



Kick-off event for Interreg Aurora (Sweden-Finland-Norway) 2021-2027

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24 March 2022

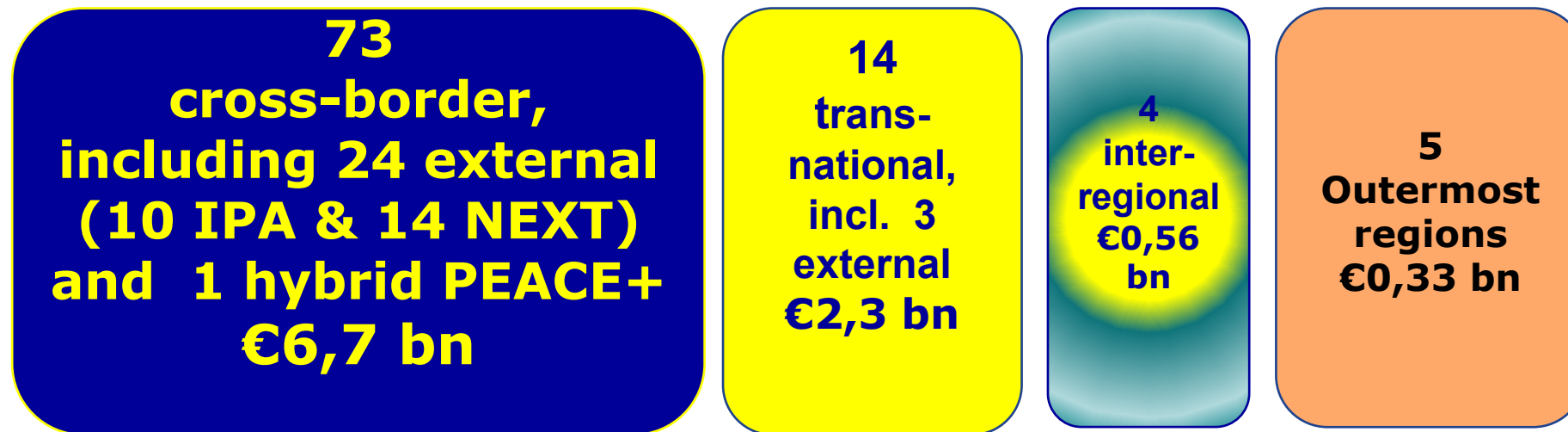


The next generation of Interreg programmes how to do more with less

- Less budget available EU wide
- Stronger need for thematic and territorial focus
- Overall objective cohesion policy: stronger strategic focus on transition to a smart and low carbon economy
- Preserve specific and unique character of Interreg

4 distinct strands: (A) cross-border, (B) transnational, (C) inter-regional and (D) outermost (new)

- External cooperation is now fully integrated
- 96 Programmes for 10 billion (incl OP's on hold with RU/BY)





Interreg Aurora – a new Arctic programme

- Welcome to the **new Aurora programme!**
- Builds on a long tradition of cooperation and on two very efficient Interreg programmes with excellent results
- The regions can achieve **more together** with the same amount of funding
- **New partnerships** across the whole geography will be possible
 - Can give a boost to innovation
 - Wider cooperation on climate, tourism, skills supply
- Sami cooperation: Stronger involvement in business and innovation projects



Our vision for Interreg and Aurora

- Efficient investments by pooling resources and by close coordination between different programmes and investment initiatives
 - The Arctic Interreg programmes cooperation network - good practice to be continued!
 - Closer coordination with other programmes in the Baltic Sea area is also important
- Greener Europe – climate tracking and biodiversity
 - Arctic regions and especially traditional livelihood are more vulnerable to climate change - need for joint actions and involvement of civil society!
- Continued good partnership in the new programme!
 - Call REGIO for expression of interest: Innovative Implementation of the Partnership Principle



Our vision for Interreg and Aurora

- Stronger focus on territorial dimension: functional areas
 - More flexible geography in order to support projects with highest impact on programme area
- Support to SMEs via innovation clusters and business networks
 - Attract key skills and keeping people in the North
- Actions to support better cooperation governance
 - New element in programme to address trust-building, cooperation structures (EGTC)



Partnership and simplification to promote small actors and civil society participation

- Partnership
 - Involving all those who are concerned/ affected by the programme
 - At all stages: preparation, selection, monitoring, implementation
 - Much wider than the national and regional public authorities
- Stronger focus on small-scale projects (obligatory!) and simplification
 - Tools to facilitate less administrative burden for smaller beneficiaries/recipients of the funds
 - Enables smaller actors to take part in Interreg

Cross-border cooperation beyond Interreg

- **Commission report: EU border regions living labs of European integration** (July 2021, Com (2021)393)

- Support for border regions beyond funding

- Clear link with possible support under priority *better cooperation governance*

4 clusters:

1. Deeper institutional cooperation (obstacles, EGTC, data, quality of cooperation)
2. More and better cross-border public services (health, education, transport = functional areas)
3. Vibrant cross-border labour markets (jobs, qualifications)
4. Border regions for the European Green Deal (border regions fit for 55, risks, energy, nature)