

# Experience of **interregional Cooperation** in the operational programmes 2014-2020

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**Interact**



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg



# Cooperation Actions Art.22.3.d.vi

Cooperation actions per priority

= **joint activities** with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State or outside the Union, where relevant

= **going beyond the borders** of a given region or Country

# Historical perspective

2007-2013 period:  
optional

INTERACT (pilot activity on cooperation in Objective 1 and 2, September 2011)  
(Regions: Limousin, Thuringia, IT, LV, SE)

2014-2020 period:  
optimal

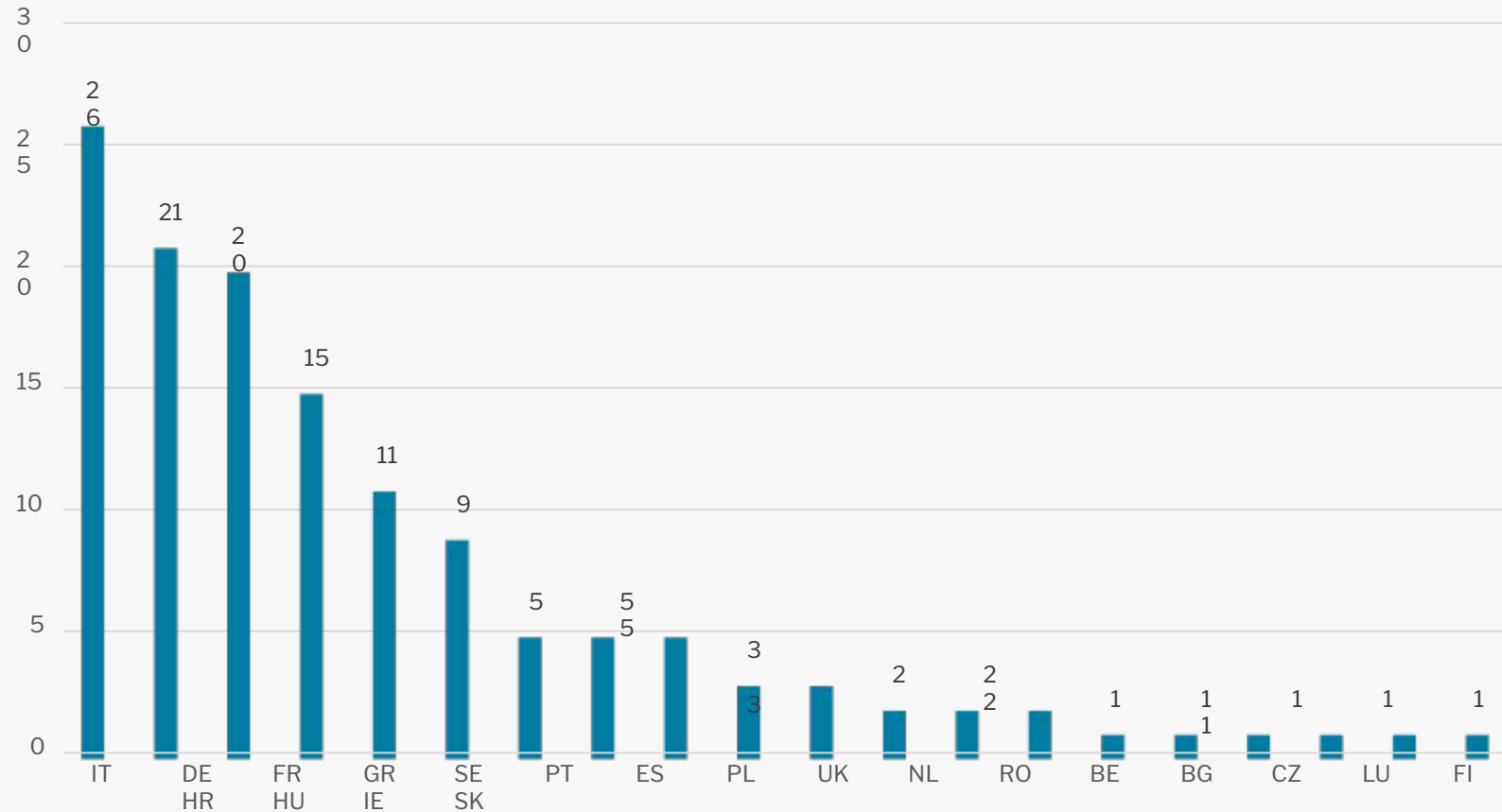
Chapter 7.1 of the Common Support Framework  
Specific section 4.4 in each IGJ goal programme  
COM(2017) 376 of 18.7.2017 on Innovation in Europe's regions

2021-2027 period:  
obligatory, unless...

Legal framework in place  
Annex D "Investment Guidance on Cohesion Policy Funding 2021-2027"  
EP Cohesion in the EU towards 2050

# Quantitative Analysis 2014-2020

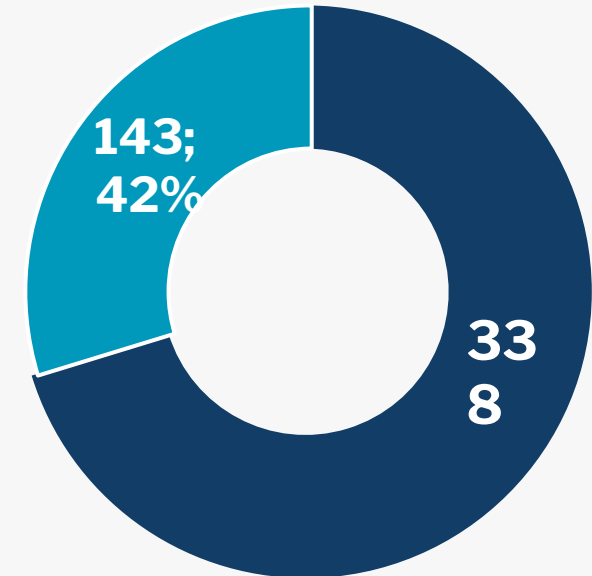
Programmes per Country



# OPs Screened

## Mapping exercise performed by Interact

- The analysis covered 338 Ops
- 143 contained valid information
- 135 contained relevant information to be analysed (inc. 5 from the UK)

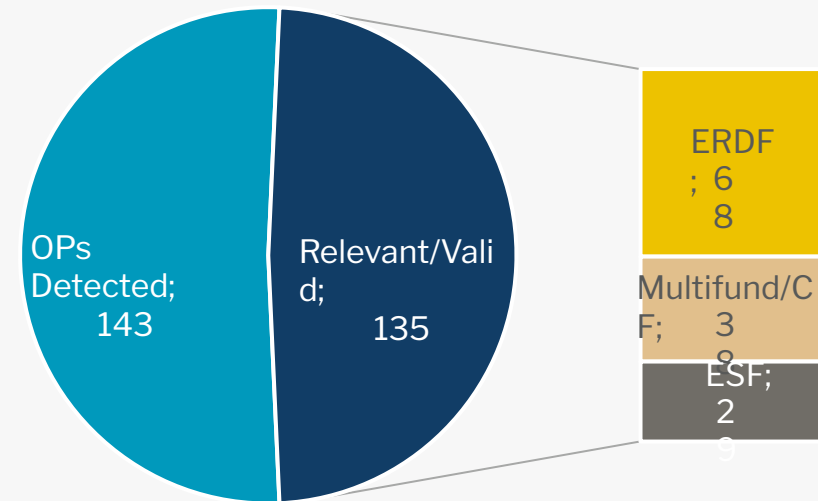


■ OPs Extracted ■ OPs Detected

# Out of 143 OPs 135 analysed

Overview of  
selected relevant  
Ops for the  
mapping:

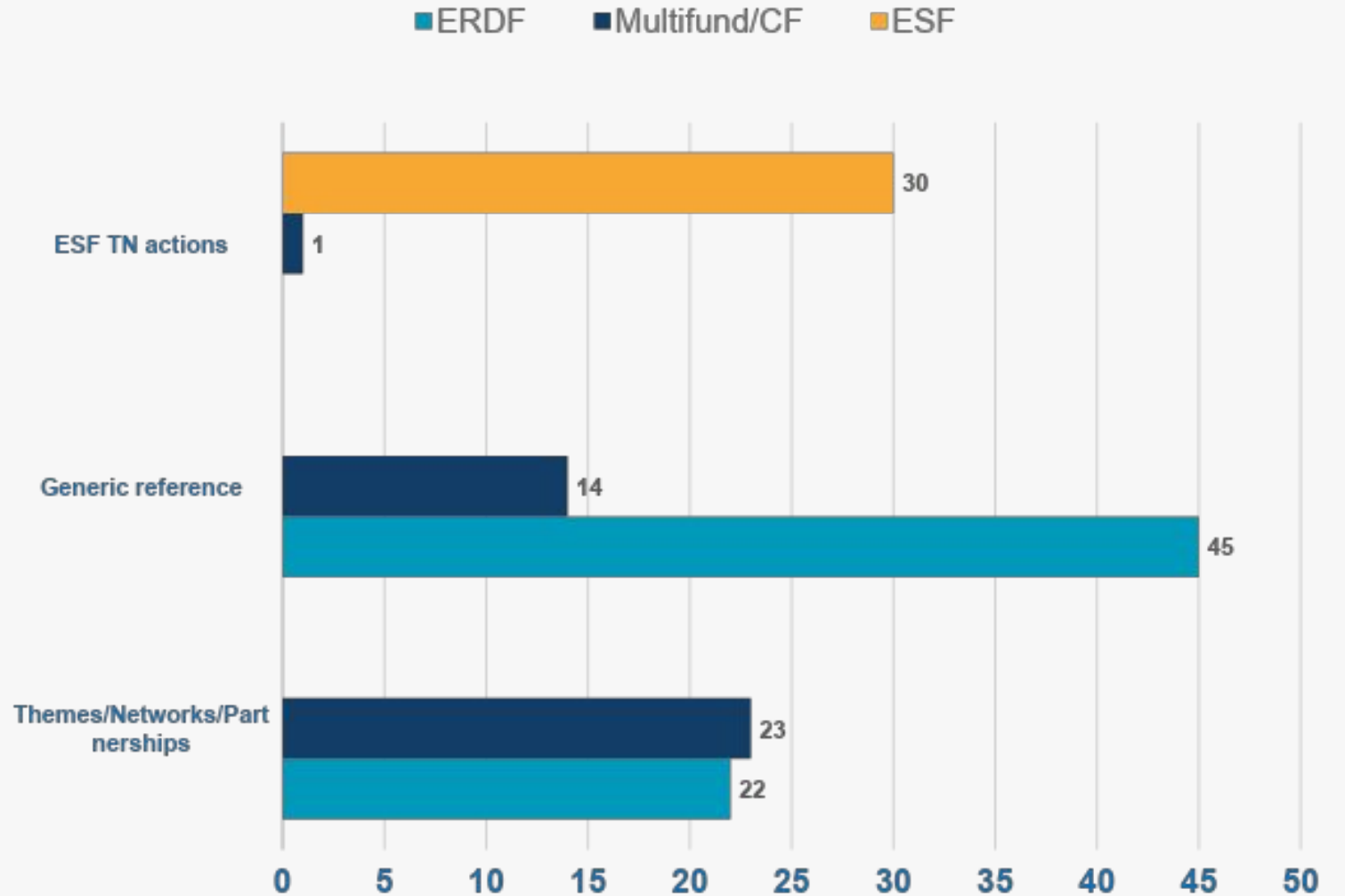
- ERDF Funds = 68 (50%)
- Multifund/CF = 38 (28%)
- ESF programmes = 29 (21%)



# Further findings

Out of 135 descriptions:

- Generic References to cooperation = 59 (44%)
- References to specific topic/network/partnership = 45 (33%)
- ESF TN actions = 31 (23%)

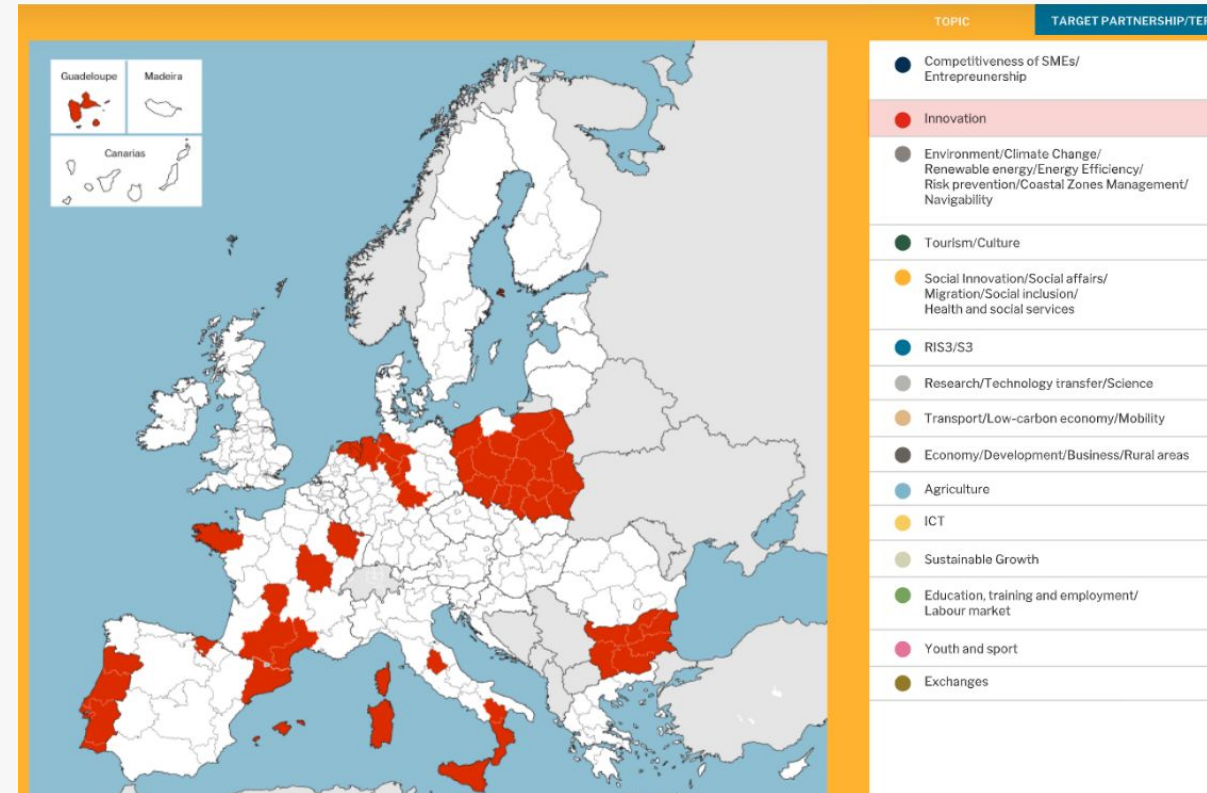


# Themes and geographic interests

<https://www.cooperationactions.eu>

## Predominance

- Innovation aspects, related to R&D and S3
- Competitiveness of SMEs
- Environmental protection, risk prevention, low carbon economy and energy efficiency
- MRSs framework (EUSBSR, EUSAIR, EUSDR)
- Bordering territories, adjacent regions within the same member state, Euroregions





# Some practical examples

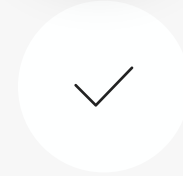
## Cooperation in practice

The mapping showed that actions could be tackled and set-up at **different geographical levels** (interregional, cross-border, transnational or macro-regional) or with **different degrees of cooperation** and commitment among the territories involved.



## Specific calls

OP ERDF Basilicata 2014/2020



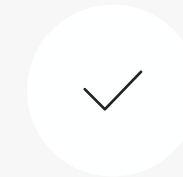
## Possibility to apply for a transnational component

Available to approved projects to involve partners from a wider region (Sweden)



## Joint financing of research infrastructure

Science mobility beyond borders



## Coordinated parallel calls

ESF Baltic Sea Network – partners applied for funding nationally but worked towards one objective

# Observation

## S

### 2014-2020

#### Cooperation actions more often planned

However, the interpretation and the approach remained rather general.



Lack of match with possible partner regions



Many programmes use a generic reference, and they reserve the opportunity to implement the provision by projects during call implementation.



Mismatch and unforeseen expenditures by programmes who didn't mention the use of the provision, no budget allocations



Some procedures and applicable rules, as well as % to be allocated, eligibility principles mentioned in OPS



Coordination from some MS is evident (Partnership Agreement): same approach, description and set-up (FR,SE,DE,GR,IT,PT, PL)

# Ready for 2021-2027

Interact to support further harmonization efforts and support regions and member states in implementing cooperation actions in IJG programmes and the embedding process of the EU Macro-Regions

## Step 1

Guidelines on  
Cooperation under IJG  
goal 2020+

## Step 2

Mapping provisions set  
in the 2021-2027  
programmes, and  
collecting practical  
examples

## Step 3

Update the mapping  
and guidance

## Step 4

Provide specific support  
to regions and fund  
authorities



**A new peer-to-peer community set up to support IGJ programme MA work with cooperation actions. Join here**

REGIO Peer2Peer community

# Why to stay optimistic...

## Cooperation as a source of competence

Cooperation allows partners to exchange practices and experiences for their joint development. There is a lot of common benefit and learning potential in cooperating, even if real investment for regions and countries can be unlocked and provided only under IGJ.

## Cooperation beyond Interreg

Partners can address shared regional, national and global problems among regions all over Europe, especially those that are excluded from Interreg because of their unfortunate geographical position and those having specific interests and priorities that cannot be easily tackled by the (sometimes limited) means available to Interreg.

## Strengthening your competitive advantage

Confers a direct advantage on the consistent implementation of actions complementary to OP priorities, as well as on other Thematic Objectives/Priority Investments

# Cooperation **works**