



Interreg and cross-border energy projects

Delia BONSIGNORE, delia.bonsignore@ec.europa.eu
DG REGIO Unit D2 - Interreg, cross-border cooperation, internal borders

Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

Cohesion Policy: EU policy for Regional and Urban development → funding based on local needs (5 Cohesion Policy Objectives)

➤ **Policy Objective 2:** A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe

Energy-related Specific Objectives:

- SO 2.1 on Energy Efficiency
 - SO 2.2 on Renewable energy
 - SO 2.3 on Smart Energy Systems
- Technical Assistance Support: **Cohesion for Transition (C4T)** Community of Practice
(**NEW CALL open until 17 November 2025**)

Interreg: an overview

Interreg: key EU instrument for **territorial cooperation** between regions and countries beyond administrative boundaries

- Part of Cohesion Policy and funded by ERDF, Interreg supports a **large set of possible interventions** <https://interreg.eu/about-interreg/> including ESF+ type of activities
- Cooperation 2021-2027 → **86 programmes EUR 10 billion** → 4 distinct strands:



- **Two Interreg specific objectives:** on Better Cooperation Governance (ISO1) and on a Safer and more secure Europe (ISO2)

SOLE | High Energy efficiency for the public stock buildings in Mediterranean

ENI CBC Med Programme

SOLE enhanced the energy efficiency of public buildings by retrofiting seven facilities - including a stadium, schools, municipal buildings, and universities - achieving up to a 50% reduction in energy consumption. The project also fostered cross-border knowledge exchange on sustainable building management and launched an awareness campaign to encourage behavioral change aimed at reducing energy waste.



HYBES | Hybrid energy solutions for buildings and infrastructure

Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic

HYBES is an international development and research project exploring hybrid energy systems integrating renewable energy sources and energy storage technologies to provide sustainable energy solutions for Arctic communities.



SATComm | Sustainable Atlantic Communities

Interreg Atlantic Area

SATComm aims to enable citizens from residential, SME, and industrial entities to mobilise as groups into Energy Communities and equip them with the digitalisation and legal tools to empower them to play a central role in the Clean Energy Transition. The objective is to enable local communities to integrate renewable energy and smart grid concepts to improve their competitiveness, maximise their sustainability, and become "prosumers". It is deploying 5 pilots in different Atlantic regions to suit the regulations of each respective country, while designing the Energy Management Systems to be flexible to meet the requirements of each.



RESMAC | Innovative and Strategic Renewable Energy Sources to drive the transition to climate neutrality in Macaronesia.

Interreg MAC

The outermost European regions of the MAC and the countries of the African Macaronesia endeavor share specific conditions resulting from their high dependence on external energy, climatic conditions and the fragility of their territory, which pose an additional challenge to achieving climate neutrality. The RESMAC project will define strategies to advance the integration of renewable energy sources specially adapted to the unique characteristics of the Macaronesia territories and will provide tools for governments in the cooperation area to promote the decarbonisation of their economies. It will promote access to renewable and community energy for citizens and SMEs through support and training actions to promote Energy Communities and will develop pilot actions in energy-intensive sectors such as tourism and industry to reduce their carbon footprint.



TRANSBORDER | Improving the public transport service at the level of Oradea and Debrecen cross-border urban poles

Interreg Romania-Hungary

TRANSBORDER (ROHU390) revolutionized public transport, enhancing sustainable mobility and cutting CO2 emissions. 16 public transport services in the cross-border area, benefiting over 500,000 people, have been modernized through the acquisition of 11 new low-emission buses, including one hybrid, which are currently providing a cleaner, more efficient transportation option, demonstrating how strategic investments in green technology and infrastructure can drive sustainable development and enhanced regional connectivity.



WaterWarmth | Accelerating the transition towards sustainable heating and cooling based on collectivesurface water heat pump systems

Interreg North Sea Region

Communities tap into water for energy independence. WaterWarmth empowers energy communities to use local water bodies - rivers, lakes and the sea - for green and affordable heating and cooling. With aquathermal energy, communities can keep warm without depending on fossil fuels like oil and gas.



Interreg Co-funded by the European Union



Interreg for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Smart Systems

€258 million so far (2021-2027) across 32 programmes

100+ ongoing projects

750+ partners

CEL RURAL | Pilot Actions to Promote Local Energy Communities in Rural Areas of the POCTEP Region

Interreg POCTEP

The Spain-Portugal border region faces the challenge of achieving a fair, sustainable energy transition that supports rural communities and creates green jobs. CEL RURAL aims to promote Local Energy Communities (LECs) by supporting shared self-consumption and empowering citizens as prosumers. The project develops pilot initiatives, tools, and training to enable real implementation in rural areas. Cross-border cooperation is essential to overcome regulatory, technical, and economic barriers and ensure these energy models can be effectively replicated.



CO-CLEAN | CO-designed and implementation of local sustainable energy action

Interreg South Adriatic

How can we embrace a greener future and harness the power of renewable energies for a sustainable tomorrow? CO-CLEAN enhances energy efficiency and promotes the use of renewable energies in the Programme area. The objectives were achieved through 5 pilot actions: installing a photovoltaic plant on a primary school in Brindisi, setting up photovoltaic modules on the roof of the public swimming pool in the Municipality of Racale, implementing a new air conditioning system for the headquarters of Consorzio per lo Sviluppo Industriale della Valle del Biferno, installing solar panels on a municipal kindergarten in Vitor, and establishing an ecological heating system at the Municipal Cultural Center in Berane. These initiatives not only improve energy efficiency but also raise awareness among citizens.



CIRCUS | Connecting Initiatives for Rural Communities, Upscaling their Sustainable energy

Interreg North-West Europe

Rural regions face multiple challenges in adapting to the EU's energy transition. CIRCUS aims to strengthen energy resilience in rural communities across the NWE area by adapting and disseminating 4 tools designed to support these communities in different phases of their energy journey: from raising awareness and planning together, to mapping opportunities and building a viable business model. The project supports 30 pilot energy communities and trains 150 local advisors to help rural residents manage, develop, and exploit their own renewable energy sources.



APhE | Retractable Photovoltaic Awning

Interreg Italy-France ALCOTRA

This project involves the design and implementation of a retractable photovoltaic awning system. The goal is to offer a flexible and space-efficient solar energy solution suitable for both urban and rural environments, enhancing the practical use of solar technology.



DigiTechPort2030 | Decarbonisation of Small Ports' Ecosystems for Efficient Environmental and Energy Management Towards South Baltic

Interreg South Baltic

DigiTechPort2030 aims to boost decarbonisation in South Baltic small and medium-sized ports by 2026, aligning with the EU's Green Deal and Fit for 55. It delivers a Green Energy Harmonisation Toolbox and an EU Green Policy & Regulation Roadmap to strengthen small and medium-sized ports' capacity for Green Transition.



AccelerateGDT | Realign Cluster Policies to Accelerate the Twin Green and Digital Transitions

Interreg Europe

AccelerateGDT will reinvent national and regional cluster policies to support the twin green and digital transitions and SMEs competitiveness.



Zomming in: some examples

➤ Calorie Kehl- Strasbourg (FR-DE-CH)

Total budget: 3 536 499.36 €

ERDF: 2 128 499.62 €

Objective: Use of waste heat generated in the Badische Stahlwerke GmbH steel plant in Kehl through a cross-border heating network to supply heat to a residential district in Strasbourg (approx. 7.000 households).

➤ TransH2 (IT-HR)

Total budget: 2 357 035.00 €

ERDF: 1 885 628.00 €

Objective: Sustainable cross-border sea mobility by demonstrating feasible solutions for application and usage of zero emission fuels (green hydrogen) in cross-border and regional maritime transport routes and transferring new solutions to relevant authorities.

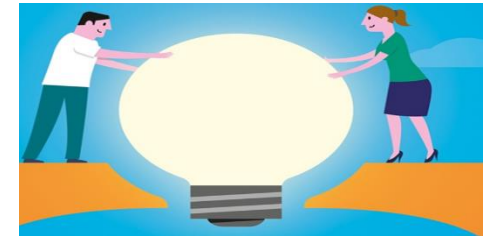
Further support to cross-border cooperation

35y INTERREG

Providing the essential financing to cooperation;
Triggering cooperation ...
.... cooperation showing that obstacles exist



Need to provide support
beyond funding



**Border Focal Point
(DG REGIO D2)**

Political support

Legal tools

Technical support

Knowledge production: studies

Piloting cases /demonstration

Sharing: Border Focal Point Network



More support for community-led energy projects

Communities for Climate (C4C)

Pilot action (closed) - Support to 50 local climate-related community projects, including energy communities

Better cohesion in the Western Balkans through development of energy communities

Pilot action (ongoing) – Support to the set-up and/or development of renewable energy communities in 5 IPA candidate countries (AL, BiH, ME, MK, RS)

Available online!

Handbook on cross-border energy communities



SCAN ME

Tool for local actors on how to set up and run cross-border energy community projects (includes good practices)

NOW OPEN!



Call for pilots on cross-border energy communities

Pilot action (ongoing) - 7 cross-border energy community pilots will be selected and receive 15.000 EUR + technical support

Handbook on cross-border energy communities



- Tool for citizens and local actors that provides a practical step-by-step methodology for setting up a CBEC or Q-CBEC and for developing its activities.
- Support to institutions at European, national, regional and local level in understanding and promoting the benefits of CBEC and Q-CBEC for territorial development.

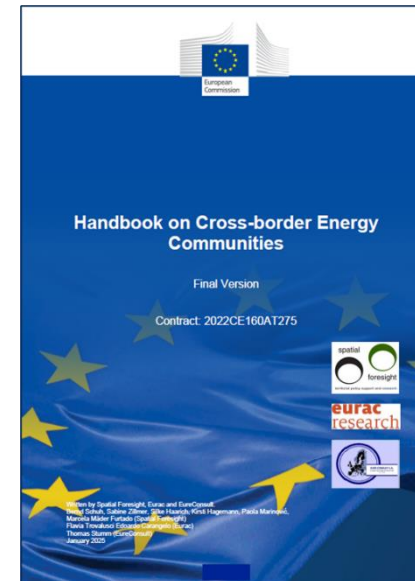
Call for pilots: CBECs



- **Call for proposals NOW OPEN** to select **7 Cross-Border Energy Community pilot actions**
- Initiative coordinated by MOT, AEBR, with the support of REScoop.eu, on behalf of the European Commission
- **15.000 EUR** for each pilot action + **Technical support** by REScoop.eu (2 dedicated workshops per pilot, continuous technical assistance and organization of thematic webinars)
- Key dates:
 - **Call for proposals: deadline on 21 November 2025**
 - Selected pilot actions: January 2026
 - Implementation: March 2026 to February 2027

Useful links

- [Cohesion for Transitions \(C4T\) Community of Practice](#)
- [Communities for Climate \(C4C\)](#)
- [Better cohesion in the Western Balkans through development of Energy Communities](#)
- [Interreg – European territorial cooperation](#)
- [Border Focal Point Network](#)
- [Handbook on cross-border energy communities](#)
 - [Annex: Border Fiches](#)
- [Call for pilots on Cross-Border Energy Communities](#)
 - cbec@mot.asso.fr



Thank you!



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