

Welcome at the IKF!

Promoting cross-border services: Interreg specific objectives for Interreg specific solutions

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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**.



Agenda for now!

01

Spotlight on
ISOs

02

Spotlight on
joint (cross-
border)
services

Well-known development challenges

Legal & administrative obstacles

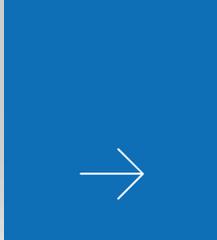
Many studies on that, especially in areas such as labour market and education - some of the areas are politically very sensitive

Lack of joint services in public interest

Cooperation and joint services could increase efficiency, viability, service quality – improving quality of living

Missing links

Large mapping study on it by the COM, comparatively small investment volumes required - often economic viability as key challenge



Interreg specific Objectives

The Interreg-specific objectives (ISOs) have been a novelty in this period.

ISO 1 (A better cooperation governance) is widely used now.

A better Interreg governance

Reflections on ISO 1, October 2020

1. Use ISO 1 as a catalyst to make the cooperation in the area and programme strategies work, or make it work better and more sustainably.
2. If unresolved governance issues hamper cooperation, if new themes in cooperation arise and capacities need reinforcement, or if MRS or SBS need support to their governance – then ISO 1 on “Better cooperation governance” is the relevant choice.



*Max. up to 20% of
EU funding*

ISO 1 -Specific actions

	A	B	C	D	Ext
enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities	X	X	X	X	X
enhance efficient public administration by promoting [...] cooperation between citizens, civil society actors & institutions, [...] legal and other obstacles in border regions	X	(X)	X	X	X
build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions	X	(X)		X	X
enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement MRS & SBS & other strategies	X	X	X	X	X
enhance sustainable democracy & support civil society actors & their role in reforming processes & democratic transitions					X
other actions to support better cooperation governance	X	X	X	X	X

A safer and more secure Europe



Actions in the fields of:

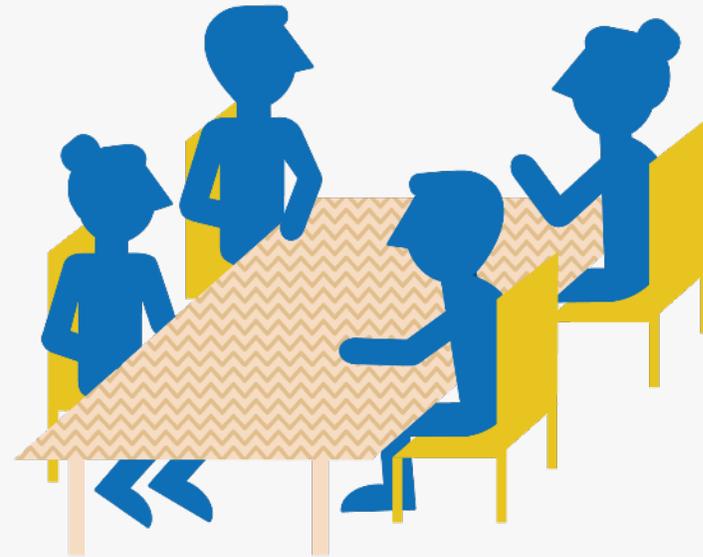
- border crossing management;
- mobility and migration management, including the protection;
- economic and social integration of third-country nationals, for example migrants and beneficiaries of international protection.

Max. up to 5% of EU funding

As it stands now ...

What works?

What are challenges?



ISO1 opportunities (IAE ws Oct 2023) – 1/2

Opportunities	Who? What? How?
Embedding tool MED programme & MED talks	
Integration of cooperation challenges & priorities in broader territorial strategies – promoting embedding	
SPF covering half of ISO 1 budget (NE-BE-DE)	
Raise limits (20% is quite narrow, in particular if using SPFs)	

ISO1 challenges (IAE ws Oct 2023) – 2/2

Challenges	Who? What? How?
Achieving a common understanding of governance in the programmes	
Embedding of MRS in ISO1: Who? When? How? To share responsibilities	
Low capacity of several beneficiaries	
Lack of policy makers' involvement	
Harmonisation of rules and laws between partner states owing to lack of coordination	
Not overdoing it with strategies & governance mechanisms	

Future of ISO: A few exemplary questions

- a)** Given the uptake: ISO 1 is here to stay Or do you doubt that?
- b)** Options ('SOs') under ISO 1 and 2 ... Good or rather limiting?
- c)** Is an investment element important? What for? Which types of investment could be envisaged?
- d)** Is there a potential for other ISOs supporting a more distinct policy profile for Interreg? Do you have any concrete ideas that go beyond better cooperation governance?



Joint Services

To have projects on joint cross-border services is rather the high-end of cooperation.

People should see and use them!

Cross-border Public Services

CPS are characterised by...



Public nature



Cross-border service area



Joint problem or opportunity



Service NOT infrastructure



Target groups on both sides



Non-discriminatory access



Involvement of actors from both sides of a border



Permanent NOT project

... and serve the policy areas

▶ Transport



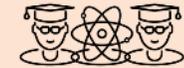
▶ Spatial planning, economic development, tourism and culture



▶ Healthcare and social inclusion



▶ Education and training



▶ Labour market and employment



▶ Communication and information society



▶ Environmental protection and natural resources management



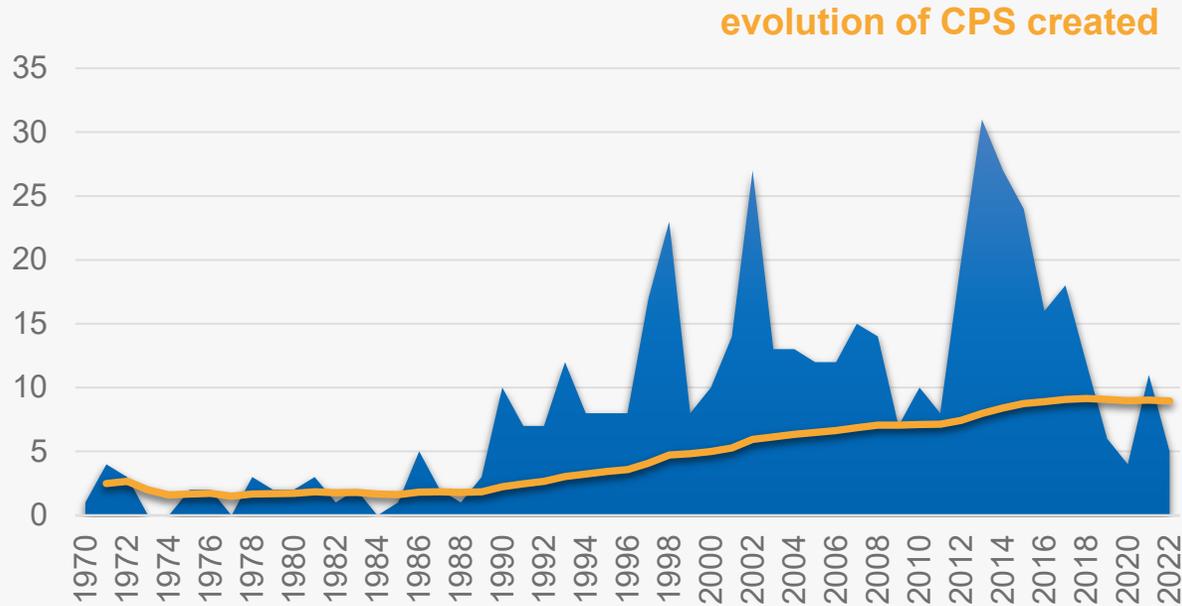
▶ Civil protection and disaster management



▶ Citizenship, justice and public security



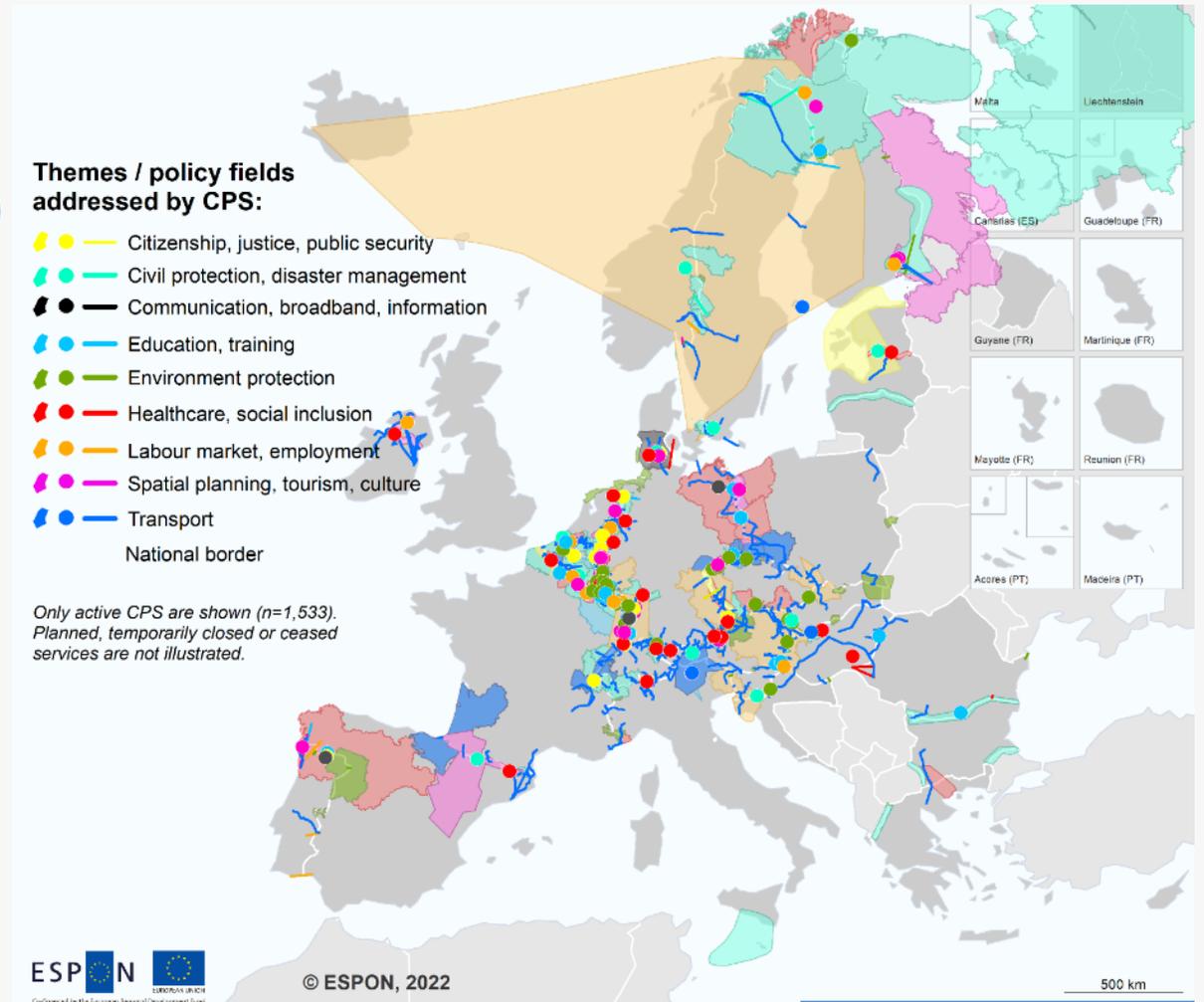
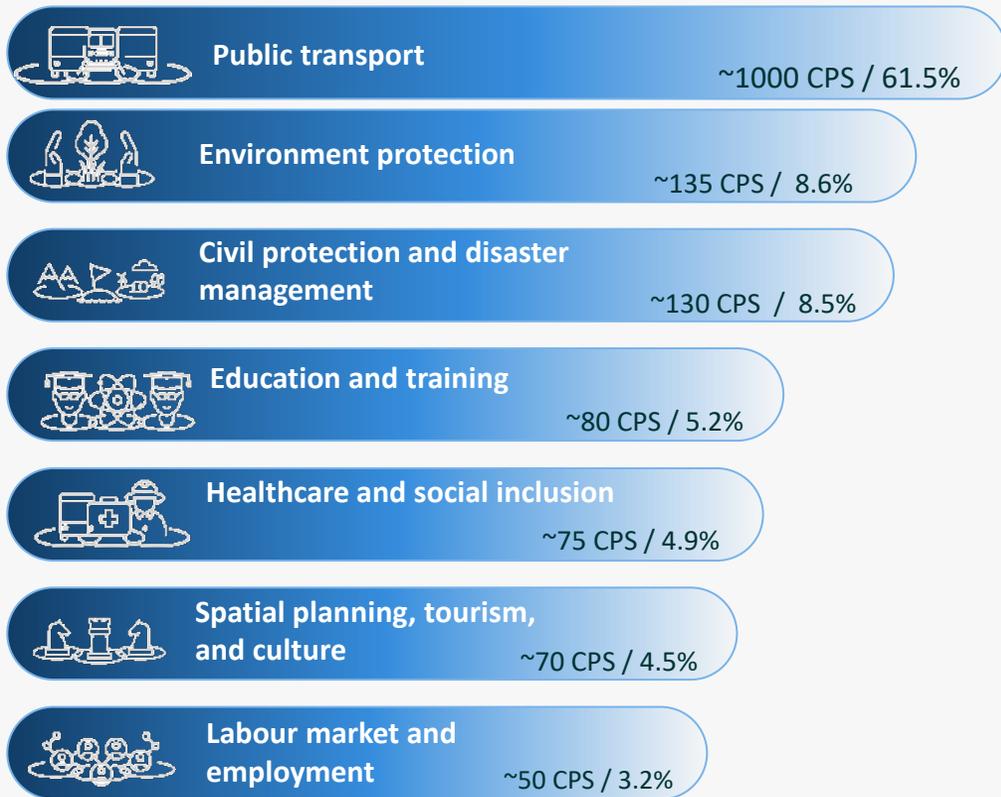
Cross-border Public Services

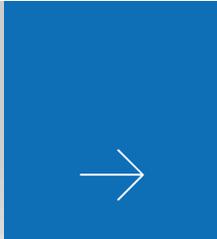


■ Number of new CPS/year — Moving average



Policy areas of CPS





CPS added value for border regions

CPS enhance functionality in border areas by:

- ... contributing to **better connections**
- ... supporting **cross-border flows** of people
- ... creating (thematic) **functional areas**
- ... **addressing gaps** in domestic service provision
- ... **making service provision less costly** in border areas with low population densities
- ... contributing to raise awareness of **cross-border possibilities**
- ... **sustaining Interreg projects**

Contributing to cohesion beyond border areas in EU MS

... reducing negative effects of border for border area & citizens

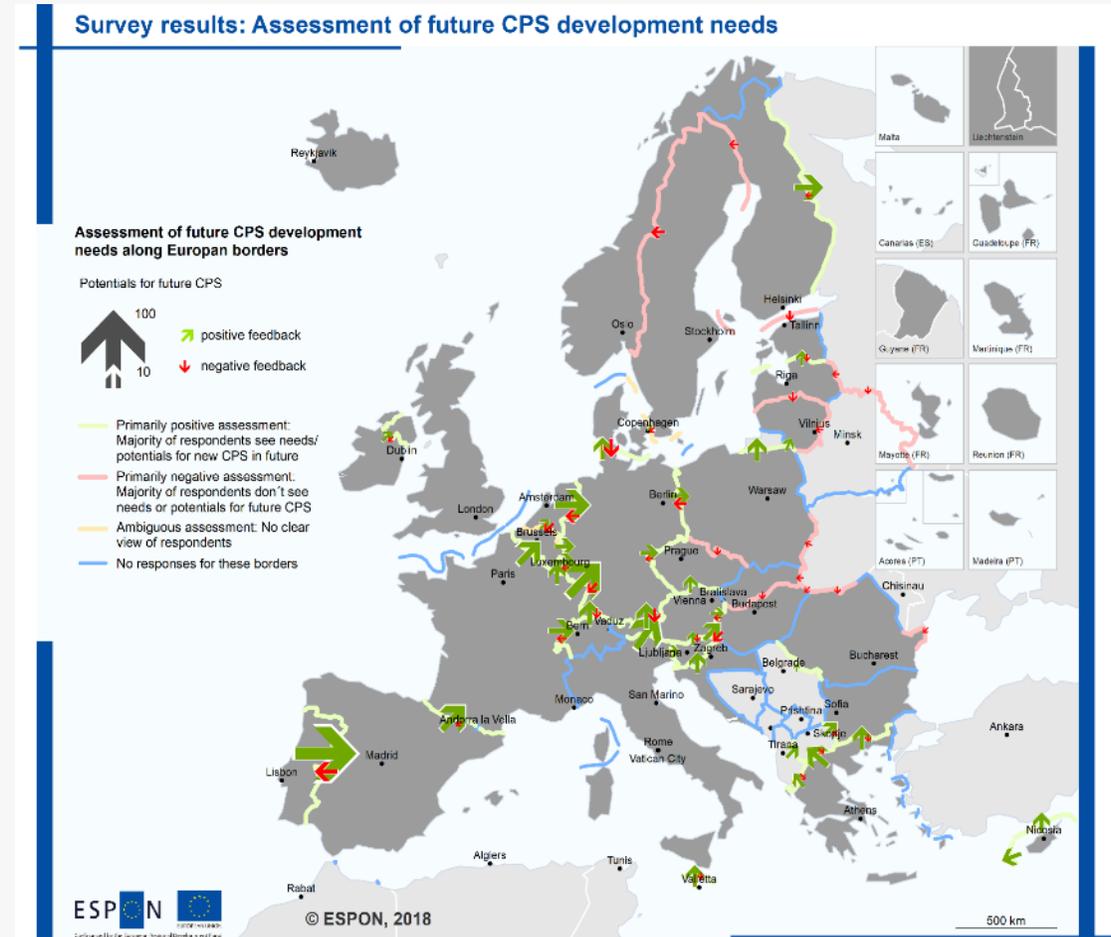


CPS by INTERREG post '27

The needs and potentials for the development of CPS in the future: where, how and what to look for?

- **Everywhere**, but not with the same intensity nor under the same conditions;
- Establishing CPS requires long-standing political **commitment** and tenacity - strategies should be **differentiated** according to the degree of maturity of cross-border cooperation
- Covid19 pandemic shows that national responses to crises can push cross-border relations 30 years back: strengthening the **resilience** of **existing CPS** shall be a key priority
- Where CPS are lacking - enabling **resources** and **capacity building**
- **Everywhere**: encouraging **innovative** public service **delivery**, including through e-governance and interoperability

The picture in 2018. What would it look like today?



Joint services: Harvest follows strategy?!

**Hospital de
Cerdanya**

**Healthacross
AT-CZ**

Joint fire brigade

Elbe-Labe ticket

**Bus line 983 connecting
border towns of
Frankfurt/Oder (DE) and
Słubice (PL).**

The Salzburg wastewater
treatment association is
cleaning sewage from four
Bavarian municipalities

Joint cross-border
nature park
services Goričko-
Raab-Örség

The joint transport
authority for the Geneva
cross-border
metropolitan area has
been established on
basis of the "Karlsruhe
Agreement" (FR, DE,
LU, CH)

Bilateral agreement
allows to deal with
crime more
efficiently at
the NL-DE border.

Political strategies
as enabling
element

Trust-building and
sustainable
cooperation as
catalysts

Stepwise approach
from coordination
over service
expansion to shared
management

Form follows
function – several
options depending
on context

Future joint services: A few exemplary questions

- a)** Where do you see the greatest potentialities in joint (cross-border services) & links? In which fields?
- b)** In your experience: What are enabling & success factors?
- c)** Strategic approach to it – how to ensure that?
- d)** What can support sustainability?

Thank you for being here!

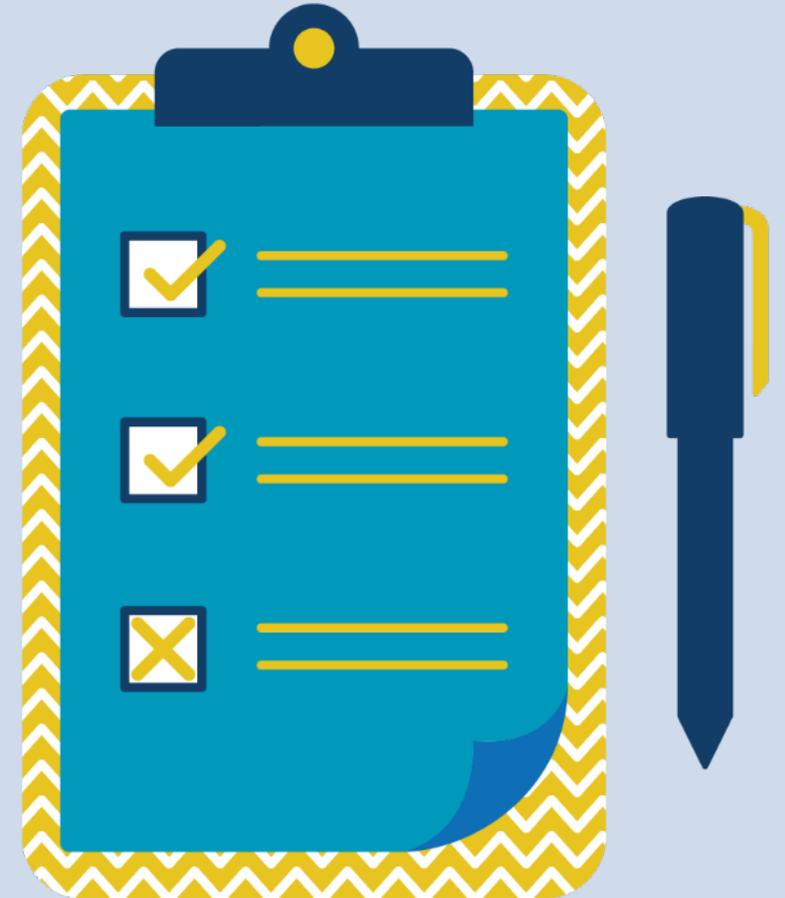
Your opinion matters to us.

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 \(5-7 March 2024\)](#)