

30 years of Interreg: looking at the past, inspiring the future!

Interreg: a success EU story that started 30 years ago, for the benefit of 1/3 of the whole EU population

Interreg, also known as the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), is a key instrument under Cohesion Policy, and a solid proof that borders are not barriers.

For 30 years, it has brought Europeans closer together, helping to tackle common challenges, encouraging strategic work towards common goals and creating new opportunities for cooperation across borders.

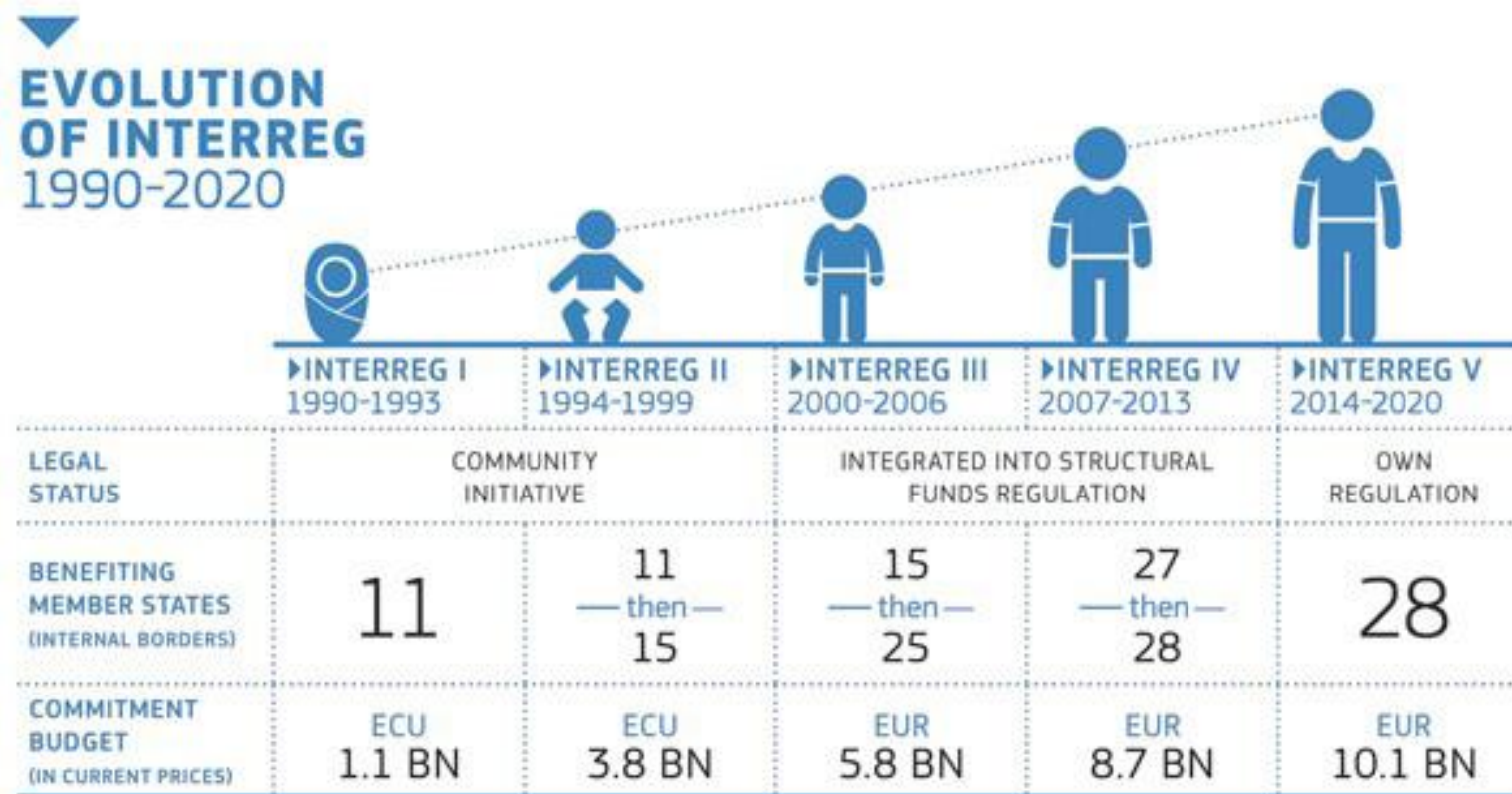
Interreg aims to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of EU regions and beyond.

Over the years, Interreg has also become a key instrument to boosting cooperation between partners across borders.

The aim: to tackle common challenges together and find shared solutions – whether in the field of health, research and innovation, education, transport, environment, culture, sustainable energy and more.

Since 1990, Interreg has been built around three strands of cooperation: cross-border, transnational and interregional.

In its 30 years of existence, Interreg continues to be a fundamental instrument of the European integration process.



With a total budget of over 12 billion EUR for 2014 - 2020 programming period (including EU and Member States/partner countries' contributions), Interreg cooperation programmes cover the entire EU and its immediate neighbours:

- **60 cross-border programmes** which aim to improve citizens' lives by enhancing their opportunities and access to services along the internal borders of the EU;
- **15 transnational cooperation programmes** are strategically acting on national territories that have the same characteristics and suffer from the same challenges they can only overcome together;
- **4 interregional cooperation programmes** deal with crosscutting issues such as capacity building, data collection or cooperation among urban areas, across the European continent;
- **Non-EU countries also benefit from:**
 - **10 cooperation programmes with accession countries, namely the Interreg Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Cross-Border Programmes** (most of them are in the border areas between Balkan countries and Member States),
 - **15 cooperation programmes between EU countries and neighbourhood countries sharing a land border or sea crossing.- namely the Interreg European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border (ENI CBC) Programmes.**



The Interreg 30 years' campaign

The main topics of the of the Interreg 30 Years

The celebrations of Interreg's 30th anniversary focus on three main topics which have been presented on different occasions. These topics are interconnected in nature and are a demonstration of all the work programmes and projects realise through cooperation.

We believe that they are at the heart of what Interreg is about and illustrate the main concerns expressed by citizens.

WE ALL HAVE A NEIGHBOUR

We all have neighbours – and they matter!

In good times and bad times, we cooperate, we work together and make decisions together. We face challenges together and we create new opportunities for a better future in a common space. No matter what, we stay together!

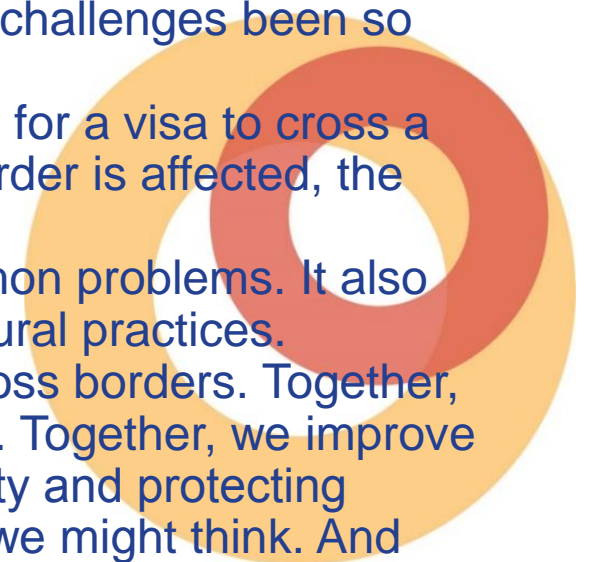
Never before cooperation has been so crucial, because never before have our challenges been so global.

Forest fires know no borders. They spread from slopes to valleys, never asking for a visa to cross a border. And neither do diseases, pollution or social unrest. If one side of the border is affected, the other will inevitably be too. Climate change epitomises this perfectly.

But we know that sharing borders involves more than finding solutions to common problems. It also means taking advantage of common opportunities, interests, lifestyles and cultural practices.

Together, we create strong communities and build bridges between people across borders. Together, we make sure our citizens have better access to education, health care or jobs. Together, we improve connectivity and accessibility across borders, while preserving everyone's safety and protecting heritage and nature. We have a lot more in common with our neighbours than we might think. And Europe keeps us together.

For 30 years now, under Interreg, EU cooperation programmes have been helping neighbours work together to develop strong communities along internal and external borders. For 30 years, thousands of EU-funded projects have built trust and respect amongst people from communities sharing a common space. Because all together as neighbours, we know that cooperation matters! As we know



YOUTH

Young people between 15 and 29-years-old made up 17% of the European Union population in 2018. Irrespective of their gender, economic situation, social origin and age, they all face common challenges such as weak labour markets and lack of education and training opportunities.

They are not immune from other crises such as global warming, insecurity and the widespread lack of trust in public institutions. However, their desire for a better future is shared across the continent.

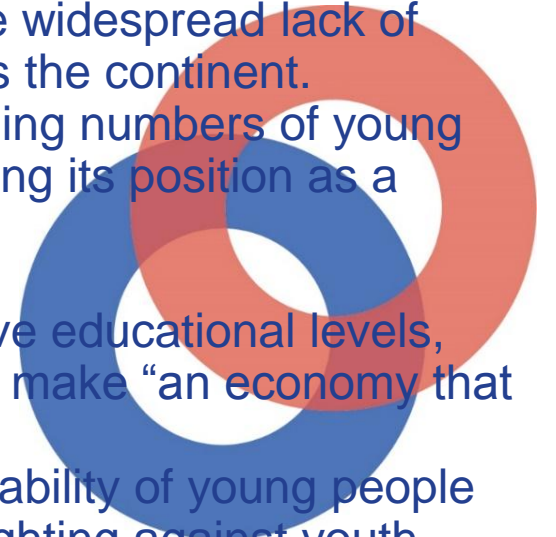
Therefore, the European Union offers vast opportunities, especially to the increasing numbers of young people moving within the EU– and enabling youth mobility is crucial to strengthening its position as a knowledge-based economy.

For 30 years, Interreg and cohesion policy have found solutions for young people.

How? By working together, building partnerships and sharing knowledge to improve educational levels, qualifications, skills, international competences and job opportunities for all and to make “an economy that works for people”.

Interreg facilitates youth mobility through cross-border internships, enhancing the ability of young people to work and learn on both sides of the border, increasing their employability and fighting against youth unemployment. Youth mobility is a prime mechanism for fostering a sense of European identity and citizenship.

Interreg promotes networks and activities for helping young entrepreneurs to develop their skills, therefore unlocking youth’s unexploited potential and competences. This also creates an enabling environment to make their innovative ideas become ventures with high social added value. Interreg also educates young people in and outside of Europe to make them aware of global warming and to adapt their habits towards



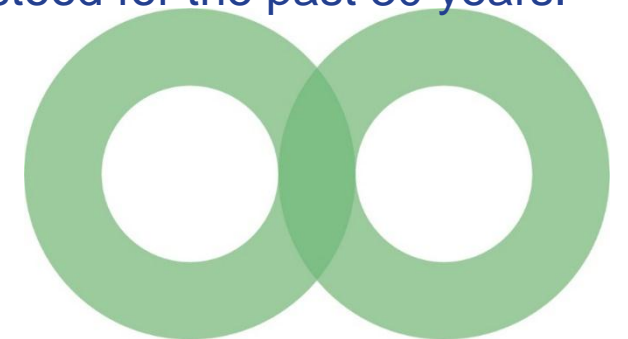
GREEN AND CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE

Humans have created borders to establish a sense of belonging and common identity throughout the years.

However, Mother Nature does not play by these rules. Borders do not limit rivers, mountains, forests or lakes, nor do they prevent flora and fauna from crossing them. Air, water, land pollution and the use of common resources do not recognise national boundaries. To preserve this treasure for generations to come, Interreg has fostered cooperation in environmental matters for 30 years.

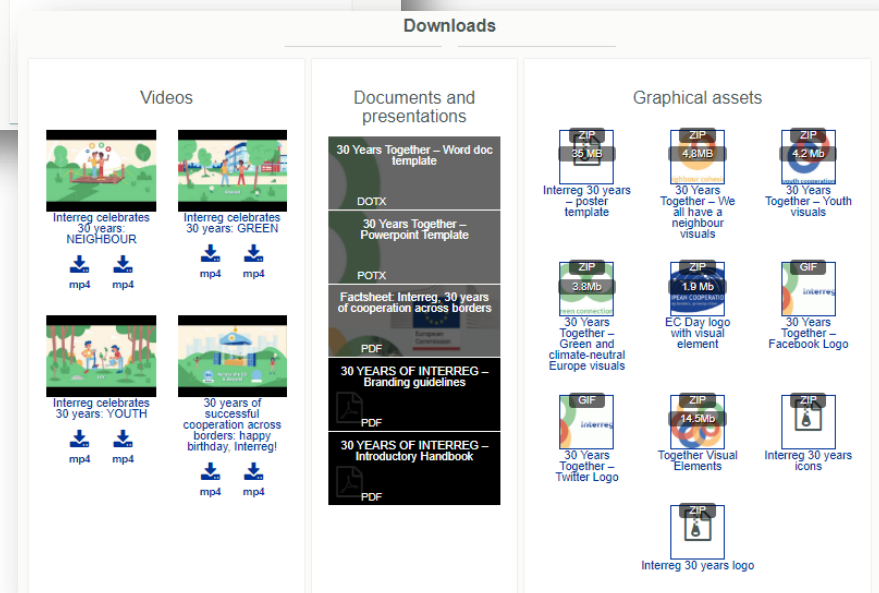
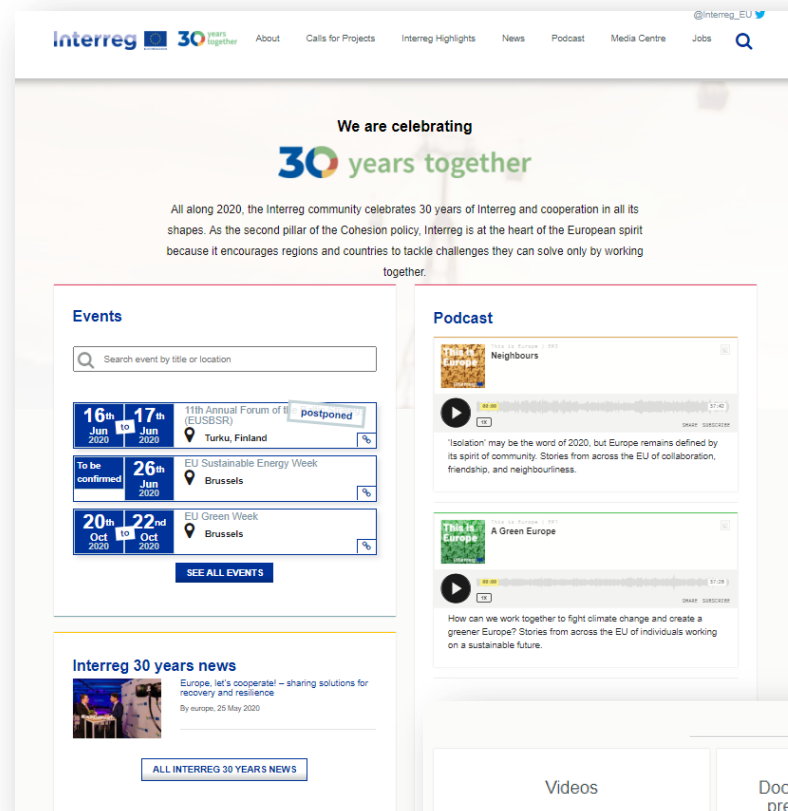
The European Commission has just presented its Green Deal as Europe's new growth strategy with the objective of becoming climate neutral by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use. This will be Europe's 'man on the moon' moment in our fight against climate change and to protect the environment against the biggest threat to humanity in the 21st century.

And one thing is crystal clear: a green and climate neutral Europe cannot be achieved if we all work in isolation, but instead in cooperation. That is what Interreg stands for, and has stood for the past 30 years.



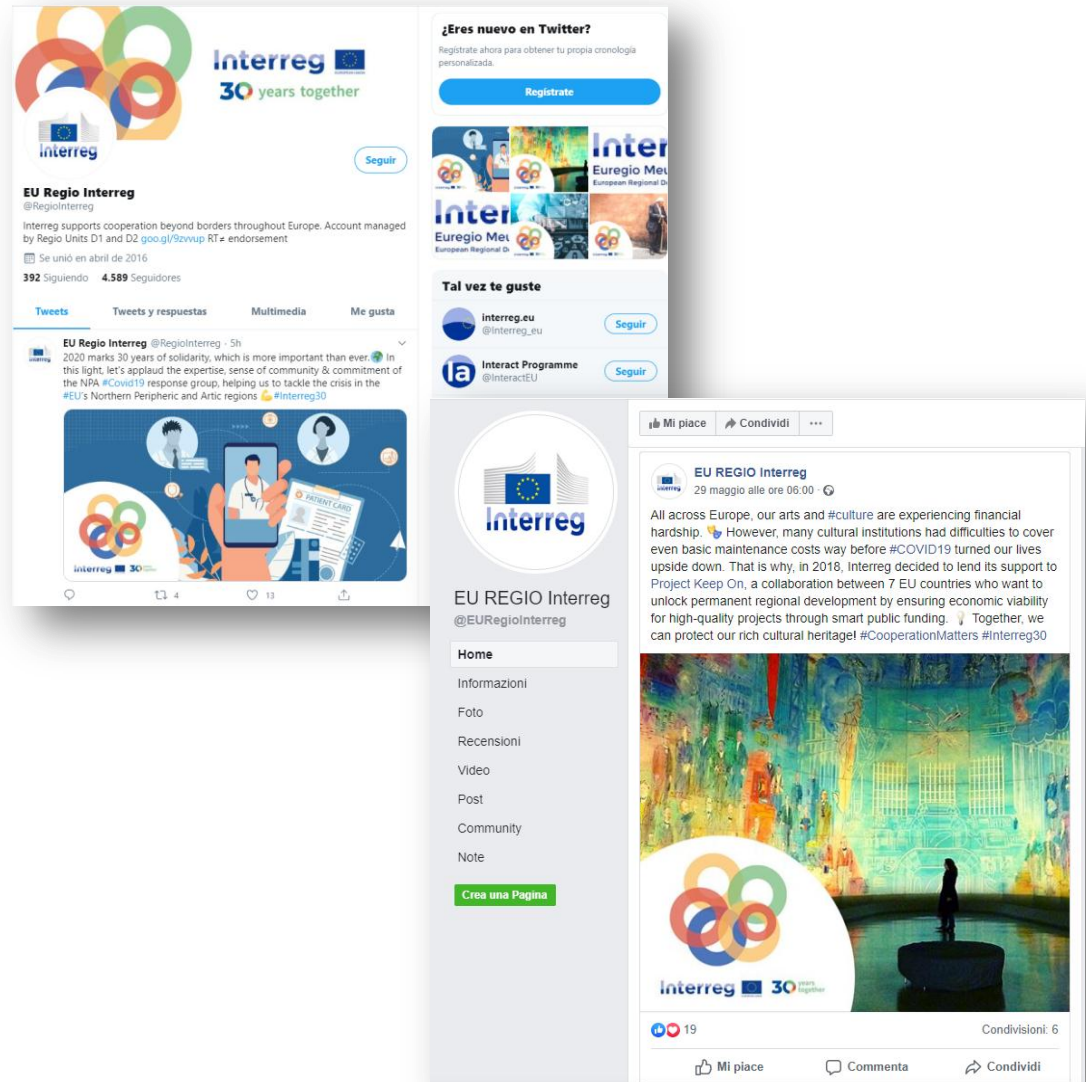
New section on [Interreg.eu](https://interreg.eu) portal: <https://interreg.eu/interreg-30-years-together>

- Event calendar updates and News
- Podcast release section
- Graphic assets, videos, posters, etc.
- Virtual Projects Exhibition
- Full set of posters and templates
- E-book - [LINK](#)
- VIDEO - [LINK](#)



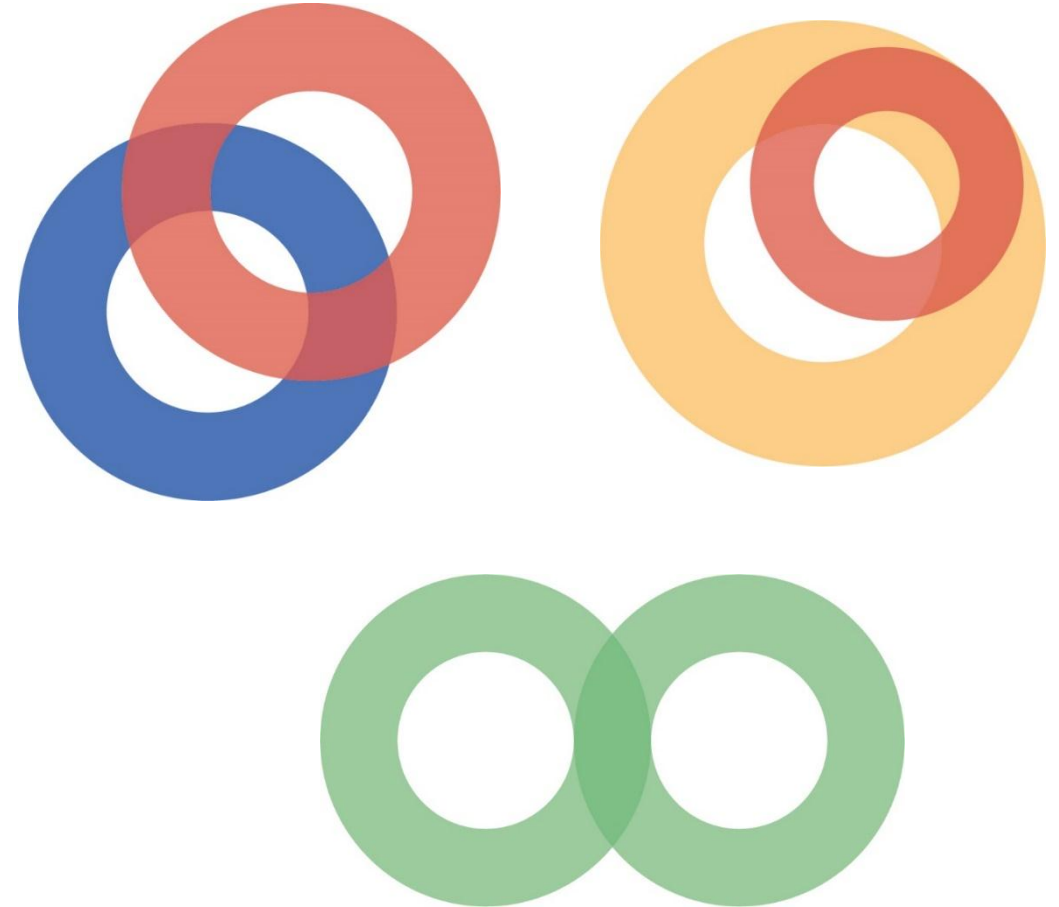
Social Media campaign related on cooperation support to the pandemic and health, **9th of May until end of June 2020** – (2-3 posts per week)

- Step-up Interreg digital presence due to current situation
- The response to crisis is addressed throughout several means...**ALSO COOPERATION** (projects)!
- **Rationale:** *thanks to 30 years of Interreg and cooperation, countries and regions are in good position to cope together with the current crisis... More than ever cooperation is needed to recover all together!*
- Have a look on **TWITTER: @RegioInterreg** & **FACEBOOK: EURegioInterreg**



3. The **main topics** of the of the Interreg 30 Years campaign will be **continued after this campaign**:

- European Week of Regions and Cities
2020
- Events
- Publications
- Exhibition presence
- EC DAY 2020
- ...and more...





THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

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