

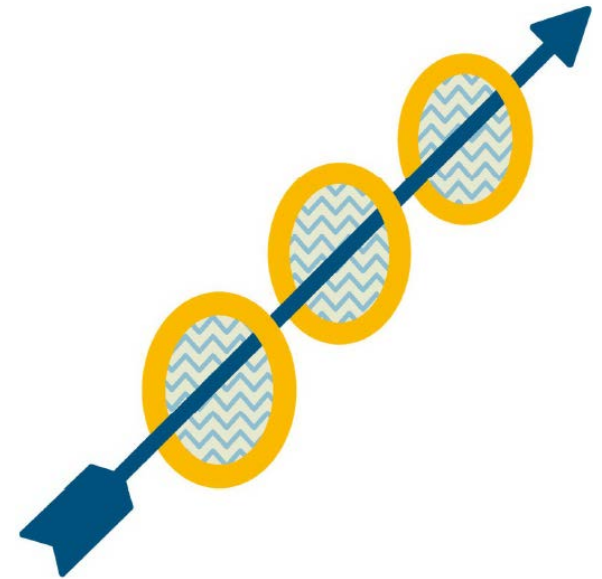
Raising project quality in Interreg

Workshop for beginners

25 October 2018 | Pisa, Italy

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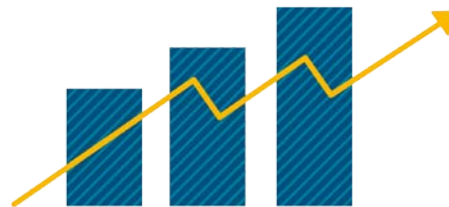


For the programmes it is important to continuously improve the quality of projects because they are supported by public money.

It is their moral and professional obligation to spend their programme budget efficiently

The projects need to prove their value, because:

1. Interreg contributes to the solutions to common challenges in the programme areas
2. Interreg is a good example where European identity can be created
3. Interreg gives the possibility to work beyond national borders and make a visible change
4. The clear evidence can convince decision makers about the added-value of Interreg and secure the future of cooperation in Europe





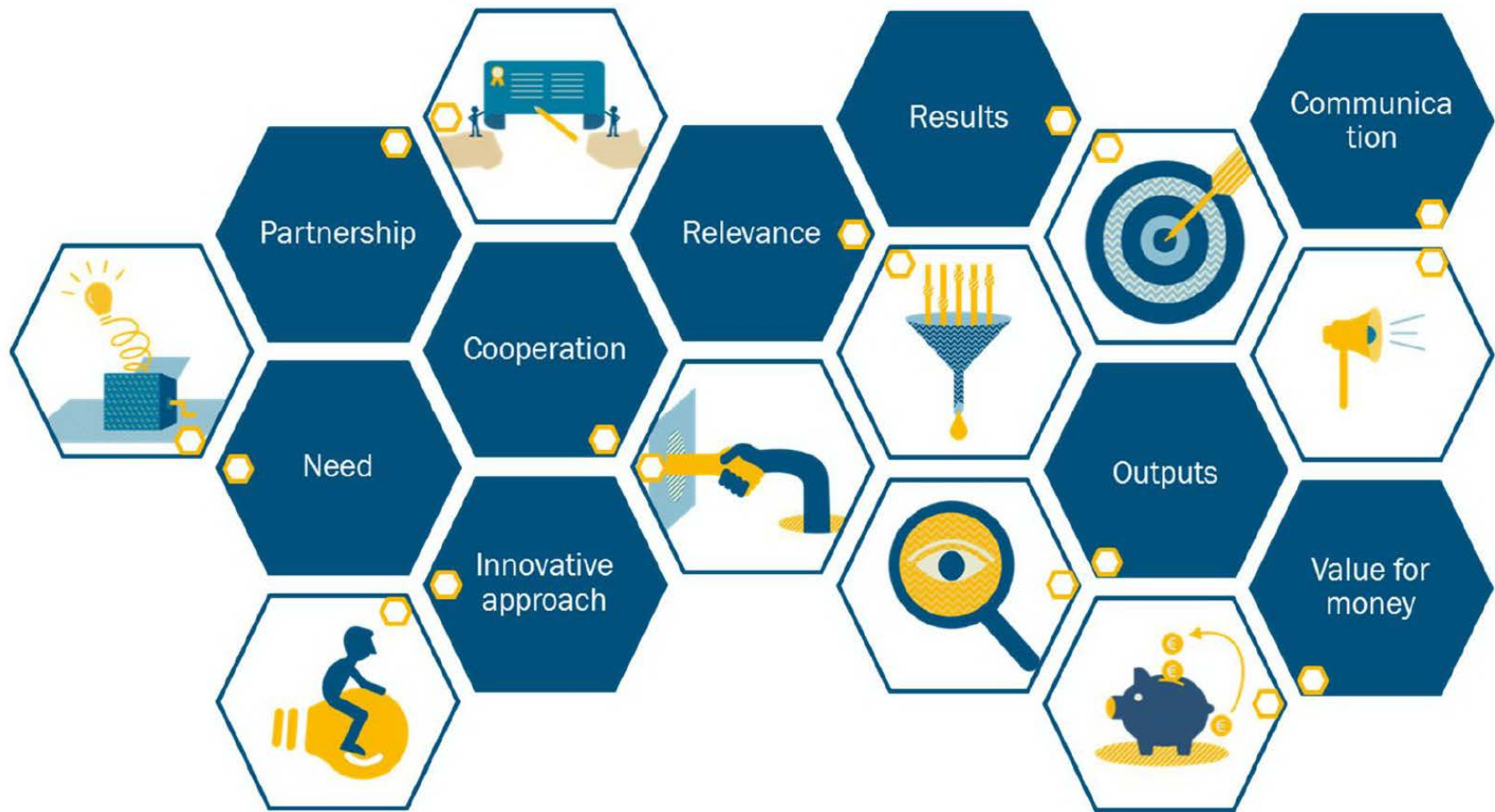
Quality project formula

$$2+2\geq 5$$



**What are the quality
characteristics of Interreg
projects?**

The quality project characteristics:



The quality project characteristics:

Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be a clear need/real demand for a project. • The need is on the regional and/or programme area level. • The need is common/joint on both sides of the border.
Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has a common denominator to become a basis for cooperation. • It's a win-win solution through cooperation. • Project results are not achievable without partners across the border, or they are achievable but are not of a sufficient quality without the partners across the border. • Cooperation is a pre-condition and needs to bring added-value to the project. • Cooperation starts at the development stage and continues after the funding from the programme finishes. • There has to be a benefit/positive effects out of cooperation.

The quality project characteristics:

Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners need to be able to deliver outputs and achieve agreed results

Examples of types of partners

Coordinating beneficiary concept (NSR)

P: For small organisations (e.g., small municipalities, SMEs) lacking the internal capacity to be involved in the project, and to limit the administrative burden.

Advisory partners (IE)

Partners light concept (BE-NL)

For partners that participate for just a limited period, mostly SMEs.

Sub-partners (NWE)

Programme's general principle is to work with full partners only, but organisations without the financial capacity to participate in a project or which only wish to participate to a limited degree in a project (e.g., in one or two activities) may participate as sub-partners.

The quality project characteristics:

Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Innovative approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is built on previous results and it avoids overlaps and replications (evolution of ideas). • The project goes beyond existing solutions and the state of play in the sector and/or the region. • New or improved aspect of the project could be the uptake of existing technology (e.g., the application of research). • The activities and the outputs are additional to what is being done now in the partner organisations (no business as usual). • There are clear benefits compared to existing approaches.
Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project and its results contribute significantly to the programme strategy and its objectives. • The local solutions are embedded in the long-term strategies.

The quality project characteristics:

Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change achieved jointly. • The effects of the project need to be long-term. • Contribute to programme results. • Need to start to be achieved within the project lifetime. • “Failure” can also be a result (i.e., failure to prove starting hypothesis of a project/negative result). • Need to be measurable.

Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs are used by target groups which enable achievement of results. • Outputs are “kept alive” after the project end. • Project is sustainable; i.e., outputs are used after the project ends.

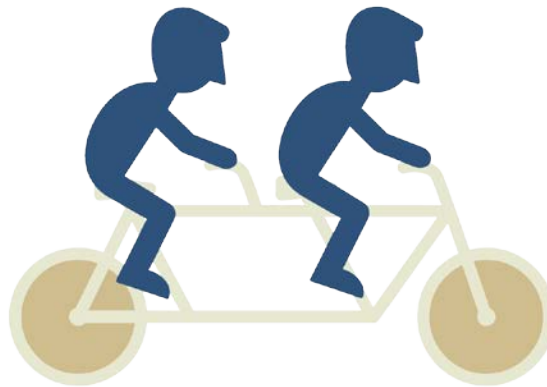
The quality project characteristics:

Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project budget is used in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Group	Interreg project quality characteristics
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple and clear communication towards the programme and the external stakeholders. • The project has a story to tell. • There is a clear communication strategy/plan/vision. • The project targets only the relevant/core stakeholders/target groups. • If relevant, the project appeals to the public to show concrete solutions to real problems (show how Interreg can help you).

Optional elements of good project quality

Transferability of outputs - is the ability to "sell" the outputs beyond the project itself. If outputs are of good quality it is more likely that they will be transferred.



Multiplier effect - projects should trigger new projects/cooperation

A programme is like a coffee machine



The projects are the coffee beans



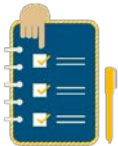
Quality coffee is the key to a perfect espresso



How do we increase quality? Phases



1. Guidance for projects



2. Project assessment



3. Project selection and complaints



4. Project implementation



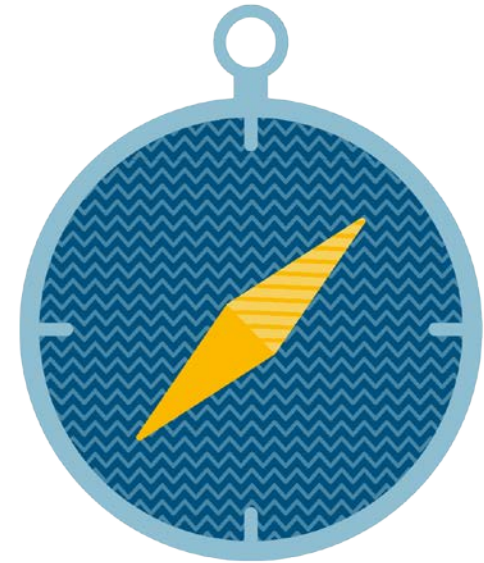
5. Project reporting and quality check



6. Project underperformance and follow up activities

1. Guidance for projects

- Internal capacity building inside the JTS
- Consultation with projects
- Face-to-face and online meetings
- Information events / days
- Written / audio-visual guidance
- Use of website and social media



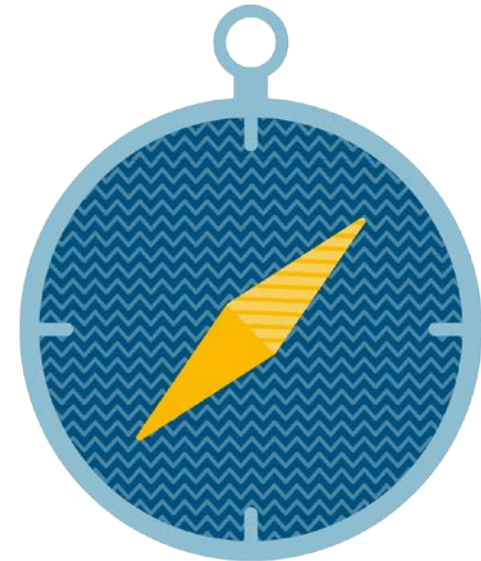
1. Guidance for projects - continued

- Project quality self-check
 - Self-assessment tool
 - Calls for proposals
 - Evaluations of the calls
 - Information in the application stage
- Seed money

2-step calls

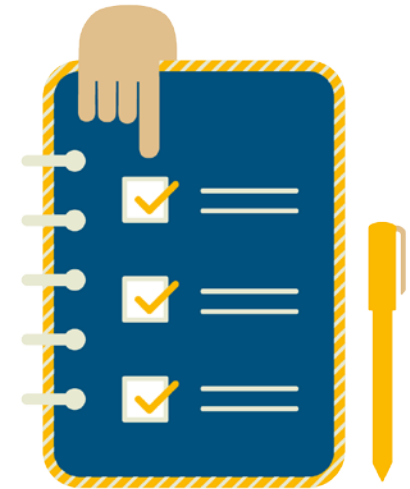
Ongoing

Limitations



2. Project assessment

- Two-step assessment
- The procedures: external, internal, mix
- Scoring systems: quantitative/qualitative
- Additional points ¿?
- Creation of ranking of projects
- Separation advisors / assessors



3. Project selection and complaints

- Definition of quality project
- Organise workshops for MC
- Conflict of interests
- Role play



4. Project implementation

- Speed up the contracting phase
- Recommendations vs. negotiation
- Budget cuts
- Guidance to partners
- Withdrawal of partners
- Delivery assurance
- Team building / create confidence



5. Project reporting and quality check

- Check deliverables and outputs
- Active involvement of stakeholders
- Manage available knowledge
- Keep track of indicators
- Deliver results on time
- Manage risks and challenges
- Sustainability of results. *Capitalisation!*



6. Underperformance and follow-up

- Not just financial underspending!
- Risks of budget cuts!
- Other corrective measures 😞
- Programme evaluation and checks
- Monitoring project's outputs and results. *Capitalisation!*
- Sustainability of partnership and lessons learned.



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

www.interact-eu.net