



European Policies  
Research Centre

# European Territorial Cooperation: Adding value and ...complexity?

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# EUROPEAN POLICIES RESEARCH CENTRE

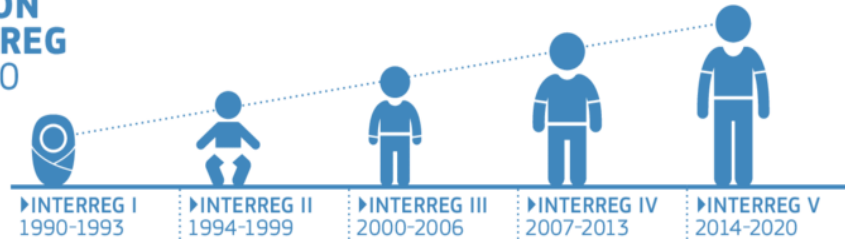
- Research institute founded 1978, 17 staff + associates
  - Based in Glasgow (University of Strathclyde) and in Delft (Technical University since 2017)
- Comparative research on **regional and local development policies**
  - particular interest in ETC
- **Research, knowledge exchange & policy advice** for national governments & sub-national authorities
- **Collaboration** with EU institutions and programmes
  - Interreg and Interact programme evaluations and programming support



# Interreg



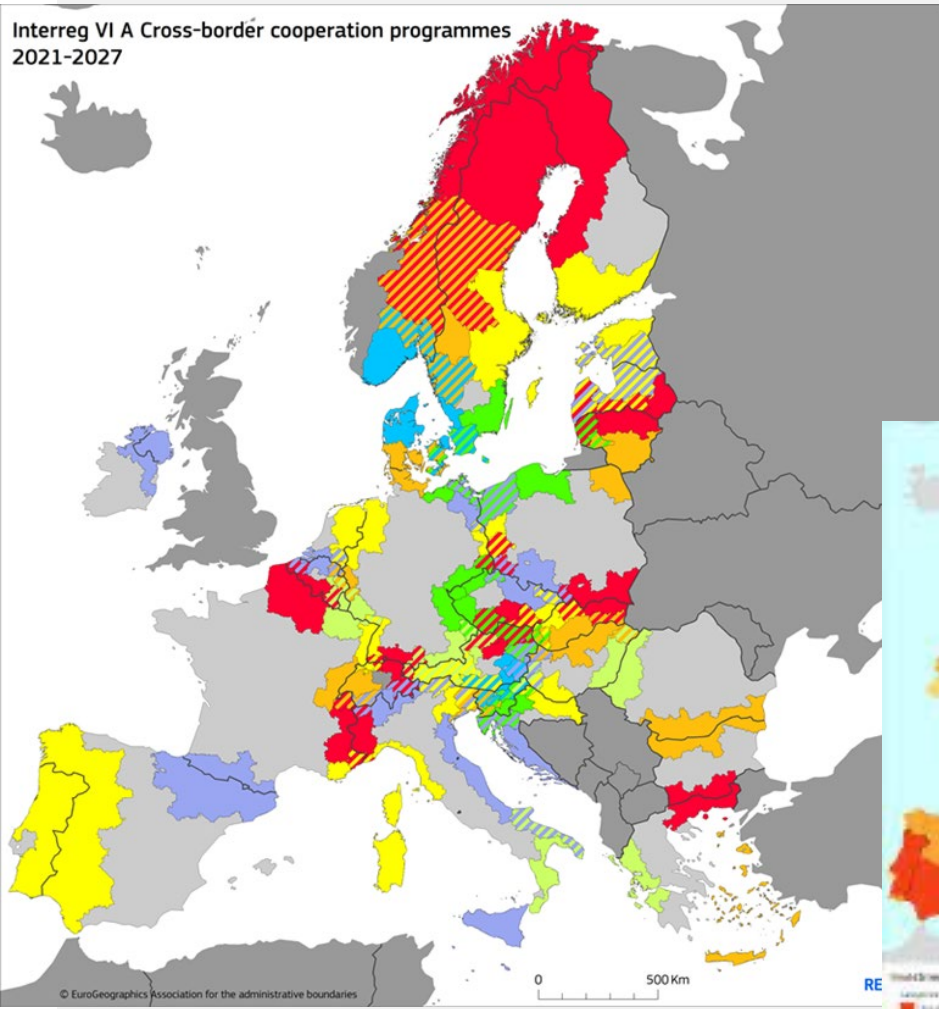
## EVOLUTION OF INTERREG 1990-2020



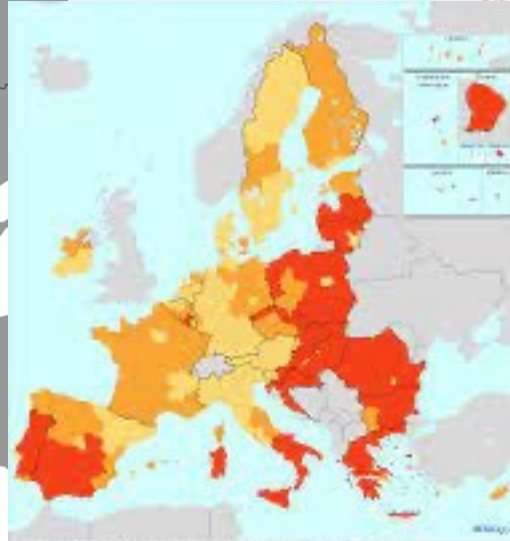
LEGAL STATUS	COMMUNITY INITIATIVE		INTEGRATED INTO STRUCTURAL FUNDS REGULATION		OWN REGULATION
BENEFITING MEMBER STATES (INTERNAL BORDERS)	11	11 — then — 15	15 — then — 25	27 — then — 28	28
COMMITMENT BUDGET (IN CURRENT PRICES)	ECU 1.1 BN	ECU 3.8 BN	EUR 5.8 BN	EUR 8.7 BN	EUR 10.1 BN

- **Cross border** – Interreg A cooperation between regions from two or more Member States. Regions on the borders or adjacent to them
- **Transnational** - Interreg B regions from several countries. Promote better cooperation and regional development
- **Interregional** - Interreg C pan-European level, builds networks to develop good practice and facilitate the exchange

# Interreg VI A Cross-border cooperation programmes 2021-2027



Source: DG Regio



RE Investment for jobs and growth just (ERDF and ERDF) eligibility, 2021-2027

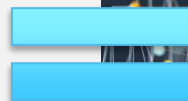
Legend:

- Red: No eligible region (ERDF and ERDF) in the area
- Orange: Eligible region (ERDF and ERDF) in the area
- Yellow: No eligible region (ERDF and ERDF) in the area

# ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITY

## Interreg

- Multiple areas
- Multiple jurisdictions
- Multiple levels of governance
- Multiple thematic areas



**Complex!**

# UNCERTAIN ENVIRONMENT

## Unknowns

- Changes linked to
  - Covid
  - Brexit
  - International relations
  - Climate change

## Opportunities

- Commitment to future cooperation
- Need for new thinking and innovation
- Need cooperation to manage complexity

## Managing complexity...

- **Programming/Planning:** Robust starting point/foundation, e.g. rationale, area analysis
- **Technical harmonisation and simplification:** important steps taken (*but can get lost in the addition of new requirements...*)
- **Sharing knowledge and expertise:** Interact, development of joint/shared systems
- **Trust and capacity building:** complexity can come from lack of understanding and resource
- **Clear, timely regulations and guidance:** Clear understanding, simple texts that are agreed in time
- **'Make peace' with some level of complexity**

# Thanks for your attention

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