

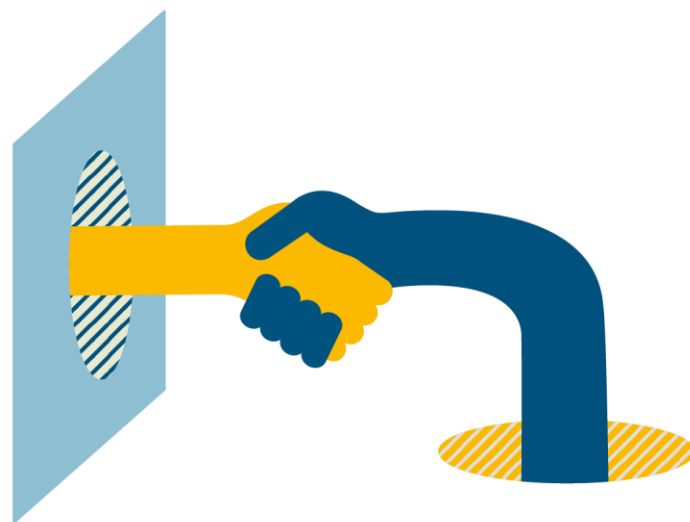
# Results of the Survey

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Spending 2007-2013 lessons learnt  
6-7 December 2017 | Munich, Germany

 @InteractEU

**Aija Prince, Interact Programme**



# Survey on 2007–2013 programmes' spending level

- Initiative of one Interreg programme
- Survey conducted in **February 2017**
- **26** out of **77** programmes participated
- ~**34%** of all programmes from **2007-2013**
- Participating programmes with **45. – 400.** million budget

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## Aim:

- To sum up the experience of previous programming period
- To provide recommendations
- To support in more effective use of the funding



# Survey summarises

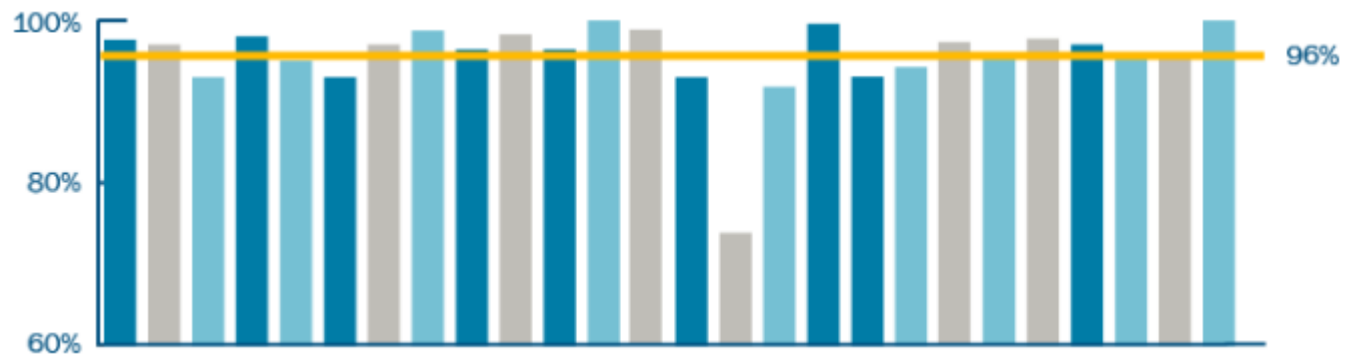
- The spending level achieved during **2007-2013**
- The main bottlenecks identified
- Trends detected to ensure high spending level
- The main methods used to overcome challenges and to increase overall spending levels
- Ideas for current period



# Programme spending level

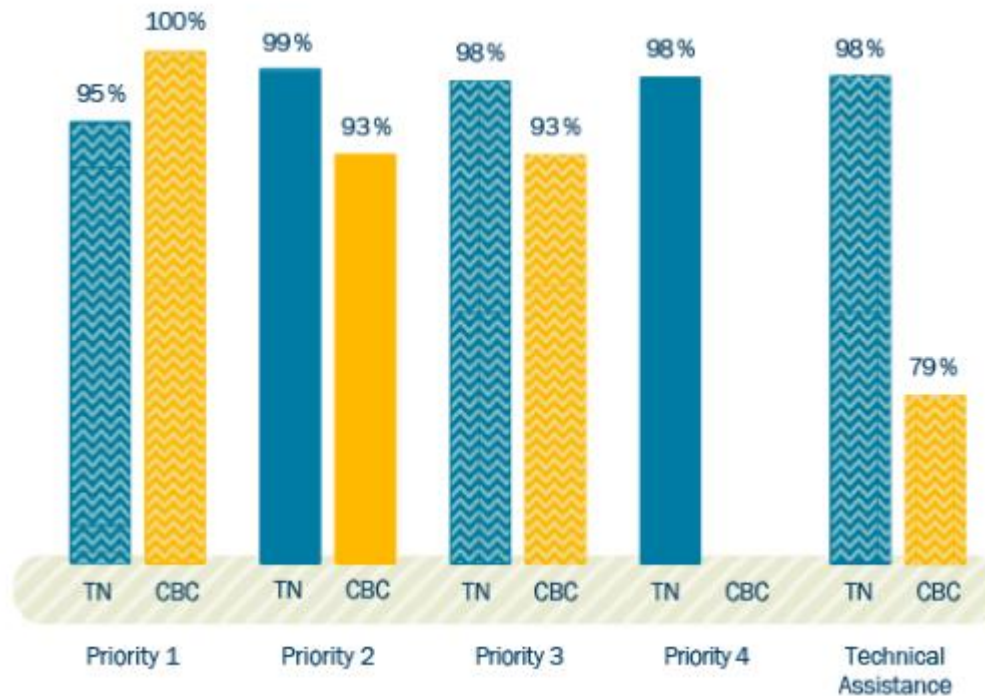
Final spending rates - 73% - 100%

Average per programme



# Programme spending level (2)

Spending per priority (example)

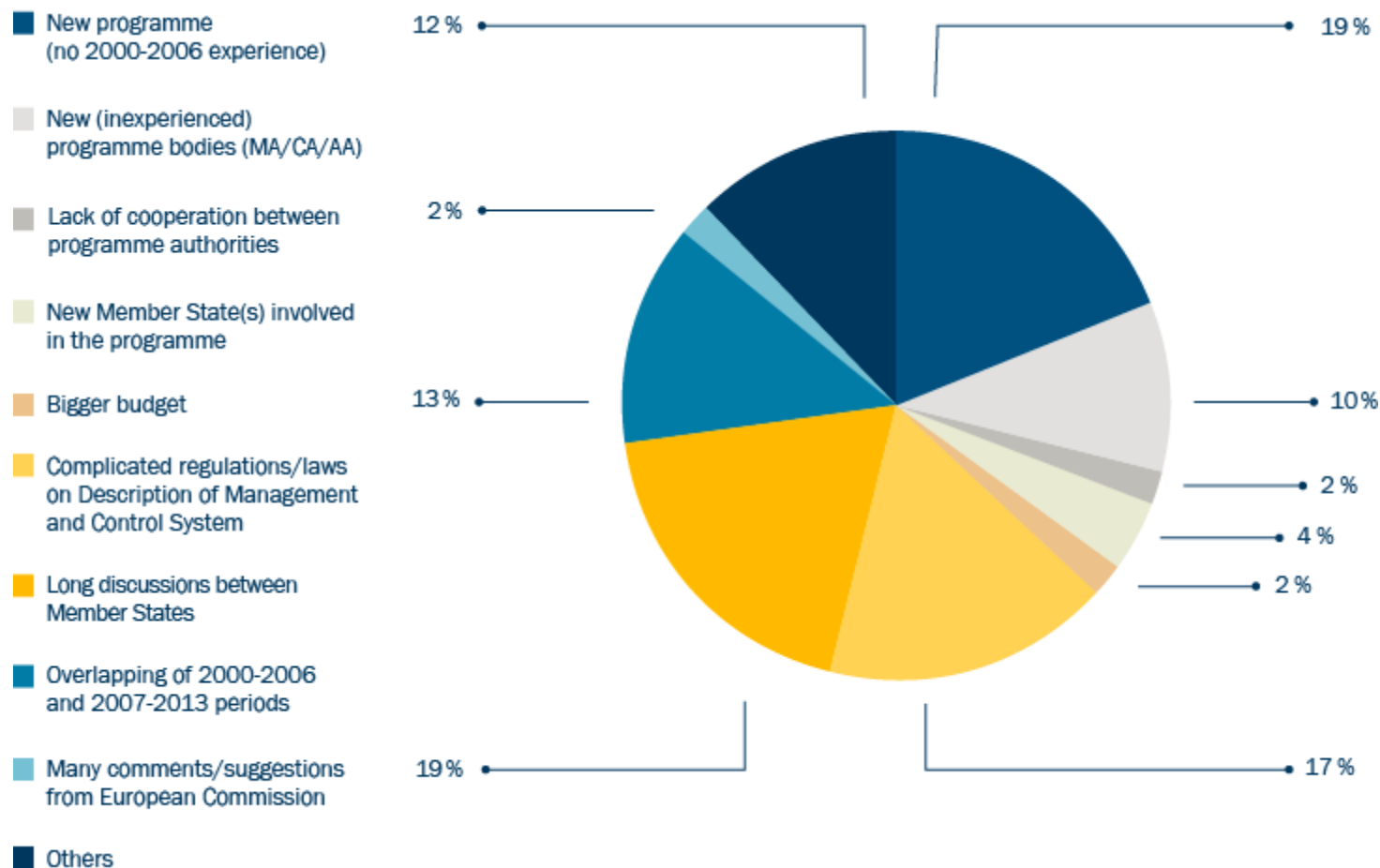


# Factors influencing programmes spending (programme preparation)

- Approval of OP
- Application procedures
- First calls, reports and reimbursements
- The percentage of budget allocations to the first call
- Planning calls
- Additional calls
- Over-commitment
- Waiting list(s)
- Changing co-financing rates
- Additional allocation to already approved projects
- Other



# Reasons for late programme approval



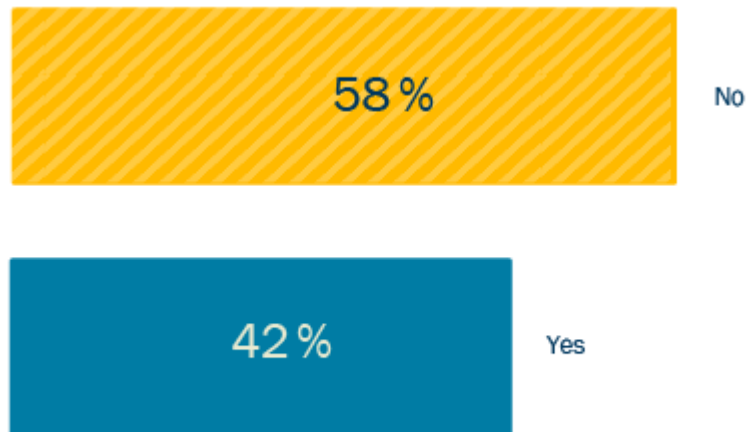
# Period between the first call opened and the first reimbursement of the programme

Period	The shortest	The longest
Time between first call opened and first projects contracted	4 months	14 months
Time between first projects contracted and first reports submitted	3 months	11 months
Time between first reports submitted and first reimbursement	Less than 1 month	12 months
Time between first call opened and first projects reimbursement	11 months	23 months





# Additional calls



- restricted to just some beneficiaries
- restricted to just one/some of the programme priorities or topics
- calls for clusters, 100% ERDF financed, there were three themes: maritime environment; economic development and eco-construction/energy-efficiency
- seed money calls and calls for extensions for the ongoing projects
- calls for short projects with limited budget
- regular additional calls, with no budgetary or thematic restrictions



# Additional allocations to already approved projects



- projects could apply for additional funding to cover some additional activities, which had to contribute to the original targets of the projects
- projects could get additional funding for capitalisation activities
- in justified cases, projects received additional allocations to cover overspending of their budgets.
- special calls for extensions for the ongoing projects were open.

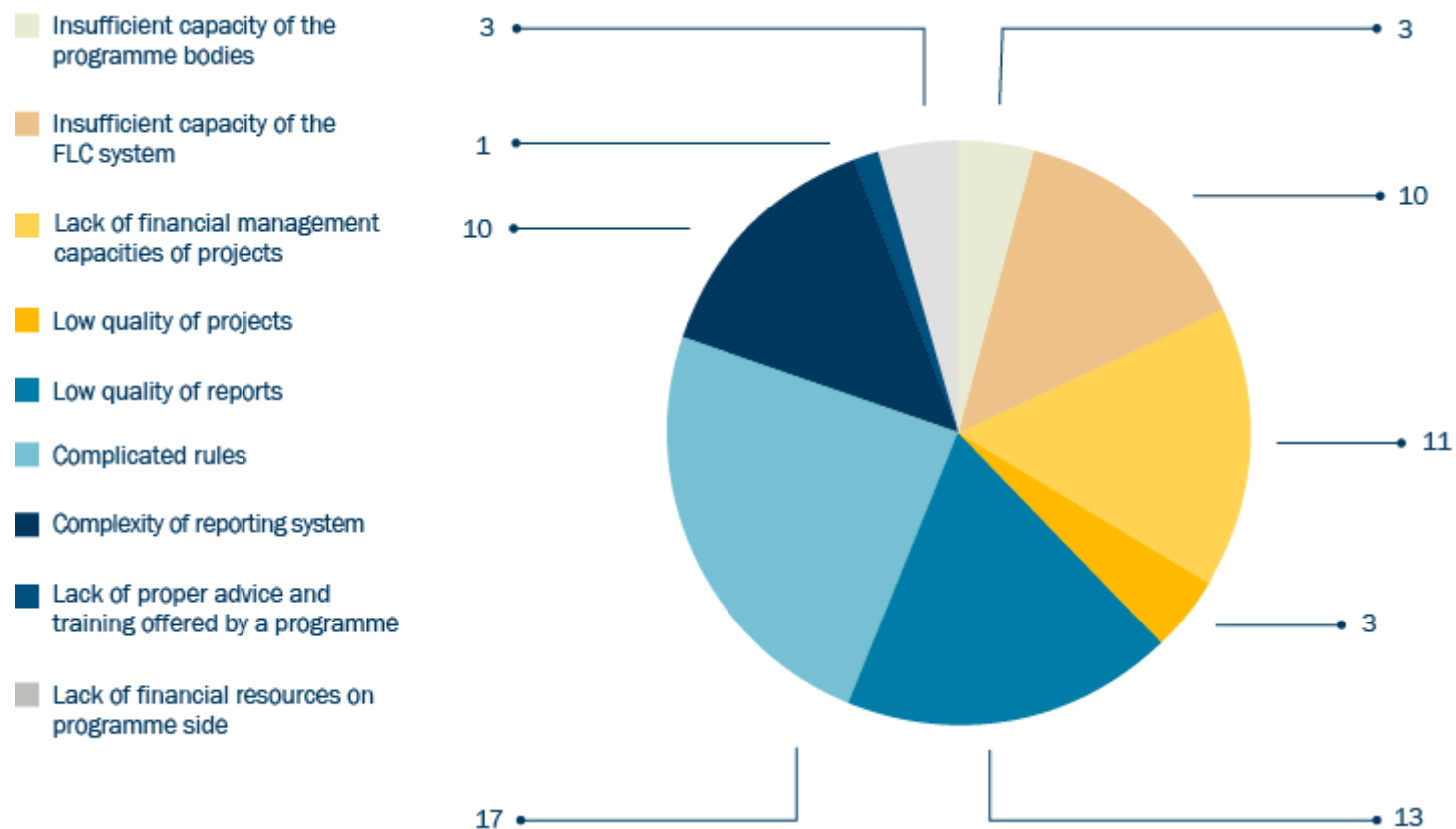


# Factors influencing programmes spending (project level)

- Projects spending forecast
- Projects reporting
- Projects budgets cuts
- Projects modifications
- Reimbursements



# Bottlenecks in project reporting



# Factors influencing programmes spending (programme level)

- Management and control systems
- De-commitment
- Error rate
- Programme interruptions
- Payment claims to EC
- Modifications of the OP
- Programme closure



# De-commitment

Did your programme face de-commitment?

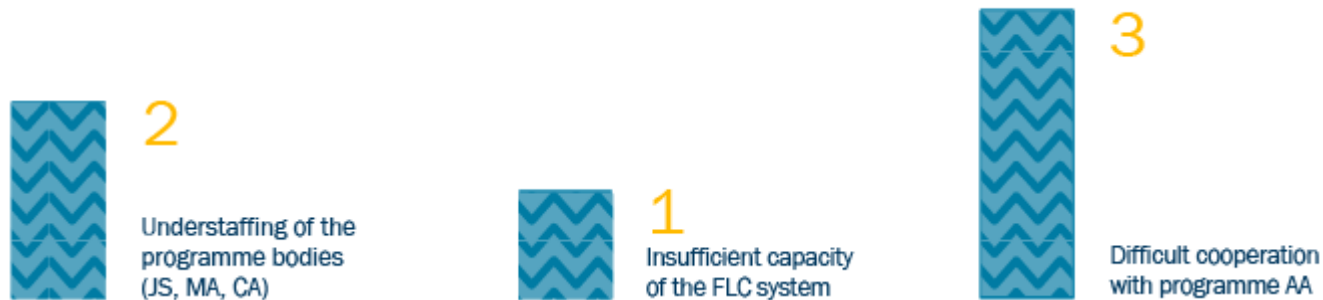


Reasons:

- high commitment targets set for a new Programme
- few initial applications
- late approval of the programme by the EC



# Bottlenecks in programme claiming from the Commission



# Programme closure

Did you use the 10% flexibility rule over priority axis at closure?



How is the 5% retention financed?

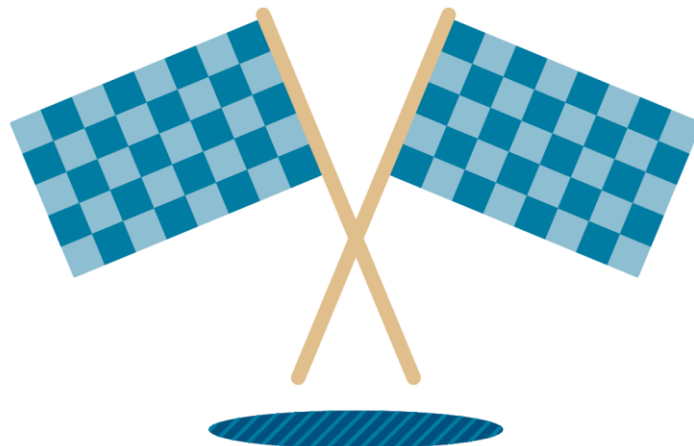
- Member States own budget
- National co-financing for TA
- Interest on the programme account
- Regional funds





# Conclusions

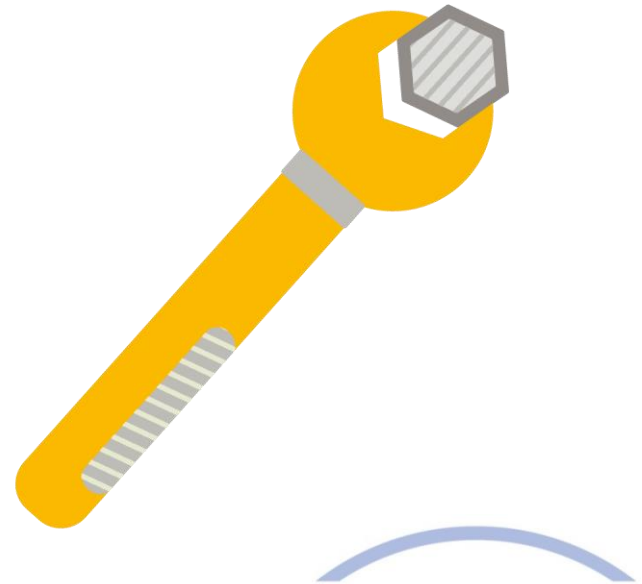
- 2007-2013 was a challenging period National co-financing for TA
- Really high spending rate among participating programmes
- There is not one universal method to ensure high spending rate
- Mixture of available methods is the best solution
- Effective use is the key i.e. best use of as much funds as possible for implementation of valuable and high quality projects!



# Mostly used methods

Over 50% of participating programmes used the following methods:

- Additional funds allocated towards already approved projects
- Obligatory projects spending plans in the Application Form
- Allowing many projects modifications
- Allowing additional / interim projects reports
- Modifying their own Operational Programme.



# Other commonly used methods

Over 30% of participating programmes used the following methods:

- Organisation of additional calls
- Over-commitment of funds
- Waiting list(s) of projects to be approved once funds are available
- Cutting the budget of under spending projects



# Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

**[www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)**

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