



Europe, let's cooperate!

The 10th interregional cooperation forum

20-21 March 2024, Handelsbeurs, Antwerp, Belgium

About

Europe, let's cooperate! interregional cooperation forum is all about interregional cooperation. During an inspiring two-day event, the participants will learn how they can benefit from interregional cooperation and get inspiration from institutions and regions that already have experience from implementing projects and cooperating across regional borders. The event offers opportunities to network, share ideas for new projects, build partnerships, discover the opportunities offered by the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform, and get inspired by the ideas and good practices available across Europe.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the event is to present the cooperation opportunities Interreg Europe offers, both through co-funding for cooperation projects, as well as the activities and services of the Policy Learning Platform. The event brings together participants representing national, regional and local policymakers and other relevant stakeholders from EU regions, representatives from the European Commission and other European institutions and networks. 500 attendees from all across the programme area are expected as participants.

'Europe, let's cooperate!' marks the launch of Interreg Europe's third call for project proposals in the 2021-2027 programming period. In addition, the event will celebrate a milestone of Interreg Europe expanding to seven new countries and the programme area growing to cover 36 countries in total. The event will also showcase successes and achievements of Interreg Europe and interregional cooperation over the years.

The event combines four elements:

- Presenting the extension of the Interreg Europe programme to seven new countries and showcasing the benefits of interregional cooperation
- Launching the third call for project proposals and enabling exchange and networking on project ideas to find project partners
- Offering an opportunity for participants to discuss their questions and project ideas directly with the joint secretariat (feedback and support for project development)
- Introducing ways to get involved in cooperation and benefit from the services and thematic activities of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

Agenda – Day 1 (20 March 2024)

9:30-10:00	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>	
10:00-11:00	<p>Celebrating the power of interregional cooperation</p> <p>Opening session of the 10th edition of 'Europe, let's cooperate!' with high-level speakers discussing the contribution of interregional cooperation to implementation of EU cohesion policy. The session will take stock of achievements of Interreg Europe over the years, map out the extension of the programme area to new countries and expanding to cover no less than 36 countries, and celebrate the power of interregional cooperation to deliver results and improve policies throughout regions across Europe.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slawomir Tokarski, Director for European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programmes Implementation, DG Regio, European Commission • Manoëlle Wasseige, Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union • Anne Wetzel, Director of the European Department, Hauts-de-France region, Managing authority of Interreg Europe • Rostyslav Tomenchuk, Head of the Departments of International Technical Assistance Coordination, The Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine • John Bachtler, Director of European Policy and Research Centre • Magda Anagnostou, Coordinator - Policy Learning Platform at Interreg Europe • Jason Martinez, Coordinator - Projects at Interreg Europe 	
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30-12:30	<p>Cooperation in action: get your application ready for the third call!</p> <p>The session will outline the details of the third call for project proposals of Interreg Europe in 2021-2027. The participants will get an overview of the key features of the call, as well as tips and advice for preparing their project applications. Q&A time will also be included.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erwin Siweris, Programme director at Interreg Europe • Petra Geithner, Head of Unit - Finances & Audit at Interreg Europe • Nicolas Singer, Head of Unit - Projects & Platform at Interreg Europe • Christina Koch, Austria Wirtschaftsservice 	
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00-17:00	<p>Networking and inspiration for project preparation</p> <p>The afternoon offers opportunities to discuss project ideas with the representatives of the joint secretariat and network with other participants to build partnerships for projects. There will also be possibilities to draw inspiration from the previously co-financed interregional cooperation projects and meet experts of the Policy Learning Platform and get information about the policy-learning services offered by the Platform.</p>	
	Interreg Europe corner	Get answers and discuss your questions at the Interreg Europe corner, where you can meet representatives of the joint secretariat and the Policy Learning Platform.
	Country corners	Meet points of contact from different countries and discuss country-specific issues and your questions.

#europecooperates

	Networking zone	Join or host a networking session in the networking zone to share project ideas and find project partners. Book a space for a networking discussion and propose a topic of your choice or participate in the talks hosted by other participants.
	Meetings with the joint secretariat	Book 1:1 meeting to discuss your questions or project idea with representatives of the Interreg Europe joint secretariat in a 30-min individual discussion.
	Let's talk!	14:15 – 14:45: Discover what is it like to be a lead partner in an Interreg Europe project. 15:15 – 15:45: Find out more about how we can support you in your project development journey. 16:00 – 16:45: Let's talk post-2027! What does the future hold for Interreg Europe? Have your say.
	Study visits	Draw inspiration from visits to interesting sites and discover good practices in and around Antwerp together with the thematic experts of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform.
17:00-17:10	Next steps towards new interregional cooperation projects Closing session of the first day with key highlights and tips for project preparation, as well as information on upcoming events and assistance provided to project applicants during the call and insights into what to expect during the second day of the event. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ilaria Piazza, Coordinator – Project Finances at Interreg Europe 	
17:10-17:30	Key note speech on strategic foresight Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter De Smedt, Director Strategic Insights & Analyses at the Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office (Government of Flanders) 	
17:30-19:00	<i>Closing cocktail</i>	

Agenda – Day 2 (21 March 2024)

08:30-09:00	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>
09:00-09:45	Policy Learning Platform: policy advice, knowledge sharing and networking Opening session of the second day dedicated to the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform and its services. The speakers will discuss and explore how the Platform boosts EU-wide policy learning and contributes to development of better regional policies. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorsten Kohlisch, Project Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform • Elena Ferrario, Thematic Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform • Antoine Duquennoy, Thematic Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform • Joaquin Crespo-Martin, Project and Policy Manager of European Projects Unit at Aragon Development Agency • Elena Mengotti, Head of Unit for legal, financial and EU affairs at the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region

#europecooperates

09:45-10:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:00-11:00	<p>Policy learning in action (round 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building greater local climate resilience • Innovating together: Interregional cooperation solutions • Social sustainability and high-quality jobs in the tourism sector <p>During a series of interactive workshops, the participants will have an opportunity to test and experience policy-learning in practice. They will hear from project partners and learn about good practices, and get opportunities to meet, discuss and exchange with others who share the same interests or work on similar policy issues in different regions.</p>
	<p>Policy learning discovery zone</p> <p>Lets talk!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00 – 10:20: Discover the Policy Learning Platform's expert services. • 10:30 – 10:50: Policy solutions! Explore the breath of knowledge at your fingertips.
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30-12:30	<p>Policy learning in action (round 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Moving! Policies for Supporting Active Transport • Green economy & SME competitiveness • Community Engagement in Small- and Medium-Sized Towns <p>During a series of interactive workshops, the participants will have an opportunity to test and experience policy-learning in practice. They will hear from project partners and learn about good practices, and get opportunities to meet, discuss and exchange with others who share the same interests or work on similar policy issues in different regions.</p>
	<p>Policy learning discovery zone</p> <p>Let's talk!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 – 11:50: Thematic events! Explore a world of possibilities and how to take part.
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00	<i>End of the event</i>



SMART



GREEN



CONNECTED



SOCIAL



CITIZENS



GOVERNANCE

#europecooperates

Study visits

Study visits are organised on 20 March in the afternoon (14:00-17:00) and on 21 March in the morning (10:00-12:30)

Draw inspiration from visits to interesting sites and discover good practices in and around Antwerp together with the thematic experts of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform.

Three alternatives:

- **Visit 1: Discover digital Antwerp with our experts**
Discover the port of Antwerp-Bruges, wide open gates for tech innovation, and a testing ground and a place of innovation. Together with the port community and their partners, they turn today's challenges such as energy transition, digitalisation and mobility into solutions.
- **Visit 2: Go green and dive into sustainable Antwerp**
Discover Circuit, a circular playground for everyone who wants to live sustainably, animated by Kringwinkel Antwerp, owner of the good practice: the collection.
At Circuit, you take the first steps towards a sustainable life: shopping in the second-hand range of the thrift store or choosing from local circular products.
- **Visit 3: Take a look at the Antwerp's cultural heritage and its future**
Discover good practices and draw inspiration from the Recapture the Fortress Cities project in Antwerp. Discover a true 'Time Machine', allowing to virtually travel between past, present, and future of Fort Lillo.

More information about the study visits:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/event/europecooperates2024/program/32459>

Policy learning discovery zone

Explore what the Policy Learning Platform offers in an interactive discovery zone during the event.

- Meet our experts and take part in talks and discussions
- Take a look at policy solutions and good practices available through the Platform
- Get information on how you could also benefit from services such as peer reviews
- Take note of the next upcoming Platform events and activities and get new policy inspiration!

#europecooperates