Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

STRATEGIC CALL FOR CAPITALISATION PROJECTS: CALL LAUNCH WEBINAR

Online

29 September 2025
10.30 - 12.00

Slido.com

#InterregCECallLaunch

AGENDA

10.30

Welcome and Introduction to Our Funding

Oliver Pelzl, Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Managing Authority

Luca Ferrarese, Head of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Joint Secretariat

10.45

New Strategic Call for Capitalisation Projects: All You Need to Know when Applying with Us

Monika Schönerklee-Grasser, Head of Project Unit – Strategy

Christophe Ebermann, Head of Project Unit – Operations

Helga Portelli, Head of Programme Unit

11.25

Courtesy Break

11.30

Questions & Answers

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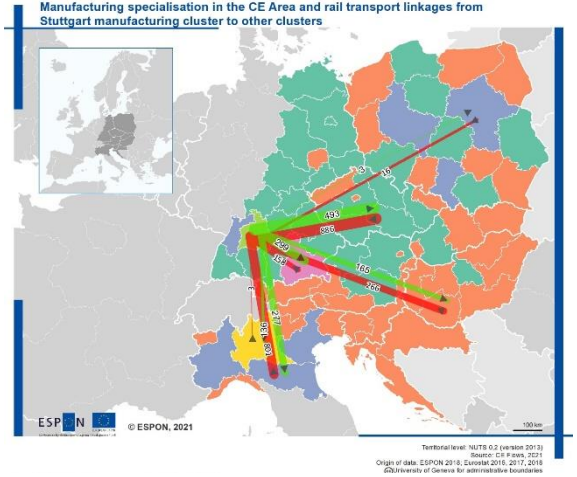
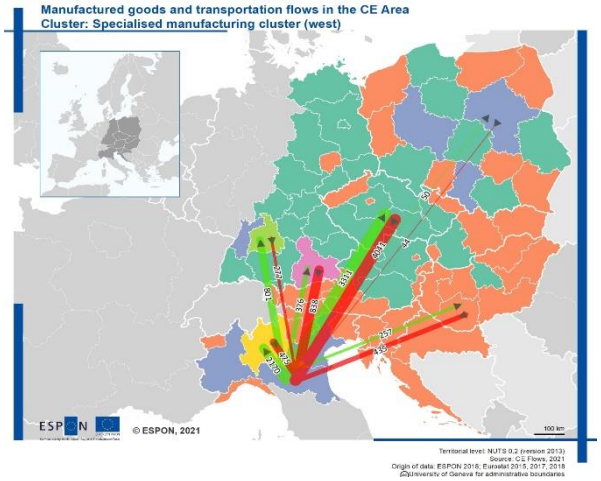
#InterregCECalLaunch

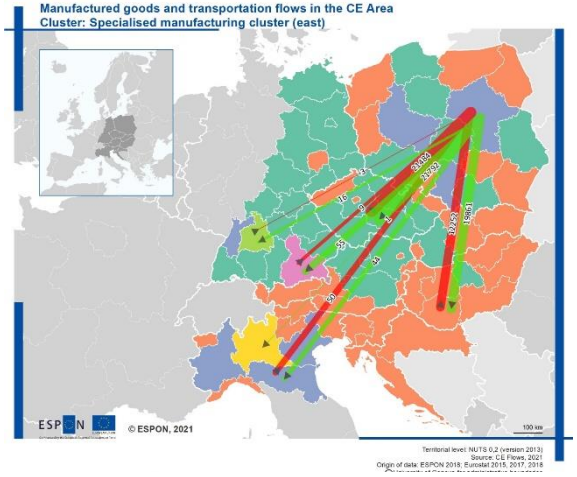
CENTRAL EUROPE in a Nutshell

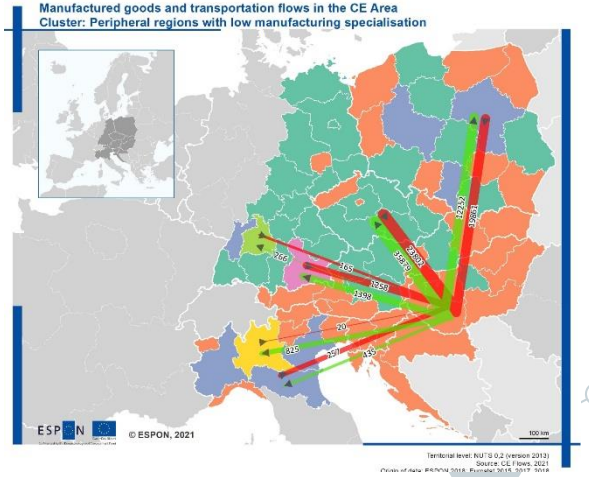
CENTRAL EUROPE is a functional area…

crossed by flows along common territorial, economic, social and cultural features

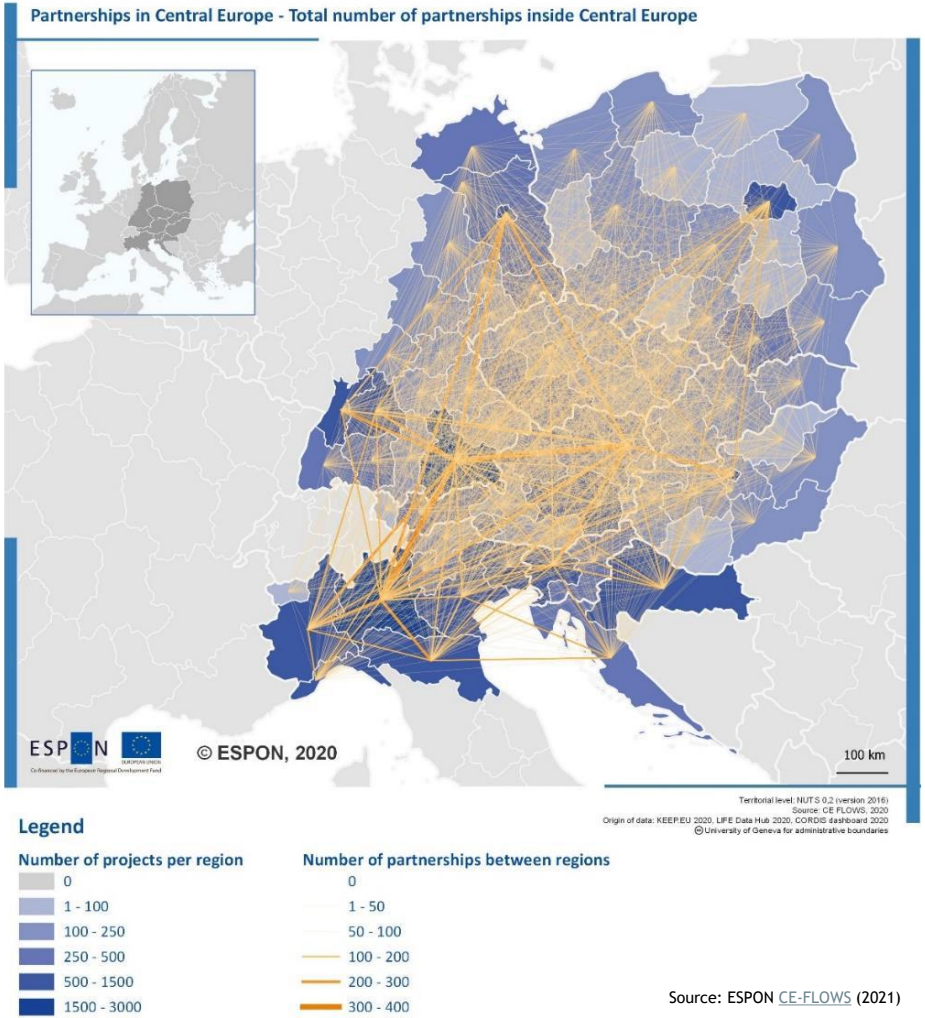








Source: ESPON CE-FLOWS (2021)



Source: ESPON CE-FLOWS (2021)

…in which transnational cooperation brings together public, private and civil society organisations

to jointly develop and implement solutions addressing common problems that know no borders

INTERREG COOPERATION IS CENTRAL

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE is a European Union funding programme that supports transnational cooperation to tackle shared challenges across borders. For over 25 years, we have connected regions to build trust and deliver solutions that make central Europe more resilient.
www.interreg-central.eu

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE | Co-funded by the European Union

We fund transnational projects in 9 countries and 81 regions to make central Europe smarter, greener, better connected and more integrated.
Our 4 funding priorities are further detailed into 9 specific objectives that address targeted challenges and needs across the programme area.

PROGRAMME DURATION

Our programme runs from 2021 to 2027 and regularly offers funding opportunities.

BUDGET

Our programme provides €207 million in ERDF funding with up to 80% co-financing to support transnational projects that drive cooperation and innovation across central Europe.

Co-financing to all project activities **80%** **207 M € ERDF**

OUR PROJECTS PER PRIORITY

36 Projects funded
298 Partners
51 Million € funding allocated

61 Projects funded
619 Partners
105 Million € funding allocated

11 Projects funded
87 Partners
14 Million € funding allocated

17 Projects funded
141 Partners
20 Million € funding allocated

125 PROJECTS

1.145 INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN

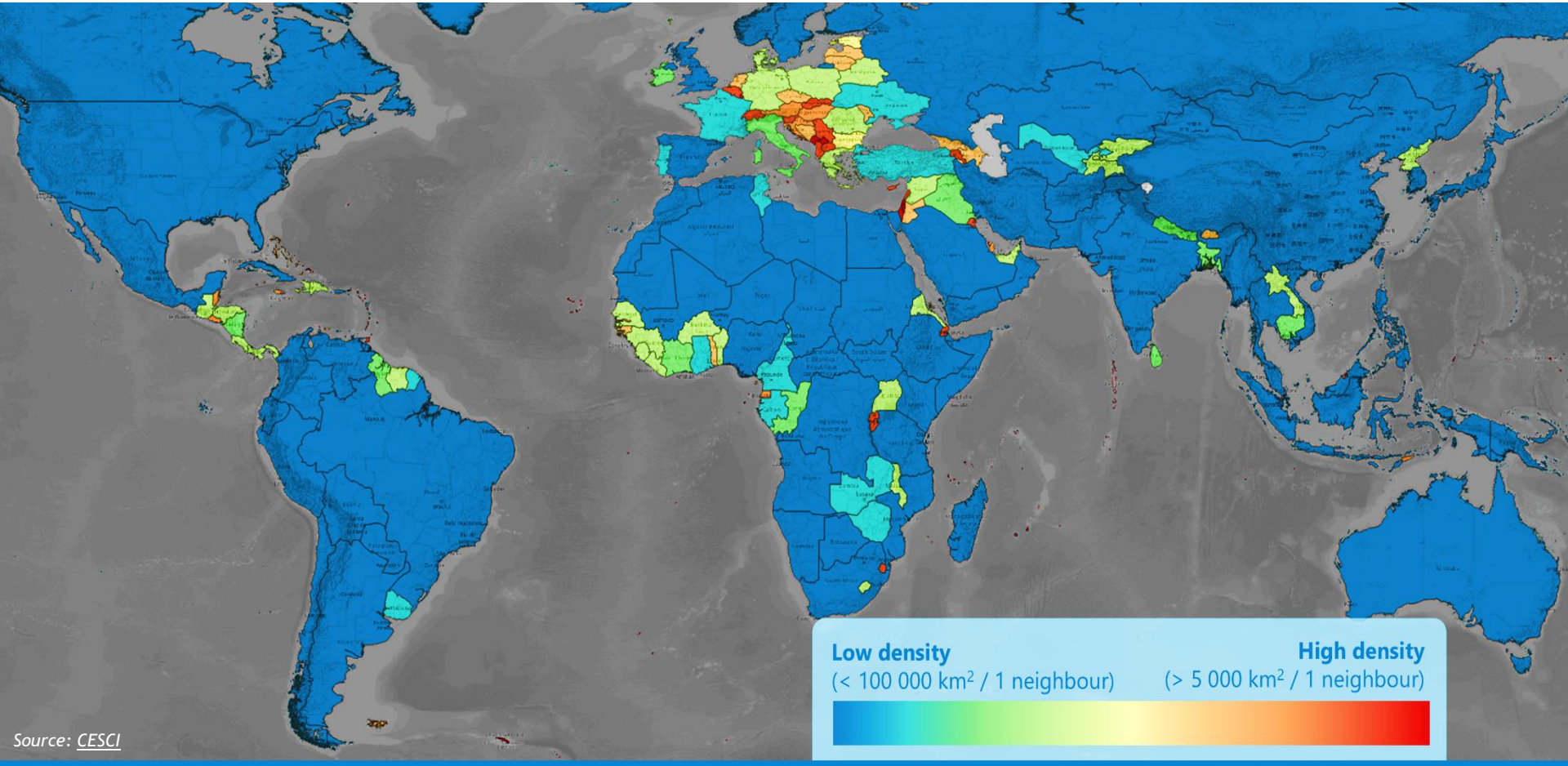
190 MILLION ERDF ALLOCATED

Explore our projects in the Project Gateway section on our website

Published September 2025

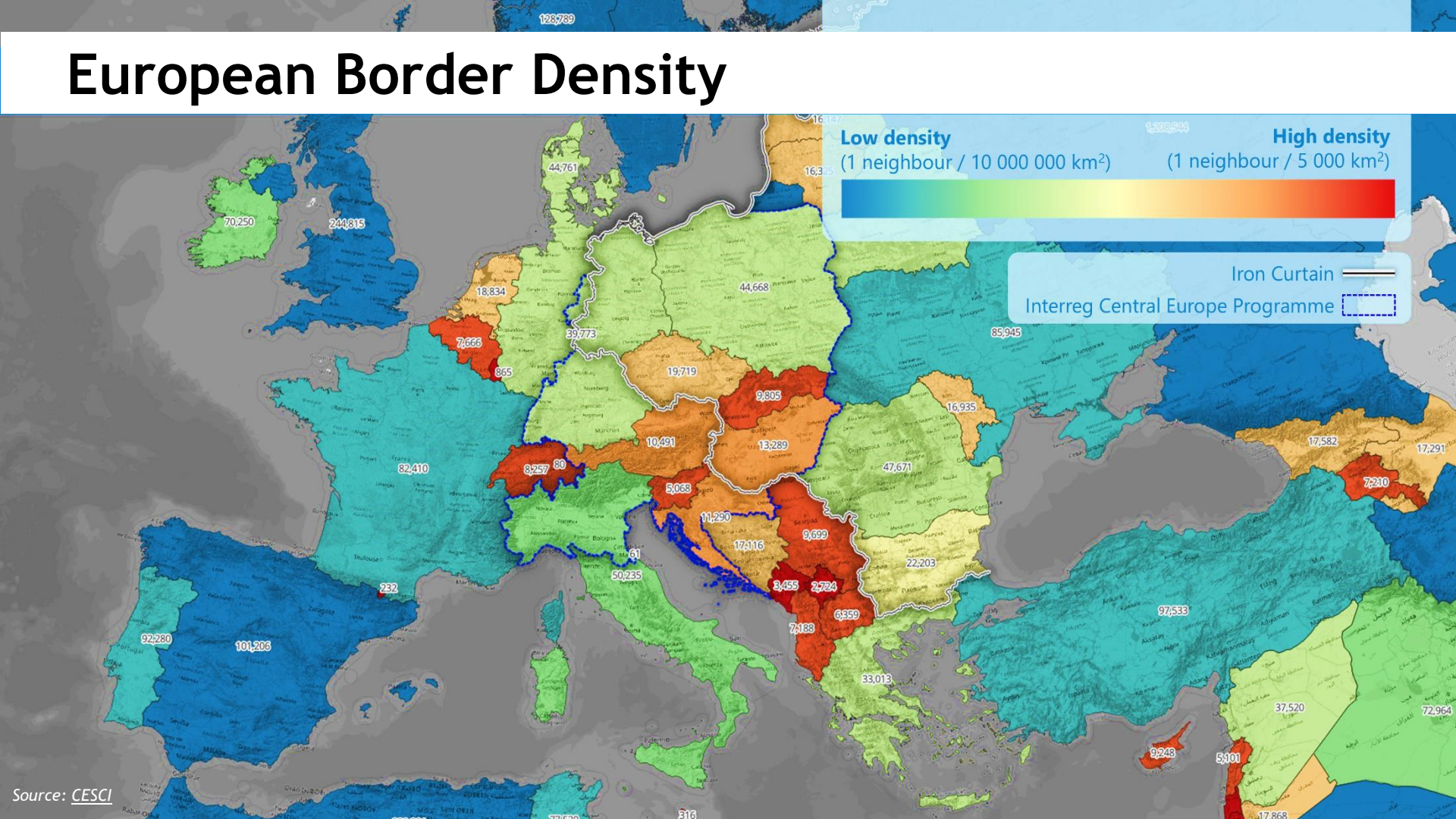
Framework and Objective of the Strategic Call for Capitalisation

Global Border Density



Source: CESCI

European Border Density



Source: CESCI

Negative Effects of Borders

Lower Growth

It is estimated that, at the European level, the costs of border obstacles add up to 458 billion euros, which accounts for **3% of European GDP**.

Lower Employment

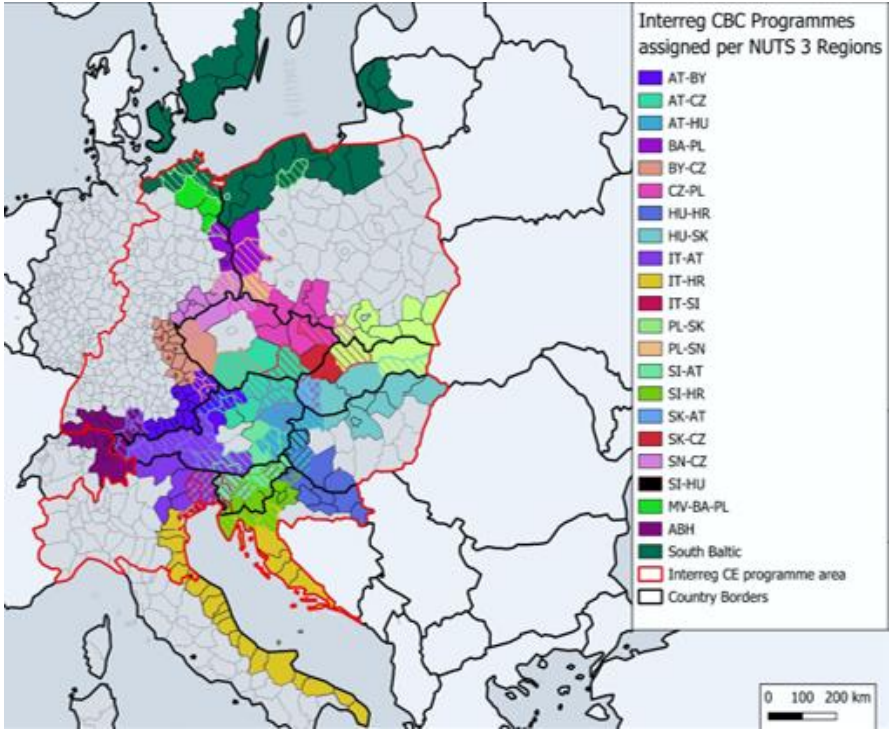
It also means losing more than 6 million jobs, which is **3% of European employment**.

Lower Efficiency

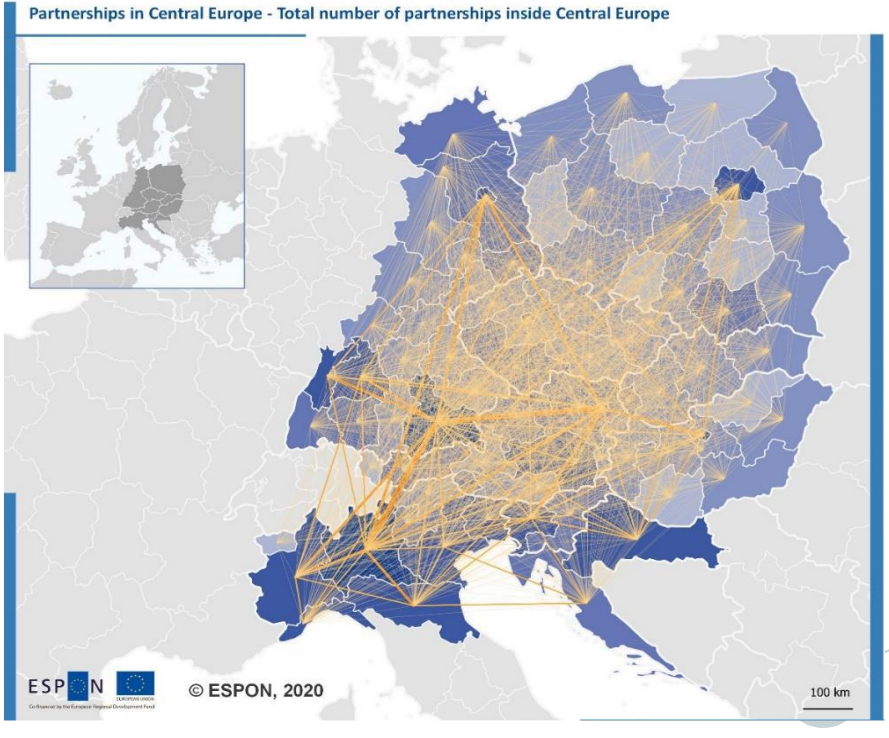
Solutions for shared challenges often remain at the local level, and do not unfold their full potential for the central Europe area.

How Interreg Addresses Border Effects

Cross-border cooperation in CE



Interreg CE transnational cooperation



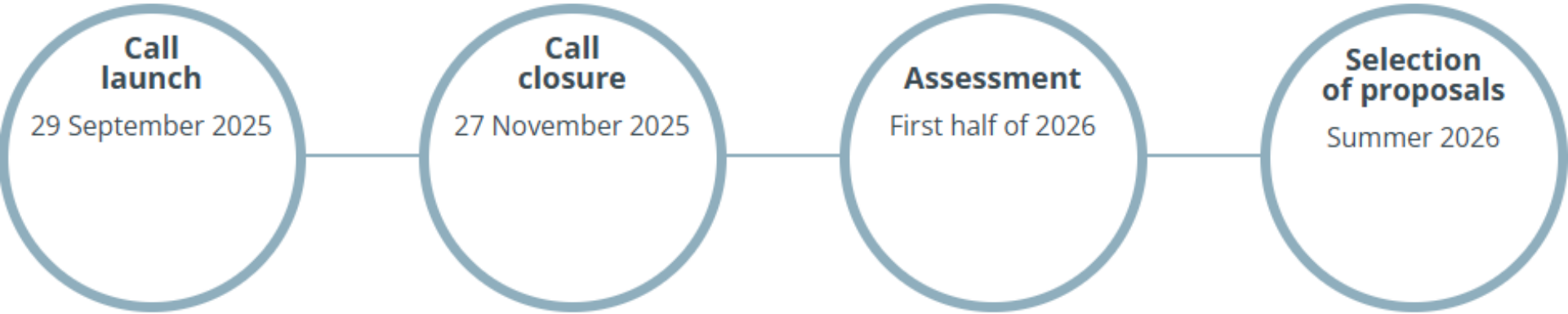
Objective of the Strategic Call for Capitalisation

To reduce the effects of borders on flows and functional linkages among central European regions, for a more competitive and resilient central Europe

*By **taking up** and **further developing** existing Interreg results to meet **new needs** and strengthen their **policy impact***

Strategic projects for capitalisation are expected to **leverage synergies**, **breaking the silos** between Interreg strands

Call Timeline



Thematic Scope

Main Features of the Call

Priority 1: Cooperating for a smarter central Europe (SO 1. 1 & SO 1.2)

Priority 3: Cooperating for a better connected central Europe (SO 3.1)

All our funding priorities and specific objectives are open in this call

Priority 2: Cooperating for a greener central Europe (SO2,1, SO2.2, SO2.3, SO 2.4, SO 2.5)

Priority 4: Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe (SO 4.1)

Priority 1: Cooperating for a smarter central Europe

SO 1.1
→ Innovation management in SMEs
→ Health care (innovation) and silver economy

SO 1.2
→ Entrepreneurship
→ Matching skills to labour market needs of regions in industrial and digital transition

Priority 3: Cooperating for a better connected central Europe

SO 3.1
→ Accessibility of peripheral areas including digital transport solutions, transport strategies and planning

Ideas are welcome in <u>all relevant topics of each specific objective</u>.
Among others, the following topics show a <u>good potential for capitalisation</u>:

Priority 2: Cooperating for a greener central Europe

SO 2.2
→ Risk awareness, prevention and management such as for forest fires, floods, landslides and erosion
→ Climate change adaptation

SO 2.4
→ Biodiversity conservation and recovery
→ Protection of ecosystems and sustainable management

Priority 4: Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe

SO 4.1
→ Integrated territorial development including establishment of formal cooperation structures, access to public services of general interest and tourism

Call budget per programme SO (indicative)

Programme priorities and specific objectives (SO)	Indicative ERDF budget (million EUR)
Priority 1: Cooperating for a smarter central Europe	
SO 1.1 Innovation capacities	3,6
SO 1.2 Smart skills	1,8
Priority 2: Cooperating for a greener central Europe	
SO 2.1 Clean energy transition	2,7
SO 2.2 Climate change resilience	3,4
SO 2.3 Circular economy	2,7
SO 2.4 Environment	3,4
SO 2.5 Green urban mobility	1,8
Priority 3: Cooperating for a better connected central Europe	
SO 3.1 Improving rural and peripheral transport	1,8
Priority 4: Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe	
SO 4.1 Governance for integrated territorial development	1,8
Total	**23**

Specificities of Strategic Call for Capitalisation

Minimum Requirement for Synergies

Project proposals must take up existing outputs and results from:

At least **two Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects 2021-2027** (first and second call)

+

At least **two Interreg cross-border cooperation projects** 2021-2027 (or, if relevant, 2014-2020), addressing internal central European borders

Key Project Features

Objective

To reduce the effects of borders on flows and functional linkages

Transnationality

At least three partners from three countries, two of which are located in central Europe

Duration

Between 18 and 24 months

Budget

Up to 1 million EUR of ERDF

Operations of Strategic Importance (OSI)

- They widen the impact and multiply the effects of projects already approved in previous calls, thus increasing efficiency and effectiveness for the benefit of CE regions.
- They will benefit from high visibility through special programme communication measures

Up-streaming of outputs and results

MAIN FOCUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Project outputs are integrated into policies

Down-streaming of outputs and results

MAIN FOCUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT ACTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

Project outputs are rolled-out to new regions or sectors

INPUT: EXISTING OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

Transnational project outputs and results

Cross-border project outputs and results

Outputs and results of other project(s)

CAPITALISATION PROJECT

Addressing specific needs and challenges of new stakeholders and territories

Outputs and results fitting the new needs

IMPACT/RESULTS

UP-STREAM
to policy levels

DOWN-STREAM

New stake-holders

New regions

New sectors

Project Example

OUTPUTS TO BE CAPITALISED

Interreg CE:

Project 1:
Strategic management approaches and action plans in the concerned sector and TN area

Project 2:
Innovative methods and solutions for the concerned sector

Interreg CBC project 1:
Cross-border monitoring tools tailored for the CB area "A"

Interreg CBC project 2:
Models for transboundary management and service delivery in the CB area "B"

Existing b-solution:
Identification of legal, administrative or technical border obstacles hindering services across borders in the CB area "A"

CAPITALISATION PROJECT

Overall project objective:

To enhance cross-border and regional service delivery through innovative, transferable solutions and coordinated policy approaches for the concerned sector

Jointly developed outputs

Strategy / Action Plan

- Improved strategies and coordinated action plan for cooperation and service delivery for the concerned sector in the TN area.

Pilot Action

- Testing and co-creation of integrated approaches for the concerned sector across borders

Solutions

- Joint tools and protocols for the concerned sector to support cross-border implementation and management

RESULTS/IMPACTS

UPSTREAM

Policy Uptake:

Updated national, regional or local policies to set up:

- Joint services across border
- Harmonised standards and procedures in the concerned sector

DOWNSTREAM

Adaptation and Rollout:

- Transfer and application of jointly developed solutions for the concerned sector to more CB areas beyond the ones in the initial projects.
- Extension and adaptation of sectoral approaches to additional target groups.

How to Build your Partnership and Project Proposal

Partnership

Partnership size and transnationality

- Minimum requirement

3	3	2
Partners	Countries	At least from Central Europe

- No recommended size (consider project scope and budget limitations)

Partnership composition - recommendations

- All types of institutions can participate

- Coherence with the territorial and thematic scope of the project (e.g. competencies, governance level, sectors, outreach to target groups etc.)
- Composed of
  - organisations that were actively participating in the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects to be capitalised; and
  - organisations that were actively participating in the Interreg cross-border cooperation projects to be capitalised
- Owning the outputs and results being capitalised, or holding the relevant user rights
- Involving additional organisations that can facilitate the upstreaming or down-streaming of existing outputs and results (e.g. public actors in charge of policies, organisations representing the new territories or sectors addressed)

Intervention logic

- **Project objectives**
  - To be clearly aligned to the call objective of reducing border effects
  - To reflect the capitalization focus of the call
- **Project outputs**
  - Full set of output types (strategies, action plans, pilot actions, solutions, cooperations)
- **Capitalisation approach**
  - Upstreaming of outputs and results – main focus on the implementation of strategies and action plans
  - Downstreaming – main focus on pilot actions and solutions
- **Project results**
  - Concrete uptake of existing outputs and results
  - Generating impact and effects for the benefit of wider areas, beyond border regions

Project work plan

Thematic Work Packages

(if justified, up to 5 work packages *- no separate WP for management and comms*)

Activities

(recommended not more than 4 to 6 activities per work package)

(recommended not more than three deliverables per activity)

For guidance and details on the project intervention logic and work plan, please refer to the programme manual, the offline template of the application form and the online tutorials.

Key features of a good capitalisation project (1)

Clear and Relevant Logic: A good project has a clear and relevant intervention logic, contributing to the call objective.

Transnational Added Value: The project must show clear added value from transnational cooperation.

Clear capitalisation approach: It has to clearly build on outputs and results of previous projects and demonstrate a concrete capitalisation approach.

Sound Work Plan: A good project has a well-focused and mature work plan.

Key features of a good capitalisation project (2)

Competent Partnership: Partnerships should include partners which were actively involved in the projects to be capitalised and further institutions relevant for their **downstreaming** and/or **upstreaming**

Strong Management: Effective project management ensures quality outputs and results.

Effective Communication: A strong communication manager coordinates communication activities.

Value for Money: Projects must demonstrate value for money with an efficient budget.

Long-lasting Impact: Projects should ensure long-lasting benefits and broad uptake and roll-out of results in additional sectors and/or regions.

Project budget

€

Maximum total project budget EUR 1.250.000

(=max. EUR 1.000.000 ERDF)

Each LP/PP has to choose ONE of the following budget options:

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Preparation	Lump sum for preparation and contracting costs		
Project Implementation	CC1 Staff Costs Real costs	CC1 Staff Costs Flat rate 20% of CC4, CC5 & CC6	CC1 Staff Costs Real costs
	CC2 Office & Admin Costs Flat rate 15% of CC1	CC2 Office & Admin Costs Flat rate 15% of CC1	All other CCs Flat rate 40% of CC1
	CC3 Travel & Acc. Costs Flat rate % of CC1 (% is country specific)	CC3 Travel & Acc. Costs Flat rate % of CC1 (% is country specific)	
	CC4 Ext. Exp. & Services Real costs	CC4 Ext. Exp. & Services Real costs	
	CC5 Equipment Costs Real costs	CC5 Equipment Costs Real costs	
	CC6 Infrastructure & Works Real costs	CC6 Infrastructure & Works Real costs	
Closure	Same as option chosen for project implementation		

- Real Costs
- Simplified cost option (SCO)
- Obligatory SCO

Support Measures and Tools

Applicant support measures

Community

Online applicant community to facilitate project partner search and present project ideas

Webinars

Digital events to introduce the call and opportunity for applicants to ask questions. Join our Q&A Webinar on 16 October

Videos

Set of tutorials and explainers introducing the key aspects of the call, thematic fields and project development

National support

Guidance and information by national contact points (NCPs) in national languages and application issues

Individual consultations

Individual consultations with the JS to provide guidance on project development and application requirements

The applicant community is available at https://community.interreg-central.eu/

The permanent helpdesk is available at helpdesk@interreg-central.eu

Individual consultations

- **Early consultation**: It is advised to request the consultation early in the project development phase, but with a sufficiently mature project idea.

- **Consultation input:** Consultations are based on the project idea form, which must be submitted through our applicant community platform (it is not obligatory to publish it).

- **Consultation requesting period:** Request your consultation between **30 September and 19 November 2025**.

National Info-Days

AUSTRIA
7.10.2025
online

CROATIA
15.10.2025
Opatija
(in person)

CZECH REPUBLIC
8.10.2025
online

GERMANY
2.10.2025
Online
+ more Q&A sessions follow in October

HUNGARY
15.10.2025
online

ITALY
7.10.2025 Turin
21.10.2025 Venice
(in-person)

POLAND
17.10.2025
online

SLOVAKIA
9.10.2025
online
+ more Q&A sessions follow in October

SLOVENIA
15.10.2025
Ljubljana
(in-person)

https://www.interreg-central.eu/event-calendar/?date=upcoming&audience=applicants

Call-related documents

All relevant documents are available for download at www.interreg-central.eu/documents

Application Package

a. Terms of Reference (ToR)
b. Offline application form template with guidance;
c. Lead partner & project partner declaration templates;
d. Simplified financial statement *(applicable only to private lead applicants);*

Tools

a. Self-assessment tool of your project proposal
b. Project summary generator
c. Financial capacity check for private lead applicant
d. Mapping of B-solutions

Manuals

a. Programme manual*
b. Jems manual*

**available as PDF and in HTML*

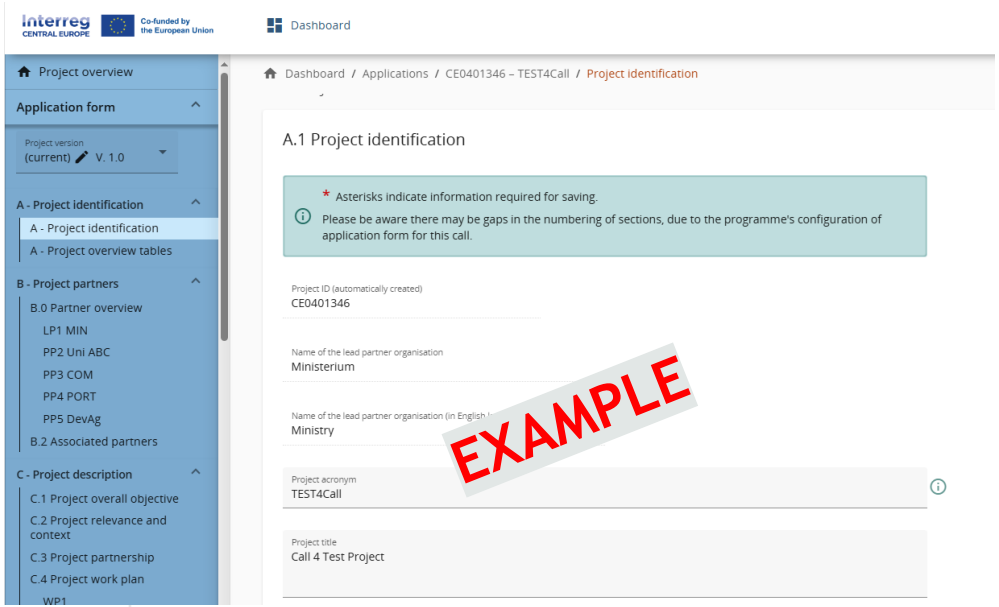
Jems

Applications have to be submitted through the web-based Joint electronic monitoring system (Jems) available at

https://jems.interreg-central.eu

Attention:

Regularly run the pre-submission checks of your application when preparing your project proposal and don't wait the last minute!



	Error - verification failed. Required user interaction.
	Warning - there is recommendation how to enhance data quality of Application Form User interaction is desirable.
	Info - verification passed successfully.