



Sharing Expertise

Evidence in Interreg - INTERACT's work and observations

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Efforts so far

- Departure point** Ex post evaluation of Interreg III
2012-2013 „Capturing the results of territorial cooperation“
- 2012 - ongoing** Support to design of 2014-2020 Interreg programmes
Work on cooperation-specific indicators
Collection of data and analysis of programme results
- Spring 2014** Analysis of ex ante evaluation findings
- Autumn 2014** Interreg scoping study, Task 3: analysis of programme objectives, proposed results and ways of measurement. Purpose: identify data needs and data gaps



Ex-post Evaluation of INTERREG III

Only around half of the programmes focussed their financial resources on a limited number of priority topics (*Strand A*)

Programmes generally adopted broad intervention strategies which did not concentrate financial support on a limited number of priority topics (*Strand B*)



What did Interreg programmes deliver?

New and maintained jobs

Support to business development

18.000 km of roads, routes, railways etc

Investments in environment, waste management, energy efficiency

BUT

Similar outputs are delivered also by the Objective 1 and 2 programmes. Why finance the same?



Programmes also produced

New and extended cooperation networks

Cooperation agreements

Joint cultural, natural, urban and rural actions

Trainings and events with half a million participants

BUT

What has changed as a result of these for the people and businesses in the programme area?



”Capture” exercise

- “Capture” exercise revealed that it was impossible to establish programme results also for the 2007-2013 programmes
- The understanding of what is a result is very diverse (three categories were sensed: integration related, socio-economic development related and capacity building related)
- The role of cooperation is often unclear - i.e. Why do something through cooperation if e.g. Mainstream programmes can deliver the same at a lower cost and effort?
- The understanding of territorial cohesion; what role cooperation plays and how territorial cooperation works is only beginning to appear



“Capture” exercise – the three types of Interreg results

- **Integration related** - requires data on territorial, but also economic and social (societal) cohesion, cross-border / transnational mobility and developments
- **Socio-economic development related** - the 'usual' socio-economic data
- **Capacity building related** - evidence of changes induced by individual / organisational learning



Preparations of Interreg 2014-2020

- Supporting programmes with design of intervention logics and harmonisation of output indicators
- Analysis of findings of ex ante evaluations
- Quantitative data - problems with data availability and comparability on levels below NUTS 2
- Qualitative data - requires effort and resources

- General problem - if Interreg investments lack focus (thematic, territorial, on specific target groups) and are fragmented, the results will be insignificant and impossible to attribute with or without good data



KEEP database: keep.eu

KEEP's mission

To provide information regarding Interreg, IPA and ENPI CBC projects and partners to all interested parties

What KEEP is

A database containing information both on ongoing and finalised Interreg (and external cooperation) projects and partners since 2000. It is continuously updated

KEEP is also an online search engine. The data received from programmes is processed and geolocalised

KEEP offers diverse search criteria for users to access the information they need

KEEP: How much data?

(updated in KEEP's section 'About data', last update on 15 September 2014)

Territorial Cooperation projects, per Strand and Instrument - overall and in KEEP

Strands / Instruments	2000-2006 programming period			2007-2013 programming period		
	Overall no. of projects	No. of projects in KEEP	% of projects in KEEP	Overall no. of projects	No. of projects in KEEP	% of projects in KEEP
Cross-border	8 881	3 965	45%	6 860	5 762	84%
Transnational	1 208	1 117	92%	1 253	1 031	82%
Interregional - Networking	360	356	99%	337	327	97%
ENPI cross-border				772	582	75%
IPA cross-border				661	569	86%
Overall	10 449	5 438	52%	9 883	8 271	84%



KEEP illustrated

Search for projects and partners

Search: Innovation
Themes:
Keywords:
Strands:
Source:
Period:
Programmes: All
Project status:
NUTS Lead Partners:
NUTS Project Partners:

New Search

Refine Search

NUTS Regions On

Export as image

The map displays project locations across Europe, with markers numbered 1 through 25. A popup window for the South West Regional Authority in the UK provides the following information:

Institution name:
South West Regional Authority

Projects:
[Directing Research into Viable Enterprise for Growth](#)

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Analysis of programme achievements

- Compilation of good practices in the field of tourism and culture
- Analysis of energy projects financed by Interreg programmes
- Analysis of cross-border maritime cooperation
- OECD (supported by Nordregio) study on cross-border cooperation in fields of innovation and SME support
- Programme and macro-regional strategy evaluation reports
- Relevant studies commissioned by countries (Poland, Germany, Norway, Nordic Council of Ministers), including ESPON studies



Some observations

- Most available evidence tells what cooperation does and in what areas rather than what results it delivers?
- In surprisingly many cases cooperation is seen as capacity building tool rather than instrument for cohesion
- Territorial cohesion data: policy alignment, data collection and analysis - what is the most appropriate scale? EU, macro-regional / transnational, cross-border (regional and/or local)?
- Cooperation is interaction between people. Qualitative data is needed to capture this. Currently very little is available (Peace). An online museum of European stories? Can we use Eurobarometre?



Interreg scoping study

- **Task 1:** analysis of ESIF investment priorities vis-a-vis their relevance for territorial cooperation. Prioritisation of topics for future cross-programme analysis and learning
- **Task 2:** desk study of cross-border labour mobility in EU
- **Task 3:** analysis of 2014-2020 Interreg programme objectives, result indicators and data needs. Identification of commonalities, good practices & data gaps, suggestions for EU level action, where deemed appropriate

Results available before the end of 2014



Future plans

- KEEP for 2014-2020
- Thematic studies, accompanied with capacity building activities (one every two years)
- Thematic networks of stakeholders from cooperation areas working on similar issues: partly through Interact, partly through Interreg Europe
- Follow-up to Scoping Study conclusions on cross-border and transnational data
- Monitor closely the ex post evaluation of Interreg 2007-2014



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