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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 3: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021+ - Strategy and consensus building workshop – Summary of the main findings

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The strategy and consensus building workshop took place on November 13th in Vienna. In total 35 representatives from the Interreg CE WG21+ plus additional experts of the nine central Europe (CE) countries, the Managing authority and the European Commission participated. The workshop was organised jointly by the Joint Secretariat (JS) of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme and the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw). The workshop was moderated by Roman Römisch (wiiw) and Helmut Hiess (Rosinak&Partner), involving additional four experts from the wiiw.

The purpose of the workshop was to contribute to the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE strategy building process and to be one step towards getting a consensus between Member States on the priorities of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 Programme.

The workshop was organised as “World Café” so that all participants could discuss the five future ERDF Policy Objectives (PO) as well as the Interreg specific objective (SO) “A better cooperation governance”. To stimulate the discussions, in total three presentations were held. Firstly one overview presentation of the main results of the territorial analysis of CE challenges and the stakeholder survey results by Helmut Hiess and Roman Römisch. Secondly, two presentations on the policy needs and potentials of transnational cooperation and the topics tackled by the current CE programme by experts from the JS and the wiiw.

The section below summarises the main results and points of this discussion in bullet point form; it also includes the final participants’ ranking of the POs and their Specific Objectives. The produced output of the workshop, i.e. posters collecting ideas on future transnational actions for each PO/SO (considering also horizontal issues), the workshop programme as well as the presentations, are included in the Annex.

## 2. MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

The following points that were discussed during the workshop are not exhaustive and represent a selection of the most frequent and emphasised issues.

### PO 1 - A SMARTER EUROPE

- **General discussion points**
  - So far, PO1 developed good projects.
  - The Interreg CE Programme played and should play a vital role in creating transnational eco-systems, support firms in value chains and in the adoption of technologies. This is a comparative advantage compared to other EU programmes, notably Horizon 2020.
  - Overlaps with other POs, especially PO2 A greener Europe
- **SO 1.1 Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies**
  - Interreg CE should not take role of Horizon 2020 (e.g. by developing innovative goods)
  - Challenges: Firms lack of a) adoption and development of technologies and b) exporting their innovative goods – if they are developed
  - Develop policies to attract innovative companies and human capital in less-developed regions
  - Regional innovation agents that consult companies and authorities
  - Open access to innovation and science
- **SO 1.2 Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments**
  - Potential horizontal topic
  - Lack of supply of e-services, lack of communication between e-services
  - Lack of digital competences of individuals required for ongoing digitalisation, need to develop digital competences also within public authorities (e.g. implementing solutions to ease the life of entrepreneurs)
  - Reluctance of authorities to adapt best practices as transparency disrupts status quo
  - Could be connected with social and health topics
  - Innovative solutions need to be promoted
- **SO 1.3 Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments**
  - Gap in technologies and skills used in SMEs especially in transition industries
  - Lack of integration in value chains
  - Failure to scale-up
  - Programme needs to address clusters, not specific sectors
  - Consult companies on implied changes through external factors (globalisation, automation) to prepare and adjust business models
- **SO 1.4 Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship**
  - Overlaps with other EU programmes e.g. ESF
  - Smart specialisation is considered important by many participants, but implementation so far has been difficult
  - The role of S3 in regional development should be strengthened, so far many regions define similar S3 priorities such as advanced manufacturing

- Target specific disadvantaged groups (e.g. manufacturing workers affected by automation) and develop skills demanded by labour market
- Move human capital/knowledge transfer from more to less developed parts of regions
- Focus on social innovation

## **PO 2 - A GREENER, LOW-CARBON AND RESILIENT EUROPE**

- **General discussion points**
  - Interlinkages of topics between PO2 SOs especially with respect to climate change, and the cross-cutting nature of the PO e.g. the use of digital technologies (linking SO1.2. “Digitisation” and SO2.3 “Smart grids”).
  - It is important to strengthen the implementation of innovative solutions, taking up of new technologies and the importance of digitalisation.
  - Need to take up new actors and partnerships (as illustrated by the call for the creation of new types of cooperation.
  - Synergies to national programmes should be explored with view of the roll-out of the project outcomes at the territorial perspective.
- **SO 2.1 Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions**
  - Affordable energy-efficient buildings
  - Incentivise improving energy-efficiency of buildings
- **SO 2.2 Promoting renewable energy**
  - Support of innovation projects
  - Waste heat exploration
- **SO 2.3 Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside TEN-E**
  - Potentially too demanding for TNC
  - Take up of new technologies
  - TNC needs to focus on connecting institutions rather than energy infrastructure related to smart energy systems, as TNC cannot provide infrastructure investment.
- **SO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience**
  - SO was considered most important
  - Common plans for climate change adaptation measures
  - Creating new services and technologies to adapt to climate change (also related to innovation)
  - Sharing experience for climate change solutions
  - Adaptation in forestry (e.g. monitoring)
  - Urban-heat islands
- **SO 2.5 Promoting sustainable water management**
  - Less important SO for some participants
  - Water pollution & contamination risks
  - Remediation of underground water
  - Marine litter/plastic/micro-plastic
  - Antibiotics/drugs in water resources
  - Call for a stronger focus on interlinkages among rivers, lakes and seas
- **SO 2.6 Promoting the transition to a circular economy**
  - Important SO

- Support of innovative activities
  - Make suggestions to the EU on drafting a legislation on circular economy for enterprises
  - Promote focus on specific branches (plastics, paper, etc.)
  - Plastics reduction
  - Reuse / second-hand market
- **SO 2.7 Enhancing nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in particular in the urban environment, and reducing pollution**
  - Important SO
  - Spatial planning with respect to green infrastructure
  - Air & water quality co-operation
  - Integrated land planning also taking account of water management
  - Green-Belt Initiative
- **SO 2.8 Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility**
  - Some participant considered this SO less important
  - Not only focus on urban cores but also on rural areas (hinterlands)
  - Electro-mobility
  - Rural/urban commuting
  - Reduction of private cars
  - SO should focus on solutions not provided by private companies

### **PO 3 - A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE**

- **General discussion points**
  - The discussion rounds revealed a quite clear picture as regards the priorities for the specific objectives within PO 3. SO 3.1 “Digital connectivity” and SO 3.2 “TEN-T” have low or no priority for the future CE Programme. This is due to better alternative funding facilities (Digital Europe, CEF) and the progress of implementation. Therefore, a TNC programme cannot effectively address existing investment needs.
- **SO 3.1 Enhancing digital connectivity**
  - Low or no priority for the future CE Programme - better alternative funding facilities (Digital Europe)
  - Use of transnational knowledge to create regional digitisation strategies – this was however considered as a cross-cutting issue.
- **SO 3.2 Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T**
  - Low or no priority for the future CE Programme - better alternative funding facilities for large scale TEN-T infrastructure.(CEF)
- **SO 3.3 Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility**
  - Actions, which are put for discussion with a question mark: e.g. a) trilateral cross-border issues as they do not cover the whole programme area, b) issues that have been tackled in the current programme period and where it is unclear, if there is a need for further actions, e.g. the accessibility of peripheral areas, transport links and services across borders, improvement in regional networks complementing TEN-T CNC.



- Actions that address joint challenges and call for capacity building, knowledge transfer, development of prototypes or pilot actions to find and promote solutions. Examples: a) Changing travel behaviour and traffic patterns (more sustainable), b) development of multimodal nodes and hubs for passenger and freight traffic, c) connecting peripheral regions to regional centres and the TEN-T and d) the implementation of mobility as a service as regards transnational traffic and transport relations, e.g. improving digital mobility services like integrated digital ticketing, passenger information etc.
- SO should include both passenger and freight transport.
- Avoid overlapping of funding facilities rather than an overlapping of themes across programmes.

#### **PO 4 - A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE**

- **General discussion points**
  - Doubts were raised that PO4 is applicable in a transnational framework.
  - Social policy measures could be implemented as part of the other POs.
  - Important interrelations between the POs, e.g. PO1 and PO4.
- **SO 4.1 Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure**
  - Large CE internal migration, in particular from the East to the West. Need to focus on the labour market and working conditions of these groups of “migrants”.
  - Labour market integration of migrants: take into account differences in the structure of migrants in the CE countries.
  - Future developments/processes (e.g. digitalization and automation) will lead to the loss of jobs with higher share of repetitive tasks but will also create new types of jobs. The structural mismatch between labour demand and labour supply will change in the future. Demographic change will lead to higher demands for care services and care work (home based).
- **SO 4.2 Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure**
  - To combat structural unemployment in CE regions, it is essential to improve the matching process, i.e. bring together the local industry with potential employees.
  - Improve the matching processes of highly skilled unemployed.
  - Private-public cooperation (e.g. for health care services/providers, childcare) can result in a knowledge and know-how transfer/exchange and can trigger positive spill-over effects.
  - Local educational institutions (e.g. schools) can work together with the local industry to develop concepts that are more in line with local needs and interests.
- **SO 4.3 Increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services**
  - Prioritisation of specific groups, e.g. homeless individuals or former prisoners.
  - Working conditions of workers doing elderly care in the West of the CE region, but who are actually coming from the East.
  - Importance of complex interventions for individuals with multiple disadvantages, the role of social enterprises for employment options of these target groups
  - The situation of working poor needs to be addressed more.

- **SO 4.4 Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care**
  - Make use of digitalization to allow equal access to quality health care services (e.g. better information transfer)
  - Establish networks to transfer/exchange managerial and organisational tools and expertise for health care services. Higher performing regions/countries should support lower performing regions/countries
  - There is a need for a standardization and categorization of health care services in the CE region. An overall spatial planning program across the entire CE region can contribute to more efficient and better performing health care services.

## **PO 5 - A EUROPE CLOSER TO CITIZENS**

- **General discussion points**
  - PO5 has a strong territorial approach. This puts it in contrast to the others POs that are strongly sectoral.
  - Territorial functionality was discussed, especially in the context of functional urban areas, pointing out that urban-rural relationships and their development need integrated policy approaches.
  - Unclear significance of the split between SO 5.1 and SO 5.2.
  - Overlap with other POs
  - Security aspects of PO5 cannot be tackled through means of the Interreg CE Programme.
  - Consensus among the participants that PO5 should not focus solely on local development, because this undermines the purpose of integrated development and TNC.
  - High relevance of cultural heritage within the framework of PO5 as well as for tourism development.
  - Multidimensionality of factors and processes that affect regional development cannot effectively be tackled within one PO only and such integrated approach could be a horizontal guideline or principle spanning all POs. Key challenges to be addressed are the urban rural demographic divide and underused cultural heritage
  - **Specific messages covering both SO 5.1 and SO 5.2**
  - Questions on the feasibility of territorial instruments, such as ITI, micro-regional ITI and CLLD. Transnational actions aimed at knowledge transfer on how to implement these instruments might be fruitful.
  - Referring to the ERDF and Interreg specific regulation, which mention that also other territorial strategies and tools can be applied, the question was raised which strategies and tools could be considered. Currently there is no clear position by the EC on this.
  - Many participants saw actions in the domain of cultural heritage as central to PO5, because it can foster a central European identity and support tourism/economic development.
  - Vertical integration through stakeholder participation (e.g. local and regional authorities) is of major importance.
  - Requirements for cultural heritage projects to be integrated (horizontally and vertically) might need to be raised
  - Linking cultural heritage to smart specialisation strategies is an asset.

- Short term projects or smaller projects with a more direct and or immediate impact might be suitable to increase the visibility of projects and improve perceptions of EU legitimacy. There was however no consensus on this and recommendations were to implement this as a horizontal guideline if necessary.
- Discussions also centred on including other topics to be integrated in PO5, e.g. transport or social topics. There was no unanimous view amongst participants however.

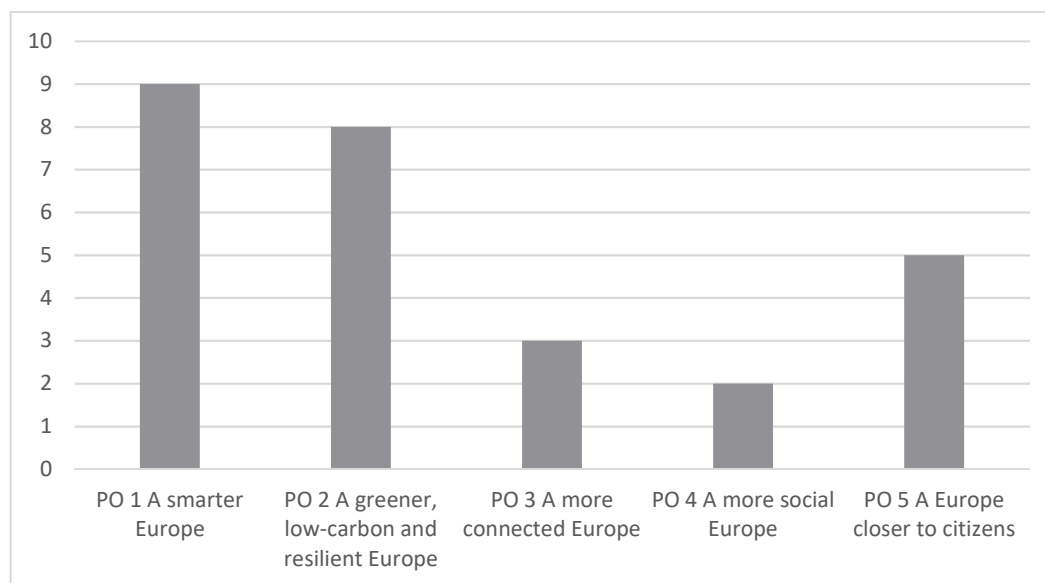
## **INTERREG SO - A BETTER COOPERATION GOVERNANCE**

- **General discussion points**
  - In principle, the discussion should have focussed on the two topics: a) “Enhance institutional capacity...” and b) “Building up mutual trust by enhancing sustainable democracy...”
  - Much of the discussion was focussed on whether the Interreg SO is relevant for the CE Programme. The consensus was that it is not relevant.
  - Cooperation governance is a horizontal issue and should be reflected in the other SOs, for example in a) capitalisation, b) up- and down-streaming of project results, c) the inclusion of the civil society (link to PO5), d) the addressing of “umbrella” institutions to base and promote cooperation on and via existing institutions and e) the relevant target groups and beneficiaries for the CE Programme.
  - Potential capacity building measures should be addressed in the context of technical assistance.

## **3. RANKINGS OF POS AND SOS**

After finishing the discussions of the POs and the respective SOs the national delegations were asked to rank the POs and SOs according to their importance. Each delegation got 3 points to distribute across the 5 POs, so that in total 27 points were allocated for the ranking of POs. For ranking the SOs each delegation got 9 points to be distributed according to their preferences on the 21 SOs. Hence in total 81 points were allocated to the SOs. The results are as follows:

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**Figure 1: Number of points per PO**

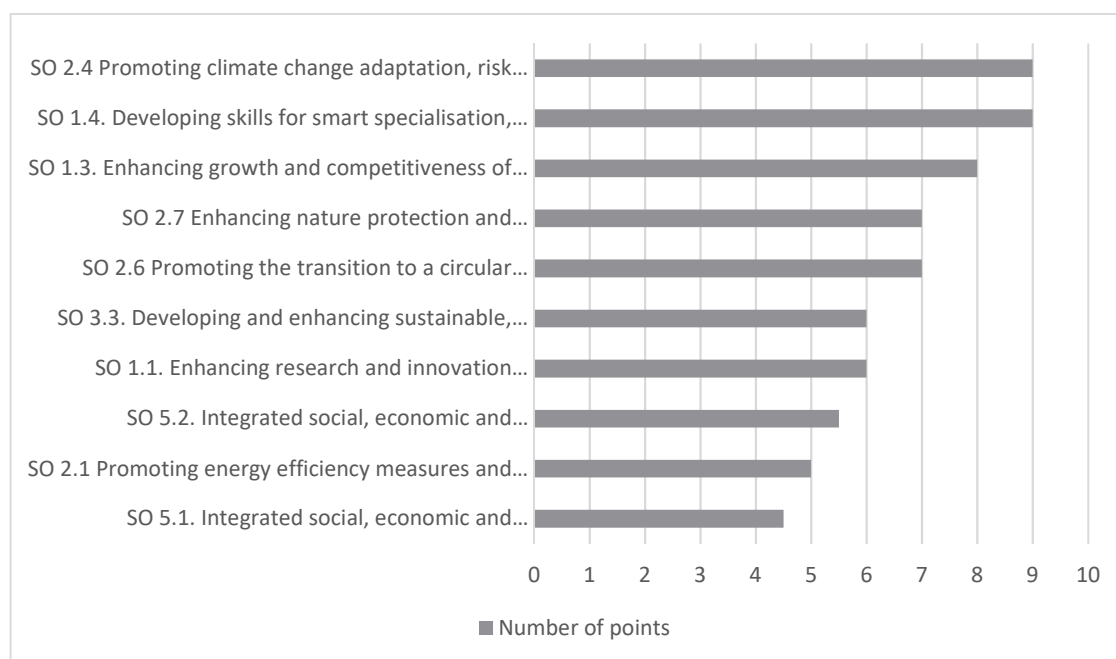
Note: 27 points in total

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**Table 1: Ranking of Specific Objectives, by POs**

Specific Objectives		Number of points
<b>PO 1 A smarter Europe</b>		
<b>PO 1</b>	SO 1.1. Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	6
<b>PO 1</b>	SO 1.2. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments	2
<b>PO 1</b>	SO 1.3. Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments	8
<b>PO 1</b>	SO 1.4. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	9
<b>PO 2 A greener, low-carbon and resilient Europe</b>		
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.1 Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	5
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.2 Promoting renewable energy;	4
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.3 Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage /at local level/; outside TEN-E	0
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience;	9
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.5 Promoting sustainable water management;	2
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.6 Promoting the transition to a circular economy;	7
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.7 Enhancing nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution;	7
<b>PO2</b>	SO 2.8 Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility	2
<b>PO 3 A more connected Europe</b>		
<b>PO 3</b>	SO 3.1. Enhancing digital connectivity	0
<b>PO 3</b>	SO 3.2. Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T	0
<b>PO 3</b>	SO 3.3. Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local accessibility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility	6
<b>PO 4 A more social Europe</b>		
<b>PO 4</b>	SO 4.1. Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment	2
<b>PO 4</b>	SO 4.2. Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning	1
<b>PO 4</b>	SO 4.3 Increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised and disadvantaged groups	1
<b>PO 4</b>	SO 4.4 Ensuring equal access to health	0
<b>PO 5 A Europe closer to citizens</b>		
<b>PO 5</b>	SO 5.1. Integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in urban areas	4.5
<b>PO 5</b>	SO 5.2. Integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in areas other than urban areas	5.5

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**Figure 2: Top-10 Ranking of SOs by points**

4. ANNEX 1 – WORKSHOP POSTERS

2021-2027 Policy Objectives	Voting	TOTAL	
PO1: 'A smarter Europe'	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ✕	<del>10</del>	9
PO2: 'A greener, low-carbon Europe'	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ✕ ★ ★ ★	<del>9</del>	8
PO3: 'A more connected Europe'	★ ★ ★	<del>3</del>	3
PO4: 'A more social Europe'	★ ★	<del>2</del>	2
PO5: 'A Europe closer to citizens'	★ ★ ★ ★ ✕ ✕	<del>3</del>	5

**PO1: 'A smarter Europe'**

Avoid overlapping with other programmes (e.g. Horizon)  
Topics could also be addressed under PO2 and PO5

Specific Objectives 2021-2027	Challenges in central Europe	Proposed transnational actions 2021-2027	Rating
SO 1.1 - Research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	Low R&D activity R&D concentration in urban areas & large companies Converting R&D expenditures into output Commercialisation of innovative goods and services	innovation agents conditions to attract innovation technology transfer & LINKAGES INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS IN INDUSTRIES WITH SOCIAL POSITIVE EFFECTS IN SERVICES OTHER AREAS (e.g. digital agriculture)	5
SO 1.2 - Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments	Digital society Digital economy e-government, e-health Uptake of modern digital technologies	Improving digital skills "e-government" for citizens & public Better communication - open spaces towards public Interoperability solutions for services & health care provision Digital creation of technological ecosystems - value chains & competences in e-government	2
SO 1.3 - Growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments	SMEs competitiveness Convergence Urban/rural economic divide	hidden champions REMOVE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS COMMON STRATEGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION technology transfer, advanced technology for improving industrial production The convergence between public money and SMEs INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN R&D CLUSTERS AS NEW TYPE OF ENTERPRISE PRO-ACTIVE ANTICIPATION OF SKILLS REQUIREMENTS CHANGES	5
SO 1.4 - Skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	Human capital Urban/rural educational divide Urban/rural digital skills divide	Support to growth (qualitatively) from small to medium enterprises CREATE human capital ENVIRONMENT FROM PUBLIC SPHERE SIDE Support to adaptation skills responsibility to climate change Support to transition of knowledge to human capital in private sector Specialisation Focus on THE RESOURCES OF TERRITORIES social and education for sustainable growth IIC for social innovation, in order to achieve the sustainable growth with low carbon	5

Linkages among actors of the innovation systems (Industry 4.0, AVM, agro- & bio-economy etc.)

Cultural and creative industries (cross-sectorial cooperation, entrepreneurship etc.)

Topics covered in CE 2014-2020

Skills and entrepreneurial competences (entrepreneurial skills, social entrepreneurship, qualification programmes etc.)

**PO2: 'A greener Europe' SO1-SO4**

Cross-linkages between POs

Specific Objectives 2021-2027	Challenges in central Europe	Proposed transnational actions 2021-2027	Rating
SO 1.1 - Energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse emissions	Energy efficiency improving but still below the EU average Greenhouse gas emissions reducing but still above EU average	Affordable E-eff buildings INCENTIVISE IMPROVING E-EFF of OLD BUILDINGS	5
SO 2.2 - Renewable energy	Renewable energy increasing, but still below the EU average	Support of innovation projects in sustainable energy WASTE HEAT EXPLOIT.	5
SO 2.3 - Smart energy systems, grids and storage side the TEN-E	Low investment activities in smart grids and storage	Energy efficiency in buildings Energy efficiency in buildings	5
SO 2.4 - Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	Heat extremes, decrease in summer precipitation, increasing risk of river floods, water scarcity, urban heat islands etc.	ADAPTATION IN FORESTRY (increasing forest cover) APPROACHES URBAN HEAT ISLANDS Low-carbon mobility planning in functional urban areas Low-carbon strategies and policies (renewable energy, energy financing, governance etc.)	5

Energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public buildings and infrastructures (administrative buildings, schools etc.)

Topics covered in CE 2014-2020

Low-carbon mobility planning in functional urban areas

Low-carbon strategies and policies (renewable energy, energy financing, governance etc.)



PO2: 'A greener Europe' SO5-SO8			
Specific Objectives 2021-2027	Challenges in central Europe	Proposed transnational actions 2021-2027	Rating
SO 2.5 - Sustainable water management	Surface water quality Waste water treatment.	<div>WATER POLLUTION &amp; CONTAMINATION</div> <div>REMEDIATION OF UNDERGROUND WATER</div> <div>IMPROVED HYDROLOGICAL MONITORING</div> <div>IMPROVED WASTE WATER TREATMENT</div> <div>IMPROVED WASTE WATER TREATMENT</div>	<div>find future challenges within PO2</div> <div>•</div>
SO 2.6 - Transition to a circular economy	Recycling rates are improving but still below target levels Development of circular economy	<div>WASTE REDUCTION</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div>	<div>•</div> <div>•</div> <div>•</div> <div>•</div> <div>•</div>
SO 2.7 - Nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in particular in the urban environment, and pollution reduction	Declining biodiversity Air pollution Continuing land take	<div>WASTE REDUCTION</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div>	<div>•</div> <div>•</div> <div>•</div> <div>•</div> <div>•</div>
SO 2.8 - Sustainable multimodal urban mobility	Car-based urban transport	<div>WASTE REDUCTION</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div> <div>WASTE REUSE</div>	<div>•</div> <div>•</div>
<div> <div>Circular economy and resource efficiency (waste, water etc.)</div> <div>Protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources (biodiversity, habitats, water quality etc.)</div> <div>Topics covered in CE 2014-2020</div> <div>Integrated urban environmental management, green spaces and land use (air quality, green infrastructure, brownfields etc.)</div> </div>			

Specific Objectives 2021-2027	Challenges in central Europe	Proposed transnational actions 2021-2027	Rating
<p>SO 4.1 - Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure</p>	<p>Regional concentration of long-term and youth unemployment</p> <p>Labour integration of women in</p> <p>High share of involuntarily temporarily employed</p>	<p>Alpha-region migration flow → create labour working conditions</p> <p>CE labour market → should be addressed</p> <p>Humanities from market → create in CE region → address working conditions and labour</p> <p>Address different public of regions → create in CE region</p> <p>Regionalisation → create public of different working conditions → create in CE region</p> <p>One labour market → institutionalisation → should be created</p> <p>Suggest institutionalised to achieve matching</p> <p>Private-public cooperation for social case studies / projects</p>	<p>●</p>
<p>SO 4.2 - Access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure</p>	<p>Participation in education and training</p> <p>Concentration of education and training in urban regions</p> <p>Low participation in early childhood education</p> <p>Regional concentration of early leavers from education and training</p>	<p>Unemployment → should be addressed</p> <p>Unemployment → should be addressed</p> <p>Educational system competes with social industry</p>	<p>●</p>
<p>SO 4.3 - Increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services</p>	<p>Regional concentration of poverty</p> <p>Regional concentration of NEETs</p> <p>Connection: social exclusion &amp; labour market</p>	<p>Integration of homeless people</p> <p>Assistance for children → improve living conditions → create in CE region</p> <p>Working poor → improve living conditions → create in CE region</p> <p>Former prisoner → improve living conditions → create in CE region</p> <p>Social integration → improve living conditions → create in CE region</p>	<p>●</p>
<p>SO 4.4 - Equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care</p>	<p>Urban-rural healthcare differences</p> <p>Low rates of home-care service users</p> <p>Regional unmet needs for medical examination</p>	<p>Networks for 24/7 emergency care → create in CE region</p> <p>Country-specific health-care systems</p> <p>Standardisation of health-care services → create in CE region</p>	<p>●</p>

Overlapping with ECF → promote development of the...

Social and labour market inclusion incl. migrant integration

Health support

Topics covered in CE 2014-2020

Social innovation and skills development

**PO5: 'A Europe closer to citizens'**

**Specific Objectives 2021-2027**

- SO 5.1 - Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in urban areas
- SO 5.2 - Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in areas other than urban areas

**Challenges in central Europe**

- Multi-causality of processes and factors
- Outward migration
- Negative rates of natural population change
- Urban and rural demographic divide
- Underused cultural heritage
- Low common European identity
- Low satisfaction with EU

**Proposed transnational actions 2021-2027**

- Support short-term projects
- Education regarding transnational projects with more direct/ timely impact
- Visible? → through local partners + communication issues (for not only for PO)
- at functional environmental management

**Topics covered in CE 2014-2020**

- Sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources (historic buildings and sites, crafts and traditions etc)
- Demographic change including migration

**Handwritten Notes:**

- local security
- transnat vs local
- territorial dimension
- integrated instead
- functional areas
- local and regional development
- equal living conditions
- focus on less developed regions
- Learning & know to use new IT
- institutional knowledge
- knowledge transfer
- mobility
- urban vs suburban artificial? & place
- only profits - ones?
- territorial functional
- functional areas
- SME transport
- Daghehen
- regional policy - to be integrated
- cultural projects with transnational funding to CE area + technical
- local and regional authorities
- creative industries
- overlap with other POs
- integrate cultural dimension into PO1
- Link with SO1
- input from young people
- Integr area man

[illegible]



## 5. ANNEX 2 – WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The version below is the final workshop programme. It deviates from the initial programme as organisational changes were made with respect to the inclusion of the Interreg Specific Objective A better cooperation governance” in the discussions and the ranking procedure. The version below was distributed to the participants at the workshop.

### INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE 2021+ - STRATEGY AND CONSENSUS BUILDING WORKSHOP

#### UPDATED - Outline of the workshop

##### Time and location

- November 13<sup>th</sup>, 09.00 – 17.00
- Vienna, Amtshaus der Stadt Wien für Mariahilf und Neubau, Hermannsgasse 24-26

##### Purpose of the workshop

The workshop will contribute to the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE strategy building process and will be an important step towards getting a consensus between Member States on the priorities of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 Programme.

Guided by workshop moderators, the workshop participants will discuss the five 2021-2027 ERDF Policy Objectives (POs) as well as the respective Specific Objectives (SOs) to identify those three that, as provided for in the draft regulations 2021-2027, the future programme should put a thematic focus on.

Each national delegation should be composed by persons who are familiar with the topics addressed under the five POs. In order to allow group work (see below agenda) national delegations should be composed by **at least 2 participants** holding the needed expertise for entailing discussions under each of the five POs. National delegations should be limited to maximum 5 participants.

The 5 POs and the respective SOs are:

1. **A smarter Europe** by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation ('PO 1') by:
  - i. enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
  - ii. reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments
  - iii. enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments
  - iv. developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship
2. **A greener, low-carbon and resilient Europe** by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management ('PO 2') by:
  - i. promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- ii. promoting renewable energy
  - iii. developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside TEN-E
  - iv. promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience
  - v. promoting sustainable water management
  - vi. promoting the transition to a circular economy
  - vii. enhancing nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in particular in the urban environment, and reducing pollution
  - viii. promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility
3. **A more connected Europe** by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity ('PO 3') by:
- i. enhancing digital connectivity
  - ii. developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T
  - iii. developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility
4. **A more social Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights ('PO 4') by:
- i. enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure
  - ii. improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure
  - iii. increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services
  - iv. ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care
5. **A Europe closer to citizens** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories ('PO 5') by:
- i. fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in urban areas
  - ii. fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, and cultural heritage, tourism and security in areas other than urban areas

The participants' discussions will be backed up by information from the background report "*Analysis of the main territorial challenges, needs and transnational cooperation potentials in central Europe*" and the results of the "*Survey of future objectives and priorities*". Both will be provided at least two weeks in advance of the workshop.

In addition, the Interreg Specific objective SO1 "A better cooperation governance" will be dealt with during the workshop.

The participants are encouraged to actively participate in:

- Discussions of the individual POs and SOs
- Brainstorming exercises on the potential of transnational cooperation in each PO and SO
- Prioritising POs and SOs in view of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 programme

The workshop time table is as follows:

## Time table

### **09.00 – 10.00: Welcoming, main results and grouping (plenary)**

- Welcoming remarks by the MA/JS
- Presentation of the main results of the territorial analysis (Task A) and the survey by Helmut Hiess (spatial planner, Rosinak&Partner) and Roman Römisch (wiw)
- Organisation of the workshop participants into two groups

As the following activities will be done in two smaller groups. Each workshop participant is asked to join one of the groups. Each group will work on each of the 5 POs as well as on the Interreg SO1. To illustrate: In the morning Group1 will work on PO1, PO2 and PO3, Group2 on PO4, PO5 and SO1; vice versa in the afternoon (Group1: PO4-SO1; Group2: PO1-PO3).

### **10.00 – 10.30: Introduction of Policy Objectives – inputs for morning session**

- Presentation to each working group of the policy needs and TNC potentials for concerned POs (workshop moderators)
- Presentation of the experiences of the current CE 2014-2020 programme (JS)

Organisationally, there will be two rooms for the presentation of the main challenges and policy needs. In Room 1 the presentations for PO1 (A smarter Europe), PO2 (A greener Europe) and PO3 (A more connected Europe) will be held. In Room 2 the presentations for PO4 (A more social Europe), PO5 (A Europe closer to citizens) and SO1 (A better cooperation governance) will be held.  
**Group1** will be in **Room1**.  
**Group2** will be in **Room2**.

### **10.30 – 10.45: Coffee break**

### **10.45 – 12.00: Group activities, part I**

- Discussion of respective PO and SOs
- Brainstorming on the potentials of transnational cooperation in the PO and SOs

To begin, **Group1 (Room1)** will be split in Group1a, Group1b and Group1c. They will work in a rotation on **PO1, PO2 and PO3**. **Group2 (Room2)** will be split in Group2a, Group2b and Group2c. They will work in a rotation on **PO4, PO5 and SO1**.

Guided by a group-moderator, each subgroup will

- discuss its PO and the respective SOs, with respect to its aspects relevant for transnational cooperation, its main past topics as well as potential future topics;
- brainstorm of a) how and through which types of action transnational cooperation can contribute to tackle the PO/SO specific challenges; b) potential target groups in the respective PO/SOs

The discussion will be assisted by the expertise of the moderator as well as posters showing the main challenges (as a reminder of the points raised in the input presentations).

**Time available:**

In both rooms:

- **25-30 minutes** for the **first** PO of each group
- **20-25 minutes** for the **second** and **third** PO of each group.

The time available for the first PO for each group will be generally longer than for the subsequent POs. This is because workshop participants will:

- already be acquainted with the procedures
- build on the results of the groups that worked on the respective PO before.

The results of the previous groups will be shown on flip charts – insights from new groups will be added to those.

### **12.00-13.00: Lunch break**

### **13.00– 13.30: Introduction of Policy Objectives – inputs for afternoon session**

- Presentation to each working group of the policy needs and TNC potentials for concerned POs (workshop moderators)
- Presentation of the experiences of the current CE 2014-2020 programme (JS)

**Group1** will be in **Room2**.

**Group2** will be in **Room1**.

### **13.30 – 14.45: Group activities, part II**

- Discussion of respective PO and SOs
- Brainstorming on the potentials of transnational cooperation in the PO and SOs

To begin, **Group1 (Room2)** will be split in Group1a, Group1b and Group1c. They will work in a rotation on **PO4, PO5 and SO1**. **Group2 (Room1)** will be split in Group2a and Group2b. They will work in a rotation on **PO1, PO2 and PO3**.

Activities will be the same as in the morning session (discussion, brainstorming, rating of SOs).

Each Group will build on the results of the groups that worked on the respective PO before.

The results of the previous groups will be shown on flip charts – insights from new groups will be added to those.

**Time available:**

In both rooms:

- **20-25 minutes** for each PO.

#### **14.45– 15.00: Coffee break**

#### **15.00 – 16.00: Wrap up of workshop findings (plenary)**

- Presentation of the main results and findings of the participants work in the 5 POs and the Interreg SO by the workshop moderators

#### **16.00 – 16.45: Ranking of POs and SOs (plenary)**

- Short presentation of the ranking procedure
- Discussion within Member State delegations about ranking
- Ranking of POs by Member States
- Ranking of SOs by Member States
- Presentation of final rankings of POs and SOs

Each **national delegation** will discuss the **workshop findings**. The aim is to derive at a **consolidated view** for each delegation regarding the importance and transnational cooperation relevance of the 5 POs and the respective SOs.

The rating will be done in two stages.

##### **Stage1: Rating on POs**

Each national delegation receives **3 stars** to distribute to **up to 3 POs**.

The ranking will be done by national delegations on flip charts showing all 5 POs.

The Interreg SO1 will not be ranked.

##### **Stage2: Rating on SOs**

Each MS gets 9 points. These points can be distributed to any SO, independent of the previous selection of POs. More than one point per SO is possible.

The results will be processed by the workshop moderator and presented to the participants.

Results will include the findings of the POs, also showing the ranking of the respective SOs as determined in the working groups.

#### **16.45 – 17.00: Concluding remarks (plenary)**

- Concluding remarks by the moderator on the use and processing of the workshop results
- Concluding remarks by the MA/JS on the next steps.



**6. ANNEX 3 – WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

