Transfer of project results: mainstreaming activities in public policies

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Report

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On the 12th and 13th of July 2022, in the framework of the workshop promoted by INTERACT on the process of transferring the results of cooperation projects into public policies[1], successful cooperation experience were presented[2].
According and thanks to these experiences, it was possible to start a fruitful exchange that led to the identification and sharing of elements that can most effectively contribute to ensuring the transfer of the results of cooperation projects into public policies at local, regional and national level.
Therefore, the following are the main topics emerged that define a possible pathway.

- [1] The content and the agenda of the workshop are available here: https://www.interact-eu.net/events/transfer-project-results-mainstreaming-activities-public-policies
- [2] The experiences presented during the workshop where related to:
- the INTERREG EUROPE Programme, with specific reference to the tools implemented by the Programme itself to improve local policy making process (Policy Learning Platform);
- the INTERREG MED Programme, with specific reference to the Sustainable Tourism community as Horizontal Project in charge to capitalize and transfer the results achieved by the modular projects;
- the ITALY-FRANCE MARITIME Programme, with specific reference to the ADAPT Project and how Municipalities have been actively involved to prepare strategies for the climate change;
- the cooperation projects promoted by FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA REGION, in order to concretely demonstrate the result achieved by a public Institution.

All the presentation are available here: https://www.interact-eu.net/library#3980-presentations-transfer-project-results-mainstreaming-activities-public-policies

European Regional Development Fund

1. **Start of the process**

The transferring process takes place from the earliest stages of project implementation through the involvement of the best expertise in the relevant field and the development of an adequate and effective capacity to know and identify the real needs to be met, avoiding thus to produce adaptation instead of transfer. A long-term vision of the project will support the achievement of its effects, especially in terms of policy improvement and territorial impact

2. **Involvement of public Institutions**

The transferring process can be truly effective if from the beginning the public institutions are actively involved in the definition and implementation phase of the activities with specific, but not exclusive, reference to the involvement of the stakeholders that on the one hand can guarantee the identification of real needs and on the other hand can ensure sustainability of the actions undertaken through virtuous public-private partnership processes. A further benefit that public institutions may draw from active participation in cooperation projects is the possibility of launching internal reorganisation processes upgrading at the same time their knowledge and skills and the adoption of new approaches for a more adequate definition and implementation of public policies.

3. **Networking**

Besides the importance of ensuring an effective programming capacity together with specific high-profile skills, in order to achieve a transfer process capable of generating effects also in a broader sense, it is necessary to initiate networking activities for the gradual involvement of other players, both public and private, representing other territorial contexts also intercepting other relevant contexts of the programming of resources for development (such as the RRF).

4. **Monitoring**

The above mentioned steps can be the premise for an effective transferring process only if these steps are accompanied by a monitoring of the activities implemented in order to understand their real effectiveness and possibly identify solutions to critical issues.

In any case, any transferring process could be effective without a real commitment by all the players involved at Programme and Project level.

After the presentation of the experiences, the participants to the workshop met in three working groups.
The exchange on the two working days provided an opportunity to share experiences and ideas to be proposed in order to foster this process more effectively.
Participants in the working groups, representing cooperation programmes, projects and stakeholders, provided answers to the following "WH" questions:
- Why the process should start?
- What should be transferred?
- Who should be the main players in the process (giver and taker)?
- What methods/tools/approaches should be used to involve stakeholders?
- What impacts should be identified?

After answering these questions, participants identified possible actions to be proposed in support of the transfer that related to the following categories:

- promotion
- benchmarking
- sharing
- joining
- adopting
- multiplying

The following recommendations have been prepared, as possible actions to propose to programmes, projects and stakeholders:

1. Recommendations for Programmes
- Define and implement every possible action to maximise projects' impacts and results;
- Identify specific funding opportunities to disseminate and transfer the best practices, also through the launch of targeted calls;
- Encourage exchange among Programmes, also through the definition of joint call;
- Define initiatives to improve the links between MA, JS and National Authorities, for example through the establishment of a "Community of capitalizers".

2. Recommendations for projects
- Encourage the participation of public Institutions at every level and at each step of the implementation;
- Pay attention to what "transfer" and "mainstreaming" means in order to focus on the related activities, identifying at the same time concrete and sustainable outputs/verified solutions to be transferred/mainstreamed;
- Improve communication and dissemination activities, with a particular concern to the role of media conveyors.

3. Recommendations for stakeholders/main players
- Encourage the involvement of the private sector to promote specific public/private initiatives.