

# How some European programmes and funds can support cross-border cooperation to achieve the biodiversity targets?

**TransParcNet Meeting 2021** 



### Who we are?

#EUbudget, #EUSolidarity, #StrongerTogether



#### DG REGIO – D.1: Macro-regions, Transnational, Interregional Cooperation, IPA, Enlargement



Jean-Pierre HALKIN
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### Overall Coordination and Management



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EU Strategies for the Baltic Region (EUSBSR) And for the Danube Region (EUSDR) (FTEs: 1 + 4) EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), IPA & Enlargement Negotiations (FTEs: 1+5)

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) & Communication, TA (FTEs: 1+3)

Astrid Aulnette

Communication

Outermost Regions, Maritime, Brexit (FTEs: 1+2)

ENI CBC (FTEs: 1+5)





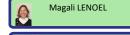
Ulrich KRAUSE-HELBERIBER Quality Officer Post-2020, Comptence Center and Matrix

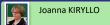


BALLETTE
MRS transversal
support
TN Interreg E,
Interact



















### In this presentation...

- The EU INTERREG Programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity (2000-2020)
- New architecture of Interreg IPA programmes
- 3 DRAFT IPA III Programming Framework (Art.10 ETC)
- 4 More coherence with IPA-IPA CBC Programmes
- 5 Embedding EUSAIR & EUSD, and indirectly the Investment Plan for the WB
- Need for reinforced cooperation between EU programmes
- 7 Stronger need for strategic and territorial focus European Commission



### Track record

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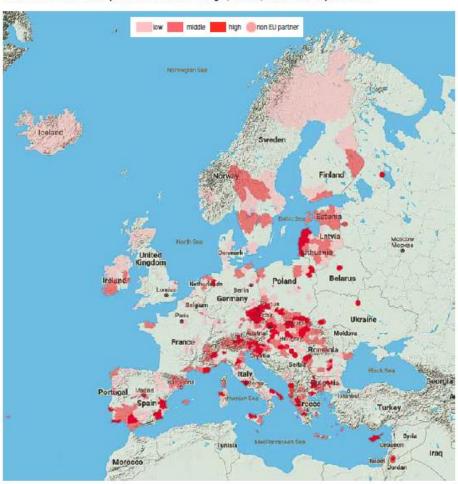
# The EU INTERREG Programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity (2000-2020)

- Under the current Interreg V programme (2014-2020) funding can be targeted at the protection and restoration of biodiversity and soil, and the promotion of ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure:
  - Around €581 million is foreseen for this, of which €163 million is specifically for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites.
  - According to the EU Keep Database at least 190 projects involving Natura 2000 sites have been funded since 2000 representing a total investment of almost €280 million to which the EU provides funding of €200 million.



### Interreg projects involving Natura 2000

Figure 7. Heat map of Natura 2000 projects under Interreg since 2000. The shades of red on the map show the different concentration of partners versus the average ('middle') for the search parameters.



Interreg projects involving
Natura 2000 sites are:

- not just about conserving biodiversity
- but also about its integration into wider socio-economic development objectives at the local or regional level.



### A sample of Interreg IPA programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity

Main Activities Types	Project actions	Interreg projects examples (Interreg IPA programme / Total Budge in EUR)						
Species conservation and monitoring	Establishing common species monitoring methodologies     Drawing up joint or coordinated species action plans and strategies     Stakeholder dialogue and engagement     Exchange of knowledge     Improving connectivity and population status (e.g. fauna passages, reintroduction)	NETCET (IPA Adriatic 2007-2013 / €2,322,660)						
Natura 2000 network coherence and connectivity	Restoring ecological corridors, (e.g. by removing barriers from river habitats)  Assessment and monitoring of barriers  Definition of restoration methodologies and concepts for habitat corridors based on habitat and species dynamics  Stakeholder dialogue and exchange of experiences	DANUBEPARKS (Danube 2014-2020 / approx. €5,000,000) ConnectGREEN (Danube 2014-2020 / €2,462,923.53) BioREGIO-Carpathians (2007-2013 South-East Europe / €2,586,260)						



### A sample of Interreg IPA programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity

Main Activities Types	Project actions	Interreg projects examples (Interreg IPA programme / Total Budget in EUR)					
Natura 2000 sustainable development	Economic valuation of Natura 2000     Promotion of Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage     Promotion of local products     Action plan for nature-based coordination territorial development	LENA (Danube 2014-2020 / approx. €2,456,291) EcoKARST (Danube 2014-2020 / approx. €2,263,661)					
Exchanging knowledge and engaging stakeholders from other sectors	Mediation conflict with stakeholders (e.g. different economic and conservation interests)     Awareness raising     Stakeholders training and capacity building     Improve cooperation among regional, local administrations and site management	LINKPAS (Espon) 4GreenInn (Black Sea 2007-2013 / €481,086)					
Marine Monitoring, planning and management	Integrated management of marine sites     Coordinated monitoring     Conflict identification and stakeholder engagement in marine areas     Creation of information and decision support tools (Webgis)	NETCET (IPA Adriatic 2007-2013 / €2,732,541)  AMARe (Interreg MED 2014-2020 / €2,700,000)  PHAROS4MPAS (Interreg MED / €1,179,497)  PANACeA-MBPC (Interreg MED / €1,500,000)					



# The new generation of Interreg IPA programmes



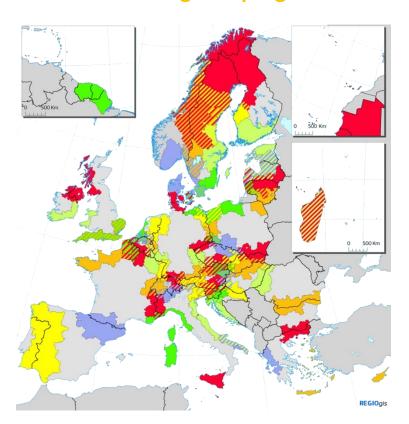


#### Reference to "strands" as in 2014-2020

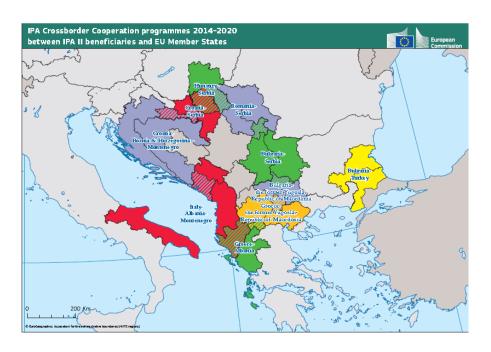
- Cross border cooperation (Interreg Strand A)
  - Internal (also 3<sup>rd</sup> countries without EU funds)
  - External: **IPA CBC**, NDICI/NEXT CBC
- Transnational cooperation (Interreg Strand B)
- Interregional cooperation (Interreg Stand C)
  - > INTERACT, Interreg EUROPE, ESPON & URBACT
- One new strand Interreg D: outermost region cooperation
- Inclusion of external Funds (IPA III, NDICI, Funding for OCTs) under one umbrella

# Emphasis on the coherence and continuity of cooperation programme areas

#### **Internal Interreg CBC programmes**



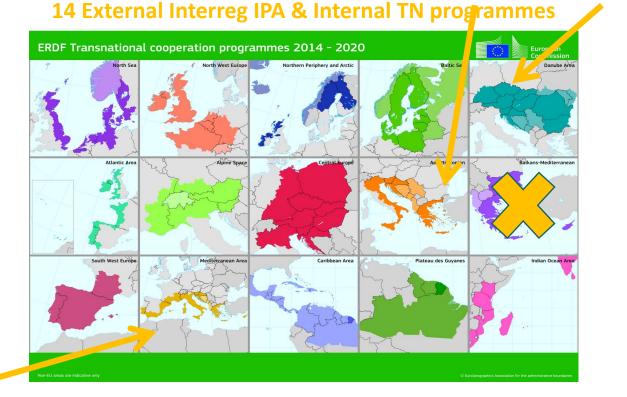
#### **Interreg IPA CBC programmes**





### **Transnational Cooperation**

- Promotes cooperation among greater European regions, including the ones surrounding sea basins (e.g. Baltic Sea Region, and Atlantic Area) or mountain ranges (e.g. Alpine Space)
- 17 TN programmes in the post 2020 period :



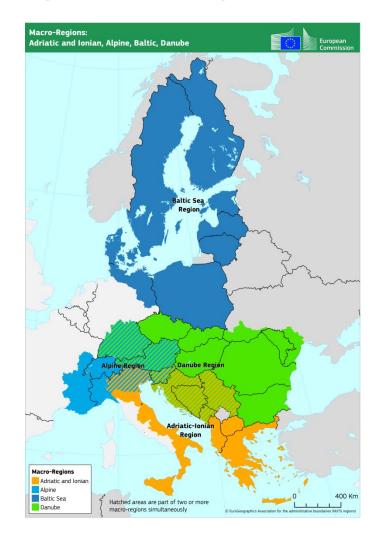
### 3 External Interreg NDICI TN programmes





### **EU Macro-regional strategies**

#### 4 MRS, 19 EU MSs, 9 non-EU countries





### **Interregional Cooperation**

#### C: Interregional – Four "networking" programmes

#### **ESPON**

European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (studies, spatial planning)

#### **URBACT**

Exchange between Europe's cities on integrated urban development.

#### INTERACT

Cooperation and exchange network for territorial Interreg programmes.

#### Interreg Europe

Capitalisation among all EU regions



### 11 policy objectives are simplified and consolidated into 5:



### A FOCUS ON FIVE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES, WHERE THE EU IS BEST PLACED TO DELIVER

Five main objectives will drive EU investments in 2021-2027:



**Smarter Europe,** through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses





a **Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change



a more **Connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital networks



a more **Social Europe**, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare



a **Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

Horizontal issues: administrative capacity building, cooperation outside the programme area

### Policy Objective 2 (compulsory for Interreg programmes) (Reminder)

- A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management
- PO2 Specific Objectives (SOs) [Text still under final review by lawyers-linguists]:
  - I. Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - II. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein
  - III. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside TEN-E
  - IV. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches
  - V. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management
  - Vi. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
  - VII. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution
  - VIII. Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy

### Two new Interreg specific objectives (5 POs + 2 ISOs)

- ISO1: Better cooperation governance
  - Focus on support to cross border cooperation beyond funding
  - Link with actions under the Border Focal Point
  - Not an extension of TA
- ISO2: Safer and more secure Europe
  - Including protection and economic and social integration of third country nationals including migrants and beneficiaries of international organisations



## DRAFT IPA III Programming Framework (Art.10 ETC)

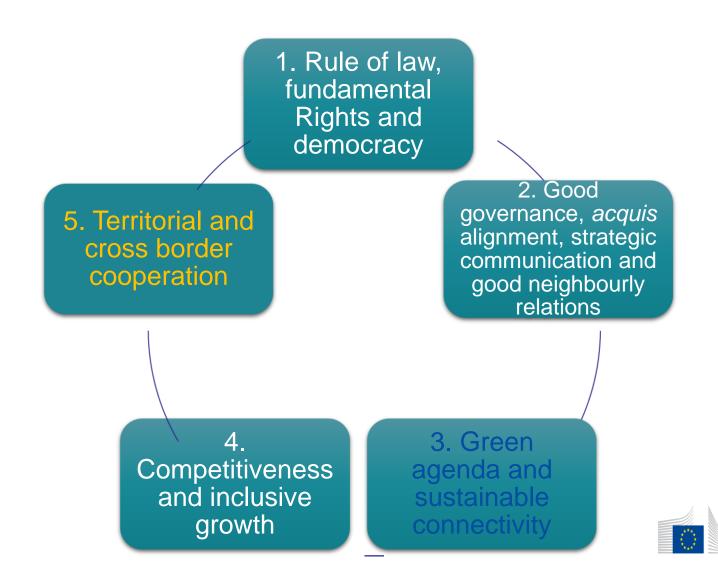


### IPA III in a nutshell

- No country allocation defined upfront
- 5 thematic windows
- Performance-based:
  - Policy relevance
  - > Technical maturity
  - Performance in enlargement agenda, i.e. commitment and progress in implementing reforms
- Fair-share



#### **IPA III Windows**



European

### IPA III Programming Framework & Indicative allocation

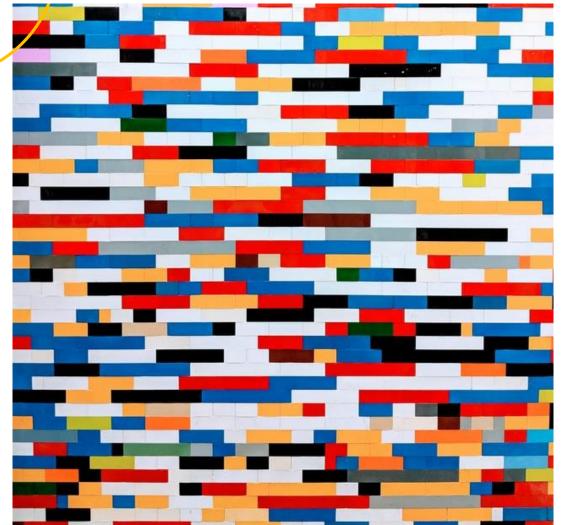
IPA III Windows	%	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Window 1: Rule of law,									
fundamental rights and	15,13	281	287	293	299	304	311	317	2.091
democracy									
Window 2: Good									
governance, acquis									
alignment, good neighbourly	16,59	308	315	321	327	334	341	348	2.293
relations and strategic									
communication									
Window 3: Green agenda	42,45	789	805	821	837	854	871	889	5.867
and sustainable connectivity	42,43	763	803	021	637	654	871	889	3.807
Window 4: Competitiveness	22,31	415	423	432	440	449	458	467	3.083
and inclusive growth	22,31	413	423	432	440	449	436	407	3.063
Window 5: Territorial and	2.51	65	67	68	69	71	72	74	485
cross-border cooperation	3,51	05	67	00	09	/1	/2	/4	405
Total Operational Budget	100,0	1.858	1.896	1.934	1.973	2.012	2.053	2.095	13.820
Administrative	2/2	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	342
Appropriations	n/a	40	4/	40	49	30	21	52	342
Total	100,00	1.904	1.943	1.982	2.022	2.062	2.104	2.147	14.162

The table above shows the indicative allocation for the period 2021-2027 to support the thematic priorities of IPA III programming framework. Prices are expressed in million Euro.

Current prices are calculated by applying annually a fixed deflator of 2% to the amounts in 2018 prices. Totals do not tally due to rounding.



### 4 More coherence with IPA-IPA CBC Programmes





### **Programme areas**

**AL-KS** 

Same as IPA II

**BiH-ME** 

Same as IPA II



Same as IPA II



Inclusion of the municipality of Kolašin



**ME-KS** 

Inclusion of 3 additional **ME** municipalities















**MK-AL** Same as IPA II **RS-BiH** Same as IPA II

**RS-ME** Same as IPA II

**RS-MK** 

Inclusion of 4 additional municipalities of the City of Skopje



### Programme resources and priorities

	AL - KS	BiH-ME	MK-AL	ME-AL	ME-KS	RS-BiH	RS-ME	RS-MK	KS-MK
Management mode	Direct	Direct	Direct	IMBC	IMBC	IMBC	IMBC	IMBC	Direct
Resources in M€ over the period 2021-2027									
Thematic priorities (EU co-financing)	7,56	7,56	10,80	10,71	7,56	12,60	7,56	3,15	7,56
Technical assistance (100% EU funded)	0,84	0,84	1,20	1,19	0,84	1,40	0,84	0,35	0,84
Total	8,40	8,40	12,00	11,90	8,40	14,00	8,40	3,50	8,40
National co-financing	1,334	1,334	2,12	1,89	1,334	2,22	1,334	0,555	1,334
Grand total	9,73	9,73	14,12	13,79	9,73	16,22	9,73	4,06	9,73
Selected priorities per CBC programmes									
TP 1: Employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across borders;					Χ		Х	Х	Χ
TP6: Youth, education and skills;						Х			
TP2: Environment protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management	X	X	X	X					X
TP5: Tourism and cultural and natural heritage;	Х	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
TP8: Competitiveness, business and SME development, trade and investment;	Х								
TP7: Governance, planning and administrative capacity building of local and regional authorities; (Mainstreamed)	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	X	Х



# 5 Embedding EUSAIR & EUSDR, and indirectly the Investment Plan for the WB













#### **EUSDR EMBEDDING – FROM WORDS TO ACTION!**

Discussion Paper

February 2021

More than a year has passed since the discussion on the *Guidance Paper for Embedding of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) into EU Programmes*<sup>1</sup> at the meeting of EUSDR National Coordinators in November 2019 in Zagreb. With the support of the EUSDR National Coordinators and the Danube Strategy Point, the *Task Force Embedding (EMB-DR)* has been set up to coordinate the activities of EUSDR stakeholders for integrating the Strategy efficiently and effectively into the European Structural and Investment Funds in the 2021-2027 programming period.

From the very beginning, it was clear that the revised EUSDR Action Plan<sup>2</sup> would play a key role is the embedding process. However, during the first two EMB-DR meetings in January and February 2020, it



### EIP: 8 Priorities and 10 Flagships at a glance

**ENERGY TRANSPORT** VII WASTE GOVERNANCE, CONNECT AND CONNECT V COAL **GREEN** EAST-COASTAL WASTE RULE OF LAW. TRANSITION WEST REGIONS WATER **AGENDA** PAR \/I RENEWAB RENOVATI CONNECT LE ON WAVE NORTH-**ENERGY** SOUTH CRM & DIGITAL **ECONOMIC IX SUPPORT** VIII DIGITAL **TRANSITION** X YOUTH COMPETITIVE **INFRASTRUC** INTEGRATION **GUARANTEE** NESS TURE **PRIVATE HUMAN** INNOVATION CAPITAL **SECTOR AGENDA** DEVELOPMENT **SUPPORT** European Commission

### Links between EIP flagships and EUSAIR flagships

	1																			
							EUSAIR 20	21-2027 FLAGSI												
		PILLAR 1: BLUE GRO				CTING THE REGION			3: ENVIRONMENTAL		PILLAR 4: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM									
Flagships from Annex #1 -	FOSTERING QUADRUPLE HELIX TIES IN THE FIELDS OF MARINE TECHNOLOGIES	PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY, DIVERSIFICATION AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE FISHERIES AND	BOLSTERING CAPACITY BUILDING AND EFFICIENT COORDINATION OF PLANNING AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT	THE ADRIATIC- IONIAN MULTI-MODAL CORRIDORS	POWER NETWORKS AND MARKET FOR A GREEN ADRIATICIONIAN REGION	NATURAL GAS	AND OPERATION OF LOGISTICS FOR DIRECT LNG	DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ADRIATIC-IONIAN SUB/REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN	PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS	PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF THE AI REGION BY IMPLEMENTING ICZM AND	DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM BUSINESSES AND	RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SME'S PERFORMANCE	SKILLS IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM BUSINESSES	THE TOURIST SEASON TO ALL-YEAR	DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AND THEMATIC CULTURAL ROUTES/CONNECTI NG CULTURAL					
CONNECTING EAST TO WEST				Strong link																
#2 - CONNECTING NORTH TO				Strong link																
#3 - CONNECTING THE COASTAL				Strong link																
#4 – RENEWABLE ENERGY			Some links		Strong link	Strong link	Strong link													
#5 - TRANSITION FROM COAL					Strong link	Strong link	Strong link													
#6 – RENOVATION WAVE																				
#7 – WASTE and WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT			Some links					Strong link		Strong link										
#8-DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTUR E	Strong link				Strong link	Strong link														
#9-INVESTING IN THE COMPETITIVENES S OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR		Strong link									Strong link	Strong link	Strong link		Some links					
# 10 – YOUTH GUARANTEE																				

Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems

Development of the network of sustainable tourism business and clusters

Credits:Igor Zidarič



### Links between EIP flagships and EUSDR flagships

																		EUS	DR FLAGSH	IPS																
	PA 1a	- Water Mo	bility	PA 1b - R	ail-Road-Air	Mobility	PA 2	- Sustainable	e Energy	PA 3 - C	ulture and Tour	ism	PA	4 - Water Qua	lity	PAS - Er	nvironmenta	l Risks	PA 6 - Biodiv	rsity, Landsca f Air and Soils		PA 7 -	Knowledge Sc	ociety	PA 8 - 0	Competitive	ness	PA 9 -	People and S	ikills		stitutional Cap Cooperation	pacity and		PA 11 - Securi	rity
	ACTION 1: Contribute to improve waterway and port infrastructure & management	ACTION 3: Facilitate fleet modernization		improve the	ĺ	enhance cooperation between air	further explore the sustainable use of clean biomass, solar energy geothermal, hydropower	promote energy efficiency an	explore new and innovative solutions of (subsurface energy	Promote sustainable tourism in the Danube Region and capitalise on EUSDR projects in the areas of	promote sust cultural qua tourism in pros the Danube serv Region inno ACTION 4: form Develop a infra	est in I tainable lity ducts, vices, ovative ns and astructure	SUBSTANCES & ACTION 2: WASTE WATER. ACTION 1:	WATER & AGRICULTURE:	CLIMATE CHANGE: Promote measures to adapt to	ACTION 1: Provide sufficient support for development and execution of risk management plans for different	ACTION 3: Strengthen disaster prevention and preparedness among governmental and non- governmental	Anticipate regional and local impacts of	Develop and/or implement conservation action plans		maintain soil- related ecosystem services (ES)	promote participation of Danube countries in EU R&I Programmes, in particular in	ACTION 1: To promote coordination of national, regiona and EU funds to stimulate excellence in R&I, in research areas specific for Danube Region	strengthen cooperation al among universities, research organisations and SMEs in the Danube	Improvement of framework conditions, support programs and capacity building of stakeholders,	innovative and digital	Enhance the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in the Danube Region SMEs	Digitalisation and Innovation in the World of Work ACTION 6: Relevant and	Integration of Vulnerable Groups into the Labour Market ACTION 4: Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion	Intensify Cooperation in Labour Market Policies	improve institutional capacities in order to provide high- quality public services	cooperation built on mutual trust between state and non-state	enhance capacities of cities and municipalities to facilitate local and	Security offensive - Enhancing police cooperation with the aim of improving	Improving the systems of border control, document inspection management	rule of lav
agships from anex				tertiary transport		and prepare a plan to	power to increase the	including district		and tourism ACTION 2:			& EMERGING SUBSTANCES	water reuse, foster and	water quality and quantity	hazards	organizations		species of the Danube Region			strengthen cooperation	ACTION 3: To strengthen		between cluster initiatives and	SMEs		Competences ACTION 8:		and Training Systems		inhabitants of the Danube		serious and organised	related issues in the Danube	
- CONNECTING ST TO WEST				Strong link	Strong link	Strong link																														
- CONNECTING ORTH TO SOUTH					Strong link																															
- CONNECTING IE COASTAL GIONS	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link																														
- RENEWABLE IERGY	Ju Ong III K	Strong link		July IIII	Strong min	Juonginia	Strong link	Strong link						Strong link																						
- TRANSITION OM COAL		Strong link					Strong link	Strong link	Strong k link					Strong link																						
- RENOVATION AVE	Some links	Strong link					Strong link	Strong link	Strong k link					Strong link																						
7 – WASTE and ASTE WATER ANAGEMENT													Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	c																				
FRASTRUCTURE	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	Some links	Strong link	Strong link	Some links	Strong link	Some k links		Strong link Str											Strong link				Strong link	Strong link	Strong link			Strong Link					
9 – INVESTING IN IE DMPETITIVENESS THE PRIVATE CTOR			Some links	Some links		Some links	s		Some links	Some links	Stri	ong link		Some links								Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link	Strong link		Some links							
IO-YOUTH JARANTEE																								Some links				Some links	Some links	Some links						

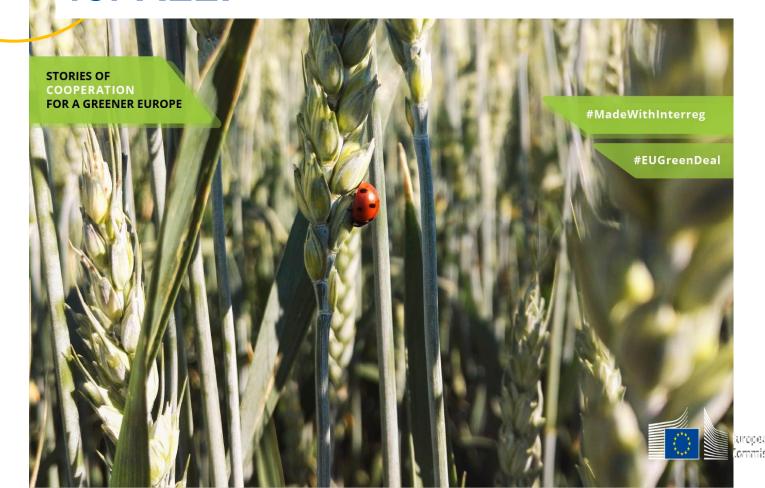
Credits:Igor Zidarič



PA 6 - Biodiversity, Landscapes, Quality of Air and Soils



Need for reinforced cooperation between EU programmes – Benefits for ALL!



### Interreg IPA Programmes and other Union programmes

#### **INTERREG IPA**

#### Other Union Programmes, including

Digital Europe

InvestEU

LIFE

Innovation Fund

Horizon Europe

IPA III "mainstream"

ESF+

IPARD / Common Agricultural Policy

ERDF "mainstream"

**Maritime & Fisheries Fund** 

EU4Health

Space Programme

Single Market Programme

Connecting Europe Facility

AMF, ISF & BMVI

**ERASMUS+** 

**Creative Europe** 

#### **Enhanced synergies**

#### **COMPATIBILITY**

Harmonisation of funding rules; flexible co-funding schemes; pooling resources at EU level

### COHERENCE & COMPLEMENTARITY

Alignment of strategic priorities in support of a common vision

Just Transition Mechanism

Recovery and Resilience Facility



### Need for reinforced working cooperation

Strategic and targeted cooperation between DG REGIO and other line DGs (NEAR, AGRI, RTD, HOME, MARE, etc) during the PA negotiation and the overall programming process Streamlining funding support under the key horizontal political priorities at programme level and enhance complementarity on funding

Encourage Member States'
Managing Authorities to closely
collaborate with other ESIF
Managing Authorities, NIPACs &
others to establish coherence and
synergies between the different
funds

Continuous collaboration between DG REGIO and other line DGs (NEAR, AGRI, RTD, HOME, MARE, etc) regarding Implementation, communication and monitoring



# The critical success factors

#EUbudget, #EUSolidarity, #StrongerTogether



### Principles underlying the strategic approach

- Partnership and transparency principles into real actions
- Critical role of social partners and other CSOs in promoting regional cooperation and people-to-people relations -> building bridges.
- Development of policy solutions through joint efforts across regional borders.
- Need for more:
  - Bottom-up cooperation involving the social partners, socio-economic agents and civil society organisations, as well as any engaged actors from the entire geographical area, using the quintuple helix approach (university-industry-government-public-environment).
  - Extensive and regular cooperation with the European Commission and its delegations.
  - Cross-sectoral and cross-territorial coordination, particularly with respect to institutional capacity building
  - Leveraging of other EU, local and/or private resources
  - Coordinated action aimed at reducing bureaucratic obstacles



## Coordination mechanisms at different levels

- Programming -> potential synergies with national or other EU funds.
- Implementation -> through coordinated calls for proposals that are either joint calls, logical sequence of calls and/or coordinated selection criteria.
- Projects -> coordination among beneficiaries to achieve the highest possible level of synergies.





Project EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA): an example for a more strategic approach



#### **EPPA project (2019-2022)**

- Overall objective:
  - To strengthen the implementation of the EU environmental acquis in the Western Balkans and Turkey in areas relevant for addressing trans-boundary environmental issues.

The following areas have been identified as having an unique value as transboundary sites of protected areas, hosting large carnivores and providing important cosystem services.

- Mavrovo (North Macedonia) Korab Koritnik (Albania) – Munella Mountain (Albania)
- Mali me Gropa-Bize-Martanesh (Albania)
   Shebenik-Jabllanice (Albania) Mavrovo (North Macedonia)
- Tara (Serbia) Drina (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Durmitor (Montenegro) Sutjeska (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Prokletije (Montenegro) Valbona Valley (Albania) – Gashi River Reserve (Albania)
- Buna River-Velipoja (Albania) Lake Skadar (Albania, Montenegro) - Lovcen (Montenegro)
- Nidze-Kozuf Jakupica (North Macedonia)
- 8 Sutjeska Gornji Tok Neretve Vranica (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 9 Djerdap Stara Planina (Serbia)
- Golija Suva planina (Serbia)
- Ohrid Prespa Pelister (Albania, North Macedonia)



European

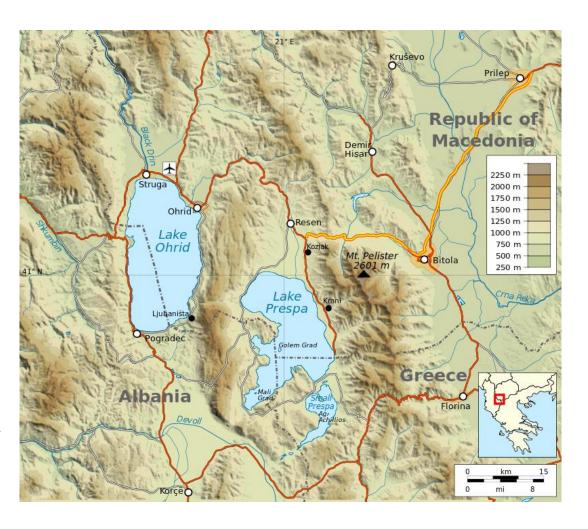
Commission

# Prespa area: an example of possible territorial focus



#### **EU for Prespa**

- Possible combined operations with IPA III AAP 2021 Prespa AD and/or IPARD:
  - Construction of a border crossing point with Greece (Markova Noga)
  - Decreased pollution resulting of human activities
  - Increased share of Environmentally Friendly Agriculture
  - Sustainable tourism product promoted and diversified
  - Strengthened crossborder exchange





### Conclusions

#EUbudget, #EUSolidarity, #StrongerTogether



## More strategic approach—Benefits for ALL!

#### Benefits for your Interreg IPA programmes:

- Bigger impact (more ambitious projects)
- Bigger projects pipeline (better absorption)
- Higher visibility (political leaders, citizens, EU, etc.)
- Better links to policy-makers

#### 2. Benefits for the macro-regions:

- Development of the macro-regions
- A more horizontal EU accession process for WB6
- Experience from the programmes (knowledge of the issues)
- Contacts with policy-makers
- Funding



## More strategic approach – Benefits for ALL!

- 3. Benefits for the potential applicants:
  - Alignment of the requirements
  - Higher visibility
  - Access to post 2020 European Territorial Cooperation policy innovations:
    - Simple financial instruments with a grant component
    - Joint territorial instruments
    - Small project funds, projects of limited financial volumes or people-to-people projects
  - Promotion of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation



In recognition of the fact that natural areas do not end at the border, in the future, more importance should be given to cooperative work beyond borders!



The 2 relevant MRS (EUSAIR & EUSDR) and the related TN programmes can support the development of environmental networks and ecological connectivity elements between them i.e. green corridors!



## Next generation IPA programmes' expected results

- Capitalise on 2000-2020 track record about:
  - Species conservation and monitoring
  - Protected areas' site management and restoration
  - Protected areas' network coherence and connectivity
  - Promotion of transboundary sustainable tourism, cultural heritage and circular economies
  - Exchanging knowledge and engaging stakeholders from other sectors
  - Marine Monitoring, planning and management
- Enhance complementarity and cooperation between EU territorial policies,
   Natura 2000 and other EU funds requirements.
- Be key in promoting the coherence and connectivity of the Natura 2000

  Network







## Thank you



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