



La Cooperazione Territoriale Europea: quale opportunità?  
Bologna, 27 November 2014

# Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020: approccio strategico e attuazione

Luca Ferrarese - Joint Secretariat

**Interreg**   
**CENTRAL EUROPE**  
Co-financed by European Union – European Regional Development Fund

1. Preamble: ETC or Interreg?
2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes
3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020
4. Strategic approach to successful projects
5. Role of Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat

# 1. Preamble: ETC or Interreg?

## Google search for ETC... (May 2014)









# 1. Preamble: ETC or Interreg?

## Interreg: a new (old) brand

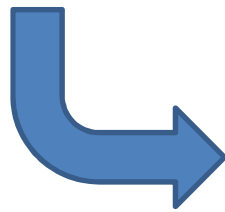
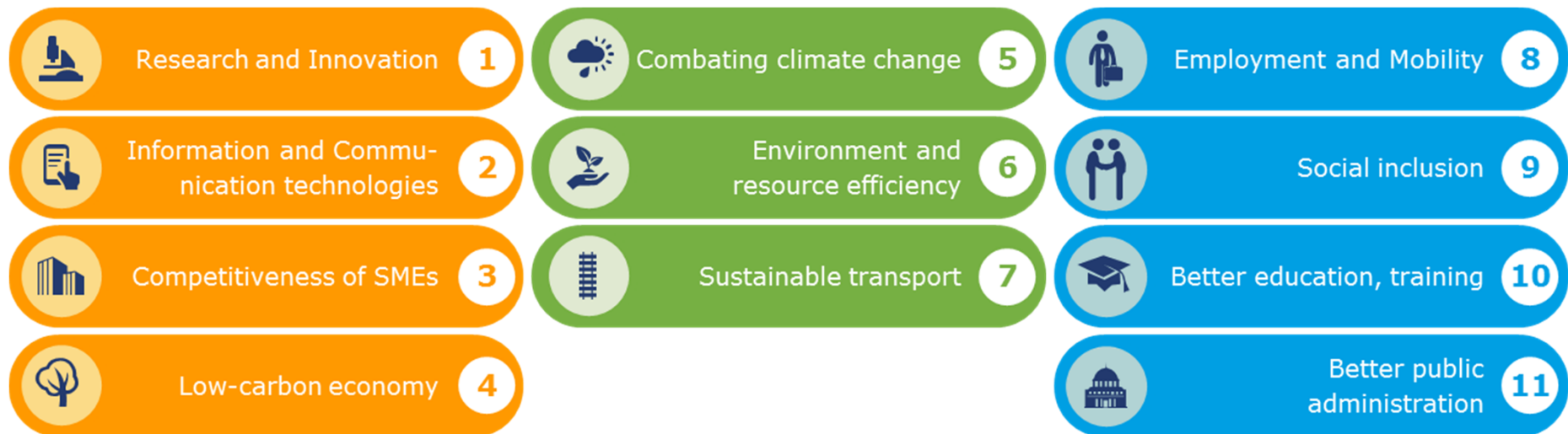
- In use as from the '90s
- Dropped in 2007 for ETC (top-down initiative of EC)
- Reintroduced in 2014 as single harmonised brand (bottom-up initiative of programmes)



## 2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes

### The strategic framework for Interreg

- 11 thematic objectives common to all 5 ESI Funds



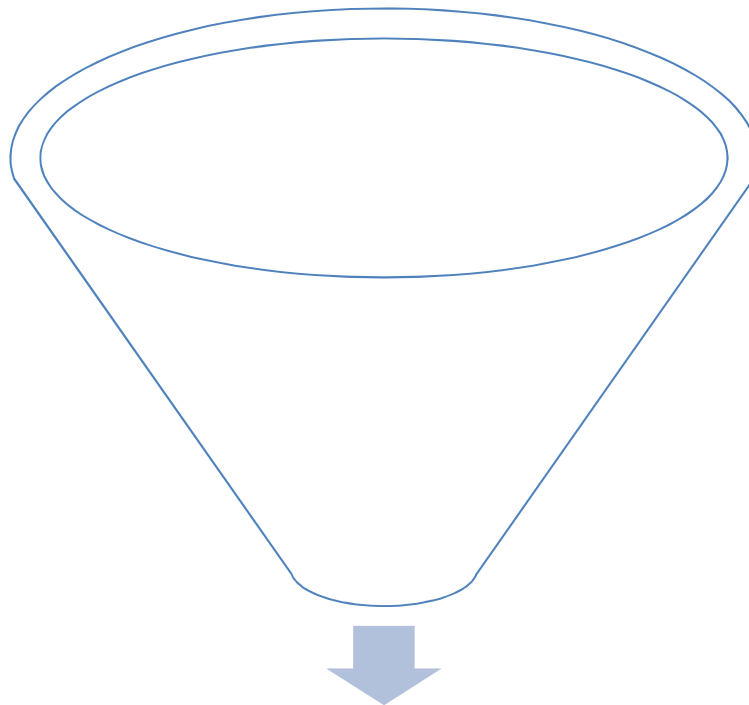
- Thematic concentration
- Strategic approach
- Results orientation



## 2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes

### Thematic concentration: requirement

- At least **80 %** of the ERDF allocation shall be concentrated on max four thematic objectives



Up to 4 programme priorities (+ TA)



## 2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes

### Thematic concentration: programming

#### Analysing challenges

- Based on in-depth analyses of the issues affecting the concerned regions
- Sound, objective, based on reliable data

#### Collecting needs

- Identified on-the-ground
- Reflecting all interests in an inclusive manner

#### Setting objectives

- Realistic and proportionate
- Aligned with national/regional priorities
- Aligned with EU 2020 objectives



Involvement  
of  
"partners"

## 2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes

### Strategic approach: setting of objectives

A **General Objective** that will be addressed through choosing



**Thematic Objectives** pre-defined at EU level and further translated into Programme-specific



**Priority Axes** that are then broken down into



Programme's **Specific Objectives** reflecting **Investment Priorities** pre-defined at EU level,



leading to **Transnational Actions** to be funded

## 2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes

### Result-orientation: at all levels!

- Programmes (and projects) have to focus on few clear and achievable objectives
- Results obtained must reflect a **change** occurred comparing to the initial situation





## 2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes

### Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

**Step 1:** Thorough analysis of challenges and needs on which to base strategic concentration (01-09.2012)

**Step 2:** Identification of common challenges and shared needs that can be effectively tackled through transnational cooperation (09-12.2012)

**Step 3:** Selection of Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities (01-07.2013)

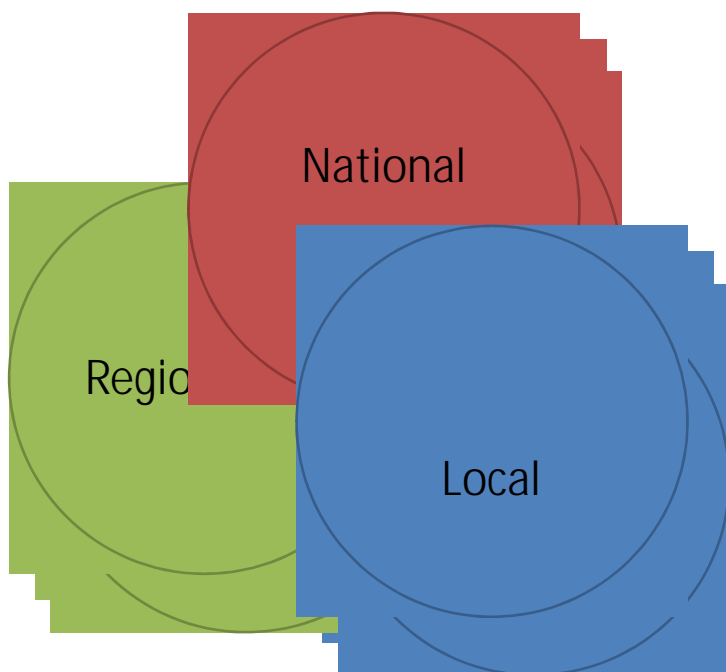


**Design of the programme Intervention Logic** (03-12.2013)

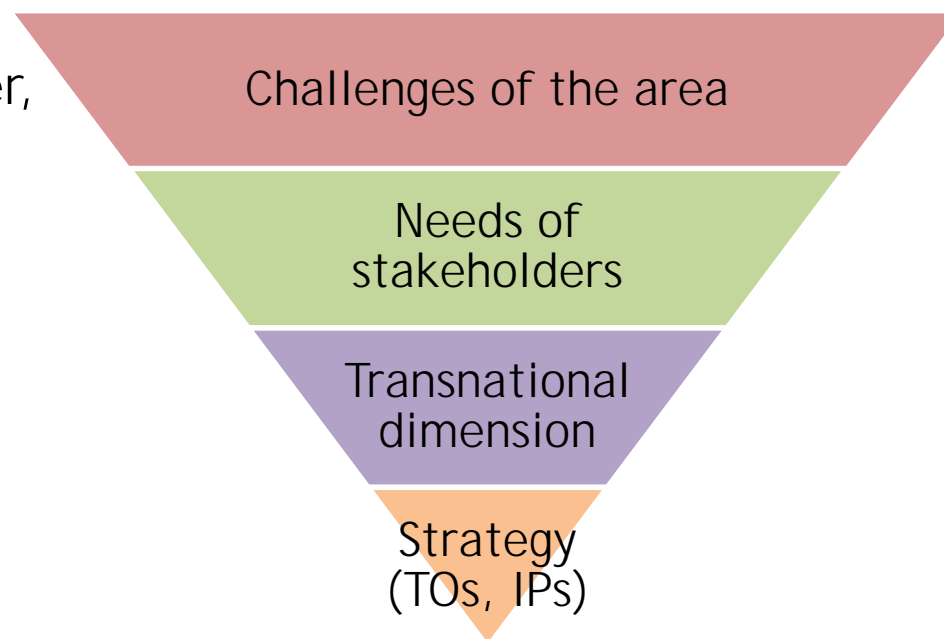
## 2. Strategic approach to the preparation of programmes

### Challenges

- To accomplish with thematic concentration in an inclusive manner, **also integrating horizontal issues**



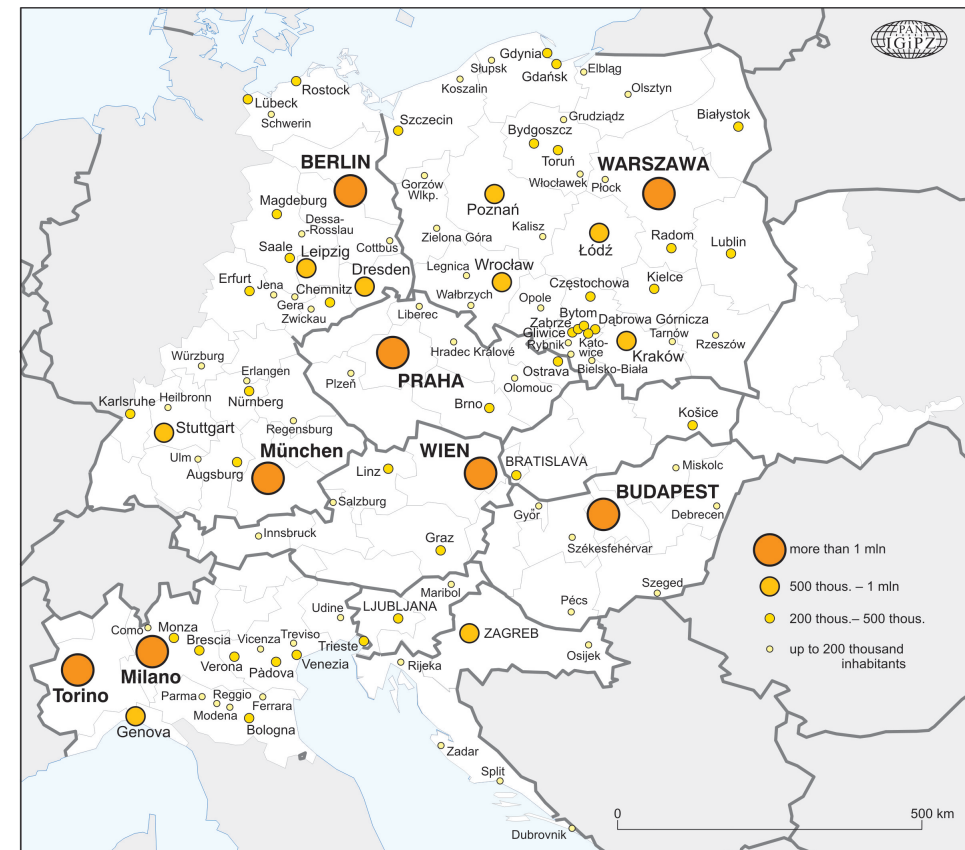
- To find a common ground between multiple governance layers in several countries



### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## Geographical features of CENTRAL EUROPE

- 9 Member States (Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia)
- 77 units of NUTS 2 level regions and over 1 million square kilometers
- Home of over one quarter of Europe's citizens (143 million)
- 8 cities exceeding one million inhabitants

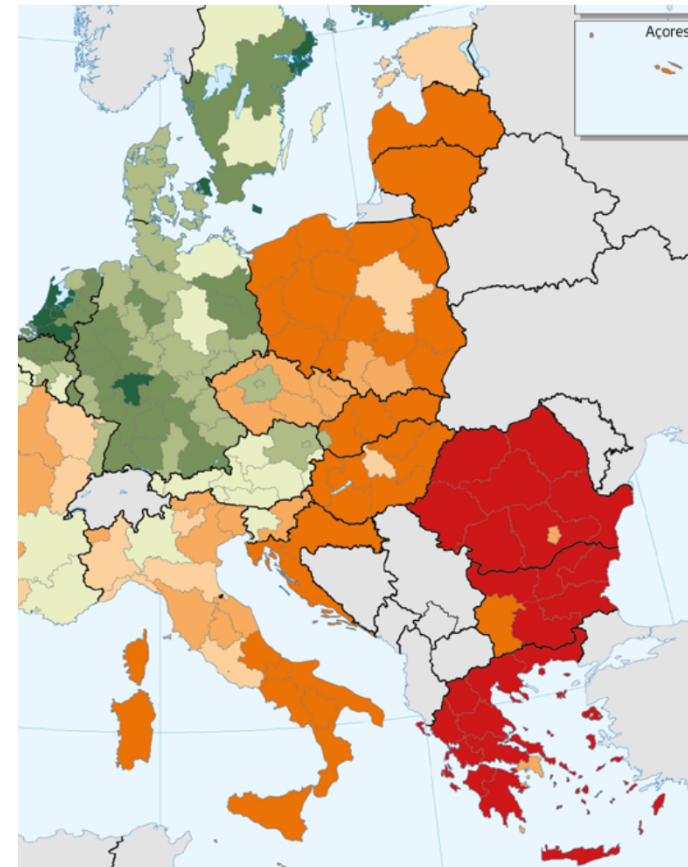
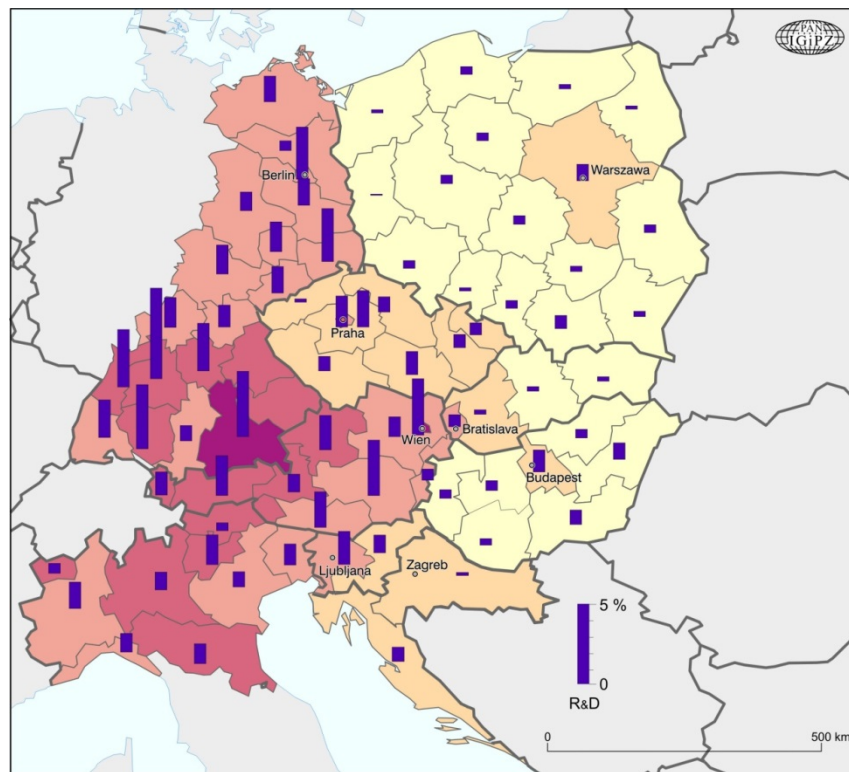




# 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## CENTRAL EUROPE is a distinctive functional area

- o Common economic, social, territorial features and challenges  
e.g. GDP; R&D; regional competitiveness:



### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

#### A bigger cooperation area



- Partnerships must be composed by at least **three financing partners from three countries**, at least two of them located in the CENTRAL EUROPE area (AT, CZ, DE, **HR**, HU, IT, PL, SK, SI)
- In duly justified cases, projects can be implemented **outside** the cooperation area

# 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## EU Thematic Objectives

TO1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

TO 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

TO 7: Promoting sustainable transport removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructure



Cooperating beyond borders in CENTRAL EUROPE to make our cities and regions better places to live and work

## CENTRAL EUROPE Priorities

P1: Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

P2: Cooperating on low carbon strategies in CENTRAL EUROPE

P3: Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in CENTRAL EUROPE

P4: Cooperating on transport to better connect CENTRAL EUROPE



# 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## Priority 1

Cooperating on innovation to make  
CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

### Objectives

To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe

To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions

### Actions

- Innovation networks and clusters
- Transfer R&D-results to business
- Services for innovation support
- Ease access to financing of innovation
- Increase cooperation between research, public and private sector

- Increase employees` skills on novel technologies/products/services/processes (regional smart specialisation)
- Improve attitudes/mind-sets towards entrepreneurship
- Improve technological and managerial competences for entrepreneurship and social innovation
- Introduce innovative learning systems considering demographic change

# 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## Priority 2

### Cooperating on low-carbon strategies in CENTRAL EUROPE

#### Objectives

To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures

To improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation

To improve capacities for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO2 emissions

#### Actions

- Increase energy performance (energy efficiency and renewable energy usage) in public infrastructure
- Novel energy saving technologies
- Harmonise standards and certification systems
- Innovative energy services, incentives and financing schemes

- Improve regional energy performance
- Use endogenous renewable energy potentials
- Improve energy management in the private sector
- Reduce energy consumption (demand focused))
- Improve coordination of energy networks

- Integrated mobility concepts and services
- governance systems for low-carbon mobility
- introduce novel low- carbon technologies for urban public transport (incl. Innovative financing models
- foster smart low-carbon urban mobility

# 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## Priority 3

### Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in CENTRAL EUROPE

#### Objectives

To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources

To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more livable places

#### Actions

- Sustainable management of protected or highly valuable areas
- Sustainable use of natural resources for regional development
- Innovative environmental technologies/tools
- Facilitate integrated environmental management
- Harmonise environmental management

- Valorise cultural heritage and creative industries potentials
- Integrated territorial strategies building on cultural heritage
- Management tools to preserve and sustainably use cultural heritage
- Promote the use of cultural heritage for regional economic growth

- Manage and improve urban environmental quality
- Strengthen capacity for urban environmental planning
- Mitigate land-use conflicts
- Rehabilitate and re-activate brownfields
- Support smart city strategies (environmental pilot applications)

# 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## Priority 4

### Cooperating on transport to better connect CENTRAL EUROPE

#### Objectives

To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks

To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environment-friendly freight solutions

#### Actions

- Better connection of peripheral regions to existing transport networks
- Improve regional public passenger transport systems, in particular across borders
- Test pilot applications and services for smart regional mobility
- Develop improved mobility services in the public interest

- Strengthen multimodality of environmentally-friendly freight transport systems
- Improve coordination between multimodal freight transport actors
- Increase share of environmentally-friendly logistics
- Optimise freight transport chains
- Greening the last mile of freight transport

### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

#### Eligible partners

- a) National, regional and local **public bodies** (including EGTCs)
- b) **Private institutions**, including private companies, having legal personality
- c) **International organisations** acting under the national law of any CENTRAL EUROPE Member State or, with restrictions, under international law



Private institutions can be lead partners  
in **all programme priorities**

### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

## Programme budget

- Total ERDF available is: **EUR 246,5 million EUR**
- Total programme budget is: **EUR 298,9 million EUR**
- ERDF allocation per priority:


Priority axis	ERDF (million EUR)
1 Innovation	69,0
2 Low-carbon	44,4
3 Natural and cultural resources	88,8
4 Transport	29,6

- ERDF co-financing rate:
  - § **85 %** (CZ, HR, HU, PL, SK, SI)
  - § **80 %** (AT, DE, IT)



### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

#### Key facts and figures of the first call for proposals

- Open to **all programme priorities** and **all specific objectives**
- Organised according to a **“two-step” procedure** 
- Indicative financial allocation up to **EUR 80 million ERDF**
- **Web-based** application form
- **Simplified formal requirements** for submission
- **Preparation costs** can be partly reimbursed (approved projects only)

Will be launched upon adoption of the programme by the European Commission (indicatively in February 2015)

### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

#### The “two-step” call procedure

- Step 1 will be based on an **application form “light”** à selected sections of the full application form:
  - § Territorial challenges, transnational cooperation
  - § Project focus - objectives and expected results
  - § Sustainability and transferability
  - § Policy context
  - § Basic information on thematic work packages
  - § Indicative budget
  - § Partner information
- **Continuity** between step 1 and step 2 must be ensured:
  - § Project focus (objectives and expected results)
  - § Partnership (Lead Applicant must remain the same)
  - § Total project budget



### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

#### Project main characteristics

- Recommended **financial size**: 1 to 5 million EUR total project budget. Smaller or larger projects will be supported in exceptional cases
- Recommended **size of the partnership**: up to maximum 8 to 12 partners (larger partnerships not excluded)
- Recommended **project duration**: 30 to 36 months (up to maximum 48 months)

### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

#### Assessment criteria

- **Strategic criteria:** Assessment of the relevance of applications and the extent of their contribution to achieving a programme specific objective
- **Operational criteria:** Assessment of the quality of implementation with regard to the feasibility and viability of applications as well as their value for money (resources used in relation to results delivered).



It is a competitive process!

### 3. Case study: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

#### Features of successful projects

- Transnational and territorial relevance
- Relevance of the partnership
- Delivery of concrete and measurable results
- Durability of outputs and results
- Coherent approach (work plan)
- Sound project communication
- Effective project management
- Sound budget

Projects focusing on purely academic cooperation or basic research or aiming at mere networking and exchanging of experience and/or not demonstrating the translation of “soft” outputs (studies, etc.) into concrete and sustainable results **will not be supported.**

## 4. Strategic approach to successful projects

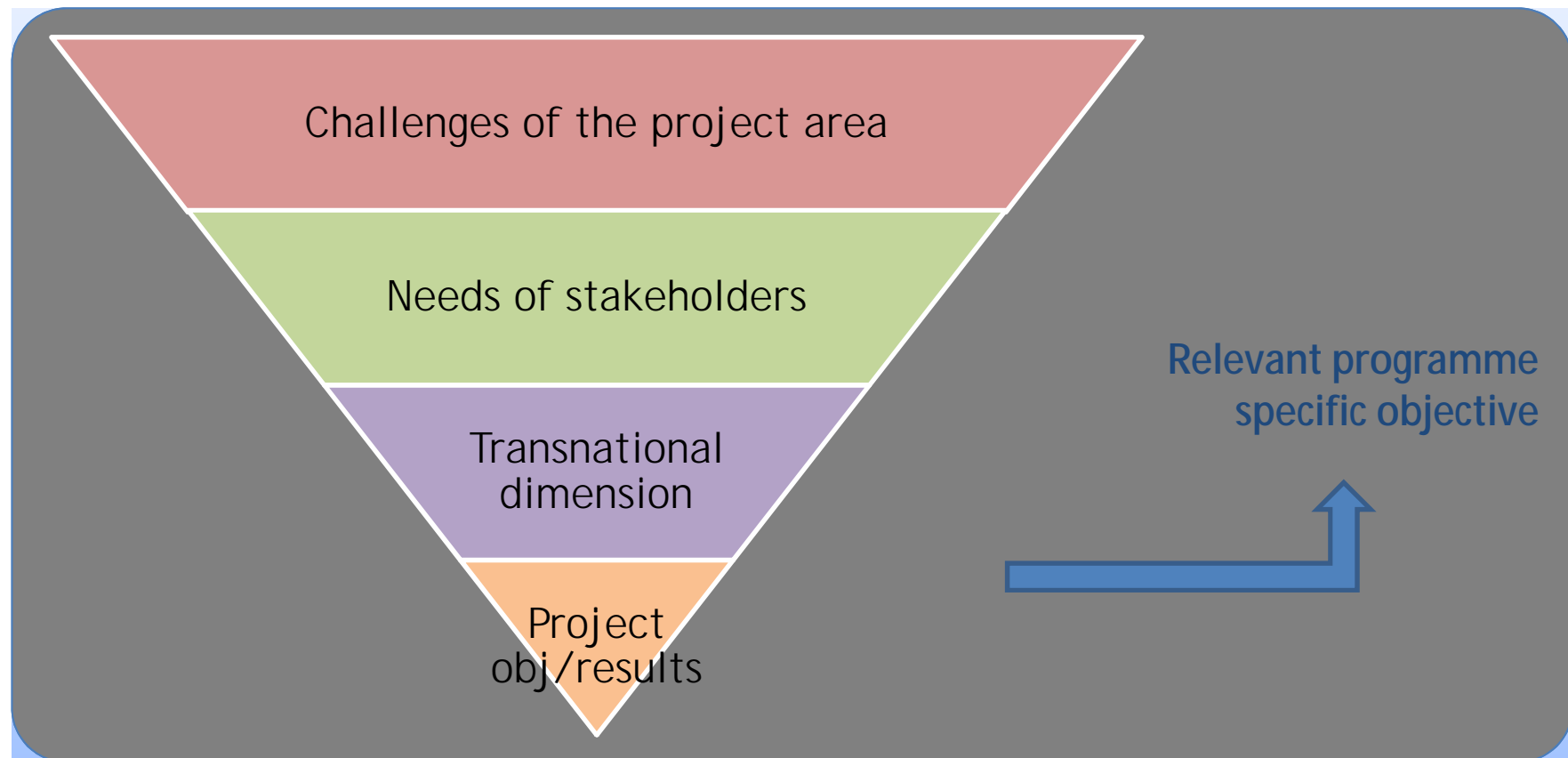
### Result-orientation: a change of mind-set!

- **Territorial dimension**: projects are tackling challenges, needs and potentials following a place-based approach
- **Transnational added value**: projects are addressing challenges and needs that cannot be tackled through a sole local/national approach
- **Effectiveness**: projects must show a clear cause-effect relationship between implementation and the **change** determined in the area → measurable delivery of results



## 4. Strategic approach to successful projects

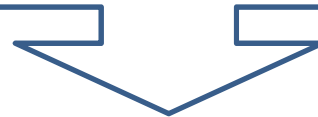
**Result-orientation: a change of mind-set!**



## 4. Strategic approach to successful projects

### In practical terms...

- Analysing the current situation in the area (identification of challenges, needs and potentials) à **relevant stakeholders**
- Considering past experiences and lessons learned à **avoid “re-inventing the wheel”**
- Concentrating on few objectives and results clearly contributing to programme objectives and results à **thematic focus**
- Building partnerships which are thematically and territorially relevant à **competent project partners**



Precise definition of “**who-does-what** and **where**”

Time as a crucial factor!

## 4. Strategic approach to successful projects

### Result-orientation: an example

#### Capacities:

Capacities are to be understood as the combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals.

(UN, 2009)



Strengthening capacities consists in **creating an enabling environment** through improved:

- § policy frameworks as well as legal and economic frameworks
- § institutional and human resources development
- § managerial systems

# 5. Role of Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat

## The Managing Authority

“The managing authority shall be responsible for managing the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management”  
(Art. 125(1) Regulation (EU) 1303/2013)

- Legally responsible for the programme implementation cycle (selection of projects, contracting, monitoring of progress, payment, reporting irregularities, closure, etc.)
- Performs the day-to-day management of the programme, including the setting-up and maintenance of the programme management and control system
- Manages the Technical Assistance budget
- May also perform the functions of the Certifying Authority (certifying expenditure to EC, recovering irregularly paid funds, etc.)
- Reports to the Monitoring Committee

# 5. Role of Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat

## The Joint Secretariat

“The joint secretariat shall assist the managing authority and the monitoring committee in carrying out their respective functions. The joint secretariat shall also provide information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under cooperation programmes and shall assist beneficiaries in the implementation of operations.” (Art. 23(2) Regulation (EU) 1299/2013)

Among others:

- Organises and implements calls for proposals
- Assists/guides the lead applicants during project preparation
- Receives submitted applications and ensures that projects are assessed according to the criteria applicable to the programme
- Receives progress reports submitted by the lead partners, monitors progress content and financial progress made by the projects
- Gives guidance and assistance to LPs during project implementation

## 5. Role of Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat

### Different approaches for organising MA and JS

Depending on institutional settings and available funds:

- In general, MA staff is composed by employees of the institution that Member States appointed as MA, while the JS is composed by international staff representative (in most cases) of the cooperation area
- Management functions may mostly remain inside the MA organisation or may be mostly implemented by the JS
- The JS may even be hosted by a different institution and may be located in a different country than the one of the MA
- In certain cases, the JS function may be sub-contracted following a tender procedure



## 5. Role of Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat

### The MA and JS of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2020

- Member States appointed the City of Vienna (Dept. For EU affairs) as MA
- City of Vienna is acting as MA since 2003, ensuring continuity
- The MA has a light structure and performs the supervision of the JS work. The JS is also located in Vienna
- The JS performs most of the programme management functions
- The JS coordinates a network of **National Contact Points** in the 9 Member States participating in the programme
- NCPs perform information/assistance tasks to applicants and beneficiaries, contribute to programme communication and act as liaison with national authorities

# For more information

- Programme website [www.central2020.eu](http://www.central2020.eu) (tool for project ideas + partner search) and social media pages
- Network of national Contact Points
- National info-days. In Italy: 10 December 2014 (Venice) and February 2015.
- Transnational Lead Applicant Training (spring 2015)

# Contacts

[www.central2013.eu](http://www.central2013.eu)

[www.central2020.eu](http://www.central2020.eu)

**Luca Ferrarese**

CENTRAL EUROPE Programme  
Joint Technical Secretariat  
Kirchberggasse 33-35/11  
1070 Vienna - Austria

Mail [luca.ferrarese@central2013.eu](mailto:luca.ferrarese@central2013.eu)  
Web [www.central2013.eu](http://www.central2013.eu); [www.central2020.eu](http://www.central2020.eu)  
FB [www.facebook.com/CentralEuropeProgramme](https://www.facebook.com/CentralEuropeProgramme)  
LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com/in/CentralEuropeProgramme](https://www.linkedin.com/in/CentralEuropeProgramme)  
Twitter @CEProgramme