Acitores and Laura Belenguer/ Interact / 5.3.2024

Interact



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg

Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is the **second edition** of the Interreg Knowledge Fair, it is still a new approach for us.

The **Conference Support** stand in the Exhibition Room is a one-stop shop for your questions.

At the end of this session, you are asked to rate the **session experience**.

At the end of the event, you will be asked your **overall feedback**.



Structure of the session

01

**Interreg
contribution to
'A more social
Europe'**

02

**State of play:
budget, calls &
implementation**

03

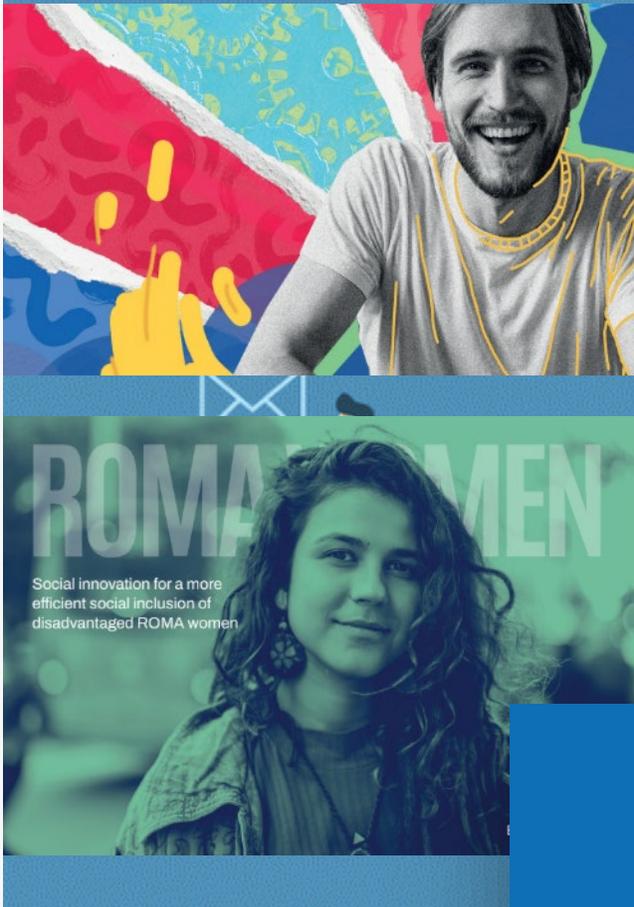
**Future of Social
Policy in the EU**

04

**Discussion on
Post 27: how do
you envisage
Interreg's
intervention on
social policy?**

05

**Wrap-up and
last reflections**



Interreg contribution to 'A more social Europe'

The Interact network 'A more social Europe' has done thematic work showing that Interreg does have an impact on social issues.

Skills for a quality job

made by Interreg

Period 2014-2020

YOUTH & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EU COOPERATION 2014-2020 PERIOD



Interreg - IPA CBC
Greece - Republic of North Macedonia

EMPLOYOUTH

Creating employment opportunities of young graduates in the Cross-border area

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 850,200

EU CONTRIBUTION
85% (€ 722,670)

2 COOPERATING
Countries

Educational and Vocational Training Employability Entrepreneurship Mobility Social Inclusion

ABOUT

EMPLOYOUTH project aims to implement a comprehensive package of actions that will have as final result the entering to employment of highly educated people and the emergence of prospects based on competitiveness, productivity and innovation.

OBJECTIVES & RESULTS

The main objective of the project is to implement an integrated package of deliverables that will have as final result the entering to employment of highly educated people and the emergence of prospects based on competitiveness, productivity and innovation. The intervention will include a holistic package of measures which will utilize the valuable scientific capital of the two countries in the labour market with ultimate objective of exchanging qualified personnel, improving the competitiveness of the two economies, sustainable and viable development of two intervention areas and strengthening regional cohesion in the border region.

HIGHLIGHTS

Transferability of the results. After completion of the activities foreseen within Employouth project the sustainability of the project was secured through Establishment of a Start-up center in Bitola, working to induce an ecosystem for start-ups and support for the business sector in Bitola and the Pelagonija Region.

Innovative approach. The most Innovative component is the content of the Mentorship and training programme, specially designed for the Employouth Acceleration Program.

Impact on the territory. This program promotes startup ecosystem in Pelagonia region and provide support for development of startup ideas in this region.



ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

Development and Support of Local Economy
Create employment opportunities for educated graduates by exploiting comparative advantages of the cross-border area, preferably with the use of innovative tools and practices

COUNTRIES

Greece
Republic of North Macedonia

PARTNER LEADER

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serres



Study supporting Inclusive Growth Network on "Healthy and Active Ageing" in EU Cooperation Programmes 2014 - 2020



Project fiches

INTERACT

ECORYS

Interreg supports healthcare

How Interreg projects and partners helped during the early stages of COVID-19



of how is joined COVID-19, outline ces.



Thematic focus during 2014-20

- ✓ Youth and employability
- ✓ Access to healthcare
- ✓ Active and healthy ageing
- ✓ Skills for employability
- ✓ Social innovation

Through...

Studies & publications **videos** inclusive growth postcards
road show

Let's see some examples...

Let's see some examples...

During 2014-2020, and with **343,6 million euros**, Interreg has shown successful performance addressing **youth employability, education, entrepreneurship and social inclusion** (with a territorial dimension).

Let's see some examples...

Giving access to **healthcare services** to vulnerable groups (children, elderly people, migrants...) and citizens living in peripheral areas **is one of the main focus of Interreg.**

Let's see some examples...

When it comes to **healthy ageing**, a vast majority of Interreg projects during 2014-2020 tackled **eHealth services and tools**.

Let's see some examples...

The **main skill** needed by EU enterprises is **job specific skills** (43,2%), and after this one, **team working skills** (41,9%).

Let's see some examples...

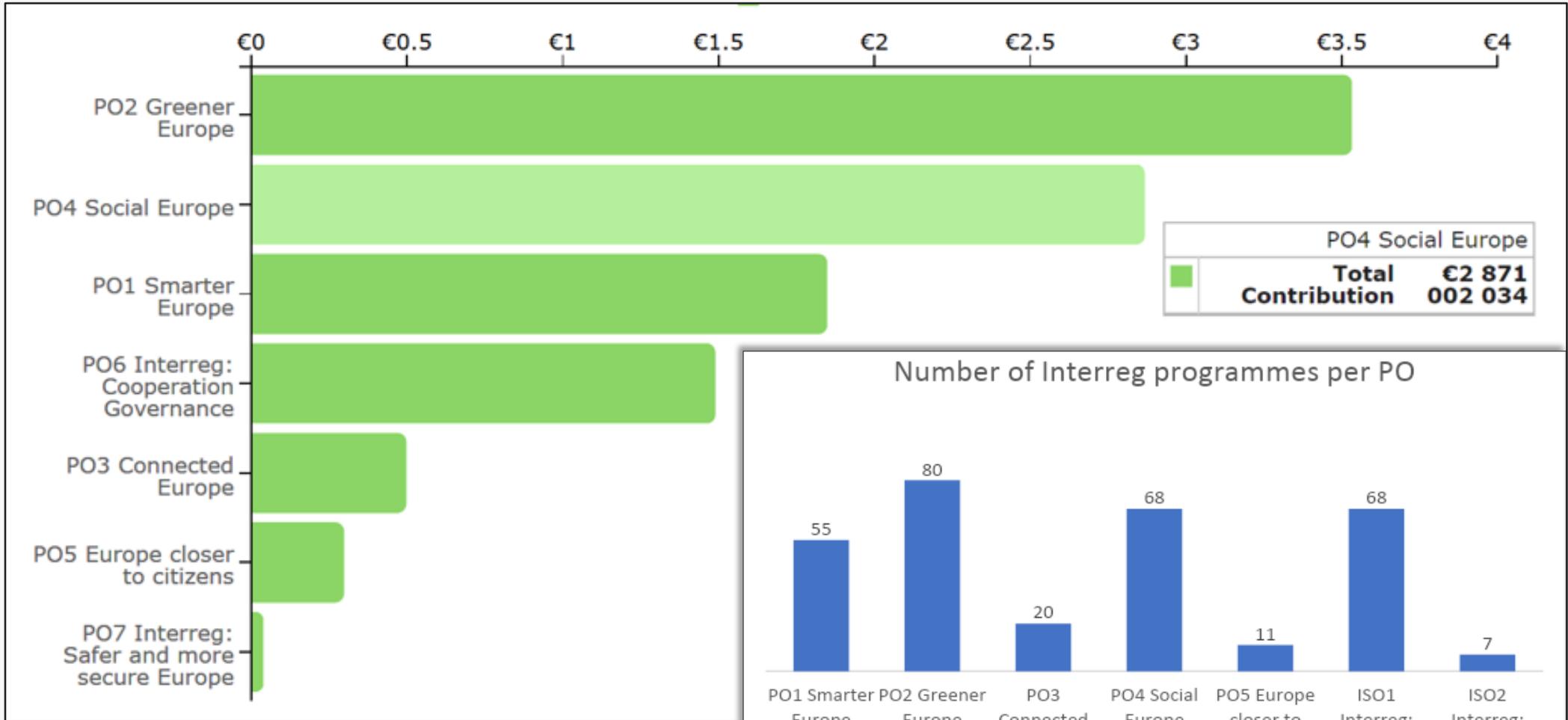
20% of the projects devoted to **Social Innovation** in Interreg are focused on **business support** and **social entrepreneurship**.



State of play: budget, calls and implementation

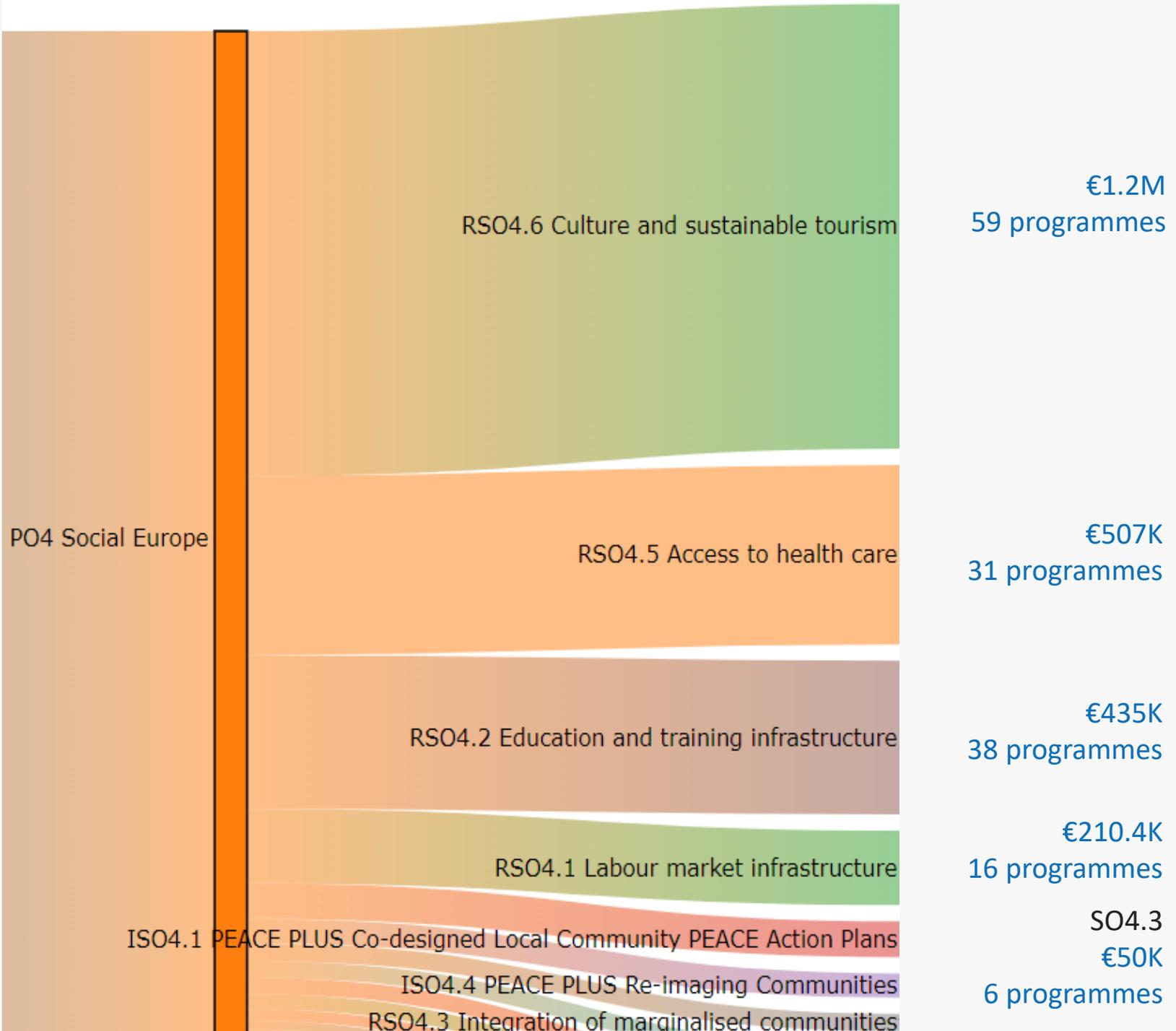


Interreg for a More Social Europe



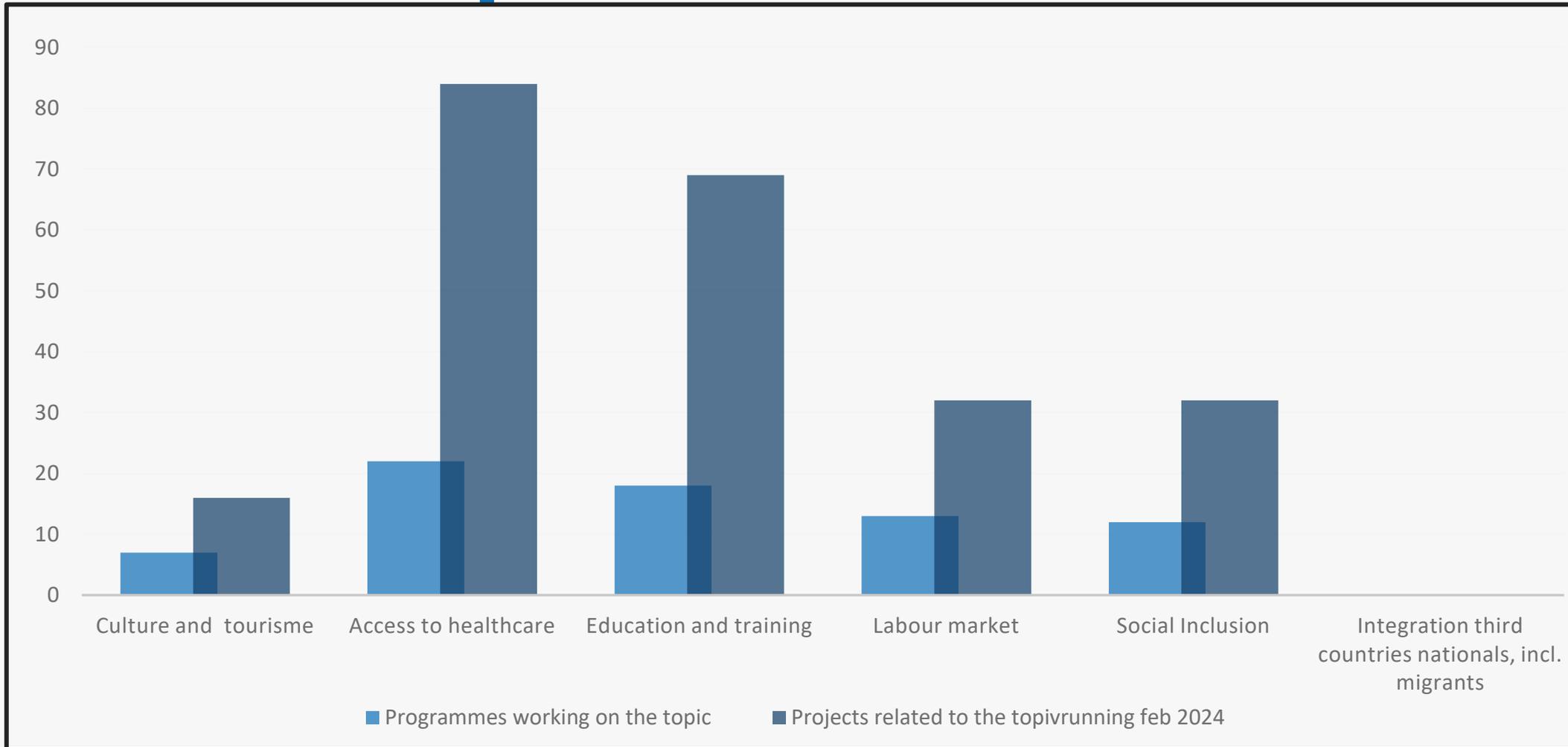
EU Contribution.
Source: Cohesion Open Data Portal

What programmes planned in PO4 for 2021-2027?



EU Contribution.
Source: Cohesion Open
Data Portal

Current PO4 Projects running in Feb 2024



Source: keep.eu



Social Europe post-27

Context and key challenges



*Estelle Roger
DG REGIO Unit D1 – Macro-regions,
Transnational/Interregional Cooperation, IPA,
Enlargement*

“Social” is at the heart of the European Union

Art. 3 of the Treaty on European Union

“The Union’s aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its people. [...] It shall work for [...] a highly competitive social market economy [...]”

Art. 9 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union

‘[...] the Union shall take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fights against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health’.

EU vs. national competences

EU investments in people



ESF+ 2021-2027

- Part of the Cohesion policy
- European Pillar of Social Ri
- PO4
- Shared/direct management
- Social innovation component



Key challenges

- **Persistent territorial challenges = social challenges affect all regions**
- **Structural and emerging challenges = green, digital and demographic transitions**
- **New geopolitical landscape**
- **Budgetary context**

Where to invest? What to change?

- **Back to the roots? (mobility and employment)**
- **Skills for green and digital transition**
- **Administrative capacity to be reinforced**
- **Social innovation**
- **More focus (areas, delivering mode), streamlining of funds?**





#SocialRights

Thank you

 ec.europa.eu/social

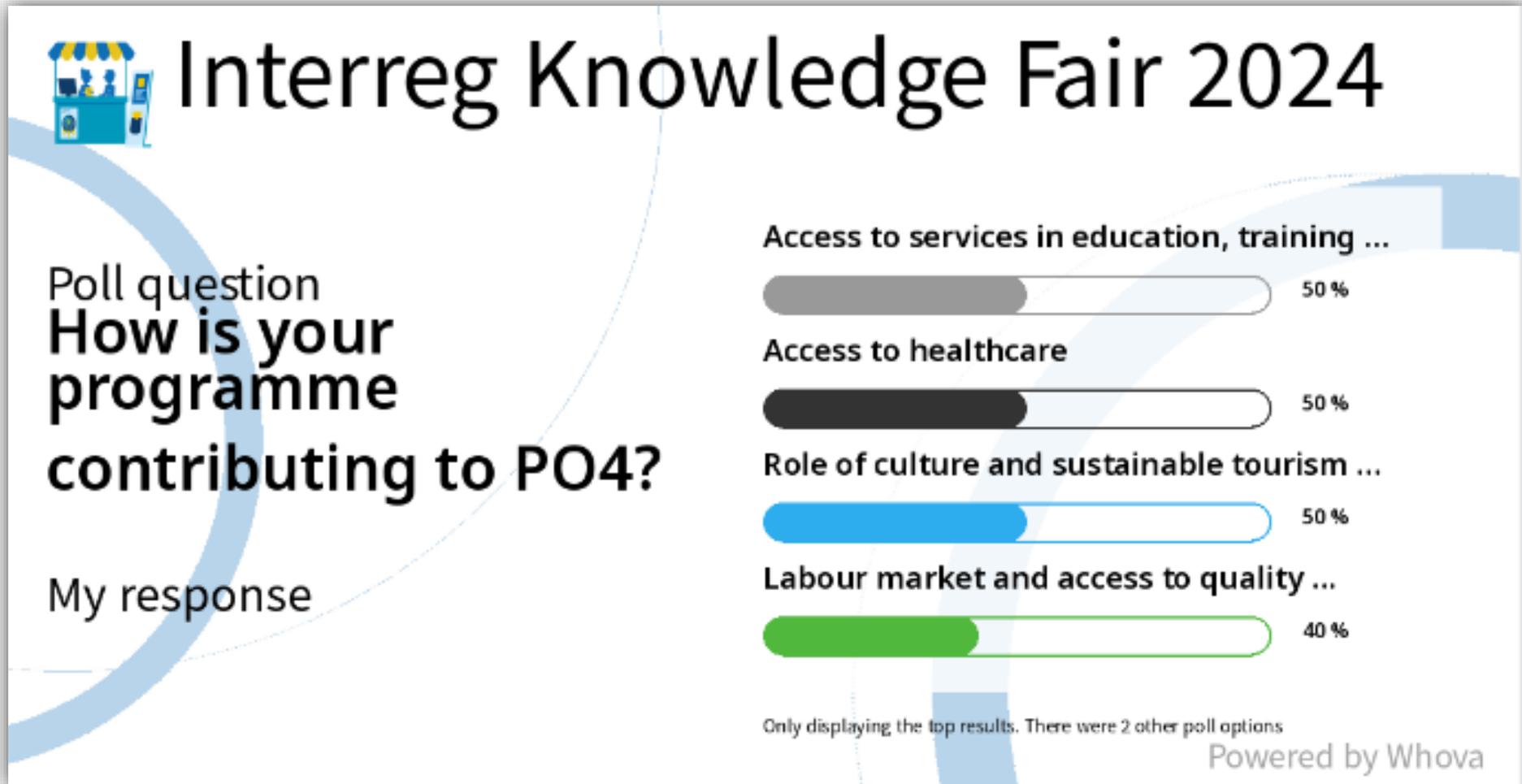
 **Social Europe**

 **EU_Social**

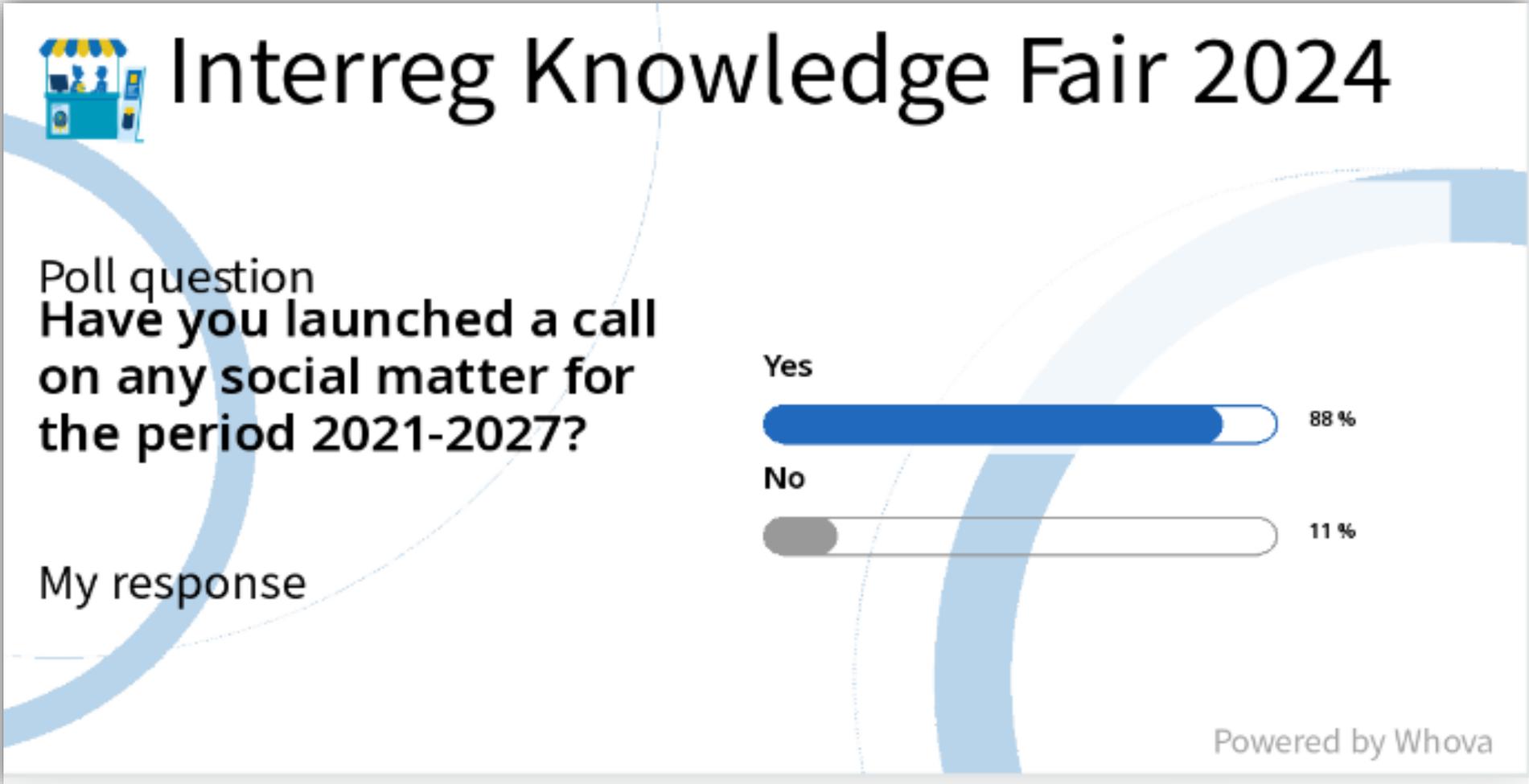
Time to discuss! 😊

- ✓ Have you already launched a call? How are you contributing to P04?
- ✓ What kind of actions / interventions are you financing? Does Interreg give you more flexibility to test new ideas?
- ✓ What should be improved or changed?

Feedback from the survey and Whova



Feedback from the survey and Whova



Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

Log into the **Whova app** and tell us what you think in the **session Q&A, from 1 (bad) to 5 (amazing)**
Please check which session you are in!

You can also talk to us at the Conference Support stand in the networking area.



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

[Interact / Events / Interreg Knowledge Fair \(5-7 March 2024\)](#)