

Anchoring Interreg in the Territorial Agenda 2030

Interreg Knowledge Fair session report | March 2024

Overview

37 Interreg specialists joined the session. Aim of the session was to invite programme representatives to have a say in the forthcoming stock-taking review of the Territorial Agenda (TA) 2030.

Methodology

Wiktor Szydarowski (ESPON) presented the context of the TA 2030 review. Interact colleagues presented the intent to bring Interreg practitioners as an organised stakeholder group to the process.

The TA 2030 pilot action on small places as well as Central Europe's plan to have a dedicated call for projects on small places were used to illustrate options to build a bridge from the TA 2030 review as strategic framework to practical approaches at programme level.

Key discussion points

The invitation to join the process as organised stakeholder group

Wiktor Szydarowski (ESPON) highlighted that the stock-taking and review process for the TA 2030 should give new momentum to the implementation of the TA 2030 as strategic framework.

ESPON and Interact have joined forces for the TA 2030 review. Interact will bring Interreg practitioners as organised stakeholder group to the process. The start is the invitation to take part in a EU wide survey asking people across sectors, professions for the practical role of the TA 2030 in their field of work.

A first milestone in the process with Interreg practitioners will be a webinar on May 24 where the drafting team of the TA 2030 review (Spatial Foresight) will present the results of the survey and open the floor for discussion around two key questions:

- How to make the TA 2030 better known?
- How to make the TA 2030 a strategic framework that can be better used?

The process will then be continued inviting interested Interreg practitioners to join the debate on interim deliverables in the review process. Interreg should be properly anchored as an important instrument supporting the implementation of the Territorial Agenda.

Practical illustration: The TA 2030 as strategic reference document for a targeted Call on small places

Monika Schönerklee-Grasser from the Central Europe programme outlined the rationale of the planned dedicated call on small places. She highlighted that a lot of ‘translation’ work is required to make the intent and approach of the TA 2030 understandable and tangible for the key target group of the Call, i.e. local and regional authorities. The intent of the Call led to quite intense discussion among a working group - consisting of MC members - on the definition of small places across the nine member states. The whole process of setting up the Call is in itself an important contribution to bring the TA 2030 closer to the key institutions that should work on its implementation.

Documents and/or regulations and articles of particular significance

Territorial Agenda 2030 <https://territorialagenda.eu/>
Results of pilot actions

Conclusions, plans for followed up

Programme representatives have been and will be invited to join a working group to follow the process of the TA 2030 review. An initial meeting to set the agenda for the coming months will be planned for mid of April.

On May 24 a webinar with representatives of the drafting team (Spatial Foresight) working on the TA 2030 is planned.

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