



The Support to Cooperation Actions at National Level and the “Synergies” Pilot Project: Capitalising on Interreg for Enhanced Funds Integration

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Cooperation actions:

Shared knowledge towards greater impact

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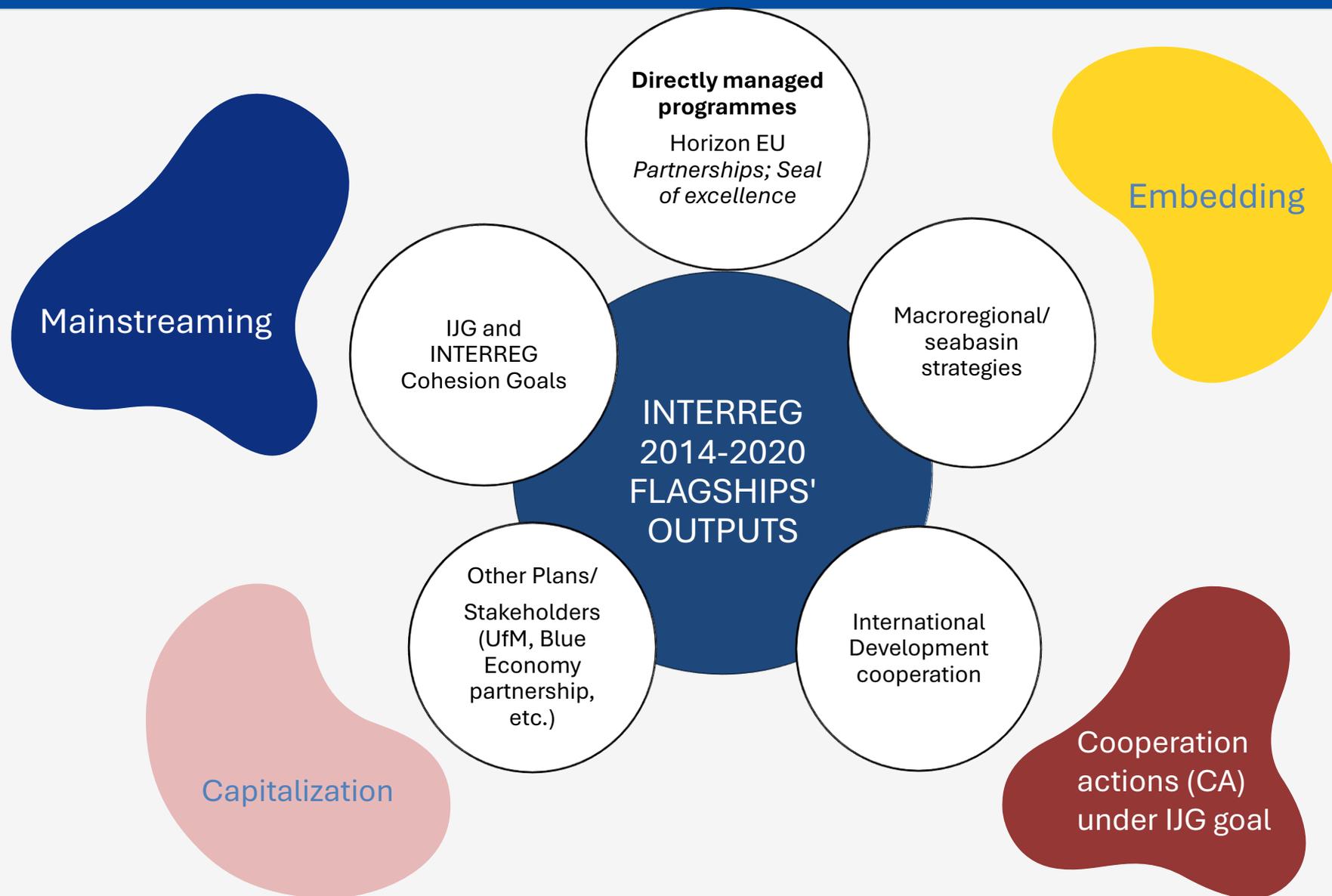
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Why SYNERGIES?

- Interreg projects generate high-value outputs often underutilised in mainstream programmes.
- Enhanced synergies among EU funds are essential for boosting public policy impact.
- SINERGIES addresses the need to operationalise integration between Interreg and Cohesion policy investments.

Slide 3 - Mapping and understanding complexity, testing shared solutions





The Logic Behind SYNERGIES

- From isolated project outputs to systemic uptake in mainstream programming.
- Leveraging cooperation as a driver for public innovation.
- Fostering the reuse of best practices from flagship Interreg projects to achieve sustainable and balanced territorial development.

Integrating Key Strategic Drivers

The 2030 UNO Agenda and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:

Provide an integrated vision that balances environmental, social, and economic priorities.

Regional S3/S4 Strategies:

Define thematic focus areas and guide smart specialisation.

Macro-regional (EUSAIR, EUSALP) & SeaBasin (WestMED) Strategies:

Anchor the approach within broader European and basin-wide priorities.



The SYNERGIES Approach Combines:

- **Strategic Alignment:** Linking Interreg/Horizon outputs with SDGs, S3/S4 priorities, and macro-regional/sea-basin strategies.
- **Evidence-Based Analysis:** Leveraging datasets (e.g. ISTAT – National Statistics Institute, ASVIS - Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development) and recent constitutional reforms that reinforce environmental, health, and biodiversity priorities.
- **Pilot Experimentation:** Focusing on five regional 2014-2020 ERDF programs, 14-20 INTERREG flagships' outputs, and Horizon programmes to validate synergy mechanisms.
- **Participatory Process:** Engaging regional managing authorities (MAs) in co-design and mapping exercises.



Pilot Phase – Operational Steps:

- 1. Inventory & Mapping:** Catalogue flagship Interreg outputs relevant to SDGs and regional S3/S4 goals.
- 2. Needs Assessment:** Align INTERREG outputs with regional ERDF priorities and thematic areas where INTERREG might be most relevant.
- 3. Matchmaking:** Build clear reuse pathways between project solutions and mainstream programme calls.
- 4. Co-Design:** Jointly develop actionable proposals for regional governance improvement, INTERREG capitalisation and cooperation actions (AC).



Collaborative Framework for Synergies:

- **Key Actors:**

- Department for Cohesion Policies and Southern Italy, DG V, Interreg Unit (project leader)
- Mainstream and Interreg Managing Authorities
- Regional bodies & thematic experts

- **Mechanisms:**

- Stable coordination structures (technical tables, joint meetings)
- Transparent dialogue and feedback loops
- Use of shared digital tools for mapping, evaluation, and communication.



Pilot Results & Strategic Insights:

- Over 60 flagship Interreg/Horizon projects mapped, analysed and proposed to MAs for capitalisation.
- Identification of multiple reuse pathways that address SDG targets (climate action, circular economy, social cohesion).
- Increased awareness and capacity among MAs regarding the strategic value of **cooperation actions**.
- Confirmation that a structured, dialogue-based approach is essential for sustainable funds' integration.



Core Learnings from SYNERGIES:

- **Cooperation is not optional:** It is fundamental for a comprehensive and effective cohesion policy.
- **Institutional commitment matters:** Sustainable integration requires structured frameworks, not just ad hoc relationships.
- **Early alignment is key:** Embedding strategic priorities (SDGs, S3/S4, macro-regional/sea-basin) from the programming stage enhances long-term impact.
- **Data and transparency:** Use of evidence-based indicators on synergies facilitates monitoring and continuous improvement.

For Mainstream and Interreg Authorities, including National Coordination Authorities:

1. Strengthen Multilevel Governance:

- Establish permanent coordination groups bridging national, regional, and European levels.
- Enhance dialogue between funds' managing authorities and relevant EU bodies (e.g., DG REGIO –geographical and D1/D2 Units, DG RTD, DG MARE, DG ENEST, etc.).

2. Streamline Capitalisation Processes:

- Assign dedicated resources for reusing INTERREG flagship outputs.
- Embed capitalisation targets and synergies evaluation criteria within future calls.

3. Promote Digital Interoperability:

- Develop integrated digital platforms for data sharing and synergy mapping.
- Enhance dashboard tools to monitor progress across programmes.



Towards Post-2027 Cohesion Policy:

- **Scale-Up:** Extend the SYNERGIES model to additional Italian Regions and align it with upcoming ERDF/ESF+ cohesion programming periods.
- **Capacity Building:** Implement training programmes for regional and managing authority representatives on integrated planning and capitalisation techniques.
- **Sustainability:** Establish a national platform for continuous reuse of Interreg outputs and strategic monitoring of synergies.
- **Pilot Projects:** Launch transnational and cross-border pilots to further test and refine cooperation actions, starting from the post-27 CPR and funds regulations, linking Interreg, mainstream funds, Horizon Europe and additional EU-directly managed programs.



SYNERGIES: A Potential Strategic Enabler for a better integrated and impactful EU Cohesion policy

- Delivers tested methods to transform flagship outputs into systemic and coherent policy assets.
- Promotes inclusive and integrated cooperation across multiple funding streams.
- Provides a replicable, evidence-based framework for driving innovation and sustainable development.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

SYNERGIES PILOT PROJECT

WHO'S WHO at the Department for Cohesion Policies and Southern Italy - DG V – INTERREG UNIT - for additional info, please contact: interreg@governo.it

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