

Let's exchange and learn!

Workshop on Policy Objective (PO) 5 - #3

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Interact



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Interreg

Agenda

01

Open discussion on implementation issues

02

**Functional areas in Interreg:
Greater Region**

03

Next steps



Exchange Share

Our series of workshops on PO5 is now meant to foster sharing and exchange among programme colleagues

Interreg Italy – Austria (WS in January)

Interreg Greater Region (today!)

Interreg Austria –Bavaria (planned for may 10)

Focus on implementation issues

Questions in the registration

- *What are the critical points?*
- *Ensuring the quality of projects*
- In the framework of the Integrated Territorial Strategy, financing SMEs activities seems to be challenging and we have almost no experience with such beneficiaries
- Projects evaluation / projects selection in functional areas: who will evaluate?
- Call for projects and selection of operations in PO5
- Involvement of structures in the preparation of the calls, best practices of Interreg Greater Region
- *Approach to evaluation, given the specific implementation system*

Critical points

Create / support an implementing body

The strategy implementing body needs to have capacity, skills and room for animating, mobilizing and supporting project generation in an open participative process

MA / JS act as critical friends

Technical issues, legal requirements, compliance with EU legislation (e.g. state aid) – do it as critical friend front of pipe before the project goes to the selection decision on project (contents) by the Strategy Board (local and regional representatives)

A participative approach

The participative approach is the essence (Europe closer to citizens!): Use all methods to achieve that! (Training & information offers, capacity building, work on 'enabling initiatives' in common interest, establishing thematic working groups, project clinics, encourage new approaches to project presentation in selection process etc.

Quality of projects

Project generation

Project generation as an open participative process is the key: PO5 is not about excellence in drafting applications but about projects providing meaningful contributions to the Strategy!

Stakeholders should actively shape and share

Shaping projects means to share perspectives and build in different interests and look into synergies with other projects / initiatives when developing projects (caveat: integrated projects – manageable partnerships)

Continous support in the field

The strategy implementing body should actively support project implementation, and don't forget to built in mechanism for early alert between the implementing body and MA/JS in case a projects goes off-track

Work Materials

Building knowledge

In previous sessions and today we try to provide useful materials as food for thought



Materials on CLLD

An important source for inspiration; see links and materials from previous WS (Oct 19, 2022)



Selection criteria

Selection criteria for one CLLD area from IT-AT as working materials



Recent JRC Handbook on Territorial Strategies

Please share it!



Greater Region

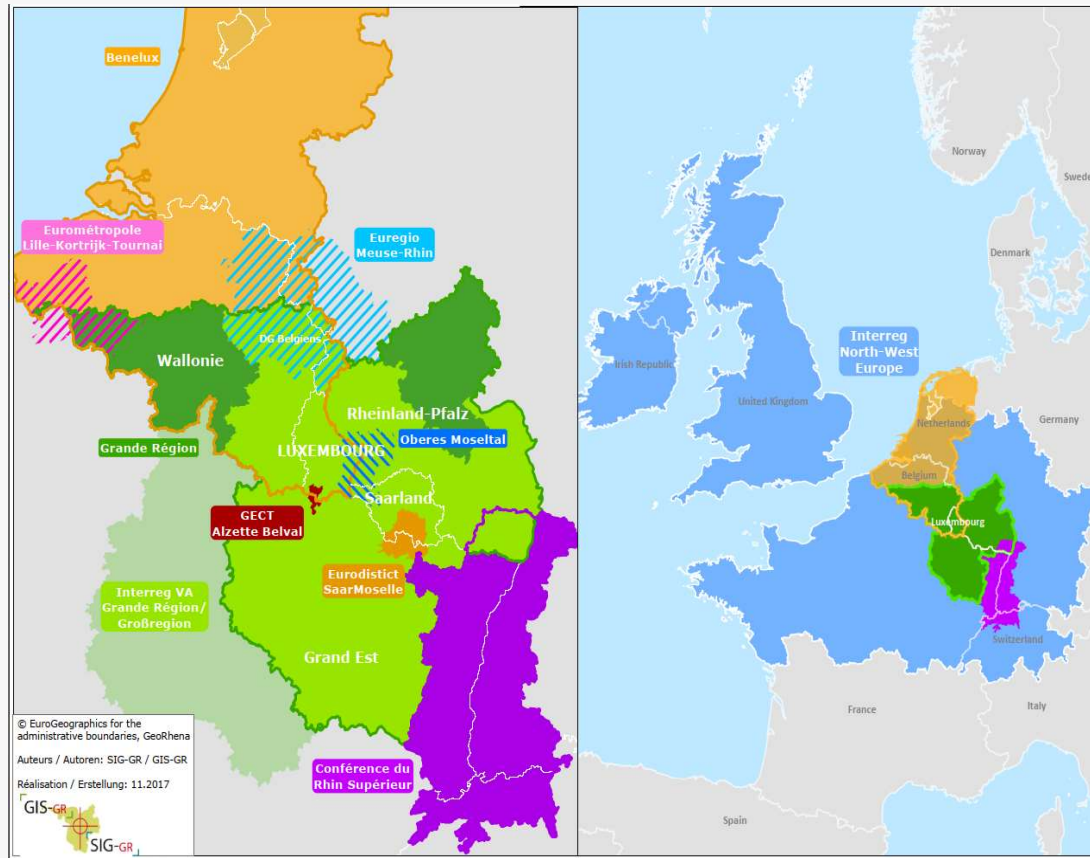
Agreement between MA and functional areas – parts translated to EN (planned)

Learning from examples

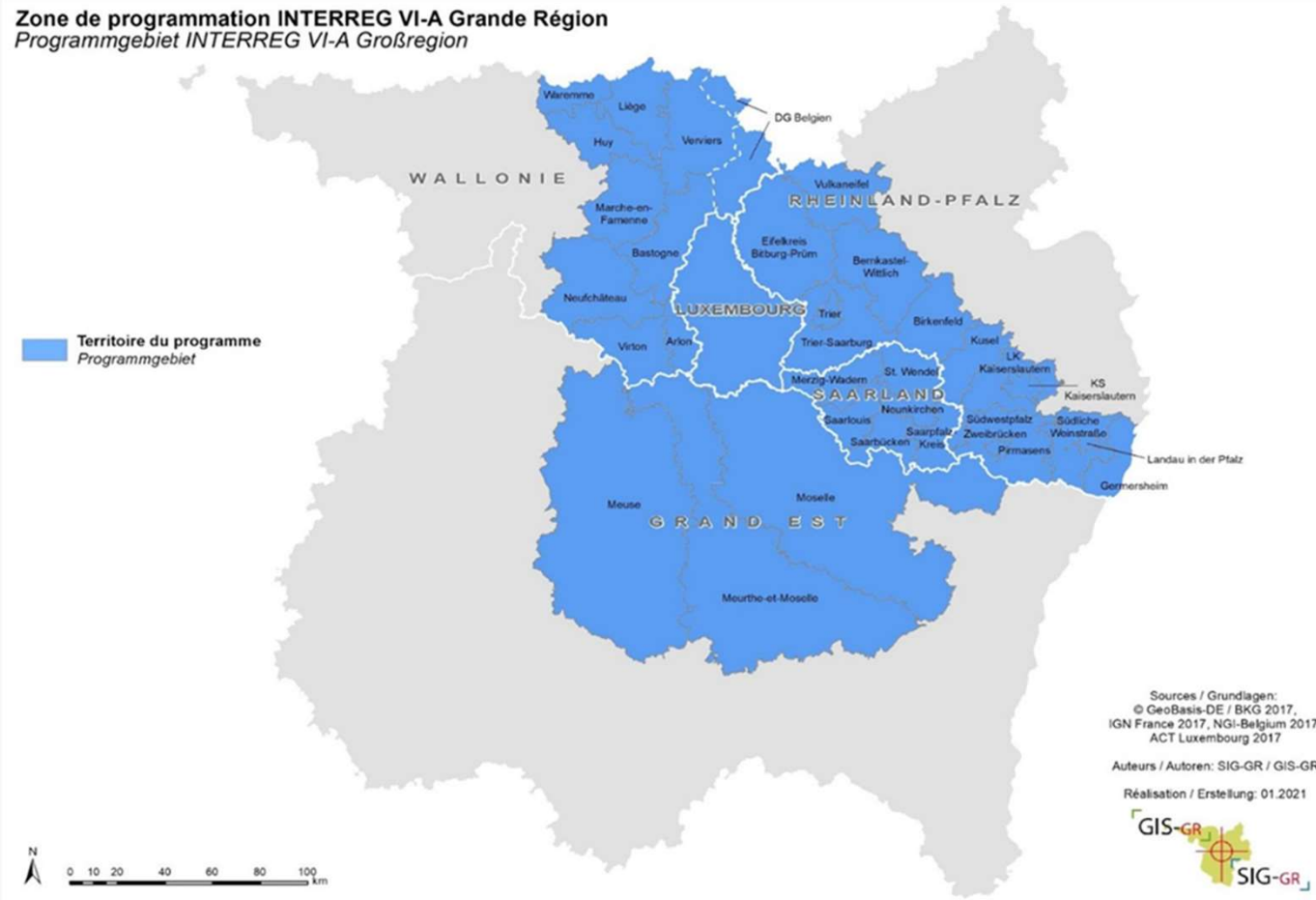
Functional areas at work in CBC Interreg Greater Region

Gérard Thomas (Managing Authority)

Institutional map of the Greater Region and its surroundings



Programme area of Interreg Greater Region 2021-2027

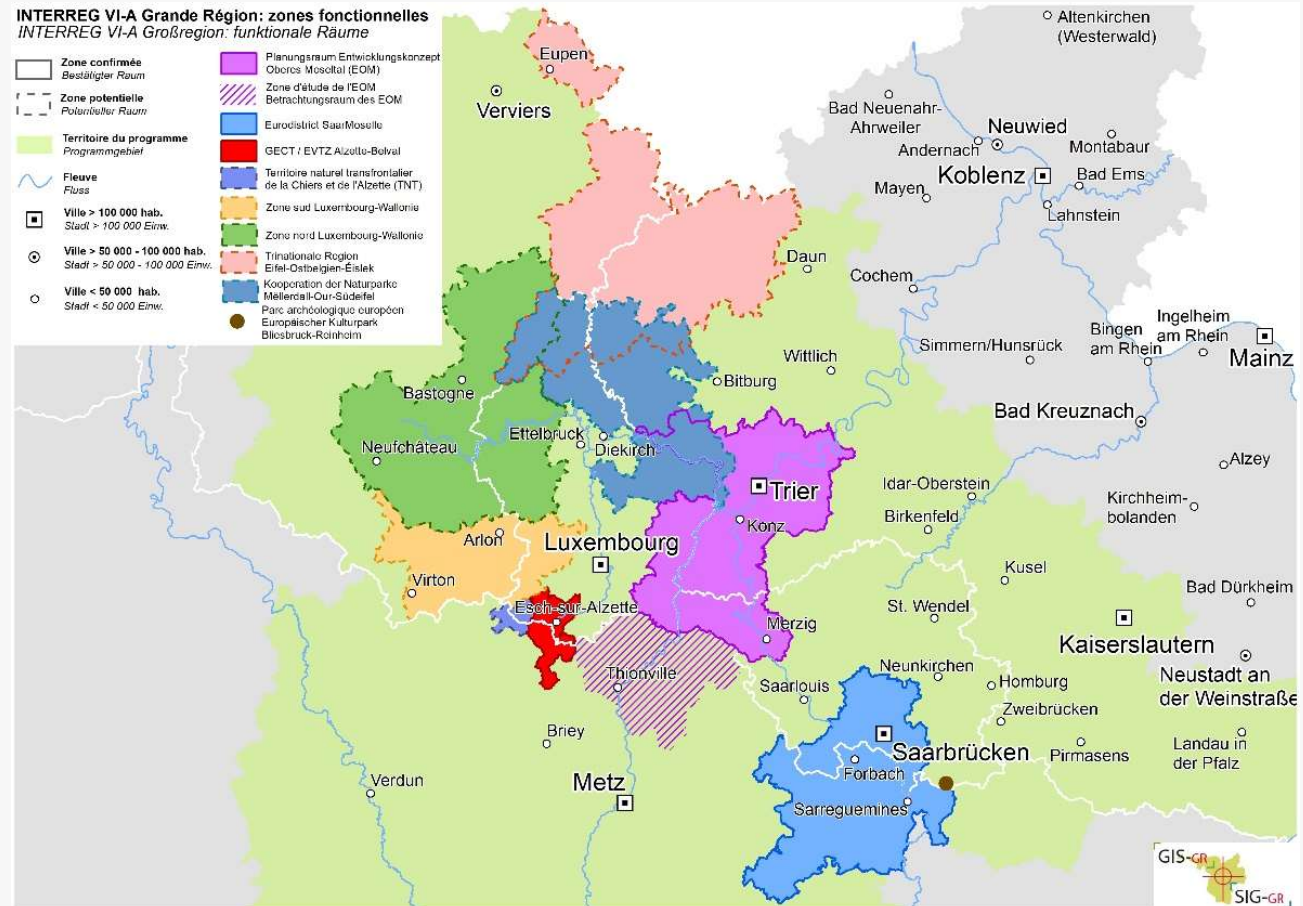


Functional areas

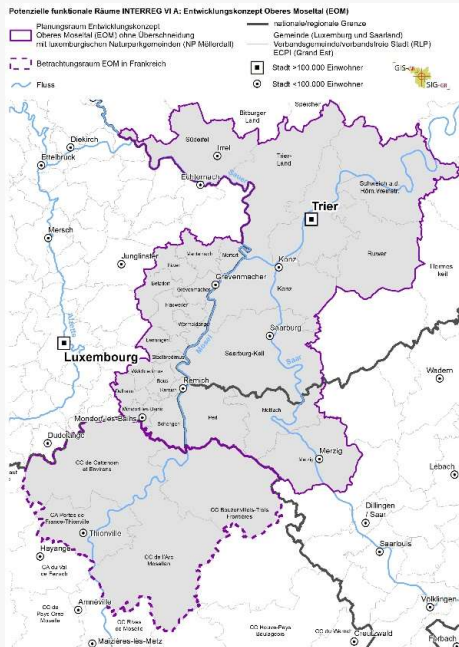
A new approach for the programme based on existing or still developing territorial partnerships.

A mix of urban and rural functional areas developed through different processes.

Three established areas and six at different stages of completion.



Already developed functional areas



■ Entwicklungskonzept Oberes Moseltal (Development strategy for the upper Moselle valley)

- Spatial planning,
- Housing and commercial development,
- Services of general interest,
- Cultural landscape,
- Nature protection,
- Preservation of natural areas,
- Mobility

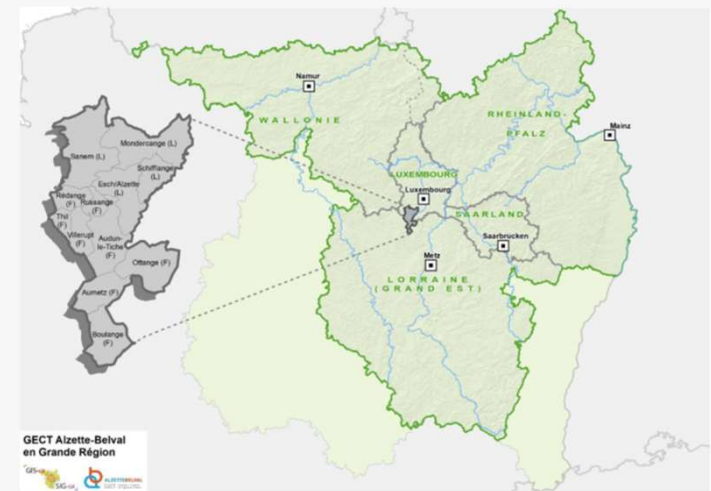


■ EGTC - Eurodistrict SaarMoselle

- Interculturality & bilingualism
- Health
- Territorial development, mobility
- Economic development
- Tourism

■ EGTC – Alzette-Belval

- Health, stronger together
- Alzette Belval, to improve the mobility in the agglomeration
- To maintain and develop the existing green belt
- A common and resilient future
- An educational laboratory
- Alzette Belval, a totem territory of Franco-Luxembourgish cooperation



Functional areas still being developed

Functional area south (Wallonie-Luxembourg)

Territorial analysis being prepared

Functional area north (Wallonie-Luxembourg)

Territorial analysis being prepared

Tri-national functional area (East Belgium, Luxembourg, Rhineland-Palatinate)

Territorial analysis being prepared

Functional area nature parcs Möllerdall-Our-Südeifel (Luxembourg, Rhineland-Palatinate)

Territorial analysis completed and strategy being prepared

Territoire Naturel Transfrontalier de la Chiers et de l'Alzette (Cross-border nature area of the Chiers and Alzette)

Territorial analysis being prepared

« Parc archéologique européen de Bliesbruck-Reinheim » (European Archaeological Park Bliesbruck-Reinheim)

Legal framework currently being finalised

State of play

Some more points

On the state of play regarding implementation of PO5 in Interreg Greater Region



Timeline

Functional areas FAs have two years from programme approval to have strategy and first set of projects ready, i.e. until October 2024



Budgets per FA

Alltogether 48 MEUR for PO5 in Interreg Greater Region. In total 9 FA (territories); budgets ranging from 2 MEUR to 9 MEUR; most between 4 and 6 MEUR



First call

First call for first territory is on the way!

Contents of the agreement **MA – FA – 1/4**

Art.	About	Hint on contents
1	Subject & duration	
2	Territory	NUTS 3/NUTS 4
3	Strategy document	Strategy is part of the agreement; all selected projects have to contribute
4	Governance and administration	An administrative (management) structure and a selection committee (SC) have to be defined; structure is obliged to implement all tasks in acc. with Art. 5
5	Tasks FA	<u>FA structure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Responsible towards MA for the performance of the FA. Projects individually responsible for own performance. • Define application and selection procedure on the basis of those provided by the MA (evt. additional criteria) • Developing a communication plan • Proactive support to project development

Contents of the agreement **MA – FA – 2/4**

Art.	About	Comment
5	Tasks ctd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative evaluation of the projects • Preparation of decision-making in the selection committee (FA-SC) • Preparation & implementation of FA-SC meetings • Preparation of grant letters • Check and assessment of major change requests coming from projects and passing on the results to JS • Quarterly reporting of outputs and results in accordance with programme indicators • Managing the implementation project <p><u>FA-SC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision on application and selection procedures • Decision on additional selection criteria • Selection of projects and decision on support rate • Decision on major project changes and project closure

Contents of the agreement **MA – FA – 3/4**

Art.	About	Comment
6	Tasks of MA, JS and CPs	<p><u>MA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising regular exchange between FAs on governance, communication and capitalisation • Issuing grant letters for ERDF <p><u>JS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility and quality check of projects along the general selection criteria & general requirements (e.g. state aid) • Check of major project changes if compliant with general selection criteria • Check & decision on minor & informal projects changes • Participation in FA-SC meetings
7	ERDF grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max. amount and support rate for FA managing structure • Mid-term review: evt. increase / decrease grant
8	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General programme rules (incl. financial management) apply to the implementation projects as well as projects of FAs • Relevant indicators • Reporting dates for progress reports on commitment, absorption to MA and achievements along the indicators

Contents of the agreement **MA – FA – 4/4**

Art.	About	Comment
8	Implementation ctd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual FA projects meeting • Obligatory and voluntary participation - obligatory e.g. for all LPs of projects, JS and CP of FA, voluntary e.g. MA, CP of other FA, controllers, co-financing institutions,
9	Communiucation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months after signature of agreement a communication plan is due (strategy plus measures)
10	Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case of changes in FA managing structure immediate information to MA
11	Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevailing language • Mediation first • Place of jurisdiction
12	Defeasance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement of change in case of irrelevant or eventually illegal clauses; other provisions remain unchanged

Support capacity in JS

Dedicated support by JS

There is one person JS of Interreg Greater Region dedicated to PO5 implementation. Having 9 territories in the programme area it is a lot of work to guide and mentor the managing structures in developing their procedures and (micro-)systems.

What next?

Please let us know what might support you best in your work on building the system and starting the implementation!

WS on PO5
(Austria-Bavaria)
May 10, morning

Webinar:
Brainstorming on
specificities in
evaluation
June

IKF!
Invitation to join in CW
21 in Brx – session on
PO5 on May 25

Step?
What else?

Study on Engagement of civic society in Interreg

Focus group with
interested Interreg
programmes.

Does this speak to you?
Let us know and join us!



Cooperation **works**

All materials will be available on:

[Interact connections / MC community](#)