

INTERACIO Sharing Expertise

Evidence in Interreg -

INTERACT's work and observations

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Efforts so far

Departure point Ex post evaluation of Interreg III

- 2012-2013 "Capturing the results of territorial cooperation"
- 2012 ongoing Support to design of 2014-2020 Interreg programmes
 - Work on cooperation-specific indicators
 - Collection of data and analysis of programme results

Spring 2014 Autumn 2014 Analysis of ex ante evaluation findings

Interreg scoping study, Task 3: analysis of programme objectives, proposed results and ways of measurement. Purpose: identify data needs and data gaps 2





Ex-post Evaluation of INTERREG III

Only around half of the programmes focussed their financial resources on a limited number of priority topics (*Strand A*)

Programmes generally adopted broad intervention strategies which did not concentrate financial support on a limited number of priority topics (*Strand B*)





What did Interreg programmes deliver?

New and maintained jobs Support to business development 18.000 km of roads, routes, railways etc Investments in environment, waste management, energy efficiency

BUT

Similar outputs are delivered also by the Objective 1 and 2 programmes. Why finance the same?





Programmes also produced

New and extended cooperation networks Cooperation agreements Joint cultural, natural, urban and rural actions Trainings and events with half a million participants

BUT

What has changed as a resulted of these for the people and businesses in the programme area?





"Capture" exercise

- "Capture" exercise revealed that it was impossible to establish programme results also for the 2007-2013 programmes
- The understanding of what is a result is very diverse (three categories were sensed: integration related, socio-economic development related and capacity building related)
- The role of cooperation is often unclear i.e. Why do something through cooperation if e.g. Mainstream programmes can deliver the same at a lower cost and effort?
- The understanding of territorial cohesion; what role cooperation plays and how territorial cooperation works is only beginning to appear





"Capture" exercise - the three types of Interreg results

- Integration related requires data on territorial, but also economic and social (societal) cohesion, cross-border / transnational mobility and developments
- Socio-economic development related the 'usual' socio-economic data
- Capacity building related evidence of changes induced by individual / organisational learning





Preparations of Interreg 2014-2020

- Supporting programmes with design of intervention logics and harmonisation of output indicators
- Analysis of findings of ex ante evaluations
- Quantitative data problems with data availability and comparability on levels below NUTS 2
- Qualitative data requires effort and resources
- General problem if Interreg investments lack focus (thematic, territorial, on specific target groups) and are fragmented, the results will be insignificant and impossible to attribute with or without good data



KEEP database: keep.eu

KEEP's mission

To provide information regarding Interreg, IPA and ENPI CBC projects and partners to all interested parties

What KEEP is

A database containing information both on ongoing and finalised Interreg (and external cooperation) projects and partners since 2000. It is continuously updated KEEP is also an online search engine. The data received from programmes is processed and geolocalised KEEP offers diverse search criteria for users to access the information they need

KEEP: How much data?

(updated in KEEP's section 'About data', last update on 15 September 2014)

Territorial Cooperation projects, per Strand and Instrument - overall and in KEEP

2000-2006 programming period 2007-2013 programming period % of No. of No. of % of Strands / Overall no. Overall no. projects in projects in projects in projects in of projects of projects Instruments KEEP KEEP KEEP KEEP Cross-border 8 881 3 965 45% 6 860 5 762 84% Transnational 1 208 1 1 1 7 92% 1 2 5 3 1 031 82% Interregional -360 356 99% 337 327 97% Networking ENPL cross-772 75% 582 border IPA cross-661 569 86% border 5 438 Overall 10 449 52% 9 883 8 271 84%



KEEP illustrated

Search for projects and partners







Analysis of programme achievements

- Compilation of good practices in the field of tourism and culture
- Analysis of energy projects financed by Interreg programmes
- Analysis of cross-border maritime cooperation
- OECD (supported by Nordregio) study on crossborder cooperation in fields of innovation and SME support
- Programme and macro-regional strategy evaluation reports
- Relevant studies commissioned by countries (Poland, Germany, Norway, Nordic Council of Ministers), including ESPON studies



Some observations

- Most available evidence tells what cooperation does and in what areas rather than what results it delivers?
- In surprisingly many cases cooperation is seen as capacity building tool rather than instrument for cohesion
- Territorial cohesion data: policy alignment, data collection and analysis what is the most appropriate scale? EU, macro-regional / transnational, cross-border (regional and/or local)?
- Cooperation is interaction between people.
 Qualitative data is needed to capture this. Currently very little is available (Peace). An online museum of European stories? Can we use Eurobarometre?





Interreg scoping study

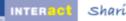
- Task 1: analysis of ESIF investment priorities vis-avis their relevance for territorial cooperation. Prioritisation of topics for future cross-programme analysis and learning
- Task 2: desk study of cross-border labour mobility in EU
- Task 3: analysis of 2014-2020 Interreg programme objectives, result indicators and data needs. Identification of commonalities, good practices & data gaps, suggestions for EU level action, where deemed appropriate

Results available before the end of 2014



Future plans

- KEEP for 2014-2020
- Thematic studies, accompanied with capacity building activities (one every two years)
- Thematic networks of stakeholders from cooperation areas working on similar issues: partly through Interact, partly through Interreg Europe
- Follow-up to Scoping Study conclusions on crossborder and transnational data
- Monitor closely the ex post evaluation of Interreg 2007-2014





www.interact-eu.net