

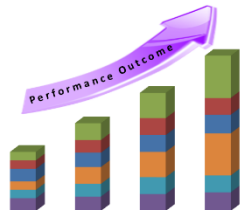
Strategic Approach to Future Interreg Programmes based on Czech Experience

Brussels, 25th January 2018

Why do we need Interreg?



It has a high EU value-added



It brings real effects to the development of regions



It enables exchange of knowledge and best practice across the EU

EU added-value of Interreg

- **Initiates and supports cooperation** – the cornerstones of the European integration process



3 279 workshops and trainings organised within CBC programmes in the Czech Republic



Over 400 000 participants of cultural, sports and other events in CBC CZ-PL programme

The need for Interreg funding and the EU value-added of Interreg confirmed by the *Ex-post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013*

Some of real effects of Interreg to the regions



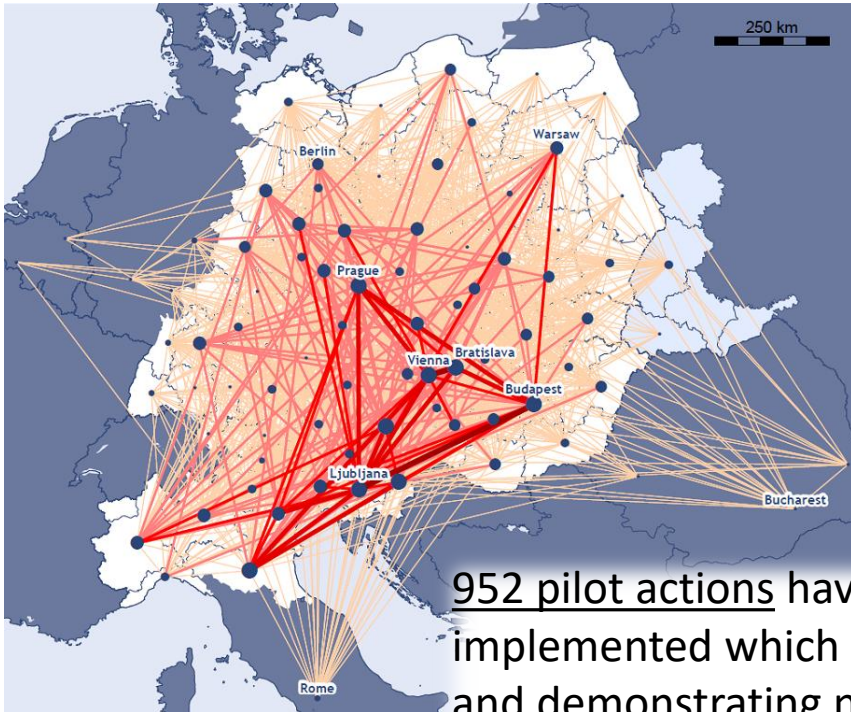
1 010 km of cycling and walking paths and routes built and renovated



422 studies, plans and other measures created in the field of nature protection

Exchange of knowledge across EU

Interreg helps to find common solutions for common problems



952 pilot actions have been implemented which were testing and demonstrating novel approaches and tools. Central Europe programme.

Over 1600 good practice identified and over 680 of them were transferred from one region to another. The actions developed on the basis of the exchanged good practices reported 895 MEUR of mainstream funds committed to such actions. INTERREG IVC



Cooperation brings solution based on exchange of knowledge while saving time, money and administrative capacities of all beneficiaries.

The Czech perspective on Interreg post-2020

- Preserving all 3 strands of Interreg
- Preserving thematic concentration and facilitation of activities typical for Interreg under each thematic objective
- Continuity in the development of a new regulatory framework
- Better reflecting the specificities of Interreg in the EU-regulations
- Preserving grant nature of Interreg support
- **Preserving Small Project Fund and codifying it in regulations**

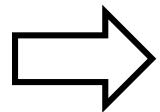
The Czech perspective on Interreg post-2020

- **Allocating Interreg funds directly to programmes**
- **Excluding INTERREG programmes completely from State Aid rules in line with programmes, such as Horizon2020.**
- **Better considering the Interreg specificities in audits**
- Broadening the possibilities of applying simplified cost options for Interreg programmes and unifying its interpretation
- Supporting synergies among programmes and effective use of outputs of transnational and interregional programmes in mainstream programmes

Symplifying Interreg

Excluding Interreg from State Aid rules

- Interreg interventions support economic cooperation rather than distort competition on the Internal Market
- decision on interventions and projects is always made by more Member States (MS)
- impact of interventions is cross-border but local
- application of State Aid rules is complicated in the context of Interreg programme – complexity of State Aid rules, differences in interpretation among MS



the administrative burden resulting from the application of State Aid rules is much bigger than the potential risk of distortion of the competition on the Internal Market

Adjusting audits to Interreg specificities and increasing materiality level for errors

Specificities of Interreg programmes' implementation require a specific approach to the audits:

- an extent of audit verifications should be adapted to the lower number of operations and smaller budget of programmes
- decentralisation of the first level control system to MS should be considered in case of projection of errors and their treatment as systemic errors
- nature and complexity of Interreg increase a risk of errors, which should be reflected in increase of materiality level for errors

Strategic approach
in Interreg

Allocation of funds directly to programmes

- it would reduce tendencies to consider, which MS do the funds flow to, when deciding on projects:

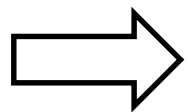
no deposits of Member States = no reason to follow backflows

- It strengthens cross-border management of programmes

but the MS must be involved in the negotiation of individual ETC programmes to be implemented within its territory

Preserving system of implementation of Small Project Fund

- important instrument supporting people-to-people cooperation
- enables to address wide population by implementing large number of small projects (**2931 small projects and over 300,000 participants** of cultural, sports and other events in CZ-PL 2007-2013)
- based on bottom-up approach ensuring local „ownership“
- it is desirable to strengthen further a strategic approach
- its implementation as a specific type of operation, an „umbrella project“, was a subject to discussion in 2014 – 2020 period



needs a codification in the new regulatory framework

Thank you for your attention!

Questions, comments, follow-ups

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