

From vision to intervention

19-20 November 2019

Antwerp, Belgium

Meeting report

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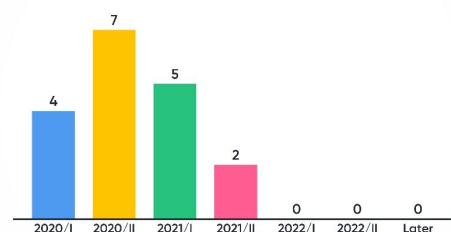
Outlines

Post-2020 is rapidly approaching and the preparations for the next programming period have already started. Even if the relevant EU regulations are not yet approved. However, as the overall set-up and framework for post-2020 is known, this is a good moment to start a step ahead of what many of us would consider the 'real programming process'. Before discussing and constructing a very concrete Interreg programme for 2021-2027, there is a need to set a vision. A vision from which then later derives the intervention (logic) of the single programme. The starting point is not necessarily the individual strategy of an individual Interreg programme. It could (or should?) be the strategy of a certain territory, a strategy how to tackle certain issues – with the combined and coordinated support of Interreg and other funding programmes.

The event consisted of three parts:

- What is Interreg's vision and niche post-2020?
- Where can cooperation make a change?
- Preparing the programming
 - o Setting up the process
 - o Stakeholders' involvement

When do you plan to submit your CP?



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Looking at the 'final step', the submission of the CP to the European Commission, the programmes participating in the event indicated the above 'schedule' (despite the regulations not yet being approved).

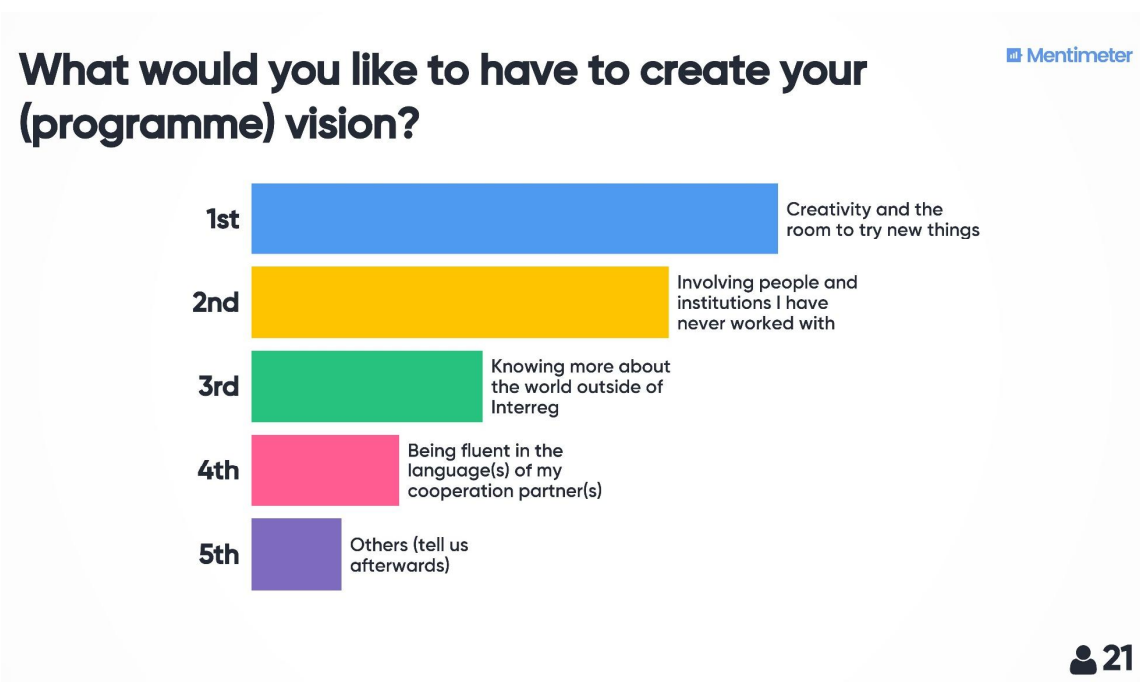
What is Interreg's vision and niche post-2020?

The first session aimed at delivering the message that 'We need a vision' for programming. Hence, it was about setting the scene for the individual programme programming. It was about describing where cooperation across borders is provides added value – and where not. It was about identifying which is the niche of Interreg in the bigger picture and world of various funding sources. To find its right place and to use Interreg for what it is good at. Using the key words of Christian Råbergh's presentation, the key messages of this session were:

- RETHINK: When creating your (programme) vision, do not limit yourself, your thinking by administrative borders, by your programme area, by doing things the same way they have always been done. Take territoriality as the starting point for creating a (programme) vision.
- REUSE: At the same time, build the future on results and experiences from the past.
- REDUCE: Reduce overlaps and create complementarities (superadditivity) by creating a vision for a wider territory and then finding out where Interreg/your programme can contribute to, can make a difference – which then helps overcoming projectification.

The presentations by Christian Råbergh and Vassilen Iotzov (ESPON) are included in the overall presentation file ([here](#)).

During the session, an online voting tool was used to collect input and feedback from the participants to the issue of visioning. Here are the results:





Where can cooperation make a change?

This session was about providing concrete (thematic) examples of where Interreg is good at. To help those involved in shaping the different Interreg programmes to create programmes using the opportunities Interreg provides to its full extent.

The presentations by Mihaela Piroi and Marcela Glodeanu (Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria), Ruut Louwers (Interreg V-B North West Europe) and Michał Ostrowski (Interreg V-A South Baltic) are included in the overall presentation file ([here](#)).

Preparing the programming process (process / stakeholders' involvement)

The second day of the event was about 'How to turn a vision into an intervention'. This part of the event was about to create an understanding of the programming process itself. From the different steps to be taken until the programme approval by the EC to the relevant actors and stakeholders to be involved in the process.

Setting up the process

The objective of the session was to discuss the programming process including its main activities, from the first decision on establishing a new programme until its submission to the EC. The main outcome of this work will be a comprehensive table, sort of a "road map" or a "check list" where all the relevant steps and activities are listed and described. Such road map would serve as a guidance for anyone who is involved in the programming process. After the event, participants will receive a draft of the table for comments (expected in the 2nd week of December). After completion, the list will be available to everybody in the library section of the Interact website [here](#).

Stakeholders' involvement

There will be many people involved in the process of preparing the future programme. All of them can be called stakeholders. Stakeholders are all organisations and individuals that have a vested interest in the programme. They will either have a direct effect on the programme or they will be affected by it.

At this event, we looked at stakeholders that will influence the drafting of the Cooperation Programme. In general, we can divide them in three main groups: programme preparation group, thematic expert groups, external stakeholders.

Stakeholders will be different in each programme because of different countries involved. It is important for each programme to first map all possible stakeholders they will need to involve in the programme preparation. This should be done in each programming period because people and organisations change over time.

We mapped stakeholders that will influence drafting of CP and discussed to what extent will they influence it. Some types of stakeholders will be similar in all programmes and some will depend on priorities chosen by the programme. So the mapping might need to be repeated once the priorities are known.

During a role-play type of activity, we set up the programming group and some of the stakeholders that will normally be involved in the programming. Learning points from this exercise:

- Programme preparation group reported how difficult it is for them to fulfil their task because of the pressure they feel from all sides. It was quick difficult for them to focus on the preparation of the CP but they reported more motivation towards agreeing on the common vision of the territory.
- The future Managing Authority appeared to be an important connection between the programming group and other stakeholders.
- Citizens expressed their wished to be involved more, to be heard because we are discussing their needs in the territory.
- It is important for thematic experts to listen to their opinion.

How to work with stakeholders depends on which stakeholders we are talking about (programming group or wider stakeholders). Their task in the programming process, level of interest and involvement will be different.

Needs and wishes for Interact support in post-2020 programming

At the end of the meeting, participants voiced the following wishes for Interact support with regard to post-2020 programming:

- PO5: Still very unclear, a separate workshop on this would be appreciated, esp. regarding tourism.
- Clarifying understanding and terminology of 'programme area' vs. 'functional area' vs. 'cross-border area'.
- Partnership principle (CPR Art. 6): what is the level of involvement of stakeholders, which stage, which level, how to involve them?
- Conflict of interest, voting rights, MCs role beyond taking funding decisions

Presentations and other meeting material

All presentations and other meeting material is available online [here](#).