



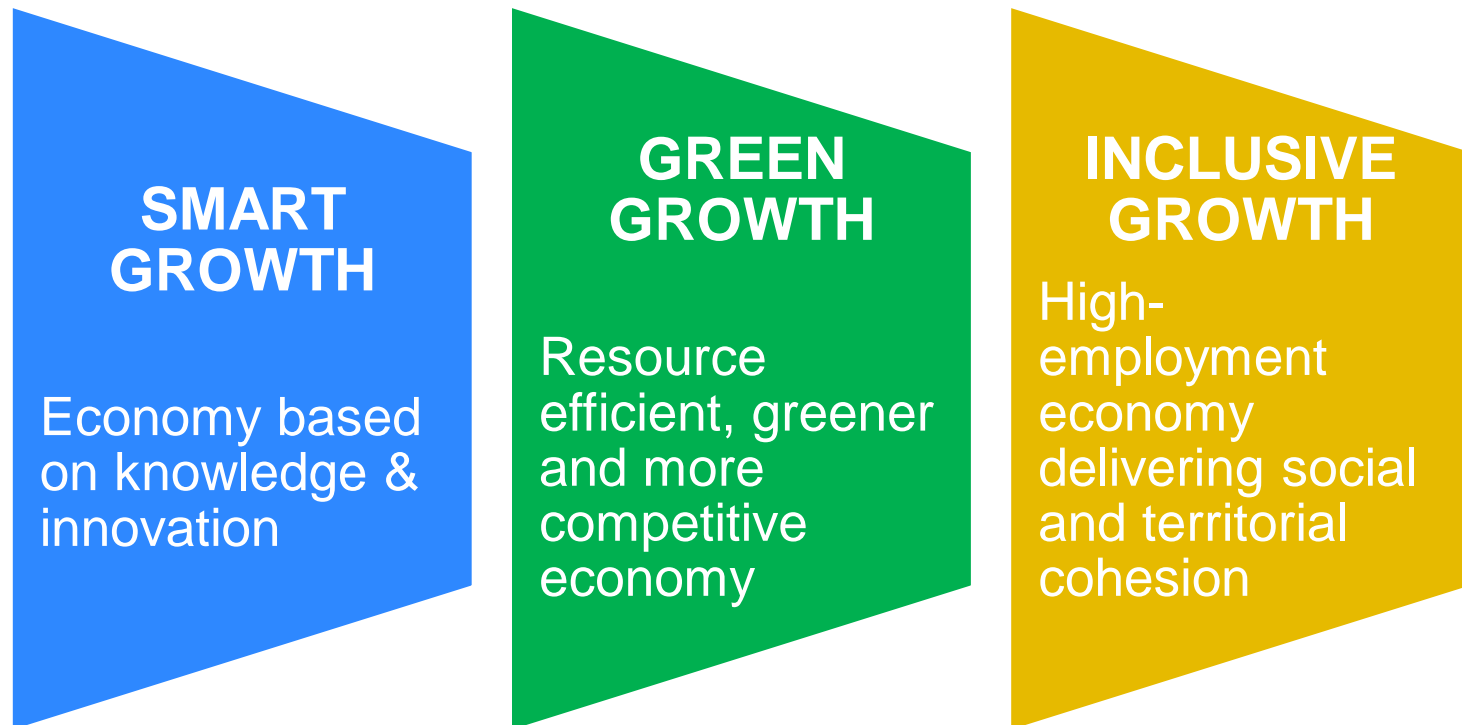
EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

# INTERREG EUROPE

**Nicolas Singer, Senior Project Officer**  
INTERREG IVC Joint Technical Secretariat

## Context

Overall strategic framework: EU2020 strategy



3 pillars translated in **11 Thematic Objectives** in 2014-2020 regulation

## Few principle from the new regulations

- Concentrate resources to order to optimise the impact



- Result orientation





## **Objective set in the ETC Regulation - Article 2(3)(a) for interregional cooperation:**

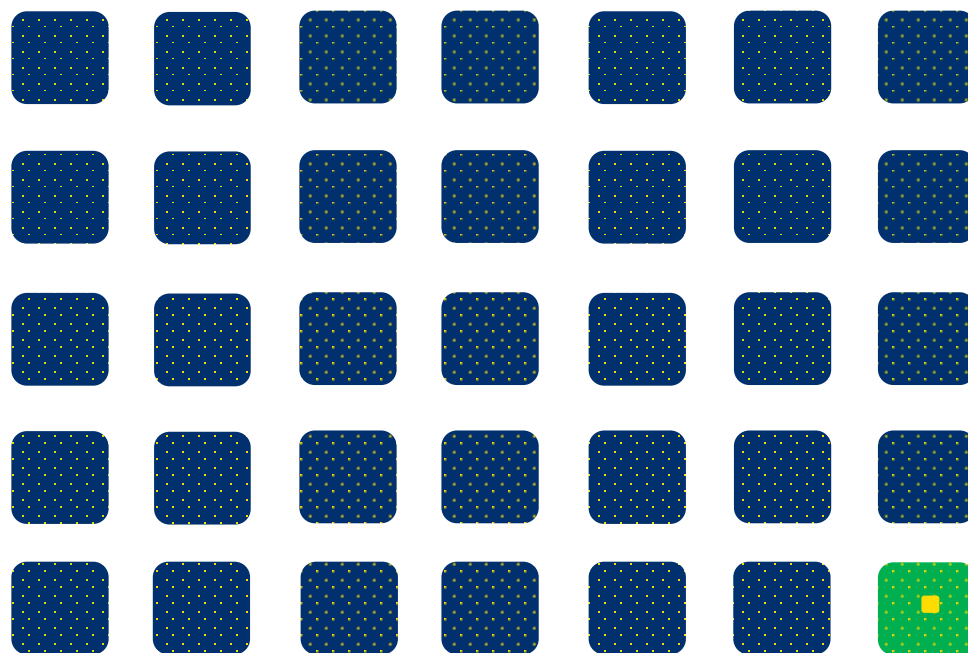
*‘to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy’*

*‘identification and dissemination of good practices with a view to their transfer principally to operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal but also, where relevant to cooperation programmes’*



**Policy learning** among public authorities  
to improve performance of policies & programmes for regional development,  
in particular **Structural Funds programmes**

## EU Cohesion policy



### Goal 1:

Investment for growth & jobs (G&J)

**EUR 340 billion**

### Goal 2:

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)

**EUR 10.2 billion**

**INTERREG EUROPE**

**EUR 359 m**

## Eligible area

## EU28 + Norway & Switzerland



## Thematic focus 4 priority axis

...S3  
innovation  
infrastructure  
innovation chains...



...creation,  
development,  
growth of SMEs...

...energy efficiency  
renewable energies  
sustainable  
transport...

...natural heritage  
cultural heritage  
resources efficiency...

## 2 actions supported

### Policy Learning Platforms



### Interregional Cooperation Projects







## Platforms: what is it?



A **service** provided per priority axis via:

**Online collaborative tool** + **Expert team**

With relevant functionalities

Content and coordination role



## Origin

INTERREG IVC  
capitalisation  
exercise



S3 platform  
Seville



## Objective

Objective: To contribute to policy learning across EU in particular on Structural Funds implementation

- ➡ Better exploiting projects' results
- ➡ Opening up programme results to anyone interested



# Platforms

## Examples of services

- ❑ **Advice** regional stakeholders and running projects
- ❑ Organise and facilitate **peer reviews** among regions
- ❑ Organise and facilitate **thematic workshops**
- ❑ Analyse and disseminate the **content of projects** through dedicated events & publications
- ❑ Facilitate **knowledge sharing** and networking among regions on the collaborative tool





## Platforms

### Target groups

Stakeholders involved in the implementation of **Growth & Jobs** or **cooperation** programmes

Other stakeholders relevant to the **topics**

### Implementation

Sub-contracting arrangement

Through **procurement procedure**

Launched in the course of 2015





# Projects

## Definition

Partners from different countries working together on a shared regional policy issue (within the thematic fields of the programme)...

## Objective

....to improve the effectiveness of the policies of the regions involved in the project (in particular their **Investment for Growth and Jobs goal programmes**)





## Project organised in 2 phases

**Phase 1  
(1 to 3 years)**

Exchange of experience ending up with the production of 1 action plan / region

**Phase 2  
(2 years)**

Monitoring of the action plan implementation  
+ possible pilot actions





## Projects partnership: who is eligible?

- **Public bodies (the main target group)**  
(e.g. local, regional, national authorities)
- **Bodies governed by public law**  
(Directive 2004/18/EC)
- **Private non profit bodies**



Confirmation of the eligibility status:  
check with your contact point



## Projects partnership features

- From at least 3 countries, from which at least 2 partners from EU-MS
- Recommendation: **between 5 to 10 partners**

- Advisory partners:



- ✓ offer a particular competence that can facilitate the project's implementation
- ✓ do not address a policy instrument and therefore do not need to develop an action plan.

- *Stakeholder group: one per region*



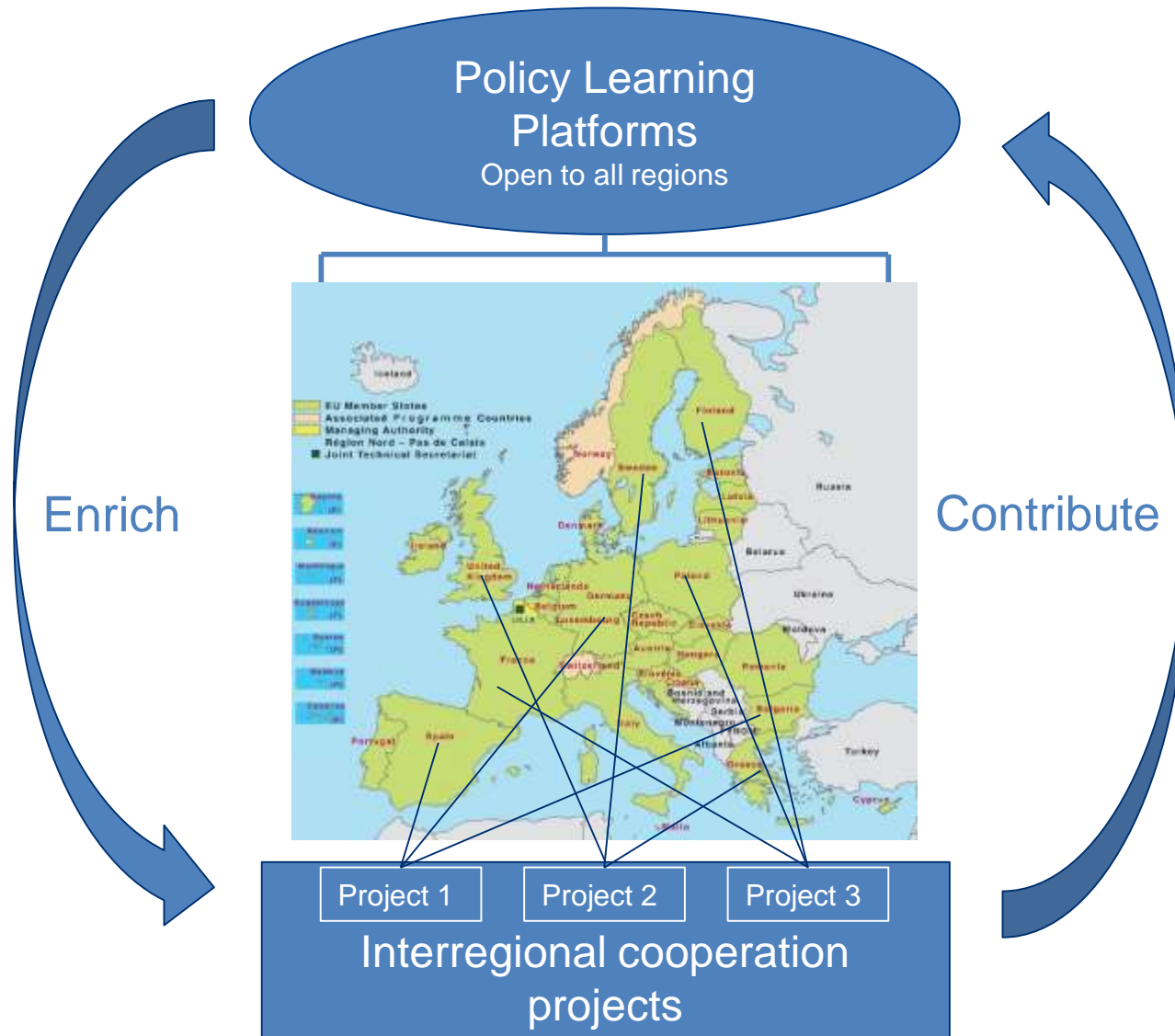




Co-financing rates	According to legal status or location
85% ERDF	Public or public equivalent from EU
75% ERDF	Private non-profit from EU
50% Norwegian funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway
Swiss funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland



## 2 interrelated actions



	INTERREG IVC	INTERREG EUROPE
Rationale	Regional development policies	Regional development policies, principally SF programmes
Area	EU-27, NO+CH	EU-28, NO+CH
Eligibility	Public & public law bodies No private	Public & public law bodies Private non-profit bodies
Co-financing	75%-85% (country)	85% public or equivalent 75% private non-profit
Actions	1-phase project + CAP	2-phase project + PLP

## Funding

- Programme ERDF budget: MEUR 359
  - ERDF budget for platforms: MEUR 15.3 (max)
  - ERDF budget for projects: **MEUR 322.4** equally shared over 4 priority axis (MEUR 84)
- ERDF budget recommended per project:  
**between MEUR 1 to 2**







## Four features of INTERREG EUROPE projects

1. Improving Structural Funds programmes ([video](#))
2. Public administrations as main target group ([video](#))
3. Mobilising stakeholders ([video](#))
4. Capturing results ([video](#))



All features derive from the **result oriented approach**





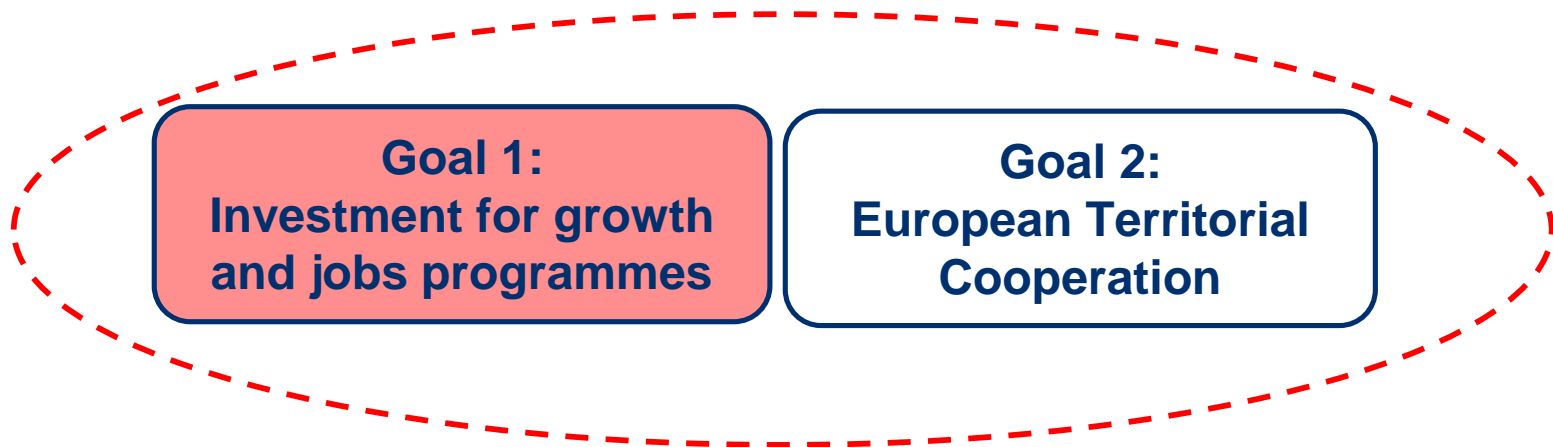
# **1. Improving Structural Funds programmes**



## Why? rationale

EU cohesion policy

Structural Funds = ERDF + ESF implemented through







## Why? rationale



**Objective set in the ETC Regulation - Article 2(3)(a) for interregional cooperation:**

*‘to reinforce the effectiveness of **cohesion policy**’*

*‘identification and dissemination of good practices with a view to their transfer principally to operational programmes under the **Investment for growth and jobs** goal but also, where relevant to **cooperation programmes**’*





## **Goal 1: Investment for growth & jobs EUR 340 billion**

**Goal 2:  
European Territorial Cooperation  
EUR 10.2 billion**



**INTERREG EUROPE  
EUR 359 m**



## How is it reflected at project level?

**Policy instruments** addressed to be specified in application form

<b>B.2 Main policy instruments addressed and territorial context</b>	
How many policy instruments are addressed by the project?	
<b>B.2.1 Policy instrument n°1</b>	
• <b>Definition</b>	
Please describe the policy instrument addressed (e.g. name, objective, characteristics). If possible, please specify the specific measure / priority which is addressed.	

**At least half** of the policy instruments addressed by a project need to be related to Structural Funds programmes



## How do you improve policies?

- Support **new projects**
- Change programme **governance**
- Change programme **structure**





## **2. Public administrations as main target groups**







### Why? Rationale

INTERREG EUROPE:

dedicated to improving **policy instruments**



Public administrations:

organisations responsible for **policy** design and implementation



Public administrations:

core target group of **INTERREG EUROPE**



### How is it reflected at project level?

Participation of public administration: **pre requisite**

e.g. When Structural Funds programme addressed,  
Managing Authorities (MA) / Intermediate Bodies (IB)  
should be involved

If organisation responsible for the policy instrument addressed  
is not a partner, it should provide a **letter of support**:

*a commitment to fully support and closely follow the project  
implementation*



### Letter of support

Required for a partner when:

- Structural Funds programme is addressed, but the MA/IB (or other relevant bodies) in charge of the management of this Structural Funds programme is not directly involved in the project as a partner
- Another policy instrument (outside Structural Funds) is addressed, but the organisation responsible for this instrument is not directly involved in the project







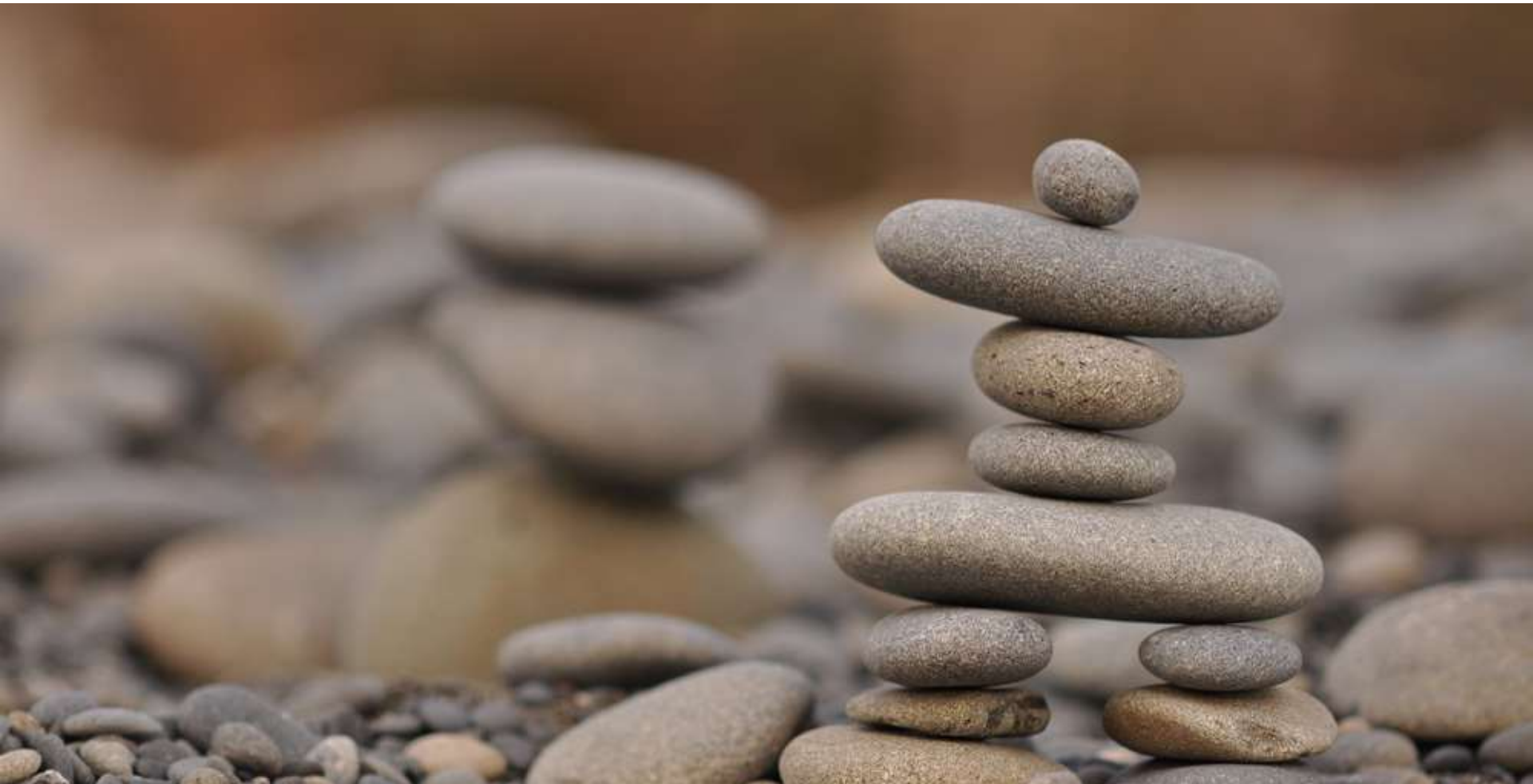
### **A new role for MAs/IBs of SF programmes**

- Active participation as project partners
- Political endorsement as providers of letters of support
- Active involvement in phase 2 of projects (roll-out of the action plan)
- Strategic communication to relevant stakeholders
- Active use of policy learning platforms





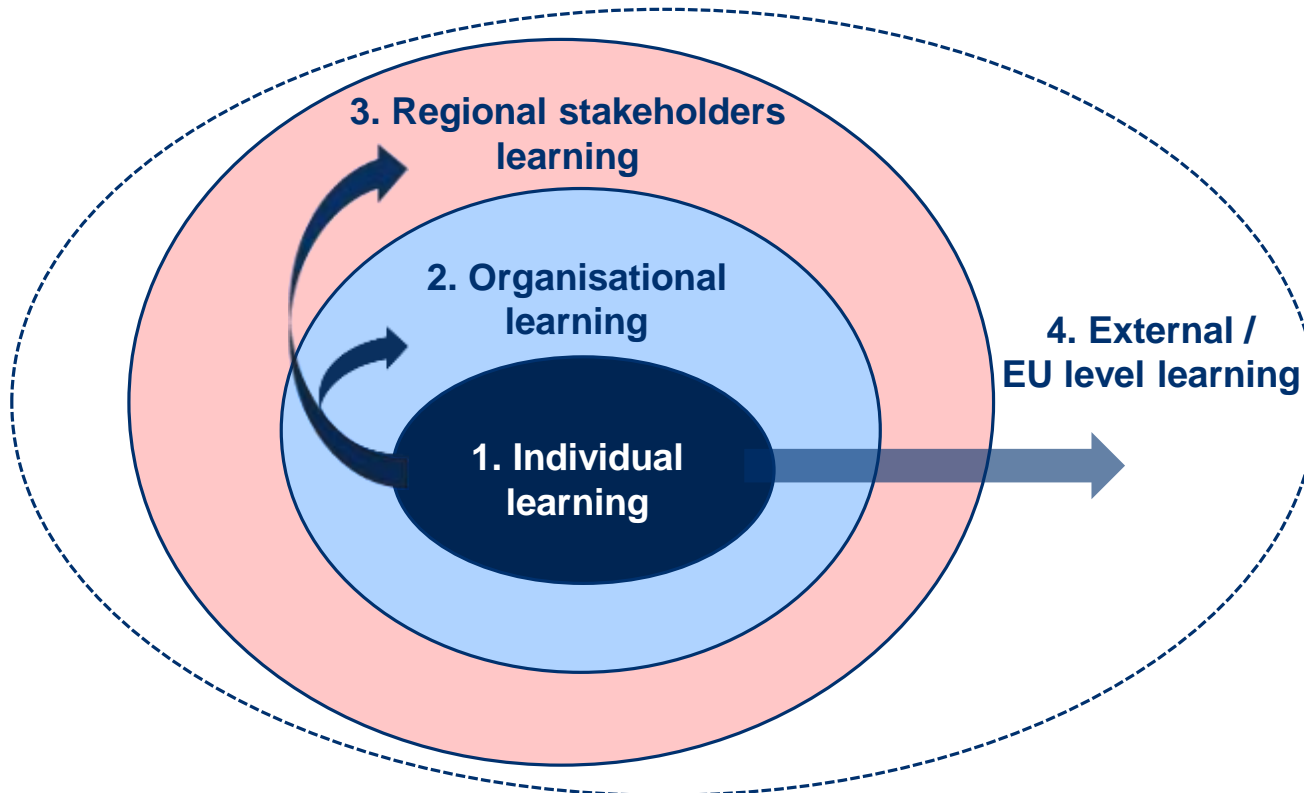
### **3. Mobilising stakeholders**





# Why? Rationale

## 4 levels of learning in interregional cooperation



Key success factor to interregional learning: to go beyond individual / organisational learning



## How to optimise learning?

Creation of stakeholder groups:

- 1 group per partner region
- Members:
  - organisations competent in the field tackled by the project (e.g. for innovation: research centres, universities, agencies, SMEs)
  - body in charge of policy instrument addressed (in case this body is not a partner)
- Involved in the interregional learning process





## 4. Capturing results





### Why? Rationale

- Importance to demonstrate results beyond policy changes
- Impacts of cooperation can take time
- Tackle the pilot action ‘paradox’: pilot action cannot be known at the application stage





# Projects: structure and duration

## Implementation in **2 phases**

Phase 1  
*Learning*

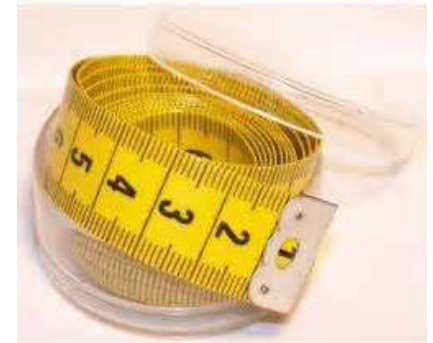


From 1 to 3 years

Phase 2  
*Monitoring*



Fixed to 2 years



Maximum duration: **5 years**







**Phase 1**



### **Projects: structure 'Interregional learning'**

Interregional exchange of experience

e.g. seminars, workshops, site visits, staff exchanges, peer reviews



### **1 Action Plan per region**

Measures to be implemented  
Timeframe  
Work steps  
Responsible players  
Costs and funding resources (*if applicable*)







# Projects: structure

## Phase 2

### ‘Monitoring the action plan implementation’

- **Monitor** the implementation of the different action plans
- Pilot actions (only in justified cases)





### Insight into phase 2

- Primarily dedicated to **monitoring** the Action Plan implementation
- Activities **pre-defined** by the programme (i.e. 2 partner meetings, 1 dissemination event, website update and reporting activities)





**time for** **questions**

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**Thank you for your attention!**