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INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 Programme

Analysis of the main territorial challenges, needs and transnational cooperation potentials in central Europe

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Annex 2: Survey results: Transnational cooperation is central – but where is it needed most?

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Annex 2: Survey results: Transnational cooperation is central – but where is it needed most?

Collection of strategic inputs for a future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
Programme 2021-27

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1. INTRODUCTION

These are the results of an electronic survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe. The survey addressed national, regional and local representatives of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE national committees in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Their answers are an important contribution to the debate about the thematic concentration of the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027. The survey was organised by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies in close cooperation with the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme. The national members of the CE2021+ Working Group provided important assistance in distributing the survey to the programme stakeholders in the central Europe countries. The survey was conducted from September 19th to October 13th 2019.

The results of the survey are a preliminary assessment of the priorities of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 programme and serve as inputs for the “Strategy and consensus building workshop” on November 13th. The full analysis will also include the findings of the survey plus the results of expert interviews to be held after the workshop. The results of this will be included in the final project report.

The survey consisted of four main blocks:

- General questions
- Question concerning the future challenges of central Europe
- Question concerning the Policy and Specific Objectives of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027
- Questions on the identity of central Europe

The results for these blocks are described in more detail below.

The target group for the survey consisted of people/institutions with a close relationship to transnational cooperation and included national/regional/local member of national committees, project partners as well as experts. The results therefore reflect the views of this specific group of stakeholders.

The total number of complete survey responses was 321, i.e. in those cases the survey was filled out completely. Overall, the number of respondents was satisfying and ensured the representativeness of results.

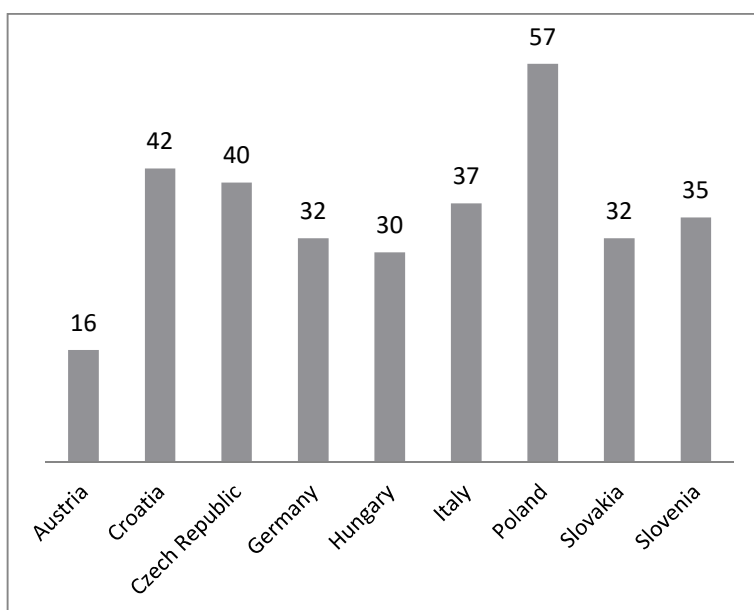
2. GENERAL QUESTIONS

The general questions addressed the following topics:

- The respondents' country of origin
- The respondents' type of organisation
- The strength of respondents' relation to Interreg Transnational Cooperation Programmes
- The respondents' role in Transnational Cooperation

On average, out of the 321 complete surveys, we got on average between 30 and 40 responses per country. The exception to this are Austria, from which only 16 responses were submitted, while from Poland we got 57 responses (see Figure 1).¹

Figure 1: The respondents' country of origin; in absolute numbers

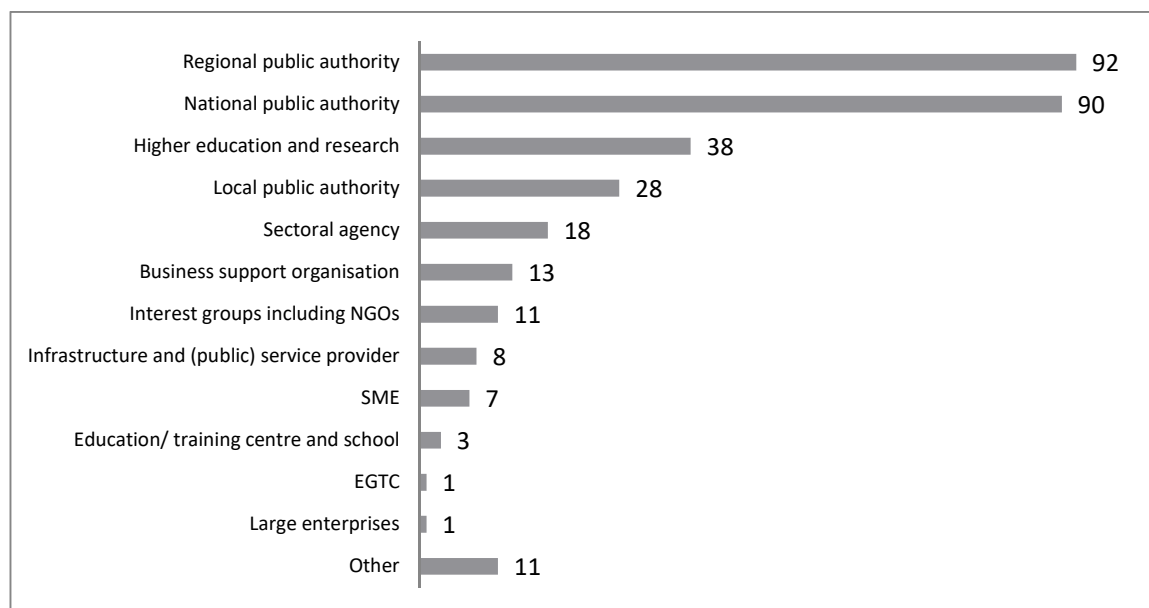


Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Most survey responses (i.e. 210) came from public authorities, specifically 92 from regional public authorities, 90 from national authorities and 28 from local authorities (see Figure 2). Enterprise participation from SMEs or large enterprises was very low and includes only 9 responses in total.

¹ Prior to the survey analysis the possibility of a country-bias was considered. It could arise if there is a particularly large number of responses from one country and only few responses from other countries. To remedy such a bias the original survey results were, where applicable, weighted by the countries' share in total responses. However a comparison showed that original and weighted survey results are nearly identical.

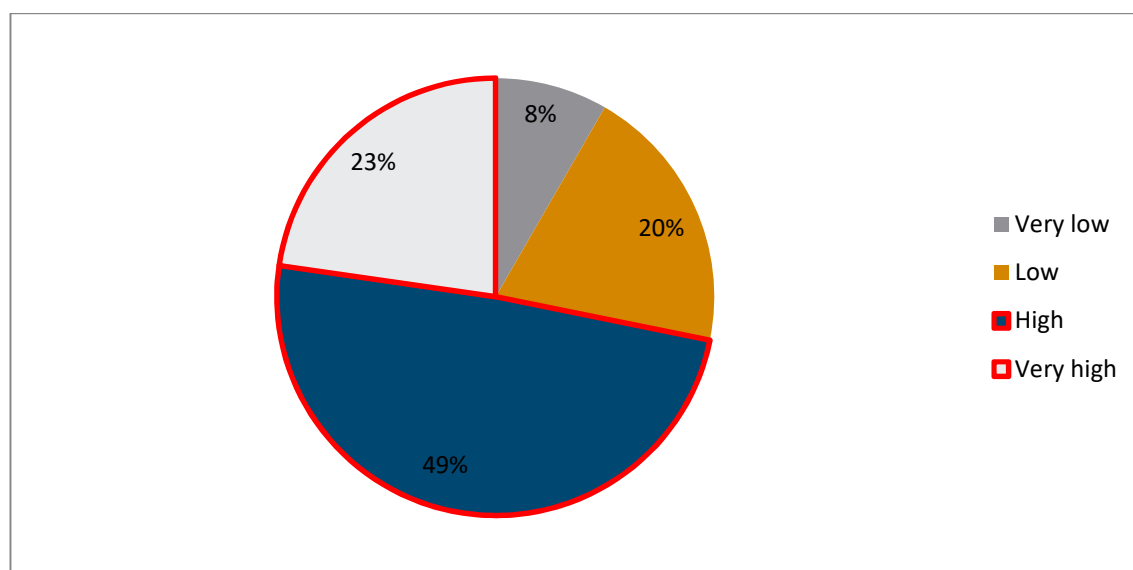
Figure 2: The respondents' type of organisation; in absolute numbers



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

The institutions' connection to Interreg Transnational Cooperation programmes was generally strong as around 72% of the respondents judged the strength of their Interreg relation as either "High" or "Very High" (Figure 3).

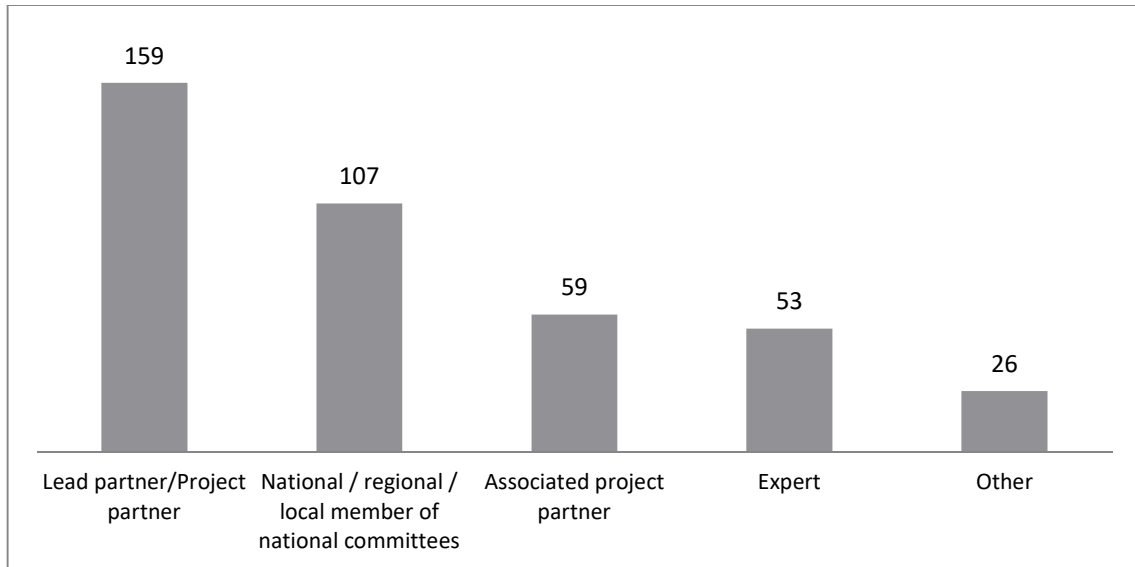
Figure 3: The strength of respondents' relation to Interreg Transnational Cooperation programmes, in %



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

The source of this strong relation to Interreg Transnational Cooperation programmes came from the fact that many respondents were actively involved in Interreg Transnational Cooperation projects, either as lead or ordinary project partners, or as members of the national committees (Figure 4). The total number of responses for this specific question was 404 as multiple answers were allowed. This means that some of the 321 respondents were involved through different roles in Transnational Cooperation.

Figure 4: The respondents' role in Transnational Cooperation, number of answers



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

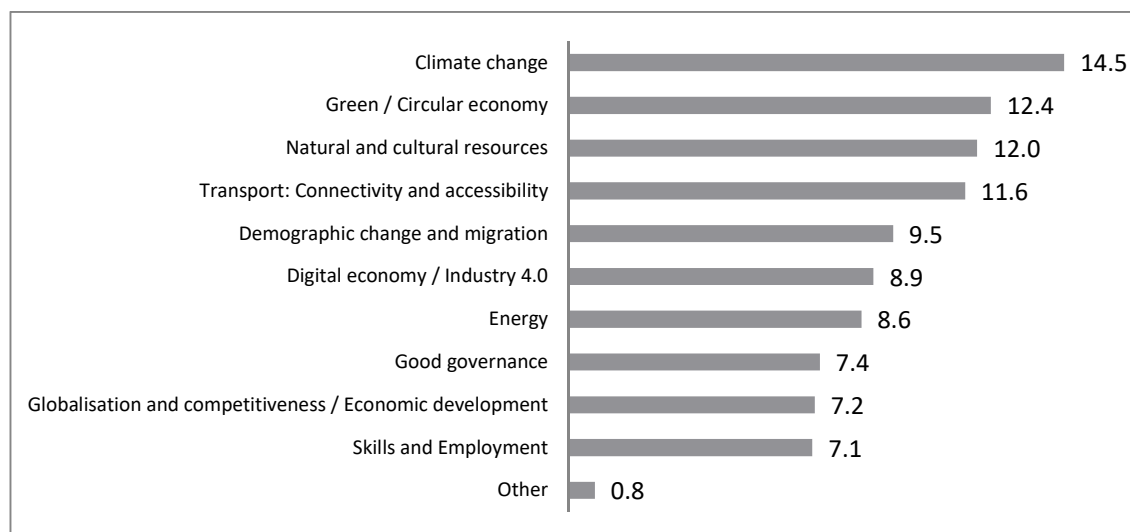
3. THE FUTURE CHALLENGES OF CENTRAL EUROPE

The second block of question addressed the future challenges of central Europe. In the survey we asked specifically for the respondents' opinion on 10 challenges, yet leaving also the option to define additional challenges if necessary. The ten challenges are: a) Climate change, b) Green / Circular economy, c) Natural and cultural resources, d) Transport: Connectivity and accessibility, e) Demographic change and migration, f) Digital economy / Industry 4.0, g) Energy, h) Good governance, i) Competitiveness & Economic development, and j) Skills and Employment.

For the survey respondents the most important future challenges for central Europe are "green topics", particularly related to climate change and its effects, the development/strengthening of the green and circular economy as well as natural and cultural resources (Figure 5). These are followed by connectivity and accessibility challenges.

By contrast, challenges related to labour markets and the social situation as well as regarding globalisation and competitiveness seem to have a lower priority.

Figure 5: Importance of challenges according to the respondents' answers; in % of total answers



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Additionally, for each challenges we also asked the respondents to provide their opinion on the importance of respective sub-challenges. For this, a list of sub-challenges, including a category “Other”, was provided, and the respondents were asked to indicate the importance of these sub-challenges on a “Very low” – “Low” – “High” and “Very high” scale. For the analysis we attached numerical values to the answers, i.e. 1 to “Very low”, 2 to “Low”, 3 to “High” and 4 to “Very high”. Based on this we calculated the average value of the respondents’ opinion on each sub-challenge. Accordingly, the most important sub-challenges by main challenge are (see Table 1 in the Annex for a full list of results):

- Climate change
 - Climate change adaptation (rating: 3.5)
 - Climate change risks (rating: 3.4)
 - Other (rating: 3.8); other topics mentioned in this category include: water management, green mobility, impacts on agriculture, soil sealing and natural hazard risk management.
- Demographic change and migration
 - Shrinking regions (rating: 3.4)
- Digital economy / “Industry 4.0”
 - Technology development and transfer, applied research (rating: 3.4)
 - Digital skills development (rating: 3.4)
 - Digitalisation (rating: 3.3)
 - Other (rating: 3.4); other topics mentioned in this category include: digital facility management and digitalisation and SMEs
- Energy
 - Energy efficiency (rating: 3.5)
 - Renewable energy (rating: 3.5)
 - Decarbonisation (rating: 3.4)
 - Other (rating: 4.0): Sector coupling, smart cities and communities including digitalisations, electric vehicles as energy storage and the potential of hydrogen

- Globalisation and competitiveness / Economic development
 - Regional and global value chains (rating: 3.3)
 - Adapting labour skills to globalisation (rating: 3.3)
 - Other (rating: 3.5): other topics mentioned in this category include: Open innovation and R&D cooperation
- Good governance
 - Multilevel governance (rating: 3.5)
 - Policy learning and policy innovation (rating: 3.4)
 - Participatory approaches and stakeholder involvement (rating: 3.4)
 - Other (rating: 3.9): other topics mentioned in this category include: A homogenous nomenclature across borders, greater involvement of neighbouring countries or regions (particularly from South-East Europe), ICT and open data and integrated water resources management
- Green / Circular economy
 - Recycling, re-use, recovery (rating: 3.6)
 - Eco-Innovation and circular economy (rating: 3.5)
 - Waste management (rating: 3.4)
 - Change of consumer behaviour (rating: 3.4)
 - Other (rating: 3.9) other topics mentioned in this category include: Urban Green and urban environment, replacement of plastics, bio-economy and alternative off-market business approaches (e.g. "social agriculture", "cooperative housing")
- Natural and cultural resources
 - Integrated environmental management (rating: 3.4)
 - Biodiversity protection (rating: 3.3)
 - Air, water, soil quality management (rating: 3.3)
 - Other (rating: 3.8) other topics mentioned in this category include: Accessibility of cultural heritage, creative industries and the role of the civil society
- Skills and Employment
 - Shortage of skilled work force and human skills development (rating: 3.3)
 - Matching of the existing labour force and the available workplaces (rating: 3.3)
- Transport: Connectivity and accessibility
 - Good connections between CENTRAL EUROPE countries (rating: 3.3)
 - Accessibility of peripheral and rural regions, links to TEN-T (rating: 3.3)
 - Multimodal transport solutions and modal shift (rating: 3.3)
 - Other (rating: 3.8): Mutual learning, exchange of good practices, corporate mobility plans, sustainable mobility actions, maintenance and resilience of existing infrastructures and integrated planning to prepare large infrastructure projects

4. POLICY AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME 2021-2027

The third block of survey questions referred directly to the future programme structure of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 Programme. This means that the programme will focus on a selection of the Policy Objectives (POs) and related Specific Objectives (SOs) as defined by the draft General Provisions and ERDF regulations as well as on one Specific Objective as defined by the Interreg regulation.

The survey questions were formulated according to this structure, using the latest available version of the concerned draft regulations (Council position, 15.7.2019).² The proposed ERDF and Interreg regulations include 5 POs available for support. These are:

- PO1: 'A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation'
- PO2: 'A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management'
- PO3: 'A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity'
- PO4: 'A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights'
- PO5: 'A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives'

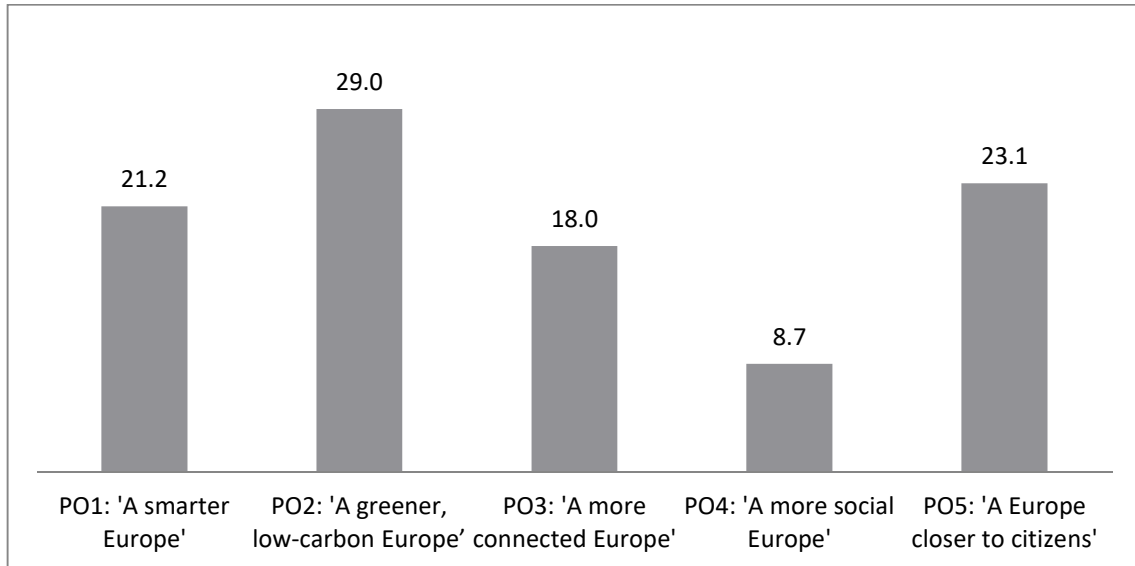
On this basis, the respondents were asked to select a maximum of three ERDF POs the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027 should support.

The answer showed a clear preference for PO2: 'A greener, low-carbon Europe' as around 29% of respondents prioritised this objective. PO5 'A Europe closer to citizens' got the second most votes (23.1%), followed by PO1 'A smarter Europe' (21.2% of votes). PO3 'A more connected Europe' came fourth with 18% of the respondents' votes. PO4 'A more social Europe' got last with only 8.7% of the votes (see Figure 6).

It is interesting to see that the answers for the POs are only partly consistent with the answers for the challenges. While the strong preference for 'green topics' consistently take the top rank in both the answers for the challenges and the POs, PO1 'A smarter Europe' is higher ranked than the related challenges "Digital economy / Industry 4.0" and "Globalisation and competitiveness / Economic development". Speculating about potential reasons for this discrepancy there at least two options a) respondents did not connect PO1 'A smarter Europe' with topics related to digital economy and globalisation and b) respondents connected PO1 and the respective challenges but applied strategic consideration in their ranking of POs.

² This formulation may therefore further change in the next phases of the legislative process.

Figure 6: Respondents' ranking of Policy Objectives for the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 Programme; in % of total responses



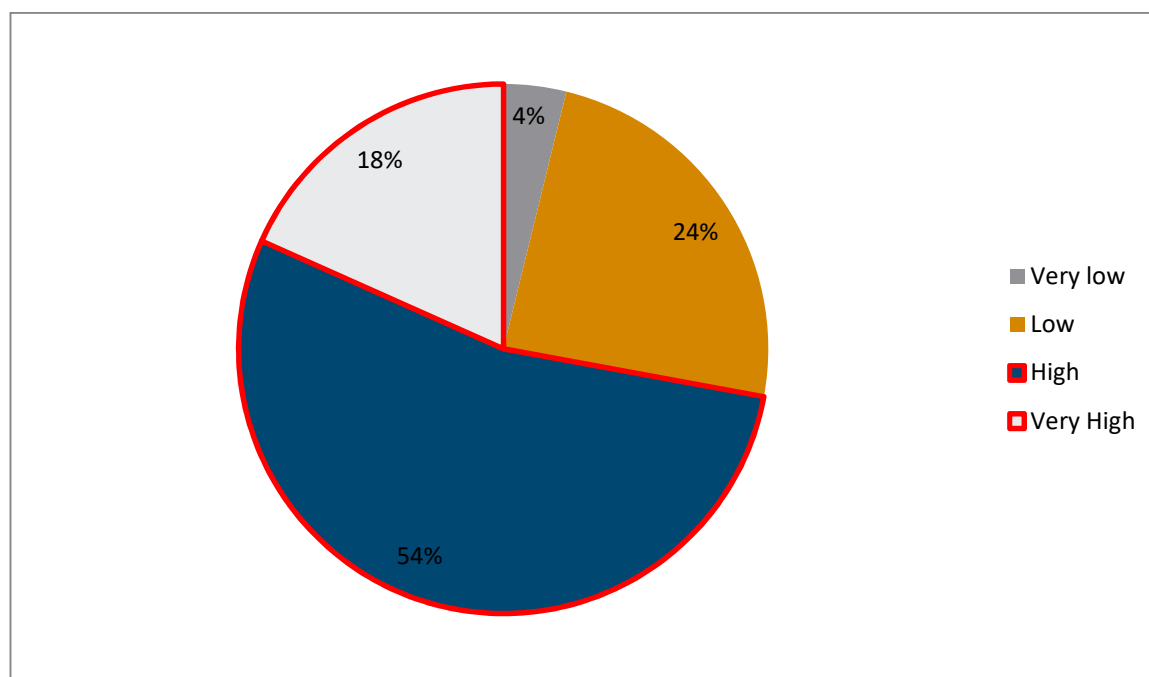
Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Following this questions, the respondents were asked for each of the 5 POs to rank the respective SOs according to their perceived importance on the “Very low” to “Very high” scale. The detailed results, including the list of SOs, for these questions are shown in the Annex (Figure 11 - Figure 15). As an overview, all SOs got an average rating of 3 or above, meaning their importance is considered to “High” or above. Highlight results include:

- PO1: 'A smarter Europe' (see Figure 11)
 - The SO 'Developing skills for smart specialisation [...] was considered most important (rating: 3.5).
 - The SO 'Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs' was considered least important (rating 3.0).
- PO2: 'A greener, low-carbon Europe' (see Figure 12)
 - All SOs were considered of very high importance (ratings 3.3 to 3.5), except for the SO “Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Networks for Energy” (rating: 3.1)
- PO3: 'A more connected Europe' (see Figure 13)
 - The SO 'Developing sustainable, climate resilient [...] mobility [...] was considered most important (rating 3.5).
 - The SO 'Enhancing digital connectivity' was considered least important (rating 3.1)
- PO4: 'A more social Europe' (see Figure 14)
 - All 4 SOs are considered to be of similar importance (ratings around 3.3)
- PO5: 'A Europe closer to citizens' (see Figure 15)
 - Both SOs are of approximately the same importance to the respondents (rating 3.4/3.5).

In addition to the ERDF related POs the survey also asked for the respondents' opinions regarding the importance of the Interreg Specific Objective 'A better cooperation governance'. The survey result was very clear, 72% of the respondents considered the SO's importance to be either "High" or "Very high" (see Figure 7).

Figure 7: Importance of the Interreg SO 'A better cooperation governance' according to survey respondents; in % of respondents



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Following the general question on Interreg governance, the respondents were asked to provide specific topics that should be covered under the Interreg SO. There were a lot of responses to this question, which were collected, linguistically edited and structured into a) output related, b) project related and c) programme management related answers. Notably, a number of answers appeared multiple times either in an identical or similar version. Those have been aggregated. Likewise only answers directly related to the SO have been considered, as a number of answers in fact related to the ERDF POs.

Output related answers

- Enhance the institutional capacities of public administrations, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory and of stakeholders
- Develop skills and knowledge for smart economies, adaptation of individuals to fast changing economies, inclusive and higher quality of services in the CE, access to health care
- Enhanced involvement of local and regional stakeholders
- Decentralisation of competences.
- Create good citizen involvement practices at local city level to enhance the cooperation of citizens and authorities in various fields.

- Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions
- Tackling corruption
- Exchange of good practises
- Building of trust in the areas: people-to-people and civil society
- Reconciliation of regions within the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme and taking into account the differences between regions to preserve diversity, especially in the context of culture.
- Integration of marginalized, migrants and disadvantage groups
- The target groups should feel that the Interreg projects are actively present in the regions, with good impact on their lives.
- Closer cooperation between the public sector and the private sector.
- Increasing the visibility of the EU in the programme regions
- Emergency services (ambulance, police, fire brigade and search and rescue services) to pass through the border, transport networks, tourism, energy networks, protection of nature and habitats...
- Digitalisation of public services, increasing efficiency of public services, optimizing bureaucracy requirements in public services
- Institutional capacity to support macroregional strategies"
- Capacity of smaller stakeholders for international/transnational cooperation
- Participatory models for planning and conflict management
- Exchange of practices on policy instruments and on policy strategies (in the fields of culture and creative and of entrepreneurship)

Project related answers

- Maximise the impact of projects on the participating countries.
- A higher focus on project elaboration and management.
- Reducing administrative tasks of the funded projects (enhanced use of lump sums wherever possible), and measuring the project results by actual achievements instead of financial controls.
- Concentrate more on the content of the projects.
- Novel, innovative methods to be used for communication of project co-operations and results, with a focus on the results and achievements and not on administrative indicators
- A higher degree of co-creational project development between CE programme and project partnerships.
- Not only support "nice" projects for cooperation, but support projects that bring clear value added for region and can attract or facilitate tangible investment needed to implement true, not only pilot solutions
- More transparent processes would be especially helpful for lead partners when it comes to Interreg's governance. Project partners have deadlines for everything, yet once e.g. a Joint Progress Report is handed it, there is no way of knowing when feedback can be expected. Clear deadlines for both sides would structure the process better and lead to a more efficient project process.
- More interest in practical project results.
- Central Europe projects with good results should be put more prominently through communication and governance.

Programme management related answers

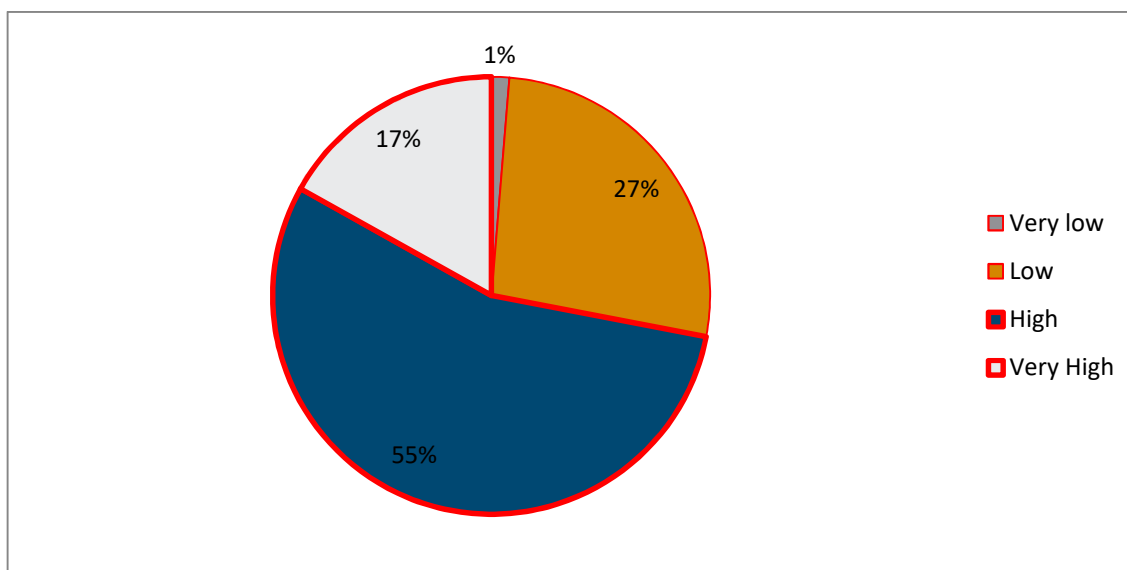
- Cross sectoral management, possibility of cross integration of PO's
- Simplification and harmonization of Interreg programmes rules, more transparency of project evaluations, enhancing the technical evaluation of the projects, advance ERDF payment for projects.
- A more strategic approach in programming, linked to effective functional areas (transregional and cross-border areas)
- Common strategies with accelerated impact on the territories and with a "ready to apply" concrete approach for the different topics"
- Promoting a share management tool-kit or the same management instrument and platform for all the INTERREG Programmes in order to facilitate the projects management, reporting and understanding.
- Support for shared calls for proposal to link similar project among different areas.
- Synergies with mainstream programmes management, mutual links
- Simplification and unification of reporting procedures, full and true digitalisation procedure, realistic indicators setting within the projects, more focus on the control of quality of results rather than paper checks
- More balanced territorial distribution of projects, avoiding situations where "always the same" partners receive projects.
- Greener implementation of projects, e.g. minimise paper production (documents needing signature, more e-signature)"
- Broad scopes for project call
- More available programs for local governments.
- How can CE benefit from/participate in the EUSBSR and EUSDR or how could CE use best the governance of the two MRS? CE as bridge between the two MRS.
- Additional advisory board of CE Lead Partners as a feedback system for ensuring maximum effectiveness of programme structures (each LP could receive a lump sum for participating in a CE feedback meeting once per year)

5. THE IDENTITY OF CENTRAL EUROPE

The last block of questions was concerned with the identity of central Europe as well as with the most important policy tools of Transnational Cooperation.

The first question of this block asked the respondents to specify the degree to which they consider the central Europe area to have a specific identity. The answers were provided on the on the "Very low" to "Very high" scale, and indicate that 72% of the respondents consider the degree of a central to be either "High" or "Very high" (Figure 8).

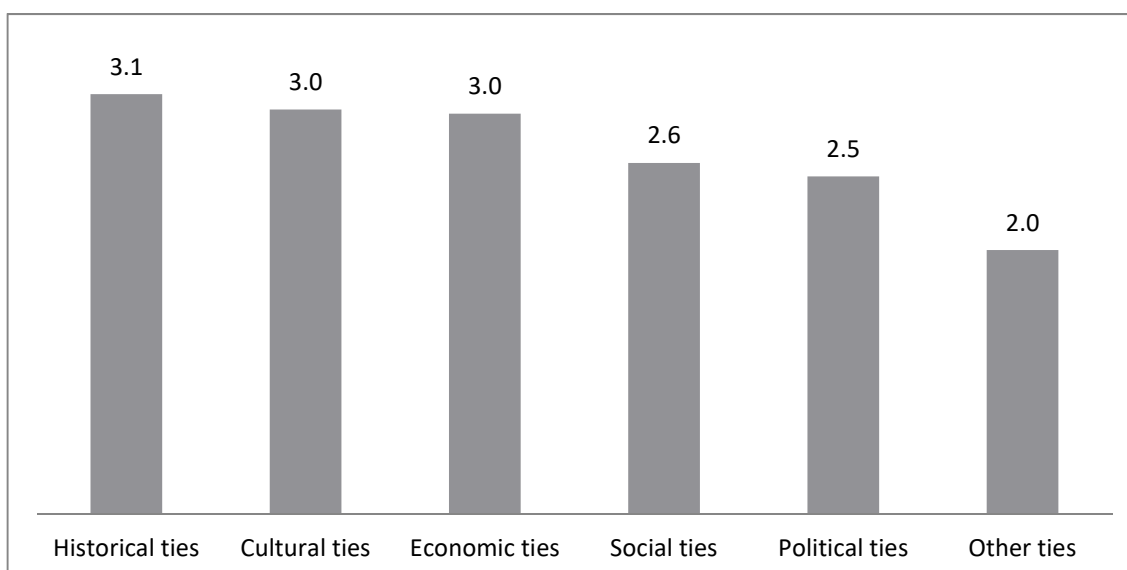
Figure 8: The degree of a joint central Europe identity; in % of respondents



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

As a follow-up question we asked the respondents to rank the potential ties connecting central Europe according to their importance, again using the “Very low” to “Very high” scale. The results (Figure 9) indicate that the strongest ties in central Europe are historical, cultural as well as economic ties between the countries and citizens.

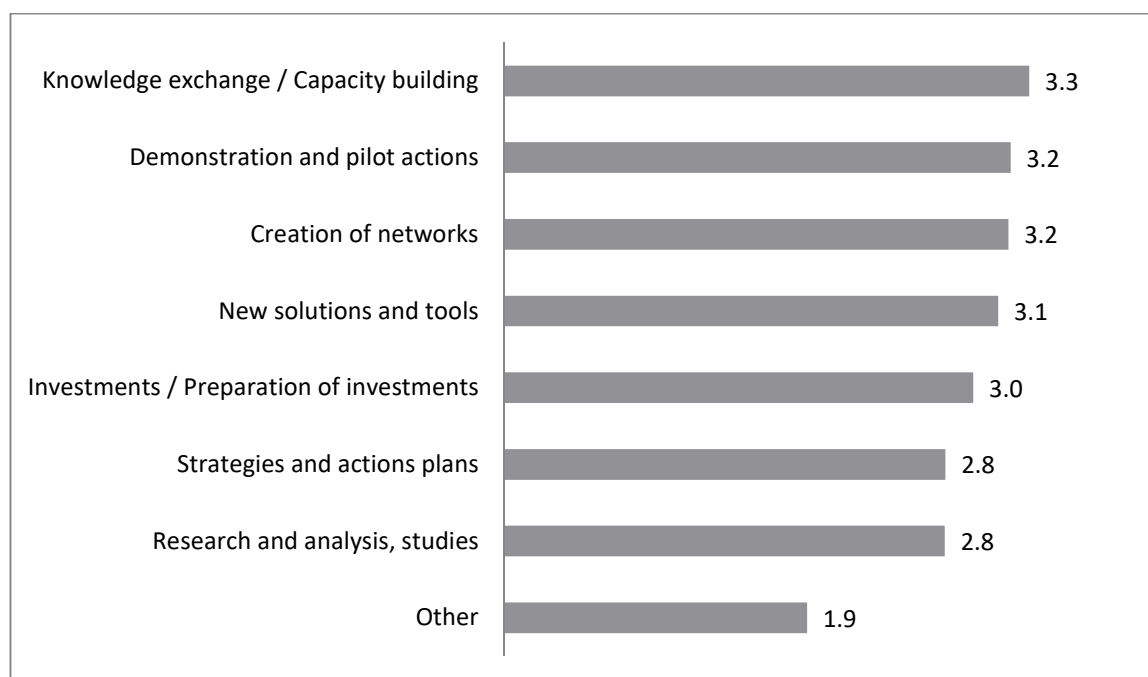
Figure 9: Importance of the ties connecting the central Europe countries; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

The final question of the survey was dedicated to which output types of transnational cooperation projects yield the highest benefits for central Europe. Respondents were given a choice of options (including an “Other” option) and asked to rank these options by their importance on the “Very low” to “Very high” scale. The results (Figure 10) indicate that the respondents consider “Knowledge exchange / Capacity building” to be most important followed by “Demonstration and pilot actions”, “Creation of networks” and the creation of “New solutions and tools”.

Figure 10: Importance of TNC output types; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

6. ANNEX 1 – ADDITIONAL TABLES

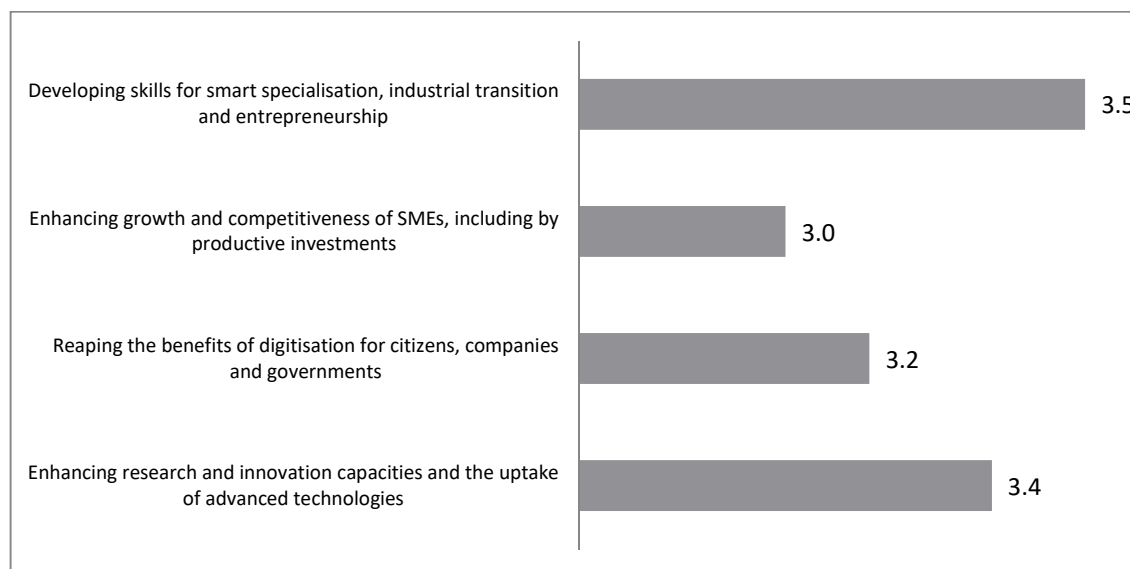
Table 1: Ranking of sub-challenges (by main challenge) according to their perceived importance; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)

Challenges	Average rating
Climate change	
Climate change adaptation	3.5
Climate change risks (floods, rising sea level etc.)	3.4
Extreme weather events (heat waves, heavy rain, storm, etc.)	3.1
Changes in biodiversity	3.1
Water scarcity and droughts	3.1
(Urban) heat islands	2.9
Other	3.8
Demographic change and migration	
Shrinking regions	3.4
Ageing society and silver economy	3.1
Access to labour market	3.1
Access to education and lifelong learning	3.1
Social inclusion of disadvantaged groups	3.0
Social services (e.g. child care, elderly care)	2.9
Health care and health related services	2.9
Other	3.2
Digital economy / Industry 4.0	
Technology development and transfer, applied research	3.4
Digital skills development	3.4
Digitalisation	3.3
Uptake and integration of digital economy	3.0
Cybersecurity and -crime	2.8
Digital single market	2.7
Other	3.4
Energy	
Energy efficiency	3.5
Renewable energy	3.5
Decarbonisation	3.4
Energy storage	3.1
Energy market (e.g. smart grids)	3.1
Energy security	2.9
Other	4.0
Globalisation and competitiveness / Economic development	
Regional and global value chains	3.3
Adapting labour skills to globalisation	3.3
Entrepreneurship	3.2
Structural and technological changes / R&D capacities	3.2
Financing of innovation	3.1
Domestic investment at regional level	2.8
Foreign direct investment	2.6

Challenges	Average rating
Other	3.5
Good governance	
Multilevel governance	3.5
Policy learning and policy innovation	3.4
Participatory approaches and stakeholder involvement	3.4
Political cooperation across borders	3.2
Increase of administrative capacities	3.2
Political and private buy-in	2.5
Anti-corruption	2.4
Other	3.9
Green / Circular economy	
Recycling, re-use, recovery	3.6
Eco-Innovation and circular economy	3.5
Waste management	3.4
Change of consumer behaviour	3.4
Clean production and sustainable packaging	3.3
Soil management and land use (e.g. reduce soil sealing)	3.1
Other	3.9
Natural and cultural resources	
Integrated environmental management (e.g. natural sites, resources)	3.4
Biodiversity protection	3.3
Air, water, soil quality management	3.3
Cultural sites and creative resources	3.2
Economic potential of cultural resources	3.2
Environmental risk management	3.2
Economic potential of natural resources	3.1
Other	3.8
Skills and Employment	
Shortage of skilled work force and human skills development	3.3
Matching of the existing labour force and the available workplaces	3.3
Youth (un)employment / job opportunities	3.2
Women (un)employment / job opportunities	3.1
Local / regional labour markets	3.1
(Un)employment / job opportunities for elderly population	3.1
Lack of employment opportunities	3.0
Other	2.0
Transport: Connectivity and accessibility	
Good connections between CENTRAL EUROPE countries	3.3
Accessibility of peripheral and rural regions, links to TEN-T	3.3
Multimodal transport solutions and modal shift	3.3
New technologies in mobility / transport	3.2
Low carbon (urban) mobility	3.1
Other	3.8

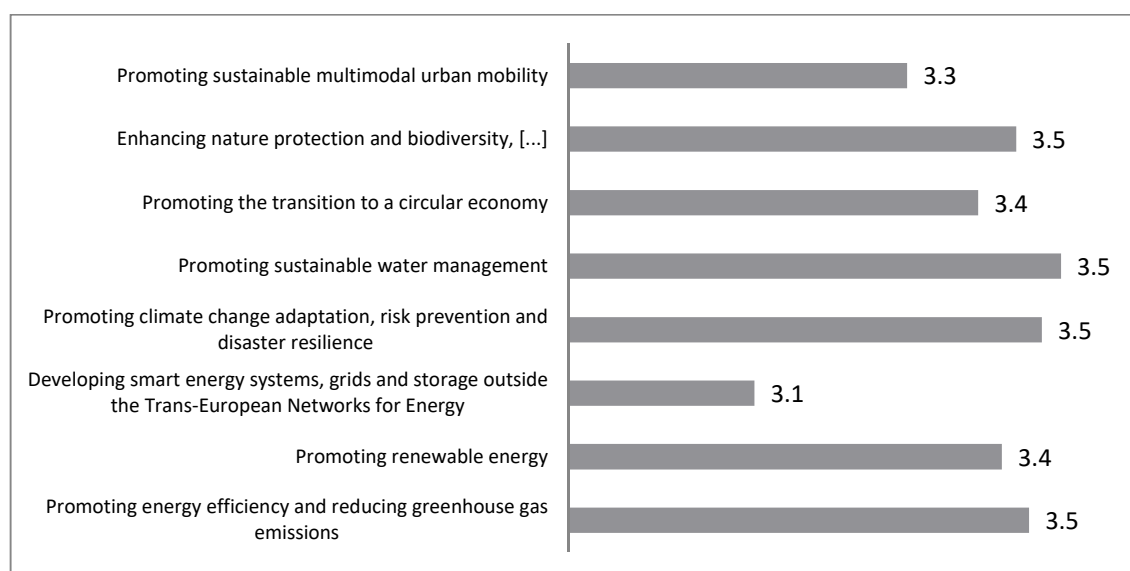
Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Figure 11: Importance of PO1 'A smarter Europe' Specific Objectives according to survey respondents; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)



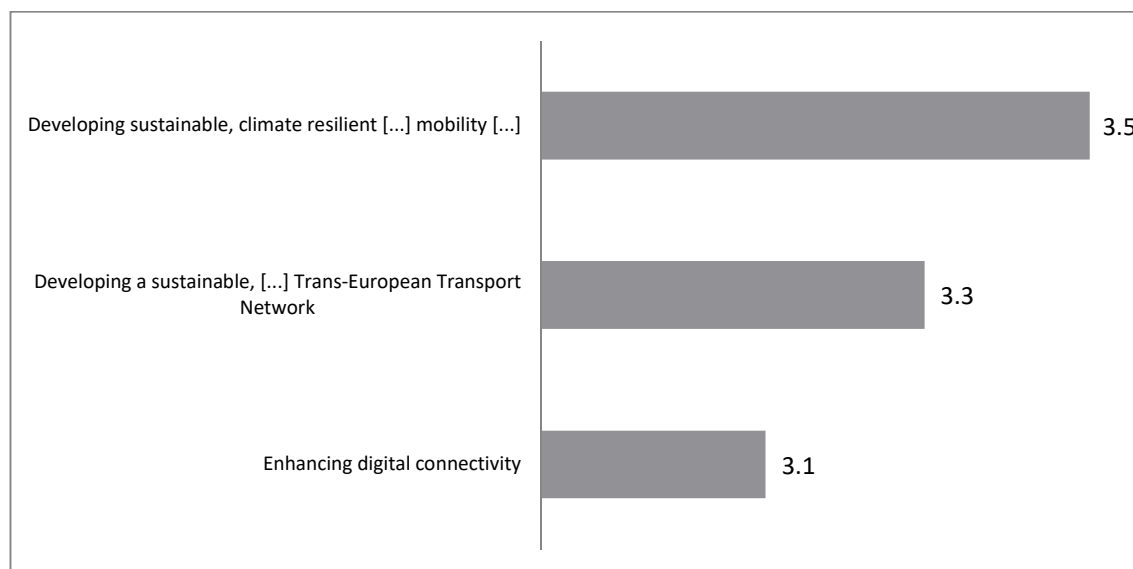
Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Figure 12: Importance of PO2 'A greener Europe' Specific Objectives according to survey respondents; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)



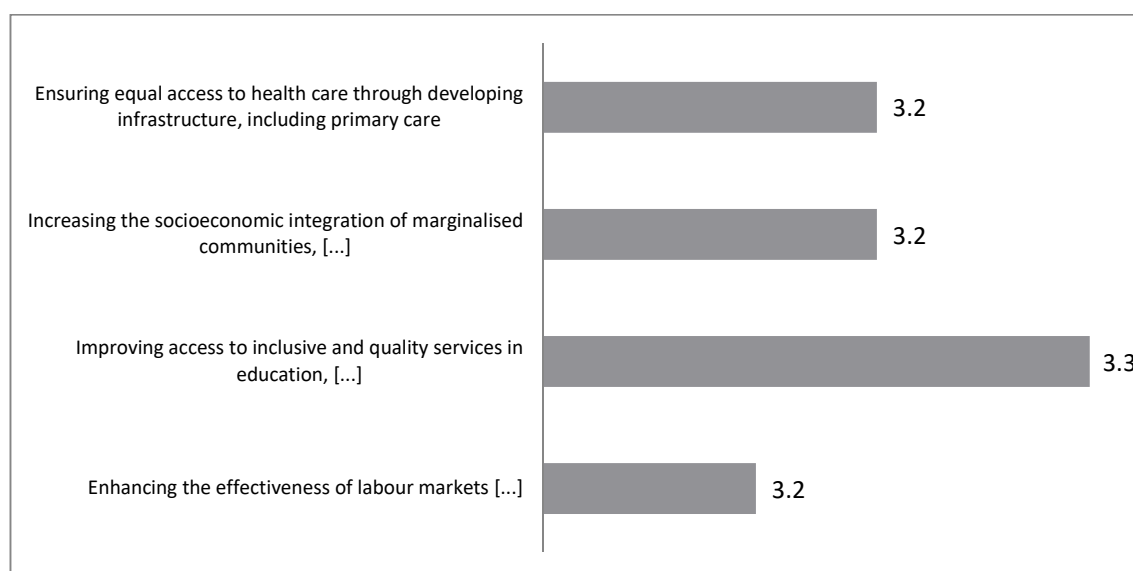
Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Figure 13: Importance of PO3 'A more connected Europe' Specific Objectives according to survey respondents; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)



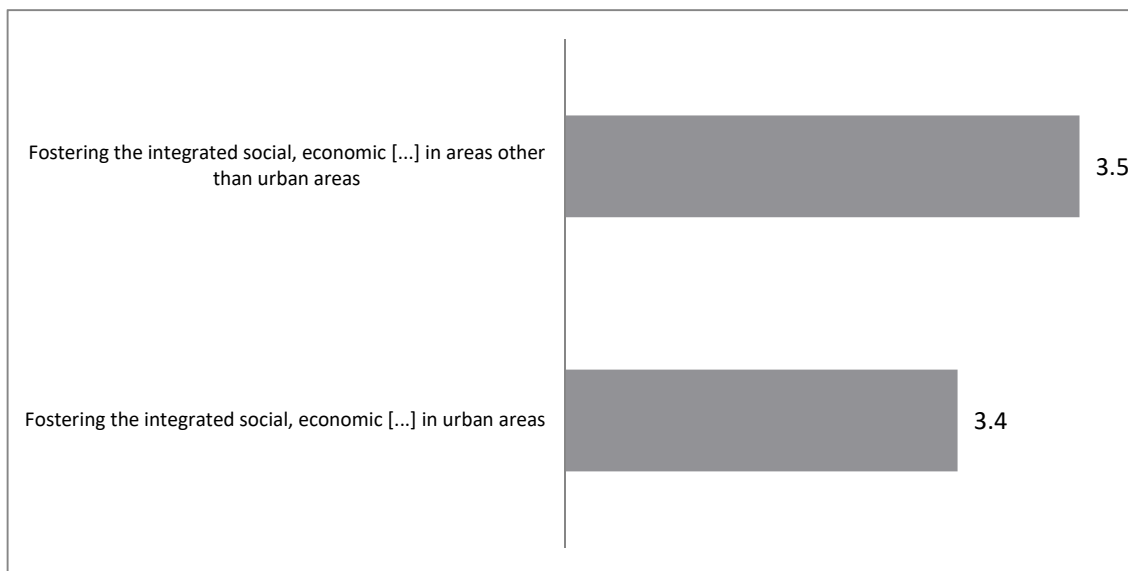
Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Figure 14: Importance of PO4 'A more social Europe' Specific Objectives according to survey respondents; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

Figure 15: Importance of PO5 'A Europe closer to citizens' Specific Objectives according to survey respondents; scale from 1 (Very low importance) to 4 (Very high importance)



Source: wiiw survey on the needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe

7. ANNEX 2 – THE ORIGINAL SURVEY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Transnational cooperation is central - but where is it needed most?

Collection of strategic inputs for a future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-27

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE is a transnational funding programme, which currently supports 129 cooperation projects across central Europe. The programme contributes to EU cohesion and regional development by addressing shared transnational challenges in the fields of innovation, low-carbon economy, environment, culture and transport.

With this survey, the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) aims to collect national and regional inputs to find out: "Where do programme countries perceive the highest needs for transnational cooperation to meet future challenges in central Europe?"

This survey is conducted by wiiw in the context of a study commissioned by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat for the preparation of the new Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027. Results will feed into the ongoing strategic debate about the thematic focus of the future programme.

This survey primarily addresses national, regional and local representatives of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE national committees in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Your answers will be an important contribution to the ongoing debate about the thematic concentration of the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027.

For questions please contact: Roman Römisch, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw), roemisch@wiiw.ac.at

1.2 QUESTIONS

A) General questions

1 Country **Drop down list (see Annex)**

If you are located in a different country please provide its name:

2 Type of organisation **Drop down list (see Annex)**

3 To what extent is your work related to Interreg Transnational Cooperation Programmes? **Very low – Low –High – Very High**

4 What is/was your role in Transnational Cooperation? (multiple answers possible)

Lead partner/Project partner

Tick box

Associated project partner

Tick box

National / regional / local member of national committees

Tick box

Expert

Tick box

Other

Tick box

Please provide the type of 'other' activities (optional):

B) Questions on challenges in central Europe

Which challenges can be most effectively tackled by transnational cooperation in the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?
Please select the most important ones from the list below. (up to 5)

- 5** For background information please refer to the study: “Socio-economic challenges, potentials and impacts of transnational cooperation in central Europe” (wiiw, October 2018), available for download under: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/discover/programme.html#Publications>

Climate change	Tick box
Demographic change and migration	Tick box
Digital economy / Industry 4.0	Tick box
Energy	Tick box
Globalisation and competitiveness / Economic development	Tick box
Good governance	Tick box
Green / Circular economy	Tick box
Natural and cultural resources	Tick box
Skills and Employment	Tick box
Transport: Connectivity and accessibility	Tick box
Other	Tick box

Please provide the type of ‘other’ challenges and describe them briefly (optional):

B.1) Follow up questions on challenges in central Europe – only for those selected under question 5

5.1. Climate change: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Water scarcity and droughts	Very low – Low– High – Very High
(Urban) heat islands	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Extreme weather events (heat waves, heavy rain, storm, etc.)	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Changes in biodiversity	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Climate change adaptation	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Climate change risks (floods, rising sea level etc.)	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low– High – Very High

If you select “Other” a text box will appear below, where you can specify the topic.

In case you consider ‘other’ topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.2. Demographic change and migration: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Health care and health related services	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Social services (e.g. child care, elderly care)	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Social inclusion of disadvantaged groups	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Access to education and lifelong learning	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Access to labour market	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Ageing society and silver economy	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Shrinking regions (e.g. outward migration, missing public services and infrastructures)	Very low – Low– High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low– High – Very High

In case you consider ‘other’ topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.3. Digital economy / Industry 4.0: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Digitalisation (e.g. robotisation, internet of things, artificial intelligence),	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Digital skills development	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Technology development and transfer, applied research	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Cybersecurity and -crime	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Digital single market	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Uptake and integration of digital economy by companies and the public	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low – High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.4. Energy: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Decarbonisation	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Energy efficiency	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Renewable energy	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Energy market (e.g. smart grids)	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Energy storage	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Energy security	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low – High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.5. Globalisation and competitiveness / Economic development: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Domestic investment at regional level (from public and/or private sector)	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Foreign direct investment	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Adapting labour skills to globalisation (e.g. to Industry 4.0 and digitalisation)	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Structural and technological changes / R&D capacities	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Entrepreneurship	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Regional and global value chains	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Financing of innovation	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low –High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.6. Good governance: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Multilevel governance (e.g. horizontal and vertical cooperation of stakeholders and decision making)	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Participatory approaches and stakeholder involvement	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Policy learning and policy innovation	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Political and private buy-in	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Increase of administrative capacities	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Political cooperation across borders	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Anti-corruption	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low –High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.7. Green / Circular economy: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Clean production and sustainable packaging	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Waste management	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Recycling, re-use, recovery	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Eco-Innovation and circular economy	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Soil management and land use (e.g. reduce soil sealing)	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Change of consumer behaviour	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low –High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.8. Natural and cultural resources: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by Transnational Cooperation in central Europe?

Biodiversity protection	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Air, water, soil quality management	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Integrated environmental management (e.g. natural sites, resources)	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Cultural sites and creative resources	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Environmental risk management	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Economic potential of natural resources	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Economic potential of cultural resources	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low –High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.9. Skills and Employment: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Local / regional labour markets	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Lack of employment opportunities and support to work place creation	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Shortage of skilled work force and human skills development	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Matching of the existing labour force and the available workplaces	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Women (un)employment / job opportunities	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Youth (un)employment / job opportunities	Very low – Low –High – Very High
(Un)employment / job opportunities for elderly population	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low – High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

5.10. Transport: Connectivity and accessibility: In your opinion, to which extent can the following topics be effectively addressed by transnational cooperation in central Europe?

Good connections between CENTRAL EUROPE countries (e.g. EU Trans-European Transport Network)	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Accessibility of peripheral and rural regions, links to TEN-T	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Low carbon (urban) mobility	Very low – Low –High – Very High
New technologies in mobility / transport	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Multimodal transport solutions and modal shift	Very low – Low –High – Very High
Other	Very low – Low –High – Very High

In case you consider 'other' topics of particular importance, please describe them briefly (optional):

C) Questions on objectives for the future programme

The future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme will be structured along the general provisions of the future EU Cohesion policy. Foremost this means that the programme will focus on a selection of the five Policy Objectives (POs) and related Specific Objectives (SOs) as defined by the draft General Provisions and ERDF regulations as well as on one Specific Objective as defined by the Interreg regulation. The next questions follow this structure.

The formulation of POs and SOs used in the following questions refers to the latest available version of the concerned draft regulations (Council position, 15.7.2019). This formulation may therefore further change in the next phases of the legislative process. The proposed ERDF and Interreg regulations include 5 Policy Objectives available for support.

6 Please select a maximum of three ERDF Policy Objectives the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme should focus on taking into account the previous challenges identified (see section B of the survey).

PO1: 'A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation'	Tick box
PO2: 'A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management'	Tick box
PO3: 'A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity'	Tick box
PO4: 'A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights'	Tick box
PO5: 'A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives'	Tick box

6.1 Within PO1 'A smarter Europe' which specific objectives do you consider particularly important for the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?

Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	Very low – Low – High – Very High

6.2 Within **PO2 'A greener, low-carbon Europe'** which specific objectives do you consider particularly important for the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?

Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Promoting renewable energy	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Networks for Energy	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Promoting sustainable water management	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Promoting the transition to a circular economy	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Enhancing nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in particular in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility	Very low – Low – High – Very High

6.3 Within **PO3 'A more connected Europe'** which specific objectives do you consider particularly important for the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?

Enhancing digital connectivity	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal Trans-European Transport Network	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to Trans-European Transport Network and cross-border mobility	Very low – Low – High – Very High

6.4 Within **PO4 'A more social Europe'** which specific objectives do you consider particularly important for the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?

Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care	Very low – Low – High – Very High

6.5	Within PO5 'A Europe closer to citizens' which specific objectives do you consider particularly important for the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?	
	Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in urban areas	Very low – Low – High – Very High
	Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in areas other than urban areas	Very low – Low – High – Very High

7	Do you consider, and to which extent, the SO1 'A better Interreg governance' of particular importance for the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme in order to support good governance in its regions?	Very low – Low – High – Very High
7.1	Which topics under SO1 'A better Interreg governance' do you consider particularly important for the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?	

Please put your suggestions for SO1 here:

D) Questions on the identity of central Europe

The following questions address the specific identity of the central Europe area.

Please note that 'identity' in this context is defined as: ***Individuals or groups share a regional identity if they refer to the region as a place or institution where they belong to. A common CENTRAL EUROPE identity may exist in addition to existing national, regional and local identities.***

8	To what degree do you consider the central Europe area to have a specific identity?	Very low – Low – High – Very High
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9	To what degree is this identity based on
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Historical ties	Very low – Low – High – Very High
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Economic ties	Very low – Low – High – Very High
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Social ties	Very low – Low – High – Very High
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Cultural ties	Very low – Low – High – Very High
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Political ties	Very low – Low – High – Very High
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Other ties	Very low – Low – High – Very High
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If you select "Other ties" a text box will appear below, where you can specify these ties.

Please provide the type of 'other' ties and describe them briefly (optional):

10 In your opinion, which output types of transnational cooperation projects yield the highest benefits for central Europe? (multiple answers possible)

Research and analysis, studies	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Knowledge exchange / Capacity building	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Investments / Preparation of investments	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Strategies and actions plans	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Creation of networks	Very low – Low – High – Very High
New solutions and tools	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Demonstration and pilot actions	Very low – Low – High – Very High
Other (please specify)	Very low – Low – High – Very High

Please provide the type of 'other' outputs and describe them briefly (optional):

Thank you for your cooperation! Your answers are an important contribution to the ongoing debate about the thematic concentration of the future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027.

For questions please contact: Roman Römisch, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw), roemisch@wiiw.ac.at

1.3 SURVEY - ANNEX

A1 Countries

Austria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Germany
Hungary
Italy
Poland
Slovakia
Slovenia
Other

A2 Institutions

Local public authority
Regional public authority
National public authority
Sectoral agency
Infrastructure and (public) service provider
Interest groups including NGOs
Higher education and research
Education/ training centre and school
Large enterprises
SME
Business support organisation
EGTC
International organisation, EEIG
General public
Other

