

**Interreg  
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund



*Sharing solutions  
for better regional policies*

# Designing project methodology

Interreg Europe Secretariat

23 March 2016 | Lead applicant workshop





**Benoît Dalbert**  
*Policy officer*



**Erika Fulgenzi**  
*Policy officer*



**Akos Szabo**  
*Policy officer*



# Session content

**I. Organising the interregional learning process**

**II. Evaluating performance**



# I. LEARNING PROCESS



# What is learning process?

## **Learning process**

= interregional exchange of experience building on experiences and practices

## **Based on:**

identification, analysis & transfer of knowledge and practices

## **How:**

through a well-thought process supported by seminars, study trips, workshops, staff exchanges, peer reviews, etc.

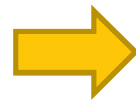


# Why is it so important?

**Cornerstone** of an interregional cooperation project

**Catalyst** for generating policy change in the involved regions

**Territorial need**



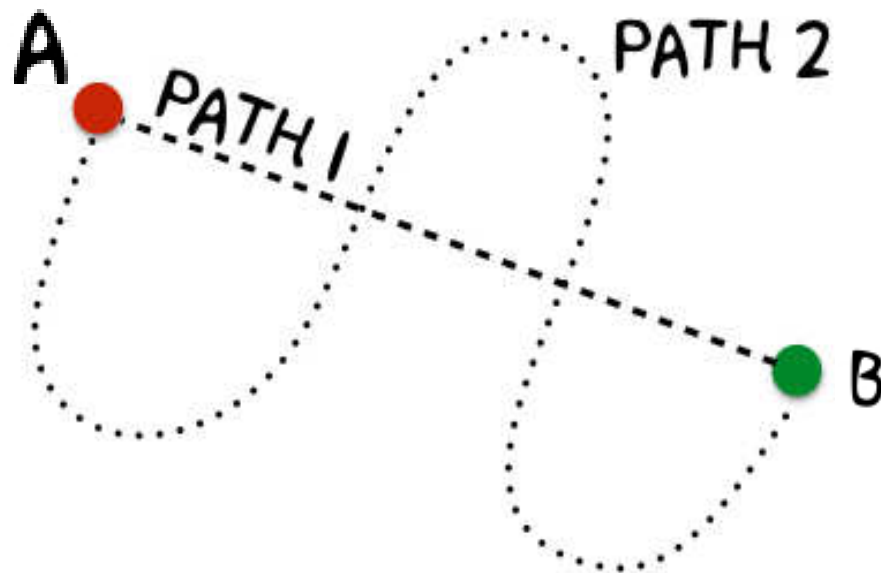
**Results**





# How to organise it?

**PHASE 1**



**Learning**

**PHASE 2**

A hand-drawn table titled 'ACTION PLAN' in blue. The table has four columns labeled 'WHO', 'WHAT', 'WHEN', and 'HOW' in red. The table is empty of content.

WHO	WHAT	WHEN	HOW

**Acting**



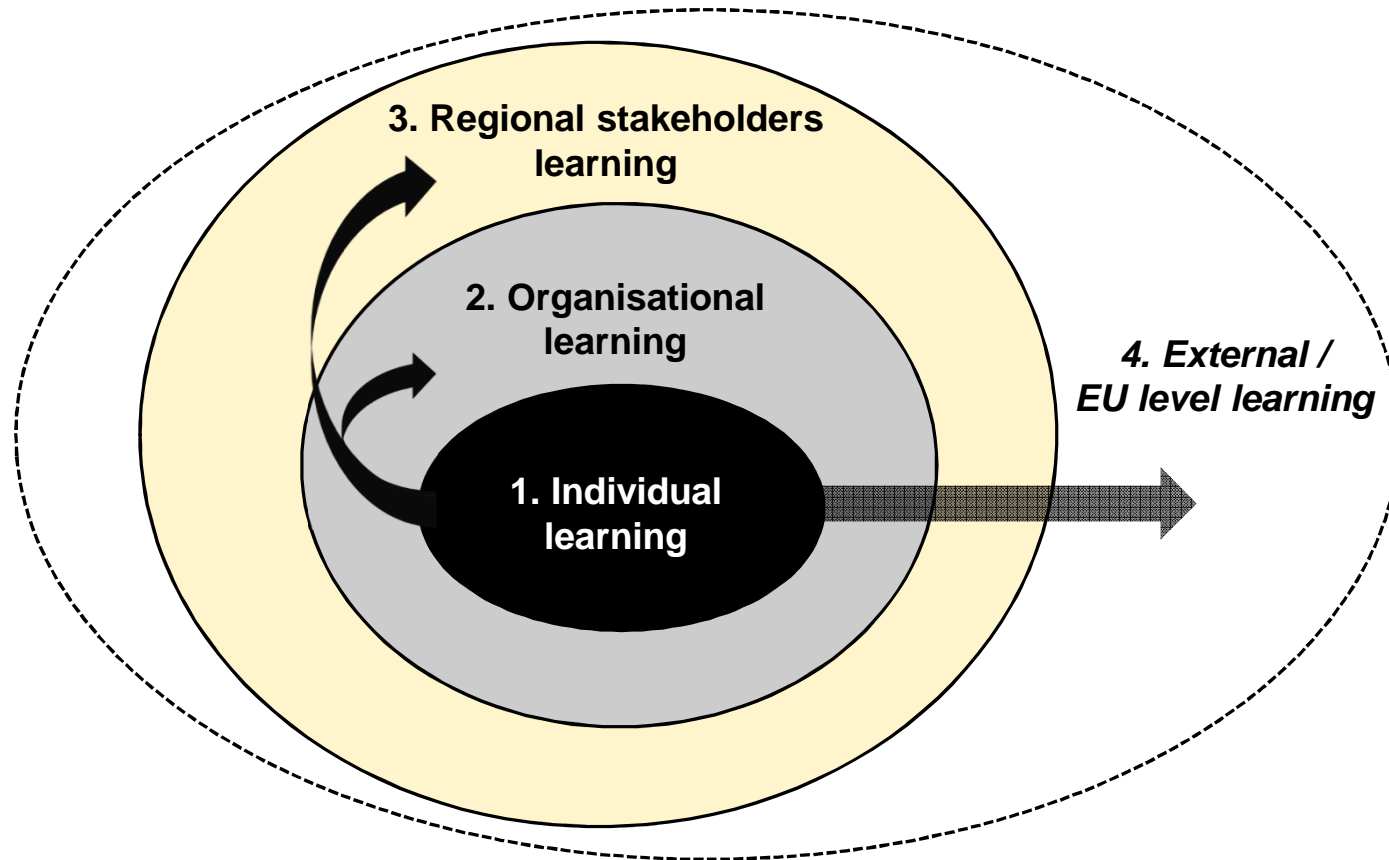
# How to organise it?

**No magic recipe but a few important ingredients:**

- A. Ensure learning at **different levels**
- B. Ensure the **quality** of each learning activity
- C. Ensure an **integrated approach**



# A. Multidimensional aspect of learning



**Go beyond individual / organisational learning!**

# A. Multidimensional aspect of learning



## Policy making is complex:

- usually an organisation cannot change a policy alone

## Stakeholder group:

- increase the chance of policy change

Necessity to involve **relevant stakeholders in the learning process**

*(travel and accommodation costs eligible if paid by a partner)*



## B. Quality of activities

For all learning activities, importance of:

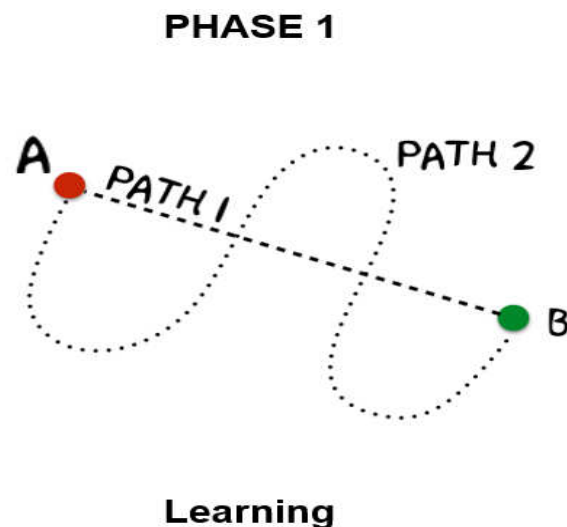
- Preparation - **Before**
- Implementation - **During**
- Follow-up (documentation and monitoring) - **After**





## C. Integrated approach

- How to ensure the overall coherence of the learning process?
- What are the main steps to reach the objectives and ensure the quality of action plans?
- What are the activities needed and in which order?



Can be more or less complex but

**simple is  
beautiful.**



# C. Integrated approach

## No 'one-size-fits-all'

Different parameters influencing the process:



- History of the partnership
- Number of partners
- Duration of phase 1
- Topic addressed
- .....



# C. Integrated approach

No 'one-size-fits-all' but 3 steps commonly adopted:

## Step 1

**Analysis** of partners' situations with local stakeholders and **identification** of valuable experience and practices

## Step 2

**Review** of identified practices supported by interregional exchange of experience activities (e.g. study visits, thematic workshops) —————> with view to **transfer**

## Step 3


Further **investigation** of good practices with local stakeholders and finalisation of **action plans** backed up with further interregional/ bilateral events

# Ingredients in the application form



## Overview in section C.4

### C.4 Project approach

Describe the project approach to achieve the project's objective and to produce the intended outputs and results. 

Describe the project approach proposed to achieve the project's objectives and to produce the intended outputs and results.

#### In particular:

- How do you organise the interregional learning process?
- How do the proposed activities interlink (sequence, combination, interrelation between activities)?
- What is the approach for developing the action plans and what is the role of the different stakeholder groups?

# Ingredients in the application form



## Detailed description of activities in section D.1

### D.1 PHASE 1 'Interregional learning' - Detailed work plan per period

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
01/2016 - 06/2016	07/2016 - 12/2016	01/2017 - 06/2017	07/2017 - 12/2017

#### Semester 1

a) Exchange of experience i

b) Communication and dissemination i

c) Project management i

Main Outputs

Please describe in detail the period's activities and outputs related to exchange of experience. Specify the responsibilities of each partner with regard to the activities and also add information on the involvement of local stakeholder groups.





# More on communication

**Follow webinar on 15 April at 10:00**



## Lead applicant webinar on project communication strategy

**15/04/2016**

A 1-hour webinar on how to design project communication strategy.

**Type:** Programme

## Register at:

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/news-and-events/event/105/lead-applicant-webinar-on-project-communication-strategy/>



# How do you plan to organise the learning process in your project?

Discussion (15 minutes)



## **II. EVALUATING PERFORMANCE**

# Evaluating performance of the learning process



Result oriented approach

Cooperation works: let's demonstrate it

From policy change to territorial impact





# Evaluating performance

Two core notions:

**Result:** direct effect of the project

**Output:** deliverable of the project contributing to the results



# Indicators




## Simplification

- Decrease in number  
from 20 indicators under INTERREG IVC  
to 8 under Interreg Europe
- Concept simplified  
'good practices transferred and policies improved'  
replaced by 'policy change'



# Results in the application form


## Section C.6.2

Result indicators 	Target
No. of Growth & Jobs and/or ETC programmes where measures inspired by the cooperation were implemented in the field tackled by the project. 	
No. of other regional policy instruments where measures inspired by the cooperation were implemented in the field tackled by the project. 	
Amount (EUR) of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and/ or ETC) influenced by the project in the field tackled by the project	
Amount (EUR) of other funds influenced by the project in the field tackled by the project	



# Results in the application form

## Section C.6.2

Policies	Self-defined performance indicators 	Target
<i>Policy W</i>	<i>Increase of R&amp;D investment from companies supported by the action plan's measures (%) – (target value: 0.50%)</i>	1
<i>Policy X</i>	<i>Increase of export turnover for enterprises supported by action plan's measures (%)</i>	3
<i>Policy Y</i>	<i>Reduction in GHG emission from buildings benefiting from action plan's measures (%)</i>	5
<i>Policy Z</i>	<i>Increase of protected natural areas further to action plan implementation (%)</i>	2
...		





# Outputs in the application form

## Section B.2

B.2 Policies addressed and territorial context 		
Number	Name	Structural funds link
1	<i>Regional Operational Programme of Region Western Macedonia</i>	Yes
2	<i>Development Programme of Ústí Region 2014 - 2020</i>	No
...		



# Outputs in the application form

## Section C.6.2

Output indicators	Target
No. of policy learning events organised	
No. of good practices identified	
No. of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities in the field tackled by the project	
No. of action plans developed	
No. of appearances in media (e.g. press)	
Average number of sessions at the project pages per reporting period	



# Insight into phase 2



- Evaluating the performance of the learning
- Monitoring territorial impact
- Importance of self-defined indicator
- **Results can occur before phase 2**



# Insight into phase 2

- Activities **pre-defined** by the programme mainly:
  - 2 project meetings
  - 1 final dissemination event

## D.2 PHASE 2 - Detailed work plan per period

- **No possibility to propose other activities!**

Semester 7	Semester 8	Semester 9	Semester 10
01/2019 - 06/2019	07/2019 - 12/2019	01/2020 - 06/2020	07/2020 - 12/2020

### Semester 8

#### a) Action plan implementation follow-up

Each partner monitors the action plan implementation by contacting the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the different actions. All partners meet to learn from each other by exchanging on the success and difficulties met in the implementation of their action plan.

#### b) Communication and dissemination

The partners ensure regular updates of the project website with information on the action plans implementation.

#### c) Project management

Each partner reports the progress made in implementing the action plan. The lead partner compiles the information and prepares the report for the joint secretariat.

#### Main Outputs

1 project meeting  
Website updates  
1 annual progress report



# Insight into phase 2

- Although activities are predefined, phase 2 may be adapted at the end of phase 1
  
- Pilot actions only in exceptional cases:
  - Relevance?
  - Interregionality?
  - Additionality?
  
- Indicative budget per action: from EUR 10,000 to 80,000

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# Thank you!

Time for questions



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